

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Alms' at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1846.

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RAVAGES OF BOLL WEVIL.

COTTON PRODUCERS HAVE SUFFERED \$500,000,000 LOSS FROM INSECT.

South Carolina's Loss in Case of Invasion Would be About Fifty Per Cent—Loss Estimated in Various States.

Washington, Jan. 12.—That is the loss cotton producers of the United States have suffered from the boll weevil, according to statistics made public today by Director W. J. Harris, of the Census Bureau, department of commerce.

Searchers of the department of commerce have discovered that the loss in cotton production due to the boll weevil has totalled 10,000,000 bales. Placing a value of only \$50 on each bale, the monetary loss reaches the huge sum of half a billion dollars. The actual loss, however, would be very much above even that stupendous figure, for, as pointed out by Director Harris, the loss resulting from the failure of farmers to plant cotton because of the fear of the boll weevil never can be estimated.

Here are the details of what the various cotton States have suffered from the boll weevil:

Mississippi. In seven selected counties of Mississippi the production of cotton in 1907 amounted to 191,790 bales, valued at nearly \$511,000,000. The boll weevil reduced this production to 89,577 bales in 1909; to 61,432 bales in 1910; to 37,816 bales in 1911; and to 30,809 bales in 1912. The aggregate production for the four years amounted to 219,634 bales, valued at approximately \$14,600,000. Had the crop of 1907 been produced for each of these years the aggregate would have exceeded 767,000 bales, valued at \$48,600,000. Many farmers in these counties abandoned entirely the attempt to produce cotton. The majority of the farm laborers have been thrown out of employment and are seeking other places.

Louisiana. Louisiana's largest cotton crop, 1,089,526 bales, was grown in 1904.

The production was reduced to 245,648 bales in 1910. This great loss was due principally to the ravages of the boll weevil. In 10 of the large cotton-producing parishes the crop amounted to 256,018 bales, valued at \$15,000,000, during the year immediately preceding the advent of the weevil in each of these parishes. The aggregated production of these 10 parishes for the following four years amounted to only 211,250 bales, valued at approximately \$13,500,000. Had the production equaled that of the year preceding the coming of the weevil, it would have amounted to 1,024,072 bales, valued at \$65,000,000. The loss to the cotton growers in these 10 parishes, attributed very largely to the boll weevil, amounted to more than \$50,000,000 for the four years.

Arkansas. During 1906, 1907, and 1908 the boll weevil was dispersed over an area covering about one-third of the State of Arkansas. In four selected counties of the State the crop for 1906 amounted to 73,426 bales. By 1909 the crop of these counties had been reduced by the weevil to 26,962 bales, and in 1910 it was 35,496 bales. The aggregate value of these two crops was about \$4,500,000 whereas had each equaled the crop of 1906 the cotton for these counties would have brought into them more than \$10,000,000.

Texas. The boll weevil first appeared in the State of Texas in 1892, and during the next 15 years caused an enormous loss in the cotton crop of the State. In seven selected counties in the northeast section of the State the production in 1906 amounted to 232,963 bales. This was reduced to 114,791 bales in 1907; to 153,347 bales in 1908, and to 145,752 bales in 1909. The aggregate value of the three crops in these counties amounted to about \$24,000,000. If the production of 1906 had been maintained, the value would have been approximately \$40,000,000.

Alabama. The boll weevil now covers the southern portion of Alabama. Selecting six counties in the eastern part of the State, which are in the direct path of the weevil, the production during five years has amounted to 772,325 bales, which sold for about \$45,000,000. If the ravages of the weevil in these counties should result in reducing the production in the same proportion as in the selected counties in Mississippi, the cotton produced during the four seasons following the spread of the weevil throughout these counties would amount to 440,000 bales, and the financial loss computed at \$50 per bale, would be more than \$22,000,000.

Georgia. Selecting five important cotton-producing counties in western

CONGRESS AT WORK.

SETTLES DOWN TO LONG GRIND AFTER RECESS IN REGULAR SESSION.

Anti-Trust Legislation to Come up First with Numerous Other Subjects to Work on Later.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Congress settled down to its long regular session today, after a recess dating from the passage of the currency reform bill just before Christmas. The coming administration anti-trust legislation programme loomed up as the big business of the winter; but with the prospect of waiting until next week for the president's message, both houses turned actively to other matters.

In the house return to work was celebrated by prompt passage of the first of the annual supply measures, the District of Columbia appropriation bill, and the introduction of the usual opening day batch of miscellaneous measures. The senate began debate on the Alaskan government railroad bill.

Anti-trust experts in both houses began a period of extraordinary activity to end when the anti-trust programme is written into law before the close of the session. Actual committee work will be delayed pending President Wilson's address. A rough draft of the address will be brought to Washington by the president and later in the week Chairman Clayton of the house judiciary committee and Chairman Newlands of the senate commerce committee probably will be called into conference with the president and Attorney General McReynolds.

Meantime Chairman Clayton and Representatives Carlin and Floyd of the house committee are reviewing the long list of anti-trust measures already before the committee. It is not probable that any of these bills will be accepted as a part of the administration plan, but all the ideas embodied in them will be considered. Senator Newlands of the senate commerce committee expects to take up the anti-trust programme Friday.

A BIG FIRE LOSS.

Plant of Peoples' Oil Company Destroyed at Johnston With \$10,000 Loss.

Johnston, Jan. 12.—Today at 10 o'clock the plant of the Peoples' Cotton Oil company was destroyed by fire. The cottonseed house and cotton gin were saved. The cause of the fire is said to have been a hot box. All the machinery, several tons of meal and about 500,000 gallons of oil were also destroyed, the smoke from the oil making it quite difficult to save the other buildings. The loss is estimated at between \$40,000 and \$50,000, with about \$20,000 insurance. The office and all books of the company were saved.

DOCKET PROBABLY HEAVY.

Judge Smith to Open U. S. Court at Columbia January 20.

Columbia, Jan. 12.—The United States District Court, with Judge H. A. M. Smith presiding, will convene at Columbia January 20, according to information received from Charleston. It is understood that a heavy docket will be presented to the court by Clerk Richard W. Haison.

\$200,000 Loss in Fire.

Montreal, Jan. 13.—The Robinson-Oliver grain mill was burned here this morning, causing a loss of two hundred thousand dollars. The thermometer is twenty below zero.

Georgia, which are also in the path of the weevil, the loss in the production during four seasons following the invasion of the insects would range from 200,000 bales, based on the experience of the counties in Texas to 350,000 and 300,000 bales, based on the production in the selected counties in Mississippi and the parishes in Louisiana, respectively. The resulting financial loss in these counties would be, therefore, from \$10,000,000 to \$19,500,000.

South Carolina. The production of cotton during the last five years in the five most important cotton-growing counties in South Carolina was 1,478,728 bales, a value of approximately \$87,500,000. Should the boll weevil infest these counties, with a resulting loss in cotton production such as occurred in the selected counties in Mississippi, the reduction in the crops during the four seasons following the dispersion of the insects would be \$10,000,000 bales, valued at \$2,000,000.

PRESIDENT NAMES WILLIAMS.

WANTS HIM AS THIRD MEMBER OF CURRENCY BOARD.

Therefore Nominates Him as Comptroller Despite Determined Opposition From Wall Street. Others Fight Under Mistaken View.

Washington, Jan. 13.—When President Wilson, fresh from his three weeks' vacation at Pass Christian Miss., as his first official act upon returning to Washington sent to the senate today the name of John Skelton Williams of Richmond, to be comptroller of the currency, he probably did something for which many leading bankers and financiers throughout the country, especially those in the South, will thank him.

By making this nomination, the president defies the powers of big finance that have fought Mr. Williams from the first mention of his name in connection with the position he now holds, assistant secretary of the treasury. It is one of the most curious circumstances of latter day politics that John Skelton Williams, who for years has fought the big powers of Wall street, is now opposed because it is alleged that he is an ally of the Ryan and Morgan and other interests. Nothing could be farther from the truth than this.

The opposition to Williams indeed, has been predicated almost entirely on ignorance of the facts. He had been a railroad president and a banker of importance; therefore when he was named for assistant secretary of the treasury captives of the administration jumped to the conclusion that he represented the connection between Wilson and Wall street. Wall street liked Williams rather less than anybody that could have been brought into the government, and the reasons why it disliked him make up one of the romances of business and of the rebuilding of the new South in the last generation. There will be a hot fight on the confirmation of Mr. Williams for comptroller. That he will be confirmed is not doubted by those who know the facts about his career. They say that just as soon as the truth is understood there will be an end of opposition from men who are sincere in the wish to thwart Wall street domination.

The National City bank is named as one of the interests especially hostile to Mr. Williams, but the Ryan interests are supposed to be no more friendly. The antagonism grows out of the long series of fights between Williams on one side and the New York financiers on the other, for control of the Seaboard Air Line railroad. Mr. Williams was just about the last provincial financier in the country strong and able enough to keep control of a big railroad away from Wall street. That was the head and front of his offending. After the Wall street firm had comfortably organized itself into control of the Southern, the Louisville & Nashville, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Illinois Central; after, in short, the community of interest was all but completed, then this Richmond banker injected himself into the situation.

Born in Richmond three months after Appomattox, Williams comes of the finest old Virginia Cavalier stock. He went early into his father's banking house, and before he was of age was publishing a manual of Southern investment data that became widely known.

COTTON HOLDINGS INCREASE.

232,076 More Bales in Warehouses January 1, 1914, than on Same Date of Previous Year—Exports Over Hundred Thousand Bales Less.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The census bureau report today shows 432,198 bales of cotton consumed last December, against 445,275 of the previous year. In warehouses January 1: 5,172,645, against 4,910,569 last year. Exports 1,230,830, against 1,391,534.

VETERAN EDITOR DYING.

Col. C. R. Pendleton, of Macon Telegraph, Near His End.

Macon, Jan. 13.—Col. C. R. Pendleton, editor and part owner of the Macon Telegraph is in a critical condition in a local hospital suffering from acute Bright's disease. Grave doubts as to his recovery are entertained by attending physicians.

MURDER IN LAURENS.

Laurens, Jan. 13.—The charred remains of George Young, a well to do farmer, were found today in the ashes of his home, near Ronto, which was burned late last night. It is suspected that he was murdered by negroes.

JAPAN SORELY STRICKEN.

TEN MILLION PEOPLE STARVING IN KIUSHIU.

Volcanic Eruption, Tidal Waves and Earthquakes Following Crop Failure Creates Most Appalling Problem Any Nation Has Faced in Modern Times.

Tokio, Jan. 14.—With the devastation of the southern part of the Island of Kiushiu by a volcanic eruption, tidal waves, earthquake and fire, following a crop failure, northern Japan, where ten million are starving, the Japanese government is facing the most appalling national problem of modern ages. News from the earthquake stricken region indicate that the death list will run into thousands. Hundreds were hurt in their flight, many fatally.

The government may be forced to appeal to the civilized world for financial aid. It is estimated that twenty-five million will be needed to succor the victims.

Accompanied by a thunderous roar the eruption of the volcano Sakurajima continued today and other volcanoes are showing signs of activity. Kagoshima Bay is strewn with dead bodies.

Clouds of ashes, carried three hundred miles, are dropping on ships in the harbor of Osaka. Famine is adding terror to the widespread misery.

EARTHQUAKE DESTROYS CITY.

Kagoshime, Crowded with Refugees, Suffers From Volcano and Earthquake.

Tokio, Jan. 13.—Kagoshime, the capital of Sabuma province, was destroyed by earthquake today. Hundreds were killed and injured. The city is crowded with refugees from Sakurajima. Flaming lava fired the city in many places.

TERRIBLE VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

Tokio, Jan. 13.—There are five hundred dead and eight thousand homeless as the result of the eruption of the volcano Sakurajima in southern Japan. Molten lava is streaming from the crater today. The city of Kagoshima, with a population of 65,000, is threatened with destruction.

WILL CONSIDER TAXES FIRST.

Dr. Geo. W. Dick, of Ways and Means Committee, Tells of Coming Work of Legislature.

Columbia State, Jan. 13. Dr. George W. Dick, chairman of the ways and means committee of the house, arrived in Columbia yesterday from his home in Sumter and will attend the session of the house today.

"I have held conferences with members of the house and senate," said Dr. Dick, "for beginning early to provide ways and means for curtailing the immense budget that we understand is to be presented at this session. We will use our utmost endeavor to hold the levy down to what it has been during the past several years. I have been by invitation inspecting some of the new office buildings erected in Columbia, at what must have been an enormous expense, with a view to obtain the most suitable for those officers which are debarred from using our State house on account of lack of space."

Dr. Dick said that he was glad to see that the State department of agriculture is now on a self-sustaining basis. He said that the department had turned back to the State more money than was appropriated at the last session.

"I am pleased to note, also," said Dr. Dick, "that the insurance department through the efforts of the efficient commission, F. H. McMaster, has turned into the State treasury more than \$173,000 this year."

Dr. Dick said that the value of the property in the State for taxation had been increased by nearly \$6,000,000 and that this increase will be a great help in framing the appropriation bill.

ESTABLISH AEROPLANE BASE.

United States Ready to Send Eleven Air Craft Against Mexico in Case of War.

Washington, Jan. 14.—With the arrival of the battleship Mississippi at Pensacola, reported today, the first move of a world power towards the establishment of an aerial base for offensive operations in time of war was completed. The United States have had eleven aircraft within striking distance of Mexico all winter. The battleship Mississippi is better equipped for aeroplane work than any other warship in the navy. It will be held at Pensacola ready for instant action.

HUERTA'S MEXICO BANKRUPT.

DICTATOR ISSUED DECREE SUSPENDING PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON PUBLIC DEBT.

The Decree is a Proclamation of National Bankruptcy, the Huerta Government Having Failed to Negotiate Loans in Europe—Collapse of Dictatorship Expected Soon.

Mexico City, Jan. 13.—Dictator Huerta today issued a decree suspending for one year the payment of interest on all government indebtedness, foreign and domestic, including interest on all bonds. It is in effect a proclamation of national bankruptcy. This action by Huerta is believed to be the result of the collapse of all negotiations for foreign loans.

Another decree provides that any person refusing to accept State bank notes, recently declared legal tender, will be arrested. The indication is that Huerta is almost at the end of his financial career. Foreigners believe his fall is near.

Federals defeated Zapata Rebels at Ozumba, State of Mexico, today. A hundred Rebels are reported killed.

REBELS TAKE TOWN.

Turn Guaymas over to Constitutionals.

Mexico City, Jan. 13.—Six hundred Rebels in the garrison at Guaymas mutined today and turned the city over to the constitutionalists. This is an important Pacific coast town.

MAY CONSTRUCT PIPE LINE.

Government to Investigate Feasibility of Line From Oil Fields.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The senate today passed the Gore resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Navy and Interior to investigate the feasibility of building a government pipe line from the Oklahoma oil fields to a port on Gulf Mexico, to be used to supply naval vessels with fuel oil.

SEEK WILLIAMS' APPOINTMENT.

Will be Third Member of Currency Board, if Confirmed.

Washington, Jan. 13.—If the appointment of John Skelton Williams, which is sought by several southern senators, is confirmed, he will be the third member of the organization on the committee charged with the putting the new currency system into effect.

QUARTER MILLION FIRE IN ATLANTA.

Cotton States Supply Co., and Avery & Sons Plant Destroyed.

Atlanta, Jan. 14.—The Cotton States Belting and Supply Co., plant and warehouse of Avery and Sons were burned early this morning. The loss is \$250,000 with insurance only half that amount. The cause is unknown. The fire originated in the Cotton States plant and several adjacent smaller buildings were burned.

R. R. MAY RAISE RATES.

Understood That Interstate Commerce Commission Has So Decided.

Washington, Jan. 13.—It is reported on good authority today that the Interstate Commerce Commission has decided that railroads east of Chicago and north of the Ohio River may raise their freight rates three and a half per cent. The railroads asked to be allowed to raise it to five.

FOREIGNERS PROTEST.

Declare That Huerta's Action Will Alienate Powers.

Mexico City, Jan. 14.—Foreign financial representatives are protesting to Huerta against his defaulting interest on National and foreign loans, declaring it "will alienate the sympathy of foreign powers." Foreign interests will probably bring pressure to bear upon the United States to set up a financial safeguard over Mexico.

LINER IN DURE STRAITS.

Cebuquid Thought to Be Going to Pieces in Bay of Fundy.

St. John, Jan. 14.—A thick fog prevails here today and the liner Cebuquid is believed to be breaking to pieces off the entrance to the Bay of Fundy. The wreckage coming ashore are believed to be pieces of the Cebuquid. It is feared that a hundred and twenty passengers and sailors aboard must perish.

CROP PRIZES ANNOUNCED.

CITY NATIONAL BANK GIVES \$300 IN PRIZES TO SUMTER COUNTY FARMERS.

S. J. White Wins Three of Six Prizes Offered—T. S. DuBose First in Corn Raising Contest, S. J. White Second—H. R. Fraser first in Cotton Contest and T. J. Josey Second—S. J. White Wins in Sweet Potato and Oats and Vetch Raising.

The prizes offered by the City National Bank to the farmers of the county raising the greatest amount of cotton, corn, sweet potatoes and oats and vetch on four acres of land were announced Wednesday by Mr. J. Frank Williams, county demonstration agent, who had supervision of the contest and who acted as judge.

Mr. T. S. DuBose of Oswego was awarded the prize for raising the greatest amount of corn on one acre, the prize being \$75.00. He raised 199 bushels. Mr. S. J. White of Concord came second, raising 193 1-4 bushels of corn. His prize was \$50.00 and securing the second prize of \$25.

In the cotton growing contest Mr. H. B. Fraser came first, raising the greatest amount of seed cotton on his acre. His cotton crop amounted to 2,055 pounds of seed cotton and he was given a prize of \$75. Mr. T. G. Josey came second with 1,810 pounds of seed cotton to his acre and getting a prize of \$25.

In the sweet potato contest, Mr. S. J. White raised 426 bushels of potatoes on one-half an acre and was awarded the prize of \$50. There was no second prize.

In the acre of oats and vetch Mr. White again won the prize, \$50. He grew 15,992 pounds of hay on his acre of land. There was no second prize.

There were twenty-one entries in the City National Bank prize crop rotation contest, fifteen of whom stuck out to the end and made reports on their crops. Mr. Williams after a careful consideration of these reports has announced the prizes.

The contest was given under the auspices of Farm Demonstration Work Department of the United States government and Clemson college. The prizes amounting to \$290 were given by the City National Bank of this city for the purpose of encouraging rotation and diversification of crops and to show its interest in the betterment of farm land in the county.

The committee in charge of the rules of contest consisted of Messrs. J. Frank Williams, local agent, president of the Sumter County Farmers' Union, and L. L. Baker, district agent of Farmers' Demonstration Work, approved by the City National Bank through its president, Mr. G. A. Lemon.

AT WORK IN SENATE.

Patterson's Eugenics Bill Killed—Make It Harder to Secure Social Club Charters.

Columbia, Jan. 14.—In the senate today Dr. Patterson's bill relating to marriage licenses which in effect would have required certificates of health between parties contracting marriage laws indefinitely postponed by a vote of 22 to 17. This measure was only briefly discussed in the senate before being killed. It was practically a bill in line with the so much talked of modern eugenics.

The Crouch bill making more stringent the requirement to secure charters for social clubs, lodges, and the like from the Secretary of State office was passed by the senate and ordered sent to the house. This bill requires 50 qualified electors, where the charter sought is for a city, and 25 where residents of a rural community seek a charter, to endorse the petition before it can be granted by the secretary of State.

NEW DISPENSARY AUDITOR.

Gov. Blease's Appointee, Harvey W. Mitchum, Resigns and M. H. Mobley Appointed in His Place.

Columbia, Jan. 14.—Harvey W. Mitchum, who was appointed Dispensary Auditor by Governor Blease last year, today resigned his position. M. H. Mobley, who had formerly held the position, was appointed by Governor Blease in the place of Mr. Mitchum. No reasons have yet been made public as to the cause of the resignation.

BOY BURNED TO DEATH.

Covington, Tenn., Jan. 14.—Homer Gee, 16, was burned to death and his mother fatally burned this morning. The boy attempted to light a fire with kerosene. His clothing caught and his mother rushed to his rescue.