

**The County Record.**

KINGSTREE, S. C.

THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 1916.

**Why Are Prices Soaring?**

With the price of wheat, flour, corn and many other articles that form the basis of food supplies in the United States lower in Europe than in the United States this one question is very pertinent: "What is the cause of these enormously high prices at home?" In the face of the fact that wheat and flour are selling in the European war countries, Germany excepted, for less money than is being asked for it here at home it cannot be truthfully claimed that the demand for our product by the war stricken countries is the real cause, because it is not plausible that our people would send their food products, the very staff of life, to Europe to be sold at a lower price than they could get for them in the home markets. The United States Government made an investigation as to the prices prevailing in Europe and the above conditions were found to exist.

The New York Evening World makes this editorial complaint:

The high cost of nearly everything a family needs has become a matter of nation-wide comment and alarm. Latest reports show that meat, vegetables and dairy foods are nearing prices on an average twice as high as a year ago. Potatoes cost three times as much. Flour has advanced 60 per cent. The price of onions has doubled. Butter sells 12 per cent and cheese 23 per cent higher. Even the lowly cabbage that sold for 66 cents per barrel a year ago is now quoted at \$3.

What this means to family budgets needs no demonstrating. Housekeepers everywhere are complaining that a five dollar bill buys scarcely more than half the provisions it bought this time last year.

Where is it to end? It is true wages in some quarters have gone up. But the vast majority of American families of modest means have had no addition to their incomes.

Is it the war? And if so, how? This country produces plenty of food for its own needs and that food under ordinary circumstances can be sold at normal prices. What is this "war price" plea so frequently and loosely offered? Are Americans being cheated out of enormous quantities of their own food products in order that somebody may harvest huge profits abroad? Or is there a gigantic conspiracy on the part of producers, wholesalers and retailers, to capitalize the troubled state of the world and get what they can out of the American consumer?

Everywhere anxiety is growing to have these questions answered. The rising cost of American food in America is rapidly becoming a matter of national moment. It calls for deep and thorough probing by the highest authority and intelligence the nation can bring to the job.

**Push for Your County Fair.**

Let every true son and daughter of old Williamsburg put a shoulder to the wheel and push for your County Fair. If there are any who don't want to push let them get in harness, hitch themselves to the pole and PULL this great county festival to the very summit of success. Dispel, immediately, any feeling of doubt or "blues" that may possess you as a result of the destructive work wrought by the summer's storm, and make up your mind that you are going to have a good big time from November 8 to 11, shaking hands with friends and mingling with fellow citizens of the county on the fair grounds at Kingstree. And, further, that you are going to be treated to some of the most pleasing, interesting and instructive features that it is possible to obtain. A first class carnival will be there, and a number of free attractions each day and night—all combining to make our citizens oblivious, for a time, to the cares of business and the sting of adversity.

The heads of the various departments are earnestly urging co-operation on the part of all citizens who

have the welfare of their grand old county at heart, and we feel justified in making the prediction that we are going to have a bigger and better fair this fall than last, regardless of adverse circumstances.

**Was It the Bremen?**

We are inclined to believe that the long expected Bremen, supposed to be a sister ship of the Deutschland, made its appearance at Newport, R I, last Saturday in the form of the German submarine U-53 and emphasized the fact of its presence in American waters Sunday by torpedoing six merchant vessels belonging to enemy countries. Either this or there was a fleet of German submarines off Nantucket with a tender or supply ship not far off. It is our belief that the ordinary war type of the German submarine could not make a voyage from a German to an American port unattended.

Again, it is probable that the German Government built and sent the Deutschland out on a voyage to the United States as an experiment, then seeing that this particular type of submarine made the trip successfully, the Bremen was armed and dispatched on a mission of destruction instead of being sent as a commerce carrier.

The Annual State Fair and Harvest Jubilee will open on the 23d of this month, continuing through the 27th. Judging from current reports concerning the festival of fun and frolic, the management is making greater preparations than ever before for the entertainment of the visitors. It will be a gala week in the Capital City, and every citizen of the State who can spare the time and the "wherewith" without detriment to his own county fair should attend this great show of the State's finest and fairest products.

**Brevities from Bethel.**

Bethel, October 9:—Perhaps some people think that Bethel is dead, but that's not true. Come and visit us and we will show you what we are doing. Of course some of our boys and girls are married, or off employed elsewhere; but that's all right, there are some left here still.

Messrs Daniel and Letcher McElveen visited friends at Union Sunday afternoon.

Mr Mott McGill of Kingstree visited a friend in this community Sunday afternoon.

Mr and Mrs G W Burgess spent Friday and Saturday with their daughter, Mrs Dave Cole, at Seloc.

Mr Hardy McElveen of Kingstree spent Sunday with his parents, Mr and Mrs R C McElveen.

Messrs Bart and Eugene Burgess visited relatives and friends in Lake City Saturday night and Sunday.

Miss Allie Burgess was called to the bedside of her sister, Mrs Luther McFaddin, in Olanta, last week. We hope for her a speedy recovery.

Messrs Letcher McElveen and Reoce Wilson attended the picnic at Oak Dale Saturday afternoon.

Mr Daniel McElveen and sister, Miss Jessie, attended preaching at Hebron Tuesday night.

The delegates that were appointed to attend the Sunday-school convention at Pergamos on the 28th inst are Mrs W A Cooper, Miss Poss Epps and Messrs H J Burgess and Ira Epps.

Rev D M Clark will fill his regular appointment here Sunday. Sunday-school at 10:30, preaching at 11:30.

Messrs J V and J D Burgess and Daniel McElveen went to Lake City Saturday on business.

Prayer meeting will be held at Bethel Sunday night at 7:30. We hope to see a large congregation, as we desire everyone to take an interest in it.

We are sorry to hear that our school will not open until the 27th inst, as our teacher has been in a hospital at Charleston for about two weeks. She was operated on for appendicitis. We hope she will soon be restored to health. TIPTOP.

I am now engaged in the Coffin and Casket business. Calls promptly answered at all hours, day or night. Phones—Office, 17; residence, 91. 10-12-tf P S COURTNEY.

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**NEGRO STUDENTS  
HEAR C L BLEASE.****SOME ALUMNI HAD OBJECTED  
BECAUSE OF MR BLEASE'S LANGUAGE REGARDING NEGROES.**

Cole L Blease was the chief speaker yesterday at the opening exercises of Allen university, a large negro school in Columbia, despite the protest of Tuesday morning by alumni and former students, who petitioned President Manse and the faculty that the invitation be withdrawn, "as it will greatly embarrass our wives and daughters to have ex-Gov Blease speak to them, since he has spoken so harshly in the courts and on the stump against the virtues of the negro women and the respect and decency of negroes in general."

Mr Blease made no direct reference in his speech to this petition, but the Rev W D Chappelle, D D, bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal church in this State, who introduced the ex-Governor as "the strongest white man in the State of South Carolina" and one whose pardoning record had removed all sting in things "said on the stump," was somewhat scathing in his denunciation of those who presumed "to dictate the policies of a great church." "Who are they, anyway?" Chappelle asked. Then in answer to his own query he remarked, "They aren't known outside of their own backyard." The harsh things said on the stump, the bishop observed, were only to tickle the ears of the voters and thereby gain their support.

Ten minutes were consumed by Bishop Chappelle in his speech of introduction, generously seasoned with superlatives.

In asking the ex-Governor, he had sought, he said, to get the strongest man in the State. He had gone carefully over the records, careers and deeds of all the Governors of South Carolina, and Mr Blease, he said, easily held first rank. Several pardon cases, where the former Governor "by a single stroke of the pen set that negro free," were cited. One of these was that of a 14 year old negro boy sent up for life. The congressional controversy between the negro, George Washington Murray, of Sumter and a white man, Col Moise, of the same district, was also reviewed by the bishop in all its ramifications. Later in his speech Mr Blease reminded the bishop that it was he (Mr Blease) who had made Murray the Congressman from this State instead of the white man. Mr Blease was then a member of the canvassing board and cast the deciding vote. "If I had got justice three weeks ago and if the board had been as honest," he said yesterday, "I would be the next Governor of South Carolina." He had always sought, he said, to do justice to the negro, regardless of his color.

Much speculation had been engaged in by the negroes themselves as to the character of speech Mr Blease would deliver, but the speaker throughout his discourse spoke guardedly and with moderation. He said he had been misunderstood by the negroes, whom he greeted as "my friends." In politics he had always urged that taxes negroes paid should go to the support of negro schools. School boards, he said, chiseled the negroes out of their just proportion when making apportionment for the schools of the two races. Christian citizenship was earnestly commended to the students of the school. "I don't make much profession myself. I have been so hounded, vilified and abused that I often go by my own church, refusing to enter, because I know that there are hypocrites and scoundrels at the communion table, who are a disgrace to God Almighty." The students were told to "aim high, tell the truth and to attain the ends of a worthy ambition honestly," and not by slipping books under the desks in the examination room or copying information from their cuffs.

Referring to the sentiment in the petition, by inference, Mr Blease said he had never insulted "a colored girl." "I have never wronged any woman, white or black. Neither have I spoken a word of slander

against any woman." A slanderer was denounced as "a most contemptible cur."

The ex-Governor's attitude toward convicts was somewhat enlarged upon. He sometimes thought, he said, that all penitentiaries, jails and court houses might be abolished. What was the use of these and the church too, he asked his audience, that applauded his words with increasing volume, and punctured the unfinished sentences often with confirmation comment. An overruling Providence was held up as the mighty avenger of all wrongs, both political and spiritual, and certain political controversies were enumerated to sustain this assertion, the names of those wronged being tactfully withheld.

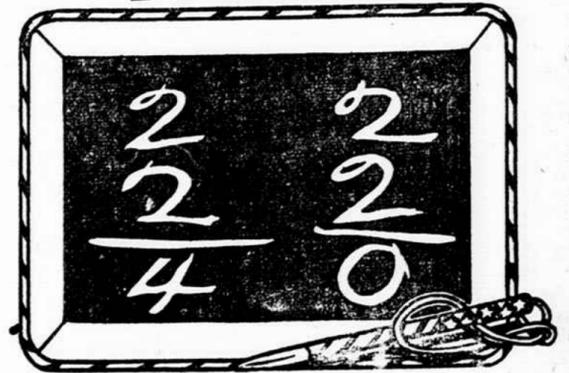
In urging that the negro students hitch their wagons to a star, the race, just up from slavery, was cordially commended for its entrance into professions and the varied phases of commercial life. "You are coming into higher things," they were told. "They can't hold you back despite what I or any other man may say," he said while the auditorium roared with cheers of approval.

B W Mance, president of the university, was reared in Newberry county, and the Newberry negro was the choice of Mr Blease to head the State negro college at Orangeburg, when an attempt was made to oust Miller, the president of that institution, during the Blease administration. Mance himself took occasion at the conclusion of Mr Blease's speech to deliver another laudatory speech in which he recalled the early efforts of Mr Blease at the Newberry bar, "when Cromer and Johnstone and Schumpert and Welch and the late lamented Pope were the giants in the legal profession there." These had dwindled into the proportions of "mere pygmies" in comparison with Mr Blease, before Mr Blease was elevated to the Governor's chair, Mance argued. The president of the school commended the examples of Mr Blease and Bishop Chappelle to the students as worthy of emulation. Both, he said, were known throughout the United States and it was only through their zeal and adherence to worthy purposes that they had been enabled to carve their way through untoward circumstances. — *The State.*

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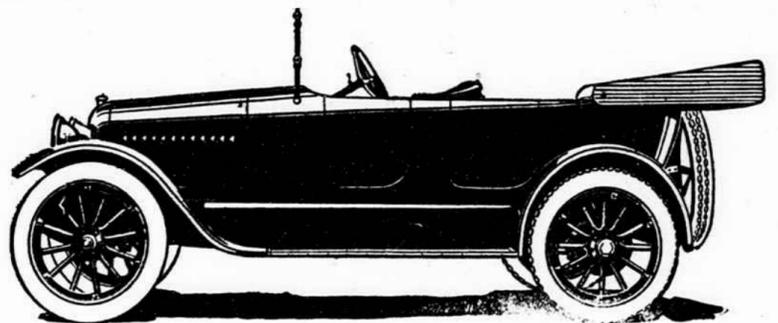
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