

The Watchman and Southron.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 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.

Notes of City Schools.

The reports of the teachers to the superintendent for the scholastic month just ended show a total enrollment in the white schools of the city of eleven hundred three pupils.

The number of pupils in the Washington School building—grades 1-3 (inclusive)—exceeds the total number of pupils in the whole (white) system during the first scholastic month of the Fall of 1895 by one hundred thirty-six.

The number of pupils in the whole (white) system of schools exceeds the total number of pupils in the system during the first scholastic month of the session of 1895 by eight hundred twenty-one.

In the seventh grade, the point at which statistics show that a great many pupils leave school, there is a total enrollment of one hundred twenty pupils. There are four teachers for this grade.

The prospects for next year's high school are exceedingly gratifying. In the seventh grade (the grade that goes into the high school next year), the first year high school, the second year high school and the third year high school, there is a total enrollment of one hundred fifty-one boys and one hundred fifty-five girls, a total of three hundred six. If the girls and boys remain as they have done in the past—and there is no reason why they should not—there will be a very inspiring number of students in the high school of next year.

The time will soon be upon us for the consideration of home gardens. Last year with the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce a great deal was done in this respect. The demand for the production of food is even more imperative than it was last year and it is hoped that the demand will be met with at least the same spirit and effectiveness as characterized the response of last year.

Tindal News Items.

Tindal, Jan. 21.—Mr. Noah Hodge died at the home of his father, Mr. T. R. Hodge, on Saturday afternoon after a short illness of pneumonia. He was only about twenty years of age, and was an industrious young man.

He leaves an aged father, three brothers, Messrs. H. J. Graham, and Maud Hodge, and one sister, Miss Teresa who is at home with her father.

The funeral services which was largely attended by relatives and friends was at Providence church on Sunday afternoon at four o'clock, and was conducted by the pastor, Rev. Triplett.

The pallbearers were Messrs. Hammon Betts, Alex. Ard, Ernest Ard, Noah Coker, Ingram Hodge, and Clarence Hodge.

Mr. Earle Richardson, of Camp Jackson, is at home for a few days.

Mr. J. W. Wheeler, of Newberry, is visiting in this section.

The oat crop is badly damaged by the cold weather, some of the bottom lands will possibly have enough left on it to make a crop.

Discussing the question of fixing the price of cotton, W. W. Morrison of New Orleans, gives some figures that throw some interesting and important light on the subject. Going back to the year 1913, the year next preceding the first year of the war, Mr. Morrison finds that the average price of cotton was 13 1-2 cents, and at 39 cents a pound at the time the article was written the advance was 175 per cent. During the same time other standard commodities have advanced as follows: Bacon ribs, 175 per cent; leaf lard, 150 per cent; corn meal, 240 per cent; flour, 125 per cent; oats, 155 per cent; corn, 225 per cent; wheat, 145 per cent; farm implements, 200 per cent; standard cotton goods, 300 per cent; standard woolen goods, 200 per cent; standard shoes, 100 per cent. This is war time and all that; but in the light of these figures, it would seem to us that those who think cotton is too high, are a bit unreasonable to say the least of it.

EDUCATION AND TAXES.

STATE-WIDE SCHOOL COMPULSORY LAW URGED BY GOVERNOR.

Chief Executive Calls for Dormitory at Winthrop and One at University—Would Vote Bonds to Put State on Cash Basis—Highway Building Important.

Columbia, Jan. 24.—A message was received from the governor in the house last night, supplementing the annual message at the opening of the general assembly, the main topics being education and taxes.

Among many other things to strengthen the educational system of the State, the chief executive urged the passage of a State-wide compulsory education law in substitution for the local option plan. Medical inspection is also again urged. In the proposed State compulsory school law it is suggested that only districts petitioning for exemption be allowed to remain free from operation of the compulsory attendance the message says:

"In my first inaugural address in 1915 I urged the enactment of a local option compulsory attendance law. Such a statute was passed and it has been accepted with good results in 209 school districts, embracing cities, towns, manufacturing centers and rural communities. Under its operation there have been few prosecutions.

"Many other communities are prepared for the application of such a law, and I have reached the conclusion that we should now enlarge the scope of this law so as to place the entire State under its provisions, permitting exemption from the operation of the law only to those districts petitioning for the suspension of the law for one year.

"In order to make the new law effective, there should be a trust officer, who should be given discretion to grant exemptions where facilities are inadequate, where children are compelled to support themselves or their parents, or where children are physically unable to do school work. It should also require the attendance of pupils throughout the full term.

"I again urge the passage of the bill, which is now on your calendar, providing for medical inspection in the schools."

Additional clerical help is asked for the office of the State superintendent of education and a salary for this official, commensurate with the importance of the work.

A State board of examiners for teachers, to establish "unification in certification of teachers," is urgently recommended and also the creation of a teachers' registration and employment bureau, to be conducted by the State department of education. The bureau "is so designed as to work to the interests of trustees and teachers. It would save to the teachers commissions which they now have to pay the teachers' employment agencies."

Construction of a woman's building at the University of South Carolina is urged. There are now 53 young women attending the institution.

It is also emphasized that a new dormitory must be erected at Winthrop College, if the work of that school is not to continue to be handicapped. More than 600 young women are turned away annually, because of inadequate accommodations. Concerning the situation at Winthrop, the governor says:

"With a full realization of the importance of educating our women, I draw your attention to the need at Winthrop College of another dormitory. Members of the board of trustees are unanimous in their appeal to the general assembly for this greatly needed addition to the accommodation for the young women. More than 600 girls are turned away each year because of lack of housing facilities.

"We are providing as liberally as the State's resources will permit for our young men in the institutions of higher learning, but at present Winthrop College can only accommodate about 1,000 girls, and to do this requires often the crowding of three girls in a room and having some of the students board out in the town of Rock Hill. The war has drawn our public schools many teachers, and as Winthrop is the main supply of teachers, we can not afford to let this supply be reduced.

"I therefore recommend the expenditure of \$100,000, over a period of three years. This would build a dormitory large enough to accommodate 300 students. While this does not meet the demands entirely, I feel that no larger appropriation should be asked for at this time. The fact remains, however, that it is a good policy and a patriotic duty to see that our educational institutions are not only maintained at full strength, but are also strengthened and expanded."

Many other matters pertaining to the educational welfare of the State are discussed. Among other things it is suggested that educational exten-

sion work be attempted in agricultural, industrial and vocational effort. The message read:

"Statistics show that approximately 80 per cent. of our people are engaged in agriculture; an increasing number are textile workers. The federal government, recognizing the importance of the industrial education of our boys and girls, has thrown down a challenge to the States. Will we accept it?"

"I therefore recommend that an appropriation be made to make possible activities relating to agricultural, industrial and vocational education in our State that can not come under the federal law. If we fail to qualify ourselves to use the federal fund, any unused portion of that fund will be deducted from the State's next allotment and will therefore cause a direct loss in money, and what is more important, a greater loss in educational efficiency."

Of the \$50,000 appropriated last session for the enforcement of State laws, \$15,024.51 remains unspent. In justification of the appropriation the governor points out that during the year constables seized 10,200 quarts of whiskey, besides a large volume of wine and beer valued at more than \$75,000. More than 200 persons were convicted, in which cases more than \$15,000 in fines was collected and an aggregate of 12,000 days in jail sentences imposed.

The governor asks for continued liberal financial and moral support in suppression of illicit liquor traffic. It requires constant vigilance and activity to enforce the prohibition laws of the State, "and we can not afford to relax our efforts," he says.

Construction of a system of highways would do much to relieve the present congestion of railroad traffic, it is pointed out. The situation would be greatly relieved "if our highways generally permitted the use of automobiles and heavy trucks. If our highways were better, the city of Spartanburg, now largely the distributing point for coal over the Clinchfield Railroad, would be easily accessible. Similarly, if the roads out of Charleston were improved the prompt distribution of nitrate of soda would virtually be solved."

The work of the State tax commission is highly commended. The governor emphasizes that the commission has already placed \$21,000,000 of additional taxable property on the State tax books by equalizing assessments on many classes of taxable property. Passage of the bill now on the calendars of the general assembly to make a survey of the State is urged. "I can see no honest, sound reason why this bill should not be passed. It would be a step in the right direction and would provide the ground work for a workable and effective Torrens system of land registration, which is demanded by our farmers and people generally." In meeting appropriations this year which is the time for reassessment, it is recommended:

"That after making the appropriations you deem necessary and wise for State purposes during the year 1918, you fix such a rate of levy as will raise the amount of appropriations upon the present assessed values with the proviso that in case the assessed value of the property amounts to more, after the action of the boards of assessors, the boards of equalization, the tax commission and the board of review, than is sufficient to raise the amount appropriated under the levy named, then the comptroller general be directed and required to reduce the levy to such rate as he finds necessary to raise in taxes no more than the amount of the appropriation made by you."

Suggestion is made that the question of increasing the bonded indebtedness of the State be submitted to the people at the next election, the amount of the bond issue to be large enough to provide for the building of State offices, for the necessary improvements to be made at the various State institutions and for the re-

Wood's Seeds
—For 1918—

The patriotic duty of farmers and gardeners everywhere is to increase crop and food production. Intensive farming and gardening, and the liberal use of fertilizers, together with proper rotation of crops, so as to increase and improve the fertility and productiveness of the land, are all vital and necessary considerations at the present time.

Wood's Descriptive Catalog for 1918 gives the fullest and most up-to-date information in regard to all

Farm and Garden Seeds
And tells about the best crops to grow, both for profit and home use. Write for Catalog and prices of Grass and Clover Seeds, Seed Potatoes, Seed Oats, or any Farm Seeds required.
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funding to the State treasury of the amount expended out of the annual appropriation bill during the past three years for permanent improvements. The appropriation bill has to be increased annually, without a bond issue, by reason of appropriations necessary for permanent work. During the last three years \$746,000 has been expended in buildings and permanent improvement.

The passage of a law to deal effectively with dogs to promote sheep raising is classed as a war measure by the governor.

It is recommended that any firm or corporation, which invests in Liberty bonds, should be exempt from taxation on such investment to the extent of 10 per cent. of its capital and surplus.

KILLED AT WADSWORTH.

Floyd Dickey Shot to Death and Lawrence Schoville Wounded at Camp Wadsworth.

Spartanburg, Jan. 23.—Private Floyd Dickey, Company A, One Hundred and Eighth Infantry, is dead as the result of a gunshot wound received Tuesday night when he, with two other soldiers, tried to escape from the regimental guard house. Private Lawrence P. Schoville, Company S, of the same regiment, received a flesh wound in the hip, which is not considered serious. Private Henry K. Beard, Company A, of the same regiment, was not hurt.

GERMAN SHIPS FOR FRANCE.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The 30 German ships seized by Brazil when it entered the war have been chartered by the French government for war purposes. The vessels represent an aggregate of about 120,000 gross tons. This announcement by the state department gave further evidence of the interallied agreement that the provisioning of France should not be hampered by troop movements from America. This government had considered entering into negotiations for the vessels to supplement the transport and supply fleet of the expeditionary forces, but France's need of tonnage to bring in food was recognized as being more urgent.

The terms under which France has chartered the ships from Brazil include an agreement to move the Brazilian coffee crops. It is expected that the vessels will be used in moving much of the 2,500,000 tons of wheat recently sold by Argentina to the allied governments.

THE CASTOR BEAN.

Man Who Knows Tells All About the Product.

The wide-awake farmers of the Carolinas should be interested in the growing of the castor oil bean. The government offers the seed to the farmers at cost, \$1 per bushel. Then pays \$3 per bushel for the harvested product. The bean is used solely for the manufacture of castor oil.

C. F. Dill of Greenville, has had experience in the growing of the bean in Texas. He harvested a paying crop from 350 acres of Texas soil. He believes the land and the climate of South Carolina admirably suited to the growing of the castor oil bean. Any information which he has gleaned from his years of experience he will be glad to give to any who may consult him.

Mr. Dill gave one of the Piedmont's reporters some facts as to the growing of the bean, as found from actual experience. The soil should be in condition as for planting cotton, the richer the soil the greater the production. Planting should take place in the spring at cotton planting time. The ground is laid off in squares, four and one-half feet apart. The beans are planted three in each square. After the beans have come up, they are thinned, one to a square and cultivated as cotton is cultivated.

Early in June the beans begin to bear. There is a sturdy stalk from which extends stalks bearing spikes. On the spikes are the bean pods, numbers to each spike. The pods are round, something like a chestnut burr; inside are the beans, round speckled little beans. When the spikes are matured yet green, the stalks bearing the spikes should be clipped from the body of the bush. The clipping of the spikes does not affect the main bush of the bean. The spikes, piled on sleds drawn through the fields are spread on a clean, dry stretch of ground in the sunshine. The sunshine turns the pods to black, slimy objects. The pods should be scattered out and stirred until the pods begin to pop. The pods pop something after the manner of corn popping in - popper over a fire. The beans shatter out on the ground, the empty pods and spikes are removed, the trash is fanned from the beans, which are then ready to be sacked for market. The harvesting continues all summer until frost comes, crop after crop being

harvested in the manner described above.

If a farmer has a large crop to harvest, racks can be arranged in a building, the pods placed on the racks, a fire built beneath a slat floor and the beans allowed to pop out on the floor below.

The cultivation of these beans is an excellent plan for the farmer whose cotton crop may be cut off by the boll weevil. The plants are hardy, the cultivation simple. With the inducements offered by the government, the farmers of the Carolinas should plant castor oil beans this spring. Nothing has been found to take the place of castor for certain lubrication.

The man who has a few acres in the edge of the city can plant this in castor oil beans unafraid that thieves will molest his crop. A man who stole a quantity of these beans, could not dispose of them without being apprehended.

FOUND DEAD IN HIS ROOM.

Army Officer With a Bullet Through His Brain.

Spartanburg, Jan. 22.—A coroner's inquest this afternoon failed to clear up the mystery surrounding the death of First Lieut. Dean H. Buchanan of Camp Wadsworth, who was found dead shortly after noon today in his room in a hotel in this city, with his brain penetrated by a pistol bullet.

Lieut. Buchanan's home is at Grove City, Pa. He was of the officers' reserve corps and came here a few days ago from Camp Gordon, Atlanta, being assigned to one of the machine gun battalions now being organized in the new provisional training brigade at Camp Wadsworth. He registered at the Hotel Brooklyn Monday, occupied his room last night, went out this morning and returned before noon. A new pistol, loaded, with one cartridge discharged, was found in the room. The theory of suicide is advanced as the only one that will fit the facts, as so far learned. In the room with the body, however, was a letter to his mother, Mrs. Alice C. Buchanan, apparently just written, and indicating a happy frame of mind.

Italian Headquarters, Northern Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—The enemy has evacuated territory on the northern mountain front behind Monte Homba, extending from the Piave river westward. Their lines have now been moved back to Monte Spinonica.

SEASONABLE GOODS

Our buyer is just back from the market where he picked up some good values in winter goods. We are offering them to you at attractive prices.

- Boys' Corduroy Suits and Extra Pants
- Boys' Winter Suits and Mackinaws
- Men's Overcoats
- Men's Corduroy Trousers
- Fleece-lined Gloves
- Sweaters and Underwear

These goods are marked at bargain prices, and it will pay you to buy now.

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