

TRYING TO ATTRACT CAPITAL.

CAPT. McMASTER AND COL WATSON ARE COOPERATING.

State Insurance Commissioner and State Commissioner of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration Seeking to Induce Big Insurance Companies to Make Investments in South Carolina.

Columbia, Dec. 17.—For some time Capt. F. H. McMaster, insurance commissioner of the great State of South Carolina, has been endeavoring to induce the insurance companies, which draw hundreds of thousands of dollars from this State every year in premiums, to invest some of their surplus in this State. Recent correspondence along this line has led the commissioner of insurance to enlist the cooperation of the commissioner of agriculture, commerce and immigration, Col. E. J. Watson, and the following correspondence between the two commissioners, whose offices are a few feet apart across the more or less imposing retunda of the capitol explains the whole matter:

December 7, 1908.
The Hon. E. J. Watson, Commissioner of Agriculture,
Columbia, S. C.

My Dear Sir:—From time to time, I have attempted to direct the attention of the managers of the insurance companies doing business in South Carolina to the advisability of making investments in this State. I also took the matter up with Mr. Robert Lynn Cox, who is now the executive head of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, having succeeded the late Hon. Grover Cleveland. In pursuance of this correspondence, Mr. Cox had Major J. J. Brinkernoff, the actuary of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, to visit me and discuss the matter. In the course of the discussion Mr. Brinkernoff informed me that a number of insurance companies were now turning their attention to investing in real estate mortgages, but the private opinion was that the West offered better opportunities for such investments, since it was supposed to be the growing section, and real estate values there were likely to rise rather than fall; that South Carolina being an old State, it was supposed that it had to a considerable extent reached its normal state of development.

I assured Major Brinkernoff that nothing could be further from the true facts, and I ventured the assurance that except possibly in the Klondike, newly discovered oil regions and such other sections, where there had been a cause for phenomenal development, that no section of the country was showing greater improvement in conditions or a more rapid rise in real estate values than South Carolina. In support of this I gave as the reasons the recent development of tobacco planting, truck raising and the like, I also called his attention to the phenomenal rapid development of cotton manufacturing in this State in the last twenty years. Through your kindness, I presented him with a copy of your excellent Hand Book of South Carolina. Major Brinkernoff expressed himself as much impressed, and as having learned facts that were entirely new to him.

I believe that it would be a most profitable investment to South Carolina if you would send to the executive officer of each insurance company doing business in this State, a copy of your Hand Book, and write him a succinct statement of the facts contained therein. I trust that this scheme will commend itself to you, and I am enclosing herewith a list of the presidents of the life, accident and surety companies doing business in this State.

Very truly,
F. H. McMASTER,
Insurance Commissioner.

To the above Col. Watson responded, as follows:

December 16, 1908.
The Hon. F. H. McMaster,
Insurance Commissioner,
Columbia, S. C.

Dear Sir:—I am in hearty sympathy with both the spirit and the contents of your letter of December 7, addressed to me, which I find upon my desk on returning to the city.

It has afforded me great pleasure to write each of the gentlemen whose addresses you have given, and also to furnish them with a copy of our Hand Book of the resources of the State, directing their attention to the particular feature in which they will be interested.

Again thanking you for the suggestion made and for this service that I know you have rendered to the State and its prosperity, believe me, very truly yours,

E. J. WATSON,
Commissioner.

Following is the letter sent to 69 executive officials of large companies:

December 16, 1908.
My Dear Sir:—The Hon. F. H. McMaster, State Insurance Commissioner of South Carolina, has called to my attention the lack of information in regard to this State's material prosperity that seems to exist among the executive officers of the insurance companies doing business in this country,

and he has requested that I send to you for your information a copy of our 1908 Hand Book of the resources of this State, together with a publication dealing with the values of lands. Both of these publications are being mailed to you under separate cover, and even a hasty examination of the various statistical tables relating to agriculture, manufacturing and everything that pertains to industrial progress, I am sure will give you a good idea of the South Carolina of today. I trust that the intimate knowledge that you can thus obtain of South Carolina conditions will show you that this portion of the South at least is a rapidly developing section and one worthy of the attention of those seeking investments. Very truly yours,

E. J. WATSON,
Commissioner.

The President's Insulting Message.

An unusual incident marked the first week of the present session of congress. In his message President Roosevelt criticized an amendment incorporated last year in the measure providing for the secret service which stipulated that there should be no detail from the secret service and no transfer therefrom. He went on to say that the chief argument in favor of the provision was that the congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men, and after expressing the belief that the government should be given means to prosecute criminals if found in the legislative branch, suggested that if that were not considered desirable "a special exception could be made in the law prohibiting the use of the secret service force in investigating members of the congress." These expressions at once attracted the notice of members of congress, and as a result the house of representatives on Friday adopted without a dissenting vote a resolution for the appointment of a special committee to consider the parts of the president's message in which the expressions above referred to occur.—Bradstreet.

The banking power of the United States in 1908 exceeded that of the whole world in 1890, according to figures presented by Comptroller of the Currency Murray in his annual report. The figures for the earlier date are based upon Mulhall's estimates, which put the banking power of the world at \$15,985,000,000, of which the United States was credited with \$5,150,000,000. Since that time the banking power of the United States, as represented by capital, surplus and other profits, deposits and circulation of national and other reporting banks together with estimated amounts of funds of this kind in non-reporting banks has increased to \$17,442,705,274 or more than that for all countries in 1890. The increase for the United States was 242.58 per cent. The banking power of foreign countries has in the same time increased to \$23,107,600,000, a gain of 159.41 per cent. At present the aggregate banking power of the world is estimated at \$45,750,300,000, distributed as follows, using round numbers for the United States, namely:

United States	\$17,442,700,000
British Empire	11,157,000,000
Continental Europe	5,472,600,000
Gen. & South America	851,700,000
Other foreign banks	1,328,600,000
Foreign savings banks	9,297,700,000
Total	\$45,750,300,000

It appears that bank resources in the United States have more than doubled since 1900. In that year the bank resources of the country aggregated \$9,146,017,917; on June 30 of this year the resources of all reporting banks amounted to \$19,583,393, an increase of 114 per cent.—Bradstreet's.

Poultry Notes.

While oats are a good egg producing food, better results can be secured by alternating with bran. Rolled oats soaked in sweet milk is a good ration to commence feeding young chickens. Scald out the drinking vessels once a week. Filth is easily carried to the system through drinking water. Clean dry earth is one of the best absorbents for the poultry house. Scatter it liberally over the floor. Sprinkle the nests with a solution of diluted carbolic acid. It will aid materially in keeping down lice. Boiling milk that is fed to the fowls will increase its value and lessen the risks of its producing disease.

A Fast Flying Bird.

The most wonderful bird flight noted is the migratory achievement of the Virginian Plover, which leaves its haunts in North America and taking a course down the Atlantic, reaches the coast of Brazil in one unbroken flight of 15 hours, covering a distance of 3,000 miles at the rate of four miles a minute. Some years ago some of these birds were stranded in Orangeburg by a storm, and several people who saw them noted their swift flight as they resumed their journey.

CASTRO'S DOWNFALL.

VENEZUELA DICTATOR PRACTICALLY AN EXILE.

Plot to Assassinate Acting President Frustrated—Gen. Gomez, the Intended Victim, Single-Handed and Alone, Arrests the Chief Conspirators, and Thus Breaks the Back of the Plot—Castro Himself is Accused of Instigating the Conspiracy.

Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Dec. 21.—(Via Willemstad, Curacao, Dec. 22.)—The end of the rule in Venezuela of Ciprano Castro has come. The dictator, who has governed the Republic with a rod of iron ever since he took forcible possession of the Yellow House in Caracas in 1899, is now openly charged with conspiracy to compass the assassination of a man he left at the head of the Republic when he sailed away on November 28 from La Guaira, nominally to secure skilled medical aid in Berlin for a malady of long standing, and is today thoroughly discredited.

The Bank of Venezuela has cabled its correspondents in Berlin and Paris cancelling the unlimited letter of credit given to President Castro when he left Venezuela for Europe, and no one in Caracas believes he will ever dare return to the capital.

The Castro cabinet has been forced to resign and a new and progressive ministry has been appointed by Juan Vicente Gomez, the acting president. At a conference held in Caracas yesterday between Acting President Gomez and Baron Von Zeckendorf, the German minister in charge of the interests of Holland since the departure of the Dutch minister, M. De Reus last summer, it was agreed to suspend the operation of the decree issued by Castro prohibiting the transshipment at Willemstad of goods destined for Venezuela.

Pending the signing of a treaty between Holland and a duly empowered Venezuelan commissioner the Dutch war ships that have been patrolling the Venezuelan coast for nearly three weeks, will be withdrawn.

A prominent lawyer has filed an accusation in the High Federal Court, charging President Castro with complicity in the attempted assassination and proposing his impeachment. There was a meeting Friday night of the plotters in the residence in Caracas of Garbiras Gusman, who was secretary general in the last Castro cabinet, and who was placed in charge of President Castro's personal business in Venezuela when the president left for Germany. The conspirators decided upon a coup d'etat. They determined to assassinate Acting President Gomez, Jose De Jesus Paul, the foreign minister; George Leopoldo Baptista, and the other prominent men; seize the administration of the country and with the army terrorize and overawe the population.

Torres-Cardenas, who was at one time minister of the Interior under President Castro, and later his personal secretary, was the active leader of the conspiracy. He was entrusted with the carrying out of the plot. He had as lieutenants the commanders of three battalions.

In spite of the precautions taken an intimation of what was on foot reached the ears of Acting President Gomez. As soon as he satisfied himself of the truth of the reports he took immediate steps to frustrate the attempt. Early Saturday morning he went alone on foot to the barracks in Caracas, where a mutinous regiment, under the command of President Castro's brother, was quartered. He entered the building and placed the brother of the president under arrest. The nerve of Gomez made it possible for him to carry out this dangerous manoeuvre successfully. He then went to the Yellow House, the executive mansion, where he had a brief interview with Torres-Cardenas. The chief of the conspirators denied the existence of any plot. Gomez would not be deceived by such assurance. He seized Torres-Cardenas by the shoulders, and shaking him roughly said: "I have discovered your plot to assassinate me. You are my prisoner."

Torres-Cardenas tried to use his revolver on the acting president, but Gomez was too quick for him. He pinioned the man's arms and called the guard. Torres-Cardenas was seized and disarmed and hurried away to jail.

These two arrests, made single-handed by Gomez, broke the back of the plot. Gomez's friends came forward quickly to his support. Orders were at once issued and carried out rapidly for the arrest of Garbiras Gusman, Lopez Baralt, minister of the Interior in the cabinet, that was forced to resign December 17; Senor Bermudez, director of the National Telegraph System; Commander Casanova, Commander Angulo, and other adherents of Castro suspected of complicity. As soon as the news of the sensational occurrence became known throughout the city an immense crowd gathered in the plaza Bolivar and gave unmistakable evidence of its satisfaction at the turn affairs had taken.

The sins we wink at today are the ones we wed tomorrow.

PROHIBITION AT ONCE.

RED HOT DEMAND FOR QUICK ACTION.

Rev. J. L. Harley Insists Upon Forcing Prohibition Upon the Entire State Regardless of the Wishes of the Counties That Have Not Voted Out the Dispensaries.

To the Editor of The Item:

As was to be expected, when the prohibitionists of South Carolina met and declared for State-wide prohibition, we began to hear criticisms from a con from every direction. Some of our so-called prohibitionists, says the "Florence Times," have actually taken a trip to Savannah, Georgia to learn that prohibition is a farce. We do not know who these gentlemen are, but if the editor of the "Florence Times" will kindly publish their names, the citizens of South Carolina would be better able to judge of the worth of their statements. The cry is raised on every hand, that if we have State-wide prohibition conditions will be worse in Charleston than they are now. We are peremptorily told that the law cannot be enforced in the lower counties, and that we must wait until the people are educated up to a higher standard of citizenship and morality. It is the purpose of this paper to bring some things to the attention of the people of our State. First, of all, I wish to ask, can conditions be any worse in Charleston than they are? With 14 dispensaries running full blast from sun to sun—more than 300 licensed blind-tigers selling liquor day and night—hundreds of other blind-tigers selling without any license at all, and the people of Charleston ordering one hundred thousand dollars worth of liquor a year. I ask again, can conditions be any worse? After all, without any intention of reflecting upon the good people of Charleston, what is Charleston, that the whole State should be called upon to bow to her will in an important matter like this? Charleston represents about four per cent. of the population of South Carolina, and every one knows that more than one-half of her population is made up of the colored race. If Charleston does not wish to enforce the law, let her do as she is now doing. It cannot be any worse. But, in heavens name, do not ask the whole State to wait on Charleston. Again, some of our people seem to fear that we will force prohibition upon communities before they are ready, and thereby bring reproach upon our cause. Thanks for consideration. Here let us call attention to the following facts. We have now 21 counties in this State without the legalized sale of intoxicating liquors. In these 21 counties live a large majority of the population of the entire State. This majority is made up principally of white people. In other words, a safe estimate would be, that there-fourths of the white people in the State now live in prohibition territory. We are Democrats, and we claim that the white people are in authority—that we can rule—must rule, and will rule. And yet, this large majority of the whole State—this larger majority of the white people of the State, are being told by a small minority of white people, "Wait for us and the negroes of the lower counties until we get ready for prohibition." And the plea they make is, that they are afraid of worse conditions. Worse conditions indeed! With blind-tigers plying their trade, especially in dispensary counties, all over the lower part of the State, buying liquor from the dispensaries for that purpose, and in some instances municipal authorities making no attempt whatever to enforce the law, I raise the question, can the good people of the lower part of the State, and a large majority of the white people of the State wait any longer for an improvement in conditions? We believe it is the duty of every good citizen to throw the weight of his influence against such conditions, and thereby help to change them as speedily as possible. Our prohibition convictions did not adopt my plan in trying to get State-wide prohibition. I wanted a prohibition bill passed with a proviso that it be submitted to the people in a State election for their confirmation. But if our legislature at the next session shall pass a prohibition law for the whole State, and will provide for assistants to the attorney general, making financial provision for the enforcement of such a law. I believe we shall succeed in South Carolina as well as they are succeeding in other States. That liquor will be shipped into our State goes without saying, but let us add another to the fast growing list of States whose cry must be heard, and for relief at the capital of this great nation. Let the weak-kneed backboneless officials who whine and fawn at the feet of their constituency, get out of the way and give place to men. Let every true man join in this fight for reform and better government, and let us leave a heritage to our children that will cheer us in our old age, rejoice and comfort us when we come to the end of the way, and of

which our descendants will be proud when we are gone.

J. L. HARLEY, State Supt.
Spartanburg, S. C. Dec. 22, 1908.

DISCUSSED SEMINOLE DEAL.

Insurance Commissioners McMaster and Young Confer and Issue Statement.

Columbia, Dec. 22.—After a careful and all day consideration of the Seminole Securities Company, Southern Life Insurance Company embroglio Commissioner Young, of North Carolina, and Commissioner McMaster determined to issue the following statement, which is significant as it follows the action of Judge Watts at Cheraw in postponing the receivership proceedings:

"Neither commissioner has jurisdiction over the Seminole Securities Company, Commissioner Young because it was never licensed to do business in his State, Commissioner McMaster because his powers are limited to insurance companies. But so far as the interests of the stockholders of the Seminole Securities Company are involved in the Southern Life Insurance Company, and generally so far as the commissioners can see, they will be best served by the stockholders getting together and reorganizing, establishing a satisfactory and economical management with power to determine whether it shall seek to control and manage the Southern Life, or whether it shall dispose of its interest in the Southern Life and organize a casualty company as first proposed, or otherwise dispose of its assets.

"The commissioners believe that the officials of the Southern Life are disposed to act liberally and fairly towards the stockholders of the Seminole Securities Company, and each commissioner will lend his aid to that effect."

The commissioners both express the decided opinion that the policy holders of the Southern Life are fully and amply protected, and as a matter of fact the company is in greater funds than before. Regardless of this, however, Commissioner Young, has in his possession over \$100,000 of funds of the Southern Life, which deposit represents the reserves on its policies. With this company in the hands of the proper management, both commissioners believe that it may prove a valuable property.

Agreement of action among the stockholders of the Seminole Securities Company would not prevent individual action against any parties, whom they felt had damaged them.

A Farm Self-Sustaining.

We have often written and urged through our paper for farmers to make their farms self-sustaining. We had a belief that it could be done and now we know that it can be done easier than to plant all cotton and have the smoke house and barn in the west.

One of our well to do and most progressive farmers, we hear, planted a two horse farm this year, 25 acres in cotton, 27 in corn and 20 in oats. He has gathered from the 62 acre farm, 35 bales of cotton, 1,000 bushels of corn, but his oats were rather a failure, he made only 50 bushels per acre, but gathered a large quantity of peavine hay off of 15 acres and the other five acres made him about 20 bushels of corn to the acre. In addition to this he has a nice herd of Jerseys and a fine lot of hogs. From the hogs he has already sold \$150 worth of pork and from the cattle pens he makes compost manure enough that with 500 pounds of fertilizers to the acre he made those 35 bales of cotton on 25 acres. Besides he made 400 bushels of potatoes and 285 gallons of syrup. If this is not making a farm self-sustaining, we would like to have something better.

Mr. T. J. Bell is the farmer we have reference to and he did not give us this to brag, but we got it over a grape vine telegraph.

The above from the Leader and Vindicator, of Bishopville, is most gratifying. Mr. Bell is a loyal Union member who exemplifies the teachings of the Union in his every day life. He was a delegate to the State convention about a year ago.—Farmers Union Sun.

For that Dull Feeling After Eating.

"I have used Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets for some time, and can testify that they have done me more good than any tablets I have ever used. My trouble was a heavy dull feeling after eating.—David Freeman, Kempt, Nova Scotia. These tablets strengthen the stomach and improve the digestion. They also regulate the liver and bowels. They are far superior to pills but cost no more. Get a free sample at all Druggists and see what a splendid medicine it is.

John King, alias John B. Stilwell, alias Pennsylvania Swipes, who was released from the Federal prison in Atlanta Monday, after having completed a five years sentence, was immediately arrested and will be taken to Latta, S. C., to answer the charge of robbery at that place.

The Southern Power Company has secured options on 40,000 acres of land on the Wateree river.

MORE SEMINOLE EXPLANATION.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CAROLINAS TO CONFER.

Letter Received from the Actuary on Whose Report the Deal is Said to Have Been Based—He Claims that He Stated that Southern Life Stock Was Worth \$150 Per \$100 Share "On the Showing Made," but that He Did Not Believe the Showing.

Columbia, Dec. 21.—"Seminole" is still the topic of talk in financial and official circles, and bits of information and alleged information are dished out every now and then.

Insurance Commissioner Young, of North Carolina, has informed Insurance Commissioner McMaster of South Carolina, that he will be in Columbia tomorrow to talk over the matter of the deal with the Southern Life Insurance Company, which is a North Carolina concern. Mr. Young expressed the opinion in a letter to the South Carolina commissioner that the Southern Life is probably not financially injured by the transaction, since it seems to have come into a sum of money through the deal, but he does not think it will help this company to be mixed up in such matters.

As to the actual value of the stock purchases for \$108 per \$50 share there is some additional information. It was stated that this trade was made on the report of Mr. H. W. Buttolph of Indianapolis, an independent actuary, that the book value of the stock was \$150 per \$100 share. This seems to be erroneous, since Commissioner McMaster has received a letter from Mr. Buttolph in reply to a letter from the commissioner inquiring as to Mr. Buttolph's alleged report on the value of the Southern Life stock, which report was made to representatives of the Seminole Company. Mr. Buttolph states that he did make such report to Mr. W. A. Clark on what "purported to be a correct exhibit of the financial standing of this company, and in which he drew certain conclusion regarding the value of the stock." Mr. Buttolph says that after going over carefully the papers, he gave it as his opinion that "the condition of the company was not as favorable as the financial statements rendered by Mr. Lacy would make it appear." Mr. Buttolph continues: "After stating very positively that I did not believe the report showed the true condition of the company, I said that if it did the book value of the stock would seem to be about \$117 per \$100 of par value, and if the conditions were just as shown by Mr. Lacy \$150 per \$100 would be not an unreasonable price to be paid the company for such an additional issue as would give the control to the purchaser." Mr. Buttolph declares that he never said the book value of this stock was \$150, or that its actual value was \$150, except under conditions which "I distinctly stated I had every reason to believe did not exist."

Mr. Buttolph goes on to say that he only recently learned that the par value of the stock is \$50 per share, and not \$100, and he states very emphatically, and repeats the assertion, that his report was based on a \$100 per share par value.

According to the statements heretofore made by the officials of the companies involved, the Seminole company paid \$216 per \$100 share, or \$108 per \$50 share, for this stock, and the Southern Life received \$140 per \$100 share, in round numbers. The transaction was said to be based on the report of Actuary Buttolph, which Mr. Buttolph now declares justified a payment of \$150 per \$100 share only for a controlling interest, if the condition of the life insurance company was what it was represented to be, which he did not believe to be the case.

Beware of Frequent Colds.

"A succession of colds or a protracted cold is almost certain to end in chronic catarrh, from which few persons ever wholly recover. Give every cold the attention it deserves and you may avoid this disagreeable disease. How can you cure a cold? Why not try Chamberlain's Cough Remedy? It is highly recommended. Mrs. M. White, of Butler, Tenn., says: "Several years ago I was bothered with my throat and lungs. Someone told me of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I began using it and it relieved me at once. Now my throat and lungs are sound and well." For sale by all Druggists.

Gen. Zimmerman Davis of Charleston Has Succeeded Gen. T. W. Carlisle as Commander of the Confederate Veterans of South Carolina.

Gen. Zimmerman Davis of Charleston has succeeded Gen. T. W. Carlisle as commander of the Confederate veterans of South Carolina.

If You Are Over Fifty Read This.

"If you suffer from constipation and liver trouble Foley's Orino will cure you permanently by stimulating the digestive organs so they will act naturally. Foley's Orino Laxative does not gripe, is pleasant to take and you do not have to take laxatives continually after taking Orino. Why continue to be the slave of pills and tablets? W. W. Sibert.

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