

**The Watchman and Southron.**

Published Wednesday and Saturday.

—BY—  
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SUMTER, S. C.

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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.

**A LETTER FROM SHERIFF EPPERSON.**

Editor of the Herald, Sir: Will you allow me space in your paper to correct some statements recently published in the "Daily Item" against the Sheriff's office. In the first place the Item stated there was no effort made to capture Harper. This is an error. We have made every effort to capture Mr. Harper. They also state that the Governor's proclamation offering a reward of \$100.00 for the capture of Mr. Harper, should have been printed in all the County papers and that this was withheld from the Item to deprive them of the amount which they would have received for publishing the same. I had an order from the Governor to publish same in one county paper, which was done.

The sheriff asked the reporter of the Item after explaining to him, to correct the statement. Which the reporter failed to do.

It seems the Item wishes the people of Sumter county to believe there has been no effort made to capture Mr. Harper. I will state the following truths. Every one knows Ed. Bossard was shot at the depot on Sunday night. A policeman was at the depot and Harper only had a few minutes the start of him. Chief Bradford and several members of the force made every effort to locate Harper, but failed to do so, because they could not get any information as to his whereabouts, for the fact he was shielded by friends. I knew nothing of the killing until the next day. Though my father, Mr. Owens, was out all night trying to locate Mr. Harper. Now it seems from the printed matters in "The Item" they think all the Sheriff had to do was to walk out and capture Harper, whether he could be found or not.

Mr. Harper is not the first man who has escaped, nor will he be the last. If the Editor of the Item will come to the office we will show him descriptions of men wanted in different States, with rewards offered for them as high as \$50,000.00. Who have never been captured.

In regards to a warrant being sent to this office on Saturday, I desire to say, Judge Wells has a deputy paid by the county to do his work and under Section 1945 Code of Laws of South Carolina, Vol. 1, which reads as follows: The Magistrates in Sumter, Barnwell, Orangeburg and Fairfield counties for whom there are constables appointed, with fixed salaries, shall not be authorized to place their warrants or other criminal process in the hands of the Sheriffs of said counties, for services unless, at the same time they make and file with the said Sheriffs their certificate, setting forth that at the time, there is a riot or other disturbance or sufficient cause, stating the cause, in the locality, which renders it impossible or inexpedient to have the same served by the regular constable and the account of the Sheriff for any such service shall not be allowed as paid unless vouched by and based on such certificate.

The people of Sumter county will see by the above section that the Sheriff has nothing to do with the serving of Magistrate's warrants, without the proper endorsement as specified above endorsed thereon. I think the Editor of the Item had better post himself a little in regard to the law before criticising the duties pertaining to the Sheriff's office.

W. H. EPPERSON,  
Sheriff.

The above open letter, over the signature of Sheriff W. H. Epperson appeared in the Sumter Herald of 17th inst. Although not requested to do so, it is reproduced in this paper in order that the public at large may see what the Sheriff's office, has to say for itself. The columns of the Daily Item are always open to any citizen or public official who has a message for the public or who desires to reply to criticisms, and the Sheriff's office was

not forced to adopt the roundabout course of applying to another newspaper to get its reply before the public. While the Item holds itself free to criticise public officials when circumstances and the public good demand criticism, it has never yet denied the use of its columns to the official or individual criticised when he desired to make reply to the criticism or to defend his acts or conduct.

The Item charged that the proper efforts were not made to arrest J. W. Harper, and facts of common knowledge substantiated the correctness of this charge. It was known that he was in town and had been in consultation with attorneys who represented him at the Coroner's inquest, but if his house was ever searched or kept under surveillance that fact has never been reported. It has since become known that he was in his home and remained there unmolested until he got ready to hire a buggy and drive to a nearby railroad station and take the train for parts unknown. The nearest approach to an attempt to arrest him was when a policeman inquired at the door whether Mr. Harper was at home, and when informed that he was not, although then in the house, no further effort was made to arrest him in case he should visit his house or leave it. So much for this phase of the Sheriff's letter, which itself confesses that the Sheriff's office was relying upon the police force of the city to capture Harper—a duty that the law devolves upon the Sheriff.

In respect to the publication of the Governor's proclamation offering a reward for the capture of Harper, it was stated in this paper that it had been customary for many years to publish these proclamations in all the papers, and this is a fact. All the proclamations the writer has seen were sent to the Sheriff with instruction to publish in at least one county newspaper, and heretofore the present Sheriff and his predecessors have published the proclamations in all the papers, and the Governor has paid the bills without question. The Sheriff was not criticised so much for not publishing the proclamation in the Item, as he has been accustomed to do, but for withholding publication for three or more days until he could get it published in another paper that had not criticised his office.

As to the matter of serving a warrant turned over to the Sheriff's office by Magistrate Wells; again the Sheriff condemns himself by his own words. Suppose the law does prescribe a whole lot of red tape respecting the payment of the Sheriff's fees for serving a Magistrate's warrant, is that a valid excuse for the Sheriff to sit placidly in his office, refusing to serve the warrant for a desperate criminal, who shot and seriously wounded a man and had terrorized a crowd? Is the collection of fees more important to the Sheriff than the arrest of a would-be-murderer? What if Magistrate Wells had been derelict in properly certifying the warrant so the Sheriff could have an iron clad cinch on the extra fees? Is it proper for the High Sheriff and his deputies to sit tight in their office in the Court House while the criminal makes good his escape? It does seem that a zealous and energetic sheriff who draws a regular salary of \$150 a month and various and sundry fees, could forego the certainty of a few dollars of additional fees rather than let a criminal escape while he is bickering with the magistrate who issued the warrant. When the magistrate neglects or refuses to perform his duty, it is all the more necessary that the sheriff, the highest peace officer of the county, perform the full duty he owes the public. It is for conduct such as this that the Sheriff's office has been and is being criticised, not only by The Daily Item, but by the public generally.

If the Legislature appropriated more money than the tax levy will raise, Governor Blease was dead right in vetoing the appropriation bill. For years there has been talk of economy and promises of reduction in taxes, but the legislature has regularly made appropriations in excess of the income of the State. This course, as unwise as it was unbusiness-like, has resulted in a deficit and the State has had to borrow large sums annually to liquidate its obligations, making the burden of taxation greater than necessary to the extent of the interest paid on the money borrowed. We do not stand for avariciousness in the administration of the business of the State, for it is not only wise, but often the truest economy to spend money liberally when necessary for improvements or to increase the efficiency of the administration of the affairs of the State. But we have always condemned a haphazard appropriation of public money without having first provided ways and means for raising a sufficient sum by taxation, or otherwise, to cover the amounts appropriated. The legislature has been guilty of this indefensible practice in former years, it may have done the same thing this year, and if it has, Governor Blease needs no further justification of his act in vetoing the appropriation bill that

a recital of the fact. If the legislature voted away more money than the State will receive from all sources during the current year, Governor Blease has taught the legislators a long needed and merited lesson.

If the income of the State this year will equal or exceed the total amount appropriated by the legislature, Governor Blease was guilty of a high handed outrage in vetoing certain items in the appropriation bill. The legislature is responsible to the people for its acts; and it is the duty of the legislature to levy taxes for the support of the State Government and to make appropriations for the various departments and for specific purposes, and when the Governor undertakes to dictate to the legislature how and where the State's money shall be spent, he exceeds his authority and is meddling with a co-ordinate department of the Government in an unwarranted manner. Unless the legislature put itself in the wrong by making appropriations in excess of the State's income, Governor Blease can not successfully defend his act.

**MISS BRAND ENTERTAINS.**

Large Number of Friends Invited to Meet Mrs. Brand and Miss Hewitt.

At her home on Harvin street Miss Beaufort Brand on Thursday evening entertained a large number of her friends in honor of Mrs. W. S. Brand of Augusta and Miss Jaunita Hewitt of Darlington.

The residence was tastefully decorated with ferns and carnations for the occasion and the hostess was kept busy for the first part of the evening receiving the fifty guests who assembled.

Eleven tables were provided and the guests were seated at them and given the dice cups and told to play hearts with dice, that being the method of entertainment for the evening.

The first prize, a heart shaped case of sterling bodkins, was won by Miss Ada Mullins of Philadelphia, the guest of Mrs. Whitehead, and the goosy prize, a heart-shaped box of Huyler's candy, was won by Mrs. Andrew Jackson.

After the scores had been counted and the prizes given out the guests each presented with a carnation and later were served with a dainty salad course which was much enjoyed.

**A THIEF CAPTURED.**

Where Some of the Stolen Bicycles Went.

Mr. John D. Epperson, special deputy sheriff, went to Gourdin's Station Saturday night with a warrant for the arrest of Oliver Potts, a negro who had made a raid on the house of L. E. White and stolen a gold watch fob, a ladies coat, a tailor made skirt, a hat and other articles. Mr. Epperson was furnished with a description of the stolen articles, and within a short time after reaching Gourdins he was on the trail of the stolen goods and the man. He recovered the watch that night from a negro woman to whom it had been given by a man who bought it from Potts. Sunday he captured Potts and that night he returned with his prisoner. He did not succeed in recovering the clothing, as Potts' sister had diked up in the outfit and gone off to attend a big church meeting.

While in Gourdins Mr. Epperson was put on to the fact that Potts had sold six bicycles in the neighborhood within the past few months. Mr. G. C. Parsons gave him his active assistance in working up the bicycle cases and thanks to his efforts Mr. Epperson succeeded in locating four of the wheels and obtaining a description of them. The two other wheels he did not find, but Mr. Parsons will keep a watch for them and they will also be located soon, it is thought. Mr. Epperson has succeeded in finding the owners of two of the wheels stolen by Potts and will probably be able to locate the owners of the others as he is being assisted by the bicycle dealers who keep a record of the wheels they sell.

Potts has been committed to jail on the charge of grand larceny and will be tried at the next term of court.

**In The Magistrate's Court.**

A preliminary hearing was given in the magistrate's court Saturday, some darkies being up on the charge of assaulting and beating up another darky, one William Morrison. Mr. L. D. Jennings and Mr. C. C. Smith appeared on behalf of the defendants.

It seems from the evidence that was taken that Morrison got in trouble with his brother members at a lodge meeting and was unceremoniously put out of the building. He was attacked and beat up by one or two of his fellow members, John Ward being the chief one in maltreating him was held for trial at the higher court. The others were released as there was not sufficient evidence against them to hold them.

When a young man tells a girl she is pretty she proceeds to give an imitation of being surprised.

**IN THE POLICE COURT.**

Small Boys Confess to Stealing Chickens and Held for Trial in the Higher Court.

Several cases were heard in the police court Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Rollin Richardson and Ben Mack were up on the charge of spilling rocks on the streets. The two men were teamsters and had not taken sufficient precautions against dropping the rocks while carrying them from one place to another. Both plead guilty and were each fined \$3.00.

D. T. Hamilton was charged with blocking the Manning avenue and Harvin street crossing. He plead guilty to the charge and was fined \$5.00.

J. A. Troutman, the A. C. L. night yard master was charged with blocking a crossing on Sumter street Friday morning. He stated that he had only blocked the crossing so as to let a passenger train go by and to prevent a longer blockage of other crossings. The recorder fined him \$5.00.

Arthur Phillips and John Belcher, two colored hackmen, were charged with cursing and fighting at the passenger station. They plead not guilty but were found guilty by the recorder and made to pay \$5.00 each.

Friday afternoon a very large and much interested crowd congregated in the Recorder's court room to hear the preliminary trial of three small white boys who were charged with stealing chickens. The boys who were Robert Griffin, Norris Richardson, and Jack Wheeler, had already confessed, having taken the chickens and had told to whom they had sold them.

The only evidence put up was that by R. B. Phillips, a colored hackman and storekeeper, and a white storekeeper on Manning avenue, who testified to having bought the chickens from the boys. The recorder after hearing the evidence decided that they should be held on the charge of larceny and burglary and they were sent up to the higher court for trial. He was unable to fix bond for them as the offense of which they were charged was a felony and bail for such an offense must be fixed by a circuit judge.

The depredations of the boys had covered a period of about one month and many persons had suffered at their hands.

Another case that came up was that against Durham Dawkins, Oran Thigpen and Willie Rogers for breaking into the Southern freight depot on Tuesday night and stealing the contents of a case of Canadian club whiskey, containing sixteen quarts, a case of Prince Albert smoking tobacco, and a large number of other things of lesser value. After the evidence in the case had been taken the Recorder dismissed Willie Rogers as there was nothing said against him, but held the other two boys for trial at the next term of criminal court, bond being fixed at \$400.

The witnesses in the case were: H. A. Rose, agent for the Southern depot, who testified to the fact of what was taken from the building and that it was taken Tuesday night. Mr. G. A. Coley, special detective agent for the Southern road, stated that he had been told by Dawkins that he had been given a drink of whiskey the night before by Thigpen. He was brought on up to the guard house where, after some time, he was persuaded to tell where the whiskey that he had drunk came from. Chief Bradford, Mr. Coley and Dawkins then went down to the old cotton factory under which the stuff had been hidden. Chief Bradford had waited out in the street while the others went to the place the goods were supposed to be concealed. Mr. Bradford had seen the Thigpen boy come from the side of the building and had immediately given chase. Thigpen ran back under the building right into the arms of Mr. Coley who was examining the goods.

Most of the tobacco and about half of the whiskey was recovered while the other goods were not. As no evidence was given against Rogers, the statement of Thigpen that Rogers was as much in it as the rest of them not being accepted as evidence, Rogers was dismissed while the other two boys were held until the next term of court.

There was only one case tried in the Recorder's court Saturday. Frank Richardson was charged with being drunk Friday night about 12 o'clock. He plead guilty to the charge and was fined \$5.00 or 10 days.

Cases against several of the A. C. L. yard employees were postponed until Tuesday. These cases were for blocking the streets at various places and different times.

Only one of the small boys who were given a preliminary in the Recorder's court several days ago has been released on bond. The others are still confined in the county jail.

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Scientific farming has brought about scientific inventions; they go hand in hand. It is easily plain to anyone that a silo should be constructed of material that makes it air tight, that will not warp, shrink or swell.

The Polk system of constructing cement silos is an innovation. It is certainly a marked improvement over any other system that has been devised. The Polk, Genung, Polk company, Incorporated at Fort Branch, Ind., explained to us that the Cement Silo when properly constructed under the Polk system is a silo forever. It is not an expense. The work it does makes it a saving. The first cost is the last cost. There is no paining, no adjustment of hoops, no fire risk, no setting up after a wind storm, no rotting, nor shrinking or swelling in fact its life is limitless.

There are vital points if you are considering the erection of a silo. There are a great many other good points in favor of this system all of which will be carefully explained to those interested if correspondence is opened with the Polk, Genung, Polk company at Fort Branch, Ind.

These people are the sole owners of the Polk system of reinforced concrete constructions, a patented system, which has attracted wide spread attention and which has been passed upon by scientific experts as a most thoroughly perfect and complete system.

The firm is one of the most reputable and highly rated in the State of Indiana. Their contracts will be carried out absolutely according to agreement, and it is a pleasure on the part of this newspaper to commend them and their system as worthy of the consideration of those who may be interested.

C. M. Saxby west of the city built two silos, one at his home and one in Carroll county in the summer of 1910 and speaks very highly of the plan.—Freeport (Ind.) Bulletin.

**A Boy's Chances.**

The United States Steel Corporation recently elected a new president. It chose for the position, which commands a salary of fifty thousand dollars a year, a man, still comparatively young, has worked his way up from the bottom of the steel ladder, having entered the mill as a boy, at the usual boys' wages, and gone successively through every stage of work and progress since.

During the same week in which the steel company elected its new president, ex-Governor Black, of New York addressed a gathering of the bankers of New York City. In the course of his address he said: "Twenty-five years ago the majority of young men were earning less money than bricklayers receive today."

No one of the company disputed him, for the statement was true. The bankers present, almost without exception, had begun work on wages of four dollars a week, which is the usual pay for a boy in a bank.

The two incidents, coming in the same week and the same city, are chiefly interesting for the light they throw on that old, old question of the boys' chances today. They must be regarded as confirming the opinion so often expressed by Mr. Carnegie, Mr. James J. Hill, the late Mr. Harriman, Mr. Edison, and others who have attained the highest commercial success, that there has never been a time in the history of the world when a boy had so good a chance as he has today.

is that he thinks too much about himself and too little about his work. If he is constantly wondering whether there is anything ahead of him in the office where he works, and constantly worrying because he does not see anything the chances are that there is not. If, on the other hand, he forgets himself in his work, if the days go by so quickly that he has a feeling of regret or uneasiness at not having accomplished as much as he wished to, then he may be sure that some time he will be "boss" of the business himself; for that is the way the "boss" feels now.—Youths Companion.

**Stricken With Apoplexy.**

Mr. J. S. R. Brown, of Oswego, who was visiting his daughter in Florence was stricken with apoplexy Sunday night and has been critically ill ever since. Hope of his recovery has been almost abandoned.

Better keep your feet warm in the winter more to you than any other thing.

The old-fashioned way who looks for red-topped boots now has a son who is an authority on silk socks.—Dallas News.

**A Card of Thanks.**

The teacher of the Stateburg school (colored), Hattie D. Taylor, wishes to return many thanks to Prof. Tate, State Superintendent of the Rural Schools, Mr. Haynsworth, County Superintendent of Education and Mr. W. L. Saunders, clerk of the Board of Trustees, for their visit to the school on the 16th inst.

2-21-11.—W.  
FOR SALE—Tools improved cotton seed. \$1.00 per bushel. Cash with order. J. A. Weathersbee, Norway, S. C. 2-21-11.

WANTED—At once, several good farm hands to work on truck farm. Wages \$1.50 per day. Steady time. Apply to J. W. Ives, Ojus, Dade County, Florida. 2-21-11

**MONEY MAKER COTTON SEED—**Will pay you, if you are raising cotton. If you are not posted, it will pay you to investigate. We can furnish a limited quantity of pure seed, raised on our farm where there has never been any blight. \$1.00 per bushel. Let us book your order at once if you intend to plant Money Maker. C. P. Osteen Co., Sumter, S. C. 2-1-11

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