

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, 1860

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"CHARMS OF THE COUNTRY OF THE BENIGN HILLS OF THE SANTEE"

In the April number of the Southern Field, the excellent monthly magazine published by the land and industrial department of the Southern Railway, in the interest of the development of the South, there is an interesting and well illustrated article on "The Palmetto State and its Progress in Recent Years." The section of the article that is of especial interest to Sumter people is under the caption, "Charms of the Country Among the Benign Hills of the Santee," which is as follows:

Sumter County lies to the east of Richland, connection by rail over the Southern between Sumter, the county seat, and the state capital, a distance of 33 miles, affording a convenient schedule. Railroad lines cross the county in every direction and the seat of county government has thirty-six passenger trains daily, making it a natural distributing point for manufacturing and jobbing establishments.

A telephone factory which devotes extensive space to magnet making is the chief industry, although there are important lumber, brick, machinery, ice, buggy, wagon, cotton oil and cement pipe plants. One of the largest cypress mills in the South is located a few miles from the city. The early settlers in this county were herdsmen, who moved their cattle from place to place as preferred range occurred. Then the immense areas of pine gave profitable opportunities, and in addition to the production of beef, pork and hides, more attention was given to tar, turpentine, rosin, staves, shingles and lumber.

Corn and wheat were the chief of the early day crops, and indigo was grown for export until East India competition and the war with England put a stop to this industry. Rice, wheat and oats were the chief crops up to the Civil War, which brought a revolution in agriculture that placed cotton in the lead.

Discussing Sumter County, the United States Soil Survey report says:

"With such a variety of soils as is found in Sumter County, one should be able to carry on almost any line of farming desired. Very little attention has been given to the raising of live stock, though there are lands that could be utilized more profitably for this purpose than in any other way. Bermuda grass does well on most of the soils. The sandy soils are especially adapted to truck, although at present they are little used for this purpose, not enough being grown for home consumption. There is an excellent opportunity for this industry and dairying. The Norfolk soils would also grow fine grapes and the Orangeburg soils fine peaches.

"The county roads are in very good condition and much interest is being taken in their improvement. The best road material available is composed of sand and clay. Good roads are being rapidly extended to all parts of the county. Artesian wells of excellent flow are secured in the eastern part of the county, at a depth of from 75 to 200 feet."

Crop contests do not indicate the average yields in any community, but they do show the possibilities of the land. Therefore, the achievement of S. J. White, whose farm is near Sumter, will indicate what can be done. Mr. White made 838 1-3 bushels of sweet potatoes on one acre of land, and sold the potatoes for seed at \$1 and \$1.25 per bushel. The slips were bought and set out May 12, 1912. To prepare for these slips the ground was broken with a two-horse plow and rows were laid off three feet, bedded out with four furrows, and the fertilizer was applied after breaking out the middles.

As soon as the slips took root they were worked with a 24-inch sweep. Altogether, they were plowed four times, and dug November 5. Expenses in connection with the crop are placed by Mr. White at \$62, itemized as follows: Slips, \$16; fertilizer, \$36; labor, \$6; land rent, \$10. At \$1 a bushel his potato crop from one acre netted \$776.

In the contest for average yields on an acre of cotton, an acre of corn, and an acre of peas, Mr. White made 36 8-10 bushels of corn, 2,531 pounds of seed cotton, 10 1-2 bushels of peas, and 4,932 pounds of cured peavine.

J. W. Odom made 6,350 pounds of

cured peavine hay on a single acre.

Local banks offer cash prizes that make test acres worth while. One bank gives \$100 to the farmer making the greatest average yield on four acres and \$100 to the man making the greatest net profit on that acreage. Another bank gives \$200 each year in a three-year contest intended to stimulate proper rotation of crops, contest judges prescribing the crop system, which covers three years.

Mr. White's farm includes 275 acres and his cotton crop averages a bale to the acre. He averages 40 bushels of corn to the acre on a 40-acre field, and in 1911 made 75 bushels per acre on a five-acre field.

L. D. Jennings has a 400-acre farm a few miles from Sumter, on which nearly a bale of cotton to the acre is made. His corn yields run from 35 to 40 bushels to the acre and cowpeas make an average of a ton to the acre.

Last year, from 100 acres of land, 100 tons of cured hay were made, and 3,000 bushels of oats. At \$20 per ton, the hay was worth \$2,000 and at 65c a bushel the oats were worth \$1,950. This makes a total of \$3,950 for the crop from the 100 acres. When the oats were cut, the peas followed immediately.

The soil is a light, sandy loam, to which the cowpeas add much humus. Feeding beef cattle is also practiced for the purpose of building up the soil. In November, 1912, Mr. Jennings bought 82 head from North Carolina and Tennessee. They were fed cottonseed meal and hulls, and in February were shipped to the Northern markets. Forty tons of cottonseed meal and 40 tons of hulls were fed. The average weight of the cattle when feeding began in November was 850 pounds, and the average weight when sold in February was 975 pounds. No detailed record of expense was kept, but Mr. Jenkins thinks feedings is profitable, if manure is made without cost, or if the profits from the cattle are great enough to pay their feed and labor bill.

Northwest from Sumter, and extending from the Wateree River, five miles into the country, lie the High Hills of the Santee, once the home of General Sumter, "the gamecock of the American Revolution" of Joel R. Poinsette, Secretary of the War Department; of John Rutledge, dictator of the state during the American Revolution and later Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Here was a favorite camp for British and Colonial armies during the revolution and General Cornwallis of the English forces chose it as a base of operations and as a camp where their wounded and ill could recuperate. Washington Irving called them the "benign hills of the Santee," and Robert Mills, in his review of South Carolina, declared: "There is not a more desirable place for residence, either for health or society, than this village affords."

It was here that more important developments occurred before the war between the States, and many old mansions have been preserved in good condition. Their owners had large plantations in the lowlands of the State, but lived in the high hills most of the time on account of the more healthful climate. Along the Wateree they raised large numbers of cattle and hogs. The hills were considered fine for cotton, corn and oats, and for nearly all kinds of fruits, including peaches, figs, grapes and small fruits. Four types of soil occur, according to the report of federal soil surveys: Orangeburg clay, Orangeburg sandy loam, Orangeburg sand and Orangeburg coarse sandy loam. The Orangeburg clay is locally known as the "red lands," has excellent drainage, and constitutes one of the best cotton and general farming soils of the Gulf and Atlantic Coastal plains. It stands drought or excess of moisture better than most soils, is retentive, and the effects of fertilizer are lasting.

The hills not under cultivation are covered with heavy forests of pine and hardwoods and there are many bold springs furnishing sweet, potable water.

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A few miles from Claremont, on the Southern Railway, is Stateburg, which on account of its natural beauty was the choice of General Sumter for the location of South Carolina's State capital. When Columbia was chosen by a narrow margin, it is related that General Sumter challenged to a duel the successful advocate of the rival site.

Col. John J. Dargan is principal of "The General Sumter Memorial Academy," where for a number of years and his assistants taught boys to read Latin and make corn, and instructed girls in music and making homes. "Cultivated farms for cultivated farmers" is the school's motto. The main building burned about a year ago, but plans for rebuilding are under way. This school was given active support by Dr. S. A. Knapp, through whose efforts a federal demonstration agent was stationed here, to supervise the agricultural work of the students.

Yields of 85 and 95 bushels of corn to the acre have been made, and on 10 acres 15 bales of cotton were produced, lacking 30 pounds of lint cotton.

Vegetables of all kinds are grown, and asparagus does especially well. Figs thrive and yield bountifully, and Colonel Dargan has on his farm 300 peach trees, 150 figs, apples, pears, plums, quinces, cherries, pecans and the following varieties of grapes: Concord, Niagara, Delaware, Scuppernon, Thomas and Flowers.

Large land owners in this vicinity have considered plans for reducing their holdings in order to provide attractive farms for progressive settlers, and homeseekers would do well to investigate opportunities here.

It is 19 miles from Claremont to Camden, in the heart of the pine belt, where the charms of dry, sunny winters attract thousands every year and where golf, riding, hunting and polo furnish sport. There are three pretentious resort hotels and the polo tournaments are important features each winter. In March of this year teams participating in the annual match came from Chicago and other Northern points to meet Southern players.

Soils hereabouts are generally light, sandy loams, and along the Wateree there are deep, rich alluvial lands, which produce big crops when properly drained.

L. I. Guion has a plantation of 5,000 acres near Camden, 1,000 acres of which are bottom lands, well diked and drained. Corn and peas grow luxuriantly on the alluvial soil, making 75 bushels of grain on the best acres. In 1912 Mr. Guion averaged 40 bushels per acre on 400 acres in corn.

On this plantation there are 300 acres in Johnson grass and Bermuda. A combination of vetch and Johnson grass has proven particularly successful. The yields run from 1 to 3 tons per acre, and vetch has made a ton to the acre. The hay is baled just before Christmas, and 75 per cent of the crop is sold in Columbia and other nearby towns. Last year prices averaged \$20 a ton, and this year \$18. One buyer feeds peavine hay until the middle of February and then uses Johnson grass.

After oats are harvested, cowpeas are sowed and cut in with a four-horse disc harrow, the yield of peavine hay averaging a ton to the acre, with two tons to the acre on some of the best fields.

Cotton is grown extensively and Mr. Guion has been pleased with bur clover as a cover crop in cotton fields, thus providing also excellent grazing. He has built a dipping vat and will feed beef cattle.

It is believed that the alluvial, black lands will do well when celery is tried, and it is planned to devote experimental plots to celery growing.

Through the efforts of the Camden Chamber of Commerce a number of big plantations have been surveyed for subdivision and will be placed on the market at an early date. Land prices in this section from Columbia to Camden and including the country around Claremont vary greatly according to location and soils. There are many places where farms can be bought for less than \$10 an acre, but prices for lands in better condition and susceptible of more profitable development will cost from \$20 to \$75 an acre.

Seasonal temperatures at Stateburg, in the center of this region, follow: Winter, 47; spring, 63; summer, 78, and fall, 64. The annual mean is 64.

Mr. J. S. Sykes, of Sumter, who recently accepted the position of chief of police for this city, resigned his position last Saturday night and returned to his home Sunday morning. City council has not elected a man for the place.—Eamberg Herald.

INCOME TAX IN CAUCUS.

DEMOCRATS ADHERE TO WAYS AND MEANS BILL.

Republicans Hold Conference to Agree on Plan to Fight Democratic Measure But Differences of Opinion Arise at Outset and No Agreement Was Reached.

Washington, April 18.—The tariff revision bill made rapid progress in the Democratic caucus of the house today, was considered systematically by a conference of Republican representatives who agreed to propose amendments; and Mr. Underwood predicted that the bill would be brought up in the house next Tuesday.

In the Democratic caucus today and means majority was sustained at every point during a series of fights over proposed amendments to the income tax, the only important change being a decision to strengthen the provision exempting life insurance policies. The \$4,000 exemption and graduated scheme of income taxation running up to 4 per cent on \$100,000 or more were retained intact.

The house Republicans in an open conference endorsed the proposed amendment to the bill that would provide for a tariff commission, changed so as to require the commission to report annually and deferred until Monday action on a proposition to introduce as a Republican amendment the Payne wool bill that was offered two years ago. Meantime the Democrats of the Ways and Means committee met and agreed upon a number of minor changes in their bill which will be offered probably late tomorrow to correct defects disclosed in the caucus proceedings, in telegrams and letters to the committee and in renewed study of the bill.

The Democrats have been bombarded with inquiries regarding a clause of the income tax provision intended to exempt life insurance policies.

To avoid complications the caucus changed the language so as to read "provided the proceeds of life insurance policies paid upon the death of the person insured shall not be included as incomes."

Representative Sherley of Kentucky proposed to reduce the income exemption from \$4,000 to \$2,000 and to make incomes of more than \$100,000 pay 5 per cent on the ground that the bill made too small a minority of the people subject to the tax. Representative Hobson of Alabama wanted to make the minimum \$3,000, with a rate of one-half of 1 per cent between \$3,000 and \$4,000 and a 4 per cent surtax on incomes between \$100,000 and \$250,000; 5 per cent surtax above \$250,000. Representative Thatcher of Massachusetts figured the minimum at \$1,000. All these amendments were voted down.

It is thought that the caucus would finish with the bill by tomorrow night or Monday and that the house would take up the bill the middle of the week, with prospects of passage there before May 1.

The Republican caucus opened with a lively fight over the party tariff policy in prospect. Representative Moore of Pennsylvania and Fordney of Michigan, members of the Republican representation on the ways and means committee, were on hand with a resolution which would prevent the Republicans taking any constructive steps in the making of the tariff.

Mr. Mann, Republican leader, and his lieutenants prevented a vote on the resolutions, although Representatives Moore and Fordney endeavored to force action.

"I do not wish to find myself two years from now when the Democrats have made their mistakes," said Mr. Moore, "bound by some fool action taken here today."

Representative Payne discussed his proposed substitute wool bill at length, declaring it was the most equitable arrangement of duties on wool that could be devised. He said the bill had the endorsement of the tariff board.

Representative Fordney attacked the rates as too low and objected to the conference indorsing any bill. "I am opposed," he said, "to the Republicans presenting any substitute for the rates in the Democratic tariff bill."

Leaves for Extended Tour.

Mr. M. B. Randle left Saturday afternoon for an extended trip along the Pacific Coast and through the northwestern States and Canada. Mr. Randle takes this trip on account of his health and will be gone between one and two months. His many friends hope that he will find his trip an enjoyable one and that his health will be improved by it.

THE D. A. R. ELECTION.

BITTER CONTEST ENDS WITH VICTORY FOR MRS. STORY.

She Won the Presidency But Her Opponents Captured a Majority of the Other Elective Offices—Mrs. Story Has Been Fighting for Position for Five Years and Spent a Lot of Money.

Washington, April 18.—Mrs. Will Cummings Story of New York, leader of the conservative party, late today was elected president general of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, defeating Mrs. John Miller Horton of Buffalo, the administration candidate, on the third ballot. The vote stood: Mrs. Story 600, Mrs. Horton 449.

Seven vice presidents general also were elected to complete the complement of new general officers. They were: Mrs. Thomas Kite of Ohio, Mrs. Rhett Goode of Alabama, Mrs. John Swift of California, Mrs. Allen P. Perley of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Ben F. Gray of Missouri, Mrs. Harriet I. Lake of Iowa, and Mrs. John Lee Dinwiddie of Indiana.

Three vice presidents general were elected on the first ballot. The result of the third ballot was announced before 5.30, and the successful candidate was escorted to the platform. She was greeted by Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, retiring president general, and began her speech.

She made a plea for harmony and urged all the new general officers to do their utmost to bring peace between the wings that have waged an almost continuous warfare for the last five years.

Before closing her remarks Mrs. Story introduced Mrs. Chas. B. Bryan, who withdrew as a contestant today before the third ballot was begun. Mrs. Bryan had been known as an administration sympathizer, but she pledged loyalty and support to the incoming administration. She was followed by the new general officers, and all pledged their support to Mrs. Story.

The election resulted in a partial victory for the old administration in that more than half of the general officers and all of the new vice presidents general are known as supporters of Mrs. Scott.

Mrs. Story did not place a complete ticket of vice presidents general in the field, and none of the four she put forward was elected. Of the general officers on her ticket only four were chosen on the first ballot, while five of those on the Horton, or administration, ticket were successful.

The election of Mrs. Story ends a five-year campaign. She was defeated by Mrs. Scott in the last two elections. The contest has been the most spirited in the history of the society and has been exceedingly expensive for the candidates and the society.

While the delegations were casting their ballots the various State regents continued making their reports. Several valuable gifts were given Mrs. Scott and there were a number of presents to the national society. Mrs. Scott was elected honorary president general, an honor held only by five former presiding officers of the society.

The congress will adjourn tomorrow.

POPE PIUS IMPROVING.

Rome, April 18.—The consoling news that emanated from the Vatican tonight was that Pope Pius had passed three days without fever, that his general condition was progressing favorably and that if these conditions continued for two days more his holiness would be considered convalescent.

Mills-Seabrook Engagement.

The engagement of Miss Annabelle Mills of Statesville and Mr. Marion Wainwright Seabrook, a young lawyer of Sumter, S. C., was announced at a social function given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Mills on West End avenue Wednesday afternoon. The Round Dozen Embroidery Circle and the Why Not club were entertained jointly by Mrs. Mills and Miss Mills. Hearts was the game of the occasion and Mrs. B. F. Long made highest score, but no prize was awarded. After the game a salad course was served and it was when the afternoon was drawing to a close that the interesting feature came. Little Dorothy Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Miller, entered the room with a large basket filled with lily-of-the-valley favors, which she distributed among the guests, and attached to each little bouquet was a card bearing "Annabelle Mills-Marion Wainwright Seabrook, autumn," indicating that the wedding will take place next fall.

ALLIES FIGHT EACH OTHER.

BULGARIA ORDERS ATTACK ON SERBIANS AT USKUP.

Quarrel Over Division of Territory Taken from Turkey will Probably Precipitate War Between Serbia and Greece on One Side and Bulgaria on Other—Montenegro Also at Odds With Serbia.

London, April 18.—A Central News dispatch from Saloniki says the Seventh division of the Bulgarian army has received orders to march against Monastir, now held by the Serbian troops.

The Serbian commander is said to be concentrating three divisions of the Serbian troops at Veles, south-east of Uskup, against the threatened attempt to dispossess them of territory captured during the war.

The Greeks in the same way are taking measures for the retention of Saloniki.

WILL ACCEPT TERMS OF POWERS.

Balkan Allies Expected to Announce That They are Willing to Take What Europe Gives.

Vienna, April 18.—The Balkan allies will tomorrow notify the European powers of their acceptance of the peace proposals, says the Neue Freie Presse, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece at the same time will telegraph to King Nicholas of Montenegro urging him to follow their example.

BULGARS START FIGHT.

Volunteers Reported to Have Attacked and Captured Servian Transport Train After Sharp Fighting.

Vienna, April 18.—A dispatch to a newspaper here reports Bulgarian volunteers attacked a Servian transport train between Kumanova and Egripalanka. It is said sharp fighting ensued, in which 80 Servian soldiers were killed or wounded. The Servians fled, leaving the transport wagons, full of arms and ammunition, in the hands of the Bulgarians. The losses of the Bulgarians are unknown.

NICHOLAS BLAMES SERBIANS.

Preparing Proclamation, Explaining Necessity of Abandoning the Siege of Scutari.

Cetinje, Montenegro, April 18.—King Nicholas of Montenegro is preparing a proclamation explaining to his subjects that the withdrawal of the Servian troops compelled him to abandon the siege of Scutari.

HAS ACCEPTED TERMS.

Bulgarian Premier Informs Sobranje of His Course.

Sofia, April 18.—Premier Guechoff today informed the sobranje that the Bulgarian government had accepted the terms of the last note of the great powers containing proposals for ending the war. The premier said Bulgaria's acceptance contained reservations, but that these would not hinder the conclusion of peace.

FIRES BLANK SHOT.

Student Causes Sensation in Roumanian Chamber.

Bucharest, Roumania, April 18.—What at first was supposed to have been an attempt to assassinate the minister of the interior, Jonensen, in parliament turned out today to have been a demonstration by a student to draw attention to the grievances of Roumanians in Macedonia.

During the sitting of the chamber a student named Heneu arose, and drawing a revolver from his pocket, fired a blank shot in the direction of M. Jonensen. The shot caused considerable excitement in the chamber. Heneu was arrested.

PROF. DAVIS LECTURED.

Gave Interesting Talk Before Woman's Literary Club.

Prof. A. C. Davis, of the University of South Carolina, son of the late R. Means Davis and grand-son of the late Joseph LeConte, made a very interesting talk before the members of the Woman's Literary Club last Thursday evening. Prof. Davis is quite a talented lecturer and it was a privilege to have him as a guest of the club.

While in the city Prof. Davis was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Haynsworth.

An Afternoon Tea.

Mrs. L. B. Phillips gave an Afternoon Tea on Wednesday afternoon, the honor guest being Miss Katherine Burton, of Baltimore.