

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1869.

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PLANT BREEDERS ORGANIZE.

STATE ASSOCIATION FORMED AND OFFICERS ELECTED IN COLUMBIA TUESDAY.

Progress in Agriculture Discussed by Well Known Farmers and Business Men—Plans for Bigger and Better Crops.

Columbia, Dec. 11.—The South Carolina State Plant Breeders' Association was organized here yesterday at noon at a meeting of a score of representative farmers held in the library at the State house at noon. Practically every interest concerned in the development of agriculture in the State was represented, including farmers, the State's agricultural college, the State's normal and industrial college, the State Farmers' union, the State department of agriculture, the United States farm demonstration work. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Watson, who stated that while wonderful progress had been made agriculturally through the introduction and application of farm demonstration methods, resulting in adding millions of dollars to the agricultural production of the State annually in a few years' time, the time had now come when the average farmer was wisely calling for more scientific instruction. He predicted that with the introduction of intelligent plant breeding there were still millions of dollars annually to be added to the State's agricultural production.

The association proceeded to the permanent organization and upon nomination by President Dabbs of the State Farmers' union, who referred to him in most complimentary terms, D. R. Coker of Hartsville was elected president of the association by acclamation. In similar manner H. W. Barre of Clemson college was elected secretary and treasurer of the association.

It was determined to provide an executive committee consisting of five members with the officers as ex-officio members, and the selection of this committee was left to the president. The executive committee was instructed to prepare the constitution and by-laws and report to a general meeting of the association to be held in Columbia during the national corn exposition. It was determined to ask the general assembly of South Carolina to appropriate \$1,000 for the expenses of the secretary's office in the prosecution of a vigorous campaign. A legislative committee consisting of L. L. Baker, Bishopville; A. C. Moore, Columbia; and James J. Davis, of Winnsboro, was selected.

President Coker upon taking the chair explained in detail, citing concrete instances, the far-reaching meaning of plant breeding work. His address to the members was illuminating and carried home to them the importance of the step now being taken.

Both President Dabbs and Mr. Coker, discussed plant breeding and standardization of agricultural products in relation to both production and marketing, and it was very clear that the two things were absolutely dependent upon the character of work now to be undertaken by this association for the material increase of profits from the farm.

Among representative men present were the following: John T. Duncan, Columbia; E. B. Boykin, Lamar; J. Q. Dabbs, Winnsboro; J. Keaney Mayfield, Denmark; S. Pressly Coker, Hartsville; Charles R. Weeks, Winthrop college, Rock Hill; E. J. Watson, Columbia; J. H. McMurray, Frost Mill; W. R. Elliott, Winnsboro; E. M. Wilson, Columbia; A. C. Moore, Columbia; J. Whitner Reid, Columbia; J. E. Mills, Columbia; E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville; L. L. Baker, Bishopville; J. G. Mobley, Winnsboro; T. G. Patrick, White Oak; A. W. Brabham, Olar; Loran A. Kerr, McBee; James L. Carbery, Winthrop College; W. H. Wylie, State Park, Columbia.

Is there any more reason for dogs being permitted to run at large than hogs, goats, or cows? These last mentioned domestic animals damage property, while dogs that go mad damage only human beings and this is perhaps the discrimination in favor of the absolute freedom for dogs. It is along the same line that it is more dangerous in South Carolina to steal or destroy property than it is to kill a man.

The Gibson hotel, two department stores and an office building were burned in Cincinnati Tuesday night, loss \$690,000. It is believed that several persons lost their lives in the hotel.

A \$100,000 SUIT.

BIG DAMAGES ALLEGED AGAINST A. C. L. BY ADMINISTRATOR OF ESTATE OF L. V. BROWN.

Suit Brought Against Railroad, and Engineer and Conductor of Freight Train Which Struck and Killed Brown at Lynchburg on November 15th.

One of the biggest damage suits ever brought in this county is that in which the complaints were served by the sheriff Wednesday and is the case of S. W. Frierson, administrator of the estate of L. V. Brown, deceased, against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, F. P. Holman, conductor on an Atlantic Coast Line freight train, and J. W. Johnson, engineer of the same train.

The suit is for \$100,000 and the complaint alleged that L. V. Brown came to his death by the negligent, careless, wilful, and wanton conduct of the railroad company and the co-defendants.

The suit was filed Wednesday in the clerk's office and the papers in the suit were given over to the sheriff to be served. The case will probably come up at the spring term of court in 1913 and of course will attract a great amount of attention because of the large amount of damages sued for.

The attorneys for S. W. Frierson, the administrator of the estate of L. V. Brown, are T. G. McLeod of Bishopville and L. D. Jennings and R. D. Epps of Sumter. The action is brought in this county, although the accident resulting in Mr. Brown's death occurred in Lee County and the coroner's inquest was held in that county, where Mr. Brown was living.

In the complaint it is alleged that Brown, on the 15th day of November, had gone to the passenger station of the Atlantic Coast Line at Lynchburg, had purchased a ticket for Sumter and as the passenger train approached went out on the yard at the usual place where passengers alighted from the train and went to get on trains. While here a freight train was backed on a track between the one on which the passenger train was coming in and the station, striking Brown and mangling his body in such a way as to cause death in a few minutes. It is alleged that there was no warning of the intention of the freight to back along this track and that the noise of the advancing passenger train made it impossible to hear the noise made by the backing freight train; that there was a violation of the rules of the company in that no one gave any warning and no one was on the rear of the train to warn persons of the approach of the freight train; that there was a crossing a few yards from where the accident took place and that no warning signals were given at this crossing in violation of the rules of the company. A summary of the allegations made in the complaint is in effect that: "The injuries done the said L. V. Brown were due, caused and occasioned by the separate, several, joint, and concurrent acts and omission of each and every one of the defendants, as aforesaid, all of which were done by the defendants in a negligent, careless, wilful and wanton manner, and in utter disregard of the life and safety, and of the rights of the plaintiff's intestate and of the public, and all to the damage of the plaintiff in the sum of One Hundred Thousand dollars.

The complaint states that Brown died intestate and leaves a wife, Mrs. Hattie P. Brown, and three children, Annie Lanna Brown, Roddy M. Brown and L. V. Brown.

LIQUOR SECRETED IN CAVE.

Sixteen Sacks Partly Filled with Bottles of Whiskey Found.

Orangeburg, Dec. 10.—The police made a big haul this morning at the restaurant operated by Enlow in South Church street when they seized 16 sacks all of which were partly filled with whiskey. The sacks were found secreted in a cave which had been excavated beneath the stairway at this establishment. This place has been watched for sometime past by the police. Frequent raids have been made here, but the officers were never able to get hold of more than two or three bottles of whiskey at any one raid.

When you read an ad. in this paper, tell the merchant "I saw your ad. in the Watchman and Southron," and watch him smile.

TO RESTORE MERCHANT MARINE

CANAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES URGE CONGRESS TO ACT.

Author of Resolution Denies That It is Indorsement of Republican's Iniquitous Scheme.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 11.—Legislation designed to accomplish the rehabilitation of the American merchant marine will be sought from congress by the Southern Panama Canal congress, which was formally organized here today.

In the face of spirited opposition from Frank P. Glass, editor of the Birmingham News, the conference adopted the following resolution at the close of the first meeting:

"Whereas, The Panama canal, built by American enterprise and capital, will fall immeasurably short of its possible benefits to American commerce unless American ships exist to use it; therefore be it

"Resolved, by the Southern Canal conference, in session in Atlanta, December 10, 1911, That we respectfully urge that the congress of the United States formulate and carry into effect at the earliest possible moment definite and practical legislation which will give all necessary and reasonable encouragement to the American merchant marine and American commerce with foreign commerce; and

"Be it further resolved, That the executive committee of the Southern Panama Canal conference be, and are hereby, instructed to transmit this resolution to the president of the United States and the members of congress and use all other necessary methods to see that the intent of this resolution is carried into effect by the congress of the United States."

Mr. Glass objected to the resolution on the ground that it would put the conference on record as advocating a ship subsidy, a proposition founded on the fundamental principle of protection which he said the people of the United States had rejected. Samuel G. Douglas of Nashville, who offered the resolution, denied that it carried an indorsement of ship subsidy.

"Say that in the resolution and I will withdraw my objection," said Mr. Glass.

Mr. Douglas retorted that he did not object to ship subsidy if congress determined such legislation was necessary to bring about the desired end. What he wanted, he said, was some action by congress to encourage the building of American merchant ships. He agreed, however, to modify the original resolution, which read, "we demand and insist," so as to read, "we respectfully urge."

Earnest speeches in support of the resolution were made by M. B. Trezvant, secretary of the New Orleans Progressive union; D. M. Stewart of the Chattanooga Manufacturers' association; A. H. Dadman, secretary of the Navy league; Leland Hume of Nashville and J. G. Weatherly, secretary of the Brunswick (Ga.) Chamber of Commerce.

President W. W. Finley of the Southern railway told the conference that he thought it unwise to make any demands of a new administration before it had assumed control of the government. He wanted it understood, however, that he was not opposed to any movement looking to the up-building of the merchant marine.

Discussion of the "Iron and Steel Industry and the Panama Canal" was led by John W. Sibley of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture of South Carolina, addressed the conference on the benefits to be derived by agriculture in the South from the opening of the canal.

The conference adjourned to meet again at the call of the president.

WOMAN WILL ADORN BENCH.

Miss Mary M. Bartelme Today Will be Inaugurated as Chicago's First Feminine Judge.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Miss Mary M. Bartelme, for 18 years public guardian of Cook county, tomorrow will be inaugurated as Chicago's first woman judge. Miss Bartelme was the choice of the judges of the circuit court who considered several other women lawyers for the position. She will assist Judge Pinckney in the juvenile court and will direct most of her attention to girls who come under her jurisdiction.

Thousands of young girls came under her attention as public guardian, and she is referred to by them as "Mother Bartelme."

OUTRAGE AND LAWLESSNESS.

TERRIBLE CONDITION OF MEXICO DISCLOSED TO TAFT.

Party of American Business Men, Though Spokesman, Urge That Something Be Done.

Washington, Dec. 11.—President Taft listened tonight to some startling disclosures about conditions in Mexico. Four American men with Mexican interests, two members of the senate and a congressman, sat in the cabinet room in the White House offices and heard the story, vouched for by all, told to the president by one man who had been in the southern republic within the last few weeks. It was a tale of outrages on Mexican women, of murder and hold-ups of Americans, of bandits who seized Americans and held them for ransom, of general lawlessness and disorder such as seldom has come to the ears of the president since trouble began in Mexico nearly two years ago.

The story came out at a hearing which the president granted a party. They did not ask intervention, they said, after the hearing was over. But they did request the president to see that Americans were protected and that life and property be made safe. After a hearing of an hour and a half the president promised to take up the case presented with the departments concerned.

Senators William Alden Smith of Michigan and Fall of New Mexico, who conducted the investigation for the senate of the two Mexican revolutions; Representatives Hamilton of Michigan, Prince Ackney of Cleveland, W. S. Pence of Chicago, H. S. Stephenson of Los Angeles and E. K. Warren of Three Oaks, Mich., were present at the hearing.

White House officials had no statement to make after the conference, but it was understood that President Taft had no intention of asking congress for authority to intervene.

WRECKS COTTON FIRM.

Rise From 10 Cents to 12 and Over Said to Have Caused Failure of W. W. Espey.

That the cotton exporting firm of W. W. Espey, maintaining offices at Savannah and Cordele, Ga., and also in other cities, has failed with liabilities amounting to \$250,000 and assets of about \$125,000 is the information contained in a special dispatch from Cordele to the Atlanta Constitution.

The dispatch says in part: "The failure is the result of the Savannah office making enormous domestic and export sales for September and October for later delivery. These sales were made on a basis of a little over 10 cents on middling. The jump in the price to 12 cents and over, caused by the excessive damage to the enormous Texas crop, made it impossible for the firm to meet their contracts."

According to the dispatch, E. M. Espey and Joseph Espey of Cordele, Ga., admitted the failure and gave the estimate of liabilities and assets. The dispatch also says that it is believed that an effort will be made to get the Espey Cotton company, of which Carl Espey, another brother, is the head, to assume part of the obligations to creditors, thereby bringing about a settlement outside the bankruptcy courts.

If Mr. Alderman has entirely abandoned his plan to extend the Alcolu Railroad to this city the Chamber of Commerce should undertake to devise a plan to secure a railroad that will give Sumter a direct route to the Shiloh and Olanta section. This is a prosperous and progressive section and with proper railroad facilities would develop rapidly and would contribute largely to the commercial growth of Sumter. Mr. Alderman is in a position to develop the railroad facilities of that section at less cost than any other person or corporation, but if he will not bring his road into Sumter, the business men of this community should build an independent railroad direct to Shiloh and thence to Olanta. Shiloh needs a railroad and Sumter needs the business it would develop and turn in this direction.

Very many of the ladies of Sumter and vicinity are following out that oft given advice "to do your Christmas shopping early."

Tell the merchant: "I saw your ad. in the Watchman and Southron." It helps the merchant and ourselves and shows that you appreciate the merchant's efforts to reach you.

CANAL QUESTION TO SENATE.

MUST BE DETERMINED BY UPPER HOUSE EVENTUALLY.

Taft May Urge That Great Britain's Protest Against Free Passage be Submitted to Arbitration.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Whether Great Britain's protest against free passage of American ships through the Panama canal is to be submitted to The Hague is to be finally determined by the senate in any event. It was intimated today that President Taft, consistent with his attitude as a principal champion of arbitration of disputes between nations, might recommend such a course should he and Secretary Knox hold the question a purely domestic and internal one and therefore one for arbitration. There is considerable leaning to such a view among senators.

The British government's note was discussed informally by President Taft and his cabinet today but it was said that until further consideration could be had no action of any kind would be taken.

A suggestion that the question might be kept from arbitration by delay until the existing treaty with Great Britain expires by limitation next June was repudiated by a number of senators.

Senator Lodge, a prominent member of the foreign relations committee, declared that "the United States would not stoop to trickery."

Senator Sutherland declared the question purely a domestic one and therefore not subject to arbitration.

BATTLESHIP TO DOMINGO.

New Hampshire Ordered to Southern Republic—Serious Uprising in the Island Reported.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 11.—The battleship New Hampshire which has been standing by the stranded submarine torpedo boat B-2 in Lynnhaven bay, left under hurry orders at midnight for San Domingo.

No Explanation.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Officials of the State and navy department tonight were inclined to be non-communicative concerning the hurried orders issued to the battleship New Hampshire to sail for San Domingo. It is understood, however, that another serious uprising has broken out in the island republic.

MAVESVILLE NEWS.

W. O. W. Fleet Officers—Holly and Spanish Moss Shipped to Chicago—Mr. John McSween Preaches—Mr. Munneryn Leaves.

Mayesville, Dec. 10.—At a meeting last night of Oakland Camp No. 277, W. O. W. the following officers were elected for the ensuing year, many of the incumbents being re-elected: Consul Commander, F. J. Bass; Advisory Lieutenant, H. L. Thomas; Banker, T. B. Fort; Clerk, J. C. Jones; Escort, W. T. Cooper; Watchman, J. H. Simpson; Sentry, J. A. Baker; Physician, Dr. J. H. Mills; Managers, A. J. Baker, M. D. Boyce, and E. L. Wingate. The camp is in a most healthy condition at present and the outlook for the new year is most encouraging.

A carload of holly and Spanish moss has been shipped from here to Chicago by H. D. Warren of the Salem section. The evergreens were all packed securely in strong crates and should reach their destination in good shape for the holiday trade where the goods will doubtless bring good prices. This is a new industry in this section and the outcome will be watched with interest. The only drawback to making it a profitable business will probably be the cost of transportation.

Mr. John McSween of the Columbia Theological Seminary preached two forcible and interesting sermons in Presbyterian Church on Sunday. Mr. McSween was heard with much interest as he is well known by many persons, coming from the neighboring town of Timmonsville. His many friends predict for him a bright future in his worthy calling.

Rev. T. W. Munneryn, who has been pastor of the Methodist Church for the past two years, has been moved to Gray Court, and Rev. Mr. Attaway will take charge of the church here, probably preaching his first sermon next Sunday afternoon.

The British dreadnought Centurion ran down and sank a small steamer off Portland harbor Tuesday. All on board were drowned.

SPECIAL DAY FOR FARMERS.

UNION TO HAVE REPRESENTATION AT CORN SHOW.

Efforts Will be Made to Attract Large Crowd to Hear Addresses on Interesting Topics.

Columbia, Dec. 11.—At a conference here yesterday, plans were outlined for a National Farmers' Union day at the Fifth National Corn exposition here next month. The matter was discussed with exposition officials by E. W. Dabbs, president of the South Carolina Farmers' Union, who is very much interested in the National Corn show, and who is anxious to visit the exposition and study the educational exhibits.

Mr. Dabbs left yesterday for Raleigh, N. C., where he will attend a meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' Union. While in Raleigh, he will have a conference with C. S. Barrett of Atlanta, president of the National Farmers' Union, relative to Farmers' Union day at the exposition, and it is expected that arrangements will then be perfected for this event.

It is planned to devote one day of the exposition programme to the National Farmers' Union. Addresses on topics of special interest to the union and its members will be made by speakers selected by union officials, and a special programme will be arranged. This feature will be brought before the Farmers' Union organizations throughout the country, and steps will be taken to insure a representative attendance from each State union.

NEGRO SHOT AT MCCOLL.

Willie Ladson of Sumter Shot by Charlie Bethea of McColl.

Willie Ladson, colored, of this city, was shot and mortally wounded by Charlie Bethea, colored, at McColl Monday night, when the former was warming at Bethea's home.

The body was brought back to Sumter Tuesday night by John Wyndham, porter on the A. C. L. train, and turned over to members of Ladson's family, who were located here.

It seems from what has been learned here of the occurrence that Ladson had been working at McColl for some time. Monday afternoon he was calling at the home of a colored woman whom he had known formerly. He was seated before the fire with her and other members of her family when Bethea entered and commenced cursing Ladson and his wife. Bethea then went into an adjoining room threatening to kill both of them. The woman ran out of the building and Ladson was leaving when Bethea returned and fired a load of shot from a shot gun into Ladson's back.

Bethea thought Ladson was dead and notified the officers that Ladson had been killed accidentally. These went to the house and Bethea went on for the coroner. In the meantime Ladson regained consciousness and told the officers how the shooting occurred and upon Bethea's return with the coroner he was arrested.

PLANS TO GUARD CANAL.

Stimson Describes House for Proposed Defense.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Secretary Stimson told the house committee on military affairs today about the plans of the government for fortification of Hawaii through works back of Pearl harbor and about plans for guarding the Panama canal on land by troops stationed along it, as well as at its two ends. The protecting force would muster 5,000 or 10,000 men. He told of the plans for enlarging the army strength in the insular possessions; said that about 16,000 regulars would be left in the United States proper and particularly urged the need of increasing the field artillery.

Gen. Wood, chief of staff of the army, has completed arrangements to detail more than 10,000 troops for coast defense duty around the Pearl harbor naval station, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands.

The troops, which soon will take their station there, will include six regiments of infantry, one regiment each of cavalry and artillery and 12 companies of coast artillery. There are now about 3,000 troops on the island of Oahu.

At the gathering of Governors this week, the Governor of South Carolina waded right up into the limelight.—Wilmington Star.

Sheriff F. H. Creech, of Barnwell, died suddenly Monday afternoon.