

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1908.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1863. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

The attendance at the meeting held Thursday night to organize a Municipal League appears to an onlooker to have indicated that the movement does not appeal strongly to a majority of the citizens of Sumter.

The Anderson Daily Mail of Dec. 27 contained a review of the growth and progress of Anderson during the year. The story is well told and interesting, showing healthy and satisfactory development along all lines.

The resignation of State Bank Examiner Lee G. Holleman should be followed by the immediate promotion of Assistant Examiner B. J. Rhame. Mr. Rhame is the man for the place and is better qualified to continue the work inaugurated by Mr. Holleman and himself than any other man who could be found, owing to his experience and familiarity with the duties of the office. If merit and fitness are considered Mr. Rhame will be appointed State Bank Examiner without delay.

Comptroller General Jones has reported the treasurer and auditor of Berkeley county to the governor for gross neglect of duty. There is an apparent shortage of more than \$5,000 in the accounts of the treasurer. Berkeley county will probably lose nothing as the bonds of the officials should be good for any shortage that may really exist, but the incident emphasizes the need of more rigid and systematic examinations of the auditor and treasurer's offices.

The Confederate veterans of Spartanburg county were not handicapped in making their demand for an increase of the State pension appropriation from \$325,000 to \$400,000 annually. If this demand is complied with the levy for State taxes will have to be materially increased and the hope of getting the State on a cash basis will go a glimmering. We should not be at all surprised to see a lot of the vote-seekers in the legislature championing the Spartanburg pension grab, and it is not beyond the realm of possibility that this campaign year, the pension appropriation may be greatly increased.

It is stated on good authority that there are between ten and twelve thousand bales of cotton still in the hands of farmers living within the territory tributary to Sumter, of which number 4,000 are in the Sumter Warehouse. This does not indicate that this section is bankrupt or anywhere near it. This cotton will be sold gradually between this time and the opening of the next cotton season, and the money derived therefrom will go into circulation. It is to be expected that business will suffer from the effects of the New York panic, but local conditions are not as bad as some alarmists pretend to believe, or as they may appear at first glance. Sumter county has been much worse condition financially many times before and there is substantial ground for the hope that 1908 will be a prosperous year for this section.

Those to whose financial interest it is to perpetuate the lien law are working strenuously to combat and weaken the sentiment that has become general throughout the State for the repeal of the law. Crocodile tears are being shed in copious showers by those who have fattened in the lien business over the prospective woes of the poor lieners when deprived of the benefits of the lien law and the paternal and fostering care of the lien merchants. There is no gainsaying the fact that the lien law has good features and in the past has been of benefit to many people, but it is patent to all that it has outlived its usefulness and is today more detrimental than beneficial to the agricultural interests of the State. It is also more than probable that the repeal of the law will result in hardship to many individuals until business becomes adjusted to the new conditions, but the consensus of opinion of those who have given the subject most thought is that the immediate improvement in conditions will overbalance the hardships and the ultimate effects will be so far reaching and beneficial as to create a new era of prosperity for the farmers of South Carolina. It is but natural that those whose business will be disorganized by the repeal of the lien law oppose its repeal, but the legislature should not sacrifice the interest of the thousands in order to save the business of the hundred or two merchants, who fear that they may lose a part of the profits they have heretofore made in consequence of the change in business methods that the repeal of the lien law will necessitate.

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The D. J. Chandler Clothing Co.,

Phone 166

Sumter, S. C.

A CASH BASIS.

All business men will agree, in principle, with Gov. Ansel that the State should be put on a cash basis. It is a common sense view to take of the matter and no one will dispute the assertion that it will be good business policy to increase the levy sufficiently to provide funds to pay the interest on the State debt and the regular operations. It should not be necessary to borrow money each year to pay the running expenses and interest on bonds, but, judging from experience, the increase in the levy will not accomplish the end sought. The levy was increased two mills for the same

avowed purpose only two or three years ago, but notwithstanding the largely increased income of the State we are as far from being on a cash basis as ever, thanks to the free hand with which the legislature made appropriations as soon as the increased levy was made and more money to operate was thereby provided. What guarantee have the taxpayers that the legislature will not go ahead and increase the appropriations to such an extent that all of the additional levy will be consumed, leaving nothing to be applied to putting the State on a cash basis? If some string can be fastened to the extra two mill levy to prevent its use for any other pur-

pose than putting the State on a cash basis we will heartily endorse Gov. Ansel's recommendation. We fear, however, that the imposition of the extra levy will be the signal for greater extravagance in the matter of appropriations. It will be well for the legislature to go slow in this matter, first seeking to curtail expenditures in every way possible before adding to the burden of taxation, unless there is a positive guarantee that the money derived from the additional two mill levy shall be used for the specific purpose of putting the State on a cash basis, and when this shall have been accomplished the two mills levy shall be taken off.

THE WILLIAMSON PLAN.

The year 1907 was the banner corn year in the history of Sumter county, thanks, in a large measure, to favorable seasons, and in a less degree to the Williamson system of culture. No one can foretell what the seasons will be this year, but experience has demonstrated that by the Williamson system it is possible to produce more corn under any conditions than by the old haphazard methods. It will pay the farmers to plant and cultivate at least a part of their corn crop in accordance with that system.

DR. JOHN H. MORSE.

VETERINARY SURGEON.
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Office Phone 471.
RESIDENCE—214 N. Main Street.
Residence Phone 78.
9-25-9m

NOTICE.

The County Board of Education will conduct an examination for teachers at the Court House on Friday, Jan. 17, beginning at 9 o'clock a. m.
S. D. CAIN,
Co. Supt. Education.

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