

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, 1860.

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WHAT CONGRESS DID.

CHANGE INSURANCE LAWS.

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

CONGRESS HAS ADJOURNED.

FACING BITTER BATTLE.

COTTON CROP REPORTS.

SPEAKER WELL SATISFIED WITH ACHIEVEMENTS.

Democrats Have Confounded Their Enemies and Even Surprised Friends by Steadfast Campaign.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Champ Clark, speaker of the house of representatives, in a review of the work done by the Sixty-second congress, declared that the Democratic party set a good example for Democrats everywhere, and that the party had redeemed every promise it made in the campaign of 1910, when the Democrats wrested control of the house from the Republicans.

"At this session the Democrats have made a record which has surprised our friends and dumfounded our enemies," said Speaker Clark. "It has put heart and hope into Democrats everywhere. The extra session was extraordinary, not only in the sense of being a special session called by the president, but also in the amount and quality of the work done in the house by the combined Democrats and Republican insurgents in the senate, and especially by the unanimity of action developed by the house Democrats.

"It was predicted freely, vociferously, enthusiastically and confidently by the 'stand-pat' press and orators that we would go to pieces. On that account and by reason of that hope they rejoiced that the extra session of congress was called, so that we might go to pieces at the earliest possible date. But we have sorely disappointed all their expectations. They even set the date when we would go to pieces, which was the day of the Democratic caucus on January 19, but unfortunately for them in that case everything was done unanimously. They then said surely we would go to pieces as soon as we reached the tariff question, but again they were doomed to disappointment, and we did not go to pieces at all. We are more thoroughly united in the house at the end of the session, if possible, than at the beginning.

"We have set a good example to Democrats everywhere. Sneered at for years as a party of mere negation and as being utterly lacking in ability for constructive statesmanship, we passed through the house more constructive legislation, and better, than has passed through any house in the same length of time in 20 years. We have set the pace in that regard for future houses.

"We redeemed every promise made in order to carry the elections in 1910. We have economized, we passed the reciprocity bill, the wool tariff bill, the free list bill, the cotton bill with the senate amendments, which included the iron and steel schedule and the chemical schedule; we submitted for ratification a constitutional amendment providing for popular election of United States senators; we passed a bill for the publication of campaign expenses before the election; we liberalized the rules, making the committees elective by the house; we passed a resolution to admit New Mexico and Arizona, and we passed a large number of other bills of more or less importance. It is a record of which we may be proud and on which we will sweep the country in 1912.

"To show how completely the 'stand-pat' Republicans are demoralized, it is only necessary to quote the newspaper statements that there was great rejoicing and congratulation at the White House because we failed by a scratch to get the two-thirds majority to override the president's veto, although we have only 63 majority in the house. To this complexion has it come at last, that the president, who rode into power by a huge majority, is glad to escape the humiliation of having his vetoes overridden in a house containing a majority of only 63. Small favors are thankfully received by the administration.

"Notwithstanding the fact that four cabinet members were on the floor of the house lobbying in favor of the veto, all their power, allurements and patronage of the administration to help them influence votes, 22 insurgent Republicans had the courage and manhood to override the president's vetoes. What's writ is writ, and whatever the future may have in store, the honor of having perfect unanimity among the Democrats and of achieving an extraordinary amount of constructive statesmanship at this extraordinary session can never be taken away from us. Every Democrat in the house and every insurgent Republican who stood up to

COMMISSIONERS URGE LEGISLATION FOR INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS.

Alleges Ill-treatment of Policy Holders in Industrial Companies and Recommends Regulation.

Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 23.—Important legislation for the control of insurance companies doing industrial, health and accident business is proposed in the report of the special committee of the insurance commissioners of the United States, which was made public at the session of the convention here today. The basis for the legislation proposed is given in reports on the examination of 14 companies in which nearly 2,000 settlements made by the companies are examined. In discussing the settlement of the claims the report says:

"Of the specific claims examined, where the amount involved is usually considerable, the percentage of scaled benefits was high—either because of error of judgment or carelessness. Indeed, the committee feels warranted in concluding that when dealing with companies doing an industrial, health or accident business, the policyholders—particularly those who through ignorance or poverty are unable to protect themselves, and, therefore, are peculiarly the wards of the government, as reported in this convention—have been the victims of unconscionable practices in the claims departments of the companies criticised in this report.

"Promises of reformation made at the hearings are therefore not enough. This convention should take action which will guarantee the just treatment of policyholders in the future."

The list of companies whose examination was the occasion for the report follows: Standard Accident Insurance, Detroit, Mich.; United States Health and Accident Insurance company, Saginaw, Mich.; Massachusetts Accident company, Boston; Great Eastern Casualty company, New York; Federal Casualty company, Detroit, Mich.; Equitable Accident company, Chicago; National Casualty company, Detroit, Mich.; Fidelity Accident company, Saginaw, Mich.; General Accident F. & L. Assurance corporation; American Assurance company, Philadelphia; Phoenix Preferred Accident company, Detroit, Mich.; German Commercial Accident company, Philadelphia.

The report on one company says: "It is impossible in language fitted to an official document to characterize what is apparently the practice of the industrial department of this corporation in settling with its policyholders. It appears to have resorted to every possible means, not merely to protect itself against imposition—for which it could not be criticized—but to cut and shave down claims, apparently without conscience and certainly without right."

The report further says that only two or three of the companies examined have been found to be substantially underserving of any criticism.

The report concludes with 24 recommendations, the most important of which are as follows: "That a standard industrial, health and accident provision law be enacted and that prating for change of occupation should be permitted only when the insured has actually changed his occupation."

Florence is getting up a big celebration for her firemen on Labor Day. There are to be firemen's races, automobile races, baseball and other attractions to bring the crowd from nearby towns. The railroads will give reduced rates for the occasion.

The party which spent Wednesday at Poconia report having an excellent time.

"We honestly and persistently endeavored to relieve the people of some of their burden of taxation, but the president would not have it. To use a sporting phrase, 'he blocked the game.' On these issues we appeal to the country, feeling absolutely certain that as we have stood manfully for the best interests of the people, the people will stand by us."

The four cabinet officers to whom the speaker referred as having been on the floor of the house when the tariff revision votes were pending in that body were. Attorney General Wickesham, Postmaster General Hitchcock, Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel.

READY TO MAKE CONTRACT FOR FIRE APPARATUS AT NEXT MEETING.

Mr. Glenn Brings up Matter of Testing Brick—Board of Health Wants City to Establish Comfort Stations—Paving Work Progressing—Other Matters.

Council met in regular session Tuesday with just enough members to make a quorum. Aldermen McKeiver, Wright, McLaurin and Wilder being out of town and the other members of council being present.

A number of matters were discussed and acted upon. Mr. Glenn reported, for the fire committee, that he would have contractors present at the next meeting of council to make bids for the apparatus which was needed for the fire department. A request was made by the Board of Health that public toilet houses be established by the city which may be used by the negroes that come to town. As a motion had been made to this effect previously Mr. McKeiver was requested to carry out the resolution.

Perhaps the matter of most importance that came up was the request for a franchise which was made by Mr. E. L. Rieha, a contractor and engineer of Baltimore in behalf of the Baltimore Utilities Company. This was the first matter which came up when Council was called to order.

Mr. A. V. Snell of the Chamber of Commerce introduced Mr. Rieha to the members of Council and Mr. Rieha stated that he had been over the city to see if a gas plant would be a paying proposition here, at the request of capitalists of New York and Baltimore, and would make a favorable report to these gentlemen upon his return provided he could get a satisfactory franchise for his company from council. Council asked him to submit any franchise which might be satisfactory to him and they would take pleasure in considering it. The result of Mr. Rieha's conference with Council is stated more fully elsewhere in this paper.

Mr. C. D. Lide wanted to know what license would be required of him as the representative of a Chicago house for soliciting orders for locomotives and machinery. After the matter was discussed, Mr. Lide was informed that his business, as stated by him was that of a salesman or drummer, and that there was no license on this kind of business.

An application was received from Mr. C. L. Martin for a position on the police force. As there was no present vacancy the application was filed for future reference.

A letter from the Rowland Buggy Company was read in which thanks were returned to Council for their action in exempting the company from taxes for the next five years.

A large number of claims were read and ordered paid.

The report of the City Water Works was read and received as information.

Mr. W. L. Lee, city engineer, reported for the street committee, that the paving work on Main street was progressing rather slowly owing to the fact that the contractors had not yet gotten their steam mixer in operation as they had expected to do, and as labor was very scarce. He reported that the first block of paving had been completed and would be ready to open for traffic in the next ten days. He said that the brick on the first block had not been tested before they had been laid, but that before the work had been commenced he had written to Mr. Waring that he must give a guarantee in writing before the laying of the brick could be commenced that the brick would come up to the test. Mr. Waring had given this guarantee that the brick would come up to specifications and he had allowed him to go on with the paving.

He said that a "rattler" had just been put up and would be ready by Wednesday for the testing of the brick, but that he did not think that there was any chance of the brick not coming up to specifications. Mr. Glenn seemed to think it best that no more brick be laid until they had been tested in the "rattler" and made a motion to this effect. He was heartily seconded in his motion by Mr. Booth, who said that he wanted to go on record as being against the laying of the brick without their being tested. The motion was passed unanimously and Mr. Lee was instructed to test the brick Wednesday morning before any more of them were laid on the street. Mr. Lee stated that each carload of brick would be tested hereafter as they

EXTRAORDINARY SITTING OF SIXTY-SECOND COMES TO PEACEFUL END.

Veto on Cotton Bill Arrives as Expected—With This Measure Referred to Committee, Legislative Business is Concluded Until Regular Session Begins December 4, Next.

Washington, Aug. 22.—The first session of the Sixty-second congress ended today and immediately the exodus of members began. President Taft joined with several hundred tired legislators in the hejira and tonight official Washington was comparatively deserted. Every outgoing train bore senators and representatives on their homeward journey, after an extraordinary session that stretched over 121 days and set the liveliest pace of any legislative session in years.

The adjournment was featureless, despite the strenuous activity that had gone before. The president vetoed the cotton tariff revision bill just as he had vetoed its two revision predecessors, the wool and free list bills. The veto went only to the house, in accordance with custom, and there its reception was marked by Democratic laughter and Republican applause.

O. W. Underwood, Democratic leader, amid a Democratic demonstration, formally thanked the few Republicans who voted with the Democrats to pass the tariff revision bills. Democrats ran across the aisles to shake hands with the Republican insurgents. The cheering and pounding of desks on the Democratic side was prolonged. As soon as he could be heard Mr. Underwood announced that as the Democrats did not have the two-thirds majority necessary to pass the bill over the president's veto, he would merely move the printing of the veto and accompanying papers and refer it to the ways and means committee, of which he is the chairman. The house agreed to this fixed course. With the committee the matter will rest until the whole subject of tariff revision legislation is renewed at the regular session of congress, which will convene at noon on Monday, December 4.

were taken out of the car.

Mr. Lee then reported that the claying of Calhoun street was about completed. He also reported that the work of putting in drains had kept ahead of the paving work and that a drain was now being put in on Main street as far up as DeLorme's Pharmacy. At this point the subject was brought up if the drain pipe from the roofs of buildings could not be made to run under the concrete sidewalks, instead of emptying on them as many do now, but it was shown that this would be impossible owing to the depth of the concrete, which extended down below the surface drain. Mr. Booth stated that the only method that could be used was to have trenches cut in the concrete with iron gratings over them as was now the case at the postoffice.

Mr. Lee reported that he had ordered an 18-inch mould for the making of drainage pipe, as by having this sized pipe considerable would be saved the city. It was shown that only about 3,000 feet of pipe had been made up to this time when 4,700 had been ordered. Mr. Booth reported that he had been obliged to purchase another carload of cement. He also reported the sale of a mule for \$125, the mule having become unfit for service.

Mr. Lee reported that there was an old fire engine and an old gasoline engine at Skinner's shop which would soon be totally decayed, if they were not disposed of at once. The fire committee was instructed to look into the matter and to dispose of these articles to the best advantage.

Mr. Cuttino reported that he had canvassed among the merchants on South Main street and had found them unwilling to contribute towards a fund to be paid the contractor for stopping work. He stated that most of the merchants were in favor of the work continuing. The committee which had been appointed to confer with the contractor along this line had not yet done so, but Mr. Jennings stated that Mr. Waring had told him that he would not agree to stopping the work for less than \$2,000 and he did not think that the merchants would be willing to pay this amount and he knew that the city was not. Mr. Cuttino wanted to know how long it would be before the work would be done up to Dugan street and Major Lee stated that

TAFT PROPHESIES A STRUGGLE AGAINST FORCES OF WRONG.

President Has Faith in Power of People—Pleads for Arbitration Treaties.

Rochester, N. Y., Aug. 23.—President Taft made an address to the G. A. R. here today. The president spoke to the veterans of the G. A. R. and in the struggle which they went through 50 years ago, and the one which he said now confronts this nation he found a striking analogy, although the struggle of today, he declared, will be bloodless. In the end, the president said, the peace loving, straight thinking people of the country will be victorious, but the fight itself may be longer because it will be fought out to the end without bloodshed and the roar of the battlefield.

"Those of us who are charged with the responsibility and sobered with the difficulties, find ourselves in the middle of the road, resisting the tendency to socialism on the one hand, and the inertia of reactionary contentment with political activity and greater concentration of financial purpose on the other.

"Its solution will be the preservation of our ancient institutions of personal liberty and private property under the constitution.

"The message that you bear, with your experience and your success, to those of us struggling now with the problems, that however dark at times the situation seems, so long as we remain in this country a God-fearing, sober, independent people, we count in the long run upon their working out safely and sanely the problems set before them, no matter how many mistakes in the form of 'nostrums' they may have been led into by the speciousness of half baked theories of progress, no matter how often they may have been distracted from their purpose by temporary success of undue and corrupt influence of concentrated wealth."

From the moment he reached Rochester at 9 o'clock this morning until 9 o'clock this evening, the president was surrounded by veterans. He stood on a reviewing stand for more than two hours in the morning while thousands of soldiers filed by. Maj. Gen. Fred D. Grant, Mayor Edgerton, and Commander in Chief Gilman, of the G. A. R. stood with the president.

The president also discussed the general arbitration treaties with Great Britain and France which the foreign office will amend, labeled "breeders of war" in the senate.

President Taft made an earnest plea for the ratification of the treaties by the senate in the same shape as they were signed.

The president in referring to objections that have been made against the treaty brought up a question of interest to the South when he said:

"With reference with the right to involve the United States in a controversy over the obligation of the certain Southern States to pay bonds issued during reconstruction, which have been repudiated, it is sufficient to say that America is well within the treaty, for the treaty only affects cases hereafter arising, and the cases of the Southern bonds all arose years ago."

MISS CLEVELAND TO WED.

New York, Aug. 23.—A dispatch from Tamworth, N. H., this afternoon says it is reported that Esther Cleveland, eldest daughter of the late President Cleveland, is soon to marry Randolph D. West, son of Prof. Andrew West, of Princeton University. Miss Cleveland is about 20 years old.

he thought that the street up to that point would be ready for traffic by the 20th of September. Mr. Cuttino stated that the only thing that could be done now was the pushing of the work on as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Glenn, chairman of the fire committee, reported that he would by the next meeting of Council have persons present to submit bids and be ready to make a contract to provide the apparatus needed by his department.

Mr. Jennings stated that the Board of Health was anxious to have public toilets of modern design built at convenient places in order that the use of surface closets and stables for toilet purposes may be stopped, as this use of the latter was, in many places, becoming a nuisance. The matter was referred to Alderman McKeiver, who had been previously appointed to look after the matter, and he was requested to build the houses as soon as possible.

DETERIORATION IN ALL SECTIONS OF COTTON BELT.

Secretaries of Chambers of Commerce of South Sending in Reports to Secretary Snell—Evidence Accumulates That Department of Agriculture Reports are Unreliable.

Replies to the circular letter sent out by the Sumter Chamber of Commerce on the 15th inst. requesting the Secretaries of all Chambers of Commerce in the growing States to make a detailed report on the condition of the cotton crop, are beginning to come in. A number of the Secretaries merely acknowledge the receipt of Secretary Snell's letter and promise to make a thorough investigation of crop conditions in their territories and report at an early date. Others promise reports and pledge an active and hearty support of the movement inaugurated by the Sumter County Farmers Union and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

The reports on crop conditions show that in all sections the crop has deteriorated during the past three weeks and that the estimates of an extraordinarily large crop are unsupported and gross exaggerations. A few of the letters, quoted below, give an idea of the nature of the crop reports received:

Yazoo City, Miss., Aug. 18, 1911. Mr. A. V. Snell, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: I have your circular favor of August 15, relative to the cotton crop conditions. Last year's cotton crop with us was short, getting only about 41,000 bales, when the usual crop is about 60,000. The most reliable estimates here are that the cotton crop will be only about two-thirds of what it was last year, or not more than 25,000 bales.

Excessive rains, boll weevil in parts of the county, have reduced what was a fine prospective crop 60 days ago to a very poor crop.

We have communicated with our representatives in House and Senate along the lines you suggest.

Yours truly, YAZOO COMMERCIAL CLUB, By E. L. Tarry, Secretary.

Belton, S. C., Aug. 22, 1911. Mr. A. V. Snell, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: Referring to your letter of 15th inst, we find after carefully questioning the planters in this vicinity, that the consensus of opinion is that the cotton crop in this immediate section has deteriorated in the last thirty days about fifteen per cent and continued dry weather will do inestimable damage.

Yours truly, JNO. B. ADGER, President.

Abilene, Texas, Aug. 18, 1911. Mr. A. V. Snell, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Sumter, S. C.

My Dear Sir: With reference to the second suggestion made by you in your circular letter asking for the present condition of the cotton crop in this section, allow me to say:

Two weeks ago the outlook for cotton yield in Taylor County and vicinity of Abilene, was exceptionally good, as reported by the farmers of this county. Since that time the intense heat and hot winds have caused the crop to deteriorate. The present outlook is not at all so good. A conservative estimate now is that it will take six acres to make a bale. This will give Taylor County approximately, if not quite, 35,000 bales, whereas we anticipated two weeks ago 50,000 bales. Should we have a rain of general character within ten days or two weeks this yield would be considerably increased from the fact that the crop in this soil yields rapidly to favorable conditions.

Yours truly, B. E. Looney, Secretary. Brownwood, Texas, Aug. 21, 1911.

Mr. A. V. Snell, Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: Your favor of 15th, beg to state that we are in hearty accord with the movement, and have asked our congressman to aid. There is no doubt but that cotton in Texas, has been cut no less than a million bales in the past two weeks.

These reports we believe should come oftener at this season of the year.

Yours truly, D. F. Johnson.

The second arch of Sumter's "Great White Way" has been erected and will from now on help to make Main street as bright at night as it is in the daytime.