

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.

If Theodore Roosevelt could get into heaven he would stop awhile just inside the gates to tell St. Peter how to hold down his job. In the other place he would essay to give the devil points on how to economize fuel and manage the Ananias Club.

What is the use of expending money and time on the building of good roads if they are to be plowed up almost as soon as built? Complaints come from almost all sections of the county that the practice of plowing into the public roads goes on unabated, and that, in many places, the roads are so narrow that there is just room for a single vehicle, as a result of the plowing into the right of way. If this practice is not stopped it will be a waste of money to build roads and the people will not consent to a bond issue for good roads until we learn to take some care of those that have been built by the chain-gang. We know that Supervisor Pitts is making an effort to put a stop to plowing up the roads, but unless he can secure the co-operation of the public he cannot prosecute those who deprecate on the public highways, for he cannot make cases without affidavits and evidence to convict. A few prosecutions, however, would have a wholesome effect and it is to be hoped that Mr. Pitts will be enabled to secure the needed co-operation before all of the good work of the chain-gang is destroyed by the vandals who plow into the highways.

Tom Watson, of Georgia, one of the most brilliant men in public life, after years of wandering after the false gods of Populism has returned to the democratic fold and will hereafter contribute his quota toward making Georgia politics lively and interesting. He is by odds the ablest politician in Georgia, and the men who have controlled the Democratic party in that State for the past twenty years now have on hand the biggest job of their lives to retain what they have held so long. As a stump speaker and all-round campaigner Tom Watson is without peer, and as a regular candidate of the Democratic party he will be invincible if he goes before the people. Twenty years ago he smashed the old ring in the Tenth district and was elected to Congress by a overwhelming majority and had he remained in the party, instead of declaring himself a Populist he would have become the dominant force in Georgia politics. He is still a power to be reckoned with in Georgia and his return to the party fold is the beginning of stirring times across the Savannah.

CLAUDE STERILIZATION DISCOVERY.

New Method for Reuniting Blood Vessels and Arteries.

Chicago, May 31.—Dr. Victor D. Lespinasse, of the Northwestern University Medical School, told an alumni audience yesterday that he had discovered a surgical secret which may do much to save life and modify suffering.

In a broad sense he said that it is a successful method for reuniting blood vessels and arteries and battling arterial diseases. To prove that his claims were not merely in theory the doctor caused several dogs to be brought forth for inspection. Each was cited as an examination for a peculiar operation. The livers had been removed and reunited to some of the dogs. Legs had been cut off and regrafted to others.

The secret Dr. Lespinasse explained consisted in his successful reuniting of several arteries. Heretofore, he said, physicians have been forced to resort to sewing to obtain the end desired. The stitching method was unsuccessful because it too often resulted in the formation of blood clots, the constriction to the arteries or the enlargement and breaking of them. For five years Dr. Lespinasse sought to find a substitute for the needle and thread. What is claimed to be the solution consists of the use rings of magnetism. The several vessels are joined by these rings or couplers. Magnesium is used because it readily dissolves when the complete union of the severed ends of the arteries has taken place.

The Sumter County Rural Carriers elected as delegates to the State convention, Mr. John M. Parker, of Dallsell, the president; A. C. Moore, of Oawego, and B. F. Wilder, of Sumter. The State convention meets in Newberry on July 4th. The election of officers was postponed till a later date.

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.

The clippings in this issue nearly all relate to "The Land of Opportunity—Who Shall Possess It?" This is a subject that should have a great deal more thought than I fear we are giving to it. Some years ago when in sore need of capital the writer tried hard to secure settlers for cheap land; tried faithfully among our own people. But the usual answer was "too far off" or "too much hard work." He then joined hands with those who tried to secure foreign immigration of our own race, the English and Teutonic peoples. And when private or corporate action seemed doomed to failure, he made the motion which resulted in the bureau of agriculture, and helped to plan the memorial and bill providing for that department. As a means of bringing in farm laborers that department has been a failure, but as an eye-opener to the wonderful natural resources of our soil and climate, and in encouraging our people to stick to our soil and develop it, it has been of untold value to the State. As far back as 1890 when the writer attended the Southern Immigration convention in Asheville, N. C., by appointment of Gov. J. P. Richardson, he has been impressed with the needs of this section for more intelligent farmers. More white citizens, who would help build up our churches and schools and improve the social life of our country people. These things are mentioned to show that it is but merely "parrot-like" repeating what some may call a fad, that I have reproduced these articles, but I am doing so because the writers are so well expressing what I have labored for "in season and out of season" for twenty years.

In my travels about the country I find the progressive communities are the ones where the white population is thickest. There we find new school buildings employing several teachers, good roads, telephones, comfortable homes and the air of thrift and advanced farming that is lacking on most of the big estates that are tenanted out. There too we find the Union strongest and its teachings bearing fruit in many ways. This is a subject that all thoughtful, patriotic men should study, and strive to contribute something to its right solution.
E. W. D.

GET LAND AND HOLD TO IT LIKE GRIM DEATH.

That is the Advice That Should Be Given Every White Tenant Farmer in the South—Danger of Great Estates, Absentee Landlordism, and a Dangerous Excess of Negro Tenants—Will the South Awake?

(By E. C. Branson, President State Normal School, Athens, Ga.)

May I venture an answer to the editorial inquiry in your issue of the 23rd inst.: "The Land of Opportunity—Who Shall Possess It?"

The increased average size of farms in the United States between 1889 and 1909; the rapid increase of large estates, in many instances more than a million acres in extent; the bare facts of farm tenancy, and what is more appalling, the alarming increase of farm tenancy throughout the United States and especially in the South; the beginnings of competitive rents among tenants for farm holdings which will grow greater year by year to the destruction of the tenant classes, just as in Belgium, Ireland, and England; the pressure of population in the United States (we will have nearly two hundred million people in the United States by the middle of the present century); the inevitable rise of land values (farm lands alone increased six billion, one hundred million dollars between 1900 and 1905); the commercializing of farm operations for dividends alone; the decay of farm life and farm operations under the tenant system; the decay of rural schools and churches; the high prices for farm products, along with the im-

possibility of diversification, intensification, and rotation under the iron law of tenancy; the movement of country populations cityward, due to our rising industrial civilization.

All these things mean in the South that we are rapidly abandoning our rural regions to a tenant farm class, and what is worse, to a negro tenant farm class, and that our agricultural regions once so abandoned are irrevocably abandoned; that we are creating in the South, and in America for that matter, a population of lack-lands and lack-alls who must be more transitory and migratory, with an interest in community life less and less abiding and loyal; that we are departing more and more from our only hope of economic safety and freedom; namely, small land holdings by independent owners.

I love these plain people on the farms. I am of their sort. But I fear for them exceedingly, for their children and their children's children as the years go on. Our intelligent farmers need to be just as much concerned with the economic side of farm life as they are with the agricultural side. Our educators and statesmen will be obliged to consider all these matters quickly and wisely. Neither America nor the South is immune from the play of forces that have worked the destruction of the farm classes of Ireland and Belgium. But on the other hand, these same forces intelligently understood and directed may make of the farm regions of our Southland the agricultural paradise that we find in Holland and Denmark. It is time we were getting ready to answer the prophetic inquiry: Choose this day which economic system ye will serve. We cannot delay an answer to this question very much longer. If so, it will be too late. Our birthright will be forever gone.

Now a direct answer to your question. When in one county of my State six men own one-third of the farm lands of the entire county; in another, one man one-third of the total farm acreage; in another, three men practically the entire county, and so on all over the State, when an Indiana company of farmers buy 21,000 acres of farm lands in the southwestern corner of the State, and another company 3,000 acres in the southeastern corner, and when another company buys 100,000 acres in the northern end; when two English aristocrats own 1,700,000 acres of farm land in Florida; when two more aristocrats own 2,000,000 acres in Mississippi, and a little bunch of aristocrats, 3,000,000 acres in Texas, it seems to me that the people who are going to own our farm land in another generation or two will be people of sense, not necessarily people of heart. The man of sense will own all our Southern farm lands, or nearly so, and we shall have a vast multitude of people scrambling for a footing upon land just as in other countries of the world; and when we shall have all the problems that education, religion, and statesmanship can deal with to the end of time. It ought to be unceasingly thundered into the ears of the farm class: "With all thy getting, get land." And it is safe to say they will never do it as a great class until they get the necessary understanding of the profound drift of things today in American life.

As long as the farm owners in the South find more difficulty in getting good tenants than tenants find in renting land, just so long are we reasonably free, here and there, from the devilish destructiveness of competitive tenant rents; just so long will the land owner be willing to sell and move out of his difficulties, and to sell at a reasonable price to the people who have little money but a great ambition to own little farms of their own.

But when in the general increase of population the scrambling for land runs up land values and rents as in other countries, then the economic end of the world will have come for the great masses of the people who

ought to own land and live on it, but who have let their opportunities slip away from them.

The high price of farm products, the sparseness of Southern population, the difficulties here and there of securing good tenants, and the cheapness of our land—all mean literally that now is the day of salvation. If the poor man down South does not now own land or does not buy land, he may never have a chance again.

Booker T. Washington sees this problem and he sees it with an uncanny kind of insight and foresight. He is preaching to the negroes everywhere with all the power of his soul: "Get land and get it quick and hold to it with the desperation of death." And the negro is getting land in Georgia. He has nearly \$70,000,000 worth of it, and has gotten it within the last 40 years.

I do not believe that I am unduly alarmed when I say that the thoughtful people of the South of every sort and kind need to wake up to fateful economic issues and their significance for the generations to come, because out of these are the very issues of our social life.

The Chances of the Landless Man.

The advice Professor Massey gave the negro students at Hampton Institute—to get land and improve it, is advice that they are getting from every quarter. It is advice that the negroes are taking, too; and it is advice that the landless white men of the South must take if they would maintain their economic independence and their social superiority. Provided only the population of negroes in any community does not become large enough to check the growth of an adequate white population, we believe it is well for the South that the worthy negroes on the farms should acquire homes of their own, should have the added stability and the increased incentive to thrift and industry that the ownership of land will give them; but it is as inevitable as fate that if any large proportion of the negroes acquire land, build homes and thus become in a marked degree financially independent, profiting by every movement that makes for the country's development, and sharing in the natural increase in the value of all land, that these negroes will advance faster, attain to a higher standard of living and acquire more influence, both politically and financially, than will the white men who remain mere renters, who have no home except by some other man's permission, and to whom the increase that comes in the price of life's necessities, as the result of the increase in land values, will mean only harder times. Wages are likely to increase in the South, but they are not likely to increase as fast as land values. So it is going to be harder each year, as President Branson says for the man who must work for wages to get land.

And the white wage-earner is bound to gradually become of less importance in the affairs of his community and of his State than the negro landowner to whose wealth the very labors of these tenants will add.

It helps the South to have the negroes prosperous, but it is necessary for the prosperity of both white and black that we have for the bulk of our rural population thrifty white farmers who own their own homes. We cannot believe that the landless white men of the South will sit still and neglect the opportunity now theirs to get homes of their own, thus putting themselves forever in the class of men—men economically as well as politically free. The great estates, the big plantations, half-farmed, rented out to tenants whose only care is to get as much out of the land as possible without regard to how much damage their slipshod methods may do, are going to be broken up. As these estates are broken up they should be bought by the men who are now tenants on them, and by ambitious and progressive Western immigrants who will not only enrich the South by their prosperity, but will also help greatly by popularizing stock-raising and better methods of farming.

There are few tenant farmers so poor that they cannot buy a few acres, at least, of land; and once owning a tract of soil, if a man starts to work to improve and beautify it to make it more fertile and more home-like, he will soon find it adding to his income and to his standing and influence in a hundred ways of which he had never dreamed.

There is dignity in the very fact of possessing a freehold, and while the man who neglects his land or mistreats it may be written down in nature's eternal book of justice as one not true to the trust confided to him, the man who takes even the humblest homestead and loves it and cares for it and makes it a place of refuge and a source of comfort to those dependent upon him, not only shares in the reward of those who put their talents to work and thus gain others also, but also earn the gratitude of all who

may come after him by making a fairer and a sweeter world for them to live in.

So, to every tenant, to every young farmer, to every landless man to whom farm life appeals, we would say: Let one of your first ambitions be to get a home. Though it must of necessity be of the humblest sort, get it and keep it and see that it is given the studious attention and the loving care that such a precious possession merits. This way lie independence and prosperity and influence with your fellow men, and that most priceless of all possessions—that you can leave to your children—a love of the home in which they live and an appreciation of the dignity and beauty of work that adds to the welfare of the world.—Progressive Farmer.

The Land of Opportunity.

The South is certainly advancing, and the low-priced lands will in the future be high-priced. Still it is not always wise for a man to get a farm into fine condition and then sell it because he can get more money than he paid for it. A permanent family home is something worth working for.

But there is sometimes danger to the farmer when his land gets valuable. Many years ago, just after the war, in one of the finest counties in Maryland, the great inflation of values of all sorts ran up the value of land there to fancy prices, and farmers were mortgaging their homes to buy other land at \$100 an acre or more. Riding one day with a keen business man, I remarked that the farmer seemed to be in luck. "Hardly," said he; "take the instance of Mr. Blank. He has a fine farm and is a good farmer. When his farm was worth \$25 an acre he lived very economically. Now his land is worth over \$100 an acre, and his family think he is rich, and they must put on all the extravagance of a rich family. But the farm is making no more than it did, and he is really getting a smaller return on his investment. He does not want to sell, and is really poorer because of the extra cost of living." Those same lands since the settling down of monetary affairs are selling for \$50, or less, an acre, and many people were ruined by buying land at inflated prices.

But a steady and permanent increase in the value of real estate that has been selling too low will of course, benefit the whole section if farmers do not get extravagant. Lands in the South are certain to increase in value as the wave of better farming spreads over the country of cotton and corn. But the permanent increase in value of real estate must come through the improved productivity of the soil. When one man by good farming brings his land up to making 100 bushels of corn and over a bale of cotton per acre, that farm will gain a selling price that will make the owner's neighbor, who makes 10 bushels of corn per acre, look like 30 cents, as the saying is. His land may increase in value slightly because of what his neighbor has done, but the real way to make a farm valuable, either for a permanent home of the owner or for sale, is to increase its productive capacity through good farming, business-like farming, profitable farming.—Progressive Farmer.

JUST GAVE IT AWAY.

Found Booze a Pretty Good Business Getter.

From The Daily Item, June 1.

W. W. Dutton, who does a little business on Bradford street, just within the city limits is in a pretty bad predicament. Yesterday afternoon Officer McKagen, who is always on the look out for the violators of the law, heard that Dutton had gotten a couple of suit cases from Columbia. He reported the matter to Chief Bradford, who swore out a warrant and sent McKagen and Ward to make a search of the premises.

They went out and Dutton swore there was no whiskey on his place, but that did not go with these two. They knew what they were after and believed it was there. A thorough search revealed two pints that had been re-bottled and a lot of empty jugs. The two pints and two of the empties were brought to police headquarters.

Dutton was not arrested, but was questioned as to what he did with so much booze. He swore that he did not sell any, but when a customer bought as much as a dollar's worth, that he gave that customer a drink; that sometimes on Saturdays he would sell as much as \$10 or \$50 worth. He gave the names of some of his customers.

Dutton thought this morning that he would come to police headquarters and get his booze. He called upon Chief Bradford for it, and the chief asked him to wait. He went out and had a warrant issued and came back and locked Dutton up.

The case was called at noon today and was tried by Recorder Manning

without a jury. The two officers testified to the facts as related above, and Dutton took the stand and named a number of his customers to whom he gave drinks. He said that he very often gave drinks to white people, but never to them to induce trade; but that he did treat negroes, for in that way he got to sell them a lot of goods. He said that he had sent both to Columbia and to Timmonsville for booze. He does not think much of Timmonsville because it is hard to get what you want there. His favorite place is Columbia. He gave the name of the party whom he sent last Friday for booze. He and some others paid the way of the party to Columbia.

It is likely that cases will be made out against the one who transported the booze, and against Dutton for every case where he gave the booze away. It is a violation of the law to give booze to influence trade just as much so as it is to sell the stuff.

Officer McKagen has been on the track of Dutton for some time, and when he saw his opportunity he seized it. Dutton is a sadder, but a wiser man. At time of writing this he had not been able to pay his fine. If cases be made out against him for giving away to induce trade he will be found guilty, for he has already sworn to giving it away. It will either be a conviction in those cases or a conviction for perjury.

MAXIM ON FUTURE AIR FIGHTS. Could Construct 10,000 Aeroplanes for Cost of Battleship.

New York, May 21.—In an address before the National Aeronautic Society, of which he is president, Hudson Maxim, the inventor of guns and explosives, pointed out that the airship will practically change nearly all known methods of warfare. After reviewing the development of aeroplanes, and declaring the patents of the Wrights are not safe until all have been passed upon by the courts, he continued:

"With every improvement in weapons of war we have found that science is enlisted more and more to do the work of the soldier, and that the more expensive war enginery becomes the more the shedding of blood is replaced by the expenditure of money.

"The history of nations has proved that rulers hold flesh and blood cheap. They have always been ready and willing, for a little glory or personal or national advantage, or for pecuniary reward, to tap the veins of their subjects and let their blood run in rivers. But there has never yet been any indication of a disposition on their part to tap their purses and let their currency run to waste in rivers. It has always been the people's blood and the people's money that have been risked when the rulers cast their dice in war.

Mr. Maxim asserted that the airship will eliminate frontiers in warfare. Advantageous positions, huge fortifications, and lines of troops will mean nothing. Airships, he declared, could easily pass all these and destroy the cities behind them. The only remedy, he declared, would be to fight flying machines with their kind. There was, he continued, a wide field for the inventor of weapons for offense and defense in aerial warfare.

"I do not believe," he continued, "that very great destruction is to be expected from the explosion of high-explosive bombs dropped from the air. The action of a high-explosive bomb is too local to be very effective against troops, and the damage such bombs would do to the buildings of large cities would be relatively small.

"The same is true with respect to their use against coast fortifications. But such projectiles may be used with better effect upon the baggage trains of armies, upon storehouses and magazines. Large explosive bombs dropped into the smokestacks of warships might prove very destructive.

"Aeroplanes have already been built capable of carrying several persons. This has amply demonstrated the feasibility of transporting large bodies of men with light arms and explosive materials for raiding an enemy's country.

"Aeroplanes suited to the raider will probably be produced for \$1,000 to \$1,500 each. Consequently, 10,000 of them could be constructed for the cost of a single battleship, which now is from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

"Even a thousand of them attacking a battleship at once might succeed in dropping sufficient explosives down the smokestack to destroy her, and could this be done even with the loss of every aircraft employed in the engagement, the victory would be a great one."

Russia is becoming interested in hydro-electric power plants and is examining into the matter of electrifying suburban divisions of its State railroads. An investigation is being made of our high tension transmission systems and it is probable that a new field will be opened for American engineers.