

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.

COMMON SENSE THRIFT.

In the days when everybody was buying thrift stamps and Liberty bonds there was much talk about the nation's "learning thrift." That the nation learned nothing of the kind seems to have been shown conclusively by the orgy of spending which swept over the country after the armistice, and is still sweeping in only a little less intensity. The real idea of thrift never got through to most persons. The reason for this, writes Samuel Crowther, in an enlightening article on the common sense of thrift, is that the preachers of thrift emphasized false arguments and missed the true ones.

Thrift was urged as a virtue, as a patriotic thing. It was explained as meaning the cutting down of expenditure and the doing without, the mere saving of money. Those arguments are largely negative. Carried to an extreme they are bad. They teach parsimony and miserliness and in the long run they would tend to decrease production instead of increasing it. The economic side of thrift has scarcely been pointed out at all. And yet that is the vital side. Says Mr. Crowther, "The purpose of thrift is to provide more working capital so that the means of adding to the wealth of the nation may be augmented."

There are several ways to go about this same kind of thrift. First it is necessary, not to stop buying, but to buy more wisely. Next, savings should not be held forever as savings. They should be wisely invested, put to work to produce more goods. The worker who strikes for higher wages would lend a kinder ear to talk of thrift if he were shown the simple fact that he could raise his own wages more quickly by investing in industry than by striking against it. The man who likes to enjoy life as he goes along and therefore spends every cent he makes as fast as he makes it would see some sense to thrift if he were shown that by real thrift he could make his day to day living more enjoyable.

In other words, thrift should always be positive and constructive. Without thrift, to quote Mr. Crowther, "we shall not have a margin of production over consumption—that is we shall not have capital. If we do not have capital we cannot have progress for we shall have no means wherewith to make improvement in existing facilities."

AUTOMOBILE FATALITIES.

An "ominous increase" in the number of deaths from automobile accidents is noted in the 1919 report of a great life insurance company. The deaths among their policy holders have increased from 178 in 1911 to 1,332 in 1919. Ominous indeed, when it is remembered that this is only a small percentage of the total number of deaths from such accidents, the mortality rate being 50 per cent higher than for typhoid.

Neither city nor country can wash its hands of responsibility. There is reckless driving by the operator of the town car, but none the less, in proportion by the rural drivers. The trouble is universal.

We must have more stringent traffic laws in all communities, better education of the public, more places where our children can play in safety, the heaviest toll in the lives of children. We must have better standards for drivers, and swifter punishment for the careless. And it is most of it carelessness. Nobody wants to kill a child or one of his fellow men with his automobile.

The open season for automobile disasters is upon us. Remember, the "ominous increase" and be careful as never before.

SWIMMING

While winter has shown a most reprehensible tendency to linger in the lap of spring, nevertheless the season is under way, and the transition from winter flannels to bathing suits will be upon us before we know it.

Now comes the annual question of swimming. The boys sneak away to

the swimming hole. Some of them come back. Generally at least one from every community does not. He is drowned because the elders of his town and his family have failed to make provision for his learning to swim under safe conditions; because they are ignorant of the joys and health-giving possibilities which abide in the king of water sports, or are ignorantly afraid.

Late years have seen a marked increase in general intelligence with regard to swimming and in general enjoyment of it, but there is much progress possible still.

The community which maintains proper swimming places for its people acts in the interests of their health, their morals and their safety. More swimming places, more public instruction available to everybody and more practise of the fine art means present joy, and bodies strong to repel the assaults of next winter.

PRESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS.

Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, sets forth the following qualifications for the next president of the United States.

"He must be able, wise and well-informed, of unquestioned honesty, morally and intellectually, eminently fair and impartial, frank and sincere, broad-minded, deeply sympathetic, courageous, sturdy and well-balanced, and above everything else, loyal to the Constitution and the law of the United States."

This might seem at first blush an impossibly high ideal. But not so! There is not a single candidate, out of all the crowd of presidential aspirants, who will not instantly admit that he measures up to it, and every nominating speech made in either of the big conventions will go still further, and attribute still greater merits to the "super-candidate of the moment."

At the present rate, pretty soon Liberty Bonds won't be bargains any more. And then everybody will want to buy them. There would probably have been a heavy demand for them right along if somebody had just cornered the supply and charged a big profit on them.

Inasmuch as every prosperous corporation in the United States denies being a profiteer, it follows that there isn't any profiteering at all. Or doesn't it?

New York has a law now permitting the manufacture of 2.75 per cent beer, but the brewers say they're not going to start making it till peace is declared. Now watch New York people demanding the ratification of the treaty.

Some business men are saying that there isn't anything to these price-reductions except just "seasonal sales." Evidently the low-price campaign needs more seasoning—the public will have to put a little more "pep" into it.

The next time Cuba asks Uncle Sam to buy her sugar at 6 1-2 cents a pound, she won't have to ask twice. But will there be any next time?

It still remains true that a profiteer is always the other fellow.

ENGINEER IN PUBLIC LIFE.

Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, the distinguished electrical engineer, in a commencement address at a big scientific school, lamented the small part taken by engineers in our public life.

This, he said, is distinctly the age of engineering, just as certain previous epochs have been ages of artistic culture, law or religion. "It is the advance of science and engineering which in our time has made the good things of the world available to all, and has given to the masses a standard of living superior to that enjoyed by the few in the former ages."

He deplored the fact that so few engineers are found in legislative bodies and on State and national commissions, even when these deal primarily with engineering problems.

"It is not that the engineer does not care for leadership," he said, "nor that the public does not appreciate him. It is that, unfortunately, too many engineers are not competent to take their proper places as leaders of this engineering age."

Speaking in this fashion, Dr. Steinmetz is probably over-modest as to the merits of his profession. There are undoubtedly large numbers of engineers who are competent to take conspicuous places of leadership in the nation's public life. The chief difficulty seems rather that the public has never fully appreciated its need for them, and has never properly compared them, in ability and capacity for public service, with the professional politicians, trained in little except the art of vote-getting, who

ordinarily fill most of our public offices.

Dr. Steinmetz's conclusion is sound: "Much of the controversy and strife which tend to industrial and social warfare would be far nearer solution if the trained reasoning of the engineer would follow the differences of opinion back to the premises and thus show the reason of honest disagreement."

He might have referred also to the executive ability which is often found to an extraordinary degree in the successful representative of any of the various branches of scientific engineering.

It is the engineers who have done the biggest things of this generation. Why confine their work to mere material progress? We could stand a good deal more engineering in American politics and government.

INTOXICATION CLASSES.

In a statement sent recently to the governor of New York, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley dealt a blow to 2.75 per cent beer—or else he didn't. At any rate, he said in part:

"You cannot standardize a poison as to the quantity required for intoxication. You must standardize the individual. There are as many different sensibilities to toxic substances as there are individuals. You cannot say that 2.75 per cent beer is not intoxicating until you try it on every man, woman and child in the United States."

To the prohibitionist this positive exposition of the case from a medical man's point of view would seem to ban all beer, however small its alcoholic content. But to the ever-hopeful "wet" it suggests the possibility that no beer is intoxicating if only it is consumed by a person who can drink it without intoxication.

The populace might be tested and classified. There could be 2.75 per cent for the group which could stand up to 3 per cent beer, and so on down to the present one-half of one per cent for those who find that anything stronger goes to their heads.

CRIPPLED COLLEGES

An inquiry into the present plight of the higher educational institutions shows that college professors by hundreds are giving up the struggle to live on professional salaries and are taking industrial positions, which pay them anywhere from 50 to 500 per cent more than they have been getting.

Teaching forces have been so much depleted by such resignations that many technical schools are obliged to place a limit on the size of their entering classes.

The natural outcome is that facilities for turning out well-equipped leaders of the future life, and work of the nation are deteriorating just when they ought to be improving. This is all the more serious because it is the opposite of the situation prevailing in other important countries. Elsewhere, more attention than ever before is being given to the up-building of educational systems and the production of a generation of men specially trained to cope with the economic and political problems of the new age.

The American public has awakened somewhat to the need of more liberal salaries for public and high school teachers, but this policy as yet has been of little help to the colleges. In some ways it has been to their disadvantage. In the agitation in behalf of elementary institutions, the higher institutions have been lost sight of. This attitude must change if Americans hereafter are to hold their dominant place in a progressive world. Thorough education is going to be needed more than ever before, and any generation not possessing it will lose in the keen world-competition.

Help is scarce on the farm, in the factory, in the office and in the kitchen. "Do it yourself" might be a good national motto for a year or two.

A scientist has devised a method for photographing sound. We do hope it won't be used on a jazz band. There is enough horror in life already.

Villa has a price on his head again. And as usual in this time of inflated prices, it's a good deal more than the head is worth.

New York State now has 2.75 per cent beer on the statute books, but the people are just as thirsty as ever. They can't drink a statute, especially when its in conflict with a federal law.

There has been a bigger demand for homes among the birds, too, but they haven't had a bit of trouble with their building operations.

A good use for the money saved in price reductions is to buy Liberty Bonds with it. Thus the consumer gains both ways.

NOT THE BOLL WEEVIL

Specimens Found So Plentifully
In Sumter County Cotton
Fields Not Cotton
Pests

Editor of The Daily Item:
Sumter, S. C.
Dear Sir:—

For several days past I have been hearing quite a good deal said about the boll weevil being on the little cotton in Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties. This morning I met a friend on the streets of Sumter who informed me that Mr. S. A. Harvin had brought in a number of so-called boll weevils, and left them at the City National Bank on exhibition. My informant invited me to take a look at the bugs. I asked him if I might be allowed to take the bugs that he had on exhibition to my home, that I might show them to Mr. A. F. Wilson, of Texas. Mr. Wilson is a former Sumter county boy, a son of the late B. F. Wilson, of Mayesville, and brother of Major H. Frank Wilson, of Sumter, who are remembered by many of your readers.

Mr. Wilson has been living in Texas for forty-three years, and has had a very intimate acquaintance with the Mexican boll weevil, and he says most emphatically, that the bugs exhibited at the City National Bank, said to have been gathered from the fields of Mr. S. A. Harvin, are not the Mexican boll weevil.

I have in my office two boll weevils that were brought to Sumter from Georgia, and by comparison it is not hard to distinguish the difference between the bugs in question and the genuine bugs brought from Georgia.

My only excuse for troubling you with this letter is that it might be a comfort to those who are so vitally interested in the cotton crop.

Respectfully,
H. L. Shaw.

June 1st, 1920.

MEASURING CLOTH BY MACHINE

McCollum Bros. Install Latest
Device In Their Store

In keeping with their progressive policy, McCollum Brothers have installed in their store on Main street several machines that will prove a great benefit to their customers. These machines are to measure the cloth sold over the counter and are called "Measuregraphs." The operation is a simple one, the end of the cloth being put into the machine and pulled through. There are two meters on the top of the measuregraph, which both the salesman and customer can see. One meter shows the exact amount of the cloth that has been pulled through while the other meter shows how much the cloth is worth, at any price per yard. Any length can be measured in this way, and any price goods can thus be valued. It takes but a glance to see how much the cloth is worth, which is a vast improvement over the old way of sitting down and figuring out how much 7 1/2 yards of cloth would be worth at \$1.73 per yard.

It is an improvement over the old yard stick, too, in that the customer gets the exact number of yards called for and is not liable to return home to find that by the carelessness of the clerk she had lost several inches in measurements. Another good point about this machine is that it does away with the old method of hacking at good cloth with a pair of scissors. The cloth is cut by the machine and then can be torn with the thread and a straight piece of goods is thus assured. McCollum Brothers will be glad to show their customers just how this machine works and how much benefit it will prove to the store, the clerk and the customer.

WOMEN INSULT BRITISH FLAG

Irish Sympathizers Burn Flag
In Front of Treasury Department

Washington, June 3.—The State Department has asked the District of Columbia Commissioners for a statement of facts as to the burning of a British flag yesterday in front of the Treasury by women sympathizers with Irish freedom.

PRESIDENT'S PAY FREE FROM TAXES

Federal Judges Not Subject to Income Tax, Says Court.

Washington, June 1.—Provisions of the war revenue act requiring the President and all Federal judges to pay an income tax on their salaries were declared unconstitutional today by the supreme court in a 7 to 2 decision.

Under the act the President paid on his salary of \$75,000 a year approximately \$16,000 in taxes.

Revenues already collected under the invalid provisions will, under the court's decision, be refunded by the treasury.

The supreme court's decision was on appeals by Federal District Judge Walter Evans, of Louisville, Ky., from lower court decrees, dismissing a suit brought by him to recover taxes involuntarily paid. He contended that the Federal constitution prohibited judges' salaries being diminished during continuance in office.

Justice Van Devanter, who rendered the majority opinion held, however, that a Federal judge was not exempt from tax on his private income or on his property.

Justice Holmes rendered a dissenting opinion in which Justice Brandeis concurred.

STRIKING CLERKS MAY LOSE JOBS

Railroad Officials Issue Statement Concerning Strike.
Clerks Must Return Immediately

Daily Item, June 3.—

There is no change in the strike situation at the Atlantic Coast Line freight station today, except that nine or ten volunteers, a majority of them old railroad men, reported for work at the station this morning and have been assisting Agent Boney in the office work. The warehouse employees did not go out with the clerks, and with the assistance of volunteers in the clerical department Agent Boney is able to handle a great deal of the business and is succeeding in preventing a complete blockade of incoming and outgoing freights.

There has been no indication today, so far as has been ascertainable, of a break in the strike and the freight station clerks may remain out indefinitely. The baggage handlers at the passenger station are also out on a strike and volunteers to handle the baggage have been called for.

The following statement relative to the strike and notice to the striking clerks that unless they return to work tomorrow morning their places will be permanently filled, has been issued by General Superintendent W. H. Newell:

"The clerical forces of the Atlantic Coast Line left the service at Jacksonville, Fla., and Fayetteville, N. C., on May 28; Waycross, Ga., and Thomasville, Ga., on the 29th; Montgomery, Ala., and Albany on the 30th; Savannah, Ga., High Springs, Fla., and Sumter on the 31st; and at Florence, S. C. on June 1. This action was taken without any previous knowledge of or advice to officers of the railroad, as to reasons for leaving the service and without presenting any demands or grievances. H. Fitzgerald, acting grand president of railway clerks, members' headquarters at Washington, D. C., was advised of the situation on May 29 by telegram, as follows:

"Practically all of the clerks, members of your organization, employed by this company in our freight agencies and yard at Jacksonville, Fla., Waycross, Ga., and Thomasville, Ga., and Fayetteville, N. C., went out on strike yesterday afternoon and this morning without any previous knowledge of or advice to any official of this road as to reasons for leaving the service and no demands were presented or grievances lodged. We can not believe this action was taken by your direction and we feel these men should return immediately to their respective positions and present grievances, if any in the proper way. Will you wire me please, directions you gave. Signature P. R. Albright, general manager."

"And in reply wired P. R. Albright, general manager on May 30 as follows:

"Your wire. Have wired Vice Presidents Nelson and Gaillard to order men return to their positions, immediately. Signature, H. Fitzgerald, acting grand president.

"Notwithstanding these instructions from acting grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, but few of the striking clerks have as yet returned to their positions. Mr. Fitzgerald was advised by the railway yesterday in the afternoon that in the face of the instructions given him on the 30th, the clerks at Savannah, Ga., Sumter and High Springs, walked out on yesterday and this morning the clerks at Florence, S. C., and Palatka walked out and the following telegram was sent to H. Fitzgerald: 'Referring to my wires of May 29 and 31, the clerks at Florence, S. C., an important junction and transfer point also at Palatka, Fla., went out this morning. Situation has now reached the point where we are compelled to take action and I am advising all concerned that unless the men out of the service return to their positions at usual reporting time on the morning of Thursday, June 3, it will be necessary to fill their places in order to protect the service. We have received a number of offers from commercial bodies, business men and citizens tendering their services to prevent a serious interruption of traffic and we can not longer delay in acceptance of such cooperation. Signature, P. R. Albright.'

"In accordance with the foregoing, notice is hereby extended that unless those clerical employees now out of the service return to their positions at or before the usual reporting time, Thursday morning, June 3, their places will be considered vacant and will be permanently filled. The facts show that the action taken by the men out of service is unwarranted, unauthorized and illegal and the management hopes that upon reflection they will return to their positions within the time mentioned in this notice."

Railroad Clerks Return to Job.

The strike at the Atlantic Coast Line freight station, which has had the business congested since Monday morning, has been ended by the return of all the striking clerks, save one, to their jobs. They reported at the usual hour this morning, and business is going on as usual today. With the help of the volunteer clerks yesterday Agent Boney was enabled to carry on the business and a considerable quantity of incoming and outgoing freight was handled. Several days will be required to clear up the business that accumulated while the clerks were on strike, but the officials hope that conditions will be restored to normal within a short time.

LOST—One cream colored Jersey cow, strayed from home Friday. Reasonable reward for information or return to Mrs. A. D. Plowden, on Brewington Road, P. O., Gable, S. C.

FOR SALE—At a bargain, one Golf generator complete with all fixtures. It's all new and never been ungraded. See J. P. Commander.

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NEILL O'DONNELL
President
"HELLO DADDY"
"Don't forget your Kiddie." Permit us to suggest a substantial way of remembering "Kiddie." Commence Monday morning and deposit one dollar to his credit, and keep this up every week until he is 21 years of age. We will compound it quarterly at four per cent, and by the time the boy reaches the age of maturity, he will have a bank account sufficient to start him in business.
The First National Bank
SUMTER, S. C.
O. L. YATES,
Cashier

The National Bank of South Carolina
of Sumter, S. C.
Resources \$2,000,000.
Strong and Progressive
The Most Painstaking SERVICE with COURTESY
Give us the Pleasure of Serving YOU
The Bank of the Rank and File
C. G. ROWLAND, President
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