

LABOR LAW UN-CONSTITUTIONAL.

State Judiciary Declare It Invalid.

Columbia, January 16.—The judiciary of the State, sitting en banc, has declared unconstitutional the labor contract law. This is in effect the same decision rendered by Judge Brawley, of the Federal Court, several months ago, and puts an end to any speculation as to the validity of the statute. The Court was divided on the question before it. The majority opinion was written by Associate Justice Woods and was concurred in by Chief Justice Pope, Circuit Judges Watts, Gage, Wilson, Gray and Memminger, as to the general contents of the opinion, and by Judge Dantzer as to the result. The minority opinion was written by Associate Justice Jones, and was concurred in by Circuit Judges Klugh, Prince, and Hydrick.

Associate Justice Gary filed a separate dissent as follows: "I dissent on the ground that constitutionality of the statute is not before the Court on habeas corpus proceedings."

The case was argued to-day by Mr. W. H. Parker, of Charleston, representing the Attorney General, and by Herbert and Benet, of Columbia, as attorneys for Jack Hollman, the old negro who was arrested for violation of the labor contract law. The decision of the Court will be published in full later.

Senator Raysor Offers New County Bill.

Senator Raysor, of Orangeburg, has a bill to prevent the difficulties in forming new counties which have arisen from the Calhoun County matter. It is as follows:

"That hereafter in the formation and organization of any new county in this State, when it is desired to include only a portion of any township within the area of the proposed new county, such township shall be intersected by only one straight line, and at least one of the voting places in such township shall be included within the area of the proposed new county, and all qualified electors within the area of any proposed new county shall have the right of voting upon the question of the formation of an organization of any new county."

Farmer's Union to Start Bank at Sparta.

Spartanburg, January 18.—Special: The Farmers' Union of Spartanburg County will organize a national bank and erect a handsome bank building in this city in the present year. Application for a charter will be made at once. The capital stock will be one hundred thousand dollars. All of the stock in the bank will be owned by the members of the Union.

President O. P. Goodwin, of the State Farmers' Union, delivered an address before the County Union today and urged them to push the work of organizing the bank as fast as possible. The directors of the Union have reported that a large amount of stock has been subscribed.

Book on Race Question.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Senator Tillman is engaged now in writing a book on the race question. This work is undertaken at the request of D. Appleton & Co., publishers, who have been in correspondence for some time with the senator about it. He will spend much time during the coming summer on this book.—The State.

Griffith-Hall.

On the ninth of January quite a pretty marriage occurred at Steadman, the contracting parties being Miss Jimmie Griffith of Lexington and Dr. Daniel L. Hall of Steadman. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. H. Sanford at the home of Mr. Perry Hall, brother of the groom. The lovely bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Griffith of this place and the announcement of her marriage calls forth many genuine felicitations from a large circle of admiring friends. The groom is a popular young dentist, and has a bright future before him. The happy couple will reside at Steadman for the present.

Spread the Disease.

The washing of the clothing of a girl suffering with typhoid fever in a spring which supplied water for Bedford City, Va., has resulted in an epidemic of the disease. Many deaths have been reported and the disease is still spreading.

Horse of W. H. Sellers Shot.

While getting off with three five gallon kegs of whiskey in Columbia on Thursday, it is alleged that Constable Farmer shot the fine horse of W. H. Sellers, the well known blind tiger of that city. Sellers was driving the animal at the time it was shot.

THE MEXICAN BORDER

How Both Sides of the Line Are Watched and Guarded.

UNCLE SAM'S BRAVE RIDERS.

The Work That Is Performed by These Well Mounted, Well Armed and Courageous Patrols—The Mexican Rurales and Their Methods.

If business or recreation should take you down to that long line which forms the boundary between the United States and Mexico, you may by chance meet a well mounted rider, armed with rifle and pistols, pacing observantly along some bypath or canyon. He is one of the United States boundary riders appointed by the treasury department to patrol the border on the lookout for smugglers, cattle runners and other persons whose presence on the American side is generally undesirable.

For this position the man selected must possess courage, judgment and no little physical endurance, for his duties may call him forth at all hours and seasons, and he may be responsible for a stretch of border land many miles in length.

For example, between San Diego, on the Pacific coast of California, and Yuma, in Arizona, there is but one boundary rider to patrol a line of over 150 miles, and this is in part over a sparsely settled mountainous region and partly through the waste of the Colorado desert.

As opposite him, on the other side of the line, the Mexican government maintains from fifteen to twenty rurales for the same work, it is a good illustration of the trust reposed in a single American citizen by his government. It is probable there is no other man in the United States whom it would be harder to find at a given moment than the boundary rider of the San Diego-Yuma district.

He may be down on the Colorado desert, watching near some water holes for a venturesome band of cattle runners, or in some canyon of the mountains on the lookout for a wagon load of prohibited immigrant Chinamen; but, wherever he is, one may be fairly sure it is not where the transgressor of the customs laws expect him to be.

That he must possess both judgment and courage the following incident, which took place during the career of the former boundary rider in this district, will aptly illustrate:

For some time a band of cattle runners had been working successfully back and forth over the line in spite of the boundary rider's vigilance. They seemed to be able to divine his movements, so that while he was watching a trail through the mountains they were rushing a bunch of cattle over the desert.

But at last he managed to surprise the band and, rifle in hand, drove two of them into Campo.

Then, however, arose the question as to the method of taking them down to the coast. He hired a double seated vehicle, the only one in the place.

But at once another question presented itself. How was he to seat his prisoners, for either they must be placed together on the front or the back seat or separated, both seemingly a hazardous choice?

He finally decided to separate them, and so, with one on the front seat with him and the other behind, he started for the coast.

The two cattle runners managed to communicate with each other by signs and at a rough part of the road made the boundary rider, in turn, their prisoner. Needless to say, they then made the best of their opportunity to escape over the border, but as they fell into the hands of the unsympathetic rurales they would have been better off if they had submitted to the law of their own country.

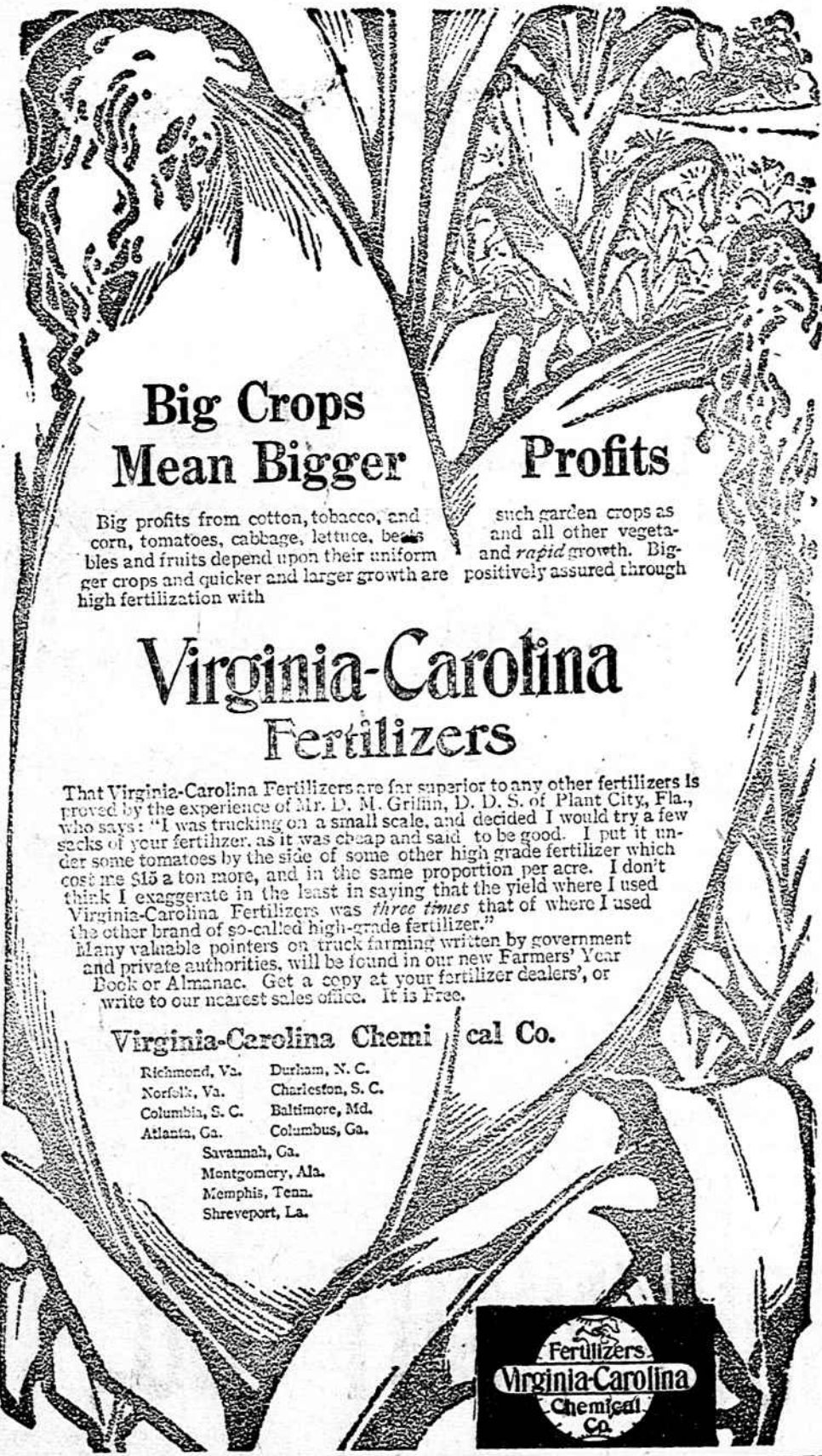
This brings one of the somewhat different methods pursued by the Mexican government in guarding their side of the border. From a cursory inspection of the line one might suppose that the Mexican side is not guarded at all. You may cross the line ten times at different places and never set eyes on a rurales, but it is well known that you have done so nevertheless, and on the eleventh excursion you are likely to find yourself surrounded by a picturesque group, who will carry you off to jail if your explanation is not satisfactory.

As a rule, the rurales patrol back and forth in detachments at a distance of from ten to fifteen miles from the actual border. Many a headlong dash for the American side has been made by perfectly law abiding citizens, with the rurales at their heels, because they have been heedless in obtaining a permission to cross the border.

True, an American citizen may cross the border at will, as far as he himself is concerned, but as he is almost certain to carry some article liable to duty it is upon that charge that he may be arrested.—Michael White in Youth's Companion.

Rural Claims.

Through the influence of the daily press cities and their needs have come to absorb such an amount of daily attention that the importance of the country and its inhabitants to the welfare of the nation is largely overlooked; hence the call to do everything that can be done to enlarge, to refine, to purify and to strengthen the life of our country people. And one means to this end which has not hitherto been used as much as it might have been is the cultivation in the school and in the home of the habit of reading good books.—Bishop of Hereford in Nineteenth Century.



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