

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

COTTON GRADES STANDARDIZED

Department of Agriculture Completes Important Work.

Washington, August 1.—In the act of congress making appropriations for the department of agriculture for the year ending June 30, 1909, the secretary of agriculture was authorized "to establish a standard for the different grades of cotton, calling to his assistance for that purpose expert cotton classifiers, by fixing a standard of middling cotton and, using the same as a basis, establishing a standard of nine different grades to be designated middling fair, strict good middling, strict middling, middling, strict low middling, low middling, strict good ordinary, and good ordinary. The secretary of agriculture was further authorized "to prepare in practical form the standard of said grades and furnish the same upon request to any person, the cost thereof to be paid, when delivered, by the person requesting the same, and certified under the signature of the said secretary and the seal of his department."

Carrying out the provisions of this act, the secretary of agriculture convened in the city of Washington in February, 1909, a committee of cotton experts including, besides the department experts, representatives of the different interests of the trade. Committee consisted of Mr. Joseph A. Alroy, of John M. Parker & Co., New Orleans, La.; Mr. James Akers, of Inman, Akers & Inman, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. F. M. Crump, of F. M. Crump & Co., Memphis, Tenn.; Mr. C. P. Baker, of the Lawrence Manufacturing Company, Boston, Mass.; Mr. Lewis W. Parker, of the Olympia Mills, Greenville; Mr. John Martin, Paris, Texas; Mr. Nathaniel Thayer, of Barry, Thayer & Co., Boston, Mass.; Mr. G. W. Neville, of Weld & Neville, New York City; Mr. Charles A. Vedder, of John D. Rogers & Co., Galveston, Tex.; and Dr. N. A. Cobb and Mr. R. L. Bennett, of the department of agriculture. The committee was assisted by the following expert cotton classifiers: Br. W. P. Barbot, of the classification committee, New York Cotton Exchange; Mr. Jules Mazerat, chairman of the classification committee, New Orleans Cotton Exchange, and Mr. J. R. Taylor, with the firm of Wolf & Co., Dallas, Texas.

The department furnished the committee every facility for its work, having on hand types of cotton from the different exchanges and markets and materials for making up the grades as provided by law. The committee after due deliberation submitted a unanimous report, which the secretary has approved, fixing the grades and making certain recommendations in connection therewith. In view of the fact that contracts are made for cotton in advance of the ensuing cotton season, the committee recommended that the grades agreed upon by the committee be not promulgated for general use in trade transactions prior to September 1, 1910. In order, however, for the cotton trade to become fully acquainted with the grades, the department of agriculture will in a short time place sets in the hands of a limited number of associations, organizations, exchanges and agricultural colleges for inspection. These sets will enable the cotton producers, cotton merchants, and spinners to become familiar with them.

THE FIRE SATURDAY.

Mr. J. W. McKelver Sustains Slight Loss.

An alarm from Box 37 was rung in Saturday about 2 o'clock. When the fire department arrived they found the engine house of the Sumter Door, Sash & Blind Factory ablaze. The flames were soon checked and with very little damage done, except to the engine house which was a total loss. It could not be ascertained the exact amount of the loss, but is something less than \$100 dollars. Slight damage was done to the engine, which was fully covered with insurance. The origin of the fire is not known but it is supposed to have originated in the dust room. There was no insurance on the burned building.

A negro ice-cream festival in July seems to be as dangerous as a hot supper in cotton-picking times judging from reports from Tindal's.

At a meeting of men representing the various denominations, at the Y. M. C. A. in Columbia Thursday, a committee was appointed to consider sending a formal invitation to the Men's Missionary convention to hold one of its meetings in Columbia this fall.

Farmers' Union News

—AND—

Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President Farmers' Union of Sumter County.)

The Watchman and Southron having decided to double its service by semi-weekly publication, would improve that service by special features. The first to be inaugurated is this Department for the Farmers' Union and Practical Farmers which I have been requested to conduct. It will be my aim to give the Union news and official calls of the Union. To that end officers, and members of the Union are requested to use these columns. Also to publish such clippings from the agricultural papers and Government Bulletins as I think will be of practical benefit to our readers. Original articles by any of our readers telling of their successes or failures will be appreciated and published.

Trusting this Department will be of mutual benefit to all concerned,

THE EDITOR.

All communications for this Department should be sent to E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville, S. C.

Some Random Thoughts.

In my selections from other papers, I do not always agree with the views of the writers, but reproduce them because they contain food for thought. In every article some ideas are sure to be advanced that are not in accord with the pre-conceived notions of some reader, but that is no reason why valuable information is not contained in the article, nor why it may not stimulate study.

There are some inspiring ideas in the two selections for this issue. It is the time when these matters should be studied and discussed, and the school programme mapped out for the next term.

Children are educated as much by environment as by text books—may be educated more by environment and associations than by any training of the text books—hence the necessity of better and more attractive school houses, better homes, better roads. While many great men came out of log school houses, it was in spite of and not because of, the log school house.

I believe that where there is the least culture in the homes of the people there, especially, should the school house be made most attractive. If a school term should have to be omitted to build a comfortable house, better by far do so, than have children and teacher half sheltered in a building not fit for a stable.

These remarks may not seem appropriate to the farmers' columns of a paper, but if there is anything farmers need more than another it is EDUCATION, and the Union needs to lay more stress upon education than any other feature of its work, if it would bring about diversification and co-operation. There will never be a financing of the cotton crop, by farmers and for farmers, until the rank and file of us are better educated. There may be some improvement in our condition by standard warehouses and bond and trust companies for cheaper money, but so long as they are organized and owned by outsiders it will be a case of financing the cotton by speculators and for speculators.

We as a Union can not finance the cotton crop from the top downward, but we can finance it from the ground upward. We can do as we have planned to do in Sumter County and as the farmers of Lancaster County have done. And where we have shown our ability to finance our own farms, to successfully conduct a small co-operative business, then we can undertake these larger things, for then we will have the trained men to manage them, and larger enterprises will be the natural growth.

Some people seem to think the Farmers' Union can be a Standard Oil Company or a U. S. Steel Corporation in a day just by passing resolutions to that effect. They forget that these immense businesses are the slow growth of a generation of continuous effort by as smart men as the world ever saw.

I was truly glad to see in the meeting of the State Union last week that this idea of growth is gaining strength and there is less disposition to finance and control cotton by long range resolutions. When we have got down to a sane business basis we will hear less about farmers sticking. They will stick all right when there is something business-like to stick to, but will never stick to impossible resolutions.

E. W. D.

Notes and Comments.

In a reply to a correspondent in a recent issue I am made to say "the seed that made the bitter squashes may have been crossed with cucumbers or melons." I certainly did not mean to say anything of the sort, for squashes will not cross with melons or cucumbers, and it would hardly make them bitter if they should. What I said, or meant to say, was that they might have been crossed with gourds. There is a great deal of misunderstanding in regard to these cucurbitaceous plants, and some think that they will mix in a general

way. Watermelons are always watermelons, but the varieties will mix, of course. But watermelons will not mix with cucumbers or gourds, nor with muskmelons, or cantaloupes mix with cucumbers or squashes, but all the squashes and gourds will mix readily.

I think that R. A., who made that absurd hypothetical proposition in regard to stock, has something to think about, and if he is a farmer, some ideas that may help him to better notions in regard to cattle feeding and manure making. If Mr. French can make hay for \$4.48 per ton in a section where it is worth three times as much, and can feed it and get the market price of the hay through the feeding, he has certainly got a good profit from the feeding, and has the manure thrown in. It has certainly been shown that the growing of cotton with fertilizers year after year has not made the farmers rich, and a change to more feeding of stock certainly will not make them poorer than they are. The Southern lands have been reduced in fertility mainly because our farmers have ignored the fundamental idea in the cultivation of the soil, the maintenance of the humus, the new land conditions, through the growing of forage and the feeding of stock; and there will be no permanent improvement in Southern agriculture until all our farmers fully realize that stock feeding in some form is the very foundation of such improvement, and that the restoration of the humus wasted in constant clean culture with commercial fertilizers is the most important matter on the Southern lands today. Talk about gambling in futures, the worst gambling that has been done in the South is the annual gambling on the chances of a crop from the use of a little low-grade complete fertilizer, and as in all other gambling, the gamester has been the loser, and should reform and stop gambling and get down to legitimate business methods.—Professor Massey in Progressive Farmer.

Better Schools as a Business Proposition.

Now we all know that good school-houses, good equipment and good teachers cost money, and that if we have good schools we must pay for them. The money thus spent would, in almost every case, be a good investment if it never brought back one cent in actual cash returns to the taxpayer, because it helps to develop real manhood and womanhood—the two most valuable things in this world; but all this aside, let us look at the matter from a purely business standpoint and see if a good school will add enough to the material welfare of a community to make the money spent for it a profitable investment.

It is impossible in such a case to give acutal figures showing just what return the school makes to the community, because no one can tell in dollars and cents just how much more the boy or girl, the man or woman, is worth with his or her school training than he or she would be worth without it. But this is not necessary. There are other ways of getting at the matter.

Taking a general survey of the world, or of our own land, it is indisputable that the countries or sections where there are good schools are far in advance, financially as well as otherwise, of those which have poor schools or no schools at all. There is a still surer test: Let every reader take his own neighborhood and give it a roomy, convenient and attractive school house and good teachers for five years, and what will be the result? Is there one who does not believe there will be at the end of that time finer houses, bigger barns, better stock, more productive farms, and a more prosperous people in that neighborhood? Then, on the other hand, let the school be allowed to go steadily down for the same time—let the buildings be neglected, the grounds allowed to grow up in weeds and bushes, the furniture left to go to

pieces, and the commissioners encouraged to employ the cheapest teacher available—and what will the result be? Does anyone believe that the people of his neighborhood will have much progress?

It is a plain business proposition. The difference between the cost of a good school and a poor one is really a small matter to any individual; but the difference between the effects of the two schools on the life of the community may be the difference between progress and stagnation.

A good school, then, is a source of profit to the people who invest in it. It is the best advertisement a community can have, adding to the value of every acre of land and always attracting to it the better class of citizens. It increases the earning capacity of every boy and girl who attends and opens their eyes to opportunities which they never would have seen without it. It educates, too, in a degree, proportionate to his own willingness to learn, every adult within its sphere of influence, and by this education enables him to do better and more profitable work. To pay taxes cheerfully for school purposes; to take an interest in the teachers secured and in the work they do; to aid in obtaining better buildings and equipment, longer terms and more practical courses of study; to help keep up the attendance and the interest; to assist the children with their studies—to work for better schools, in short, is a public service, but it is also a highly profitable way of investing time, thought and money.—Progressive Farmer.

CONDITION OF COTTON VERY LOW.

Journal of Commerce's Report Gives Percentage of 73.1.

New York, August 1.—The Journal of Commerce, in its monthly cotton report tomorrow, will say: The condition of the cotton crop, according to 1,855 replies of special correspondents, of an average date of July 24, was 73.1 against 76.8 last month, or a decline of 3.7 points.

Comparison with previous years makes the present percentage condition the lowest in the series of reports compiled by this Journal, which in 1908 showed 83.6 per cent, 75.5 in 1907, and 81.7 in 1906. In 1905 the condition was 75.4; 1904 it was 84.4; in 1903 it was 76.7; in 1902 it was 79.6, and in 1901, it was 75.8.

The table of condition presented shows a decline in all States, except Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri, where some improvement took place.

Conspicuous deterioration occurred in Texas, condition declining 3.8 points. Continued drought and high temperatures were responsible for this loss, the damage by boll weevil being reduced to a minimum. The large amount of grass which infested the fields during June, owing to excessive moisture in nearly all States except Texas and Oklahoma, was not thoroughly disposed of during July, principally because of continued heavy rains in widely scattered areas. Even where weather conditions allowed of clearing, the crop was considerably injured by working. Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri fared better, where drier weather enabled farmers to make more favorable progress in cultivation; but stands have been almost universally injured and the plant is small and only fairly fruited. Many correspondents, however, report the plant strong, and with favorable weather may make a fair crop. A late frost will be necessary, as the crop is still two to three weeks late; in Texas, however, it appears to be on time.

Boll weevils threatened serious damage in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, but dry, hot weather largely destroyed them, except in Louisiana where they punctured squares in large numbers. Other insect damage throughout the State has been practically nil.

The D. J. Chandler Clothing Co., trunk and suit case advertisement will undoubtedly be of interest to those who are in need of these requisites for traveling in comfort.

A suit against the City of Columbia for \$44,277.33 has been filed in the United States Circuit Court by the Georgia Engineering Company, through their attorneys, Messrs. Thomas & Thomas and D. W. Robinson, growing out of an alleged contract made for the paving of Main street, Columbia, which contract the plaintiff claims was violated, causing a loss.

The first regiment of State military, in camp at Greenville, engaged in a sham battle on Paris Mountain.

Mr. Samuel Welch, who is operating a gold mine on a small scale on lands belonging to the Gaffney Land and Improvement Company, this week took out a nugget of gold which is worth \$43. Mr. Welch has taken a number of valuable nuggets from this mine. Arrangements will soon be made to operate the mine on a large scale, as the owners feel sure that it will pay to put in machinery and a large force of hands.

THE TARIFF BILL SUBMITTED

PAYNE PRESENTS REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

The Majority Leader Presents an Exhaustive Analysis of the Bill in Which He Seeks to Show That the Rates on the Necessaries of Life Have Been Decreased—Abstract of The Conference Report.

Washington, July 30.—When Majority Leader Payne, head of the house conferees on the tariff bill which bears his name, rose in the house of representatives today to present the report of the conference committee of the two houses on the bill, the measure had been in conference for just three weeks.

Proceeding on the theory that the bill marks a general downward tendency from the present rates of duty, Mr. Payne presented, but did not read, an exhaustive analysis of its provisions. This statement, he said, had been prepared personally by himself, and he asked to have it printed as an official document. There was objection, however, from the Democratic side, and the printing was prevented for the time. In this statement Mr. Payne undertook to show that there had been a marked decrease in the rates on the necessaries of life, while admitting that there had been an increase on some of the luxuries.

Probably the most marked reductions throughout any schedule in the bill as a result of the action of the two houses and of the conference committees are found in the metal schedule. Beginning with a decrease in the rate of iron ore to 40 to 15 cents per ton, there is a general reduction throughout that portion of the bill, pig iron going down from \$4 to \$2.50 per ton, and scrap iron from \$4 to \$1.

The reduction on many of the items in this schedule amounts to about 50 per cent, and this reduction includes steel rails. There is an increase on structural steel ready for use and also a slight increase on razors, nippers and pliers, and on such new metals as tungsten.

Rough lumber goes down from \$2 to \$1.25 per thousand feet, with a corresponding reduction in the differential on dressed lumber.

The entire cotton schedule was reconstructed and the phraseology greatly changed in the hope of preventing reductions through decisions by the courts such as have characterized the administration of the Dingley law during latter years. In many instances the rates intended to be imposed by the Dingley law were cut by these decisions, the reductions in some instances being from 50 per cent to 3 per cent ad valorem. It is estimated that the rates fixed by the bill are about 3 per cent higher upon an average than those collected on cottons last year. The rates on cotton hosiery are generally increased.

In the much contested matter of the rate on gloves the high protectionists fall to score.

Sugar and tobacco duties remain substantially as they are under the Dingley law.

There is a uniform increase on spirits, wines and liquors of 15 per cent.

There is an increase in lemons, figs, almonds and pineapples.

Common window glass of the lower sizes, in which the imports are heavy, is given a reduction, and where changes were made in the chemical schedule there was a general decrease, except upon such articles as fancy soaps and perfumes, which were increased.

The publishers win their fight for lower wood pulp and print paper, the rate on the ordinary new print paper being fixed at \$3.75 per ton, instead of \$6 as under the Dingley law, and on the higher grade of print paper at \$3.75, instead of \$8. Mechanically ground wood pulp is to come in free of duty instead of paying 1-12 of a cent a pound as under the Dingley

law, but provision is made for a countervailing duty in case it becomes necessary to protect this country against Canada's inhibitions upon the exportation of woods to the United States.

Hides of cattle comes free and there is a corresponding reduction on leather and leather goods. The house rates are practically retained on sole leather, leather for uppers, boots and shoes and harness, but the free hide provision is based on the condition that on and after October 1, 1909, sole leather from the hides that are to be admitted free will pay a duty of 5 per cent; grain, buff and split leather, 7-12 per cent; boots and shoes, the upper leather of which is made from such hides, 10 per cent; and harness and saddlery, 20 per cent. This schedule of rates will result in a reduction of 15 per cent on boots and shoes, 20 per cent on harness and saddlery, 11 per cent on sole leather, and 12 1-2 per cent on leather for uppers, if made off the hides that are put on the free list by the provision.

Binding twine is retained on the free list.

Cotton ties are made dutiable at three-tenths of a cent per pound and cotton bagging at six-tenths of a cent per square yard.

On quebracho, the tanning extract, for a stiff duty on which Senator Daniel made such a strenuous fight, the house rates of one-half and three-fourths of a cent per pound are retained, which is almost all that the Virginia senator asked.

Campaign for Education.

Today at Spartanburg and Darlington a speaking campaign for education will begin, to continue for five weeks. There has been much preliminary work and there will be many speakers, including teachers, preachers, journalists, doctors, bankers, manufacturers, and merchants. Occasionally, perhaps, a politician may be heard.

This energetic canvass of South Carolina in the interest of education is noteworthy. It marks a distinct advancement. It is the practical method of reaching the people and pressing upon them the great need of the hour, the need of the hour in order that the State's future may be worthy.

To keep pace with the on-rush, our people must have more general education and better instruction. The percentage of illiterates must be greatly reduced. The illiterate is a factor in our social scheme as useless as impotent, as is an unarmed soldier in battle. And his personal condition is more deplorable, for the soldier may save himself by running away, while there is no escape for the illiterate from the yoke.

Those men and women who are engaged in this patriotic movement for the educational uplift of the people will have their reward in the fruits of their labor. We ask them all to remember that no educational system is effective unless the pupils are in the schools, and that no schools, however excellent, have ever of their own inherent strength drawn nearly all the children into them. In every country on earth and in every State in this union where schools are properly utilized, a compulsory attendance law is in force. To hope for different results in South Carolina is to hope blindly, without reason.—The State.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

NOTICE—All persons are forbidden to hunt, fire-hunt or trespass in any manner whatsoever on my land situated in Shiloh Township, Sumter County. Rebecca Poole. 8-2-11

FOR SALE—Seed rye and oats, will have seed wheat, barley etc., later. Booth-Harby Livestock Co., 8-2-8t.

Thirtieth Annual Mountain Excursion Via
SOUTHERN RAILWAY
AUGUST 18th, 1909.

Very low round trip rates to the principal resorts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, D. C. and Norfolk, Va., including Asheville, Brevard, Flat Rock, Hendersonville, Hot Springs, Lenoir, Lincolnton, Marion, Saluda, Shelby, Tryon and Waynesville, N. C., also Abbeville, Anderson, Glenn Springs, Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, Walhalla and White Stone Lithia Springs, S. C., have been authorized. Tickets will be on sale for all trains on August 18th, 1909, from Barnwell, Camden, Chester, Denmark, Summerville, St. George, Branchville, Orangeburg, St. Matthews and Sumter, S. C.

Tickets will be good returning on any regular train up to and including September 2nd, 1909.

Children between five and six years of age, half fare.

For detailed information, tickets, etc., apply to Southern Railway ticket agents or address,

J. L. MEEK, Asst. Gen. Pas. Agt. Atlanta, Ga.
L. D. LUSK, Div. Pass. Agent. Charleston, S. C.