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OUR COTTONSEED INDUSTRY

VIII—THE BLACK FOREST FARMERS

For ten days or so I have been exploring the Black Forest of what was once the Grand Duchy of Baden. And what I have been seeing is the farm and forest life of a unique people. There are other Black Forest regions in South Germany, but what I came to study in particular is the Black Forest that Auerbach's stories made vivid to me in my boyhood days. To be sure the geese and the goose girls are gone, Goose Girl Elizabeth is no more except in the remote spots of this mountain region, and the regional dress of the men has disappeared except on festal occasions; but the women folk are still garbed in the quaint costumes of the long ago days. The form-fitting corsets and the fantastic fashions of Vogue are unknown in the Black Forest. Or what is more likely, the young girls are more interested in the ancestral chests of family finery. These treasures of dress are too rich to abandon and too charming to discard. And so, from generation to generation, they proudly wear the costumes of their particular valley and village. Some characteristic variation of headgear or shawl or apron advertises the family wealth and rank of the wearer, but rich or poor these Black Forest people are manifestly satisfied with their land and their lot in life.

Black Forest Styles

There is no end of homespun Black Forest styles, but the one common detail of feminine fashion is the broad, black hat ribbons. The number, the length, and the richness of the silk of these ribbons tells the story of family importance. But the last word about this matter is proclaimed by the silk, satin, or brocade frocks, and the hand-wrought gold or silver triangles set into the odd little bonnets perched on the topknots of hair. Last Sunday was Fronleichnam day, the day of our Lord's Body, the greatest day of the year in the Catholic calendar of this region. Freiburg is the open gateway into the Black Forest country and the Black Forest people were a large part of the great crowd. I moved into the minster behind a Black Forest grandmother, and a seat just across the aisle gave me a rare chance to study her handmaide and perhaps homemade brogan shoes, the common footwear of the Black Forest women young and old, her rich silk frock and figured silk apron, the moire silk ribbons seven in number streaming over her back and shoulders to the ground, and the elaborately wrought triangle of gold set into her little bonnet—all of them treasures of household wealth inherited from her grandmother, to be worn in turn by her own children and children's children to the last generation.

What They Symbolize

These Black Forest costumes are quaint and captivating, and I am sending photographs of them to the seminar library of Rural Social Economics at the University, not because they charm the eye but because they keep one's mind busy puzzling at the civilization they symbolize—a farm civilization prosperous, satisfying, and free from the restless discontent that is progressively depopulating the country regions of America—a civilization of home-owning farmers and foresters with a well developed social life of their own—a civilization as innocently unaware of itself as a child is, with no uneasy sense of inferiority, no rebellious front to the outside world, no organization against imposition, and no look beyond their own industry and thrift for better market prices and credit accommodations.

Black Forest Homes

Along with other photographs, and for the same reason, I am sending pictures of the Black Forest homes—not the water colors and paintings that fill the artshops but well selected post cards. Many of these farm houses are two hundred years old, some are even older, but all of them look good for another century or two. The new houses follow the plans of the old, because they as perfectly fit the farm conditions of this region as a turtle-shell fits a turtle's mode of life. They are larger than the farm houses of the low-

lands of South Germany, so because the Black Forest people are livestock farmers with more domestic animals to shelter than the Wurtemberg farmers need in the cultivation of small patches of grapes, fruits, and vegetables. Like the peasant farmers of all Europe they live with their animals under the same roof. Occasionally a Black Forest farm house is as large and as many storeys high as the Saunders building at the University of North Carolina; which means that the owner is rich, with more cattle, sheep, and pigs than his neighbors possess. And they are self-sufficing livestock farmers who learned long ago that livestock cannot be profitably produced on bought feeds. Or so they profoundly believe. The grain, hay, and forage and almost everything else they need they produce on their own farms, and the Black Forest farmer who spent money for what he could produce at home would be run into the nearest insane asylum by his own wife and children. It is John D. Rockefeller's secret in the Standard Oil business, and the economists appear satisfied that Mr. Rockefeller is not fooled by comparative advantage as an economic doctrine.

In the earlier days the Black Forest farm house was built against a mountain slope with a southern exposure. A roadway and bridge lead into the attic storey. Here the hay and forage are packed for use during the long winters of this latitude, and dropped through chutes to the cattle on the floors below. The mountain-side end of the house is devoted to the farm animals, farm wagons, tools and utensils, farm feed and the like. The other end of the house is occupied by the farm family. The upper storeys are frequently reached by outside stairways, leading up to one or more long balconies, protected from the weather by a steep roof with eaves four or five feet wide all the way around. These eaves shelter the winter supply of firewood, the manure pile, the beehives, the poultry house, the pig pen, the wash pot, and other accessories of open-air housewifery. The big kitchen is on the first floor alongside the wagon and tool room. Sometimes it is next to the cattle quarters. Connecting doors make it convenient to care for the farm animals without exposure in all seasons and weathers. The bedrooms are all the space that happens to be left of the storeys above. The kitchen is the cook-room, dining room, laundry room, living room, and general reception room of the family, and centuries devoted to fashioning homely devices, comforts, and conveniences have made this room the wonder of housewives and the despair of artists in every land. It was into simple homes of this sort that Bismarck and von Moltke retreated from time to time when sick of folks and the deadly routine of official life.

Their Arts and Crafts

Like all the rest of South Germany, the Black Forest is thickly set with farm villages, one or more in every cove, a quick succession of them in such valleys as the Hoellen, and in the ampler open spaces between the gently rounded mountain crests. We traveled the other day from Baden-Baden on the Murg valley for an hour in a motor car looking down into the hillside and river-bottom pasture lands without seeing a single farm house, when suddenly we rode into a typical farm village at the head of the valley, followed by another and many others on the ridge and in the valleys along the remaining forty miles to Freudenstadt. So it is all over the Black Forest. These farmers are what we call covedwellers in Western North Carolina, but they do not live in solitary farmsteads, they live in farm communities that develop social virtues and graces, and that also offer a background for remunerative household arts and crafts like wood carving and weaving, and for family factories turning out artistic pottery, clocks and the like. The display of Black Forest art products in the shop windows of Freiburg is one of the charms of that lovely little city.

Black Forest Scenery

And now a word about the land these picturesque people live in. The Black

HARDING'S CREED

Remember there are two sides to every question. Get both.

Be truthful.

Get the facts. Mistakes are inevitable, but strive for accuracy. I would rather have one story exactly right than a hundred half wrong.

Be decent. Be fair. Be generous.

Boost—don't knock. There's good in everybody. Bring out the good in everybody, and never needlessly hurt the feelings of anybody.

In reporting a political gathering, get the facts; tell the story as it is, not as you would like to have it.

Treat all parties alike. If there is any politics to be played, we will play it in our editorial columns.

Treat all religious matter reverently.

If it can possibly be avoided, never bring ignominy to an innocent woman or child in telling of the misdeeds or misfortune of a relative. Don't wait to be asked, but do it without the asking.

And, above all, be clean. Never let a dirty word or suggestive story get into type.

I want this paper so conducted that it can go into any home without destroying the innocence of any child.—The Newspaper Creed of President Harding posted in the offices of the Marion Star.

Forest of Baden is a mountain area a hundred miles long north to south and fourteen to forty miles wide east to west. It reaches to Switzerland on the south, and the Rhine plain separates it from France on the west. Its distinctive name is due to the forests that cover something like half its mountain side and ridges and even more to the abundance of thick-set cone-bearing trees that admit no sunlight into their depths. The darkness of night is in the heart of these hemlock woods in the day time. They are Black Forests, so called by the early Germans who peopled these ghastly shadows and uncanny silences with gnomes and elves and skrats. These fanciful folk have vanished, but the name remains and no fitter name could be invented.

Likenesses and Contrasts

It is a mountain region just about the size of Western North Carolina between Buncombe county and the Georgia-South Carolina line. And very like it in scenery. It has gorges as wild as that of the French Broad from Asheville to Wolf creek, valleys as wide and smooth and green as the Little Pigeon river country in Haywood county, and views that call to mind our own Unaka mountains; but nowhere have I found such scenery as Blowing Rock or Chimney Rock affords, not even from the top of Feldberg which is the most famous view point in all the Black Forest. Like our Land of the Sky it is a well watered country. Rich verdure covers all its gorges, valleys, slopes and crests. It has a lower altitude but a higher latitude, which explains the abundance and variety of the spruces, firs, and hemlocks we see in black masses set in the light greens of the hardwood trees. Many of these cone bearers are new to me and their beauty sweeps me off my feet. I miss the grand virgin trees and the majestic granite headlands or balds of our mountains at home. But also I miss the disfiguring scars of vast areas devastated by timber butchers, forest fires, and mountain floods.

Forest Protection

The explanation is simple. For something like a hundred years no land owner anywhere in Germany has been allowed to cut down a tree even on his own estate without planting another in its place. Most of the Black Forest is state property, and it is carefully patrolled, carefully trimmed and tansured, carefully cut and re-planted, and carefully administered by a little army of state foresters of varying grade and rank. No tree looks neglected. The Black

Forest is as trim as the fields of the Black Forest farmers. Forestry has been a learned profession in Germany these hundred years or more, and around 250,000 people are busy every day preserving her forest lands. Germany is never likely to go the way of Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, and Spain—all of them blasted by the savage destruction of their timber areas long years ago.

We have had warnings without number in North Carolina, but we are slow to heed them.—E. C. Branson, Freiburg, June 2, 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 files of proceedings and reports of societies and associations to be completed are listed below. The Librarian will be glad to hear of available issues of these publications.

Reports Needed

American Cotton Manufacturers' Association Proceedings. Any years.

Bankers' Association of N. C. Proceedings. Issues for 1901-1907, 1911, 1920.

Colonial Dames of America (N. C. Chapter) Minutes. Issues for 1893-1897-1899-1905, 1909, 1911-1920.

Cotton Manufacturers' Association of N. C. Proceedings. Issues for 1905-1915.

Masons (Grand Lodge of N. C.) Proceedings. Any years.

N. C. Audubon Society Report. Issue for 1910.

N. C. Building and Loan Associations, League of Reports. Any before 1912.

N. C. Association of City School Principals. Issue of 1909-10.

N. C. Dental Association. 1905-1913, 1920-date

N. C. Equal Suffrage League. Issue for 1916.

N. C. Federation of Women's Clubs Year Book. Issues for 1904-5, 1916-17.

N. C. Pharmaceutical Association. Issues for 1886, 1909.

N. C. Press Association. All issues before 1881, and issues for 1884, 1886, 1889, 1890, 1893, 1897, 1904, 1911, 1918.

N. C. State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry. Any issues.

N. C. Tuberculosis Association. Any issues.

Odd Fellows Proceedings. Any issues.

Rebekah State Assembly. Any issues before 1913.

Teachers' Assembly. Issues for 1885, 1886, 1888-1907.

Pen and Plate Club of Asheville Proceedings. Any issues except 1905.

Tri-State Medical Association Transactions. Issues for 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904.

United Daughters of the Confederacy Minutes. Issues for 1897, 1898, 1901, 1906-13.

OUR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY Cottonseed Oil Products

In these days of chemical achievement, we must not overlook what the chemist has done for the South in adding to its wealth by converting former undesirable waste material into many valuable products. The conversion of the cottonseed into many valuable oils, soaps, and foods constitutes an industry in North Carolina almost on a par with her cotton milling.

From the time the Mississippi laws in 1857 provided a fine for throwing cottonseed into drinking and fishing water courses, the chemists have been studying the utilization of the undesirable cottonseed. From time to time new uses have been added, and to date the chief demands for cottonseed products are: the oil used as a food in the form of Crisco, Wesson Oil, oleo, etc., when refined; the crude oil for paints and soap; the seed cake for fertilizer and dairy food; and the linters for nitrocellulose production.

Processes of Manufacture

From the seed as dropped from the gin to the marketable products is a far cry. First, the seed from the cotton gin must be de-linted, and the seeds then chipped up fine. The hulls are next separated from the meats by passing them through a series of screens and reels. The former are mixed with oil

cake to make a cattle food. The meats are digested with water to break up the oil cells and then dried carefully to get rid of the water. The mass of dried meats is then placed in huge hydraulic presses, which express the liquid from the meal. The oil cake is marketed as a cattle food or sold to the fertilizer factories to mix with other substances so as to produce a proper fertilizer.

The crude oil is dark in color and unfit to use as such for most purposes. The oil is shipped to refineries or refined in the plant itself. The refining process consists of heating and agitating the oil in tanks with a caustic soda-oil mixture, which settles and drags out the coloring matter from the oil. The light yellow oil resulting is pumped off and more of the soap permitted to settle out. The foots which settle to the bottom are drawn off and used for soap stock. The yellow oil is then mixed with fuller's earth, agitated and filter pressed to obtain an almost colorless oil which can be used as it is for table use, or can be chilled to get out some of the less soluble substances and produce a very fine grade of winter oil. If other products are desired, special chemical treatment must be accorded the oil to produce such substances as Crisco, vegetable shortening, salad oils, oleomargarine, etc. From the nature of the refining operations it is seen that the cottonseed industry is entirely a chemical one, its past accomplishments and its future success depending upon men skilled in and understanding the vagaries of chemistry.

A Big Business

There are at present forty-six plants entailing an investment of over \$12,000,000, a plant valuation of \$23,000,000, and a yearly output of \$133,600,000, or more than the farmers of the state receive for the entire cotton crop including the seed! The 2,350 employees draw salaries aggregating \$1,665,000 a year.

The first cottonseed products plants were incorporated in 1889 by the Southern Cotton Oil Company at Wadesboro and Gastonia, and by the New Bern Cotton Oil Company at New Bern. The progress of the industry is indicated in the following summary: In 1900 there were four such plants; in 1910, twenty-two; in 1918 forty; and in 1922, forty-six.

The largest single corporation is the Southern Cotton Oil Company with plants scattered through the eastern section. The only plant making the vegetable cooking and other highly refined products is the Swift Company at Charlotte.—F. C. Vilbrandt, Professor of Industrial Chemistry, University of North Carolina.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Due to the heavy demand by the people of the state for the extension service of the State University at Chapel Hill, Mr. George B. Zehmer has just been added to the staff of the University Extension Division as associate director and head of the department of extension teaching.

Mr. Zehmer is a graduate of William and Mary College and has a master's degree in education from Columbia University, New York City. For four years he was county superintendent of schools of Dinwiddie county, Virginia. When selected for the important post in North Carolina, he was associate professor of education at the College of William and Mary, and assistant director of extension work.

In the University Extension Division, as head of the department of extension teaching, Mr. Zehmer will supervise the work of the following bureaus: Correspondence and class instruction, short courses and institutes, lectures, and public discussion.

Miss Mary Cobb, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University, is secretary of the bureau of correspondence and class instruction, and has as assistants Miss Elsie Lewis and Miss Mary Daniel. Professor H. D. Meyer is chief of the bureau of short courses and institutes. George V. Denny will have charge of the lecture bureau this fall.

Miss Nellie Roberson, another honor graduate of the University, is head of the bureau of public discussion. The services of this bureau include: programs for women's clubs and parent-teacher associations, package library loans, home reading courses, and general information. Miss Adeline Denham, the assistant in this bureau, is also a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University.