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The Soil of the Sandhills

BION H. BUTLER

Warren S. Manning is working out a great dream of making the North Carolina Sandhills one of the foremost recreation grounds of the world, and as conditions are favorable no doubt he will set in motion a project that will succeed whether it shall be done in his day or not. He has picked the North Carolina Sandhills because here Nature has given him the best opportunity. A place where a big outing resort may be established must have the proper climate, and particularly it must have some means to overcome the drawback that humidity brings to a surface that gets muddy in damp weather. Two soil conditions govern the difference. Where clay abounds on the surface it is impossible to make an outdoor recreation resort, for clay holds moisture, and moisture in clay is mud. That was the cause of the costly disappointment when the government located an army camp at Charlotte, for Charlotte was one of the worst mudholes that the army experienced. But sand is never muddy for the sand crystals are not soluble in water, and therefore sand never makes the soluble mixture that we call mud. There the government profited by its experience at Charlotte, for it selected Camp Bragg, the greatest artillery school out of doors. Camp Bragg cannot get muddy if it should want to.

Mr. Manning has seen what the government learned with its camp at Charlotte and its camp in the Sandhill country of Camp Bragg. So he realizes that the first essential of his big recreation center must be the dry surface of the North Carolina Sandhills, and the North Carolina Sandhills because in Middle North Carolina is the mild climate. Sandhills farther north would not serve because to begin with none suitable can be found, and then the weather is too cold for winter use. So Mr. Manning had no choice but North Carolina Sandhills, and to tell the truth he needed nothing else.

The North Carolina Sandhill country is a collection of sandy knobs left in the broad area that has worn down through long ages of erosion, with the crystalline rocks of early geological ages covered with the interesting deposit of alternating sand and clay that gives this section its peculiar character. To the east of us is the solid type of land, mixed with more clay and organic matter—a stiffer, stickier soil. To the northwest is the metamorphic slate and granite belt, covered with a thin coating of clay. The Sandhill country is a long thin strip of sandy ridges narrowing down into South Carolina, narrowing up into Johnson and Harnett counties, wider in Moore than any place else, and reaching its greatest width and broadest tables in the section of which Pinehurst is the center. That means that Mr. Manning has designed his Sandhills resort with Pinehurst practically in the heart of the scheme. The plan as a complete unit

radiates from Pinehurst, including Knoll-wood, Southern Pines, Lakeview, the surrounding villages, and territory even farther out than can be utilized, and he proposes to connect the entire hill region with the finest roads that can be built in this admirable region for road building, and to have roads, villages, and settlements and developments of all types a part of the one big proposition.

With this end in view Mid-Pines was located, and the whole plan of Knoll-wood and Edgemore has this one idea in mind. From Pinehurst to Lakeview Mr. Manning has his outline clearly defined, and in the area around Pinehurst in all directions where development has not already so shaped the future that the field is not flexible enough for remodeling. Pinehurst has been developed along the line Mr. Manning works on, and as the plan unfolds Pinehurst will be the converging point of all the lines of influence from the big cluster of smaller units round about, and the whole area will be connected in one gigantic park that will be harmonious in design and in construction and in purpose.

Primarily the scheme will be that of a recreation prospect. Although the Sandhill country is now principally a winter resort Mr. Manning says he expects to see it a summer favorite as well as a popular Mecca for winter visitors. He proposes that it shall be the capital of those athletic sports like golf, polo, trap shooting, stock exhibits, but that it shall also be the highly attractive home section that will appeal to thousands of people who want something away from the severe northern winters. The park feature will interest that class, and with the help of the picturesque agriculture of the Sandhills, peaches, cotton, and other floral crops of great acreage, the farm will emphasize the park feature by the interesting character of the farm crops. Luckily the orchard with its millions of trees to blossom with the spring, and the cotton field with its continued blossom all summer long to add to the beauty of the neighborhood, and the home building, and the athletics, and the minor features are all developing together with each other yet separately, and Mr. Manning's plans are materializing every day, and with all the separate influences helping each other.

The picture is a pleasing one, and as new lights are thrown on it day by day it is easy to see that a few years more will make the Pinehurst neighborhood one of the most alluring quarters of the big United States. The Sandhills country is worth while now, but what will it be in two or three years or half a dozen or eight or ten?

Fish weighing more than 150,000 tons and valued at \$35,000,000, were landed at Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England, during a recent twelve months.