

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWSY LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Some 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 correspondents. 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.

EGYPT.

Egypt, Jan. 6.—Christmas passed off quietly at this place—there was very little drinking and no drunkenness—everybody seemed to have a good time.

We have had plenty of rain and today we had a regular freeze up. The farmers have secured their hands for the year and have begun preparing for another crop.

Mr. A. B. White returned today from Sampit, S. C., where he spent several days with relatives.

Misses Jessie and Lena Player, of Elliotts, two most charming young ladies, spent a few days of last week with Miss Belle McCutchen of Smithville.

Rev. T. J. White spent a few days of last week at this place en route to Fort Mill where he will serve that circuit as pastor for this year. We wish him success.

Mr. Marvin Weldon spent Monday in Camden.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bradford, of Columbia, spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Richbourg.

There was about the usual moving about with the negroes this year.

Mr. Hank Smith, of Bishopville, has bought a farm in this section and moved on it.

Misses Lucille and Eva Britton who are teaching near Bethune returned to their work after spending the holidays at home.

Miss Bertha Huggins who has been working in Sumter for several months has returned home.

Mrs. Essie Bourne, of Sampit, is visiting relatives at this place.

Miss Minnie Grier, after spending a week with relatives in Camden has returned home.

Miss Dorothy Napier returned from her trip to Greenwood and has resumed her work as teacher at Egypt.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Weldon spent last Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Wactor at Heriots.

Miss Sadie White spent a few days last week with friends at Bishopville.

Mr. Lawrence Sullivan has returned to the Presbyterian College at Clinton.

The Misses Matthews, of Georgia, after spending several weeks with their uncle, Mr. J. F. Matthews, of this place, has returned home.

WISACKY.

Wisacky, Jan. 9.—The holidays are over and the New Year dawned bright and beautiful, with extremely cold weather. Most of the farmers have begun work with a sufficient number of laborers for the year. The oat crop is looking well in places and has not yet been injured by the frozes.

All the young ladies and gentlemen returned this week to their respective schools.

Misses Eunice and Annie Williams daughters of Mr. M. L. Williams left this morning for Orangeburg to attend the Co-Educational College.

Mr. Webber Player is quite sick at this time.

Mr. William McLeod, who has been very sick for several weeks is better, and improving slowly.

Miss Sallie Ledingham, who has been spending the past two weeks with her sister, Mrs. Dr. Shirer at St. Stephens, will return to her home today.

Mr. R. M. Cooper is erecting a handsome structure on the same lot on which his former home was burned.

The friends of the Bishopville Baptist church are glad to hear that the State Evangelist, Rev. B. J. Woodward will preach for them tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Miss Miller, teacher of the Ivanhoe school, has returned and will open school Monday, the 10th.

SMITHVILLE.

Smithville, Jan. 10.—The chime of the farm bell is heard calling the laborer to his work morning and noon. But very little if any ploughing has been done. The weather continues very cold indeed. We are having plenty of blizzard-like days and nights. I don't see how many pests and insects can be left to give us trouble next spring and summer. The cold could only aid us in getting out cotton wilt and pea weevil. The season will soon be here.

The writer is a great lover of nature and takes great pleasure in the cultivation of plants and flowers. I'm waiting impatiently for the genial days of spring when we can plant our gardens and begin their cultivation. What a pleasure it is to watch their growth and development. We catch many inspirations therefrom and learn much of the beautiful handiwork of Him who doeth all things well.

I don't think the high price of cotton will affect the cotton acreage in this section. I suppose about the same acreage as that of last year will be planted. The farmers are slowly but surely waking up, and realize as never before the importance of rotation and diversification. Look after the little things along all lines on the farm. They are stepping stones to greater things.

I suppose our esteemed and much loved doctor will soon leave for his new home at McColl. Dr. T. D. Foxworth is a high-toned Christian gentleman, whose goodness of heart and cheerful, kindly disposition has won for him a host of friends. We regret very much to have him and his charming and lovely little wife go from among us, but if it will benefit his health and that of his little son, Edward, we will try to give them up cheerfully. We wish for them the greatest success in their new field of work.

Miss Jessie Brown spent Saturday with Mrs. W. F. Smith.

Mrs. J. M. Browne, of Sampit, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Mayne Wilson.

Miss Maud Hatfield, of Rembert, spent last week with her grandmother, Mrs. W. H. Hatfield, of Bradford Springs.

Mr. T. C. Robertson spent last Thursday in Camden.

Master Hovey Robertson, son of Mr. S. E. Robertson, is quite sick. He is strangely affected, one side is almost paralyzed.

Mr. W. N. Dunlap has moved his blacksmith shop up on the hill which is more convenient for himself and customers.

OUR SUMMERTON LETTER.

Summerton, Jan. 10.—In speaking of the changes wrought by the entrance of the New Year, we took occasion in our last letter to mention a number of large farms in the surrounding community which we erroneously stated had "changed hands." Let it not be understood by that expression that owners are really disposing of their land interests in this section, for business wisdom has not decreased to such an extent that those in possession of the splendid agricultural lands in Clarendon county are anxious or willing to sell them even at the fancy prices now obtainable. It is true that renters are continually changing from year to year, and at this the beginning of 1910, many of our farms are being vacated and reoccupied.

Mr. Jimmie Deas, of Camden, who owns land in the Panola section has removed from Camden to this place, bringing his family with him. Summerton is very much gratified to see this another evidence of its good standing in the State.

The Summerton Hardware Co. has recently purchased a controlling interest in the Colclough Hardware Co. and have opened the New Year with a much increased stock. With their commodious and easily accessible ware rooms they should be in position to fill the public's wants in a very satisfactory manner.

The Summerton Lodge of the Knights of Pythias will on Tuesday night install their newly elected officers for 1910. They report having had a most prosperous year, and a splendid outlook for the New Year. After the installation exercises an oyster supper will be given at the Hunter Hotel.

On Friday afternoon, Jan. 7th, Mrs. Jno. Kershaw entertained the Matrons' Book Club. After the business formalities, the afternoon was spent quite informally and pleasantly, the guests being entertained largely by the music rendered by Misses Harper and Scarborough. Mrs. Kershaw, assisted by her sister, Mrs. Anderson served fruit salad and cake.

At the home of Mrs. M. L. Coskrey on Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, the Rev. C. S. Felder was married to Miss Annie Coskrey. Rev. J. N. Tolar, pastor of the Baptist church of this place performed the ceremony, immediately after which Mr. and Mrs. Felder left for their home in Gilbert, S. C.

Rev. S. O. Cantey and family after a few days' stay with relatives here returned to their home in Batesburg, S. C.

Miss Bertha Davis has returned home after a visit to relatives in Manning.

Rev. A. T. Dunlap, formerly a pastor of the Methodist church here and now of Hartsville was a visitor in town last week.

Miss Sarah Smythe of Charleston, spent a few days last week at the home of Maj. R. R. Briggs.

Hang one that is hanged and he will hang thee.—French.

CAUSE OF THE DECLINE.

Results Show It to Have Been Technical, Not Fundamental—Results of a Comprehensive Investigation Made by a Careful Statistician.

New Orleans, Jan. 10.—Last Wednesday's sharp break in cotton was more apparent than real, since the disturbance incident to the clearing up of the future market, which had become top heavy, has not had a corresponding effect on the spot situation. In support of this view of the week's cotton market occurrences, the statistician of the firm of Jay, Keplinger and Brown, after a month of careful research has published an elaborate compilation showing the comparative worth of commodities in general, and by a series of logical deductions draws the conclusion that 20 cents a pound for middling raw cotton would not be a heroic figure if cost of production and shortness of supply be regarded in its proper relationship to scope of requirement.

Says this careful writer: "Although cotton has advanced 715 points within twelve months there has been no serious stoppage of spindles, and consumption continues at the rate of 12,000,000 bales and more a year. Meanwhile prices of manufactured goods are gradually being adjusted to conform with the cost of the raw material.

"American mills are well engaged with forward contracts, and their operations thus far will justify the usual dividends.

"In spite of the advancing tendency of manufactured goods, their consumption appears to be increasing. A short raw cotton supply will ultimately necessitate a decrease in the production of manufactured goods, whether consumers so desire or not.

"Compared with wheat at \$1.16 per bushel, corn at 66 cents, and pork at \$22, cotton at 20 cents a pound will not appear relatively high, when it is remembered that the majority of cotton planters buy their bread and meat on the basis of these prices."

According to Professor Burkett, in his able book on "Cotton," one pound of cotton at 10 cents will make:

- 1 1-2 yds denim worth... .22
- 4 yds Brown sheeting worth... .32
- 4 yds bleached muslin worth... .32
- 7 yds calico worth... .35
- 6 yds. Gingham worth... .45
- 25 yds. handkerchiefs worth... .250
- 10 yds. lawn worth... .250

or 56 spools No. 40 sewing thread worth... .280

"It should cost more to transform raw material into a manufactured product than to produce the raw material," says the statistician quoted above, "but the fact that the manufacturer has prospered sufficiently to encourage a much more rapid expansion in manufacture than has taken place in the culture of raw cotton is proof positive that the net profits enjoyed by the manufacturer have been relatively greater than the net profits enjoyed by the farmer, consequently a readjustment that will result in a more equitable division seems logical enough.

"Fifteen cents for raw cotton has not checked consumption to an appreciable extent. The true test of a just distribution of an equitable division of profit is a maximum price that will check consumption and a minimum price that will check production. At present prices there is no danger of deliberate raw cotton production curtailment, but since present prices are not checking consumption they can hardly be called high."

The cause of the future market decline of 100 points from the top could not be traced to free selling of spots, or to restricted demand for spots, since the actual cotton market has refused to follow the downward course. Fear on the part of stock market interests of the president's attitude on corporation legislation caused the free selling of securities, a decline and calls for margins, which in turn forced some security market longs to liquidate cotton market interest in order to secure profits. This in turn depressed the future cotton market. But spot cotton longs have laughed at the decline, since future market shorts must ultimately buy from spot longs the cotton they will need for delivery on contract, and the mills have stood ready to pay more for spot supplies than speculators are now in position to pay without serious loss.

With cotton selling at 15 and 16 cents a future market reaction of 100 points is less strenuous and more to be expected than a 50 point reaction when cotton is selling at 10 cents. The truth of the case is, the market has advanced so steadily and so persistently during so many months that most people had begun to think that declines were not coming. Thus the enforcement of some fundamental economic law has waked them up, but has not harmed the cotton market in the end.

LIVE STOCK

Another load of stock will arrive Friday 14th. Our buyer knows the trade, knows the kind our farmers want and will buy them if they can be had. Come and see them Saturday or the early part of next week.

Carriages, Surries, Buggies, Wagons and Harness.

We have a large assortment of these Vehicles on hand which we are offering at reduced prices in order to turn the goods into cash, and at the same time make room for Spring goods. Don't take our word for it, but come and see for yourself.

Oliver Plows.

We have a fine assortment of "Oliver Plows" on hand and more coming in. None better than the "Oliver"—few as good. Ask your neighbor who is using them.

Stalk Cutters.

Stalk Cutting season is on, better let us sell you a "McKay" Cutter. We have a few of them left. If you have not seen a McKay, come look at them, see how they are put up, and you will wonder how we can sell them so cheap.

Corn Planters.

Just received a lot of Corn Planters which we are going to offer to our customers at a very small margin of profit, in order to build up trade along this line.

THE S. M. PIERSON COMPANY,

115-117-119 EAST HAMPTON AVENUE.

SUMTER, - - - - S. C.

SPECULATION IN FUTURES.

Probable That Congress Will Give the Subject Attention.

Representative Scott of Kansas, chairman of the house committee on agriculture, says according to a Washington despatch, that the sentiment in favor of legislation to prevent the dealing in futures in farm products is growing stronger every day, and he feels quite confident that the house will give serious consideration to the bill which his committee will report shortly to deny the mails to exchanges and brokers and others who make a business of gambling in farm products.

President Taft has taken this subject up, and members who are close to him say that he regards gambling in farm products as an evil that calls for legislative action. The misery and suffering from this vicious form of gambling is worse, if anything, than betting on the races. If the veil could be lifted it would reveal many congressmen among the victims of the bucket shops where most of the business of speculation in futures is conducted.

Inquiry among the members show that the evil of gambling in wheat, corn, cotton, oats, etc., has grown to such proportion that many states have taken notice of it, and the claim is made that the price of foodstuffs is affected by the gambling in futures. In this connection the statement is made that the government is largely responsible for the growth in this species of speculation in the necessities of life, and that the fluctuation in the price of corn, wheat and cotton is due, in a measure to the monthly crop report issued by the agricultural department. There is some truth in this, for no government report is watched with more interest nor more eagerly sought than that of the crop report. An advance copy of the crop report, that is a copy obtained three hours ahead of the issuance of the press, is worth thousands of dollars.

The value attached to the report is due solely to the effect it has on the market. And the market varies accordingly to the condition of the crops as shown by the figures of the report, which only proves that 9-10ths of the business done on the exchanges is gambling, pure and simple.

It was said today that it is not improbable that congress will order the discontinuance of the monthly crop report because of its influence on prices of farm products as man-

DUE WEST POSTOFFICE ROBBED.

Yeggmen Blow Safe Open and Secure \$1,100 in Cash and Stamps.

Due West, Jan. 8.—The Due West postoffice was entered this morning by safe crackers, and the safe blown open. The first report was heard by some persons living in the immediate vicinity at 1:15 A. M. The robbers were not satisfied with their first effort, and the second report came about fifteen minutes later. When the office was opened this morning it presented a scene of wreckage. The entire front door of the safe was blown off its hinges, and parts of it went through the building and landed some fifteen to twenty yards on the outside, tearing off several planks. About nine hundred dollars in stamps and two hundred dollars in cash was stolen.

No trace of the robbers can be found. Due West doesn't afford a night watchman, and the safe crackers had the advantage of several hours when the office was opened at 7 o'clock.

This is the second time the Due West postoffice has been robbed within the past few years.

HEMPHILL WILL GO TO RICHMOND.

Editor of The News and Courier Will Assume Charge of The Times-Dispatch.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 9.—Announcement was made tonight that Maj. J. C. Hemphill, for the past 20 years editor of the Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier, has accepted the editorship of The Times-Dispatch, his new duties here to begin about Feb. 15.

FIRE AT PROVIDENCE.

The store of Mr. B. D. Jennings at Gaillard's X Roads, in which was located the Providence Post Office, was burned Sunday afternoon. The loss is estimated to have been about \$500 to \$700. The origin of the fire has not been determined. This store was robbed a few weeks ago, and it is suspected that the fire was of incendiary origin.

Sunday night the store of Robert Ramsey, colored, in the same neighborhood was burned. The amount of loss is not known.

"Mr. Ballinger demands an investigation," says a headline. At any rate, he seems to merit it.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

THE MISSISSIPPI SENATORSHIP.

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 7.—The vote today in the joint session of the State legislature to elect a senator to succeed the late A. J. McLaurin, resulted as follows:

- Vardaman 71; Alexander 24; Percy 21; Anderson 21; Kyle 14; Byrd 12; Crits 5; Truly 1; Longino 1. Total 170. Necessary to choice, 86.

On the second ballot Vardaman was credited with 65 votes, a loss of six from the first ballot, and Percy with 28, showing a gain of seven.

After three votes had failed to determine the nominee the caucus adjourned late tonight until tomorrow morning. At the conclusion of the session, Former Gov. James K. Vardaman had 66 votes to his credit, 40 more than his nearest competitor, Leroy Percy of Greenville, but still 20 votes short of the required number.

HOSPITALITY GROWS BEST WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED.—Hugh Miller.