

CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

NUMBER OF MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST PASSED ON.

Dr. C. B. Epps Re-elected City Physician—Police Privates Secure Raise in Salary—Reduction Refused Telegraph Company.

City Council held a regular meeting last night with all present, and passed on a number of matters of more or less interest to citizens. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The City Clerk reported on having received information from other cities on what licenses were charged telegraph companies in other towns the same size as Sumter. Manager Murphy of the Western Union Company requested a reduction in the license of his company.

He showed the gross receipts of the company, as requested at a previous meeting of council. Council after considering the matter refused to grant the request for a reduction of the license remaining at \$75.

The request for a raise of salary of the police force was considered and the City Clerk was authorized to pay five dollars a month more to the privates of the force, the mayor voting that all should receive the increase.

The City Clerk was requested to ask Major Lee to report at the next meeting of council what work he had done on securing the measurements of streets for paving.

Bids for the position of City Physician were opened from the following physicians: Geo. F. Lee, \$40; W. F. Bristow, \$17.50; W. H. Burgess, \$20.00; Carl E. Epps, \$15.00. Dr. Epps was accordingly re-elected city physician.

The matter of converting the grounds at the water works station into a city park was discussed and while Council favored having a park and action in the matter was not taken.

Mr. R. B. McNeal asked for a refund on water rental because of an alleged overcharge. The matter was discussed and council decided to await further information before taking action.

Mr. Rowland reported that the boiler inspector had suggested that the boiler at the pumping station be kept empty of water. As this boiler is kept in case of emergency, Council did not see how they could follow the suggestion, as it was not deemed practical.

Arrangement was received from the Sumter Gas and Power Company to extend a two-inch water main to their plant on Hausen street. The superintendent of Water Works was instructed to find out what terms could be made with the gas company concerning the laying of the pipe.

TO APPEAR BEFORE BOARD.

Local Board of Charities and Corrections to Talk of Need of Jail. The Sumter County Board of Charities and Corrections will on next Tuesday at the regular meeting of the Sumter County Board of Commissioners take up with them and the county legislative delegation in the general assembly, which will meet with the County Board of Commissioners, the matter of erecting a new jail for Sumter County.

The local Charities Board has requested Secretary Albert S. Johnston of the State Board of Charities and Corrections to come before the joint meeting of the Sumter county bodies and tell them of the condition of the Sumter county jail, as compared with other jails in the various counties of the State and compare with what it should be. Mr. Johnston has already discussed this matter at a meeting in the city and his views are strong on the matter.

At the same time the local Charities Board is working on the matter, it is understood that the Board of Health has taken up the matter with the state health officer, Dr. J. I. Hayne, with a view of having the county jail condemned. If the State Board of Health takes this action it will leave the county in a very much crippled condition, which is another reason that those who have the authority to make the needed corrections should do what is deemed best under the circumstances.

Call Meeting of Harmony Presbytery. From The Daily Item, Dec. 28. A call meeting of Harmony Presbytery was held in Sumter today, attended by Revs. J. J. Brown, of Clarendon County, R. L. Grier and W. H. Workman of Mayesville; H. C. Hammond of Lee county; W. J. McKay and J. P. Marion, of this city. Rev. J. J. Brown was given permission to leave Erewington and New Harmony churches. Mr. Wm. Anderson of Lynchburg, Lee county, was taken under care of Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry.

Marriage.

Mr. T. O. Reynolds and Miss Daisy Brown were married on December 25 at the Salem Baptist church parsonage by the pastor, Rev. J. W. Guy. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds spent several days in Charleston. They are now at home at 24 S. Blanding Street.

WOULD BUILD SANTEE BRIDGE.

Mr. C. M. Hurst, clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, of Sumter county, has addressed the following communication to Secretary Reardon of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce. "On January 4th, at 11 o'clock a. m. in this office, a joint meeting will be held by the county commissioners, legislative delegation, local board of charities and corrections, and the Chamber of Commerce. Matters of public interest will be considered.

It is expected also, that representatives from Charleston will be present with a proposition to build a bridge across Santee River, in order that a more direct route may be opened to that city, for automobiles and other vehicles.

"A full representation from your organization is cordially invited." In connection with the proposition to create a new highway to Charleston by arranging for a causeway, and bridge or ferry across Santee swamp and river, Secretary Reardon gave out some information today. He said: "Supervisor Davis, of Clarendon, was in Sumter a few days before Christmas conferring with Judge Purdy and myself about building a causeway across Santee swamp near St. Paul, in Clarendon county. Chairman Reid Whitford of the Charleston Drainage and Sanitary Commission, and Commissioner of Agriculture E. J. Watson, favor this place as a crossing because there is at this point in the swamp a natural high sand ridge about one and a-half or two miles in length.

"If this place is selected a portion of the old Charleston, Sumter, and Northern road, bed between St. Paul and the river could be used as a crossing. Supervisor Davis says that the natural conditions and elevations are such that the bridging of creeks and streams, and filling in low places will be greatly reduced, and the material such as timber and dirt for filling in and bridging are about half way the total distance, making the cost a great deal less than at any other point in the Santee swamp.

Measurements from the proposed State highway map drawn by Mr. Whitford, and approved by Commissioner Watson, show that if this place suggested is adopted that the distance from Sumter to Charleston by automobile will be sixty miles, or six miles less than by the shortest railway route between Sumter and Charleston.

This crossing would put vehicles directly into the old State road from Columbia to Charleston. Arrangements have been made for a joint meeting of representatives from Sumter, Clarendon, and Charleston, and also from Orangeburg if possible, at St. Paul, sometime after January 1st, and before the general assembly convenes. Commissioner Watson has promised to be present.

Mr. W. G. Smith and Mrs. Jane Silken have secured a license to marry. Licenses were also issued to the following negro couples: Richard Centey and Rosa Belle Bennett, Rembert; Moultrie DuRant, Dalzell; Janie Jackson, Sumter; Shoxy Inas and Sarah Sanders, Sumter; Thomas Cantey, Borden; Jimmie Vaudelle Williams, Sumter; Ambrose Johnson, Pinewood, Ella Singleton, Privateer; Robert Gadsden, Jr., Mamie Pinckney, Wedgefield; Geo. Jones and Anna Keith, Sumter.

Real Estate Transfers. Della Taylor to R. J. Bland, lot on Republican street in town of Mayesville, \$5 and assumption of indebtedness on place. Master to D. D. Moise, tract of 137 acres known as Alfred Owen Home Place, 25 1-3 acres south of Bloom Hill plantation, 41 acres part of Bloom Hill tract, 100 acres on Fuller's Earth Creek, 66 acres in Manchester township, 31 acres in Manchester township on River Road, 70 acres adjoining estate of Mr. H. M. Owen, 50 acres adjoining land of H. Boykin, \$750.

Isaac Strauss to Bennie Pitts, 7 1-2 acres in county, \$450. R. B. Belsler to J. T. Lonax, lot on Edwards Street, \$10 and other considerations. R. Alford Burgess to S. P. Williams, lot on South Sumter street, \$500. Davis D. Moise to L. D. Jennings, 140 acres in county adjoining land of H. J. Harby, \$14,600. Geo. L. Ricker to C. B. Huff, lot on Haynsworth Street, \$638.

Christmas Charity Contributions. Additional subscriptions to the Christmas charity fund reported are: Previously acknowledged . . . \$589.83 Crosswell & Co. 5.00 L. E. White 2.00 Total \$596.83

The police force was remembered by the city as usual on this Christmas, each member being presented with a fine turkey for Christmas dinner. Several of the merchants of the town also furnished cigars for the force members, indicating that the keepers of the peace of the city were not without considerate friends.

COURSE PROVIDED FOR AGENTS.

County Directors of Home Demonstration Work to Spend January at Winthrop.

Home demonstration agents from 24 counties in South Carolina will spend the month of January attending lectures at Winthrop college. The work for the year will be outlined. The course has been arranged by Miss Edith L. Parrott, State agent. A demonstration laboratory has been fitted up by D. B. Johnson, president of Winthrop college. The agents will discuss the problems of home demonstration. Bradford Knapp, head of the demonstration work of the government, has accepted an invitation to deliver an address.

WOULD RESTORE PASSENGER TRAINS.

South Carolina Railroad Commission to Hold Hearing Here January 6th. The Sumter, Summerton, and Camden Chambers of Commerce, and other interested parties on the lines of the Northwestern Railway Company, have been notified that the hearing before the South Carolina Railroad Commission on the question of restoring passenger service on that company's lines will be held in the rooms of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, on January 6th, 1916.

MASONIC OFFICERS INSTALLED.

Newly Elected Officers Inducted into Office—Banquet at Cafe. From The Daily Item, Dec. 28.

The newly elected Masonic officers of Clarendon Lodge No. 64, A. F. M., were installed into office last night with the ceremonies usual on such occasions, executed in a very impressive and business-like manner. The new officers are: Worshipful Master, H. L. Birchard; Senior Warden, H. P. Moses; Junior Warden, W. I. Whitehead; Treasurer, Abe Ryttenberg; Secretary, J. G. R. Wilder; Senior Deacon, R. M. Jones; Junior Deacon, A. S. Harby; Stewards, Geo. D. Levy and J. M. Barwick; Tyler, W. J. Lawrence, Jr.

Immediately after the installation exercises seventy-three of the members of Clarendon Lodge repaired to the Dixie Cafe, where an excellent supper was served and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Marriage.

Of much local interest was the marriage of Miss Sidney Harris of Manning and Mr. Clarence DesChamps, formerly of this city, but now of Memphis, Tenn., which occurred at the Baptist parsonage at Manning on Christmas night, the Rev. Wilkins officiating. The marriage was a very quiet affair and came as a great surprise to many of the friends of the contracting parties. Mr. DesChamps was accompanied from Sumter by his brother, Mr. English DesChamps and Dr. James Chandler, who with a few others were witnesses to the ceremony. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. DesChamps left for Memphis, Tenn., where Mr. DesChamps is engaged in business with the Buckeye Oil Company.

BUSINESS NEAR NORMAL.

Talks with some of the merchants of the city indicate that the merchants are finding their business now near what are considered normal conditions and they are preparing for a good trade during the coming year. It is practically on the normal basis that goods are being ordered and plans being made for the 1916 business.

Merchants report that the Christmas trade this year was either as good or better than they had expected, being far ahead of what it was last year and, while not quite as good as some previous years, was as good as it generally is in normal times. Most of the Christmas goods were sold out and few merchants have any considerable stock of them left on hand.

Several merchants in discussing conditions explained that it was not the present business which was worrying them, but the failure to collect back accounts. Many of these accounts were unpaid and while their fall business had been as good as could have been expected, the collections had not been as good this fall as was to be expected, and this had therefore been a cause of injury to their businesses.

In talking of the various things which helped and hindered business several merchants mentioned the Sumter Electrical Company as one, the best thing for the merchants which had ever come to Sumter. They stated that nearly all of the merchants came in for a good share of business on the days just after the employees of the company were paid off and benefited by the presence of the company in the city.

Butler-Kidd.

Mr. D. H. Butler, of Columbia, and Miss Anna Kidd, of Axton, N. C., were married on Friday afternoon in the clerk of court's office, immediately after having secured a license to marry.

ENDS HIS OWN LIFE.

H. C. Cuttino Committed Suicide This Morning by Shooting Himself.

From The Daily Item, Dec. 28. The people of Sumter who knew him were shocked this morning at about 10 o'clock when it became known that Henry C. Cuttino had ended his own life by shooting himself with a pistol while in an outhouse in his back yard. The ball entered over the right ear and passed through the head, coming out on the other side, death being pronounced by the attending physician as instantaneous following the shot. When the body was found by his little daughter, Mr. Cuttino had evidently been dead for some time, as it was cold.

The sad tragedy must have occurred sometime between 8 and 9 o'clock, for after breakfast, which Mr. Cuttino ate with his family, as usual, he bade his wife, good-bye and started out with his eldest daughter, who was leaving to go down town to her work at the Western Union Telegraph office. He started toward the woodpile, where he usually cut wood before going to his office. This was the last seen of him alive. No one in the house heard the shot, or, if they did, thought it was some kind of Christmas fireworks out in the street. It was after 9 o'clock when one of his little daughters found him in the building in the yard. The members of the family and a physician were telephoned for at once, but he had been dead for some time then.

Mr. Henry C. Cuttino was a native of Sumter and was well known in the city and throughout the county. He has for a long time been engaged in real estate and collecting business.

The deceased leaves a large family, his wife, and the following children: Miss Etta, Mrs. Harold V. Bradley, Dalzell; Henry C. Jr., Misses Thelma, Caroline, Helen and Lucile, the latter being a baby. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. E. A. Cuttino; three brothers, Messrs. D. W., W. H. and T. C. Cuttino; and two sisters, Mrs. A. L. Lesene, and Mrs. Robert Achurch, of Charleston.

The funeral services will be held at the Sumter cemetery at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.

An Explanation.

The Mattie Jefferson referred to in The Item yesterday in the police court proceedings is not the Mattie Jefferson who teaches at Lincoln graded school.

Special services will be held at St. Anne's Catholic Church on New Year's at 7 o'clock in the morning. Special music will also be provided for the occasion.

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