

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWSY LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Items of Interest From all Parts of Sumter and Adjoining Counties.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mail your letters so that they will reach this office not later than Tuesday morning. When the letters are received Wednesday it is almost an impossibility to have them appear in the paper issued that day.

DARK CORNER.

Dark Corner, Sept. 2.—We are having some more hot weather after the cool spell during the first of the week.

Cotton is opening fast, and picking is commencing to be the order of the day now. It's getting to be pretty dry with us now. The water in our wells and in Week's mill pond is lower than it has been this year.

I hear of a good deal of fever in Clarendon. Mr. W. W. Giddings, formerly of your city, I understand has three children down with it. We have no sick to report this week and everything is getting along calm and serene in these coasts.

Mrs. Robert N. Owens, of Orangeburg, is visiting relatives here and Clarendon this week and will go to visit Mr. and Mrs. Ab Owen at Bloomhill today. She intends to return home next Monday.

Mrs. S. C. Kolb and her daughter, Mrs. R. N. Owen, visited at W. J. Ardis' yesterday evening. Mrs. Kolb is quite an old lady, being nearly 80 years old. But she can get round right well yet, and still uses her old fashioned knitting needles.

I will have to wait until the weather gets cooler to give a report of the origin of this Dark Corner.

I agree with Mr. Manning—not the dispensary as it is—but purge it. Yes, I say purge it and if it cannot be purged then kill it, but don't give us high license and bar rooms for God's sake!

REMBERT.

Rembert, Sept. 2.—About 10 o'clock today the large barn and stables of Mrs. S. L. Keels was discovered on fire, and in very short time nearly every one in the neighborhood, both white and colored, came to her assistance. The fire originated in the barn, but from what source no one is able now to tell; in a very short time the building was burned to the ground. The fire soon got to the new carriage house, and it was also destroyed, and it was only through prompt help and faithful perseverance that the large dwelling house was saved. At one time fire was discovered on the roof, and everything was removed from the house, saving many articles of furniture to be broken.

Mr. D. V. Keels' loss will be heavy. There were about 300 bushels of corn in the barn, together with all the oats he made this year, and his fodder, one mower, one hay press and all his farming implements.

I could not learn if the houses and contents were insured.

BRAUN.

Braun, September 5.—Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Bradley will leave tomorrow afternoon for Charleston to spend several days.

Miss Hallie Nelson arrived in the neighborhood Saturday and will commence her school today.

Mr. Laurence White and Mr. Pickett, of Edwards, were in the neighborhood one day last week.

Mrs. Lucian James has gone to visit her father, Mr. J. W. Weldon.

Mr. and Mrs. John Weldon, of Georgetown, spent last Tuesday with the family of Mr. A. K. Weldon.

Mrs. Charlie Jackson, of Horatio, is visiting her father, Mr. S. C. James. Mr. J. W. Weldon and Mr. A. K. Weldon spent a day last week at Wisacky on business.

HAGOOD.

Hagood, September 5.—The "bears" have caught it this year, the cotton along with the Russian bear, but the discomfiture of the former was due not to Brown, Hayne & Sully, but to the farmer himself encouraged and helped by every other interest of our Southland. But it some times happens that good fortune turns to misfortune. The war of the producer is against greed and speculation and in this "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The mere thought of this will make some fellow tired. They would fight one battle and have done with the war; they are easily discouraged and are quite ready to surrender any advantage rather than prolong the fray. Do you know these same fellows never help, but are a clog, a burden, a hindrance to any enterprise, whose success is attained in spite of them.

Yes, we farmers have been helped to a more signal victory than that the Japs achieved but they will prove themselves unworthy undeserving such success, if they do not follow

it up with other and greater. You may talk about Brown, Hayne & Sully and the Chicago bulls, but the greatest, the most formidable, the huge bull is the farmer himself. It is greatly feared just now that we will lose some of the advantages gained by farmers rushing their cotton on the market. Let us wait till after the Asheville convention which, with all the facts before it as to the crop, etc., ought, among other things, to fix the price farmers should take for cotton, and that done then let every farmer stand by their action.

My statement regarding the use of meal instead of seed has been criticised sharply and quite eminent authority has been quoted, Chancellor Johnston and others, but notwithstanding I am on the right track. The commercial value of 200 pounds of meal, the amount usually put to an acre of cotton, is about eight and one-fourth bushels of seed, which is so small an amount as to require a distributor. There are several arguments in favor of the use of meal as against the use of seed, but time and space will not allow their discussion.

Most of the people who went away to the mountains have returned, generally benefitted.

Oh! those wedding bells have chimed for more than one here this A. D., 1905.

Cotton and corn here are short, but reports say this is more especially the case in the upcountry.

"Before you clear your moorings know where you are going," is a rule applies to the dispensary as well as the sailor. "Hagood."

PINEWOOD PENCILINGS.

Pinewood, September 4.—Dr. P. M. Salley spent Thursday last in Sumter.

Mr. N. C. Stack left today for a visit to Orangeburg.

One of the most attractive entertainments of the season was a reception given by the young men clerks complimentary to the young ladies. The hall was, beautifully lighted and decorated for the occasion. During the evening the guests were served with cream and cake with iced drinks.

Mrs. H. F. Stack returned Wednesday after spending a few days in Sumter.

Mrs. P. M. Salley and children returned from Smithville, Va., Saturday.

Mrs. R. C. Richardson, Sr., returned from Saluda last week.

DURANTS.

Durant, September 4.—Miss Howle has returned home after a pleasant visit to friends here.

The friends of the family attended the funeral services of Miss Eloise Plowden at Brewington on last Friday morning.

Miss Mary Witherspoon is home again after a stay of some time in Sumter with her cousin, Miss Bessie Ingram.

The Durant school has opened to the delight of the children who are ready for work again. They have secured the services of Miss Maggie McFaddin, who had charge of the school last year.

Mr. J. M. Spann was here a day and night this week.

Mr. Grier filled his pulpit at New Harmony church yesterday, after a holiday of several weeks.

LYNCHBURG.

Lynchburg, S. C., September 5.—Significance of the rapid gathering of cotton and the rushing of it to the places where it is put in marketable shape, is the eternal and almost unceasing racket of Kilpatrick's machinery. Sometimes yes, nearly all the time, the whole mill yard is packed and jammed with wagons loaded with cotton, notwithstanding Mr. Kilpatrick is splendidly equipped for the work, having the latest improved gears and machinery and, so far, no accident or occasion for delay.

But the cotton crop is short and hands plentiful. No complaint at the price the pickers charge—50 cents a hundred—as our farmers think it is fair, considering the price of cotton when placed on the market.

The erection of a large brick store 130x110 on the postoffice corner in this town, will take place by the 1st of October next, if the material can be gotten here by that time. Mr. T. N. Griffin will be the leading factor in this enterprise which will be operated by a joint stock company. This will be, by far, the largest business ever conducted in this town.

The Lynchburg Mercantile Company's new store, is indeed attractive, now that it is filled with such a well selected stock of goods.

Our merchants have at last gotten their eyes fully opened, and mean without some calamity, to make this an up-to-date town.

Our doctors are busy all the time, but have no very sick patients in town.

The mumps caught up with old man John Matthews at last, and he is down in the mouth, but wears a broad face.

The boys have, indeed, a rich joke on Herbert Hickson, but it's too long

to tell this time. Prepare for it. Plummer McIntosh has several shares in the new firm, and it's hard to tell what he'll do next, but we can guess.

Dr. Tarrant, Demps Tallon, Rev. S. O. Canty and R. A. Smith have all had trouble with their horses within the past three days; one got kicked and his buggy badly broken; one got knicked down; run over and his buggy smashed; one got pawed in the head and knocked down and the other got his buggy broken and narrowly escaped serious injury.

Our dear old friend, Frank Potts, is pulling rapidly and poor Elie is "in a hornet's nest."

Old Mr. Luther McIntosh and Col. Rhame went to Bishopville yesterday.

Old man Frank McIntosh says he feels a little better and he surely must, as he picked about three pounds of cotton today.

PISGAH.

Pisgah, Sept. 5.—August went out and September came in with a heat wave in keeping with what we have had all the summer. Farm work was almost suspended from pure heat. It is almost impossible to work when the weather registers in the nineties, and if there are any "doubting Thomases" they should go out and stay in the sun all day. That will convince them better than anything here said.

Cotton is opening real fast, but not like it did last year. Our best farmers say about two-thirds of a full crop will be made.

If the cotton gamblers think they will get this crop for a song, let them think so. Thank goodness the farmers don't now have to take off their hats for a favor from any one. That practice is now ancient history. Too much Southern money to let the yanks control the cotton as they have done in the past. The crop will go on the market as long as it brings about its value, when the price falls below what it ought to be it will stay in the yards and houses as it did this year. Then we will see what will happen and I want to say right here that the farmers have found out that the banks are their best friends in this fight to get the worth of their cotton.

It is amusing to see in some papers, that because Senator Manning agrees along the lines that Tillman does about the dispensary, that he is a coattail swinger to Tillman. Long before either expressed himself, I heard numerous men advocate the same thing. Improve the dispensary, or let it go. Certainly they are not coattail swingers to any man, no more than Tillman or Manning is, but men who do their own thinking, and expresses it whether it pleases any one or not. Men who are patriots often think along the same lines on great questions that affect our State. Ansel, has expressed himself for local opinion. The majority of the people, that I have talked with, want the dispensary, but want it improved or kill it. If the prohibitionists and ex-barkeepers would work as hard to enforce the dispensary law as it should be, and not be continually fighting it, it would be better for the State at large. High license or prohibition means free liquor and smuggling, a state of affairs that some of us don't want to see. People who drink are going to have it, law or no law, until the grace of God changes them to lead a sober life. I observe that the Sabbath is very much desecrated by those of whom we would expect better things. If people who are members of churches find more pleasure things of the world than in the work of their churches, they should withdraw from their churches and quit "running with the hare and barking with the hounds" a practice that is quite common these days, and shows a want of manhood that calls forth the sympathy of men and women.

If the ladies would adopt the practice of not wearing their hats in church, it would be more comfortable to them and certainly those who sit in the rear could see better.

The destruction by fire of Mr. Vernon Keels barn, stables and other out buildings last Saturday should be an object lesson to those who have valuable buildings to insure them. A slight change of wind alone saved the dwelling house, otherwise all the buildings would have been swept by the fire fiend. Mr. Keels' numerous friends here sympathize with him in his loss.

Miss Hallie Nelson opened her school at Pisgah this mornig. It will run nine months including the public term.

Miss Emurat Cooley, of Darlington is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. L. Gillis. She has many friends here who are always glad to see her.

Mrs. Anna Allen who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Entzinger at Blythwood has returned home.

SALEM.

Salem, Sept. 5.—In response to an invitation extended, a few of the congregation of Brick church assembled on last Wednesday. The church yard was beautifully cleaned by means of mowers, "cuffies" &c.

Only a few ladies honored the occasion with their presence, but when they left the inner side of things compared most favorably, and if numbers be taken into consideration, surpassed the outside work that was being done

under the personal supervision of that ever faithful deacon, Col. Jas. R. Muldrow, who is the pillow of this church and whose pleasure it is, regardless of time, and cost to himself to keep things in apple-pie order. This is one of the best kept country churches in the county. These cleanings are regularly done, which means light work at any time, and beautiful surroundings all the time.

Miss Loula Warren who has been on a visit to relatives here, returned to her home at Tampa, Fla., today.

Mr. Hamilton W. McKay, after spending a quiet vacation at home, left today to resume his studies at Davidson college, which opens on September 8th.

There is a petition being gotten up and numerously signed for the opening of a new public road from below Pudding Swamp, to intersect the newly built causeway across Black River. If opened, it will put those who live in this little corner of the county within reach of the county seat. As it is now, some of them are much nearer the county seats of other counties than their own. The opening of this road, which is a continuation of the new road, built a few years ago, will no doubt mean much to the city of Sumter, and prove a great convenience to many taxpayers, who have to go around the globe at least once a year to see our worthy county treasurer, if for no other business.

EDWARDS.

Edwards, Sept. 5.—We had a very heavy rain on yesterday afternoon.

Rev. J. B. Weidon and family of Salters, S. C., are visiting the former's parents here.

Mr. Manning Bourne of Georgetown, S. C., visited friends here last week.

Mrs. B. S. White, of Georgetown, S. C., is visiting her mother, Mrs. S. A. White, of this place.

Miss Maudie Zetroner, who has been visiting relatives and friends here returned to her home in Birmingham, Ala., last Friday.

Mr. Harry Pickett, of Liberty Hill, is visiting Mr. Lawrence White, Jr., of this place.

Mr. Harry Pickett and Lawrence White, Jr., spent Tuesday in Bishopville, S. C.

Misses Edelle and Elma King, of Bethune are visiting Misses Eva and Lou Britton, of this place.

Miss Maud Gardner, of Boykin visited friends here last week.

Mrs. C. L. Britton is quite sick. Mr. Tommy Jenkins, of Reuberts spent a day or two in the community last week.

The health in general of the community is very good.

MAX.

Max, Sept. 4.—Mrs. Tapsot and Mr. Templeton of Staunton, Va., mother and aunt, of Mrs. Malony Chandler, who are spending some time with Mrs. Chandler attended the funeral services of Mr. R. C. Chandler at Bethel Sunday.

Miss Nellie Tilton, of Sampit, Miss Fannie Nettles, of Lake City, Miss Martha Hicks, of Beaulah, Mrs. Emma Tomlinson and Miss Helen LaCoste, of St. Charles visited at Mr. J. A. M. Carraway's last week.

Miss Kennedy and Mr. DuBose of Cades, were the guests of Miss Eva and Mr. Douglas Moore last week.

The young folks enjoyed a social party at the house of Mr. E. T. Moots Friday night.

Mrs. B. C. Truluck's, health continues very poor.

Mrs. Alice Defer is critically ill.

STATEBURG.

Stateburg, Sept. 5.—Miss Mary D. Johnson of Camden is the guest of Miss Virginia Saunders.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Reynolds and little daughter, Julia, returned to Sumter on Friday.

Mr. Frank P. Burgess returned to Bishopville on Friday, where he will buy cotton for Iman this season.

Misses Annie and Mayo Rees are visiting friends in Summerton.

Mr. Henry V. Frierson left on Monday for Catawba.

Miss Annie M. Barnwell returned to Sumter on Thursday, after a pleasant holiday spent at her home here.

Mrs. Tom Sumter and Miss Kate Sumter spent several days last week with Mrs. Rees at "Midway."

Messrs. Matt and Henry Moore and Miss Lee Moore visited relatives in Clarendon last week.

Dr. and Mrs. John Johnson returned to Charleston on Friday after a delightful visit to Mrs. R. M. Cantey.

Mrs. E. F. Holmes and Miss Annie Holmes returned on Saturday from Angeline, N. C., where they have been for the past two months.

Mr. J. Singleton Moore, of Sumter, spent several days last week at "The Ruins."

Mr. A. M. Lee's family have returned to their home in Charleston, after a two month's stay at "Farm Hill."

Mrs. M. S. Burgess, of Sumter, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Pluckney.

Mrs. H. S. Gaillard returned to Pinopolis on Saturday after a pleasant visit to friends here.

Greenville county's first bale of cotton was ginned Thursday.

Chester will have another bank with \$25,000 capital, making four banks in all in that town.

John and William Taylor, both white, were arrested at Leesville Friday by H. W. Holloway, Special Agent of the Comptroller General's office, for burning the house of Henry Montz last March.

Greenville will have a Jim Crow street car ordinance in a short time which will provide for a separation of the white and colored races on the electric cars of the city and suburbs if present plans mature at the meeting of the city council on next Tuesday evening at the city hall.

Adam Wilkes, a negro man, was arrested in Spartanburg Friday, charged with the serious crime of criminaly assaulting a colored girl, Ivy Choice, aged eight years. His case was investigated in Magistrate Kirby's court and he was bound over to sessions court. The evidence against Wilkes was very damaging.

Weekly Crop Bulletin.

Columbia, September 5.—The week ending Monday, September 4th, began with very cool weather, but the warmth increased to above normal by its close, making the average temperature for the week about normal. The extremes were a maximum of 98 degrees at Blackville and Florence on September 1st and 2d, and a minimum of 50 degrees at Greenville on August 29th and 30th. The week was generally clear with increasing cloudiness during the last two days. The relative humidity was uniformly low.

Over the greater portion of the State there was no rain during the week, and in places the ground is becoming dry and the need of moisture is indicated, especially in the coast truck districts; showers were general, though mostly light, over the western half of the State beginning on the night of the first and continuing to the close; there were also rains in the eastern tier of counties with occasional heavy showers.

On the whole, the weather was favorable for general farm work, especially for haying and saving fodder and for picking cotton. In localities where the soil has been too wet heretofore, it dried sufficiently to permit gardening and plowing. Some oats have been sown in the central counties.

Cotton continues to deteriorate on sandy lands owing to rust and excessive shedding, so that practically the plants have ceased to grow or fruit and nearly all the top crop has dropped off; on clay lands the conditions are better, but rust has appeared in places. On sandy lands cotton opened rapidly, and picking made rapid progress over the eastern and central counties and will be general over the western ones during the coming week. On clay lands it is just beginning to openly freely. Caterpillars continue numerous on sea-island cotton.

Tobacco curing is finished. Rice harvest is underway and some has been threshed. Peas and sweet potatoes are doing well. Pastures continue good. Strawberry plants being set out. Fall truck being planted extensively in the coast districts but the soil is too dry for favorable germination.

Hester's Cotton Report.

New Orleans, Sept. 1.—Secretary Hester of the cotton exchange has made public the following leading totals from his annual report, showing the cotton crop of the past season:

Receipts of new cotton handled at southern outports to close of August, 1905:

New Orleans, 596 bales; Galveston, 47,862; Mobile, 934; Savannah, 24,383; Charleston, 925; Wilmington, 469; Norfolk, 160; Baltimore, —; New York, —; Newport News, —.

Total new cotton grown, 1905-06, marketed in July and August this year, 75,429; new cotton marketed July and August last year, 75,780 bales.

American cotton crop for two years, year ending close of August: Receipts of cotton at all United States ports for the year, 10,319,722, against 7,257,222, last year; overland to northern mills and Canada, 1,128,183, against 939,933 last year; southern consumption taken direct from the interior of the cotton belt, 2,117,920, against 1,819,299, making the cotton crop of the United States for 1904-05 13,565,885, against 10,111,374 last year.

Total crops 1904-05, 13,565,885; 1903-04, 10,111,374.

Secretary Hester makes the actual growth of cotton of 1904-05 (in thousands of bales): Commercial crop of 1904-05, 136,568; less old crop of 1903-04, 200; total 133,366, plus growth of this year marketed in July and August, 1904, 80.

Grown not marketed, 1903-04, 322,402; total 13,638.

Deduct July and August receipts of new cotton growth of 1905-06, 75.

Actual growth crop of 1904-05, per United States census bureau, 13,693,000.

Bradstreet's Review.

New York, Sept. 1.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

September opens with fall buying apparently at a maximum, marked activity in all lines of industry, liberal buying by railroads of rails and supplies, currency shipments to the country to move crops increasing and with confidence as to the outlook for trade previously noted strengthened by the successful issue of the Russo-Japanese peace negotiations. These latter, jointly with the increased pressure of supplies of agricultural products on leading markets, have had a distinct effect upon many commodity values, the tendency being toward a lower level in cereals, cotton, live animals, potatoes and butter. It is to be noted, however, that home products are strong and higher on the week.

Large eastern centres report marked activity in all lines of cotton goods, and larger buying of clothing, shoes, millinery, lumber, building material and hardware. Southern trade advances are of a good tone, except in the quarantine sections and in parts of Texas.

Business failures for the week ending August 31 number 161 against 189 in 1904.

The first bales of this year's cotton crop were sold in Spartanburg Friday.

County Supervisor Gardner of Lancaster and the committee of Prohibitionists, who have been engaged for several days in comparing the names on the petitions for an election under the Brice law with the registration books, concluded the work on the 30th. The signers numbered 1,065, but when the petitions were purged of unregistered voters the number was reduced to a figure between 650 and 700—more than enough, however, to comply with the law.

THE RICHLAND DISTILLERY.

THIS OFFSPRING OF THE DISPENSARY COULD FURNISH BIG SENSATION.

Who Owns the Stock and Who Profits From the Big Business is the Question—No Probability of the Facts Are Leaking Out.

Columbia, Sept. 4.—A matter which is puzzling the dispensary investigating commission, as it has been puzzling many people here and throughout the state for many months, is what is back of the scenes in the case of the Richland Distillery concern, which has been getting such a rapidly increasing business from the state dispensary, although there is much complaint about the quality of the goods. The company, which is capitalized at only \$100,000, did a million dollars worth of business with the dispensary last year, and three of its directors, J. S. Farnum, the Charleston beer man; and Sam J. Lanahan, he of the Mixson bribery incident; and Mr. Bernheim of the whiskey house bearing his name—managed to "cop out" a good business on the side for their outside houses.

"What we want to know," said a member of the commission to your correspondent, "is who is holding certain stock in trust and whom it is being held for we have not been able to get at this so far."

The report has been current for some time that dispensary officials have stock in the concern, but nobody has ever been able to point to the man. If the commission establishes at Sumter next week that dispensary officials are or have been holders of this stock a cracking sensation will be created, though the probability is not strong that such a showing will be made. Director Boykin will go on the stand at his request, but otherwise the Sumter investigation is expected to be confined to the sub-dispensaries.

In the opinion of many people in position to gather information, there is no foundation for these suspicions. The president of the concern receives a salary of only \$1,200 a year and the active manager gets less than \$5,000. President Block said recently the concern was not profitable and has never paid a dividend, that the profits all went out in salaries.

State Chemist Burney who has been analyzing for the State dispensary since the G. M. I started, says it will be useless for the commission to put him on the stand as he will be able to give no information of value, since his duties have been merely to examine samples sent him for impurities and establish the proof.

"No," he said in answer to a question "nobody has ever attempted to bribe me either directly or indirectly. From the beginning I let these whiskey men know that I did not wish them to call on me, and they have let me alone."

"I know nothing about the quality of goods—I do not pretend to know anything about grading whiskey or wine. Experts should do the grading by taste. But this is an accomplishment it takes years of practice to perfect. There are wine tasters who have such delicately sensitive tastes as to be able to tell, not only the general quality of goods but to name the vintage, but these people are paid well, as are expert tea tasters, who are absolutely necessary to the tea merchants, and who by the way do not live long." McCaw.

TREATY IS COMPLETED.

Portsmouth, September 4.—The treaty of peace has been engrossed and is now ready for signing. The exact time the signatures will be attached has not been definitely fixed.

The clerks worked all night engrossing the document. The treaty consists of fifteen articles, with a lengthy preamble. It is estimated that there are 4,000 words in the document.

Extraordinary precautions are being taken to prevent the text becoming public. It will be kept secret until it has been ratified by the respective governments.

The Treaty Signed.

Portsmouth, Sept. 5.—The treaty of peace was signed at 3:47 by the plenipotentiaries of Japan and Russia.

Letter to R. I. Manning,

Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: We are in partnership with it, Burt, N. Y., has had its paint experience.