

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1910

New Series—Vol. XXXI. No. 11.

The Watchman and Southron.

Published Wednesday and Saturday

—BY—

OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY

SUMTER, S. C.

TERMS:

\$1.50 per annum—in advance.

Advertisements:

One Square first insertion.....\$1.00

Every subsequent insertion..... .50

Contracts for three months, or longer will be made at reduced rates.

All communications which subserve private interests will be charged for as advertisements.

Obituaries and tributes of respects will be charged for.

ANOTHER DISEASE APPEARS.

Beriberi Breaks Out Among Convicts in Charleston Stockade.

Charleston, March 29.—The appearance of beriberi among the convicts of the stockade, resulting in the dispatch of a number to the State penitentiary yesterday afternoon, continues to excite much comment among the physicians. There is no question of the disease being beriberi, as unusual as it is in this section and under the existing conditions. With the stockade in excellent sanitary condition about ten miles from Charleston, the physicians are at a loss to account for the breaking out of the affection, but it is expected that, with the removal of the patients to Columbia, they will all recover and the trouble at the stockade may be abated. Seventeen of the 31 patients were affected and one-half of the patients infected became ill in the past week. The disease is not infectious.

Beriberi in both its dropsical and paralytic forms is generally peculiar to tropical and sub-tropical countries. The disease is usually found in jails, on shipboard and in schools, and fishermen on the coast of North America have been known to be afflicted with it. The disease has taken epidemic form in Japan, Sandwich Islands, and Brazil and cases have occurred at Habana and in Australia.

NEW YORK BRIBERY CASES.

Former New York Senator Branded As Corrupt.

Albany, N. Y., March 29.—Jotham P. Allis went to his home in Norwich tonight a private citizen, branded as a bribe-taker by his former colleagues in the Senate and by his own act no longer a member of that body. Senator Conger, who filed the charges against Allis, stayed here to fight.

The battle that confronts Conger is no longer to prove his charges. To this extent the Senate vindicated him today, when forty of its forty-nine members voted that the charges had been sustained by the evidence brought before them.

It is believed that Conger came to the Senate today prepared to resign as soon as he received this vindication. However, that may be, he did not resign, and developments make it likely that he will not do so.

The cause of this is a resolution introduced by Senator Cobb, the majority leader, providing for the appointment of a committee to present to the Senate charges against Conger "growing out of his connection with legislation and the use of funds to influence the members of the Legislature or other persons with reference thereto."

The Cobb resolution was referred to the Judiciary committee. It is expected that the committee will report it promptly to the Senate.

LEVER MAKES MAJORITY REPORT.

South Carolina Representative Working on Appalachian Bill.

Washington, March 23.—Congressman Lever will make the majority report to the House during the next two or three days on the Appalachian Park bill. When the vote was taken in the committee on agriculture a few days ago, and it was decided by a majority of three to report the bill, Mr. Lever was chosen to write the report for the majority. This he has been doing for several days and expects, as soon as Chairman Scott has time to draft a minority report, to present the same to the House. Mr. Lever has given years of study and close attention to the question of passing the Appalachian bill, and though prospects at this time do not especially favor it, he stated today that he would continue to work and believed that ultimately he would succeed in his efforts.

Blushing is the color of virtue.—Matthew Henry.

## GROWING OF BROOM STRAW.

SHORT CROPS HAVE ADVANCED PRICE OF BROOMS.

Commissioner Watson Issues Circular On Manner and Methods of Straw Culture—Industry May Be Revived In This State—Factories Compelled to Close Down Because of High Price of Raw Material.

Columbia, March 28.—The high cost of living has extended to brooms. Brooms cost about twice as much today as they did a few years ago. The reason is the advance in the cost of broom straw caused by the short crop.

Commissioner Watson is endeavoring to have farmers in this State plant broom straw. There have been some factories for the manufacture of brooms in South Carolina, but for the most part they have gone out of business. There used to be one near Columbia, and at Fairfax there was a factory that had broom straw growing right up to the door.

The advantage to the farmer from planting broom straw, aside from the actual profits, is that he may keep his hands busy the year around.

Today Commissioner Watson sent out the following:

State of South Carolina, Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, E. J. Watson, Commissioner:

Circular No. 7. Growing of Broom Corn:

In view of the many requests received at this office from farmers in the various portions of the State as to where to get broom corn seed, as to best varieties and as to the methods of cultivation and curing this circular of information is issued.

The demand for information is doubtless due to the very high prices that have been for some time prevailing, making it necessary for local broom factories to suspend operations because of the cost of the raw material and causing the prices of brooms to soar.

Some years ago an effort was made to introduce generally, in some portions of South Carolina, the growing of broom corn as a cash crop, and considerable success was met with. It was demonstrated that broom corn of superior quality could easily be grown in almost any portion of the State, and brooms were manufactured from the native grown material. Owing to the opening of new broom corn growing territory chiefly in Oklahoma, and the cheapness of raw material following, most of the undertakings were abandoned. Conditions have changed and broom corn growing and broom manufacturing should prove most profitable in this State henceforward.

Broom corn growers generally recommend the securing of seed from the Funk Brothers Seed Company, Bloomington, Ill.

Specific directions:

At the time of the effort mentioned above to introduce this agricultural industry in the State specific directions for broom corn growing were prepared by one who had given local conditions a careful study, they apply now as well as at that time, and they are incorporated herein as information to those concerned. They are as follows:

Broom corn is a variety of sorghum and has many qualities of ordinary sorghum. Like sorghum in being hardy, it is a great resister and thrives under reasonable circumstances.

It can be planted at any time from the opening of spring until as late as July 1, with fair assurance of a crop. But as early harvesting and early marketing are especially desirable, it is usually advisable to plant it as early as Indian corn is planted, or from April 1 to 15. If planted by the middle of April it will be ready to harvest by about the 1st of July. There is usually a lull in farm work about this time that makes it convenient for broom corn harvest.

There are numerous methods of planting it. It is planted in rows, checked and drilled. Drilling in rows gives the best results. The rows should be about three inches apart in rows on ordinary upland and a little thicker on bottom land. If it is planted two thick on good soil, the heads become so heavy that their own weight bends many of them down, forming the "crooks." This crooked brush is heavy because it is more difficult to make into brooms and makes a larger bulk in shipping. It brings only about half price on the market.

Owing to its being a hardy plant, the cultivation of broom corn is often sadly neglected. It will make a fair showing on poor land with very little cultivation as often and thoroughly as Indian corn. After in readiness because it soon depreciates in value

## MILLS SHUT DOWN.

ESTIMATED THAT ONLY HALF THE SPINDLES ARE TURNING.

Figures Given by American Wool and Cotton Reporter Show That Output Is Largely Decreased

Boston, Mass., March 30.—Fifty per cent. of the spindles in Southern cotton mills are idle, according to statistics which have been assembled by the American Wool and Cotton Reporter.

The figures show that the curtailment now in progress not only in the South, but in all sections of the country, both North and South, is more extensive and drastic than has ever been known in the history of the trade, even taking into consideration the panic year of 1907. The greatest curtailment comes among the yarn mills, although restriction of production among weaving mills is greater than ever before. Mill after mill is closed down entirely until new cotton arrives or market conditions improve, while with the majority of others the amount of curtailment varies from 20 to 100 per cent, with many mills running on orders only. The following are the percentages of spindles idle by States: Alabama 36 per cent; South Carolina 31; North Carolina 49; Georgia 30; Tennessee 30; Virginia 60; Mississippi 63. Figures for the New England States have not been completed.

The Committee of Claims of Congress has refused to pay Bethesda church, Bamberg for the building burned by Gen. Sherman.

Gov. Ansel has ordered a special election in Darlington county to elect a successor to Sheriff Blackwell, deceased.

after it is once ripe enough to cut. In order to make the best brush it should be cut when the seeds are in the dough stage. A small patch for seed can be left until fully matured.

The standard varieties are harvested by breaking two rows together in such a manner as to form a table upon which the heads after being cut off are laid to cure. A light dew or a heavy dew injures the color of the brush. It is well if possible to cure it entirely in a shed. But if put in while green it must be placed in thin layers, which requires considerable extra shed room. If left in the field, however, about a day after cutting, until it is nearly cured, it can be piled in good sized layers, under cover and seeded when convenient. The seeding is done by holding the brush on a cylinder similar to a threshing machine cylinder. After it has been seeded, it should be bulked down in good sized piles and allowed to dry until the stems break quite readily. Then it is ready to bale. Both the seeder and the baler for a small farmer can be made by any carpenter at a small cost.

The yield varies, of course, with the soil and locality, but a good average yield is a ton of threshed brush from three to five acres. An experienced hand can cut about one acre a day. The threshing and baling costs about \$4 per ton. The price varies so much that the profits for one year can seldom be assured as a standard. Ordinary brush one year with another averages \$80 to \$150 per ton.

It is a good crop on the sod. It shades the ground and helps to hold the sod, besides making as good a growth as kaffir or sorghum without cultivation.

The seed and the stalks are utilized for feed, but their feeding value is low, and it would hardly pay to raise it for feed alone, although in the western part of Oklahoma dwarf broom corn is sown for roughness instead of sorghum, because it does not sour in the stack so badly. After the brush is harvested the stalks can be used for forage and then ploughed under, making an excellent green manure.

There are many varieties of broom corn, but mammoth dwarf, and of the standard varieties improved evergreen and California golden have proven to be the most satisfactory. Seed can be secured from local raisers or from Western seedsmen.

Broom corn is a cash crop, and like other cash crops has its favorable and unfavorable features. Its cultivation on a very large scale is seldom successful, but if properly handled on a small scale, say from fifteen to twenty-five acres for the average farmer, and especially on new land, where the variety of sure crops is limited, it will prove to be as paying as almost any crop that can be raised. The South has early seasons and can market the brush early in the season, and for that and other reasons should easily become a great resource of the nation's supply of broom corn.

## ASKS FOR FLEXIBLE TAX LEVY.

Letter From Comptroller General Jones to Spartanburg Taxpayer on Present Condition.

Columbia, March 31.—In a letter to a Spartanburg man Comptroller General Jones expresses his position as to assessment of property in the State. The comptroller general has received a number of letters concerning property assessment during the past several days, and as the various equalization boards are now in session the letter may be of interest.

The following is a letter sent to Spartanburg yesterday:

"I have your letter and have read with interest the suggestions therein contained, and would have written you before but for the continuous pressure of work in my office.

"I agree with you that it makes no difference, so far as the equity and justice is concerned, whether property to be taxed, be returned and assessed at its full value or only one-tenth thereof, provided it all be returned and assessed at the same relative value. The real difficulty, however, is not removed by accepting any one proportion of its value as the basis for assessment. The true value must be ascertained before such proportion can be taken. Inasmuch as the legislature has fixed the rate of levy for State and county purposes for 1910 at a rate sufficient when applied to the assessed valuation for last year to raise this year's appropriations, for the year 1910 we will have to assess all property so that the aggregate assessed value will be the same as that for last year, plus the additional investments made since that time, and then equalize this amount as between the individual taxpayers.

"It would be much easier, as you state, and I might add, more apt to meet with popular approval, if we could adopt the lowest returns for taxation as the basis for assessment and reduce all other returns to that basis; but such reductions would make the aggregate assessed valuation much less than it was last year and cause a deficiency under the present rate of levy in meeting the appropriations. While the constitution requires a levy sufficient to meet the appropriations, you will see that the one insurmountable difficulty we have is that the legislature fixes the rate of taxation before the amount of property to be taxed has been ascertained by assessment. For this reason, I have favored, and still favor a flexible levy provided by the legislature, which would make the rate of taxation depend upon the appropriations made by the legislature and the aggregate assessed value of property subject to taxation. The amount of appropriations being first fixed by the legislature for both State and county purposes when the assessed valuation should be ascertained and fixed by the boards of assessment, the rate of taxation necessary to meet the appropriations could be fixed by any school boy. It does seem that the legislature in specifying the rate before the amount of property upon which the rate is to be levied is ascertained is putting the cart before the horse."

CANT SELL BOTTLED GOODS.

Massachusetts House Passes Bill to Limit Activities of Saloon Keepers. Has Passed Senate.

Boston, Mass., March 30.—The temperance advocates in Massachusetts won a decisive victory in the legislature today when the lower branch passed to third reading the bill which prohibits the selling of bottled goods of an intoxicating nature by holders of license which permit them to sell liquor to be drunk on the premises. As the bill has already passed the senate, the action of the house today in passing to a third reading is regarded as practically the passage of the new act.

PICNIC AT GARNERS FERRY.

Good Roads Enthusiasts of Sumter and Richland County to Meet on Common Ground.

The good roads enthusiasts of Richland and Sumter counties will meet at Garners Ferry for a basket picnic April 9th. Good speakers on good roads will address the crowd. The matter of opening up the highway from Sumter to Columbia will be discussed. Steps will probably be taken to raise a part of the funds necessary to put the three miles of road on this side in good condition.

Lewis Harvey killed Joe Brown at Beaufort as a result of a dispute over one cent due in a settlement of a crap game

## TILLMAN IS BETTER.

GIVES FIRST INTERVIEW SINCE HIS ILLNESS.

Criticises the Democrats—Censures Their Course in Calling for a Show Down on Question of Cannon

Atlanta, March 30.—As evidence that Senator Tillman has regained his faculties, he discussed politics for an hour today at the local sanitarium where he had been a patient since coming here from Washington. His theme was the recent "eruption," as he termed it, in the house.

"The Democrats played their game poorly," said the senator, "when they called for that vote to declare the speaker's chair vacant. Cannon had been shorn of practically all power when they took from him the privilege of naming the committee on rules, and if the Democrats had let matters stand he would have been politically lost. The result of the call for the vote to declare the chair vacant restored, in a measure, his prestige."

Senator Tillman believes that Cannon will retire from the speakership "at the first favorable opportunity." He believes that Cannon will have no trouble in securing re-election to congress if he asks for another term.

Senator and Mrs. Tillman daily take a long walk.

ZIMMERMAN DAVIS DEAD.

Commander of South Carolina Division, U. C. V.

Charleston, March 30.—Gen. Zimmerman Davis, commander of the South Carolina division of Confederate Veterans, and prominent in his Masonic affiliations, died this afternoon at his residence in this city, at the age of 75 years.

Stricken several weeks ago with an attack of the grip he never fully recovered his health and strength, and yesterday he suffered a stroke of apoplexy, which was the immediate cause of his death. The funeral services will be held on Friday. He is survived by a widow, one son and two daughters.

Mr. Davis held the rank of major general as commander of the South Carolina veterans, having succeeded Gen. Carville on the latter's death. He was re-elected at the reunion at Chester last year. Gen. Davis had an enviable record. He went into the war as a member of the Sixth South Carolina cavalry and served under Gens. Hampton and Butler.

For conspicuous gallantry in battle he was promoted over two captains, a major and lieutenant, and made the commanding officer of the regiment.

Gen. Davis was grand treasurer of the grand lodge, A. F. M., of South Carolina and general recorder of the grand council of Royal and Select Masons. He was a past master of Orange lodge, No. 14, A. F. M. He served two terms as alderman and was at the time of his death a member of the tree commission of the city of Charleston.

He was president of the South Carolina Society of Sons of Revolution and a member of the South Carolina society. He was also a prominent member of the Citadel Square Baptist church.

DIVISION OF DIOCESE.

The Special Committee Will Recommend Division.

Columbia, March 30.—A division of the diocesan council of the Episcopal church in South Carolina will be recommended by the special committee appointed at the last session of the council to consider the advisability of a division at the coming session of the council, which is to be held in Sumter during the first week in May.

This announcement was made last night after a meeting of the committee. The chairman of the committee, Rev. W. B. Gordon, of Camden, said after the session that it was the opinion of the members that the council should be divided. The question of division will be decided upon at the meeting of the council.

There were present at the meeting last night Rev. Dr. W. B. Gordon, Camden; Rev. L. G. Wood, Charleston; Rev. H. H. Covington, Sumter; Rev. A. R. Mitchell, Greenville; Walter Hazard, Georgetown; H. P. Duval, Cheraw; John P. Thomas, Jr., of Columbia, and Richard I. Manning, Sumter.

The committee did not consider the matter of financial adjustment should the council be divided.

A car of milk cows and calves has been received by the Booth-Harby Live Stock Co.

## ANTI-SALOON 'FAGUE DEFIANT.

WOULD BRING CONGRESS INTO ANTI-SALOON MEASURES.

Washington Issues Statement That Business Bills Preventing Shipment of Liquor Into Dry Territory Will Be Made to Retire Opposing Congressmen—Close Watch on Members.

Washington, March 28.—Declaring that unless Congress passes the bills just introduced in the House and Senate, respectively, by Representative Miller and Senator Curtis, of Kansas, to stop the shipment of liquor into dry and local option States, that it will call upon the people of the country to retire every member of the present Congress and send others to Washington who will pledge themselves to such legislation, the Anti-Saloon League of America today issued a statement on the subject. This statement clearly indicates that the law which went into effect January 1 last, and which it was believed would tend to stop the Interstate shipment of intoxicants from one State to another, has failed so far of its purpose, and that it is now proposed to make the law still more drastic if it is possible to do so.

Both the Kansas Congressmen are ardent prohibition advocates, and the fact that they have acted simultaneously in the House and Senate, with the same statement issued by the Anti-Saloon League, means that a fight which has been expected to be precipitated in Congress for some time is now at hand. Every member of both the House and Senate is to be tested. He is to be made to vote on the question of giving the country an out and out prohibition law. A record is to be kept of every vote, and those members who decline to come out in favor of the proposed restrictions are to be retired if the influence of the Anti-Saloon League and the prohibition people throughout the United States can do it.

The fight is on to a finish. This measure has been under consideration by the Anti-Saloon League for a good while, and a good deal of attention has been given to its preparation, in which Mr. Miller and Senator Curtis have played an important part. The measure undertakes to constitute intoxicating liquors as a special class of commodities, to be admitted to and carried in Inter-State commerce upon condition that the Inter-State commerce character of Inter-State liquor shipments shall cease at once upon arrival within the boundary of the State to which consignment has been made, and before delivery to the consignee. "The measure, if passed, will give the States complete jurisdiction over all liquors within their borders, whether domestic or Inter-State. Under the present law imported liquors are delivered to the consignee before State jurisdiction can attach. In prohibitory or local option territory, the States meet with serious embarrassment in the enforcement of their State regulations, owing to the fact that when liquor comes into the possession of the "bootleggers" it is well-nigh impossible to guard against the numerous devices which are resorted to to evade the State laws.

Supervisor Pitts' Work.

To the Editor:

Noticing an article in your paper of the 22nd which reflects on our County Supervisor, Mr. P. M. Pitts, and being familiar with the facts in the case, I feel called upon to say a few words in his behalf, at the same time not meaning to reflect on anyone, as I am friendly with all the parties concerned.

It seems that Mr. Pitts is charged with neglect of this part of the county, but to my certain knowledge, or at least to my thinking, he has done more for this section in the last twelve months than has been done in the last ten years, and what he has done for us in the way of making better roads has been the talk of our section. I do not dispute the fact that the two places spoken of by the rural carrier are in bad condition, or almost impassable, every spring, notwithstanding the work done to prevent it. They are peculiarly bad spots, are no our map, and, as the carrier says, are no doubt almost impassable at times. In conclusion will say that I have observed closely the workings of the gang under Mr. Pitts' supervision, and I do not believe that Sumter county has ever had in this office a more humane, painstaking, upright, efficient and honorable officer than we have in Mr. Pitts.

C. L. EMANUEL.

Borden, S. C., March 29, 1910.