

SHOULD HOLD EXPLOSIVE BASE.

Hefflin Urges Purchase of Cotton and Linters for National Defense Purposes.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Representative Hefflin of Alabama, a member of the house committee on agriculture, called on Secretaries Garrison and Daniels today to discuss the administration's defense programme, and particularly the use of cotton and linters in the manufacture of gun cotton and other explosives. Mr. Hefflin suggested that the government purchase 450,000 bales of cotton and 250,000 bales of linters to meet the munitions requirements of the army and navy, and that on account of the short cotton crop and the increasing demand both for cotton and linters in Europe for war purposes, the purchases be made early in December.

The secretaries promised to take the matter up. Secretary Daniels told Mr. Hefflin that more cotton than usual would be required by the government powder mills at Indian Head because the plant there was being enlarged and soon would be able to increase its output of manufactured powder.

SPREAD OF BOLL WEEVIL.

Spread Was Abnormally Great During Past August.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Under normal conditions the boll weevil advances into new territory at the rate of about 50 miles each year, but during a period of only two weeks during the present season there was an advance of about 100 miles. This movement carried the insect into Georgia for the first time, and 25 counties in that State became infested. Several counties in Florida have been infested for several years but 8 additional ones became infested by the same movement. Twenty additional counties in Alabama were also invaded. All of this spread took place between the 15th and 31st of August.

There were several conditions according to the entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture, that contributed to this unusual dispersion. One of them was the drought in Alabama and Mississippi, which caused the plants to cease fruiting and deprived the weevils of the squares upon which they prefer to feed. The more important condition, however, was a series of very high winds which began on August 15 and blew continuously for several days toward the northeast. The weevils were thus carried much farther than they would have gone by natural flight or even by the aid of ordinary winds.

The department has placed all available forces at work to assist the farmers in the territory that has just become infested. Most of the cotton is now open and this will allow an unusually early picking so that the fall broods of the weevil can be destroyed by uprooting and burying the plants or burning them where necessary. The department strongly urges the burying of the plants wherever this can be done promptly, as the humus thereby placed in the soil is of very great importance. The State agencies are cooperating with the agents of the department, and a very active effort will be made to reduce the number of weevils to the extent that will allow an approximately normal crop to be produced next season.

Another feature of the boll weevil problem which is attracting considerable attention is the damage that is being done in Texas this season. There is a more or less general impression in the eastern part of the cotton belt that the boll weevil has died out in the State of Texas, but the investigations of the department show that the abundance of the insect in that region depends on climatic conditions. During the present season these conditions have been extremely favorable with the result that the insect has been as abundant as at any time since it invaded the State. The lesson to be drawn from this fact is that the planters in the eastern part of the cotton belt must make a strenuous fight, and should realize that since the boll weevil has not died out either in Texas or Mexico, it is not at all likely to do so in any other region that may become invaded. They should adjust their systems of farming to boll-weevil conditions without delay.

Messrs. W. A. Bowman, W. Y. Delgar and J. Arthur Haynsworth left yesterday afternoon for Augusta, Ga., to grade the cotton stored in the warehouses there that was recently sold by H. D. Barnett to C. P. Exum for Rogers, McCabe & Co. Some of the cotton is at Augusta, some at Columbia, Mayesville and Sumter and at all these places it will be taken out and graded prior to shipment to the purchasers.

Columbia, Oct. 3.—A reprieve of two weeks was granted by Gov. Manning yesterday to Willie Bethune, the negro who was to have been electrocuted at the State penitentiary yesterday morning.

HOUSE OF GOVERNORS.

Executives of Fourteen Southern States Agree to Meet at Southern Commercial Congress.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Announcement was made here today that the invitation of Gov. Richard I. Manning, of South Carolina, to the governors of the South to meet in Charleston at the time of the Seventh Annual Convention of the Southern Commercial Congress to organize the House of Southern governors, has been accepted by executives of fourteen States.

"The South," Gov. Manning states, "has its peculiar problems. The convention at Charleston comes at a time when questions of vast moment should be deliberated upon and discussed by those who are to direct and guide in the solution of these problems. The question in regard to cotton, its marketing and exportation; the subject of rural finance, with especial reference to long-time loans and short-time personal credit; the commercial advantages presented to the South through the opening of the Panama Canal and the European war—these questions, discussed by the executives of our Southern States at the time of the Charleston congress, may produce recommendations that may be called to the attention of the people of the South and present to the congress of the United States the peculiar problems that should receive prompt attention through Federal legislative action."

Governor Manning is being assisted in the organization of the House of Southern governors by Dr. Clarence J. Owens, managing director of the Southern Commercial Congress, who is acting as temporary secretary.

The governors who have signified their intention of participating in the organization include those of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

All former governors and the present lieutenant governors of the Southern States have also been invited to attend the conference.

SUBMARINE BIDS OPENED.

Massachusetts Company Submits Lowest Bids.

Washington, Sept. 30.—The Electric Torpedo Boat Company, of Quincy, Mass., and the Union Iron Works, of San Francisco, today submitted the lowest bids for the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, respectively, for the construction of sixteen submarines.

The Quincy yard proposed building eight or more submarines for \$523,000 each, the first to be completed within seventeen months.

The San Francisco concern bid for five or more at \$510,000 each, the first to be completed in twelve months and two a month thereafter.

The sixteen submersibles are to be of the coast defence type, displacing from 450 to 500 tons each. They will measure less than 200 feet in length, will have a speed of 14 knots on the surface and 11 knots submerged. Each will carry a three-inch disappearing gun.

The specifications call for quarters for about twenty men on each boat and space for stores which will permit the craft to remain away from its base for thirty-day periods.

PEOPLES IS HONORED.

Chosen Vice President by Attorneys General.

Columbia, Oct. 1.—Thomas H. Peoples, attorney general of South Carolina, was elected vice president of the Association of Attorney Generals of the United States at its meeting in San Francisco, the last of which was held Wednesday, September 22. Mr. Peoples returned to Columbia Wednesday night, having left for the West September 9. He was the only Southern man elected to office.

Mr. Peoples, the youngest attorney general attending the well attended convention, said yesterday that a number of interesting problems were discussed, most interesting of which was the paper by Attorney General Webb, of California on "The Alien Law." The subject is of vital importance to the people of the West especially, due to legislation which has been passed regarding the admission and rights of Japanese and Mongolians to become land owners in California. All of the papers, he said, were interesting, instructive and beneficial.

Mr. Peoples received assurances from many people in the west, Democrats and Republicans, of their approval of President Wilson's foreign policy.

GINNERS' REPORT ISSUED.

Shows 2,900,007 Bales Ginned up to September 25th.

Washington, Oct. 1.—The government report shows that 2,900,007 bales of cotton had been ginned to September 25th, against 3,393,702 last year.

MILEAGE IN RECEIVERSHIP.

"Railway Age-Gazette" Points to Tremendous Amount Involved in Broken Carriers.

Chicago, Sept. 30.—The inclusion of Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, which recently went into a receivership, makes the mileage of railways in the United States in the hands of receivers greater than ever before, according to an article to be published in the Railway Age-Gazette tomorrow.

The statement says in part: "The addition of the 3,865 miles of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas system makes a total of 82 railways operating 41,988 miles of line and with a total capitalization of \$2,264,000,000 now being operated by receivers. This is more than one-sixth of the railway mileage in the United States.

"The total par value of securities outstanding of roads being operated by receivers represents about 15 per cent. of the total capitalization of the railways of the United States. This is a record of insolvency unparalleled in history."

HEADS LAW STUDENTS.

A. E. Merrimon of Sumter Chosen President of Body.

At the first meeting of the law association of the University of South Carolina, held last night, the moot court was reorganized and the following officers elected: A. E. Merrimon, Sumter, president; R. W. Wade, Leeds, vice president; J. L. Love, York, secretary; Bobo Burnet, Spartanburg, treasurer; C. R. Marshall, Columbia, law editor of The Gamecock; J. E. Stansfield, Columbia, clerk of court; W. E. Dillard, Clinton, sheriff; P. L. Felder, Jr., Elleree, court crier.

WILL VOTE ON STRIKE.

Westinghouse Men Decide Their Course Today.

Pittsburgh, Sept. 30.—Seven thousand Westinghouse employees decided tonight to vote tomorrow whether to accept an offer of reduced working hours and a wage advance or strike unless their full demands were granted. About 10,000 men are employed by the company.

The employees, who recently were organized by the American Federation of Labor, asked an 8-hour day, a 20 per cent. increase in wages and that a discharged machinist be reinstated. The company offered an average 8-hour and 40-minute day, a reduction of two hours a week, with the same pay as now received and a bonus of 6 per cent. on earned wages, payable in progressive quarterly installments.

BRITAIN TO AID RUSSIA.

To Continue Course of Financial Cooperation.

London, Oct. 1.—It is officially announced that the conferences between Reginald McKenna, the British chancellor of the exchequer, and Pierre L. Bark, the Russian minister of finance, have resulted in an arrangement for "a joint course of action between the two allied governments."

M. Bark concluded a conference in Paris with Alexandre Ribot, the French minister of finance, September 21, and departed for London to discuss financial matters with Mr. McKenna. He said that Russia was unable to export her products and had large payments to make abroad.

M. Bark said that Great Britain and France already had come to Russia's assistance with advances. He added that this policy of cooperation evidently must be continued and that certain precautions must be taken to raise the rate of exchange for the ruble and give it stability. This, he said, would facilitate importation into Russia.

SUBMARINES CROSS OCEAN.

American-built Boats Join British at Gibraltar.

Boston, Oct. 3.—Details of the voyage of four American-built submarines which ventured across the Atlantic to join the British naval forces at Gibraltar are beginning to come in. The underwater boats made the passage safely under their own power, according to letters received here today from men who shared in the expedition.

The submarines sailed from Montreal via the St. Lawrence river, where they were shipped from the United States for completion after Washington decreed that construction of the vessels in this country would violate American neutrality.

The ocean trip was made under convoy of larger warships.

Washington, Oct. 1.—President Wilson today acted on the Annapolis hazarding enses. Six cadets were dismissed, four suspended for a year and fifteen set back in their classes.

STREET PAVING MATERIAL.

Mr. H. R. Van Deventer Discusses Vitriolized Brick and Makes Comparison with Bituminous Macadam.

Editor Daily Item.

I have read with care the article on paving, in the Daily Item, of September 25th, and as the laying of vitriolized brick streets in Sumter, would be a calamity of the first magnitude, I call attention to the following facts:

Mr. Sibley, the writer of the article in question, naturally wishes to increase the sale of brick. While he states it is his desire to "cooperate with the city authorities, in securing the best type of material," and takes care to state he is not in the brick manufacturing business, it should be evident that whoever got the business, would be a member of the National Brick Mfg. Association, of which Mr. Sibley is an officer. It is only natural that Mr. Sibley should do all he can to put brick streets in Sumter, and the reason I call attention to the foregoing, is to show that Mr. Sibley cannot be considered an unbiased adviser in the matter, regardless of his experience, however great.

A brick street, is hot, dusty and noisy, and should not be used in the residential section of Sumter. The single fact that it is better adapted to carry heavy traffic, does not recommend it, as on none of the streets in Sumter, including Main street, is the traffic heavy enough to require brick.

The myth of the low cost of maintenance on brick streets has been exploded by various investigating committees and reports of the various counties in Ohio, where brick has been used very largely. These reports bear out the fact that for any reasonable length of time, the maintenance on brick is equally as high as on a good bituminous macadam. While it is true that a steam roller will be required to build the latter streets, this is only an item of cost and there are plenty steam rollers to be bought or hired.

I do not agree with Mr. Sibley in connection with his figures for re-surfacing or cleaning. When in the telephone business, I took up and relaid streets for many miles of trenches for conduit in several cities. I am therefore familiar with the cost of repairing different types of streets and re-surfacing the same. Brick is one of the most expensive to properly relay. Mr. Sibley, particularly refers to the sanitary condition of brick streets, and on just what he bases this paragraph, I am at a loss to determine. A brick street is most dusty, as every observant person knows, especially in this section. This combined with the absorption of heat in the summer, and the noise, render brick unfit for residential sections.

I am not interested in any way in any particular kind of street, but am greatly interested in seeing some kind of bituminous street, such as macadam or asphalt or tarvia laid in Sumter, because in my experience such a street is the best from the standpoint of first cost and continued desirability.

I have just returned from a trip through a number of New England towns, such as Lennox and Stockbridge, Mass., on the great roads or streets that lie between New York and Boston. Through the streets of these towns hundreds if not thousands of automobiles pass, every day, during the summer season, and these vitriolous streets carry this traffic noiselessly, cheaply and without any extraordinary cost for repairs. Data can be obtained from these and other towns of the size of Sumter, where asphalt and macadam streets have been in use for years. Central Park, New York and most of the Philadelphia streets are paved with asphalt.

I particularly deplore the attempt of any interested party to mould public opinion towards any particular type of street. This should be left to some competent engineer. If local sentiment is to be aroused for any particular kind of paving, then let it be for wood blocks, which I understand can be produced locally. Such streets are in use around Broad street station in Philadelphia, on some of the busiest streets in New York, and I have seen them in London, in good shape, after seven years of heavy traffic on them. I believe however that wood blocks would be too expensive for Sumter, but in all probability not much less in cost than brick.

The question of competent labor, and the ability to make extensions, should receive careful attention. Our present Superintendent of Streets, Mr. White, can with his present force keep asphalt or tarvia streets in order, but with brick he would require much more skilled labor, especially as the town begins to build, and gas, water and sewer pipes go down. A patched brick street, with our soil here, is an uncertain proposition.

I trust you will find space for this letter, as it is desirable that the citizens of this community give careful consideration as to the kind of paving that is to be laid down. Too often public opinion is moulded by such articles as Mr. Sibley's, and yet we have here competent civil engineers like

Mr. Loring Lee, who from years of experience could advise us intelligently what to do.

Yours very truly,
H. R. Van Deventer.
Sumter, S. C., Sept. 30, 1915.

DETERIORATION IN COTTON CROP.

Journal of Commerce Reports Condition on September 23 at 63.7 Per Cent.

New York, Sept. 30.—Condition of cotton on an average date of September 23, as ascertained by over 2,000 replies of special correspondents of the Journal of Commerce, was 63.7 per cent. as compared with 70.7 per cent. a month ago, representing a deterioration of 7 points. This is somewhat excessive, having been exceeded only once in the past ten years, when in 1907 the depreciation amounted to 7.4 points; in 1908 it was 7 points. The ten-year average is 5.2 per cent. deterioration. Unfavorable weather conditions brought about unusual shedding, and the striking feature of the report is universal prediction of an extremely short top crop. A year ago at this time condition was 75.5 per cent. in 1913 it was 67.1 per cent. and in 1912 it was 67.1 per cent. and in 1911 it was 70.3 per cent.

Largely on account of much premature opening picking is well advanced being 35.4 per cent. gathered, against 33 per cent. last year, 30 per cent. in 1913 and 28.2 per cent. in 1912.

TO PERFECT WAREHOUSE LAW.

Manning and McLaurin Working Together to Strengthen Law.

Columbia, Oct. 1.—Gov. Manning and Warehouse Commissioner McLaurin held a lengthy conference in the governor's office a few days ago, discussing the advantages of the State warehouse system and the legislation necessary to perfect the law governing it. No statement was given out after the conference, but it was learned that both Gov. Manning and Commissioner McLaurin are agreed that certain defects in the law should be remedied and that there was a practically complete agreement between the governor and the warehouse commissioner as to what is best to be done in perfecting this law that means so much to the cotton producing interests of South Carolina. It is likely that Gov. Manning and Commissioner McLaurin will hold frequent conferences on this matter before the legislature meets in January and the results of these conferences will probably be embraced in a message from the governor to the legislature during the early part of the next session.

The following editorial from the Yorkville Enquirer of September 21st refers to this subject:

"As a result of a conference between Gov. Manning and Warehouse Commissioner John L. McLaurin, it develops that Gov. Manning is not secretly hostile to the State warehouse system, as was legitimately deduced from published remarks recently attributed to him. It is quite clear that if there should be a regulation providing that managers of State warehouses should be absolutely disinterested parties, neither owners of the warehouses nor of the cotton stored therein, there could easily develop a situation very different from that under which all present progress has been made. But from the reports of the conference referred to it appears that the governor is most sincerely solicitous of developing the warehouse system along lines that will work to the interest of the producer of the cotton first, and the public generally, second. The conference referred to, we understand, developed that there was practically complete agreement between Mr. McLaurin and Mr. Manning as to what shall be done and the outlook is that such recommendations as the governor shall see proper to make to general assembly with regard to improving and strengthening the warehouse system, will be made only after complete agreement between the governor and the warehouse commissioner."

BARNWELL DISPENSARY DESTROYED.

Opera House and Dispensary Stock Valued at Twenty-three Thousand Dollars Go up in Smoke.

Barnwell, Oct. 2.—Fire this evening at 11 o'clock destroyed the opera house, dispensary and bottling plant resulting in a loss of \$23,000 in whiskey stored in the dispensary and bottling plant.

The whiskey was insured in the sum of \$8,000. The opera house, dispensary and bottling plant were located in one building which was valued at \$6,000 with \$5,000 insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown but it is supposed to have started in the bottling plant and was supposed to be due to defective wiring.

Washington, Oct. 1.—The treasury's income for September was just a little more than fifty million dollars and about \$10,000,000 less than the ordinary disbursements of the month.

INDICTMENTS CHARGE PERJURY.

Officials of Riggs National Bank Held for False Affidavits in Recent Suit Against Treasury Officials.

Washington, Oct. 1.—Four indictments alleging perjury were returned by the grand jury against President Charles Glover, Vice President Wm. Flather and Cashier Henry Flather, of the Riggs National Bank, in connection with affidavits filed in the recent suit against treasury officials.

SHORTAGE IS PAID.

Bonding Company Makes Payment for T. J. Southall.

Aiken, Sept. 30.—The shortage of T. J. Southall, former dispenser at the dispensary here, which amounts to something over \$2,000, has been paid by his bonding company. The draft, which was received some days ago through the Augusta agent of the company, has been forwarded to New York for collection. When the amount has been placed to the credit of the Aiken county dispensary it will be divided, one-third to the dispensary, one-third to the county and one-third to the schools of the county. By skilful handling the shortage has been replaced by the bonding company without tedious litigation.

VILLA CHIEFS WILL YIELD.

Carranza Agency Reports Emissaries on Way to Vera Cruz to Arrange Surrender.

Washington, Oct. 1.—Three former Villa officers, an announcement by the Carranza agency here tonight said, are en route to Vera Cruz to arrange for the surrender of many of the chiefs of Villa's army.

"It is stated," says the announcement, "that they are traveling incognito because Villa is ignorant of their intention."

The Carranza agency gave out also what purported to be an intercepted telegram from a Villa consul at Tijuana, Lower California, to Enrique C. Lorente, Villa's Washington representative, saying that conditions in the territory abandoned by Villa "were growing worse every day," and that Gen. Villa intended "to proceed westward to districts hitherto untouched by the fighting and where there are crops in abundance."

A cablegram from the Carranza minister of foreign affairs said that in Mexico City normal light and power conditions had been restored and all street railway lines and manufacturing industries using electricity had resumed operations. The food situation was becoming more normal every day, the message added.

AMERICAN SOLDIER MURDERED.

Killed by Mexicans While on Sentry Duty.

Brownsville, Oct. 4.—Private Sullivan, of the Third cavalry, was murdered early today while on sentry duty. It is believed he was killed by Mexicans.

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