

The Watchman and Southron

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War Tax on Papers. The following are the provisions which affect papers to be recorded: "Schedule A—Stamp Taxes."

"1. Bonds of indebtedness: Bonds, debentures, or certificates of indebtedness issued on and after the first day of December, nineteen hundred and seventeen, by any person, corporation, partnership, or association, on each \$100 of face value or fraction thereof, 5 cents: Provided, That every renewal of the foregoing shall be taxed as a new issue: Provided further, That when a bond conditioned for the repayment or payment of money is given in a penal sum greater than the debt secured, the tax shall be based upon the amount secured."

"6. Drafts or checks payable otherwise than at sight or on demand, promissory notes, except bank notes issued for circulation, and for each renewal of the same, for a sum not exceeding \$100, 2 cents; and for each additional \$100 or fractional part thereof, 2 cents."

"7. Conveyance: Deed, instrument, or writing whereby any lands, tenements, or other realty sold shall be granted, assigned, transferred, or otherwise conveyed to, or vested in, the purchaser or purchasers, or any other person or persons, by his, her or their direction, when the consideration or value of the interest or property conveyed, exclusive of the value of any lien or encumbrance remaining thereon at the time of sale, exceeds \$100 and does not exceed \$500, 50 cents; and for each additional \$500 or fractional part thereof, 50 cents."

In every case, where a deed does not carry the full amount of the tax on account of an outstanding encumbrance on same, the reason therefor should be noted on the deed. This law becomes effective the first day of December, 1917, so it would be well for all those who contemplate having business of this nature to provide themselves before hand with the necessary stamps.

South Must Feed Itself.

The need for the planting of grain in the South this year is much more pressing than might appear from a mere casual consideration. The warnings of the government to Southern farmers are taking a more mandatory form, and there seems to be shaping up a policy of enforcement in a practical way, which may come upon our people of this section with a shock. If the next crops harvested are, as many think they will be, money crops predominantly, that is to say, of course, cotton. The national food administration holds that the South is able to raise all the foodstuffs its people need, and that it can not look to the rest of the country, as it has been accustomed to do, to supply its requirements, while it raises cotton. The surplus of grain above the needs of the sections in which it is produced, and of those in which it can not be produced, is to be conserved for the use of our allies, and there will be discouragement, amounting, perhaps, to prohibition, of the supply of grains to those sections which have neglected to produce it for themselves. It is, of course, questionable whether a rigid enforcement of such a policy can or will be made, but that is to be the tendency, and it will have its effect, and a very serious effect, upon the food situation in those parts of the country which may have devoted their agricultural energies to money crops and depended upon purchasing food supplies from others. That has been the South's weakness for many years, and it should, of its motion, get away from the economic dependence under which it has so long suffered. But it may be something more than a matter of choice this year and for the duration of the war. We can't eat cotton or the money it will bring, no matter how high the price may go, and it will profit us little if we have big balances in the bank and no flour in the storehouse. The South can't raise too much foodstuffs, and the sooner our farmers get down to a realization of the fact that they may go hungry in the midst of their wealth the better it will be. Thirty-cent cotton is all very well, but it may prove only ashes in the mouth.—Charleston Post.

BREAD AND MEAT CAMPAIGN.

Representative of Clemson College and Local Agents Canvassing the County.

The whirlwind wheat and hog campaign of the Farm Extension Department of Clemson College was started yesterday by a visit to the rural school of the county, and this will be kept up for several days.

Mr. E. E. Hall, specialist in plant breeding of Clemson College, and Miss Mary Lemmon, home demonstration agent visited Bethel, Providence, Graham, Lawrence and Concord schools, while Miss Annie Keels, assistant home demonstration agent, Farm Demonstrator J. F. Williams, and Secretary E. I. Reardon visited Rombert, Pisgah, Dalzell, Frazer, Du-Bose, and Bossard schools.

Short talks were made at each school and pledge cards given each pupil with a letter to the parents asking that the farmers sign the cards agreeing to plant at least two acres of wheat to the plow and to increase their pork supply by raising at least one extra litter of pigs to help the government win the war.

Today the same parties, with Congressman Lever and Dr. Haynsworth, County Superintendent of Education, are out for the same purpose, and Mr. Lever will deliver addresses at mass meetings at Shiloh and Mayesville schools in Sumter county and at Lynchburg school in Lee county.

The pledge cards signed are mailable without postage.

NEW DRAFT REGULATIONS.

Local Board Has Received Instructions Governing Assignments.

The local board has received instructions and regulations governing the assignments of registered men into classes under the new ruling of the Provost Marshal General. A copy of the new selective service regulations has been mailed to each lawyer or firm of lawyers in the city, and they are requested to preserve the same, so that they can give intelligible information to the drafted men when called upon. The president has requested every lawyer to be ready to assist the men in filling out the questionnaire that will be mailed to each registered man shortly, and this local board therefore urges the lawyers of Sumter to read very carefully the instructions regarding same.

The discharges and exemption heretofore allowed and granted by the local boards are revoked by the new rules, and every man, whether drafted or not, will be assigned to a certain class, in accordance with the status in each man's case.

COMMISSIONED AT OGLETHORPE.

Graduates of Second Training Camp Receive Assignments.

Three thousand young men who completed the course of instruction at the Second Training Camp, Fort Oglethorpe, received commissions Monday among the number were the following residents or former residents of Sumter:

- Robert W. McKay, captain, infantry, Camp Green. Harold L. McCoy, first lieutenant infantry, Chicamauga Park. Deas M. Richardson, second lieutenant, infantry, Chicamauga Park. Ransom Richardson, Pinewood, first lieutenant, infantry, Camp Pike. Andrew A. Manning, first lieutenant, infantry, Chicamauga Park. Lineal W. Boykin, captain, infantry, Camp Jackson. Frank M. Cain, second lieutenant, infantry, Camp Taylor. James McB. Dabbs, second lieutenant, field artillery, Camp Jackson. John E. Edens, second lieutenant, infantry, Chicamauga Park. Irving S. Belsler, first lieutenant, field artillery, Camp Jackson.

Barn Burned.

The barn of Mr. E. D. Hodge, who lives on the Manning public road not far from Alcolu, was burned Sunday afternoon. A large quantity of corn and forage, a number of hogs confined in a pen adjacent to the barn and a considerable quantity of farm implements were destroyed. Mr. Hodge and family were away from home at the time, attending a funeral in Manning, and scarcely anything was saved from the barn by neighbors who gathered when the fire was observed. The origin of the fire was not ascertained.

New York politicians are now busy explaining to the women how they were for suffrage all the time.—Chatanooga News.

The Germans were once nearer to Paris than they are to Venice, but they did not get there.—New York World.

The anarchist's flag is like the auctioneer's flag—a sign that everything will be knocked down under it.—Florida Times-Union.

SHORT CORN CROP.

Heavy Decrease in Corn Crop by Bad Quality.

(Manufacturers Record.) Repeatedly the Manufacturers Record has warned the Department of Agriculture against conveying erroneous impressions by predicting a yield of crops long before it was possible to know what the weather conditions would settle as the final yield. The wisdom of this is now illustrated in the report that the corn crop, which is given as 3,191,000,000 bushels, has an average quality of 75.2 per cent, as compared with the average of 83.8 per cent. for last year, a decrease in quality of 8.6 per cent., equal to a decrease in feeding value running into many tens of millions of bushels.

Indeed, a report from the Department of Agriculture says that about 20 per cent. of this year's corn crop (or about 630,000,000 bushels) has been seriously injured by the early frosts, which has made the maturing of the corn an impossibility, and it can only be used for early feeding in the soft state or for silos. The Bureau of Crop Estimates in an official statement on this says that, "unhappily, the bountiful crop contains much corn that did not fully mature, probably in excess of 20 per cent.," and yet the country has been led to believe that we have an abundant supply of corn! This is a fatal delusion, and those who are responsible for it are guilty of misleading the country.

Moreover, the stock of old corn on the farms of the country on November 1 as reported by the Department of Agriculture was 34,745,000 bushels, as compared with 87,908,000 bushels a year ago and the average of 100,523,000 bushels for the five preceding years. The country is thus shown to be practically bare of old corn, and before the new crop is available the 34,000,000 bushels which were on hand November 1 will have been used up practically to the last bushel.

We go into this crop year short to the extreme in grain and many other food and feedstuffs.

Moreover, the hay crop is over 18,000,000 tons short of the hay crop of last year, and this is very largely an offsetting factor against even the normal increase in corn.

Flaxseed is nearly 6,000,000 bushels short of last year's crop.

Rice is 7,500,000 bushels short.

Apples, 24,000,000 bushels short.

There has been an increase in peaches, a small increase in pears, a gain in beets and a large gain in kaffirs, with a good increase in onions and cabbage, but these gains do not at all offset the heavy declines which we have noted.

The Louisiana Way.

When the State of Louisiana wants labor it goes and gets it. On Wednesday the mayor of New Orleans, in response to an appeal from the sugar cane plantations, ordered the police to arrest all idlers in the city and to release from the parish prison and house of detention all minor offenders who are willing to work in the sugar belt. He also requested charitable institutions and similar organizations not to feed able-bodied men, but to refer them to the federal labor employment agency. This seems drastic, but sugar for the north depends on it.—Springfield Republican

We noticed the other day a field of mighty poor, nubbly looking corn but right alongside that field of puny corn was a glorious field of cowpeas. That means that that man's land is poor now, but that he's going to make it rich, and he'll have better corn next year. He's a coming man. Clover, vetch and cowpeas will make him a rich-land farmer yet. Some years ago a man came down from the West to South Carolina, and when his other neighbors got discouraged and went back and tried to get him to go with them, he replied that he had two friends he expected to pull him through. "And who are these two friends?" they asked. "God Almighty and the cowpea," he replied. And they did pull him through and brought him prosperity. The man who pins his faith to the "Three Cs"—Clover, Cowpeas and Cattle—will not scratch a poor man's back all his life.—The Progressive Farmer.

The Newark News thinks Cadorna tried to stetch a three-base hit into a home run and got caught at the plate.

Sooner or later the Russians will find out that peace can not be got by just wanting it.—Albany Journal.

To be frank, we don't care how many automobile motors they put to driving aeroplanes.—Anderson Mail.

The ordinary housefly can lift a match between two of its feet and carry it. A human being, to perform a similar feat, would have to lift a beam eight and a quarter yards in length and 16 inches in diameter.

LA FOLLETTE PROBE POSTPONED.

Failure of Senators to Attend Committee Meeting Stopped the Investigation.

Washington, Nov. 26.—The absence of senators on the subcommittee appointed to investigate Senator LaFollette's speech at St. Paul last September caused the postponement today of the inquiry, probably until after congress reconvenes.

GOVERNMENT OPERATION SUGGESTED.

Railroads May be Taken Over to Relieve Situation.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Government operation of the railways, if the pooling plan does not afford relief from the present situation is being considered here today by a committee of vice presidents of the Eastern lines, gathered to perfect general plans to put the pooling arrangements into effect. Congressional action will be necessary if government operation is decided upon, but that has been discussed by officials who are considering the matter.

FORECAST OF CONGRESS.

Stupendous War Appropriations to Be the Feature of Session.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Stupendous appropriation bills and other war legislation will be the features of the legislative program for the session of congress which opens Dec. 3rd. It will probably be run on until autumn, is the opinion of leaders here today. In addition a host of domestic matters like prohibition and woman suffrage will be pressed for consideration.

CLARENDON CLERK DEAD.

Edgar C. Dickson Expires After Brief Illness—Funeral Held Yesterday.

Manning, Nov. 25.—Mr. Edgar Charles Dickson, clerk of court for Clarendon county, died at his home in this place at 7 o'clock Friday night, after a few days' illness. He suffered an attack of cholera morbus last Tuesday and gradually weakened until he breathed his last. He is survived by his wife and four children; also by six brothers. Mrs. Dickson was a Miss Wells, sister of the Rev. P. E. Wells of the South Carolina Conference.

Mr. Dickson had not been in robust health for several months, but there was nothing about his condition to indicate an early dissolution. He filled the office of magistrate for several terms and was county auditor about twelve years ago. Last year he was elected to the office of clerk of court over several competitors and had held the office less than a year. He was forty-six years old and was a man of very quiet disposition, but enjoyed wide popularity in this his native county.

The funeral will take place at 3.30 this afternoon and the interment will be in the Manning cemetery.

KERENSKY TO RETURN.

Secretary Declares He is Planning Future Activities.

Christiana, Nov. 24.—Dr. David Soskice, confidential secretary to A. F. Kerensky, the deposed Russian premier, passed through Christiana today on his way to England. He carried a message from Kerensky who he declared is safe and preparing plans for future activities.

Helped Lots.

Credit for the success of the Liberty loan has been given to about everybody but the newspapers. The latter were glad to do all in their power but it is well to remember that the liberal advertising they gave the last loan was by no means the smallest factor in its oversubscription.—Portland Express.

A big crowd of Sumter people are expected to attend the Lee County Fair on Thanksgiving Day and also on Friday, when the High School football team goes over to play the Bishopville High School team.

The soy-bean crop in North Carolina has spread all the way from the seacoast to the Tennessee line this year—a remarkable development. In the west it has been largely planted as a test, but growers are much pleased with results. In the east the crop is heavy and fine in quality. The beans are being used freely by the people for food, cooked and served like the ordinary cornfield peas, but are even better liked. Ten times as many cotton-oil mills will this winter press the soy beans as handled them a year ago.

A news report says that in Germany they use more than a thousand substitutes for food. Huh, that's nothing! North Carolina's record for substitutes for whiskey alone knocks the Teutonic figures sky high.—Wilmington Dispatch.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF The First National Bank of Sumter, at Sumter, in the State of South Carolina, at the Close of Business, on November 20th, 1917.

Table with columns for RESOURCES and LIABILITIES. Includes items like Loans and discounts, Total loans, Bonds, Securities, etc., Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, etc.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Sumter, ss. I, O. L. Yates, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of November, 1917. A. M. Broughton, Notary Public. Correct—Attest: NEILL O'DONNELL, H. D. BARNETT, GEO. F. EPPERSON, Directors.

LOWER COTTON FREIGHT.

Committees From Manufacturers and Railways Meet.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Plans for making high density cotton the future standard of transportation rates for the staple were set on foot today by a conference of two committees representing the national council of cotton manufacturers and the railroads. Immediate steps to facilitate the movement of the new crop were urged on mill executives, the government and the railroads and the committee agreed to meet again here December 14 to discuss readjustments of rates with a view to accelerating the cotton movement at the same time conserving railway equipment.

Representatives of the council told the conference that to obtain desired economies in transportation and storage, the cost of high density cotton compressed be assessed against cotton consumers until such time as the rail carriers can make effective a preferential rate on high density cotton. The preferential will take the form of a premium for compression or an increase in the present rate on low density bales, thus making highly compressed cotton the standard. At previous conferences it was said that the present compression of 22 pounds a cubic foot could be successfully increased to 32 pounds. Thirty per cent. of the cotton mills of the country are engaged in government work, according to estimates of the council. The mill owners were asked to change their basis of purchases from 100 to 300 bales, or such units as will permit the loading of 75 bales to a car, thereby curtailing the number of less than carload lots. The federal shipping board was asked to divert tonnage to the cotton carrying trade and the railroads were requested to cooperate with the national council in standardizing the gin box and com-

press systems of the South. The council recommended: "That to relieve the present congestion attendant at Northern ports due to war conditions, the railroads join the national council of cotton manufacturers in urging upon the federal shipping board the diversion of a reasonable percentage of overseas shipping and traffic to South Atlantic and Gulf ports and the immediate apportionment of the maximum amount of available coastwise tonnage for the transportation of cotton direct to New England ports."

Mr. Frank M. Beckham, of Atlanta, Ga., is in the city.

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