

The Watchman and Southron.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1859 and the True Southern in 1896. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

The New York Journal of Commerce, in commenting on its report on the cotton crop, says that "due allowance must be made for popular lies," in considering the reported deterioration of cotton during August. What sort of allowances must be made of the exaggerated reports of the Department of Agriculture and bear speculators of a bumper crop?

The long address issued by the committee of the Farmers' Union, which we print today, is well written and is probably a very fair literary production, but otherwise we do not think much of it. It strikes us as a long-winded conglomeration of sonorous platitudes that does not attain the effect striven after. The address issued several weeks ago by the Sumter County Union was much more to the point; it was direct, vigorous and practical. It had the ring of earnest purpose and determination that struck a responsive chord in the heart of every cotton farmer and all others directly interested in the prosperity of the South, while the carefully prepared production of the State Union's committee has the earmarks of an academic discussion of an economic theory, considered by the writer as highly meritorious, as a theory, but scarcely attainable in the lifetime of the present generation of cotton farmers. If the farmers expect to accomplish results they must realize at the outset that they are embarking on a campaign of hard knocks with a single, definite object in view—the wresting of the control of the marketing of cotton from the hands of the speculators and their allies, the cotton mill men. The plan of National President Barrett to secure sufficient financial backing to handle the "weak" cotton and keep it from being dumped on the market at the price fixed on the New York Cotton exchange is simple and definite, and will win, if the farmers will but get together and line up behind him. His brief telegram to the secretary of the State Farmers' Union is worth more and will do more good than a thousand such literary productions as the Johnstone address.

We have been wondering what would be the political outcome of Senator Tillman's and Chief Justice Jones' visit to Mr. John G. Richards of Liberty Hill, and while we have not yet found the answer, the following editorial in the Lancaster News is somewhat illuminating. "It is very gratifying to Judge Jones' host of friends here to know that their distinguished fellow townsman is being urged to enter the gubernatorial race, and it is earnestly hoped by them that he will be prevailed upon to do so.

"Judge Jones would make an ideal chief executive. His irreproachable private character and spotless public record, his preeminent ability, fine discriminating judgment and universally recognized impartiality in the administration of justice, his wide knowledge of men and affairs, peculiarly and happily fit him for the office of governor of South Carolina. "As a candidate for the office, Judge Jones would be irresistible. He has no superior in the State as a stump speaker. Ever cool and deliberate, quick and ready in debate, resourceful, firm and courageous, eloquent and forceful in delivery, the Judge is a man whom few if any would care to tackle in public campaign."

If Chief Justice Jones should enter the race for governor against Gov. Elease, and if he has the assurance of the support of Senator Tillman, Mr. Richards and their friends, Cole Elease will not serve two terms as governor, all precedents to the contrary notwithstanding. Chief Justice Jones is a strong man and if the prohibition-local-option-whiskey abomination is kept out of the campaign and the contest made strictly on the merits of the two men and on their official records, Jones will win, if any one brought out to defeat Elease can turn the trick.

Miss Julia Stiles left Tuesday morning to visit friends at Eastover.

A TERRIBLE NIGHT.

Sunday Night One of Terror to Those on Sullivan's Island.

A gentleman who had the misfortune to be stranded on Sullivan's Island Sunday night said Wednesday afternoon in speaking of the storm that it was the most terrifying ordeal that he had ever passed through and that he would not go through such another night for anything.

This gentleman arrived in Sumter Wednesday morning, having stopped at Orangeburg on his way home from Charleston, which place he left Tuesday morning. He did not appear any the worse for his adventure, but his account of the experiences of his party who were unable to leave the Island Sunday was intensely interesting.

He said that the party were in a house some distance past the government reservation, in that portion of the island which received the brunt of the storm. They did not realize that the storm was a hurricane until it was too late to leave the house. This was some time shortly before midnight. All of the windows were nailed up so that the wind could not break into the house, but occasionally one of the blinds would break loose and go sailing out into the night. The water rose to the door of the house and occasionally the wind would splash the waves up against the walls of the house and the water would leap up on the roof. The house itself rocked at times as if it would go to pieces at any minute. Inside there was nothing for the men, women and children to do but wait for what should come. This was the most dreadful of all—the waiting and uncertainty. The din was terrifying, it seemed as if every moment would be their last.

Some time before midnight, after the water had spread over most of the island and regular thoroughfare up the beach to the government reservation was covered to various depths by water which was running like a mill race and worse than any surf, there was an effort made by some to leave the house for the government buildings, but the older and wiser ones dissuaded these from the attempt as it would have been suicidal to have tried to make their way in the darkness in water of unknown depth and current. And besides this, the missiles blown from the houses themselves, were flying about as if hurled from a catapult. To have been hit by one of these flying objects meant certain death and it was better to wait and take chances in the cottage.

Near midnight, when the wind was at its worst and the water was deepest, it seemed certain that nothing could save the cottage from going down, so all tied themselves together with a sheet which had been torn for this purpose and the men, women and children waited for the house to go over and they should be compelled to battle with the elements for life. This time never came, however, for the cottage was stronger than it seemed and stood the shocks of the winds and waves and slowly night passed on, seemingly interminable. There was no sleep for anyone. Even the several small children in the cottage realized their danger and did not cry, nor do anything to add to the confusion of the storm.

Finally morning came and with it an abatement of the wind and water, but it was far advanced in the day before there was any sign of help for the stranded. However, late in the afternoon the government boat did come and the party was taken off the island and carried over to the city.

Birds and the Boll Weevil.

The Montgomery Advertiser hears optimistic reports of the destruction of the boll weevil in Louisiana by the South American ant, imported for that purpose. Mr. James Henry Rice, Jr., does not look for any important results from the employment of the ant in this great fight which is being waged to the south of us. He has seen the ant at work. The bird is the only effective antagonist of the weevil and of most other insects which have yet been found. Where birds are plentiful insect pests are scarce. Despite all that has been done to overcome the advancing march of the boll weevil he continues to progress steadily in our direction. He will be in Georgia next year. It is not unlikely that he will be in South Carolina within three years. We could if we would raise up an army in the meantime to fend him off. It is only necessary to provide machinery where with to stop abruptly the indiscriminate slaughter of our birds.—News and Courier.

Georgiana McCoy, the negro woman who was arrested and placed in jail on the charge of assisting in the murder of Tommy Heneghan, has been released on bond pending the trial at the coming term of the court of general sessions. Allen McCoy, her husband, who is charged with the murder, is still in jail.

Farmers' Union News
—AND—
Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers
(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President Farmers' Union of Sumter County.)

E. W. Dabbs, President State and County Farmers' Union, passed through the city Tuesday on his way to a Union rally in Dutch Fork of Lexington County. He left with us for publication the letters below, which indicate the attitude of the commissioners of agriculture of several States in the cotton matter. He wishes our readers to note the non-committal reply of the Acting Secretary of Agriculture, and compare it with the cordial indorsement of the commissioners. Letters from National President C. S. Barrett, and former State President Perritt are so pleasantly personal in their terms of commendation that modesty forbids their being given out.

He wishes especially to call the attention of our well-informed readers to the statements of Congressman Johnson in the Washington correspondence of a daily paper in regard to the cry of the mill men that they are making no money and must have cheaper cotton. In this connection the statement of a gentleman who does not wish his name mentioned is of interest: "I am drawing dividends on mill stock that did not cost me a cent. It represents profits in the shape of stock dividends that did not cost me anything." How much actual water there is in some mill stock probably only an expert could determine. But there is in all of them the kind of water represented by tariff protected machinery some of it out of date, that Congressman Johnson mentions as being stock subscriptions by New England manufacturers.

The cotton matter has more thoroughly advertised Sumter County and City than anything ever attempted, and the beauty of it is, it was not started as an advertisement but as a call for help to meet conditions we could not fight alone. In every speech he has called attention to the hearty accord, with possibly one exception, that exists between the farmers and bankers and commercial interests. He hopes at his next appointment to be able to say there is not an exception. To this end a public indorsement by card or otherwise from any "doubting Thomas" will make it unanimous. Now then, let us live up to our reputation.

Cotton advanced last week as a result of our joint labors. We look for such advances as will put some cotton bears into winter quarters before even a light frost.

Tallahassee, Aug. 19, 1911.
Hon. E. W. Dabbs, President, South Carolina State Farmers' Union, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: We are in receipt of your circular letter of the 17th inst. relative to concentrated action between the "Farmers' Union" and other bodies, relative to the cotton crop conditions in the South and, in reply, we will say that "The Southern States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture" are now working on the same lines suggested by your letter and it is suggested that the Association and the Farmers' Union, through our President, Mr. Tait Butler and your President Barrett, act in concert in establishing and carrying out some systematic method of counteracting false impressions that have been created throughout the country as to the condition and size of the present cotton crop.

In this State the crop cannot possibly exceed that of last season, and if the present unfavorable season continues it cannot possibly equal that of last year. We understand that Georgia and Alabama are in the same situation.

We have communicated with our President and others concerning the matter and we have no doubt some arrangement will be speedily effected between the two associations for controlling the matter. We believe action in this matter should be as speedy as possible if good is to come of it.

Yours truly,
B. E. McLin,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

Austin, Texas, Aug. 21, 1911.
Mr. E. W. Dabbs, President, State Farmers' Union, Sumter, S. C.
My Dear Sir: I stand ready with all the force and power at my command to lend a movement, or a meeting called for such purposes, all the aid that is possible under the circumstances. I realize that there has been wild and extravagant reports regarding the probable yield of our present crop. To correct this will require the best efforts of our people in the Southland. I have no doubt that such a meeting will be

called. I know full well and appreciate the sentiment that prompted your action. It is a noble one, well worthy of the high position to which the farmers of your State have exalted you.

Without being authorized to speak for the officials of the Farmers' Union in this State, yet I dare say that they will readily co-operate in a movement of this kind.

Very truly yours,
Ed. R. Kone.

Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 19, 1911.
Hon. E. W. Dabbs, President, Sumter County Farmers' Union, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: Your circular of 17th inst. is received. Our institute speakers are talking to the people along the lines you suggest. I am an officer of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance and at its session on the 8th inst advised close co-operation with the Union in selling the cotton crops.

While some sections of this State report fine crops, the drought has done great damage in the past ten days and the end is not yet.

This department will heartily co-operate with you. With best wishes.
Yours very truly,
W. A. Graham,
Commissioner.

Jackson, Miss., Aug. 19, 1911.
Mr. E. W. Dabbs, President South Carolina Farmers' Union, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir and Brother: I beg to assure you that I am in hearty sympathy with any movement that attempts to correct the mis-information that has been sent out regarding the cotton crop.

With best wishes, I am,
Fraternally yours,
H. E. Blakeslee,
Commissioner.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, Aug. 25, 1911.

Mr. E. W. Dabbs, President Sumter County and State Farmers' Union, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: Your recent letter, referred to Hon. A. F. Lever, in regard to the cotton crop situation and the proper course to pursue to restore confidence in the cotton trade, has been referred to me for consideration, and your comments have been read with considerable interest. I would suggest that this matter has already been taken up by a committee of members of congress, as reported in the press of yesterday.

Very respectfully,
W. W. Hays,
Acting Secretary.

PRESIDENT DABBS IN SPARTANBURG.

Says Interests of Farmers and Commercial Men Identical.

Spartanburg Journal.
E. W. Dabbs, of Sumter, president of the South Carolina Farmers' Union and also president of the Farmers' Union of Sumter County, was in the city several hours Saturday en route to his home after a trip through Lancaster county, where he addressed large meetings of farmers and business men. At Gaffney this morning he addressed several hundred people at a meeting held in the court house.

President Dabbs is making a campaign through the State for the purpose of trying to show the people that the interests of the producers and commercial men are identical. Mr. Dabbs in talking with a Journal reporter, said that if the commercial men do anything to depress cotton causing the producer to lose confidence in the value of his crop they are enemies to the prosperity of the country. The business men he said should be careful to use their influence, which is great, in such a way that we will cause the farmers to stand for a fair price of their toil and not do anything that will weaken the farmers. The worst bear influence one can use, he said, is to make the producer afraid of the value of the product of his toil.

The natural tendency of the producer, Mr. Dabbs declared, is to put his crop on the market regardless of price, which still further depresses the price because he is offering it more rapidly than the world demands.

Mr. Dabbs believes that commercial men should inform themselves on the size of the crop and give intelligent and conservative information to the producers and render whatever aid they can. This he said would have a tendency to firm the market and

make it steady and restore confidence and work out satisfactorily to all concerned. The State he said would be greatly benefited by the receipt of the producers of the State of something like \$75,000,000 for a normal crop than \$60,000,000 for the same size crop raised in a bear market. The difference anywhere from fifteen to thirty million dollars added to the circulating medium of the State means the difference between stagnation and prosperity.

Mr. Dabbs said the farmers of this State want not less than 13 cents for this year's crop and favor most strongly the holding of cotton until better prices prevail. He says he is very much gratified at the response to his call for information on the size of the cotton crop throughout the State.

Vetch and Rye Hay.

The farmer who faces a shortage of forage next spring before oats come in should plant a few acres of rye and hairy vetch to be cut for hay when the rye is just heading out. The seed should be mixed in the proportion of three pecks of rye to 15 to 20 pounds of vetch seed to the acre. The land should be thoroughly broken, well fertilized and harrowed until it is smooth and fine. The seed should

be sown broadcast and harrowed in. Under ordinary conditions this combination will make a large crop of the finest and most nutritious hay obtainable and it can be cut and cured several weeks before oats come in.

Miss Mary Frost has returned to Asheville, ter a pleasant week's stay with Mrs. W. H. Cuttino.

CABBAGE PLANTS—Fine large plants ready for transplanting. Now is the time to plant for early crop. Eugene Hogan, 8-30-11.

FOR SALE—A desirable farm, containing about 464 acres, located one mile from St. Charles, S. C., known as the Mt. Zion parsonage tract, will be sold at public auction on Thursday, September 14th, inst., at 11 o'clock. At above place, over 200 acres in fine state of cultivation, fine old settlement with large two-story dwelling, out buildings and necessary tenant houses. In excellent neighborhood, near good schools and churches. To be sold in whole or part, as may be practicable. One-third cash and balance on easy terms. For further information, apply to L. F. Montgomery, Bishopville, S. C., Secty of Committee. 8-26-11

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HANDLING THE COTTON CROP

It would appear from the present condition of Main Street and the work necessary to be done on it, that it will not be ready at the opening of the cotton season to accommodate the traffic usually imposed upon it, and we would suggest to our customers that they drive their wagons in our lot where we will give them the best service we can under the circumstances.

O'Donnell & Co.