

The Watchman and Southern.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southern in 1866. The Watchman and Southern now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce will begin this week a canvass for funds for 1918, volunteer teams doing the work. The directors have worked carefully over the list of the business men of Sumter and will ask for support in measure of the ability of the party, firm or corporation, to pay. No sum that will be a hardship on anyone will be asked.

The Chamber of Commerce has done good work during the last twelve months, and has done it quietly. There has been no tooting of horns, but the Chamber has been the center of every public activity carried on in Sumter. We are living now in an age where all must coordinate their efforts, where the hope of success of the country lies in pulling together, in all men cooperating toward common ends. The men of Sumter county have done that; they must continue to do it.

The Chamber has been very much handicapped in the past by the continuous debt that has hung over it year in and year out. The directors hope that the response to the appeal the volunteer committees will make this week will be liberal enough to wipe out this debt. The Chamber has been conducted economically; as a matter of fact, there was nothing in the treasury to be extravagant with; and of late the lack of funds has cut down the efficiency of the work, for it has been impossible to give Secretary Reardon any help, and the office was without service whenever his duties took him elsewhere, as they frequently do. Some business men of Sumter have from time to time become disgruntled over some particular act and have withdrawn from the Chamber. It is time now to forget these personal hurts and grievances and for all to resume their membership. The business men of both the county and the city have passed through a prosperous year, and they can well afford to maintain an efficient Chamber of Commerce.

The men who will work for the Chamber this week are of the city's busy men. They are giving their time at a sacrifice; when they come to you deal with them promptly and courteously. It will greatly convenience the directors, if you can, if you give the committee then and there your check for your year's contribution.

Food Saving a Duty.

Food saving is a progressive game. Most people assumed that their duty to the nation in this matter had been done when they signed the food pledge for one wheatless and one meatless meal, daily and the clean plate. But to this scheme were quickly added the beefless day, which was soon made meatless and the wheatless day, and next year there will probably be the porkless day and a definite program on sugar designed to conserve the year's supply 10 or 15 per cent.

When congress passed the draft law that was only the beginning of our army. The men had to go to camp and train, and they must be kept in strenuous training until they reach the western front. So with ships and munitions. Passing the law and laying out the plan was merely the beginning in dealing with problems that we shall have with us until peace comes again—and perhaps afterwards.

And it is so with food saving. This is a volunteer movement. It is an educational movement. As fast as the American people enlist and learn to save by the elimination of waste and the use of substitute food staples, greater requirements will be made of them. Food saving is not something that you merely assent to and observe in a passive way. It is a positive movement; it is going somewhere, and it will go as fast as the American people learn and cooperate. It is a movement that calls for teamwork and leadership.

Better Now.

"When I was a boy I was glad enough to eat dry bread for my dinner," said father, at the head of the table.

"Well, daddy," piped up his small daughter, "you are having a much better time now you are living with us."—Life.

STEVENSON AND THE FARMS.

Congressman From the Fifth Upholds Farm Loan.

When the proposition for the government purchase of \$100,000,000 farm loan bonds came up for consideration in the house last week, it met with vigorous opposition at the hands of representatives of mortgage companies who do not like the idea of having their 8 per cent loans fall off with loans bearing a lower rate of interest.

In the course of his argument against the appropriation, Representative Campbell of Kansas, said that not a single one of his farmer constituents had asked him to support the appropriation; and he read the following extract from a letter in opposition:

"The farmers are not asking this appropriation of \$100,000,000 to buy farm-loan bonds. It is a device of the Federal Farm Loan Board to help get themselves out of their embarrassing financial difficulty. The farmers throughout the country never were in a more prosperous and better financial condition than now. All kinds of farm lands are in demand and selling at increased prices, the legitimate wants of the farmer are being taken care of now and will be in the future as they have been in the past, without borrowing from the United States government."

Congressman Stevenson of the Fifth District of South Carolina, a member of the committee on banking and currency, spoke in favor of the appropriation as follows:

Mr. Stevenson. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Campbell) closed his remarks by reading a statement from somebody who does not seem to have been a farmer, stating that the farmers were not asking for this and did not need it. The farmers are asking to the extent of \$100,000,000 for loans with which to relieve themselves from encumbrances that they can not relieve themselves of otherwise, unless, as his correspondent suggests, they sell their farms; and when they sell their farms the correspondent says that the farm lands are bringing a good price; therefore when he attempts to continue to farm by buying another he finds the price of the farm that he wants to buy put up so high that he is squeezed out of the farming business; and now they are asking that loans be provided in order that they may have funds with which to liquidate these debts and enable them to go on. This statement of his correspondent that the farmers are in a good and prosperous condition is partly true, but as to the section of the United States from which I come, it is just beginning to recover from the enormous loss, which congress said it could not help them to avoid, brought about by this war, when in 1914 they marketed the crop of cotton a loss of \$480,000,000 and many a farm was mortgaged as a result, and they have not had a prosperous time sufficient to rehabilitate themselves. They made 16,000,000 bales of cotton in 1914, and it cost the average farmer at least 12 cents a pound to make it—\$60 to the bale—and the people got, on an average, \$30 for it. They have never recovered, and they are today facing demands from England and elsewhere, from the mortgage companies, that they liquidate their mortgages, and they have got to do it in this way or not at all. Now, are these bonds safe? If they are not, who is responsible? This congress enacted this act, and in the 27th section it provided the Federal reserve banks should have the right to buy and deal in them. Well, if they are not a safe security, why allow the great financial institutions handling the commercial credits of this country to deal in them as assets on which our currency should be based. Not only that but is it just that we should do something for them, and is it propitious now? We have got to do one of two things, to allow these farm-loan bonds put upon the market in competition with the United States loans that are being made and asked for for the purpose of helping until this war is over—we have got either to do that or we have got to take it out of the treasury of the United States; and I say we should not put the farm loan board in competition with the treasury of the United States, and the president this morning in this apt language expressed exactly the principle that should govern us now when he said:

"No borrowing should run athwart the borrowing of the Federal treasury."

Mr. Platt: Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. Stevenson. I will.

Mr. Platt: How is this \$100,000,000 going to be raised if we do not borrow it on the credit of the United States?

Mr. Stevenson: We borrow it on the credit of the United States, along with the billions that we are borrowing to loan to France, England, and other countries. We hear no protest against that. We hear no protest when we find that the government is preparing

to loan money to keep the railroads running; and I submit that if we are going to loan money to the railroads to keep them running, it is high time we began to take care of the man who produces that which we move upon the railroads and which is absolutely necessary to maintain the railroads, the people, and the army at the front.

Mr. Platt: Will the gentleman yield again?

Mr. Stevenson: Yes.

Mr. Platt: Does the gentleman agree to have the government seize the farms and run them for the benefit of the people as it has the railroads?

Mr. Stevenson: The government has not found that necessary because the farmers have shown their capacity, if given proper credit and given the proper facilities, to run their farms so as to support this great government; and they responded last year in a way that has far exceeded the ability of the railroads or anybody else to demonstrate their patriotism in this country.

Mr. Moore of Pennsylvania: Could not the railroads do that, too, if they had that much credit from the government?

Mr. Stevenson: They have had much more than the farmers have had. They have had their credit in the money center of New York, and when in 1907 we had a panic, preceded by speculation in securities in New York, the farmers of the south paid for it in the prices of their cotton, and the money that we had in New York we could not get, for the treasury of the United States put \$100,000,000 there in order to maintain the values of the stocks of the railroads and of the bonds of the great corporations. (Applause.)

Why, Mr. Chairman, coming to that, I was president of a bank at that time. We had money in New York, and could not get it. I had a neighbor who had \$100,000 on deposit in a bank in New York, and it took him three weeks to get \$10,000 of it, and we were having cotton forced on the market and were taking certificates of indebtedness for it. If it comes down to a question of aiding the farmers as a special class, I want to call your attention to one other thing.

The great commercial centers, such as New York, have had their heart and center in the Federal reserve banks. What have we done? There has been on deposit in those banks by the government not less than \$50,000,000 practically, ever since they have been established, upon which they do business every day in this year.

Not only that, but we passed last spring here a bill amending the provision for Federal reserves, so as to require 7 per cent of all deposits of all banks of the reserve system to be maintained in those banks, and that meant on the average deposits last year \$568,000,000 of reserves, put there for the Federal reserve banks to do business upon. And yet they say that the Federal farm-loan banks can not have a credit of \$100,000,000 from the government in this way; when it is absolutely secured, which it is given the right to control until the loan is paid off; and it is presumed to be secure, because the very basis of these bonds is the land of the farmers of this country, and land is the basis and the foundation stone of all credit, and everything that maintains credit is grown for the support of this country, of its armies, and of its institutions, and upon its shoulders rests the conclusion and successful termination of this war. And they are doing their duty and using their best endeavors to provide the means with which to prevent the people from starvation. It would be a tardy act of justice not to give them at least an opportunity to look in on the treasury of the United States and feel that Uncle Sam is a father to the farmer as well as to the other interests of this country. (Applause.)

Soldier and Sailor Insurance.

The insurance offered by the United States government to members of its military and naval forces has been called the most just and humane provision ever made by any nation for its soldiers and sailors.

That its value and advantages are appreciated by the army and navy is evidenced by the extent which it has been availed of. Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo officially announced on December 14 that 238,924 applications had already been received, representing \$2,073,728,500 of insurance.

The average amount for applicants is \$8,679, which is very little less than the maximum of \$10,000. The American forces in France were prompt in availing themselves of the insurance, Gen. Pershing himself subscribing to the maximum of \$10,000.

Besides leaving a very large estate there is no doubt about the late Col. Jim Smith's leaving a tremendous number of heirs.—Greenwood Journal.

HORRIBLE WAR STORY.

Drunken Russian Soldiers Commit Brutal Murders and Destroy Priceless Historical Treasures.

London, Dec. 31 (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—A graphic story of the murder by drunken Russian soldiers of Prince Sangushko, a Polish noble, and of his two daughters, the Countesses Rzyzewski, is related by the Petrograd correspondent of Lloyd's News.

"Before the war the tragedy lately enacted at Slavuta would have sent a thrill of horror throughout Europe," says the correspondent. "As it is, the bare fact that the venerable Prince Sangushko, 90 years old, had been murdered, has been announced but the ghastly details of the crime have only just been revealed.

"The castle of Slavuta, built when the district of Southwestern Russia, where it stands, belonged to the King of Poland, lies on the outskirts of a little manufacturing town of the same name. Owing to the unsettled state of the country, which is infested by deserters from the army, the military authorities had sent a guard of dragoons to the castle, which contains priceless historical-treasures accumulated by the Sangushko family in the course of the centuries.

"One of these dragoons caught a soldier from a neighboring village cutting down a tree in the forest surrounding the castle and tackled him. The thief was slightly wounded, but not severely enough to prevent his running to the neighboring village, where his regiment was stationed, shrieking that the guard at the castle was trying to murder him. The soldier's comrades at once seized their rifles and surrounded the castle of Prince Sangushko. They began to fire, and the dragoons on guard returned their fire. All the time the officers and the members of the regimental committee were appealing to the insurgent soldiers to obey orders and to cease firing.

"Suddenly they gave way, only stipulating that a deputation from the regimental committee should search the castle, as they were convinced that the old Prince had stored machine guns for use in the cause of the counter-revolution. Of course, there were no machine guns, and all that was found was a few sporting guns and revolvers.

"Just as suddenly as the crowd of soldiers, standing in the courtyard of the castle, had yielded to the appeal of their officers, came a new uproar, and, in an instant, they had overpowered the guard, and rushed into the castle. Neither threats nor appeals had the slightest effect on them. They destroyed, in a fit of maniacal fury, everything that they could lay hands on. Pictures, furniture, statues, draperies were destroyed blindly, ruthlessly. The venerable Polish magnate and his two nieces, the young and beautiful Countesses Rzyzewski, fled to one of the attics, hoping that, if their home was to be ruined, at least their lives might be saved. From early in the morning, when the marauders began their attack, until five o'clock in the afternoon, the sacking of the castle went on. Then the soldiers retired to the courtyard.

"What about the Prince?" cried one of them.

"And the lovely Countesses?" added another.

"Back into the castle rushed a band of soldiers, and began to search for the owner. At last he was found, and dragged into the courtyard among the derisive yells of the soldiers waiting for their victim. They decided to take him to the village where they were stationed, and dragged the old man along, for he was too old to walk at the pace they desired. On the way they finally lost the last shred of self-control, let the Prince drop, half senseless on the ground and then a score of men thrust their bayonets into his body. So died Prince Sangushko. His murderers, like savage beasts tore his body in pieces.

GEORGIAN DIES IN FRANCE.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Gen. Pershing today reported the death of Private Isaac Jordan, Jr., of the engineers, on January 14th, of pneumonia. His home was at Valdosta, Ga.

Germany has accumulated about \$30,000,000,000 of war debt on which it has promised to pay interest. The promise is likely to prove much easier than the performance.—Buffalo Courier.

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