

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.

REAL THRIFT.

The government through its campaign to encourage popular savings in Thrift and War Savings Stamps, has brought the word "thrift" into commoner usage than ever. One hears it on every hand. Yet how many people do not realize that thrift is a preliminary process and entirely distinct from saving?

The thrifty person is not the one who puts twenty-five cents into a thrift stamp which should be put into a pair of new shoe laces, or five dollars into a W. S. S. which should be set aside that week for meat.

Thrift only paves the way for saving. It considers carefully present needs and future possibilities and decides what are necessary expenses, setting aside such a portion of the income as will provide for them. It also determines what are unnecessary expenses, and stops the outgo of money for them.

That is not thrift which neglects either process, nor can there be any security in savings when either is neglected. The essential item of expenditure, temporarily ignored, will have to be met finally, probably by taking from the savings what should never have been put there. The unnecessary expenditure of repeated means no savings at all.

Thrift holds the scale between the two, and upon the nicety with which a balance is maintained between legitimate expenditure and waste will depend present comfort and future prosperity.

NO LOSS ON WHEAT.

There is a great disappointment in store for those gloom spreaders who predicted that the United States would go broke on wheat.

The winter wheat crop as forecast on April first is the biggest ever known in the history of this country, being estimated at 837,000,000 bushels by the department of agriculture. This is 152,000,000 bushels more than the highest previous record.

The tremendous yield is due to the increased acreage planted, and to a winter of unusually favorable weather conditions.

Were there no foreign market in sight, as has been feared by the pessimists, the United States treasury, under the guarantee of \$2.26 per bushel, would be called upon for an enormous sum to make up the loss. But there is a foreign market, and long before the grain is harvested there will be a better one.

The dreaded Australian crop is short, and compared to the needs of Europe, the Argentina surplus is but a drop in the bucket. American wheat alone practically will have to feed the world.

Spring finds Russia, the great granary of Europe, still unplanted, her citizens given over to anarchy and war. This means that the European need will increase, not lessen, as the months go by, and wheat not immediately needed the United States can well afford to store for future emergencies.

Tremendous as the promised crop may seem, there is every present indication that it will be needed to the last bushel, and that America, far from losing on wheat, will profit as never before.

BANK CLEARINGS.

Harper's Magazine calls attention to a remarkable fact of present business conditions.

Business, according to the usual view, has been bad for three or four months, and is still bad. There has been nothing approximating a panic, but there has been a general dullness or depression. Almost any business man will tell you that.

Now, in the past one of the most accurate indexes to the volume of current business has been the volume of bank clearings. The principle of the thing is simple enough—the more business transacted, the more money is handled by the banks in the form of checks and drafts. Conversely, the more paper handled by the banks, the more business is being done.

Remembering, then, how very "good" business was in the early

months of last year, most people will be surprised to learn that in the corresponding months of this year the bank clearances reported for the whole country are considerably higher. Thus, taking two typical dates, we find that the clearings reported on February 15, 1918, were \$5,180,000,000 and on the same date of 1919 they were \$5,937,000,000; on March 1 of last year they were \$6,571,000,000 and on March 1 of this year \$7,477,000,000. The gains for the four separate weeks ending March 1 range from 11 to 27 per cent. A comparison of clearances from newspapers of recent date will mostly show the same situation.

Financial experts mention certain facts as contributing to the volume of bank clearances without actually serving as a record of increased business. There must be such factors, of course, because no well informed man can believe that business is actually better now than it was a year ago. But these increased clearings cannot be entirely explained away. There is an enormous and unprecedented amount of money—if we reckon on checks and drafts as money—circulating around the country in payment of old obligations and new bills, and it probably represents a larger amount of actual, current business and "better times" than most persons have any idea of.

IMPROVING MILITARY COURTS.

It is a cause for general satisfaction that Secretary Baker before he went abroad directed Col. Ansell to prepare a bill embodying the reforms advocated by him in the administration of military justice.

The reports of this officer, who acted as Judge Advocate General during the war, revealing the injustice and inhumanity of many courts-martial decisions, thoroughly aroused the public, and Mr. Baker is but meeting demand when he allows the investigation to go ahead and lends his authority to proposed reforms.

Military justice must of necessity be rigid. Discipline must be such as to insure obedience. No one, however, can fail to believe that even military justice should be tempered with mercy and some appreciation of individual rights and extenuating circumstances, not to mention a knowledge of law and a spirit of responsibility on the part of those who do the judging.

LET HIM LIVE.

"In some dark hiding place among the outcast and vile thou'lt crouch—and die accursed!"

A German wrote those words in a German play, long years ago. They apply now with the solemn weight of prophecy fulfilled, to the suggestion that the Kaiser be allowed to live on, restrained, disgraced.

There will be many people who will urge that Wilhelm should die, but death is far too easy. Life in disgrace, life marked with the stigma of a murderer, a plotter against the peace and safety of peaceful people, life robbed of pomp and power, of freedom and glory, will be harder than death for that haughty spirit.

Even now who but a few Germans, stupid and unconvinced, would take him by the hand? And if the whole nation should welcome him back and try to foist him again upon the rest of the world, what vengeance would fall upon Germany?

Let him live, by all means, in some dark hiding place, marked with the brand of the outcast and the vile. Who knows? Death may be the end of everything, of loneliness, shame, regret—let him live!

OUR IRELAND.

The Philippine situation inevitably reminds one of the Irish situation, because it is so different. Ireland is seeking its independence, by what violent means and in what bitter mood everybody knows only too well. The Philippines are seeking their independence, and the method and spirit of the quest are admirably shown in the words of Senator Zuccon, chairman of the mission now visiting this country.

"We are here to emphasize the loyalty of our people to the United States," he says. "There is no plan to revolt, as the Philippine Islanders have no grievance against America."

"We are seeking our independence now, and feel that we are not only well deserving of it, but are equipped from an educational point of view for self-government. A committee of my countrymen will shortly appear before Congress and argue the matter fully, and we have no doubt of the result."

The Filipinos are loyal to the United States; they have no grievance, but they feel that they are now grown up politically, and in all friendliness would like to break away and shift for themselves. The United States has promised them their freedom when they were ready for it. They are confident that the promise will be kept.

It will be, of course, just as soon as

Congress is honestly convinced of their readiness. American pledges are not scraps of paper, and the Congress soon to assemble will undoubtedly approach the question with an open and honest mind.

A situation which otherwise might be embarrassing, in view of American advocacy of the principle of "self-determination of peoples," is friendly and comfortable for both parties concerned. While Great Britain is paying the penalty of wrongs inflicted on Ireland in times past, the United States is facing her own "Irish problem" with entire equanimity. It is a striking vindication of the policy of squareness and generosity adopted by this country when we took over the Philippines 20 years ago, and consistently followed ever since.

THE MEANEST MAN.

Everybody is always looking for the meanest man, but a little consideration should put an end to the search. The meanest man in the world is the motorist who speaks past a school safety sign without checking his machine.

In city and country warning signs are posted at sufficient distances from the school buildings to permit of slowing even the swiftest motor to complete control before the danger point is reached. Only a brute disregards the sign.

There is nothing in the world so happy, so eager as a child just coming out of school. He has everything in the world on his mind, from a quick raid on the cookie jar to building the rabbit coop; so out he dashes anxious to get at his important business, and confident that this is a goodly world where nothing will ever happen to him.

The individual who strikes down one of these confiding little creatures not only maims or slays one child; he breaks faith with childhood. His crime is dastardly, his punishment can hardly be sufficiently severe.

THE CIRCUS AND THE WAR.

The circus performers are drifting back, one by one, from the front, and resuming their places with the various shows as they start out on their summer tours.

Somehow, among all the men who entered their country's service, these chaps, at whose antics in the sawdust ring or on flying trapeze thousands have roared with mirth or held their breath in suspense, have come for little mention. Yet over 300 of them entered the service, and their record is as stirring and gallant as their most ardent little boy admirer would believe.

There are gold stars in circus service flags. There are crippled and passed and wounded circus men lovingly tended at winter quarters, to bear testimony that our fun-makers were among our bravest.

"Jerry" Clayton, a clown beloved by children all over the United States, sleeps under French sod. Clarence Richards, whose trained animals were the wonder of all who saw them, was wounded thirteen times in his efforts to subdue the wild German.

Everybody loves a circus; but remembering their feats in the arena of war, we shall look upon the performers now with new and even kinder eyes.

LAW AGAINST RED FLAG.

It is announced that a bill is to be introduced in congress soon, and its prompt passage urged, making it unlawful to exhibit a red flag in this country. This is a radical remedy for a radical evil. Most Americans, however, will doubtless give their approval.

In former days the red flag was tolerated because it did not appear a menace. As used by the Socialists originally it was considered to represent human brotherhood. The color did not suggest bloodshed, but merely the blood that flows alike in the veins of all mankind. But Socialism has degenerated in character and program, and its symbol with it. The red banner has come to stand for crime, for revolution, for the violent overturning of the ideals and institutions of the freest and best of countries. It is not only un-American, it is anti-American. It is used today as the emblem of an alien propaganda seeking to reduce America to a level with Russia.

The moment the issue is drawn, there can be but one answer. When the red flag comes into conflict with the red, white and blue, it must go.

EVERY-DAY PATRIOTS.

Subscribing to the Victory Loan will be the test of true patriotism.

The former loans were subscribed under the impulse of enthusiasm, an outpouring of human desire to lend a hand when catastrophe falls upon a neighbor, together with the righteous wrath which doubles the fist in self-defense at unprovoked assault.

This loan will offer no such incentive, it is true. Subscriptions to it will mean the same steady, faithful

love of country which is but an enlargement of the faithful love of home—the kind of love which sends a man to his business day after day, and keeps a woman steadfastly at her household tasks. If either fails to do his part the home disintegrates and is finally destroyed.

Just so with the nation. Its strength depends upon the faithfulness of the individual citizens in the unexciting routine of daily life.

The people who run in with well turned phrases of sympathy, with food and flowers in time of trouble are all very well; but the folks who make the world go round are the ones who perform the tedious tasks of every day and pay the monthly bills without waiting for the stimulus of a thrilling crisis, but just because it is the thing to do.

THE "ADMIRAL" QUESTION AGAIN.

Admiral Sims, having finished his war task, is reduced in rank, becoming a mere "rear admiral" again.

There is no question of the high ability with which this officer commanded the American fleet in European waters throughout the war, and the honor and esteem he won thereby at home and abroad. The secretary of the navy pays deserved tribute to his distinguished record. The whole nation recognizes the worth of his achievement. His demotion is not a mark of dishonor at all, official or otherwise. It is simply ordered in literal observance of the established law governing such cases.

Congress, some years ago, virtually abolished the rank of admiral by providing that such rank and title should be held only temporarily by naval officers while commanding the Atlantic or Pacific fleet or acting as chief of operations of the navy department. So, the Atlantic fleet being demobilized, Admiral Sims suffers an automatic reduction of rank and pay.

A recent report gives 70 rear admirals in our navy, 34 of them "permanent" and 36 "temporary." Sims is lost in a mob of rear admirals, few of whom are known at all outside of their immediate official groups.

It is time for congress to change this absurd regulation, and permit the retention of the fine old title of "admiral" by men who have earned it—not merely as a deserved reward, but for the honor of the nation. It should no longer be said that any picaresque country able to afford a gunboat has its "admirals" outranking the highest officers of the second-greatest navy in the world, which represents the greatest country in the world.

Uncle Sam has organized a "permanent tank service" and is going to keep right on operating after July 1.

To Enlist Savings

Washington, April 16.—Liberty Loan committees of several reserve districts were urged today by the treasury department to conduct their Victory Loan campaigns with a view to securing the largest possible proportion of subscriptions from private investors. The loan should be absorbed by the public and paid for out of the savings of the public, said a telegram to the committees. It added that the resources of the country should be left free to take care of commercial needs and also any short term borrowings which the treasury department might need to make in the future.

Washington, April 17.—Two lieutenants and a mechanic, the army flyers who were unofficially reported as missing between Nicaragua and Havana are safe. They were prevented from starting for Havana by engine trouble.

Washington, April 17.—The sale of the war built merchant fleet was begun today by the Shipping Board with the transfer of fifteen wooden steamships to Nacirema Steamship Co., of New York at six hundred and fifty thousand dollars for each vessel.

Archangel, Wednesday, April 16.—A small American scouting party operating in front of the allied position along the railway front yesterday, surprised and ambushed a Bolshevik patrol, wounding a number of the enemy.

Copenhagen, April 17.—Bolshevism in Russia is giving way to a "new Bourgeois" according to the director of Moscow Red Cross committee who has arrived here. Premier Levine and War Minister Trotsky are trying to reach an understanding with the moderate elements in Russia.

Eastchurch, England, April 17.—Major Wood, British aviator who is to attempt a trans-Atlantic flight from London this morning of flying to Limerick this afternoon. If present improved weather conditions continue he will be given to Orangeburg.

Milan, Italy, April 17.—Four persons were killed and several wounded during the disorder here Wednesday, incident to clashes between Socialist and anti-Socialists. Groups of workmen in the principal manufacturing cities of northern Italy began a twenty-four hour strike today.

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HARBY & CO., Inc.

COTTON AND FERTILIZER MERCHANTS

If you have cotton to sell, see us, it will pay you.

If you have fertilizer or fertilizer materials to buy it will pay you to see us before you buy, Cash or approved collateral.

9 West Liberty Street

MY LITTLE NEIGHBOR BOY.

(Dedicated to the memory of little George Mosley, whose tragic death occurred recently.)

Just over there across the street,
 Lived my little neighbor boy,
 His life was young, and rich, and sweet,
 His heart was filled with joy.

No parking cares or worries, seemed,
 To brew within his life,
 In his young eyes the sunlight gleamed,
 He knew naught of bitter strife.

The world was big and beautiful to him,
 Just one, long, lingering song,
 Was life, with naught to mar and dim,
 The way he went along.

But, one day, this neighbor boy of mine,
 Moved off from cross the street,
 And I missed him, and the glad sunshine,
 That made his young life so sweet.

Time passed on apace, the days,
 Went swiftly on their way,
 Another boy across the street now plays,
 Where my neighbor boy used to play.

I've missed this little neighbor of mine,
 That lived across the street,
 I've missed the happy, glad sunshine,
 That made his life so sweet.

I've thought of him through many a day,
 And oft I've longed to see,
 My neighbor boy once again at play,
 'Cross the street in front of me.

But, alas, no more will he romp and play,
 In the front yard over there,
 My little neighbor so joyous and gay,
 With his life so rich and fair.

For the angels came just awhile ago,
 And carried my little neighbor boy away,
 Up, up beyond where the star-gleams glow,
 To the realms of a brighter day.

Eye-bye, little neighbor boy of mine,
 Just, you stand up there and wait,
 Some day I will, by grace divine,
 Meet you at the golden gate.

And we'll pass inside, my little neighbor boy,
 And all through God's long, long day,
 Our hearts all thrilled with a heavenly joy,
 We'll just play, and play, and play.

—Rev. E. W. Reynolds.
 Sumter, S. C.

South Atlantic League Revived

Columbia, April 13.—At a meeting here today machinery was set in motion for the formation of the South Atlantic Association of Baseball Clubs. Five of the six franchises were allotted. A temporary organization was perfected and an announcement made that the final organization of the league will be completed at a meeting to be held in Columbia Thursday at noon.

At today's meeting the preliminary organization was perfected by the award of franchises to Columbia, Charleston, Greenville and Spartanburg in South Carolina, and Charlotte in North Carolina. The sixth place will go to Augusta or Orangeburg. Orangeburg representatives were present at the meeting today with an emphatic bid for the consideration.

Tentative plans had provided for the inclusion of Augusta, but as the Augusta representative did not attend the meeting it was decided that opportunity for entrance of the Georgia city would be extended until Tuesday, at noon, and if Augusta fails to qualify by that time the sixth will be given to Orangeburg.

London, April 17.—It is learned here that the situation in Turkey is causing grave anxiety. Internal disorder is rife, according to reports from the British naval officer at Constantinople. It is feared that shortly there will be outbreaks and massacres of the Armenian population on large scale.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the regular spring Teachers' Examination, which will be held, Saturday, May 3, at the Court House, in Sumter. The examination will begin at 9 o'clock. Applicants must bring writing material. The questions will be taken from the text-books adopted by the State Board of Education, and used in the public schools.

By order of the State Board of Education.

J. H. HAYNSWORTH,
 County Superintendent of Education.

Sumter County.

WANTED—Cow peas, Brabham's, Irons, mixed. Highest cash price paid. B. C. Wallace, Sumter, S. C.

T—Spanish Pinders for your hoes. We have one and one at 10c per pound. O'Donnell & Co.

BEEWAX WANTED—Any quantity large or small. Am paying best cash price. See me if you have any. N. G. O'Connell.