

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"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, 1866.

Consolidated Aug. 3, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1914.

Vol. XXXVIII. No. 2.

## MAY HAVE EXTRA SESSION.

GOV. BLEASE URGES PASSAGE OF BILLS.

Says He Will Hold Appropriation Bill Three Days and May Call Session in Summer Unless Fortner and Two-cent Bills are Passed.

Columbia, Feb. 24.—Gov. Blease threatens to hold the appropriation bill three days and suggests the possibility of calling an extra session of the general assembly in the summer time if the 2-cent rate bill and the Fortner bill are not passed by the senate. In a message tonight Gov. Blease said to the general assembly:

"I beg leave to call your attention to Article 4, Section 23, Constitution of 1895, which, in part, reads as follows:

"If a bill or joint resolution shall not be returned by the governor within three days after it shall have been presented to him, Sundays excepted, it shall have the same force and effect as if he had signed it," etc.

"My construction of this provision of the constitution is, when a bill is presented to the governor, that he can hold the bill under his consideration for three days. This being true, I beg leave to call your attention to the fact that if your appropriation bill is presented to me on tomorrow, Wednesday, I can hold it until Saturday, as you cannot count both the day you present it to me and the day I return it, and give the governor three full days. Therefore, I beg leave particularly to call your attention to the fact that while the governor is considering the appropriation bill of 1914, you will have ample opportunity to take up and give consideration to the 2-cent rate bill, and the Fortner bill to prevent white people from teaching in negro schools.

"Now, gentlemen, listen: You have been about four weeks, or possibly more, considering this appropriation bill, and haven't finished it yet. Surely you would not expect the governor to take it up and give it thorough consideration and return it to you within less than three days.

"For this reason, I call these matters to your attention, and once again plead with you to pass the Fortner bill and the 2-cent rate bill. An extra session of your general assembly this summer might possibly bring about the passage of these bills, as that would be a near election time, but I would be so near election time, but I that inconvenience and trouble. So take these three days the governor has to consider the appropriation bill, and give these two measures, to which I have called your attention especially, your careful consideration.

"Say, gentlemen, let's have two or three bills, anyhow, of State-wide interest and benefit out of our seven weeks' session. What say you?"

**PRESIDENT ON SNOWY STREETS.**

Few Recognize Him as He Strides Along.

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Wilson took a long, brisk walk through the snow-covered streets of the capital today. Few recognized him as he trudged along through the crowds on some of the principal business streets.

At the entrance of the interior department he was confronted with a sign, "No visitors admitted after 2 p. m." When the president opened the door an aged doorkeeper started forward and carefully eyeing the intruder finally asked:

"Well, what do you want?"

"I'm Mr. Woodrow Wilson," answered the president, with a smile.

"Well, well," said the doorkeeper, nervously, "I thought your face looked familiar."

**BECKER ESCAPES DEATH.**

Court Upsets Conviction of Police Officer but Gunmen Must Die.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The conviction of Charles Becker, a former New York police lieutenant, of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, today was reversed and the conviction of the four gunmen for the same crime was affirmed by the court of appeals.

Justice Goff, the court held, erred in many of his rulings in Becker's trial and appeared to be prejudicial in his attitude toward the defendant. The reversal was based solely on these grounds. No attempt was made by the court to say whether the weight of evidence against Becker was sufficient to warrant his conviction. It was pointed out, however, that the testimony against him was given by witnesses of low class and as much of it was open to doubt, he therefore was entitled to a fairer trial than he received.

## INQUIRE INTO BENTON'S DEATH

UNITED STATES SECURES PROMISE THAT BODY WILL BE EXHUMED AND EXAMINED.

Surgeons Able to Tell Whether Villa's Story is True—England Entirely Satisfied with America's Conduct of the Case. Many Developments.

Washington, Feb. 24.—With a request by Secretary Bryan to Gen. Francisco Villa that the body of William S. Benton, British subject, be exhumed and turned over to American officials for examination, the Washington government considered that the first step had been taken in its investigations of the recent execution at Juarez which has focused the eyes of the world anew on the Mexican situation.

Just what Gen. Villa purposes to do about the request for the body apparently was an open question late today. Early in evening Secretary Bryan had accepted a message from the constitutional chief to Consular Agent Carothers at Juarez as a promise that the body would be turned over to American authorities as soon as the matter could be arranged. This message was translated to read that the body would be delivered "but not at this time."

Just before midnight state department officials made public this announcement:

"American consul at Chihuahua reports that Villa declines to deliver Benton's body but will permit the widow or relatives to visit the place with American representative, that for their benefit he will order exhumation of the body which then will be reinterred in grave from which it is removed."

Gen. Villa is at Chihuahua and it is supposed Consul Letchner has been in personal communication with him.

From the character of the wounds, discovered on Benton's body, physicians will be able to say whether Benton was killed by a pistol shot, as his friends claim, or by a firing squad, as Villa asserts. It is generally admitted in official circles that an examination will be of great value in either affirmation or disproving of an important point in Villa's general explanation.

Developments today were many in the situation that has arisen out of the killing of Benton. Secretary Bryan asked American consular representatives at Nogales to confer with Gen. Carranza about the affair. The secretary talked with Acting Chairman Shively of the senate foreign relations committee and then at length with President Wilson. The incident was fully discussed at a cabinet meeting.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador, later called on Secretary Bryan and arranged for the visit of British Consul Percival to El Paso to supplement the American inquiry, though not to interfere with it. The secretary then conferred again tonight with the president.

News of the hanging of Clemento Vergara, an American citizen, by Mexican federalists near Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, directed attention to the Huerta government on the subject of protection for foreigners. Representations on behalf of Vergara had been made by the state department some time ago.

Cabinet officers indicated clearly that official judgment of the Benton incident would not be hasty and that the American government was occupied carefully just now in gathering the facts.

The British ambassador telegraphed Mrs. Benton that if the body was produced by the constitutionalists—it probably would be turned over to the widow—she should immediately have competent surgeons examine it. Army surgeons say the condition of the wounds will establish whether Benton was killed by a firing squad or by a pistol shot. These surgeons also say it would be impossible to conceal a murder by afterwards discharging rifle bullets into a body because of the difference in wounds inflicted upon a living person and a corpse.

That the interest the American government is taking in the Benton episode is pleasing to Great Britain was indicated after the British ambassador had conferred with Secretary Bryan. Sir Cecil remarked: "The United States is treating the Benton case exactly as though he had been one of their own citizens. They could not do more."

The ambassador had been instructed to obtain from Secretary Bryan what amounts to the safe conduct for British Consul Percival who will investigate first hand the circumstances of the killing. Mr. Percival, whose post is Galveston, Texas, is charged

## TALKING OF INVASION.

ARMY MAY BE SENT ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE.

The Mexican Situation Has Reached the Most Critical Stage—President Wilson and Secretary Bryan Discuss Possibility of Sending Army to Recover Benton's Body.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The possibility of sending American troops across the border to recover the body of William Benton was discussed today by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan.

It is probable that the United States will not take drastic action until Great Britain informs this government of her stand in the matter.

**Rebel Junta Protests.**

Washington, Feb. 25.—The Constitutional Junta here today wired to Generals Carranza and Villa urging the immediate surrender of the body of William Benton. They followed their telegrams with personal letters to the Rebel leaders vigorously protesting against the killing of British subjects.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION MEETS.**

Interesting Session Held at Dalzell on Friday Afternoon.

Dalzell, Feb. 25.—The regular meeting of the School Improvement Association was held at the Dalzell graded school on February 20th. On account of the extreme inclemency of the weather there was a poor attendance. In the absence of the president, the vice president, Miss Pearl Napier, presided. The minutes were read and approved. Miss Napier read a communication from Mr. J. F. Williams stating that representatives from the agricultural department of Clemson College would visit the Dalzell school on March 10th for the purpose of addressing the school on the subject of agricultural instruction in the rural schools. After some discussion it was decided to hold the next meeting of the association on that day. A committee was appointed to provide dinner for the speakers and other guests of the occasion. Another committee was delegated to meet these delegates at the station, play the part of hosts, and make all necessary arrangements for the comfort of the visitors. The only other business to come before the association was the appointment of Mrs. Porcher Gaillard to serve as reporter of the meeting.

Miss Mary Lemmon, who has supervision of the tomato club work, was presented and gave a very entertaining address on the progress of the tomato clubs since their beginning. She impressed upon her hearers the good to be derived from association with the works of nature, and the mental as well as physical improvement that such work brings.

"My School Days" by Miss Annie Moore was read by Mrs. Harold Bradley. Miss Moore is a graduate of the Dalzell school and her paper gave an account of the work of the school during its first ten years. The business meeting adjourned and the members turned over to the hostesses of the occasion, Mrs. A. Smith and Mrs. T. M. Crosswell. These ladies served a delicious hot luncheon, and the rest of the afternoon passed only too quickly.

This association is still in its infancy. In fact this is only its third meeting but already it has made a strong impression for good on the community. Its aim is to do anything that will help to make its school and neighborhood a brighter, cleaner, healthier and more attractive place to live in. Besides this it presents a social side which affords opportunities for much pleasant diversion, and its monthly meetings are most eagerly looked forward to and immensely enjoyed.

**Novelty for Mardi Gras.**

New Orleans, Feb. 25.—It is snowing here today for the first time in eleven years.

Columbia, Feb. 24.—Senator Clifton's bill directed against speculation by directors of textile corporations in the cotton market on futures was killed in the senate tonight.

with looking after British subjects in all parts of Texas and New Mexico, and is authorized to act at El Paso. If it should become necessary for him to go into Mexico, he will have all the protection the state department here can secure for him, according to Mr. Bryan's promise to the ambassador.

## WILL PROTECT FOREIGNERS.

THIS IS CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT MATTER IN MEXICAN SITUATION.

Senate to Go Into Executive Session in Discussing the Phase of Problem. British Consul Directed to Aid in Investigation of Killing of Benton.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Regardless of whether or not the execution of William S. Benton, British subject, by Gen. Villa was justified, today's developments emphasized clearly that protection of foreigners in rebellion-torn Mexico had become a commanding problem of increased international importance appreciated not less by President Wilson than by leaders in congress. Briefly, these were the day's developments:

After a conference with President Wilson, Acting Chairman Shively of the senate foreign relations committee and members of the committee reached an understanding that the Mexican question, if taken up in the senate, should be discussed behind closed doors.

Pending resolutions looking to better protection for foreigners soon will be taken up by the senate.

The British embassy announced that the British consul at Galveston, Texas, has been ordered to El Paso to assist in the inquiry concerning Benton, but in no way to interfere with the American investigation.

Intimations were received through semi-official channels that marines would be landed by Japan and France to act as legion guards in Mexico City along with those of Great Britain and Germany.

That the Huerta government is not averse to the sending of foreign legion guards to Mexico City is known here officially, but the United States for the present at least will not follow the course of other nations.

**REPEATING HIS STORY.**

Villa at Chihuahua Tells of Execution, Corroborating Official Account.

Chihuahua, Feb. 23.—Gen. Villa's story of the killing of William S. Benton, told to reporters here today, differs but little from official statements given out Saturday at Juarez.

According to Villa, Benton, after the verdict of the courtmartial, confessed his guilt and declined to ask for mercy. He merely requested that his property be turned over to his widow.

Villa contradicted his official report to the American consul at Juarez that Gustav Bauch, a German-American accused of being a spy, has been brought to Chihuahua. Villa said he knew nothing of him.

The rebel general today received the homage of his officers and prominent citizens at the gubernatorial palace.

He sat in a high backed gilded chair in the big chamber of delegates, beneath a canopy of deep red velvet, embroidered in gold, looking on the scene from wide set, glowing black eyes, saying but little. A medal was presented to him by those of his men who have followed him since the Madero revolution three years ago, when he forsook his outlawry and blossomed into a military patriot.

**WON'T LEAVE TORREON.**

Guards of Property There Will Stick.

El Paso, Feb. 23.—No neutral zone will be required at Torreon. E. S. Fletcher, who went there to ascertain the wishes of foreigners on the subject and returned here tonight, found that the remnant of foreigners remaining in Torreon were there specifically to guard property and they did not care to leave even during a battle.

Certain buildings will be designated by flag in the city and both sides will endeavor not to hit them.

**A VETERAN CHORISTER.**

W. R. Law, Sr., Honored by Fellow Singers.

Bishopville, Feb. 24.—A well deserved tribute was paid Sunday to W. R. Law, Sr., for 34 years leader of the choir of the Presbyterian church here. Just after the regular service ended the pastor presented him, on behalf of the congregation, with a handsome gold-headed cane, a slight token of the esteem of the church members.

The pastor called attention to Mr. Law's faithful years of service, ended when he retired on account of failing eyesight, and said he hoped that the gift would be accepted as symbolic of the good feeling of the congregation.

Mr. Law was so much moved that he was able only to bow his thanks.

## APPROPRIATION BILL REDUCED.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CUTS DOWN HOUSE FIGURES BY \$325,000.

Will Come up in Senate Tuesday—Compulsory Education and 2-cent Rate Measures Also Suggested.

Columbia, Feb. 23.—The senate tonight made a special order for tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock of the Harper compulsory education bill.

The senate passed on second reading the McLaurin bill providing for the sale of the State farms owned by the penitentiary.

In view of the question which has been raised as to the legality of the election of Senator Mauldin, of Pickens, as judge of the 13th circuit, Senator Clifton, in the senate, and Mr. Stevenson, in the house, introduced bills to ratify the election and to correct any errors that may have occurred in the original bill. The senate judiciary committee was instructed to investigate the situation and decide whether or not such a bill is needed.

The finance committee of the senate made its report on the appropriation bill tonight, reducing the amount carried in the bill as passed by the house by \$325,000. If the senate's view prevails it will mean a six-mill levy. All new buildings for State institutions provided for in the bill as passed by the house were stricken out by the senate's finance committee. Among these are the proposed new law building for the University, new gymnasium for Winthrop, new building at Cedar Springs, a new building for the Industrial Home, at Florence, and \$25,000 for a State tuberculosis hospital. The item of \$10,000 for the State military encampment is stricken out and the maintenance fund for the militia is reduced by the senate committee to \$15,000. The asylum appropriation is reduced \$10,000 and the amount proposed for the State board of health is cut to \$29,000. The report of the committee will be discussed by the senate tomorrow.

The senate tonight flatly refused to take up for the purpose of voting on the 2-cent rate bill. By a vote of 17 to 15 the senate postponed debate until tomorrow. When the bill was reached on the calendar Senator Clifton took the floor to speak against the bill, but yielded to Senator Dennis to move to postpone debate until tomorrow, which motion was carried.

The senate tonight received a message from the governor urging the passage of the 2-cent rate bill.

The senate passed on to second reading Senator Hall's bill to prohibit railroad companies from locking the doors of passenger cars.

**FAVORS TWO BATTLESHIPS.**

House Naval Affairs Committee Gives Seal of Its Approval to Administration's Plans for Development of Navy.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Formal approval today was given the administration's two battleship programme by the house naval affairs committee, after the "small navy" men had made their final stand against it. The navy department's construction plans were changed so as to provide for six instead of eight destroyers, and four additional submarines.

As reported to the house the bill carries \$140,200,000, exclusive of amounts to be spent for armor and armament, and fixed the building programme for the coming fiscal year as follows:

Two first class battleships of the highest speed and largest possible radius of action, to rank among the world's dreadnoughts, \$7,800,000 each, exclusive of armor and armament.

One powerful 1,200-ton 21-knot seagoing submarine \$1,100,000.

Six torpedo boat destroyers, \$975,000 each.

Three coast defense submarines of 500 tons each, \$620,000, designed for use on the Pacific coast.

Four harbor defense submarines of smaller type, \$375,000 each; intended for use on the Gulf coast and at Panama.

The bill provides that the coast defense submarines shall be built and maintained on the Pacific coast if they can be built there as cheaply as on the Atlantic coast "and laid down" on the Pacific.

The two battleship programme was approved, 14 to 4. Representatives Tribble, Sensley, Witherspoon and Buchanan voting in the negative.

**Real Estate Transfers.**

Alfred Owen to J. J. Broughton and J. A. Owen, 137 acres in county, \$1,300.

## TRADE COMMISSION BILL.

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES BUSY PLANNING SUITABLE LEGISLATION.

Jurisdiction to Be Granted Body Difficult Problem—Understood That Provision Will Be Made for Annual Reports and for Authority to Initiate Investigation.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Members of the senate and house interstate commerce committees today were busy with tentative drafts of the proposed interstate trade commission bill, but no concrete plans were announced.

The senate subcommittee, headed by Representative Covington of Maryland, wrestling with the problem of how to "big business" the jurisdiction of the proposed commission. A tentative section to cover this subject says:

"That all corporations, joint stock companies and corporate combinations engaged in commerce among the several States or with foreign nations, except corporations, joint stock companies and corporate combinations subject to the interstate commerce act and its amendments having annual gross receipts of \$2,000,000 or more, or having annual gross receipts of less than \$2,000,000, but belonging to such classes of corporations, stock companies and corporate combinations as the commission may in its discretion determine, shall furnish to the commission annually such information, statements and records of their organization, bond holders and stock holders, business practices and relations to other corporations, joint stock companies and corporate combinations as the commission shall require."

Some of the main provisions likely to be embodied in the subcommittee's draft of the bill, it was understood, would require:

That all corporations, joint stock companies and corporate combinations subject to the terms of the bill annually shall report all required information, statements and records of their organization, bond holders and stock holders, business practices and relations to other concerns of the same class and answer specifically all questions the commission may ask at any time.

That failure to comply within 30 days of the required time be deemed a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of not exceeding \$1,000 for every day of failure to comply.

That upon its own initiative or upon reasonable complaint the commission "may" and upon the attorney general's request "shall" investigate the organization, conduct and management of any concern subject to its jurisdiction, and if any such is found violating the law the commission shall report to the attorney general, setting forth these practices and what conduct and readjustment is necessary for the offending concern to continue business. This report is to be made public only upon the attorney general's direction.

That if the commission during an investigation should obtain information concerning unfair competition and practices not necessarily violative of the existing law, it would report this information to the president upon whose direction alone it would be made public.

That courts be authorized in any equity suit brought, at the instance of the attorney general, to refer, either during progress of the cause or after judgment to the commission any aspect of the litigation or any proposed decree, the commission to report its findings to the court to become part of the record in the case.

That the commission report annually to congress by December 1, giving statistics that would not contravene limitations on publicity and recommending any necessary additional legislation.

That the commission have as to all these concerns the same power and authority as the present law confers on the interstate commerce commission as to railroads and other common carriers.

**CLARK HOWELL OUT OF RACE.**

Appointment Will go to South Georgia Man—Many Candidates.

Atlanta, Feb. 23.—With Clark Howell, withdrawn from the race for appointment as United States senator to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Bacon, it is now certain that a South Georgia man will get the appointment. Among those prominently mentioned are John Boiffeuillet, of Macon; W. W. Osborne of Savannah, W. S. West of Valdosta, W. C. Vereen of Moultrie, and Peter Meldrim of Savannah. The appointment is expected soon.