

The Watchman and Southeron.

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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 1854 and the True Southeron in 1866. The Watchman and Southeron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

ABNORMAL BUSINESS STANDARD.

In ordinary times there is little disposition to scrutinize the profits made by producers, manufacturers, middlemen, wholesalers and retailers. It is assumed that competition will take care of prices, and that in general any branch of any industry is probably entitled to whatever extra profit it can make through special ability and efficiency.

But these are not normal times. Competition is not operating as usual. Supplies are not accessible as usual. Transportation and credit and other factors are in an abnormal condition. All the affairs of the world are unsettled. People are harder put to it than usual to make both ends meet.

In this disturbed situation, there is little disposition to endure the piling up of fortunes by clever men out of the necessities of the people. It is true for an abnormal restriction of profits rather than an abnormal swelling of profits.

Every business connected with the staple commodities of life must be looked into, and the economic wrongs of 100,000,000 people must be righted.

STORAGE PROFITEERS.

Every storage house in New York City and other Atlantic ports is stuffed with food. Breweries, diverted from liquor business, are filled with it. Every available building is crammed from cellar to garret.

Most of this food seems intended for exportation. Food exports have already reached a record volume, and that volume is said to be still growing. Europe is clamoring for American produce.

But the owners of the stored food do not care whether they sell it abroad or at home. They have moved and stored it near tidewater with a view to taking advantage of the foreign market; but they will just as willingly release it for the home market if domestic prices can be forced up high enough to give them as big a profit as they could reap abroad. The profit is the thing. And it is, in most cases, a profit admittedly far in excess of any previously realized.

The food hoards are estimated at no less than 10,000,000,000 pounds in New York alone. The totals for the whole eastern seaboard are beyond calculation.

Who are the owners of these hoards? A government representative says:

"Of the immense quantities of food stuffs held in storage the greater percentage is at the moment in the hands of profiteers, who are awaiting an opportunity to mulct either the citizens of Europe or this country. It makes no difference to them whom they snare. There is a legitimate and necessary quantity held for American use, of course, and there are men honest enough to give this product to the country at a reasonable profit, but the great percentage of food is held out of the market for purely selfish reasons.

"Men who never in their lives bought a pound of butter, cheese, meat or leather with the idea of hoarding it for sale at a profit have jumped into this market and will squeeze the public if they get a chance. Millions loom in front of them, and they feel they are safe in exacting them."

Here is a situation that the government authorities will do well to sift thoroughly. It is no time for reaping fortunes through gambling in the nation's food supply. If there is no authority for preventing the gamblers from cornering the food surplus, holding it to create an abnormal scarcity and then take advantage of the forced prices, there ought to be some legislation on the matter at once. If there is any law providing for punishment of the offenders, it is time to enforce it, before they have succeeded in their plundering enterprise.

The new military training plan would give three months' instruction to more than half a million boys every year, at a cost of \$95,000,000, or less than \$200 apiece. Thousands of parents would gladly pay more than that for the privilege of sending their sons to a military school for three months in the summer or winter, and

hundreds of thousands of lads would jump at the chance.

A Consumers' League in France has lowered prices 20 per cent by simply printing the facts about prices and values. Maybe the same thing can be done in this country. Consumers heretofore have been at a disadvantage because they didn't know the facts, and so could be bluffed and bulldozed into paying exorbitant prices.

A Boston grand jury soberly announces that the principal reason why shoes are so high is that the public buys so many of them. As usual, it's the consumer's fault. Congress, in behalf of the nation, might apologize to the packers, tanners, shoe manufacturers, jobbers, wholesalers and retailers.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.

Nothing could better illustrate the wrong way to go about remedying present economic evils than the program of the United Mine Workers of America, as outlined by some of their representatives.

It is said that the miners, most of whom are engaged in the coal industry, are going to ask for a wage increase of about 50 per cent, making probably \$8 a day or more, and along with it a reduction of working time to six hours a day and five days a week. That would mean about \$50 a week for thirty hours' work.

Thirty hours' work, if divided as usual among six days, would mean five hours a day.

It may be that the miners need a liberal wage increase to meet the rising cost of living. It may be granted, too, that miners ought to be well paid for the time they put in, because their work is hard, disagreeable and dangerous. But when the demand for a big wage increase is coupled with the demand for a big reduction of working time, the absurdity of it ought to be apparent to anyone familiar with present economic conditions.

We might leave out of consideration the insistent fact that the world needs coal as it needs all other commodities, and that any industry which deliberately does anything to curtail production is shirking its duty and refusing to play its part in the general rehabilitation of the world. Considering the matter purely from the standpoint of the miners themselves, we are likely to find the plan operating in a vicious circle which defeats its own aims.

The miners, working shorter hours, naturally produce less coal. That makes coal dearer for everybody. Obtaining higher wages, they add still more to the cost of coal. Everybody else, having to pay more for coal, has to charge more for his own services or output. Thus everything the miners themselves buy will soon cost them more. If everybody else put into effect this plan of the miners, we should simply have everybody doing less work, creating less wealth, and at the same time getting more money—and prices going up and up and up, so that even the high pay would buy less than usual, because there would be less to buy. It would make money more and more worthless—counters of continually shrinking value.

There is really only one way to restore comfortable living conditions. It is to increase production of all the necessities of life. Then, if profiteering is, generally speaking, curbed, prices and wages will pretty well take care of themselves.

CONCORD SCHOOL TO HAVE BOOTH

Concord School, one of the most progressive and patriotic educational districts of this country has started work to line up the men, women and boys and girls of that district and township to have a creditable representative community booth, and numbers of farm and individual exhibits at the big 1919 Sumter County fair.

At yesterday's meeting of the Concord Club which was attended by several gentlemen of the district, Miss Nan Martin, the Home Demonstration Agent, and Secretary E. I. Reardon discussed county fair matters with the ladies and gentlemen present.

It was decided to endeavor to have Concord Township and school district creditably represented at the fair. Mrs. John Childress, Mrs. G. W. Mahoney, Mrs. E. M. Fort, Mr. Walker Newman and Mr. John Childress were selected as a committee to canvass the district to interview the school patrons and the home demonstration club members, and the girls of the canning and tomato clubs, poultry clubs, boys pig and corn clubs with the view of interesting every one in the Concord community booth and farm and individual exhibits.

Miss Nan Martin gave an interesting and instructive lecture and demonstration on how to cook an entire meal in twenty minutes. She cooked the dinner in a steam pressure cooker and served the club members with a substantial meal. The ladies and gentlemen were very pleasantly surprised with the economy in time, fuel, and worry by this modern method of cooking. Several ladies requested steam pressure cookers ordered for their use.

Miss Eileen Hurst has returned to her home in Savannah after visiting Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hurst.

COUNTY COTTON ASSOCIATION

Officers and Committees Appointed For Membership Campaign

The following citizens have been selected as officers, members of the Township Committees for the big membership campaign of the South Carolina Cotton Association which occurs September 26th-27th and 28th. County Executive Committee.—Chairman for Sumter County, L. D. Jennings; C. J. Jackson, Horatio; T. S. Dubose, Jr., Oswego; A. E. Aycock, Wedgefield; E. W. Dabbs, R. F. D., Mayesville; J. B. Britton, R. F. D., No. 1, Sumter; G. A. Lemmon, Sumter; J. Frank Williams, R. F. D. No. 3, Sumter; T. J. Keels, Acting Secretary, Sumter, S. C.

Township committees to organize their respective townships and secure pledges of membership and secure funds. Each committee is authorized to appoint as many additional committeemen as they deem necessary to properly divide up the territory and the work in order to complete the membership campaign in their respective township within three days. Township chairmen are requested to immediately call their respective committees together for the purpose of organization, and to notify Chairman Jennings of their having organized for a successful campaign.

Sumter Township.—T. J. Kirvin, Chairman, J. H. Myers, W. A. Bryan, Oswego Section, Sumter T. S.—E. C. Brown, Chairman; F. W. Andrews, B. M. Oliver.

Mayesville Township.—J. F. Bland, Chairman; L. C. Tisdale, J. H. Wilton.

Middleton Township.—Dr. M. L. Parler, Chairman; W. H. Ramsey, E. E. Aycock.

Manchester Township.—B. T. Kolb, Chairman; F. M. Coult, D. W. Alsbrook.

Shiloh Township.—I. M. Truluck, Chairman; J. C. McElveen, Johnny Johnson.

Statesburg Township.—George Mabrey, Chairman; N. B. Murray, R. M. Moore.

Concord Township.—J. C. Brogdon, Chairman; Joel Davis, C. W. Brunson.

Privateer Township.—J. M. Kolb, Chairman; T. E. Hodge, Rev. Wm. Haysworth.

Providence Township.—H. T. Edens, Chairman; M. L. Moore, A. C. Burroughs.

Rafting Creek Township.—E. E. Rembert, Chairman; C. M. Emmanuel, J. L. Jackson.

DUES.

Dues from date to January 1st, 1921, to be 25c per bale of cotton produced in 1917, 25c per thousand dollars capital invested in mercantile and other classes of business, banks or manufacturing plants, and professional men, such as lawyers, doctors, school teachers, etc., \$3 each. Dues for 1921 and 1922, 10c per bale of cotton and 10c per thousand dollars capital per annum. Dues for professional men \$3 per annum. The dues will include subscription to the Cotton Journal to be published by the American Cotton Association. The dues for the first year and balance of 1919 to be paid to the committee securing the application, who will turn same over to the county Secretary for transmission to the State Organization Treasurer. All dues in future must be sent by each member, direct to the Treasurer of the State Organization, but in no case shall the dues of any individual firm or corporation exceed one hundred dollars. Minimum dues \$2.

It will be the duty of the County Secretary to list all applications for membership alphabetically and by townships and wards. Membership books will be furnished by the State Central Committee.

Mr. Vaughan, Farmer, Tells How He Lost All His Prize Seed Corn.

"Sometime ago sent away for some pedigreed seed corn. Put it in a gunny sack and hung it on a rope suspended from roof. Rats got it all—how beats me, but they did because I got 5 dead whoppers in the morning after trying RAT-SNAP." Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store, O'Donnell & Co., DuRant Hardware Co., Sumter, S. C.—Advt.

The Charleston Election.

(Charleston Post.)

The election can bring little real satisfaction to anybody concerned. The margin is so small on the face of the returns for the mayoralty that a consideration of the challenges and, perhaps a re-canvass of the vote, will be necessary to determine whether Mr. Hyde or Mr. Grace is to be the nominee. For the third time these two antagonists have run what is virtually a dead heat.

Mr. Grace polled fewer votes, generally speaking, than the candidates on his ticket for aldermen at large, all but one of whom appear to have been nominated. Obviously the paramount issue of the campaign, Mr. Grace's attitude toward the war, was effective with a certain proportion of the voters who were opposed to the administration.

The patriotic appeal undoubtedly brought out a large vote to Mayor Hyde which otherwise would have remained passive if it had not been positively hostile. But the appeal did not have the response it should have evoked. For failure to rally to this call in a decisive majority the community will suffer seriously in the regard of outsiders whose attention has been centered on the contest here and made familiar with the issue. Charleston must bear that as best it may.

Dissatisfaction with the administration and with the political leadership is manifest. There is a veritable deadlock of factionalism, with neither side able to score a true decision. Out of that situation somebody, reasonably free of a stale feud and with vision and a sense of proportion, must bring the Democrats of Charleston. Once more we say, as we said before, this campaign was finally joined. There is a call to the young men whose minds are fresh and outlook is clear.

The one gratifying thing about the election was the peacefulness and

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

NOTICE

We are ready to gin your cotton. Have installed four new gins and are better equipped than ever to do your work. Efficiency our motto.

Swift & Co., Oil Mill Ginnery

Cor. Calhoun and Green Sts.

J. C. PATE, Manager.

general good conduct which characterized it. It was practically free of untoward incident and both sides seemed to have themselves well in hand and to hold a sense of responsibility for the peace of the community. It may be taken as certain that every point will be canvassed for a determination of the result and the decision should be reached judiciously upon the evidence in hand, and the result declared and made effective as promptly as possible, in order that the community may have a rest from the strain under which this racking political contest has held it for the past four months, and turn to the tasks which are before it, not the least of which is a new political ordination.

"Rat-Snap Beats the Best Trap Ever Made," Mrs. Emily Shaw Says.
 "My husband bought \$2 trap. I bought a 50c box of RAT-SNAP. The trap only caught 3 rats but RAT-SNAP killed 12 in a week. I'm never without RAT-SNAP. Reckon I couldn't raise chicks without it." RAT-SNAP comes in cakes. Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store, O'Donnell & Co., DuRant Hardware Co., Sumter, S. C.—Advt.

PREDICTS BANNER-TOBACCO CROP

Washington, Aug. 21.—Another banner tobacco crop is forecast by the department of agriculture.

Why People Buy Rat-Snap in Preference to Rat Poison
 (1) RAT SNAP absolutely kills rats and mice. (2) What it doesn't kill it scares away. (3) Rats killed with RAT-SNAP leave no smell, they dry up inside. (4) Made in cakes, no mixing with other food. (5) Cats or dogs won't touch it. Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store, O'Donnell & Co., DuRant Hardware Co., Sumter, S. C.—Advt.

FOR CONGRESS

I hereby announce myself a candidate for Congress to succeed A. F. Lever, resigned; and I pledge myself to abide the result of the Democratic primary.
 GEORGE BELL TIMMERMAN.

NO MORE RATS

or mice after you use RAT-SNAP. It's a sure rodent killer. Try a pkg. and prove it. Rats killed with RAT-SNAP leave no smell. Cats or dogs won't touch it. Guaranteed.
 25c size (1 cake) enough for Pantry, Kitchen or Cellar.
 50c size (2 cakes) for Chicken House, coops, or small buildings.
 \$1.00 size (5 cakes) enough for all farm and out-buildings, storage buildings, or factory buildings.
 Sold and guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store, O'Donnell & Co. and DuRant Hardware Co., Sumter, S. C.

Tobacco Sales.

There were no tobacco sales at the Banner Warehouse on Wednesday, but today the floor is overcrowded so that a huge sale will take place. At Moore Brothers Warehouse a total of \$4,900 pounds were sold for \$17,334.69 or an average of about twenty-two cents. There will be no sales at this warehouse today. During the last few days the sales have been extremely heavy and no time was allowed for removing the sold product from the floor till today.

Tobacco Sales Today.

The Banner Warehouse had what is probably their largest tobacco sales on Tuesday when 80,460 pounds sold for \$17,901.20, or an average of about 22 cents. The Moore Brothers Warehouse sold 75,720 pounds for \$17,355.96, or an average of nearly 23 cents. Today's sales will surpass those of Tuesday. It is almost impossible for the warehouses to place all the tobacco on the floor that is brought here for sale.

"Why I Put Up With Rats for Years," Writes N. Windsor, a Farmer.
 "Years ago I bought some rat poison, which nearly killed our fine watch dog. It so scared us that we suffered a long time with rats until my neighbor told me about RAT-SNAP. That's the sure rat killer and a safe one." Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold and guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store, O'Donnell & Co., DuRant Hardware Co., Sumter, S. C.—Advt.

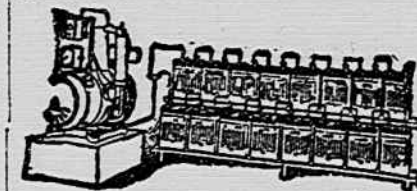
BEEHIVES AND SUPPLIES—I have lately received a few Georgia made hives and frames—8 and 10 frame size. Also on hand sections and foundation for comb honey.—N. G. Osteen, 320 W. Hampton Ave.

BEEWAX WANTED—Any quantity large or small Am paying best cash price. See me if you have any. N. G. Osteen.

RATS DIE

DELCO-LIGHT
 The complete Electric Light and Power Plant

Clean, safe electric light and power at the touch of a convenient button.



T. M. BRADLEY, Sumter, S. C. Phone 649-L

so do mice, once they eat RAT-SNAP. And they leave no odor behind. Don't take our word for it—try a package. Cats and dogs won't touch it. Rats pass up all food to get RAT-SNAP. Three sizes.
 25c size (1 cake) enough for Pantry, Kitchen or Cellar.
 50c size (2 cakes) for Chicken House, coops, or small buildings.
 \$1.00 size (5 cakes) enough for all farm and out-buildings, storage buildings, or factory buildings.
 Sold and guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store, O'Donnell & Co. and DuRant Hardware Co., Sumter, S. C.

Successful Students Must Have Good Vision

THE young men and women of today, who have successfully passed through various stages of school life, have either had good eyesight or have worn glasses that gave them normal vision.

Without good vision good work is impossible. We overcome the prejudice against wearing glasses by making them pleasing to the eye and efficient in vision.

Our examination is accurate and not uncomfortable

D. L. WILLIAMS

Office at City Drug Store Formerly With W. A. Thompson



GINNING!

OUR GINNERY has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired and is in first-class condition. We are ready for business and can guarantee prompt and satisfactory service.

THE SOUTHERN COTTON OIL CO.,

A. G. FISHBURNE, Manager.