

The Watchman and Southron.

THE WATCHMAN, Established April, 1856.

'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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WORKING FOR THE SOUTH.

REPRESENTATIVES OF 16 STATES GATHER IN BALTIMORE.

Southern Settlement and Development Organization to Urge Immigration of Desirable People.

Baltimore, Feb. 20.—Representatives of 16 Southern States, heads of railroads and steamship lines that serve that section and men who have studied the agricultural and industrial problems of the South for years met here today and formed the Southern Settlement and Development organization. Baltimore was made the headquarters with S. Davies Warfield of this city as chairman and Eli Frank, also of Baltimore, secretary.

It was resolved to start at once to raise funds to carry on the work of the organization to establish branches of the company where necessary and to carry on such work in the 16 Southern States as may be deemed desirable with the view to procuring desirable immigration, colonization and settlement as the needs of the several States may require.

It was further decided to recommend to the several States of the South "the urgent necessity of establishing in each State a State Immigration bureau for the purpose of disseminating reliable information regarding the resources, the possibilities and opportunities of the South to be supported by the State's machinery and money, under the indirect supervision of the governor of each State, with a good practical business man in charge, whose duties shall be to co-operate with the United States government, the transportation companies, the commercial bodies, the real estate men, the press and the Southern Settlement and Development organization in placing the country properly before the people of the world."

The establishment of a farm labor department, to be added to the functions of the State bureau, was also recommended.

A resolution that caused some discussion before it was finally perfected to suit the ideas of the delegates set forth that Northern ports of entry are receiving a very large percentage of all of the desirable immigrants, who remain in these cities and States and cities adjacent thereto. The commercial importance and possibilities of the South justify the federal government "in providing adequate facilities for the reception of immigrants at Baltimore, the South Atlantic and gulf ports, from lack of which said ports are now suffering," and called upon congress and the proper federal officials to "take such steps as may be necessary to provide such facilities at Baltimore, the South Atlantic and gulf ports as to put these ports on a par with said North Atlantic ports."

The meeting was the result of the conference on Southern immigration held here on December 8. A committee was formed at that time, with S. Davies Warfield of Baltimore as chairman, the membership to be constituted as follows:

One to be appointed by the governor of each Southern State; one to be named by the president of each railroad and transportation company in the South; one from each State to be appointed by Chairman Warfield.

Delegates were present from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

In addition, more than 50 railroad and steamship companies sent representatives, in some cases the presidents of the lines acting in person.

When Mr. Warfield called the meeting to order he faced the largest and most representative committee ever organized to consider the agricultural and industrial development of the South. In his address Mr. Warfield referred to the vast areas of unimproved farm lands in the South and declared that every one concerned in property values in the South had a definite interest in the promotion of this work, which, he maintained, could not be done without large expenditures of money. Liberal treatment is necessary not only on the part of the railroads, but the State governments also.

Mr. Warfield was of the belief that foreign immigrants of a desirable sort could be secured by a proper system which would reach into the homes of the agricultural classes, especially in Northern Europe, embracing English, Scotch, Irish and

TAFT'S REAL OPPONENT.

ROOSEVELT WILL GIVE HIS DECISION MONDAY.

Answers Cleveland Admirer With Usual Cryptic Utterance and Promise of More.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 21.—"My hat is in the ring."

This is what Theodore Roosevelt said here tonight when an admiring Cleveland friend sought to learn whether he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for the presidency.

During the brief stay of Col. Roosevelt in Cleveland, W. E. Elrick, well known locally in politics, greeted the former president, whom he knows well.

"I want a direct answer, colonel," said Mr. Elrick. "All your friends want to know and want to know now whether you are to be a candidate."

"My hat is in the ring," replied Col. Roosevelt. "You will have my answer Monday."

BOOK CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS.

Mrs. C. D. Cooper Elected President—Mrs. W. S. Chandler Gives Club Best Book.

Mayesville, Feb. 21.—At the regular meeting of the Tuesday Afternoon Book Club, held yesterday at the residence of Mrs. W. W. Gardner, the retiring president, Mrs. E. W. Mayes, presiding, the annual election of officers was held. The following was the result of the balloting for officers: President, Mrs. C. D. Cooper; Vice-President, Mrs. W. W. Gardner; Secretary, Mrs. C. N. Spratt; Treasurer, Miss Minnie Chandler. After the election of officers, a vote was taken to decide which was the most popular book given the club during the year. "The Rosary," which was given by Mrs. W. C. Chandler, received the majority of the votes and accordingly Mrs. Chandler was given the blue ribbon. This action is taken by the members of the club in order to raise the standard of the books read during the year. The next meeting of the club will be held on Tuesday, March 5, with Mrs. Robert A. Chandler.

The continual rains have about put a stop to all kinds of work and consequently business is rather dull on all sides. The farmers are idle and when they are out of work, the merchants are not very much rushed with trade. Even the school is affected by the weather for so many of the scholars live in the country and do not come in bad weather, that the attendance is so light as to shorten the hours of school considerably.

Sumter County's legislative delegation went back to Columbia Wednesday morning to attend the final session of the General Assembly. The members, Messrs. J. H. Clifton, R. B. Belser and Geo. W. Dick left Wednesday on the second train so as to be present for all of the work which comes up tonight.

German people. One of the most important things in this connection he said, is that port facilities should be of the best character for handling this class of people.

"This occupation of the vacant lands of the South by people who will be acceptable to our Southern people and who will not lower the standard of citizenship, which is one of the proudest heritages of the Southland, is now perhaps the most important problem which that section of our country faces," said Mr. Warfield, in conclusion.

Mr. Warfield was unanimously elected chairman of the commission. An address was made by Grosvenor Dawe, managing director of the Southern Commercial congress, who discussed various phases of the agricultural and industrial problems of the South.

An executive commission consisting of representatives of certain railroads and one man from each of the 16 States was formed, with Mr. Warfield as chairman, to outline a plan of organization and present it to the general committee.

Pending a report of the commission a recess was taken until later in the day.

The executive commission presented its report at the afternoon meeting. It was in the form of a series of resolutions, providing for a permanent organization, etc., and the report was adopted at a session of less than an hour's duration.

This evening Mr. Warfield entertained the delegates at dinner at the Maryland club.

TAFT URGES LIABILITY LAW.

REPORT OF COMMISSION ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT.

Declaring Employers' Liability Act the Most Advanced Piece of Legislation on the Subject, Taft Disposes of Objection—Would Guarantee Quick Adjustment of Claims and Would Relieve Courts of Great Burden.

Washington, Feb. 20.—President Taft today submitted to Congress the report of the employers' liability commission and the commissions proposed employers' liability and workmen's compensation bill accompanied by a message urging the enactment of the measure which is the most advanced piece of liability legislation yet presented. The President sets forth that the proposed law not only would insure to employees of railroads engaged in Inter-State commerce quick adjustment of their claims for damages, but also would relieve the courts of a vast amount of work and enable them to administer judicial affairs with greater dispatch.

"I sincerely hope that the Act will pass," said the President. "I deem it one of the great steps of progress toward a satisfactory solution of an important phase of the controversies between employer and employee that has been proposed within the last two or three decades."

The provisions of the measure are sketched in the message and then Mr. Taft takes up and disposes of three objections that have been advanced by its opponents.

"In the first place," says the President, "the question as to whether under the provisions of the commerce clause, the bill could be considered to be a regulation of Inter-State and foreign commerce. That seems to be already settled by the decision of the Supreme Court in the employers' liability case."

"The second question is whether the making of these remedies exclusive and by compelling of the railroad companies to meet obligations arising from injuries, for which the railroad would not be liable under the common law, is a denial of the due process of law which is enjoined upon Congress by the fifth amendment to the Constitution in dealing with the property rights. This question the report takes up and in an exhaustive review of the authorities makes clear, as it seems to me, the validity of the Act. It is sufficient to say that the argument of the commission is most convincing to show that the police power of the government exercised in the regulation of Inter-State commerce is quite sufficient to justify the imposition upon the Inter-State railroad companies of the liability for the injuries to its employees on an insurance basis.

"The third objection is that the right of trial by jury guaranteed by the seventh amendment, is denied. As a matter of fact, the right is preserved in this Act by permitting a jury to pass on the issue when duly demanded, in accordance with the limitations of the Act."

President Taft then alludes to the alleged inequities attending personal injury litigation. He declares that perjured testimony, emotional juries and badly constructed laws limiting liability, have tended to hamper the administration of exact justice while the heavy expense of litigation has rendered it almost impossible for the poor man to command his rights. In referring to the condition of the courts because of this form of litigation, the President said:

"The administration of justice today is clogged in every court by the great number of suits for damages for personal injury. The settlement of such cases by this system will serve to reduce the burden of our courts one-half by taking the case out of court and disposing of them by this short cut."

The message concludes with the reiterated hope that the bill may be passed before adjournment of the present session of Congress.

Will He Also Run?

News and Courier.

Former Senator McLaurin tells Editor Grist, of the Yorkville Enquirer, long one of his admirers, that if Governor Blease vetoes the State cotton warehouse bill he will enter the race for Governor and stump every county in the State for the bill, even if he doesn't get a vote. The question now is as to whether the Governor will regard this as a temptation or a threat.

LEGISLATURE RECONVENES.

BILL TO SAVE WATSON AMENDED.

Gov. Blease Vetoes Refunding Act and Approves Warehouse Law—Commissioners to Be Elected Tomorrow. Pay for State House Architects.

Columbia, Feb. 21.—The Senate tonight recalled the bill making the office of commissioner of agriculture elective by the people from the engineering department, struck out the provision retaining the present commissioner, E. J. Watson, in office until his successor is chosen, after a stubborn fight, and a long debate featured by a whole airing of the matter. The bill was sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

A concurrent resolution fixing noon, February 23, as the hour for the joint Assembly for the election of the three State warehouse commissioners was adopted and sent to the House.

Mr. Tobias' bill to enlarge and define the duties and powers of Probate Courts in relation to minors was passed to third reading, as was the bill to amend the law in relation to the names and locations of voting precincts in this State.

The bill empowering county boards to appropriate funds out of the county treasury to co-operate with work of State official having charge of live stock, sanitary work and the United States department of agriculture in the eradication of cattle tick and infectious and contagious diseases of live stock, etc., was passed with amendments and sent to the House. The Governor's message approving the warehouse bill was read directly after the Senate convened. It was generally thought that the bill would be vetoed and the message approving the bill was listened to with much interest.

The bill relating to the taxation of standing timber caused prolonged debate. A motion to recommit the bill, in order to permit a hearing, which was offered by Senator Clifton, was lost and a similar fate met Senator Appell's motion to adjourn debate on the bill. After some more skirmishing the Senate finally adopted a motion and continued the bill until 11.05 a. m. tomorrow.

Leave of absence was granted to Senator Spivey, of Horry. The Senate will recess from business long enough tomorrow to permit of the reading of Washington's farewell address. At 11 p. m. the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Senator Hough tonight introduced in the Senate, by request, a joint resolution to reimburse Todd and Benson for furnishing plans, models, etc. for the State Capitol building. The resolution was referred to the finance committee. The full text of the measure follows: "That the sum of \$2,500 is hereby appropriated and that the Comptroller General be instructed to draw his warrant on the State Treasurer for that sum, on account of the claim of Todd and Benson, architects for plans, models, etc., for the State Capitol building, as part remuneration of same. Provided that, if the work is ever completed, as proposed, then they are to receive the regular compensation as per their contract with the committee on State House and grounds; and provided, further, that if the improvements are not made, then this amount is to be considered as payment in full." This resolution will become a law immediately upon the approval of the Governor.

VEToes DEBT REFUNDING ACT.

Blease Thinks Provisions Not in Interest of State.

Columbia, Feb. 21.—Gov. Blease tonight returned to the General Assembly the Act providing for the refunding of the Brown consol State bonds with his veto and his reasons therefor. The Governor states that after consultation with financiers he is satisfied that the bill is not so drawn as to be for the best interest of the State in refunding the State debt. The Governor also thinks that a provision should be inserted in the Act exempting that part of the monies of the State banks invested in them from taxation.

With the incoming of Lent, the number of card parties and dances will be greatly reduced and there will be few social functions in town until after lent has passed.

SEVEN CONVICTED, ONE IS NOT

FINES AMOUNT TO \$395 OR 300 DAYS IN ALL CASES FOR STEALING.

Reece James Gets Light Fine and Pays Out—Other Negroes Take the Days—Arrests Liable to Stop Wholesale Stealing in City—Convicted Negroes.

The wholesale arrests Wednesday of negroes engaged in stealing articles from various stores in the city will probably put a stop for sometime of the stealing which has been going on in Sumter for some time. With the arrest of Willie Jones Monday morning for breaking into Shaw's store and the arrests Wednesday, it is probable that quite a number of negroes will be put where they are not able to do any more stealing for at least thirty days—at least this is what the recorder told one of those up before him Wednesday afternoon, when the party was lamenting over his troubles.

The arrests were made Wednesday morning following the investigating of clues obtained by Policeman Ward when he was informed by Cuttino and McKnight that a negro working for them, Sam Vaughn by name, had stolen some goods from them. He followed up the clue and found where the negro had disposed of his loot and also found other loot which led to the arrest of other parties. Only one of those arrested escaped conviction and it is possible that he also would have been convicted if the necessary amount of evidence could have been obtained.

The negroes arrested were Dave Brunson, Jim Bracey, William Cabbagestalk, Sam Vaughn, Sam Richardson, Cephas Ford, Reece James and Tom Singleton. All of them were convicted except Sam Richardson, who was arrested for receiving stolen goods, but against whom there was insufficient evidence to result in a conviction. The cases were all called Wednesday afternoon after the arrests were made and disposed of by the recorder, several of the negroes pleading guilty to the charges. All of the negroes have been committed to the gang except Reece James, who paid his fine.

Dave Brunson, petit larceny, plead guilty to stealing five sacks of flour from Crosswell and Company about Christmas time. Brunson was a driver for Crosswell and Company and sold the flour to Reece James. He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 or serve 30 days.

Jim Bracey and William Cabbagestalk plead guilty to stealing two sets of lines from Boyle Live Stock Company and were sentenced to pay \$50 or serve 30 days each for petit larceny.

Sam Vaughn was up on three separate charges, stealing lard from Cuttino and McKnight, stealing rice from Cuttino and McKnight and stealing ginger ale from Cuttino and McKnight. He plead guilty to taking the rice and the ginger ale, but stated that he did not take the lard. He was found guilty, however, on all three charges and given a total sentence of 90 days or \$150.

Sam Richardson was tried for receiving stolen goods valued at less than \$20. He plead not guilty and was dismissed after the recorder had heard the evidence against him.

Cephas Ford, an old acquaintance of the police force, was tried for stealing silver knives from W. A. Thompson's store. He plead not guilty, but was found guilty and sentenced to a fine of \$50 or 30 days.

Tom Singleton plead not guilty to stealing a ham from Jones and Jennings, but was found guilty of the theft. He also was given a sentence of \$50 or 30 days.

Next on the docket came Reece James, another old offender against the city's ordinances, who stated that he had paved more of the city's streets than anybody else in town. He also, in leaving, thanked the recorder and policemen for their kindness to him and stated that hereafter he would try and conduct himself in a becoming manner and not disobey the city's laws any more. He stated that he had received the stolen goods only because of his sympathetic nature, those whom he had received them from having become indebted to him in his restaurant and he having agreed to accept payment through receiving the articles. He was up on three separate charges of receiving stolen goods and plead guilty to each of them. His fine in each case, which he paid, was \$15 or 30 days.

MESSAGE ON WAREHOUSES.

GOVERNOR WRITES OF ACT HE APPROVED.

Thinks it is Probably Unconstitutional. Says if Act Fails It Will be Heavy Blow.

Columbia, Feb. 22.—Gov. Blease sent to the house and senate last night a special message containing some information and advice about the establishment of a State system of cotton warehouses which he has approved.

The special message follows: "The Honorable, the Members of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina.

"Gentlemen: I beg to inform your honorable bodies that I have approved the act entitled 'An act to create and operate a State warehouse system for storing cotton and other commodities.'

"After a careful and as thoughtful consideration as I can give this act, I have serious and grave doubt of its constitutionality, or that it will prove as effective as it is thought; but, in view of the decided opinion, as expressed by the large number of your bodies voting for it, I deem it proper to waive my views as to its doubtful constitutionality and effectiveness to give the relief to and promote the good of our cotton industry, and hope that it may be the means of saving the farmers of this State from the evils and wrongs which the speculators in our largest staple crop have done, as well as the injury which menaces them from the cotton mill mergers in our State, which have been formed within the last year and which are still going on. It may, I trust, also be the instrument in the hands of the farmers to relieve them from the oppression which they have endured from the allowance of the existence of certain monopolies, trusts and combinations not only at the North but in our own State.

"If it should prove to be sufficient to suppress or prevent these operations and wrongs committed against our people, it will be welcomed by the whole people as a glorious accomplishment and the wisest of legislation.

As the future conduct and operation of the system just inaugurated will most vitally effect the welfare and condition of the State, it is but proper that I should suggest to you that in the selection of the commissioners to carry out this work that there should be an avoidance from making any one a member of such commission who holds and stock in any of the mills now merged, consolidated or combined with other mills of this State, or who may be otherwise interested in such combination or merger, or who has any stock or financial interest or engaged in any allied corporation which is or may be likely to affect his duty to the public and which will place him under any influence inimical to the farmers of the State in advancing or maintaining the price of cotton. It seems to me to be most appropriate and wise that three men, who are cotton planters and receive their living from this source, should be selected and who are free from expectation of political advancement or financial gain outside of the success of the business entrusted to their care; for this is a great experiment we are entering upon. If it fails it will prove a heavy blow to the farmers of the State and to the whole commonwealth."

SEARCH FOR MRS. W. H. GREEVER.

Husband and Friends from Columbia Aiding Washington Police.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The Rev. W. H. Greever, of Columbia, S. C., editor of the Lutheran Synod, is in Washington aiding the police in the search of his missing wife, who disappeared last week from the home of Miss Louise Ryan, a trained nurse of Washington, with whom she had been living for several months while undergoing medical treatment for melancholia.

Mr. Greever was accompanied to Washington by his brother, E. L. Greever; by Theodore Brueger, of Philadelphia, a brother of Mrs. Greever, and by Arthur Kohn, of Columbia, a friend of the family. Up to a late hour tonight the increased efforts to locate Mrs. Greever had been unsuccessful and there is growing apprehension. Her three young children are with relatives in Tazewell, Va.