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MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1921

CATCHING OFFENDERS

The law officers of the county have been making it hot for the whiskey-makers the last week or two. Sheriff McLane has made a good start in the enforcement of the law, and there will be less illicit liquor sold in this county if he keeps up the good work. He is doing his part in bringing the guilty parties before the bar of justice.

The next work to be done is by the judicial officers of the court. Whiskey-making and whiskey-selling will not be stopped so long as bonds in insignificant amounts are demanded and so long as fines of small amounts are made by the courts. The judicial officers of the county and state must learn that the liquor-maker and the liquor-seller are menaces to the good order of the community and their products are breeders of other crimes, and they must be treated accordingly. If this is done, there will be less for the sheriff to do, and still less liquor for sale.

SELLING COTTON

The Press and Banner has been among those who believed that the farmers should hold their cotton for better prices. We adhere to that advice so far as the man is concerned who is not in debt.

But it is apparent to us now that some of the present crop of cotton must be sold before there will be a revival of business in this section. The banks are owing more money than they commonly owe in the middle of the summer, or at the end of the crop season. The fertilizer bills have not been paid, the bank notes have not been paid, and the merchants have not been paid.

If we are to make any part of a crop next year it will be necessary for us to arrange for credit somewhere. The banks cannot further credit until their debts to other banks have been paid. The merchants cannot extend credit until the farmers have paid them, and they in turn have paid the banks. We are in a state of stagnation, and there is nothing in our judgment which will start the wheels turning except the selling of at least a portion of the cotton crop now on hands.

It will not do to say that this will put the cotton down. We do not believe that it will have this effect. If only twenty-five per cent. of the cotton in the hands of farmers who are in debt is now sold, it cannot have the effect of putting cotton down. The people who buy cotton know that this cotton must be sold as well as the people who have it. Besides by selling it and beginning to pay debts, we enable the merchants to begin to pay up and buy more goods; we enable the banks to pay some of their indebtedness and place them in a situation where they can help again, and we contribute to a revival of business to that extent. And just now, we believe the country needs to get things started as much as it needs anything else.

Of course cotton will be sold, or some of it, at present prices, below the cost of production. But the merchant is selling his goods below cost, and a great many other people are taking losses. The deflation which has come about so suddenly makes it necessary that all of us take our share of the losses. We do not want to take any more than we are forced to, but we had as well make up our minds that something must be done before business will show any life.

The sale of one bale of cotton and the payment of debts to that amount enables us to hold the next bale just that much longer. The throwing of the entire crop on the market at this time, we are sure, would not be a wise thing, but the time has come

when we must begin to sell gradually. The wise man, if he is in debt will begin to liquidate his indebtedness in this way.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE COTHRAN,
OF ABBEVILLE

Thomas Perrin Cothran, of Abbeville, but for a number of years temporarily sojourning in the town of Greenville, has been elected Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, and the best that can be said for him is what his brethren of the Bar generally say: "He is fit for the high office to which he has been elected." Fit, we would add, because of his knowledge of the law, his familiarity with its practice, his judicial temper, his studious habit, his lawmaking experience, his inherited fitness for the highest service on the Bench and his moral character.

We have known him for a good many years and have never known anything to his discredit. He comes by his fitness for the highest public place honestly. The son of James S. Cothran—a soldier of conspicuous bravery in the Army of Northern Virginia, the leader of the Redshirted hosts of Abbeville County in 1876, a Judge on the Circuit Bench of South Carolina, when honest men had been restored to power, a member of Congress from the Third District who served his people faithfully—he is the worthy son of a worthy sire. On the other side of his house, the son of a daughter of Thomas Chiles Perrin, a lawyer of high distinction at the Abbeville Bar, in his day next to the Bar of Charleston the ablest and most distinguished in the State, and a man of loftiest virtues and highest courage, the new Associate Justice comes into his high estate fit for what ever service may be required of him.

Associate Justice Cothran is in the sixty-fourth year of his age, in the full possession of all his faculties, accustomed to hard work and close application to whatever the task in which he is engaged, and we congratulate the State that a worthy successor has been found in him for Associate Justice Hydrick, who served South Carolina faithfully to the end of his useful life. The people of Abbeville County are especially to be congratulated upon the selection of one of the most distinguished men of that famous county for a place on the highest Court in South Carolina.—Spartanburg Journal.

HOME-COMING OF COTHRAN

Abbeville County has enjoyed the distinction of being the nursery for many generations of lawyers and jurists of character and fame throughout the land. For example, there was John C. Calhoun, of marvellous gifts in legal lore; and James L. Pettigru, one of the greatest lawyers that ever practiced at the Bar in South Carolina; and Armistead Burt, a brother-in-law of Mr. Calhoun, and the Perrins and Cothrans and Nobles and Lees and scores of others. Among the Judges of the State there were the Wardlaws of the ante-bellum Bench (of whom Associate Justice Cothran is kinsman) and Samuel McGowan, of the State Supreme Court in the time of Wade Hampton, James S. Cothran, as already noted, father of the new Associate Justice, was a Circuit Judge of the State. Associate Justice McGowan, who married a Wardlaw, was also related to Justice Cothran. Then there is the present Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, Eugene B. Gary, and his brother, the late Ernest Gary, who was a distinguished Judge of the Circuit Court in South Carolina, and another brother, Frank B. Gary, now a Judge of the Circuit Court in this State, and these three brothers were all born and reared and learned the law in Abbeville county. We should think that the Bar of Abbeville would give a great feast in honor of the Abbeville man who has been called to the highest possible service, and kill the fatted calf and welcome their wandering son back home again.—Spartanburg Journal.

WILSON AGAIN USES PEN

Washington, Jan. 30.—Congress received from President Wilson today the first message signed with pen and ink since the President was taken ill a year and a half ago. The message had to do with changes in customs districts.

Since his illness and up to this time the President has used an indelible pencil in signing communications to Congress.

ANTREVILLE BUSINESS MAN
WRITES ABOUT ACREAGES. J. Wakefield, One of the Leading
Farmers and Business Men of the
County, Discusses Situation
Confronting People of
The County

The editor of the Press and Banner has received the following letter from Mr. S. J. Wakefield, of Antreville. Mr. Wakefield, in addition to being one of the best farmers in the county and one of the leading business men of his section, is a man who gives considerable thought to matters pertaining to the farming interests. His conclusions in the matter of acreage reduction, the use of fertilizers, and on the general situation are worth considering. Here is what he says:

Mr. Editor:—

Your last editorial was timely and to the point. That the cotton crop will be materially reduced there is no doubt. In the first place there will be a large per cent of the farmers who cannot buy much fertilizers, even if they wished to do so, and no one will use as much as he used last year. But to be on the safe side, why not get together and cut it out entirely as to cotton for the present year? We have been fertilizing heavily for several crops and I am of the opinion that we can make from sixty per cent to seventy per cent of a normal crop without using fertilizers at all.

We should use a little acid and a little soda under our corn and plant fifty per cent more corn than we did last year, the result will be that next fall we would find ourselves with cribs bursting with corn, a crop of twenty thousand bales of cotton, no fertilizer accounts and should the whole South adopt such a policy we would get hundred per cent more money for the crop to be raised the present year than we could expect to get if we farmed as heretofore. Yes, Mr. Editor, you are right, it has taken \$35.00 worth of fertilizers to raise each bale of last year's crop. Counting the fertilizers used for corn there has been bought in Abbeville County at least \$1,000,000 worth of fertilizers to make the crops of last year, and the whole crop at present prices would not bring over two million dollars. Fifty per cent going for fertilizers—now is not this a bad piece of economy?

Now I am a great believer in optimism, but you please me too well, and I am going to call you down on a remark you made. You said there were still ten thousand bales of cotton and this cotton had to be sold before times would get any better. This I agree to. But you also said if this cotton were sold, it would pay the banks all the debts the farmers owed. I am sure you spoke without giving the matter much thought. As a matter of fact this ten thousand bales of cotton would not pay the balance due on fertilizers, leaving the balance of the debts unpaid, and they are legend. Besides there will be a large percentage of this cotton which will never be put on debts. People must live, and there is no way to get anything except by selling a bale of cotton. And we all would be surprised could we know the amount of cotton that has been sold for this purpose since September 1st.

Now there is no doubt we are in a devil of a fix. February is here. Banks and merchants are in no condition to extend credit to the farmers. Captain Shaw's article was timely and to the point. If there is not something done, and that speedily, I do not know what may happen. No one has as yet gone hungry but that time is near at hand for many, if not actually here.

I am of the opinion that fifty per cent of the farmers do not know at this time whether they can farm this year or not. We all have been hoping, if not expecting, that things would brighten up and get better. But not so; they are gradually growing worse and we had as well make up our minds to accept them as they are.

No doubt those who see this will think I am wrapped in gloom. Not so, for I see in the future better times, but not until another crop has been made as outlined above.

S. J. Wakefield.
Antreville, S. C.

D. A. R. MEETING

Andrew Hamilton chapter D. A. R. will meet Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the chapter room.

Mrs. J. Allen Long, Sec'y.

WAGE CUT OPPOSED BY
RAILROAD UNIONS

Cleveland, O., Jan. 30.—Heads of three big railroad brotherhoods in formal statements here tonight said the railroad men of the country "will not peacefully submit" to the wage reductions, which Chicago dispatches say the railways will seek from the United States Railway Labor Board in a petition to be presented Monday.

W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and L. E. Sheppard, president of the Order of Railway Conductors, made this declaration in formal statements. A similar declaration was made Thursday by Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

All the brotherhood executive declare that reports of decrease in the cost of living are not borne out by actual conditions, but are the result of propoganda; that the wages of railway employes did not increase as rapidly as did the cost of living or as much; and that railway men are not receiving as high a standard of wages as are paid in many other industries.

Prejudicing Public

Mr. Lee assterted that, in his opinion, "some, if not the greater portion of the business depression has been brought about solely for the purpose of prejudicing the public in the interest of a reduction in wages generally."

Mr. Carter declared that "notwithstanding all the wage increases made either by the railroad administration or the Labor Board, it can be shown that because the great increase in the efficiency of railroad employes there has been no practical increase in wage costs compared with product."

Mr. Sheppard asserted that "to admit that in this country of our it is necessary to make an onslaught on labor at his time, after all the country has done for the railroads, is absolutely un-American."

Messrs. Lee, Carter and Sheppard

also pointed out that the railroad employs a piece worker, laid off and not paid when the railroad traffic is light. They also took the position that before the railroads could present a request for wage reductions to the board, they would first have to present them to the men and negotiations failing there then appeal to the board.

CIRCLE NO. 4 TO MEET.

Circle No. 4 of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Presbyterian church will meet Tuesday evening at 7:45 with Miss Charlotte Brown. All members are urged to be present as officer for the year will be elected.

READ THE ADVERTISEMENTS

Two Hard Words
to Remember

Lisenbee and Optometrist

When you want to remember "Lisenbee", think of listening to the little honey-maker.

When you want to remember "Optometrist", just say to yourself, "opposite to me"

When your eyes are giving trouble be sure to think of both words.

DR. L. V. LISENBEE

McMurray's Victrola Shop Abbeville, S. C.

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Our Half-Price Sale of Clothing
and Underwear will Last
Throughout This
Week!

We MUST unload more of
our big stock of clothing.

The values we are offering
ought to do it....

Fine worsteds, serges and cassimeres made by Schloss Brothers & Co., Styleplus and The House of Kuppenheimer. Models for all builds—rare all-wool fabrics—pre-shrunk and silk sewn—exquisitely tailored—are offered to you again this week at just half price. You must not miss these bargains. Boys' Suits and Men's and Boys' Odd Trousers and all Winter Weight Underwear also at half price....

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