

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWSY LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Items of Interest From all Parts of Sumner and Adjoining Counties.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Send your letters so that they will reach this office not later than Monday when intended for Wednesday's paper and not later than Thursday for Saturday's issue. This, of course, applies only to regular correspondence. In case of items of unusual news value, send in immediately by mail, telephone or telegraph. Such news stories are acceptable up to the hour of going to press. Wednesday's paper is printed Tuesday afternoon and Saturday's paper Friday afternoon.

PIGAH.

Pigah, Aug. 28.—This section has been blessed with fine rains which have greatly helped the late crops, but the sun has shone hot and produced scald in many places.

Cotton has the rust or scald (I will have to get some one who don't raise cotton to tell what it is), and is opening rapidly. This always happens after bad seasons. About two thirds of a crop will be made through here. Late corn is fairly good.

The fight now being made to realize a fair price for cotton is a worthy one and should be engaged in by all who wish to see justice done to the farmers. The banks especially can be of great service to them, for when they get crippled the country feels it.

I think this section will make corn enough for its own use. The pea and potato crops are not very promising.

Mr. Williams of Orangeburg visited his sister, Mrs. J. W. Kenney, a few days ago.

Rev. T. L. Cole aided Rev. Kenney in a meeting in Orangeburg county last week. Mr. Kenney says they had a fine meeting.

Rev. D. H. Crossland of Orangeburg spent Saturday and Sunday night here on his way to aid Rev. J. W. Kenney in a meeting at Mizpah church this week. He preached two fine sermons yesterday. He was pastor at Horeb church at Providence a few years back and is well known as an able minister. His many friends will be pleased to hear that he is in the enjoyment of good health.

Judging from some papers one would infer that there is no truth in what a farmer says about the crops. They are charged with reporting the crop at much less than they know it will make in order to get more for it, or as an excuse for not paying debts, if the necessity should arise. Some may do this and some brag by the wholesale, but the great mass of them are just as truthful and honest as any other person or profession.

Mrs. Floesie Williams of Orangeburg is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. W. Kenney. She is attending the Mizpah meeting.

The writer went to Mizpah church yesterday and saw many of his friends. The crops look very good, notwithstanding the severe drought. Cotton is late and can't make a full crop. Corn made with only showers is yet to be stripped. Some have lost theirs by wet weather and inability to get it pulled. Cotton picking is now going on. Fifty cents per hundred is being paid.

It looks this morning like the gales have come. The wind raged all night and the rain poured down. A great deal of cotton is open.

The government in making its estimates of the crop, make them on the reports sent in and many of them are too high, either through ignorance or otherwise, then the practice of computing the per cent of the crop is wrong, for instance, if a State makes 100,000 bales, and reports 90 per cent of a normal crop, this will figure as largely in the make-up of the final per cent of the whole crop as Texas' 90 per cent of a normal crop of 3,000,000 bales. From this one can easily see where the big per cent of a crop can come from. You will never see this season the big crop which has been predicted, the ventilating of the May crop estimates as made in Congress was right.

WISACKY.

Wisacky, Aug. 28.—The storm from which Charleston has been suffering, reached us last night. There was not so much wind here, but torrents of rain accompanied a stiff northeast wind. It has been raining all day, but the rain was needed, as our wells were about dry, and the groceries could not have run long had it remained dry.

Cotton is opening rapidly and the cotton pickers were eager to gather it. A number of bales have been sold here already.

Dr. N. Y. Alford and Geo. McNeil are building a store in which they will carry a general assortment of goods. From this one may see that Wisacky is taking on more growth. The cotton crop in this section has fallen off considerably in the last

three weeks, nearly all of the late fruit has dropped off and the bolls are small. Some of them are opening prematurely. The crop of cotton here will probably not exceed that of last year.

Though the prospects for an abundant corn crop was promising at one time, the dry spell, though not such a long one, came at a critical time, and the crop will be very short. The pea crop in corn is very poor. Where the peas were planted after oats they are very good. Most of the corn fodder has been saved.

Mr. W. W. DesChamps lost his beautiful country home last week by fire. It was occupied by his oldest son, Edgar, who was absent at the time. He also lost most of his furniture and clothing. He carried some insurance on the house. It was a heavy loss as he could not replace it with the same quality of lumber.

Mr. Willie McCutchen and family after spending some time among the mountains of North Carolina, returned home last Thursday. The trip was very helpful to them all, but they are now enjoying the quiet of home.

Mrs. N. Y. Alford is still enjoying the mountain breeze, but Dr. Alford is well provided with housekeepers, so he is not worried on this account.

Mr. Willie Wilson, and his daughter, Mrs. J. W. Westbury, visited in our midst last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Scott are still in Europe on a general tour of that country. They will not return before the middle or last of October.

Mr. Carl Scott, after a long spell of illness, is at the home of his sister, Mrs. A. K. Weldon, where he is regaining his health and strength. At the same time he will assist Mr. Weldon in gathering his crop.

Mr. Weldon will buy cotton and cotton seed for Mr. DesChamps.

Mr. R. M. Cooper has cut and shocked all of his corn crop, and will shred it at the proper time. He has machinery to do the whole work. He is building a silo, in which to carry the forage. It is hoped that it will prove a success.

Our young people will soon leave for their different schools, some to teach, some to be taught.

The Wisacky school patrons have finally decided on Miss Creighton of Greenwood as teacher for the school for the next term. School is to open the middle of September. It is hoped that she will give satisfaction to all.

It is pleasant to hear the old "Vets" praising the people of Columbia for the liberal manner in which they were treated during the late reunion. This was very well of them, for they will not have many more opportunities to show to these noble old men their appreciation for what they did and suffered for our lost cause. Twenty-seven attended from Lee camp and all report having a good time.

Our supervisor is preparing to build a fine clay road from this place to Bishopville. He has a number of hands digging ditches on the side of the road to provide clay, which is near the surface on our rich lands. Soon Lee county will compare favorably with her sister counties in her system of good roads.

Mr. J. W. Wilder and family visited at the home of Mr. Roger Weldon last week.

Mr. Willie Crane of Atlanta is visiting at the home of Mr. R. M. Cooper.

Mr. Charlie Horne lost a mule last week with glanders. The Federal authorities had him killed. This makes five mules that have been killed in this county this year.

HEAVY LOSS ON ISLAND.

Not a House Escaped Hurt of Some Sort and Many Were Destroyed—Atlantic Beach Hotel in Good Shape—Army Post Suffered Only Slightly.

News and Courier, Aug. 30.

Two days after the storm find practically all the cottages on Sullivan's Island deserted, the owners having come to the city and gone to their homes in different parts of the State. Every boat coming to Charleston since Monday afternoon has been loaded with people who have decided that their homes were decidedly more comfortable and pleasant than any more Sunday night experiences. Sunday, Sullivan's Island was a small city, with hundreds of people enjoying the surf bathing and other pleasures. Today it is deserted, with the exception of a few families and the shop keepers. The Island has more the appearance of a stranded ship, that has been stripped and left to its fate, than a pleasure resort, and the bedraggled appearance of the houses, the streets and the few people left is not a pleasant sight to witness.

Stories are still being told of the night of the storm, and the people are still praising the work of the soldiers and the men who did so much to save those who were in distress. Many of the deeds of valor will never be known, but it is safe to say there were many heroes and that the women were brave goes without saying. The upper part of

the Island received the greater part of damage from the storm, this is due to the flimsy way in which the modern cottages were built, practically all the houses destroyed were new, while the older buildings on the Island withstood the storm without serious damage.

At the lowest estimate the property loss on the Island will amount to at least \$100,000 or more. Nearly every cottage from Station 20 to Station 28 is down or damaged to some extent. At least seventy-five cottages are completely or partially destroyed, and there is not a fence, or stable left on the upper part of the Island, while every tree on the lower part of any size is down, and it is the opinion of the oldest inhabitants that the storm of Sunday night and Monday morning was the severest in the history of the Island, one saying that he remembered the storm of 1893, and that it was nothing like as severe.

Starting at the lower end of the Island a reporter walked the railway tracks to Beach Inlet, and on both sides of the roadway there was nothing but wreckage, fences down, roofs blown away, and in many instances the cottages completely destroyed. The back beach in many places was affected as much as the front beach. The railway rack in many places is washed away, and for about two hundred yards before reaching Beach Inlet it is almost completely destroyed. The bridge over this inlet is in fair shape and is not seriously damaged.

The severest loss to the cottages is between Stations 20 to 28. In this section there are over thirty cottages completely destroyed, while the piazzas and the roofs of as many more are blown away. Many of the houses are turned completely over, and several are turned around, the fronts taking the place of the backs. The cottages, close to the Atlantic Beach Hotel, and located near the beach, are all ruined, with the exception of one. The Atlantic Beach Hotel passed through the storm without serious damage, but the cottages belonging to the hotel property was damaged considerably. The damage to the army post was not serious, the barracks, hospital and several of the officers' houses being partially unroofed. There is not a house on the Island that has not been damaged to some extent, and practically all the smaller houses are wrecks.

Road Building in Sumter.

The Sumter item is not discouraged because of the failure of the \$150,000 good roads bond issue which was voted on in Sumter County last Tuesday, the election being carried by the opponents of the bond issue by a margin of 4 votes out of 802. The proposition appears to have lost through the failure of many of its advocates to take the trouble to go to the polls and vote. In all the city wards with one exception a very light poll was recorded whereas several of the county precincts voted heavily, and almost solidly against the proposed issue of bonds. Shiloh, for example, cast 68 votes against the proposition and only 6 votes in its favor. At Concord the vote stood 98 to 6 against the proposition.

The natural surmise is that the farmers voted as they did in the belief that the roads which would have been built had the bond issue gone through would benefit the automobilists while being paid for by agriculturists, a mistaken conclusion in so far as it fails to appreciate that the bond issue gave to the agriculturist the opportunity of receiving from all the interests of his county, including the railroads, the various corporations and non-resident property owners, assistance in the making of an investment of which the agriculturist would be necessarily the largest beneficiary.

Whatever the reasons which prompted them to antagonize the bond issue, the citizens of Shiloh and Concord worked against their own welfare in so doing. The better the highways between the town of Sumter and the Shiloh and Concord communities the more valuable will property in those communities become and the more profitable will be the products which are there brought forth. That the people of Shiloh and of Concord and of the other rural precincts in Sumter County can be brought to see the matter in this, its true light, we do not doubt. In the words of The Item, "the defeat of the bond issue is merely a setback, a temporary postponement of the day when good roads will be an actuality in every neighborhood."—News and Courier.

The Modern Idea.

"You wish to divorce your husband? You cannot agree? In what way does your incompatibility of temperament manifest itself?" "Oh, I wish to get divorced and he doesn't."—Le Dix.

Lost a Customer.

Cashier—But there is not a cent here to pay this check of yours. Fair Customer—I am glad that you have confessed. If your bank is as hard up as that, you can give me what money I have here and I will take my account to a safer institution.—Puck.

HOLD COTTON SAYS BARRETT.

HEAD OF NATIONAL FARMERS UNION WIRES E. W. DABBS.

Address Issued Asking All Interested to Co-operate in Work—Handle the Crop Carefully.

According to a telegram received from C. S. Barrett, president of the National Farmers' Union, the bears are making an effort to break the cotton market. The telegram was received by E. W. Dabbs, president of the State Union, and was signed by President Barrett of the national union and the secretary, E. C. Davis. It reads as follows:

"Committee just returned from North found desperate efforts by bears and spinners to break cotton market. If farmers can be induced to hold, financial assistance is ready. Get your forces ready to print and mail out circulars, copy of which follows by mail. National union pays expense."

Arrangements will be made at once to send out these circulars.

Yesterday J. Whitner Reid, secretary of the State Union, issued the following to the press:

"To all Southerners, farmers, merchants, bankers, mill men and all business men interested in the industrial development of the South, this paper is addressed in the hope that it will arouse you to concerted action in the proper marketing of the South's great staple. Within the ranks of the farmers proper a movement has been begun and will be perfected further. But since all Southern interests are concerned, it is contemplated to join all in a greater effort in this regard.

"In conferring upon the problems and the advantages of the South there is no more vital question for our consideration than that of the disposition of her one great crop—cotton. The words 'South' and 'cotton' are inseparable to such a degree that they are well-nigh synonymous—the one a great country, the other the world's greatest clothing product. Kind nature has given us a monopoly; how natural for the nations of the earth to turn to us to be clothed! Nor do they look in vain. Bare hillsides that were once plowed into gullies by the wet weather streams now bear a green coat, terraces preserve their fertility, woods are cleared, swamps are drained, all to make way for the plow. How wonderfully has cotton culture raised the calling of the farmer! How rapid has been his transformation! No more is he jeered at. He is the pet of the South, his interests are guarded, his home is brightened, his children are educated, his vocation is made a science. His ranks are recruited with the flower of Southern manhood, scientists, students, men of talent, ambition, equipment. Why? Because he holds within his hand a world interest; he is the planter and producer of cotton; and yet little thought or help is given in the marketing of his crop.

"How carefully, then, should the crop be handled, how minutely the acreage proportioned, how closely the market watched, how carefully supplied? The question demands united effort; a union not only of the efforts of the farmers, but of the merchants and bankers and mill men as well, for the fortune of all is founded upon and with it all are closely concerned. Our fortunes, our happiness, our interests are all promoted by this industry. We should all move together and stand with firmness, but only after mature deliberation. If our position is uncertain, so will the market be; if our purpose is shifting, so its results. And when we move we should move intelligently, with all the possible information at hand. The fixing of a price involves an accurate estimate of the crop, and that is always involved in more or less uncertainty until the crop is nearer maturity. And at this point we can not exaggerate the danger of attempting an estimate at too early a date. Nature moves in a mysterious way. She may marshal a hundred forces to tear down or materially effect that which she has built up.

"A field that is smiling this month might suffer and with the next. And why need we hurry in stating figures? The crop is in our hands, and it is our safest asset. Our banker friends will loan us money on it, and we should want no better security. To let it go at 10 cents today might be as disastrous as when we let it go at 4 cents. When we take a stand we can not retrace our steps without fear of a serious breach in our own ranks. Experience has taught us the danger of too hasty action. The outlook may be promising today. But a healthy weed is not the crop. A general drought will cut short the process of growth as the plant advances into fruition. The crop is young. The early drought set it back in its early stages and it was well up into the summer months before it showed signs of rapid growth. Having begun late it must be allowed to grow late. A late fall is our only hope for anything like a full crop. And so an

early frost would cut short what seems to some estimators the best prospect in years. The cold rains of fall, if they come early, will prevent the opening of a large part of the crop.

"In view of all these possibilities common sense will tell us that it is nothing short of folly to base an estimate upon data that must be very uncertain; and the following of which might prove disastrous. Aside from the loss in money that might result from too hasty action we can not estimate the loss that would result to the cause of the farmers, if after taking a stand we fail to hold it. The movement for concerted action on the part of all Southerners interested in the cotton crop advances slowly because it covers there is such a diversity of interest. A change of policy that would suit our section might bring calamity to another. We should wait, therefore, until such a time when there can be no possibility of a great mistake in the estimate of the crop. Basing our figures then on a sure estimate we should count on the support of all Southerners.

"And if when we are ready to market, consumers are reluctant to purchase, we need fear no disaster. Having arrived at a fair estimate of the crop we may easily retire a percentage of it, leaving available only so much as will supply the market at a fair price to ourselves. If we are to produce 14,000,000 bales, let us retire 2,000,000 bales and stand firmly by this fixed pledge.

"With all the attention given to the raising of cotton the industry is but partially developed. A crop must not only be economically and efficiently produced, but it must be wisely marketed. Heretofore, all our attention has been given to the growing and we have bestowed but scant care upon the disposition of the crop. As much energy as great labor, as fine business judgment is needed in the marketing as in the raising of cotton. As the growing is a science, so ought the marketing to be a system. With united effort we can place Southern cotton in every market in the world, we can all join in memorializing our congressmen to aid us in finding new markets for the staple, in opening all the ports of the world to Southern cotton. There is no possibility that the product of the South can flood the world market.

"The foregoing facts having emphasized the deep concern that all interests have in the great crop of the South and in the proper marketing of the same, let us call upon all to aid us in strengthening the markets. Not alone the market for the raw material but for the finished product of the mills. We are all farmers in that we deal with the product of the farm. The interests of the South are common to all Southerners whether bankers, merchants, mill men or farmers.

"The history of the South should bring us a lesson on the value of united effort. Through many revolutions, commercial and otherwise, she has passed and has been able to withstand them only by united effort. When the armies of the nation were arrayed against her in the sixties confederation was all that saved her from complete annihilation. When she lay at the mercy of unscrupulous men during the period of Reconstruction all rallied to free her from the curse of the false government. As in war so in business, events of the last 20 years seem to argue against her prosperity. Having by united effort overcome reverses her industrial development has been wonderful. And yet when the one great crop in which all interests centre seems a success, something conspires to cut the price to decrease its market value. The profitable marketing of cotton demands a union of forces as real as that of the sixties and seventies, a constant steady pull for the industrial freedom of the South. Without the martial spirit of the sixties but with the same loyal devotion to Southern interests, let us rally to her support in this her day of opportunity. As we have been brothers in all movements for Southern progress, let us not forget that comradeship and fraternity as we enter this movement. The cause in which we labor is high and just. As we measure the cause by its result, we can not but be inspired when we look forward and see that a fair and reasonable price for cotton as it comes from the gin and the loom will mean increased prosperity to all concerned—to the farmers who grow it, to the mill operative who weaves it, to the mill men whose great industry is founded on it, to the banker and the merchant whose business is built on the capital that it produces.

"If the American government would foster trade relations with foreign countries with the same foresight and zealous care as England does, Southern cotton mills could find in the great undeveloped countries of South America, Central America and Mexico a market to absorb their output for 20 years to come. In addition there are the

Philippines supplied almost entirely with cotton cloth by English mills, while we, duty free, send comparatively nothing and complain of high-priced cotton and overloaded markets in the cloth trade. All that is needed now to establish a paying trade with Pacific territory is to make goods in the patterns and weaves desired by the native trade and the result is accomplished. England does this and, even with paying duty, reaps profit, while we allow a considerable opportunity for lightening the load of home consumption to go by unimproved. Every tropical country is a market for cotton cloth and we have right at our doors sufficient outlet for our manufactured cotton, if utilized to create a quick demand, as would advance the price of raw cotton to 15 cents, or higher, and keep it there in flat defiance of Liverpool, or any other foreign agency.

"Inertia is our greatest sin. So let us rouse ourselves in a great effort for market extension; for a proper estimate of the South's greatest staple; for a determination to market our crop slowly; to retire from the world's available supply of cotton whatever percentage is necessary to make the remainder sell at a remunerative price, and the whole trouble is over in our humble opinion. The South for all and all for the South' until our commercial supremacy is assured and maintained.

"For the Committee,
"Alan Johnstone,
"Chariman.
"E. W. Dabbs,
"President South Carolina State Farmers' Union."

THE BOLL WEEVIL PERIL.

Another Warning to Farmers to Fight the Boll Weevil Before It Gets Here.

Atlanta, Aug. 27.—Unless the farmers of Georgia heed the warning of the coming of the boll weevil to this State the cotton tragedy of Mississippi will be repeated in two years.

This is the opinion of J. D. McGee, of Knoxville, Ga., one of the sixteen demonstrators named by the United States bureau of plant industry to tour the boll weevil belt this summer and report the progress of the ravages of the pest.

The demonstrators met in Meridian July 16, and traveled over the infected sections of Mississippi, visiting Natchez, Jackson, Port Gibson, Vicksburg and many smaller towns. Several of the demonstrators are still in the field and will finish their tour of inspection at Baton Rouge August 30.

In speaking of the damages wrought by the boll weevil in Mississippi and Southwestern Alabama, and the likelihood of its reaching Georgia within two years, Mr. McGee, who was a visitor at the office of the commissioner of agriculture, Saturday said:

"I want to issue a solemn warning to the planters of Georgia, those who have not heeded the approach of the boll weevil and even to those who have.

"If the farmers of Georgia do not diversify their crops and do not take all the precaution possible to begin a fight on the weevil the moment it makes its appearance on the Georgia line, the tragedy of the Mississippi cotton grower will be enacted again.

"They didn't think that the boll weevil would get to the Mississippi and the result was when it came their fields were laid waste and any number of small planters were wiped out. Some of them have turned to corn and early cotton but the majority are still bankrupt.

"The farmers of Georgia should begin right now to plan for the diversification of crops and for planting early cotton and for using the most approved methods in fighting the weevil. It is the only thing that can save the State and the small growers from going the way of the Mississippians.

"I can not speak too strongly upon this subject. I have seen the conditions and the rest of the demonstrators have seen them and they are serious."—Augusta Chronicle.

Work has been in progress on Kendrick street for several days preparatory to covering that street with the rock hauled from Main street and putting it into first class condition with a sand clay surface.

FOR SALE

A BROOKS COUNTY FARM

1,000 acres—600 acres in high state of cultivation, balance in high grade pine timber land—red pebbly soil with a stiff clay sub-soil. 2 acres in bearing pecans—one 9 room two-story dwelling, plenty of good tenant houses; pure healthy water; located within 2 1/2 miles of one of the best towns in South Georgia. This is a bargain.

MATHIS & CO.,

Quitman, Georgia.