

The Watchman and Southron.

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PERSONAL NEWS.

Mrs. Neill O'Donnell has returned from her summer home at Asheville to spend the winter in Sumter.

Mr. R. M. Cooper, of Wisacky, was a visitor to the city today.

Mr. T. H. Tatum, of Bishopville, was in the city on Wednesday.

Miss Susie Dick returned to Winthrop College at Rock Hill today, after a short stay at home to attend the Mason-Crowson wedding at which she was maid of honor.

Mrs. H. O. Strohecker, of Charleston, is visiting Dr. and Mrs. Spann.

Mr. W. C. Ellis, cashier of the general agency of the Southeastern Life Insurance Co., at Cheraw, was a visitor to the city Wednesday.

A UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT.

Miss Susie Dick Hostess at Stocking Shower for Miss Eleanor Mason.

From The Daily Item, Oct. 7. Miss Susie Dick, who is to be maid of honor in the Mason-Crowson wedding this evening, gave a most original stocking shower to the bride-elect on yesterday afternoon.

Despite the showery weather outside, the rooms were cozy and festive with autumn blossoms, crimson sage in brass bowls adding a cherry note of color. Miss Dick was assisted in receiving and welcoming her guests by her grandmother, Mrs. Hutchinson, her mother, Mrs. George Dick, and Mrs. F. C. Manning.

A floral wedding in which the names of various flowers was ingeniously woven, took place amid much merriment.

Then the guests repaired to the dining room, where the color scheme gave way to those of "blue" Monday and the snowy whiteness of wash-day. The centre of attraction was the dining table, which was a snowy field for the bisque "wash ladies" who reigned over real little wooden wash-tubs, wash-boards, clothes lines, etc.

The presentation was made by Maj. W. F. Robertson, city manager, and was responded to in a very affecting manner by Mr. Hurst. All of the members of the police department and the other city employees who had secured the gift for Mr. Hurst, a small token of their love and friendship for him were present.

In giving the cane to Mr. Hurst Maj. Robertson stated that success was measured in many different ways, but he thought that it should be measured in the manner in which a man gained the friendship and love of his fellow man.

Mr. Hurst seemed much touched and his words of thanks came with deep feeling. He stated that it was with no feeling of jubilation that he left the position he had held so long, for it was painful to him to sever associations which had always been so pleasant and he would always rather lean on the friendship which had prompted the gift, than on the gift itself, although he had no doubt but that it would serve him many a time in future.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEET.

Petition for New Road Refused—Charges Against Rural Policeman Heard.

From the Daily Item, Oct. 6. At a meeting of the county board of commissioners today a petition was received from citizens of Turbeville section and a delegation from that section and from the Chamber of Commerce were present asking that a new road 3 miles long be constructed from the new road from McBride's crossing to Shiloh to a point near J. P. Budden's place.

A complaint against Rural Policeman Julian H. Seale was made by Dr. T. D. Davis. He stated that Policeman Seale had entered a place of business on Manning Avenue, where he was at work and had arrested him and another man without provocation or warrant and had searched them, causing them much humiliation.

MR. HURST PRESENTED CANE.

City Hall Friends Give Token of Friendship at His Departure.

From The Daily Item, Oct. 6. A very touching ceremony took place in the city clerk and treasurer's office today at one o'clock, when Mr. C. M. Hurst, the retiring clerk and treasurer, was presented with a handsome goldhead walking cane, the gift of the members of the police force and other employees of the city.

The presentation was made by Maj. W. F. Robertson, city manager, and was responded to in a very affecting manner by Mr. Hurst. All of the members of the police department and the other city employees who had secured the gift for Mr. Hurst, a small token of their love and friendship for him were present.

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WILL NOT BE CANDIDATE.

DR. DICK DECIDES NOT TO OFFER FOR SPEAKERSHIP, AS SUMTER HOLDS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

Does not Think That Two Chief Offices in State Should Both be Held in One County, Although He Appreciates Offers of Support Received from Members Throughout the State.

From The Daily Item, Oct. 6. Dr. Geo. W. Dick, chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, the most important committee in the house, before leaving for Columbia this morning gave out a statement in which he stated that he would not be a candidate for the speakership of the house, as he had been urged to do by a number of his colleagues.

During the closing days of the last session of the legislature, a number of members urged me to become a candidate for the speakership of the next house, and since the recent primaries many of the old and newly elected members have voluntarily offered me their support.

The speakership is only second in importance to the governorship. I feel therefore that Sumter cannot, in good grace, claim the two highest elective positions in the State, and I know that the people of my county, while extremely loyal to me and would rejoice in my elevation, are willing that I should make the necessary sacrifice under the circumstances.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES MEET.

Prof. Hand Makes Practical Address in Favor of Consolidation.

From The Daily Item, Oct. 7. The Sumter County School Trustees' Association met in the court house at noon today in their regular quarterly meeting to discuss affairs concerning the schools in the county.

ALLOTS WATERWAYS FUND.

Washington, Oct. 7.—Allotment of the \$20,000,000 appropriated by congress for rivers and harbors improvement this year was announced here today by the board of army engineers.

Other allotments: South Carolina—Charleston harbor, \$15,000; Winyah bay, \$15,000; Great Pee Dee river, \$10,000; Santee, Wateree and Congaree rivers, \$30,000.

Mr. J. A. Ryttenberg on Monday had the misfortune to painfully injure his arm in crossing his car. The engine jacked and the motor and small front of the car were badly hurt, although the larger body was not broken.

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Table with 10 columns of zeros and the text 'Buy a Bale of Cotton.'

BUY A BALE OF COTTON.

Secretary Reardon Explains Terms on Which Cotton is Purchased at Ten Cents.

Secretary Reardon, of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce is receiving a number of letters showing that the "Buy a Bale of Cotton" movement of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce and Retail Dealers' Association is attracting considerable attention throughout the United States.

A series of newspaper articles by the Sumter secretary in different leading journals of the country have attracted attention to the importance of the "Buy a Bale" movement. He has been reprinting the erroneous statements in many papers by parties, who have been crying down the "Buy a Bale" movement, and trying to create the impression that the money sent South is not paid the farmer for cotton at ten cents per pound, and intimating that the farmers are paid seven and eight cents per pound of the money sent here and the difference of fifteen or twenty dollars per bale going into the pockets of cotton speculators, and others.

The following letter from Mr. R. K. Maclea, special representative in New York City, of the Parker Cotton Mills Company, of Greenville, and the reply of Secretary Reardon, shows that Sumter is getting in the limelight of publicity, and also gives interesting information about the "Sumter Buy a Bale of Cotton" plan.

Dear Sir: Your letter to the Daily Trade Record, of New York City, of September 28th, has been shown me this morning by Mr. Sullivan, who will also publish it tomorrow.

I would be grateful to you, if you would send me a letter on Sumter Chamber of Commerce paper embodying the principles under which you handle the cotton in this emergency, without that part of the discussion relative to a prior article which had appeared in the Daily Trade Record.

My reason for requesting this is that I desire the letter to attach to a bale of cotton which was received by the Merchants' Association of this city from the Board of Trade of Tuscaloosa, Ala., which was sent in appreciation of the movement among New York City business men to further the "Buy a Bale of Cotton" movement at ten cents a pound.

I am intending to show this bale in different hotels and large department stores during the next 30 days, and I should like such a letter embodying the principles under which you handle money received, get it down to the farmers, etc., to dispel the sentiment created by parties in their efforts to get the public to buy a bale of cotton at any old price.

Anticipating your letter, I am, Yours truly, R. K. Maclea, 346 Broadway, New York.

The letter requested by Mr. Maclea was forwarded by return mail Saturday night, as follows:

Sumter, S. C., Oct. 3, 1914. Mr. R. K. Maclea, Special Representative Parker Cotton Mills Co., of Greenville, S. C., New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir: Your inquiry regarding method of purchasing cotton from farmers in distress by the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, and Retail Dealers' Association to hand.

Replying thereto I desire to say that the "Buy a Bale" of cotton at ten cents per pound was inaugurated primarily to aid the poor farmer, white and colored, who is absolutely unable to secure funds with which to pick and gin his cotton, and to aid him in holding the rest of his crop as long as possible by warehousing same and borrowing on warehouse receipt.

A special committee of representative business men, who are officers and members of the Chamber and the Association, together with the treasurer, and the managing secretary of the Chamber compose the committee to purchase and supervise the purchasing of every bale of cotton for which money is placed in our hands.

Every dollar is turned over to our bonded treasurer and receipted for by him to the managing secretary when the money is sent to the Chamber of Commerce. This money is accounted for on the books of the organization. No farmer can sell a bale to our organization who can not prove to be absolutely in distress and unable to secure accommodations in a bank or with the firm with whom he does business.

The treasurer pays the actual cash to the farmer. Where asked for by purchaser, an affidavit is furnished signed by the farmer and the secretary of the committee that the farmer selling is in distress, that he received ten cents per pound, actual cash, and that no one connected with the committee derived one cent benefit from the transaction.

The cotton is placed in a standard cotton warehouse and insured and stored for 25 cents per month. The warehouse certificate is then sent to the purchaser by the managing secretary, endorsed on the back by our treasurer, which endorsement is a transfer to the purchaser of the warehouse certificate and cotton.

If the amount of the purchase is less than the check the amount left is sent to the purchaser by the Chamber of Commerce treasurer's check.

Four expert cotton graders, all members of this organization, guarantee that every bale grades "Middle or better." We purchase only this grade. Warehouse certificate shows grade, weight, and date of purchase, and for convenience all certificates are made to treasurer and endorsed to purchaser.

No farmer is permitted to sell this organization more than one bale. By purchasing directly through this organization, by sending \$50 check, or ordering us to purchase and make draft, every purchaser is guaranteed that ten cents, actual cash is paid, and that no farmer sells more than one bale under this movement.

Our committee, individually and collectively, is disinterested. We represent, as committeemen, no bank, corporation, mercantile, or other business concern. We don't seek to use "Buy a Bale" funds sent us to collect debts. Chamber of Commerce does not guarantee faithful performance of this agreement, except where the money is sent directly to the Chamber of Commerce.

I haven't heard of an instance where any one, banks, merchants, or others who received "Buy a Bale" money took advantage in any way. But a central bureau for purchasing, like the Chamber of Commerce, avoids duplication of purchases.

Hundreds of poor farmers are coming in begging us to buy one bale at ten cents. We have no favorites, white or colored. First come first served where they can prove worthy and in distress. Our local export cotton buyers, and mercantile cotton buyers are heartily in sympathy with the "Buy a Bale" movement. So far as I know South Carolina cotton mill men also are in sympathy and cooperating with us.

All funds sent the Sumter Chamber of Commerce are carefully looked after and accounted for by expert accountants and officers of organization. We publish in several papers names of firms, corporations, and individuals purchasing cotton at ten cents per pound.

This "Buy a Bale" movement is on the square in Sumter, I know, and believe it is also conducted honestly by other South Carolina commercial organizations. The need of money is great. Thousands of dollars being sacrificed by poor farmers having to sell for seven and seven and a-half cents to get money. Not too late to save millions by the "Buy a Bale" plan, at ten cents. We are anxious to have our method rigidly investigated by any one. Thank you for your interest. Hope you can help us out.

Yours truly, E. I. Reardon, Managing Secretary, Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

SUMTER CORN SHOW.

Boys' Exhibition to Be Held in Court House on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The corn show for the club boys of Sumter county, will be held at the court house in Sumter, beginning at 11 A. M., Saturday, October 17, and the prizes will be awarded by one or two o'clock. All the boys are requested to bring with them the best single ear of corn and the best ten ears.

Also a paper written on the subject, "How I selected My Seed Corn in the Field," and a history of how the crop was grown. Prizes will be given for the best of these papers and single ear and ten ear exhibits.

I want a report from all of the boys who made the test of what difference it makes to pull fodder or to let it dry up on the stalk. The county show is being held early this year in order that some of the boys' exhibits of corn may be used in the county exhibit at the State fair.

I have mailed out notices to all of the club members about this meeting and should like very much to have every member of the club make a report regardless of your yield of corn. It is possible for the boy making the lowest yield to win four-fifths of the prizes or four-fifths as much as the boy making the largest yield.

An expert will be present to judge the corn and to tell the boys about how to select the best show corn and the best seed corn.

J. Frank Williams, Local Agent.

Wesley Bossard Dead.

From The Daily Item, Oct. 7. Wesley Bossard, a well known colored blackman, died this morning at his home on Edwards street, where he has been sick for several months. The funeral services will be held tomorrow.