

The Watchman and Southron.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1891.

SUB-TREASURY.

We publish this week another letter from Mr. W. J. Rees, on the sub-treasury, in that spirit of fairness which we think should characterize a newspaper, and while we do not agree with Mr. Rees' views, he is entitled to express them, and we are pleased with the spirit in which he writes, only he must not find fault with our printer for printing "his" instead of "our" as the word, as written, looks more like the former than the latter.

The question seems to us to be such a weighty one that it would require more extended discussion both in the newspapers of the country and on the stump than some of its advocates seem to imagine. The attention of Congress could be engaged, perhaps profitably, for several days in debating it and we are inclined to believe that it will be a very long time before so radical a change in the management of the financial affairs of the government can be made. Nor are we sure that the farmers are, or ever will be united in this scheme.

As showing what an Alliance man—and a prominent and able one at that—thinks of the sub-treasury scheme, the following extract is given:

"The managers of the People's party in Missouri are making efforts to have the Cincinnati platform endorsed by the Farmers' Alliance of that State at the next State meeting. Mr. U. S. Hall, president of the Missouri Alliance, and a strong opponent of the sub-treasury plan, which is the chief principle of the third party boomers, has notified the members so that they may choose delegates who will represent their opinions as to the expediency of joining the third party and supporting the sub-treasury bill. He does not mention the name of the People's party, but declares his opinion, 'formed from an intimate acquaintance with our order for several years, that our usefulness is at an end whenever we violate that principle of our constitution which declares that our order is and shall be a non-partisan one.'

In regard to the sub-treasury bill, Mr. Hall avers that "whenever we so far forget our Alliance 'golden rule,' which declares that we are for equal rights to all and special favors to none, as to advocate that special favors be granted to the raisers of wheat, corn, oats, cotton, and tobacco, that cannot be granted to the million of equally deserving hard laboring poor of our land, we then declare to the world that our noble order is not complaining of the robbing of our government by class legislation, but that we are complaining because we are not among the robbers."

Mr. Hall had the good sense and the courage to oppose the sub treasury bill at the Ocala convention. "I am," he said, "uncompromisingly opposed to this scheme, for the following reasons: First, it is in violation of the constitution of the United States; secondly, it is subversive of, and directly opposed to, the constitution, principles, and demands of our own order; thirdly, it is unjust and inequitable; fourthly, it is very extravagant; fifthly, it would bring ruin to the farmers of our country and to all other classes of business; sixthly, it will drive, and is now having, the effect of drawing the minds of farmers and other laborers of our country from the greatest curse of the age, class legislation; and, if adopted, it will commit us to that principle which will fasten these curses upon us for all time."

Governor Taylor, of Tennessee, who has always had the reputation of being a statesman and a friend of the farmers, makes the following observations in respect to the sub-treasury:

"The workmen of the nation ought not to be blamed for organizing for their own mutual benefit and protection. The ill-effects of the soil should not be condemned for allying themselves together for the purpose of influencing public policy and forcing better prices for the products of their sweat and toil; because the capital that buys their products and hires their labor is thoroughly organized. But all this stir and commotion, and all combination and solidification of the producers will right no wrong, nor will it achieve ultimate success, unless the movements are properly directed. It would be like an unorganized army, without either arms or ammunition, or plan of battle rushing blindly into the conflict, without any possibility of triumph.

"There is only one banner under which the workingmen can ever hope to win success in this great struggle for their rights and liberties.

"Upon its simple folds are written, in letters which have only grown brighter in the struggles of a hundred years: Equal rights to all, special privileges to none. The right of every citizen to trade anywhere in this wide world, and, under certain just conditions, to have the privilege to sell where he can sell for the highest price, and buy where he can buy the cheapest; taxation to pay the expenses of the Government alone, and all its legitimate obligations, no more, no less, and the burdens of the taxation to rest heaviest upon the rich and lightest upon the poor; free coinage of silver, the people's money, the poor man's friend; local self-government of the State, free from force bills and bayonets; protection of labor and capital alike, the encouragement of agriculture not by tariffing it to death, but by the regulation of transportation by land, and opening the blockades upon the high seas, giving it the right to exchange its products with every nation in the world, the encouragement of all the industries, with parity to none; the enlightenment of the people, and the distribution of the blessings of liberty and good government for the happiness of all, making every home the castle and palace of a prince, and every citizen a sovereign—this is the Democratic creed.

"Now, what does the Alliance propose to do? What are the labor unions going to do? What flag do they propose to follow to reach the end which they so eagerly desire, and which they seem so determined to achieve? Will they divide up into factions and each faction have its own separate party? Will the farmers of America hoist a new flag, can they hope to carry the country with the sub-treasury battle cry? Let them remember the history of the past. They are not wiser than Jefferson. The grand principles laid down by him are the most practical and the best. The sub-treasury scheme is a serpent in the basket of flowers, which will sting and destroy this great Alliance movement. It is attractive and beautiful, but there is deadly poison lying concealed and coiled within. It is undemocratic. It is unwise. It is wrong—wrong in policy and wrong in principle. The Government cannot be both merchant and banker for the people. It can only protect them with wholesome laws. It can only shield them from overtaxation and tyranny. But it can never go into partnership with them or become general mortgagee of lands, tenements, hereditaments, pumpkins and jackasses. Our Government has no money to loan. It ought not to have a dollar for that purpose, for every golden eagle in its treasury which is a surplus above the amount necessary to expend in the payment of its debts, and to defray its expenses and reasonably provide for contingencies, represents that much of overtaxation of the people. Let the Solomon give us a policy that will get the farmers out of debt, instead of their sub-treasury policy, the logical result of which would be to plunge them deeper in debt. Let the stalwart Alliance men and labor union men fall into the ranks of Democracy and help us cut the tariff to a revenue basis, and increase the volume of our currency, and force free coinage of silver, and curtail extravagant expenditures of the public money, and break the necks of billion-dollar Congresses, and dismember and destroy the Republican party for ever. Let our Republican representatives, both in the Cabinet and in the Congress be taught that this is a Democratic-Republican Government, and not an aristocracy. Then we will have better times.

We take this occasion to say to Mr. Rees that we read everything that comes along pertaining to sub-treasury literature, and as our own views do not seem to meet his approbation, we give him those also of men who are practiced financiers—members of the farmers alliance, and others who have been tried in the severe school of experience, and who have studied the question deeper than Terrell and ourselves.

We are at a loss to know by what process of reasoning Mr. Rees, in his former sub-treasury letter, arrives at the conclusion that a special security, such as that contemplated by the bill, is "better than United States bonds." How can he reconcile with reason such a proposition that a bill of sale of bushels of corn and oats, wheat and rye, perishing and perishable property, is a safer and better security than the bonds, which represent the general credit of the greatest government of the world?

The Farmers' Alliance is not by any means a unit in its support of the sub-treasury plan. In spite of the fact that this plan was endorsed by the Ocala Convention and is a part of what is known as the "Ocala Platform," the Prairie Dell Alliance of Texas recently adopted the following resolution: "Resolved that we are unalterably opposed to a third party created in the Alliance, are opposed to the sub-treasury scheme, and condemn the course of the Alliance leaders, be they high or low, who would use the Alliance to advance these purposes." It is evident, we think, that the members of the Alliance are beginning to follow their own convictions of right and duty. Being intelligent and patriotic men there is no reason why they should obey the lash of any of their so-called leaders.—News and Courier.

THE THACKSTON JOB.

On June 4th W. J. Thackston, Chief Clerk in the office of the Superintendent of Education, sent out circular letters to the School Commissioners of the several counties of the State, informing them that the State Board of Examiners at their meeting in April made the Palmetto Journal, of which said Thackston is editor, the official means of communication between the trustees and the department of education. Mr. Thackston also enclosed a letter to be returned to him by the commissioners, in substance as follows: "The State Board with ourselves most earnestly desire that every trustee should receive the Journal, and by resolution of the State Board (Italics ours) trustees are authorized to subscribe for the same and issue an order on the County Treasurer in payment for same. Enclosed you will find claim partially filed out for the three (3) trustees of your district. Have these claims signed by your board and return them to me in order that your name may be forwarded to the State Superintendent and have your names put on the mailing list of the Journal. Very truly,

The assertion that the State Board of Trustees had passed a resolution authorizing a perversion of the public funds it will be seen does not proceed directly from Thackston. It was put into the mouths of the county school commissioners to say also. If such a resolution had been passed by the State Board it would be very hard for them to set themselves right about it, and as some of the papers say, it would look very much like deception and jiggery. It compels the taking of three copies of the Palmetto State Journal in every school district of the State at the expense of the tax payers, and the money goes into the pockets of Mr. Thackston individually, or Mr. Thackston and his backers. It is estimated that the sum thus proposed to be drawn from the county treasuries will amount to from \$3,000 to \$5,000 annually.

The whole matter has been very seriously and justly criticized by the press, and it has been discovered that the only resolution passed by the board was that the board endorse the Palmetto School Journal as the official organ of the board. Nothing whatsoever was said about compensation. Mr. Thackston, after having been repeatedly called upon, says at last that he had mistaken the meaning of the resolution of the State Board of Examiners concerning the Palmetto Journal. It seems passing strange that Mr. Thackston, occupying the position he does as Chief Clerk in the Department of Education—the custodian of the papers and proceedings themselves—could have made such a mistake, in a matter, too, of such large pecuniary interest to himself. However, it is said he is preparing a fuller statement, and we will defer any extended remarks until it appears. It is very late in the coming, though, and we are inclined to think will not help him much in the face of the facts against him.

TILLMAN'S TARANTULA.

We often wonder if Governor Tillman is ever troubled by the pangs of conscience. If he has one it seems to us by this time he must have felt its poignant sting, like that of the insect Tarantula, we believe, that is said to make one dance. Certainly Governor Tillman has the personal right to accept a free pass or any other courtesy tendered to him by the railroads or other corporations. It is a courtesy voluntarily offered, and he has the privilege and right to refuse or accept such courtesy. He has no right and no shadow of excuse for saying that other people who exercise the same right and privilege have been bamboozled and debauched. Evil to him who evil thinks is the adage. He thought evil of others for doing what he has himself done. After charging some of our purest and best men with debauchery, rotteness, corruption, etc., and citing this free pass system as evidence of it, he deliberately accepts them himself. What must the people think of him when they make up their judgment about this. Governor Tillman could not know the motives of the men, or what was in their mind; at the time of acceptance of such courtesies. He judged them as he had no right to do, and by the act alone. By the same will be judged. We have imagined all along that Governor Tillman was the chief executive of the State, and certainly that he considered himself as such. We further supposed that the people would look up to him as an example.

W. J. REES ON THE SUB-TREASURY.

STATEBURG, S. C., June 19, 1891. To the Editor of the W. & S.: I thank you for the argument (?) you condescended to make for the sub-treasury, even if it is the same and almost only one, its opponents do make use of. And it would be a "knock-down" one if the endorsers of the "scheme" did not hope that it would be more far-reaching in its effect on business than you seem to apprehend. In the first place, as I understand it, they think that the fluctuation in the prices of the absolute needs of life, is one of the greatest evils of its necessity and hope that by enabling producers to transfer their values to their creditors at a higher rate than it has cost to produce them, that the natural tendency of the market will be to be born of human want while these goods are in the hands of the producers and not after they have passed into those of the speculators. While we who are thousands of people, poor and starting, all over this country and Europe, because out of employment, it is hard to believe that there can be such an over production of these absolute needs of life, as to cause a fluctuation of twenty per cent. in a few months. While, without which the world could go on forever and not a man suffer a real pang of hunger or cold, never fluctuates enough for the government, not to feel perfectly losing its power to promise to pay on it. Of course it is natural to look for relief in a reduction of the tariff, but even with free trade with the world, or a tariff so low as almost to amount to that, it is also reasonable to fear that the holders of the money bags could still regulate prices. The farmers, therefore, are starting at the top, and if I have any conception of the bottom floor, bursting every party to atoms that does not meet their just demands, and tossing politicians and the paid editors of self-interest corporations, as a cyclone would pile of shreds, when found in the path of obstruction. Another thing about the sub-treasury: farmers when placing produce in the government warehouses expect to be able to receive their money at once, without their pleasure, and it is not likely that they would put it there at all, with cotton at ten cents and other things in proportion. And it is not supposed that speculators will care to buy the produce of the healthy demand for the produce makes it bring a fair price. You ask "what is easier than for the money kings to produce a scarcity of money?" I answer, nothing under present conditions, hence the great necessity for the sub-treasury. This is about the line of argument that I understood Terrell to use in favor of the sub-treasury and he begs his opponents to meet him in any other way to point out what they think his fallacies, and that certainly must be acknowledged to be the best way of finding the true solution of the whole question. Instead of that, it seems to me, he has met by nothing but the denunciation of the sub-treasury, screams about the dangers of a third party, etc., etc. Mr. Carlisle, of Kentucky, the other day in discussing Alliance demands, among other things asked if the people would be willing to have the government go into debt \$10,000,000,000 of dollars for R. R. property, and said what an awful load this would be to carry. Suppose he or any other man was offered property worth that or any other amount of credit, would he not be thought very foolish to refuse it, when he knew it would eventually pay for itself? Suppose a farmer was paying \$2 per acre rent for a place for place for ten thousand dollars, with a long time to pay for it, and he knows that its value, and he could expect reasonably to live and pay for it at about the rate he was paying per acre, do you think he would be willing to give up the government go into debt \$10,000,000,000 of dollars for R. R. property, and said what an awful load this would be to carry. Suppose he or any other man was offered property worth that or any other amount of credit, would he not be thought very foolish to refuse it, when he knew it would eventually pay for itself? Suppose a farmer was paying \$2 per acre rent for a place for place for ten thousand dollars, with a long time to pay for it, and he knows that its value, and he could expect reasonably to live and pay for it at about the rate he was paying per acre, do you think he would be willing to give up the government go into debt \$10,000,000,000 of dollars for R. 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