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THE SOUTH AND THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

HOW THE COTTON CROP AIDS IN MOVING MONEY AT HOME AND ABROAD. PROSPEROUS CONDITIONS REVIEWED SHOWING ADVANCES MADE IN 1907.

(Written especially for "The Financier" by S. A. Ashe, Editor Biographical History of North Carolina.)

The year just ended has been one of notable progress in the Southern States. There has been more than the normal addition to population, a considerable increase in agricultural and lumbering development, a continued enlargement of milling enterprises, and the construction of new railway lines costing many millions of dollars.

While much of the capital invested has come from the North, a large part of it represents the earnings of the Southern people themselves. The immense cotton crop 1906 sold at a high price and sold at a yield of over seven hundred million dollars. With this substantial basis for trade, business was steady and profitable; the people prosperous and happy. Labor was better paid than even before, and the demand because of increased activities, being abnormal, all were employed and at an advance in wages.

The negroes, whether tenants, croppers or laborers, shared in the general prosperity and contentment. Indeed it is to be doubted whether in any country, at any time, a similar population has been so happy as the negroes of the South have been during the past year. Compared with the negro residents of the Northern States, the record is remarkable; for, having regard to numbers, where one negro at the South has been punished criminally, one hundred at the North have suffered at the hands of justice. Busy and contented men are not usually criminals.

Pari passu with this industrial progress have been some educational and social movements. Still greater efforts have been made in educational lines, while the extension of the antiliquor sentiment arrests attention. The South has been pictured as of a rollicking temperament in a loose way, people speak of the cavaliers as the original of Southern population. Virginia alone had much of that element. But there did spring up in colonial days at the South a class of American gentry, wealthy, dominant and masterful, who have been wrongfully associated with the frolicking cavaliers of historic fame. On the contrary they were rather of the Calhoun type—determined in action but always demanding a clean life.

But whatever was the influence, the event speaks for itself. A large part of the South is already prohibition territory, and apparently before another decade has passed no ardent spirits will be sold, except in sports, between the Rio Grande and Potomac. Thus busy and sober, the cheerful South is making great crops and amassing wealth that finds profitable investment in new factories and others industries.

The cotton crops is now grown on some thirty millions of acres. It employs the bulk of the negroes and a constantly increasing number of whites, probably one-half of it being already made by white labor. As population thickens and the needs of the world require it, others millions of acres will be brought under cultivation, so that in time a crop of twenty millions of bales will excite no more remark than that of last year. Nor are there crops of interest only to the South; they are a precious gifts to the whole nation. Nearly two-thirds of the production goes abroad, and country an annual tribute that

plays an important part in our national housekeeping. Last year our cotton exports brought us, perhaps, four hundred million dollars in gold.

In a decade this item will give us a balance of trade approximating four billions of dollars. What an important asset to the credit of the nation abroad!

In times past the South has prided itself on the contribution to the nation in men; on the superb sons who framed the Declaration of Independence, and who fought on the battlefield; Washington and Jefferson; on Monroe, who formulated the doctrine of the Americans for Americans; on the addition of nearly all the whole territory west of the Mississippi to our national domain by Southern men; but now the South plumes her feathers and takes pride in her contribution to national prosperity and in securing commercial and financial independence.

Nor is the practical advantage to the industrial life of the nation to be overlooked. Our currency has long been ill-justed to the needs of our growing country, and sometimes the pressure for funds is so severely felt that we must look to gold imports to maintain the equilibrium. During the year 1906 the South barely averted a disastrous stringency by transferring 148,000,000 of yellow bops from the vaults of Europe to New York. That was possible only because of the cotton crop. The currency famine through which the country has passed would have been sufficiently remedied, perhaps, in the same; although it would have involved something of a sacrifice in hastily moving the crop to market.

Indeed, the currency matter is a condition which threatens to become an acute trouble on slight provocation. While we have, say, \$2,800,000,000 of currency outside of the treasury vaults, the vast harvests of our great country have increased the bank deposits to fifteen billions, and the bank reserves must need be more than two billions of dollars, leaving only some \$800,000,000 free currency. That may have sufficed in a less prosperous era; but now, with prices of provisions, labor, materials and real estate advanced some thirty per cent, the slightest deviation from the normal adjustment produces an irregularity. There is not enough margin for a play of those forces which constantly effect a disturbance in business; and until this condition be remedied by some device allowing some elasticity to the currency, there will be repeated returns of a currency famine, threatening to close all factories and putting in peril the industries of the whole country. In the past, the cotton exports have given us a credit abroad, aiding substantially in applying a hasty remedy to avert the peril; and to this extent, the entire business of the United States is debtor to the fleecy staple. Recognizing the benefit thus conferred, the South must be congratulated on the circumstances that afford her the ability to render the service to the nation at large.

Miss Blanch Bailey, of Winston N. C. Miss Lois Stewart, of Salisbury and Dr. Brown, of Philadelphia spent the holidays with the family of Mr. H. D. Abernethy.

Morally a Woman Has Just as Much Right to Make a Fool of Herself as a Man Has.

Has a woman a right to make a fool of herself if a man does? This would make a good subject for debating societies. A man will stay around nights, visit the gambling dens, play poker and lose money that he ought to spend for the comforts of his family. At the same time the wife is staying home sitting by a cheerless fire and taking care of a number of children, that she has only a half interest in. The man will visit the saloons, smoke cigars, play the wheel, drink poor whiskey, and occasionally goes and plays with the girls that are not of his own family, while his wife is home trying to save money for the family by patching, darning and going without things for herself and the house. A man at the same time will "go out with the boys" and spend \$25. Is it right? Supposing we turn the tables around and what will happen? Supposing the wife takes a notion to have a little time of her own? Let her go to the bowling alley, billiard hall, the saloon. Go off to a convention or some other place with a lot of gay girls and have a good time, spend the money that ought to go toward paying expenses, smoke cigars, drink several different kinds of booze and come home with a bad taste in her mouth and in a generally stained condition, wouldn't it break every link that binds the home circle together? Morally, she has just as much right as a man to do these things. She has just as good a right to be a fool as a man, but what would happen if she would? It is easy enough to guess. There would be divorces and other things too numerous to mention.—Ex.

Some Observations on Advertising.

[Indiana Retail Merchant.]
The man who does not advertise because his grandfather did not, ought to wear knee breeches and a queue.
The man who does not advertise because it cost money, should quite quite paying rent for the same reason.
The man who does not advertise because he tried it and failed, should throw away his cigar, because the light went out.
The man who does not advertise because he doesn't know how himself, ought to stop eating because he can't cook.
The man who does not advertise because somebody said it did not pay, ought not to believe that the world is round because the ancients said it was flat.

N. C. Moonshiner Caught Yesterday.

Dec. 27—Oscar Sisk, the Stokes, county moonshiner who, it is alleged, shot and killed United States revenue officer J. W. Hendricks, from Ambush last Friday, was captured today in the mountain fastness of Stokes by two mountainers and taken to Danbury, the county set. The United States government offered a reward of one thousand dollars for Sisk's capture. Hendricks was slain while leading a raiding party near Smithtown, the stronghold of blockade distillery. Sisk will be taken to Greensboro tomorrow and it is like a special term of federal court will be called to try him, as the regular term is not held until April.—Asheville Citizen.

"If two-thirds of the girls who go on the stage would go to the kitchen instead, there would be a whole lot more happiness in the world," says the Birmingham Age-Herald. But not if their cooking is as bad as their acting.

The Labor Problem.

The labor problem is being discussed pro and con by every one that is trying to run a business enterprise. Those experts on what makes prosperity and happiness among the masses declare that we are on it, their sure sign is that when one job is huntinging four men as against the old rule when four men tried to get the same job. Now we think the present is worse than the past.

Both are out of the normal, our idea of business and a good time for everybody is to have a job for every man and a man for every job.

Competition is the life of trade this maxim will fit the industrial as well as the commercial. The man who poses as a laborer can't stand much pressure, he soon demoralizes or as it is sometimes called he gets too big for his pants, he has nothing to lose, he has too much freedom to move costs him nothing.

Just talk out his fire
And call his dog (so to speak)
Somehow the contingent known
As laboring men
Is a contradiction in N. C.

The able-bodied citizen
That goes and gets a wife
A scholar and a gentleman
And then hires out for life.

To always have to have a boss
And come at some ones call
He might as well be dog or horse
He arnt no man at all.

No never in this favored land
Land of the brave and free
With opportunities so grand
And great big farms for thee.

Cut out all this rot about
Foreign labor serf, peasant and pauper
Coming in competition with
Our free American labor. Remember we live in the South land fraught with the largest possibilities known to the agricultural world but since before the days of the patriotic cap revolutionary fathers we have been handicapped by the incubus of slavery and all its evil following of worthless free negro citizen ship. We are tired of present conditions.

Baring Booker Washington
And Nigger Bishop Wood
With here and there a good old one
The rest are all no good.

They're vicious and they're lazy
They won't work any more
Just export them seems best
to me
Back to dark Africa's shore.

We say open wide our southern
ports and bid them welcome
invite emigrants from the rural
and agricultural districts of
France, Belgium, Sweden and
Germany and all the old world
that speak the English language
(we mean white folks first last
and all the time) the Lord
knows we have enough of the
colored kind.

And now you mud head smart
Alec
Just hist your crooked legs and
kick

At the foreign emigrants
Count backwards and you'll find
perhaps

That peasant men were your
grand paps
And their wives were your great
aunts.

Lets have them come and set
the pace
Of energy for our white race

And develop our great wealth
And cross our young ones with
thur blood

They're brainy and the stock
is good
And learn from them the guide
of health.

The Charleston News and Courier proposes this new year toast: "Here's to our noble selves. D—d few like us!"

Teachers' Meeting.

The teachers of Catawba County are requested to attend the meeting to be held at Newton on Jan. 4th 1908, in the Graded School building.

The Teachers meeting is the most helpful agency; and it is being so recognized by the teachers. The following are the subjects for discussion;

1. The Secret of Holding the Pupils Attention. Profs Lewis Bolick and A. P. Whisenhunt
2. How to Secure and run a Rural Library. Miss Emma Lutz, Mr. John Shari l.

3. The best Method of teaching English. Rev. P. C. Henry and Prof. Chas. M. Staley.

4. How to Secure the best Results in Teaching Arithmetic. Profs. A. C. Sherrill and Chas. E. McIntosh.

5. What Class of work should pupils do at home. Rev. C. O. Smith and Prof. G. W. Hahn.

6. Drill Class in Writing by Miss Olive Duke.

Etta Baker, Sec.

Christmas passed off very quietly. There was a shooting match for chickens and turkeys at E. S. Sherrills store.

There was a Christmas tree at Rocky-Mount church and a treat of apples, candy and oranges for the Sunday school. The tree was well loaded with presents, some quite nice and costly. In the absence of the pastor, who had been invited to attend, a short address was made by Dr. B. G. Flowers, after which the presents and treat were distributed.

The large crowd present seemed to enjoy themselves to the fullest.

Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Henkel left Thursday for Charlotte to spend a few days with relatives and friends.

Mrs. L. D. Sherrill and children, of Hickory, spent last week in the country visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John Turner, of near Hickory, visited relatives and friends in this vicinity the latter part of last week.

Mr. John Mackie, of Texas, is visiting his parents and friends in this county. He has been in Texas for thirteen years. He has been very successful since he left North Carolina; having accumulated quite a little fortune. He reports a stringency in financial matters in Texas as well as in North Carolina. Farmers in Texas are holding their cotton for better prices. Mr. Mackie's brothers speak strongly of going with him when he returns to Texas, which will be about the middle of January.

Mrs. J. S. Mull died at her home in Lenoir Friday night and was buried at Poovey's Grove Sunday evening.

She had not been in the best of health for some time, but retired Friday night apparently as well as usual, and was found dead in her bed Saturday morning about 2 o'clock. She leaves a husband and several children to whom we extend sympathy.

Mr. R. W. Sherrill, who has been away for a year or two was at home during Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Link, of Lenoir are on a visit to relatives and friends in this community. They expect to remain several days.

Mr. R. P. Huffman has returned to his work in Lenoir after spending the holidays with his family and friends.

A happy new year to one and all December 30, 1907.

RABUNTA.

An entire new schedule will go into effect on the Southern after Jan 5th. No 21 and 22 will be discontinued. The C. & N. W. will also change schedule.

A Happy New Year to All.

A happy new year to you, child of today! May you know more of sunshine than of cloud, and more joy than of sorrow; may your tumbles and bumps be few, your laughter be frequent and long, your play be unrestrained, your sleep refreshing your dreams pleasant.

A happy new year to you, bright youth and rosy cheeked maiden of our city and country—all happiness in the ambition, the joy, the friendship, the competitions and the rewards of social life. Success to you in the endeavor whereby the firm, on during basis of true manhood and of noble womanhood are laid; with which success comes twofold happiness—happiness to others and happiness to yourselves. Go forth gayly and confidently into the new year, O, you who are beautiful in the fresh vigor of your youth!

To you, whose lives are hallowed with the grace of maternity, not one but many, many years of happiness! Live long, wives and mothers of this land, to see the lives you have cherished expand into beauty and usefulness; live long to know and feel the sweet rewards of gratitude, of veneration and of love. Survive those hours of pain, of cruelty, of watching and of sacrifice—live through it all, dear, patient martyrs, to share the peace, the repose, the contentment, the compensations of the future, that surely wait for such as you.

A happy new year, too, to you, grandmothers and grandfathers everywhere! Look out upon all around you and see how passing fair the evening is; and all that is to be heard invites contentment and repose. You hear voices, too that we do not hear—they have never been quite forgotten, and they speak to you in the sweetly solemn twilight of the morning that followeth the evening, and of the waking that cometh after the folding of the hands to sleep.

Yes, to all—the young, the old, the high, the low—a happy new year, a happiness arising from and tempered with wisdom, faith, hope and charity.

A Card.

This is to certify that all druggists are authorized to refund your money if Foley's Honey and Tar fails to cure your cough or cold. It stops the cough, heals the lungs and prevents serious results from a cold. Cures the grippe coughs and prevents pneumonia and consumption. Contains no opiates. The genuine is in a yellow package. Refuse substitutes. W. S. Martin & Co.

Christmas at the Reformed Church.

The services at the Reformed church, was a most delightful one. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and palms with candles arranged so as to give a most pleasing effect. The program was well rendered and consisted of a very high order of music. The church orchestra added much to the music. The attendance was large, the church being crowded even the standing room being taken. This six o'clock service has become a fixed part of the Christmas exercises of the city.

Statement Accepted.

We note that Henry Killian emphatically denies coming back to the old party.

Mr. Setzer says that he will gladly accept the last statement as the truth, for it leaves the party in better shape than it would have been otherwise.

Professional Cards.

D. L. RUSSELL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Prompt attention given to all matters of Legal Nature
Office:
Main St., Russell Bldg., Hickory

Dr. T. F. Stevenson
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
Office at Home
Calls answered at all hours
Phone 295 - Hickory, N. C.

Dr. Walter A. White
DENTIST
Office over Menzies Drug Store
Hickory, N. C.

DR. W. B. RAMSAY
DENTIST
Office: Second-story Post Office
Hickory, N. C.

K. A. PRICE, M. D.
PHYSICIAN & SERGON
Calls answered night and day.
Office at Residence 1203 6th St.
Phone 94 - HICKORY, N. C.

Hickory Markets.

PRODUCE	
Corrected every week by the leading grocerymen	
BUYING PICES BASED ON FIST-CLASS QUALITY	
Corn, per bushel	70
Oats, per bushel	65
Peas, per bushel	1.25 to 1.50
Potatoes, Irish, per bu	75
Potatoes, sweet	40
Onions, per bushel	70
Spring Chickens	12 1-2
Hens, per pound	.8
Roosters, per pound	.03
Butter, per pound,	12 1-2 to 20
Eggs, per dozen	20
Wheat, per bushel	1.00
COTTON MARKET	
Strict Good iddling	11-60
Good iddling	11 1-8
These are prices paid to wagons.	

The General

Accident

Special Deposit With N. Y. Insurance Dept \$250,000.00

Change of occupation does not forfeit your policy.

Claims are not reduced by reason of other insurance

All honest claims positively paid at sight.

Increased Benefits: Ten per cent is added to all benefits on claims originating after the payment of one year's premium in advance.

Double Death Benefit and Accident Monthly Indemnities are paid if injuries are received while on passenger conveyances propelled by steam, cable, electricity or compressed air.

Health and Accident Insurance combined in one Policy. Monthly Indemnities graded according to the hazard of the occupation and amount of premium paid. Absolutely the most popular form of insurance offered to the public. A policy that any wage earner can afford, and will make him independent. It pays for rent, living, clothing and fuel while disabled from accident or sickness. It gives a man food, solid comfort and confidence in the event of disability to know that his household is not deprived of its usual comforts. Our policies provide indemnity 24 months for accident and 6 months for sickness.

It is cheaper and safer to have it always and not need it, than to need it once and not have it.
The B. & P. Policy paying \$100 per month, cost \$2 per month.

WALTER E. SLOAN
Gen. Mgr. Statesville, N. C.
W. A. HALL, AGENT