

The Watchman and Southron. Published Wednesday and Saturday. —BY— OSTEEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY SUMTER, S. C.

Advertisements: One Square first insertion... \$1.00 Every subsequent insertion... .50 Contracts for three months, or longer will be made at reduced rates. All communications which subserve private interests will be charged for as advertisements. Obituaries and tributes of respect will be charged for.

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.

Col. Roosevelt is quoted as having declared positively that he will not again be a candidate for President on the Progressive ticket. Is this an advertisement that he intends organizing another party when he is ready to throw his hat into the ring?

What would it not be worth to South Carolina for it to be said, as Gov. Kitchen said of North Carolina, that there had not been a lynching in the State for six years?

Virginia has a reputation for enforcing the law and meting out just punishment to rich and poor, the influential politically and the obscure, with impartiality and certainty. Perhaps the type of men elected governor has something to do with the maintenance of this reputation. Gov. Mann declared in the Governor's conference in Richmond that he would call out every militiaman in the State, if necessary to protect a man under arrest and give him a fair trial.

Mr. R. H. Sams, a Beaufort county farmer has gathered 451 bushels of sweet potatoes from one and a-quarter acres of land, and, in consequence, Beaufort folks are bragging some. Mr. Sams is a fairly good potato farmer, but he is not a good second to Mr. Joe White, who lives on the Manning road a few miles from Sumter. He planted one acre of potatoes in the City National Bank prize contest, and when he came to gather them he found he had made so many potatoes he did not know what to do with them, so he dug only every other row of the acre and obtained 428 bushels of potatoes, leaving the other rows, or one-half of the acre, to be gathered by his hogs. This was making potatoes at the rate of 856 bushels to the acre. If any other farmer anywhere can beat this record of a Sumter county farmer now is the time to speak.

Gov. Bleese succeeded in making a spectacle of himself in the Governor's conference at Richmond and attained great notoriety thereby. It is a matter of taste whether the notoriety is regarded as desirable or the reverse, but Gov. Bleese, himself, no doubt, is delighted with the result of his blatant assault on the constitution and the orderly enforcement of law. He made good copy for the sensation loving yellow press and succeeded in making himself the outcast figure of the meeting. As a news feature his ill-considered utterances overshadowed the safe, sane and statesmanlike discussion of governmental and social problems by the other governors and his advocacy of mob law was advertised in every newspaper in the country. Gov. Bleese may value this sort of advertising and it may be an asset that will serve his purpose, but the State of South Carolina has not been benefited, since he created the impression that we are a lawless people and that in this State the enforcement of law and the protection of life and property are left to the whims of the individual who happens to occupy the office of governor. The commercial organizations, the real estate men and the allied business interests of the State are expending time and money to advertise the State in a favorable light, to make the people of other sections acquainted with resources and opportunities of this section and to induce intelligent and industrious men to locate here. This work is beginning to produce results, in spite of the unfavorable advertisement given the State by Governor Bleese and other politicians of the same type who have won official prominence in recent years. One speech, such as Gov. Bleese delivered in Richmond, does more harm than can be overcome by years of work by all the constructive agencies that are laboring to upbuild the State. It is not what he says that works injury to the State, but the fact that it is the governor of the State who makes the statements. His position lends weight to utterances that otherwise would

not be received with credit, nor printed in the newspapers as news. The most charitable view to take of Gov. Bleese's Richmond performance is that he was there acting in the capacity of press agent for Cole L. Bleese, the ambitious politician and notoriety loving office seeker, and, knowing that the only way he could attract to himself extraordinary attention was to give utterance to sentiments that would shock public opinion, he took the center of the stage and shot off his mouth, regardless of the damage he might do South Carolina. Gov. Bleese appreciates the value of newspaper advertising as much as did Barnum in his day or as Roosevelt does now and when he cannot obtain it by legitimate means he goes after it by the shortest route possible.

President Taft admits that the people have become wise to the injustice of a protective tariff and demand a tariff for revenue only.

The Turks are to be permitted to retain Constantinople and the general European war for the possession of the gateway to the orient is postponed temporarily.

Gov. Bleese stated in Richmond that he would be sworn in as United States Senator, March 4, 1915 or sooner. This means that it is immaterial to him whether Tillman dies or Smith is defeated.

With the increase of the capital of the Sumter Telephone Manufacturing Company from \$60,000 to \$500,000 and the consequent great enlargement of the business a much larger force of hands will be employed. This carries with it a substantial increase in population and the need for more houses. There are now few vacant houses in the city, and unless provision is made for the erection of new houses suitable for the skilled mechanics who will be brought here by the Telephone Manufacturing Company there will be difficulty in properly caring for the new citizens who will be a desirable addition to Sumter's population.

It is practically assured that Tomato Club work will be inaugurated in this county early in the new year, as a branch of the Farm Demonstration work of the Department of Agriculture, under the general supervision of the State and district agents, with a special county agent, devoting all her time to organizing clubs, instructing the school girls in domestic science and acting as a rural school supervisor. This work means a great deal to the schools of Sumter county and great results should be accomplished under the supervision of an experienced teacher of domestic science and primary and grammar school methods.

NEGRO HURT BY TRAIN. James Wilson Injured Two Miles From City Saturday Night.

James Wilson, colored, a train hand on one of the Coast Line local freight trains, was struck or in some way injured Saturday night by an Atlantic Coast Line train about two miles from the city on the Charleston track. Wilson had come in off his run and had started for Aicola, where he lives, either on passenger train No. 53 or on the freight which left the city several hours later.

He was found by a negro named Woods who reported a dead man as being near the track at the two mile post. The section master sent a hand car down to the scene and the negro was found to be alive and was brought in Sunday morning and taken to the Sumter Hospital about 11 o'clock. At the Hospital Monday morning it was stated that the negro was still alive, and would probably live out the day, although there were no hopes of his recovery.

Largest and Best Ever. Line of ladies all Lenox embroidered handkerchiefs, special at 25c, 50c and 75c; also holiday boxes, 6 to box, at \$1.50 to \$4.50. McCollum Bros. 1-2 price on all coat suits from \$15.00 and up.—Adv't.

Yes, You Can Get It Now! The coat suit or the dress, select here from our entire stock and pay just 1-2 price. Be quick and get fitted in a new suit or dress. Have it for Xmas. A \$20.00 suit costs you now \$10; a \$19 suit costs you now \$5, and just this way for every suit or dress in store. Sale during this week only. Schwartz Bros.—Adv't.

The Final and Biggest Cut On coat suits. As cheap now as they will be in January, at McCollum Bros. All coat suits \$15.00 and up at 1-2 price.—Adv't.

When You Think of Christmas Think of Schwartzs. This is the real Xmas store. You find gifts for every member of the family. So easy to shop here. Schwartz Bros.—Adv't.

FARMERS' UNION NEWS Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers. (Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President S. C. Farmers Union.)

Some Random Thoughts.

I am in receipt today of a letter from Messrs. A. Keel & Douglas, N. C., agents for the South African government asking if there are any co-operative societies in this State handling tobacco. Notwithstanding there were 24 million pounds sold in the 13 markets of this State last summer I was forced to reply none was sold by a co-operative society. There was some pooling on a small scale, but not to amount to much. One of the most successful growers in Darlington county told me he had quit because of the rotten market conditions.

For the benefit of our readers that do not realize how much trade Sumter lost when its tobacco market was not developed, and how much it is now losing by poor road constructions with the Pudding Swamp section, I will give the figures on tobacco: The four market towns of Florence that handled tobacco marketed \$1,011,575.00; Marion's four markets \$839,500.00; Horry's two markets \$168,226.00; Kingstree \$179,878.00, and Manning \$101,846.00; Darlington \$312,178.00.

Some money to be turned loose in our sister counties in July and August, most of it before cotton began to come in! That it had an appreciable effect on commercial conditions in those counties there can be no question. In addition most of these markets had more or less money coming in earlier in the season from truck.

If Sumter is to make up for the loss of such revenues, she must provide a better system of marketing cotton so as to bring more money into her channels of trade. The very moderate estimate of \$10 a bale lost last season on 50,000 bales of Sumter's receipts means half million dollars. It was fully that much, if not more. How much has already been lost this season by lack of concerted efforts to market slowly is hard to tell.

I have before me a copy of the Irish Homestead, the great Irish farm paper, and there are several points that are stirring them up over there that are important to us here in Sumter County. One of the prominent features is a discussion of "Food in War Time" and what would happen should there be a shortage of food imports. We, here in Sumter county and in South Carolina would do well to study and consider what would happen if our railroads were put out of business for two weeks.

In 1908 there was scarcity if not actual suffering in many parts of South Carolina by reason of the floods that stopped trains. If my memory serves me right there was want at Mayesville and on some farms nearby, not to go to some points where there was actual suffering. This was not because of food destroyed by floods, but because our people imported their food supplies and the railroads could not transport it.

Another important matter is discussed in a letter calling attention to how much the State does to help produce articles, and nothing to help sell. It is the same old story that is being wrought out all over this country: Cheapen production, increase efficiency, enrich the land, and then turn the producer over to the traders who, like the protection barons, will take care of their vassals—the producers and the consumers! Call on government for every thing under the sun, but don't be children and ask government to regulate our sales!

To turn to a more cheerful side of the picture read what Mr. Clarence Poe says: "The South Comes into its Own." And consider well paragraph III and what he says about better schools. I am glad that the Farmers' Union is first "Educational." Mr. D. R. Coker writes me that it seems to him the Union has a vast amount of educational work to do. And then he mentions some of the things he sees great need of doing: "Breeding, growing, baling and marketing of staple cotton, other pure seeds, stop pulling fodder, growing hay, preventing hog cholera, etc." Most of them have been touched on by the Union, but we will find there is enough in the subjects mentioned above to keep from having one dull minute in a farmers' union, if we go at it right.

One of the things the county union

should take up and work out is the establishment of a first class four-year's course High School in some convenient county neighborhood. One that will keep several teachers on the job all the time. Will our selfishness prevent us from doing this? Will we be so afraid of giving some neighborhood a little advantage that we will all try to have such a school and more—have one worth much?

The Farmers' Union, especially the officials who have come in close contact with him regret to see Mr. Snell, Secretary of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, leave our county and city. But for the wider field and greater good we think he can do at Charleston we would try to keep him in Sumter. We trust the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Commerce will make a wise selection of his successor. Much good to both city and county can be accomplished by a combination of the forces of the Farmers' Union and the Chamber of Commerce.

I want our people to study carefully the "Food in War Time" article and to see wherein the strength of France lies, and others of the European kingdoms. When we do like them our cotton will indeed be the greatest crop on earth.

Food in War Time.

There was a prophesess of old called Cassandra who was endowed with the vision which foresees, but prophesy as she might, nobody would listen to her—nobody respected her prophecies until it came to pass that they were histories. Her fate seems to be the fate of all prophets. Prophecising is a most unprofitable business. Destinies were never warded off by some person piercing into the womb of time and telling what fiery and fateful years were about to be born. But prophets, true and false, still read the heavens. If the tale they tell be well told the world will listen and say, "How interesting. Prophecy to us again," as in Lord Dunsany's weird play the courtiers spoke to the old prophet who foretold the uprising of the slaves. But nobody went out to gird on a sword all the same. We lay claim to no supernatural insight, but only to the best exercise of our fallible reason when we write, not to prophesy, but to warn once more about the perilous condition of Ireland if the Empire of which it was part became involved in a war with any great European powers with a naval force sufficient to endanger the sea ways of commerce. We wrote several months ago some articles on the food supply in Ireland in time of war. It was one of the tense moments in European diplomacy when everybody went to sleep uncertain whether the next morning would not find battleships thundering along the coast. The bad moment passed, but the necessity for the policy we advocated did not pass. It is no use for a country at the last moment to think of adjusting its national domestic economy to a state of war. When the house is on fire is not the time to think of fire insurance. Ireland is a country which could but does not feed itself. It is unique among European countries in this. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, Russia, Belgium, Holland, and Denmark raise on their own land by far the larger part of the food required by their populations. If France was at war the interruption by hostile fleets of ships bringing food to its ports would worry it very little. It only imports about ten percent of the food it eats, and any nation in time of stress can tighten its belt to that extent. England, of course, cannot feed itself. Ireland is in the unique position of being able to feed itself and yet it does not do so. One has only to look at the imports and exports to see to what an extent Ireland depends on its overseas trade for the food it eats and for money to buy that food. All the economic machinery we have set up tends to perform two functions. One is to shovel Irish produce out of Ireland as fast as it is ready. The other is to supply Ireland with food stuffs and manufactured articles in exchange for what it exports. With a world at peace nobody can quarrel with such a machinery. If Ireland is happier eating American bacon than Irish one can only shrug one's shoulders over the gastronomic taste revealed. If Ireland prefers foreign flour in its bread to flour grown and ground in Ireland, one need not worry if the ship of the world has dropped anchor in the peaceful heaven of the millennium. But it is quite different when all the great powers go about armed to the teeth and mutter sulkily about each other. Then it behooves a nation not only to think about arms and breadstuffs, but about its leader. If the national cupboard is empty the inhabitants of the house will soon be in a bad way if a row is on. Napoleon said an army moves on its belly. So, too, does a nation.

If England was embroiled next week in a European Armageddon, the cattle disease which locked up our fat beasts and our store cattle in Ireland for so many months, would be seen not to have been a work of the devil but an act of Divine Providence which attended to our national commissariat when we ourselves had been negligent. The declaration of war tomorrow would find Ireland stocked with live stock. It would not need to worry whether the liners with bacon and flour would escape the commerce destroyers. But if war had been declared in a normal Irish year, where week by week what we produce is exported as soon as it is ready and week by week we import food as we require it, then the position of Ireland would have been perilous indeed. The agents of the big British wholesale houses would have been out buying up pigs, poultry, cattle and sheep in a panic for the feeding of big English towns. In a fortnight our reserve stock would have been bought up, and where then would we look to for supplies for our own requirements? The farmer who had sold ten or twenty beasts at double his usual prices would have a brief period of rejoicing, but in a week's time he would have found that Mr. Moriarty, his grocer, would be making him pay through the nose for flour and bacon; and, in three or four weeks' time perhaps, Mr. Moriarty would throw up his hands in despair and say his shop was cleared out and he could get no more from Liverpool, as the wholesalers there wanted all they had for English consumption. Ireland has not a long enough purse to compete with England in a time of high prices. We would come to the bottom of our national pocket much sooner. The international situation is quite grave enough now and has been so this last year or two and is likely to grow graver every year while these immense military and naval burdens Europe bears go on increasing in weight, and Ireland ought to consider its position in a great naval war in which England was embroiled. We know dear good people who tell us they put their trust in God, but so far as we could make out, they trusted that Providence was not so supernaturally wise as to see that what these dear good people called trust in God was merely incapacity to get up understanding of any problem and disinclination to act if they did understand, laziness in fact. Providence, we firmly believe, has a crown for the wise and a whip for the back of the fool, and true trust in Providence is best expressed by wise action. The only good thing Cromwell ever did so far as Ireland was concerned was to leave behind him an aphorism which if properly cherished and brooded over by Ireland would do it a lot of good. He said "Put your trust in God and keep your powder dry." The combination of heaven and earth is irresistible. We want Ireland to put its trust in God and to stock its larder as well.

We want Ireland to feed itself, as France does, as Austria does, as Russia does, and as every European country except England tries to do. They do so for military reasons as well as for economic, social, and political reasons. While the British fleet was predominant the military reasons for Ireland being self-supporting were not so strong. But the fleet of the most dreaded European power creeps up rapidly. Dreadnought by Dreadnought, well nigh to the naval power of Great Britain. An alliance with another naval power or two might easily equalise matters in a few years. Indeed it is almost certain that the burden of armaments will become so intolerable that one section of powers or another must, for economic reasons, very soon force a war, in the hope of a victory so complete that only half the military and naval expenditure in future will be necessary. The great nations of Europe at present are at war, only it is the silent war of building ship against ship rather than the noisy business of thundering gun against gun, and the first is the more expensive kind of war of the two in the long run. So we may say that Ireland is no longer the corner of Europe sheltered from the effects of any possible war. It is nearly as likely to suffer in the long anticipated European Armageddon as any country in Europe. It will, if we do not reform our national domestic economy and learn to rely on our own food stuffs more than we have done. The right policy for Irish farmers we have always held was to feed themselves off the farm. But is this done? The report on the agricultural output of Ireland estimates that Irish farmers and their families retain for their own consumption \$7,227,199 worth of butter, meat, milk, poultry, eggs, fruit, potatoes, oats, etc., which they produce. This would mean that an average of about one shilling and twopence worth of food per individual on the land per week was drawn from the land. But the cost of feeding the individual is far greater than that. No doubt the agricultural laborer who brings up a lengthy family on an average of eleven and threepence a week makes an even smaller sum per head suf-

fice per week, but it is clear to us that about one-half or perhaps three-fifths of the food consumed by the rural population is purchased. It is impossible to calculate with any accuracy, but we imagine that two and sixpence a week or three shillings spent in food per head would not result in obesity and would be a very low estimate of what was required. To feed people properly much more would be required. Yet the report on the agricultural output, which we assume was very carefully compiled, mentions a figure as the value of the food consumed off of the farm which would, if spread over the families working on the land, only account for food valued at about one shilling and twopence per head per week. So it is obvious that the imported food stuffs shown by the Department in its reports on the Irish trade do not go to the Irish towns only, but are largely consumed by the farmers themselves. It is obvious that the Irish farmer is indeed feeding his family by his work on the land, but he is not feeding his family off the land as he might.

When we consider that Ireland produces potatoes, oats, barley, fruit, wheat, cattle, butter, pigs, eggs, poultry, sheep, and vegetables, it is difficult to see what necessary article of diet Irish farmers could not produce plentifully. We grant that a single farmer would think it foolish to kill one of his fat cattle or his pigs for consumption by his own family, and that it is natural enough for him if he wants meat to send to the nearest butcher. Yet there is a distinct loss in doing so. The old arts once practised on every Irish farm of corning beef and curing bacon have almost disappeared. But Irish country people were better fed than they are now. The farmer with sides of bacon and hams hung up in his kitchen or with barrels of corned beef in pickle might smile through a war which made the townsman lean. The right thing to do today is for the farmers to use their co-operative society as a curing or corning factory, to send their pigs there, and get them back cured. The society should act as butcher for its members, and kill mutton or beef, or corn it, as may be required. The idea to be aimed at is to make the co-operative community self-supporting in all the necessities of life so far as is possible. Societies like Achonry which have started bacon curing for their members are going on the right lines. Embarras already supplies meat to its members. Other societies are taking it up, and if this policy is followed if the societies cured the bacon, killed and corned the beef, and if the individual farmer grew more vegetables and fruit, consumed more of his own grain, produced more poultry and eggs for the use of his family, rural Ireland in a short while would be self-supporting in all the necessities of life, and whatever destiny might have in store for us as the result of a great European conflict, we would not be hungry, and nearly the worst thing war brings with it is famine. It is very likely if hostile cruisers were playing havoc with the food bearing ocean liners, and if there was any scarcity of food in Great Britain, the cattle in the fields would be commandeered. At a lecture given a year ago an English Admiral stated that this would be the policy of the Government. It has been the policy of the Bulgarian Government to commandeer all the foodstuffs it required for the army. The Government in these islands would never let herds of cattle and droves of pigs and sheep remain in Ireland if London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham or Glasgow were crying out for food. The cattle on our Irish farms would be commandeered with very little reference to Irish needs. We foresee this as clearly as anything could be foreseen, and we wish to point out that if Irish farmers make it a settled policy to feed their families off the land, to have their own bacon, corned beef, vegetables, fruit, etc., on their farms they will be the most secure portion of the population in these islands in case of a great naval war in which England would be engaged. We may be regarded as a disagreeable croaker like Cassandra, but we feel it is a duty to point out the danger of our present system of domestic economy. The European nations at present are as unsettled as drops of quicksilver held on a plate by a shaky hand. Any moment might see a clash and catastrophe of which no one could foresee the outcome. We want Ireland to be secure of its rations at any rate. It is all an economist can provide for. We leave the rest to Providence.—The Irish Homestead.

Marriage. A quiet marriage took place Thursday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Atkinson when Mr. Leonard Atkinson of Ionia section was happily married to Miss Alma Hancock of Smithville section by Rev. M. M. Benson. It being quite a surprise, there were only a few friends and relatives present.