

The Watchman and Southron. Published Wednesday and Saturday. —BY— OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY 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.

Governor Blease does not approve of the commission form of government for towns and cities, therefore he vetoed the two acts which permitted the qualified electors of certain cities to vote on the question.

Governor Blease sent a special message to the legislature criticizing the condition of the State House in a rather blunt and unexpected language and demanded that something be done to remedy the conditions complained of.

LAMAR DE FONTAINE.

"From a stray quotation in the Springfield Republican, it appears that newspapers of Maine are in controversy as to whether Thaddeus Oliver or Mrs. Ethelinda Beers wrote 'All's Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight.'"

De Fontaine and Henry Timrod were doing editorial work on The South Carolinian in Columbia, Mr. Selby being the printer, when Columbia fell into Sherman's hands.

"Few figures of the War Between the Sections were more romantic than de Fontaine. For four years in boyhood a prisoner of the Comanches, he left his native Texas to seek adventure—and found it."

In the above editorial, which appeared in the Columbia Record Tuesday, the writer has fallen into error by confusing two men whose names were somewhat similar.

Fontaine, editor and war correspondent. Felix G. de Fontaine came to Charleston as the correspondent of the New York Herald to report the National Democratic Convention in 1860. Remaining in Charleston he became connected with the Charleston Courier and, at the breaking out of the war, went to Virginia as a war correspondent.

The above facts are furnished by Mr. N. G. Osteen, who worked in the office of the South Carolinian in Columbia, during the war, accompanied the printing material to Chester and Charlotte, and worked in the office in Charleston until it was removed to Columbia in 1866.

A white man who runs a little business in the suburbs was arrested for selling cigarettes on Sunday and after a trial in the Recorder's court was found guilty and required to pay a fine of \$10.

Hon. Richmond P. Hobson, the indefatigable representative of the ship building interests is being ably seconded by the anti-Japan crowd in California in his effort to work up a war scare and terrify Congress into building more ten million dollar battleships.

Will Gov. Blease appoint magistrates, auditors and other county officials who were nominated in the primary if they happen not to have been his friends in the last State primary?

In building the new hospital for the insane a special building should be provided for those who escape hanging or imprisonment in the penitentiary on the plea of insanity.

Politicians in South Carolina are as afraid to say or do anything about purging the State pension rolls of bogus, fraudulent and unworthy pensioners as members of Congress have always shown themselves when the Federal pension steal has been under consideration.

Work was begun Tuesday toward laying Calhoun street between Washington and Salem Avenue. The clay for the streets will be dug on Calhoun street just east of Salem Avenue, the hole from which it comes to be filled by the sand which will be hauled from that portion of the street which is to be clayed.

L. B. TUTEN IN JAIL.

Understood That His Lawyers Will Push For His Immediate Trial For Murder of Langford.

Hampton, Feb. 22.—L. B. Tuten of Brunson, against whom a true bill was found yesterday charging him with the murder of J. R. Langford, surrendered himself to the sheriff today and is in Hampton jail tonight, bail having been refused.

Tuten will be arraigned tomorrow and it is the understanding here that his lawyers will push for an immediate trial.

The case has been a sensational one throughout and great interest will be taken in the trial.

SEWER LINE ADVANCES STEADILY.

Laying of Pipe Has Reached Point on A. C. L. Line from Sumter to Columbia.

Work on the laying of the sewer line from Green Swamp to the Oakland Avenue line where the two lines will be connected is progressing steadily, although not rapidly, owing to the fact that a small force of hands is being worked and because the work has to be done very carefully and for the most part, slowly.

At the present time the sewer line, which was begun from the point where the sewage will empty into Green Swamp, has progressed from Green Swamp up to a point on the line of the A. C. L. road from Sumter to Columbia, just west of where the A. C. L. and Northwestern roads cross, and in the next day or two it will be extended under the railroad and on towards the city.

The force of hands employed on the line has varied from about two dozen men at times to about ten men at others. At present there are only about a dozen men employed, although more could be used now that the line has left the swamp and is progressing up towards the railroad and higher land, where the cut made for the line will have to be deeper.

Mr. E. C. Carr, who has charge of the work for the Bergsma and Moffitt Company states Wednesday afternoon that the work at the present time was getting on nicely and, while it was somewhat behind, owing to almost a month's delay caused by the failure of the parties from whom it was ordered to ship the pipe, he thought it would be pretty well completed by the first of April, the time required for its completion in the contract with the city.

Wednesday afternoon pumps were at work carrying off the ground water which sprung up in the ditch and a gang of men were busy filling in the ditch where the pipe had been laid and cemented the day before and had dried sufficiently. Owing to the cold weather during the past two days the cement has not dried and hardened as quickly as when the weather was warmer, and the freshly laid pipes have to be given at least twenty-four hours time in which to allow the cement to dry and harden before the dirt is thrown in and tamped down over them.

ALABAMA LIQUOR BILL.

Proposed Methods of Regulating Traffic Under Local Option.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 21.—A joint committee of the house tonight considered the two bills to regulate saloons and dispensaries in Alabama. The saloon bill provides a retail license of \$1,500, except in Birmingham, where it is to be \$2,500, and one saloon to every 1,000 inhabitants, except in Birmingham, where it is one to every 2,000, and in Montgomery, where it is one to every 750.

Bars are allowed, but no screens and the saloons are to open at 6 a. m. and close at 11 p. m. Wholesalers and brewers and distillers pay \$1,800 licenses.

The dispensary bill provides for the \$2,500 license to go to the State, one dispensary to every county, open at 6 a. m. and close at 6 p. m.

The President of the Senate, H. F. Morrow, of Birmingham, introduced a bill today to make the Parks local option bill inoperative in those counties which were dry on the 1st day of January, 1907 when the State...

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

Some Random Thoughts.

There are some things about land breaking humor, saving the forests, etc. in our selections this week that some of our readers may find of interest and profit.

We are having a long dry warm spell of weather. It tries to rain about once a week, but so far very little. Clay lands are hard, and do not break as well as they should.

What China Teaches Us About Forest Destruction.

One of the most important of the many important subjects discussed in Editor Poe's Asiatic letters is one treated two weeks ago—the enormous losses which those Oriental countries suffer, and probably must suffer through all the centuries to come through failure to give proper attention to forest preservation.

In connection with the article to Mr. Poe's Asiatic letters, the picture showing the extent of the deforestation in China by Mr. E. W. Dabbs, and he also reminds us of Mr. Roosevelt's message to Congress two years ago in which he called attention to these photographs and also to a special report concerning the ruin wrought in China through neglect of the forests.

"The lesson of deforestation in China is a lesson which mankind should have learned many times already from what has occurred in other places. Denudation leaves naked soil, then gully cuts down to the bare rock; and meanwhile the rock-waste buries the bottom lands.

"This ruthless destruction of the forests in northern China has brought about or has aided in bringing about, desolation, just as the destruction of the forests in central Asia aided in bringing ruin to the once rich central Asian cities; just as the destruction of the forests in northern Africa helped towards the ruin of a region that was a fertile granary in Roman days.

Shortsighted man, whether barbaric, semi-civilized, or what he mistakenly regards as fully civilized, when he has destroyed the forests, has rendered certain the ultimate destruction of the land itself. In northern China the mountains are now absolutely barren peaks. Not only have the forests been destroyed, but because of their destruction the soil has been washed off the naked rock.

It is especially important that we of the South learn this great lesson of forest preservation, for the forest constitute a great portion of our wealth and we have seemed to consider them inexhaustible, or as a concern of nature alone. We must realize that the reckless, wasteful methods of the past will not longer do, that the forests are to be protected and conserved and perpetuated just as is the fertility of our soils.

We must learn, too, that forest preservation is not a local matter—the destruction of the Appalachian forests is a matter of direct concern to the dwellers in the Mississippi Valley or along the Atlantic Coast, and they cannot afford to view such destruction with indifference. Indeed,

it is high time for farmers everywhere to insist that both State and Nation take due steps to preserve the forests for present and future usefulness, and for the criminal forest waste of the past to give place to methods of practical conservation.—Progressive Farmer.

The Wonderful Potash Deposits in Saxony.

Somewhere in the dim past, when Europe was a tropical country, a little arm of the sea was separated off into a huge natural evaporation pan. Here for thirteen thousand years, as the geologists tell us, the blazing sun beat down on the great salt lake which was later, in our own time, to be the Stassfurt potash region in Saxony.

Nowhere else in the world are there potash deposits even remotely comparable to those at Stassfurt. For, after the thousands of years of evaporation, Nature came along and laid a solid deposit of impervious clay over the precious salts. Otherwise the rain and water soaking through the earth would have dissolved and carried away these deposits, as deposits in other parts of the world have undoubtedly been carried away.

Thus it comes about that, aided by Nature, the little group of mine owners in the Stassfurt region have a grip on the potash trade of the world, and hence on the farmer who is the greatest of all consumers of potash, a grip such as few of the strongest monopolies in any other necessary have ever possessed.—From "The Potash Industry and the American Farmer" by Arthur P. Reeves, in the Agricultural Review of Potash.

(From the Atlanta Constitution.)

R. A. Sublette, originally of South Carolina, but now a planter in Terrell county, Georgia, is going to make the farmers of that county sit up and take notice.

He has bought a big Georgia plantation and plans to do a large part of his cultivation by machinery.

He has secured a first class traction engine and a big gangplough, and is going to turn them loose on his acres.

The Constitution would like to see that policy imported into every agricultural county in Georgia.

Farming by machinery is commonplace in the West and the Southwest. It is not frequent in the States of the Atlantic seaboard. But it ought to be.

Such a policy saves time, enhances productivity, increases income, saves money, goes a long way toward solving the vexed labor problems.

Indeed, if all Southern farmers used the mechanical aids at their disposal, the unreliable negro farm laborer would be lessened as a Southern menace.

It goes without saying that Mr. Sublette's Terrell county experiment will be a success.

The latest freak bobs up in the Wisconsin legislature. Speaker Ingram has introduced a bill to establish State insurance. The theory is advanced to combat the growing demand for old age pensions. Ingram wants to make it possible for every Wisconsin citizen to obtain insurance at exact cost, the expense of administration to be paid by the State. Ingram is a reform politician of the La Follette school. He has obtained admirable results in the legislature by forcing important measures to the front first, refusing to assign minor bills to committees until legislative action has been taken on this question.—Greenville News.

Charleston and Columbia have no kick on the governor that does not properly belong on their own corporation. Charleston and Columbia elected Blease and they cannot plead either ignorance or innocence.—Florence Times.

Senator Lorimer says he never gives up. Then who did? Several members of the Illinois legislature swore that they got it.—Anderson Mail.

"BILL NYE DAY" A SUCCESS.

Observed With Appropriate Exercises in North Carolina.

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 22.—Practically every school and college in North Carolina celebrated "Bill Nye Day" with appropriate exercises today, the pupils giving an hour to the execution of a programme prepared by the Bill Nye Memorial Committee while the memory of the "Father of His Country" played second fiddle to that of the lamed humorist. Every pupil was requested to bring a penny for the memorial fund and several thousand dollars were collected, which will be applied to the erection of the Bill Nye Memorial building at the Stonewall Jackson Training School, a movement undertaken by the North Carolina Press Association. The day set was four days removed from the anniversary of Bill Nye's death at Craig-Y-Nos, his North Carolina mountain home in 1896.

PORK EATERS ON INCREASE.

More Hogs Consumed in 1909 Than All Other Animals Combined.

Washington, Feb. 22.—"Pork eaters" is a term which may rightfully be applied to the people of the United States if the figures just made public by the census bureau for the year 1909 may be taken as a basis. The figures show that during that year 4,483,000 more hogs were killed in this country for food purposes than all other animals combined, including bees, calves, sheep and lambs, goats, kids, etc. During the year 1909, 36,433,000 hogs were killed for food purposes and 31,969,000 of all other animals.

There are indications that the most promising Congress... for a score of years has lost its dynamic force six weeks before its end; but little of the legislation begun in December is likely to be enacted. Some are predicting that the appropriation bills will not be passed by March the 4th. It is almost impossible for a heterogeneous team of over three hundred patriots, statesmen, demagogues and cranks to pull together as a harmonious whole. A majority of Congress knows that the country is demanding a lowering of certain tariff schedules. It knows that the country wants a parcels post and many other important measures, but with half a dozen political factions and ten times as many individual pullers in sixty six different directions, there is but little probability of urgently needed legislation.

It is said that the New York senatorial deadlock will not be broken this week. Everybody will be glad—provided Sheehan isn't elected.—Anderson Mail.

The Milwaukee Sentinel says: A Chicago man has brought a \$25,000 suit against a girl for breach of promise. "Man? Evidently some mollycoddle has been mistaken for a man.—Wilmington Star.

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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. 2-21-2t

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