

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southern in 1866. The Watchman and Southern now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers are requested to examine the label on their papers, which show the date to which the subscription has been paid. Those who find that they are in arrears are requested to call and settle or remit at the earliest convenient date. The amount that each subscriber owes is small, but in the aggregate the amount due us for subscription is quite large—and we need the money.

Charleston has invited President Roosevelt to pay that city another visit. Has Crum been forgotten?

Attorney General Lyon has been in office a week, but no dispensary grafters have been started on the road to the penitentiary.

President Roosevelt sent a special message to congress Wednesday boosting the ship-subsidy graft. This is a party measure, and he probably had to do it to propitiate the moneyed friends of his friend Cortelyou.

Mr. J. J. Kolb's letter to City Council protesting against the failure of the Sumter Telephone company to furnish him with a telephone, for which application was made nearly a year ago, and at intervals since, puts the matter squarely up to that company. It looks like a case of "Shoot, Luke, or give up the gun."

The dispensary fight in the house, which begins next Tuesday, promises to be interesting in some respects, but the result is a foregone conclusion. The anti-dispensary side is the popular side now and the house can be depended upon to do what appears to be the popular thing every time.

The trial of Harry Thaw, the millionaire degenerate, for the murder of Stanford White, was begun in New York Wednesday and the news agencies are giving it as much prominence as a news feature as they gave the Kingston earthquake; and the worst of it is the trial will last longer than a dozen earthquakes.

The charge against Senator Bailey that he was a hireling of the Standard Oil Trust and had used his political influence to aid that concern to circumvent the laws of Texas had no more effect upon the voters of Texas than did the Hubbell rebate charges against Senator Tillman in this State. A majority of the Texans are for Bailey against the world, the flesh and the devil as South Carolinians are for Tillman.

If the South Carolina State Baseball League is organized on a business basis the people of Sumter will give the local club and the league enthusiastic support. Sumter wants good ball and will go as far as the next town to get it, but the fans want to be assured of clean sport and a fair deal. This we believe we shall have under the organization recommended by the retiring president, Mr. H. S. Baird, and directed by Mr. M. I. Smith, as president. The selection of Mr. Smith as president could not be improved upon.

Representative Mann had the right to have his reasons for not voting for Senator Tillman recorded, and the vote of a majority of the members to expunge his statement from the house journal was an exhibition of subserviency to Senator Tillman that surpassed their refusal to adopt the resolution endorsing President Roosevelt's discharge of the negro troops. Senator Tillman is an able man and in our opinion his services in the senate entitled him to re-election, but he is not above criticism, and the house does itself no credit by its truckling attitude.

Within the past thirty days three persons have been painfully injured and a little girl killed on the streets of this city, and the preponderance of evidence in each case indicates that the accidents were the result of carelessness in greater or less degree. In two cases, viz: the injury of Sergeant Jenkins and that of Rev. F. V. Satterwhite, it is alleged, and there were credible witnesses to sustain the allegation, that the accidents were unavoidable, owing to circumstances over which the driver had no control at the instant the accidents occurred; but the recurrence of such accidents shows that due care has not been exercised by the riders and drivers. There seems to be a spirit of recklessness on the part of riders drivers of horses and the drivers of automobiles, as well, that renders the streets unsafe to pedestrians and

bicyclists. This condition has been growing worse and worse for a long time and we are of the opinion that the ordinances against fast and reckless driving should be rigorously enforced. There is nothing to be said against punishing those who drive over and injure pedestrians, but it would be far better to prevent such accidents by putting a stop to fast driving.

SOUTH CAROLINA WINS.

The Greatest Yield of Corn in the World Per Acre Last Year Was Gathered From a Farm in Clarendon County.

South Carolina again wins the championship in the matter of raising the greatest yield of corn per acre. The prize yield was 182 bushels to the acre and Mr. A. J. Tindall of Clarendon is the successful competitor. A few years ago in a similar contest, South Carolina own the first prize, Mr. Drake of Marlboro having produced 254 bushels to the acre.

This is a great advertisement for South Carolina and a great feather in the cap of the bureau of agriculture and immigration which advertised the contest and worked up interest therein. The bureau has achieved several notable successes in the last 12 months, this and the arrival of the Wittekind being the most conspicuous.

Notwithstanding he is pardonably proud of the accomplishment of his department during this year in establishing the trans-Atlantic service to Charleston and securing the far-reaching decision of Secretary Straus in the matter of immigration, both of which matters have brought South Carolina so prominently to the front in pioneer work and have accomplished so much in the way of widespread advertising of the State, when the news came over the wires yesterday that South Carolina had won the national record of the production of corn per acre in the national contest of the American Agriculturist, Commissioner Watson felt that this happy result of the efforts made by the department to have South Carolina farmers in this contest would have as far-reaching effect in the matter of advertising the resources of this State as either of the other achievements. He said that such a victory coming at such an opportune moment would be the means of substantiating the claims of this State as a desirable section for agricultural settlers, and when it is considered that aside from any other publicity given it the full details of the victory will be seen by 230,000 readers of the farming class of one set of publications alone, covering this entire country, the value of securing this record by a South Carolina farmer cannot be estimated too highly.

The following is a copy of the telegram received by Commissioner Watson yesterday morning:

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 23, 1907.
To E. J. Watson, Commissioner, Columbia, S. C.

The largest in yield of corn 182 bushels net one acre in American Agriculturist contest raised in your State. Sweepstakes divided equally among one crop each South Carolina, Ohio, Iowa, Connecticut. Graduated report your contestants follows: Congratulations. Myrick, President Board of Managers Grain Contest.

Commissioner Watson at once wired to Mr. Myrick:

"Yours received. Information most gratifying and welcome. Kindly wire me at once name of man who raised 182 bushels. "Watson."

In the afternoon the answer came:

"A. J. Tindall, Clarendon county, 182."

Mr. Tindall was given the news in the following telegram. To him at Manning in Clarendon county:

"You hold best record in national contest corn growing. Congratulations. "Watson."

Among the counties represented in the contest were Orangeburg, Florence, Hampton, Kershaw, Colleton, Marlboro, Clarendon, Anderson, Darlington, Famberg, Richland, Williamsburg, Chesterfield and Saluda.

In speaking of the result of the contest and the victory of Mr. Tindall, Commissioner Watson said:

"I have realized ever since I began this work the immense value of the fact that in the last national contest 15 years ago the largest yield of corn per acre in the United States or elsewhere was by Capt. Drake of Marlboro county, in this State. When it became known that there would be another contest for this world's record this year I hastened to recommend to the general assembly an appropriation of \$500 for the purpose of a State contest in corn raising, thereby enabling contestants in the State contest to participate in the national contest, feeling sure that we could win, and knowing full well that if we could we would reap a splendid harvest in the way of valuable advertising, such a victory recalling the previous victory in the minds of the

masses in this and other countries, and accentuating the power of that victory.

"It was gratifying when the legislature unhesitatingly made the appropriation and created the corn contest commission, and it was more gratifying when contestants representing the majority of the counties of this State filed their entries and began operations in a manner that bespoke a determination to win. It is even more of an advertisement to win in this contest for the reason that the contest 15 years ago was based solely upon yield per acre, while in this the scale of points considered there has been much more involved. The scale has been: 1, purity and selection of seed, 10 points; 2, methods of culture, 25 points; 3, records of manual including clearness, completeness, accuracy, etc., 15 points; 4, yield, 25 points; 5, quality, including market grading, salability, feeding value, 10 points; 6, profits resulting from entire acre, 15 points, making a total of 100 points. Notwithstanding the crops encountered storm in the late summer and the early fall, we have been able to once more surpass all competitors in yield per acre.

"In this cereal contest the American Agriculturist offered \$5,000 altogether in cash prizes. Exactly how much Mr. Tindall will receive of the national side of the matter I cannot say without carefully looking to the records. There have been about 35 contestants from South Carolina participating, and Mr. Tindall's report at first indicated 191 bushels. Contestants in Marlboro, Florence, and Bamberg counties have followed Mr. Tindall very closely and in the order named in the matter of number of bushels. The State commission, of which Dr. Mell, Prof. Harper and myself are the members, has not yet considered the reports filed, having waited the grading records as compiled by the experts in charge of the national contest. The commission will doubtless meet very soon now and distribute the prizes in the State contest as arranged and announced last March. It is practically certain, however, that Mr. Tindall will receive \$200 from the State contest. It is probable that the commission will make some changes in the amounts apportioned for prizes to school children, as the feature of the contest could not be satisfactorily developed during the year.

"Before the gratifying news of Mr. Tindall's victory had been received I had already recommended in my annual report the continuance of this appropriation for entering the contest during 1907 and had called particular attention to the stimulation of interest in corn growing by reason of the successful demonstration of the results of the Williamson plan. In this connection it is noteworthy also that the corn in South Carolina has increased from 13,129, 000 bushels in 1900 to 23,611,000 bushels last year."

THE STANDARD OIL DEBAUCHES TRADE AND MORALS.

Interstate Commerce Commission Charges System With Monopoly, Bribery, Fraud, Corruption of the Press and Debauchery of State Inspectors—Drastic Remedies Suggested.

Washington, Jan. 28.—The most terrific arraignment of the Standard Oil company yet made by either private or public investigator was that filed with congress today by the interstate commerce commission.

Every conceivable corporate crime, discrimination and false pretenses, corruption of the press and debauchery of public officials, is contained in the catalogue of charges.

After a long and painstaking investigation, ordered by congress, in which hundreds of witnesses were examined in various cities of the country, and ample opportunity was given the oil octopus to defend itself, the commission makes a report that completely overshadows the sensational disclosures revealed in the report of Commissioner of Corporations Garfield on the same subject last May.

Mr. Garfield's report was confined largely to the relations of the Standard Oil company to the railroads of the country; the interstate commerce commission's report goes into the whole subject of monopolistic control of the oil market. With a wealth of detail, it describes the devious methods employed by the Rockefeller combine to crush competition.

Some of these methods are outlined by the commission as follows: The Standard has sold different grades of oil at different prices from the same barrel.

"It has paid employes of independent oil companies for information as to the business of those competitors, and has paid employes of industrial companies to secure the adoption of its oil in preference to that of its competitors.

"It has followed every barrel of independent oil to destination. Its agents are instructed to secure customers at any sacrifice.

"It has tampered with the oil inspectors in different States. The laws of several States concerning the inspection of oil are singularly defective, and this has been turned to profit by the Standard.

"The Standard buys advertising space in many newspapers which it fills, not with advertisements, but with reading matter prepared by agents kept for that purpose and paid for at advertising rates, as ordinary news. The assumption is that this literature furnishes many of the ideas touching the great benefits conferred upon the public by the Standard Oil company.

"The Standard has repeatedly, after becoming the owner of a competing company, continued to operate it under the old name, carrying the idea to the public that the company was still independent and competing with the Standard.

"It has used such purchased or independently organized companies to kill off competitors by such companies reducing prices.

"The operation of such fake independent concerns has been one of its most effective means of destroying competition.

"The Standard has habitually reduced the price against its competitor in a particular locality, while maintaining its prices at other places. When competition was destroyed it restored or advanced former prices."

The commission's only knowledge of the competitive methods of the Standard Oil company, says the report, was obtained from evidence taken under oath. It is stated that the Standard was given permission to explain or rebut the facts.

"This evidence if true," continues the report, "demonstrates that the competitive methods of the company in the past have been unfair and even disreputable. Its motto has been the destruction of competition at any cost, and this policy has been pursued without much reference to decency or conscience, and it is significant that the larger independent refiners sell the greater part of their product in foreign countries. One independent testified that 75 per cent. of his product went abroad, and said he could compete with the Standard in Germany, where its methods as followed in this country would not be tolerated, but that he could not compete with it here."

It is the opinion of the commission that the existing law is inadequate to cope with the evils complained of.

"It may become necessary," says the report, "for the uprooting of established wrongs and the prevention of others that the government shall fix in the first instance the rates and regulations for the transportation of oil. This method has been adopted by the legislature of one State. It will probably be found necessary to disassociate, in the case of oil, as in that of other commodities, the function of transportation from that of production and transportation."

The investigation by the commission failed to disclose any instance where a railway company has been interested directly in oil lands or in petroleum production. Only one instance was discovered where officials of a railway company were interested in the production and sale of oil. This related to certain officials of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern railroad who owned stock of the Argand Refining company, which was on their recommendation afterwards sold to the Standard Oil company, and the lubricating contract which the road transferred to the Galena Oil company, a Standard concern.

Discussing in detail its charges against the Standard Oil company the commission says, in part:

"The Standard Oil company largely monopolizes the handling of petroleum from the mouth of the well until it is sold to the retailer, and sometimes to the consumer, and under ordinary circumstances its margin of profit is very large.

"The evidence shows little basis for the contention that the enormous dividends of the Standard Oil company are the legitimate result of its economies. Except for its pipe lines, the Standard has but little legitimate advantage over the independent refiners. At the basis of the monopoly rests the pipe line. The Standard may today pump oil from a well in Indian Territory to its refinery at Jersey City. The cost of piping a barrel of oil from the Kansas field to the Atlantic seaboard would not be much, if any, above 30 cents. The independent refiner is located usually near the source of the crude supply, but the Standard locates its refineries near the great centers of distribution. The independent refiner in interior Kansas finds it difficult to dispose of his residuum, such as fuel oil because the railroad rate is almost as much as its value; but the Standard has at the doors of its refinery in Kansas City a market at a favorable price for a large part of this by-product, and this is of itself an enormous advantage.

"Possession of the pipe lines enables the Standard absolutely to control the price of crude petroleum and the price which its competitors in a given locality shall pay. It can raise the price in one locality and obtain its own oil from another and reverse the process when it desires to do so.

"The pipe line system of the Standard is not a natural, but rather an artificial advantage. The reason why long pipe lines competing with those of the Standard have not been provided is found in obstacles thrown in the way of such undertakings, having been opposed by the railroads, whose right of way has generally stood as a Chinese wall against all attempts to extend pipe lines. However, in cases brought to the attention of the commission every facility has been extended by railroads to the Standard for the construction of pipe lines.

"While the Standard has not received rebates it has nevertheless enjoyed secret rates possessing all of the elements of illegal rates and the advantages so obtained over independent shippers have been a very great value to the company."

The commission then relates several instances of this kind similar to those detailed in the report of the commissioners of corporations, and proceeds:

"The ruin of its competitors has been a distinct part of the policy of the Standard Oil company in the past, systematically and persistently pursued. One method has been the organization of a perfect system of espionage over the shipments of its competitors; resulting in knowledge as to the destination of every car of oil leaving the refinery of an independent. The standard agent at the destination is held responsible if the independent oil is sold. It does not appear that the railroad companies have directed the furnishing of this information or that the practice has been sanctioned by superior officials of the road; but it does appear that such information is systematically obtained from railroad employes. The testimony shows that the Standard at one time, if it does not now, devoted a fund to the purpose of obtaining this information. It has frequently hap-

pened when the supply of independent oil in a particular territory was low and a shipment was peculiarly necessary, that the shipment has unaccountably gone astray.

"Information also appears to have been given the Union Tank Line, a creature of the Standard, concerning the whereabouts of its cars, while such information was not furnished to other owners of tank cars, and some discrimination in tank-car mileage in favor of the tank line is shown, for one railroad. Many roads issued passes on account of the Union Tank Line which were in fact used by selling agents of the Standard. Many local agents of roads have been in the employ of the Standard, and this may account for the unsatisfactory services accorded to independent shippers.

"Most roads charge higher rates on oil in tank cars destined to consignees who do not have proper facilities for unloading, such as storage tanks so situated that the oil can be transferred by pipe from the tank car to the storage tank.

This had brought about the erection of distribution tanks in all parts of the country. The tanks are necessarily located near the railroad tracks, and there was much complaint that the railroads allowed the Standard to erect its tanks at convenient points on the railroad right of way and declined to accord this privilege to independent refiners. The commission is satisfied that such discrimination has been very generally practiced in the past.

Closing its report with a discussion of the difficulties confronting the government in coping with all these evils,

the commission says: "Since in the past petroleum rates have not always been established to promote, but often to check, traffic, and the tariffs are more or less permeated with discriminations in favor of the Standard Oil company, having been built up during a series of years in that view, it may be that this discrimination will never be eliminated by any process of complaint against a specific rate or practice. Judging by the past discriminations as to this traffic may arise more frequently than those now existing, can be routed out by that method. In no other important traffic is there an approach to the monopoly of the Standard Oil company in that of oils. What other remedies in addition to those already provided it may be necessary to prescribe can be better determined in the near future by the result of experience in administering the present law."

The lien law is not dead yet by any means. The house has passed a bill repealing it, but the senate has refused to adopt a bill to the same effect.

FOR SALE—Sunflower and Southern Hope Long Staple Cotton Seed. Apply to D. C. Richardson, Oswego, S. C., R. F. D. No. 1. 1-23-1*

FOR SALE—At Hagood, S. C., 100 acres of land that brings over a bale of cotton to the acre. Address, Miss Emmie Saunders, Hagood, S. C. 10-17-1*

Fertilizers

There is no item of expense connected with the making of a crop that is of greater importance to farmers than that of fertilizers. It seems practically a waste of time and energy to attempt the planting of a crop without their use. In good years they pay handsomely, but with unfavorable seasons, the results are very disappointing. The year just closed was one of the most disastrous that this immediate section has ever experienced. Fertilizers were used liberally, yes we might say, extravagantly. The sellers were probably as much to blame as the consumers. We were all more or less inflated as the result of two or three years of good business, and were anxious to spread our wings; they have been clipped. We have been taught a lesson, a very expensive one, and let us hope a profitable one.

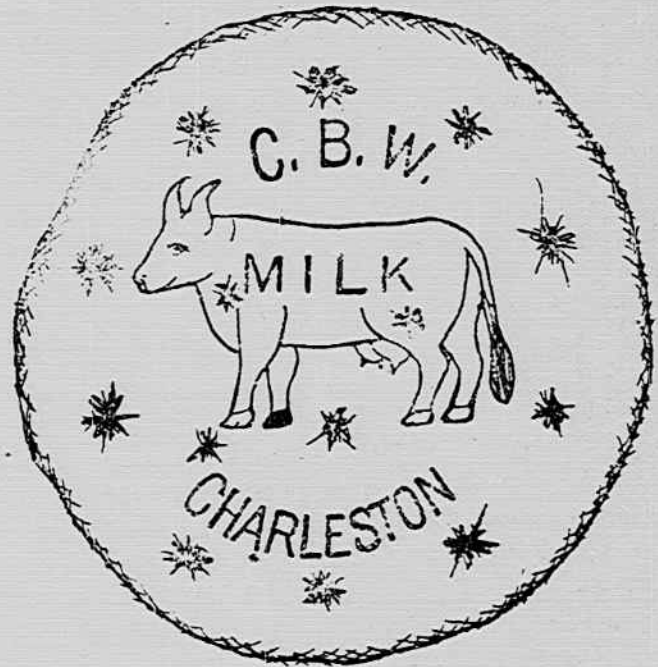
The conditions make it necessary that in 1907 we shall have to practice economy. Banks will not be in a position to extend the liberal accommodations, which they have so cheerfully done in the last few years, and merchants' resources will be limited accordingly. We do not know whether it is economy to curtail to a great extent the use of fertilizers or not, every farmer will have to exercise his own judgment as to this. Our observation has been that those who use fertilizers with a reasonable degree of liberality and apply them intelligently, makes the best showing at the end of the year. Many customers come to our office, not knowing what to buy, and want us to make suggestions. This shows a lack of intelligence on their part. Every farmer ought to know what is best suited to his soil, it is his duty to make a study of it, otherwise he is throwing his money away. It sometimes happens that a certain grade of fertilizer will give excellent results on one field, whereas on another portion of the same plantation it would be practically worthless. We never make suggestions as to the best fertilizers to use, it is not our business, we do not know, but we try to give people what they want, and if the results are not satisfactory, they have only themselves to blame.

We are handling the same brand of acid and ammoniated goods that we have been selling for the past ten years, and based upon their analysis, we feel perfectly safe in saying that

No Better Goods Are Manufactured.

Our kainit, muriate of potash and nitrate of soda we import direct.

O'DONNELL & COMPANY.



23 **THE PEOPLE** 23

like our fine SKIDOO DROPS, 5 cents per measure. Every householder should ask their dealer for them. Have you tried them? MADE BY

CHARLESTON BISCUIT WORKS,
Charleston, S. C.

23 Jan. 23, 1907—3m 23