

BUSINESS MEN'S RALLY.

LARGELY ATTENDED AND ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Number of Speakers Urge the Importance of Business Men Supporting Chamber of Commerce, as Clearing House of Community Ideas and Plans—Food Problems and Other Matters Discussed.

A largely attended and very important meeting of the business men of Sumter and the surrounding country was held last night in the Elks Lodge rooms, the meeting being a rally in behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, which is calling upon the business men and farmers to reciprocate.

The Chamber of Commerce has been working hard for years to increase the business done in the city of Sumter and to make the efforts of the farmers more successful along all lines. It has been preaching diversification to the farmers for years and recently it has organized the city and county for Public Safety, a step much needed now because of the war with Germany in which this country is involved, as there is coming every day a greater and greater need for foodstuffs to supply this section and warring nations of Europe. The commercial body now is calling on the people whom it has helped many times to help it, by becoming members of the organization, so that it can carry on its work.

Mr. A. C. Phelps, the president of the organization, in opening the meeting and telling its object gave some of these reasons for calling the meeting and asking the support of the people of Sumter and surrounding country. He praised the secretary of the organization, saying that the organization had the right man in the right place and that it was due to the managing secretary that much of the efficient work of the body was being done.

Dr. H. M. Stuckey, one of the members of the directorate of the body was called on and also urged the importance of the Chamber of Commerce as a factor in the community.

Mr. L. C. Straus pointed out that it was the duty of business men to support public institutions for the good of the community. He said that a good living was all that any one should demand of a community, not right to accumulate. He stated that maybe one enterprise secured by the organization was worth more to the town than all the money spent for its support.

Mr. E. D. Cole, a comparatively new resident of Sumter who has been chosen a member of the commercial body, urged the farmers to work hard, to use more fertilizer and to raise more crops, and he said that they would come clear of debt, after three hard years, with plenty left over. He said the town needed more factories and the business men should subscribe to any of them recommended by the Chamber of Commerce. He offered a prize of \$25 to the boy in Sumter county who raised the most speckled peas, and \$25 to the boy who raised the most corn on one acre, the Chamber of Commerce to decide the winner.

Mr. Phelps pointed out that the Chamber of Commerce would not endorse a plan, unless it saw that it was a good one. The men on the board of directors of the commercial organization were business men and when they recommended an enterprise, the men of Sumter might subscribe to it as a good proposition. The directors would not recommend it unless they were willing to put their own money into it.

Mr. E. W. Dabbs was sorry that the Farmers' Union was not as well organized as the Chamber of Commerce. He said that it had been working along the same lines recently advocated in such a systematic campaign by the Chamber of Commerce. The work could not have been done so well, he said, except for the fact that the Chamber was well organized. He said that lots of work was being done among the farmers to make them see the situation which confronted them and to act accordingly, and the farmers were doing much work in the direction pointed out. He thought that results would be seen in the near future and that within ninety days this county would be not only self-sustaining, but would have a surplus of food to send to some more unfortunate neighbor.

He said that the Chamber of Commerce should pat itself on the back at the good work which it had done. He praised the secretary of the Chamber for his persistent and effective efforts to better conditions in city and county and thought that he was the best man who could be secured for the place.

Mr. H. G. Osteen gave a history of the reason for the formation of the Committee of Public Safety in Sumter county, saying that without the Chamber of Commerce to put it into active execution the idea would not have been successful among the farmers.

He said that Sumter county now was in a worse condition than when Sherman burned Columbia. At that time wagon trains have been formed here and food carried to the people of Columbia. Now if Sumter was shut off from the West for two weeks, famine would stare the people in the face. He said that Mr. Coker, the head of the State committee, had told him that Sumter county was ahead of any other county in the State, and as far as he knew, ahead of any county in the country. He said this fact was due to the effective work of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Phelps stated that in Atlanta the Sumter plan was adopted at the meeting of the Public Safety Committee and telegraphed from there to every county in the South and its adoption urged by the Atlanta meeting.

Mr. Davis D. Moise referred to his interest in the work of the Chamber of Commerce, but he had never expected to see it so well organized and doing such effective work as it was doing now. He believed that it was because of the Chamber of Commerce that the community spirit in Sumter was so strong. He said that he had recently been on a trip through parts of the South and he had noticed that where there was diversification with plenty of live stock that there was plenty of signs of prosperity. It was impossible to make money by raising only cotton and corn; diversification must be practised, live stock must be raised to make money. He urged that each citizen of the community work for his community, as well as for himself, and he could best aid his community by working through the Chamber of Commerce which was always ready to accept any good suggestion and aid any worthy cause.

Mr. R. B. Belsler, a former president of the Chamber of Commerce, pointed out that the organization was one representing the community. He was therefore glad to see such a representative body of men gathered for the meeting, as it indicated that the work of the organization was being appreciated. He said that the Chamber would develop every helpful idea brought to it, but that it could not do work without cooperation, especially financial support. He referred to the small amounts which were being carried over each year by the organization, because the body did not have sufficient funds to pay back dues and to run on throughout the year. He said the work which the body did for the community was certainly worth to each business man the small amount he paid towards its support. He said that sometimes one enterprise was worth to the community the whole amount paid to support the Chamber of Commerce. It only needed \$3,500 a year. On this amount it could and would develop the agricultural interests of the community, which in turn would develop the business interests of the town. It needed and should have the support of the business men of the community.

Mr. Phelps stated that the meeting was a most encouraging one and he hoped that there would be such meetings each month, hereafter, where the men could keep in touch with each other and discuss matters of public interest. He thought it worth the while of every man in business to belong to the Chamber of Commerce and hoped that when called on the men would respond promptly and willingly. He thought the slogan of the State Preparedness Committee was a good one for the Chamber of Commerce "Service for All," for there was no place in business today for a man who lived only for himself.

Secretary E. I. Reardon said that the Chamber of Commerce was kept exceedingly busy these days. He explained that he had inherited much of the blame which had been placed upon the body, and that some he had come by justly. The deficit spoken of had been inherited when he came into office, and was not of his making. He said it was chiefly the non-public spirited men who laid the blame for their injuries and the injuries to business in the community to the Chamber of Commerce. He said that it was only dead men who did not subscribe to and advertise in the local papers and belong to the Chamber of Commerce. Only live men did those things.

Before adjourning to the luncheon room, Mr. E. W. Dabbs offered a resolution that the body extend its sympathies to Mrs. L. D. Jennings and family at the illness of Mr. Jennings and convey to her the hope that he would soon be well again. The motion was passed by a rising vote.

Sandwiches and coffee were served in bouffe style, a feature which is expected to be carried into execution at future Chamber of Commerce meetings.

DR. KNAPP URGES MORE FOOD.

TIME FOR EVERYBODY TO GET TOGETHER FOR PUBLIC GOOD, HE SAYS.

Says That Farmers Should Not Go Cotton Crazy, for Apparent High Price is Deceiving—Rank Folly to Plant Large Acreage in Cotton and Leave off Food Crops with Corn and Wheat so High He Says.

The following letter has been received from Dr. Bradford Knapp, head of the farm extension work in the South, and published by request of the Chamber of Commerce:

Mr. E. I. Reardon, Managing Secretary, Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Mr. Reardon: I am very grateful to you for sending me the Sumter plan, which entirely accords with the general plan of organization for this emergency in the South. This is the time for everybody to get together and do a tremendous piece of work for the production of food in the South.

Unfortunately, it has been impossible for me to get dates for a speaking tour in South Carolina. I have spoken in practically every other cotton-producing State; hence, the South Carolina people do not know just how much has been done, even before the war came, to awaken the people to a realization of the present situation. The one important thing is the fact that cotton, even at 20c a pound, is not high. I have been pointing this out since cotton began to go up last fall. The apparent high price of cotton is deceiving the farmers. With corn at \$1.40 to \$1.50 a bushel and meal, flour, potatoes and other foods equally high, it is rank folly for our people to persist in putting in a large acreage in cotton. Inclosed I send you a number of copies of a recent letter to farmers, bankers and business men.

I certainly congratulate Sumter county on this move and congratulate you, who are connected with it, on your efforts. If there is anything we can do to further this good work, let us know.

Very truly yours,
Bradford Knapp, Chief.

To Farmers, Bankers and Business Men in the South:

For nearly thirty years I have done my best to warn you to prepare for the present emergency. For years we have tried to encourage diversification in the South as a basis for greater safety, both agricultural and economic. Since the war began in Europe we have urged Safe Farming. When prices were low you did well and made great progress. When cotton went to eighteen cents and over you made large profits because of your progress in Safe Farming, but you were tempted to go back to cotton in common with many other men, have tried to warn you of that danger. Cotton has not been high but has only increased in somewhat less proportion than food and feed.

Now the crisis is here! This great nation must arouse herself for a mighty struggle for liberty. People without food and armies without rations are conquered before they can begin to fight. Our greatest safety lies in Food Production and in saving the waste products.

If the South is to be strong she must have food. If this country is to be strong she must be well fed and have an abundance to sustain those friendly people who are even now fighting our battles for liberty and democracy.

Transportation may be disturbed. Your own defense requires you to produce and conserve your food supply. Don't fall now! It is a national problem of defense as important as me and guns, ships and cannon.

Business men, if you see in short compass the situation like patriots and get the seed for farmers. Arrange the credits. Furnish farmers seed corn, soy beans, cowpeas, velvet beans, peanuts, sorghum, etc., at cost. See that all things necessary to help farmers are done. Of course, we must produce cotton, but with a moderate acreage and a good season there will be enough. Do not sacrifice acres of food to increase your acreage in cotton. Look ahead! Get the warehouses, the feed mills, shellers, cleaning stations, creameries, packing plants, etc. ready. You must do your share and cooperate with farmers. They must do their share and tend the crops faithfully.

Farmers, in your unions, clubs and other organizations, resolve to use the best methods now. When the nation faces a crisis we must have the best farming in its history. Labor is short, hence the best tools and all labor-saving devices must be used to make it possible for every farm laborer to cover as much ground as possible and do the most efficient work. Farm women and girls have important work to do in the garden, the orchard, in raising poultry, and especially in canning, preserving and conserving our food supply.

Your county agent and home demonstration agent become more important officers now than ever before. Your State Extension Division at the agricultural college will have still more important duties. Look to these for counsel and advice in this new burden of extra work. The county agent will, without doubt, have new duties and responsibilities in the near future.

Farmers and business men, save the breeding stock. Don't sell cows, heifers, mares, sows, gilts, ewes or hens. Keep them for breeding. If the breeding stock is sold where will you get the means to supply the meat of this country?

Let us forget all past difficulties and join in a might effort to feed the South. What can you do in the next sixty days? Respectfully yours,
Bradford Knapp, Chief.

WEDGEFIELD PRIZE LIST.

School Won a Large Number of Prizes in Athletic and Scholarship Tests.

Wedgfield, April 17.—The report of the successful contestants in the Field Day exercises was incomplete as it affected the Wedgfield school. So will ask you to publish the following:

Scholarship.

1st prize, reading, 2nd grade, Esther Ramsey.

1st prize reading, 7th grade, Cornelia Brice.

1st prize, spelling, 8th grade, Annie Strange.

1st prize, Geometry, 10th grade, Ralph Ramsey.

1st prize, reading, 10th grade, Ralph Ramsey.

Declamation contest, High school, boy, Willis Ramsey.

Physical geography, 2nd prize, Ida Brice, 9th grade.

Algebra, 2nd prize, Annie Strange, 8th grade.

Spelling, 2nd prize, Edison Wright, 8th grade.

Spelling, 2nd prize, Donald Brice, 10th grade.

Athletic.

Standing broad jump, Donald Brice, 1st prize.

Running high jump, Wade Ramsey, 1st prize.

100 yard dash, Donald Brice, 1st prize.

75 yard dash, Harry Troublefield, 2nd prize.

75 yard dash, Leroy Coulter, 2nd prize.

Tug of war, Lamar Parler, Bob Brice, Harry Troublefield, Willie Strange.

Relay race, Paul Seabolt, Donald Brice, Wade Ramsey, Ralph Ramsey.

COUNTY EDUCATION BOARDS.

Named by State Board of Education at Session Tuesday.

Columbia, April 17.—The State board of education meeting this week elected members of the county boards of education. The list was announced yesterday by J. E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education, as follows for Sumter and adjacent counties:

Sumter, H. G. Osteen and H. H. Brunson.

Lee, D. A. Quattlebaum and W. P. Baskin.

Clarendon, D. R. Risor.

Darlington, T. E. Wilson, L. W. Dick.

Culhoun, Tom M. Hamer, J. A. Merritt.

Florence, C. H. Jones, George Briggs.

Kershaw, N. P. Gettys and L. T. Mills.

WELCOME FOR PASTOR.

Manning Glad to See Rev. Mr. Lightfoot.

Manning, April 17.—The Rev. E. M. Lightfoot, the pastor of the Manning Baptist church, was welcomed to the church and to the town at a special union service Sunday night in the Baptist church. After an excellent sermon by Mr. Lightfoot, Dr. A. C. Wilkins as chairman of the meeting introduced Dr. Watson B. Duncan, pastor of the Methodist church, who spoke in eloquent terms of the unity of the church in fellowship and heritage. Following Dr. Duncan came the Rev. L. B. McCord, pastor of the Presbyterian church, who welcomed Mr. Lightfoot warmly. J. K. Breeden spoke for the laymen of the town, and then Dr. Wilkins and Pastor Lightfoot spoke, the former of his service as acting pastor and the latter of the hope of his ministry here. A combined choir from all the local churches sang several beautiful special selections. The occasion was a happy one and Mr. Lightfoot begins his pastorate here under the happiest auspices.

New York, April 17.—The seven men who were indicted last week on the charge of violating the Sherman anti-trust law in connection with the news print paper situation today entered tentative pleas, of not guilty and were released on three thousand dollar bonds each.

FOOD CAMPAIGN IN CLAIRENDON.

Public Meeting Held at Manning Responsive.

Manning, April 17.—A public meeting was held in the court house here today in the interest of general preparedness. A stirring patriotic address was delivered by Thomas G. McLeod of Bishopville, very much on the line of the address to all the people recently issued by President Wilson. He urged special productive effort associated with frugal economy in the use of all foodstuffs in order that the country's army and navy might be supported as well as the producers of arms and munitions of war, and that all the people at home might have sufficient food and that this country might have sufficient to send supplies to the allies fighting in the fields of Europe to put down tyranny and establish freedom and justice among the people of the world. He stressed the point that with cotton selling at 20 cents an acre will not produce enough to buy the necessary home supplies that could be produced on an acre at the present market prices. The audience was a representative one, being composed of farmers, professional men, merchants, bankers, public officials and a goodly number of patriotic housekeepers.

At the conclusion of the address, which was heartily applauded, a committee was appointed to traverse the county and urge the farmers to duly consider the urgent situation and to so arrange their affairs as to certainly raise more food crops and feed stuff than will be needed on their respective farms and have some to spare to meet the exigencies of the country at large. County Farm Demonstrator Senn and the zealous club agent, Miss Katherine Richardson, are taking a deep interest in the matter and will enthusiastically urge general patriotic preparedness wherever they may go among the people.

AMERICA MUST SEND MEN.

Gen. Wood Declares Volunteer Service Will Never Raise 500,000.

Boston, April 17.—Major Gen. Wood, speaking at a meeting of the American Cotton Waste Exchange here today, said that the United States would not fulfil its duty in this war until it had sent to the front men. The meeting was called to raise funds to equip a complete ambulance unit for the Red Cross.

"If we are to be a part of the war," said Gen. Wood, "our men in our uniform must be at the front. It is no child's play. We shall send living men and bring them back dead—but never until this is done shall we fulfil our duty."

There is a long period of preparation ahead of us, and the first step is to back up the plan for universal military service.

"A voluntary service, however delightful in theory, is ridiculous in practice. It would be a noble thing if every man rushed to the colors, but every man does not. Only six thousand men have been enlisted in two weeks, and I leave it to you to estimate how long it will take to get an army of a million men."

MURPH ON ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Washington, April 17.—D. S. Murph of St. Matthews, until recently clerk to the house committee on agriculture but now holding an important position with the department of agriculture, has received another important assignment. In addition to his regular work in the bureau of markets, he has been placed on the committee from the department to cooperate with the national advisory council. His special work will be to mobilize food supplies, to know just what stocks there are on hand of each commodity and where it is located.

"My work," Mr. Murph said today, "will not be to mobilize men but food supplies. It is important for the reason that without food supplies there can certainly be no men for the fighting line."

BERNHARDT SERIOUSLY ILL.

New York, April 17.—Madame Sarah Bernhardt, the famous French actress, was operated upon at Mount Sinai Hospital late tonight by Dr. Leo Buerger. She is dangerously ill with an infection of the kidneys and the operation was deemed the only hope of saving her life.

Assisting at the operation was the patient's personal physician, Dr. Felix Marot, who accompanied her from France; Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, Dr. Emanuel Libman, Dr. George Brewer, and Dr. Emanuel Baruch.

After the operation Madame Bernhardt was said to be resting quietly. The decision to resort to the knife was not reached until 10.30 o'clock. Early in the day improvement in her condition was apparent, but it took a sharp turn for the worse late in the afternoon.

THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED PRIZES.

Men Who Helped to Make Field Day Successful Thanked by Dr. Haynsworth.

Editor Daily Item:

For prizes contributed to the Field Day, I wish to thank the following merchants and friends of the rural Sumter Clothing Co., McInval & Sumter Clothing Co., McIlWail & Zeigler, Sumter Dry Goods Co., The Battery, Knight Bros., Hearon's Pharmacy, Bradford Bros., W. H. Shelley & Son, The D. J. Chandler Clothing Company, Booth-Boyle Co., Levy & Moses, DeLorme's Pharmacy, J. Denmark, L. Alpert, O'Donnell & Co., Schwartz Bros., Cash Dry Goods Co., Sibert's Drug Store, McLellan 5, 10 & 25c Store, Ducker & Bultman, Moses Green, Dixie Electric Co., L. W. Folsom, B. J. Barnett, W. A. Thompson, Zemp's Pharmacy, Stubbs Bros., J. H. Winburn, Moran & Co., Sam E. Miller, (The Rex), W. B. Boyle & Co., Shaw & McCollum, V. Baula, Boston Candy Kitchen, Geo. H. Hurst, Carolina Grocery Co., Geo. F. Epperson, McCollum Bros., Charlie's Cafe, Wallace & Moses, H. L. Tisdale, W. B. Burns, Williams' Cute Studio, Cobb 5 & 10c Store, L. E. LeGrand, Mitchell's Drug Store, Watson Drug Co., Wreck Store, Levi Bros., James Bryan, Durant Hardware Co.

The Field Day, although not as largely attended as in some years, was nevertheless, very successful, especially in that more of the contents went begging for contestants, and that so much interest was shown by those who stood.

Without the very generous aid of the city schools of Sumter, it would be impossible to have a Field Day of the kind Sumter county has always been proud of. I wish therefore, to thank all connected with the city schools, who so kindly labored for the success of this occasion.

I desire to express my appreciation of the work done by the various committees in the matter of judging in the different contests; also of the work done by Physical Director Duncan of the Y. M. C. A. and his committee, for the success of the athletic event.

The 1917 Field Day has passed, but it will be remembered by scores of children, and by many grown folks as being a very pleasant occasion.

J. H. Haynsworth,
County Superintendent of Education.

FATAL BLOW STRUCK.

Negro Killed by White Man in Clarendon.

Manning, April 17.—Ben Jones, a negro about 45 or 50 years of age, who lived in the western portion of the county, near St. Paul, died Saturday night from the effect of a blow on the side of the head inflicted Tuesday by a white man named Ragin Mathis. Coroner Tobias held an inquest yesterday and the jury found a verdict in accordance with the above statement. It is reported that Mr. Mathis had forbidden Jones to plow up or plow into a certain road, and, finding that he had done so, Mr. Mathis went to the negro's house to reprove him for it. The negro did not take very kindly to this reproof and Mr. Mathis started away. As he did so the negro hurled an unprinted epithet at him and thereupon Mr. Mathis started back, Jones had been loading manure into a wagon with a pitchfork, and as Mathis walked toward him, he drew the pitchfork as if to use it on Mathis, when the latter picked up a rail or pole and struck Jones on the side of the head, knocking him down, and then went away. The negro was assisted into his house, where he sat in a chair for a while. The next day he called in a physician, who advised him to remain quietly in bed. Two days later the physician called again and found no indication that the patient was materially worse, but Saturday night he died. A postmortem examination disclosed that the skull had been fractured in such a manner as to cause death. It is understood that Mr. Mathis will give himself up and furnish bond to stand trial.

Free Garden Bulletins.

Editor Daily Item.

The matter of increasing the food supply of this country in these times of stress is of vital importance as everyone must recognize.

Gardening, both in rural and urban communities, in the South, and especially in South Carolina, can be largely increased. The Department of Agriculture has just issued two bulletins—numbers 818 and 647—which are instructive, on home gardening. I shall be glad to send copies of these to persons who may write me.

Very truly,
A. F. Lever, M. C.

"It isn't the things a man knows about a woman which interests him; it's the things he thinks he doesn't know."