

The Watchman and Southron.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1909.

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.

FARMERS ASKED TO HELP.

Census Director Wants Them to Keep Crop Records.

Washington, Sept. 5.—Farm economists and scientists learned in agricultural problems are in Washington assisting Census Director Durand in the formulation of the agricultural schedule of the census. Director Durand suggests that the work of securing accurate returns at the coming census of agriculture, which will be taken April 15, 1910, at the same time as the count of population, will be greatly facilitated if the farmers will keep or provide some written record of their farm operations during the year 1909. He asks the cooperation of all the farmers of the country in this work.

The State commissioners and State board of agriculture, the agricultural colleges, farmers' unions, Patrons of Husbandry, farmers' institutes, and the agricultural experiment stations will aid the census officials.

The questions about farm operations will relate to the present calendar year, 1909, but the inquiries regarding farm equipment will necessitate a sort of inventory on April 15, 1910.

In order that the farmers may begin at once to keep a record Director Durand says:

"Each person in charge of a farm will be asked to state the acreage and value of the farm kept and cultivated by him; the area of woodland, and of that utilized for specified farm purposes.

"Each farmer will be asked to give the acreage, quantity produced and value of each crop, including grains, hay, vegetables, fruits, cotton, tobacco, etc., raised on the farm in the season of 1909. He will be asked to report the number and value of all domestic animals poultry and swarms of bees on the farm on April 15; the number and value of young animals, such as calves, colts, lambs, pigs, and of young fowls, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, etc., raised in 1909. He will be asked to state the number and kind of animals sold during 1909 and the receipts from such sales, the number purchased and the amount paid therefor, and also the number slaughtered for food and the value of such animals.

"The law requires a report of the number of cows kept for dairy purposes in 1909, and the amount of milk produced on the farm; the amount of butter and cheese sold and the amount received from such sales.

"The census will seek to ascertain the quantity and value of eggs, honey and wax produced in 1909.

"Of the expenditures of the farm, the census schedule will call for a statement of the amount paid for farm labor, for feed for live stock and for fertilizers.

"If the farm changes owners or tenants between the crop year 1909 and the date of enumeration, it is requested that the occupant of the farm in 1910 secure the above information relating to the farm for the year 1909, the owner or tenant this year to leave his book record with his successor."

Information Will be Kept Secret.

The information they give to the census enumerators will not be used in any way to their detriment. It will be kept secret and used only for statistical purposes.

"No publication shall be made by the census office whereby the data furnished by any particular establishment can be identified, nor shall the director of the census permit anyone other than the sworn employees of the census office to examine the individual reports," is the way the law reads. The information reported on the agricultural schedule will not be used as a basis of taxation or communicated to any assessor.

Refusals to answer questions asked by census enumerators are made illegal and a penalty is provided for this as well as for the giving of false answers to the inquiries. Fines and imprisonment, or both, in cases of violation of the secrecy imposed upon supervisors, enumerators, special agents, and other employees of the census office is provided in the act.

The importance of the agricultural census hardly can be overestimated, since the total fixed capital invested in agricultural pursuits in 1900 was more than four times that of manufactures of the country, the total being \$20,514,001,828. The census bureau estimates that next year's census will show 200,000 more farms in operation than in 1900, with a total of about 6,000,000 farms. In 1900 there were 10,433,188 males and females over 10 years of age engaged in agricultural pursuits.

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.

Winter Cover Crops.

Careful estimates reveal the fact that soil erosion carries away more plant food into the streams and rivers of the Southern States every year than is utilized in the growing of all of our crops. When we realize that the cotton crop with its by-products is worth approximately \$300,000,000, it will give some idea of the enormous drain on soil fertility which is constantly going on. How to remedy in some measure this condition is a matter of universal concern. The best means of achieving the desired end is to utilize winter cover crops. Of course, the cereals would be included under this heading, but as they are more or less familiar to all, it has been deemed best in this paper to call specific attention to two crops which may be utilized admirably for cover in the winter and made to enrich the soil by gathering nitrogen from the air and furnishing much needed pasture during the winter, and yielding a fine quality of hay the next spring. Reference is made especially to crimson clover and the vetches.

There are two varieties of crimson clover—the crimson blooming and the white blooming. The white blooming is later in maturing and makes a larger and more vigorous growth, and is probably more desirable for hay and forage than the crimson blooming. Where crimson clover is grown as a cover crop and turned under the land will be benefited about as much as from a heavy application of farmyard manure. Farmers do not realize this or they would utilize crimson clover more extensively, especially in those sections where live stock growing is inadequately developed, and farmyard manure and compost can not be had. Crimson clover should be seeded at the rate of 15 to 20 pounds per acre in early August or September, and it may often be sown in corn at the last working, though the best results will probably follow sowing the crop after the corn has been cut and shocked. Crimson clover may be seeded on any land that has been well prepared, and the seed should be covered lightly with a harrow.

As to fertilizers, but little nitrogen will be needed, not over 1 to 2 per cent to start the crop, but phosphates and potash should be used liberally; at least 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 to 150 pounds of muriate of potash, or 400 to 500 pounds of kainit. Where the mineral elements are applied to this crop in abundance good results will generally follow, and if it is desired to cut the crop for hay, a yield of from 1.5 to 2.5 tons may be expected. A mixed fertilizer used on crimson clover should generally contain about 1 per cent of nitrogen, 7 to 8 per cent of phosphoric acid and 8 to 10 per cent of potash.

The vetch is admirably adapted for growth in practically all sections of the South and may be seeded any time after August 1. It is best sown on land that has been well prepared. It may not always be necessary to break the land; that depends much on the crop which is to follow. It can, of course, come after cowpeas or any other legume grown during the summer, or it may be used on stubble land or seeded in corn or cotton. This crop may often be sown to advantage with oats or rye and forms an admirable pasture during the summer, and enriches the soil materially when plowed under in the early spring or makes a fine quality of hay. The advantage of sowing with cereals is found in the fact that the vetch climbs readily on the stalks and can be cut with greater ease on that account. At least 20 pounds of well cleaned vetch seed should be used per acre with one bushel of oats.

There are two kinds of vetch—the winter or hairy vetch, which is hardy and satisfactory in most localities. It is slow growing, however, in the fall and winter. The English or Oregon vetch, which also may be sown in the fall, develops much faster than the hairy vetch and furnishes grazing in the fall and early winter, but it is

not nearly so hardy as the hairy vetch and will frequently be killed by freezes, while the other is not injured. The vetch, like crimson clover, is a gross feeder so far as the mineral elements are concerned. Therefore, it should be fertilized liberally and much the same as for crimson clover.

A good mixture to use on vetch would be 400 pounds of raw bone meal containing 4 per cent of nitrogen and 23 per cent of phosphoric acid; 500 pounds of acid phosphate containing 16 per cent of available phosphoric acid, and 400 pounds of muriate of potash, to which should be added 700 pounds of dry earth or rich compost to bring the total up to 2,000 pounds. This mixture would contain about 1 per cent of nitrogen, 7 per cent of phosphoric acid and 10 per cent of potash. When used at the rate of 300 to 500 pounds per acre, depending on the natural fertility of the soil, it should be admirably adapted to the needs of this crop.

There is an opportunity through the growth of these winter cover crops to prevent erosion, and soil wastage on thousands of acres of land in the South, and at the same time enrich them materially with nitrogen gathered from the air, provide fine pasture during a part of the winter and early spring, and furnish an abundance of the choicest hay for feeding, while leaving the land in much better condition for succeeding crops.

LANDS NOT WEARING OUT.

Grain Crop Yield Shows a Constant Increase, Expert Reports.

Washington, Sept. 5.—Soils of the United States are not wearing out and the crop yields are rather increasing than decreasing. These facts are demonstrated in a bulletin shortly to be issued by the Bureau of Soils of the Agricultural Department prepared by Chief Milton Whitney. The bulletin deals exhaustively with the yields of crops from 1861 to 1906 inclusive.

Professor Whitney concludes that the productivity of the newer agricultural soils of the United States and of the older agricultural soils of Europe, taken as a whole, are not declining, but are producing more crops per acre than formerly. This is due to better cultivation, rotation of crops, use of fertilizers and increase in farm animals and stock and intensive farming.

The bulletin shows an increase in all cereal crops throughout the United States for the past three or four decades. The wheat fields per acre in Russia from 1883 to 1905 varied, but in 1905 it was 5.4 bushels. In Ireland the yield in 1883 was 25.5 bushels, and in 1906 it reached 31.3. In Great Britain the wheat yield in 1884 was 39.3 bushels an acre, and the increase up to 1906 brought the yield to 34.7 bushels. Germany raised 18.2 bushels to the acre in 1883, with a gradual increase in 1906, bringing the yield then to 30.3 bushels.

The bulletin gives the following averages by States for the production of wheat per acre from 1866 to 1907: Maryland, 13.3 bushels; Virginia, 9.1; Vermont, 18.5; Maine, 16.5; New York, 15.7; New Jersey, 14.5; Michigan, 14.5; Pennsylvania, 14.5; Ohio, 14.1; Kansas, 13.9; Wisconsin, 13.7; Minnesota, 13.6; Illinois, 13.2; Nebraska, 13.1; Indiana, 13.1; Delaware, 13.1; California, 12.9; Iowa, 12.4; Missouri, 12.2; Texas, 11.5; West Virginia, 10.6; Montana, 10.5; Arkansas, 8.9; Tennessee, 8.2; Mississippi, 8.1; Alabama, 7.1; North Carolina, 6.9; South Carolina, 6.6.

Save from \$1 to \$1.50 on your boys' school suits by buying from The Sumter Clothing Co. 9-4-3t.

Daily New York Cotton Market.

	Open	High	Low	Close
New York, Sept. 9—				
Jan	12 55	12 55	12 29	12 31
Feb	12 60	12 60	12 39	12 41
Mar	12 66	12 66	12 43	12 47
Apr				12 37
May				12 29
Oct	12 45	12 45	12 26	12 29
Nov	12 57	12 57	12 33	12 36

Tone—Barely steady.

CATS, RATS AND SCIENTISTS.

Delight of Yehing Animals on Back Fences.

One of the experts of the department of agriculture shies a metaphorical brick at the common house cat by declaring that the virtues of that predatory animal as an annihilator of rats and mice are greatly exaggerated. The expert adds that millions of wild birds are destroyed annually by cats.

Really, if the cat is to lose his reputation as a rat catcher he is likely to be left without any very good excuse for his existence. Feature articles in the newspapers have told at intervals for many years of numbers of cats carried on the government payroll, their duties being to rid Federal buildings of rats and mice. It is something of a revelation to be informed that Thomas and Marla have been loafing on the job and putting in their time slaughtering wild birds when they should have been searching diligently for rats. The "people's money" most assuredly can be put to better use than in buying food and raiment for rascally cats that neglect their duties to ramble through highways, by ways and hedges in pursuit of birds, wild or otherwise. Uncle Sam will be "to hastening his prey" if through such shirking of duty rats shall increase in the Federal cellars and rear large families to feed on official paste, messages and documents and public property in general.

The cat has been accused of a good many things. All of us who know him are aware that he has his faults. All birds look alike to him, and, except they be of the proportions of eagle or condor, are regarded by him as lawful prey. He will eat the family canary with as little remorse as he will pick up an English sparrow on the lawn. He has been known to gather in young chickens, geese and ducks. He lives by the Robin Hood rule that "he shall take who has the power and he shall keep who can." He knows little of gratitude or affection. Centuries of domestication have not eliminated from his blood and being the fierce traits of his remote ancestry or deafened his ears to the persuasive "call of the wild." He is given to thieving and trespass. He is blood-thirsty and cruel and finds pleasure in the torture of his unfortunate prey. He is addicted to nocturnal prowls and is noisy and contentious with his kind.

All these and many other feline foibles and vices undeniably are his, and all of them have been condoned and endured by suffering humanity because of the house cat's recognized ability as a rat destroyer. Some there are who would tolerate him for his personal appearance, which, under favorable circumstances, is pleasing. The vast majority of humanity, however, would rise in rebellion against him and wipe him off the face of the earth, but for the saving grace of his eternal antipathy to rats.

After all, the scientific men don't know everything, and it may be that the case of the house cat is not so bad as theorist of the agricultural department would have us believe. It is seriously to be doubted if his usefulness as a rat exterminator is waning. The department's expert may have an inherent prejudice against the feline tribe, or he may be a trifle "blushy or grouchy" on general principles. What is more likely still, he may have written his condemnatory brochure on the morning after a night made sleepless by a serenade of tom cats on the back fence.—Courier-Journal.

Services in Episcopal Church.

Rev. W. H. Earnwell, of Stateburg, will conduct services at the usual hours, morning and evening, Sunday next in the Church of the Holy Comforter.

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

Onion Sets....

We have just received a shipment of Onion Sets. Now is the time to plant them for an early crop.

10c Quart Red and White

Sibert's Drug Store

W. W. SIBERT.

Telephone 283. - 8 S. Main St.

COTTON RECEIPTS 1908-09.

Last Season's Cotton Receipts Were Larger Than in Any Previous Year.

The cotton year 1908-09—Sept. 1st to Sept. 1st—was the banner season for the Sumter market in point of receipts. The public cotton weighers handled 43,000 bales in the twelve months, practically all of which was wagon cotton. In addition to this local buyers handled about 10,000 bales, originating at other points but shipped through Sumter, but not weighed by the public weighers. The railroad cotton is as much a part of the market receipts as the wagon cotton and go to swell the total receipts. The public weighers handled more cotton last season by about 5,000 bales than they did in the best year heretofore, when they weighed a few less than 38,000 bales. Sumter is easily the leading interior cotton market of the State in point of receipts, no other town in the State receiving anything like the same quantity of wagon cotton.

In New Quarters.

Von Ohlsen & Shirer have moved into their new shop on East Hampton Avenue, near Skinner's Iron Works, and while a force of workmen is engaged in putting on the finishing touches they are ready for business and are taking care of their customers with their usual promptness.

They have the largest and best equipped blacksmith, wheelwright and repair shop this city has ever had, and with the facilities for handling a large volume of business the large patronage they have had for several years is certain to materially increase. They have a large lot surrounding their shop and for the convenience and accommodation of their patrons and the public generally, they

have had built a number of hitching stalls, for use of which no charge will be made. A free wagon lot with stables for hitching has long been needed in Sumter and by supplying the need Von Ohlsen & Shirer have done a good thing for the public and for themselves.

Mr. J. D. Shirer gives his personal attention to the business in all its departments and his constant effort is to please and satisfy his patrons in good work and prompt service. He is assisted by Mr. W. C. Towles, who will be glad to see his friends.

The S. M. Pierson Co.

The S. M. Pierson Co., a corporation recently organized to take over the live stock, vehicle and agricultural implement business of S. M. Pierson, is getting in shape to carry on usual business at the new stables on East Hampton Avenue, next to Edgar Skinner's shop. The large stables and mule sheds are nearing completion and within a few days the new firm will have everything in ship shape. They are not waiting on the carpenters, however, to do business and as the stable proper is completed they are taking care of all the business that comes their way. In addition to the stables, mule pen, machinery warehouses, etc., they have one of the largest wagon lots in town, which is open to the public. Surrounding this lot are hitching stables for the use of the public free of charge, an accommodation, which will be appreciated by the public.

The company is composed of Messrs. S. M. Pierson, J. N. Brown and T. V. Walsh, all of whom are well known in the live stock business.

The D. J. Chandler Clothing Co. have their fall hats on display. Remember what they say in their hat advertisements.

TO NEW QUARTERS

We have moved into our new shop on East Hampton Avenue, near Skinner's Iron Works, next door to the stables of The S. M. Pierson Co. We have more room and are better prepared to serve our customers than ever before.

All descriptions of Blacksmith and Wheelwright work. Horse Shoeing, Buggy and Wagon Repairing, Painting, Rubber Tires put on of Vehicles. Full line of Wood Material for Wagon and Buggy repairing

Call or phone. Prompt attention given to all.

VonOhlsen & Shirer.

Fall Goods Arriving Daily.

Fall Goods Arriving Daily.

O'Donnell & Co.

The Big Store of Sumter.

Another lot, 10,000 yards, of those Justly Celebrated

VAL LACES,

They are better than ever before.

50c per Doz Yards,

5 Cents per Yard,

O'Donnell & Co.

Reed's Fine Shoes For Women, New Fall Styles.

Godman's Celebrated School Shoes Are Here.