

The Watchman and Southron.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the Truc 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 advertiser's medium in Sumter.

Mexico declares to the world that she does not recognize the Monroe Doctrine, but the time may come again, as it did in 1867, when the Mexicans will be crying for the protection of this same doctrine.

The statement of President Wannamaker of the Cotton Association that he has discovered that there are men in South Carolina and other Southern States actively engaged fighting the movement of the farmers and other loyal citizens to create an organization that will be able to finance and market the cotton crop without dictation by outside interests causes no surprise in well informed circles. There are men in the South who have always bitterly antagonized any and every effort of the farmers to obtain a fair price for cotton. The independence of the cotton farmers is the last thing that those who grow rich by manipulating the cotton market desire. When it is impossible to force the sale of cotton at any price that the speculators may see fit to offer a whole lot of idle rich will have to get down to real hard work.

THE ITALIAN CLAIMS.

With two of the five big powers represented at Paris most Americans have lost patience lately, because they showed so little of the spirit which has been supposed to animate the allies in this war, and which Americans have hoped to see prevail in the peace settlement. Those nations are Japan and Italy. And of the two Italy has probably been the more irritating, because from her more was expected.

The case has been well put by a blunt article in the New Republic. Commenting on the recent statement made by the Italian embassy that Italy was on the verge of revolution as a result of a fuel and food famine, the writer says:

"This being the case, this having been the case for months, what have we heard from the Italian government? That she wants coal and food; that she wants to start her industries? Not at all. Fiume and Dalmatia, Dalmatia and Fiume, naval bases, strategic crests, the Adriatic as an Italian lake, the frightful danger to Italy from the non-existent Jugoslav navy, rocks and inlets, and mountain villages and fishing ports, and everything but the truth.
"When Italy's friends have said to her statesmen that economic life could not be revived by strangling the trade of Central Europe, they would not listen. Faced with an imminent revolution at home they have actually threatened twice to quit the Conference at Paris because they could not plant their flag on the gates of other people's territory. They have wasted sympathy; they have stirred up no end of irritation; they have put Italy in the worst possible light before the world.
"Who pays? The common people of Italy. The peasants and the workmen. They starve. They are unassisted because the Italian officials under the influence of special moneyed groups and intoxicated with the notion of being a ruling power have consistently sabotaged the peace negotiations raised a hue and cry over side issue and left unargued the real needs of Italy."
This is drastic, but as every well informed American must recognize, it is deserved. Italy has endangered the world's peace by insisting on the technical fulfillment of a secret treaty made early in the war offering her not only Trent and Trieste but also Fiume and the Dalmatian coast. That was a desperate proffer made by Britain and France at a desperate time. America had not entered the war. The purposes of the Allies had not become fixed. The moral and political issues were not yet clear. The world trusted and admired Italy because she professed only to be defending herself and seeking to bring her own "unredeemed" people back into the national fold.
The war finally boiled down to two or three simple issues of right and wrong, chief among them being the right of every people to "self-determination." The war was won. New nations were created, with their needs and rights. Italy having won Trent and Trieste, insisted on her pound of flesh. She must have Fiume, though she has plenty of seaports without it, and it is the only decent seaport available for the new democracy of Yugoslavia, and the population is mostly Slavic. She must have the

whole Dalmatian coast, thereby shutting off Greater Serbia from the sea, though she does not need it for protection, and the territory is not Italian. And her infatuated statesmen for those immoral and unnecessary demands would wreck the peace settlement.
Italy will have to yield. A government so insane must be hit on the head with a club; and either the other Allies or the Italian people must swing the club, for the good of Italy herself no less than the rest of the world.

GOD'S VENGEANCE.

When the Ruler of the Universe said, "Vengeance is mine. I will surely repay," it was not an idle or figurative speech. He meant exactly what He said.

We fuss and fret, and make our futile finite plans for revenge or punishment; but while we are planning, Divine Justice goes quietly along, and all at once we see Divine fulfillment. There has been a feeling, fairly widespread, that Germany escaped too easily because the actual fighting was not carried onto German soil. But now the Austrians and Hungarians are doing to one another what common justice seemed to indicate that Allied armies should do. They are doing it thoroughly, too—murdering high and low, fighting, burning houses and towns, laying waste or neglecting fields they should be tilling. And the terror is creeping into Germany.

All this without aggression on the part of the Allied armies, and without the loss of life which must have occurred within our ranks had we carried out the vengeance ourselves.

In Turkey, too, brigandage is spreading. Villages already lie waste, and the cities and the men in authority in them all are menaced.

It is the stern fulfillment of the pledge from which there is no escape. And while it sometimes seems as if God's justice moved far too slowly for man's impatient desire, it moves so surely and with such fitness that it puts all mortal efforts to shame.

WAR NOW AGAINST DISEASE.

Wars are generally followed by epidemics of some sort or other. The United States health authorities are determined that there shall be no such experience in this case if they can possibly help it. They have undertaken a big campaign for the prevention of all communicable diseases, through the co-operation of federal, State and local authorities.

They are appealing to every community, large or small, through the mayors, health officers, chambers of commerce, Red Cross and other agencies, urging them to see that certain fundamental things are done to check contagion and infection. First there is to be an inventory taken of existing diseases of the preventable type—and it should be remembered that virtually all of the communicable diseases are preventable through proper care. Then every community will be expected to set about eradicating its own plagues.

Special attention will be given to three fundamental things—the water supply, the milk supply and the public schools. The water must be made free from the bacteria that cause typhoid, dysentery and other water-borne diseases. Purity of milk sources and cleanliness in its handling must be assured. The schools must have adequate medical supervision to discover communicable diseases and prevent their spread.

Such common evils as house-flies and mosquitoes must be fought, and, as nearly as may be, exterminated. And any live body of men in any city will find plenty of work to do along other lines contributing to the same end.

It is as valuable a task as can be imagined, and should be undertaken promptly, backed by whatever funds are necessary.

CHANGED ADDRESSES.

The government War Risk Insurance Bureau has announced that it has in its possession \$16,000,000 worth of returned checks. This rather large sum of money was sent out to regular allottees. Hundreds of thousands of checks have come back since December 31, 1917, marked "unknown" or "unclaimed."

The Red Cross has taken over 30,000 of these checks and has started on a campaign to find the allottees. The task is large, however, and is increasing at an average rate of over 1,900 newly returned checks per day.

Some of this may be due to mistakes made in the offices of the Bureau; some of it to lack of imagination on the part of postal clerks and carriers. But by far the most trouble is caused by the failure of the people themselves to notify the War Risk Bureau of changed addresses.

Whether this failure is due to ignorance or carelessness makes no difference in the confusion caused and the hardship worked. Those lost

checks are still payable as soon as the people can be located. People due to receive such allotments who have missed them should let the War Risk Bureau know promptly their correct addresses. Also, people moving from one part of a city to another or from one section of the country to another, should always notify local postoffice of their change of address. That action does away with considerable loss of time and confusion in the postoffice and insures the prompt forwarding of misaddressed mail.

HONEST ADS.

The Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association of Phoenix, Ariz., was back of a bill recently passed by the State legislature. The measure, much like an earlier California law, is directed against false or misleading statements in advertising. Its application is not restricted to dishonestly advertised merchandise. It is intended also to check the shady work of brokers and salesmen with mine stocks, oil wells and other property of purely speculative value. Misstatements concerning the value, ownership, or extent of such property will be considered misdemeanors and punished as such.

While the charge and the penalty are light, the law represents another step in the forward movement for honesty in advertising. Merchants and manufacturers are learning that honesty pays best in the long run, both in regard to quality of the goods sold and in the advertising done for them. Dishonest advertising is not only bad for a particular business, but it also tends to break down confidence in all advertising. That is why the foresighted, honest merchant is just as anxious to keep up the level of honesty as is the buying public.

WHAT BOOZE MONEY WILL BUY

We talk of war loans in billions, of public improvements costing hundreds of millions, but very few people except those who have been studying the matter realize the immense sum which will be set free for other purposes by the enactment of prohibition.

One man who has made a study of dry financial possibilities in the city of Cleveland is authority for the stunning news that thirsty Clevelanders pour \$22,000,000 down their throats annually. This does not represent the money invested in buildings or breweries, but just that passed over the bars for drinks.

This sum, if invested for public service, says the lightning calculator, would

- Pay all the expenses of city government for two years;
- Pay the salaries of all the teachers for five years;
- Repay the entire city and leave a fat balance in the bank;
- Pay the expenses of the City Hospital for seventy-eight years;
- Light the streets for fifty years; or
- Keep the parks in fine condition for 110 years.

These are only a few of the useful and constructive things which could be done with all this money, every cent of which when spent for liquor does its little quota of harm.

The cities where prohibition has been in force for some time report that constructive things are really being done. Taxes are being reduced gradually. Bank deposits are increasing. Expenses for public institutions made necessary by the evil effect of drink are growing less.

Of course the Peace Conference has been a long time about it. But how many of its critics could write in less time a 75,000 word treaty to the satisfaction of a score of nations, when all the while "stones were clattering on the roof and wild men screaming through the keyhole?"

A RENEGADE ALLY.

The American people did not go to war to enable Italy to grab Fiume and Dalmatia. The Italians themselves did not go to war for that purpose, though lately they seem to have forgotten that fact. If, in the "sacred egoism" of a victory which is greater than they expected, and which we helped them win, they make demands that violate the principles we have fought for, there is nothing for the United States to do but bid Italy a regretful good-by.

What has become of all the fine professions with which Italy entered and waged the war? Americans were with her heart and soul when she fought to free her "unredeemed" people from a foreign yoke and make herself safe from future menace. We gave Italy our friendship and moral support. We lent her vast sums of money. We sent her food, arms and soldiers. And then she undertook to belie and betray, in the peace settlement, the fundamental principles of the allied cause to which she herself had subscribed.

Having won her own "Irridenta,"

HARBY & CO., Inc.

COTTON AND FERTILIZER MERCHANTS

If you have cotton to sell, see us, it will pay you.

If you have fertilizer or fertilizer materials to buy it will pay you to see us before you buy, Cash or approved collateral.

9 West Liberty Street

she proposes to create an "Unredeemed Jugoslavia" by taking the Jugoslav seaport of Fiume and the whole Dalmatian coast, thus not only absorbing forcibly a large Slav population but shutting Jugoslavia from the sea.

To all this Italy has neither moral nor legal right. Even the Pact of London did not pledge her Fiume and all Dalmatia. They are not predominantly Italian. She does not need them for commercial or military purposes. The Allies cannot let her have them without undermining the basis of the peace settlement on which they have labored for so many months or without piling up trouble that will keep the peace of Europe permanently unsettled.

If Italy wants to go, then, there can be but one answer—Let her go! She can make herself a pariah among the powers if she chooses. But Italy had better weigh carefully the consequences of such rash and dishonorable action.

Buy Victory Bonds—Why?

(W. F. Stevenson, Member of Congress.)

South Carolina should subscribe and take her quota of Victory Bonds

For economic reasons:

- (a) Because the investment is safe and the income as good as ordinary investments after taxes are paid.
- (b) Because to do so means a saving by our people and this is a spirit badly needing cultivation in South Carolina.
- (c) And because the holder of United States bonds is always able to command money on his bonds if he needs it. He has a standing in the financial world second to none.

For patriotic reasons:

- (a) Because our government needs the money and South Carolina has a large interest in our government as at present constituted, and in the language of Holy Writ should "Show her faith by her works."
- (b) Because our boys are still in Europe and their pay, support and return expenses must be met from the proceeds of this loan, and we want to do our part in this good work.
- (c) Because there are thousands of maimed soldiers and more thousands of dependants of those who have perished whose support is guaranteed by the government and it is compelled to get this money to pay allotments, allowances compensation and insurance, as provided by law, or let these wards of the nation suffer. If you can help to do this and still get a good investment for yourself—why not do it?

Finally, as a business proposition:

If the bonds are not sold, taxes must be imposed in order to raise the money, and a bond is a much better investment than a tax receipt.

Great Cotton Meeting
Farmers and Business Men to Meet in New Orleans Next Month

Columbia, April 25.—A statement issued yesterday afternoon by the South Carolina Cotton Association says that the South Carolina delegation to the Southern cotton convention to be held at New Orleans on May 14, 15 and 16 will leave Columbia on the afternoon of May 12. The delegates from South Carolina are expected to go in a body. They will arrive in New Orleans on the night of May 13.

The delegation from South Carolina will be composed of Governor Cooper, Lieutenant Governor Liles of Orangeburg, Commissioner of Agriculture B. Harris, J. H. Claffy of Orangeburg, J. Skottowe Wannamaker of St. Matthews, T. P. Cothran of Greenville, W. L. Gray of Laurens, W. W. Long of Clemson College, B. F. McLeod of Charleston, John T. Mackey of Camden, Paul Sanders of Ritter, William Gifford of Gifford, R. G. Rhett of Charleston, L. D. Jennings of Sumter, Ira B. Dunlap of Rock Hill, Douglas McIntyre of Marion, T. G. McLeod of Bishopville, H. E. Montgomery of Kingstree, B. H. Moss of Orangeburg, A. M. Benbow of Bamberg and C. E. Summers of Newberry. It is expected that all of the members of the delegation will attend.

The first day of the convention at New Orleans, says the statement issued by the South Carolina association yesterday, will be devoted to receiving reports as to the progress of the campaign in every section of the belt on cotton acreage reduction and the holding of cotton for remunerative prices.

The second day of the convention will be given over to the organization and discussion of plans for putting into operation of the Foreign Marketing, Exporting and Financing Corporation.

The third day will be given over to the organization of a plan for properly banking and financing the cotton business and various allied interests of the South, and a complete and thorough organization of the cotton associations in every State in the cotton belt. It is planned, says the statement, to have one complete cotton association for the entire belt, each State to have an organization which is to be a member of this parent organization.

"The farmers, merchants, bankers and business men are continuing to stand together," says the statement. "Desperate efforts have been made to

separate their ranks, but all of them have proved unavailing. Our ranks present a solid front. A complete victory is absolutely certain.

"During the last few days we have received bulletins from every State in the cotton belt. All of them are of a most encouraging nature. The president of the Louisiana organization reports that the reduction of cotton acreage in that State totals 32 per cent. All of the other States report a heavy reduction. Texas, the biggest State in the cotton belt, is assured of a reduction of over 30 per cent."

An important meeting of the central committee of the South Carolina association has been called for next Tuesday afternoon. All of the members are expected to be present. The committee will review the progress that is being made in the campaign to have the banks of the State increase their capital stock. Letters are being received daily at the office of the cotton association, it was said yesterday, indicating that the request for the increased capital stock will be complied with very generally.

Sergt. Wm. M. Reynolds of this city who served for a year on the Mexican border with the Charleston Light Dragoons and afterwards in Flanders and France with the Thirtieth Division did not return with his division. He is at present attending law lectures at the Inns of Court in London. He was among those who applied for a course in one of the English Universities and was so fortunate as to be assigned to his first choice—the law course at the Inns of Court, where he has access to the libraries in the British Museum nearby and to the sessions of parliament and the British courts. He expects to return to America the last of July.

Mr. R. O. Alexander, the cotton buyer from Charlotte, is in town this week. Up to yesterday afternoon he has bought between 200 and 300 bales of cotton from Mr. J. M. Hearon and Mr. S. L. Austin. He expects to be a regular cotton buyer here next fall and has rented a room already from Mrs. Lila Aman, but will not come here before September 1.—Bishopville Vindicator.

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