

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1904.

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.

The Immigration bill has passed the Legislature after a hard fight and will in due time become a law, as Gov. Heyward is on record as favoring the enactment of such a law. The law is in itself an excellent measure, but to obtain results of value its operation must be committed to the hands of the right men.

The war news from the far east is made up very largely of rumors and surmises, and it is a task beyond the power of the average man to sift the chaff from the wheat. It seems that the Japanese have had the better of every encounter and that they have sustained comparatively little loss, while on the other hand the Russians have suffered severely, but the real truth will not be known for sometime, and at present there seems to be no correspondents on the scene of conflict to furnish reports at first hand.

Senator Manning's statement in the Senate in respect to the State House investigation is clear cut and should serve to dispel much of the misapprehension that has been created by the efforts of some members of the old commission to make it appear that they have been the victims of persecution and unfair treatment. Senator Manning holds them to the issue. The committee of which he was a member condemned the work on the State House and not the commission.

The death of Senator Hanna removes the only obstacle to the nomination of President Roosevelt by acclamation as the Republican candidate for President. Senator Hanna was the only man in the Republican party who could have rallied the anti-Roosevelt Republicans and had he lived and been so minded he could probably have prevented the nomination of Roosevelt. On this account especially his death is a great loss to the country.

The Japanese in this country are hastening home to fight in the army against Russia, but we hear of none of the hundreds of thousands of Russians who now live in America going home to fight the Japanese. The Japanese wherever they may be are loyal and patriotic subjects of the Mikado while millions of Russian subjects are the bitterest enemies the Czar possesses.

The members of the old State House commission appear to us to have made a mistake in rising such a furor over the report of the Legislative investigating committee and by doing so have not only obscured the main issue but have assumed a burden that is not their's. The gentlemen who composed the commission were not condemned by the report nor were they charged with corruption. They were not on trial by the investigating committee and there was no reason why they should have been summoned to appear and give their testimony in defence of the architect and contractors. It was the work itself that was investigated and the architect and contractors who were to be approved or condemned as a result of the investigation. The old commission in undertaking to defend the work on the State House and to pose as martyrs may succeed in throwing dust in the eyes of some people but their cry of persecution and their championship of work that has been condemned in the most positive terms by a disinterested expert whose professional reputation and personal character are above question creates a distinctly unfavorable impression.

U. S. SENATOR TO BE TRIED.

Senator Burton, of Missouri, is Charged with Accepting a Bribe.

St. Louis, Feb. 16.—Judge Adams, in the United States District Court today, overruled the demurrer of United States Senator Joseph R. Burton, of Kansas, to the indictment charging him with accepting money for using his influence in preventing the issuance of a fraud order against the Rialto Grain and Securities Company. The trial of the Senator was set for March 22. A panel of sixty jurors has been ordered for Monday.

In filing the demurrer to the indictment the defendant contended that the Postmaster General did not have the authority to forbid the Rialto Company the use of the mails or to issue a fraud order. Also that there was no substantial charge of fraud at the time. Both of these questions were dismissed by Judge Adams with the remark that he was not impressed with them. As to whether the United States was interested in the case called for a more extended opinion, but Judge Adams held that it was interested.

THE STATE HOUSE INVESTIGATION.

Situation Clearly Defined by Senators Manning and Aldrich.

Why It Is Necessary to Take Matter Out of Attorney General's Hands—Old Commission Never Denied a Hearing.

The State House Investigation which is by far the most sensational issue before the present session of the Legislature is being discussed by all citizens of the State, and as it will unquestionably be made an issue in the State campaign this summer a clear understanding of the status of the case is necessary. The following statements made in the Senate by Senators Manning of Sumter and Aldrich of Barnwell, who were members of the committee of investigation clearly and concisely define the attitude of the member of that committee and the motives that actuated them.

Senator Manning said: "I object to that part of the preamble which says that the commission were denied a hearing. As far as I know no request for a hearing was made by any member of the commission. I am certain no such request was made by me. At one of the meetings of the joint committee the question was asked if any members of the commission were coming before us. I am sure that if the joint committee had any intimation of a desire on the part of the commission or any of them to appear before them they would gladly have accorded them a hearing. I myself would have insisted upon it and I am satisfied that the other members of the committee felt as I did, but I wish to emphasize the fact that we felt that we were not investigating the commission. The duty placed upon us was to consider the several reports of the commission for the completion of the State house and to report to the general assembly such facts and recommendations in reference thereto as we deemed advisable. I was appointed on the joint committee without my knowledge. I realized that was an unpleasant duty that had been placed upon me, but I have endeavored to discharge the work placed upon me thoroughly and without fear or favor. I went into the task with an open and unbiased mind, determined only upon ascertaining and reporting facts. I had no feeling in the matter, and nothing was further from me than any desire to do an injustice to the commission. As I said, we were not appointed to criticize the commission but to consider the work upon the State house and the manner of its performance. We have made our report and the report shows how we did the work which we were appointed to do. We made a personal examination of the work from the dome to the ground floor, accompanied by Capt. S. S. Hunt, who had been employed by us as a first-class contractor of large experience, competent and conscientious. But I say to the senate that it did not take an expert to detect bad work and inferior material. Such work as that, as private individuals, we would have rejected without hesitation as soon as it came under our observation. These defects have been pointed out specifically in our report and I need not repeat them here. As a member of the joint committee I have discharged the duty placed upon me as best I could. I repeat again that I have done so without feeling against the commission and without desire to do them injury or injustice. We have simply given the facts as I saw them and without any implication of the commission except so far as the facts show, but we do in words condemn the work of the architect and contractor. We have finished the work imposed upon us and the matter now rests entirely with the general assembly; but I, for one, am more than willing to accord to the commission the hearing they desire."

The portion of the preamble objected to by Senator Manning reads: " * * * members of the said commission, were not permitted to testify before said committee, and that other parties whose actions were considered by said committee were not allowed to appear before said committee or in any manner given a hearing."

Senator Raynor moved that the preamble of Senator Aldrich's resolution be substituted for the preamble in Senator Talbird's. This removed the objection, said Senator Manning, and the motion was adopted. Senator Aldrich's motion that the number of house members on the committee be three instead of five, was adopted. He withdrew his substitute resolution submitted on Friday night and which read:

"Be it resolved by the general assembly of the State of South Carolina, that any evidence, explanations or other statements in writing that the said memorialists may have to submit will be received and considered by the general assembly whenever presented."

Senator Aldrich said that he agreed with Senator Manning in saying that the work of the joint committee was unpleasant in the extreme. There were men on the State house commission for whom he had as high regard as for any in public life. But duties

of a public nature must be approached fearlessly and discharged conscientiously. Performance of only pleasant duties falls far short of true manhood.

The duty was to examine the work. After examination it was thought only justice to the architect and contractors that they be heard, and they were accordingly offered a hearing. The contractors took no notice and the architect wrote a curt note, saying he had nothing to do with the committee. No one had ever asked Senator Aldrich for a hearing and he had never heard from any member of the committee of such a request. It would certainly have been granted. If they wish a hearing now they should receive it. If a committee is appointed architects and contractors, so-called, could be summoned who would swear that the work had been done without spot or blemish.

The rain flooded spot outside the main lobby, however, cannot be sworn away, the rain flooded lower lobby cannot be sworn away nor can the two missing columns in the front portico. These speak for themselves. The broken lintel stone on the rear portico, the missing lintel stones in the front portico—none of these can be sworn away. The lack of roof ventilators, the thin sheet of galvanized iron between the interior of the State house and the "wide world"—these cannot be sworn away and neither can the defects in the dome. Nothing has been reported that does not exist and if this is not believed an inspection will convince.

This is the State's case and as a senator, Mr. Aldrich asked his brother senators not to allow the committee in any way to frustrate the redressing of the wrongs done the State. Let the committee report before the general assembly adjourns for the year.

The Talbird resolution (including the Aldrich preamble) was then adopted as follows:

"Whereas, certain members of the former 'commission to complete the State house' have memorialized the general assembly to make provision for giving them a hearing in reply to the report of the joint 'committee to consider the several reports of the commission for the completion of the State house and facts relating thereto.'"

"Be it resolved by the senate, the house of representatives concurring. That a special joint committee consisting of three members of the house and two members of the senate be appointed by the speaker and president respectively with authority to appoint a stenographer, take testimony, command the production of records and papers and report the same to the general assembly before its adjournment."

Immediately after this was adopted Senator Aldrich offered a concurrent resolution that suit be brought against Frank P. Milburn and Contractors McIlwain, Unkefer & Co., a member being appointed from each house to supervise the litigation. This committee shall have power to employ an attorney who shall receive not more than 25 per cent. of the amount recovered. An appropriation of \$500 is made for the committee.

Immediate consideration was asked for this resolution. Senator Talbird wanted it referred to the judiciary committee which was done.

Later in the proceedings, the regular routine of business was interrupted by a motion by Senator Manning to reconsider the vote whereby this resolution was sent to the judiciary committee. The resolution was very sweeping and the attorney general was usually the person to carry on such litigation.

A very manly statement was made by Senator Manning, who in a delicate way said he was sorry to have to make the matter plain but he thought it would be best. The lawyers of the senate realized the fact that cases sometimes arose in which the legal representatives of the State are disqualified. While disclaiming in any way any reflection of any kind or intimation on the attorney general, and this Senator Manning emphasized, still the fact remains that he was assistant to the former attorney general, and the present assistant attorney general was the law partner of the former attorney general. The senate seemed to recognize and appreciate Senator Manning's remarks and the vote was reconsidered and the resolution adopted by a direct vote.

On motion of Senator Hardin the speeches of Senators Manning and Aldrich will be printed in the journal.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

House Passes the Senate Telephone Bill to a Third Reading, Also the Immigration Bureau Bill.

The Senate Passes the New Ten Circuit Bill, the Bill to Increase Adjutant General's Salary and the Cotton Seed Traffic Bill—Other Matters.

Columbia, Feb. 16.—The House did a hard day's work today. First of all, it passed to a third reading the Senate bill which places

telephone companies under the control of the railroad commission.

Second, it ordered the bill to create an immigration bureau to its third reading. It left the appointment of this immigration commissioner to the Governor, and declined to take the election into the hands of the General Assembly.

The gleaners' bill, which was proposed by the tax commission, and which had previously passed the Senate, was killed in the House today.

The tax commission bill, which seeks to tax cars, rolling stock and other railroad property which are alleged to have escaped taxation, passed the House, and tomorrow will go to the Senate.

Speaker Smith appointed Mr. T. Vancey Williams as the House member of the committee to manage the litigation with regard to the State House work.

The bill to give the railroad commissioners jurisdiction over all telephone lines is practically finished, as the Senate bill was adopted in toto, and the House refuses to consent to any interference with the bill as it had previously passed the Senate.

Mr. Lancaster secured the passage of a bill which provides that mileage books when bought and paid for will be good, not only for the purchaser, but for any member of his family, providing that written notice be given to the railroad company at the time of the selling.

The two big fights of the day were on the immigration bill, which went to its third reading, and on the telephone bill, which is now practically ready to be enacted into law.

Tomorrow, if all goes well, the immigration bill will be finally passed by the House, and, as it is a Senate bill, all that remains is to adopt two amendments—one by Mr. Brooks and the other by Mr. DeVore, relative to the class of immigrants to be sought, but which amendments do not affect the scope of the bill to any degree and which can be arranged in conference.

The Senate this morning passed the bill to divide the State into ten judicial circuits, as reported by the special committee of ten Senators to whom the bill was referred last night. The bill now goes to the House.

Except the time given to the recirculating bill, the Senate devoted practically all of the morning session to a discussion of the bill to increase the salary of the Adjutant and Inspector General from \$1,500 to \$1,900, and the bill to prohibit traffic in seed cotton during certain seasons of the year. Both measures were passed. The latter bill has been discussed at each session for several years past. As passed today, it prohibits traffic in seed cotton between August 15 and December 15. Sea island long staple cotton is exempted from the provisions of the bill. The Senate refused all amendments exempting certain counties from the operations of the proposed law.

The bill, which, as amended by the special committee, was passed by the Senate and sent to the House, divides the State into ten circuits as follows:

1. The counties of Berkeley, Georgetown, Dorchester and Orangeburg shall constitute the 1st circuit.
2. The counties of Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield and Hampton shall constitute the 2nd circuit.
3. The counties of Clarendon, Florence, Lee, Sumter and Williamsburg shall constitute the 3rd circuit.
4. The counties of Chesterfield, Drillington, Horry, Marion and Marlboro shall constitute the 4th circuit.
5. The counties of Kershaw, Lexington, Richland and Saluda shall constitute the 5th circuit.
6. The counties of Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster and York shall constitute the 6th circuit.
7. The counties of Cherokee, Spartanburg and Union shall constitute the 7th circuit.
8. The counties of Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens and Newberry shall constitute the 8th circuit.
9. The counties of Charleston, Colleton and Beaufort shall constitute the 9th circuit.
10. The counties of Anderson, Greenville, Pickens and Oconee shall constitute the 10th circuit.

The Judges of the 9th and 10th circuits shall be subject to assignment by the Chief Justice to hold or continue such regular or special terms of Court as may be necessary until further provided for by law.

Special to The Daily Item. St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—Admiral Alexieff reports that the Russian cruiser Boyar in Port Arthur squadron struck a mine in the harbor and was blown up yesterday. Nearly two hundred officers and men were killed by the explosion or were drowned when the ship sank.

JAPS CROSS YALU RIVER. London, Feb. 16.—It is reported from different sources that the Japanese army of invasion has driven the Russian forces out of Korea and has crossed the Yalu river in pursuit of the Russians whom they are now pushing back into Manchuria. The report has not yet been officially confirmed and no details of the battles preceding the defeat and retreat of the Russians have been received.

STILL OUT OF DANGER. London, Feb. 16.—In a dispatch from Tokio dated Feb. 12, a correspondent of The Times says that the Russian Vladivostok squadron is still to the westward of Tsugaru strait, the eastern exit being guarded by torpedoes.

SENATOR HANNA IS DEAD.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Senator Marcus Alonzo Hanna died at 6.40 o'clock this evening, at the family apartments in the Arlington hotel, after an illness extending over nearly two months, filled with apparent recoveries, followed by relapses and finally drifting into typhoid fever, which in his weakened condition he was unable to withstand. When the end came all the members of the senator's family were in the room, except Mrs. Hanna, the senator's wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hanna. Mrs. Hanna had left the room only a few minutes before.

DR. CARTER'S STATEMENT.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Dr. Edward Perkins Carter, of Cleveland, one of the attending physicians, tonight made the following statement regarding Mr. Hanna's illness:

"Senator Hanna died quietly at twenty minutes of seven this evening, after a most superb fight against a very virulent attack of typhoid fever. The senator had not been confined to his bed only during the past fifteen days."

"From the early course of the disease there was no evidence as to the intense severity of the infection and the outlook at first became bright. Since Sunday, the 7th the progress of the fever became more marked, there being a gradual rise in the temperature from day to day, and by Wednesday the evidences of a severe toxic condition were such as to make the physicians in attendance anxious as to the ultimate outcome, though counting upon some of the Hanna indomita-

ble will, they continued to be hopeful.

"The early inability to retain nourishment was finally overcome, and the case seemed to be progressing more favorably when on Friday last, in the afternoon, the senator had a severe chill.

"Following this his temperature rose rapidly, reaching 105 that night, and the evidences of profound toxemia were marked.

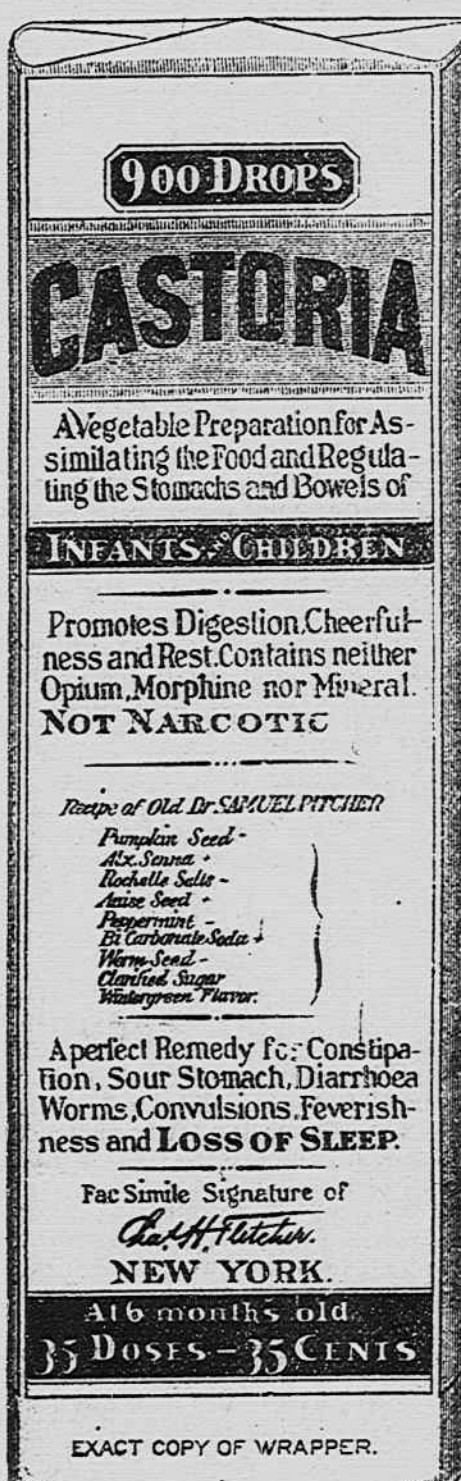
"The change for the worse came early this morning, and was followed by a gradual failure of his strength, which already had been overtaken by the severity of the disease."

Washington, Feb. 15.—The senate in executive session today agreed to vote on the ratification of the Panama canal treaty on Feb. 23.

WANTED, Persimmon, Dogwood, Hickory and Holly Logs. Freight paid on carloads. JAMES COCKSHOTT, Charleston, S. C. Oct 21—4m.

WANTED—Faithful person to travel for well established house in a few counties, calling on retail merchants and agents. Local territory. Salary \$20.00 per week with expenses additional, all payable in cash each week. Money for expenses advanced. Position permanent. Business successful and rushing. Standard House, 330 Dearborn street, Chicago. Nov. 11

FOR RENT—One storehouse, with three room dwelling attached, with necessary out buildings, for five months. Three and one half miles from Sumter in the fork of Providence and Stateburg roads. For terms apply to R. M. Edens, Sumter, S. C. July 29—tf.



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