

# 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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## KERNEL OF COTTON SITUATION.

JOHN L. McLAUREN REPLIES TO MANY QUESTIONS.

Following Cotton Conference at New Orleans Questions Regarding Valorization, State Validation and the Money Situation Have Arisen—These Mr. McLauren Answers in Light of Discussions at Conference. What the Farmer is Up Against.

To the Editor of The Sunday News: Since the recent cotton conference in New Orleans, I am in receipt of many letters from various sections of the State requesting information.

It is a physical impossibility for me to reply at length to all of these letters. With your permission I will use the columns of your paper to answer the various inquiries; begging those to whom I have been unable to reply to take this without considering me unappreciative or discourteous.

The questions may be embraced, viz:

First—What is valorization?

Second—What is State validation?

Third—What currency reform was proposed at the conference?

Valorization comes from the recent Brazilian experiment in coffee. This was not seriously discussed at the conference except incidentally to illustrate what can be done, if we are driven to the wall. Also as a striking example of the wonders to be accomplished by organized governmental action. There can be no doubt that other course open that the cotton States could succeed better than Brazil.

First—Because we have the advantage of the higher political and commercial standing of the United States as compared with Brazil.

Second—The resources of the South are more varied and the character of the people far above that of Brazil.

Third—The cotton States could easily appropriate among themselves in bulk of cotton production the amount of cotton to be cared for by each State and possibly by legislative enactment from the savings. There are

three ideas which is embodied in three ideas, to wit: 1. A recommendation that the several cotton States adopt the plan now being followed with success in Louisiana. I named this baby "State validation."

2. That the members of Congress from the South see to it that when the currency commission makes its report, that cotton warehouse certificates be made a basis for the issue of currency.

3. The tentative proposition of certain New York bankers to advance \$50,000,000 for retirement of 2,000,000 bales of the crop of 1911. Louisiana by a constitutional amendment created a board of port commissioners who were empowered under the right of eminent domain to acquire the terminal facilities and land necessary for the construction of a great central State warehouse in New Orleans.

Cotton is to be warehoused on a scale of greater magnitude than has ever been attempted before.

The certificates are in effect receipts from Louisiana under the great seal of the State.

The State does not buy the cotton, nor does she lend money on it, she merely does for the farmer that which he can not do for himself, to wit; cheap storage, with his assets put in such commercial form as make them command the lowest rate of interest.

The proposition of currency reform, I regard as of greater importance than any measure which has been proposed since the war. It will strike the shackles from our limbs and emancipate us forever from the burden inflicted upon us for waging an unsuccessful war. It is a favorite theme of the Fourth of July orators to proudly boast that it remained for the United States to give to history its first example of no war debt being exacted from a conquered people. This is not true; no people in dollars and cents have ever paid a heavier tribute through the exactions of a subtle and crafty money system as the people of the South.

Free raw material with protected manufacture backed by a money monopoly for fifty years has drained the South and made New England with its barren hills and bleak climate the synonym for wealth.

Money is nothing but a yardstick or measure of value. Ninety per cent of the business of the country is done upon paper, without any money changing hands in the transaction. When the crop moving period comes, it takes an unusual amount of cash to pay picking, ginning, freights, etc.

Governor Colquitt, of Texas, is entitled to the thanks of the Southern people for having called the attention of the Cotton States in New Orleans to consider the present industrial crisis. It is a patent fact that any

## INTEREST IN CORN SHOW.

MANY EXHIBITS EXPECTED FOR THE EXPOSITION.

Farmers of North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina to Participate—Give Special Rates.

Columbia, Nov. 24.—The indications are that there will be several thousand exhibits sent to the second South Atlantic States Corn exposition to be held here from December 11 to 15, when \$8,000 in prizes will be given for the best corn shown. The programme for the exposition is being prepared by A. D. Hudson of Newberry, the president, and will soon be announced. All entries of exhibits should be made through C. C. Porter of Columbia.

It is the purpose of the management of the exposition to make it distinctly educational, and to that end exhibits have been secured from the agricultural experiment stations of North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina. Friday of the exposition will be "Boys' Corn club days," and several hundred members of the clubs in the above-named States are expected to attend. There will be special prizes for the boys, and Dr. Bradford Knapp, head of the United States farm demonstration work, will be present to deliver an address. The management of the exposition will secure cheap round-trip rates from all points in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

A feature of the exposition this year will be the corn judging school and the corn judging contest to be conducted between teams representing Clemson college and the Agricultural and Mechanical college of North Carolina. The teams have been in training since the first of the year. Two trophy cups, one valued at \$100, given by the Southern railway, and the other, valued at \$25, given by The Progressive Farmer, will be awarded to the team making the most points.

plan stopping short of concerted State action must fail.

The result of the conference is embodied in three ideas, to wit:

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## HISTORY OF BOER WAR.

RELEASED BY TIME FROM OATH HAMMOND TALKS.

Many Americans in Reform Association Whose Activities Resulted in the Jameson Raid.

Boston, Nov. 26.—Released by time from an oath not to talk on South African affairs or reveal any of the "inside" of events leading up to the Boer war for a period of years, John Hays Hammond, who was conspicuous in that war, broke his silence for the first time last night at a dinner of the Clover club.

Mr. Hammond said the Jameson raid was the result of the activities of a reform association formed at Johannesburg and consisting largely of Americans.

"I want especially," said Mr. Hammond, "to correct a misunderstanding. It has been said we were acting under the British flag. That is false. Much sympathy has been wasted on 'Oom' Paul Kruger. He was opposed to progress, believed the world was flat and that the devil had a tail. His impositions were such as no man of the Anglo-Saxon race would have tolerated.

"The reform movement against Kruger was not an English movement. Jameson came into the fight against our wishes and against the wishes of the British high commissioner. I sent word to him to go back, and when he persisted the only thing to do was to bluff Kruger into believing that we had more arms than we really had. We did so, and Kruger sent over an olive branch to Johannesburg. They agreed to all but two things, and that was that no contract should be accepted with a Catholic or a Jew. This we flatly refused.

"Kruger played false with the reform committee, after the Jameson raid, broke all his promises, and after he had secured the arms in Johannesburg through Sir Hercules Robinson, he arrested the entire committee.

"He gave the men to understand that if they pleaded guilty they would be let off with a fine. Instead they were sentenced to be hung within 24 hours. A dispatch from Secretary Qiney caused Kruger and the Boer council to hesitate, and after an all-night session the council voted to commute the sentences to life imprisonment."

If this could also be handled on paper it would not make much difference, but at this particular time cash is required, hence New York, where we all are forced to go, begins to feel the drain upon her reserves of cash. Immediately the call goes to the country banks: Send us money. The country banker rushes out and calls the merchant, the merchant calls the farmer, the poor farmer has no one to call except God, and I do not think God has much to do with the financial system of these United States. The farmer is so afraid that that thing "credit" (about which they speak in bated breath) will be hurt. A few days after the call starts from New York we are all in the street with our cotton, ready to take whatever we are offered. Our money, doled out to us to pick the crop, goes right back to New York, and is locked up in the vaults until the next crop moving period comes, and again we go on the same weary, heart-breaking round. A singular condition now confronts the country. The panic of 1907 created great alarm for the money centres; the country has grown too big for such a close monopoly. There are not enough United States bonds to go around. It is now proposed that certain classes of security, like United States Steel bonds shall be issued as a basis for the issue of currency. I say, why not use a cotton warehouse certificate, validated by the State? What is a United States Steel bond? It represents so many pounds of steel rails, and its value also depends upon the honesty and ability of the officers of the corporation. What would a cotton certificate represent? So many pounds of cotton that sells at any time the world over for gold. Stop making cotton, and steel rails in the South would be worthless junk.

The third proposition is merely temporary, looking to the remnant of the 1911 crop. It is speculative in its character, and every man must judge for himself.

As to the general proposition of State aid I can only say: "It is a condition and not a theory that confronts us." Is not a crop supporting twenty-five million people and influencing the balance of the world's trade

## TOM FELDER INDICTED.

CHARGED WITH BRIBERY AS RESULT OF "WIND-UP INVESTIGATION."

Indictment Handed Out to Newberry Grand Jury. Blease, Towill and Boykin, Star Witnesses—Felder Not Present, However.

Newberry, Nov. 27.—Solicitor Cooper handed to the grand jury in General sessions court today an indictment of three counts, charging bribery against Thomas B. Felder, an Atlanta attorney, the allegation being that he made offers of stock and money in October, 1905, to Herbert H. Evans, of Newberry, who was then Chairman of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Dispensary, to procure Evans' influence toward securing orders for liquor from the dispensary for a wholesale liquor house which it is alleged Felder was then organizing. It is alleged that Felder first offered Evans stock in his Liquor Company to the par value of \$50,000, that he later offered him stock in this concern to the par value of \$250,000 and that he finally offered Evans \$250,000, "in lawful money of the United States."

The indictment follows an investigation conducted for some months past by the dispensary winding-up commission at the urging of Gov. Blease. Governor Blease was in the court room when the indictment was handed out. The witnesses sworn to go before the grand jury are Gov. Blease and former dispensary directors, John Bell Towill and L. W. Boykin. Towill and Boykin were members of the board when Evans was chairman.

Solicitor Cooper also handed to the grand jury a certain letter, the text of which was recently furnished to the press by Governor Blease, purporting to be from Felder, and chiding Evans for indifference toward an offer by Felder which Felder thought highly advantageous to Evans. At 1 o'clock this afternoon the grand jury took a recess until 3 o'clock without giving any intimation as to how it would deal with the Felder indictment. Recently a warrant charging Felder with bribery was sworn out in Newberry by B. F. Kelly, then secretary of the dispensary winding-up commission and placed in the hands of Sheriff Buford of this county for service. But Gov. Jos. M. Brown of Georgia refused to honor the requisition for Felder, issued to Sheriff Buford by Gov. Blease.

SUPPLIES SHIPPED SOUTH.

Aviation Materials Dispatched to Augusta, Ga.

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 24.—Notice has been received here from the war department of the shipment from Washington of the first lot of supplies for the aviation training school at Augusta, of the United States aeronautical reserves.

The officers and men will arrive in Augusta on a special train the 28th of this month.

In favor of the United States as worthy of governmental aid as trust protected monopoly? The cry, "Back to the farm!" is a delusion and a snare, unless the statesmanship of the nation can preserve to production a fair share of the fruits of its own toil.

Under our money system all property gravitates towards the possessors of wealth. Tollers increase, while labor-saving machinery passes under the control of capital. Worker competes with worker, and under the iron law of economics the present tendency (unless checked) means here what it is in Europe, that the compensation for productive labor will be just sufficient to do the work and enable the laborer to reproduce himself. The American farmer and laborer will never submit to this. The Government cannot afford to risk the ballot in the hands of a discontented citizenship.

The people who live in the peaceful country places, who have time to think and commune with nature in the temple of her untarnished skies, are not only nation builders, but nation savers. How can any government maintain this mighty fortress in the souls of her people if it permits to be destroyed the peace and comfort, so dependent upon a fair reward for toil? How long would New England tolerate such a condition of affairs if she owned the cotton fields of the South? I venture to say that the world would be glad to get cotton at twenty cents a pound.

Respectfully,  
John L. McLauren,  
Bonnettsville, S. C.

## NO TRACE OF COLUMBIA BANDIT

PROBABLY \$30,000 SECURED IN REGISTERED MAIL.

Loss May Reach \$50,000, Result of Daring Robbery of Mail Car in Columbia Friday Night by Lone Robber, Who After Holding Up Mail Clerk and Making Big "Haul" Escaped Without Leaving Clue to Identity—Search Continues.

Columbia, Nov. 25.—Interest centres in the identity of the bandit who held up and robbed the mail car on Coast Line train No. 55, at the city limits Friday night at midnight. No clue to the robber has been obtained, although detectives are on the trail and every effort is being made to apprehend him.

The fact that the robbery was pulled off right at the city limits leads the authorities to believe that the robber is an old, cool hand at the "business." That he was acquainted with the road and knew that it was the schedule to send a good amount of coin in over that line last night is evident, and it is stated here today that the amount he obtained in registered mail was around \$30,000 and some estimate the loss at \$50,000. It is said that the money was being forwarded here for the cotton buyers.

The robbery occurred just at the city limits. Coast Line train No. 55 had passed the block at Royster's and was heading into the city, when a masked man entered the mail car and commanded the mail clerk, H. L. Meridith, and his negro helper, B. L. Dreher, to throw up their hands. He then reached over and grabbed the registered mail pouches, which were in sacks consigned to Columbia, and still keeping the men covered with his gun, pulled the emergency cord, bringing the train to a standstill, he, however, escaping before the train stopped. The train proceeded into the city, where the robbery was reported, and, although bloodhounds were taken at once to the scene, no trail was struck.

Mr. Meredith went out on his return run to Wilmington this morning, and according to his schedule, will return here Monday night. Postal inspectors are expected here shortly and then a report on the robbery will be made. It is thought that Inspector H. T. Gregory, the well-known and fearless postoffice inspector, might come here and take charge of the investigation into this case.

Beyond the fact that the man was white, was masked and wore a large coat, no accurate description of the robber has been obtained. He is said to be slimly built, but this is a matter of mere supposition.

The robber left the train at the corner of Sumter and Whaley streets, and, thinking that he might have cut the canvas mail sacks and thrown them aside after leaving the train, a search over the whole spot was made this morning, but no evidence nor sight of the sacks was found. No clue at all has been obtained.

The boldness of the affair, right in the outskirts of the city and within a stone's throw of the union station, the robber venturing into the very jaws of the police, made the whole city gasp when it awoke this morning and learned of the robbery. Such affairs have been read of in the West and other sections, but no one dreamed that it would happen in the Capital City of South Carolina. The very nerve of the perpetrator of the deed is amazing and at the same time excites one's admiration.

REWARD FOR BLACK.

Dave Rivers Seems to Have Made Good His Escape—Mr. Fitts' Condition Unfavorable.

Hampton, Nov. 24.—The citizens of Hampton have offered a reward of \$300 for the arrest or delivery of Dave Rivers, the negro who Tuesday afternoon attempted a criminal assault on a little white girl near here.

The negro fugitive seems to have made good his escape. Last heard of he was in the vicinity of Olar, about 30 miles from here. All members of the posse from Hampton who have been pursuing the negro have returned home.

John Reid Fitts, who was shot by Rivers while pursuing the negro, shortly after the fiendish attempt was made, is not improving as rapidly as might be expected, and his condition is reported today as being unfavorable.

Marriage License Record.

Only one marriage license was issued Thursday. Mr. Joseph B. Macky, of Bishopville and Miss Hattie J. Mason of Sumter were the parties securing the license.

## FLOOD OF LIQUOR.

PRODUCTION FOR 1911 IS 19,461,567 GALLONS MORE THAN 1910.

More Cigars and Cigarettes, Too, Were Made in the Year Drawing to a Close.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Prohibitionists will have something worth while to think about in the annual report of the commissioner of internal revenue. Royal E. Cabell, for the present year, where it is shown that 1910 the total production of distilled spirits in the United States was 163,893,960 gallons, and in 1911 183,355,527 gallons, an increase of 19,461,567 gallons. This is one of the most marked features of the country's history, and is accounted for in only one way.

That the people wanted the wet goods and the distillers were accommodating and turned out the stuff to satisfy their thirst.

No other explanation is forthcoming from the treasury department, in fact there is no other to give. It is simply that the distillers know the wants of the consumers and made the goods to suit them.

The four States having the largest production of distilled spirits were: Kentucky, 46,133,576 gallons; Illinois, 40,467,742; Indiana, 28,588,922, and Ohio, 10,305,038 gallons.

The four States which produced the largest amounts of fermented liquors were: New York, 12,732,743 barrels; Pennsylvania, 7,811,732 barrels; Illinois, 6,830,254 barrels, and Wisconsin, 5,287,347 barrels.

These figures are enough to open the eyes of prohibitionists all over the country, who are interested in the manufacture and consumption of alcoholic spirits.

Along with the increased manufacture of liquor went also a very marked increase in the production of cigars and cigarettes.

The two districts showing the largest production of cigars are the Ninth Pennsylvania, 715,999,485, and the First Pennsylvania, 694,345,755.

The States showing the largest production of little cigars (weighing less than three pounds per thousand) were: Virginia, 344,452,369; Maryland, 327,179,270; Pennsylvania, 221,789,270.

The States of New York, Virginia, Louisiana, California, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, in the order named, showed the greatest production of cigarettes weighing less than three pounds per thousand. The three districts showing the greatest production of little cigarettes were: The Second Virginia, which produced 2,077,463,865; the Second New York, 2,063,621,008; the Third New York, 1,866,205,701.

New York State produced the greatest number of large cigarettes, showing a production of 18,614,404, of which number 13,958,214 were manufactured in the Third District and 5,453,050 in the Second District.

The States of North Carolina, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia and New Jersey, in the order named were the States reporting the largest manufacture of both chewing and smoking tobacco.

ESTIMATE 14,835,000 BALE CROP.

Correspondents Throughout Cotton Belt Report to New Orleans Paper.

New Orleans, Nov. 26.—Final estimates on the cotton crop of 1911 received by the New Orleans Times-Democrat from its correspondents throughout the cotton belt give the total of 14,835,000 bales exclusive of linters repacks and similar additions.

The consensus of opinion indicates the following results: Alabama 1,500,000, Arkansas and Missouri 950,000, Georgia and Florida 2,650,000, Louisiana 375,000, Mississippi 1,150,000, Oklahoma 960,000, North Carolina and Virginia 1,000,000, South Carolina 1,500,000, Tennessee and Kentucky 450,000, Texas and California 4,300,000. Total 14,835,000.

CANADA SORRY, BUT TOO LATE.

Toronto Editor Says People Wish Reciprocity Had Carried.