

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. 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.

Gen. Seminoe Willie Jones was re-elected chairman of the State Executive Committee Tuesday. There was some opposition, but he had a majority of the committee at his back and Cole L. Blease lead the fight in his behalf. We cannot say we are surprised at the outcome, but we had indulged a hope that the State Democracy would rid itself of the Seminoe incubus. We are pleased to note that Mr. L. I. Parrott, Sumter's representative on the committee, repudiated the Jones regime and nominated C. L. D. J. Griffith for the position that Gen. Jones clings to with as persistent a grip as he does to the thousand dollars he was paid for the use of his name by the Seminoe promoters. Sumter county, at least, has repudiated Seminoism, and with this we must be content for two years.

Mr. Lewis W. Parker advises the cotton mill men to make common cause with the farmers to maintain the price of cotton at its legitimate level. This is good advice and if the mills had adopted this policy years ago, instead of aiding and abetting the cotton exchange gamblers of New York and Liverpool, the South-cotton farmers, cotton mills and all other lines of business—would today be better off. The coalition of cotton mills and cotton speculators to manipulate the price of cotton has been ruinous to those who depended upon actual cotton for a living, and was unnatural as damaging. The man who grows cotton and they who spin and weave it into cloth are engaged in an honest and legitimate business and are dependent upon a marketable commodity for a livelihood, but the cotton exchange speculators are gamblers pure and simple and every dollar that they get is an unrighteous tribute levied upon the toil of honest producers. If the mills and the farmers, or some business-like organization of farmers, can get together then speculators can be cut out entirely; the mills can contract at a fixed price for all the cotton they need from year to year and only the surplus cotton, if any, will be thrown upon the open market. The size of the surplus will determine the price the mills will be willing to pay for the next year's crop, and it will behoove the farmers to keep the surplus within bounds. These would be ideal conditions and doubtless impossible of entire realization, but they can be approximated if farmers and mill men will work together with an honest purpose to do what is mutually beneficially on a live and let live policy.

**Congressman Champ Clark.**

Champ Clark's ambition to become a member of congress was born when he was a ragged bare-footed youngster in Kentucky. The minority leader told about that ambition in the house the other day, and it made a pretty good story, until Senator Cannon came along and injected some sensational utterances into the proceedings, whereupon the remarks of Clark were almost overlooked. He was kicking about an appropriation for the maintenance of the speaker's automobile, and referred to the expenses of maintaining the government.

"I am proud of my seat," said Mr. Clark, "as any man here. I will stay here if I can get \$7,500 a year, and I would stay here if you cut the salary down to \$5,000 a year. I would stay if you cut it down to \$4,000, if you cut it down to \$3,000—I would stay here if you took the salary away as long as I had bank account enough to stay. That is because I like the service here. It is the thing that I looked forward to from a time that I can scarcely remember, when I was a poor, barefoot, ragged boy hoeing corn on a rocky hill in Kentucky.

"I had never seen a lawyer, I had never seen a congressman, I had never seen a court house, but I made up my mind then that I was going to be a lawyer and that I was going to be a member of the house of representatives, and I made good on both propositions. The picture of that little ambitious boy, working as a hired hand, dreaming of the day when he was to be here, abides with me to this day and will abide with me forever."—Washington Times.

Charlie Brown has opened up a road through Wateree swamp at Sumter's Landing, where he has a forty-foot flat with a thirty foot railing. He is prepared to carry automobilists and others across the river. Mr. Scott from Elastover made the trip over Wednesday and expressed himself as well pleased with the route. This will shorten the trip to Columbia very materially, as heretofore the trip had to be made by Camden.

**Farmers' Union News**

—AND—

**Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers**

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President Farmers' Union of Sumter County.)

The Watchman and Southron having decided to double its service by semi-weekly publication, would improve that service by special features. The first to be inaugurated is this Department for the Farmers' Union and Practical Farmers which I have been requested to conduct. It will be my aim to give the Union news and official calls of the Union. To that end officers, and members of the Union are requested to use these columns. Also to publish such clippings from the agricultural papers and Government Bulletins as I think will be of practical benefit to our readers. Original articles by any of our readers telling of their successes or failures will be appreciated and published.

Trusting this Department will be of mutual benefit to all concerned,

THE EDITOR.

All communications for this Department should be sent to E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville, S. C.

**Some Random Thoughts.**

All of our space today is taken up with the impotence of legumes—what Prof. Massey says on the subject is well worth reading. Notice how he advises sticking to one or two legumes, rather than trying everything that some enthusiast recommends. This reminds me of what the late Col. Newman said some years ago at an institute in the Court House: That with cow peas, oats and sorghum, the South could beat the world on forage.

In regard to the Farmers Institute's proposal by Prof. Burrows: The Farmers' Union will do its share to have one, but previous experiences at Sumter and Mayesville with the small number of farmers that attended makes one shy of trying to have an Institute at either place. Does some Country neighborhood want the Institute this summer? The President of the Union will engage with Prof. Burrow for an institute but the time and place will require more thought.

E. W. D.

**The South's Great Variety of Legumes.**

There are many species of legume plants, and many have been tried as renovating crops. Some of them have been dropped out, either because the forage made from them is not good or not relished by stock, or because they have been found unsuited to various sections.

The two legumes that have become of the greatest value in most parts of the South are the cowpea and crimson or annual clover, the one for summer and the other for winter soil cover and spring fertilizer. These two plants make a team that will do more for the general area of the South than anything that can be grown, the one for hay and the other for plowing under in the spring, after the waste of the soil all winter.

In the far South the velvet bean has a great value and may supersede the cowpea as a forage-maker. In Florida the beggar weed has been found valuable, but its value decreases rapidly as we come northward until in the larger part of the South it is simply a weed. The velvet bean, while of great value where it matures, soon reaches a point northward where the cowpea will always beat it. In favorable seasons it will mature in the far southeastern sections of North Carolina, and even in the central part of the State it will make an immense amount of forage. Planted in rows eight feet apart at Raleigh, they made a mass over the whole ground half waist deep. I believe that in all the warmer parts of the South the velvet bean can be made very profitable for green soiling to cattle.

Much has been said in regard to the vetches, and especially in regard to what is known as the Hairy vetch or Sand vetch. Where some grain like wheat is sown with the Hairy vetch, to sustain it off the ground, it will make a fine hay crop from fall sowing, and can be gotten off the ground in time to grow a crop of cowpea hay, and to leave the land in crimson clover in the fall.

I once sowed wheat and vetch in the fall, cut the crop in May and cured it for hay, sowed the land in cowpeas and cut these for hay and had a fair stand of alfalfa on the land before cold weather. This, of course, with liberal use of acid phosphate and potash. In the lower Mississippi valley the stations have found that the soil is plentifully supplied with potash, but even there it will not do to ignore the needs of the legumes for phosphoric acid, which, with nitrogen, is the greatest deficiency in all of our old cultivated soils, and is apt to be the determining factor in any fertilizer mixture.

In the lime lands of Mississippi the mellotus or sweet clover has been found to be a valuable legume for the improvement of the soil. It grows as a weed all over the United States, but so far as my experience goes, cattle will have to be half starved before they will eat it, and I think it has little value as a forage plant.

But the legume that has excited more attention than any other in recent years is alfalfa, or lucerne, as it was formerly called. In the arid section of the West alfalfa has become the greatest of forage crops, and here and there in the East, as about Syracuse in New York and at Hillsboro, N. C., alfalfa has been grown successfully for more than a generation. The alfalfa region of Mississippi and Alabama seems destined to be one of the richest agricultural sections in America before many years.

Alfalfa, when well established, will certainly make an immense amount of valuable forage. But it is not a crop to bring up poor land, as the cowpea is, for alfalfa demands a fertile soil, a well-drained soil, and one in which the subsoil will allow the roots to penetrate deeply. With a lot near the barn where the farmer can get the land into high condition he can do well with alfalfa, but for the rapid improvement of worn soils and crops to take into a short rotation the cowpea and crimson clover have a far higher value in the South than alfalfa ever will have. The Western plains can beat us with alfalfa, but we can beat them out of sight with cowpeas and crimson clover.

With a rotation of corn, with peas among it, followed by winter oats, and these by peas and crimson clover, and back to corn with all the farm manure, I can produce more forage and feed more cattle on the average Southern farm than any one can with alfalfa till the land is in high condition. Of course, in the Cotton Belt I would lengthen the rotation by bringing in cotton on the crimson clover grown after peas and oats, and would get the land in crimson clover after the cotton, and put all the farm manure on this for the corn crop. Grow alfalfa, but put it on a little piece of your richest land and you may get good crops, by for building up the land and feeding stock, put your main dependence on cowpeas in summer and crimson clover in winter.

I do not mean to discourage the growing of alfalfa, but to show that in order to do well with it, the land must be in high condition. Then in the South never sow alfalfa in the spring, for the crabgrass will surely destroy it. Sow in September and give it a chance to get ahead of the crabgrass the next summer. If you are in an alfalfa section, by all means make the most of it, but if your soil lacks lime, or is thin and shallow, begin with peas and clover.

There has been a great deal of talk about various things to mix with cowpeas for hay. Some mix corn in the pea field, some sow sorghum and millet. But none of these help in the curing of the hay; certainly sorghum does not, and millet ripens before the peas are ready to cut and makes the hay dangerous for horses. In fact, in all my experience I have found that a pure crop of peas is about as easy hay to cure as anything if you will simply let it cure and do not monkey with all sorts of contrivances to spoil it. At the proper season I will have more to say about this. The best thing to mix with peas is the soy bean. This is upright in habit, and helps to hold up the peas and make them easier to harvest, and to some extent, easier, perhaps, to cure.

Among all the forage legumes for the South I would pin my faith to cowpeas and crimson clover as the best summer and winter team to be had. A whole ton of 2-8-2 fertilizer has 34 pounds of nitrogen. A fair crop of cowpeas will have over 100 pounds an acre.

Most of the legumes refuse to grow on an acid soil, but the cowpea will grow anywhere when the weather is hot and favorable, and will leave more nitrogen in the soil than we could get in a ton of average fertilizer.—Progressive Farmer.

**The Open Road to Agricultural Prosperity.**

Farming will never make any

country rich as long as the farmers of that country have to buy nitrogen to feed their staple crops. Nor will farming ever make any country rich while the farmers of that country permit their soils to wash away or to "wear out" for lack of a sufficient supply of humus.

Southern farmers are grievous offenders against good agricultural practice in both these respects. Every year they spend millions of dollars for nitrogen in commercial forms when they could have gathered enough for practically all of their crops from the air. On millions of acres of cultivated land the crops are limited each year by insufficient water supply during "dry spells" and by the general lack of organic matter in the soil. Until both these conditions are changed, the Southern farmer is not going to get as much as he should for a day's work; is not going to have as much as he should at the end of the year; is not going to contribute to the welfare of his community and his State as he might and should.

At once the surest and the most economical way to correct these evils is by the growing of leguminous crops—not the haphazard planting of a pea patch here or an alfalfa plot there but by the systematic planting of both summer and winter-growing legumes in a rotation adopted to individual conditions and surroundings.

The legumes will get nitrogen from the air, and save millions of dollars now spent for commercial fertilizers; they will add humus to the soils, improving its texture, increasing its water-holding capacity, making more available the plant food it contains, preventing gulleying, and making it easier to work; they will supply the best and cheapest feeds in the world, thus enabling the farmer to keep more stock and to feed them better; they will increase the yields of all the staple crops and enable the farmers to make a profit on thousands of acres of land now idle and unprofitable; they will, in short, if intelligently used, put the farmers of the South on the highway to prosperity and independence.

To try to farm without them is, under all ordinary conditions, wanton folly; and the results of such farming are to be seen today in worn-out fields, gullied hillsides, poor crops, poor stock and unattractive homes.

This issue is largely taken up with the experiences of men who have learned to make money growing legumes, and what they have done every year other farmers can, if he will.

There may be farmers who can make money without growing these crops; but such men are rare, and there are very few men in the South engaged in general farming who could not increase their profits by planting them more liberally.

Let every reader resolve right now to raise an abundant supply of legume forage for all his live stock—enough cowpeas and soy beans and peanuts for his pigs and calves to graze on all summer and fall, and enough to make hay for all his stock next winter. He will want besides this to grow, if possible, this year enough seed for his own planting next season. Let him also arrange to seed all lands cultivated this season to a cover crop next fall.

When he does this he will not only make bigger crops, but he will be able to feed his work stock and to make pork and beef and milk at the lowest cost. In short, he will be on the open road to prosperity and independence.—Progressive Farmer.

**The One Crop to Plow Under.**

I have frequently been asked if you would not put more nitrogen and humus in the soil to plow the legume crops under entire rather than save them for hay. Of course, we will get more humus-making material at once by turning under a crop of peas or vetch, but we are confronted by the fact that these crops have a high value, and that they can be fed to stock, and by far the larger part of their manurial value can be recovered in the manure if it is carefully saved.

Hence, as a rule, it is poor farm economy to plow under these plants before using them as feed. To this, there is no exception. This is the crimson clover crop. This comes at a season when it is especially hard to cure it well for hay, and I have long since come to the conclusion that the best use for crimson clover is for making corn and cotton. We can let the clover come to full maturity and die and then plow it under and have time in all parts of the South to make a crop of corn, and in the far South, to make a cotton crop.

I have seen a great deal of crimson clover made into hay, but have never seen a first-class lot of hay made from it, as it is either bleached by the sun, or, if properly cured in cocks, is apt to mold more than any other hay. Then, too, if the cutting is delayed till the heads elongate and get brown below, the hay is rather dangerous for horses. Hence, I believe that I would always make an exception of crimson clover and use it as manure direct.—Progressive Farmer.

**MORE ABOUT CHICAGO.**

**Mr. Winn Tells of His Visit to Many Places of Interest in That Great City, and of His Kind Treatment by Its People.**

Editor The Item:

I closed my last letter amidst the roar of the great city of Chicago and now will finish the account of my trip, hearing the gentle murmur of the breeze in the pine tops of Sumter. Before leaving home my friends, the D. J. Chandler Clothing Co., kindly gave me a letter of introduction to Messrs. Hart, Schaffner & Marx, perhaps the largest clothing manufacturers in the world, and from whom they buy some of their best grades of clothing. I presented the letter to Mr. T. F. Bain, who met me at the entrance of the building and introduced me to Mr. M. W. Cresof in the office, and he introduced me to Mr. Hart, one of the firm. I received a pleasant and warm welcome and shall always remember with pleasure their kindly manner and courtesy. They sent a young man with me, Mr. C. F. Bennett, to inspect the large building. We first looked over the ground floor, used as an office and here were 400 employees, most of them girls, all busy with books, typewriters, letters and all that enters into the financial part of a great business. We then took the elevator to the eleventh floor and ascended the stairs to the 12th, here the goods are received in large rolls, beautiful patterns and the best quality, all wool. They go through the shrinking process and then through the drying room, after which each piece is carefully inspected for flaws in the weave. They are then measured, folded and sent down to the cutters. Every floor is the same size and covers about 1-4 of the large square of the city. In the cutting room we saw electric cutting machines that cut 14 thickness of wool goods, with as much ease as a pair of sharp scissors would a piece of newspaper. The different pieces of garments were assembled in bundles with all the necessary trimmings and placed in large boxes on rollers and ready to be carried to the different buildings in the city where the goods are made up. This entire building being simply to prepare the cloth for making up and storing the finished garments, and the office. I also visited one of the factories where the clothing is sewed together and made into the beautiful finished garments, sewing machines humming like bees, and everything being done with thoroughness and dispatch. I was in the clothing business for ten years and never saw goods better handled and made and greater care taken to give a perfect garment. The finished garments of all sizes were piled in rows about five feet high, and covered perhaps six floors of the large building. They also have large stores in New York and Boston and smaller ones in a good many other cities. Sixteen hundred are employed in the main building in Chicago.

I was also kindly favored with a letter of introduction from the Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co. to the general sheet iron trade rolling mills of the west. This letter I took to Messrs. Montgomery, Ward & Co. and asked to see the manager of the sheet metal department and on giving my name and handing him the letter, he gave me a warm reception and handed me a card with the name of Mr. R. S. Coombs, Sales Agent, of the Berge Mfg. Co., of Canton, Ohio, whose office was at 33 Dearborn St., Chicago. After taking a hasty glance at the immense store of Montgomery, Ward & Co., where one of the largest mail order businesses of the world is done in almost every article of use or ornament, and who can take your order for a present to any missionary in the world and deliver it to them with safety and dispatch. Here 3,000 are employed and it was a wonderful sight to see them coming from the building when the day's work was done. Looked like circus day in Sumter, when the show lets out. I went next morning to see Mr. Coombs and on handing him the card and letter from the Telephone Company, and stating my business, I was treated like an old friend. After a pleasant interview, he dictated two letters to the stenographer, one to Mr. Geo. J. Smith, Supt., of Berger Mfg. Co. and one to Mr. A. T. Enlow, sales manager, of the Stark Rolling Mill Co. both of Canton, Ohio, and handed them to me to be delivered in person. Now to show the value of a good name, such as the Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co. evidently has, in the far-away city and how pleasantly they do business, I quote a few lines from one of the letters: "Mr. Winn is sent to us by Montgomery, Ward & Co. of this city and bears a letter from The Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co., Sumter, S. C. I am sure you will be very glad to meet Mr. Winn and do all you can in furtherance of the introduction of Ton Can metal, which I feel assured would be the material that Mr. Winn should use for this purpose, for durability and general efficiency. Thanking you in advance for any favors shown Mr. Winn, I remain yours truly, R. C. Coombs."

After a very pleasant visit to South Chicago, amidst beautiful parks, wide streets and shady sidewalks. I visited the building occupied by the editorial staff of the Technical World, a monthly which I have taken for two years, and find more information in it as to what is going on in the great world than any periodical I have ever seen. I had a cordial greeting from Mr. William T. Walsh, and Mr. H. G. Hunting, two of the Editorial Staff, and after discussing Halley's comet, the labor problem, the Southern cotton fields and South Carolina peaches and the other good things in South Carolina, including cotton seed flour bread, we had to say good bye, and with a hearty hand shake, including one from the little lady at the switchboard, who directed me how to find the office, I hastened to get my train for Canton, Ohio, which I reached after an all night's run on the fast train to Akron, Ohio, and then 30 miles by electric cars, and arrived just in time for a good breakfast at the McKinley Hotel. I then delivered the two letters as above stated, and could ask for no better treatment from any one. Both of these gentlemen met me with cordiality and frankness and we soon transacted the business in hand to our mutual satisfaction and I trust profit. I had a little time left and visited the tomb of the great William McKinley, the Martyr President of the United States and true friend of the South. His tomb is on a high hill overlooking the city on one side and the beautiful farm lands on the other. A soldier at the door invited us in and I stood with uncovered head to view where his sacred dust sleeps besides that of his lovely wife and children and felt that as well as every one in South Carolina and the whole South had lost a friend. I will always remember with pleasure my visit to his home city. In a few hours I was on board of the fast train from Akron on to Washington over the Baltimore and Ohio road, and after a pleasant all night ride, reached our nation's capital for early breakfast. After a pleasant day spent in this fine city, at 10 p. m. I laid me down to rest in one of the elegant sleepers on the Atlantic Coast Line bound for Sumter. My rest was so sweet and unbroken that I did not wake when the day coach left the track at Petersburg, and had to be left behind. The train was just slowing down or we may have had a serious wreck, but no one was hurt. And here we are again in the garden spot of our great country. Far away from the great cities and mighty industry of iron and coal, but amidst the never-ending gold mines of the cotton fields and cotton mills of the Sunny South.

D. JAMES WINN,  
Sumter, S. C., May 18, 1910.

**Resting Land.**

Have you a field that you intend to "rest" this year by letting the old stalks of corn or cotton stand and grass and weeds grow all summer? Do you think the land is resting when it is growing this sort of stuff to seed the land and give you grass in the crop another year? Is the land not just as hard at work growing weeds and grass as it would be in growing crops for feed and soil improvement? Would it not be better for the land and the stock and your pocket to have peas on that resting field? But you say, "peas are too high-priced." They are not as high-priced as the crop of weeds and grass that will grow there if you leave the land out, for it will cost more money to kill the grass next summer than to sow the peas this summer. Then you lose a crop of forage and the benefit the peas would be to your land. Besides, this talk about the high price of peas comes with a bad grace from farmers who should sell. You cannot afford not to sow peas, and to give them the phosphate acid and potash they need, if you have any regard for the future of your farm. The best way in the world to rest land is to keep it at work growing crops that will feed stock, make manure, make the soil better and make the owner richer.—Progressive Farmer.

China's drug store has offered to devote one day to the Civic League, giving a percentage from the soda fount to that worthy cause. The day has not yet been appointed.

The case against Mr. J. C. Huger preferred by the auctioneer at Hair's jewelry store was withdrawn by the prosecutor, who did not care to appear against him.

Nothing is difficult; it is only we who are indolent.—Haydon.

WANTED—Competent Overseer for thirty horse farm. Must be reliable and energetic and able to control labor. Present incumbent has paralysis.

E. E. Thomas, Wedgfield, S. C. W-11.

WANTED—The Farmers of Sumter County to know they can get protection for their crops against destruction by hail by a policy in the Carolina Hall Insurance Company, G. E. Haynsworth, Agent, 26 1-2 N. Main St., Sumter, S. C. 5-6-11.