

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1860.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866.

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## The Watchman and Southron.

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—BY—  
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SUMTER, S. C.

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## COTTON CROP NOT OVER NINE MILLION.

Official Estimate Places it Under That Figure.

Washington, Nov. 14.—The statistics of the department of agriculture in a report sent to the press today, says that the fact that the preliminary official estimate of the cotton crops several times has turned out to be an underestimate, and has been due in every instance to a failure to keep pace with the rapid expansion of the productive area. When, therefore the very large crop of last year made it manifest that the acreage had increased beyond both official and almost all commercial estimates, it was determined to institute a special and very thorough investigation into the entire crop situation this year. The producing area last year is found to have been 25,000,000 acres, and that for the present year to be about 23,500,000 acres, with a probability that the final returns will show the present acreage to have been below rather than above the amount stated. The investigation discloses one of the smallest average yields per acre in many years, and in estimating the total crop at a maximum of 9,500,000 bales, a substantial and most ample allowance has been made for any tendency to take a too pessimistic view of the situation, the actual indications at the present moment pointing to a crop of less than 9,000,000 bales. The report further says:

"In his capacity as cotton expert to the United States commission, the statistician has had the preparation of the United States cotton exhibit for the Paris exposition, and his duties in that connection have afforded him additional facilities for ascertaining the actual condition of the crop in every part of the country. The unimpeachable evidence that has come to him in that capacity is in every way confirmatory of the most unfavorable official reports."

## THE CONSTITUTION'S ESTIMATE.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 14.—The Constitution, which has all the season been advocating higher prices for cotton, will publish tomorrow estimations of the crop from prominent men in the cotton growing States.

Arkansas and Alabama place the estimations at 8,500,000 bales; Tennessee places the figure at 8,300,000; Mississippi at 8,750,000, while Texas and South Carolina give their estimations at 8,000,000 each. North Carolina and Louisiana do not give any figures, but say the crop will be very much reduced.

## Dispensary War Will be Renewed.

After a brief season of quietude the dispensary fight will break out afresh tomorrow at the meeting of the state board of control.

Mr. Douthit has been summoned to appear before the board and answer the charges. The first is changing X corn whiskey labels to XXX corn and the other is selling contraband liquor after the alleged action of the board instructing him not to do so.

It is understood that Mr. Douthit will be ready to answer to the two charges and that he will appear promptly on the hour, accompanied by his attorneys—Messrs. Patton, Prince and Johnson. There has been considerable talk about not allowing attorneys to appear and some opposition will be undoubtedly made according to the statement of a member of the board last week.

Should this opposition prove effective, the whole business will be taken back to the court and a fresh legal fight will be started. It has been stated that three members favor the appearance of attorneys. Mr. Robinson committed himself to that at the meeting when Mr. Douthit was discharged, and if he sticks to it, then there will be no trouble about attorneys.

There is a matter of prime importance and the public awaits with interest the action of the board—Columbia Record, Nov. 14.

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## Gallant Work of The Thirty-Third.

One Officer and Six Men Killed Near San Fabian.

Manila, Nov. 14, 8 p. m.—The Thirty third infantry, in one of the sharpest two hours' engagements of the war, with an equal force of insurgents, five miles from San Fabian, Saturday, lost one officer and six men killed and one officer and twelve wounded. The Americans captured 29 Filipinos and 100 rifles and found 81 insurgents dead lying in the trenches and rice fields. Many more Filipinos, doubtless, were killed or wounded.

Gen. Wheaton was informed that the enemy was gathering at Jacinto for the purpose of preventing the Americans from controlling the road from Dagupan north, whereby Aguineldo might retreat. The Thirty-third, Col Howe commanding, and a detachment of the Thirteenth, with a Gatling gun, Howland commanding, were sent to disperse them. The troops encountered the worst road ever found in the island of Luzon. There was a succession of creeks whose bridges the Americans had to stop and repair, and miry ditches, and at certain places men and horses struggled waist deep in quagmires. A hundred soldiers had to drag the Gatling gun part of the way, the horses being useless. The insurgents opened the fight two miles from San Jacinto, while the leading American battalion was passing a clump of houses, in the midst of a coconut grove, knee deep in mud. The Filipino sharpshooters, hidden in trees, houses and a small trench across the road, held their fire until the Americans were close to them.

When they began firing other Filipinos opened fire from thickets right and left, further away. The insurgent sharpshooters picked off the officers first. Five of the Americans who fell wore shoulder straps or chevrons. But the Thirty third never wavered. Its crack marksmen knocked the Filipinos from the trees like squirrels, and the Americans rushed the trench, leaving four dead insurgents there. The regiment then deployed under fire, with Maj. John A. Logan's battalion in the center, Maj. Cronie's on the right and Maj. Marsh's on the left. The skirmish line, which was a mile long, advanced rapidly, keeping up a constant fire. The Filipinos made an unexpectedly good stand, many of them remaining under cover until the Americans were within 20 feet of them. Maj. Marsh flanked a small trench full of insurgents, surprising them and slaughtering nearly all of them before entering the town. The Gatling killed five of the force holding the bridge and swept the country beyond the town, driving about 150 Filipinos into the hills. Marsh's battalion, entering the town first, captured a big battle flag, which was flying over a coconut.

The insurgents are supposed to have retreated toward Dagupan. It was impossible to pursue them, as the American troops were exhausted and their supply of ammunition was low. The outposts killed five Filipinos during the night.

The body of the Filipino lieutenant colonel commanding was found among the killed.

The regiment returned to San Fabian Sunday, it being impossible to get supplies over the roads.

## Guerrilla Warfare in Philippines.

Aguineldo's Latest Orders to His Followers.

Manila, Nov. 15, 11 p. m.—Gen. Hughes, with parts of the Nineteenth and Twenty sixth regiments, moved from Iloilo Thursday, Nov. 9, to Otton, six miles west, for the purpose of capturing Santa Barbara, the rebel stronghold 10 miles north of Iloilo. Heavy rains preceded the movement, and the roads were, in places, impassable. The same night Col. Carpenter, with the Eighteenth regiment and Battery G of the Sixth artillery moved westerly from Jaro on account of the roads, and the entire movement was hampered by lack of proper transportation. Co. C of the Twenty sixth regiment had the only fighting. When three miles out of Jaro this company charged the rebel trenches and three of the enemy were killed. One American was wounded.

Gen. Hughes, Nov. 13, occupied Tagaban and Guimbal, on the southern coast and also Cordova in the interior. The enemy did not oppose Gen. Hughes' advance.

Recent orders from Aguineldo found in the trenches said: "Do not oppose the Americans' advance. Burn the villages as they are evacuated. Divide

the forces into bands of 40. Harass the Americans on every occasion."

Araeta, the rebel leader of the island of Panay, was captured at Tagaban while attempting to pass the lines into Iloilo.

It is reported that an expedition, evading the navy, recently landed arms and ammunition on the Antique coast, and that the rebels threaten opposition with an armed force of 3,000 men. These stories are not believed.

All ports of the Sulu islands outside of the American possessions have been ordered closed to commerce.

## Ladies of Americus Refuse Vaccination.

Americus, Ga., Nov. 16.—Nearly the entire membership of the Christian Science church in Americus were in the mayor's court today to answer charges of refusal to submit to vaccination. Among the defendants were 20 ladies, many of them prominent in the community, besides a number of boys and girls. The court room was crowded with well dressed men and women. Attorneys for defense obtained a continuance of the cases until tomorrow. The scientists will be given the alternative of being quarantined at their residences or going to prison, and many of them it is said, will choose the latter.

The sentence of Mrs. Raines, who was sentenced yesterday to 30 days in barracks or to leave the city for refusing to be vaccinated, has been suspended until the other cases have been disposed of. The affair has caused a tremendous sensation here and little else is talked of.

## Ladies of Americus are Sent to Prison.

Americus, Ga., Nov. 17.—The cases of the Christian Scientists who refused to be vaccinated were settled today so far as the mayor's court can settle them by the sentencing of E. J. McMath to imprisonment at the city hall for 30 days and a fine of \$15. Five ladies of the congregation were sentenced to 15 days' confinement at some place to be designated by the chief of police and to pay a fine of \$5 each. The same sentences of fine and imprisonment will be assessed against such other members of the congregation as may refuse to obey the vaccination ordinance.

Mr. McMath is a leading merchant of Americus and the ladies involved belong to the best families in the city.

Counsel has been employed to represent the Christian Scientists and their cases will be carried to the superior court and will ultimately be carried to the supreme court of the State, if necessary. The cases have caused a great deal of talk throughout this immediate section and there has been so small amount of feeling aroused by the vigorous enforcement of the law.

## A Merry Railroad War.

Columbia S C Nov. 17.—The Sea board and Coast Line people seem to have had their rub over in Cheraw, and today had it here. Today at 2 o'clock Chief Daly stopped the Coast Line people from laying a piece of track which would have crossed Lincoln street at Tobacco street. Mr. Newman, in charge of the work, has been arrested charged with violating city ordinances relative to railroads on the charge that he laid track without permission of council in city limits.

The Seaboard people seem to think that the Coast Line people ran the side track across Lincoln street so as to make the span so wide for the trestle that a steel span would have been necessary, and that to get the steel span would have forced a delay of completing the line, and that it was a return compliment for crossing the Atlantic Coast Line track at night near Cheraw.

The Coast Line people in charge of the work say the side track was necessary, and that they did not know or think it necessary to secure special permission for such work as the spur track ran on their right of way and against their main line or near to it.

The city claims the street and that permission has been explicitly given the Seaboard Air Line to use Lincoln street for its entire length for the Seaboard Air Line to get out from the park. Mr. Newman put up a deposit and his case will be argued before the mayor next Monday. The case promises to be one of unusual interest.—Cor News and Courier.

## Change of System In Island of Cuba.

Brooke to be Recalled Jan 1, and Wood Made Civil Governor.

New York Evening Post.

The president's programme with regard to Cuba is now known. It contemplates the retirement of Gen. Brooke from the military government with Gen. Leonard Wood at its head.

The first of January is likely to be a red-letter day in Cuban history. On that day in 1898 Spain played her last card in the effort to hold the island by setting up an autonomous government. On the first of January, 1899, the Spanish flag came down and the American went up over Cuba. On the coming first of January, if the president can carry out the plans he has now in mind, the existing military government in the island will give way to a civil government, and Cuba will have taken her first long stride on the road toward independence.

Such is the information your correspondent has obtained from a source above question. It is not a new plan of the president but one he has had in mind for several months. The complaints from all sides about Gen. Brooke's inadequacy for his present duties have been incessant, and it has been obvious that some remedy must be applied soon, or half the labor spent in putting the island into a better moral and sanitary condition would have been thrown away.

By the best unprejudiced judges, the so called cabinet with which Brooke has surrounded himself has proved a dead failure or worse. It has retarded rather than helped the work of regeneration. The general has allowed himself to be "steered" by this handful of ambitious men, instead of listening to their advice and then weighing it for himself. The president has been reluctant to take any steps which could be construed as humiliating to Gen. Brooke, but the latter has done as well as his natural limitations of mind and temper would permit, so it was decided after mature deliberation to let Brooke be undisturbed until the time came for dispensing with military rule, and then to quietly let him pass out simultaneously with the order of things which he represents.

As has been said, Gen. Wood is marked for the civil governorship. It was a hint from the president that higher honors were in store for him which induced him to turn his back upon the offers made him a while ago to return to the United States and enter private business. He made plain to the president at that time that difficulties beset him in the government of Santiago province with the government of the whole island in its present hands, but was advised to bear the annoyance patiently a while longer.

The programme mapped out by the president had no sooner been suspected in official circles in Cuba than obstacles to its execution began to present themselves. Three men would be affected in status by the proposed change: Gen. James H. Wilson, Fitzhugh Lee and William Ludlow. All these were brigadier generals of volunteers like Gen. Wood, and his senior in their own grade. In addition, Gen. Ludlow is a colonel of engineers in the regular army, and would, therefore, always remain the military superior of a captain and assistant surgeon, which rank Gen. Wood holds in the regulars. It is not known that either of the trio had any criticism to pass upon Gen. Wood's ability as an executive, but all had decided objections to being subordinated to him by his elevation to the governorship. Gen. Lee recently came home on a leave of absence, and Gen. Ludlow has taken the same course. Both have in view, it is understood, the full discussion of the subject with a president before he takes final action.

Here is where the president's well known "tact" is coming to the front. The necessity for dissipating the threatened storm instead of letting it break is taxing his ingenuity to the utmost. As far as can be learned, he is prepared to appeal first to the patriotic impulses of the three generals to let him take the course he has in mind for the good of Cuba, and to sink any personal considerations. If that will not produce the desired effect, there are other courses open to him. The entire island of Cuba needs the work of an expert military engineer. The fortifications will require overhauling, especially as Cuba, even if independent, will be under our protection and remain a military outpost of the country and the chief base for operations in defence of our southern coasts in the event of another foreign war. There will be harbor improvements also of great extent and importance.

All these could be assigned to Gen. Ludlow in pursuance of his regular professional career, and as his reports would be made to the chief of engineers of the army, wholly independent of the civil government of Cuba, this would end all controversies as to rank and authority. As for Gen. Wilson and Lee, the president's tactical opportunities are somewhat lessened. In any civil station to which they could be assigned in Cuba they would be subordinate to the civil governor.

But there are openings in the higher ranks of the regular army, which have not yet been filled, and in army circles where the president's Cuban programme is known it is suspected that, as a last resort, he may make use of Wilson and Lee. All that the law says is that these ranks shall be filled by selection, and if the senate consents the president can make such appointments from outside the regular army. It would create a tremendous sensation, and not a pleasant one, in the regular service to have outsiders brought in and pushed ahead of men who have waited long and worked hard; but if the coming congress should yield to the wishes of the administration and increase the regular establishment largely, there would still be "room for all."

It is a ticklish task to which the president has addressed himself, but he is firm in his purpose to give Cuba a civil government with Wood at its head, and those who are most in his confidence believe that he has sufficient ingenuity in devising means, as well as sufficient persuasive tact in handling men, to accomplish the end desired without stirring up any bad feeling.

## Plenty of Fighting to Defend Mafeking.

Interesting Accounts of Assaults by the Boers.

London, Nov. 16.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Mafeking, sent by way of Magalapy because the runners sent southward were unable to traverse the Boer lines, gives an interesting account of the fighting during the last week in October.

The dispatch describes Gen. Cronje's great attack of Monday, the details of which have already been cabled from Col. Baden Powell's official dispatches.

"The end came," says the correspondent, "after five hours fighting. The enemy retired, being heavily beaten for all time as far as Mafeking is concerned. It was the hottest day of the siege and the firing was terrific, the Boers evidently recognizing that the way into Mafeking, if any, is by a kopje, which was gallantly defended by Col. Walford's men. The garrison is jubilant, while the Boers have been hurled back in disorder on their laager, and will have to content themselves with a long range bombardment unless they are strongly reinforced.

"The enemy lost heavily. For hours after their fighting line had been rolled back two wagons went slowly along their position, picking up the dead and wounded.

"All the men were killed by bullets or shells. The lookout tower was shot to pieces, while even the saddles of the horses were fearfully battered about. The whole place was simply smashed up by the concentrated fire of seven guns and a thousand rifles.

"The Boers at first held on to their advance pluckily, but they could not live when they came to short range, the men being shot down at 300 yards.

"The enemy is expected to draw off early in order to defend Pretoria. There is still no news from the south. As I send this message off, 600 Boers have gone south with wagons and have commenced shelling."

## Ladysmith Encircled.

Pretoria Thursday, Nov. 9.—The following dispatch has been received from the Boer camp at Elandslaate, under today's date:

"Ladysmith has been completely encircled by the Boer forces. Our second big gun was successfully placed in front of Ladysmith. The firing of heavy guns commenced early this morning with no casualties to the burghers up to the present.

"Botha has heliographed from the south of Ladysmith that the British batteries opened a heavy fire with big guns and continuously dropped shells into the works around Ladysmith. The

Pretoria force was in a tight place, having taken up a position commanded by the British fire, which was so hot that the position became untenable. The big gun, however, saved the situation."

## BOERS REPORT BATTLE.

London, Nov. 17.—The following censored dispatch from Pretoria gives details of the engagement referred to in the Associated Press dispatch from Pretoria of Wednesday, Nov. 15:

"The Free Staters had taken up a position on a small hill when an English battery advanced and attacked them, sending a hail of shells on the hill for a hour, when the Transvaal cannon put some shells right in the midst of the battery, sending the English to cover behind the hill. Two burghers were killed and six wounded. When the British fell back on Ladysmith several shells exploded among them, but the execution done could not be seen.

At midnight all the Afrikaner cannon on the hills surrounding the town opened fire simultaneously on Ladysmith, turning the quiet and darkness of night into a lurid inferno of whistling, shrieking shells, speeding from all points of the compass to the doomed city. Several buildings on fire were seen from Bulwan hill. During the day the troops left the city deserted and sought shelter on the edge of the hill to escape the death-dealing shells."

The dispatch from Pretoria also says that the prisoners at that place include the Eighteenth Hussars, four officers and 91 non-commissioned officers and men; the Dublin Fusiliers, four officers and 12 non-commissioned officers and men; the Irish Fusiliers, 10 officers and 583 non-commissioned officers and men; the Gloucesters, 14 officers and 305 non-commissioned officers and men; the artillery, five officers and 60 non-commissioned officers and men; the Rifles, two officers and 89 non-commissioned officers and men; the Leicesters, no officers, six non-commissioned officers and men; the Dragoons, one man; the Natal Police, one man; political, 62 men; sick, 38 men.

The dispatch adds: "Trains are working excellently from Pretoria to Ladysmith. The Boers have ample food, but are short of clothes, boots and mackintoshes."

## BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS.

London, Nov. 17.—The admiralty announced this evening the arrival at Cape Town today of the troopship Arcana with a battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (the Princess Louise regiment), bringing the reinforcements up to 23,500, of which 7,290 have already disembarked at Durban, with 18 field guns, a number of machine guns, engineers and hospital troops, as well as 700 mules.

This force, with that already between Estcourt and Durban, is considered sufficient to enable Gen. Hildyard to advance and to take the aggressive action against the Boers south of Ladysmith.

According to the latest advices Ladysmith is holding out satisfactorily, everything having been well up to Wednesday.

In view of the Boer destruction of bridges, the war office has issued orders for the shipment of a quantity of bridge work between this and the end of the year.

## Mayor Smith Re-elected.

Charleston, Nov. 15.—The Democratic primary election passed off quietly today, resulting in a complete victory for the regular or administration party. Mayor Smyth and almost every administration alderman and school commissioner have been elected. The polls did not close until 7 o'clock and the count is progressing so slowly that official figures cannot be given at the time of filing of this report. Unofficially, it is stated that about 2,600 votes were polled in the mayoralty contest and Mayor Smyth is re-elected over Mr. James M. Signieux by about 900 majority. The aldermanic candidates who were not opposed run considerably ahead of the Mayorality vote.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Chief Surgeon Woodhull, at Manila, under date of Oct. 12, sends Surgeon General Sternberg the following: "A sharp and quite general epidemic of dengue has prevailed in Luzon for some months past, and it appears to be spreading to the south. There have been few really severe cases, but a large number that interdicted duty for some days."

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