

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWSY LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Items of Interest From all Parts of Sumter and Adjoining Counties.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mail your letters so that they will reach this office not later than Monday when intended for Wednesday's paper and not later than Thursday for Saturday's issue. This, of course, applies only to regular correspondence. In case of items of unusual news value, send in immediately by mail, telephone or telegraph. Such news stories are acceptable up to the hour of going to press. Wednesday's paper is printed Tuesday afternoon and Saturday's paper Friday afternoon.

STATEBURG.

Stateburg, Aug. 2.—Rev. W. H. Barnwell and Master Paul Barnwell, have gone to Tryon, N. C., where they expect to spend the month of August.

Misses Nannie and Annie Moore, left for Sullivan's Island today, where they will be the guests of Mrs. De Vaux Moore for two weeks.

The Misses Richardson, of Sumter, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Richardson, Jr., at "Farm Hill."

Miss Bessie Barnwell is spending some time with friends on Sullivan's Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Coker, of Hartsfield, are on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Norris.

Mr. Walton Storm has returned to New York, after spending several days in our midst.

Mr. Frank P. Burgess spent Tuesday with relatives here, leaving on Wednesday morning for Glenn Springs, where he expects to remain for a week or ten days.

The very pleasant dancing school, which has been so successfully conducted by Miss Lee Moore, this summer, closed on Thursday night with a delightful soiree at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Dwight. The evening was very much enjoyed by the young folks, whose only regret was, that this evening's festivities ended the dancing school for the season.

The refreshing shower this afternoon was gladly welcomed, as the crops were beginning to need it after the very hot days of the past two weeks. The atmosphere has been greatly cooled and life once more seems worth the living."

TINDAL.

Tindal, Aug. 2.—The farmers have about finished the work in their crops, and are leaving them with very little grass, considering the amount of rain which they have had during the past sixty days. There is only a slight improvement in cotton and I think that a fair estimation of the crop in this neighborhood would be about 65 or 70 per cent. compared with the last year's crop.

Mr. T. E. Hodge and daughter, Miss Bessie, accompanied by Mrs. Hendry, of Tampa, Fla., who is visiting in the neighborhood, spent several days in Atlanta last week.

Mr. T. H. Harvin, of Silver, spent Saturday and Sunday in the neighborhood.

The protracted meeting at Providence church has been postponed until October.

Some of the folks from this neighborhood are expecting to attend the meeting at Home Branch church this week.

Deigar Ford and Doc Harvin, both colored, became involved in a difficulty at a birthday supper which the negroes were having at Rose Johnson's on Mr. W. L. Osteen's plantation last Friday night which resulted in Harvin shooting Ford in the side with a .38-calibre pistol, inflicting possibly a fatal wound. Sheriff Epperson was notified and came down and carried Harvin to jail at Sumter.

PISGAH.

Pisgah, Aug. 3.—This place was visited today by a very heavy fall of water. For two or three days the hot winds had scorched the cotton up terribly and the rain will end that for a while at least. As the time goes on, the estimate of the cotton crop as made from time to time, is being verified. There is going to be a very light crop made.

The protracted meeting at Smithville went on all last week and still continues. The pastor has no help from ministers and goes it alone twice a day.

Rev. T. L. Cole has gone to Westville to aid Rev. W. S. Waters in a meeting there. He aided Rev. C. D. Peterson in a meeting at Mt. Zion last week, but returned home Saturday evening and filled his pulpit at Pisgah Sunday, afternoon. Immediately after preaching the ordinance of baptism was administered to three persons in the presence of a large congregation.

There will be improvements made to Swift Creek church in the near future.

Rev. S. B. Hatfield preaches at New Hope church. An ordination of deacons will take place there on the third Sunday in this month.

There is much suffering among the colored people at this time, judging from the continual applications for help.

No news worth reporting. Everybody seems to be taking a little rest and I guess they need it.

LYNCHBURG.

Lynchburg, Aug. 5.—A few nights ago, Messrs. Frank A. McLeod, Willie S. Rhame and Edwin DuRant entertained seven of Lynchburg's very popular, pretty and amiable young ladies in a somewhat unique manner, by taking them out to a church festival at Trinity some seven miles distant, in an ancient and dilapidated old farm wagon, which looks as though it was used in hauling supplies to Noah's Ark. To said wagon was hitched two old and most appropriate "pestle-tailed", box-ankled, flopped-eared, blind and deaf, long-jawed mules. After reaching their destination this group of ladies were hilariously entertained by the above named gentlemen. After this delightful supper, for it surely was, the team was coaxed back home by one of these young gentlemen, by walking in front shaking a bundle of fodder. But it was only the odor of the fodder that enticed the poor old "critters" homeward—and landed the party safe at their respective homes before day dawned, but oh, so sleepy and tired. If this pair of old mules should perchance survive, we may have more to say of this wonderful feat in the future.

Lynchburg, Aug. 5.—Invitations having been sent out to quite an unusual number of young people of this live little town on the 3rd instant, to attend a royal old time chicken and rice supper to be served at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Walton J. McLeod on the following night, the largest number of young ladies and gentlemen that ever attended an ordinary party in this town was in evidence at said residence at the appointed hour, and it was indeed a most pleasant and enjoyable occasion for all who were so fortunate as to be present. In the absence of Mr. and Mrs. McLeod, who are on a visit to Glenn Springs and probably other points, Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Yellett, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Griffin, were the chaperons. Messrs. Frank McLeod, Edwin DuRant and Willie Rhame composed the committee on management and preparations and to them much credit is due for the successful handling of the large number of young people. The following are the names of some of the honored make-up of the party in addition to the chaperons:

Mr. Edwin DuRant with Miss Ethel Cole, Mr. Robert McKnight with Miss Alma Cole, Mr. Albert Cole with Miss Mary A. Frierson, Mr. Rufus Griffin with Miss Mildred Timmons, Mr. Phil Keels with Miss Docia Keels, Mr. W. E. Timmons with Miss Annie Griffin, Mr. C. S. McFaddin with Miss Coline Phillips, Mr. D. Huggins with Miss Sallie May Wilson, Mr. Harry Stokes with Miss Bessie Cribbs, Mr. Simon Griffin with Miss Lila Lewis, Mr. J. Ernest McFaddin with Miss Vallerie Carter, Mr. Frank D. Matthews with Miss Moore, Mr. Osgood A. Darby with Miss Coker, Mr. Thos. H. Miller with Miss Julia McIntosh, Mr. Hazel Kirby and Miss Gladys Carter, Mr. D. C. Truett with Miss Thompson, Mr. Willie S. Rhame with Miss Allie Anderson, Dr. Simmons with Miss Dixon, Florence, S. C., Mr. Frank A. McLeod with Miss Hughson, Sumter, Mr. Henry Lucius with Miss Annie B. DuRant, Mr. Otto Hogen with Miss Ethel Wheeler, and Mr. Floyd Cribbs with Miss Charlton McFaddin.

After a bountiful supper was served and partaken of to the full satisfaction of all, the guests occupied the reception halls, when after exchanging a number of jokes and stories, some side-splitting ones, customary on such occasion, boiled peanuts were next partaken of. The decoration of the halls and parlor with ferns, etc., was indeed handsome.

DURANT.

Durant, Aug. 5.—Mrs. James Montgomery has returned from a visit to her brother, Mr. Irvin Plowden.

Mr. Colan Murcherson has been the guest of Mr. Williams the past week.

The Durant local will be represented tomorrow at an important meeting to be held at Cane Savannah.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Muldrow visited friends here this week before leaving for Timmonsville, where he expects to buy cotton this fall.

Th Misses Lide, of Darlington, have been the guest of their cousin, Miss Carrie Reeves since Saturday. A moonlight picnic will be given in their honor on the lawn surrounding the pretty home of Mrs. Annie Nelson.

Mrs. James Meehan and little Roberta, arrived Saturday for a month's stay in the neighborhood.

The friends of Mr. William Durant will be glad to hear he is much improved since Sunday.

WEDGEFIELD.

Wedgefield, Aug. 5.—The good rains of the past few days were welcomed by the farmers. The cotton

crop in this section on clay lands have improved much in the past few weeks but on all light sandy soils is below the average. Corn is generally very good. Messrs. J. B. Crouch and T. L. Strange have an acre or two each of Williamsop corn, which attracts a good deal of attention.

Wedgefield is taking on new life these days. Dr. M. L. Parler's residence is nearing completion and Mrs. Carrie B. Brohun has material on the grounds preparatory to building.

Messrs. J. H. Aycock & Sons are replacing their old boiler at their mill with a new one. The old one has been in use for thirty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Weinberg left via Charleston for New York, on last Friday.

Mr. A. E. Aycock of the firm of Jas. H. Aycock & Sons left on Monday for the Northern markets to purchase their fall stock.

Mr. W. H. Ramsey spent last week in the up country visiting relatives.

Mrs. J. B. Crouch has gone up to Saluda to spend a few weeks.

Mrs. W. H. Ramsey and children are visiting her sister, Mrs. J. S. George in Laurens County.

Mr. Manlius Aycock is spending some time with his aunt, Mrs. F. F. Covington at Marlon.

Mr. Marion Mellett, R. F. D. carrier on route No. 1 is spending a part of his vacation with his mother, Mrs. Sarah Mellett in Privateer.

After a pleasant visit to his niece, Mrs. Robert Thompson at Olanta, Mr. John M. Nichols has returned home.

Mr. C. F. Breeland is spending his vacation at his home in Bamberg.

Mrs. J. R. Ramsey is spending some time with relatives in Sumter.

Mrs. A. E. Aycock, and daughter, Bessie, left today for Harris Springs. Mr. Frank M. Beckham, of Rock Hill, pleasantly surprised his friends here by stopping over for a short while today.

HAGOOD.

Hagood, Aug. 5.—This section was visited by refreshing rains on last Monday. They came just in time, for crops had begun to suffer for the want of moisture. It has been raining daily since Monday, but the showers have been light, and crops have not been damaged any so far.

Fodder is about ready to pull, but, of course, it will have to remain on the stalk if this weather continues. Cotton on stiff lands looks very well and in promising to make a fine crop, but on sandy lands it is poor and a short crop may be expected. It is one thing certain that sandy soils will not make cotton any year when the rains are excessive during the growing season.

There has been an exodus from here to the mountains and seashore.

Mrs. T. P. Sanders and children are pending the season at Charleston.

Mr. C. A. Ellerbe and Miss Florence Ellerbe are at Hot Springs, Ark., for their health.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Sanders are visiting in Charleston. From there they will visit in Spartanburg, Glenn Springs and other resorts.

Misses Ellen and Allan Ellerbe are at their summer home in Waynesville, N. C.

Mrs. E. R. Alston is visiting relatives in Greenville and from there will visit friends in Pennsylvania, New York and other points.

Mrs. Carrie E. Sanders is spending the summer in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Mrs. M. S. Kirk and children left yesterday for a month's stay at Waynesville, N. C.

Mr. T. P. Sanders, Jr., is spending his vacation at the resorts in the upper part of the State.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Hildebrand will leave tomorrow for a visit to the Isle of Palms.

Mr. T. P. Sanders, Sr., spends his week-ends with his family in Charleston.

Mrs. Andrew L. Jackson, of Sumter, is spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. R. M. Hildebrand.

MAX.

Max, Aug. 5.—Mr. and Mrs. William Whitehead, of Lake City, and Mrs. Lula Anderson, of Sparrow Swamp, are visiting Mrs. H. K. Moore, who has had fever for several days.

Miss Rebecca Jennings and Mrs. B. C. Truluck spent a few days at Sardinia last week.

Miss Annie Truluck is convalescing from a serious illness.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Truluck visited at Seloc last week.

Mr. F. W. Truluck is teaching singing at Nazareth church.

Misses Kate Tilton, of Sampit, and Miss Eddie McClam, of Lake City, were the guests of Miss Ellen Caraway last Sunday.

Elbert, John Mac, Mayrant and Lucius Truluck went to Columbia Monday and report a fine time with relatives and in seeing the city.

Rev. B. K. Truluck is preaching at Chick Springs this week.

Mr. Sam Truluck and Miss Pet Lovette were married last week.

We've had several showers of rain this week.

A MORAL QUESTION.

For the Good or the Young and of the Weak and Helpless Class Vote to Prohibit Whiskey.

Mr. Editor:

By an Act of the legislature the people of the wet counties in this State will have an opportunity on the 17th day of August, to say whether the sale of whiskey shall continue or not. (Two weeks of prohibition before the election as a kind of experience in State-wide prohibition.) Ever since the State has been organized, whiskey has been sold under some form of law, and in this long time of about a hundred and thirty years, ample experience has been handed down from generation to generation to know its good or evil effects. Of late years we had the State dispensary, better than bar-rooms, but it soon got corrupt and died of its own weight of corruption. This system was succeeded by county dispensaries. A number of dispensaries were voted out under the Brice law before the system was changed until now about one half of the State sells as much or more whiskey, than the State dispensary did in all the counties of the State before the Brice law went into effect. County dispensaries are no better than the State dispensary in principle. The only difference is to open larger opportunities for graft. Marlboro County has always been dry and if the good people of it can be believed, it is one of the most peaceable and prosperous counties in the State. More money on deposit and in circulation than any whiskey county of its size in the State. The sale of whiskey is a moral one affecting the welfare and morality of the people, and the State has the same right over whiskey that it has to repel an armed foe, suppress riots, blot out epidemic, stop traveling through it, or anything that would be for the injury of the people. This is simply the exercise of its police power, and the exercise of it does not infringe upon the liberty of any one for in organized society there must be law for the protection of the people. We are aware that a number of our best citizens use whiskey to some extent but they know how to control it in proper limits, while others of our best and most patriotic men have succumbed to it and found an early grave to the sorrow of all who knew them. It is from this helpless class and the lower elements of the people, and the young boys and men that prohibitionists want to remove this terrible evil and temptation as much as possible. History is full of the blighting influences of whiskey upon the brightest minds of our country and of their ultimate destruction by it. We know the sorrow it has brought to many firesides, the expense to the courts and trouble in the land. Does the gain from its sale pay for all this? For many years a large number of the best people of the United States have seen its evil influences and are trying to curtail its use or blot it out of the land. In the great States of Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Kentucky the sale of whiskey is almost prohibited. Tennessee is dry, but so fierce was the fight to make it so that E. W. Carmack, that able and brilliant man, lost his life to the cause of prohibition. In several of the Southern States there are prohibition laws in both county and State. The argument that prohibition won't prohibit is the reason that many won't vote for it is no argument at all. We have laws against murder, stealing, and all crimes against society, and yet these things go on. Shall we abolish these laws and let people have full swing to exercise their passions and personal liberty in whatever they want to do? I think not. In the approaching election each voter should ask himself, is the sale of whiskey an evil in the land? If so he should vote to abolish it. A man's vote should ever be cast for the good of the people and not for his personal preferment, if against the good of the State.

Rhame's X Roads, Aug. 2, 1909.

New Bank of Manning.

Manning, Aug. 5.—It is practically an established fact that a bank will be instituted within the next two months to be styled The First National Bank of Clarendon. Large amount of stock has been subscribed and with ample capital there is no reason why a very prosperous business should not be maintained by this new monetary institution. Manning has now two excellent State banks and with a national bank will control the banking business of the county. The coming bank's proposed executive gives the guarantee of able and conservative management.

Death of Coroner J. E. Hodge, of Clarendon.

Manning, Aug. 4.—With great regret the public learned of the death of the coroner of Clarendon County, Mr. J. E. Hodge, which occurred at 9 o'clock tonight. He had been ill only a day or two and his death was quite sudden. He made a very acceptable officer and was much esteemed. He was 62 years of age, and a veteran of the war between the States.

TILLMAN SEEKING EVIDENCE?

QUEER STORY CIRCULATED AS TO SENATOR'S WESTERN TRIP.

Washington Herald Prints an Article, Stating That Tillman is Visiting The Cities Where He Used to Buy Liquor for the Dispensary, With The Purpose of Making a Clear Case for Himself and Associates in The Dispensary Investigation.

Columbia, August 4.—It is not believed here that there is anything in the report which has been circulated through some of the Northern papers and copied extensively through the South, that Senator B. R. Tillman, of South Carolina, is gathering "the evidence necessary to make a clean case for himself and, if possible, for his associates" in his trip out West. Those in a position to know have stated that the report is a wild flight of the imagination, and that most probably the senator has not the dispensary investigation at this time "in the back part of his head." It is a coincidence, though, that Cincinnati, of all cities, has been hit upon as the one where the senator is said to be gathering the information. For, as it is well known, much of the dispensary data has been gathered in that burg, and a well known detectives' agency could make readers in this State sit up and take notice if this information were given out.

The story as published in the Washington Herald about Tillman's trip is picturesque and makes interesting reading. It follows:

"A sensational story came out of South Carolina a day or two ago that Senator Tillman was dangerously ill at his home and that, in view of generally falling strength for some time past, he might resign from the senate. Investigation developed that Senator Tillman was not at his home, but was in Cincinnati on business. It was denied that there had been any especial change in his health, which, however, has been far from good for more than a year.

"But incident to this story, another has developed which has a decided interest for the admirers of the vigorous Carolina statesman. It appears that the Tillman political regime is a bad way in South Carolina, and that a general investigation by decidedly unfriendly people is being made into the conduct of the famous liquor dispensary system which Tillman established. This investigation is giving real worry to the senator and his supporters.

"Tillman was a farmer until in 1890 he was elected governor on a platform demanding better educational facilities for the State. He became at once famous more for his bitter antagonism to the negro than for anything else; but he carried out his educational programme, and in addition forced through the legislature his dispensary law, under which the State entered the liquor business, bought and sold all the liquors for his State, deciding where and when dispensaries should be operated. It was one of the biggest experiments ever made in such an enterprise and people from all over the world studied it with the greatest attention and interest.

"It is commonly said nowadays that Senator Tillman has never been accused even by his worst enemy of dishonesty. South Carolina people, remembering the bitterness that befogged the dispensary experiment, smile at that suggestion. In fact, Tillman was under the most direct and hostile criticism, reaching to his personal and official integrity, from the day the dispensary was established. It was easier to assail him because he took profound personal interest in the scheme and personally administered it. He bought the liquors, hired the help and permitted no detail to escape his attention.

"In such a vast complexity of business his enemies found plenty of opportunity to make attacks on him and they overlooked none. But Tillman was triumphantly reelected and then he swept the State for the senate, and has been three times elected.

"Meantime, however, the dispensary system has collapsed, the State has fallen into the control of its opponents, and the opposition has been determinedly trying to stir up the ancient accusations against Tillman and his lieutenants, in connection with its administration. Half a dozen of the men who were close to Governor Tillman have been made the objects of direct charges, and are to be tried the coming autumn or winter. Tillman has been greatly concerned about the developments in the fight. His old political organization has, in large measure, crumbled away, and his enemies are determined to make the most of the opportunity to do him as much damage as possible.

"Tillman is a fighter always, and he is getting ready to make things interesting for his enemies. He has recently, it is stated, visited cities in which he used to buy large quantities of liquor for the State dispensary in the effort to gather up, it is supposed, the evidence necessary to make a clear case for himself and, if

possible, for his associates. "The evidence, after a number of years, is naturally hard for either side to get at. The coming contest over the efforts to convict some of the officials of the dispensary system will be watched with keenest interest over the South, and it may have a most important effect on the political future of South Carolina. Those closest to Tillman and most familiar with the details of his career have no doubt that for himself he will secure the most complete vindication of any charges. They are mainly concerned about the possibilities that there may be developments to the discredit of his administration. Charges of rebates and private profits to public servants have especially entered into the affair."

As far as is known in Columbia, the dispensary commission has never attempted to bring Senator Tillman into the investigation, which is pending. But the investigating committee, which was appointed by the legislature, did have the senator before it. The examination was very brief. Tillman stated in answer to questions that he knew nothing concerning rebates, etc., and had no information, which would be of benefit to the committee in its work. All these matters are well known to the people of this State, having been published at the time. The tilt between Senator Tillman and the present attorney general about the investigation are all "back history" of this work. But the commission has been working along the lines wished for by Attorney General Lyon and counsel for the State. The civil side of the winding up of the dispensary has been in the hands of the commission, but it is well known that there has been other work going on, and this is the part of the affair that there has been other work going on, and this is the part of the affair that has had most people guessing.

Of course, it is possible that South Carolina's Senator is gathering data, but this is not thought to be the case here. It is not felt, in the first place, that Tillman would bother about the situation, which apparently, does not affect him in any way just now. The State dispensary is past history, and it is removed from the political situation in this State in every respect. The present investigation and winding up of the affairs of the old State dispensary has not to the people of the State and political significance. Why then should Tillman worry himself about the institution which has long since been buried? Even if a few years ago it might have hurt to see the dispensary crumble, now that it is gone the work of winding up its affairs can have hardly any political significance. There is another side to the matter which would seem to preclude any idea of the senator's taking a hand. The work of the investigation has been confined to the last board in office, and those who were connected with it. In the list of those charged there are none who had anything to do with the dispensary in the days when the purchasing board was composed of the Governor, the Secretary of the State et al, or later, when the power was vested in a State board—save for those in the last board of directors. The belief is that Senator Tillman has taken as much interest in the State dispensary as he will ever again actively take, and that he has no occasion to be hunting data, as is stated.

In the meantime the affairs of the defunct State dispensary remain in about the same shape as they were a few months ago. The commission is now reading over the testimony and getting in line for a final determination of the various claims. The \$600,000 fund is in the banks of the State, and the amounts will be paid out in accordance with the findings in the respective concerns' cases. This is the work of the dispensary winding-up commission until after the September term of court. The final result of the whole business is eagerly awaited by the people of the State and the world looks on.

Henry P. Searles, a Charleston photographer, was found dead in bed at his home.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

F. H. Hyatt, Manager for S. C. Figures Never Lie and Here are the Figures of the Mutual Life Insurance Co., of New York.

For the month of May, 1909, the South Carolina Agency received applications amounting to \$194,037.00.

Cash Dividends declared to South Carolina policyholders for July settlement, \$10,100.32.

Since April 20, 1909, the following death claims have been paid to South Carolina policyholders \$33,760.00.

Proofs of death are being prepared by claimants for \$53,300.00.

These figures are so plain and convincing that "He who runs may read."

ISAAC M. LORYEA, Special Agent Clarendon and Sumter, Offices at Manning and Sumter.

Jas. D. Graham, Agent, Sumter. J. E. McFaddin, Agent, Sardinia. M. B. Lescasse, Agent, Pinewood.