

BIG NIGHT FOR RETAILERS.

MERCHANTS OF THE CITY HOLD ENTHUSIASTIC CONCLAVE.

Show their Association to be On Sound Footing—Will Put Ban on Injudicious Advertising Schemes. Elect Attorney to Prosecute Claims—Mr. Lanneau, of Charleston Gives Interesting Talk.

"Success," with a capital S, spells the result of the enthusiastic meeting held last night by the Sumter Retail Merchants' Association. Some fifty of the city's well-known merchants were present at the meeting; everyone was in a good humor, spoke freely of what they wanted their association to accomplish and as a fitting climax to a most successful meeting, Mr. Lanneau of the Charleston Retail Merchants' Association made a snappy and extremely interesting talk, in which he gave the Sumter Retailers an idea of just what could be accomplished by the systematic team work of the merchants.

Until Mr. Lanneau took the floor there was no special speaker, free discussion being made of various subjects. Secretary Snell, of the association spent some time, however, at the opening of the meeting in explaining, especially for the benefit of the merchants present who were not members of the association, the workings of the credit system and the good results obtained by becoming a member of the association. It was learned from the remarks of the secretary that the association is on a good financial footing, that the yellow letter system has been of much benefit in collecting just debts, and after various discussion of the matter it was decided to elect Mr. Horace Harby official attorney of the association to obtain judgments against some of those who have absolutely refused to adjust accounts which they have left unpaid.

Some discussion was entered into in regard to the many fake advertising schemes which have taken good money out of the pockets of Sumter merchants and it was unanimously agreed to turn down all doubtful advertising solicitations unless they had secured the endorsement of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Northwestern schedule was next on the program for discussion. It was decided that some arrangement certainly ought to be made whereby parties from Camden could come to Sumter and return home the same day, and the association agreed that each individual would write to the Railroad Commissioners asking for a hearing on the matter.

E. W. Dabbs was endorsed for election as a warehouse commissioner under a recent enactment of the legislature, and upon the suggestion of Secretary Snell, a resolution to this effect will be drawn up and handed to the legislative delegation from Sumter.

After what might be termed the business part of the meeting had been dispensed with, a most delightful supper was served to those present by some of Sumter's most charming young ladies.

Then came the event of the evening, as the social reporter might have put it, when Mr. Lanneau, president of the Charleston Retail Merchants' Association was introduced by Secretary Snell.

Mr. Lanneau is a successful merchant himself, and he told the Sumter merchants what his association was accomplishing, and in what way it was a benefit not only to the merchants themselves but to the entire community and even to the State. He said that the credit system benefited the customer as well as the merchant, for it gave a good man a better rating and helped to give any honest man a better standing. Mr. Lanneau said that a State Retailers' Association should be established, and that the retail associations of the various cities should co-operate in obtaining this result.

Speaking of the work laid out for the merchant of keeping money at home which was being sent out to various catalog houses, Mr. Lanneau said that upon strict investigation the merchants of Charleston had found that the people were enthusiastic about buying at home, but that often times the kick was made that the home merchants did not have some certain article that some housewife wanted. If a case of this kind arrives said Mr. Lanneau, the merchant should order the article himself even if he lost money on this particular article. The "Buy at Home Fair" recently held in Charleston was a great success he said, and a practical example of what could be accomplished in this line. Beginning May 1st, the Charleston merchants will put the ban on trading stamps and other premium schemes, Mr. Lanneau said, as they found this to be extremely injudicious advertising.

Mr. Lanneau's remarks were brief but the scope covered by him embraced the entire workings of a retail association and its accomplishments for good in the community; in

TO GIN COTTON FROM STALKS

A NEW PROCESS STARTED AT NICHOLS.

Bolls, Leaves, Limbs and Stalks to Be Gathered and Separated by New Gin.

The Mullins Enterprise contains the following:

The Enterprise reporter had the pleasure last Monday of an interview with Mr. O. C. Connerly, of Nichols, on the new cotton gin, that he is installing at Nichols, and found him a live wire on the subject of cotton. He spoke very interestingly concerning his gin. It was manufactured by the Continental Gin Company, which, by the way, is one of the largest gin combines in the world. While the process is new in this section it has been in use through the Mississippi valley and the Western cotton belt for many years, and is giving entire satisfaction and enables the cotton growers to gather much cotton that would otherwise go to ruin.

With the new process it is possible for one man to gather a bale of cotton a day, and almost any average man can gather one-half to three-fourths of a bale. Instead of picking the cotton in the usual way, the bolls are gathered by means of stripping. The hands equip themselves with a good, heavy pair of gloves, and strip all the limbs clean with one stroke taking in boll, leaves and all. In this condition the cotton is carried to the gin and fed in the usual way, and the machine is so constructed that it separates the bolls and dirt from the lint, and the result is a better, if possible, grade of cotton than is usually obtained in the old way. Mr. Connerly stated that it was a mistake in the farmers picking up the damaged cotton that has been allowed to remain on the ground until it gets in a state of decay, and where this is done, it will invariably lower the grade and cause a loss of from \$5 to \$10 per bale. It is not the trash that makes the lower grades, but the damaged, wet cotton.

Mr. Connerly is now buying quantities of the cotton in bolls, and is paying something like \$30 per ton for it. He says that at that price, it will net the farmer some \$33 per bale, which is more than they would get for the lower grades if picked by hand. The gin was to have been running by Monday of this week, but owing to the delay in getting the foundation down for the engine, it will possibly be the latter part of the week before the machinery will be ready for regular use.

CHALONER'S FIGHT FOR FORTUNE.

Trial of Famous Suit Begun in New York.

New York, Feb. 19.—In the Supreme Court today was begun the long pending action of John Armstrong Chaloner, to recover from Thomas T. Sherman, "as committee of the estate," the property left Chaloner by his father. The estate, which is valued at about \$1,500,000, was taken from Chaloner's control in 1899, when he was committed to Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane. Chaloner escaped from the asylum and has lived since then in Virginia. Originally Chaloner's name was Chandler. He is closely related to the Astor family and is a brother of former Lieut. Governor Lewis Stuyvesant Chandler, William Astor Chandler and Robert W. Chanler, whose marriage to Lina Cavallere and their domestic difficulties caused a sensation. Chaloner once was the husband of Amelle Rivers, the writer, who is now the Russian Princess Troubetsky. He changed his name to Chaloner in 1901.

Chaloner, it is said, will not attend the trial, but is represented by a strong array of counsel. His chief counsel, Frederick A. Ware, today outlined his client's case, charging a gigantic conspiracy on the part of Chaloner's relatives, not alone to gain control of his property, but to have him kept in an asylum. Mr. Ware had not concluded his statement when Court adjourned for the day.

The split log drag is being used on the streets with good effect. The only problem now is, what was the matter it was not brought into use in this city long before it was?

The farmers report their fields to be in such a boggy condition that it is impossible to do any farm work at this time. The roads are all in such a condition that it is almost impossible to travel on them and are even worse than they were after the rains before Christmas. Some farmers still have cotton in the field which they are trying to get picked out while the weather is clear.

The farmers report their fields to be in such a boggy condition that it is impossible to do any farm work at this time. The roads are all in such a condition that it is almost impossible to travel on them and are even worse than they were after the rains before Christmas. Some farmers still have cotton in the field which they are trying to get picked out while the weather is clear.

PARCELS POST BILL.

MEMBERS OF HOUSE COMMITTEE TO PRESENT PLAN.

Idea is to Have General System, With Special Provision for Rural Routes.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Democratic members of the house committee on postoffices and post roads have agreed to incorporate in the appropriation bill provisions for the establishment of a general parcels post system. They also have agreed upon a general domestic rate of 12 cents and a maximum package of 11 pounds. This is the present international post rate.

They would also provide for a rural parcels post, the rate to be 5 cents for one pound and 2 cents for each additional pound. The provisions will be incorporated in the bill to be reported to the house some time next week, but the actual wording of the provisions has not been framed. The decision was reached after long consideration of the subject, some Democratic members advocating a system of parcels post zones in which would prevail different rates. This was finally passed and the international rate ordered recommended for general routes and the limited, graded rates for rural routes.

It was reported tonight that some Republican members of the committee would approve the recommendations and that the bill would pass the house.

The parcels post fight has been on in congress for years.

TO TAKE UP WORK HERE.

Committee Appointed Tuesday Night to Formulate Plans for Work to be Done in Sumter.

With "Unity of Purpose" among church laymen as their watchword, a campaign will be launched here in the near future for the purpose of bringing about better moral conditions in Sumter. This was the decision arrived at Tuesday night at the meeting of the committee of one hundred called to meet with the delegates recently returned from attendance upon the Convention in Charleston of the Men and Religion Forward Movement.

The committee met in the Sunday school rooms of the First Baptist church and heard the report of the delegates who had attended the meeting, Messrs. J. N. Tolar, C. C. Brown, J. P. Marion, W. I. Herbert and Carl A. Witherspoon. The report as given by this committee was discussed and it was decided that all of the work comprised in the Men and Religion Forward Movement was not needed in Sumter and therefore in order to have a definite purpose in view when the campaign was commenced it was decided to appoint a committee to formulate plans of what features of the work were most needed in Sumter and how they should be taken up in the campaign. This committee with the appointments made by President Walsh of the local forces will consist of: Pres. B. Walsh, Sec. H. L. Birchard, Revs. C. C. Brown, D. M. McLeod, J. N. Tolar, G. S. DeLano, R. W. Humphries, J. P. Marion, H. H. Covington, W. I. Herbert and Messrs. E. H. Rhame, R. D. Epps, H. C. Haynsworth, W. A. Weathers, H. L. McCoy, S. H. Edmunds, R. I. Manning, S. F. Stendenmire and Rev. W. J. McKay, all of the pastors of the evangelical churches being appointed on the committee with a layman from each church.

This committee will meet Monday evening in the Sunday school rooms of the First Baptist church, where they are invited to take supper at 7:30 o'clock to formulate their plans for what forms of activity will be taken up in the campaign in Sumter.

The feature of the meeting was its unity in desiring to take up such forms of work as were needed in Sumter. It showed that the people of the various churches were willing to get together for the common good, and willing to drop the question of denominations while the work was going on. All of those present were convinced that some features of the work were needed in Sumter and would do great good here and all seemed willing to take hold and co-operate—in fact, "Unity of Purpose" seemed to have already become the watchword of these men who were taking steps for their city's good.

ACCUMBS TO WOUNDS.

Wade Alexander, who was shot Saturday evening by Police Officer J. D. Taylor, died this morning. The coroner's jury found that the deceased died of his death at the hands of Police Officer Taylor. Solicitor J. K. Henderson was at Winesboro, when apprised of the facts in the case, conveyed Taylor being released on bond and the negro was drunk Saturday evening, and when arrested he was knocked the latter down as he was coming to the lockup, and then the shooting occurred.

PENNSYLVANIA FOR WILSON.

PALMER THINKS WILSON WOULD MAKE IT DEBATABLE.

In Congressman's Estimation New Jersey Man Will Have Most of Pennsylvania's Delegates.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Gov. Woodrow Wilson is not only the overwhelming choice of the Pennsylvania Democrats for the presidential nomination, but he will make that Republican stronghold a debatable State if nominated, in the opinion of Representative A. Mitchell Palmer, one of the Democrat leaders in congress and the new leader of the Pennsylvania Democracy. Pennsylvania will have 76 delegates in the Baltimore convention, and Mr. Palmer reports that so strong is Gov. Wilson in the estimation of the Democrats of his State that only Wilson men have offered themselves for election as delegates in the presidential primaries to be held in April.

"I think I am well within the mark when I say that the Democrats of Pennsylvania are for Woodrow Wilson for president five to one as against all other candidates," said Mr. Palmer. "Already candidates have announced themselves for delegate to the national convention in at least half of the districts of Pennsylvania, and up to the present time none of these has declared a preference for any other than Gov. Wilson. Sixty-four of the Pennsylvania delegates will be elected by direct vote of the people at the primaries on April 13, and 12 delegates at large will be elected by the State convention, which in turn is composed of delegates elected by direct vote of the people. Unless the situation should materially change between now and the primaries, which is unlikely, at least 71 of the 76 delegates from Pennsylvania will be committed to Gov. Wilson's nomination."

"We in Pennsylvania believe not only that Wilson can and should be nominated, but that he is the one candidate who undoubtedly can be elected. His great strength lies in the States where we must gain recruits in order to win the electoral votes."

"No State in the Union has a larger proportion of men of independent thought and action than Pennsylvania where political conditions in recent years have been such as to make our people disgusted with the old fashioned political methods. Wilson's appeal is to the people direct. He shoots over the head of the political machines. Present conditions in Pennsylvania have put the people in such a frame of mind that Wilson's nomination, in my judgment, would make Pennsylvania a debatable State."

It is understood that Chief of Police J. K. Bradford of Sumter is seriously considering entering the race for sheriff in the coming primary election. Chief Bradford would make a good race, and anyway the more to enter the race the warmer will be the campaign.

Commissioner White has begun the work of opening the ditch on West Mary street, which was dug by the railroad contractors some time ago and later filled at the order of Council. When the ditch is reopened it will give relief to the persons living on Bee and South Main streets from the surface water which is now backed into ponds on those streets.

While only one or two applications for positions as rural policemen have been turned over to the clerk of the county board of commissioners as yet, it is understood that there are quite a number of persons contemplating making application for the position. Several of those desiring the position as rural policemen are out with petitions which they are getting their friends to sign.

Accidents Will Happen

And when they do—they hurt. HUNT'S LIGHTNING OIL is the one instantaneous relief and cure for all wounds, bruises, sores, cuts, sprains and abrasions of the skin. It forms an artificial skin covering, excludes the air instantly, stops pain at once. There are many oils, but none like HUNT'S. The action is different, and the effect as well.

HUNT'S LIGHTNING OIL

Always have it in the house. Take it with you when you travel—you never can tell when HUNT'S LIGHTNING OIL may be most needed. 25c and 50c bottles.

For Sale by Sibert's Drug Store, A. B. Richards Medicine Co., Sherman, Texas.

BLIZZARD IN TEXAS.

TERRIFIC WIND BRINGS SEVEREST WEATHER OF WINTER.

Railroad Traffic Over Southwest Seriously Hampered by Snow and Cold—Damage on Range.

Dallas, Texas, Feb. 20.—Ushered in by a windstorm varying at different points from 90 to 70 miles an hour, the most severe blizzard of the winter is general over the Southwest tonight. Railroad traffic is demoralized, wire communication is hampered, and meagre reports from outlying districts tell of damage to property and cattle on the range.

In north Texas the temperature fell from 70 degrees this morning to freezing tonight.

In the Panhandle section of Texas and Oklahoma rain and sleet and

snow fell during the afternoon, and early tonight the snow fall was reported to have reached a depth of four inches with the storm at its height.

At Hobart, Okla., buildings were unroofed by the storm and glass store windows demolished.

Snow in Missouri.
St. Louis, Feb. 20.—Snow began falling this afternoon in eastern Missouri, southern Illinois and western Kentucky, and late tonight had reached a depth of from six to eight inches in many localities. Trains were from three to six hours late.

Mr. Henry P. Moses went to Mayeville Wednesday morning on business.

Mrs. Eli Jackson and Miss Minnie Lee Stroman, of Elloree, after spending a few days with Mrs. C. W. McGrew, have returned home.

Simpkins Cotton Seed.

¶ Now while you are planning the new crop, don't forget the source of the crop—the seed.

¶ Whenever Simpkins Cotton seed are considered, and compared with other seed, regardless of price, the farmer always chooses

SIMPKINS SEED

¶ Farmers all over the Cotton Belt send rush orders for their 1912 seed and are supplied with the best.

¶ We are ready to supply our farmer friends with this famous seed at a record price of 75c per bushel, sacked and delivered at Railroad depot, Sumter.

A. A. STRAUSS & CO.

PHONE 85.

Excursion Rates

Via

Southern Railway,

PREMIER CARRIER OF THE SOUTH.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Account Department of Superintendence, National Educational Association. Tickets will be on sale February 24th, 25th and 26th, limited to reach original starting point returning not later than midnight of March 4th, 1912.

For information as to rates, tickets, etc., call on Southern Railway Ticket Agents or address:

J. L. MEEK, Assistant Gen. Pass. Agt. Atlanta, Ga.

W. E. MCGEE, Div. Pass. Agent. Charleston, S. C.

Atlantic Coast Line

The Standard Railroad of the South Ramifies the "Nation's Garden Spot" Through the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida

FOUR FAMOUS TRAINS

"NEW YORK AND FLORIDA SPECIAL" (January to April); "FLORIDA AND WEST INDIAN LIMITED," "PALMETTO LIMITED" AND "COAST LINE FLORIDA MAIL."

Dining Cars—a la carte service.

All year round through car service from New York to both Port Tampa and Knights Key, connecting with steamships to and from Havana.

For beautifully illustrated booklets and copy of the "Purple Folder," address,

T. C. WHITE, General Passenger Agent. **W. J. CRAIG,** Pass. Traffic Mgr.

Wilmington, N. C.