

## REPRESENTATIVE LESESNE WRITES VERY INTERESTINGLY OF LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

His Letter This Week is of More Than Ordinary Interest to the People of Clarendon—Explains Some of the Bills He Has Introduced.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 29, 1917.

Editor Times: This is Monday and both the House and Senate meet tonight. By the time you publish this letter on Wednesday both Houses will have held several sessions, so that you see my letters are necessarily behind in giving you the news right up to the day of your publication.

In my letter last week your typesetting machine by some kind of a typographical error gave me a pretty bad lick. In discussing the prohibition and liquor question I said "The whiskey people know," etc., and your types made me say "We" whiskey people. The error was unfortunate, particularly in that I was discussing whiskey from the liquor man's standpoint. I am unfortunate as to my reputation anyhow among the ultra prohibitionists, because I do not hold the same views they do on the whiskey question, but I am far from being ready to line up with the class who might be termed whiskey advocates. I want the abuses of whiskey stopped and the sale of it restricted, and morality and temperance to prevail throughout the land. There are hundreds of different opinions on this liquor question, and there are even eight or ten bills on the subject already introduced in this legislature.

The legislature is now at the working stage, and just one-half of the session has been spent. There is only one thing that I know of now which may block matters, and that is the election of a cotton warehouse commissioner. The joint assembly has been in a dead lock on this election for several days, and the ballots will be resumed Tuesday night. Drake, of Marlboro, is now leading, with McLaurin of Columbia second. There are four or five other candidates still in the race, but my opinion is that Drake will finally be elected. I have been voting for him myself, because he is a cotton farmer and a business man in Marlboro county, and for some time past has been McLaurin's field warehouse inspector. McLaurin has resigned twice, and his resignation has been accepted and if he were re-elected the enmity which is entertained against him would kill the whole system. I have not wasted a vote on McLaurin since his resignation, and I want the next best man for the position. The warehouse is going to have a hard fight anyhow for the next two years, and I am frank to say that while I am supporting it, and have supported it ever since its creation as a matter of governmental expediency, I am afraid it is going to have a hard time to weather the storm for the next two years. It was unfortunate for the warehouse system the past season that cotton went so high and there was so little stored, as farmers sold for the high prices. Consequently from a financial standpoint the warehouse made very little money for the State, and this gives its enemies a cudgel to frail it with. The advent of the boll weevil in this State next summer will again probably upset matters in the cotton world, so that the system has an uncertain future to face. All these are State matters, and if we are in public life we have to face them, and meet them in the best way we can. But the warehouse system, and warehouses in other States saved the day for the cotton farmers in 1915, and I believe in holding on to it.

The terrible rainy and cold weather we have been having has had me sick with something like grip for several days, and I am hardly able to do much at writing you a letter this week. I want to be in position to discuss some of our local county matters soon, and perhaps in my next letter. Our delegation spent about all of last Saturday in the Supervisor's office with Supervisor Kelly, going over the County's financial affairs, and in this letter I can only say that the County is behind, and we see no possible way out of raising the County levy. There is a terrible hue and cry for roads, and if the people have to make roads they may just as well get to pay for them. There is no talk of wanting to bond the County for roads, but no bonds for me until some kind of an equitable tax system is devised and enacted,

whereby the land owners of the State and County will pay their just proportion of taxation. There are hundreds and even thousands of acres of land right now in Clarendon County which are renting for eight and ten dollars per acre, and that same landowner is only paying taxes at the rate of five and six dollars per acre, and the land owner would not take forty dollars per acre for the land. No bond issue for me, until there is more equality in taxation. This tax question is something I want our people to go to thinking about. I consider it the biggest question in the State's government economies today, notwithstanding all the talk about prohibition and woman suffrage and homes for feeble minded children, etc. These people are trying to stampe the legislature and dig into the State treasury, but the State wants and needs an equitable tax system. If I were ten years younger and had the strength I once had I would make this my life work, but I fear it is too great an undertaking for me now. Nevertheless it is a great public question, and is on my mind. I cannot go into any details now as to my views on it. I have no idea whether I will be in politics at all any more, and want to say to some people who are imputing political motives to me for writing these letters, that I have no designs on Mr. DuRant's job whatever, or any other job. I went to the House free and unhampered, as a representative of the masses, and if I am provisionally permitted health and strength through the next session of the General Assembly I mean to at least make some efforts at partial reform on the tax question. Is it right for the three or four hundred thousand dollars which is invested in land mortgages in Clarendon county to go without paying taxes? The poor fellow who lives on the land and claims to own it is at least paying some taxes on the land. But the man who really owns the land, the capitalist who holds the mortgage, does he pay any taxes? These matters can be worked out, and they will be worked out in time. These are things which make possible and bring about what some folks speak of reprehensibly as Bleasism.

There are many matters of importance coming up this week, but I cannot begin to enumerate them. My proposition to hold a constitutional convention in 1920 or 1921 will likely go over until the next session. This will suit me, as it cannot be submitted to the people at the polls anyhow until the fall of 1918. I have real hopes of securing the passage of my measure to restrict the lien of landlords to the crops grown on the lands which they rent to tenants for farming purposes, and thereby stop this abuse on the part of landlords to their tenants by distraining everything that is on the place, horses, cows, hogs, chickens, and everything in sight, even whether the property belongs to the tenant or someone else. I also have introduced, and it has passed through the judiciary committee, and is now back in the House and on the calendar for second reading, a measure to amend the criminal section in regard to obtaining property by false pretenses and the one in regard to disposing of property under mortgage, so that the party making the affidavit to obtain a warrant under these sections shall state in his affidavit that he is not making it for the purpose of merely collecting a debt. This is strictly in accordance with the constitution of the State and is endorsed by several solicitors. This custom of jailing people for nothing but debts has come to be such an abuse that many magistrates offices are nothing but collecting agencies for a few people, and the time is coming when some of these people who are always swearing out warrants for these two offenses will be on trial for perjury. A great many magistrates are to blame for this condition of affairs. They ought to remember what happened to a magistrate from Lexington county in the U. S. Court the other day on a question arising out of these labor contracts. Looks like everybody wants to go into the State Treasury up here. All

## W. G. SMITH OF ORANGEBURG WAREHOUSE COMMISSIONER

Upon the fifth ballot of the joint assembly tonight, which was the sixteenth of the session, Mr. W. G. Smith, of Orangeburg, was chosen state warehouse commissioner. Mr. Smith was formerly in the cotton business and is now connected with the insurance business. Upon the last ballot he received 82 votes, as against 73 for Mr. Drake, former state warehouse inspector.

## FIVE KILLED BY PANCAKES

Mother Mixed Arsenic Preparation With the Flour.

Kankakee, Ill., Jan. 30.—A breakfast of pancakes yesterday caused the death of five members of the Meints family fifteen miles south of here. The pancakes were made by Mrs. O. K. Meints, mother of four of the victims and grandmother of the fifth. Mrs. Meints is believed to have mixed the contents of a sack containing an arsenical poison used by her husband in taxidermy with a prepared pancake flour. The dead were: Fred, twenty-eight years old; Theodore, twenty-six; Irvin, twenty-one; Mino, twenty-four, and Clarence Meints, the grandson seven years old.

Mrs. Meints tasted the pancakes after her sons had finished their breakfast and noticing a peculiar flavor, ate none.

## TO INSPECT NITRATE SITE

Baker and Other Cabinet Members Coming to Columbia.

Columbia, Jan. 29.—Governor Manning has received a letter from Secretary of War Baker saying that he and several members of the Cabinet will visit Columbia to look over the proposed site for the government nitrate plant. Governor Manning will go to Washington to extend a formal invitation to Secretary Baker and the other Cabinet officers to visit Columbia at the time to be fixed by the committee of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

This agitation for a home for feeble minded people just means more jobs. That crowd even had a man from the North down in Columbia the other night giving a moving picture show of feeble minded children, showing the pictures to the House and Senate members in the hall of the House.

The administration folks want to appropriate \$3,000.00 to carry the Citadel boys to the Inauguration in Washington on March 4th. That was one of the things that Charleston paid our way down there for last Wednesday. And then they want some more money than they have been getting for the State Medical College.

The tuberculosis home wants some more money; and they ought to have it. This is for the education of the masses against consumption.

But bless your life, what do you think now? The prohibitionists, who work only for morals, what about them? They want a new office created, to be called a commissioner of Prohibition, and a good big appropriation made to pay his salary and to enforce the law. Now if we send the Citadel boys to Washington, in addition to giving them a free education, how can we get around also sending the Clemson boys, and the Carolina boys, and the Winthrop girls, and the deaf and blind boys and girls of Cedar Springs, and the negro students in the State College at Orangeburg. And if we create a commissioner of prohibition, then why not a commissioner to enforce any other set of special laws, murder, larceny, adultery, etc. What have we got sheriffs, and constables, and policemen for?

Johnson and Mellett and Senator DuRant have all been at their posts the past week. Mr. Johnson has introduced two measures, one in relation to the cattle tick land, which I have not yet had an opportunity to read, and the other to reduce the time from ten days to three days in which persons who sell property under lien may pay the debt into the clerk of court's office.

Mr. DuRant has a number of measures over in the Senate, and his one quart liquor bill is giving him much notoriety. Mellett is watching and listening and voting against extravagant spending the peoples' money, and has not introduced any bill as yet, and I guess he is as wise as any of us.

J. H. Lesesne.

## DRY CONVENTION PASS RESOLUTION

Columbia, Jan. 30.—A resolution urging the legislature to enact a rigid prohibition measure was adopted at the state convention of prohibitionists held here tonight and will be presented to the general assembly tomorrow. Former State Senator Carlisle, of Spartanburg, presided. Mrs. E. E. Howell, president of the Women's Christian Temperance union, of Florence, presented a petition, and in an address urged an airtight measure, and the inhibition of all liquor advertisements. There were many speeches. Mr. John F. Bolt, of Marlboro, made an argument in favor of statewide prohibition. Mayor Olin Sawyer, of Georgetown, and Col. J. P. Gibson, of Bennettsville, urged that now was the time for decisive action.

Senator DuRant, of Clarendon, spoke in favor of his quart-a-month bill, but the assemblage seemed to want immediate cessation of liquor shipments. The addresses of Dr. Sawyer and Col. Gibson were eloquent presentations of the prohibition propaganda, and were liberally applauded.

It is stated by one who made a count that 28 counties were represented.

How the prohibitionists in the legislature will get together among themselves is now the question. Some of their strongest advocates being in favor of a gradual reduction in amount allowed to be shipped into the state, and tonight's convention, called by the superintendent of the Anti-Saloon league, Mr. J. K. Breedin, having declared in favor of a "bone-dry" measure, the question is higher "up in the air" than ever, especially in view of the fact that the DuRant quart bill has a favorable committee report in the senate.

Another feature of the whole proposition is that the most "airtight" measure yet proposed at this session is by Mr. Richey, of Laurens, a supporter of former Governor Bleas.

Still another feature of the liquor situation as it appears tonight is the bombshell thrown into the camp of the prohibitionists by the majority favorable report submitted upon the Fromberg measure for a license system in Charleston for light wines and beers.

As a result of the prohibition convention tonight, and of various committee reports in the legislature, and of no decisive legislative action so far, the entire situation is still very vague, and nobody knows what is going to happen.

## BREMEN WITH DEUTSCHLAND IN BRITISH HARBOR

Nordsud Agency Makes Definite Statement of Their Capture—Koenig and Crew in Scotland Camp.

New York, Jan. 30.—Both the Deutschland and the Bremen, the two German submarine liners, have been captured by the British and now are in the port of Rosyth, England, and Captain Paul Koenig, commander of the Deutschland, and his entire crew, are in a detention camp in Scotland, according to a statement given out tonight by the Nordsud Agency on information said to have been obtained from a source close to the British consulate in New York.

The Nordsud Agency, which has a recognized standing with the Russian government and which received a special government cable from Petrograd, refused to give the exact source or authority upon which the statement is based. The Nordsud Agency's statement follows:

"By a source closely identified with the British consulates in New York it was definitely stated today that the German merchant submarine Deutschland had been netted by the British and was now in Rosyth, England, lying beside her sister submarine, the Bremen.

"It was further definitely stated that Captain Koenig and his entire crew had survived and that they are all now interned in a detention camp in Scotland.

"It is further definitely stated that the British admiralty intends to permit the British public to view those two German submarines, together with other U-boats captured, for a shilling apiece, beginning March 1, 1917.

"Among the officers on the Deutschland when she was brought into the British port were Krapohl, the first officer, and Eyring, second officer, who, is developed, was second officer of the German raider Karlsruhe before she was sunk in the West Indies."

## WAREHOUSEMAN R. D. GOTHAN THINKS TOBACCO WILL BRING HIGH PRICES THIS YEAR

Prices in Kentucky Have Been the Highest Ever Known—Tobacco Firms Are Buying Heavy, Especially of the Export Crop—Advises Care in Planting Crop

Maysville, Ky., Jan. 22, 1917.

Editor Manning Times,

My dear Editor: I get The Times out here the last of each week, I read your paper with a great deal of interest, in fact I even read the advertisements. I am 628 miles from home and I get awful lonesome for home and home news. I also get the News and Courier which I read with a great deal of interest to myself, and especially at this time of year when the South Carolina Legislature is in session.

I read Governor Manning's Inaugural address with a great deal of interest. I am proud of our Chief Executive. I heartily agree with him in his ideas for progressive legislation and especially do I like and commend him for advocating the bi-annual sessions of the General Assembly. I certainly think he is right in what he stated in part as keeping our people in a state of unrest all the time. And too the flames of political strife are kept burning. I also note that a bill has been introduced over in the House, I believe it was, to create a high-way commission for South Carolina. I think this a capital idea and I hope this bill will be passed, and we will thus be enabled to get Federal assistance, we can then also take the \$60,000.00 that will be saved annually and apply it to the high-ways of our state. This can be appropriated among the several counties in the state or expended jointly in whatever way the commission appointed might deem to the best interest of the state.

I am glad Mr. J. H. Lesesne is fathering a bill for a constitutional convention. It will be needed in order to get some things through that South Carolina is very much in need of.

Let us hope that the South Carolina Legislature has opened its eyes to the best interests of its citizenship, and that she will line up with other progressive states like a good many of her sister states, let us hope that our representatives will pull together for a better state.

As I see it we cannot afford to be mere dreamers, we must bestir ourselves, get together and line up for a better future and a greater South Carolina, we need reforms and it is to be hoped this legislature will carry out Gov. Manning's ideas.

I did not start out to write a political letter but my heart is thoroughly wrapped up in the welfare of South Carolina, and as we are free in America to express our ideas I have thus given my approval of some of the things that are being advocated, and at the same time have exercised my own privilege in a small way by having made a few needed suggestions as I see them.

I will now write briefly what I have set out to write about. I came here the last of December, I found the tobacco market in full sway. Tobacco prices for the quality are the best I have ever known, the common grades that sold last year from two to six dollars per hundred are now bringing from twelve to fifteen dollars per hundred, and this is the worst, greenest types of tobacco. The market is averaging around 18c, this beats 1913 by about \$6.00 per hundred.

The farmers here have worlds of money as they have a big, heavy crop. Kentucky is certainly the best state as she has many other crops aside from tobacco and they are all selling high, such as hemp, corn, wheat, and other grain products. She

## GREEKS SALUTE FLAGS OF ALLIES

London, Jan. 29.—The ceremony of saluting the Entente Allies' flags by Greece was carried out Monday afternoon in the Zappeion in accordance with the arrangements recently entered into between the Greek Government and the Entente Powers, says a Reuter dispatch from Athens. The Allied ministers, the commander of the First Army Corps and the members of the Greek Cabinet were present. The general public was excluded from the building. No untoward incident occurred.

is also blest with a good sheep, cattle, hog, horse, and mule crop. Hogs are worth at this writing \$11.35 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The readers of the Manning Times will recall that I wrote an article some time ago from Winston Salem, North Carolina in which I stated that this was the best time the farmer had ever known. As I see it the farmers' opportunities now for making money are the greatest in the history of this country.

I have very recently read an article in which the farm products of America for 1916 were quoted as being more than \$13,000,000,000.00, this exceeds the entire output for 1915 by about \$3,000,000,000.00.

This is a wonderful country in which we live, and one that certainly should make the farmer get up earlier this year than ever before, you have an optimistic outlook for everything that you can grow upon the farm. I expect to see the truck growers of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reap a harvest this spring. Plant you some early truck, you will find a splendid market in the North for same. I wrote this some time ago but it is worth repeating.

Now going back to tobacco, be certain and plant what you can cultivate. I expect to see it sell high. I give the following reasons: the world is short in its supply of tobaccos, and especially export types which we grow in South Carolina. The Big Four are largely buying the Kentucky crop. They also bought the North Carolina and Virginia crops. The independent buyers and exporters are open for purchases of export types of tobaccos. You will see them well represented on the South Carolina markets next summer. In my judgment they are going to make things hum. Try your level best to make a good color crop of tobacco, and if you do I feel certain you will be highly pleased with the prices that will be paid you next summer. Let me repeat that tobaccos are selling higher than I ever saw them sell on an average in my 20 years' experience as a Leaf Tobaccoist. We have not sold as much tobacco this week as we would have sold had not about 18 inches of snow wrapped us up about eight days ago.

We have had lots of zero weather of late, I put on my heavy overcoat and rubbers over my shoes and go down to the warehouses clad like an Eskimo or Laplander. It is so different from our sunny South Carolina where I sell tobacco for the boys and try to get by with as few clothes as possible.

The farmers for the last week have been bringing their tobacco to market on two horse sleds or drags made in wagon shape without wheels, this device slides along on the snow. It is raining today and the snow is melting very fast. The Ohio River is rising rapidly. We are expecting about 65 feet of water, which is a very common spell for this big branch or creek which ever you choose to call it, to pull off at this time of year. The river is 600 yards wide at this point, and is moving peacefully along to join her big ally, the father of waters, the Mississippi, farther South.

With best wishes for all my friends in Clarendon county and South Carolina, as a whole, I am still the tobacco man who sweats and pulls hard for the boys down at the Central Tobacco Warehouse located in Manning, South Carolina.

Yours very respectfully,  
R. D. Cothran.

## Leave Villa's Standards.

San Antonio, Jan. 29.—That Jose Inez Salazar and 1,500 men have deserted Villa because of a quarrel with him over the division of spoils taken at Torreon, is the substance of advice received by the Mexican consulate here today.

Salazar is said to have led Villa's army against Torreon, Villa being unable to lead in person because of a wound received at Guerrero.

The consulate also was advised that Salazar has asked amnesty of the Constitutionalists.