

LOUIS APPELT, Editor.

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THE NEW CORN BELT.

Statistics taken from the reports of the United States government show that the South can justly claim the title of "the new corn belt," and that more progress in the production of corn has been made in the South than in any other section of the country. The federal figures for this year show that the increase in production for the Southern States in corn production was 160,000,000 bushels.

Commissioner Watson has made the following estimate: That in the new corn belt the average value per acre of the crop, at prices prevailing December 1, 1910, is \$14.98 against \$13.36 for the old belt.

That, even including West Virginia, which should not be properly included, the 12 States of the new corn belt, not including Texas, Arkansas or Oklahoma, show an average net increase in yield per acre this year over 1909 of 1.9 bushels per acre—practically two bushels in one year, against a net average decrease for the old corn belt of 1.4 bushels per acre.

In every State properly belonging to the new belt shows a substantial increase in yield of corn per acre in 1910 over 1909, West Virginia alone falling behind.

That only four out of the 12 States of the old belt show an increase in yield per acre, all the others showing decreases running in one instance to as high as 17 bushels.

That in 1900 the old belt showed an average yield per acre of 30.1 bushels per acre, while in 1910 the average yield is only 30.4 or practically no increase in average yield per acre.

That the old belt is just three bushels above the average yield per acre on corn in the whole United States, while the new belt lags now only 5.2 bushels of being up to average, notwithstanding her large body of ignorant farmers.

That the new belt has jumped from an average yield per acre of 16 bushels in 1900 to 22.2 in 1910, while the old belt has added but .3 of a bushel in the same period.

That the area in square miles covered by the old belt is more than a quarter of a million greater than that covered by the new belt.

That the old corn belt produces in bushels three times as much corn as the new corn belt, on over twice the acreage devoted to corn, yet the new belt gets in cash for its crop of corn more than one-half as much as the old belt, using prices prevailing Dec. 1, 1910.

That the average price per bushel in the new belt on December 1, 1910, was 67.5 cents against an average in the old belt of 44 cents and 48.8 for the entire United States.

That corn is not the staple and whole reliance crop of the new belt, these 12 States raising aside from all other crops many millions worth of cotton, the commodity that now represents half of the agricultural exports of the country.

That in the old belt, corn is the principal crop.

That in the new belt the advance in wheat growing and production are even more rapid than in the case of corn.

These are some of the reasons that will be advanced by the South Carolina delegation as to why the next National Corn Show should be brought to Columbia and to the South for the first time.

A press dispatch gives an account of a homicide that took place in Horry county last Saturday night. It is stated that two twin brothers named Will and Lee Nance, while under the influence of liquor, got into a row with a negro boy, became enraged when the boy was spirited away from them, and then went to the home of a widow where a party was being held. When the party entered the house in a boisterous manner, cursing in the presence of the ladies, a son-in-law of the widow, one Dempsey Potter, remonstrated with them. Thereupon Will Nance became more pronounced in his offensive language and advanced on Potter with an open knife, when Potter fired upon him and killed him almost instantly. The report goes on to say that "the dead man and his slayer are both married and stood well in the community."

It is a matter of conjecture as to what extent the Nance boys would have gone if they had not stood well in the community. Possibly they would have blown the lights out and gone to shooting among the ladies first thing. All the other guests should feel grateful that they did not have any real toughs to break in amongst them.

Such feats as rising from the land, sailing over a city and lighting on the deck of a ship, and rising from a ship and sailing back to land, and again rising from the surface of the water and sailing away, go far to prove that airships will soon supercede naval vessels costing millions of dollars each.

Hon. Robert E. Copes of Orangeburg, the newly elected Judge of the 1st. circuit, is highly endorsed as to character, learning and ability, though it is stated that he has never practiced in the circuit court. Judge Copes will be the youngest man on the South Carolina bench, being 35 years old.

With a practical illustration of the success of the system right there in Columbia, why can't some brainy legislator introduce a measure providing for putting the whole State of South Carolina under a commission form of government? If such a system eliminates extravagance and jobbery in cities why not give it a trial in the State government?

Governor Blease is entitled to fair treatment and to be judged by what he does, not by what some one assumes that he is capable of doing. Whoever faked that yarn about the governor's writing to Jim Tillman and telling him to get well and come back to be with him in redeeming South Carolina should humbly confess his deliberate sin and hang his diminished head in shame.

John W. Dodsworth, editor of the New York Journal of Commerce, as a witness before the House committee investigating ship subsidy charges, said he regarded all ship subsidy as graft, but conceded that there are men who honestly support that cause. Mr. Dodsworth, if called upon for an opinion, would no doubt pronounce the protective tariff, pensions and all similar schemes as nothing but graft. It is extremely doubtful if any intelligent man honestly supports any of these honesty schemes.

Col. James H. Rice, Sr., of Ninety Six, one of the best citizens of South Carolina, died last Monday morning in the 73rd year of his age. Ever a patriotic, public spirited citizen, marked with distinguished courtesy in all relations of life, he made his greatest impress through his work for the common schools, while State Superintendent of Education, to which office he was elected in 1886. He was the father of James Henry Rice, Jr., the present chief game warden in this State.

CAPITOL CONCURRENCE.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 28, 1911. The heavy work of the session has now set in good and proper, and will continue until adjournment, with the possible interruption which will be caused by the election of the fifth associate justice next week. This race has assumed a situation which is baffling the members, who as a rule, can't get in advance of the successful candidate will be, but today all are up in the air. To my mind, however, Judge Memminger appears to have the inside track, with Judge Watts close by; then there is Hon. T. B. Fraser, who has been several times defeated for a place on the judiciary. He has many friends who are doing all in their power to land their favorite. All of the candidates are good, strong men, and each have a following which must be reckoned with, hence it is anybody's race up to now, and all are on the anxious bench. The Clarendon delegation is divided. I am going to vote for Judge Memminger, Messrs. Reaves and Richardson for Fraser, and Mitchell for Mr. Gruber of Columbia. Mr. Gruber is my second choice.

There will be but few general laws enacted at this session. The general feeling is to have as little general legislation as possible, and the only interests which will be effected materially will be the railroads. The Senate railroad committee has given favorable reports to several bills, among them being what is known as "the five mile brake" bill. This measure has been demanded by what is known as the merchants' association, and represented by a Mr. E. Campbell. The railroads are opposed to it, and claim that it will be very damaging to them. It was the original intention of the committee to refer all matters relating to transportation rates to the railroad committee, and with that end in view, invited the committee to appear before the committee. The chairman came but his argument did not afford any enlightenment, but rather tended to confuse. Therefore the committee decided to send it to the Senate with a favorable report. The following is the text of the bill:

A BILL To Prescribe a Mileage Base for Making Freight Rates, and to Fix Penalty, Etc.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina: SECTION 1. After thirty days from the passage of this Act all railroad companies, common carriers, doing business in this State, for all shipments and between all points, shall be required to provide rates at each and every five miles for distances under 100 miles, and at each and every ten miles for distances over 100 miles, and to apply the rate at the nearest mileage for distances intermediate to these bases. SEC. 2. For the first five miles the rate shall be 75 per cent of the rate for 10 miles, and for each five miles thereafter between 10 and 20, and 20 and 30, and 30 and 40, and 40 and 50, and 50 and 60, and 60 and 70, and 70 and 80, and 80 and 90, and 90 and 100 miles, there shall be provided rates which shall be an equal division of the difference in the rates fixed for these bases. For example: If the rate is 20 cents at 20 miles and 30 cents at 30 miles, a rate of 25 cents would apply at 25 miles. SEC. 3. The South Carolina Railroad Commission shall be charged with the adjustment and enforcement of the provision of this Act, and any railroad company found violating hereof, shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars in each and every case, to be recovered by any person so aggrieved, in an action in any court of competent jurisdiction; one-half of which penalty shall be retained by the party suing therefor, and the other half paid into the County Treasury for the use

of the county in which the action is brought. Here is another bill reported by my committee favorably which will meet with the approval of the public generally, and if passed should make a difference in the freight rates.

A BILL.

To Prohibit Discrimination by Common Carriers in Freight and Express Rates in This State. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina: SECTION 1. That on and after the passage of this Act it shall be unlawful for any railroad company, steamboat or express company, or other common carrier of freight or express in this State, to put into operation or maintain any rate for the transportation of freight or express higher than that charged in adjacent or adjoining States for the transportation of similar and like articles under like conditions.

SEC. 2. Any railroad, steamboat or express company, or other common carrier, doing business in this State, shall be liable to a penalty of not less than fifty dollars and not more than two hundred dollars for each and every violation of Section 1 of this Act, which shall be enforceable in any court of competent jurisdiction of this State, which penalty shall accrue to the State of South Carolina. SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Railroad Commission of this State to see that the provisions of Section 1 and Section 2 of this Act are fully complied with, and the Railroad Commission of any consignee, shipper, or other party interested, that Section 1 of this Act is being violated, the said Railroad Commission shall investigate the same, and, if they find such discrimination to exist, they shall cause to be instituted legal proceedings in any court of competent jurisdiction in this State for the recovery of the penalty provided in Section 2 of this Act.

LOUIS APPELT, Editor. Governor Blease is after many reforms and has sent to the general assembly a number of messages, some of which, to use a common expression, are "hot numbers." He not only upsets the hatch upon the many of the public but he has done after the "winding-up commission" with a vim; his message demanding that the investigators be personally investigated in this State, and that the Governor would cast a suspicion upon these men without having information which made him feel it a duty to have an inquiry as to their acts and doings looked into. There is no doubt that the investigation of these men, and the investigation, if gone into as the Governor directs, will expose wrongdoing if there was any, and if there was, it will forever wipe away the "good name" of the State. Mr. Blease's Excellency may have cast upon them. There should be a thorough examination made, even if it takes all the summer. I personally know one of the members of the commission, Mr. J. H. 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