

The Watchman and Southron.

SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1886.

'Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Alms't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's.'

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866

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SUMTER, S. C., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1907.

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SMITH APPEALS TO FARMERS

THEY ARE URGED TO HOLD COTTON FOR FIFTEEN CENTS.

He Declares That Those Who Sell Now are Proceeding From \$10 to \$20 to the Speculators with Each Bale—Decline in Price Not Justified by Conditions.

Columbia, Sept. 27.—The fight for 15 cents cotton finds its most ardent and most active exponent in Mr. E. H. Smith, the field agent of the Southern Cotton Association. Mr. Smith went today in the city, after a day or two at his home in Sumter county, and was seen at the office of the association in the National Loan and Exchange Bank Building.

"After a trip through the West," said Mr. Smith, "I find on my return numerous requests from different parts of the State asking me to urge the people to hold their cotton from the market until the price set by the Southern Cotton Association and the Farmers' Union is reached.

"If there ever was a time when the conditions were clear and unmistakable—without there being any complications, it is now. It is a clear case of pure speculation against real conditions. To put the case as it is so that any one may see what tribute we are paying to gamblers because we are not organized to withstand them, the facts are these: The mills have sold their outputs for months ahead on a basis of 15 cents per pound; the demand for goods at these prices increasing; the price of the manufactured article actually advancing; the supply of cotton in sight; the present crop unquestionably short, probably two million bales less than last year; the demand for cotton for the current year far in excess of the supply; the condition of the crop steadily deteriorating; the mills running full time, eager for cotton; no alarming conditions in the money market; no complications at home or abroad particularly, with the spinners thirty days ago buying cotton cheerfully and profitably at 14 and 14 1/2 per pound. Yet in the face of all these favorable conditions the price has dropped from 2 1/3 to 3 cents per pound. Why? Because a few speculators, who neither grow nor spin cotton, please to have it so. The question is squarely up to the South, the whole South, the merchant, banker, farmer, lawyer, doctor, preacher and laborer in any and every vocation, avocation or profession, whether they will tamely submit to this outrage, whether they will allow these gentry to exact a toll from us at their pleasure of from \$10 to \$25 per bale, or whether they will put their price on their property and refuse to accept any other. The only answer to give this absurd decline is to refuse to take the prices offered.

"In the West they are making a brave stand. They are complaining bitterly that the Atlantic States are not standing for the price agreed upon. How true this is, I am not able to say. Let every man in South Carolina, who has cotton to sell drop me a postal card saying how many bales he has and how many he will hold. I will compile the number and give it to the public, so that we may know what to depend upon. If we would absolutely refuse to sell a bale of cotton now, stop receipts, then the reaction would be immediate.

"The only possible way to remedy this outrageous condition is to refuse to submit to it.

"With present conditions warranting 15c. cotton, acknowledged by all parties to be worth 15c., if the people put it on the market at present prices, then we acknowledge that neither the law of supply and demand, the condition of trade and finance, or the cost of production have anything to do with the price or value of cotton, but simply the caprice of a few millionaire gamblers. Surely we are paying dearly for the privilege of being disorganized, for being without warehouses, without organized capital to hold our cotton.

"Can not each community meet at once and devise means, where there

are none, to help each other to hold cotton? It will take organized cooperation to accomplish our purpose.

"Every bale sold at present prices means a gift of \$15 to \$20 per bale to the gambling bunch to enable them to take a like or a greater amount from the next bale.

"Ex-Gov. D. C. Heyward, who is president of a warehouse company in this State, informed me this morning that he was doing all in his power to secure funds and to provide warehouse facilities for the farmers in this emergency; so that all parties interested can communicate with ex-Gov. Heyward in reference to the matter."

Mr. Smith added that if the proposed plan of cotton banks were now in effect, the situation could be controlled by the farmer and the weak cotton kept off the market. Under present conditions, cotton, on which liens have been given, is forced into the hands of the buyer as soon as ginned.

"Then there is another thing," said Mr. Smith. "The cotton that was sold in March, April and May is now being used to accomplish the purposes of the speculators. Why, in some sections of this State farmers sold their cotton for 11 and 12 cents before it was planted and they are now compelled to deliver it no matter what is the market price, or the future prospect."—News and Courier.

LESS COTTON GINNED THAN LAST YEAR.

1,430,265 Bales Ginned Against 2,057,282 Same Date Last Year—Two Thousand Ginners Did Not Report.

Washington, Oct. 2.—The census bureau today announced 1,430,265 bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1907, to September 25th as compared with 2,057,283 bales of the corresponding date last year.

The total number of active ginners reporting was 16,307, as compared with 20,416. The bureau adds that about two thousand ginners were not heard from on account of the telegraph strike.

Crop Condition.

Washington, Oct. 2.—The crop reporting board of the agricultural department today reported that the average condition of cotton to Sept. 25th was 67.7 per cent.

AFTER THE NORTHWESTERN.

Editor the Daily Item:

The citizens of this community feel somewhat encouraged after reading in your columns the improvements begun in Sumter by the Northwestern Railroad. We all with one accord second the motion and hope that it is the intention of those in authority to move on up the line when the offices, etc., in Sumter are finished.

As Dalsell is the next station with a depot, we feel somewhat elated. Your correspondent is not so well posted on the railroad law as to what is required of a railroad "under forty miles in length." Possibly they are allowed to do as they please. There is a general complaint here in regard to our depot and passenger accommodations. We have a freight warehouse (which is too small), an agent's office, express office, baggage room and waiting room all combined. There is one other room, slightly damaged by fire now, that has never been used. There has never been any seats, stove or lights in it since the road was built. We have never noticed the sign "for rent" on the door. During the summer months, passengers sit on the steps, coca cola crates, cross ties, trunks, etc. In the winter, they crowd into the office and all sit on the agent's desk that can, and the rest stand up. A bulletin board would be of little use only to passengers going to Sumter, for we have nine miles of straight track and can look and see when the train is coming. Unfortunately we have to wait for the whistle when going south for we cannot see but a mile and a half.

The merchants complain a great deal about the condition in which freight arrives here. Scarcely a shipment from Sumter arrives here without being damaged or something short.

The Northwestern breaks the record in the way of maintaining schedules. Our morning mail has arrived here but once on time in two years and one month. It is always from 20 minutes to two hours late. There is much complaint about the mail on the R. F. D., as the morning mail arrives too late for the carrier to get back for the evening mail.

A petition was gotten up nearly a year ago and unanimously signed and forwarded to the railroad authorities, but nothing has been done.

These are facts and I think worthy of consideration. "Maud," Dalsell, S. C., Sept. 26, 1907.

TILLMAN ON THE ISSUES.

THINKS IT IMPORTANT TO COMBAT FEDERAL USURPATION.

State Rights are Sacred—Corporations Must be Curbed Without Federal Interference—Republicans Assume Inconsistent Attitude—Won't be Bamboozled.

From the Houston Post.

New York, Sept. 23.—A dispatch published in the American from San Francisco says: Senator Benjamin R. Tillman, after visiting thirty States since the adjournment of congress and meeting thousands of people, gives his observations on the vital questions of the hour and the issues that will predominate in the coming campaign.

He does not discuss candidates nor politicians, because, he says, he does not know anything about what they are doing in the way of political combinations and tickets. He says:

"The one significant transaction of fact that has come to the front since the adjournment of congress last March is the apparent clash or threatened clash between State and national authority in the effort to control corporations and railroads.

"Secretary Root, who has been considered the brain of the administration (and to a large degree its mouth-piece), whose intellectual grasp of things is recognized by people who know him, declared in substance in his new York speech that the people of this country would see to it that the reforms and protection demanded in dealing with trusts and railroads are granted, that the national government would be called upon to act if the States do not move to correct the evils.

"Immediately there came strong protests from high Republican sources against the tendency to centralize power in the administration. Justice Harlan of the Supreme Court, uttered a vigorous protest, and more recently Samuel McCall, of Massachusetts, one of the big Republicans of the House of Representatives, pronounced against the Root doctrine.

Took Root at His Word.

"But the striking fact that followed the statement by Root was that the Legislatures in the Middle West and some of the Southern States set about doing just what Root said they must do to preserve their own powers and authority intact.

"Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Alabama passed 2-cent fare bills and some took other prompt action in the direction of regulating charges for freight and passenger transportation. Gov. Hughes vetoed the New York bill. The Pennsylvania Railroad, which owns Pennsylvania, set about annulling the 2-cent fare bill in that State. Corporations of other States feel grateful.

"In North Carolina and Alabama, however, United States Circuit Judge Pritchard and District Judge Jones issued sweeping injunctions restraining the State officials from enforcing the laws.

"The situation in Alabama is not as interesting as in North Carolina. Judge Pritchard went further in usurpation of power than the Roosevelt administration seemed willing to follow him. This judge undertook, by decree, to annul a statute of North Carolina by requiring the railroads to attach a coupon to every ticket representing the difference between the old and the new rate and which the passenger was to hold till litigation determined whether the law was valid, when it would be redeemed if the courts sustained it.

"The constitutionality of the law was not attacked. It could not be attacked except upon the plea of confiscation.

Southern Was Brought Under.

"Gov. Glenn caused the arrest of railroad officials, including President Finley, of the Southern, and Judge Pritchard's interference set them free. But when Finley was arrested and the governor disregarded the federal court, the Southern Railway decided to obey the law and litigate after ward.

"While the matter was in the public mind, the plutocratic press teamed with editorials and cartoons, all intended to direct the attention of the people to the ghost of State rights, which we were told was shot to death in 1861 to 1865.

"The country was led to suppose that North Carolina and Gov. Glenn were attempting a revival of the old ante-bellum doctrine. In truth, these organs of Morgan, Harriman, Rockefeller et al have attempted to mislead the people and bolster up the Root idea of national authority upon absolutely false grounds.

"When Judges Pritchard and Jones stand up and proclaim in thundering tones, 'We are the Nation; we have

the power and authority to protect vested rights and the State shall not destroy the property of the railroads,' they waive their arms frantically and the ghost of Calhoun is conjured from under the bed, and they bid it begone.

"People who have eyes and who have examined this affair closely, saw looking over the judges' shoulders the grinning faces of the railroad magnates and the judges are mere mannikins, obeying the orders of their former employers.

People Won't be Bamboozled.

"The American people never will be bamboozled and deceived by fake appeals to the national spirit, invoked to protect the Harriman-Morgan-Rockefeller gang in their efforts to compel producers of the country to pay tribute to them and dividends on watered stock.

"The usurpations of power by the federal judiciary and the absolute subservience by many federal judges in the interests of the trusts and the necessity for congressional action in clearly defining and laying down the jurisdiction and power of federal courts will attract more attention than the great question of regulating trusts themselves.

"Judicial usurpation and trust abuses are correlative questions. The two are interlocked and one hinges on the other, as President Roosevelt recently recognized when he made the issue in 1904 and 1905 that the railroad rate fixed by the commission should go into effect immediately and stick there till reversed by the courts.

"Of course, we all know he surrendered on this important point, and that Aldrich came off victorious. This bit of legislative history turns the light on the striking fact that in North Carolina the attempt was made to do just what the president declared all railroads ought to be compelled to do. But the federal court butted in and said they could not do it, but they did.

Root Idea a Vital Issue.

"The Root idea of centralization will be the vital issue in the next presidential campaign. The Root idea will be pressed by the Republicans and Roosevelt; the Democrats will, naturally and inevitably, take the other side.

"This nation must speak through congress and define the powers of federal courts that are clutching States and everything else by the throats.

"The real and proper method of government control and regulation of trusts is the other important question which must be determined in the next campaign.

"Whenever our people give up local self-government we shall lose the substance of liberty and nothing but the shadow will be left. When States are hampered by federal interference, when the people are harassed and plundered by corporations, we must look ahead and steer away from disaster."

GAME COCK CITY PRAISED.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL JONES SAYS SOME NICE THINGS.

New Court House Better Than State Capitol in Many Respects—County Offices in Good Shape Considering Heavy Expenditures.

Mr. A. W. Jones, comptroller general of the State, who is here today on business, said some very complimentary things about Sumter's new Court House and her county officials this morning. This praise was entirely unsolicited, as the comptroller general was talking to an item representative on an entirely different matter.

"You might say in your paper," said Mr. Jones, "that I found the county offices which I have examined to be in a very much better condition than would be expected after the heavy expenses that the county has been put to within the past year."

"Your new Court House is the handsomest in the State, and one of the most convenient buildings I have seen anywhere. Why, it is even better than the State House in Columbia. My office there has only one window and there are six clerks to get light from that window. Your Court House has ample light and ventilation and room and is certainly a handsome edifice.

"The above coming from a man in public life, who travels all over the State, can be counted on as no mere flattery, and the people of Sumter county may feel still prouder of their 'temple of justice.'"

The carnival for the Baseball Association will be held Oct. 14 to 19. The Jones Carnival Company, which has been engaged for this occasion, was in Washington, N. C., last week and The Messenger of that place gives it some very flattering notices.

EXCESSIVE EXPRESS CHARGES

HOGAN & SON APPEAL TO RAILROAD COMMISSION.

Southern Express Company Has Increased Rate from Augusta to Sumter on Fresh Meats Nearly One Hundred Per Cent.

Hogan & Son have filed complaint with the State railroad commission on account of a sudden and unexpected increase in the rate on fresh meats, which went into effect Monday, without previous notice. For years the rate on meats shipped from Augusta to Sumter has been 60 cents per hundred pounds. Monday Messrs. Hogan & Son were required to pay \$10.45 on a shipment of 950 pounds of beef and were notified that hereafter a rate of \$1.10 per hundred pounds would be effective. There was nothing for them to do but pay the rate demanded, for they needed the meat and had to have it regardless of the express. They were not satisfied, however, to pay almost double the express freight they have been paying for years without question, and, not being able to obtain a satisfactory explanation of the increased rate from Agent Dorn, beyond the statement that he had notice to make the Augusta-Sumter rate \$1.10 per hundred instead of 60 cents, they called up Chairman Caughman of the State railroad commission and laid the facts before him. They asked that the commission investigate the matter and, if possible, take some action looking to an abatement of the excessive rate. Chairman Caughman informed Mr. Hogan that as the rate was an interstate business the State railroad commission had no authority to interfere in the matter, but he would endeavor to use the good offices of the commission to secure an abatement of the rate.

This morning Mr. Hogan received the following letters from Commissioner Caughman, from which it will be seen that he takes the view that the rate is excessive and should be reduced:

Columbia, S. C., Oct. 1, 1907.

Mr. Eugene Hogan, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: We are in receipt of yours of the 30th ultimo, in which you enclose expense bill of express charges on meats from Augusta, Ga., to Sumter, S. C.

You will see from the enclosed copy of letter to Superintendent Sadler, that this being in interstate matter, it is rather difficult for us to adjust same, unless we can convince the Southern Express Company that this is an excessive charge and all South Carolinians will be sufferers therefrom. At any rate, we hope to do something for you and will let you hear further from us on hearing from Mr. Sadler. There is no question, in the opinion of the commission that this is an excessive charge and we propose to handle the same to the very best interest of our citizens.

Yours very truly,

B. C. Caughman,

Chairman.

October 1, 1907.

Mr. O. M. Sadler, Supt., Southern Express Co., Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Sir: We are today in receipt of a letter from Mr. Eugene Hogan of Sumter, S. C., in which he states that he was notified on yesterday that the express charges on beef or meats from Augusta, Ga., to Sumter, S. C., have been raised from 60 cents per hundred to \$1.10 per hundred.

We realize that this is an interstate matter, but at the same time, the citizens of South Carolina are the sufferers from this excessive raise in express rates, and we shall thank you to handle this matter at once and advise us if there is not some mistake in your agent at Sumter, S. C., notifying the consumers of this raise. You can appreciate the fact that we are to look after the interests of our South Carolina citizens, and trust you will see that they are not imposed upon.

Yours very truly,

B. L. Caughman,

Chairman.

Taft's Visit to Japan.

Tendered a Royal Reception There and Much Gratiified by His Welcome

Tokio, Oct. 2.—Secretary Taft is devoting himself to Japanese royalty today. His entertainment at the Imperial Palace equals in magnificence any ever tendered a visiting prince, the day's programme including an early visit to the O-Kura museum, an audience with the emperor, breakfast at the Imperial Palace and an interview with the crown prince. Taft and party leave Tokio for Kyoto tonight.

The secretary was much gratified at his reception and believes the relations between his own and the Mikado's countries will be much pleasanter from now on.

IS SPIVENS INNOCENT?

PUBLIC OPINION APPEARS TO BE IN HIS FAVOR.

A Case of Stranger in a Strange Land—Testimony at Trial Was Circumstantial And Not Complete—After Discussed Evidence.

The article in yesterday's Item in regard to the case of George Spivens, who is in jail here awaiting an appeal from the supreme court, caused not a little comment and many were heard to express their belief in the prisoner's innocence. The public is familiar with the details of the case of George Spivens, an employe of Cole Brothers' circus, who was convicted of the murder of Ted Gallard nearly a year ago, and of the negro, Jack McCoomer, who is held on the same charge. There is no need of reciting the details of the case.

After the article appeared in yesterday's issue with the letters of two circus attaches, a representative of the Item called at the county jail. Thanks to the courtesy of the jailor, Mr. Hodge, he was permitted to enter the room where Mr. Spivens was confined and had a long talk with him. He appeared very grateful for the publication of the letters of the circus men and said he knew them well. Winslow was a clown and Syllow was a contortionist with the show at the time of the killing. Mr. Spivens said he would most assuredly have had these men at the trial, but he had no idea they would be needed, as he had no thought other than he would be acquitted at once on the testimony which he understood would be produced by the State. However, these men will appear at the next trial, if the supreme court sees fit to grant another trial.

It is a case of a stranger in a strange land with no chance to help himself. The public generally is antagonistic to show people, anyhow, and such is the fate of this unfortunate man today. All that is said in regard to Spivens' case may be said of Jack McCoomer, even if he is a colored man. The jury in this case was out from Friday until Tuesday, which goes to show that grave doubts must have existed in their minds as to the guilt of the defendants. It is said, and on good authority, that the jury stood seven for conviction and five for acquittal and that the verdict was a compromise one. The jury could not have been more evenly divided on the case.

A number of people have interested themselves in the case and spoken of attempting to get a pardon for Spivens, but he said yesterday afternoon that he wanted another trial and he felt that he would come free. The circus people have been supplying these two unfortunate men with money from time to time, and are preparing to help them if another trial is granted.

There can be no denying the fact that public opinion is in favor of Spivens, and that the people generally would like to see him acquitted.

A pathetic side to this case is the fact that Spivens has a mother, 73 years of age, living in Indiana, and he does not want her or any of his family, to know that he is languishing in jail for fear that it may prove injurious to her health as he is, the youngest son. He does not appear to be a man of desperate character at all and easily enlists the sympathy of all visitors to the jail.

It is to be hoped that justice will triumph in the end and that Spivens will yet get a satisfactory hearing.

COUNTY BOARD PREPARING FOR HOLIDAY TRADE.

The county dispensary board at its last meeting purchased the supply of whiskey and beer necessary to run the three dispensaries for the rest of this year. This will include the holiday trade and the amount of the purchase is somewhat larger than usual on this account. The total bill will come in the neighborhood of \$32,000. The class of goods purchased includes all grades of liquors, wines, gins, cocktails, cordials, malt and beer. The usual brands were bought and the trade distributed about as usual among the leading whiskey houses and distilleries.

There is about \$25,000 worth of stock on hand at the three dispensaries, two in this city and one in Mayesville. The bulk of the stock purchased will be placed at the whiskey dispensary in this city as the Mayesville dispensary carries only between \$5,000 and \$6,000 worth of stock at a time.

The business at the county grog shops has been very good this fall and a good profit has been realized. About 58 per cent. profit has been netted. Everything is running in a very satisfactory manner at present.