

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1898.

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.

Very little is now heard concerning the gubernatorial aspirations of Hon. George D. Tillman, which is strange indeed, for at one time he had a medium sized boom well under way. It is barely possible, however, that Col. Jim Tillman, who was managing his father's boom, has hid it out in the bushes until the war is over.

Sumter County has as fine representation in Company B (The Sumter Light Infantry) as any county in the State. Not a man who passed the examination flunked, nor was there a single desertion.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN COLUMBIA.

Columbia, May 23.—To day passed without any additional companies of the South Carolina regiment being mustered into service, and the situation in this respect remains unchanged. The Governor's Guards reported that the full complement of men necessary were enrolled and perhaps they would have been mustered in yesterday afternoon but for the fact that Capt. Fuller had gone on a brief visit to his family at Clemson College and there was no other officer with authority to administer the oath. Capt. Fuller will be back to-morrow, however, and if there are no other changes in the company before his return Capt. McCreery will have his men members of the regiment before to-morrow night.

The Governor's Guards, Bamberg Guards and the Palmetto Rifles are the only commands which are holding the regiment back, and there will be great relief in military as well as other circles when these companies are mustered in.

Major Thompson has been notified by Capt. Fuller that he will begin regular inspection Wednesday, and this means that everything about the camp will have to be in the best shape and order.

To-morrow Major Thompson will break camp at the fair grounds and move his battalion to the new location near Shandon. The site selected is near the trolley line, just in rear of the pavilion. There is plenty of good pure water, and Major Thompson thinks the site much preferable for many reasons to the present campground.

The battalion will be furnished with about 60 of the new tents, which the men will pitch, and by to-morrow evening Shandon will be wearing a very military air.

At 7 o'clock to-morrow afternoon Col. J. D. Blanding, one of the few veterans of the Mexican war who are still left in this State, will present a valued, highly prized and historic flag to Major Thompson's battalion. The flag belonged to the famous Palmetto regiment, which served so gallantly in the war against Mexico, and has been long in Col. Blanding's possession, he having been appointed its custodian by the Survivors association of the Mexican war.

This is not the flag under which the Palmetto regiment fought. That one was so tattered and torn by shot and shell that there was scarcely a shred of it left when the soldiers of the regiment—conquering heroes that they were—marched victoriously into the City of Mexico. Then it was that in recognition of its gallant fighting Gen. Winfield Scott presented this flag to the brave regiment from South Carolina. Since those days it has been prized as a rare treasure and guarded with jealous care, and this afternoon Col. Blanding will part with it and place it in Major Thompson's care. In no braver or truer hands could it be left, and that it will be guarded as jealously as it has been and kept as unscathed as when it first fluttered every one who knows Major Henry Thompson is fully assured. The spear which surmounts the flag is of solid silver and of beautiful design and workmanship, and is the same one that surmounted the old flag and went through the battles of Buena Vista, Cherubusco, Palo-Alto, Monterey and City of Mexico.

James Blanding Holman, of Sumter, has been appointed color sergeant of Major Thompson's battalion. He is a private in Company B (Sumter Light Infantry).

There came very near being a lynching in camp to-day about dinner time, and only the fleetness of the negro and the promptness of the officers prevented it. Jesse Bacham, one of the negro waiters, cursed a member of the Darlington Guards, and in a few moments the whole crowd was after him. He ran for his life, and succeeded in eluding his pursuers until the officers arrived, ordered the men to fall in, and Bacham was taken in charge by a guard and escorted to the camp, where he was in- to make himself scarce.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Climate and Crop Bulletin of the Weather Bureau, South Carolina Section.

For the Week Ending Monday, May 23, 1898.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 25

There was a steady high temperature throughout the entire week, with day temperatures ranging from 84 to 100, the latter occurring on the 21st at Hodges. The night temperatures were, for the first time this season during an entire week, entirely favorable for the development of crops, as they fell below 60 at one place only, viz: 54 on the 18th at Trial, and generally ranged between 62 and 74. The mean temperature of the State for the week was 79 and the normal for the same period is about 72.

Showers occurred on the 17th, 18th and 23rd, being widely scattered and generally light on the first two dates. On the 23rd good rains fell in Lexington, Greenwood and Greenville counties and light showers near the coast. Some rain was reported from 25 places, but only 9 reported measurements of 0.25 or more, with a maximum fall of 1.25 at Batesburg. The average for the State is 0.17 of an inch and the normal for the same period is approximately 0.38.

With few and limited exceptions rain is urgently needed over the entire State. Grain crops are threatened serious injury by a continuation of the dry weather until they ripen.

Minor field crops and gardens all need rain to start them growing, and even corn, and to a less extent cotton, need rain.

In the Southeastern and South Central counties all crops are parched, wells are going dry and streams are at an extremely low stage. The drought extends along the coast to Horry, while in Berkeley, Darlington and Marlboro counties frequent and beneficial showers occurred during the week.

There was about 80 per cent of the possible bright sunshine, the lowest percentage reported was 50; the highest 100.

The winds were generally light southwesterly, dry and parching and together with the bright sunshine and high temperature caused the surface of the ground to become very dry.

Hail occurred on the 18th in Aiken and Greenwood counties, in the latter the hail destroyed cotton along a narrow path. A severe hail storm occurred in the vicinity of Batesburg on the 22nd, but did little or no damage.

The high temperature and bright, warm sunshine had a decidedly favorable influence on the staple field crops causing a general improvement in condition.

Where showers occurred the improvement was particularly marked, although as has been stated, the need of rain is general and urgent over the entire State as the partial showers covered comparatively small areas.

Corn has made slow growth but improvement is noted in its general appearance as to color and stand, although the latter was damaged by cut worms on bottom lands, bud worms which are more numerous than for many years in York county, and wire worms particularly damaging in Chesterfield county. Owing to the dry condition of the soil, late planting is not coming up well, and much bottom land yet to plant, awaiting rain to put the ground in condition for planting. Corn is everywhere small for the season, but the fields are well cultivated. Rain is badly needed for corn.

Cotton has stopped dying except in a few localities and shows improvement during the week in color, stand and growth, although in the last respect the plant is not up to its usual size at this season. Stands, also, are generally below an average, with, however, exceptionally even and full stands noted in many localities. Late planting and replanted cotton coming up slowly owing to lack of moisture and crusted soil particularly on red lands and stiff, heavy soils. A few reports received of cotton fields having been plowed up and planted to corn. Chopping to stands has been completed in a few localities only, but made rapid progress, and was general in all portions of the State being generally from half to three-fourths finished. Fields are generally clean and well cultivated, although with grass noted in Kershaw, Edgefield and on new ground principally in Barnwell. Sea-Island cotton in a bad way for want of rain. Tobacco is growing nicely and where showers occurred in the tobacco district, a marked improvement in growth was noted. Over portions of this district more rain would be of benefit. Rice is growing well and, with the exception of some fields being grassy, is in a very satisfactory condition. Upland rice is, however, not doing so well and stands in urgent need of rain. Wheat continues promising, but would be helped by rain. Rust on blades exists quite extensively but to no harmful degree. Wheat is beginning to ripen and harvest will begin about the first of June. The second week of oats harvest has passed and yields continue up to, or above, an average. It is feared that the dry weather has injured oats in the west central counties, and that a continuation of the absence of rain until harvest time will materially affect the yield. Late and spring sown oats will in many places be complete failures, and they deteriorated everywhere during the week. Sweet-potato draws are generally plentiful with some reports to the contrary, but owing to the dry weather but few draws have as yet been set, and where it was done the sets were withered and killed. Irish potatoes need rain urgently in the eastern and southern counties and would be greatly benefited elsewhere. Where they have been dug the yield was small, except that in Barnwell county fair yields are the rule. Colorado beetles have appeared in large and destructive numbers in Newberry, Laurens and York counties. There is an improvement noted in melons, very marked in a few localities, but stands are far from satisfactory, while in Barnwell the area under cultivation is smaller than usual and the vines less promising. Peaches are doing well except in Pickens, where only sheltered trees bear any fruit. Blight on apple and pear trees seems to be on the increase. Grapes are very promising, and it may be said that this fruit seldom or never fails in this State where proper attention is given the vines. Plums are ripening, and appear plentiful, in the southern counties. Dew-berries on the market but berries small and inferior, owing to lack of rainfall. Raspberries and buckle-berries on the market in Florence. Straw-berries quite plentiful in the western counties. Gardens need rain badly. Pastures dry and parched. The favorable weather permitted farmers to do a full week's work, and they are now up to the requirements of the needs of the crops, with fields clean well cultivated.

THE BOARD OF LETHARGY.

What is Thought and Said of the Conduct of the War.

Washington, D. C., May 23, 1898.—Had the administration been as successful in bottling up that Spanish fleet, which is flitting around in Cuban waters, as it has been in bottling up every particle of interesting war news, the end of the war would be in sight. Of course everybody recognizes the necessity for keeping news of contemplated movements out of the newspapers, lest their publication should aid the enemy, but there is no good reason why this state of affairs should exist. Had every cable from Cuba been cut as soon as war was declared, and the same rigid censorship been put into effect upon European messages that is now exercised, Spain could have derived no benefit from the publication of war news by American papers. If the present censorship be followed by results, there will not be much complaint, but if it be merely a cloak to hide the blunders of somebody, Congress will not long remain silent.

Orders have been issued in profusion to our fleets in Cuban waters, and there is, of course, a general hope that they will succeed in finding the Spanish fleet—no one doubts that we can lick it if we can get at them—but Secretary Long seems to take it for granted that the Spaniards can avoid a fight just as they may desire to.

Those who for one or another reason are desirous of dragging the war on indefinitely have again been trying to persuade Mr. McKinley to postpone the invasion of Cuba until fall. They have got a new argument now—that it will take four months to make such ammunition as they think the army ought to have before being sent to Cuba. They also ring the changes on the old argument that military operations on a large scale cannot be carried on in Cuba during the rainy season, which usually begins about the tenth of June and continues for six or eight weeks—an argument long ago disposed of by the active campaigns of the insurgents during rainy seasons. If the statement about ammunition be true, which there is reason to doubt, there is something radically wrong about the War Department. It is supposed from the hurrying of volunteers to the south, that the invasion of Cuba will be pushed at once, but plans have been changed so often that it is difficult to say what will be done.

Czar Reed has the Hawaiian annexationists on the anxious bench. The other four members of the committee on rules are evenly divided and it is for him to decide whether the committee will report a special resolution for the consideration of the annexation resolution, without which the resolution cannot be brought to a vote.

As a sort of answer to criticisms from every direction, it has been semi-officially announced that the Naval War Board, popularly known as the "Board of Strategy," and spoken of by some irreverent persons as the "board of lethargy," which is composed of naval officers, has nothing to do with conducting the war, but is merely charged with the duty of advising Secretary Long. This will strike most persons as an attempt to make a distinction where there is no difference. If Secretary Long did not consider the advice of the board worth being followed, the board would speedily be abolished. It would be safe to say that every important order issued by Secretary Long has been upon the advice of this board. It would be the most natural thing in the world that both Mr. McKinley and Secretary Long, neither of whom has had any experience in naval fighting, should seek the assistance of naval officers in conducting that branch of the war. The unnatural thing is that such a statement should have been allowed to have been made. The Naval War Board has certainly done all the conducting of the war that has been done from the Washington end; if there is any credit, it should not be deprived of it any more than it should be shielded from criticism.

Senator Daniels made one of the strongest speeches yet made against an issue of bonds, and in favor of paying the expenses of the war as we go along, rather than saddling them upon posterity. Replying to the contention that the issue of bonds proposed was intended for effect upon Spain, Senator Daniels said that if the desired effect could be assured he was ready to vote to issue the bonds. "But," he impressively continued, "if Spain was not convinced at Manila that this country was in earnest in this war, then Sampson and Schley and Miles and their lieutenants have some arguments to submit to her that will prove to be even more assured vehicles of conviction than any issue of bonds could be." He declared the stamp tax to be the most odious and pestiferous tax invented by man.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Good Sewing Machines from \$10.00 up at Randle's.

Southerners in the Navy.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Nearly all the officers of the United States navy above the rank of lieutenant are from the northern states. The reason for this is apparent. No officer who entered the navy since the close of the war has yet reached the rank of commander. The navy was a favorite avocation for southerners and at the breaking out of the war that section had its full quota, and perhaps more, on the official list. But with few exceptions they resigned as their states seceded, and during the war none came to the academy from the south. The southerners in the service now are those who entered after the reconstruction. These are all in the ranks below commander at this time, and there are a great many of them.

THINK OF IT!

There isn't a weak point anywhere about the

STIEFF PIANOS

They are a perfect example of Piano-building, and the price are right. STANDARD ORGANS. TUNING AND REPAIRING. Pianos For Rent—Terms to Suit CHAS. M. STIEFF, BALTIMORE 9 North Liberty St. WASHINGTON 521 11TH ST. N. W. NORFOLK VA., 116 MAIN ST. Charlotte, N. C., 213 N. Tryon St.

WAR! WAR! WAR!

But the "White" is victorious. We are now selling sewing machines from ten dollars up. We have a few machines that are slightly used that we will sell cheap. We also have a nice line of Organs that we will sell on easy terms. We are head quarters for Sewing Machines and supplies. Old machines taken in exchange for new ones.

M. B. RANDLE, Manager, Sumter Music House, SUMTER, S. C.

Pitts' Carminative
Aids Digestion, Regulates the Bowels, Cures Cholera Infantum, Cholera Morbus, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Teething Children, And all diseases of the Stomach and Bowels. It is pleasant to the taste and NEVER FAILS to give satisfaction. A Few Doses will Demonstrate its Superlative Virtues.

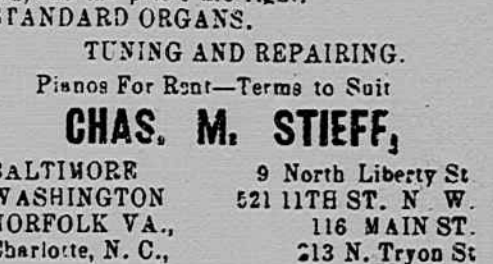
I AM A R'S COUGH-CROUP EXPECTORANT
Is Highly Recommended for COUGHS, COLDS, HOARSENESS, SORE THROAT, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, WHOOPING COUGH, and All Diseases of the Throat, Lungs and Bronchial Tubes. A POSITIVE SPECIFIC FOR CROUP.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONGRESS.
THOMAS F. BRANTLEY, of Orangeburg is nominated for Congress from the Seventh District, subject to the action of the Democratic primary.

\$10.00 REWARD.
FOR ONE VICTOR BICYCLE—MODEL 1896. Steel Bars, Black Victor Padded Saddle, Rubber Pedals, 24-inch Frame, One Searchlight Lantern. Number on wheel 160,836. Stolen April 6. Mas 18. D. JAS. WINN.

PERFECT ENJOYMENT ON A SUMMER DAY

can be taken in one of our easy riding and well built traps, runabouts, buggies, phaetons, surreys, and carriages trimmed in either light or dark colors, and finished in the best manner. Our stock is the acme of style and comfort.



H. HARBY.

Base Ball Goods.

Spalding's and Reach's OFFICIAL LEAGUE BALLS,

\$1.50 each.

Sold Under Positive Guarantee.

A full assortment of cheaper Balls from 5 cents up.

Bats of all grades, Mitts, &c.

Large stock of Fine and Medium grades Stationery.

Pound Papers a Specialty.

H. G. Osteen & Co., Liberty Street, SUMTER, S. C.

WITT'S CURE FOR CONSUMPTION
CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.