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OUR FEDERAL TOBACCO TAX

VI—A LAND OF RICH FARMERS

The farmers of Germany are rich, richer than they ever were before in all their lives. The vast majority are small, land-owning peasants, settled in compact village groups—in what the Germans call *dorfer*. They are three-fifths of all the people and four-fifths of all the farmers of Germany. They are grazing on rich commons these days. They have indeed been knee-deep in clover for nearly six years. The signs of prosperity are as plain as print, in every farm village.

Peasants and Poverty

It is safe to say that to most people in America peasants and poverty are merely two words for the same thing. And so they are, in Belgium, England, Scotland, Spain, Portugal, and portions of Italy. The farmers of these countries are mainly tenants, and in every land farm tenancy means farm poverty soon or late for tenants and landlords alike. They are not equally poor in these different countries, but in all of them the tenant's outlook is hopeless, and hardly less the owner's. England is at this minute illustrating the ultimate absurdity of farming on a tenancy basis. The farmer who farms by proxy is destined at last to lose his lands. The only successful farming is farming by the man who owns the land. And Germany is today a conspicuous illustration of this fundamental fact.

If anybody thinks that peasants and poverty are one and the same thing in Denmark, Holland, France, Switzerland, and Germany—all of them lands of home-owning farmers, or so in the main—then he has a place in Josh Billings' catalog of 'folks who know a surprising lot of things most of which ain't so'.

The German peasant is not poor in purse, possessions, or appearance. The farmer who greeted me in the church yard of Winterbach the other Sunday and ushered me into his seat for worship wore a Prince Albert coat, and a high-top silk hat—of course along with other proper apparel. Most of the older men in the congregation were similarly dressed. It is the regulation farmer rig for church occasions, birthday celebrations, weddings, funerals, and ceremonial events in general. It has been the farmer fashion in Germany for a half century or more.

Everybody Works

His farm is small, to be sure—around ten to twenty acres as a rule, and also as a rule it lies in separate tracts or parcels, in various directions out from the farm village. He is bred from childhood days to back-breaking labor. He works in his fields and with his farm animals from daylight to dark, and everybody in his family works, men, women, and children. Nobody in the household is too old or too young to work. The German peasant is a creature of steady-gaited toil. He is never in a hurry—nobody in Germany is in a hurry in any place or in any walk of life—but he is never idle, summer or winter. In this land of grain crops and forage fields, workstock, meat and milk animals, vegetables, fruits, and flowers, vineyards, wine and cider presses, there is something for everybody to do every day of the year, and everybody is busy doing it. He may be and he commonly is slow, dull and heavy—dummkopf as the Germans say—but he saves everything and wastes nothing, no inch of land, no minute of time, no bit of food on his table or in his kitchen, no twig or leaf of any tree he cuts for fuel, and nothing else of value on his land or under his roof.

A Farm Gold Reserve

Everything is of value to the German peasant, and the thing of greatest value is manure, liquid manure in particular. It is the gold reserve of his little kingdom. His soil is his bank. In America, we speak of cultivating crops. Cultivating land is what the peasant farmer does, first, last, and all the time, and after a thousand years of cropping his soil is richer than ever. Our children at home say in a familiar game, What goes up must come down. The peasant says of his soil, What comes out must go back—and some-

thing more. His bank account savings are the increased fertility of his fields. He may be slow-witted but he sees this fundamental fact in farming and sees it stark and whole.

Land Economy

We have in North Carolina thirteen million acres, cleared and cultivated once upon a time, but now abandoned to scrub pines, black-jacks, sassafras, broomsedge and briars. That amount of butchered, abandoned land cannot be found in Germany from one end of it to the other. The reason lies in the fact that, compared with any Old World country, land in America is still abundant and cheap, and it is not in human nature to economize what is plentiful or to save in seasons of plenty. In Central and Western Europe land is scarce and dear, and a peasant farmer has only a chance or two in a whole lifetime to buy more land at any price.

Knee-Farming

The peasant farmer works in ways the American farmer is never likely to adopt, or not at least until America feels the pressure of population on land and the food supply, and farm life is reduced to the lowest terms of toil as in Europe and all the East. He is a knee-farmer, so called because much or most of his work must be done on his knees, with simple hand-tools or with his bare fingers. Or rather his wife and children are knee-farmers, for it is they who do all or most of the field work of this sort. The field crops just now breaking through the soil are poppies which are grown for the oil of the seeds, and lentils which are a variety of pease as old as the Pharaohs. I myself must stoop to distinguish the faint frail leaves of these young crops from the grass and weeds of the rows. The grass and weeds must be cleared out so as not to destroy these crops in the early stages of growth. And it takes knee-farming with bare fingers to do it. It is therefore work for women and children. On yesterday afternoon on my way back to Engelberg from the Farm Fair in Stuttgart, the fields as far as the eye could reach on both sides of the railway were alive with women and children down on all-fours weeding the rows of poppy, lentils, and other delicate young crops.

Heavy Work for Women

Edwin Markham has sung The Man with the Hoe, but nobody has yet sung The Peasant Woman on her Knees in the Fields. I see the men and older boys doing the heavier work of getting out the winter supply of fuel in the forests, but commonly it is the women and children who drive the ox-team home with the loads—or the cow-teams, for cows in Wurtemberg are dual-purpose animals, that is, they are both milk animals and work animals. The men swing the scythes in the meadows and clover patches, but the women and children do a man's work pitchforking the hay into the wagons. It is the men who tie up the vines in the vineyards, but it is the women folk who must lug up the steep slopes the heavy bundles of willow wythes the men use in the process. The men must do the plowing, but here again the women share this hard work with the men. They even do the heavy work of spading the stiff soils of this region—at least, I see them at it in large numbers every day. The weight of work rather than the burden of age warps their frames and makes them old twenty years ahead of time. It is pathetic beyond words.

A War-Time Development

Women and children have always worked on the peasant farms of Europe but not in such disproportionate numbers as now. So because the Great War took toll of the men in every fifth household on an average; and further because the young men are now moving out in great numbers, to South America mainly. The death roll in the little village of Winterbach was 107, and the emigrants since the war are nearly as many. They go, they say, because their souls are sick unto death of war and rumors of war. And so the women and children must work if they

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA Tobacco Industry

In the tobacco industry North Carolina sits at the head of the table. She leads the world in the manufacture of tobacco. We manufacture one-third of all the tobacco manufactured in the United States, and we pay one-third of all the tobacco taxes of the Union, two most remarkable facts.

North Carolina is also one of the largest tobacco growing states in the Union, ranking first in acreage and first in the value of the crop. She was among the first of the states, as is well known, to engage in tobacco manufacture on a factory basis, and showed a marked advancement in operations. Twenty years ago there were 96 tobacco manufacturing plants in the state. Ten years later the number had been reduced to 43, with an annual output valued approximately at \$36,000,000. Fifteen plants in 1922 reported the value of manufactured products at \$214,830,000, an increase of 497 percent over 1909. The value of tobacco manufacturing plants reported for the year 1922 is \$20,115,000 with a yearly payroll of over \$14,000,000. This includes, of course, those establishments which are engaged in the manufacture of cigars, cigarettes, chewing and smoking tobacco and snuff.

More Than \$93,000,000 in Taxes

North Carolina paid in tobacco taxes to the federal government for the year ending June 30, 1922, the enormous sum of \$93,189,086.92 while New York paid \$45,000,000, New Jersey \$23,000,000, Pennsylvania \$21,000,000, Virginia \$19,000,000, Ohio \$12,000,000, and Missouri \$10,000,000. The total receipts in the entire nation for tobacco tax for the year ending June 30, 1922, was \$270,759,000, in round numbers, of which amount North Carolina paid \$93,000,000.

It is estimated by the Collector that the amount of tobacco taxes, which will be paid in North Carolina for the year ending June 30, 1923, will run considerably over \$110,000,000.

Winston-Salem is the center of the industry, reporting over three-fourths of the value of the tobacco products of the state, while Durham ranks second, with Reidsville, Greensboro, Statesville and other towns coming along in order.

More cigarettes are made in Winston-Salem than anywhere else on the globe.—G. A. Webb, before the Convention of Tobacco Men recently held in Asheville.

Why so much excitement over a state deficit which can easily be overcome?

would live—even the old men and the old women. As for the older boys and younger men who remain, they have swarmed out of the fields into the factories that dot the map everywhere in South Germany.

Peasant Thrift Rewarded

The ingrained industry and thrift of the peasant farmers of Germany have their reward at last. The German peasant has at last come into his own and nobody who sees him at close range is in any doubt about it. He is rich not because he is a miser, but largely because he has a canny money sense. Nobody fools him out of a single mark. When the bottom dropped out of the currency of his country nobody knew better than he how to play the game and keep on the safe side of the dead line. He has no respect for paper

marks but he does not hurry to throw them away in silly indulgences. The first thing he did was to pay off his mortgage—with cheap money, and his little farm is today as clear of debt as it is of weeds. And the next thing he did was to buy another acre or two of land wherever such a thing was possible; or another work animal or wagon or farm tool; or to repair his house and install conveniences and comforts; or to build a brand new bigger dwelling. The signs of sense of this sort impress the observer in every farm village. No matter how much or how little the mark may be worth—and today a fifty mark bill is worth less than a sheet of good writing paper—what the peasant farmer buys with it is productive property and a bigger chance at life. He knows little or nothing about economic doctrines in books, but he knows the difference between the consumer's goods he has to sell, and the capital wealth he wants to buy as fast as ever he can. And he cannot be fooled into buying anything else. He is taking no gambler's chance in marks or in stocks of any sort.

Enduring Values

We stopped the other day to ask a German peasant the cost of his handsome new house. Eight million marks, he said. Which at the time was \$241 in American money. We found another farmer with a newly purchased horse, a big Westphalian draft animal that looked like a young elephant. The price he paid for it was twelve million marks. A horse costs more than a house in farm regions of Germany, but a horse is productive property and every farmer senses this essential fact by instinct. He knows that under present conditions enduring values lie in substantial capital wealth and not in paper marks. He is therefore willing to pay any number of marks for the things that can be directly used in the production of other things of value.

Digging In

There are millions of fools, young and old, who are gambling on the rise and fall of marks and stocks and other evidences of wealth in Germany, but it is safe to say that not a half-dozen of them are peasant farmers. They are not putting money in their purses, they are putting productive properties on their farms.

The small land-owning farmers of Germany are reckoning as Falstaff fought—by instinct. Exactly as Stinnes, Thyssen, Krupp, Cuno and the rest are thinking about mines and factories, ships and water power sites, the German peasant is thinking about farm lands, farm animals and farm tools, and the wood lots, clay beds, sand pits and quarries on his farm.

In the last analysis, who owns these productive properties in Germany will own Germany and everything in it. The farm owner is even more strongly entrenched than the mine owner or the manufacturer in Germany. He has not sold his birthright for a mess of marks. On the contrary he knows perfectly well what place he holds in the scheme of things entire, and for the last six years he has been digging in on the ground floor.—E. C. Branson, Schlossgut Engelberg, May 15, 1923.

ASSEMBLING RECORDS

The University Library is interested in completing back files of North Carolina periodicals, documents, reports, proceedings of societies, etc., for the North Carolina Collection. (Some of the state documents to be completed are listed below. The Librarian will be glad to hear of available issues of these publications.)

Documents Needed

Laws of the State of North Carolina: Private, 1871-2; Public, 1915.
Journals of the General Assembly: Any issue dated before 1800, and issues for 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1806, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1825, 1826, 1829, 1830, 1861 (1st extra session), 1891 House, 1895 House.
Public Documents of North Carolina: Issues for 1891, 1915.
Adjutant-General's Report: Issues for 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1887, 1888, 1897, 1912.
Agricultural Experiment Station Report for 1909-10.

Report of Commissioner of Agriculture for 1905-6.

Auditor's Report for 1880-1.
Report of Board of Public Charities: Issues for 1871, 1873.

Bulletin of State Board of Charities and Public Welfare: Vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2.

Climatological Data (N. C. Section): Issues ranging from 1896 to 1910.

Report of N. C. Institution for the Deaf and Dumb: 1859-1861; 1870-71; 1891-92.

Democratic Hand-Book: 1890, 1892, 1896.

N. C. State Fair Premium List: 1875-77, 1883, 1889-90, 1892, 1894-95, 1899, 1911, 1912, 1915.

Report of Fisheries Commission Board.

Governor's Inaugural Address: Any in pamphlet form.

Governor's Message: Any in pamphlet form.

Bulletin of Board of Health: Vols. 1, 3, 7, 27.

VI—OUR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY Gas, Coke, and Tar

One of the greatest conveniences in city heating is gas, whether natural or manufactured. How many of us realize where this gas comes from? Does it come from the oil fields, or is it made from coal?

The gas used in North Carolina for heating and lighting purposes is manufactured, being largely of two varieties: water gas and coal gas. The former is made by passing super-heated steam over white-hot anthracite coal or coke. The resulting gases, called carbon monoxide and hydrogen, are formed through the action of the white-hot coals on the steam. These substances are odorless and burn with a pale-blue flame; one of them, carbon monoxide, is a deadly poison. Since leakage of these gases could not be detected by odor, other gases are added to give them odor and to color their flame. These latter gases, called illuminants, are made by spraying crude petroleum on hot bricks, thereby "cracking" it.

Coal gas is made by heating coal in large air-tight retorts or stills. The coal is split up into various products, among which are gas, tar, and ammonia. The gas is purified by washing and is then ready for use, though it may be enriched by the addition of the same illuminants as used with water gas.

The coke and tar manufactured are merely by-products of gas manufacture. The residue left in the furnaces and retorts is coke; the tar resulting from coal gas manufacture is the ordinary coal tar of commerce. The value of these industries to the state is shown by the fact that the sale of their products brings approximately \$1,500,000 annually. The companies employ approximately 250 men and have a combined pay-roll of \$350,000.

Another type of gas with which all travelers on our railways were very familiar a decade ago, and which is still being produced by two plants at the present time, is "pintsch gas". This gas is the product of excessive "cracking" of petroleum, the more volatile portion being compressed in cylinders for use in railway coaches. The first gas plants incorporated in 1889 were the two pintsch gas compressing plants, still in operation. The other plants are of recent origin, having been built since 1910. Since the gases thus produced are products of destructive distillation in varying degrees, the operation and control of gas plants is placed in the hands of chemically trained men.—Contribution from the Division of Industrial Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of North Carolina, by L. V. Phillips.

THE MIGRATORY TENANT

A million and a quarter farms or approximately one out of every five, changed occupants in 1922, if we can give credence to a survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture. Some of these farms changed ownerships, but most of them merely changed tenants. And it may be taken for granted that most of these tenants did not change their post office addresses. They merely moved from one farm to another in the same neighborhood. These figures constitute a graphic argument for the long-time lease and the partnership between the owner and the renter. The tenant ought to get (and give) a square deal, and then he ought to "stay put" unless there is a very real reason for his moving. It's hard for the family to have a real home if he jumps about from farm to farm whenever spring moving day comes around.—Farm Life.