

**The Watchman and Southron.**

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1859 and the True Southron in 1864. 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.

Washington, June 2.—Fair weather, with temperatures slightly below normal is forecast for the Southeastern States during the coming week.

**Bleese and the Issue.**

There has rarely been a more pitiful exhibition in South Carolina politics than the effort of Cole L. Bleese to wriggle out of and explain the speech which he made at Filbert on August 2, 1917, four months after this country had been at war with Germany. Of course, he tries to unload on the newspaper man who reported him; but as luck had it the newspaper man in this particular instance did not happen to be the staff representative of any paper belonging to that section of the press which he has long been so fond of denouncing. It was James D. Grist who covered the Filbert meeting and no one who knows him will question for a moment either his honesty, his fairness or his competency.

Nor will Mr. Bleese venture to complain that the Yorkville Enquirer, which published James Grist's report in full has ever treated him with other than fairness. The best he can do is to say that the reporter was not a stenographer and left out part of what he said. What Mr. Bleese now says he said is that if his soul was to be lost he did not care what kind of America we have after he is dead and gone. It has taken him upwards of a year to offer even this correction—and what a lame one it is when it is brought forward. Compare it with what James Grist at that time quoted him as saying:

"I still say that there is no need for this country to go to war with Germany and peace could be had now. Oh, good people, you don't realize what it means. Wait until you pick up the paper and read the casualty list. They talk about a free America. I don't care what kind of America it is after I am dead and gone, neither does your boy whom you are sending to war."

When one gets down to it the only difference which appears between what Coley says he said and what Mr. Grist reported him as saying is the qualifying clause which Coley now throws in about losing his soul. How much of a difference that is, and what effect it should have on the net result those who are interested in splitting hairs can work out for themselves. The substantial question which the voters of South Carolina have to determine is what sort of support Mr. Bleese could be counted upon, if sent to Washington, to give to President Wilson in the waging of the war. That question he has answered pretty completely and most convincingly. His attitude toward Mr. Wilson and his opinion of the president's leadership in connection with the war was set forth in his speech at Pomaria last July. He will not deny his words as officially recorded in his chief newspaper organ at the time. Here is what he said:

"It has been published of late in the anti-reform press that I and the party to which I belong are outcasts in the political world just now, but I want to say to you so far as I am personally concerned, that I would rather be an outcast in the eyes of Woodrow Wilson, and a follower of Jesus Christ, than to be a follower of Woodrow Wilson and an outcast from Jesus Christ; and that I would much prefer being a waterboy in heaven, listening throughout eternity to the chant of angels, than to be the commander-in-chief of all the forces of hell forever, hearing only the music of the crackling of coal, and the leashing of the blazes and the shrieks of the damned. I was opposed to this war. Had I been a United States senator or a congressman I would have voted against it and I believe religiously, as firmly as I believe that there is a God in heaven that in the final judgment day every American citizen who is killed in this war off American soil will be charged against the president of the United States and the members of the congress of the United States who voted for it, as an unwarranted sacrifice in the sight of Almighty God, of fresh American manhood."

The News and Courier apologizes to its readers for printing so horrible a statement as the foregoing in its columns. Not otherwise, however, can

it bring before them what this man, a candidate for the high office of United States senator, really stands for on this great issue of the times and of all time. This was where he stood four months after America was at war with Germany. This is where he stands today, for with all his talk about "now we are at war it must be pushed to a successful conclusion," he reaffirmed at York on Thursday the belief to which he gave expression at Pomaria a year ago. He declared once more his conviction that we should not have taken up arms against the bloody aggressor who had become the terror of the civilized world. He said again in so many words that he believed that President Wilson and the members of congress who voted for the war "would be held responsible for every American life that was lost in it."

This is the man who seeks to represent the loyal citizenship of South Carolina in the senate at Washington. Let the voters of the State judge him out of his own mouth and say for themselves whether one who holds such sentiments and occupies such an attitude is qualified to represent their kind of loyalty by word or vote.—News and Courier.

**WHEAT PRICE INCREASED.**

Washington, June 23.—Blanket authority to increase the price of wheat at primary and other markets, with the approval of Food Administrator Hoover, above the \$2.20 a bushel minimum price guaranteed by presidential proclamation, February 21, is given the food administration grain corporation in New York by an executive order of the president. The order issued under authority of the food control law was made public today by Mr. Hoover.

To carry out the purposes of the order, the corporation is authorized to increase its capital stock from \$50,000,000 to \$150,000,000 in shares of a par value of \$100 each. All the stock will be owned by the government.

While no explanation of the order was given, two considerations were believed to have influenced the president's decision to permit the grain corporation to pay higher prices for wheat. The first was the increased freight rates and the second was believed to be the situation resulting from the deadlock in congress over the senate's amendment to the annual agricultural appropriation bill increasing the minimum guaranteed price for wheat to \$2.50.

**CASUALTIES TO DATE.**

Washington, June 23.—Casualties in the American army overseas thus far reported by General Pershing, including the list made public today, total 8,634, as compared with 8,985 a week ago. They were divided in the war department's weekly summary today as follows:

Killed in action (including 291 lost at sea), 1,312.  
Died of wounds, 432; died of disease, 1,268; died of accidents and other causes, 446; wounded in action, 4,811.  
Missing in action, including prisoners, 365.

Casualties among the marines with the expeditionary forces are not included in this list. No official tabulation of these casualties reported to date was available today but unofficial figures show that they total slightly more than 1,000.

The 549 names reported by General Pershing since last Sunday included 149 killed in action, 69 died of wounds, 34 died of disease, 24 died of accidents and other casualties, 64 wounded in action and 19 missing in action, including prisoners.

With some 900,000 men now in France, the small number of deaths from disease reported is considered rather remarkable.

**Death.**

Miss Juanita Hewitt, daughter of Mr. C. W. Hewitt, of Darlington, died in a hospital in Richmond yesterday at 5 p. m. after a long illness. The funeral will be held in Darlington tomorrow afternoon.

One of the auto hackmen charged a soldier \$8 to take him to Pocola Sunday afternoon. He should be charged \$100 or thirty days for extortion and his license revoked. At least his license should be revoked, if there is no law by which the Recorder can inflict adequate punishment. The city should not allow grafting on the public or permit any one holding a city license to use the opportunity afforded by the permit to do business here to make outrageous overcharges for services rendered.

Chicago, June 22.—Between fifty and a hundred members of the Haggenback-Wallace circus were killed today when four wooden coaches of the circus train in which the personnel were riding were crushed to splinters by a Michigan Central train of empty Pullmans. The wreckage caught fire. One hundred and twenty-five dead and injured were taken to Gary, Ind., and twenty others to Hammond,

**GOVERNMENT SODA.**

**Memorandum Relative to The Distribution of Nitrate of Soda by The United States Department of Agriculture.**

Dear Sir:  
I have sent you several memoranda relative to the distribution of nitrate of soda by the department of agriculture. In the memorandum dated June 8, the last one sent you, I referred to the Munrio, the Canoga, the Dania, the Sutherland, and the Sacramento. These vessels have arrived as expected and their cargoes are being distributed as outlined in that memorandum.

In the memorandum dated June 8, the following paragraph occurs:

The Redondo is now en route with a cargo of nitrate, but it is probable that she will not reach this country earlier than June 29. The department is making every effort to secure the assignment of additional vessels by the Shipping Board for transporting nitrate and to arrange for an exchange of nitrate in order to make available for immediate delivery an additional quantity of nitrate. The port or ports of discharge for the cargo of the Redondo will be definitely fixed in connection with the distribution of any additional nitrate that the department may be able to secure through the exchange. Advice as to any additional nitrate that may become available for distribution will be sent to the county agricultural agents and to the county nitrate distributors.

I regret to say that we have been advised by the shipping board that the Redondo has run ashore on the coast of Cuba and is probably a total loss. Consequently, her cargo will not be available for distribution.

The exchange of nitrate mentioned in the quoted paragraph, if effected, would have resulted in placing at the disposal of this department for distribution to farmers an additional quantity of nitrate now in this country, or soon to arrive, the department replacing the nitrate so obtained from other owners with nitrate to arrive at a later date. The department has continued its efforts to effect this exchange, through the war industries board, but has been unsuccessful.

This department has made every effort to secure the assignment of vessels by the United States shipping board for transporting nitrate and all the nitrate that has been brought into this country has been distributed or is now being distributed to farmers. Owing to the lack of ships, it has not been possible for this department to transport to this country all the nitrate purchased for distribution, and it has a large quantity of nitrate now in storage in Chile. No vessels are now engaged in transporting nitrate for this department and even if vessels should be assigned at this time most of the nitrate would not arrive in time for use on the present crop. Unless the department should be able to arrange hereafter for an exchange of nitrate, it is not likely, therefore, that any nitrate will be available for distribution other than that with reference to which county distributors have already been advised.

In case any additional nitrate should become available through such exchange, county nitrate distributors will be notified at once as to the quantity for distribution in their respective counties. Very truly yours,

Charles J. Brand,  
Chief of Bureau.

Note: County agricultural agents and county nitrate distributors are requested to give publicity to this statement in order that farmers may be advised without delay as to the present status of the nitrate distribution.

**USE RAILROAD PLATFORMS.**

**For the Handling and Weighing of Cotton.**

Washington, June 21.—Some days ago an order was issued by the federal administration of the Southern Railway prohibiting the use of railroad station platforms for the handling or weighing of cotton. Congressman James F. Byrnes, of South Carolina, today protested to E. H. Coopman, federal director of the Southern, against this order, showing how onerous it would be upon small farming communities in compelling them to construct platforms at their own expense at every station in cotton territory.

Mr. Byrnes said that he would carry the matter to President Wilson if necessary. Mr. Coopman was convinced that the order was a mistake and directed its immediate revocation.

Dr. R. Herbert Dixon is just back from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, where he graduated this June with distinction. He expects to be called about the first of July to the navy, where he has been offered a position. He is spending his vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Dixon, of Sumter.—Bishopville Leader and Vindicator.

**If She Can Do This, What Can You Do?**

**KEEPS A TINY STORE BUT TOOK \$5 IN W. S. S.**

**Has Ten Children to Support But Will Have the Money to Pay for Stamps.**

Somewhere in Columbia there is a woman who keeps a tiny store in her home. The store is called a butcher shop, but it usually contains only cold drinks and canned goods. The owner is a widow with ten children, all of whom she supports, and she is unable to send them to school because she is too poor. The two oldest girls take care of the house, which consists of only three rooms and look after the younger children. The other day a war savings stamps committee called and asked her to buy stamps. She promptly invested to the amount of \$5.

"When will I have to pay?" she asked.

"Any time until January," the canvasser answered.

"Well," she said, "I shall pay in December—no that's Christmas. I had better pay in October. I don't know how I'll manage it, but I guess I can get the money by that time."—The State, June 21.

This Space is Contributed to the War Savings Committee by  
**SIBERT'S DRUG STORE.**

**FOOD ADMINISTRATION ORDERS.**

**State Food Administrator Elliott Issues Regulations as to Ice and Beef.**

To soda fountain and soft drink dealers:  
On account of the great shortage of ice you will please observe the following rule:

No crushed or shaved ice shall be used or served in drinks.  
This rule effective at once.

Wm. Elliott,  
Food Administrator for South Carolina.  
June 21, 1918.

To hotels, restaurants, boarding houses and public eating places:

On account of the necessity for conservation of ice, please observe the following rules, effective at once:

1. No crushed ice or shaved ice shall be served in drinking water.
2. No crushed ice or shaved ice shall be served around fruits or other dishes, or in finger bowls, etc.
3. No ice shall be bought except for necessary uses.

Wm. Elliott,  
Food Administrator for South Carolina.  
June 20, 1918.

To all public eating places in South Carolina:

In order to conserve the supply of beef for our army and our allies, you are expected until further notice to observe the following regulations:

"Roast beef, whether hot or cold, should be served only on Monday at mid-day meal; stewed or boiled beef or beef hash on Wednesday and Saturday at midday meals; steak in any form, including hamburger steak on Thursday only at midday meals. By-products of beef such as ox tails, livers, tongues, sweetbreads, hearts, kidneys, brains, and tripe, may be served at any time. We do not wish any advertising either by hotels and public eating places as to the days or routine in which this service proceeds for it would focus attention of customers on these days and increase consumption of beef.

Wm. Elliott,  
Food Administrator for South Carolina.  
June 18, 1918.

The Fourth of July Celebration Committee plans to have one of the best bands in the State to furnish music for the parade and during the exercises on the Court House square.



**Let Me Put ELECTRIC LIGHT**

**On Your Farm ASK ME HOW!**

**FORSHEE & CO.,**  
Sales Agents  
Sumter, S. C.

**Fruit Jars**

Now is the time to do your canning and this is the place to buy your Jars.

1 Quart . . . . 80c per dozen  
2 Quart . . . . \$1.00 per dozen

**O'Donnell & Company**