

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters from all parts of Sumter and adjoining counties.

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

WISCONSIN.

Wisacky, March 21.—Spring has opened beautifully, and very fine progress has been made on the farms for the past ten days. Farmers have been busy hauling fertilizers, and it seems more will be used in this section than last year.

The oat crop is looking much improved since the top dressing has been applied.

We have been having a very warm spell of weather for the month of March, but the rains began two days since, and it has faded off very cold. The health of the community is very much improved—only a few cases of grip among us.

Mr. J. Nelson Scott and family are quite sick with grip at this time.

Mr. Thomas, who is farming in this neighborhood, met with quite a loss a few days since, in having his nice turkey farm to pieces. The male took wing and ran away through the woods, scattering pieces of the buggy in every direction.

Mr. N. Y. Alford and family were greatly alarmed a few days since when they discovered their dwelling on fire, caused by the explosion of an oil stove. By heroic efforts they managed to save the building.

MISS.

Miss. March 22.—Mr. Talbert Worthington, a prominent citizen living a few miles below Oizants, fell dead last Thursday morning.

A negro man, who had been missing from his work, in the Turbevill section, was found last week in a pond. He had been shot and stabbed to death. Several negroes have been arrested and will be tried for his murder.

Mr. E. O. Smith is quite ill. Several farmers planted corn last week, most of them following the Williamson plan.

The recent rains were welcomed by the Woods mill section where forest fires had been raging.

The recent frost and ice did not have any noticeable effect on fruit and vegetation.

Mr. John Sims, of Mouson, visited his daughter, Mrs. Geo. Graham, last week.

Mr. Leroy Burgess went to Lamar Sunday.

The Presbyterian church of Oizants will be dedicated next Sunday.

Weber, son of Mr. W. B. Goodman, while feeding horses Sunday night, was badly bitten on the left neck by one he had driven to school this winter. A doctor was sent for and the wound dressed, and is doing well.

BOYKIN.

Boykin, March 22.—Had it not rained this week the farmers would have been busy planting corn, as all of them in this neighborhood are ready to plant.

The oat crop in this section is unusually good, especially on the State farms. It is always a treat to look at the crops on the State farms.

Mrs. John T. Green, who has been quite ill with typhoid fever for the past five weeks, is improving very fast.

Miss Emma Hall, of Rock Hill, is the guest of Miss Nellie Lee Boykin at the "Oaks."

Mr. Richardson Rembert, after spending a few days with Mr. J. T. Green, has returned to Columbia.

Mr. J. M. Green, a business man of this place, has just returned from West Palm Beach Fla., where he has been enjoying life for the past ten days. Mr. Green leaves tomorrow for Washington, D. C., where he will be gone for several days on business.

Mr. A. H. Boykin, Jr., president of the Boykin Ginning Mfg. Co., left last night for Charlotte, N. C., where he will be gone for several days on business.

Miss Eva Gardner, who has been teaching school near Fishville, has returned home for the summer.

Mr. James H. Irvin, manager of the Reid State farm, spent Sunday in Columbia.

Mr. H. B. Croft, of Camden, was in town Monday.

Miss Maude Gardner, who has been teaching school at Rembert, has returned home.

Col. John C. Manning has returned home after spending several days in Sumter.

ELLIOTT.

Elliott, March 24.—It has been quite a while since there has been anything said from Elliott, but really there has been nothing to say. Mr. Editor said some time since, to give all the social news. For a long time

there was nothing social around here except grip. That was so socially inclined that it visited every house and almost every individual. All are well again, except Mrs. Asa Skinner. She has been and is still very sick. They think her some better today.

Mr. R. W. Law, now of Providence, S. C., is spending today at his brother's. Bob is a jolly boy. Mr. E. D. Law is moving his saw mill from out on Lynche's river down on Mrs. Nash's plantation, about one and a half miles below this place.

Farmers have done a good deal towards their crops and from the line of wagons continually on the road they must intend to use fully as much guano as usual.

We had several freaks of weather last week. One night it was uncomfortably warm with the lightest covering and the next night a regular sleet storm.

I do not think the fruit is injured much, if any. Hope not, any way, as we had no fruit at all last year and very little the year before.

Mr. Mallow Harris has moved into his new cottage. The building fever has been confined to store houses entirely for some time. When Mr. Sam Mooneyham built his store he made a nice large hall above. They have a nice Sunday school up there and we hope to have preaching from time to time. Mr. Bally preached a few Sunday afternoons ago, and there was a nice large congregation to hear him. We expect to have a Baptist church here before very long. It adds so much to these small places to have religious exercises, and I hope they will be a source of much good.

WATSON BROKE ALL RECORDS.

Estimate of Cotton Crop, Both for South Carolina and the Country, Closest Ever Made.

Columbia, March 20.—When the government report on the cotton crop was received today Commissioner Watson was asked how the report agreed with his estimate of the crop. He replied: "When the figures came today I was hardly surprised; what surprise there was of an agreeable nature. I had scarcely expected to break all records in the matter of estimation, but it seems that I have succeeded in doing so. According to the government reports I missed the South Carolina crop only 12,498 bales, and the crop of the United States only 100,957 bales. It fell to my lot as president of the Association of the Southern States Commissioner of Agriculture to make up the estimates of the cotton crop of the South on Nov. 22, nearly a month ahead of the federal government's final estimate, which was issued from Washington on Dec. 10 following. After a careful review of the reports that I had obtained from a system that I had already put in operation in this State I announced the estimate at 11,412,829 bales. On Dec. 10 the federal government announced the estimate of 11,697,000 bales. The final figures issued yesterday shows the crop to be 11,502,872, and they show the reliability of the system of estimation originated and put into practice in this State. This is the first time that the association's estimate has been anywhere near the mark.

"As far as South Carolina is concerned our system worked so perfectly that on Nov. 22 we were able to announce that the crop would be about 1,090,507 bales. Allowing the usual 17,000 of linters off the government's final report means 1,114,000 bales, or only 12,498 bales more than the department's Nov. 22 estimate, which, in such a volume is a mere bagatelle. This is the second time in four years that the estimate of my department has broken all records so far as the South Carolina crop is concerned. I naturally feel proud of the department's achievement from both State and national standpoints, in breaking all records for close estimation on the world's most important crop. Had we not accomplished it twice I might think it was due to good luck. To me it proves the wisdom of the system employed. It is gratifying to me that the report today means of necessity a better price for the cotton that is being held, and that henceforth the market of the world from the record just made will be forced to recognize the accuracy of the reports sent out from those whose business it is to watch the cotton crop and truthfully report its condition instead of relying on the lying estimates of cotton gamblers, whose only interest has been to rob the cotton farmer of his just profits."

C. A. Neal, conductor of the Columbia Electric Street Railway company, was seriously if not fatally injured Wednesday night near the corner of Richland and Main streets by being struck by a passing car. He was removed to the hospital, where his wounds received attention, but his chances for recovery are said to be very slight.

Twelve cadets have been suspended from Porter Military Academy, Charleston, for insubordination.

To sow selfishness is certainly to reap sorrow.

STATE LEAGUE MEETING.

SEASON OPENS MAY 11TH WITH FOUR TEAMS.

Forfeit Money Posted and Everything Now Ready for Business—Schedule Referred to President Smith—Camden Applied for Admission, But Sixth Town Was Wanting—The Gunter Dispute Settled.

From the Daily Item, March 18.

The South Carolina State League will begin the season of 1908 on May 11th with four teams, the towns constituting the league this season being Orangeburg, Sumter, Chester and Rock Hill. This was positively decided last night at the meeting held at the Elks' club. There is still, however, a possibility of a six-club circuit, for Camden is willing to join the league if a sixth town shall apply for admission. If I reme, which was admitted to the league last season to take Darlington's place, and was expected to retain her franchise this season, had not failed to come up to the scratch, there would be no difficulty about forming a six-club league. Florence not only promised to put out a team this season, but at the close of the last season paid the amount necessary to retain the franchise and insure protection under the national agreement during the season of 1908. But recently the officers of the State League have heard nothing from Florence, not even an acknowledgment of the notice of the reorganization meeting, and there has been no explanation offered for the forfeiture of the franchise.

At the meeting last night Mr. W. Bultman presided. Chester was represented by Mr. Hardin, Rock Hill by Mr. Wilson, Sumter by Mr. A. D. Harby, Orangeburg by proxy held by Sumter and Camden by Mr. Alexander. The organization was made permanent by the confirmation of the election of the old officers. The admission of Camden was held in abeyance, as has been stated, until it can be ascertained whether or not a sixth town can be found to put out a team.

It was decided that the season shall open on May 11 and continue until 72 games are played. The schedule was referred to President Smith with power to act, the acceptance of the schedule approved by him being obligatory upon the league.

The salary limit was fixed at \$300 per month with minimum of \$40 per month for individual players; no team to carry more than twelve players, manager included.

The employment of umpires and the salary to be paid them was left in the hands of President Smith.

An agreement respecting the division of gate receipts, the guarantee to the visiting teams for rainy days, price of admission, pooling of games on July 4th and opening days, ladies' days, number of press and other season passes to be issued, playing deferred games, etc., was reached.

The whole situation was talked over with care and thoroughness and it is thought that a complete and satisfactory understanding has been reached.

The meeting was concluded by each of the teams putting up \$300 forfeit money to guarantee a faithful performance of the agreement to observe the salary limit and to play out the season of 72 games.

Another matter settled last night was the right to the services of Manager Guy Gunter. Sumter stood pat on her claim which has been confirmed by Secretary Farrell. Rock Hill contended that Gunter having accepted a proposition to manage that team became Rock Hill's property. To this was added another complication—an agreement between Sumter and Camden for the sale of Gunter to that town in the event Camden gained admission to the league. Camden insisted on the right to exercise this option and the issue was then between Rock Hill and Camden. The representatives of these towns spent more than an hour discussing the matter before an agreement was arrived at by which Camden resigned her claims in favor of Rock Hill. This put it up to Rock Hill to purchase Gunter's release or abandon the idea of securing him as manager.

An agreement was soon reached by which Gunter was released to Rock Hill, the consideration being \$100. The money was paid with a protest attached, however, and Secretary Farrell will be asked by Rock Hill to reopen the matter and make a ruling on the showing to be made.

This means that Sumter will get \$100 for Gunter, for there can be no question of the fact that he had accepted terms with Sumter and had been acting as manager, in the matter of signing new players and selling members of last year's team, before the Rock Hill dispute originated. Correspondence on file in Secretary Farrell's office and contracts with players drawn by Gunter for Sumter abundantly establish this. The sale of Gunter is perfectly satisfactory to the officers of the local association and a majority of the fans. Having carried their point and established

their right to hold or release Gunter. Seasons come and the seasons go as the saw fit, the Sumter directors transfer Gunter to Rock Hill, for consideration, without any hard feelings. It was simply a business proposition, and now the fans here hope that Rock Hill will have a successful season under our ex-manager. As predicted some days ago, there would be no difficulty in reaching an agreement if Rock Hill would go about it in the proper manner.

It is stated that Rock Hill is to pay Mr. Gunter a salary that would make a Sallie League sit up and take notice and that the money paid for his release was furnished by Mr. Gunter himself, and that he will have a non-reserve contract with Rock Hill in consideration thereof.

Baseball is sure to be a live proposition this summer, for there is fierce rivalry between Chester and Rock Hill, Gunter at Rock Hill will make things interesting for Sumter and Orangeburg will put up her usual strong fight for the pennant.

MANAGER FELIX DINGLE.

Last Season's Star Third Sacker Will Direct the Sumter Game Cocks.

Mr. Wm Bultman, president of the baseball association has announced that Mr. Felix R. Dingle has been engaged to manage the Sumter team this year. That Mr. Dingle would manage the Game Cocks has been practically assured for some time, but it was not deemed expedient to announce the fact until all difficulties had been removed. Manager Dingle covered the third sack for Sumter last season and led the third basement of the State League. He played in 70 games, is credited with 52 putouts, 70 assists and charged with only 5 errors. His percentage was .953. His batting average was .267. He has had the experience that fits him for manager, having made good in the South Atlantic for two seasons and the Virginia State League for one season, leading the shortstops of that league. He belonged to Norfolk last year and opened the season with that team, but was forced to return to South Carolina on account of the illness of his mother, and refused to return to Virginia while she remained in a critical condition. An arrangement was made with Norfolk by which he was loaned to the local team for the season and he made one of the most valuable men Sumter had and contributed materially toward winning the pennant. Norfolk reserved him for this season and he was secured from Norfolk by giving them Lindsay in exchange. The fans are all delighted that Dingle will be with Sumter again and better pleased that he will manage the team.

Former Manager Gunter of the Sumter team feels that the impression generally prevalent that he deliberately violated his verbal agreement to manage Sumter this season, and signed a contract with Rock Hill without notice to Sumter, is unjust to him. He has never denied his verbal agreement with Sumter for the season of 1908, and the fact that he signed no contract with Rock Hill and did not wire acceptance of Rock Hill's offer to Secretary Farrell, shows that he respected his agreement with Sumter. The facts are that Rock Hill made him an offer of a salary so much larger than Sumter had offered that he felt sure that when he laid the matter before the Sumter directors he would be released. He accepted Rock Hill's terms conditionally, expecting to obtain his release from Sumter before closing a contract with Rock Hill and took no steps to violate or repudiate his Sumter agreement. When Sumter fixed \$100 as the price for his release he further showed that he respected his agreement by paying the sum demanded. This is the view Mr. Gunter takes of the matter and he desires to be set right with the Sumter people. He does not wish to leave Sumter feeling that they believe that he violated his verbal contract, and think that he treated Sumter badly.

WHO USES HYOMEI?

The Best People in Sumter, Says J. F. W. DeLorme.

No other remedy or treatment for catarrh has ever been as popular or made so many remarkable cures in Sumter as Hyomei.

The best people attest its curative virtues in catarrhal troubles, says J. F. W. DeLorme, who is the local agent. The fair way in which Hyomei was sold to refund the money unless it gave satisfaction, was the best proof when it was introduced that it possessed unusual curative powers. J. F. W. DeLorme took all the risk of the treatment giving satisfaction, and left it to the purchasers to be the judge.

The sales rapidly grew and today there is no other remedy in J. F. W. DeLorme's stock that has such a large and staple sale.

The first breath of Hyomei's healing air kills all catarrhal poison.

Try Hyomei today on J. F. W. DeLorme's offer to refund the money if the treatment does not give you satisfaction. 3-24&26&w

PITCHER TRIBBLE'S HOLD-OUT.

What Greenville Has to Say About Effort to Sign One of Sumter's Players.

"Tribble, the big Southpaw whom Manager Stouch had counted upon as being one of the star fingers on his staff this year, but whom Secretary Farrell says belongs to the Winston-Salem team, may not play this summer unless he is allowed to join the Greenville team. He says that he does not want to go to Winston-Salem in the first place and in the second place he does not think he has been treated right.

Tribble thought that he would be free to sign where he pleased this year and he and Stouch agreed on terms. Later the announcement came that the Sumter team, which Tribble played with last season, had sold the big twirler to Winston-Salem. Tribble does not think that they had a right to do this and even granted that they did think that he should have been consulted in the matter before he was sold.

"Those who know Tribble intimately believe that unless he is allowed to sign with the Greenville team he will be among the missing when the time for reporting rolls around. He would be much better pleased in this city. His home is only forty miles below here at Donalds, a station on the Columbia and Greenville road and this is one reason he wishes to hook up with the Greenville team.

"The case is not ended yet by any means and there is every reason to believe that not only Tribble, but also Wynne, Stephens and others reported to be the property of the Winston team, will be seen in the Greenville uniform this summer."—Greenville News, March 19.

The above is a combination of nonsense and misinformation. Tribble never had any grounds for imagining that he would be free to sign where he pleased this year. He was under contract with Sumter last season, was paid in full all that was due him and at the close of the season had notice that Sumter would exercise the right to reserve him for 1908; and, as a matter of fact, did file notice of reserve for the entire team at the proper time. This was sufficient notice of Sumter's claim on Tribble, to Tribble himself, Manager Stouch and all others. In the circumstances Greenville violated the rules of organized ball in holding any communication with Tribble or any other of the men whom Sumter reserved. By attempting to hijack them the Greenville management has laid itself liable to fine on complaint from Sumter. If Greenville wanted Tribble, Stevens or any other player the prescribed and proper course was to have taken up the matter with the management of the Sumter team. Thus far Greenville has tried to ignore Sumter's rights in the matter, but that game will not work. Tribble nor Stevens nor Wynne will wear a Greenville uniform until Sumter says so. They will have the option of playing with Sumter, with the team to which Sumter releases them, or they will not play organized ball at all this season.

BASEBALL NOTES.

The suggestion is made that the lady fans show their appreciation of the "Ladies Day" courtesy by providing the pennant which will be raised at the Ball Park on the first day of the season. The Pennant Winners should have a pennant.

Phil Sitton who is having a tryout with Atlanta was batted out of the box in two innings in a game with New York, but showed up well against Macon.

McDonald, lost with Darlington and Florence, is also having a tryout with Atlanta and made good in a game against Macon.

News from Orangeburg is that the baseball fans there are becoming faint hearted and may not be represented in the State League this season. This is bad news for heretofore Orangeburg has been a mainstay of the league.

It is said that the Eastern North Carolina League which was organized several weeks ago and composed of several of the best baseball towns in the Tarheel State, is undergoing a series of troubles. Kinston and Rocky Mount favor the outlaw style of baseball and threaten to withdraw from the league if the organization takes out national protection.

Newbern and Fayetteville, it is said, are willing to take up the franchises of Rocky Mount and Kinston. They made an unsuccessful effort to get in the league when it was organized.

The Greenville News comments as follows on the Item's remarks on the dispute over Pitcher Tribble:

"On the other hand there may be something else in the 'suit' to come up and after all the story may not be all 'misinformation and nonsense,' says the local management." McLaurin has made good in August-

ta and will be a fixture in left field. In a game Saturday against Boston McLaurin was at the bat five times, got two hits, stole one base and made the only run.

Richardson is also showing up well. He was in the box for three innings Saturday. He struck out one and yielded two hits.

In the same game Cad Coles, who was with Sumter in '06, got two hits, one a two bagger and played an errorless game.

It will never do for Orangeburg to drop out of the State League and the Sumter fans do not believe the City on the Edisto will surrender its franchise.

Those who have charge of soliciting subscriptions to the baseball fund went out yesterday and met with considerable success in gathering in the long green. There is still several hundred dollars needed, and there will necessarily have to be considerable canvassing done yet before this sum is realized.—Spartanburg Herald.

McLaurin's hitting and fielding was exceptionally good. The manner in which the Carolina boy slammed the spheroid and his fielding stunts, despite the fact that he missed one chance, were highly commendatory. It's a cinch that the Palmetto States lad will have a regular berth.

Richardson and Schmieck certainly look the goods in the b. & c., and their performances yesterday afternoon were most creditable. They should be stars in the Sallie league this season.

The work of Cad Coles in center field and his batting was a feature of the game. The local boys, so it seems now, will be a star in the South Atlantic.—Augusta Herald.

A Raleigh dispatch says: Newbern succeeds Rocky Mount in the eastern Carolina baseball league because Rocky Mount declined to be governed by rules of the National association. The six team league now consists of Raleigh, Wilmington, Goldsboro, Newbern and Kingston, each having already deposited \$300 guarantee fund for season games.

Frank Shaugnessy, former coach of the Clemson team, has signed a contract with Roanoke, in the Virginia State league.

Satisfied With Amateurs. The fans of the city are very enthusiastic over the baseball prospects this summer. There will be a good bunch of material to pick from and the management hopes to get together a team that will come up to any organization in the State. The indications are that such a team will be had.—Florence Times.

The appeal of the Rock Hill Baseball association in the matter of the ownership of Manager C. Guy Gunter has been decided in favor of Sumter and the \$100 paid under protest by Rock Hill for his release is now unquestionably Sumter's property. The controversy over Gunter is now settled. Secretary Farrell notified the Sumter association of his decision by wire today.

LEARN TO EAT. Few People in Sumter Really Know How.

Slow eating will solve one half the problems of ill health. Those who suffer with digestion and weak stomach can with care and the use of Ml-o-na stomach tablets restore the digestion to a healthy condition, so that they can eat what they want at any time without fear of distress or suffering.

After a few days' use of Ml-o-na stomach tablets, the headaches, dizzy feeling, drowsiness, bad taste in the mouth, coated tongue, flatulence, sleeplessness distress after eating—all these symptoms of a weak stomach—will disappear, and perfect digestion and good health will be restored. J. F. W. DeLorme has so much confidence in the power of Ml-o-na to cure indigestion that he offers to refund the money should it fail to give satisfaction. 3-25&27&w

Lee County News. Mr. T. L. Northcutt and son lost their saw mill, planing and shingle mill, turning lathe, a lot of lumber on the yard, two workmen houses, seven stables, by fire on Monday of last week. Loss amounted to about \$1,750 or \$2,000, no insurance. Mr. Davis DuBose also lost about \$250 worth of lumber and shingles on the yard. The fire caught from the burning of a pasture by a neighbor.

Mrs. Sarah Belvin, aged about seventy years, died at the home of her son-in-law, Rev. T. A. Collins, in the Spring Hill section of this county Tuesday morning after a lingering illness of several days. The deceased was a faithful member of the Spring Hill Methodist church. She was the mother of Rev. T. L. Belvin, of the Methodist conference, who is now stationed at Bamberg, and Mrs. P. B. Chewning of Spring Hill.—Bishopville Vindicator.