

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, 1868.

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FUTURE DELIVERY OF COTTON.

Members of the New York Exchange in Same Committee to Inquire into Methods Used.

New York, July 19.—The Board of managers of the New York cotton exchange passed a resolution for the appointment of a special committee to make a complete investigation of the present contract for the future delivery of cotton as required by the rules of the exchange and to inquire into other features of the institution's policies. The action of the board of managers followed a conference held recently with the spinning interests in the North and South which have criticized the methods of the exchange.

The special committee will be appointed later and will be composed of seven members, including President George Bronnecke of the exchange, who is directed by the board of managers to endeavor to obtain the active participation of the United States bureau of corporations in the inquiry and its advice upon the formulation of the results. Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of the bureau of corporations, recently criticized the New York exchange for its methods in the handling of cotton contracts. The special committee is directed to report by Sept. 1.

Insanity is a Brain Disease.

"Insanity is not a disease of the brain," says Dr. William Hanna Thompson, in the July Everybody's, "because no anatomical investigation, microscopic or otherwise, can show the least difference between either brain cell or fiber of a person dying insane and the healthy brain of one killed in an accident. But the same absence of brain changes is noticeable in a whole class of important chronic nervous diseases, such as migraine, neurasthenia, hysteria and epilepsy. None of these shows post mortem any characteristic changes from normal brains.

"Now, no one can minimize the importance of these nervous diseases. Insanity alone is serious enough. When that dread specter appears, there is no getting used to it. Years of familiarity with it, both in private and in official relations, do not lessen my recoil from the spectacle of a patient, instead of—as with drugs—a temporary, mental derangement. But it is facts connected with these same insanities produced by drugs entering the blood which awaken the hope that we may find elsewhere than in the brain the cause, and, therefore, with the cause, the best treatment for this dreadful affliction, as well as also for the other nervous diseases which cause no brain changes. If the brain of a man who has been addicted to immense doses of opium for years still shows in it no trace of this mind-deranging agent, while chemistry quickly finds the reactions of this drug in his blood, the mistake of years on this whole subject begins to come into view. It is singular how long the sway of that error has continued, for even yet many physicians, including some neurologists, cannot see the two sides of the problem."

A BIG OAT CROP.

T. S. Farmer Gathers 140 Bushels From One Acre of Oats.

T. S. Farmer, a very progressive planter living a few miles west of the city holds the record for the finest oat crop in the county, if not the finest in the State. Mr. Farmer raised 140 bushels of oats on one acre of ground and 230 bushels on two acres. This is a remarkable yield when you take into consideration that the average yield of this grain up until a few years ago was from 50 to 60 bushels to the acre in this State. South Carolina is fast getting to the place where she can boast of her grain crops. A South Carolina farmer won first prize on corn sometime ago.—Florence Times.

ANTI-BRYAN ODDS LOWER.

LOYDS WERE PRACTICALLY OFFERING 9 TO 1 AGAINST HIM.

This "Good Thing" Snapped Up—Then Odds Are Backed Down to 6 to 1 Finally—Insurance Against Loss if Bryan Wins.

New York, July 17.—Gamblers, race track men and others who are always eager to make what they believe to be a good bet swooped down today upon the officers of several insurance brokers, who, as representatives of the Lloyds of London, had been writing insurance against a Bryan victory at what amounted to betting odds of 9 to 1 against the Nebraskan.

As a result the odds shortened quickly to 8 to 1, then to 7 and finally to 6 to 1. All of the insurance the Lloyds would write at that figure was snapped up instantly, and it was predicted that tomorrow will see the odds shortened to 4 to 1.

Publication of the fact that the Lloyds were issuing policies against loss of business in the event of Bryan's election drew a whirlwind of offers from the West and Middle West. Business men and politicians all through the country wanted to snap up as much as they could of the insurance at the published odds of 9 to 1. Before 10 A. M. today a score or more well-known sporting men appeared at the office of one of the biggest insurance brokerage firms in the South William street region and wanted to take all the insurance the firm would write at the published figures. It was this demand that sent the odds down.

Thursday two or three of the big firms who handle business for the Lloyds wrote thousands of dollars of Bryan insurance on a basis of 10 per cent, which is the same as odds of 9 to 1. When they cabled this morning to know how much more the Lloyds would take at the same figure they were told that no more would be written on a 10 per cent basis.

These Gobbled Up Quickly.

A few thousand were offered on a basis of 12 per cent, which were quickly gobbled up. Then there was a quick jump to 14, and all the offers at that figure were snapped up instantly. Early in the day word came that the Lloyds would take a small lump on a 16 per cent basis, and that was immediately subscribed. From the number of telegrams received from men in the Middle West it is evident that Democrats out there think a 6-to-1 bet against Bryan is a good one to pick up.

First of the "bets" placed was made through the firm of Bertschmann & Maloy. A member of the firm, in talking with a friend about the unusual risks the Lloyds take, said he saw no reason why they should not, for a proper percentage would guarantee brokers and business men against loss in their investments in the event that Bryan is elected. A cable to the other side brought the reply that the Lloyds would take such a risk on the 10 per cent basis.

May Have Written \$1,000,000.

Just how much insurance was written at this price could not be learned. It was rumored that the amount was in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000, but leading brokers declared that it was less than half that sum. They asserted that the total amount would be much less than \$1,000,000.

"It is true," said Mr. Bertschmann, "that we wrote considerable insurance today and the day before, but we are not writing any more today. As soon as the word spread through the district that the Lloyds were guaranteeing against loss on a basis of what amounted to odds of 9 to 1 against Bryan they swamped us. The percentage went right up until it was 16 or 16 1-2."

"Are you still issuing policies at that figure, which is the same as odds of 6 to 1?" was asked.

"We have written all that the Lloyds will take at the present time," Contrary to New Law.

Under the new anti-betting law in this State recording bets on an election is as great a crime and may be visited with as dire punishment as recording bets on the racetrack; but London Lloyds will write insurance against the election of Bryan, just as in many cases these venturesome insurance brokers have written policies against the birth of twins, and in at least one recent case have insured a man against molesting his mother-in-law.

The policy is of the form sometimes loosely described as a wager or honor policy, and while it may not be enforceable at law the standing of the Lloyds' brokers gives the bettor ample protection against any wench-

ing on the part of the broker. The taking of such policies in large numbers yesterday practically opened the betting on the presidential election of this year.

The new method of election betting owes its origin to a manufacturer who felt very confident of a sharp revival of business following the election of Taft and was anxious to run his plant at full capacity in the months preceding the election, if only he could protect himself against the contingency of Bryan's success. In this predicament the manufacturer went to a firm of insurance brokers in this city and asked them for a policy insuring his business against Bryan's election. They cabled Lloyds for terms and received off hand a quotation of 20 per cent, which is equal to odds of about 4 to 1 against Bryan. The manufacturer considered the rate too high, and yesterday after reflection, Lloyds' brokers offered to write the policy at 10 1-2 per cent. The offer was accepted and insurance to the amount of more than \$100,000 was taken at the quotation named. The manufacturer will put all hands to work immediately.

A Rush for Policies.

Wall street brokers and stock market operators, hearing of the policy taken by the manufacturer, applied for policies in large numbers yesterday afternoon. Some of them wanted the policies as a hedge on purchases of stock, fearing a break in the stock market in the event of Bryan's election. Others considered the odds inviting at this uncertain stage of the campaign and took policies as a pure wager, either for the reason that there was a good long chance speculation or in the expectation of hedging profitably on later campaign betting.

The form of contract, insurance or wager, comes under the Lloyds' classification of commercial hedges. In this classification it is known in the parlance of the international insurance men as a "P. P. I." policy—that is, a policy with proof of interest. The contract provides that the insured must state the estimated loss to him on a particular eventuality. That estimated loss is the face of the policy, and, according to the strict terms of the policy, the insurer may demand proof of loss in case of the happening of the particular contingency. The clause to that effect, however, is entirely formal and is designed to protect the contract in accordance with the English law. As a matter of practice, the contract is as inviolable as that life insurance contract which is written "incontestable from date of issue." An insurance broker who should refuse to pay the face value would be treated in the same manner as the bookmaker who wench at Tattersall's.

Quoted in Guineas.

The brokers quote the premium in guineas. A 10 per cent. premium is a premium of 10 guineas on the hundred pounds sterling, and since the guinea is one shilling in excess of a pound the quoted rate of 10 per cent. is really a percentage of 10 1-2 and the quoted rate of 15 per cent. is a percentage of 15 3-4. The percentage, at the same time, only indicates the odds, for the reason that the broker retains the premiums in the event of loss by him, while in ordinary betting the bettor's stake as well that of his opponent goes to the winner. Thus on a contract of the face value of \$1,000 with a premium of 10 guineas percent, the insured deposits \$105 approximately, or about 20 guineas. In case of success he receives the \$1,000 face value, but no more, so that his net return from the insurance would be 895, or about 8 1-2 to 1 for his money. At the closing odds of the international insurance market yesterday, with 15 guineas per cent. as the quotation, the odds were approximately 5 3-4 to 1.

Several brokers well versed in Lloyds' practices, among them two or three members of Lloyds', said that yesterday's transactions were the first in straight insurance—or betting—on a presidential election. One of them recalled making a transaction a bit similar to the Roosevelt-Parker campaign four years ago. The insured was a man who had bet \$8,000 on Roosevelt and figured that he could not lose unless Roosevelt dropped dead. He insured himself against this contingency with Lloyds' at a nominal rate. But this policy, it was recalled, was similar to the policies taken on Queen Victoria's life before her jubilee by London tradesmen or before the coronation of King Edward. It was life insurance rather than a pure wager on the election.

Edward McIver, of Cheraw, special master to take testimony and report, is holding a reference in the case of N. B. Dial vs. the Ware Shoals Manufacturing Co., at Greenwood.

FAMED AS PIANIST.

"Blind Tom" and His Remarkable Gifts of Memory.

Compiled from various Exchanges.

Three weeks ago, as Blind Tom sat before his piano in the home of Mrs. Eliza B. Lerche, the widow of his old master, at 60 Twelfth street, Hoboken, N. J., singing the old melodies with which he had thrilled great audiences before the civil war, he suddenly stopped and fell face downward on the floor. Mrs. Lerche, who has cared for him for more than 20 years, ran into the room and, helping him up, found that his whole upper right side was paralyzed.

But Tom could not understand that he was different, and soon went back to the piano. When he found that his right hand could not strike the keys he said, with his voice quavering:

"Tom's fingers won't play."

Again and again he tried. Finally, when he realized it was useless his big blind eyes filled with tears and he wept like a child. Each day he returned to the piano and with his left hand started some favorite piece. Discords came quickly, however, and then, with tear-moistened cheeks, he would rise and pace the floor until late into the night. His old mistress sought to comfort him, but he would only sob out:

"Tom's fingers won't play no mo'."

"Blind Tom's boy lies this morning at the undertaking room of the Frank E. Campbell Company, where it was taken by Mrs. Eliza Lerche, with whom he had been living in Hoboken. Mrs. Lerche is the widow of John G. Bethune, son of General Bethune. After the death of her husband, who had been the blind man's legal guardian and manager, she succeeded to his immensely valuable guardianship of the blind musician, after a long fight with her father-in-law in the courts.

In early childhood he imitated the cries of farm animals, the call of birds and the sound of the wind and rain for the amusement of the household. By night he would steal into the house of his master to imitate in undertones on the piano the pieces he had heard others play during the day. He was destitute of invention, but marvelously imitative. During his public appearances he frequently played one melody with his right hand and another with his left, singing or whistling a third, as frequently the classic compositions of Bach, Chopin and Mendelssohn as "Yankee Doodle," "Sailor's Hornpipe" or other pieces of that class. On occasions he played pieces with his back turned to the piano. He could imitate the sound of other musical instruments and deliver connected addresses in foreign languages without understanding a word he uttered.

The eccentricities of "Blind Tom" on the stage pleased audiences as much as his playing. He always referred to himself as the third person, and would announce his pieces by saying, "Tom will now play a beautiful piece he heard recently." He frequently jumped about wildly and started the applause himself when he finished a number.

His mother, Aunt Charity, died in Birmingham, Ala., on November 23, 1902, at the reputed age of 105. She had spent a few years in comfort in New York with the musician, but never was really comfortable here, and finally went back to the south.

"Blind Tom" had a great fondness for watermelons and could always be induced to play for any one who offered him a piece of the dainty. His money affairs were in the hands of the Bethunes, and no accounting of his earnings was made for some time. Several suits were brought against Mrs. Lerche, but nothing definite ever came of them.

Just how old he was is unknown. Stories vary, but he was born probably between 1849 and 1853 on a plantation near Columbus, Ga., where his parents lived as the slaves of Gen. James N. Bethune. He made his first appearance in New York in 1861, played in Chicago the following year, at the Empire Theatre, London, in 1867, and in California in 1873. His last work in public was at the Circle Theatre, New York, in 1904, when he amazed many who believed he was dead by repeating the feats of his earlier years.

The fear of death was strong in Blind Tom in his later years. If he felt the wind blowing against him he would exclaim: "Tom's in a draft. He may catch cold and die. Wouldn't that be terrible!" But he was spared the agony of the fear of surely approaching death, the stroke of apoplexy striking him unconscious, and the end following in a very short time.

When Colonel Bethune bought

Charity Wiggins she had in her arms a pookaniny, blind, feeble, and not considered valuable as a slave asset. So Tom was "thrown in" by his mother's former master. He was a very small boy and when he discovered that for the loss of his sight and the blight upon his mind his Creator had endowed him with a gift so strange and yet so productive of happiness to him that he has, in a way, been a living subject for marvel during the last half century.

The boy began by repeating words that he heard about him, mimicking every one and trying to imitate all sounds that fell on his ear. When he first heard a piano played every note of the music was stamped in his mind, and, groping to the instrument, he found that he could reproduce the music he had heard.

With the instrument he could imitate the tinkling water in a fountain, the fall of rain, and the noises of the storm. His own composition, which gave him the most delight, he called "What the wind and the waves told Tom."

While he was always known as "Blind Tom," he was never totally blind, and could always distinguish between light and dark. Mentally, he was never little better than an imbecile, and those who saw him on his first concert tours, nearly a half century ago, will remember that he would always stand up from the piano and clap his hands with the audience, which was applauding his remarkable skill. This was a trick which he retained as long as he appeared in public.

"Blind Tom's" death has been announced many times. It was said that he perished in the Johnstown flood and several other times, but those who saw him when he appeared in the Circle Theatre in 1904 recognized in the aged white-haired man the same wonderful pianist they had seen years before as a boy prodigy. He had appeared frequently in vaudeville during the last few years.

After one of his recent concerts Tom sat for some time as a target for questions. They came from all over the house, and Tom answered them without hesitation, except for a certain hesitancy which evidently belonged to his speech rather than to his memory. He spoke two or three words and a pause—rather automatically—and never was known to fall to take a civil "sir" on to every one of his replies.

Among those who questioned him was E. D. Gallon, of Washington, D. C., but formerly of Lynchburg.

"Tell me, Tom, did you ever play in Lynchburg?"

"Yes, sir."

"What year was it?"

"It was—in 18—79, sir!"

"So it was; so it was—in the summer, wasn't it?"

"No, sir; it was in—January—sir!"

"He's perfectly right," admitted Mr. Gallon, whose trap had failed.

W. R. Brackville, of Bellfonte, Pa., tried his hand next at the mystifying of this mystery.

"Tom, were you ever at Bellfonte, Pa.?"

"Yes, sir."

"When?"

"I was there in 1871, sir," came Tom's reply in a noncommittal tone.

The gentleman looked astonished, and, leaning over, whispered to his wife, "Well, he's wrong for once, for we didn't move there till later than that!" But the woman's wit solved the trouble.

"Well, Tom, you were there more than once?"

"Yes, ma'am; I was there the second time in 1878."

"That's it," said Mrs. Brackville; "that was just after we went there."

"And, Tom, what did you do with yourself on Sunday?"

One of Tom's most exciting recent experiences was his first encounter with a graphophone and a large musical box. The latter particularly reduced him almost to a delirium of ecstasy. He had his chair rolled up close to it, and insisted on hearing its entire repertory, and astonished his manager and his audience by giving some selections from that repertory in his next concert. Blind Tom rattling off the latest popular marches. Blind Tom playing "Flora-dora" was a novelty.

Admiral Rojevsky Dead.

Bad Nauheim, Germany, July 20.—Vice Admiral Rojevsky, who commanded the ill-fated Russian fleet which was annihilated by the Japanese in the Sea of Japan in May, 1905, died here last night from heart trouble.

It is believed that the heart affection resulted from injuries received by Admiral Rojevsky in the battle of the Sea of Japan.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Items of Interest Condensed and Paraphrased for Quick Reading.

Luke Scott, of Union, attempted to commit suicide by drinking laudanum.

W. J. Aiken fell from a scaffold in Columbia and broke his left arm and leg.

The Rikard Knitting Mill at Lexington will begin operation this week.

Robert Jeter, colored, was killed by a Southern passenger train near Union last week.

James Harrison and A. H. S. Jay, well known citizens of Trenton, S. C., are dead at their homes.

Experiments have shown that Japanese matting rush may be successfully grown in this State.

J. E. Jeffries has been appointed auditor of Cherokee county to serve out the unexpired term of Col. W. D. Camp, deceased.

A trolley car in Columbia got away from the motorman and crashed into a freight train. Several passengers were slightly injured.

Two colored women of Charleston became involved in a quarrel and one bit off the right ear of the other.

James Henry Rice, of the Audubon Society, has sworn out warrants for the arrest of three prominent citizens of Orangeburg, charging them with dynamiting fish in the Edisto river.

The postoffice department has notified the county officials that the public roads must be improved or the rural delivery mail service will be discontinued.

A gang of crooks and flim-flam artists are said to be operating in Columbia.

Five fishermen have been arrested in Beaufort county on the charge of violating the fishing laws.

Seven hundred young women of South Carolina took the examination for scholarships on July 3.

There were three fires in Rock Hill Monday. The barn of Pride Ratteree was destroyed, loss \$500; the residence of Mr. A. Friedham was damaged to the extent of \$10,000, and the kitchen of Ed Garrison was partially burned.

Joe Herring, white, was drowned Sunday afternoon at Campbell's bridge, near Latta.

A number of business men of Charleston have purchased the stock of the Coleman Wagner Hardware Co. The new company will be known as the Enterprise Hardware Company and will be capitalized at \$25,000.

J. M. Weeks, a well known citizen of Elloree and for many years dispenser at that place, is dead at his home after a long illness.

The Eutaw, a steamboat worth \$10,000, sold at auction in Charleston for \$105. The steamer Planter was bid in for \$500.

Congressman Lever, Commissioner E. J. Watson and Col. M. V. Richards of the Southern Railway addressed a meeting of farmers at Union Monday.

Will Suber, colored, shot by D. C. French at Williamston Saturday afternoon, is dead from the gunshot wounds. French is in jail.

WEEKLY WEATHER BULLETIN.

For the Week Ending July 20, 1908.—General Summary.

The week was the warmest of the season. The precipitation was generally below the normal, and there was much more than the usual percentage of sunshine.

The mean temperature was from 2 degrees to 4 degrees above the normal, the greatest departures having occurred in the eastern division, though the highest maximum temperatures were recorded in the central and north central counties. The extremes were 99 degrees at Blackville on the 15th and Rock Hill on the 13th, and 64 degrees at Bowman on the 14th and Cheraw on the 17th. The daily maximum temperatures were in the nineties on four, or more, days on the coast, on an average of six days in the interior, and on two, or more, days in the mountain districts.

The precipitation was poorly distributed. The northeastern counties received practically no rain; the coast sections and the western counties received light and widely scattered showers; a considerable area, comprising portions of Barnwell, Lexington, Dorchester and Richland counties received approximately normal rainfall. The Wateree valley and smaller areas in various parts of the State are suffering from drought, while over very much larger areas the surface soil is very dry and rain would be beneficial.