

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 1900.

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.

Biennial sessions of the Legislature would be amply sufficient for South Carolina. The Legislature does very little when it meets and the little would be all the better were it spread over two years.

Col. Henry Watterson can put his foot into it as often as any fool in the country, although he is an able man and fills a large place in the public eye.

Gov. McSweeney is said to be an accident, but the other gubernatorial candidates are wondering if his luck will follow him in the primary. He may have the luck to win, but he has no mortgage on the governorship, and he can scarcely claim that he must be elected to vindicate his administration. He will have to run like the rest of the crowd—just because he wants the office.

The dispensary system is still a State monopoly of an evil for money-making purposes.

The Sumter Cotton Mill is at last full of machinery, and it is making money and has made money steadily for three years past. Is there now any reason for not building a big cotton mill in Sumter? For years the non success of this mill has been the stock argument against building a new mill in Sumter, and we are curious to know what argument will now be brought forward.

Charleston has decided to have an exposition in 1901, and if the entire State will but cooperate heartily with Charleston the enterprise cannot fail of success. Charleston will be benefited largely, of course, but if the exposition is made representative of the State as a whole, the benefit to the city in which it is held will be but small in comparison with that which will accrue to the remainder of South Carolina. It is the greatest opportunity ever offered to advertise the resources of the State and it should be utilized to the uttermost.

When it was proposed that the general assembly remain in session a few days longer than the time for which the members could be paid a great howl was raised by the law makers that they could not and would not work without pay, yet a large majority of them collected their per diem for the full session and went home before the legislature adjourned, leaving that body without a quorum during the last hours of the session. Which is the more statesman like to work a few days without pay or to receive pay for work not performed?

We do not regard the failure of the Legislature to appropriate \$100,000 for the public schools as a calamity. On the contrary we believe it to have been fortunate that the Senate stood firm and refused to agree to the appropriation. It lies within the power of each and every school district to levy an additional tax for the support of the public schools, when the regular fund is insufficient, and if better schools are wanted the school districts should make use of the means at hand for raising the needed money. Hundreds of school districts in the State have levied this special tax and are maintaining excellent schools, and the responsibility for the inefficient schools in other districts rests upon the people of those districts and not upon the State at large. A direct appropriation to the schools would have been unjust to the districts that now levy a special school tax, and to have made it would have been to establish a bad precedent. We regard the improvement of public schools as a matter that rests almost entirely with the people themselves and the local school authorities. The crying need is not so much for more money but for the more intelligent and better use of the funds now provided. The need is not more schools, but fewer schools, better teachers and longer terms. At present the school funds are, as a general rule, not wisely applied, but rather dissipated. Schools have been multiplied unnecessarily in nearly every dis-

trict and none of them are kept up to the standard of what a good school should be. When the best possible use of the means now provided shall have been made, when the unnecessary schools shall have been abolished and the school funds applied to the maintenance of a few first class schools, conveniently located in the several districts, the people will awake to an intelligent realization of their duties and opportunities and they will concentrate their efforts, levy special taxes and support their schools as they should. It will make but little, if any, difference in the long run whether the legislature makes a direct appropriation for the schools or the several school districts raise the needed funds by an extra levy for the specific purpose, for it will all come out of the people's pockets in the shape of additional taxes either way.

BRYAN, THE AMERICAN.

Yesterday was the Bryan day in South Carolina, and if the republicans and gold democrats have ever entertained a hope that they would capture the Palmetto State, yesterday's ovation in honor of the leader of the democratic hosts, the champion of free silver, sounded the death for all time to that delusive hope. In Columbia Bryan was enthusiastically greeted by thousands of democrats and the greeting was as enthusiastic and sincere from many erstwhile gold bugs as it was from the original free silver men. The climax of South Carolina's welcome was the presence of a Charleston delegation wearing silver dollar badges, a majority of the delegation having been, it is said, anti-Bryan gold bugs in 1896. These Charlestonians not only welcomed Bryan to the State, but captured him and carried him to Charleston, where he spoke last night before the largest audience ever assembled in that city to hear one man speak.

Bryan's speech in Columbia yesterday was worthy of the occasion, of the cause he represents and of his reputation as a statesman and orator.

He is an orator of truest and greatest type, but his oratorical power is lost sight of entirely while he is speaking, for the manner is overshadowed by the matter. His style is simple, direct and so lucid that to follow his thought and keep pace with the trend of the argument as idea after idea is developed requires no effort. To hear him is a pleasure and to forget what has been heard is impossible, for there is an earnestness, an honesty, in all that he says that carries conviction and indelibly impresses the truths so forcibly and plainly and fearlessly delivered. Full reports of his great speech are to be found in today's issues of the State and the News and Courier, and all Americans will be the better if they will read this speech, it would be still better could they have heard the speech for themselves. We regret that the limitations of this paper prevent the publication of this speech in full, and we do not attempt to give a synopsis, for no synopsis can do the subject justice.

To epitomize the speech we would say that it was an authoritative deliverance of democratic principles and a true and damning arraignment of trusts and the un-American policy of imperialism to which the Republican party is committed. The evils of the money power rule to which this country is now subjected and the dangers which now confront us as a people from imperialism are clearly and convincingly set forth. Having heard Bryan speak we are ready to declare that he is an orator without a peer, but great as he is in this respect, he is greater as a thinker and statesman.

PLANTER'S CUBAN OIL cures Cuts, Burns, Bruises, Rheumatism and Sores. Price, 25 cts. Sold by Higheon-Ligon Co.

Dr. Cady's Condition Powders are just what a horse needs when in bad condition. Tonic, blood purifier and vermifuge. They are not food but medicine, and the best to use to put a horse in prime condition. Price 25 cents per package. For sale by Dr. A. J. China. Dec 30-0

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Boers Fight and Fall Back.

Rear Guard Repulse English and Cross Modder River.

London, Feb 20, 5 22 p m—News has been received here that Gen Hart has occupied Colenso after a slight engagement.

London, Feb 20—The following dispatch has been received at the war office from Gen Buller:

"Blows Farm, Tuesday, Feb 20, 4 10 p. m.—The Fusilier brigade yesterday took Hlangwana hill, the right of the enemy's position commanding Colenso. Today Gen Hart occupied Colenso after a very slight resistance by a weak rear guard and we hold the line of the Tugela on the south side, from Colenso to Eagle's Nest. The enemy seems to be in full retreat and apparently are only holding the position they occupied across the Colenso-Ladysmith railway, where it is close to the angle of the Tugela, with a weak rear guard. Hart's advance guard is crossing at Colenso.

"Our casualties yesterday and today have, I hope, been but few."

London, Feb 21, 4 15 a m—The Boers are leaving all the positions held by them on British territory and are concentrating for the defense of their own Sir Redvers Buller thinks they are about to raise the siege of Ladysmith and this is the large news of the day.

Gen Clements reports that the force confronting him has been greatly diminished. Ten thousand men are estimated to have gone from the Colesberg district alone. The Boers are also retracing their steps from Zululand. Thus they are relaxing their hold on all sides in order to assemble to oppose Lord Roberts. He is pressing on steadily towards Bloemfontein. This is shown by his inconsequential telegram from Paardeberg, 50 or 60 miles away. Doubtless he was miles behind the column that is pursuing the Boers and the next important news may be the occupation of Bloemfontein.

Nothing has been heard from the chase of Cronje for two days. There is a strong disposition to believe that favorable information has been received by the war office, but is being withheld until the operations culminate in something conclusive. There is an equally strong disposition to think that Gen Cronje has got away.

Owing to the lack of transport, the British are not likely to invade Boer territory except where Lord Roberts is operating. Gen Buller will have to stop at the Drakenberg mountains. Probably a part of his 40,000 men will ultimately join the legions of Lord Roberts. If, as Gen Buller avers, the Boers are retreating from him, then the news on every side is favorable to the British. Nevertheless troops continue to go up. The war office thinks that the call to veterans to rejoin the colors, together with the bounty, will bring 45,000 men to the home defense. The urgency with which home defense is pressed excites some wonder.

With the casualties just reported, the British losses in killed, wounded and captured now aggregate 11,103.

London, Feb 21.—A correspondent of the Daily Chronicle telegraphing Sunday thus describes Gen Cronje's retreat with the Boers at Magersfontein on learning of Gen French's success.

"On Thursday at midnight, headed by Gen Cronje, 5,000 Boers with their heavy guns and ox wagons, evacuated the Magersfontein lines. On Friday the retreating Boer army was seen from the British naval station on Klip drift

korje, trekking eastward across the British front at a distance of 5,000 yards. Our guns opened upon them, and a force of mounted infantry crossing the river, made a dashing charge in the attempt to cut off the head of the enemy's column. But in half an hour their whole force had gained shelter under the line of kopjes.

"Meanwhile two of our batteries had come up and also the Oxforde, Buffs, West Ridings and Gloucesters. Our infantry crossed the drift and for three hours were engaged with the enemy while our batteries shelled his position. The mounted infantry kept hard at work.

"Unable to withstand our galling fire the enemy retired, disputing every inch of the way and took up a second position on the kopjes to the eastward. It was a magnificent spectacle to see the Boer army thus at bay. Their rear guard, 2,000 strong, fought us, while the main body trekked further eastward and then brought their guns into action, while the rear guard retired.

"The action lasted through the day. Our infantry fought splendidly, but the enemy held his ground under the continued bombardment. Later on the Boer commander ventured on a bold stroke. Leaving 2,000 of his men under cover he withdrew the rest from his main position and headed for Klip Kraal drift, six miles to the east.

"This movement was soon discovered. Our mounted infantry came back across the drift and marched along the south bank to endeavor to head off the enemy. When they reached the neighborhood of Klip Kraal drift night had fallen and half the Boers were already across to the south side. Our mounted infantry harassed their movements.

"Meanwhile the Boer rear guard, having covered the crossing of the main body retired slowly and successfully passed the drift. The Boers' rear guard fought desperately and when it fell back to the river it was harassed on the flank and on the rear by the British.

"Having thus passed the Modder under cover of darkness, the Boers trekked throughout the night in the direction of Bloemfontein. Gen Kelly-Kenny, with the Sixth division, pursued them at daylight, Gen MacDonald, with the Highlanders, following him. MacDonald reached Klip Kraal drift by forced marches Sunday. General Kelly-Kenny, moving from Klip Kraal drift, was endeavoring to outflank the enemy to cut them off from Bloemfontein, so as to drive them back into Gen MacDonald's hands. When I left the front Gen Kelly-Kenny had not come up with the enemy."

It is now known that there is a decided decline in the sale of paper cigarettes. The falling off for January is about one-fourth. It is a good sign and it is to be hoped it will go down another quarter soon. This is regarded as the outcome of anti cigarette agitation. It may not show actual decline, however, but may indicate only a glutted market.

But let the fight against the "deadly cigarette" be continued. There is no decline in tobaccos. The returns show a heavy increase in tobacco for chewing, smoking and snuffing. That in paper cigarettes alone there should be a tremendous falling off is a phenomenon justifying attention. The cigar output also shows increase. Down with the baleful, murderous cigarette.—*Wilmington Messenger.*

August Flower.
"It is a surprising fact," says Prof. Houton, "that in my travels in all parts of the world, for the last ten years, I have met more people having used Green's August Flower than any other remedy, for dyspepsia, deranged liver and stomach, and for constipation. I find for tourists and salesmen, or for persons filling office positions, where headaches and general bad feelings from irregular habits exist, that Green's August Flower is a grand remedy. It does not injure the system by frequent use, and is excellent for sour stomachs and indigestion." Sample bottles free at Dr. A. J. China's. Sold by dealers in all civilized countries. 12-18

Chickamauga Commission.

Gov McSweeney Makes Appointment.

Columbia, Feb 20—The governor yesterday announced the appointment of the three Confederate veterans who, under the act just passed by the general assembly, will, with the governor and adjutant general, constitute the Chickamauga monument. The appointments were made from among a large number of applicants, and the veterans selected are as follows:

Gen C. Irvine Walker, of Charleston, who is at present the commander of the South Carolina division, United Confederate veterans, and was one of those who fought for the stars and bars on Chickamauga's bloody battlefield.

Col J Harvey Wilson, of Sumter, whom there is no more devoted Confederate veteran in the State, and few are more eloquent when the old soldiers are referred to. He is at present chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives.

Capt C K Henderson, of Aiken, who is likewise a veteran of the Civil War.

The act passed provides for an appropriation of \$10,000 for the erection of an appropriate monument on the battlefield of Chickamauga to the memory of the South Carolinians who gave up their lives in that memorable battle. The commission is to select the design of the monument, give the contract for its construction, and attend to the details of the work. The commission, it is thus seen, has no small undertaking ahead of it. The desire is to have the monument completed at the earliest possible moment, as practically all the other States who had troops in this great fight of the war have already erected suitable and handsome monuments.

The governor, who is chairman of the commission, expects very soon to call a meeting of the commission and get the work under way as soon as possible.

DEALING IN FUTURES.

Mr Editor: Please insert in your columns the following clipping from a Texas paper.
Subscriber.
Bro B S Pollard, Bowie, Texas, asks: 1. From a scriptural, or religious standpoint, is dealing in cotton futures gambling?

Wilson's Texas Penal Code, Art. 377 (354a) reads: "If any person shall, directly or through an agent or agents, manage or superintend for him self, or shall as agent or representative of any other person, firm or corporation, conduct, carry on or transact any business which is commonly known as dealing in futures, in cotton, grain, lard, any kinds of meats or agricultural products, or transact any business commonly known as a produce or stock exchange or bucket shop, where future contracts are bought or sold, with no intention of an actual bona fide delivery of the article or thing bought or sold, such person whether acting for himself or for another, as aforesaid, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined in any sum not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, and in addition thereto shall be imprisoned in the county jail not less than thirty days nor more than six months; provided, that each day that such business or house is carried on shall constitute a separate offense."

It is also provided that permitting premises to be used for such business is a misdemeanor and the owner of such premises shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than one hundred or more than five hundred dollars. Each day he so permits shall constitute a separate offense.

Nearly all the states have practically the same statute. The language of the statute of Illinois is as follows: "Whoever contracts to have or to give himself or another the option to buy or sell at a future time any grain" etc. shall be fined, "and all contracts made in violation of this section, shall be deemed gambling contracts and void." See Cyclopedic of Law, Vol. 8, p. 1,011. The supreme courts of both Texas and the United States have held that such contracts are null, such business being "against public policy." Under the same head and for the same reasons are statutes against gambling of every kind.
Shall the state care more for public morals than the church of Christ? No such members ought to be excluded and if they will gamble, let them do so outside the church.

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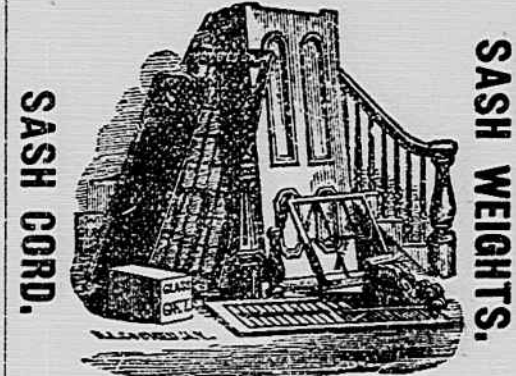
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For bilious headache, dyspepsia, sour stomach, malaria, constipation and all kindred diseases. **TUTT'S LIVER PILLS** AN ABSOLUTE CURE.



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is an ominous sound to the man who isn't insured, when he sees his home disappearing in flames and smoke. We can hardly have any compassion on him, when it is so easy and at such a small outlay to provide against such loss. A policy in the Hartford Insurance Co. costs you but a small sum when we draw it for you, and gives you security as safe as the Bank of England.

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RELIEF CAME.

Mrs. E. C. COLYER of Salubritty, Ga., Aug. 8th, 1898, writes: **Benedicta** has certainly been a blessing to my sixteen year old daughter. She was in wretched health and had missed four months. Two bottles of **Benedicta** have entirely restored her health. The monthly periods have returned and are now painless and regular.

Do you suffer from Painful, Irregular or Suppressed Menstruation? **Benedicta** has cured many suffering women and will cure you in the privacy of your home, without the necessity of physician's examinations. Its marvelous action on the distinctly feminine organs, heals and strengthens them so that the monthly periods may be regular and painless. Headache, Dizziness, Nervousness, that dragging sensation and those terrible pains in the back, hips and abdomen quickly disappear.
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