

**The Watchman and Southron.**  
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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.

Hon. John L. McLaurin's most recent political manifesto, which is printed today, is conceived and executed in his best style and is as clever a bit of satire as has been produced in several campaigns. The shafts he launches at Railroad Commissioner Richards are tipped with venom and are sure to penetrate even a thick skin and to rankle for many a day. It is very evident that Mr. McLaurin is considerably embittered and that his ire has been aroused against Mr. Richards by the latter's success in obtaining a firmer and better grasp on Blease's coat-tail, which some office-seekers regard as a sort of enchanted carpet for those who are seeking a ride into office. Mr. McLaurin's open letter is well worth careful reading and those who possess discerning eyes will discover in it much to amuse and delight them, if they find pleasure in an artful, skillful yet bitterly caustic political satire. This letter is one of the best things that has been produced by Mr. McLaurin's one-time versatile pen and will take rank with the "My Dear Ppelt" and other letters that he wrote when Refawm was in flower.

**NEW EXPRESS RATE.**  
State Railroad Commission Takes up I. C. C. Schedule.

Columbia, June 3.—The interstate commerce commissioners' new rates for express companies was adopted by the South Carolina railroad commission this afternoon, to go into effect July 1. The order was signed by Commissioners Hampton and Caughman, Chairman Richards saying that he thought the matter ought to be left open for further investigation.

B. F. McLeod, of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce; C. S. Monteth, representing the Columbia shippers; F. G. Tompkins, the ice interests, and representatives of the produce people, the ice cream interests and mineral water people, appeared before the commission on the matter. The Express company was represented by J. B. Hockaday, of Atlanta, general manager, and W. W. Owens, of Chattanooga, Tenn., superintendent of traffic.

The order issued by the commission follows:

"Columbia, S. C., June 3, 1914—Order No. 156.

"Southern Express Company:

"After formal hearing this date and due consideration of facts presented, it is ordered that the Southern Express Company shall put into effect on July 1, 1914, the present interstate commerce commission rate structure, with modifications as outlined in hearing before the commission.

"It is understood that the rate on ice and mineral water will remain as at present.

"It is further understood that in the event that sufficient protests are entered against the adoption of this tariff the railroad commission will call a hearing to further consider the matter.

"By order of the commission.  
"G. McD. Hampton, Commissioner.  
"B. L. Caughman, Commissioner.  
"J. P. Darby, Secretary."

**SUMTER COTTON MARKET.**  
Corrected Daily By Ernest Field, Cotton Buyer.

Good Middling 13 1-4.	
Strict Middling 13 1-8.	
Middling 13.	
Strict Low Middling 12 1-2.	
Low Middling 12.	
Strict Good Ordinary 11 1-4.	
Staple cotton nominal.	

**New York Cotton Market.**  
New York, June 4.

Opening	Close.
July . . . . .13.10	13.18
Oct . . . . .12.67	12.65
Dec . . . . .12.68	12.67

**CHICAGO PRODUCE EXCHANGE.**  
Chicago, June 4.

Opening	Close.
Ribs—July . . . . .11.32	11.27
Ribs—Sept . . . . .11.37	11.35

**Some Random Thoughts.**  
Owing to the usual rush of harvesting the oat crop and of keeping up with the other crops at the same time, the County Farmers' Union will not call a meeting this week. The next regular meeting will be on the 3rd of July with the Concord local. This will give plenty of time for all the committees to bring in full reports on the matters referred to them. The July meeting should be a very interesting one.

The extensive and prolonged drought has seriously cut off the oat crop, in many fields caused poor stands of cotton and tobacco, so that the outlook for good prices is much better than a year ago. On the government report of the cotton condition good cotton should bring 15c now, and it would be, if our farmers had stood for that price last fall. But with so much of the crop in the hands of the spinners it is very doubtful if the few bales scattered about will be sold much higher than at present.

If all cotton merchants would work as hard to secure a full price for the farmers' cotton as Mr. David Coker of Hartsville has done I verily believe the average price for several years would have been at least one cent per pound more than we have received. This applies to short as well as long staple. It should be very gratifying to the farmers of South Carolina that Mr. Coker has been selected as one of the directors of the regional bank for this district, at Richmond, Va. I am sure that if anything can be done by this system of banking to aid the farmers to market their cotton and tobacco more satisfactorily, Mr. Coker will see that it is worked out.

Supervisor Pitts and Overseer Holland, with their assistants are doing a good job in building the Shiloh road. They will finish about one and one-half miles of the most difficult part this week. While this road has long been needed, the experience of the builders is enabling them to build so much better road than would have been done ten years ago that it is worth the long wait to secure it. This highway and the building of the Sumter and Turbeville-Olanta railroad will be even more valuable to the city of Sumter and the county than the securing the Seaboard. The highway is now assured, and no reasonable expense should be spared by Sumter to secure the railroad. It should be made a part of either the Coast Line or Seaboard systems, if it is to give the greatest convenience to the people along the line.

The splendid cooperation of the County Farmers' Union and the Chamber of Commerce—good team work—has given us tick eradication work several years before it would have come about, but for these organizations. We have not yet secured an ideal produce marketing system, but thanks to the Union Brokerage company, the creation of the Farmers' Union, conditions have vastly improved. Some team work on the part of the Farmers' Union and the Chamber of Commerce ought to perfect a marketing system. If any two men can work it out, President Williams of the County Union, and Secretary Reardon of the Chamber of Commerce will turn the trick. Give them the support of the farmers and of the business men of county and town, and watch results.

It would not be a bad idea to put this combination in the railroad proposition. The same arguments that were made for securing the Seaboard will apply to getting the Sumter-Turbeville-Olanta railroad and unless Sumter made a bad bargain in paying for the former it ought not hesitate to making a reasonable outlay for the latter. Anything that will do the general public so much good should not be left to a few public spirited citizens of the city and county.

The work of the County Democratic Executive Committee in carefully defining the boundaries of the various club districts last Monday was the longest step toward perfecting the primary system that has ever been taken. Of course there will be a few voters who will be put to some inconvenience who may be placed in clubs that they would rather not be in, but the work of enrollment is so simplified that there should not be any objection from any one who truly wishes to secure to every man justice and prevent the possibility of fraud or irregularities. E. W. D.

**CLINKSCALES FILES PLEDGE.**

**Jno. T. Duncan Also Announces Candidacy.**  
Columbia, June 4.—John G. Clink scales today filed his pledge and paid his assessment as a candidate for governor, making four so far who have entered the race. John T. Duncan of Columbia also announced his candidacy for governor.

**FAVORS COMPULSORY EDUCATION.**

E. H. Blake of Greenwood Cites Letter from New York to Show Advantage of Statute.

Editor The Item.

A negro school teacher in South Carolina recently said that the white people of South Carolina passed a law in 1895 compelling the negroes to attend school when the constitutional convention required that a negro be able to read and write, or that he hold property before he could vote. He smiled and said that since that time the negro children could not be kept from going to school, and that the negro schools were always crowded, but that now the white people would be forced to pass a compulsory education law to give the white children the education they would need to compete with the negro. That negro teacher's statement is plain enough.

So we have in South Carolina a compulsory law already for the negroes. Here is what Hon. James D. Sullivan, chief of compulsory attendance division of the State of New York, replies from Albany under date of May 28, 1914, as to the effect of the compulsory attendance law in that State and what the people think of it:

"Mr. E. H. Blake, Greenwood, S. C. Dear Sir: Your letter of inquiry under date of May 25 received, and I beg leave to answer your questions in the order submitted.

"1. Do you believe education has made greater progress in your State under a compulsory education law than before such a law was passed?"

No other single school statute has done so much for the cause of education in this State as the compulsory education law now in operation here. Thousands of children who have been in attendance upon lawful instruction annually since the law went into effect would have been growing up without a chance for education, augmenting the ranks of illiteracy and swelling the ranks of our criminal population, were it not for the compulsory education statute. But very few children in this great State physically and mentally competent are found out of school while the schools are in session.

"2. Are the people trying to get it repealed?"

They certainly are not. Every single newspaper and magazine in this State is a staunch advocate of a rigid enforcement of this law and all our people in all the various walks of life have come to believe thoroughly in this statute. The compulsory education law has come to stay, and it will yet do for our people what a similar statute has done for the people in Germany during the last 70 years. Illiteracy in the German Empire is almost a vanishing point, as a result of a vigorous enforcement of attendance laws in that country.

"Every State in the union has now a workable compulsory education law except the following: Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, New Mexico, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

"In no State where a compulsory education law has been enacted in my opinion will it ever be repealed, and in every State having such a law, year by year it is being made more mandatory, specific, comprehensive and workable."

Mr. Editor, what are the white people of South Carolina going to do about it?

Yours very truly,  
E. H. Blake.  
Greenwood, June 3.

A license to marry has been issued to Mr. W. D. Shupe of Columbia and Miss Emma H. Carr of Sumter.

**Candidates' Cards.**

Announcements of candidates will be printed in this column until the close of the campaign for \$5. No cards accepted on credit.

**For Supervisor.**  
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Supervisor for Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.  
L. E. WHITE.

**County Superintendent of Education.**  
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Education for Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.  
S. D. CAIN.

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For catalogue and particulars, address  
**Rev. J. Henry Harms, D. D.,**  
President,  
Newberry, S. C.

**THE RESCUE WORKERS.**  
Local Corps of Religious Workers Established in Headquarters.

The American Rescue Workers who arrived in the city Wednesday evening and have been holding open air meetings on the street corners and attracting large crowds, have secured quarters for the present at S. Main and Bartlette Streets and are looking for a hall for their indoor meetings. They have come to Sumter to stay, not to solicit funds to take to other fields. The money received by them here will be spent in Sumter helping the poor and the destitute of this city. The Rescue Workers, as stated already have no connection with the Salvation Army, and are an incorporated organization, having nearly twenty homes for women and children in the United States, and many industrial institutions for poor men.

The cap, bonnet and uniforms are very different from that of the Salvation Army, and Major Owens, the Divisional Officer from Charlotte, who came with other officers here to open the work, states that he wants the Rescue Workers to stand on their own merit in Sumter, and asks that all citizens cooperate with them in their work, and this will make the Rescue Workers will be of greater help to the poor and fallen classes of suffering humanity in this city. Any one wishing to make a contribution to the local work of this organization and not seeing any of the workers can inclose same to the Captain, Walter Harmon, general delivery, Sumter, and he will acknowledge same with receipt by return mail. As soon as a hall is secured for indoor meetings the public will be advised. Major Owens left here Saturday morning to go back to Charlotte, and wishes to thank the public through these columns for their kindness and words of cheer and encouragement to him and his officers since coming here.

In co-operation with the weather bureau, forest rangers are to measure snow depths in the western mountains.

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**RICHARDS DECLARES FOR BLEASE.**

Candidate for Governor States His Choice for United States Senator.

Columbia, June 3.—"I am going to vote for Cole L. Blease for United States Senator because I believe he is nearer the masses of the people than the other man," said John G. Richards, Jr., candidate for governor, tonight. The statement was made in answer to a direct question as to whether he was for Smith or Blease. It was talked around Columbia during the State convention that Mr. Richards had declared, in a Blease conference that he was going to vote for the governor for United States senator, and it was known also that Mr. Richards attended the Blease

caucus here on last Monday. This is the first authorized statement of the position of Mr. Richards.

Major Richards expressed his confidence that he would be chosen governor. He was here today in attendance on meeting of the railroad commission, of which he is chairman, and leaves with the other members in the morning to inspect the Carolina and Northwestern Railway and the Seaboard Air Line.

The foreman in charge of the paving work on Liberty street lent his roller and rolled the baseball grounds Wednesday before the game, a fact that was very greatly appreciated by members of the team and which did much to put the diamond in better condition.

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