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MR. J. J. CANTEY GIVES NEWS AND VIEWS

Editor of The Manning Times:

It has been quite a long time since I have taken the liberty of sending a letter to your paper, but since Summerton takes up very little space in your valuable weekly during these days, I hope you will permit me to say a few words upon the subject of lawlessness, which seems to prevail in our County. In the first place, much ade is being made these days about the enforcement of the stock law in the various counties and quite recently Georgetown was placed among the civilized counties, because she had voted out the free-range and had voted in the enforcement of the so-called stock law. Now, Clarendon County, is under the provisions of the stock law and every good citizen of Clarendon is supposed to keep his stock, including cows and hogs, fenced off the public, but as a matter of fact, very few people in Clarendon County fence in their stock during the entire year, and just now, Clarendon County is practically a free range. Some of my farmer friends are daily complaining about their inability to get a stand of oats or wheat, on account of the numerous hungry hogs and cows, which just now are prowling all over the County like thieves in the night, and finally, the little town of Summerton is practically like unto a cowpe, where cows walk up and down the streets and make them practically impassable for children and ladies, to say nothing of the terrible odor which permeates the community, on account of these perambulating cows and hogs.

Then, again, take the fence law of the State and you will find that this law is violated by so-called good citizens with impunity. The law provides that no barb-wire fence shall be erected within twenty feet of the public highway, yet the barbwire fence by the side of the public highway is a common nuisance in Clarendon county. The truth of the matter is, we have citizens in Summerton who defy public sentiment in this matter and regularly maintain barbwire fences immediately up against the public streets or the public highways, and the Mayor and the Magistrate and other officers of the law do absolutely nothing in the direction of law enforcement in this respect.

It is criminal negligence in South Carolina for anyone to carelessly or negligently start a fire, but Clarendon County during the past few months has been burned practically all over, and certainly the officers of the County could have discovered some criminal along this line, when an immense fire can be seen somewhere in the County on almost any day.

Most of these fires have been started intentionally, thinking the boll-woevil would be destroyed thereby, but that is no excuse for a plain violation of the law of South Carolina.

Now, Mr. Editor, The Grand Jury for Clarendon County, will convene in the next few weeks and I hope to see this matter of law violation taken up by the said Grand Jury. Every citizen who allows his stock to run at large in plain violation of the law, and every citizen who erects a barb-wire fence in close proximity to a street or public highway, and every citizen who negligently starts a fire, and every Magistrate and town Mayor and Sheriff who negligently fails to enforce the provisions of the law, should be indicted by the Grand Jury.

Yours truly,
J. J. Cantey.

ARMY DESERTERS REMAIN IN PARIS

Paris, Jan. 18.—One thousand deserters from the American army still remain in and around Paris according to official announcement. Many of the deserters are without domiciles and are experiencing such financial embarrassment that, according to the French police they have resorted to misdemeanors such as petty thieving and larcenies in order to procure the means of subsistence. The situation is such that the French authorities are planning a general raid. A dragnet will be thrown out for the arrest of all persons wearing American uniform who are not supplied with proper credentials and leaves of absence.

Lieut. Col. C. Bently Mott military attache at the American embassy, has been authorized by the War Department to hold a court-martial on any American soldier arrested. Many of these American soldiers have suddenly found themselves unable to move about the country because the railway, by permission of the French government are now charging full fare for uniformed men instead of one-fourth the regular rate as formerly. The fare regulation also affects soldiers in the occupational zone at Coblenz, from which place the number of soldiers visiting Paris monthly totalled over 500.

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