

The Watchman and Southron.

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—BY—
OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY
SUMTER, S. C.
Terms:
\$1.50 per annum—in advance.

Advertisements.
One Square first insertion . . . \$1.00
Every subsequent insertion50
Contracts for three months, or longer will be made at reduced rates.
All communications which subserve private interests will be charged for as advertisements.
Obituaries and tributes of respect will be charged for.
The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

In Regard to Nitrate of Soda.

Several letters keep coming in making inquiry about applying for government nitrate of soda. As was published in all of the county papers, the time for making application for the government soda expired on the 4th of February. All of the applications were sent in to Washington and I was instructed that no others would be considered later.

This has been a severe winter and very little spraying of orchards has been done, up to this week. This year we cannot afford to fail to spray all of the peach and apple trees with lime and sulphur solution at the rate of eight gallons of water to one of the concentrated lime-sulphur solution. On account of my having to handle the government nitrate of soda applications, I have not been able to visit as many of the orchards in the county as I had planned and I have to be away this week attending the State agents' meeting at Clemson College. Delicious fruit will be very much appreciated this summer when we are trying to comply with Mr. Hoover's plans for saving food, but we cannot have it without spraying. There are a number of orchards in the county that are in good shape at present. I feel sure that the people of Sumter have observed the improvement in the quality of the fruit put on the market in the past few years, all of which is due to spraying and better care of the orchards. There is an abundant supply of the concentrated lime-sulphur solution in Sumter and every owner of an orchard or a few trees should spray before the trees bud.

J. Frank Williams,
County Agent.

You Don't Have to Move to Town to Get City Conveniences.

Moving to town to get the benefit of modern home conveniences is no longer necessary. We have our daily delivery of mails, and if we do not have rural telephone service it is our own fault, for as long as the price of a telephone is only \$9 and telephone wire can be bought for three cents a pound, or less, the cost of installing the telephone is not prohibitive.

"I'd like to have water and lights in my home if I were able to install them," said a well-to-do farmer the other day. If every farmer had these conveniences who is really able to afford them there wouldn't be much to complain about. A carbide (acetylene) light plant can be installed for less than \$150, with friction lighting arrangement. The carbide light is a softer light than the electric, and is in every way a practical light for the country home. An air-tight (compressed air) water tank with connections and a small pumping engine can be provided at a cost of \$100 and up, according to capacity of the tank. It is said that an energetic and progressive farmer can get anything he wants, but he must first want it enough to make some effort to get it. With thousands of farmers it isn't a question as to being able to own these modern home conveniences, but it is a question as to whether they will do without something else of less service and less value, and the only reason they do not own them is because they have not yet realized their value.—The Progressive Farmer.

London, Feb. 13.—According to a correspondent of The Daily News facts have become known which bring the possibility of a separate peace between Austria-Hungary and the entente allies much nearer. Great reluctance, he says, is manifested in Austria toward the prospect of fighting with the British and American troops on the western front.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The death of Private William Rogers, of Blenheim, S. C., is reported by Gen. Pershing.

London, Feb. 13.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the House of Commons today that action will be taken under the defense of the realm act against Col. Repington, military correspondent of The Morning Post, for an article published in The Post Monday, after the censor had refused permission to publish it.

Frank H. Simonds on Germany's Next Move.

Actually the Germans will find themselves in February, 1918, in much the situation they were in two years before, when they made their great bid for victory at Verdun. Then they had disposed of the Russians for months. Now they have put Russia out of the war. Then they had cared for Balkan perils by crushing Serbia. Now they have attended to Italian threats for the time being. Then, as now, they were able to transfer troops from East to West and to concentrate their great munitions resources in 1916.

In 1916 Germany struck to avoid the blow that was sure to come when Britain was ready. Today her offensive must anticipate American participation in the war on a great scale, because when America enters in fact Germany will be for all time put on the defensive through inferiority of numbers. Not to win the war before America arrives is to lose the chance of winning it at all, just as not winning it before Britain was ready would have meant not to win it at all, if Russia had stayed in the war.

Russia's collapse restores something of the situation of 1916. Germany has reserves, she has artillery. Her foes in front of her have no decisive advantage of numbers, if they have any. They cannot attack now, because to attack and to fail might lead to disaster, while to wait is to be assured of American help. If Germany, by striking, breaks France, then Italy will be easily put out of the war and Britain and America will be left to fight the thing out. This would not mean a victory of supreme proportions, for Britain and America will continue to dominate the seas, but it would mean mastery of the continent and leave Germany as Napoleon was after Friedland or Wagram.

Falling short of a decisive victory, the Germans plainly hope that they will produce such exhaustion in the ranks of their enemies that the foe will consent to talk peace and abandon the task of holding on until America gets ready, since America is sure to be a considerably delayed arrival. These are the two stakes of the German gamble: Decisive success with the mastery of the Continent and the perpetuation of Mittel-europa, if the assault have the success which was not realized at the Marne or at Verdun; possible peace by negotiation on reasonably satisfactory terms, if the assault makes material but indecisive progress on the field but uses up the moral and material resources of the French and brings them to a willingness to make peace before America is ready.

Similarly the program has obvious perils. An attack which does not bring victory fairly speedily, an attack which becomes another Verdun, after the first few days, will unquestionably awaken protest at home, just as Verdun did. The military leaders have told a war-weary public that they can win the war if they are permitted one more try. The people have been partly persuaded and partly dragooned into giving their consent to the campaign. But it will be watched with suspicion and if it does not produce rapid results it may lead to a change of popular sentiment and a far more serious crisis than Germany experienced just before Russia collapsed last year.

Germany has her chance to win the war again. It is not as good as the chance she had at the Marne. It is not nearly as good as the chance she had at Verdun, but it is a chance. She is in all human probability, planning to take it and to make the greatest military venture of human history, as great in this world war as was Napoleon's campaign to Moscow, in his day. And Moscow had similar stakes. Germany can attack, she must attack, but to attack and fail means approximate ruin.—From the "Failure of Germany's Peace Offensive" by Fran H. Simonds, in the American Review of Reviews for February, 1918.

Announcement.

The many friends of Miss Katherine Morse will be interested to know of her marriage to Mr. George Nye, a prosperous business man of Wilmington. Mrs. Nye has made her home in Wilmington for the past few years.

Paris, Feb. 13.—Austro-German invaders in northern Italy are daily resorting to increasing acts of vandalism, violence, pillage and brutality according to statements of prisoners captured by the Italians, a Havas dispatch from Rome says.

With American Army in France, Tuesday, Feb. 12.—Aside from increased aerial activities the American sector has been normal during the last twenty-four hours. Harassing artillery fire and patrolling operations have been kept up, but there have been no clashes. The American gunners are growing more accurate in their fire every day.

A PATRIOTIC CROP.

HOW CASTOR OIL PRODUCED IN THE SOUTH MAY SAVE THE NATION.

Manufacturers Record.

It is conceded by military authorities that the war America and her Allies are waging to save civilization is to be won in the air. To this end, the United States is preparing for the construction of an air fleet of 22,000 aeroplanes, in which are to be installed the new Liberty motor designed by the best internal combustion engineers in America, who pooled their knowledge and experience with the aid furnished from the results achieved by the Allies' engineers in order to assure a type of gas engine that would surpass anything that could be accomplished through individual effort. Since the development of this motor experts, after exhaustive tests, found that the Liberty motor, like others of its type which run at excessively high speed hour after hour, requires a special oil for its lubrication. Without an oil that will thoroughly lubricate every part of the delicately adjusted mechanism, this powerful engine would soon pound itself to pieces. The oil must be one that will not carbonize, it must form a thin film over every bearing surface, it must flow under all conditions of atmospheric pressure and work equally as well under excessive heat at high speeds as under the freezing temperature of high altitudes.

The only oil that has so far been discovered to answer every purpose is nothing more nor less than ordinary castor oil, the kind we all became familiar with in our childhood. Its use as a lubricant is not a new thing, for before it came into service as a lubricant for airplane motors it had been used on engines of racing automobiles for several years.

Upon the decision of the experts that castor oil was essential for the operation of the Liberty motor, it became evident that the production and stock of all the castor oil in the world would not begin to answer our needs for the large number of airplanes we are preparing to construct, much less to supply oil for those of our Allies. So it was up to the United States war department to get busy and develop this agricultural product on a larger scale.

To produce castor-oil beans, from which the oil is pressed, requires a mild climate and a long growing season. Castor beans have been raised in small quantities in different parts of the South in former years, more for show purposes than anything else, though 30 years ago a castor-oil mill was operated in Texas, using locally grown beans. Oil was produced to the amount of several hundred thousand gallons, but with the development of the mineral oil lubricants the planting of castor beans dropped to practically nothing. In order to get the seed for this year's crop we had to import them from India. Because of climatic conditions, the government has had to turn to the South to furnish its castor-oil supply and the war department has called upon Southern States to plant 200,000 acres in castor beans, which will develop an entirely new industry to this section.

But the problem confronting the war department was how to get so large an acreage under cultivation by early spring and get farmers to plant a crop that they knew nothing about. As the government could not deal direct with individual growers, who could plant but an acre or so each, it was decided that the whole 200,000 acres required by the war department this summer should be apportioned to the States most suited for castor-bean production and then for the department to make a contract for several thousand acres each with responsible persons or concerns in the several States. These contractors are to subcontract with individual growers. This method of creating this entirely new agricultural development was adopted also with the idea of preventing speculators from driving the price of the beans beyond all reason and to make sure of its supply the needs of the government were contracted for. The government has allowed to the contractor \$3.50 a bushel for the beans, and is guaranteeing to the grower or subcontractor \$3 a bushel f. o. b. at the nearest local weighing and forwarding center.

By some the 50 cents a bushel which the contractors are to receive from the government is thought to be excessive. The government, however took into consideration that this is an entirely new undertaking which requires the establishment of organizations for the purpose of carrying on a campaign among the farmers in order to get them interested in the growing of this unfamiliar crop, an inspection every two weeks of the acreage under contract and reports to the government, cost of superintending the working, picking and handling of the beans of individual growers cultivating as low as an acre or

two, until the crop is turned over to the government after being cured, thrashed, weighed and shipped to a central point. In order that the government might be protected, contractors are required to give a bond of \$1 per acre for the amount of their contract. The grower is protected, if he is dealing through the government's contractor, by the guarantee by the government of \$3 a bushel for the beans at a local forwarding point.

The South has been asked to furnish the castor beans needed to supply the oil necessary for the war department's demands, because, like cotton, castor beans require a long growing season. The South can do it for two reasons: First, it is a good business investment, and second, as a matter of patriotism the South must do its duty in this as it is doing in increasing its production of food-stuffs and in supplying cotton and other materials vital to the successful conduct of the war. Whether or not we can produce the castor-bean oil for our airplanes and those of our Allies might mean the difference between winning the war or becoming a slave of Germany. To mention in the same breath castor oil and the

great war seems to be turning from the ridiculous to the sublime, but the civilization reminds one of the nursery rhyme that the King was lost, all for the want of a horseshoe nail. We must have castor oil, so the experts say, before we can hope to conquer Germany through the air. This is the patriotic side of why the farmers of the South must grow castor beans.

Let us look at the business side of it. The government has contracted for the planting of 200,000 acres in the South in castor beans. The government has guaranteed a price to the grower through the contractors of \$3 for every bushel of castor beans raised on this contracted acreage. The castor-bean plant is said to be about as near a weed as any plant, and it grows as easily, requiring little expense for seed, fertilizer and cultivation. The beans for planting are furnished to the growers through the contractors, which are required to sell them at cost, probably \$4 or \$5 a bushel. One bushel will seed from 15 to 20 acres. The cost of raising the beans runs from \$15 to \$30 an acre. In return, the government offers and guarantees a price of \$3 a bushel for the beans after they are

picked and dried or cured. This, it is estimated, will mean probably \$50 to \$100 per acre gross. It is said that on the poorest land in the more northern States of the South, where the growing season is short, a minimum of 15 bushels to the acre can be produced, while in the rich soils and in Florida, where the growing season is longer, probably a crop of 50 to 60 bushels per acre can be obtained. If the plants are not touched by frost, as would be the case in parts of Florida, they continue to grow and can be cultivated for several years. Owners of young orange groves and other fruit trees in the South are urged to raise castor beans between the rows, as the castor plant will protect the young trees in the winter and afford a partial shade in the summer without interfering with the growth of the fruit trees.

From these figures the South will have added to the value of its agricultural products this year from the castor bean development probably over \$12,000,000 in a crop entirely new and one that can only be successfully grown in this section. The farmers who come to the aid of the nation in furnishing castor beans will be well paid for their patriotism.

Solve the Fertilizer Problem With MANURE
Cost and efficiency considered it's **The Cheapest Fertilizer**

A COMPARISON OF THE COSTS OF PLANT FOOD IN COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS AND MANURE.

BASIC PRICE PER UNIT

Acid	\$1.25
Ammonia	\$7.00
Potash	\$6.00

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER

Analysis—	
8-3-0 cost per ton	\$37.00
8-3-3 cost per ton	\$54.00
10-2-0 cost per ton	\$20.00

MANURE FROM CAMP JACKSON

Analysis—	
Acid, 0.45 at \$1.25	\$.56
Ammonia, 0.68 at \$7.00	4.76
Potash, 0.58 at \$6.00	3.48
	\$3.80

ACTUAL WORTH OF MANURE BASED ON COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER \$8 80

OUR PRICE LESS THAN HALF THAT

Furthermore the decaying organic matter in the Manure is constantly adding available plant food to the soil, is valuable both from a humus standpoint as well as a land builder. Manure will show results for three years, and its cost divided through this period will show a much lower cost per unit of plant food than any other fertilizer on the market.

We are daily making shipments of this product into all sections of the country, and it is being received with entire satisfaction on account of its excellent quality and condition on arrival at destination.

We will be glad to make credit arrangements with responsible parties, or we will accept wood in exchange for manure. Wood to be delivered during the summer months.

Right now is the time to use Manure. Write us today if you are interested in prompt delivery. We already have numerous orders booked for prompt shipment, but will use our best efforts to make delivery in accordance with your instructions.

We specialize on car lot shipments. Cars average 33 tons. Buy a car in conjunction with your neighbor and save freight.

Shipment Made From Either Point
CAMP JACKSON, Columbia, S. C. **CAMP WADSWORTH, Spartanburg, S. C.**

Agents Wanted in Unoccupied Territory
POWELL FUEL COMPANY,
Columbia, S. C.

C. H. DuRant,
Local Agent **Sumter, S. C.**