

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1860 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.

Comptroller General Jones says there is no use in trying to assess property at its market value and that no change in the present valuation is necessary, but that the boards of equalization should endeavor to equalize assessments so that each property owner shall pay neither more nor less than his just share of taxes. This being true it is a hard proposition that the township boards have to tackle. There is neither uniformity nor justice in the present assessment of property in the city of Sumter and in the county of Sumter. There are property owners in this city who have their property returned for taxation at less than a fourth the market value and many who would laugh at a spot cash offer of three to four times the valuation they themselves place on it when making return for taxation. There are thousands of acres of excellent farm lands in Sumter county that are returned at \$2, \$3 or \$5 an acre that could not be bought for \$10, \$20 or \$30 an acre. The inequality and injustice of this sort of thing lies in the fact that some property owners in the city have their property returned at 60 to 75 per cent. of its market value and many farmers are paying taxes on their land on a valuation two to three times as great as others whose land is just as good or better. The boards of assessors should equalize assessments and not permit the men who make fairly honest returns to bear the burden, that the tax-dodgers are escaping by returning their property at ten per cent. of its market value.

If the Sumter Oil Mill can buy soja beans in Louisiana and Mississippi, pay freight and still make money on them it would seem to be to the interest of the mill to encourage the farmers of Sumter to plant the beans. We are satisfied many farmers would plant the beans if assured of a market at a fair price, but none of them would risk planting a larger acreage on an uncertainty. If the cotton seed oil mills expect to crush beans regularly hereafter they should let it be known so the farmers can arrange to plant a sufficient acreage to supply the local demand.

The bill introduced in the legislature providing that the Master in Equity of Sumter county should be paid a salary of \$1,500 per annum and one-half of all fees received in excess of \$1,500, was finally passed, but it was first amended so as to be objectionable. Public opinion is influential sometimes.

As usual in campaign years there is now more or less talk of opposition to Congressman Lever, but, as usual, the opposition will peter out and Lever will be returned for another term.

The Big Business of Beef.
Let fancy endow Adam with the gift of eternal life. Start him the day of his creation, to piling up silver dollars at the rate of a dollar a minute. Permit him to work incessantly eight hours a day the week long under the ages. He will lack \$663,000,000 of having enough money to pay for all live cattle in the United States in the year 1910.

Such is the magnitude of the beef industry. The annual report of the Department of Agriculture, issued a few days ago, indicates that there are 96,658,000 cattle in the country. At the estimated increase in population over the census of 1900 this provides a cow or a bullock for every human inhabitant, adult or minor. It is but natural that the citizen should manifest interest in ascertaining what become of this beef. It is his right to be informed that the source of his beef-steak is rapidly diminishing, that the number of cattle decrease on a ratio with the increase in population, that the great cattle ranges, which the late Frederic Remington loved to picture, are on the verge of consignment to memory, and that there are mighty elements besides the beef trust which will enter into this thing we call "the cost of living."—Review of Reviews.

That was a pretty good story published Saturday about soja beans and the Sumter Cotton Oil Mill, even though it was not true. The facts are that the Southern Cotton Oil Co. is experimenting with soja beans, has purchased 250 tons at New Orleans and will give them a try-out this summer. The company will, also, distribute a few bushels of seed from each of its plants for the purpose of inducing farmers to experiment in the growing of this promising new crop.

The understanding is always the dupe of the heart.—La Rochefoucauld.

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 editors 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.

NOTICE.

The officers-elect of the County Union will please bear in mind that we wish to install them at the meeting at Trinity on Friday, March 4th. So do not fail to attend this meeting in one of the liveliest communities in the County.

E. W. DABBS,
President.

Hugh Witherspoon, Secretary.

The Soy Bean Again.

In connection with a recent editorial in the Greenville News this item from the New York Commercial is interesting:

"Out in Manchuria they are growing a bean to compete with cotton seed, and so lustily does this same bean grow out there that it was reported in Vladivostok, when August Heid left there on the last trans-Siberian express connecting with a steamship at Hamburg, that between 60 and 70 ships have been chartered to ship the beans to Denmark, France, England and Germany, between the 1st of last October and May 1st, next."

Mr. Heid has been in Vladivostok for a year establishing an agency there for the International Harvester Company and he arrived on the Amerika yesterday, accompanied by W. W. Couchman, manager of the company in Hamburg.

"The Soy bean," said Mr. Heid, "has been mentioned several times in consular reports, though in an industrial way, it is an entirely new article. It is about the size of the ordinary white bean, but flatter and yellow in color. The soil for the beans doesn't have to be very fertile and Manchuria is raising an enormous quantity. They press the oil out, and this will come into competition with cotton seed oil in many ways. The residue, which they call bean cake, is used for food for animals and for fertilizer."

This information should serve to impress upon our farmers the importance of experimenting with the soy bean crop. It will do all that is claimed for it and more too.

Our oil mill men should not let the opportunity slip to experiment with the soy bean oil, for the crop could be worked up after the cotton season is over, thus allowing them to get full action on their plants at all seasons of the year.—Greenville News.

The Era of High Prices.

It is a good sign that nobody seems prepared instantaneously to announce the cause of high prices. We have had too much quick doctoring of economic ills, and it is well that all the authorities are this time withholding judgment.

There has been allegation that folks have been hurrying to town to live until the farms don't realize enough to feed us all. The answer comes promptly, however, that of most primary agricultural products we are raising more per capita than ever before. We must look further. Combinations, big and little—of manufacturers, of transportation, and of merchants—are charged with large responsibility. The universality of the complaint points the need of finding a universal cause; and more and more serious attention has been given by economists to the increasing supply of primary money metal—gold—as the universal cause.

Without doubt, the increasing output of gold is an important factor, but there is an underlying cause in the changing conditions of living. We may call it extravagance, but it is not merely that. It is the effort of the people to appropriate their share of the advantages, the comforts, the luxuries, if you will, which modern conditions of industry, invention and science have made possible.

At one side we see the powerful few, with manifold devices of organization, patent-protected monopoly, subsidies, tariffs, privileges of all sorts, seeking to control production. On the other are the millions, insistently reaching out for means to supply new needs, to indulge new ambitions, to

gratify new tastes. The captain of finance exploits his industry by the process of overcapitalizing it in order to squeeze more profits from it; his employees exploit it by enforcing demands for higher wages. The joint burden is laid on the consumer.

The present phenomenon in economics finds its parallel in the earthquake. Pressure forces readjustments in the earth's crust from time to time. The pressure exists all the time; it is steady as gravitation; there are regions of weakness in the crust, and when the pressure has been borne as long as possible there is suddenly a slip and a readjustment of position along the line of geological "fault." This slipping and readjustment come suddenly and with terrific force.

Very similar is the present readjustment of price conditions to the long-accumulated pressure of economic and social conditions. The pressure has been there right along; the slip and the earthquake have come suddenly.—"Success Magazine."

The Call For Live Stock in the South.

Manufacturers' Record.

In the fifty years between 1860 and 1910 the population of the country increased from 31,500,000 to 89,000,000, and the population of the South from 11,000,000 to 28,000,000. In the same period, according to official figures and allowing for variation in census schedules, the raising of livestock used for food has not kept pace with the growth of population in the whole country, and in the South has actually declined in the case of sheep and swine.

Statistics show that in 1860 the southern states, exclusive of Missouri, raised, 8,542,109 meat cattle and the same states in 1910 reported 13,834,000. The increase in the whole country was very large. The South dropped in sheep raising from 233,509 in 1860 to 56,000 in 1910. There was also a falling off in swine. In livestock the older southern states are falling behind.

There is an explanation for this notable and regrettable showing made by the South in this particular. In 1860 the South had 50 per cent of the meat cattle of the country, 27 per cent of the sheep and 54 per cent of the swine, though its population was only about 35 per cent of the total. In 1910, with about 32 per cent of the total population of the country, the South has less than 30 per cent of the cattle, less than 11 per cent of the sheep and less than 32 per cent of the swine. Why?

The year 1865 found the South, or at least large sections of it, practically depleted of livestock to be used as the basis for future supplies. The South's pockets were empty of money, and the only means of obtaining sufficient food for immediate necessities was to go into debt for the purpose of raising a crop of cotton. At the same time a great part of the agricultural machinery of the South, its negro population, was deprived of its directive brain power and, as a whole, has not yet gotten back to the efficiency that it was in 1860. This unfortunate situation fastened the all-cotton habit upon thousands of southern farmers, and from that habit it was difficult for the second generation to escape. Furthermore, about the time of the return of the inclination toward diversified farming, toward depending more upon home-raised foodstuffs and feedstuffs than upon the West and other parts of the country for such supplies, the South began to revive its industrial instincts, suddenly checked by the war, and the population of the South was not large enough to meet at the same time the demands of manufacturing. There was just so much human energy, and the part directed into one channel was diverted from another.

There is a better balance now developing which should be reached with accessions to the South's population through immigration of the thrifty and the competent. But even before that balance can be established the South can create a better balance in its agriculture, so that

cotton, tobacco, rice, fruit and truck shall not monopolize the energies of individual farmers, and that more acreage and labor be given to raising more livestock not merely for the sake of the meat and the by-products in the shape of wool, hides, bones, etc., but also as a means of increasing the fertility of the southern soil. Prevailing high prices for meats ought to spur the South to raising more livestock.

IS TILLMAN TO RESIGN POSITION?

Rumor That Is Current in Washington—It Is Not Known Definitely That He Will Do So.

The Washington correspondent of the Savannah News sends that paper the following:

"The almost certain resignation of Senator Benjamin R. Tillman from the senate of the United States, as the result of his present illness, has caused a considerable amount of interesting political gossip to be heard here concerning his successor. That there are many persons in South Carolina who would have no objection to wearing the senatorial toga, if Tillman resigns, has been apparent for some time, but naturally has become more pronounced since the serious illness of the senator.

"Had Tillman resigned before the legislature adjourned Saturday that body would have been called upon to name his successor and the new man would have held on until next December, when congress will reconvene. Now, however, the legislature having ended its work and gone home it would be for the governor to name the new man should a vacancy occur.

"Without discussing the matter with any candidate, but just from what may be picked up here and there among the South Carolina politicians who have been in Washington the last day or two, it is believed that the men who would probably be considered by Governor Ansel are George Johnstone of Newberry, a member of congress several years ago from the third district; R. Goodwyn Rhett, present mayor of Charleston; Lewis W. Parker of Greenville, one of the best known cotton mill presidents of the country, and Joseph A. McCullough, a lawyer of Greenville. In addition to those there is J. Fraser Lyon, now serving his second term as attorney general of South Carolina, and former Governor D. C. Heyward. All are good, strong men and would no doubt fill the senatorial chair with credit.

"The nominee, whoever he might be, would go at once into the primary and stump the state during the coming summer. In the list of free-for-all candidates would probably be not only some of those already mentioned, but Representative Lever, the seventh district congressman, it is believed, would also make the race. If this primary should be like those that have been held for many years past there might be at least half a dozen men to seek the nomination.

"While none of the persons named probably would care to discuss this matter now, because Senator Tillman has not yet resigned, and, in fact, many not do so, there is reason to believe that few of them would decline the honor of representing their state in the upper house of congress.

"Should Mr. Lever enter the race under the conditions named there would ensue a scramble for his seat in the house, with the field open for many good men to choose from and any one of a half a dozen would make a good, capable representative. It is said that Commissioner E. J. Watson of the state department of agriculture, is perhaps better known for his public work than any other man in the district, and there is a feeling that he might make the race a lively one for his competitors should he run.

"The whole situation is most interesting and while, as stated, Senator Tillman has not yet resigned and may serve out the remainder of his term, should he decide to quit and spend the balance of his life on the farm, South Carolina would have some lively politics in the near future."

The recent meeting of the legislature changed the time for holding court in this county, and divorced the two courts. Just as soon as advance sheets arrive announcement will be made as to the specific time for the convening of each court. At present the information cannot be had.

A white man, tanked up on blind tiger booze, was arrested about noon Saturday by Officer McKagen. He was so far gone that help had to be called in to manage him. When searched he had two pints of whiskey upon his person.

South Carolina's Robespierre: Ben Tillman.

In an editorial which is strikingly stamped with the independence of thought for which it is noted, The Washington Post declares that "In resistless force of character Benjamin R. Tillman is the greatest man South Carolina ever produced."

Doubtless when this superlative sentence was penned by the editor it was under the apprehension that the distinguished senator from South Carolina was upon his bed of death. Such tributes are seldom pronounced before the end comes.

For usually it requires the miracle of dissolution to convert the politician into the statesman.

But the latest news dispatches from Washington are decidedly reassuring in regard to Senator Tillman's health, and like another famous invalid—Mr. Stephens—he may yet enjoy the somewhat uncanny satisfaction of reading his obituary in print.

The special achievement with which The Post credits Senator Tillman is the feat of overthrowing the oligarchy of illustrious families which from the time of the Revolution down to the last decade of the nineteenth century ruled the State of South Carolina.

"This regime," says The Post, "was partly political and partly social. It was never guilty of extravagance and never accused of graft. But the great families ruled."

At some length The Post goes on to enumerate the illustrious names on the honor roll of oligarchs. The list includes the Pinckneys, the Rutledges, the Marions, the Sumters, the Legares, the Calhouns, the McDuffies, the Prestons, the Barnwells, the Rhett, the Hamptons, the Butlers. To overthrow this powerful aristocratic dynasty was a task for Robespierre. But eventually from the sand hills of Edgewater there stepped forth an angular and awkward man of the people who was prepared to take over the contract.

Says The Post: "Less than 25 years ago Benjamin R. Tillman determined to destroy this aristocratic regime. It was a battle of the giants. Hampton and Butler were representatives of it. Both were of illustrious families both had fought and died for the South on many a stricken field, both were men of unblemished honor. There rallied to them the serious of the old families, and they were entrenched in the traditions of centuries. Even Ben Tillman's elder brother, who had displayed conspicuous abilities in congress, spoke and voted against the politics of his brother.

"But the 'Craker' was aroused. He had found a leader brave as Caesar, devoted as Hampden, impetuous as Hotspur, resolute, earnest, honest invincible. After a tremendous struggle Tillman was elected governor in 1890, and two years thereafter he was re-elected. He was an 'architect of ruin,' in that he held in contempt the traditions of the past and smote the oligarchy until it trembled and fell. Wade Hampton was the first citizen of the State; a hero and a statesman, the heir of a great name and of an immense fortune. No more gallant soldier drew sword in the big war, at the close of which he could have said with more truth than did the crowned Valois on the day of Pavia. 'All is lost save honor.'

"But without hesitation the new champion of popular government stripped Wade Hampton of his toga and gave it to another. Only a little while and he defeated M. C. Butler for the Senate in which body he took his seat in 1895.

"Nobody who witnessed the scene when Tillman delivered his maiden speech in the senate will ever forget it. His fellows appeared to be awed. Certainly nothing like it ever before transpired in that theatre. It recalled the presence of the rude Gaul in the Roman senate, as recorded in ancient story. Tillman was fierce in his denunciation of the then Democratic president and the Democratic secretary of the treasury. Nor was he content with that. He assailed everything political then in existence, talked as though he felt that there was but one honest man in public life, and he a senator from South Carolina with but one eye and a pitchfork in his hand.

"But Tillman got bravely over that. As he came to know the senate he respected it. Blunt to vulgarity, he was honest to the core, and the senate came to respect him and senators to love him. Perhaps had he been a greater intellect and a thoroughly cultivated scholar he would have made for himself a smaller place. Certainly he would not have been the picturesque figure he became.

"Not in breadth of intellect, not in learning, not in eloquence, but in resistless force of character, Ben Tillman is the greatest man South Carolina ever produced, and one of the most extraordinary men our country has produced."—Atlanta Georgian.

Virtue is bold, and goodness never fearful.—Shakespeare.

LUNG HEMORRHAGES

(I TOOK PE-RU-NA.)



MISS NINETTE PORTER.
Miss Ninette Porter, Braintree, Vermont, writes: "I have been cured by Peruna."

"I had several hemorrhages of the lungs. The doctors did not help me much and would never have cured me."

"I saw a testimonial in a Peruna Almanac of a case similar to mine, and I commenced using it. I wrote to Dr. Hartman for advice. He kindly gave me free advice.

"I was not able to wait on myself when I began using it. I gained very slowly at first, but I could see that it was helping me.

"After I had taken it a while I commenced to raise up a stringy, sticky substance from my lungs. This grew less and less in quantity as I continued the treatment.

"I grew more fleshy than I had been for a long time, and now I call myself well."

A Bad Cough.

Mrs. Emma Martin, Odessa, Mo., writes: "I cannot thank you enough for curing me."

"For two years I doctored my cough, which cost me many dollars, but still I seemed to get worse. My cough was so bad I could not sleep.

"Finally I purchased a bottle of Peruna. After the use of six bottles I feel that I am cured."

People who object to liquid medicines can now secure Peruna tablets.

Another Term for Taft.

The Republican organization was never more busily engaged in the game of national politics than now. It wishes to win the Congressional election this coming fall, and it also wishes to win the Presidential elections of 1912. Further than that, it wishes to make a success of the Taft administration, and to make sure not only that Mr. Taft shall be re-nominated but also re-elected. All the tendencies of our political life now call for a two-term incumbency. President Cleveland intended to be a one-term President, but conditions made re-nomination inevitable. Mr. Harrison, like Mr. Cleveland, was re-nominated for a second term, though, a like Mr. Cleveland, he was defeated the election. Mr. McKinley was re-nominated under conditions that made opposition impossible. In Roosevelt's first year of the Presidency, an even in his second and third year the elements of opposition to his nomination in 1904 were so powerful that the chances seemed quite in favor of the coalition of leaders and interests determined to eliminate the Rough Rider from political condition that cleared the way, in the winter of 1903-4, and made Mr. Roosevelt's re-nomination an easy certainty. The business of paving the way for Mr. Taft's re-nomination is going forward quite as actively,—now that he has been in office exactly one year,—as the same sort of business went on at the same stage of Mr. Roosevelt's Presidency, and in various earlier administrations. State by State all over the country the situation has been studied with careful forecast; and nothing is allowed to pass unheeded of uninfluenced. Old-line politicians are taking lessons.—Review of Reviews for March.

Rice Flour.

35 tons fresh from the mills. Best and Cheapest Feed for Horses, Cows and Hogs you can buy. Booth-Harby Live Stock Co., Sumter S. C.

2 12-8t.—W

The W. O. W. will soon have the uniform rank. The squad is being drilled by Capt. G. C. Warren. The uniforms will soon arrive.

Judge Richardson, in speaking of the proposed paving of Main street, offers the suggestion that the material used should not be one that will make a noisy thoroughfare.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Fletcher

FOR SALE—Genuine Marlboro Prolific seed corn. Bushel \$2.00; half bushel \$1.25; peck 75 cents. Last year this corn measured 77 bushels per acre with less than \$11.00 worth of fertilizers. J. H. Myers, Sumter, S. C., R. F. D. No. 4