

THE LEDGER.

THURLOW S. CARTER,
EDITOR AND MANAGER.

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SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

Theodore H. Price is out in another statement in which he says that the cotton crop will amount to 13,500,000 bales. His object in spreading this sort of talk is plain. Naturally, it may lead the farmers to sell, and any rush to market will force the price down to a lower figure. Being on the bear, or selling side, Mr. Price would stand to win a few million dollars extra, and as the price falls his profits will increase. Sully has joined him for the time being, and the farmers have no hope of driving the market up to a point where the product can be raised at a narrow margin of profit. The government estimate placed the total crop at 12,162,000 bales. The farmers said it was too high, but certainly they should not accept the advice of a speculator who is talking that way to increase his fortune.—Greenville News.

The quarterly report of Chief Constable Hamet for the quarter ending Nov. 30, shows \$1,038,738 spent by the people in the local dispensaries during the months of Sept., Oct. and Nov., an increase in sales over the same months last year of \$172,002.79.

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR.

Total cost of constabulary for year	\$ 64,388 26
Total value of seizures for year	21,071 91
Total sales of State dispensaries	2,996,918 30
Total sales of local dispensaries	3,374,786 43

Crime in the State.

Decrease in Number of Murders, But an Increase in Percentage of Acquittals.

The attorney general has received all of the reports from the solicitors and has completed a table, showing the totals as to the convictions and acquittals in this state during the year.

For the year 1904 there were presented 1,891 cases, of which 909 were dismissed or there were no bills brought in by the grand jury. Of the remainder 350 were found not guilty and 924 guilty. The year 1903 there was a similar number of cases, the total number being 1,515.

Of the murder cases in 1904 there were 202 for murder and manslaughter presented during the year and of these 26 no bills were returned, 99 were acquitted, 79 found guilty of either manslaughter or murder and the other two appealed to the supreme court.

The dispensary cases presented in 1904 were 150, of which 26 no bills were returned, 27 not guilty and 77 guilty.

For 1903 there were 222 murder trials, of which 20 no bills were found, 100 acquitted and 102 convicted.

For 1903 there were 169 dispensary cases, of which 55 were dismissed, 25 were acquitted and 89 convicted.

Protect the youth at all hazards is our advice. If parents will not send their children to school let a law be enacted to make them do it, and every child will in the coming years sing the praise and proclaim the blessings of their benefactors.—Jacksonville Metropolis.

Happenings in the State.

As Chronicled by the Alert Correspondents of The Columbia State.

FATAL NEGRO FESTIVAL.

Winnboro, Jan. 5.—At a negro festival at Monticello, in this county, Sam Bell killed Ben Perry and broke Dave Peay's jawbone. Wylie Suba was shot in the back by parties unknown. Dr. Scott does not think he will die. Another negro whose name is unknown had his skull cracked.

WILL OF THE LATE COL. M'CALL.

Bennettsville, Jan. 4.—The will of the late Senator C. S. McCall was probated here today. Senator McCall left most of his estate to his three sisters and two brothers and to his nephews. Two of his bequests are notable. He left the Thornwell orphanage the sum of \$5,000. Another noble bequest was that to Mr. William Boyer of this county. Mr. Boyer's house and farm was mortgaged to Senator McCall but the will when opened showed that the mortgage had been canceled. Mr. Boyer lost both of his arms several years ago in the premature explosion of a cannon during a political celebration in Bennettsville.

As Viewed in Tokio.

Japanese Officials Do Not Look for Early Conclusion of Peace.

Tokio, Jan. 4, Evening.—The weight of opinion in Japanese official circles seems to be against a belief in the early conclusion of peace, and doubt is expressed that the fall of Port Arthur will materially affect the situation.

One of several officials who discussed the question with the correspondent of the Associated Press today voiced the sentiment of the majority when he said:

"We are confronting a situation which continues to be purely military. The present problem is created by Gen. Kuropatkin's army and by the Russian second Pacific squadron. We are devoting all attention to them."

"We anticipate that the Russians will renew more determinedly than ever their effort to drive Field Marshal Oyama back and that they will strive to gain supremacy at sea. We are preparing to defeat these objects."

"The situation makes talk of peace futile."

Japanese Count of Prisoners.

Tokio Jan. 4.—The prisoners captured at Port Arthur numbered 25,000. The total of inhabitants of the stronghold is 35,000. The sick and wounded numbered twenty thousand.

Col. Gadke, war correspondent of The Tageblatt, who has returned from Mukden, says Port Arthur's defense practically saved. Gen. Kuropatkin's army and that the Japanese have lost in the attack more men than the whole Russian garrison numbered.

Son of Prof. Bains, of Columbia Accidentally Killed.

Columbia Jan. 3.—Tree limbs swept by high winds brushed a brick from the top of Prof. C. W. Bain's residence at the South Carolina College this afternoon and the missile struck his six-years old boy, Henry, playing in the flower garden, on the head and crushed his skull. The boy died that night.

—Mrs. Lily Richards, formerly assistant, has been elected matron of Winthrop College vice Mrs. Cochran, resigned. Mrs. Shumate has been elected assistant matron.

Reduce the Cotton Acreage.

Appeal of the National Cotton Association.

Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 5.—The following self explanatory notice has been mailed to every county Judge in the South:

National Cotton Association, Office of the Secretary, Fort Worth, Texas, January 3.—In compliance with the resolution of the national executive committee, you are requested to call farmers, bankers, merchants and others interested in the cotton industry together on Wednesday, January 11, 1904, at 10 a. m., at the county seat, to elect vice presidents, who will hold precinct meetings at each school house in your county, on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of taking definite action on reducing the cotton acreage this year. At these meetings, have all farmers who will sign this agreement:

"We, the undersigned farmers, residing in voting precinct No. —, county —, hereby pledge ourselves to reduce the acreage of cotton to be planted by us in 1905 25 per cent below the amount that we planted in 1904."

Those who will not sign, take their names, addresses and the number of acres they will plant this year. Have a committee appointed at the precinct meeting to visit every farmer, landlord, tenant, white or black, in their precinct, who are not at the meeting, to secure their acreage. This request is sent to every county in the cotton States and unless prompt action is taken the acreage will not be reduced.

Texas has begun, but it will take your support to avail any thing. Give notice to all newspapers. Mail written report Jan. 28, giving name and acreage of all who sign and those who do not sign. Oswald Wilson, National Secretary, Fort Worth.

Young Man Killed in Door of Disreputable House.

Shot through the heart, Oscar Cureton, a son of Police Officer Cureton, fell dead within the threshold of a vile den on Court street last night at 8:20 o'clock. Leila Evans, the woman who keeps the house, says that Otto Summy, a horse trader, said to have come here some time ago from North Carolina, committed the deed, and Sheriff Gilreath and Chief of Police Becknell began a search for the man immediately after the tragedy. They captured him about midnight.—Greenville News, 4th inst.

In The Grasp of a Terrible Storm.

New York, Jan. 4.—Not in several years has New York been visited by a storm of such proportions as that which commenced yesterday and continued until early this morning. 9 inches of snow fell, paralyzing traffic, and the marked drop in the temperature brought untold suffering to the city's poor. The blizzard caused seven deaths in New York and vicinity, while many persons, overcome by the cold, dropped to the street, some of them receiving fractured bones.

Cotton Fire in Georgetown.

Georgetown, January 4.—At 4 o'clock this morning, on the wharf of the Waccamaw Line of steamers fire destroyed 200 bales of cotton, consigned to Sprunt & Son, Wilmington, N. C. The fire department responded promptly and worked hard to save the building. Estimated loss \$7,000, said to be covered by insurance.

WATCH OUT
BARGAIN SEEKERS!

\$100 IN GOLD TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

For the next 30 days we are going to slaughter prices Right and Left on dry goods, Clothing, Shoes, etc.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Our object in cutting prices for the next month is to benefit the trade by giving them the best goods for the least money. Also to reduce our stock as much as possible by the 1st of Jan., as we are going to repair our building and make changes in stock by moving dry goods in lower part of building and groceries where dry goods are at present.

This will be an immense job to have to move

: : SUCH A LARGE STOCK : :

as we have at present and think it best to make such inducements to the public in order to make the goods walk about. We mean business in what we say and all we ask is for you to come and inspect our stock and cut prices and you will be convinced that what we say is true.

So Come at Once and

Make Your Purchases

before the stock is greatly reduced and get the best advantage, for remember one month is a very short time.

THANKING EVERY ONE FOR PAST PARONAGE AND HOPING FOR MORE, WE ARE,

Yours to serve,

-Heath Banking & Mercantile Co.-

LANCASTER S. C.

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