

The Watchman and Southron

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OUR HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

(News and Courier)

The Sumter Item of Monday was turned over largely to the members of the graduating class of the Sumter High School and was very well filled with special articles on the Sumter schools written by members of the class.

The school system of Sumter has been worked out largely under the leadership of one man, Dr. S. H. Edwards, who became principal of the school in 1890 and superintendent in 1895.

The National Retail Coal Merchants' Association has informed Secretary Hoover that as a result of his fixing the maximum price of coal at the mine as \$3.50 a ton, there will be an increase in the retail price of as much as \$1.75 a ton.

There are not many people who realize how young the public school system of South Carolina is. It is interesting to have this fact brought out, as in this sketch of the schools of Sumter. Only in the last thirty or forty years has education become available to all white children in the average South Carolina community on equal terms.

The News and Courier has expressed the opinion more than once recently that the high school development which has taken place in South Carolina in the past five years is the longest step forward the State has made during that period.

One of the largest of the Middle West oil refining companies has begun operating "four new cracking units". It is using a process whereby the crude petroleum is made to yield a much larger proportion of gasoline by the "cracking" or breaking up of the molecules of kerosene and other less volatile parts of the petroleum.

mand the largest admiration and respect. The size of the classes now being turned out—59 at Florence, 103 at Orangeburg, 30 and 40 at numerous places—shows the hold the schools have acquired on their students.

For the first time in our history the benefits of a high-school education are becoming available to all white children capable of taking such an education. There are still too many communities where the necessary facilities are lacking, but the improvement made in the past five years has been amazing, judged by all previous standards, and it is being steadily extended.

SAFER CROSSINGS

A four months' campaign, which began June 1, is being conducted by the American Railway association, the United States Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the National Highway Traffic association, the National Safety Council and other interested organizations.

It seems to be generally granted by those who understand the situation, that even if no more crossings are added to the existing number, the latter are too numerous to be abolished without considerable time, vast expense and much labor.

This means that the railroads must make ample provisions for their own and the public's protection at such crossings, keeping them in good condition, giving reasonable notice of their existence and furnishing fullest possible warning and working safety devices.

Education and organized efforts have eliminated many accidents among railroad employees. If railroads and public work together can they not also greatly reduce this other sort of accident?

COAL PRICES

The National Retail Coal Merchants' Association has informed Secretary Hoover that as a result of his fixing the maximum price of coal at the mine as \$3.50 a ton, there will be an increase in the retail price of as much as \$1.75 a ton.

One reason for raising the price is probably as good as another, but this is certainly a curious situation. The object in establishing a maximum price is to keep prices from rising above the level set. In case they should show any such tendency, yet it is assumed that the mine owners immediately will take the establishment of that limit as permission to avail themselves of it, and make it the minimum price as well as the maximum.

This has been, indeed, a common practice in such cases in the past. Secretary Hoover, however, bluntly announces that he will not stand for it in this case, and neither will he stand for retailers raising their own prices in anticipation of such a raise at the mine, and blaming it on the mine owners.

"CRACKLING" OIL

One of the largest of the Middle West oil refining companies has begun operating "four new cracking units". It is using a process whereby the crude petroleum is made to yield a much larger proportion of gasoline by the "cracking" or breaking up of the molecules of kerosene and other less volatile parts of the petroleum.

This is about three times as much gasoline as used to be obtained from petroleum, and twice as much as was obtained quite recently. The product is not necessarily inferior to the old-fashioned gasoline that came from simple distillation.

far as gasoline is concerned. If it is possible to get seven gallons of "gas" for every 10 gallons of crude oil, there need be no fear of a lack of fuel for internal combustion engines for a long time to come.

SKILLED WORKERS NEEDED

Building contracts awarded in the United States for the first four months of this year aggregated \$900,000,000, practically a round billion. Last year they were only \$600,000,000 for the same period.

With this building boom started, there has developed rather suddenly, within a few weeks, a shortage of skilled labor which interferes with building progress and prosperity. And thereby hangs a tale.

As a recognized authority explains it, this shortage is due to a lack of immigration. Before the war, he says, the United States depended mainly on Europe, with its established system of apprenticeship and vocational training, to supply fresh material for the building trades.

He hated having his photograph taken, but his wife indirectly had forced him to undergo the much-dreaded ordeal. When she saw the photograph she cried out in horror.

"Oh, Harold, you have only one button on your coat!" Harold: "Thank heaven you've noticed it at last. That's why I had the photograph taken."

"Oh, yes," said the pilot on the river steambot, "I have been on this river so long I know where every stump is."

Just wondering. Estate Agent: "This tobacco plantation is a bargain. I can't imagine why you hesitate. What are you worrying about?"

Prospective Purchaser: "I was just wondering whether I should plant cigars or cigarettes."

The second act had come to an end and the curtain had fallen. Suddenly those near the stage became conscious of a stir and hurrying behind the scenes.

A stampede seemed imminent. Then the hero of the hour rose from his seat in the orchestra.

"Keep your seats," he shouted. His words and manner reassured the terror-stricken people in the theatre.

Slowly the man strode to where there was now an open avenue of exit. Then, without a moment's hesitation, he rushed for the door.

Once outside, he mopped his forehead and murmured, breathlessly, "Well, someone's saved anyway."

A well-known journalist was touring in Ireland and patronized a jaunting-car.

"You see them mountains?" said the driver, with a wave of his pipe.

"Yes." "Them's the highest mountains in the world."

"Is that so?" asked the surprised tourist.

"It is," assured the driver, "excepting, of course, them in furrin parts."

Teacher: "How is it that you're so late, Tommy?" Tommy: "Cause there was a man pinched for stealing chickens, and setting a house on fire and knocking down five policemen, and my mother sent me down to see if it was my father."

Farmer (to small boy): "Hey, boy, can you hold my horse a minute?" Boy: "Does he bite?" Farmer: "No."

Farmer: "Does he kick?" Farmer: "No."

Farmer: "Does it take two to hold him?" Farmer: "No."

Farmer: "Can one hold him?" Farmer: "Yes."

Farmer: "Then hold him yourself."

Why. She (critically)—I never could see much in those Crepe de Chine dresses.

He (also a critic)—Ah, my dear, but you never looked at them in the right light.—Colgate Banter.

To-day's Best Jokes and Stories

Courtesy. "Is there anything you would like to do before I press the button?" said the warden of Sing Sing to the murderer in the electric chair.

"Yes, your honor," said the latter. "I would like to get up and give a lady my seat."

Tommy: "Ma, how old is that lamp?" Mother: "About three years old, I guess."

Tommy: "Turn it down, ma, it's too young to smoke."

Time. Prisoner: "Your honor, it is true that I was speeding, but I can explain if you'll give me a little time."

His Honor: "Thirty days."

The doctor had called at Dan Jones' home. The occurrence was so unusual that Sid Smith, from the next farm, decided to investigate.

"Yes," answered Jones, upon being questioned, "my wife is ill. Don't know just what's ailing her. She got up this mornin' and had breakfast for me and the hands at five, and then she did some bakin' and the churnin' and a little cleanin', besides a diggin' some taters and a weddin' a patch of garden. She got dinner, and was sewin' and mendin' this afternoon when she sort o' heeled over. I can't think what can be the matter, for she's been doin' nothing but keepin' house here, easy-like, for the last fifteen years."

A Good Reason. He hated having his photograph taken, but his wife indirectly had forced him to undergo the much-dreaded ordeal.

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A woman is like a cannon; she doesn't seem ready to go until she's full of powder.

Only trouble with a sure thing is the uncertainty.

SEABOARD INTRODUCES NEW POLICY

Change in Official Organization of Far Reaching Results

Norfolk, June 8.—The Seaboard Air Line Railway Company has introduced a policy in its official organization which it is stated, will be far reaching in effective results.

A comprehensive plan of organization was adopted at a meeting of the board of directors—a budget committee of five members and a public relations committee of three members have been created, and other additions and changes in official policy made; a permanent labor committee has been established.

To carry out the plans, Comptroller L. R. Powell, Jr., has been elected a vice president and Comptroller General Manager M. H. Cahill, has been elected a vice-president and general manager, and General Attorney W. L. Stanley, with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga., has been elected a vice president.

No expenditure will be made in any department or division of the railroad that has not been previously submitted to and passed upon by the budget committee, subject to the approval of the president. The chairman of this committee is Vice-President Powell, the other members of this committee are Vice-Presidents Capps (traffic), Vice-President Caples (federal relations), Vice-President Nutt (treasurer), and Vice-President and General Manager Cahill (operations).

The public relations committee consists of Vice-President M. J. Caples, chairman, Vice-President W. L. Stanley, and Director of Development C. S. Ucker.

Vice-President Caples will handle matters of federal relation; Vice-President Stanley, general commissions, and Municipalities Director of Development Ucker, matters pertaining to industrial and agricultural development as well as questions of public concern to the whole southern country.

President S. Davies, in announcing the organization in a statement to the officials and employees, said in part: "To meet the necessities for conducting transportation under present and changing conditions, to provide for a wider and better understanding between the shipping public and public bodies and the railroad, and between the railroad and its employees, to furnish the means for the definite control of expenditures, to provide a more intensive development of the resources of the territory traversed by the Seaboard, the settlement of questions growing out of federal control and obtain greater economy in railroad administration by a strict adherence to the intention to carry out the purpose of the transportation act of 1920 it has been determined to make provision of a comprehensive organization for a broader and more extended use of the talents of the forces of the company. It is desirable that effective shop organization and standards be established."

"First, the expenditures made by this railroad in every department shall be decided upon by a committee designated as budget committee, no expenditure will be made by the organization or those connected with the railroad unless primarily agreed upon by the budget committee, after consideration by that committee of suggestions and proposals of the heads of the various departments of the railroad. The report of the budget committee will be submitted to the president for approval before becoming operative. Decisions of the budget committee will cover six months periods in advance of the amount of the expenditures to be made through the several departments and decisions of the railroads. These amounts shall not be exceeded in any respect by departments or divisions."

"The budget committee is not to be regarded as alone checking expenditures. It must know the reason for the expenditures whether the reason is economically sound and whether the expenditure, if made, will be effective in results."

"The labor committee is not intended as a convenient means to send questions before it to the United States labor board at Chicago. The management desires an impartial, full and fair consideration of all subjects and proposals that come before committee with an earnest determination to reach a settlement if possible. It is hoped that all employees will approach this committee pertaining the same desire and determination."

"The management desires to avoid going outside the Seaboard organization for promotion. Understudies are to be named in the various departments."

Trying to Save the Hawaiian Race. Honolulu, T. M., June 9 (By Mail)—Applications for allotments on land in the rehabilitation settlement on the island of Molokai were made by 74 Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian families before the time limit expired, according to an announcement by the Homes commission, which has charge of the attempts to rehabilitate the Hawaiian race.

There are lots available for only 20 or 24 families and the commission will select what it considers the best fitted families among the applicants to inaugurate the "back to the land" movement for the Hawaiians as it was conceived by the late Prince Jonah Kihio Kalaniana'ole during his service as delegate to congress, it was announced.

As soon as arrangements can be made other tracts will be prepared on Molokai for additional settlers. The commission hopes to be able to place the first group on the land by July.

Being on the brink of despair isn't as bad as jumping off.

DIAL TOOK LEAD IN MIXSON FIGHT

Report by Inspector Bears Out Charges of Attempt to Collect Money

Washington, June 9.—Acting on recommendation of the senate committee on postoffices and postroads the senate formally rejected the nomination of B. J. Mixson to be postmaster at Orangeburg tonight.

Senator N. B. Dial fought the nomination of Mixson and unquestionably caused its defeat. In a formal statement prepared for this newspaper today Senator Dial set forth his reasons for fighting Mixson. From that statement it appears that postoffice inspectors sent to Orangeburg to investigate charges against Mixson did not recommend that he be confirmed by the senate, but that such charges be dropped. In his statement Senator Dial declares:

"I deem it necessary to state that it was not a question of Mixson's confirmation that the postoffice inspectors were investigating, their sole purpose having been to ascertain whether or not Mixson had approached Miss Alice Singletary, postmaster at Bowman, either directly or indirectly, to inform her that he would pay him \$300 he would see that she would receive the nomination of that office."

"The report of the two inspectors stated that it was Mixson's desire to cause Miss Singletary to pay him \$300 for his alleged influence. They recommended that inasmuch as he had subsequently become a candidate for the postoffice at Orangeburg, they believed the investigation they had made would prevent further attempts of this nature. Therefore, they recommended that the case be closed."

"I wish simply to add that when this matter of extortion of money from a woman came to my attention, I did all I could to run it down and ascertain its truth. The facts as found to exist and which are now on file in Washington substantiate Miss Singletary's statement that she had been asked for \$300. I would not for a moment think of standing by and seeing a good woman thus most outrageously imposed upon."

CHINA CHANGES PRESIDENTS

Li Yuan Hung Recalled by Peking Government

Peking, June 11.—Li Yuan Hung, the president deposed by the militarists in 1917, arrived in Peking today and assumed the presidency. Li came from Tientsin in answer to an invitation to succeed Hsu Shih Chang, resigned.

President Li Yuan Hung issued his first mandate shortly after assuming office today, appointing as premier, Wu Ting Fang, former minister to the United States and since 1917, one of the strongest supporters of the Canton government's struggle against what it termed the militarism of the north.

It is understood Dr. Wu Ting Fang has accepted the premier-ship. In the meantime President Li has designated Dr. Wu Ten, foreign minister under the late ure foreign minister under the late premier until Dr. Wu's arrival from Canton.

The unification of China is declared in official circles to have been brought considerably nearer by Wu Ting Fang's acceptance of the premier-ship. It is asserted Dr. Sun Yat Sen, president of the republic of South China, in whose structure Wu has been a consistent pillar of strength, will be unable much longer to maintain a separate government.

Proponents of the reunited China-program count on Wu to swing many of Sun's supporters to the new Peking government, which already has the backing of a large bloc of the revived Republican parliament as well as that of General Wu Pei Fu, conqueror of Chang Tso-Lin and the outstanding military figure of the country.

It is expected that in the near future members of the old republican parliament resident in Canton will come to Peking as the result of Wu's assumption of office at the head of the cabinet.

If it takes all kinds of people to make a world, this world is certainly well made.

The call of the wild is what starts the epidemic and the squall of the child is often what stops it.

It never occurs to these foreign countries that they could reduce their debts by paying a little.

There seem to be some Russians left despite the fact that all starve to death every year.

Enrollment in a democratic club, like salvation, is free, but you have to go get it yourself.

A friend is a man who curses the same people you curse.

Every now and then a man wishes the daily report that Congress isn't doing anything was true.

"Probe War Frauds"—headline. People just won't leave these second lieutenants alone.

UNDERTAKING THE CHERRY CO

18 N. Main Street Motor Equipment KELL BRUNSON Licensed Embalmer. Night Phone 798-L.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SUMTER, S. C.

DO YOU REALIZE IT

There are so many people who keep their money at home or carry it about on their person, without the least thought of the risk they are taking, not only of losing their money, but their lives as well.

Murders are almost of daily occurrence, the object in nearly every case being robbery.

Banks are established not only to make money for their stockholders, but are a protection to the public.

We not only guarantee you 100 per cent safety but we will allow you interest on your deposit. Is this not worth your serious consideration? Think it over and bring in what you have. It matters not how little.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SUMTER, S. C.

June Attractions... The Sumter Dry Goods Co. Without Reserve, ANY COAT SUIT, OR SILK DRESS AT HALF PRICE. THE SUMTER DRY GOODS CO.

Prickly Pear a Scourge in Queensland. Sydney, N. S. W., May 18 (By Mail)—Millions of acres in Queensland and northern New South Wales are infested with prickly pear and the government is continuing its endeavors to control the scourge by use of its natural enemies, such as insects and bacteria. Scientists engaged in the investigations announced that they believed that they are on the eve of important discoveries. They have drawn upon practically the entire world for "weapons" with which to combat the menace, organisms having been received from South America, Texas, Florida, Mexico and other countries.

The National Bank of South Carolina Of Sumter, S. C. The Most Painless SERVICE with COURTESY Capital \$300,000 Surplus and Profits \$300,000 STRONG AND PROGRESSIVE Give us the Pleasure of Serving YOU. The Bank With the Chime Clock. C. G. ROWLAND, Pres. EARLE ROWLAND, Cashier

DO YOU REALIZE IT There are so many people who keep their money at home or carry it about on their person, without the least thought of the risk they are taking, not only of losing their money, but their lives as well. Murders are almost of daily occurrence, the object in nearly every case being robbery. Banks are established not only to make money for their stockholders, but are a protection to the public. We not only guarantee you 100 per cent safety but we will allow you interest on your deposit. Is this not worth your serious consideration? Think it over and bring in what you have. It matters not how little. THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SUMTER, S. C.