

**The Watchman and Southron.**  
 Published Wednesday and Saturday.  
 —BY—  
**SOUTHERN PUBLISHING COMPANY.**  
 SUMTER, S. C.  
 Terms:  
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**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 subvert private interests will be charged for as advertisements.  
 Obituaries and tributes of respect will be charged for.  
 The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1860 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.

One of the most pathetic incidents in medieval history was the Children's Crusade; and the Ford peace party's trip to Europe is suggestive of the children's attempt to recover the Holy City from the Saracens in its idealistic disregard of all practical considerations. Fortunately this crusade de luxe will not be a long drawn out tale of hardship and suffering by de-luded innocents, and the sympathies of all mankind will not be harrowed throughout the ages by the record of their sacrifice to a fanatic's dream.

If all of us who have been commissioned as delegates to the Commercial Congress make the trip, Charleston will hang out the "standing room only" sign early next week and will be calling for help; and if all of the delegates insist on speaking a little piece Dr. Clarence J. Owens will find it necessary to print a whole library to contain the "Proceedings." He got by with one volume of 1064 pages when his congress met in Atlanta a few years ago, and that congress did not have the South Carolina delegation of notables and others.

The message delivered to congress yesterday by President Wilson is a State paper of such far-reaching importance and significance that it should be read with the utmost care by every American citizen and preserved for future consideration. He discusses the international situation with a clarity and force that is made all the more emphatic and impressive by the calmness and restraint of statement that characterizes the message from first to last. In the sections of the message dealing with the necessity for an adequate army and navy and a general condition of preparedness so that in case of need the resources of the entire country could be mobilized for the natural defense and the preservation of American independence, he states facts so plainly that only a fanatic or an enemy of American institutions would take issue with his argument or dispute the conclusions he arrives at. The message is a great paper that future historians will refer to as the genesis of the Pan-American doctrine of militant independence in opposition to foreign aggression.

The special edition of the Newberry Herald and News, commemorative of the semi-centennial of the founding of that newspaper attained the high-water mark of excellence in special editions and we extend to Editor E. H. Auld our congratulations and felicitations. The issue contained 56 pages and contained a number of special articles of unusual interest and of historical value, besides many illustrations.

England has made such a ghastly bungle of the Dardanelles, Gallipoli and Saloniki campaigns that Constantine, King of Greece, has no hesitation in standing up in meeting and telling John Bull to his face that, as a fighting man, he is an incompetent and a failure. And the worst of it is the facts bear out the opinion of the pro-German king of the Greeks.

The dispensary counties are not running full page advertisements of closing out sales, but it is a safe guess that there will be a rushing business in wet goods in dispensary counties during the holidays. Eooze will be going at and below cost before January 1st if the wet counties are to succeed in unloading their stocks of intoxicants.

The hose wagons were called out today about noon by an alarm of fire from a house on Bartlette Street. Little damage was done, however, the fire being extinguished before the arrival of the hose wagons. The building was occupied by Tom Newberry, colored.

**For a Christmas Gift.**  
 Nothing more seasonable or suitable for a Christmas gift than a pair of those boxed North Carolina blankets at The Sumter Dry Goods Co.

**TO ELIMINATE ILLITERACY.**

**COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANS SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS.**

**Concerted Effort to Be Made to Remove the Blot of Illiteracy From Sumter County—Opportunity for Education to Be Placed Within Reach of Every Illiterate Adult.**

It is a matter of record that 13 per cent. of the Democratic voters of Sumter county are unable to sign their names—this was demonstrated when the Democratic Clubs prepared their roll books in 1914. This is a condition that is deplorable and that should not be allowed to continue if it is possible to devise any plan whereby the illiterates may be assisted to learn to read and write. The County Board of Education has taken the matter under serious consideration and has determined to inaugurate a systematic campaign to interest those adults who cannot read or write in an effort to obtain at least the rudiments of an education. It is believed that the percentage of illiteracy can be reduced to a minimum within two years or less time, if the hearty cooperation of all the school trustees of the county can be obtained to further the movement.

To inaugurate the campaign against illiteracy a meeting of the county trustees' association has been called for next Wednesday, the following letter having been mailed to each trustee by County Superintendent of Education J. H. Haynsworth:

To The School Trustees of Sumter County:

Gentlemen: Realizing the fact that some of our most deserving citizens have been denied the privilege of learning to read and write, the Sumter County Board of Education desires to ask your cooperation in trying to devise some plan whereby this condition may be overcome.

Already the Board has decided to open a night school in the Y. M. C. A. building in Sumter for all persons of eighteen years and over who desire to improve themselves. Two classes will be formed. Male teachers will have charge of the men's class and female teachers will have charge of the women's class. This good work will be voluntary on the part of the teachers, and no charge will be to those who attend for improvement.

Gentlemen, does it not rest upon us, who have been more fortunate, to try to help those among us of our own blood who have been less fortunate? The per cent. of those who cannot write their names is appalling. South Carolina in the matter of illiteracy is next to the very foot in the whole United States. We deplore it, but will it ever be otherwise if we only deplore it and do nothing more? There must be some way to improve this condition. We have as good people in South Carolina, yea, and in Sumter county, as the sun ever shone upon. Other States have improved this condition and other counties in our own State are improving it. Is it right for us to sit still and do nothing?

The County Board of Education has asked the president of the Sumter County Trustees' Association to call a special meeting at which every trustee in the county is not only asked but begged to attend.

Gentlemen, the year is drawing to a close, we will want to look back to see what good we have done. To know that we have at least attempted to do our fellow man good should be our greatest joy.

Please come to the court house, Wednesday, December 15th, at 12 o'clock, when we believe that some plan can be devised to try to overcome these difficulties, which to some of us seem mountain high, but may be only mists, and as easily dispersed.

The City Board of Education and the County Board will take pleasure in meeting with the Trustees' Association on this occasion.

Very respectfully,  
 J. H. Haynsworth,  
 Secretary County Trustees' Association

**RIDGEWOOD TO REBUILD CLUB.**

**New Home of Country Club Will Cost With Furniture About \$25,000.**

Columbia, Dec. 9.—Preliminary plans for the construction of a new clubhouse for Ridgewood club have been completed and as soon as the contract is let work will begin. The building will cost approximately \$15,000; the value of the furniture and fixtures will be about \$5,000, of which about \$1,500 is the salvage from the fire that destroyed the building early in October.

Except for the rearrangement of locker rooms and bathing facilities the new clubhouse will closely resemble the one it replaces. It will be built on a site a little to the west and further back from the street car line than the previous building.

The bond issue of \$10,000 on the property of the club, authorized at a special meeting Tuesday night, will be put on sale by the finance committee, consisting of W. D. Melton, chairman, Christine Eenet and Edwin W. Robertson.

**TO IMPROVE COLUMBIA STATION.**

**Directors Authorize Expenditure of \$100,000.**

Columbia, Dec. 9.—Improvements to cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will be started on the union passenger station in Columbia within the next 30 days. This was definitely determined at the annual meeting of the directors of the Union Station company, held here yesterday morning.

Some time ago the plans for the additions and renovation were drawn and they are now in the hands of the several prospective contractors. Bids will be asked for immediately and it was stated yesterday that within a month the work will be under way. The plans call for enlargement and improvement.

**SCOUT ORGANIZER OUSTED.**

**Retirement Explained by National Council of Boy Scouts.**

New York, Dec. 8.—The national council of the Boy Scouts of America, through an authorized committee, held a special meeting today to consider a statement issued by Ernest Thompson Seton in which he said that he had resigned as chief scout. After the meeting the council issued this statement:

"Mr. Seton did not resign; he was deliberately dropped by the national council of the Boy Scouts of America on the question of Americanism. He is not an American citizen. He not only resented suggestions and requests made by many of his friends in the scout movement that he become an American citizen, but went further and objected to the Boy Scout handbook including a chapter on patriotism. His term expired February, 1915. The national council at its annual meeting did not reelect him because of the belief that in a movement for making men as citizens of America there should be no doubt as to the citizenship and patriotism of the leaders of the movement. Any statement that the dropping of Mr. Seton or his alleged resignation was due to anything else than this is not true.

"In fairness to Mr. Seton the office was left vacant until he could be afforded a reasonable opportunity to declare his intentions of becoming a citizen of the United States. This he refused.

"In response to Mr. Seton's attempt to resign he was informed that inasmuch as he held no office there was no office from which he could resign and the matter was finally closed last July. Mr. Seton promised explicitly by letter that he would quietly proceed with his own work without raising any issue. He has seen fit to violate his promise without any notice to the executive board or any of its officers at a time and under conditions which make necessary this statement of fact.

"The aims of the Boy Scout movement are today exactly the same as they have been since the organization of the movement in this country in 1910. Character development and good citizenship through wholesome outdoor activities is the objective. The movement at its October meeting definitely reaffirmed the policy of being a non-political, non-military, not anti-military, organization."

**Genuine North Carolina Blankets!**

If you want to learn the difference between these popular blankets and other brands, call at the Sumter Dry Goods Co. and take a look through their big shipment. There you will see the real thing from North Carolina.—Advt.

Saturday night the members of the police force were entertained most delightfully with an oyster supper by Harry Polous, the proprietor of the Dixie Cafe. The officers were served oysters in any style they called for and were supplied with all that they could eat.

**Another Big Blanket Shipment.**

The Sumter Dry Goods Co. have received another big invoice of North Carolina blankets, and the prices as heretofore are most reasonable. A pair of genuine N. C. blankets make an ideal gift, and many of them are finished and boxed especially for this purpose.—Advt.

**OIL TANKER SAFE.**

**Communipaw Escaped Submarine and Reached Alexandria.**

London, Dec. 8.—Rome dispatches that the American oil steamer Communipaw had been sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean and flatly contradicted this afternoon by the report that the Communipaw has reached Alexandria, Egypt.

**For a Christmas Gift.**

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**NOT FINANCED BY GERMANS.**

**President of "Labor's Peace Council" Issues Statement in Reply to Charges.**

Orange, N. J., Dec. 7.—Jacob C. Taylor, president of Labor's Peace Council, the activities of which are under investigation by a federal grand jury, tonight issued a statement in which he denied that German agents financed the council. The sole aim of the council, he declared, is to attempt to bring about universal peace, and he announced that within a few days he would call a conference of the officers to pass a resolution asserting that the sympathies of its members are not pro-German.

**TAKEN AT EASTOVER.**

**Yellow Raccoon is Caught in Lower Richland.**

Allino opossums are not especially rare, but an Eastover citizen has captured a rather unusual freak, a yellow raccoon. The body is of an almost uniform yellow and the tail has brown rings on yellow. The typical 'coon has dark gray underfur with black and white hairs projecting through it and the tail banding is of black on gray.—The State.

**TO CONDUCT REVIVAL SERVICES.**

**Rev. J. C. Bailey Will Preach at Tirzah Presbyterian Church.**

On next Monday afternoon a revival meeting will begin at Tirzah Presbyterian church, Dalzell, with the Rev. J. C. Bailey of Liberty, S. C., conducting the meeting. Mr. Bailey was for ten years pastor of the Tirzah and Wedgefield churches, resigning a number of years ago to accept a call to a church in the upper part of the State. Since the recent resignation of Mr. Hay, the Wedgefield and Tirzah churches have been without a pastor.

The services begin on next Monday evening and will continue throughout the week. The services will be held at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

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**PROFESSIONAL CARD.**

Dr. Mary W. Peery, Osteopath, has returned to Sumter, and may be found in her office in The City National Bank Building.

**Success Without a Bank Account**

You never heard of a successful man or woman without a bank account—did you? If you are a business man you need a Commercial Account here—if a housewife you need a Household Account here. You need the kind of personal banking service we can give to you. May we have you with us?

**THE PEOPLES BANK**

**DRINK A BOTTLE OF "SATANET"**

And remember the pleasant Farewell Taste. You will want another, and after drinking three bottles, nothing else is good enough for you. Satanet is a full, smooth, fruit-juice drink.

**Cultivate the Acquaintance. You Will Like It.**

**Xmas and New Year Excursion Fares**

Between all points on the Atlantic Coast Line and points on connecting lines.

Tickets on sale December 17th, 18th, 23rd, 24th and 25th, limited returning until midnight of January 10th, 1916.

**Atlantic Coast Line Railroad**  
 The Standard Railroad of the South

For Tickets and Pullman reservation and any desired information, call on O. V. PLAYER, Ticket Agent, Sumter, S. C.

**XMAS SUGGESTIONS FOR MEN AND BOYS**

**Mens Suits and Overcoats**  
 \$10 to \$25

**Boys' Suits and Overcoats**  
 \$3.50 to \$10

Mackinaw Coats,  
 Sweaters,  
 Suit Cases and Hand Bags,  
 Handkerchiefs,  
 Bath Robes,  
 Neckwear,  
 Socks,  
 Shirts

**Fancy Sets,**  
 Including Silk Socks, Handkerchiefs and Ties

**MANY OTHER USEFUL GIFTS**

Fashioned by  
**Isaac Haraburger & Sons**

**The Sumter Clothing Co.**