

**The Watchman and Southron.**  
Published Wednesday and Saturday.  
—BY—  
**GOTTEB 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 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 Southern in 1855. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers and to manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

**A STARCH FACTORY.**

Dr. W. W. Long, Director of the Extension Department of Clemson College will meet the business men of Sumter Monday afternoon, at the Chamber of Commerce, to lay before them the facts relative to the movement that he has started to establish starch factories in South Carolina. Dr. Long and his associates at Clemson College have made a thorough investigation of the practicability of manufacturing a first class article of starch from sweet potatoes and he will be in a position to talk facts and not theories. He is undoubtedly able to demonstrate that starch can be manufactured at a profit—provided an adequate supply of potatoes can be guaranteed at a reasonable price. The whole thing hangs upon the question of a supply raw material, and this is up to the farmers of the country adjacent to the location of the starch factory. It might be possible to raise all the capital needed to establish a factory, but unless a certain supply of raw material is assured, no capitalist will put his money in it. A starch factory in Sumter or in any other South Carolina town depends upon the farmers and until their co-operation is assured the movement that Dr. Long is promoting cannot gain any momentum.

The movement to establish starch factories in the South to use sweet potatoes is not the first effort in this direction. As far back as January 1895 considerable interest was aroused in this matter in Sumter and an effort was then made to interest the farmers in growing potatoes to supply

proposed factory. After considerable talk nothing was accomplished, the failure being due largely, if not entirely, to the fact that a supply of potatoes could not be guaranteed. At that time Mr. B. Remmers visited Sumter and discussed the matter with a number of business men and for a time there were high hopes that a factory would be established. The failure of twenty-odd years ago, when cotton was selling for about six cents, should not be taken as an omen of failure now, and the effort should be made to co-operate with Dr. Long in putting this new enterprise on its feet. Twenty years ago there was no farm extension organization and the State did not have Dr. Long and his corps of energetic assistants of the Farm Demonstration work to enlist the aid of the farmers and direct their work in new channels. We have now the very thing that was lacking then, and this may mean the difference between failure and success. In addition we have the certain coming of the boll weevil, as another factor in compelling the farmers to seek some other crop than cotton as a money producer. In 1895 cotton was at its lowest price, and soon began to go up, which induced farmers to plant more cotton each year instead of driving them to other crops. We believe that Dr. Long knows what he is doing and that if he can obtain the proper backing in Sumter, or elsewhere that he will succeed in establishing a starch manufacturing industry in this State.

Just as a matter of history the subjoined article is reproduced from The Watchman and Southron of January 30th, 1895. It gives in brief form the facts relative to the inception of the effort then made to establish a starch factory in Sumter and to induce the farmers to plant potatoes as a money crop to take the place of cotton, which at the time was selling for less than the cost of production.

(From The Watchman and Southron, January 30, 1895.)

"A few weeks ago we published an inquiry from a party of Northern capitalists, who desire to establish starch factories in the South, in reference to the possibility of securing a supply of potatoes and other starch producing material in this section, should they locate a factory here. If anyone has replied to this inquiry we have not been informed of the fact, and since then the proposition has been at a standstill, simply because our people have taken so little interest in a matter that is of real importance to this section.

Yesterday the following letter

which brings the matter to a point, was received:  
"New York, Jan. 22, 1895.  
"Editor Watchman and Southron:  
"Today I got a paper of your edition dated November 15, 1894, containing an article on Cassava, which I must say interests me very much. Already from my former travels in Brazil, and now still more, since in company with several others, we intend to go in for the manufacture of starch in the South, from sweet potatoes and Irish, and since I have seen your article I would be willing to add Cassava to it, provided, the farmers would grow enough of it for our factory or factories, and that they would supply it at such prices as we might be able to pay. This latter would, of course, greatly depend upon the starch content of the Cassava. I am not sure if a letter would reach Mr. Spann, as I do not know his post-office address, I therefore send these lines to you in expectation that you will forward this to him. If he will send me by express, freight paid, an average sample of what he has grown, say ten to twenty pounds, I will undertake to make the analysis of same free of charge. If he agrees to this let him address the box to my chemical laboratory.  
"B. Remmers."  
"500 Green Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y."  
"Is there any water power in your city or neighborhood suitable for a factory? Do you think, if we located one of our intended factories in your place, that people would take a certain amount of stock and what privileges might we expect from the city? Hoping soon to hear from you and always pleased to answer any question that you may have in this matter, I remain,  
"Yours respectfully,  
"B. Remmers."  
"The question is thus put directly to the business men of the city and the farmers of the vicinity. Do we want a starch factory in Sumter? Will the business men of the city take stock in it? Will the city allow such a factory privileges? Will the farmers grow sweet and Irish potatoes and cassava in sufficient quantities to supply the factory? If we want the factory an effort must be made, as it will not come to Sumter whether we make an effort or not. There are hundreds of towns just as well located as Sumter and there is no particular reason why a factory should be located here."  
In the west starch factories pay fifteen cents per bushel of sixty-six pounds for Irish potatoes, and twenty cents per bushel of sixty-six pound

for sweet potatoes, giving one cent per bushel for each per cent. of starch found in the material. Can sweet potatoes be produced in large quantities and sold for twenty cents per bushel? We are informed that sweet potatoes can be grown at that price at a profit to the farmer. We have been told time and again that 200 to 400 bushels of potatoes can be produced per acre, and at twenty cents per bushel potatoes will be a long way ahead of cotton as a money crop. Here is the opportunity. What shall we do with it?"

**THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT LAW.**  
The legislature seems to be inclined to dodge the issue raised by Gov. Manning's recommendation in his annual message, that an Australian ballot law be enacted. The attitude of the present legislature in respect to this matter does not shock us as greatly it would, were not for the fact that in dodging the issue and sidetracking the Australian ballot law the legislature is following precedent. When Gov. Manning was a member of the legislature twenty-four years ago he made an earnest effort to secure the enactment of an Australian ballot law and the legislature dodged the issue every time the bill was brought up. The following editorial comment on the Australian ballot law is applicable to the present situation, almost without the change of a word, although it was written twenty-one years ago:  
(From The Daily Item, Feb. 10, 1896.)  
"The new election law and Mr. Manning's Australian ballot law will be taken up this week for discussion by both houses of the General Assembly. The adoption of the election law in a more or less modified form is a foregone conclusion, but the enactment of the ballot law proposed by Mr. Manning is not assured by any means, notwithstanding that it is one of the best and most necessary reforms that has ever been proposed in this State. We cannot understand why this bill has been sidetracked in the General Assembly for three successive years, and is, at the present time, in a fair way to be sidetracked again. There is no reason for this action, and we are necessarily forced to conclude that there is more or less prejudice against the Australian system, which is as near a perfect method for conducting elections as the honest ingenuity of intelligent men has been able to devise. In Australia where the system originated it has proven eminently satisfactory, inas-

much as it has preserved the secrecy of the ballot, prevented to a large extent the exertion of undue influence over voters by professional politicians, and has almost eliminated fraud at the ballot box. In the majority of the States of the Union, where the Australian system has been adopted and has been in effective operation for several years it has been as satisfactory to the honest citizens, who desire purity at the ballot box and honesty in elections, as it had been proven to be in Australia. The system, when honestly and intelligently enforced, secures orderly elections and render well-nigh impossible the long list of evils that have for years disgraced our elections and rendered them offensive to honest and respectable people. Of course those persons who profit by fraud and corruption in elections desire a more pliant system, a system that is subject to easier manipulation and renders detection of their criminality more difficult, and they have opposed the system from first to last and are still fighting it. It is a matter of history that the professional politicians in other States made the most strenuous efforts to prevent the enactment of election laws embodying the Australian ballot system, and that subsequent to its adoption they have redoubled their efforts to secure a repeal of the law. Failing in these efforts to rid themselves of the wholesome and purifying influences that the system threw around elections they have taxed their brains to evolve schemes that would defeat or evade the system and to bring it into disrepute. Notwithstanding these efforts, the Australian ballot system has grown in popularity with the honest voter, and today it is firmly planted in the favor of this class of people in every State where it has been tried, and there is no prospect of its abandonment in any State.  
Such being the intrinsic merits of the system and such being the beneficent effects in practical operation we cannot give up hope that the General Assembly of South Carolina will incorporate the Australian ballot system in the election law of the State.  
Mr. Manning has prepared a law that is peculiarly adapted to the conditions existing in this State and would be the means of purifying the elections and eliminating fraud. It will have the effect of an educational qualification of the ballot and will bear equally upon all men, whatever their race or political creed; and were it a new and untried scheme, without the many years of successful

operation to recommend it, the members of the legislature, should have no hesitation in adopting it, for its very merits, patent to any one who will read the bill with ordinary care, recommend it so powerfully that scarcely anything is left to be said in its favor.

**COURT CONVENES ON 12TH.**  
Judge R. W. Memminger to Preside—Grand Jurors and Petit Jurors Selected.  
Sessions court convenes for the spring term in Sumter county on February 12th, Judge R. W. Memminger of Charleston presiding.  
Saturday twelve jurors were drawn to fill out the panel on the grand jury for 1917 and the usual venire for the petit jury was drawn. The men who will serve as grand jurors for 1917 are:  
Holdovers: J. A. Middleton, J. F. Jenkins, W. Leslie Brunson, J. A. Lewis, D. M. Dick, C. W. Hicks. New men drawn: E. M. Hall, E. W. Hurst, R. H. Green, R. J. Kolb, J. C. Hood, W. H. Reville, J. M. Barwick, F. L. Brunson, E. Strickland, Joel Benbow, J. N. Hill and A. P. Hinson.  
The petit jurors for the first week of court are: J. C. Cooper, E. L. Newman, L. L. DuBoise, William Burrows, M. R. Rivers, J. O. Barwick, W. J. O'Neill, J. J. Morrissey, James C. Bryan, Wm. F. Shaw, Perry Krasnoff, M. E. Truluck, J. D. Heriot, E. G. Keels, W. E. Lawrence, R. T. Tisdale, R. A. Dennis, Pen Clements, M. McClam, E. A. Terry, E. J. Wachner, E. F. Miller, D. J. Auld, D. R. McCallum, R. M. James, T. W. Hawkins, W. N. Bradford, J. A. Schwerin, Jr., J. T. Maurer, A. A. Team, W. J. Rivers, F. T. McInvall, H. R. McLeod, B. T. Koib, J. M. Wertz, A. S. Brown.

**FREE SAMPLE**—Large paper-shell pecans. Land-owners, write for sample nuts and prices of trees today. Southern Nut Tree Nurseries, Thomasville, Ga.

**Geo. H. Hurst,**  
Undertaker and Embalmer.  
Prompt Attention to Day or Night Calls,  
111 S. Craig Old Stand, N. Main  
Phones Day 530 Night 201

**ANNOUNCEMENT.**

**Our Annual White Dry Goods Sale Begins Tomorrow, 30th.**

**Come and see. Our Goods speak for Themselves.**

Best Percalcs . . . . . 12 1-2c	32 in. Col. Madras Shirting at . . . 21c	Holly Wood Voile at . . . . . 9c	27 in White Pique . . . . . 19c
Good Percalcs . . . . . 10c	Best Quality Galatea, at . . . . . 13c	Novery Colored Voiles, 36 in. at from 21 to 47c.	India Linen Lawn, 12 1-2c for . . . 9c
Dress Gingham . . . . . 11c	White Plaid Waisting . . . . . 11c	36 in Pompadoure Stripe Voile at 19c	India Linen Lawn, 18c for . . . . 13c
Apron Check . . . . . 7c	Special Prices on Towels and Spreads.	40 in. Organdy, 30c quality for 21c	Renfrew Devonshire Cloth at 25c for . . . . . 21c
Best Apron Check . . . . . 9c	Sheets, 63x90, 85c quality for . . . 73c	40 in. Organdy, 35c quality for 27c	Cannon cloth . . . . . 13c
Chambray . . . . . 10c	Sheets, 81x90, \$1.00 quality for . . . 92c	40 in. Organdy, 50c quality for . . . 30c	
Best Bleach 15c, for . . . . . 10c	Sheets, 90x90, \$1.25 quality for . . . 95c	30c Flaxon for . . . . . 23c	
10c Bleach . . . . . 8c	9-4 Sheeting 35c quality for . . . 28c	Kenton Tissue Voile at . . . . . 13c	
Pajama Checks, Short Length, 12 1-2c for . . . . . 9c	Pillow Cases 42x36, 25c quality for 19	36 in Jap. Crepe, 30c for . . . . . 22c	
Full Pieces P ajama Check, best Quality at . . . . . 12c	Pillow Cases, 45x76, 30c quality for 22	Shadow Stripe Voile at . . . . . 9c	
English Long Cloth, all prices.	Damask, 60c for . . . . . 47	Canton Silk Stripe Voile . . . . . 21c	
18c Quality Nainsook for . . . . . 13c	Damask, 25c for . . . . . 21c	Winner Voile . . . . . 13c	
35 1-2c Quality Nainsook for . . . . . 17c	Damask, 40c for . . . . . 33c	Japanese Nainsook, 30c quality for 22	
25c Quality Nainsook for . . . . . 18c	Damask, \$1.00 for . . . . . 89c	(38 in. wide.)	
Heavy White Madras for Shirting, 36 in. Wide, for . . . . . 12c	Damask, \$1.75 for . . . . . 1.29	Dimity Check . . . . . 11c	
36 in. Poplin, white and colors, 35c for . . . . . 22c	\$2.50 Corduroy Skirts for . . . . . \$1.48	27 in. White Pique . . . . . 29c	
Linen 12 1-2c Quality, for . . . . . 9c	White Skirts . . . . . 98c		
Linen, 15c Quality, for . . . . . 12c	All the new weaves in plaid and stripe . . . Cotton Shirting.		
35c White Linen at . . . . . 29c	Novery Waisting at 22c, 29c and 43c		
	40 in. White Voile at . . . . 17 and 21c		
	27 in Poplin at . . . . . 19c		
	Dotted Swiss, at . . . . . 22c		

**MUSLIN UNDERWEAR.**

Gowns—17c, 73, 92, 93, 88, 98, \$1.33, \$2.18.  
Skirts—17c, 73, 98, \$1.23, \$2.18.  
Pants—23c, 13, 47c.  
Corset Covers—23c, 43c.  
Chemise . . . . . 89c

**SHAW & McCOLLUM MERCANTILE COMPANY.**