

The Watchman and Southern. Published Wednesday and Saturday. -BY- STEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY SUMTER, S. C.

Advertisements: One Square first insertion... \$1.00. Subsequent insertions... 50c. Contracts for three months or longer will be made at reduced rates.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southern in 1890. The Watchman and Southern now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

WHAT ABOUT STOTHART?

Gov. Blease answers some of the damaging charges made against him by flat denials, others by denouncing those who make them as cowards and liars, still others by producing affidavits from Hub Evans, John Bell Towell, Jim Farnum, L. W. Boykin, Jos. B. Wylie, Jodie Rawlinson, John Black and others whose connection with the old dispensary is a matter of record.

"Judge Jones said he hoped, from the bottom of his heart, that the governor, for the honor of his great office and the good name of his great State, would ultimately be shown to be clean and innocent of graft. 'I have not charged him with graft,' Judge Jones declared; 'I do not now charge him with graft. I have not referred to the investigation at Augusta, though he intimated yesterday and again today that I had. But I have spoken of the situation developed at Charleston, where witnesses have sworn to the payment, steadily, of graft to the chief constable of the governor for protection of 'blind tigers' against the law; and this chief constable himself Stothart, when asked as to his connection with such graft, declined to testify, on the ground that it would tend to incriminate him—this being a practical admission of his complicity. If I were governor, and as much evidence had been produced against my appointee as has been produced against Stothart, I would suspend him, or remove him; I would not tolerate such an officer. I would not let him serve another minute. I would not permit the great name of my State to rest under such a stain. There has been made out against the chief constable a prima facie case of systematic grafting, and he refuses even to deny it. So long as he is kept in office he is encouraged in this position, and you, my fellow citizens, bear the shame and humiliation of it.'"

The pardon industry was quite profitable to the accredited friends of Gov. Blease. This fact has been established by the course to which the governor has pursued. He furnished \$100,000 for the pardon of James Johnson, and received \$100,000 for the pardon of James Johnson. He furnished \$100,000 for the pardon of James Johnson, and received \$100,000 for the pardon of James Johnson.

FARMERS' UNION NEWS

Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers. (Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President S. C. Farmers Union.)

Some Random Thoughts.

It is just as I predicted about the warehouse law. "It can not be given effect in its present form by reason of its failure in certain respects to comply with the requirements of the Constitution," and not on the principle involved. Nowhere in the decision do the Justices even suggest that the underlying idea is repugnant to the Constitution or to a sound governmental policy.

In the next issue we will print an article on Sumter County's School-day. The wide circulation of the Progressive Farmer from Texas to Virginia makes this a splendid advertisement of Sumter County and City.

Light From the Dark Corner.

Dark Corner, July 18.—Well, as my last letter slipped into that large mouthed receptacle just at the editor's right hand, I will write a few dots more from this corner. We are having fine rains for the crops which have improved since the rains set in on the 28th of June. But corn is surely small and, if we make any, it will have to grow on small stalks.

Mr. H. W. Pritchard, near Ramsey has the best acre of corn that I have seen and Mr. J. M. Kolb the best field of cotton. There is a fine crop of peaches, but they are rotting very rapidly. Whole trees will rot in a night. Politics is still cool here as yet, no one finding fault with his neighbor about who he intends to vote for, which I think is right. No man has any business to say who another should vote for. I have heard that a man said a few days ago that no gentleman would vote for Blease. Don't you think, Mr. Editor, that is going too far? There are good men who will vote for Blease as well as bad ones who will vote for Jones. Both have got good and bad supporters. I learned a verse when I was a boy that I think all should read and remember: "Speak gently; it is better far 'To rule by love than fear; 'Let not harsh words mar, 'The good we might do here."

And I have learned a man may be coaxed and persuaded, but you will fail most every time you try to drive or scold him into your way of thinking. As I have said, every man that don't vote as I do is a scoundrel—I expect to vote as I please. I have seen none of the candidates here as yet.

Mr. Len White called on me but I was not at home when he came through here sharpening his scragging knife preparing to scalp Mr. P. M. Pitts on the supervisor's job. Hurrab for the one that beats as they are both my friends.

Rev. Marion W. Gordon at Summerton and Mr. B. P. Broadway of Pinewood, dined with M. J. Ardis last Saturday and Sunday.

Hard Times.

News Notes From Wisacky.

Wisacky, July 20.—Farmers are very busy with the cotton crop, having finished with the corn crops and with the peas and the potato crops. They have been greatly hampered in their work by the heavy rains which began in this section the first day of this month.

The health of the community is moderately good at this time. Mr. M. L. Williams is improving slowly from severe trouble with his right eye. The sight has not been restored yet, but Dr. Wilson of Sumter gives him great encouragement.

Mrs. K. J. Williams has been very sick for several months. A part of the time she was extremely ill, and her eyesight has been greatly impaired. She has rallied and is gaining strength slowly.

The young folks are having a merry time. There will be a house party at Mr. M. L. Williams' home next week. There will also be a party at Mr. Willie Gibson's Monday evening.

Mr. W. C. Williams of Summerton visited relatives here last week. Monday morning a box car was overturned on one of the side tracks near the cotton mill and it was some time before the track was cleared. No one was injured, but the box car was considerably damaged.

NICHOLS BLAMES BOOZE.

ENTERS GENERAL DENIAL OF DICTAGRAPH RECORD.

Spartanburg Pardon Speculator Says He Was Drunk When Talking to Burns' Detective and Was Not Responsible for Statements—Testimony Before Investigating Committee Explanatory But Not Satisfactory—Graft Collection Proved on Stothart, Blease's Charleston Friend.

Columbia, July 18.—Senator Carlisle, the chairman of the investigating committee, did not arrive here from Spartanburg until noon and the proceedings began at that hour. Samuel J. Nichols, the Spartanburg attorney, went on the stand then and told of his side of the alleged deal, which Detective Reed claimed to have made with him to buy the pardon of James Johnson, the notorious yeggman. Nichols, with an array of prominent attorneys, was here to go on the stand. Several people from different parts of the State are present.

The library at the State house was well filled with spectators when the dispensary investigating committee assembled today at noon to hear the testimony of Sam J. Nichols, who was charged in Detective Reed's testimony with having been employed by him in the alleged scheme to buy a pardon for James Johnson, alias cracker. Gus DeFord, the notorious safe

Mr. Nichols was present with his attorneys, his father, Judge Geo. W. Nichols and Ralph K. Carson, C. P. Sanders, W. M. Jones, C. P. Sims, Robert T. Gantt of Spartanburg, J. G. Hughes of Union, W. S. Nelson of Columbia and C. C. Wyche of Spartanburg. All of the investigating committee were present except W. L. Daniel of Saluda.

Prior to opening the public session, the investigating committee held a short executive session. They filed in the library at 12:20 and took their seats. Carlisle called the meeting to order at 12:25 and announced that it was called chiefly to hear the testimony of S. J. Nichols. Mr. Nichols gave the names of C. P. Sanders and W. M. Jones as counsel, who would appear for him today.

Chairman Carlisle read into the record the statement that he had at the request of Mr. Nichols requested Felder to have E. S. Reed, the detective, present at the hearing today. He also read into the record Felder's reply that Reed had left Atlanta for Chicago, but that if he were there he would not come into South Carolina to testify.

W. M. Jones, of counsel for Nichols, asked questions of Nichols to show that Reed, the detective had come to Spartanburg posing as a Chicago lawyer, who wanted to represent the man DeFord in the South Carolina penitentiary.

Reed, Nichols said, had been sent to him by a Spartanburg hackman. "Mr. Porter" was referred to C. P. Sims of Spartanburg. Nichols went into the details of certain arrangements as made between "Porter," Sims and himself as to representing DeFord, and accounts of which have already been published.

Nichols related certain things about his conversation with "Porter" in the Hotel Finch. Nichols corroborated certain testimony that had been taken by the dictagraph. He explained that he went into the "interurban" case and said he had told Reed it had been reported that he had been paid \$30,000 for the signing of the incorporating act. He said he had told Reed this was a "damned lie." He said he had told the governor his refusal to sign the bill would hurt the Piedmont section, but he had paid the governor nothing, and he had not even received a fee from the Southern Power company, which he represented for his work in connection with the interurban franchise.

Nichols corroborated the testimony taken by the dictagraph that he said it was a lie that Blease had received "graft."

Nichols said he had borne much of the governor's campaign expenses in 1910, and he proposed to do this again. Nichols said when he went into Reed's room at the Hotel Finch there were two quarts of Scotch whiskey on the dresser; that he got drunk and that now he can't say what took place; that whiskey has a peculiar effect over him, and that the dictagraph testimony does not represent his "sane moments" or the facts in the case.

He was asked if he thought the whiskey was drugged. He said he couldn't say. Nichols said he did not know he was on his way to Baltimore until he woke up on the Pullman in company with friends, T. P. Pearce, L. J. Jennings and Chas. P. Calvert. Nichols said he never was offered any bribe, or anything for anything.

Nichols said if he told the dictagraph he was a delegate to Baltimore, instructed for Harmon, he must certainly have been drunk, for he was no delegate at all. There was laughter on the part of all present when this statement was made. Nichols denied that he had ever represented one Green in securing a pardon. Nichols told of joining the campaign party in Barnwell and said he went there with the intention of asking the governor if he would consider any pardons before the election. He said, however, that when he found the governor so busy, he did not mention the matter. The witness said when he saw the newspaper story that Felder had said Nichols had wired Reed to come to Spartanburg and get the pardon, he went to the Blackville office and wired Reed: "Things do not look good. Come to Spartanburg at once," and he said he was then "cold sober." He introduced the original message in evidence, and said he had not wired Reed anything else. Mr. Nichols said he spent last Sunday here with Governor Blease, and the first he knew of any reported "crookedness," he read it in the Sunday morning papers. He said when he got to Spartanburg he found Porter's answer from Chicago to the Blackville message. "Though, in truth," he said, "Porter was in Augusta." This wire was introduced and is as follows: "Chicago, July 13, 1912. 'Sam J. Nichols, Spartanburg, S. C. 'Your wire received today. Take it for granted papers ready. Am mailing New York draft twenty thousand and agreed. Wire immediately if paper is issued today. 'Henry N. Porter.'"

The witness said he had been told the stenographer who took the records of the dictagraph was Tom Felder's stenographer. "Can not a stenographer easily changing the notes so as to misreport statements?" asked Attorney Jones. Mr. Nichols replied he thought he could. Chairman Carlisle stated, for Mr. Jones that the stenographer had never sworn to his notes as submitted to the committee. The witness said the name of a man who is alleged to have had a fight with Mr. Hearson, editor of the Spartanburg Herald, as mentioned in the testimony, was wrongly reported, as were other names of Spartanburg people mentioned in the dictagraph records. At one place in the dictagraph record Nichols had referred to the governor as necessarily sharing in the "profits" of the pardon, but the witness said he evidently was referring to Sims and not to the governor. Mr. Jones said the stenographer had here and in other places put in the word "governor" to make the record miscarry.

Mr. Nichols read from a magazine, the American Federation, a statement from George W. Wickersham, attorney general of the United States to show that W. J. Burns "stacked the cards," using Burns' own words, and had used "improper methods in the investigation of certain cases in the country. The attorney general, this article said, had reported on Burns' work, characterizing certain of Burns' reports in a government investigation as "evasive."

Mr. Jones said he had a letter to show that the dictagraph, as used in the Lorimer case, was unreliable, and he said this will be introduced if the writer of the letter, an official in Washington and a friend of Nichols', would give consent for its use. This will be introduced later, if at all.

On a question of C. P. Sanders of his counsel, Mr. Nichols said he never made any agreement to receive any money for Governor Blease and he did not think the governor would have received any such bribe, if it should be offered. In all this testimony, Mr. Nichols was questioned by W. M. Jones, of Spartanburg, one of his attorneys.

Nichols said he had made no statement to his knowledge, and "if he did it was when he was under the influence of whiskey," that he would accept any money for use in connection with Gov. Blease's campaign.

Nichols denied he had done "much pardon business," as alleged by Reed, and when asked to explain the fees that the attorneys would receive for securing pardons, he brought forth laughter from the crowd when he said to Committeeman Carey: "If a man of your standing were to commit murder, we'd charge more to get a pardon for you than for a poor man who had no money."

Mr. Nichols said W. T. Jones, of Union had offered him money to secure a pardon, and that a friend of Allen Emerson of Anderson had told him that Mr. Geer, of Charleston, would pay a big fee for Emerson's pardon. He had been told he could get \$2000 for the first pardon, but both of these, as well as others, he had refused to consider.

Nichols said he believed he had great influence over the governor, and that his (Nichols') influence would have some weight with the governor. "In your opinion, do you believe that the governor's lawyer and other friends have imposed on him through

friendship in securing the large number of pardons and paroles since he has been governor of South Carolina?" asked Committeeman Carey. "I am not familiar with the elements of the other cases, but in the few I was connected with he was not imposed upon, and if the others were as meritorious as mine, in none has he been imposed upon," replied Nichols.

Asked as to the statement reported in the dictagraph record that if Blease were elected to the United States senate, he (Nichols) would in two years be elected governor, the witness laughed and said: "That shows I was drunk, for if I should be elected governor in two years, I could not qualify, for I am too young." There was considerable laughter.

Mr. Nichols said he knew little of the DeFord case, except what he got from Reed, the detective. He said, that on investigation he had found that C. P. Sims did not represent DeFord, the prisoner representing himself, not being able to pay for an attorney.

R. K. Carson, an attorney of Spartanburg, was the next witness. He testified of the trial and physical condition of DeFord and said, from his knowledge, and if his condition now is as it was when he last had a report on it, he thought he needed a pardon, and he said under the circumstances he thought there was nothing unprofessional in laying a petition for DeFord's pardon before the governor. Several witnesses testified that DeFord was suffering from tuberculosis and had other infirmities.

Magistrate R. J. Gantt was the next witness. He testified that on the day of the interview Mr. Nichols was "fighting drunk." He gave as his opinion that there was nothing unprofessional in laying the pardon petition before the governor.

Affidavits from Chas. P. Calvert and R. B. Paslay were introduced to show that Nichols was drunk on the trip to Baltimore.

Mr. Nichols testified that he wanted Reed, the detective, here today to appear that he might contradict him in case the detective said Nichols was not drunk during the testimony recorded in the dictagraph, and he also wanted to contradict his statement, as reported in an Atlanta paper, that a telegram had been sent to Chicago by Nichols telling Reed to come to Spartanburg and close the "deal."

Judge Geo. W. Nichols, father of the first witness, was the second witness. He testified that on the day of the interview in the Hotel Finch had taken place he saw his son more drunk than ever before.

C. P. Sims, of Spartanburg, was the third witness. He told of circulating the petition for the pardon of DeFord, and said he thought the prisoner in such a bad physical condition that he should be pardoned. He offered to get an affidavit to show DeFord had been wrongfully convicted.

Sims testified of Sam J. Nichols' drunken condition on the day of the interview, and of having been suspicious as to the doing of "Porter." He spoke of his high esteem of Governor Blease and said he knew of no wrongful acts on the part of the governor. He said he doubted that "Porter" was honest, but he was willing to "risk" the job for a good fee.

The direct charge of graft in connection with the Charleston whiskey situation and the defense as put up Sam J. Nichols, the Spartanburg attorney, to the charge of a pardon deal were the features of the session yesterday of the committee of the general assembly of South Carolina that is investigating the affairs of the old State dispensary.

The committee made a ruling yesterday that will have an important bearing on all witnesses to be summoned in the future with reference to the alleged system of collecting a "protection fund" from the "blind tigers" of Charleston. Witnesses in the future will be required to give testimony or be ruled in contempt. The testimony under the ruling of the committee will not be used in criminal cases against the witnesses.

As a result of the testimony yesterday Ben H. Stothart, chief constable of Charleston county, is charged with receiving a monthly sum from J. P. B. O'Neill, a confessed wholesale and retail whiskey dealer, O'Neill made the direct charge that he paid this fund for "protection" from the constables. He charged that he collected the fund from several retail dealers and that they were given the necessary protection. The method by which this fund went to Stothart is shown in the verbatim testimony of O'Neill.

The committee, while not making an official statement, has indicated that every wholesale whiskey dealer in Charleston, charged with accepting the protection fund from the retail dealers, will be summoned and forced to give testimony or they will be held in contempt. No witness will be allowed to refuse to give testimony on the ground that "he might incriminate him."

BLEASE A LIAR! SAYS GRACE.

CHARLESTON MAYOR DIRECTS STRONG LANGUAGE AT GOVERNOR.

Emphatically Denies Statement That He Endeavored to Control Appointment of Constables.

Charleston, July 20.—Mayor Grace declared that the statement of Gov. Blease that he endeavored to control the dispensary constabulary appointments is "an absolute, unqualified lie and Grace knows it is a lie." Mayor Grace said that he protested against the appointment of constables for Charleston from the very first, as his letters, which have been printed, have shown. Mayor Grace said that Gov. Blease attended the conference at the German artillery hall and he was pressed to say what he proposed to do about the placing of constabulary forces in Charleston. At first he denied that he was going to appoint constables for Charleston and then he admitted that he was thinking about appointing Stothart to the office of chief constable. Mayor Grace and others protested against it and in the presence of the party, numbering about 15, Mayor Grace said, that Blease turned to L. C. A. Roessler and offered him the position. Mr. Roessler refused to have it and declared also his opposition to a constabulary force in Charleston.

After the announcement of the appointment of Chief Stothart, Gov. Blease asked Mayor Grace if he would name the appointees for the force, the mayor stated that he indignantly told him that he would have nothing to do with the constables, that he was opposed to the appointment of a force of that kind, even if he had the appointment of the men.

BARS PRIZE FIGHT PICTURES.

House Passes Senate Bill Prohibiting Transportation of Such Films in Interstate Commerce.

Washington, July 10.—Prize fight moving pictures today became a thing of the past in the United States when the house passed a senate bill prohibiting the transportation of such moving picture films between the various States and territories or from foreign countries. Heavy fines for violation of the proposed law are fixed by the bill.

ARMY WORMS APPEAR.

Much Damage Being Done Corn and Forage Crops.

The army worm has appeared in large numbers in various sections of the State within the past week and much damage is being done to corn, grass and forage crops. The situation is serious and fears are entertained that the corn crop may be destroyed in some sections. Until Saturday no worms were reported in Sumter County, but that day reports began to come in from widely separated sections of this and Lee county that the worms had made their appearance and were doing great damage to corn, peas and sweet potatoes as well as making a clean sweep of grass. Thus far cotton has not been attacked by the worms. Some of the farmers whose crops are being destroyed by the worms were buying Paris green Saturday and will make an effort to exterminate the pest before their corn crops are a total loss. There was only a limited supply of Paris green to be had in town and unless the supply of poison is replenished quickly the worms will do great damage before the fight against them can be started.

Comptroller General A. W. Jones

completed his inspection of the auditor's books and reports Thursday in about two hours. When he had completed his inspection he made some very complimentary statements concerning the auditor and the manner in which he kept the books and he expressed himself as very much pleased with the results of his examination.

WANTED—To sell half interest in my

mercantile business at New Zion, S. C. Want purchaser to manage business. My managers will assist him and look after other interest. Terms right to right man. Stock about \$1,700. Two 80-saw gins, been used about one year, and elevator, never has been put up at reduced prices. D. C. Shaw, Sumter.

FOR SALE—New seed rye for planting

in cotton, corn, etc., when laying by. Booth-Harby Live Stock Co.

WANTED—Men, women and students

to sell patented specialties, or popular publications. Guaranteed salary \$1.75 per day. Address Box 22, Boykin, S. C.

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sell you Nitrate of Soda for prompt shipment from any port. Write or phone me for prices. Phone No. 19. C. J. Dwyer.