

The Watchman and Southron.

The SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1859.

'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

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THE JOSH ASHLEY TRIAL.

Case Will Not Go to Jury Before This Afternoon—Fifteen Witnesses Heard in Defense Yesterday.

Greenville, April 27.—Arguments were begun in the case of Joshua W. Ashley, charged with peonage, at the afternoon session of federal court, Joseph A. McCullough for defense and Assistant District Attorney Lathrop for the government. Four more arguments are to be made in the morning and the case will not go to the jury till afternoon.

Fifteen witnesses for the defense were examined today, the bulk of the testimony bearing on the defendant's character.

In announcing the closing of the government's case against the defendant, District Attorney Cochran said he might not call any more witnesses though he reserved the right to do so if he should deem it best. The government's evidence in the case has not differed materially from that adduced at the former trial, when a mistrial resulted.

The indictment charges Ashley with statutory peonage on 20 counts. The 15 witnesses examined for the government are: D. R. Greer, J. A. Allison, Will Davis, John Davis, H. E. Davenport, George Johnson, H. H. Peore, Harrison Gambrell, Hugh Davis, F. P. Robinson, I. W. Davenport, J. B. Traynham, J. F. Cason, Paul Traynham and Frank Davenport.

The three negroes who are alleged to have been held in peonage, Will and John Davis and George Johnson, each said he had been forced to work on the defendant's plantation in Anderson county, guarded day and night with shotguns and rifles.

Johnson said he had worked four years to satisfy a debt of \$26. Ashley, it appears, paid the negro's fine when he was convicted of selling whiskey. After working several months witness swore he went to Ashley and asked how they stood, when he was told that he still owed \$26. He worked six months longer and was told, according to his testimony, that his debt was still unchanged. He finally worked four years and six months to wipe out the debt. He said he was not badly treated, as he was given clothes, shoes and money at Christmas each year.

John and Will Davis said they were required to work out a debt of \$100 due John McGaha, a nephew of Ashley, who was killed while at a negro hot supper where he had gone with a warrant to arrest a number of negroes for breaking contract. In other particulars their testimony was substantially the same as that of the negro Johnson. Testimony of other witnesses had to do for the most part with the defendant's general reputation and the manner in which the negroes were treated.

There has been much interest in the trial of the case in view of the defendant's prominence. Ashley is a member of the legislature from Anderson county, having served a number of terms.

RUNNING ON CREDIT.

State Borrows Large Sum at Four Per Cent.

Columbia, April 27.—The sum of \$200,000 represents the amount borrowed by the State since the first of the year for expenses. This money was secured in New York and the loan was made through the Palmetto National Bank of this city. The interest is 4 per cent.

It is expected that at least \$500,000 will have to be borrowed by the State before the end of the year. This is \$100,000 more than it has been necessary to borrow in any year past. This amount was carried in the appropriation bill. A second loan of \$20,000 will be made in July.

The rate of interest on the loans to the State last year was 3 per cent.

Now, if Massachusetts could only have its Lodge in the wilderness!—Indianapolis News.

GROWTH OF LONG STAPLE.

EFFORT TO INCREASE SUPPLY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Encouragement is Offered Farmers To Plant Long Staple Cotton and Supply Home Mills—Under Present Conditions Manufacturers Must Purchase Elsewhere.

Columbia, April 27.—In order to encourage the growth of long staple cotton, the Cotton Manufacturers' Association of South Carolina has given \$1,000 to farm demonstration work in this State.

As stated in The News and Courier a few days ago, Mr. Lewis Parker, on the part of several cotton mills under his supervision, gave \$1,000 for this work.

The object of the recent gift of the Association is to encourage the growth of long staple cotton in South Carolina. The mills are manufacturing a finer grade of goods that must be made from this grade of cotton, and the farm demonstration agents in this State are endeavoring to have the farmers plant seed that will grow a longer staple of cotton, so that all the cotton mills in South Carolina may be supplied.

In reply to letters sent out by Farm Demonstration Agent Ira W. Williams, as to use of long staple over one and one-eighth replies have been received, showing that two-thirds of the total amount used in mills heard from is the long staple.

As explained in The News and Courier recently the object of the agricultural department is to have farmers plant the long staple so as to save freight rates in this State that the mills have to pay. In this the mills are heartily co-operating as shown in letters received here.

Of replies from ten mills to the circular letter sent out, results are that it is shown that 20,860 bales of the long staple are used in these mills and only 60 bales of this amount are grown in South Carolina. Of course, the remainder comes from the Mississippi Valley and from abroad, necessitating the paying of heavy freight rates thereon.

The total consumption of the ten mills is 30,910 bales, showing that about two-thirds of the cotton used is the long staple in these mills.

There were sent out 79 letters, and the average is expected to show up as in these ten mills, which are selected at random from the replies.

The New York to Liverpool freight rate is about 16 to 17 cents per hundred, or about 80 cents per bale. The rate from the cotton belt to New York averages about 54 cents. The rate to Savannah is 41 cents and a little higher to the cotton mills of this State. Thus it is seen that the mills have been importing in this country at a higher rate than even imports from foreign countries would cost.

For eight months ending February imports of long staple, including about \$1,000,000 worth of cotton shipped back to this country from England, were 60,176,696 pounds, or \$10,690,515 worth of cotton.

The bulk of this comes from Egypt 47,174,420 pounds, valued at \$5,579,664.

While the majority of mills importing cotton in South Carolina take the Mississippi shipments, still some is received from abroad, as shown by the letters sent here in reply to Mr. Williams' circular.

But, as The News and Courier recently explained, the mills are now co-operating with the agricultural department in this State to have the farmers plant seed that will produce the long staple, and thus the cotton mills of South Carolina may be supplied from this State's crop without having to go abroad for it or send to other parts of the country for the large amount of cotton consumed.

With the end in view of ascertaining to what extent 'extra staple' cotton is used by the mills of this State, that is, the total number of bales the number including both imports from other States and that grown in South Carolina; the length of staple used; and also the growth; and to endeavor, if possible, to encourage the farmers of the State by experimentation, seed selection and seed culture, and by improved methods of farming to meet this growing demand for extra staple cotton now being brought to our mills from other States, or other countries, by raising as good or better extra staple cotton here at home, to that end I am today addressing this circular letter to all of our mills with the request that they fill out the blanks appended below and promptly return the sheet to me, using for that purpose the enclosed addressed envelope, post free.

In order that the information to be derived from this data be of appreciable value to this department, it

will be necessary that I receive complete returns from every mill, and I therefore earnestly request your hearty co-operation, assuring you that all correspondence and figures submitted will be held in the strictest confidence by this office.

"One of the prime objects of this department is to endeavor to aid both the farmers of the State and also the manufacturers alike, and, if it can be demonstrated that cotton which has sufficient length of staple and strength of fibre, equal, say to the Mississippi cottons, can be grown in South Carolina to compete with that now imported, the farmers of this State, on the one hand, will reap the benefit from the premiums in price, whereas the mills, on the other hand, will then be able to get their raw supplies right at their own doors, effecting thereby not only a saving of the freight, but also a reduced original cost price for raw material to the mills, and one very important purpose, at least, for the establishment of this department will have been subserved. We believe that this can be done, and that it will be done."

Commissioner Watson says concerning the growth of a uniform staple:

"During this year greater attention than ever has been given to the matter of growing a uniform staple of cotton, which would meet the requirements of the standard for export set by the Bremen Cotton Exchange and required by the textiles of South Carolina for the manufacture of fine goods. Although under the United States farm demonstration work much has been accomplished in the way of growing cotton with uniform staple meeting these requirements there is much yet to be done, and to this end recently the South Carolina Cotton Manufacturers' Association contributed \$1,000 in aid of the further and more rapid prosecution of the work the coming year.

"A marked step forward has been taken this year also in the matter of the grading of cotton. At Clemson College there has been provided a short course in cotton grading for any desiring to take it, which should prove of the greatest value.

"The year has been marked also by the invention of the Green Cotton Grader, a mechanical device invented by Mr. L. A. Green, of Greenville county in this State. The device is such that it goes upon the market at a reasonable figure and carries the specimen grades set by the national grading committee. It is so arranged that any farmer can use it, and can fairly well grade his own cotton and not be compelled to sell it blindly, as has been the case in the past. This grading device is to be vigorously pushed upon the market, a large company having been formed for the purpose, and the manufacturing headquarters will be at Greenville, S. C.

"In connection with this subject of grades and in the effort to afford the farmer information that he should have the department in the summer addressed a letter to President Taft, transmitting resolutions of the State Farmers' Union asking for the maintenance of a qualified agent in the European consuming markets who would furnish regular reports giving the farmers information they should have."

With the manufacturers interested in the situation and the farmers being advised as to the growth of the long staple it is expected that the result of the present agitation along this line will be the growing of long staple cotton for use in mills of this State. Mr. Williams will later issue a bulletin on the subject.

Zoar Democratic Club.

The Zoar Democratic Club met and re-organized on Saturday, April 23rd, at 4 o'clock p. m.

The officer elected were: W. J. Lawrence, president; Sam Newman, vice president; R. G. Jones, secretary; J. J. Britton, Jr., member of executive committee; delegates to county convention: A. M. London, Sam Newman, S. J. White and J. J. Britton, Jr.

Motor Gossip.

"I think pedestrians ought to carry horns."

"And be equipped with shock absorbers, eh?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

His Occupation.

"He had a good business, but he lost it."

"Did he drink?"

"No; but he was too busy being a prominent citizen to attend to anything else."—Louisville-Courier Journal.

ATTACK ON TRUST.

JUDGE SPEER CALLS GRAND JURY TO RELIEF OF PEOPLE.

Georgia Judge Severely Arraigns Beef Barons, Who Are Alleged to be Responsible for Distress Among Wage-earners.

Savannah, Ga., April 27.—A grand jury was drawn in the District Federal Court here today and charged by Judge Emory Speer with the duty of investigating the acts of the so-called beef trust through their representatives here, in so far as the fixing of the price of meats is concerned. Judge Speer in his charge referred to the riots preceding the French revolution and said:

"Indeed, there seems to be no small degree of similitude between the meat riots which have been taking place in the great cities of the country and the terrific scenes which led up to the reign of terror, and the incessant clanking of the guillotine."

He arraigned the agencies which it is alleged are responsible for the excessive cost of the necessities of life.

To the grand jury Judge Speer said:

"You have been called together to institute if proper, such prosecutions as may tend to relieve the people from what is deemed one of the greatest burdens they now suffer, and that is the excessive cost of food. You may probably be restricted to the alleged activities exerted by certain representatives of what is popularly termed the 'beef trust.' That, it is alleged, is a combination of a large proportion of the dealers in fresh meat throughout the United States not to bid against each other in the live stock markets of the different States; to bid up prices for a few days in order to attract large shipments by the breeders of cattle, then to bid down prices so that the market thus glutted can be bought in by the conspirators at their own figures and to the ruin of the breeders; to fix the selling prices to the retail dealers, and as a consequence to the public; to use the great system of refrigeration of the packing houses and other concerns to withhold the meats from the market until the price has attained extravagant proportions; to keep a black list and to refuse to supply retailers thus enrolled who decline and neglect to obey the rules of the trusts; to make uniform and improper charges for the cartage; if possible to secure less than lawful freight rates to the ruin of competitors, and all with the intent to monopolize the trade in fresh meats, to the oppression of the people, to the impoverishment of the wage earner, or the salary earner, to the enfeeblement of the laboring classes, to the piteous hunger and distress of millions of people."

Judge Speer read the law upon which he was charging the jury and concluded:

"Ah, gentlemen, the government that disregards the necessities of the plain people is unworthy of existence. The cynical rich, whose jaded appetite must be enlivened by the marital cocktail before they begin to dawdle over the luscious breakfast, can have no conception of the keen hunger of the masses who may by such combination as the law denounces be deprived of food as essential to life as it is to the strength which the daily exertion of their energies brings to the increment of the national wealth."

One of the Smiths.

Representative Scott, of Kansas, was examining a witness before the house committee on agriculture, of which he is chairman, on his bill to prohibit gambling in cotton and grain.

During the hearings a man who had been paying close attention and making notes began to ask questions.

"Will the gentleman please state his name?" asked Mr. Scott.

"Smith."

"Please state your full name."

"Ellison DuRant Smith."

"Yes, yes, I know," said Scott, "but there are many Smiths, you know, and that name signifies nothing. Where are you from and what do you represent?"

"I am from the United States senate," replied the questioner, who was Senator Smith, of South Carolina.

Whereupon Representative Scott took off his eyeglasses, rubbed them vigorously, pulled at his mustache, and whispered: "You may proceed."

—Saturday Evening Post.

The young men of the city are organizing a dance club for the summer months. Two dances will be given a month.

THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

Interesting Session This Morning—Welcome Address Delivered by Judge Purdy—Committees Announced.

The Thursday session of the District Conference was called to order at 9:30 by Presiding Elder, Rev. Waddy T. Duncan. The opening devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. A. S. Lesley, of Heath Spring. Thirteen minutes of the first days session was read and approved. The roll was called and 16 clerical and 46 lay delegates were in attendance. The Camden and St. Matthews charges have full delegations present. The name of H. H. Mitchell, alternate, was substituted for Wm. Jenkins as a delegate from the Kershaw charge. Further roll call was dispensed with.

The following committees were announced:

Public Worship—Rev. Waddy T. Duncan, Revs. M. W. Hook and J. B. Wilson, and R. D. Epps and J. W. McCoy.

License to Preach—J. B. Wilson, F. H. Shuler and J. M. Steadman.

Orders and Recommendation for Admission to Trial—J. S. Beasley, P. A. Murray, and David Hucks.

State of the Church—T. W. Munnerly, L. R. Rollings, W. A. Brown and E. T. Mims.

Missions Within the District—H. B. Browne, B. A. Shuler, Thos. D. McLeod, J. T. L. Stover and D. W. Brown.

Sunday Schools and the Manner of Conducting Them—R. E. Sharpe, C. W. Birchmore, T. A. Cauthen, H. W. Scott, T. E. H. Stevenson and R. D. Epps.

Examination of Quarterly Conference Journals—J. E. Strickland, W. E. Lemon, H. L. McCoy, J. J. Broughton and N. S. McLeod.

Epworth Leagues—M. W. Hook, F. H. Shuler, J. C. Humphreys and S. W. Stubbs.

Our Financial Plans and Systems and Contributions to Church Purposes—J. W. Hamel, Charlton Durant, H. A. Rysor, A. J. Beattie, J. R. Griffin and F. H. Roberts.

Books and Periodicals—J. B. Wilson, L. A. White, Dr. R. Y. McLeod, J. W. McCoy, T. H. Suydam, and David Hucks.

Temperance—J. M. Steadman, J. N. Wright, Oscar Spies, T. E. Davis, C. W. Chandler and J. W. Inabinet.

Judge R. O. Purdy extended a most cordial welcome to the conference, making some very valuable and timely suggestions to the preachers in the course of his remarks. On behalf of the conference Rev. H. P. Browne, of Camden, responded to his words of welcome.

The presiding elder then began the call of the charges and Camden, Bethany, Bishopville and Elloree charges reported through their pastors, the several reports being supplemented by words from the lay delegates. The reports indicated a generally improved condition along spiritual and material lines. An improvement in financial plans, systematic orphanage work, sobriety and attention to educational matters were especially noticeable.

Rev. E. H. Kohn, pastor of the Lutheran church, and Dr. W. W. Daniel, president of Columbia College, were introduced to the conference.

Rev. T. W. Munnerly, of Pine-wood, preached at the 11:30 service.

It was announced that Dr. W. W. Daniel, of Columbia College, and Rev. M. B. Kelley, of Clemson College, would make addresses at the service that evening at 8:30. The conference then adjourned until 4 p. m.

LEE OFFICIAL RESIGNS.

County Superintendent of Education Will Quit January 1.

Columbia, April 27.—McDonald Davis, superintendent of education for Lee county, has resigned. The resignation takes effect Jan. 1, 1911, having been accepted today by Governor Ansel.

Mr. Davis states that his reason is that he wishes to give the people the opportunity of electing a candidate in the next general election, so he resigns now instead of later on.

Dr. W. W. Ray, of Congaree, was here Wednesday night, returning from the Cooper-Manning wedding. The doctor says that he will be in the race for congress against Hon. A. F. Lever this summer. He expects to make it warm for somebody. He is pretty stout, but he still has running qualities.

The stores will begin closing at 6 on next Monday, May 2nd. They will continue at that hour until the fall months come on.

THE CONFEDERATE REUNION.

LITTLE ROCK GETS NEXT CONFEDERATE REUNION.

Gen. George W. of Memphis, One of the Living Major Generals, of the Confederate Organization.

Little Rock, Ark., April 27.—With Little Rock, chosen as the reunion place for 1911, and New Orleans in the lead for the honor in 1915, and with an election of officers, the United Confederate Veterans' Association closed its business session to-night. All that remains now is the big parade tomorrow and the remainder of the week will be devoted to amusements.

The selection of Little Rock had been freely predicted and though the Arkansas city lacked a majority on the first ballot it was so far in the lead that a vote to make the selection unanimous carried with a roar. The vote stood: Little Rock, 1,470; Chattanooga, 640; Oklahoma City, 17; Houston, none. When Texas was reached, the veterans saw how things were going and threw their strength to Arkansas.

The indorsement of New Orleans as the meeting place for 1915 was contained in a resolution favorably reported and adopted. It recites that New Orleans proposes to hold a Panama canal exposition in 1915, that the Crescent City had asked the veterans to indorse the exposition and attend it in April, 1915. It was resolved, therefore, that each reunion until 1915 take this same action, and that the reunion of 1915 follow the idea and meet in New Orleans.

The programme for the election of officers was carried out to the letter. Gen. George W. Gordon, of Memphis, commander of the department of Tennessee, was chosen commander-in-chief, succeeding Gen. Clement A. Evans, of Atlanta. Gen. Evans was elected past commander-in-chief and Gen. W. L. Cabell, commander of the Trans-Mississippi division, was also elected past commander-in-chief.

The new commander, Gen. Gordon, has the distinction of being one of the four living Confederates who were actually major generals before the war ended. He also has a record of being captured by the Federal forces three times.

Gen. Gordon will be succeeded in command of the department of Tennessee by Gen. Bennett Young of Louisville, Ky.

Gen. Gordon will not announce his staff for several weeks, but it is understood that Gen. Wm. E. Mickle will remain adjutant general and chief of staff to Gen. Gordon.

INJURED BY ROBBERS.

Mr. Ward, of Greeleyville Brought Here For Treatment.

Mr. Ward, who is clerking for Mr. Murat DeLorme, at Greeleyville was brought here Wednesday for treatment at the Sumter Hospital. Mr. Ward, it seems heard a noise as if some one was breaking into the store about 9 o'clock Wednesday night and went out with his gun. He saw some one running from him when he went around the side of the house. As he went around the house he raised his gun to shoot the intruder. When he did another man who was standing in waiting hit him a blow in his stomach with a stick or some other instrument and at the same time knocked the gun up. The gun went off in the air.

Mr. Ward was knocked down, and he said kicked. He lay on the ground groaning. The Knights of Pythias were in session near by at the time and were attracted by the gunshot and came out. They heard the groans and went to Mr. Ward's relief. The thieves had made their escape, however.

Mr. Ward was so badly injured that it was thought best to bring him to Sumter for treatment. It is impossible just at this time to tell how seriously he is injured.

In moments of consciousness the wounded man says that he is certain that his assailant was a white man, but does not know what kind of man it was that ran from him.

Concord Democratic Club.

Concord, April 27.—Concord Democratic Club met Saturday the 23rd, inst., and re-organized by electing the following officers:

President, W. G. S. Seymour; vice president, J. M. Hodge; secretary, J. D. Newman; executive committee-man, W. L. Brunson; delegates to county convention: W. F. White, J. W. Brunson, B. W. Brogdon, Jr., G. W. Mahoney.