

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMMER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1856.

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

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866

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## THE TRUTH ABOUT COTTON.

### COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA CALLS CONFERENCE.

Concerted Effort to Be Made to Obtain Cotton Crop Conditions and Ascertain Probable Yield—False Estimates Sent Out by Department of Agriculture Causing Farmers Great Loss.

Columbia, Aug. 20.—Commissioner of Agriculture, Watson is in receipt of a letter from Commissioner of Agriculture Hudson of Georgia suggesting that a conference of commissioners of Agriculture of the Southern States and presidents of State Farmers' Unions be called at the earliest possible date to take steps to ascertain the true condition of the cotton crop and lay the facts before the world and thereby allay the alarm caused by the exaggerated estimates of the size of the crop sent out by the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Hudson's letter was as follows:

"The impression has been created throughout the country that the cotton crop this year is going to be the largest ever made. This impression has already had the effect of lowering the price of cotton and will carry it much lower, unless something is done to put the world on notice that the crop is not such a large one as they would have you think."

"I have traveled all over Georgia and I know that the crop has deteriorated very much in the past month or six weeks, and from what I hear the same is true in your State."

"I think an effort should be made at once to first disabuse the minds of the people about the size of the cotton crop, and then get the farmers all over the South to hold a sufficiency of their cotton to prevent the price from being forced down to where it will mean starvation to the farmer. I believe that the Southern States commissioners of agriculture should meet at once on a common platform, within the next two weeks and ask all farmers in the cotton States, especially the Farmers' union to join us in this cause for a widespread movement. I would be glad for you to write to the president of the Association of Commissioners of Agriculture of the Southern States at once, and to ask him to confer with the Farmers' union and other farmers, with a view of calling his meeting at as early date as practicable, and suggest in your letter that the president, name time and place of meeting, after conferring with the heads of the Farmers' union in the cotton States."

"If this meets with your approval which I am sure it will, I would be glad for you not to delay the matter, but take it up at once."

"I am this day writing a similar letter to each of the commissioners of agriculture of the Southern States."

The following is the answer of Commissioner Watson:

"I am in receipt of yours of August 16, and beg to say that under the circumstances I think that your suggestion for a joint meeting in regard to this matter, to be held under the call of the president of the Association of the Commissioners of Agriculture of the Southern States, is an admirable one, and I am today writing the president of the association, indorsing the contents of your circular letter and the suggestion made therein, and urging that the matter be undertaken immediately."

"I think we ought to go a little further, however, and notify warehousemen, and particularly presidents of local banks, to participate in this meeting, for, with the amount of money now in the local banks of the South, which is largely due to the efforts of the Southern farmer, to my mind, these banks ought to join hands with the farmer and render him such material aid as will enable him to hold his crop in the warehouses and not be forced to run it to market with consequent demoralization of price."

"In this matter the Southern people will have to help themselves, and for the first time in our history our own local banks are in a position to render most substantial aid in a matter that involves their own future prosperity, as well as that of the masses of our people."

A letter to Dr. Tait Butler, president of the association, indorsing the suggestion which the idea advanced that warehousemen and bankers also participate.

A letter to E. W. Dabbs, president of the South Carolina State Farmers' union, was along the same line.

Try an ad. in the Daily Item, and watch results.

## SUSTAINS TAFT'S VETOS.

### DEMOCRATS FAIL TO MUSTER REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS.

Failure Due to Change in Attitude of Insurgents Since Previous Vetoes. Majority Fights to Last Ditch.—Situation Indicates Adjournment Early This Week, After Cotton Bill Passes—Won't Wait on President's Veto—Clark Takes Floor.

Washington, August 19.—In a succession of dramatic events the Democratic House of Representatives today met defeat in its supreme effort to pass the wool and free list bills over the President's vetoes, and virtually fixed upon adjournment of Congress early next week. The House, on Monday, will agree to the cotton tariff revision bill as amended in the Senate, but will not hold Congress in session to await the certain veto on that measure. The senate cleared away all of its business and adjournment is assured, in the view of leaders of both parties in both houses, by next Wednesday at the latest.

The Democratic House majority, with a great demonstration of enthusiasm, marshalled its ranks for the great battle to override the President and went down with flying colors. The party leaders failed to muster enough insurgent Republican support to pass the tariff legislation over the President's head.

Tonight the Democratic members of the ways and means committee determined to end the long session. Monday the House will pass the cotton bill as amended in the Senate, containing the iron and steel, chemical and cotton machinery schedules, and the reciprocal bituminous coal across the Canadian border provision and will send it to the President Tuesday. Congress will not be held in session to await his veto, which the House leaders concede is certain to follow.

"Congress will adjourn on Wednesday at the latest," was the declaration of Majority Leader Underwood after the ways and means committee conference. "We have tried to put our tariff bills over the President's head and have failed twice. There is no use fighting it out any longer. As soon as we pass the cotton bill and amendments we will be ready to go. The President may then veto the measure. We will not be here to discuss it."

Strenuous efforts were made by Senate Democrats and Republican leaders, in conference with Mr. Underwood, Speaker Clark and other House Democrats to bring the session to a close tomorrow night, but owing to a desire of the members of the ways and means committee to study features of the Senate iron and steel and chemical schedules, before concurring in them, it was agreed to dispose of the final business early next week.

Failure of the attempt of the Democratic House to override the vetoes came in a day filled with stirring incidents. The close of the debate, on the motion of Mr. Underwood to pass the wool bill over the veto, found Champ Clark, the Speaker of the House and an aspirant for the Presidency, pleading the cause of his fellow Democrats from the floor, surrounded by a throng of his colleagues, who cheered vigorously. The galleries were filled to overflowing and the Speaker, as he concluded, was given a demonstration that for several minutes delayed the roll call.

### STATEHOOD MEASURE READY.

#### Resolution Passed by House Acceptable to Taft.

Washington, Aug. 19.—Statehood for Arizona and New Mexico now only awaits the perfunctory approval of President Taft. The Flood-Smith resolution, admitting these Territories into the Union, with the judiciary recall feature of the Arizona Constitution eliminated, to meet the objection which caused President Taft to veto the original Statehood bill, was passed by the House today without the formality of a roll call. It passed the Senate yesterday.

### DEATH OF R. P. HAMER, SR.

#### Prominent Dillon Citizen Expires at Saluda.

Dillon, Aug. 19.—Mr. R. P. Hamer, Sr., one of the most prominent citizens of Dillon County, died at Saluda, N. C., at 6 o'clock this morning, after a brief illness.

Mr. Hamer was one of the largest land owners in the county and leaves a large estate.

## SPECIAL WRECKED ON TRESTLE.

### LUTHER W. BENNETT, FIREMAN, WAS KILLED.

String of Coaches Remained on Track When Baggage Was Separated From Engines.

Columbia, Aug. 21.—Luther W. Bennett, was killed yesterday when the two engines pulling the "Carolina Special" crashed through a burned trestle 24 miles west of Columbia on the Spartanburg line of the Southern railway.

Mr. Bennett lived at 1410 Blanding street.

None of the several hundred passengers on the train were injured so far as reports to officials of the Southern railway show. All cars of the train remained on the track, the baggage car stopping on the brink of the trestle. Several Columbians were on the train.

D. G. McAllister of 1217 Blanding street, Columbia, was the engineer on the first engine. W. H. Green, 1530 Henderson street, was the engineer on the second engine. Hal Robertson, a negro, was the fireman on Mr. McAllister's engine. They suffered slight bruises.

The "Carolina Special," which is train No. 23, is operated between Charleston and Cincinnati, and was in charge of James F. Weaver, 1620 Gregg street, Columbia, the conductor. The fast through train was inaugurated January 2 and this is the first wreck.

The accident occurred about 4:45 o'clock. Officials in Columbia immediately dispatched a relief train to the scene of the wreck.

Passengers said that the train was making about 40 miles an hour when the wreck occurred. All passengers were transferred to the special train sent out from Columbia, arriving here at 9:20 o'clock last night. Several wrecking crews were immediately sent to clear the wreckage. Officials of the road said last night that the wreck would be cleared by noon today, when regular schedules will be maintained. Trains early today will be detoured by way of Charlotte. The equipment of the "Carolina Special" was sent via Chester last night and is expected to arrive in Charleston this morning in time to be made up for the regular train.

### NEAR-LYNCHING AT ABBEVILLE.

#### Crowd Storms Jail, Takes Alleged Insult of Young Woman.

Abbeville, Aug. 18.—Bob Davis, colored, had a narrow escape from lynching, at the hands of a mob here tonight, as the result of an alleged insult and improper proposal made to a young lady from the cotton mill village.

Instead of lynching the negro, after taking him from the jail, he was subjected to other punishment. He is said to have confessed his guilt.

The facts in the case, as understood here, are as follows:

About 2 o'clock today a young lady, from the cotton mill village, was on her way up-town, when she was accosted by a negro man and grossly insulted. An improper proposal was made and the negro made an indecent exposure of his person in her presence. She ran and reported the matter to her father and the hunt began.

Davis was finally arrested, charged with being the guilty party, and lodged in jail. While he was not fully identified, little doubt was felt that he was the guilty party. It developed during the investigation that he had been annoying two other ladies recently. The crowd which gathered was already excited, and this increased the excitement.

About 9 o'clock tonight a large crowd, armed with guns, congregated on the public square, but it was not thought that any attempt would be made to storm the jail. However, at about 10:30 o'clock the crowd stormed the jail, broke in the outer doors, broke in the cell where the prisoner was and took him from the jail. He was taken out of town, and in about one-half hour a volley of shots was fired, indicating that the negro had been lynched. This proved not to be the case, however. Sheriff Lyon is absent in Columbia. The city police and other officers did what they could to protect the prisoner, but to no avail.

The first bale of new cotton raised in Sumter County was sold to Levi Bros Thursday afternoon. Several other bales of this season's cotton crop have been marketed here before this, but the one mentioned above is the only bale to be sold from this county.

## COTTON TRADE CONDITIONS.

### SOME OF THE FACTORS ARE BULLISII.

Excessive Precipitation in Some Sections—Drought Damage in Other and Insects in Some.

New York, Aug. 18.—Trade conditions have been rather unfavorable in cotton, as in many instances there has been further curtailment of production. Recent English labor troubles have also tended to discourage the bulls. Of late the temperatures in Texas and Oklahoma have been lower and private reports from Texas have been of considerably more rain than has been shown by the official reports.

The heaviness of the stock market has also been used as a bearish argument and selling of weakly held stocks has in many instances been accompanied by the liquidation of distressed long cotton, many stock exchange houses in the past two years having added departments to their business.

It is said that the precipitation has been excessive in some sections. Alabama has complained of insect damage as well as Mississippi it is said there has been considerable damage by drought, boll weevils and other pests.

Dry weather in India has caused reduced estimates of the crop in that country, while in Egypt there have been complaints of insect damage. Cotton mills at Chicopee, Mass., and at Saco, Me., are said to have reopened.

### COTTON CROP FAILING.

#### Commercial-Appel's Weekly Cotton Crop Review Reports Deterioration in Condition of Staple.

Memphis, Aug. 20.—The Commercial-Appel's weekly cotton crop review tomorrow will say:

"Lack of rainfall in the Carolinas, part of Georgia and in Texas and Western Oklahoma gives rise to complaints of shedding of a rather severe kind while in all other States excessive rainfall is producing a very rank growth of stalk, is retarding the proper setting of new bolls and is rotting a few already made."

"The natural maturity of the plant is also being delayed and the crop will be exposed to unusual danger from frost if the rains continue."

"Proceeding the inauguration of this drought in the extreme East and the Southwest and heavy rains in the central States the plant was well fruited and comparatively early in growth, so that although the loss has been rather heavy during the past two weeks the promise is still good to fair. On the bright side it is also worthy of note that in many localities showers have been neither excessive nor scant and the crop is extremely good."

"Except in Texas and South Carolina but little cotton picking has been done and the bolls are opening slowly because of the continued growth of the plant due to the rains. The boll weevils in southern Mississippi and Louisiana now appear active enough to stop all further setting of squares. The worm damage has been extensive."

"Texas correspondents report that a good soaking rain within the next week will restore much of the loss and enable the plant to make a late crop."

### LYNCHERS HELD WITHOUT BAIL.

#### First Degree Murder Charged Against Alleged Lynchers.

Cotatesville, Pa., Aug 19.—Three men alleged to have been members of the mob which last Sunday took Zack Walker from a hospital here and burned him to death, are behind the bars of the county jail at West Chester, charged with murder. They are Joseph Swartz, who came here recently and is a rigger for Worth Brothers, iron and steel manufacturers; Capt. E. C. Berry, a parachute jumper, and William H. Gilbert, a Philadelphia and Reading railroad fireman. The two latter were arrested yesterday and sent to jail in default of \$1,000 as material witnesses. They were later released on bond, but late this afternoon, after the district attorney had questioned Swartz for a long time, Berry and Gilbert were re-arrested and held on the charge of murder in the first degree.

All three of the men were taken into custody late this afternoon and pushed to West Chester, where they are held without bail. These are the first men to be held on a direct charge of the murder. Other arrests are expected Monday.

## BRITISH R. R. STRIKE ENDS.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BRINGS RELIEF TO UNITED KINGDOM.

Claiming Victory for Unionism, Labor Officials Order all Men to Return to Work Immediately—Settlement of Trouble Due Mainly to Persistent Efforts for Conciliation of Chancellor Lloyd-George.—Troops to be Withdrawn at Once.

London, Aug. 19.—A tremendous wave of relief swept over England tonight when, shortly after 11 o'clock, the announcement was made from the board of trade offices that the railway strike had been settled and that the men would return to work immediately.

Telegrams were quickly dispatched to all important railroad towns bearing the information, and crossed in transit messages to London describing strike riots in Llanelly and other towns in the Kingdom.

As far as technical advantage in the compromise goes it appears to be in the men's favor, particularly as the managers consent to meet their representatives. The official statement concerning the agreement says the managers consented on this scheme in view of certain representations made to them by the Government, including a promise of legislation to permit of an increase in railway rates. The men claim victory for unionism on the point of recognition of unions, which was one of the most vital principles at stake. Messages were sent to 1,800 branches of the labor unions tonight.

### SUMTER PROTEST EFFECTIVE.

#### Secretary Wilson Arranges for Early Report on Cotton Crop Conditions.

Washington, Aug. 19.—This morning the Secretary of Agriculture reported to the agricultural committee of the United States Senate that, in line with the resolution introduced yesterday by Senator E. D. Smith of South Carolina, blanks had been sent out by the department to all of its correspondents in order to issue a special report on the condition of the cotton crop at the earliest possible date. Senator Smith declared on the floor of the Senate that the Secretary's action was satisfactory.

It is believed that there has been great deterioration in the condition of the crop since July 25, when the department of agriculture issued an estimate which the cotton growers held to be grossly exaggerated.

Washington, Aug. 19.—The department of agriculture's official September cotton report, giving the condition of the growing crop as of August 25, will be expedited as much as possible, according to a memorandum received today by the Senate committee on agriculture from Secretary Wilson. This action was in response to a resolution by Senator Smith of South Carolina, calling upon the department to investigate immediately the condition of the cotton crop. Senator Smith had presented telegrams from State agricultural commissioners in the South to the effect that the department's condition figures, on which estimates of a 14,500,000-bale crop were based, were not borne out.

In his memorandum Secretary Wilson said he had sent out cotton crop reporting blanks to the department's reporters, with instructions that the reports may be made "as early as possible."

Senator Smith expressed himself satisfied with this arrangement. He believes the result will be a report in advance of the usual time of issuance, which is September 2, and that it will be more satisfying to the cotton growers than the report made August 2.

### Will Visit Lee County.

On Friday, August 25th, Hon. Bradford Knapp, of the United States Department of Agriculture, special agent in charge of the great demonstration work in company with Col. E. J. Watson, Commissioner of Agriculture for South Carolina will visit Lee County and will make addresses to the people of Lee County at the court house, at 12 o'clock.—Bishopville Vindicator.

The only thing to do about the work on Main street is to get it completed just as soon as it possibly can be. The contractor has been given a time limit of 120 days and he has promised to get it done in 90 days. He ought to be offered a bonus for getting the work done before time, instead of being asked and offered a sum of money to stop it.

## DABBS ENDORSES CONFERENCE.

### PRESIDENT OF FARMERS UNION HEARTILY APPROVES OF MEETING SUGGESTED BY COMMISSIONER HUDSON.

The State Farmers' Union Will Co-operate With Commissioners of Agriculture of Southern States in the Movement to Obtain Complete and Reliable Reports on the Condition of Cotton and a Trustworthy Estimate of Size of Crop—No Effort Will be Spared to Counteract the Misleading Reports of the Department of Agriculture.

In an interview today with Mr. E. W. F. Dabbs, President of the State Farmers' Union and also President of the Sumter County Farmers' Union, it was stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Thomas Hudson, Commissioner of Agriculture of Georgia, suggesting that a conference be held at the earliest practicable date between the commissioners of agriculture of the Southern States, Farmers' Union officials, prominent farmers and business men for the purpose of devising a plan for quickly collecting full and complete reports on the condition of the cotton crop in every section of the South, and from these reports making an estimate of the probable yield that will give to the world a true report on the crop situation, whereby the exaggerated estimates that have been sent out by the department of agriculture of the United States from the very beginning of the crop year may be counteracted and the damage and loss caused the cotton farmers and the whole country may be minimized.

Mr. Dabbs said he was in full sympathy with the movement and had called upon Commissioner Watson, over the long distance telephone, and had assured him of his support and co-operation. This movement is in line with the movement launched a few days ago by Mr. Dabbs in conjunction with the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, and he will do everything that lies within his power to carry it to the fullest possible success.

During the next week or ten days Mr. Dabbs will visit, on Farmers' Union business, a large number of places in the northern section of the State and will at every place possible endeavor to arrange conferences with the business men and farmers to discuss the cotton situation and spread the sentiment in favor of marketing the crop slowly and not throwing it on the market at any price the bear speculators may see fit to offer. He will be in Camden Monday and has planned to meet a number of business men and farmers in conference that day about noon. That evening a similar meeting will be held in Lancaster. The next day he will spend in Rock Hill and from there will go to Gaffney, Spartanburg and other places. He is seeking to interest the bankers and all other business men in the cotton situation and to secure their co-operation with the farmers in the great campaign for a fair price for cotton and a safe and sane marketing of the crop, so that the farmers of the South may not be deprived of their just profits by a panic to sell at any price. He is working to stay the stampede created by cotton speculators, who have been aided by the exaggerated reports sent out by the crop bureau of the Department of Agriculture. The cotton crop is not any where as large as the estimates forecast and if the farmers will stand fast and sell slowly, the cotton using world will find out that there is no surplus and they will be eager to pay a fair price for what they need.

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### Bishopville News Notes.

Bishopville Aug. 18.—Two games of base ball were played here Thursday and Friday afternoons between Camden and Bishopville. Much interest was shown and the games were greatly enjoyed, especially by the young people. Both games proved hot contests, being scoreless through the fifth innings, after which Bishopville seemed to run away with their opponents, the score being 8 to 1 in each game.

Batteries: Camden Brooks and Mosley; Bishopville, Parker and DuBose and Moore.

The cotton crop of this section has received a heavy shower of rain, which scalded some fields badly while being of great benefit to others. The cotton in Bishopville township and the DuBose Bridge section has reached a stage where the crop can be almost certainly estimated. The prospective yield being sixty per cent of that of 1909.