

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1860.

Consolidated Aug. 3, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1912.

Vol. XXXIV, No. 3.

BIG FIRE IN GREENWOOD.

OREGON HOTEL DESTROYED—LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$140,000.

Guests Had Narrow Escape When Well Known Hotel and Block of Stores Went up in Smoke.

Greenwood, March 3.—The Oregon hotel and its block of stores here were totally destroyed by fire early this morning. Where once stood the famous hotel is now a mere smoldering heap of burning debris with fragments of ruined brick walls and useless chimneys standing upright in the midst.

The fire represents a property loss of approximately \$140,000, with perhaps less than half that amount in insurance. The loss to the town is far greater than the figures would indicate. The Oregon hotel has been one of the town's greatest features ever since its establishment, and to be deprived of it is a very great loss indeed. Most fortunately no lives were lost. Though some who escaped did so "by the skin of their teeth" and with little on save their natural skins.

The origin of the fire is unknown. It was discovered about 2 o'clock this morning. The fire alarm register shows that the first alarm was turned at 2:15 o'clock. A negro bellboy, Bert Lewis, was the first person aware of fire. The smoke filling the downstairs corridor aroused him. He says he tried to use the emergency hose, but could not make any headway against the flames, and threw it down to arouse Mr. Brinson, the proprietor, and the guests. At that time the fire was in the store room from most of the known facts. The fire must have started either in this room, which is just back of the pool room, or in the rear of a pressing club just adjoining.

The proprietor, H. S. Brinson, inclines to the opinion that spontaneous combustion may account for the fire. Certain materials in this room making it possible for the fire to gain headway very rapidly if such were the case. The room is immediately above the boiler room, but he does not think—in fact, he is sure—that it did not start in the boiler room. The negro fireman was in the room at the time, and says that he ran out to see what was the matter, hearing a noise above. He found the building in flames overhead. The building was enveloped in smoke and flames in an almost incredibly short time.

Mr. Brinson says that his first thought was to awaken a lady, Mrs. Hewlett, of an advanced age and an aged couple, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, both rather feeble. These on the second floor were gotten out but lost all their effects. Both Mrs. Hewlett and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are from New Jersey, and have been spending the winter here. Meanwhile the work of arousing the guests was going on, and some miraculous escapes were had by those on the third floors, who failed to realize the rapidity of the flames and the dangerous effects of immense clouds of smoke rolling through the entire building. G. Straus of Atlanta, a well known traveling man, had the closest call of any. He was on the third floor, took time to dress completely, but when he went out into the corridor he was overcome by smoke. He did not know which way to turn to find air and an outlet. Rushing back into his room, he appeared at the window and screamed for help. Max Arnold of Greenwood saw his plight, made his way up the fire escape into the room and practically carried him out and brought him down the escape to safety. Mr. Straus says he was helpless and ready to drop when he was brought out. He was in bed this morning and very weak, but will be himself in a day or two.

F. F. Beattie, a prominent young attorney of Greenville, escaped down a gutter but lost his clothing. Mr. Blough of Petersburg, Va., made a sensational jump but lost all his clothing and effects. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter, on the third floor, fortunately found a ladder near their room, one discarded by some painters and used this to get to the second floor, thus being brought down safely. They barely got out of their room before being overcome with smoke. No lives were lost, though all the guests lost their clothing and baggage. It was a fierce fire from the start and swept over the building in a very short time. The merchants in the block lost all their stocks, practically little being saved.

As near as can be approximated this morning the losses are as follows: Oregon hotel and furniture cost

COTTON MARKET CONDITIONS.

TRADE WATCHING ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

Some Planting Has Been Done in Texas, No Farm Work is Reported Elsewhere.

New Orleans, La., March 3.—Labor troubles will probably continue to engage most of the attention of the cotton trade this week. At the end of last week there was a decided difference of opinion expressed in cablegrams from England in regard to how long the coal strike in the United Kingdom would last. The trade will want to know how much coal cotton mills have on hand and if it develops that they have less than the month's supply that it has been claimed they have, the market may be adversely affected.

Not only will the English situation be closely watched, but so will the unrest in France and other European countries and also the disputes between employers and employes on this side of the water.

Some of the week-end circulars from this market make much of the labor unrest the world over and it may be that strikes, or threatened strikes, will be the dominating influence in the market for some time to come.

The future markets of the world are bound to pay attention to news from the Southern cotton belt this week for the reason that the beginning of the planting season is already here. Some seeding has already been done in Texas and much planting will be done this week in that State unless the weather interferes. If the weather is bad, that fact will quickly give to the market by anti-planting interest. In other sections good weather is imperative in order that plowing may be completed. Planting should begin by the middle of March over a large area and should increase from then on for four weeks. According to some advices no farm work at all has been done in many important sections of the belt that should have already finished winter plowing. Any continuation of such conditions can hardly help affecting the market bullishly, especially the new crop months.

The time of the final report on the ginning of cotton is approaching. This report carries ginning down to the last day of February and will be issued by the census bureau on March 20. It may be that some of the private crop reporting bureaus will have something to say about ginning this week. Any figures on this subject will naturally be bearish.

HOSE TEAMS CALLED OUT.

Much Smoke, But Little Fire, Saturday and Sunday, Cause of Alarms.

The hose wagons were called out Saturday and Sunday afternoon by alarms of fire which upon investigation proved to be unnecessary. The alarm came in Saturday about 7:30 o'clock from the residence of Geo. P. McKagen on East Liberty Street. There was found to be a defect in the flue and the smoke had gotten between the ceiling and the roof of the building. No damage was done.

The alarm Saturday afternoon came in from the residence of W. H. Jennings on South Washington street at about 3 o'clock in the day. It was caused by the soot in the chimney catching on fire. The teams had their run for nothing as there was no fire to do any damage.

\$95,000; insurance, \$51,000; owned by Mrs. C. T. Bailey.

H. G. Brinson, private linen, furniture stock, etc., \$7,000; no insurance.

McKeller-Hay-Graham Furniture company, stock, \$6,500; insurance \$3,500.

Holland Brothers, pianos, organs, etc., \$5,000; insurance, \$3,200.

Oregon pharmacy, E. L. Norris, proprietor, stock and fixtures, \$12,000; insurance \$5,000.

C. A. Latour, barber shop fixtures valued at \$1,500; insurance \$500.

Lion Tailors, clothing made to order and pressing club, no estimate made yet. Stock was around \$1,000.

T. S. Chipley, automobiles, had three E. M. F. cars in store. All were taken out but were damaged considerably.

The Oregon hotel was built by the late Joel S. Bailey in 1899 and opened to the public that year under the management of H. J. Brinson, who has kept it continuously. Last year Joel S. Bailey, Jr., for his mother added the annex, a handsome three-story structure with four stores on the first floor, doubling the capacity of the hotel.

SUFFRAGETTES TRY NEW GAME.

Smash Thousands of London Shop Windows to Force Government Recognition.

London, March 1.—Because the coal miners had been able to gain government recognition of their grievances by threatening the business of the country, the suffragettes late today also entered upon a policy of menace to trade. And they carried it out suddenly and with an ardor that resulted in heavy financial losses, brought consternation to merchants of the most prosperous shopping district of the city and paralyzed business. The police were taken completely unawares and before they could restrain the women, streets were covered with shattered plate glass.

It was a window breaking expedition solely and a thoroughly organized one. Hundreds of windows in many of the most famous shops of the world and in several Government offices and clubs were wrecked by the suffragettes. The damage will aggregate many thousands of pounds, but is largely covered by insurance.

One hundred and fifty women were taken to police stations by police or excited and indignant merchants. Many others, however, escaped. All those arrested were released this evening on bail, coupled with promises to refrain from further window wrecking.

Some shopkeepers who saw the storm coming were able to close their shutters and barricade their doors. The trouble centered about Trafalgar square, ranged along the Strand eastward and westward, and up Regent street, Piccadilly and Oxford street, where are situated the fashionable jewelry and dry goods houses.

Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, veteran of many a suffragette battle, struck the first blow. In an automobile, accompanied by Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Tukes, she drove up to the premier's residence, on Downing street. Three women leaped from the machine and drew out stones concealed in their muffs.

Four windows crashed in before the police, who are constantly on guard, could reach the women. The trio were arrested, but while being led to the station managed to heave missiles through the windows of the Colonial office.

Pandemonium broke out in the shopping district at the same time. Taxicabs were the favorite vehicles of approach used by the suffragettes and many innocent looking women were helped out of them by porters stationed in front of stores. There was no hesitation on the part of the women, who at once attacked the show windows with bricks or hammers.

The police were unable to deal with such a wholesale and widespread outbreak and at least nine-tenths of the window-smashing army escaped. The air was filled with sounds of police whistles, yells, the slamming of blinds and shrieks of frightened shoppers, punctuated now and then with cries of "votes for women." Whenever a window was shattered there the crowds surged, while the employees of the shop rushed to the street to prevent the unprotected goods from being stolen. Not even the establishments of undertakers were spared.

The suffragette's leaders declare that it is their purpose to continue their campaign of window breaking until, like the coal miners, they force the government to take up their claims for suffrage to protect business interests.

KILLING IN CLARENDON.

Appears that no Attempt was Made to Arrest Parson's Slayer.

Manning, Feb. 29.—Another negro homicide at Silver, ten miles west of Manning, took place this week. According to reports Sylvester Lawyer shot Robert Parsons in a personal altercation, the particulars of which are not known. This occurred on Monday and Parsons died Tuesday evening. Yesterday Coroner Baggett held an inquest and the jury returned a verdict that Parsons came to his death from the effect of a pistol shot wound at the hands of Sylvester Lawyer. It is said that Lawyer remained in the community until he heard that Parsons had died and then he disappeared and his present whereabouts is not known. It does not appear that any attempt was made to arrest and hold him for the shooting. The tragedy occurred at the house in which Florilla Lawson was shot and killed early in January last.

WHAT HORSE RACING DOES.

Columbia Police Raided Pool Room Club and Broke up Betting on Horse Races.

Columbia, March 3.—"Following the ponies" will prove rather expensive for a number of young men of Columbia due to the raid of a club at 1335 Main street yesterday afternoon by police officers.

The form chart of the Charleston races hung peacefully on the wall, showing the favorites and long shots at the track. A goodly crowd, some in their teens, filled the room and watched with interest the winners of the various races. Excitement was intense. Almost any bet could be placed, combination or single.

But while all this was going on, the Columbia police were also "going in." Before the followers of the ponies realized it a squad of the city's police filed into the room, and then the trouble began. There was confusion—no doubt of it. There was money on the table, but no one claimed it. Therefore the city wins.

Bond was necessary for each or a ride in the patrol. Friends came to the rescue of some, others pulled out their roll and counted off the \$20.75 for appearance at recorder's court. This ended it except the docketing of the causes and the counting of the money at police station. The 18 arrests netted the city of Columbia, something like \$450. W. S. Poat was arrested on a charge of violating the dispensary ordinance as well as for gaming.

SAVE THE BIRDS.

Audubon Society Offers to Reduce Dues to \$3 for a Limited Time.

Columbia, March 4.—Concerning the work of the Audubon society, W. H. Gibbs, president, and Jas. Henry Rice, Jr. secretary, have issued statements of much interest to those interested in the protection of game. It is given below:

"When the Audubon society was chartered by the general assembly in 1907, the main duty laid on it was the education of the people in the value of birds, wild animals and fish to men and the State.

"It was also given charge of the enforcement of the laws. These duties were performed without cost of a dollar to the State until the act was passed creating the office of chief game warden, that is to say, for three full years. In which time numerous convictions were had and respect for the laws treated and maintained.

"By the act creating the office of chief game warden, the Audubon society was removed from any connection with enforcement of the laws, and was left to exercise its function of an educational body, but the power of nominating game wardens, as well as the chief game warden, still vested in the society.

"The crisis brought about by the action of the governor, in vetoing the appropriation for salary and traveling expenses of the chief game warden, which is frankly stated as a blow at the principle of game protection, termed 'interference with the rights of the people,' is a challenge to the principle for which the Audubon society lives.

"The answer to that challenge shall be as frank and direct. The society will carry on from this hour a fight for bird and game protection from the mountains to the sea.

"To do this successfully, it is plainly necessary to increase the society's membership and every effort will be used to secure this result.

"In order to popularize the society and to permit a large number to join, the membership fee will be reduced to \$3 until September 1.

"The society will use all its resources in spreading abroad information in regard to birds and their habits, and will co-operate in the enforcement of the laws.

"It is hoped that all old members will renew their membership at once without waiting for notice in order that an aggressive fight may be made.

"James Henry Rice, Jr., Secretary.

"W. H. Gibbs, President."

More Names for Corn Club.

Supt. Haynsworth has secured a number more of names to be added to his list of members of the Sumter County Boys' Corn Club. The latest additions to the club are: Robert Jolly, of Dalzell, and Lawrence Watford, of South Lynchburg.

The rain Sunday was quite a disappointment to a number of farmers who had hoped to begin their plowing today.

ROOSEVELT TALKS.

SAYS HE DID NOT INTEND TO ENTER FIGHT.

Indiana Ex-Senator Visited Oyster Bay to Discuss Situation in His Own State.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., March 3.—Col. Roosevelt's own views of the present political situation and his reasons for entering the campaign were explained by him today.

The former president talked freely of his prospects and briefly stated that his reason for entering into a political campaign as an active candidate was that men who share his political beliefs convinced him that they needed an effective leader. Col. Roosevelt expressed the opinion that on a popular vote he would be the choice of his party by a big majority.

Col. Roosevelt said he supposed a great many persons would not believe it, but that he had not wished to enter the fight.

"So far as a personal victory is concerned, I don't care," he declared.

Many supporters had come to him and represented that they needed a leader, and that there was a widespread demand that he assume the responsibility.

It was in response to these representations, the colonel added, that he had at length determined to accept the leadership.

In all but four or five States, including Delaware and Utah, Col. Roosevelt said, he believed he would receive a majority on a popular vote. He added that he felt confident he would have a majority of the Pennsylvania delegation to the national convention. He was told that the test vote in New England had given him an alleged slight lead over President Taft and said he wasn't at all surprised at that.

Former Senator Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana came to Oyster Bay today to go over the Indiana situation with the colonel and former Congressman Fred Landis of Indiana. Amos Pinchot of New York, a brother of Gifford Pinchot, John Bass, brother of Gov. Robert Bass of New Hampshire; Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the University of California, and Lieut. John C. Greenway of Bisbee, Ariz., an old friend of the colonel in the Rough Riders, were the other guests.

The Indiana situation was gone over at length. Col. Roosevelt said that Indiana was the weakest of the Western States from the viewpoint of the Roosevelt forces. Because there was no primary system in Indiana for the expression of preference as to presidential nominees, he said the result was in doubt.

Senator Beveridge expressed much the same views.

OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

Letter Written June 27 Produced Following Statements, Denials and Rumors.

Washington, March 3.—Col. Roosevelt's denial of stories sent from Washington that the Taft administration had reason to believe that he would not be a candidate for the Republican nomination against the president and his statement at Oyster Bay yesterday that Secretary of the Navy Meyer and Secretary of War Stimson could not have said "that he would not be a candidate" caused to be made public here tonight a letter written by Col. Roosevelt June 27, 1911, denying reports current at the time that he would support Mr. Taft, which concluded as follows:

"I have expressed myself perfectly freely to a large number of men on this matter, always to the same effect; telling you, for instance, personally, and those who were with you at luncheon at my house, and telling Gifford Pinchot, Jim Garfield and Congressman Madison and Billy Loeb and Secretary Meyer and Secretary Stimson, all alike, just exactly what I have said always, that I would not be a candidate in 1912 myself, and that I had no intention of taking any part in the nomination for or against any candidate.

"Cordially yours,
Theodore Roosevelt."

There is now a total of seven per cent additional taxes on property on which the taxes have not been paid, an additional five per cent being added at the first of March. The county treasurer's office will remain open to receive taxes until March 15, when it will close until October 15.

The active participation in politics of rural policemen in the interest of candidates for office should be made sufficient ground for removal.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.

TO INVESTIGATE SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS.

Report to be Made at Next Session of the General Assembly—Work Outlined.

Columbia March 3.—Speaker Smith of the house and President Smith of the Senate have announced the appointments on the standing and special committees of both houses of the general assembly. Several important matters are being investigated by the special committees and a report will be made at the next session of the general assembly.

The following appointments have been made by C. A. Smith, president of the senate:

The committee to examine into the expenditures of appropriations for State institutions: Niels Christensen.

Committee to examine into books of penal and charitable institutions: George K. Laney.

Committee to check up books of State officers: W. J. Johnson.

Committee to investigate progress of code commissioner: T. J. Mauldin.

Committee to investigate contracts between the State and the city of Columbia on water: Alan Johnstone.

Commission to look into the matter of the State taking part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg (two on the part of the senate): J. H. Wharton and T. J. Strait.

Mendel L. Smith, speaker of the house, has announced the following appointments on the standing and special committees:

Committee to examine into the expenditures of appropriations for educational institutions: H. K. Osborne of Spartanburg and H. L. Erckmann of Charleston.

Committee to examine accounts of penal and charitable institutions (recommended by the committee on State Hospital for the Insane): Olin Sawyer of Georgetown and O. L. Sanders of York.

Committee to provide for the examination of the books of certain State officers: W. C. Vincent of Beaufort and P. T. Youmans of Richland.

Committee to inquire into the progress of the code commissioner: T. J. Kirkland of Camden and Geo. S. Mower of Newberry.

Committee, appointed under concurrent resolution, to make investigation with regard to establishment of power plant for State institutions located in Richland county: George W. Dick of Sumter and R. A. Meares of Fairfield.

Committee to represent the State on the Gettysburg memorial: W. E. James of Darlington and T. R. League of Greenville, both Confederate veterans.

As a member of the commission to inquire into the contract between the city of Columbia and the State of South Carolina, for furnishing city water to State institutions in Columbia: L. J. Browning of Union, chairman of the ways and means committee, representing the house of representatives.

TO KILL "UNWRITTEN LAW."

Maryland House of Delegates Passes Bill to Outlaw This Plea in Criminal Cases.

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 28.—The house of delegates has voted 52 to 31 to pass a bill aimed at the "unwritten law."

The bill gives judges the right to instruct juries on the law in criminal cases and prohibits counsel for the defense from arguing against such instructions.

Delegate Dorsey led the fight against the bill.

"I think the unwritten law is one that hangs over the homes of this State as a protection," he said.

Marriage License Record.

Marriage licenses were issued to one white couple and one colored couple Saturday.

Mr. Hiram Johnson, of Privateer, and Miss Annie Belle Geddings, of Tindal, secured a license Saturday, as did Gayle Jasper and Julia E. Cutting, colored, of Sumter.

The Chamber of Commerce has done good work and has accomplished valuable and lasting results during the past year. This year it can and will, if given hearty and united support, accomplish even greater results. If not a member, become one if you believe in your town.