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**THE PRICE OF PAPER.**

Since the commencement of the war the price of print paper has been constantly going upwards. The paper on which we print this newspaper could be bought one year ago in small quantities at fifty dollars per ton. Today it is selling at one hundred and twenty dollars per ton, and we are told by the paper dealers that in a few months the chances are that we will not be able to buy it at all.

The result of these high prices is disastrous to the country papers. No more can be collected for subscriptions, and little more from advertisers, but the expenses are constantly on the increase. Not only paper is up, but inks, and other printers' supplies. With the demands of a modern newspaper office for better machinery, typesetting machines and better wages, it is evident that the profits of the business will be greatly lessened, if not entirely wiped out.

A large number of newspapers have already been forced out of business, and others must follow if conditions do not change. But the hardships are not entirely with the publishers. Every legitimate business has more or less of job and other work to be done in the print shops. The paper on which this work is done is now selling for as much in proportion as the regular newspaper stock, resulting in great increases in the prices charged for this class of work.

It is said that the paper mills are running on full time in this country and some of them night and day. The shutting down of paper mills in the warring countries of Europe and the demand for rags for war munitions are said to be causes of the high prices.

To the publisher and the subscriber this means that the newspapers will not go on unless they are supported by those who read them and patronize them. It is impossible that the big expenses now being incurred by the country papers can be met unless the subscribers and advertisers give them the support which they deserve.

**THE PROHIBITION LAW.**

It is stated that in some quarters a movement is being inaugurated to secure high license for Charleston and perhaps other cities. We are not surprised at the report. There are people who honestly believe in the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and the liquor interests may be relied on to assist in every movement for the extension of the trade.

But there is no cause for alarm, we think. The people of the state enacted the prohibition law. The legislature was not willing to assume responsibility for the measure and had it passed on by the people. We do not think that the members of the present legislature will reverse or modify the decree of the people on this measure, especially when the repeal or modification of the prohibition law has not been an issue in the campaign. If any modification of the law is desired that modification should be submitted to the people who enacted the law.

Charleston is just now beginning to respect the laws of the state on the liquor question. The vote of the people in that city in the recent election indicates that there is a growing respect for law there. We believe that the people of that city should give the law a further trial. The enforcement of the law in Charleston for a few years will convince men, who now perhaps see no harm in the liquor traffic, that the results of prohibition are for the good of the community.

The man who sells liquor is an enemy of society, and the laws of the state should make him what he is—an outlaw.

**AN UNJUST CHARGE.**

The assertion by certain members of the state executive committee that fraud had been practiced in the recent election, and that voters had been bribed with liquor, money and in other ways, and that others voters had been intimidated we believe to be founded entirely in imagination.

The people in the other counties of South Carolina are the same people as those who reside in Abbeville county. We do not believe that there are a half dozen men in Abbeville county who would sell their votes, neither do we believe that there are such men in other counties. It comes with ill grace from the great champions of the "poor man," when they are defeated, to cry that the "poor man" has sold out. These great champions of popular rights expect the rich man, and the town man, and the merchant, and the banker, and the preachers to vote against them, but they rely on the "poor man," whose cause they essay to champion. When the poor man has turned his back upon them and cast an independent vote, these champions show their estimate of the people they would control by accusing them of "selling out" for money, being influenced by liquor, and of being frightened into voting for men who are not of their choice.

We have a better opinion of the men of South Carolina than that. They do not vote on all questions as we do, and we think oftentimes they go far afield in casting their votes. But the great masses of the people are honest. They cannot be bought, they cannot be bribed with liquor, and they are not afraid, and he who accuses them of such faults bears false witness against them.

**THE PRICE OF COTTON.**

We have made an unusually short crop of cotton. Anyone who travels about the county will see this at a glance. Our own opinion is that the crop will be considerably shorter than the growers now suspect. The cotton is late, and the bolls do not appear to us to be of the usual size. Considering that late cotton never gives the same yield that early cotton does, we have concluded that the crop will be disappointing to those who are now hopeful of better yields.

This condition in our judgement is brought about by the lack of fertilizers. Last year a good yield was made by some farmers from lands which were not fertilized that year. But these lands had been fertilized for years before and the crops evidently received nourishment from what remained in the lands. Nobody used much fertilizers last year, and still less this year. As a result you find no good crops in the county. It is true that the excessive rains had something to do with the condition of the crops but the rains were not the same everywhere. But the crops are about the same wherever you go. They show a want of something to make them what they have been in the past, and that something is fertilization in our judgment.

It is evident that we will not be able to buy commercial fertilizers next year of the grade desired by the farmers and necessary for the growing of a good crop. We cannot expect the war to end in time for potash to reach this country for the next cotton crop. Therefore, we may expect another short cotton crop, and we will have it.

It might appear that cotton has already reached the high water mark, but the chances are that we will see still higher prices. The demand will exceed the supply, and when it is seen, as we believe it will be, that the crop is much shorter than at present anticipated, prices will soar. And if the want of fertilizers is the main cause of the short crop, and we may look for another short crop, it is evident that good times are ahead for the cotton growers of the South.

We do not believe that the South can raise a bumper crop next year, if the whole of the available cotton land is planted in it, but as stated in our last issue, it is important that food crops be raised at home. This will be necessary because these crops will also command increased prices, and for the further reason that the yield of cotton will be smaller per acre than heretofore, and, therefore, the cost of the cotton to the producer will be increased.

The farmer is in the saddle. The question is, Will he stay there? If

he shall manage his farm on business principles it appears to us that good times are in store for him for some years to come.

**NEWS FROM CHARLEY LYON.**

A friend in Abbeville has received a letter from Charley Lyon, formerly "devil" in this office, but now a member of the Machine Gun Company of the First Regiment. Charley states that he has learned all about the machine gun, and can take it down and name every part in six minutes. He was getting ready to take part in the big parade, in which forty thousand troops were reviewed by General Bell, when he wrote. The parade was seventeen miles long, and Charley was in the picture.

He says that the Abbeville boys are well and enjoying their service in the army, and that they are not in any hurry to get back home.

Charley's friends in Abbeville will be glad to know that he is a full-fledged soldier and that he can shoot a machine gun, we know. He will be a "wolf" among the pretty girls when he gets back to Abbeville.

**MT. CARMEL.**

Mt. Carmel, Sept. 26.—Messrs. Smith and Cade and Miss Julia Cade of Washington, Ga., spent last Sabbath with Mrs. Emma Knox and Miss Maggie Knox.

Miss Dora Black left last Monday for Calhoun Falls, where she is to teach this year. We all hate to give her up.

Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Baker and Mr. M. E. Tarrant of Greenwood, spent last Sabbath with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Tarrant. Mrs. Tarrant accompanied them home.

Miss Emma McAllister left Sabbath for a visit to Mrs. Mamie Lanier at Monterey, who is quite ill. Her many friends hope for her improvement.

The many friends of Mrs. P. K. Black will be glad to know she was very much improved by her stay in the hospital in Columbia. She returned home Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Maggie Sanders of Cliburne, Texas, spent Friday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Conner.

Mr. Chisholm Halliday left last Tuesday to resume his studies at Erskine, much to the regret of his many friends.

Miss Mary McAllister left Tuesday for a few months study at Lander College in Greenwood.

Miss Myrtle Dean, one of Mt. Carmel's charming young ladies, is enjoying a long visit in Georgia.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Cade spent last Thursday in Abbeville.

Mr. Ollie Watson was on the sick list last Friday, but we are glad to hear that he is much better.

Miss Sara Boyd spent several days in Antreville last week.

Miss Douschka Cade begun her school work a few miles from Mt. Carmel last Monday.

The Young Ladies Fancy Work Club was charmingly entertained by Miss Sara Boyd last Friday afternoon. Quite a number of young ladies spent the afternoon very pleasantly in work and conversation. At a late hour, delicious pineapple cream and cake was served by Misses Sara and Isabel Boyd.

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