

# The Pickens Sentinel.

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## CAMPAIGN MEETINGS.

### A GOOD CROWD ATTEND TO HEAR THE CANDIDATES.

Speeches by Gentlemen, on Each Side—Discussing the State Government in Various Aspects.

From the Spartanburg Herald.

The meeting ordered by the Democratic State Executive Committee was held on the Emancipation ground on Wednesday. The speakers arrived from Greenville on the early morning train.

At 10 o'clock, the hour fixed for the meeting, a procession was formed headed by the Gladiolus band, and comprising the carriage company, the speakers and the reception committee, with several societies bringing up the rear. At the Emancipation grounds there had assembled about 800 men, among whom was a little sprinkling of ladies.

After calling the meeting to order, County Chairman Carson introduced, as the first speaker of the day—

GENERAL JOHN BRATTON.

of Fairfield, a candidate for Governor. General Bratton's speech was a calm yet strong presentation of the evils from which he considered the people of South Carolina, and indeed of the United States, to be suffering. Conceding fully the right and the duty of the people to look after their local affairs, he yet warned his auditors that the evils of the present, the dangers to the future of the people lay in the aggressions of the central authority—striking at the liberties of the people, which under their protection, he deprecates the hasty or groundless criticism of public servants, bespeaking for each fair hearing—a full inquiry into his official conduct. He reviewed the history of our people since the war—their subjection first to military tyranny, then to radical misrule—and their self rescue in 1876. He warned the people, misled by improper presentation of our conditions, they lose sight of the great troubles growing out of Federal legislation. The charges against the State government, serve chiefly to distract the people's attention from the greatest trouble—the machinations and aggressions of the Radicals controlling the Federal government. He made an earnest appeal for unity—for a solid front against the common enemy—and closed by urging upon the young men specially the duty and the need of making a fight on principle and for principle.

COL. JOSEPH B. TILLMAN.

He opened by saying that he was proud of his State, his people, and his party—a party that is the representative of no class—that is not a faction—that is, indeed, the very people themselves. Grave charges had been made against the State government. Are these true? Is there an oligarchy? Is there an aristocracy? Is there political leprosy in South Carolina? Where are the scores where the potteries about which so much has been said? Those who make such charges should be ready with specifications and with proof. The true test is—has the government been faithfully and economically administered. If public expenses are one cent more than the public necessities require, those expenses should be reduced. Has there been any corruption? Captain Tillman has said there has been none. But he has charged certain Senators with perjury, in connection with the proposed reappointment of members of the House. If the charge is true, Captain Tillman should prove it. It is not, he should withdraw it and apologize for it. Col. Earle went on to say that while he was opposed to free tuition in the University, he favored the proper maintenance of that institution. He has always favored the agricultural college, but he was opposed to pulling down either the University or the Citadel. The State should sustain these institutions, but should especially sustain and improve the common schools. Captain Tillman had once declared a wish to destroy the Citadel Academy, but was now silent upon that point. He demanded of Captain Tillman to declare himself on this point unequivocally. The railroad commissioners might properly be elected by the people, but the fact that the present commissioners had been chosen otherwise furnished no ground for the charge that they had been "named, so to speak," any more than for the charge that the members of the legislature had been "nominated" or "debauched." There are too many general charges—too few specifications. The people should be slow to condemn their public servants upon charges loosely made. The official surely has the right allowed even the common criminal—the right to demand proof before he can be called to answer accusations. We must have no arraying of class against class. We must recognize the interests of the different interest classes of the people. We must pursue a State policy that will sustain the State's credit, and make easy the funding of the State debt at a reduced rate of interest. We must deal with all questions in a spirit of fairness and calmness. Col. Earle then recounted the circumstances attending the effort, by some of his friends, to nominate him for Governor in 1888. He said that, from first to last, he had positively declined to run. His relations with Governor Richardson had been such that his acceptance of the nomination would have involved a sacrifice of personal honor—and he did not believe that the people of South Carolina would ask such a sacrifice of any man. "If any man here thinks I should have violated confidence," taken faith with gov-

ernor Richardson—let him raise his hand. [None raised.] I thank you for that approval." Col. Earle closed with an earnest appeal for a calm discussion of pending questions, and for unity as indispensable to the safety and prosperity of the State.

CAPTAIN B. R. TILLMAN.

was greeted with loud cheering which continued during the few minutes which the Captain employed in arranging some papers and memoranda on the table in front of him. He commenced by expressing himself glad to meet the people of Spartanburg where, it appeared, the Farmers' Movement had not seemed to impress the people strongly. He felt that the attendance of so many farmers at this season showed that there was a feeling deep down in their hearts that brought them out—a feeling that there was something wrong, which ought to be righted. This has been termed a campaign of education. And so it should be. There should be a free and fair discussion. "They are prodding me on all sides, but I mean to prod back, if I am nothing but a clodhopper. I am here in response to duty's call. The people may now choose. If I receive the nomination for Governor, it will be the people's choice. If either Gen. Bratton or Colonel Earle receive it, it will be the choice of the electing body."

Col. Earle went on to say that the people of this State had been the slaves of an oligarchy for a hundred years. In those days family and money ruled the State. Later, the success over the Radicals had brought on a lethargy from which it seemed to rouse the people. Captain Tillman then discussed the matter of representation in Democratic conventions, covering the same ground as his speech at Ridgeway, published some weeks ago. He said one trouble is that the State had been governed almost entirely by attorneys, aided by a few aristocratic farmers. He denied that he had ever charged the State government with corruption. He then proceeded to discuss at some length the matter of appointment of representatives and the failure of the Legislature to provide for a census. He reiterated and enlarged upon his charge of perjury upon the part of the Senators who defeated the reappointment—not moral perjury—for these are honorable men—but they were "politically perjurers." Captain Tillman next took up the department of agriculture, reading from manuscript a carefully prepared reply to Col. A. P. Butler's recent letter upon the subject of the inspection of fertilizers. [The substance of such remarks on this point are given elsewhere.] He expressed the belief that the local papers would not publish this reply, as they had never been fair to him. The farmers, he said, ought to establish a paper of their own, which would do them justice. Captain Tillman strongly urged the use of the primary in electing delegates to the County Conventions that were to send delegates to the nominating body. In conclusion, he made an earnest appeal for free discussion and fair play—pledging himself and those who had put him to the front, to stand by the action of the State Convention, and, if elected, to carry out the reforms he had long urged. He took his seat amid loud cheering.

The close of Captain Tillman's speech was the signal for the withdrawal of quite one-third of the audience. Speeches were next made by Col. Gary, Gen. Pope, Col. Bonham, Mr. Mayfield and Capt. Farley. Lack of space prevents my report that would approach a fair presentation of the remarks of any of these gentlemen. Gen. Verner was suddenly called away by a telegram. Capt. Bacon was prevented from attending, by sickness in his family. A little after 3 o'clock the crowd, then reduced to a couple of hundred, dispersed.

Good order prevailed throughout.

A Reply to Colonel Earle.

In the course of his speech at the opening meeting of the canvass, at Greenville on Tuesday the 10th inst., Captain Tillman said:

In my speech at Anderson I made allusion to the failure of the agricultural department to punish frauds in fertilizers, and I charged in substance as I charge now:

First. That the bureau had made no honest effort to protect the farmers against being swindled by buying guano below the guarantee.

Second. That it has not enforced the law or its own regulations.

Third. That although the law is known to be defective and the punishment inadequate, no attempt has been made by the board or commissioners to have it amended, except that the matter was mentioned in one of the department reports several years ago.

Commissioner Butler, in a letter which has been published in the News and Courier and other papers, says: "I challenge you to point to one instance where farmers have been defrauded by manufacturers of fertilizers, where such fraud was not punished with all the power that the department had at its command, or that you make good your charge or retract."

I will cheerfully comply as to the first count. The commissioner acknowledges that the penalty of confiscation imposed by law against all fertilizers that are below the guarantee cannot be enforced for the sufficient reason that when the analyses are made the fertilizer is in the ground—out of reach. The distribution of fertilizers to points of consumption is about December, and they are not all in the ground until May or later. During the last ten years one and a quarter million tons of

fertilizers passed the quasi-inspection of our agricultural department and the amount paid by the farmers for this farcical protection has been about \$300,000.

In his letter Col. Butler further says: "I will say that in my opinion based on official experience, the manufacturer who deliberately attempts to defraud the farmer is the exception, and I further believe that, in every case where this has been attempted, it has failed of success because of the department's supervision." Here is an acknowledgment of attempts to defraud having been made. There have been exceptions to the rule of honesty. Has he ever confiscated a single sack? No. Then certainly the department's supervision has not caused the failure of every attempt to defraud.

Up to eighteen months ago Commissioner Butler had at his command a State chemist employed by the year at a salary of \$2,000, and analysis could begin as soon as samples were taken, say the middle of January. In 1886 35 per cent. of the ammoniacal fertilizers analyzed were below the guarantee and 20 per cent. of the acid phosphate were. In 1886 20 per cent. of the ammoniated and 9 per cent. of the acids were deficient, and this is about the average of the last three years. Is it possible to suppose that none of these deficient brands of fertilizers were ever analyzed, or could not have been analyzed and the fraud found out in time, so that an efficient and zealous official could have found an opportunity to seize and sell some of it before all of it was in the ground? No reasonable man in South Carolina believes that. Suppose, as Col. Butler claims, that the averages of the manufacturers exceeded those guarantees \$3.68 per ton; what satisfaction was it to a farmer who bought and paid for the deficient brands, to know that some one more fortunate had got a brand above the guarantee, and was being benefited at his expense? That he had paid for what he had not received, and that though the farmers paid \$2000 a year for inspecting fertilizers, and no punishment meted out to the rogue, except to print his name in italics in a report which not one farmer in 1,500 ever saw or heard of. Only 1,500 of these italicized reports of analysis were printed in 1889, and I doubt if more than twenty men in Greenville ever saw one. By the way, this system of punishing a rogue by putting his brand of guano in italics ought to be patented. Of course, it is well known that the brand may be changed next season and the italics rubbed out. It is notorious that manufacturers will fill sacks branded in a dozen different ways from the same pile. But the chemist can catch the thief and italics him again. So, why should we farmers complain?

Ah, my countrymen, it is this fatal laxity, this connivance at crime, this debarment of law, this political leprosy that permeates our entire governmental fabric and is summed up in one word, "neglect of duty," that is destroying our very civilization itself. We punish guano frauds with italics; we punish lynch law, which is the result of this laxity, with italics; we punish murderers, who have money, with new trials and italics, and the people are sick with the death of such government, and they are determined to make a change.

The law governing the sale of fertilizers provides that any one selling guano without branding the sacks giving analysis and manufacturer's name shall pay a fine of \$10 for each package; that the man who delivers or receives such packages, railroad agent or other person, is similarly liable. Any fertilizer sold not coming up to the guarantee is liable to confiscation. The injustice or weakness of the law is that it is severe on a dealer failing to brand the sack, but if a man puts sand in a branded sack and is caught it can only be confiscated. This has never yet been done. It is only italicized.

As proof of his charge that the commissioner or his agents had on several occasions knowingly and willfully refused to enforce its own regulations, Capt. Tillman read letters, which came from a very reputable farmer.

In reference to the charge that commissioner Butler had done nothing to have the defects in the fertilizer law amended, Capt. Tillman said:

Col. Butler has told his office since 1879 and has spent \$20,000 in salary and has spent in the agricultural bureau during that time \$300,000. He has been one of the most influential men in the State and the ring which we are fighting has stood by him through thick and thin. He and his political associates had influence enough to defeat the bill I prepared by order of the Farmers' Association in 1886, recognizing the Board of Agriculture. He was doubtless consulted by Col. Youmans in preparing the substitute which was passed in 1887 in force of my bill and which is now in force. He knew of this defect in the law, although he and his friends had things all their own way. The provision in my bill punishing fraud in fertilizers by fine and imprisonment was left out in the Youmans substitute. He and his friends had influence enough to elect the present board and fore-ordained that it stands to reason that if they wanted to pass a law to give protection to the farmers it could have been done, but the agricultural bureau was in close alliance with the University and the Citadel. The board had pooled their strength to defeat everything the common farmer wanted and to continue to control the State.

The anomaly was presented of an agricultural department being assailed by the country people and defended by the cities. The agricultural bureau has never since this agitation begun, save in one single instance, lacked the solid support of Charleston and Columbia, and the political trust composed largely of merchants, manufacturers and lawyers and a few aristocratic agriculturists as their allies.

I was asked by a gentleman in the audience at Anderson where the money spent by the agricultural department went, and I answered, "I do not know," and told the simple truth. I knew where Col. Butler's report said it went, but I had not seen it paid out, so I left him to ask Col. Butler. Col. T. J. Moore, of Spartanburg, a member of the board of agriculture, has come forward and claims that this was a charge of corruption and extravagance. I fail to see how or why. Gentlemen are charged usually so very "stoddy" about their honesty, and this double exhibition about the money spent is curious to say the least. It is on a par with the iterated and reiterated charges that I have accused the State officers of corruption, and my confession that there was none. All this hubbub about corruption can have but one meaning. The purpose is to create the impression that I made such charges and cannot prove them!

Now, all I ask is that the News and Courier, Register, or some other newspaper will put this charge home and show when and where I have charged corruption against the State officers. It is time to show up or shut up. I have made charges enough and I am ready to prove them without these utterly fish-charged issues and trying to fool the people by accusing me of saying things I never said.

Col. Moore gave the itemized expenditures of the agricultural department for 1889, and I will give them for the nine months of 1889 to show how this thing has grown.

Capt. Tillman then read the table furnished by Col. Moore in a letter to the News and Courier and published in this paper, showing a total expenditure by the agricultural department of \$85,129.11. He then continued:

The demand is made that we make this a campaign of education. I will play schoolmaster a little further in this matter of expenditures in the agricultural department. Here are some questions which whoever will or can may answer.

First. It is seen that \$12,162 have been paid for lawyers' fees. Why did not the Attorney General and Solicitors, who are State officers with big salaries, prosecute those suits and save that money?

Second. Judgment, with costs, for \$76,874 was obtained against the Pacific Guano Company when that company failed, which was probably a case to get some legal advantage. Its property was attached under judgment and then a compromise was made by which the company paid \$51,248 and costs. The amount turned into the State treasury was \$31,396 and the department kept \$12,162 to pay the lawyers, making a total of \$43,559. This is \$7,330 less than the amount received. I want to ask, Why was this matter compromised at all, and where did the \$7,330 go? Did anybody get any money for compromising?

Third. In 1889 the cost of the experimental stations, including chemists, laboratory and sundries, was \$9,986. The State annually receives from the United States \$15,000 known as the Hatch fund, to run an experimental station. I can find no account of how that money is spent or where it goes, either in Col. Butler's report or in that of the University trustees. Are we spending \$25,000 a year on these stations? Has the station a chemist or chemists both paid by the year? Do they receive additional pay for analyzing fertilizers? Have we duplications of office, duplications of salary, and no work in return therefor? Is not somebody making a good thing out of the spending of this agricultural fund?

Fourth. The expenditures of the agricultural department, including the appropriation for the State Agricultural Society, amount to \$32,227, as set forth in Col. Moore's report. In the Comptroller General's report for the same fiscal year the agricultural department is charged with \$31,169, not including the appropriation for the Agricultural Society. On page 183, of the same report, the State Treasurer charges the agricultural department with \$33,669, and does not include the \$2,500 appropriation to the Agricultural Society. So we find these State officers. I mention their names with fear and trembling, making this sort of a showing about the same matter of public expenditure in official records. The Treasurer charges the bureau with \$5,742 more than it acknowledges to have spent, over \$2,500 more than the Comptroller says it spent. The Comptroller charges it with \$2,412 more than it acknowledges to have spent, and yet all the books of these officers tally. They would not do so if any charges were made. Had these officers made mistakes, or is there something rotten in Denmark. Has the bureau spent more than it accounts for? If the agricultural department's accounts are correct, how will the Comptroller and Treasurer straighten their own? Col. Moore was particular to mention vouchers, although the bureau, prior to 1887, spent over \$200,000 without ever showing a single voucher. Is the desperate and unscrupulous warfare urged against me made less a thorough overhauling of the State Government might show something wrong somewhere? Every good fair-

mer clears up his premises once a year, and especially his barn. There may be no rats in our State House and consequently no rat's nests, but whether there are or not, a general overhauling and sweeping out can do no harm; and while you may think that I am actuated by selfish motives, I hope we will have it, whether I boss the job or not.

Capt. Tillman closed his remarks by paying attention to Editor Williams of the Greenville News, whom he characterized as one of the bravest and truest men who ever breathed the breath of life. He sat down amid storms of applause and cries of "Go on!" "Give us some more!" "Don't stop!"

The Laurens Meeting.

From the Greenville News.

The scene of the meeting was a most pleasant one. The dense shade of the boughs of the densely grown oaks offered a most pleasing shade to the multitude which gathered there within fifteen minutes after Captain Tillman's carriage reached the ground. In the interim which followed the arrival there the more enthusiastic admirers of the Farmers' Candidate pressed in toward the stand, and he appeared as a hero being crowned with laurels. Commutations were piled upon him from every side, and young men and boys, the down upon whose cheeks had not yet faded to make itself perceptible, and old men bearing the weather-beaten visages which long years had printed upon them, closed in to grasp the hand of Captain Tillman and congratulate him. Men who had not seen him for years, and who had heard of him from the lips of the throng, the crowd was variously estimated from 2,000 to 4,000 people. Many judgments there were fully 2,500 people in the assemblage.

When Captain Shell arose to open the meeting it was only after successive efforts that he succeeded in gaining the excitement sufficiently by totaling him to announce that the meeting would be opened with prayer.

The Rev. John Pitts, who was called from the audience to open the meeting, had to commence by saying that he would be pleased to comply with Captain Shell's request, provided he had absolute quiet. Another nomination from Captain Shell was not necessary, but hurriedly had the divine eloquence upon the meeting when a deafening and prolonged and unanimous cheer of "Hurrah for Tillman!" came from the crowd, and Captain Shell again arose and asked the people in the name of the love they had for him to keep quiet and listen.

Chairman Shell then introduced General John Bratton as an old Roman and an old soldier and a distinguished citizen. General Bratton rose and was greeted with a roused cheer of "Hurrah for Tillman!"

When quiet was partially restored, General Bratton commenced his remarks. He said he had received many personal kindnesses from the people of Laurens, but he saw that he had poor comfort politically. He would speak to them with feelings of kindness and feelings of common interests but that he was aware that the minds of many of his hearers were already made up.

Here General Bratton was again greeted with cheers of "Hurrah for Tillman!" and Captain Shell had again to admonish the audience in God's name to give the speaker their attention.

When General Bratton had reached that part of his speech when he warned the people of danger, a voice in the audience called out, "It is on your side of the fence, General." General Bratton replied, "No, I don't say it from personal motives."

Then there was a break and demonstration for Captain Tillman for full ten minutes, when that gentleman advanced to the front and asked the audience if they wanted it said that General Bratton was not heard at the meeting. If such was said it would do more to defeat him elsewhere than any report which could go from the meeting.

General Bratton then pursued his remarks in comparative quiet, and warned the people against any political combinations, and said he was sure the reason for any dissatisfaction was based on the maladministration of the Federal government and not from neglect or inefficiency on the part of the State officers. When he was uttering his closing words the old soldier was greeted with the cheer, "Hurrah for Tillman!" and a voice in the crowd called out, "Down with General Bratton," while another added, "We've had enough of you."

General Bratton spoke with great difficulty for the reason that the wind was blowing strongly and his voice generally weak was not strong enough to be heard over the rustling of the leaves and the steady murmur of voices in the crowd.

Captain Shell then presented Captain Tillman, the great commoner, the able agitator, the old guard Democrat from Edgfield.

When Captain Tillman advanced the steady cheering which had kept up all the morning was multiplied into an ovation. The audience at most as one man rose to their feet and yelled till it seemed their voices would give way under the strain. When they had surfeited themselves with this kind of demonstration Captain Tillman commenced speaking.

He said he was glad to return to Laurens. Four years ago it was his pleasure to address the people of Laurens from the same spot. It was not necessary for him to say he was

glad to be there again. If he did not love those people he would be the veriest ingrate. They had stood by him from the meanness of the fight. (Voice: "And they will die by you.") If he was elected Governor great credit would be to them and their leader, Captain Shell. He was afraid to poke any more "Tillman" into them; they might "bust." The movement was born in Edgfield and he was the "daddy" of it. The people of Laurens took the baby when he weaned and nursed it till now he thought it was weaned. He would tell them what made them holler. In the first instance he was a candidate and stood before the people to announce the principles on which he stood.

Here Captain Tillman was interrupted by another ovation on the part of the crowd and he had to warn them that he couldn't speak if they kept up the hollering. "Shut up! Put the cork in," he said, and then he was able to proceed.

Five years ago he stood and fought along a line where few dared to follow and much of the time he fought alone. The masses had now been aroused and come to his assistance.

Captain Tillman then proceeded, and made a speech of about thirty-five minutes during which time he was frequently interrupted by the cheering of the audience. At one time about fifteen rows of seats just in front of the stand fell and there was a general stir. The speaker remarked that he had poked enough Tillmanism into the occupants of the seats to knock them down.

The speech touched upon the same general points as the Greenville and Spartanburg speeches, and the speaker closed amidst deafening applause.

When Captain Tillman finished his speech a storm cloud which seemed to threaten came nearer and a heavy rain descended. Captain Shell announced that the other speakers would be heard at the court house. "The crowd did not think it was going to rain and waited. There was a pause of some minutes in the proceeding, which was taken advantage of for the holding of an impromptu informal reception by the candidates on the platform. Many old soldiers and many personal friends of Colonel Earle and the other gentlemen had a few moments' conversation with them, but Captain Tillman was approached by scores who introduced him and then left the place.

He also received many elegant bouquets from ladies in the audience.

Nothing but a genuine rainstorm which came up carried the crowd to the court house. Most of the candidates found places in carriages, but Captain Tillman, who was one of the last left behind, was taken in a top buggy and was driven in by his enthusiastic friends to the public square.

After a lull of about half an hour, consumed in getting the crowd together again, Colonel Earle and the other candidates came into the court room.

Colonel Earle was presented to the audience by Captain Shell with a glowing tribute to his valor and honor. He appealed to the audience to give the speaker a respectful hearing for no other reason than that he was his own personal friend.

Colonel Earle made his speech but was interrupted so frequently that it seemed almost to the last that he would have great difficulty in getting a hearing at all. Captain Shell did his duty in making frequent appeals in behalf of the speaker, but scarcely had the sound of his voice died out each time than the cries of "Hurrah for Tillman!" would come up from the audience and continue till it seemed that the spirit of the people was almost beyond endurance. Nevertheless the spirit of the speaker was not to be demoralized and he held his hearing.

In that part of his remarks which deprecated the arraying of class against class, Colonel Earle read the circular recently issued by Captain Shell to the leading friends of Captain Tillman and already alluded to editorially in the columns of the Greenville News. He characterized it as worse than any warning ever sent to Democrats against the Radicals during their days of power and plunder. No one had ever said then that the liberties, homes and lives of the white citizens of the State were endangered.

This seemed to be the most telling part of the eloquent speaker's effort. It was the one bit which the audience seemed to appreciate, but as soon as it was being discussed a voice raised a cry of "Hurrah for Shell!" and was joined in a cheer by a part of the crowd.

Colonel Earle was questioned as to the assessment of taxes for railroad property. He answered the question willingly and said that he was one of the four members of the State Board of Equalization. They had that matter in hand. After due consideration of it, a majority of the members of the board had voted against raising the assessment. He had voted to increase it. The other members of the board had said that the assessment was already in proportion to that of other property in the State. The railroads paid between one eighth and one seventh of all the taxes in the State but they were not in his opinion taxed at their true value. In reply to the question of taxation of banks he said he first saw the communication of Auditor Jones, of Abbeville, a short time ago. He called the attention of Comptroller General Verner, and that office informed him that all the counties

had not complied with the opinion of the law given by him as Attorney General to the effect that the surplus of banks was taxable as well as the capital. The fault had been with the boards of equalization in the counties. They were responsible and not the other officers. The present law gave no appeal from their decision. He thought there was need of a more inquisitorial system of assessment than they had now.

[Speeches were then made by Col. Y. J. Pope, Col. E. B. Gary, Adjutant General Bonham and Col. H. L. Farley.]

Nearly every true Tillman disciple at the meeting today wore a ribbon badge on which was printed a cut of Captain Tillman and the legend "Tillman and Reform." They sold like hot cakes and several ribbon counters were exhausted before the demand was supplied by the Herald office.

A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

The Department of Agriculture's Reports indicate the best condition of Crops for Many Years.

The condition of the growing crops in South Carolina, as indicated by the reports made to the Department of Agriculture, is by far the best shown at this season for at least ten years past. The average condition of the cotton crop is better by 27 per cent. than at this time last year, and the increase of average previously reported is confirmed.

The following has been compiled from the reports of two hundred and forty special crop correspondents of the Department of Agriculture in every part of the State.

With but few exceptions perfect standardization are reported throughout the State. The estimate made a month ago that the average would be four per cent. greater than last year has been confirmed by the present report and the figures remain unchanged. A few correspondents report excessive rains and in the extreme southwestern part of the State the rainfall has been insufficient, but upon the whole the rain has been secured and evenly distributed. The plant is healthy, vigorous and well advanced. Blooms having been reported in the lower counties several days ago. The condition as compared to average crops for upper Carolina, 502; for middle Carolina, 103; and for lower Carolina, 101. The average for the entire State is 103 against 76 at the same time last year.

The area in corn has been increased one per cent. over last year. Excellent stands are reported and the crop is clean and growing finely. Twenty-six per cent. of the crop has been planted on bottom land. The condition is for upper Carolina, bottom land 99, upland 100; for middle Carolina, bottom land 82, upland 99, and for lower Carolina, bottom land 95, upland 91. The average for the State is 89 for bottom land and 97 for upland. The condition at the same time last year was 81.

WHEAT AND OATS.

The wheat harvest, just about completed, shows the crop to be a very short one. The yield being reported at but 65 per cent. of an average crop. The weather for the past few weeks has been very favorable for the spring oat crop, and the yield is reported at 75 per cent. of an average crop, against 68 for the same time last year.

RIPE.

The rice crop, while needing rain in some sections, is in better condition than at the same time last year, the condition being reported at 93 against 89 for 1889.

POTATOES.

The average in both sweet and Irish potatoes is about the same as in 1889. The condition compared to an average is Sweet potatoes 100, against 89 last year; Irish potatoes 97, against 73 last year.

SUGAR CANE AND SORGHUM.

The condition of sugar cane is reported at 98 against 87 last year; sorghum at 95 against 89 last year.

PEACH.

The peach crop will be almost an entire failure in many sections of the State, and the indications are that the crop for the entire State will not be more than 25 per cent. of an average yield. Apples and peaches are much more promising. The berry crop is abundant. Grapes promise well and vegetable gardens generally are in fine condition.

STAPLES PURCHASED.

As indicated by last month's report, there is a large decrease in the amount of farm supplies purchased this season. The percentages are: For upper Carolina, 69 per cent.; middle Carolina, 82 per cent.; and lower Carolina per cent. of last year's purchases. The average decrease for the State is 19 per cent.

FERTILIZERS.

Of the 156,000 tons of commercial fertilizers consumed during the season of 1889-90, 45 per cent. were ammoniated, 36 per cent. were acid phosphates and 18 per cent. were kainits and chemicals. Twenty-eight per cent. of all fertilizers purchased were used for composting. One fourth less kainit was used than last year.

Another Tragedy at Ashley Junction.

CHARLESTON, S. C., June 10.—Joe Kelly was shot and killed yesterday at Ashley Junction by A. M. Watson, both colored. Kelly was killed at the same spot where a man was shot by a mysterious negro two weeks ago. The murderer escaped. This is the second fatal shooting affair in addition to a fatal train wreck and a murderous assault at the Junction, all within two weeks.