

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"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, 1856

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The Watchman and Southron.

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COTTON CROP OF 10,960,000 BALES.

Estimates Throughout Belt Point to That Figure—Prospects by States.

Bumper Yield is Now Considered Out of the Question—Acreage Data High.

Texas and Indian Territory,	3,100,000
Oklahoma,	250,000
Georgia,	1,540,000
Arkansas,	745,000
Alabama,	1,150,000
Mississippi,	1,440,000
Louisiana,	575,000
South Carolina,	850,000
North Carolina,	610,000
Tennessee,	250,000
Florida,	60,000
Virginia, Kentucky, Mo., etc,	60,000
Total,	10,960,000

Each cotton crop must be considered as an independent proposition. The causes why one year's crop was large or small may have little or no bearing on the crop of the next year. It is in a measure necessary to make comparisons, but in the main, comparisons between one cotton crop and another are most deceptive, for the reason that there is little or no attention paid to the peculiar conditions governing the yield of one year that may or may not have a bearing on that of another season.

The bumper crops have been surprised. They have for peculiar reasons turned out larger than even the most optimistic had expected. The same is true with the crops that have been unusually small, they have, for particular reasons, failed to come up to what was expected, and as a rule these peculiar conditions have been unanticipated.

The speculative interest in the cotton market is always so strong that it is natural for even the most clear-headed man in the market to deceive himself. If a large crop would mean dollars in his pockets, every indication of a large crop is eagerly seized upon by him, made much of, and magnified. He has no ears for the other side of the story. He knows that there is another side to the market, and he is apt to class as intentions of those opposed to him even the most clearly defined truths if they are antagonistic to his preconceived ideas. The same is equally true of the man who wishes to see a short crop—every mosquito in the South becomes a bull weevil to him.

There are some things that are always paramount in the consideration of any crop, as the acreage and the weather. Of all things that have caused mistaken ideas of what cotton crops would be, there is none perhaps that has led as many men astray as the matter of acreage; and it is a wise man indeed who from a distance, by a mere record of temperatures and rain fall, can form an accurate conception of the effect of weather conditions upon the cotton crop.

The government each year gives out a statement of the acreage. The public, because these figures are given out by the government, is prone to accept them as correct. There is, however, no perfect system of computing acreage, and that employed by the government is far from perfect. This fact has long been recognized by cotton men who have given the matter careful attention. Many suggestions have been made to the government as to some sort of a method by which some accurate idea of the amount of land planted in cotton could be arrived at.

Perhaps the best suggestion is that at the close of a season each ginner be asked to give his idea as to the yield per acre of the cotton ginned by him. This would, of course, not give the bureau the advance of the crop information which it attempts to disseminate, but it would at least give it a fairly good basis upon which to make future estimates.

That the government has been counting in new land put into cotton without making a proper deduction for the land going out of cotton is something that is known to everyone who has made an investigation of the matter. The apparent lessening of the yield per acre that has been the basis of so many very pretty built-up theories in the cotton market, is in some degree a fallacy. The yield per acre has not been growing less as rapidly as it would seem, but there has been a great deal of land going out of cotton each year that has still been counted as cotton land by the bureau in its compilation of acreage figures.

The government said that there were, in round numbers, 32,000,000 acres planted in cotton this year. There were not. Some well posted cotton men, as for instance Julius Range of Galveston, say that these figures were from 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 too large. That is, however, an extreme view of the situation, but the government figures do show more land in cotton than was planted in cotton his spring.

The acreage this year, however was very large, much larger than last year. The increase in acreage was general all over the belt. There was some land in

Texas that was in cotton last season that was not put in cotton this, on account of the weevil, but this was more than offset by the new land—cow land—that went into cotton in Texas this year.

In Oklahoma and the Indian Territory there was a large increase in acreage. Just how large it is difficult to accurately estimate. It has been the custom in the Indian Territory in the past to estimate acreage by nations. This year an effort was made to get the figures by counties, and the result was confusing to say the least.

In the older states there was a great deal of land planted in cotton that was not in cotton last year. The little land owner about the town planted cotton in his backyard and under his orchard trees, but the "city crop" is not worth considering, and a few backyards planted in cotton are apt to give the casual observer an idea of enormous acreage that the facts may not justify. In point of fact in many states there was a great shifting of crops, a planting of cotton on bottom lands, and an abandonment of cotton on uplands which did not promise a large return for the amount of labor necessary to successfully cultivate them. In states like Louisiana this was the case, and in some of the older states of the eastern portion of the belt that have been under fertilizers for a quarter of a century, the possibility of an increase in acreage was limited. A careful study of the situation shows that the acreage this season was a record-breaker, but at the same time not nearly as large as the world has been led to believe.

To be counted against this increase in acreage there must be considered the scarcity of labor in the South. Never before has there been such a lack of labor for the cotton fields as there has been this year. The labor question is the great question in the South. The question is just as grave a one in Virginia as in Texas, in Oklahoma as in Georgia. There was more cotton planted every place than could be successfully cultivated, and the result is very plainly apparent. "It is a spotted crop, with good and poor cotton in the same section," is the often expressed opinion of those who have seen the crop. The reason for this is to a great extent due to the fact that lack of labor has made it necessary to neglect many of the fields. It is possible to plow and plant more cotton with the same amount of labor than it is possible to cultivate properly and pick. The question of securing pickers has been a serious one since the first boll opened; there is much cotton still in the fields that should have been picked weeks ago.

To consider the weather that makes a crop it is necessary to go back beyond the time for the first breaking of the ground and consider the weather of the previous winter. In this connection it is well to consider the peculiar conditions which resulted in the two bumper crops that are ever held up as a criterion of what the South should do in the way of a cotton crop. In the winter preceding the bumper seasons there was a great deal of rain, the ground was full of substance and the plant grew vigorously, sending down a deep tap root. In the late summer came dry weather. The plant seemed to wither, but the deep tap root held its life. Then came warm fall rains, and frost held off unprecedentedly late, while the plant, filled with new life, made cotton.

The bumper crops have been "winter crops." The rains of last winter were not such as those preceding bumper crop years, but at the same time they were up to the average, and the soil was in fair shape, when it was broken. The planting season was a good one, and there was more early planting than ever before. There are two stories, however, to this early planting. In some states, particularly in Texas, there was a great deal of cotton planted too early. The farmers were anxious to get it in early so as, if possible, to beat out the insect pests, and they planted too early, without a proper consideration of the weather conditions, and the cotton was either entirely lost or turned out very poorly.

During the early period of the growth of the plant it made rapid progress. It was almost the unbroken rule that the bloom was full and heavy. The prospects for a record breaking crop seemed the best ever known. Over the whole South there sprang up the idea that the crop was going to be by far the largest ever grown. The South supported this opinion by selling cotton short around and under 9½ cents. There is always a time in the life of every crop that it seems very good. Good weather during the early summer often paints the picture of perfection, only to have it rudely wiped away later on. Every crop has its period of deterioration, and in considering the deterioration of the present crop it is best to look at the condition in different sections separately.

There are, however, many general characteristics about the crop this season which prevail so generally that there is no use considering them sectionally. These general conditions are what give the crop the individuality that every crop must have.

In the first place the plant this year has been small. A small plant in Texas is of course a big plant in North Carolina—but taking each section, the plant has been rather smaller than is usually grown there. Some explain this by saying "seed deterioration," some by saying "land deterioration"; but whatever the cause the plant has not been large one, and, in most sections, not a vigorous one. As a rule the seed has been light, and less productive of oil than usual. As a rule the bolls opened very nearly together, and when they were open the plants stopped making. Of all the points of difference between the crop of this season and those of other seasons the simultaneous opening of the bolls, and the evident sapping of the life of the plant by this opening has been the most marked characteristic of this crop. The plant this year did not send down a deep tap root. Its support has been largely from the lateral

roots. The hot sunshine of the season of fruition caused early and in many instances, premature opening, and this forcing left the plant with little vigor to go on making cotton. There are good lands on which this was not so markedly the case, but as a general rule the plant was pretty near done this season with its first opening, and this precluded the possibility of much of a top crop.

The salvation of the crop has been the long dry spell of the picking season that has permitted cotton to stand in the fields unharmed until the pickers could get to it. The early opening and the opening all together of the crop with labor so scarce as to make it impossible to pick it as soon as it should have been picked, would have meant a disaster if there had come a period of wet, stormy weather. The picking season has been as perfect as any one could desire, however. It will be a good many weeks before the crop can be all picked, and many fields today look whiter and more full of cotton than they should look, simply because the bolls have been open so long that the lint is hanging away down out of them. Rain and wind would work havoc in such fields, but so far there has been no damage of this kind, and a large per cent of the crop has already been gathered, and is as a rule very nice, clean cotton, free from tinges and stains.

There has been a great deal of complaint this year as to the character of the staple. It is true that his complaint has been from certain sections rather than from the entire belt, but at the same time it is generally taken as a rule that a plant that does not produce a heavy, oily seed will not produce long, strong lint. The greatest complaint as to the character of the staple comes from Texas and the other states where "early maturing" short staple seed has been substituted for the old-fashioned long staple variety. The short staple cotton does not carry more bolls to the plant than does the long staple, nor is there more lint to the boll, so that the fact is evident that the large substitution of 3/8 inch to 1/2 inch cotton for inch to inch and an eighth cotton will have some effect in decreasing production.

The crop except on the best lands in the extreme northern portion of the belt, has practically stopped making. In many sections the fields are no longer green. This precludes the possibility of much of a top crop, and at the same time it means that the crop has now very little to fear from frost. The only place where frost, which has held off well this year, could do any material damage now is in Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. Rain and wind would do a great deal more damage than could possibly be done by frost. Ten days of bad weather would greatly reduce the yield in many localities.

In considering the size of the crop this year, the boll weevil must come in for a large share of attention. The march of this pest has not been checked. It has entered the best cotton counties of Texas this year, and, blown by the Gulf winds, has found its way into nine parishes of Louisiana. The more this insect is studied—and no one knows much about the boll weevil yet—the harder to understand become his ways. There are counties in Texas which had the weevil last year that have made fairly good crops of cotton this year, and there are other localities where the pest has swept everything before it, leaving the fields as barren of lint as a tar roof is of pond lilies. The fight to raise cotton in spite of the pest has been waged determinedly and with some degree of success, but the weevil has done its work in Texas, nevertheless. In some of the northern counties, however, it got in too late to be a serious menace this year, but has planted itself to do a full line of business next year. The pest has also done a great deal of damage in western Louisiana, and will decrease the yield of that state to a considerable extent.

Indian Territory's crop is usually lumped with that of Texas in crop statistics. There was large amount of new land in the territory put into cotton this year, and as a rule the plant has done well, although it has not been as early as in other parts of the belt. It is popular in making large crop estimates to tuck away large bundles in the little uncracked corners, and for the reason a great deal has been said about how much cotton Indian Territory and Oklahoma will raise this year. Their crop promise is undoubtedly excellent, but labor has been unusually scarce, many of the fields have been but poorly cultivated, and while there will be a good increase it can scarcely be as large as many people have anticipated.

In Louisiana and Missouri the crop at one time this season looked like perfection. Along in August there was a long continued period of heavy rainfall and this was followed by extremely hot weather. In many sections of these states deterioration was as rapid as was ever seen in any cotton country and the prospects for a bumper crop faded away. There is a great deal of good cotton in both these states but there is also great deal of very poor and that they will do much better than last year does not seem possible.

Floods destroyed a great deal of the best cotton in Arkansas early in the season. This state in many localities also suffered from the effects of very hot weather following periods of heavy rain. The crop in this state is spotted and by no means the best. New York Commercial.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

Sick headache is caused by a disordered condition of the stomach and is quickly cured by Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. For sale by all druggists.

ROOSEVELT FACE TO FACE WITH THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

Private John Smith Marries Negro at Fort Motte, N. J.—Claims Immunity Under President's Action.

Washington, Oct. 18.—President Roosevelt is face to face with the negro problem in one of its ugliest phases. Private John Smith of the United States army hospital corps, stationed at Fort Motte, N. J., has married a negro.

His commanding officer, Surgeon Shallenbee, has recommended his dismissal. The commanding officer of the post refused to endorse this recommendation. It was approved, however, by the surgeon general.

Smith's plea is that if the constitutional commander in chief thinks a negro good enough to eat with he should not object to a private in the army marrying a negro.

Smith is a white man. The war department is endeavoring to sidetrack the case till after election.

SURGEON GENERAL CONCURS.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The surgeon general of the army has concurred in the recommendation of Gen. Grant that John J. Smith, a member of the United States army hospital corps, stationed at Fort Motte, N. J., who is said to have married a negro, be discharged from the army, "for the good of the service."

This recommendation has been forwarded to the secretary of war for his action. Smith wrote to the war department inquiring if there was any reason why he should not be permitted to marry a colored woman, setting forth that her character was good and that he could establish character for himself by his record.

DIVORCE ISSUE AGAIN BEFORE CONVENTION.

Several Resolutions on the Subject Went Over. The Negro Bishop Proposition.

Boston, Oct. 18.—The divorce issue again came before the Episcopal general convention today but no final action was taken on several resolutions, referring to the subject, which were presented. The House of bishops sent a message to the deputies informing them that the bishops had voted to forbid the marriage of any divorced persons, but when the matter was laid before the deputies on the question of concurrence, Rev. Drs. Lewis Parks and W. D. Huntington, both of New York, immediately set the parliamentary machinery in motion to defeat or at least side rack the Bishop's resolution. After a brief but spirited skirmish, the matter was referred to the committee on canons, from which it can be called at any time.

During the forenoon several resolutions favoring a stricter canon on marriage and divorce were referred to a committee.

The divorce matter came to the fore through a resolution of George Foster Peabody of Brooklyn, calling for the appointment of 12 members for both houses to consider the entire question and report to the next general convention. The committee is to confer with other religious bodies as to some uniform standard of legislation bearing on marriage and divorce. It was referred to the committee on canons.

A joint commission, appointed three years ago, presented an extended report recommending that all dioceses and missionary districts be grouped into seven provinces, each province to have authority to legislate on matters which do not conflict with the general convention.

Each province is to elect a primate to preside over it. The report will be acted upon later.

The house of deputies today decided to refer proposition to elect a negro bishop for the southern States to the next convention.

A resolution reported by the committee on state of the church was adopted, that a joint commission of five bishops, five clerical and five lay deputies be appointed to obtain information with reference to the formation of a colored missionary district in the south and suggest the proposed legislation to the next general convention.

The house of bishops nominated Rev. Logan H. Roote of Arkansas for bishop of Hankow, China, Rev. Frank S. Spaulding of Erie, Pa., for bishop of Salt Lake and Rev. A. W. Knight of Atlanta, Ga., for bishop of Cuba. The nominations will have to be ratified by the house of deputies to become effective.

A Love Letter.

Would not interest you if you're looking for a guaranteed Salve for Sores, Burns or Piles. (Oto) Dodd, of Pender, Mo. writes: "I suffered with an ugly sore for a year, but a box of Buckle's Arnica Salve cured me. It's the best Salve on earth. 25 cents at DeLorme's Drug Store."

Shelbyville, Ills., Oct. 19.—The Woodworth Orphan Asylum was destroyed by fire today. Two children are known to have perished and many others were injured by jumping.

Some Seasonable Advice.

It may be a piece of superfluous advice to urge people at this season of the year to lay in a supply of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is almost sure to be needed before winter is over, and much more prompt and satisfactory results are obtained when taken as soon as a cold is contracted and before it has become settled in the system, which can only be done by keeping the remedy at hand. This remedy is so widely known and so altogether good that no one should hesitate about buying it in preference to any other. It is for sale by all druggists.

SLAUGHTER IN THE DARK.

A Night Attack by the Japanese Resulted in a Russian Victory.

Mukden, Oct. 20.—The Japanese are fond of night attacks, which they organize cleverly. They light a series of enormous camp fires at false bivouacs and then stealthily they creep upon the Russian sentinels who, peering into the darkness and blinded by the glare, cannot see the Japanese approaching. Or they take advantage of a rain storm and try to surprise the Russians. On Tuesday night they adopted both ruses, but ran into a hornet's nest. The night was inky black, rain was falling and a cold wind was blowing.

"A fine night for the Japanese" every one said, and the Russians huddled in the trenches had strict orders given to them that if the expected, but uninvited guests appeared not to fire but to meet them with the bayonet. It was so dark that a person could not see his hand before his face except vaguely. Through the rain, in the direction of the false camp fires, all eyes were strained and ears listening intently. The wind which was as cold as ice and cut to the bones was suddenly freighted with ominous sounds, an unmistakable quash in the mire and squirting of water under the tramp of hurrying feet accompanied by the metallic rattle of arms. The Russians stooped lower. The officers passed along another caution—under no circumstances to fire, but to meet the Japanese with bayonets. On they came. The Russians could already see the silhouettes of the Japanese and watched the approach of their victims with grim satisfaction, their anxiety being lest some nervous soldier might fire and thus spoil the game. The Japanese came on straining their eyes in the darkness, evidently believing that the Russians were not so close. When they were right under their feet, the Russians rose up as if out of the ground, and with a hurrah, wildly fell upon them with the bayonet. The front ranks of the Japanese broke, turned and smashed into the second line, hrowing the whole force into disorder. Like a rabble they tried to escape, but the Russians gave them no mercy, bayoneting them as they pursued. For a mile the work of slaughter proceeded and few of the Japanese lived to carry back the tale. In the morning the ground was strewn with corpses.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 21.—A dispatch received this morning reports that General Kuropatkin resumed the offensive yesterday. He took important positions to the right of General Kuroki's army and captured two guns, a hundred and forty shells, and fifty-five men. The Russian losses were five hundred. The bad weather continues at the front, but Gen. Kuropatkin is determined to persist in his forward movement in the face of all obstacles.

Copenhagen, Oct. 21.—The Russian Baltic fleet today weighed anchor off Skaw and steamed into the North Sea. The vessels are thus now fairly embarked on their long journey to the Far East.

Japanese Preparing to Retire.

London, Oct. 21.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company wires that the General Staff has received a telegram reporting that the Japanese are preparing to retire along the whole line.

Fighting Suspended to Bury Dead.

Rome, Oct. 21, 4.30 p. m.—The Agenzia Libria has a Mukden dispatch stating that General Kuropatkin and Field Marshall Oyama have agreed to a 48 hours suspension of hostilities to permit the burial of the dead.

No General Fighting Thursday.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 21, 4 p. m.—Lieutenant General Sakharoff reports that no general fighting occurred yesterday anywhere on the line of battle before Mukden.

Russians Surprise Japanese Battery.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 21, 2.10 p. m.—A press telegram from Mukden says a force of Russians yesterday evening surprised a Japanese battery, killing the gunners and captured three guns.

Broke Into His House.

S. Le Quinn of Cavendish, Vt., was robbed of his customary health by invasion of Chronic Constipation. When Dr. King's New Life Pills broke into his house, his trouble was arrested and now he's entirely cured. They're guaranteed to cure, 25 cents at DeLorme's Drug Store.

Pill Pleasure.

If you ever took DeWitt's Little Early Risers for biliousness or constipation you know what pill pleasure is. These famous little pills cleanse the liver and rid the system of all bile without producing unpleasant effects. They do not gripe, sicken or weaken, but pleasantly give tone and strength to the tissues and organs of the stomach, liver and bowels. For sale by Olin B. Davis.

F. K. Holman, M. D.

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Oct. 15, 20.

A MATTER OF HEALTH



ROYAL
BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure
HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

PANAMA CONSPIRATORS MAD WITH ROOSEVELT.

They Threaten to Sever Diplomatic Relations With Washington.

Washington, Oct. 20.—Misinterpretation of the treaty between the United States and Panama and bad faith in putting its terms into action is the principal accusation of the little Isthmian republic against America. Differences between the Panama Government and General Davis, Governor of the Canal Zone, arising out of an alleged undue exercise of authority by the latter, are what have caused the present situation, which the President regards as serious enough to necessitate a personal investigation by secretary of war Taft.

Created under the auspices of the United States this newest republic in the world has become so irritated against her sponsor that it was threatening to withdraw its diplomatic representative from this country. It is not doubted that Gen. Taft will be able to arrange an amicable settlement of all matters in dispute.

Insomnia and Indigestion Cured

"Last year I had a very severe attack of indigestion. I could not sleep at night and suffered most excruciating pains for three hours after each meal. I was troubled this way for about three months when I used Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, and received immediate relief," says John Dixon, Tallmore, Ontario, Canada. For sale by all druggists.

Washington, Oct. 19.—President Roosevelt today appointed Ira Harris, as supervising inspector of steamships at the port of New York to succeed Inspector Rodie, who was removed as a result of the Slocum commission report. Harris has been engaged in the immigration service at Manitoba for several years. He graduated from Annapolis and had reached the grade of Lieutenant Commander at the time of his retirement to engage in private business.

Happy Results.

Have Made Many Sumter Residents Enthusiastic.

No wonder scores of Sumter citizens grow enthusiastic. It is enough to make anyone happy to find relief after years of suffering. Public statements like the following are but truthful representations of the daily work done in Sumter by Doan's Kidney Pills.

E. McClelland, farmer, residing on the outskirts of Sumter says: "Both my wife and I used Doan's Kidney Pills procured at Dr. A. J. China's drug store, and obtained a lot of benefit from them. I thought it must be the climate which did not agree with us or the water, for we never had the backache until we moved here some four years ago from Pennsylvania, but we certainly have had it since. The secretions from the kidneys were irregular and much too frequent in action, especially at night when our rest was much disturbed. Since we used Doan's Kidney Pills neither of us has had the backache and the action of the kidneys became natural and normal and our rest is not disturbed at night. Doan's Kidney Pills are the best remedy that ever came into my house."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States.
Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Early Risers

THE FAMOUS LITTLE PILLS.
For quick relief from Biliousness. Sick Headache, Torpid Liver, Jaundice, Dizziness, and all troubles arising from an inactive or sluggish liver. DeWitt's Little Early Risers are unequalled.

They act promptly and never gripe. They are so dainty that it is a pleasure to take them. One to two act as a mild laxative; two or four act as a pleasant and effective cathartic. They are purely vegetable and absolutely harmless. They tonic the liver.

PREPARED ONLY BY
E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago
For sale by Olin B. Davis.