

The Watchman and Southron.

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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.

There is a new political, executive, judicial and legislative alignment in South Carolina, according to Governor Blease. On one side are Blease's friends, on the other, Blease's enemies. Is it not possible that Governor Blease is suffering from an exaggerated ego?

The people of South Carolina are beginning to appreciate the fable of King Log and King Stork.

Vice President Sherman is a man who sticks to his friends. The ship subsidy plunderbund had a friend at court when they most needed one and Sunny Jim came up to the scratch like a little man.

The hunters license bill is dead for this session and Mr. James Henry Rice will have to conduct his missionary work a few years longer.

Governor Blease's friend, Mr. J. F. J. Caldwell, of Newberry, having been appointed a special judge without the recommendation of the supreme court, expressly and explicitly required by the law, the question of the legality and regularity of any court over which he may preside is pertinent at this juncture.

TAXING MANUFACTURERS.

Letters That Show How Other Towns and Cities Treat Manufacturing Enterprises.

Editor Item, Sumter, S. C.
Dear Sir:

I note with special interest the two editorials in your paper, one of Tuesday, January 21st and one of February 1st, relative to taxing the factories, which is along the line of my views in the matter, and which shows that any extra burden put on a factory is inimical to the town. In fact, placing a license on manufacturing by the City Council was so far from being anything like equity, as I viewed it, I wrote a letter to eighteen of my competitors outlining my position and the position of the town towards factories, copy of which I enclose, just to find out what my competitors were doing, and also wrote fifteen other towns in South Carolina practically the same letter, and to my surprise a few more towns were doing likewise. But the replies were all very courteous, and to my mind would make interesting reading.

I enclose four, which partially represent both sides, which I will appreciate your copying, and having twenty-seven more. I would be glad to have you publish them as you have space.

Yours very truly,
E. L. Witherspoon.

Letter written to eighteen competitors and fifteen South Carolina towns; Dear Sir:

I write to ask a favor of you which I do not think you will mind granting, and assure you that I stand ready at any time to reciprocate. Our recent council of the City of Sumter has seen fit to put all manufacturers on the same basis as merchants, claiming that they get the same benefit and should pay in addition to their taxes the regular license which is paid by the merchants. I personally feel it is quite an injustice to the city from my point of view, and think it is so accepted by the manufacturers generally.

I maintain that a manufacturer doing an inter-state business, selling ninety per cent of its product outside of the incorporate limits of the town where it is situated, is due no taxes whatever only to the county, the State and the Federal Government, and the town securing such a factory should not only be willing to exempt it from all taxes and license, but where there are no natural advantages such as water power, coal and cheap raw material, a town should be willing to put up a good bonus, making it a free gift to locate such a factory.

If you do not mind please let me know the attitude of your city towards such enterprises. Does it exempt such enterprises from taxes, and for a period of how many years, does

it exempt manufacturers from a business license or not, or does it pay both? It is my intention to put up a fight with the town council, and your answer will help me.

I enclose stamped envelope for reply, and will appreciate your answering promptly, and with best wishes I am,

Yours very truly,
E. L. Witherspoon.

Letter From Cheraw.

Mr. E. L. Witherspoon,
Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir:
Your letter of Jan. 27th received and noted. In reply will say that we are very much surprised indeed to know that your Council is wishing to collect taxes and license for a manufacturer of your class. The Council of Cheraw does not require us to pay either taxes or license. They figure that the employees we have here would not have been here had we not established this factory, and that they are more benefit to the town than our license and taxes would be. As we understand it the majority of the towns in the State of South Carolina exempt all manufacturing establishments from paying taxes and do not think there is another town in the State that asks for license except Sumter. We hope you will get the matter straight and think it very unfair for you to have to pay taxes and licenses when your competitors that you should be on an even basis with do not have to pay either. Hope business is good with you, and would be very glad indeed to have you come to see me some time. With best wishes we are,

Yours very truly,
Cheraw Coffin & Casket Co.,
Per E. G. Ingram, Pres.

Letter from Leesville.

Mr. E. L. Witherspoon,
Sumter, S. C.

Dear sir:
In reply to yours of the 27th, in regard to town taxes and license, will say our town makes us pay both. We have been working to try and get this taken off, but have not been able to do anything with them. Would be glad if you do make a fight in your city, you would let us know how you come out.

Yours truly,
Leesville Coffin & Casket Co.

Letter from Florence, Ala.

Mr. E. L. Witherspoon,
Sumter, S. C.

Dear sir:
I have yours of the 27th, and will say "Gee whiz" what is your city trying to do to the manufacturers. It looks very much like they are trying to charge you clear out of business. Just here let me "whisper in your ear," Florence, Ala., is looking for manufacturers. We want them, and when it comes to taxes and license just leave this to the business league of the City Council. I happen to be President of our City Council, and am connected with the business league, hence my statement is "No Guess" and again I say we will take care of your City Taxes and as to Special License, that sounds like a joke to me. Don't forget that Florence is looking for manufacturers, and if your city makes it too hot for you drop me a card, tell me what you want and I'll do the rest.

Yours very truly,
N. P. Morrison.

Letter from Charlotte.

Mr. E. L. Witherspoon,
Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir:
We are in receipt of yours of Jan. 27th, and note contents of same, and although we cannot do you much good, when it comes to talking about taxes we take pleasure in replying to your letter.

Our State and county taxes are ninety-six cents per hundred. Our city tax is \$1.20 per hundred. We pay a city tax of \$459.10. When we first came to Charlotte we located outside the city limits, and had only State and county taxes to pay, but Charlotte got ambitious and wanted to be a large town and extended its limits and took us in. As above stated we paid \$459.10 last year for the privilege of being within the city limits, but we have not as yet gotten anything in the way of public improvement that we did not have when we were outside of the city.

In 1907 we paid the city a \$25.00 license or privilege tax, but the manufacturers raised such a howl the city government discontinued this and we paid it only one year.

We agree with you that a manufacturing establishment which sells its products outside of the city and outside of the State should be let down easy, as they are the people who furnish the pay roll and keep the balance of the town alive, but it seems to us that everybody else gets off lighter. No free sites up here; nothing free.

Yours very truly,
R. L. Hardage.

COURT MAKES FINE PROGRESS.

CHARGE GIVEN BY JUDGE DEVORE ONE OF THE FINEST EVER DELIVERED IN COURT HOUSE.

Many Points Brought out in Charge to Grand Jury—Changes of Jurors.—Appealed Cases Dismissed.

Judge J. W. DeVore opened the spring term of court here yesterday morning with one of the finest charges to the Grand Jury that has ever been delivered in the city, after which he got down to work and excellent progress was made during the balance of the morning, several of the appeals of the blind tiger cases from the Recorder's court being heard and dismissed.

Judge DeVore opened his charge to the Grand Jury by stating that it was the first time that he had ever held court in the city and he then went on to the main feature of his charge. He started out by saying that almost all of the heinous crimes were committed by vagrants and he thought that the attention of the officers of the law and the public ought to be brought to this fact and that they ought—the officers of the law—to be very strict in their enforcement of the vagrancy law. He went on to read the law, commenting on it in many particulars and saying that there were comparatively few persons who knew who vagrants were. He said that one of the worst objections to a town of this size and to its police protection was that in almost all cases the police force was stationed on the corners of the principal street and in the business sections of the town, where if anyone got in trouble he could call a friend to help him, while in the residence sections of the city where policemen were needed to protect women and children they could not be found. He brought out a great many points along this line that were both interesting and well taken. He stated that in Lexington a vagrant was a thing seldom seen, because of the fact that the officers were accustomed to enforce the law against them so very strictly. The State law as to who a vagrant is, read by Judge DeVore, is to be found in Sec. 459, criminal Code of State laws and is as follows:

"All persons wandering from place to place, without any known residence, or residing in any city, county or town, who have no visible or known means of gaining a fair, honest and reputable livelihood; all suspicious persons going about the country swapping or bartering horses, (without producing a certificate of his or their good character, signed by a Magistrate of the county from which said person last came); likewise all persons who acquire a livelihood by gambling or horse racing, without any other visible means of gaining a livelihood; all keepers of gambling tables, faro banks, or other banks whatsoever used for gaming known under any other denomination; also, all persons who lead idle and disorderly lives; all who knowingly harbor horse-thieves and felons, and those who are known to be of that character and description; likewise all persons not following some handicraft, trade or profession, or not having some known or visible means of livelihood, who shall be able to work, and occupying or being in possession of some piece of land shall not cultivate such a quantity thereof as shall be deemed by the magistrate to be necessary for the maintenance of himself and his family; also, all persons representing publicly or for gain or reward, without being fully licensed, any play, comedy, tragedy, interlude or farce, or other entertainment of the stage or any part thereof; all fortune tellers for fee or reward, and all sturdy beggars, and shall be deemed vagrants, and upon conviction thereof before a court of magistrate shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars or thirty days imprisonment."

The following jurors were excused for cause: R. W. Green, J. E. Kennedy, W. S. Thompson, E. R. DuRant and to take their place to fill the panel the following jurors were drawn: G. W. Hutcherson, Neil O'Donnell, P. R. May, H. J. Winburn, W. J. Seale, L. E. White, C. W. Kingman and J. M. Harby.

G. G. Tweed and E. I. Reardon were incapacitated from sitting upon the grand jury and H. L. Witherspoon and T. V. Walsh were substituted in their place.

The roster of cases on the docket was then taken up and the following disposed of:

State against D. W. and R. M. Elliott for theft of electric current, continued.

State against Thomas Dinkins for disposing of property under mortgage; referred back to magistrate's court for trial.

State vs. L. A. Welch, for disposing of property under mortgage, not pressed.

State vs. Edward J. Roth, for accepting and storing alcoholic liquors, not pressed.

State vs. David Thames, for for-

gery. Plead guilty and sentenced to serve 15 months and to pay a fine of \$1.00.

The liquor cases which were appealed from the Recorder's court were then taken up and disposed of as follows:

City of Sumter vs. C. C. Moore, appealed from the Recorder's court, storing alcoholic liquors, dismissed.

The City of Sumter vs. Calhoun Gardner, appealed from Recorder's court, sale of alcoholic liquors, dismissed.

The City of Sumter vs. A. W. Ledingham, appealed from the Recorder's court, sale of alcoholic liquors, dismissed.

City of Sumter vs. Bella Howard, appealed from the Recorder's court, sale of alcoholic liquors, dismissed.

City of Sumter vs. R. S. Griffin, appealed from Recorder's court, sale of alcoholic liquors, dismissed.

The case of the City vs. George P. McKagen, appealed from the Recorder's court, sale of alcoholic liquors was the case on docket to be taken up next.

A MONUMENT TO GARY.

Gov. Blease Sends Special Message to General Assembly, Making a Recommendation.

Columbia, Feb. 2.—The following special message, No. 3, was sent to the general assembly last night from the governor's office, and in the house the message was referred to a special committee consisting of Jas. E. Davis of Barnwell, Gen. W. E. James of Darlington, Jno. R. Harrison of Greenville, Geo. S. Mower of Newberry and J. S. Gibert of Abbeville:

"Gentlemen: Political preferment has often been given to men as a reward for their faithfulness to duty and for their service to the State, and monuments and statues have been erected to commemorate the deeds and service of some of our distinguished men.

"There was one, whose services in the Confederate army was so distinguished, and he was so gallant a soldier, that none would question that he was entitled to any office within the province of his people. In the dark days of South Carolina, between the close of the Civil war and its redemption from the negro and scalawag government, the services of this distinguished citizen were so marked that he was known throughout the entire State as the originator of the 'Red Shirt Democracy,' which redeemed South Carolina. His services were second to no man's; his devotion and love for South Carolina was equal, if not superior, to that of some of those who have been rewarded, either by public office or otherwise.

"God, in His all-wise providence, saw fit to remove this distinguished son of Carolina from his earthly labors before his fellow citizens had fully come into their own and had been given an opportunity to reward him with some of their highest positions, to which he would have done credit, and have written his name upon the brightest pages of her history for his loyalty.

"Since you can not reward him in person, it seems to me that it would be but right to erect a suitable monument or statue on your capitol grounds, so that those who read our history, and particularly the history of his services, when they see the statue, will know that the people of South Carolina appreciate the service of Gen. Martin Witherspoon Gary of Edgefield."

In the senate the message was referred to the finance committee.

INTEREST IN APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE.

Major Caldwell Will Not Act if not Agreeable to Richland Lawyers—No One Knows Others Action.

Columbia, Feb. 4.—Interest continues unabated today in the Governor Blease-Supreme Court controversy, or rather Mr. Blease's statement that he would not "appoint my enemies to office on the recommendation of anybody," over the appointment of a special judge to preside over Richland court next week. The Richland bar has indicated that it is standing pat, Major Caldwell. Mr. Blease's appointee, says that he would not accept the honor if not agreeable to the Richland bar and all parties say the recommending or appointing was done without any knowledge of the action of the others. A singular thing in this connection is the fact that the supreme court's recommendation to the governor was dated Wednesday, Feb. 1, the same day on which Major Caldwell was called up by Governor Blease and asked if he would like the appointment.

Will Major Caldwell decline the commission? is the question asked. If he should, it remains to be seen whether Mr. Blease will appoint Mr. Ray, the choice of the Richland bar and recommended by the supreme court. Undoubtedly this is one of the most interesting questions that has occupied the public in a long time.

DREAD DEATH STALKS ABROAD.

THOUSANDS FALL VICTIMS OF PLAGUE—BODIES BURNED.

Dread Scourge Rages in East and Fear and Superstition Go Hand in Hand With Plague.

Harbin Manchuria, Feb. 5.—Already nearly 6,000 bodies of victims of the plague have been burned or buried in the outskirts of Harbin. Forty-eight hundred of these came from the Chinese town and 1,900 from the Russian quarter. Yesterday 16 stacks of coffins and seven pits filled with bodies and oiled logs blazed outside the town.

The mortality among the physicians and the hospital attendants is high, considering the means taken for their protection, and doctors, nurses and orderlies are succumbing to the disease.

The sanitary authorities hope soon to test serum of their own manufacture from the Manchurian bacilli as the foreign importations have proved ineffective.

The happenings in Europe in the 17th century when the "Black Death" swept through the country are being repeated here. Fears bordering on panic have gripped the Chinese. At first they denied the medical officers, and kept their sick and dead hidden for the purpose of carrying out the ancient funeral rites.

Now it is brother against brother and father against son. The stricken ones are forced into the streets to starve or freeze or to fall perishing from the swift and deadly attack of the plague. Passers-by avoid them, but sometimes those engaged in sanitary work, masked and bandaged, reach them before they die and cart them to the pest house, or if they are dead, to the funeral pyres. Not infrequently an outcast is seen to be kneeling and making his obeisance before the grave of an ancestor, in sight of a pile of bodies in which he is soon to become one.

Better Farm Methods.

"Even in the wheat belt of the Canadian northwest the farmers have gone grain-mad in an effort to cultivate their farms to wheat," says the Chicago Daily Farmers' and Drovers' Journal. "They are neglecting the dairy and poultry industry and depend on a single crop to pay all obligations and provide the household supplies.

"To imagine Canada and some of the western States buying butter, eggs and poultry indicates prodigality in land cultivation.

"In a country whose agricultural production has reached an approximate value of \$9,000,000,000 annually farmers are too apt to be satisfied with present methods of soil cultivation. Yet when crops are marketed, the banks paid their loans and the year's profit ascertained, it will be found that the farmer could have increased his gains by a more scientific system of agriculture.

"Husbandry, like other vocations, depends for large success on individual endeavor. Should farmers be satisfied with the present yield per acre of wheat, corn, oats and other field crops? When contrasted with the acreage production of Europe it will be discovered that only one-half of the soil possibilities have been developed.

"The wide area of agricultural land in the United States, when compared with the population, has made farmers prodigal and indifferent to the natural resources of the soil. The average yield of potatoes is only 88 bushels per acre, and if the farmer obtains 300 or 500 bushels per acre it is considered a sensational yield. In England and Germany the yield runs up to 1,000 bushels per acre, and in congested Belgium, where the population averages 200 to the square mile, potato production reached 1,600 bushels per acre. In the United States the average wheat yield is 15 bushels per acre, while in England it is 30 bushels per acre. Oats, barley, and other agricultural crops are proportionately larger in Europe than in America.

"These achievements have been consummated on land that has been under cultivation for over two thousand years, and the yields have advanced rather than deteriorated under the guidance of scientific agriculture.

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BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure
The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar
NO ALUM, NO LIME PHOSPHATE

MR. AND MRS. HARVIN ENTERTAIN.

Many Attended and All Enjoy Social Function at Pinewood.

Pinewood, Feb. 4.—A delightful informal social was held Friday evening, February 3rd, by Dr. and Mrs. Frank M. Harvin at their beautiful and hospitable home, and every one who was fortunate to attend had a most enjoyable evening.

Dancing was kept up until 2 p. m. and those who indulged in the poetry of motion surely had no grounds for complaint as the men were gallant, and their partners beautiful.

Mrs. Walter D. Epperson, Miss Lizzie Hodge and Mr. Paul Hodge sang in splendid voice and with feeling and expression.

Instrumental music was furnished by Misses Mamie Reeves, Lizzie Hodge, Leona Harvin, and Mrs. Walter D. Epperson, and Messrs. P. B. Hodge and Percy Harvin. Their selections on the piano afforded all lovers of music infinite pleasure.

Delightful refreshments were served during the evening.

The concensus of opinion expressed by all the guests present, was that it was one of the most enjoyable functions of the season.

The guests were: Mr. and Mrs. D. Epperson, Misses Annie Henric Reynolds, Bessie Desha, DuRant, Lizzie Hodge, Messrs. P. Harvin, Paul Hodge, L. T. Nidal, Clyde Geddings, Howard Scott, James Lawrence, Jr., A. F. Pehardon.

WEATHER TO BE VARIABLE.

It Will Be Mostly Bad During This Week According to the Washington Bureau.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The coming week will be marked by a series of well defined storm areas passing eastward across the United States from the Pacific ocean, in consequence of which periods of fair and foul weather will follow in quick succession, according to the weekly forecast of the weather bureau. The first of these disturbances is now over the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains, whence it will move eastward, attended by rains in southern, rains or snows in middle and snows in the northern districts east of the Mississippi, and reach the Atlantic States Monday or Tuesday. Another disturbance will appear on the Pacific coast Monday, cross the Middle States Wednesday or Thursday and the eastern States Thursday or Friday. The third disturbance of the week will reach the Pacific coast by Wednesday or Thursday and prevail over the middle West the last of the week. Marked variations in temperature will occur during the week in practically all districts east of the Rocky mountains.

Mr. J. D. Jennings, president of the Chamber of Commerce, is meeting with considerable encouragement in his canvass for subscriptions to the capital stock of the \$100,000 hotel company. He has obtained subscriptions aggregating more than \$50,000, and has called on comparatively few of the business men. He hopes and believes that he will succeed in raising \$100,000, and before he admits defeat, will give the undertaking a fair trial and every business man an opportunity to do his part toward giving the town what it most sadly needs. The demand for a modern hotel is so urgent that it will fill a long felt want and should receive from the day it is opened a large patronage. There is no reason why a first class hotel, properly conducted, should not prove a paying investment for the stockholders. If two hotels can make money in Florence, a smaller town than Sumter, one hotel ought to be successful in Sumter.