

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1905.

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 outlook is for the best business this fall that Sumter has had in many years.

The sewerage question is not dead and the men who want to be mayor next year will have to be well posted on the subject and not afraid to declare their views.

It seems to an outsider that the whiskey houses could have devised a more convenient voucher for the use of dispensers than empty packing cases. They were the most cumbersome drafts on record, but so long as they brought the money promptly the dispensers were satisfied.

If all the testimony taken is printed in the report of the investigating committee to the legislature it will make a bulky volume and the lawmakers will have to work over time to read it all.

And after all graft found a lodgement in the Sumter dispensary. We were led to believe that the investigating committee had been unable to discover anything radically wrong in the management of the local dispensary; and we actually had faith and nerve to congratulate Sumter that it possessed a well managed and graft-proof rum shop. But it is evident that Dispenser Windham was tarred with the same stick as the other dispensers and utilized his opportunities to augment his salary by trafficking in empty whiskey cases and beer bottles. We take back all that we said a few days ago and admit that Sumter dispensary affairs are neither better nor worse than in other counties. The dispensary under the existing management seems to be first and last a system of graft on the side for the men who run it. The profit on the side seems to extend from the highest to the lowest, and when the local dispensers have received a rake off amounting to a few hundred dollars a year, the big men have had their thousands. It is a system of pickings from top to bottom and there is yet to be found the man who has not received his share. This being the case, about the only way to purge the system of graft is to make a clean sweep of all who are now responsible for the management of the State or local dispensaries and change the entire system of purchasing liquors. The foundation of the present system of graft lies in the purchase and the sale of special brands of liquors in the dispensaries, and until the sale of case goods in discontinued the whiskey houses will continue to devise schemes to make it profitable to the dispensers to push their special brands. The discontinuance of the sale of special brands would cut off the most profitable graft of the local dispensers, but the purification of the State dispensary, where the rake off on purchases amount to thousands, if report be true, is a far more difficult matter.

The Christensen-Lyons sub-committee on county dispensaries have performed the duty assigned them fearlessly, thoroughly and justly. They were directed to obtain the facts and facts they have succeeded in obtaining are so complete and convincing that no one can doubt the existence of mismanagement in each and every county dispensary in the State. The case is complete and if the legislature does not take steps to remedy the conditions that have been growing steadily worse for several years, it will be because the law-makers wilfully and knowingly disregard a plain duty. Messrs Christensen and Lyons have performed a disagreeable duty with ability and painstaking care and they merit the thanks of the people of the State. If the exposure of the State dispensary shall be as thorough the investigating committee will have performed a monumental work.

The announcement of Schwartz Bros. that they will hereafter close their store at 6 o'clock p. m., every day in the year, Saturdays excepted, is the most welcome news the mercantile employees of this city have received since the summer early closing agreement was inaugurated about eighteen years ago. The proposition that all stores close at 6 p. m., Saturdays excepted, from May 1st to September 1st was revolutionary and at first no one would take time to consider it seriously yet it appealed to public sentiment and common sense alike and the custom was soon adopted and for nearly two decades the stores of Sumter have closed at 6 p. m. during the summer months to the satisfaction and benefit of all concerned. Sumter was the pioneer in the summer early closing movement in South Carolina towns, but gradually other towns have fallen into line and now in quite a number of towns the stores close at 6 p. m. during the

summer. The movement inaugurated by Schwartz Bros. is fully as revolutionary as the summer closing was once considered, but it is just as reasonable and appeals to the common sense of those who will consider it a business proposition. We trust and believe that other progressive merchants will promptly fall into line and make the 6 o'clock closing unanimous. A clerk does a full day's work between 7 or 8 o'clock a. m. and 6 p. m., and there is no good reason why the stores should remain open until all hours of the night, keeping the employes on duty for twelve or fourteen hours.

There is just so much business to be transacted and it can be done between 7 and 8 p. m. and 6 p. m. as well as between 6 a. m. and 10 p. m.

The Schwartz plan is a good plan and we heartily endorse it.

The State dispensary officials must have burned all the letters that would show evidence of graft, for no such letters have been produced. The Columbia gang, are evidently smarter as well as bigger, graters, than the little box and bottle traffickers.

If the farmers expect to make the demand of the Cotton Growers' Association that the buyers pay a minimum of 11 cents for cotton effective they must hold at least 75 per cent of their crop until December 1st and 50 per cent until January 1st. By that time the world will be hungry for cotton and willing to pay the price the producers fix. This is where the cotton warehouses come in.

Nearly all the testimony touching on corruption in the management of the State dispensary relates to Williams, Miles, Douthet and other men who have been out several years and are now without power or influence in the graft machine. Where are the witnesses to tell what Evans, Boykin and Towill have been doing in the past year or two. Ancient history is an interesting and instructive study, but a history of our own times is the literature the people appreciate most. A two volume history of the reign of Hub Evans would be the most popular story of the year.

It was to be regretted that Mayor Rhett, of Charleston, found it inconvenient to attend the session of the investigating committee in this city. He may have been able to throw some light on the situation in the blind tiger metropolis, whereby we could form an opinion of the conditions that would result if the effort is made to substitute prohibition for the dispensary throughout the State.

The Cotton Growers' Association acted wisely in not fixing the minimum price of cotton at an excessive figure. Eleven cents, under present conditions is a fair price and the spinners can afford to pay it and still make money with cotton goods at present prices. If the mill men and cotton growers will get together and cut out the Theodore Prices and similar cotton future gamblers they can regulate the price of cotton to their mutual advantage.

The young men are giving liberally toward the Presbyterian College fund. The men of moderate means in Sumter can always be counted on to show public spirit. They will deny themselves to contribute to any movement that promises to benefit the town. It is this spirit that has made Sumter and will continue to keep it in the forefront of South Carolina towns.

There is now substantial ground for hope that the movement to secure the location of the Presbyterian college in this city will be crowned with success. The people of Sumter are beginning to put their heart into the work, and if they become fully aroused and determined to secure the college the college will come to Sumter. Men of all faiths, callings and professions have united in the effort to bring the college to Sumter and this unanimity of thought and purpose should accomplish the task of raising the few thousand dollars that are needed to complete the fund required. It is not questioned that it would be to the best interests of both Sumter and the college for it to be located here, and if every citizen of the town will do his part success is assured. The benefits to be derived from the college have been fully presented heretofore, and it is needless to reiterate them here. In our opinion the property owners and business men of Sumter could make no better investment than to subscribe to the college fund. Leaving all other considerations aside the college will pay as a financial investment and it will be a perpetual advertisement of the very best sort for the city. The college will grow in size and influence each year and before many have passed it will rank with the leading educational institutions of the South for the Presbyterians of South Carolina have determined to make it the peer of any. Sumter can and must raise the few thousands more that are needed.

It would pay you to see W. H. Graham's horses. They are good. 9 13-4t

HESTER'S COTTON REPORT.

The Yield for 1904-5 Given as 13,565,885 Bales, an Increase of 3,554,511 Over That of 1903-4.

New Orleans, La., September 8.—Secretary Hester's report was issued in full today. He puts the cotton crop for 1904-5 at 13,565,885 bales, an increase of 3,554,511 over that of 1903-4.

He says that compared with last year, in round figures, Texas, including Indian Territory, has increased 708,000 bales. The group known as other Gulf States, consisting of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, Utah and Kansas has increased 1,106,000 and the group of Atlantic States, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia, has gained 1,741,000.

He puts the average commercial value of this crop at \$46.31 per bale, against \$61.68 last year and the total value of the crop at \$628,195,359, against \$617,501,548 last year and \$480,770,282 the year before.

Referring to values he gives details of prices, showing that taking the cotton belt as a whole, the highest figure for middling was 11 3-16 cents per pound at the opening of the season in September and the lowest 6 1-2 cents on the 29th of December, but says that the crop as a whole averaged strict middling, and that the average value per pound was \$98-100 cents compared with 12 15-100 last year.

In reference to weight he puts the average per bale at 515 58-100 pounds, showing a gain over last year of 7 89-100. This crop, he says, is the heaviest in weight per bale of any recorded, the best previous weight having been 513.96 in 1898-99, the year of the largest previously reported crop.

Mr. Hester remarks that while each and every crop has had its distinctive features, the story of none is fraught with circumstances more peculiar and interesting than the one just marketed. It is not to be wondered that when in last December the agricultural department put forth an estimate pointing to more than twelve and a quarter million bales, a feeling akin to panic was felt in every section of the cotton growing States.

Mr. Hester recites the manner in which this monster crop has been handled; but it has practically all been marketed, avoiding a crash which seemed at first inevitable and will remain a lasting monument to the conservatism and cooperative power of the Southern people. In this great economic struggle all elements joined in the victory.

Mr. Hester makes the actual growth for the season 13,800,000, and says that the recent report of the census bureau of cotton ginned does not cover the entire growth; that all of the year's growth has not been ginned, full returns therefore have not been made. Mr. Hester pays a high tribute to the census bureau methods, saying that it affords a mass of invaluable information to the cotton world superior to any that has ever been put forth, and that he is quite certain from his own private investigation and consultation with Director North that in another season the bureau will be able to give almost an exact showing of the actual growth.

He puts the spindles in the south at 9,205,949 against 8,615,369 last year. The net gain in the number of Southern mills over last year has been 15, making the total now 777. Of these 709 have been in operation during the year, 38 are idle and 30 are in course of erection, 15 old and out of date concerns which ceased business, having been crossed off the list.

In reference to the general cotton manufacturing industry in the United States, Mr. Hester says that American mills, north and south, have had the most active season on record, but while the totals show an excess in the number of bales of American cotton consumed by domestic factories of 495,000 over last season, bringing the aggregate to an amount never before reached, it is at least 350,000 bales less than it would have been with favorable labor conditions. In the south the growth of spindles continues on a large scale, those in active mills having increased \$23,193 and there are new mills in course of construction and additions being made to old conditions embracing 520,000 spindles.

Mr. Hester makes the consumption of American cotton by northern mills (in round figures) 2,200,000 bales, which together with 2,164,000 bales by Southern mills make an aggregate for the United States of 4,364,000, against 1,950,000 for the north last year and 1,919,000 for the south, a total of 3,869,000, showing an increase for this year of 495,000.

Mr. Hester puts the world's consumption of American cotton at 11,883,000 bales against 10,193,000 last year and 10,876,000 the year before, an increase over last year of 1,690,000, and over the year before of 1,007,000. He makes the total visible supply of American cotton in the world at the close of August 2,750,000 bales against 1,031,000 last year, an increase of 1,726,000 over last year.

A BRUTAL MURDER.

Bleese Shot Coleman in the Back as He Ran for His Life.

Columbia, September 9.—There is no railroad or phone connection with Saluda and details of the Coleman-Bleese killing are unobtainable. A long distance message from Johnston says the inquest is in progress and feeling runs high.

The fatal difficulty began with a quarrel between the senator and his brother-in-law in Trayham's store. Bleese reached for his revolver, but by-standers held him and told Coleman to run. Coleman ran, but as he was fleeing Bleese disengaged himself by a powerful effort and shot Coleman four times as the latter ran.

The Bleese side has engaged practically the entire bar of Saluda, while the Coleman's are contracting with members of the Newberry bar.

Columbia, September 9.—Ex-Constable J. B. Coleman, who was shot at Saluda yesterday by his brother-in-law, Senator Eugene Bleese, died today.

AN ATROCIOUS CRIME.

Highly Respected Young Woman Criminally Assaulted Near Johnston.

Johnston, Sept. 7.—Jim Padgett, a mulatto, was arrested this morning by Chief of Police Derrick as the former was attempting to leave the city on the early train. Padgett is charged with an assault on a young white girl who lives near here. The assault occurred on last Monday and Padgett has been in hiding since. After the arrest he was immediately carried to Edgefield and it is reported will be carried to Columbia tonight. The crime is a very atrocious one. The young girl belongs to a highly respected family. Expressions of lynching are freely indulged in, and Padgett would suffer violence if opportunity offered. It is said he made a similar attempt on another vic in a few years ago.

A bracing tonic. Cures all stomach troubles. Makes red blood, bone and muscle. A wonderful remedy for making sick people well. Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. 35 cents. Tea or Tablets. China's Drug Store.

Master's Sale.

By virtue of a Decree of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, in the State of South Carolina, in the case of George G. Mayes against Laura McLeod, Harvey McLeod and Margaret Montgomery, I will sell to the highest bidder, at public auction, at the Court House in the city of Sumter, in the county of Sumter, in the State of South Carolina, on saleday in October, 1905, being the second day of said month, during the usual hours of sale, the following described real estate, to wit:

All that lot or parcel of land situate in the town of Mayesville, in the county and State aforesaid, fronting on Sumter street in said town, measuring in front on said street sixty-six and two-thirds feet, and running back southeasterly the same width for two hundred and nine feet, and is bounded on the northwest by Sumter street, on the northeast and southeast by lands of J. E. Atkins, and on the southwest by lands of Geo. P. Randolph; the said lot measuring about one acre, a little more or less.

Terms of sale, cash. Purchaser to pay for all necessary papers.

H. FRANK WILSON,
Master for Sumter County.

Sept 6-4t

Master's Sale.

By virtue of a Decree of the Court of Common Pleas for Sumter County, in the State of South Carolina, in the case of Catherine M. Werber against W. O. Cain, in his own right and as guardian, Marion Moise, William M. Cain, S. R. Cain, Carrie E. George, Helen E. Ramsey, Thomas J. Jackson, B. J. Jackson and J. B. Harvin, I will sell to the highest bidder, at public auction, at the Court House in the city of Sumter, in the county of Sumter, in the State of South Carolina, on saleday in October, 1905, being the second day of said month, during the usual hours of sale, the following described real estate, to wit:

All that tract of land situate in the County of Sumter, State aforesaid, containing one hundred and thirty-three acres, bounded on north by lands of H. D. Cain south by lands of John J. Rowland and Isaac Ballard, east by estate of R. B. Cain, known as the Mill tract, and west by land of A. J. China.

Second: All that tract of land situate in said county and State, containing one hundred and seventy-five acres, bounded north by lands of J. S. Richardson, south by land of J. R. Cain, east by land of F. M. Mellett and by the estate of R. M. Cain, and west by land of J. T. Jackson.

Terms of sale, cash. Purchaser to pay for all necessary papers.

H. FRANK WILSON,
Master for Sumter County.

Sept 6-4t

COTTON PICKING SEASON.

The Season for harvesting the Fleecy Staple is now at hand, and our warehouses are full to overflowing with the necessaries for that purpose. We have actually in stock or due to arrive in a few days

- 500 Boxes Tobacco.
- 200 Boxes Starch.
- 200 Boxes Crackers.
- 200 Boxes Soap.
- 200 Bags Rice.
- 100 Cases Baking Powder.
- 100 Cases Canned Meats.
- 300 Cases Tomatoes.
- 100 Boxes Candy.
- 200 Boxes Cheese.
- 300 Bags Grits.
- 300 Bags Meal.
- 100 Barrels Sugar.
- 50 Bags Coffee.
- 50 Cases Lye.
- 50 Cases Soda.
- 25000 lbs Bacon.
- 5000 lbs Lard.
- 500 Barrels Flour.

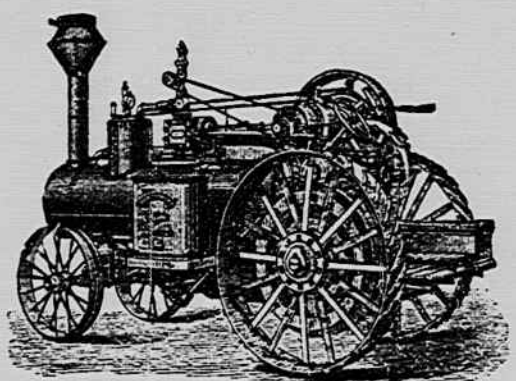
These and many other items too numerous to mention are what is needed for the commissary, and there is no house in this section of the State can sell them any cheaper than we can, as we buy direct from packers, manufacturers and importers, in such quantities, as to insure us the closest price at which they can be obtained.

FLOUR CHEAPER.

There has been a sharp decline in the flour market since our last announcement which of course we follow, and judging from the enormous wheat crop, we may expect to eat much cheaper bread than we did last year.

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R. B. BELSER. R. D. EPPS.

BELSER & EPPS,

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A Busy Medicine for Busy People.
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A Specific for Constipation, Indigestion, Liver and Kidney Troubles, Pimples, Eczema, Impure Blood, Bad Breath, Sluggish Bowels, Headache and Backache. It's Rocky Mountain Tea in tablet form. 35 cents a box. Genuine made by HOLLISTER DRUG COMPANY, Madison, Wis.
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