

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, 1890

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The Watchman and Southron.

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RAILROAD TAXES INCREASED.

EXCESS OVER LAST YEAR IS OVER \$11,500,000.

Comptroller General Jones, Chairman of the Board of Railroad Assessors, Announces the Assessments for This Year—Increase of Southron's Assessment is Over Six Millions.

Columbia, Sept. 5.—The assessments on railroads in South Carolina were announced this afternoon by Comptroller General Jones, chairman of railroad assessors. The figures were determined on at a meeting of the board several weeks ago, but have not been made public, and there has been much concern among railroad men in regard to the matter. Comptroller General Jones today refused to call a meeting of the board to reconsider certain assessments unless a majority of the board petitioned for a meeting and the figures have been sent to the auditors of the several counties.

The assessments are increased over the assessment of last year by more than eleven million, five hundred thousand dollars. Of this increase, the Southern Railway bears over six millions, being raised from fourteen and one-half millions to twenty and one-half millions. The Atlantic Coast Line system, including the Charleston and Western Carolina, bears about five millions, being increased from eleven and one-half millions to over sixteen millions. The Seaboard Air Line bears about one-half million, being increased from four millions to four and one-half millions. The independent roads, the small lines, bear an increase of over one hundred thousand dollars.

The exact figures are as follows for the two years:

| | 1906. | 1907. |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Southern Railway..... | \$14,463,968 | \$20,625,000 |
| Atlantic Coast Line..... | 11,962,078 | 16,558,818 |
| Seaboard Air Line..... | 4,069,204 | 4,500,000 |
| Independent roads..... | 1,738,069 | 1,843,330 |
| Total..... | \$32,040,319 | \$43,527,148 |

The increase in assessments is not, of course, based on any improvements that the railroads have made during the year, for these improvements have not, by any means, been commensurate with the taxations, but is due to an effort to bring assessments up to the 100 per cent basis. As a result, the railroads will pay taxes on a higher basis than any other corporations or individuals, since in many counties real estate and other property is assessed at less than sixty per cent. However, this is the year for the railroads to get it in the neck.

Better Cotton.

A Mississippi cotton merchant has said that the demand for better grades of cotton is growing and that the best profits in cotton production are in making the better grades. The tendency in the mills is for finer yarns and better yarns. These require not only better grades but better staple. He stated that when ordinary uplands 7-8 to 1 inch was worth 13 2-4 cents a pound, he had sold the same grade 1 1-4 inch staple at 22 cents. This difference is in a degree abnormal because staple cotton is very scarce this year, the crop being shorter than usual and the demand greater. Another cause for increase in demand is that the mills working better cotton can hold its operatives better. The better the yarn the easier and better the work. The farmer has a good opening for better profit if the direction of improving the quality of his cotton. The mills no longer buy cotton indiscriminately, but they carefully consider how the cotton under consideration will work in a mill and pay for it accordingly.—Greenville News.

NEWSPAPER COMPETITION.

Yorkville Enquirer Has Some Very Wise Things to Say About Newspapers in General—Thoughts are Prompted by the Failure of Its Latest Rival.

Yorkville Enquirer.

Because of the recent suspension of the New Era, various contemporaries have seen proper to comment on the newspaper situation "in Yorkville," as they see it, and although all of these comments have been noted with more or less interest, we do not see proper to analyze any of them, except in a general way, because to do so would only be to invite fruitless controversy.

As is pretty well understood, the Enquirer is not much given to controversy, especially as to matters which might seem to concern its particular private interests. There are people who have wondered from time to time how we have been willing to let certain obviously untrue statements go unchallenged, and how we could continue to pursue the even tenor of our way in the face of manifest attempts at injustice.

To try to claim that our silence with reference to the situation referred to is to be construed as evidence of indifference, would be taken as a confession of an utter lack of human instincts, and the makers of The Enquirer would not like to be considered as having made such a confession, because that would put them in a very false position.

The late L. M. Grist, who presided for so long over the destinies of The Enquirer in times of storm and peace and throughout good report and evil report, used to teach those who were to come after him, that their sole duty was to the public. "You are," he said, "individuals in the service of the public. As individuals the public cares no more about you than it does about any other individuals. It has no concern with your private grievances, if you have any, and it does not care to bother with them. All it asks of you is honest, faithful, intelligent service, and so long as you give it this kind of service it will support you. If individuals or other newspapers say untrue things of you, the public will believe these things only in so far as they may be borne out by your conduct, and that is about all you can expect."

Along the same line this unusually level headed old gentleman also used to say:

"The secret of the successful publication of a county newspaper involves the same principles that compel permanent success in any other vocation. You cannot rely upon personal friendship or personal admiration, and much less upon the favor of politicians. There is such a thing as friendship; but very few men ever have any considerable number of real friends—friends who will continue constant through adversity as well as prosperity and the politician needs you only so long as you are able and willing to serve his varying interests. Therefore your one reliance is on the whole people. There are all kinds of people, of course, and their sentiments and allegiances are constantly changing, rising and falling like the waves of the sea; but in this country the majority is constantly striving toward that which is highest and best, and so long as you stand for that which is fair, just and upright, you will find yourself surrounded by invincible support."

As to why the different newspaper ventures that have been attempted in Yorkville have failed, we do not care to discuss further than to say that they were unable to secure the support of a sufficient number of the right kind of people. All of them could have been kept going had those who believed in their necessity been willing to furnish the absolutely essential financial assistance; but no one of them could have ever realized the expectations of their sponsors until they reached a position where they could honestly claim that their living was coming from in front rather than from behind—that is until they were able to exist in comfort on their legitimate earnings. And this will be true of all similar efforts here and elsewhere.

As to whether there is "room in Yorkville" for two such papers as the Enquirer is a matter of very little concern to the publishers of this paper or to those who are satisfied with it. The people who want another paper, do not care whether there will be room for the Enquirer or not, and they ask no more odds of the Enquirer than the Enquirer asks of them.

Of course, as to how competition, or more properly speaking, opposition, affects the Enquirer, is another matter. It takes off some subscribers, and also some advertising; but up to

this time the divide has never been sufficient to materially cripple this paper.

The principal sufferers from opposition in the past have been advertisers and they have suffered principally because they have been compelled to pay double price for results that had previously been secured at a single cost.

For instance, the York Enterprise had possibly 1,000 circulation to the Enquirer's 1,200. Of the Enterprise's 1,000 maybe five or six hundred were bona fide, or paid for, and all but less than 400 were also subscribers to the Enquirer. The conditions in the cases of the Yoeman and New Era were very much the same, except that the New Era had a much smaller total circulation and a very much fewer number of subscribers who were not also subscribers to the Enquirer. The advertiser in the New Era would hardly have reached more than 150 subscribers who were not also reached by the Enquirer.

Put with it all, it is not for us to say whether or not there should be co-competition, or opposition. The field is open, and we are not sorry that such is the case. Somebody has suggested that if there is not room for two, it is a question of the survival of the fittest. We see it that way and we are glad that this is the situation. Otherwise, there would be little satisfaction in the effort to publish a superior paper.

CONSECRATION OF BISHOP.

The Rev. W. A. Guerry to be Made Bishop Coadjutor—Ceremonies Will Take Place in Trinity Church, Columbia, Sunday, September 15.

Columbia, Sept. 6.—The Rev. William Alexander Guerry, a former South Carolinian, now chaplain of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., who was elected bishop coadjutor of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of South Carolina, will be consecrated at Trinity Church, Columbia, on Sunday, Sept. 15.

The Right Rev. Daniel Sylvester Tuttle, of the diocese of Missouri, the presiding bishop of the American church, has signified his intention of being present at the consecration. It is hoped by the church people that the beloved bishop of this diocese, the Right Rev. Ellison Capers, will be able to be present at this ceremony. The consecrating bishops will be the Right Rev. Thomas F. Gallor, of Tennessee; the Right Rev. Charles F. Weed, of Florida, and the Right Rev. Theodore DuBose Pratton, of Mississippi. Other bishops who will probably be present are the three from the dioceses in North Carolina, J. B. Chesire, of the diocese of North Carolina; Robert Strange, of East Carolina, and Julius M. Horner, of the diocese of Asheville. Bishop Gallor will preach the sermon at the consecration services.

The Revs. W. B. Gordon, president of the standing committee of the diocese; Dr. John Kershaw, of Charleston; A. R. Mitchell of Greenville, and H. J. Mikell will be the presbyters on this occasion.

KILLED HER HUSBAND.

Wealthy Cleveland Woman Under Arrest for Murder.

Cleveland, Sept. 5.—With a woman detective standing guard just outside of her bed chamber and two policemen patrolling the front of the house, Mrs. Charlotte Phillips today is virtually under arrest at her home where her husband, J. J. Phillips, was shot to death early Monday. Chief of Police Stamberger has sworn out a warrant charging the woman with murder in the second degree, but the woman's condition has prevented the serving of the warrant.

The authorities admit that the evidence upon which the warrant was sworn is purely circumstantial and would not warrant an indictment unless the arrest brings out further information. The woman's friends denounce the police action as outrageous.

The Editor.

An editor is a millionaire without money, a congressman out of a job, a king without a throne. He constructs without hammer or a saw, builds a railroad without rails or spikes, and farms without a plow. He runs a butcher shop in the journalistic world and deals out brains for cash or credit. He loves those who advertise with him like a brother. The editor is a teacher, a lawyer, a preacher; he sends forth truth to save souls and gets lost himself. He heals the wounded, cares for the dying, rescues the perishing, and then starves himself, when a ham sandwich of kindness would jerk him from the jaws of death.—Exchange.

NO BOLL WEEVILS IN STATE.

Government Expert Talks of the Pest.

Washington, Sept. 4.—F. H. Chittenden assistant entomologist of the department of agriculture, today gave it as his firm belief that there is not a boll weevil east of the Mississippi, with the exception of the State of Louisiana. So far as the pest being found in Laurens county is concerned, Mr. Chittenden does not think there is a remotest possibility of such a thing.

"I heard of a pest in South Carolina and elsewhere in the South," Mr. Chittenden said, "but I am satisfied it is not the Texas boll weevil. So far the pest has not been discovered anywhere east of the Mississippi, with the exception of Louisiana."

When asked if it were possible that the weevil could have been carried to South Carolina in cotton seed secured by seed crushers there from Texas and other States in the Southwest he said: "There is only one chance in a million for such a thing to happen, it could only occur through some person knowingly and wilfully carrying the weevil from its present location in the Southwest to the other States in the South. There is not the least necessity for the people in South Carolina to become worried over what they think is the genuine boll weevil, for I am satisfied it will not be found to be such upon a careful examination."

FRANCE FACES HARD PROBLEM.

The Situation in Morocco is Growing Serious.

Paris, Sept. 5.—While there has not been any more fighting at Casa Blanca since the fierce engagement of Tuesday, the seriousness of the general situation in Morocco and the possibility of its leading France into diplomatic difficulties with the other powers of Europe, notably Germany and Great Britain, to say nothing of the apparently growing necessity of increasing the size of the French force on the Moroccan coast, is occupying the attention of the French people.

The call to convolve parliament to discuss and decide what course the nation should pursue is becoming more insistent. There is a growing feeling that the important decisions in the matter of France's policy in Morocco should not be left entirely to the members of the cabinet.

The seriousness of the fighting of Tuesday has brought home to the French people a realization that France may be only at the threshold of a protracted campaign that may easily prove costly in lives and money. The situation is now referred to as "war," and no longer, as heretofore, as an "expedition of pacification."

Germany is watching the progress of events in Morocco more closely every day, and it is intimated in Berlin that under the Algerias convention France is approaching the bounds beyond which she should not go without first obtaining the special permission of the powers.

The exodus of Europeans from Tangier continues.

Native advices received at Tangier declare that 20,000 hostile Moors have concentrated not far from Casa Blanca, and that 10,000 Kabyle tribesmen have mobilized near Alcabaza.

Spain is preparing to send reinforcements of men and ships to Morocco. One Spanish battleship, the Emperor Carlos V, arrived at Tangier today.

THOUSANDS OF ARMED JAPANESE ASSEMBLED ON MEXICAN BORDER.

Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 10.—Cut sands of Japanese veterans are in Mexico States bordering the United States equipped with arms and secretly organized to be in readiness to gather and invade this country on short notice, was the statement made by T. R. Guermsey, editor of the Mexico Herald of the City of Mexico, who is spending the summer here.

According to Mr. Guermsey, Mexico's liberal immigration policy has enabled the Japanese to flock into that country in large numbers.

PENNSYLVANIA COURT DECLARES TWO-CENT RATE ILLEGAL.

Philadelphia, Penn., Sept. 10.—In the common pleas court Judges Willson and Auberried today handed down a decision in favor of the Pennsylvania Railroad, declaring the two-cent fare law unconstitutional.

The decision covers five hundred pages and deals at length with the rate question, not only in Pennsylvania, but in general. It is believed the decision rendered today will have wide effect in the consideration of similar cases over the country.

RIGHT TO DEFEND ONE'S HOME.

Supreme Court Affirms Decision in the Case of Allen Emerson, Who Has Escaped From Jail.

The supreme court yesterday affirmed the decision of the lower court in the case of the State against J. Allen Emerson of Anderson county, who was sent up for life for the murder of Thos. Drake in August, 1906.

The case is of unusual interest because of the fact that Emerson is now at large, having escaped from the Anderson jail about two weeks ago while the appeal was being reviewed. Large rewards have been offered for his capture by the Drake family and the Anderson authorities and it is believed that he is hiding in the mountains of North Carolina.

The decision of the supreme court is clear and outlines with remarkable clearness the law of the State as to homicides for the invasion of a man's family circle. Emerson was said to have been intimate with Mrs. Belle Bailey, a daughter of Thos. Drake, and one night when in her room killed Mr. Drake while the latter was attempting to force his way into the room. It was brought out that Emerson had entered the house armed and shot Drake when the latter opened the door.

A plea of self-defense was entered and after the jury brought in a verdict of guilty, an appeal was made on the admission of testimony and also on the charge of Judge Gary, who cited an Alabama case in which a man killed the husband of his paramour and the judge of that State said that the plea of self-defense would not hold good.

The supreme court holds that a man when violating the home of another cannot put up the plea of self-defense when the parent or husband discovers this violation and is killed in resenting it. The very act of the defendant, the court says, such that the man affected would lose all control of his reason and should he kill the defendant he could only be tried for manslaughter.

The Emerson case attracted great attention at the time of the trial and this decision by the court will doubtless be widely read.—The State, Sept. 7.

A GUILTY CRIMINAL.

Woman Pardoned After Serving Long Term for Crime Which Her Husband Forced Her to Commit.

Madison, Wis., Sept. 7.—After serving sixteen years in the State's prison, Mrs. Wilhelmina Baehner was set at liberty today by a pardon granted by the governor.

At the age of sixteen she married a widower named Baehner because her parents told her to do so. Baehner was thirty years her senior, and the girl became a household drudge. One night a traveler, Michael Sells, stopped at the Baehner home for the night. Baehner, who was a grasping man, resolved to put Sells out of the way, and told Wilhelmina to poison his food. She did so, Sells dying the next day. Confronted with arrest, Baehner blamed his wife and when she was accused of the crime she pleaded guilty on her husband's advice and received a life sentence. Soon after she entered the penitentiary her husband killed himself, driven to do so by remorse for his act.

FRISCO BRIBER SENTENCED.

Vice President of Pacific States Telephone Company Goes to the State Penitentiary.

San Francisco, Sept. 4.—Louis P. Glass, vice president of the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph company, convicted of having bribed Supervisor Longenean to vote against granting a franchise to the Home Telephone company, was today sentenced by Superior Judge Lawlor to five years imprisonment in the State prison at San Quentin.

UPRISING IN CHINA.

Natives Revolt and Kill Local Magistrate in Fi Shing Province.

Hongkong, Sept. 7.—A serious uprising has occurred in Fi Shing district. Hundreds of natives are revolting. At Young Chow, a local magistrate and his entire family were killed. Four regiments of troops have been sent to the scene.

KILLED BY BURGLARS.

Woman's Head Crushed and Man's Throat Cut.

Evanston, Ill., Sept. 7.—The body of Mrs. Frederick M. Fish was found in bed today with her head crushed. By her side lay her husband, a wealthy retired broker, with his throat cut and gasping for breath. He will probably die. Neighbors are inclined to believe that burglars committed the crime.

THOUSANDS DIE OF THE PLAGUE.

Victims Numbered Three-quarters of a Million in Four Months.

Washington, Sept. 6.—The enormous task that the public health and marine hospital service has in keeping the plague out of the Philippines and the United States is shown by the great increase of that disease in foreign countries during the past three or four months. That the plague victims from April to August possibly exceeded three-quarters of a million is regarded as highly probably, though, for lack of exact figures in many Oriental lands, such assertion cannot be absolutely proved by the figures available.

India alone shows 426,805 cases, of which 40,000 escaped death. The figures for India represent the true state of affairs, and hint at the tremendous extent of the plague throughout the Orient, for in India alone, in that section of the globe, is there an accurate compilation of health statistics. The reports from other countries as published by the marine hospital service are incomplete and consequently do not tell the whole story. For instance, in one city in China ten deaths daily, are estimated. In two other places mentioned in the report it is announced that the plague exists. The Japanese report 1,049 cases with 905 deaths in the course of two months in Formosa, while Tokio reports two cases and Yokohama 21. Persia, Egypt and Arabia are infected, while Cape Colony has six cases and four towns in Australia had seventeen cases all told.

The remarkable thing is that the Philippines have escaped, while only a few cases are taken from the ships at Honolulu. The disease has made its appearance through sailing vessels on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of South America, but the interesting thing about it is the small percentage of deaths from the disease on the South American continent. Rio Janeiro, in Brazil, for instance, reports nineteen cases, with four deaths. Three deaths were reported from Callao, Peru, and from Trujillo fifty-four cases, resulting in twenty-two deaths, were reported. For the entire country of Peru one hundred and six cases were reported and fifty deaths. This is a larger number of deaths than occurred in any of the other South American countries.

THE PLAGUE IN FRISCO.

The Public Health Service Assumes Charge of Situation.

Washington, Sept. 5.—By direction of President Roosevelt the public health and marine hospital service has assumed charge of the measures to stamp out the plague in San Francisco. This step was taken today upon the request of the mayor of San Francisco, who added that the city would do all that is possible toward providing funds to carry on the work. Acting promptly on telegraphic instructions from Oyster Bay, Sugon General Wyman promptly issued the necessary orders and notified the mayor of San Francisco that the corps of service officers already on duty there would be augmented and additional measures taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

THREE CREMATED IN A FIRE.

Hotel at Cleveland Springs, North Carolina, Burned.

Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 9.—Fire early this morning destroyed the hotel at Cleveland Springs, N. C., and three people were burned to death. They are Miss Faith, of Ellenboro, N. C., and two colored women employed by the hotel. The loss is about \$25,000, with \$10,000 insurance. Little was saved by the guests. Lightning started the fire.

FRANKLIN TO BE HANGED.

Slayer of Orangeburg Officer Convicted of Murder.

Orangeburg, Sept. 9.—Pink Franklin, the negro, who, on July 29, shot and killed Constable Henry Valentine, who was seeking to arrest him, was tried in the Court of General Sessions today and convicted of murder. He was sentenced to be hanged the date of his execution being fixed for the 25th of October. Franklin's wife, Sadie Franklin, who was placed on trial with him as an accessory to the killing, was acquitted.

Forty Big Buildings Burned to the Ground—Immense Monetary Loss.

Filton, N. H., Sept. 7.—The Shaker settlement, which was established over a hundred years ago, is being swept by a fire which broke out early today. Help has been summoned from neighboring places, but there is little hope of saving any of the forty big buildings.