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SHOULD A NORTH CAROLINIAN GO WEST?

By W. EDGAR WOODRUFF.

To go West or not to go West—that is the question. Whether it is better to suffer the narrow confines of a sure, but meager, existence on the parental farm in North Carolina or to go West where gold grows on bushes and alfalfa grows as big as a pine; to stay at home, have no Sunday shoes and never get to go anywhere, or to go West, learn something, wrestle with grizzlies, tame broncos and face the Red Man on his own reserve—these are some of the questions young men of N. C. have wrestled with since the days of Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. (Shakespeare will please pardon the paraphrase). Of recent years N. C. a great exodus of her strongest sons in answer to the call of the West. Many more are no doubt coming the years and waiting for the time when they will be "white and twenty-one" when they will kick up their heels, knock the dust of defiance from the Old Man's face and put on the Land of Promise. The West appeals strongly to the N. C. youth because to him it spells Adventure, and answers the call of his young blood for the untried and unknown. And too N. C. has little or no big game. The West has, and, since most of us inherit a love for the chase, the North Carolinian longs to gratify this hunting instinct in the wilds of the west. Many, perhaps most, young men who go west have an honest desire to better their material condition. Their friends have gone before them and some have returned and told wonderful tales about fabulous wealth to be gained in the wonderful country. They tell of new kinds of crops, of new methods of agriculture and of new ways making a living. I have knocked about over a great portion of the west during the past few years, and too, I think I know something of the yearnings of the average boy in N. C. and it is for this reason that I wish to discuss for his benefit the west as I see it.

WEST WEST TO-DAY.

The west of wild and woolly cowboys, of Red Men on the war path, of encounters with grizzlies and adventures among the wilds, is gone. True, large game may yet be found in places throughout the Rocky Mountain region, but even the bear and deer are fast disappearing. Where once the lordly buffalo, the black tail deer and the fleet-footed antelope grazed in peace now graze the peaceful herds of the cattle man. Where once grazed the herds of the rancher now flourish cities, supported by the irrigated ranches of prosperous farmers. In the early day the battle was to the strong and the race to the swift. The man who got on the ground first could take up a gold mine or a good ranch, only for the taking. All he had to do was to squat on it and defend his rights against all comers. If he took up a ranch, he could go up stream and put in his own irrigation system. Now all of that is changed. There is little or no desirable Government land to be had. What there is can only be brought to a state of cultivation by a large expenditure of money. In some places where it would be comparatively easy to take out water for irrigation, the new comer runs the risk of encountering vexatious and costly lawsuits over water rights. I am told there is a class of lawyers in a certain western state that make it a business to bleed the new comer by stirring

portions of the west there is a real need for more professional men of brains, education and sound morals to move into the new towns and grow up with the country. Public school teachers too are needed. The schools pay from \$65 to \$95 per month and run from six to nine months. In some places the county superintendents have to advertise in the East for teachers. But they want real live ones. Muttonheads and such as have not had good normal training cannot stand the required examination.

WAGE EARNERS.

Wages are high. The thought of getting from \$45 to \$60 per month for work on a farm seems wonderful to the boy in the East. Work requiring technical skill is much higher in proportion. But this however must be borne in mind. The cost of everything you buy will be double what it would cost you in the East. The Young man in N. C. who now hires out for farm work at \$15 per month and spends it all for clothing and incidentals, such as candy, etc., for his sweetheart, would find that his larger wage in the west would go just as easily from him.

By strict economy I think the sober, sensible, saving young fellow could lay up money faster in the west than in the East. The only way to save money anywhere is to save it! But with new surroundings come new desires and new needs. I suppose seventy-five per cent of the N. C. boys who go west return after a stay of two or three years. The glamor of the new soon wears off. They work out enough money to get safely home on and have a few dollars to make a "splurge" on. It is hard to say what per cent of those who remain in the west make a success, some settle down and do well, others become tramps and hoboes. Some of those who return become good and prosperous citizens, their minds and business methods having been enriched by their stay in the west. But the most contemptible fellow of all is he who has spent a few years in the west, flunked out and returned to his native state, only to become a chronic growler-always boasting of the glorious west and depreciating everything in his home state. There should be a law to put such a fellow on the public roads until he is cured.

THOSE WHO SHOULD NOT GO.

Horace Greely's advice to young men to go west and grow up with the country should not now be given to all indiscriminately. There are some who should not go. Middle-aged men should not except in rare cases, sell out, break up and go into a new country among strangers. An exception to this rule might be made in the case of the man of means, who wants to leave his children when he dies in a community where there is the maximum of financial opportunities. But even so he should then first make a trip to the section where he proposes making his new home and canvass the situation thoroughly before selling out and moving. If he has means enough to weather the storms and adversities of the first few years it may be for him a good move. But for the average man of middle life it is folly to break up and go west. I know several such men who have broken themselves down by hard work, ruined their spirit by separating themselves from their old associates and have grown old in a comparatively short time.

No young man should go west who has not reached his twenty-fifth year. He should have completed at least the public school,

Boys and young men who are wild and easily led astray, or who have no fixed purpose in life go west and are soon immersed in dissipation. Drinking and gambling places are plentiful. The unwary and unfit soon graduate through these into hoboism and toots. My red-nosed friend cleaning those saloon cuspidors there boasts that he graduated in the same class with the late W. R. Harper, founder and first president of the University of Chicago. "That fellow you met yesterday with his bedding rolled up and swung on his back, hunting for a temporary job on a ranch, was once a superintendent of a division on the B. & O. R. R." "That young fellow who was crushed under the train while riding on the rods, was the son of a prominent Eastern family. He ran away from home." "That fellow who asked you for two bits to get a meal with came from your own state. Drink has ruined him." That man Black who sold his apple crop this year for \$6,000, came here from Virginia six years ago. He worked for wages the first year. "So the story runs. The young man between twenty-five and thirty-five who has a fair education, brains, grit, will-power, good morals and good health and a determination to stick by it and win out, will more than likely do well in the west. While the unstable, inefficient and purposeless will go down and out. But such a young man would win out anywhere. Whether he mixes his brains and grit with the clay of the N. C. hills or with the black loam of the Mississippi valley is immaterial. It is not for me to say where he will make the greater success. If he has a good start in N. C., he should stay there. If not, and he has no one depending upon him, then provided he is a "postage stamp" sort of fellow, he might go west with profit. Some of the richest mines in the country have been discovered in places where the people have least suspected their existence. But some day underneath their very feet the fellow who was keeping his eyes open unearched a treasure. In New England the farms have been so depopulated by the removal of the young blood to the towns and elsewhere that land has become very cheap. The young man who is on to his job wide awake and energetic is now finding that right there at home is a veritable gold mine. He farms the ancestral acres with intelligence and in a way that they never knew before, and those acres are smiling back to him in dividends that his father never dreamed of. May this not be true of the land in N. C.? Young man, get you a ranch (pardon me, a farm) and mix brains as well as sweat with the soil. Don't be afraid of theories. Run your own little experiment station. Take some good farm paper. What is better, read it! Get behind every good movement and boost. Work for good roads till good roads come. Interest yourself more in the election of good county commissioners than in the election of good congressmen, they mean more to you. Not long ago I saw this motto on the R. R. station of a new western town, "Boost, Boost, d... the kicker." You may leave off the last and call it the typically western, but don't leave off the boosting. There are people in Chicago, Milwaukee, Pittsburg, Minneapolis, and practically all the central western towns who will move into your state and buy your land at a good figure and build good homes upon it if you will first work for good

roads, good schools, good local county government, in short, in boosting your own home. Moore county, N. C. never knew that it had some of the finest grape and strawberry soil on the continent until folks from Boston found it out and proved it to the people of that county. Then it was too poor to grow peas, now it is valuable. Some one of these days a monster real estate company will buy up all the good apple-growing land along the foot hills of the Blue Ridge for nearly a song. Then that company will sell the land in small tracts of twenty and thirty acres to northern people at a fabulous price and your young North Carolinian who is now yawning around, wishing that he was beyond the Rockies, will sit up and take notice and probably complain that he never had a chance!

Now if anyone who reads this paper cares to go west and wants further information, I would refer him to the August number of the "World's Work," Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, price 25c. This edition is devoted almost exclusively to the Pacific Coast. But I warn you to remember that a booster, particularly a western booster, sometimes puts things in print that glow so red hot that they scorch the facts.

Touched A Live Wire.

Durham Sun.

Knocked violently to the floor and there struggling for perhaps three or four minutes to get free from an electric wire which sent fully 225 volts of electricity through him, was the experience of Mr. Penda E. Upchurch, who had a narrow escape from death yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock at the Chandler Produce Company, on Peabody street.

As a result he is today suffering from injuries that will probably keep him from work for a few days. Besides having his hand burnt, he received a cut on the head and several bruises on different parts of the body.

Yesterday afternoon a messenger boy brought a telegram for an order of bananas, and he went into the basement, which has a bitulithic floor, to prepare them for shipment. Here he attempted to pick up a regular light to convey it to another part of the place when he received the shock. At first he tried to call for help but was unable to do so. After he was knocked to the floor he tried hard to release his hand from the wire but it was some time before he could do it. He said he experienced an awful feeling, and certainly thought his earthly career was at an end. An ordinary light wire is charged with 110 volts, but if a circuit is formed on a wet floor, as was done yesterday, the charge is doubled. The least amount known to kill a man is 200 volts, so if he had remained in contact with the wire very much longer it would probably have resulted in death.

Sickening headaches, indigestion, constipation, indicate unhealthy condition of the bowels. Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea makes the bowels work naturally and restores your system to perfect health and strength. Begin tonight. Ashcraft Drug Co. and Taylor Drug Co.

Forsyth Gartner Suicides.

Winston-Salem, Oct. 1.—Mr. A. C. Wharton, known as the best farmer in Forsyth county and a man of wealth and culture, ended his life shortly after noon today by shooting himself through the head. His body was found tonight at his home near Clemmons, 12 miles west of here. He had left his home and ended his life in a thick piece of pines and cedars.

Mr. Wharton had suffered intensely for several years from asthma and rheumatism and since returning from Hot Springs, several weeks ago, was afflicted with melancholia. With rare exceptions he had not left his bed in several weeks. He graduated from Davidson college with honors and served in the civil war under Chief Justice Walter Clark, with whom he was quite friendly all his life.

Mr. Wharton was 63 years old. He is survived by a wife and five children. The funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at Clemmons.

Report of Rev. J. P. Rodgers, Agent, for Week Ending September 25, 1909.

H. G. Chatham, \$200.00; A. Chatham, Sr., \$100.00; A. G. Click, \$25.00; R. L. Hubbard, \$15.00; J. F. Hendren, \$100.00; Dr. E. G. Click, \$10.00; J. S. Atkinson, \$25.00; Mrs. J. B. Horton, \$5.00; R. L. Poindexter, \$10.00; C. N. Bodenhamer, \$10.00; W. S. Gough, \$12.00; A. M. Smith, \$300.00; Mrs. A. M. Smith, \$100.00; R. M. Chatham, \$25.00; Mason Lillard, \$25.00; W. W. Whitaker, \$10.00; C. K. man, \$10.00; Dr. J. M. Lucas, \$50.00; W. B. Minick, \$10.00; E. F. McNeer, \$50.00; Mrs. E. F. McNeer, \$25.00; Total, \$1,006.00. Christian Advocate.

Has N. C. Williams Compromised His Cases.

Andrew Joyner, the Greensboro press correspondent, sends a story to his papers to the effect that Mr. N. Glenn Williams, of Yadkin county, during his visit to Washington last week with his lawyer, Mr. Spencer Adams of Greensboro, succeeded in effecting compromises with the Department of Justice in the suits pending in the federal courts against Mr. Williams. One of the indictments was in regard to the postoffice at Williams of which Mr. Williams was postmaster for several years, and the other one in regard to irregularities at his government distillery. Mr. Joyner also states that Mr. Williams has gone to Rochester Minn., to be operated upon at the Mayo hospital for a long standing and troublesome disease. His physicians have advised and urged this operation for many months, but Mr. Williams has steadily refused to undergo it until he had settled all of his revenue troubles and could leave his family, in case of fatal result, free and clear of all legal complications.

At the office of District Attorney Holton today it was learned that the department has not yet made any report of the reported compromise in Mr. Williams' case.

Your cough annoys you. Keep on hacking and tearing the delicate membranes of your throat, if you want to be cured, take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Sold by Gwyn Drug Co.

MAMMOTH BLACK PIGS

A pair of this famous breed of hogs will lay the foundation for a nice income as the pigs sell readily for cash at big prices. One that I sold dressed 978 lbs.

JOHN A. YOUNG,

Greensboro Nurseries,

Greensboro, N. C.