

The Watchman and Southron.

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Just so Germany knows how much indemnity she has to pay, she doesn't care if she never pays it.

An Anti-Saloon League representative says the first year of prohibition has saved the country \$1,000,000,000. Their opponents say it has cost the country \$1,000,000,000.

In other days, that 15,000,000 bushels of corn that American farmers are giving to feed the starving people of Europe would probably have been turned into whiskey.

Ohio judge says that public officials give the public what the public demands. On the principle of "as he shall be satisfied, perhaps they do."

Henry Ford has just been out for a sum of \$50,000,000 or more. Some say he needs the money for his income tax. But inasmuch as Ford has been slowly overtaking Newberry on a recount of ballots in their disputed election, maybe he is getting ready to enter the senate.

Four thousand cases of eggs arrived in New York the other day from China. New Yorkers are supposed to have hard-boiled proclivities, but who would suppose they'd fall for China eggs?

If there were enough cows in Sumter county to furnish the cream to the Sumter Creamery all the butter consumed in the county could easily be home produced. Thousands of dollars are spent annually by Sumter people for Fox River and other brands of creamery butter produced a thousand miles away.

In some sections of the south cows and hogs have proven the antidote for the boll weevil, and creameries and packing houses have taken the place of gineries and oil mills.

Work on the tobacco stemmy was suspended last summer because of the unreasonable prices demanded for labor. Work is scarce now and laborers plentiful—perhaps this is a good time to complete the stemmy and at the same time furnish work for men who need it.

The decision of the county board of commissioners to discontinue dragging the public roads, as a means of reducing expenses, does not appeal to many who use the roads. The secret of good roads is maintenance, and the most effective instrument for maintaining sand-clay and top soil roads is the split-log drag, regularly used.

When will some one start the long talked of movement to build sweet potato warehouses and organize a selling agency to handle the potatoes produced on land that has heretofore been planted in cotton?

BABSON ON FARMING.

Roger Babson in a recent "barometer" letter asserts that the farmer is much better off now than he was before the war, and that his present anxiety is largely due to the fact that he is doing his figuring on the wrong basis.

The tendency of the farmer is to figure his cost of production on the recent fancy land values. No business man does that, says Mr. Babson. He figures his capital on a basis of the actual sum invested. If the farmer will adopt this basis for figuring his costs "he can make money farming, at moderate prices, provided he works, and doesn't spend most of his spare time riding around in automobiles."

The farmers who are holding their crops are also advised to sell them promptly, clear off their seasonable debts and clear the banks of all but mortgage loans. Should they fail to do this they are likely to reach a point where all will be compelled to throw

their product on the market at the same time. Mr. Babson concludes: "The wealth of the country depends upon the number of bushels raised and not upon the price per bushel. Let us look to all those bushels and rejoice. Let the farmer return to raising diversified crops, feeding cattle, raising hogs, leading a normal farmer's life, and keeping out of speculation."

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Columbia, Feb. 3.—Representative Claude N. Sapp, of Columbia, Thursday introduced in the house of representatives the much-heralded bill to raise the "age of consent," from 14 to 16.

The bill provides that a person abusing a woman child under the age of 16 shall be guilty of a felony and shall suffer punishment the same as for rape. It provides that if the girl abused is over ten years of age, the person found guilty of the abuse may be recommended to the mercy of the court.

This is the bill so strongly urged by the South Carolina League of Women Voters and is aimed, it is said, at reducing immorality in the state.

Not Tried in Absence. Representative Dickson, of Anderson, has introduced a bill in the house providing that no defendant, charged with any crime, shall be tried in his absence, unless his presence is waived by his counsel.

Representative Dillon, of Charleston, has introduced a bill in the house to make it unlawful for operators of any sailing vessel to allow refuse from their boat to go into the water of any harbor on the South Carolina coast. Heavy fines are provided against violations.

Engineers' Examiners. Representatives Beacham and Shepard, of Greenwood, have introduced in the house of representatives a bill to create a state board of engineers' examiners. The board would have five members, each to receive \$10 per diem for the days serving.

Representative Hanahan has introduced a bill to abolish the dog tax.

Representative McMillan, of Charleston, has introduced a bill to make it a misdemeanor for any person to hire a motor vehicle and not pay for it. A fine of from \$25 to \$1,000, or imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, would be the penalty.

Columbia, Feb. 3.—The Richland Cotton Marketing association, the first cotton marketing plan to be incorporated by legislation, is proposed in a bill before the legislature today, introduced by Representative W. D. Earnest, of Columbia. The association, if the bill becomes law, will have its office in Columbia and will enhance the value of Columbia as a cotton market for the central part of the state.

The bill provides for the election by the Richland County Cotton association of a board of five directors, to have control of the marketing bureau. The marketing association would maintain an office where assistance can be given the cotton producers in selling his crop. The association would employ a federal cotton grader and also cotton weighers, and the services of these experts would be called in connection with every cotton sale in the county.

The marketing association would be supported by the collection of a fee of forty cents on each bale of cotton sold, this to be paid by the buyer at the time of purchase.

The bill provides that a cotton buyer who fails to make the reduction of forty cents for each bale of cotton purchased, the forty cents to go to the marketing bureau, shall be fined \$25, this to be paid to the Richland Cotton association.

Columbia, Feb. 3.—Representative Wade, of Aiken, has introduced another of the many "abolition" bills of the present general assembly. His would provide for the election of the offices of chief state game warden and the office of superintendent of the State Penitentiary by the people, instead of by the general assembly, as at present.

W. H. Gibbs, of Columbia, the present chief game warden, retires March 1, to be succeeded by A. A. Richardson, who was elected by the general assembly last week. Col. A. K. Sanders was re-elected superintendent of the penitentiary by the general assembly last week. Representative Wade's bill would make these two offices elective in the general election.

Representative Sellers is the author of an "abolition" bill also. He is introducing in the house a bill to abolish all scholarships in state educational institutions, following the expiration of scholarships now in force.

A new form of county government is provided in a bill introduced in the senate today by Senator Hutson, of Orangeburg, the bill applying only to his county. The bill would create a county highway commission, and also the office of county manager, to have charge of the work of all road forces and other county functions.

Philadelphia, Feb. 2.—Submarine L-1 was run down by a pilot boat in the darkness of the Delaware Capes early today, sustaining damage which resulted in beaching her. The engine room of the submarine was flooded with twelve feet of water and her stern was submerged. The crew escaped injury. The pilot boat was apparently undamaged. The captain said that he did not see the submarine's stern light until it was too late to change his course.

No More Brigadiers in English Army London, Feb. 2.—The rank of brigadier general in the British army has been abolished. Officers holding that rank will henceforth be known as colonel commandants.

"Russian Tells Truth About Russia," reads a newspaper headline. Well, that's news.—Deseret News.

EXTRA SPECIAL COMBINATION FIRE AND BANKRUPT SALE AT THE BATTERY

150 S. Main Street Sumter, S. C.

SALE OPENS SATURDAY, FEB. 5th

We have been fortunate in securing about \$20,000.00 worth of clean, fresh goods UNDER FORCED SALES at very attractive figures, and we have decided to put this out on SALE together with our large stock of fire damaged goods, and run it off for the benefit of our customers.

In this sale we will have something EXTRAORDINARY IN VALUES to offer and would invite your special attention to the great bargains we have for you. Watch our windows for daily specials, as they will be put out from day to day.

THE BATTERY

In Harper's New Store, Next Door to J. C. Brown, Opposite the Claremont Hotel, Sumter, S. C.

FREE RANGE BILL KILLED

Columbia, Feb. 2.—Senator Smith's bill to exempt Horry county from the statewide stock law was killed in the senate last night after a prolonged debate, pro and con, the vote being 23 to 13. By the action of the senate Horry county is forced to comply with the statewide law prohibiting animals to run at large in the state and the vote last night ends a fight, started the first day of the session by the aged Horry senator.

The debate was decidedly the most interesting yet indulged in by the senate and was heard by a large gallery and many citizens on the floor of the upper chamber. Senator Smith again reiterated his charge of autocratic dictation on the part of the state in telling the "Independent Republican" what it should do. He claimed the same free rights for Horry county that the sons of the south fought and died for in 1861-65, but the opposition was too great and after a hard fight "Uncle Jerry" was forced to bow to a majority vote against him.

Mr. Smith was not the only free range supporter in the debating. Senator Hubbard lending a helping hand. The Jasper senator also charged that the county of Horry should have the right to govern its-elf. He gave facts and figures that were intended to show that free range was the better of the two methods.

Senator Harrelson of Marion led the attack on the bill, pointing out what he considered the many defects in free range and taking Mr. Smith to task on a number of statements. Mr. Harrelson said the Horry free range would always mean cattle tick in the state and a brand of cattle and hogs that would never leave the county progress. He cited the long horn "Lulls" and the razorback hogs.

Senator Alexander also attacked the bill as being against the best interests of the state as a whole.

The vote came on Senator Harrelson's motion to strike out the enacting words and the following yeas and nays were recorded: Yeas: Baker, Paslin, Beasley, Christensen, Crosson, Goodwin, Harrelson, Hart, Hutson, Johnson, Johnson, Kennedy, Lightsey, Marion, Massey, McGhee, Miller, Pearce, Stabler, Watkins and Wideman. Nays: Black, Dennis, Duncan, Gross, Hubard, Laney, McCall, Padgett, Robinson, Jeremiah Smith, Wells, Wightman and Young. H. L. Smith, Jr., and Senator Clifton paired.

PLAN TO FINANCE FARMERS

Florence, Feb. 2.—In the policy announced by the Palmetto Bank and Trust company, Florence has originated a scheme of carrying the 1920 cotton crop and of financing the 1921 crop, that, if adopted generally, experts believe would go a long way towards solving the present dilemma in this industry. This policy, as defined by Mr. E. H. Lucas, vice president of the Palmetto bank, is to carry its cotton-holding patrons, who are not planting cotton this year, as far as possible, and to arrange so that it can require cotton-holding patrons, who are planting cotton this year, to sell their present holdings before they produce another crop on top of the present tremendous holdings in the south.

—and now they would borrow more money to raise more cotton on top of their present holdings! Such a policy would absolutely bankrupt the south.

Applicants for loans to finance the 1921 crop, at the Palmetto Bank, are required, under the loan contract, to give the bank the right to sell their present holdings of cotton between the dates of April 1 and June 30, by or during which time the bank figures cotton will have shown what it is going to do. Of course, states Mr. Lucas, if the market has regained sufficiently to give reasonable hope that it will go higher and the cotton acreage has been cut enough this year to warrant holding further, the bank, at its discretion, is not compelled to sell the 1920 cotton—but it will require the right to sell it, before it will loan money to grow more cotton against the present holdings, which constitute a bearish over supply.

One of the leading members of the American Cotton Association in Florence county, when informed of this policy, expressed himself as struck with the fairness and liberality of the policy. It will do a whole lot to cut acreage for the 1921 crop, he said, and the situation put up to the cotton-planting, cotton-holder in this way by his banker doubtless will have a very salutary effect for the industry. How much the acreage of the coming crop will be cut, is uncertain yet, this same official continued, and there is no question of the absurdity of carrying over the present big crop into another big crop.

Market authorities of the highest standing agree that the present huge cotton supply, visible and known to exist, is the chief bear on the market today. The break of the past few days is attributed almost exclusively to the over-supply. The probable amount of unspun American cotton July 31 is now estimated at easily 9,000,000 bales. Normally the carry over of American cotton is about 1,200,000 bales, based on a 19-year average. The visible world supply of cotton today is 29,000,000 bales. The greatest world consumption ever known was less than 21,000,000 bales.

"Southern bankers generally are going their utmost to enable the cotton planters to hold their cotton till they can get a fair price for it—certainly till they will not have to take less than cost for it," says Mr. Lucas. "But the banks cannot carry men who, in the light of well established facts and information, would disregard safe and sound business principle. To grow more cotton, to pile up against holdings of cotton which will not bring its cost in the market today, is not good business."

SUMTER COUNTY SUPPLY BILL

Columbia, Feb. 3.—A levy of eight mills is provided in the Sumter county supply bill, introduced in the house of representatives by the Sumter delegation Wednesday afternoon.

The bill allows the following general appropriations: Roads and bridges \$20,000 Chain gang and road work 30,000 Ford truck, road machinery and engineering instruments 1,500 New road constructions 3,000 Public buildings, including water, light, insurance, fuel and postage 2,000 Public buildings, furniture and fixtures 200 Jail expenses, including dieting 1,500 County home, poorhouse and poor 5,000 Repairs to poorhouse buildings 1,500 Court expenses 7,000 Camp Alice tuberculosis camp 3,600

Table with financial data including interest on court horse bonds, sinking fund on court house bonds, salaries for county officers, and various other expenses.

The National Bank of South Carolina advertisement featuring a clock illustration and text: "The National Bank of South Carolina of Sumter, S. C. Resources \$2,500,000. Strong and Progressive. The Most Painsstaking SERVICE with COURTESY. Give us the Pleasure of serving YOU. The Bank of the Railroad and Fire. C. G. ROWLAND, President. EARLE ROWLAND, Cashier."

Perfect Protection Here advertisement for First National Bank Sumter, S. C. Text: "There is hardly a day that we do not read of burglaries and hold-ups. Such things have no terrors for us. We are fully insured against burglary or hold-up. We hope never to be visited by gentlemen engaged in this line of business. Our officers and employees are fully bonded. The safety of our depositor's funds is always our first consideration. There is no safer bank in which to deposit your money than this. First National Bank Sumter, S. C." Includes names: NELL O'DONNELL, President; ARCHIE CHINA, Vice President; O. L. YATES, Cashier.