

## Climate, A Permanent Resource

(By BION H. BUTLER)

**A** FEW days ago a Chicago visitor at Pinehurst uttered a prophecy as to the future of Pinehurst. In telling his story he said that some time ago he had been sent by his employing firm to look over Los Angeles as a possible field for investment. He put in some time there and came back and reported that the place had no particular resource except its climate. The head of the establishment remarked, "No resource but climate! Well, did you ever see any resource more permanent than climate? If climate has done for Los Angeles what has already been accomplished there is no reason to presume that climate will fail in the future."

From which the Chicago visitor made his guess on Pinehurst. "Climate will always be here just what it is now," he said, "and what it is doing now we can reasonably expect it will do in the future. But you can remember two things," he continued. "You have a better climate than Southern California, for you have rain fall in this climate, and rain fall means great agricultural production. California has a great agricultural production for a country that has so small a rain fall. But think what California would do with an abundant rainfall."

So I thought about it. California extends up the western coast a distance closely equal to that of the eastern coast line from Wilmington, in this state, to Portland, Maine. California has one-tenth of the population of the states on the eastern coast that occupy about the same distance north and south and extend the same distance inland. California has a climate that lacks rainfall. Its temperature is not bad, in some sections being most agreeable. But its lack of rainfall leaves a great area practically unproductive. All of the Atlantic Coast has abundant rainfall. So it is without peradventure that the Atlantic Coast will always be the populous and active portion of the North American continent.

Then we may go a little farther. Climate makes those things that are the necessities of human existence. Because of the inhospitable climate the globe north or south of a certain latitude is uninhabitable by any number of people. Because of climate large areas of each continent are not capable of sustaining large population. West of Central Kansas the population must always be sparse for want of subsistence. In Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia vast areas are useless to man because of unsatisfactory climate. The fact is that only a limited portion of the earth's surface enjoys a climate that is really capable of supplying the major parts of human needs. Asia, the most populous portion of the globe, is just one notch ahead of famine much of the time, and some of the time is overtaken. Africa is notorious for its deserts, and Australia is hopeless. Europe can not feed its present population without outside help. More and more the Eastern United States and those South American sections that are favored must bear the burden of caring for the imperative needs of the world, and all this emphasizes the commercial value of climate.

The Sandhills country has a climate value for a winter home site. But that is the least of its fundamental worths. This climate is the climate of the Southeastern United States, to be sure a little more nearly perfect in the Sandhills than elsewhere, but in all of the south coast country is a climate that is a basic resource which is becoming of greater industrial value as the population of the nation and the world increase. Farm, factory and home all crowd toward the hospitable climate. Far more than merely a winter recreation neighborhood is the destiny of Pinehurst. As the years go by the tendency will be to create many and great industries in the vicinity, for here in Middle North Carolina in this ideal climate men can thrive and work as well as live in comfort, and with the development which is ahead of South America manufactures from North America will be in growing demand. Mild climate will induce an industrial expansion on that coastal margin of the Southern United States

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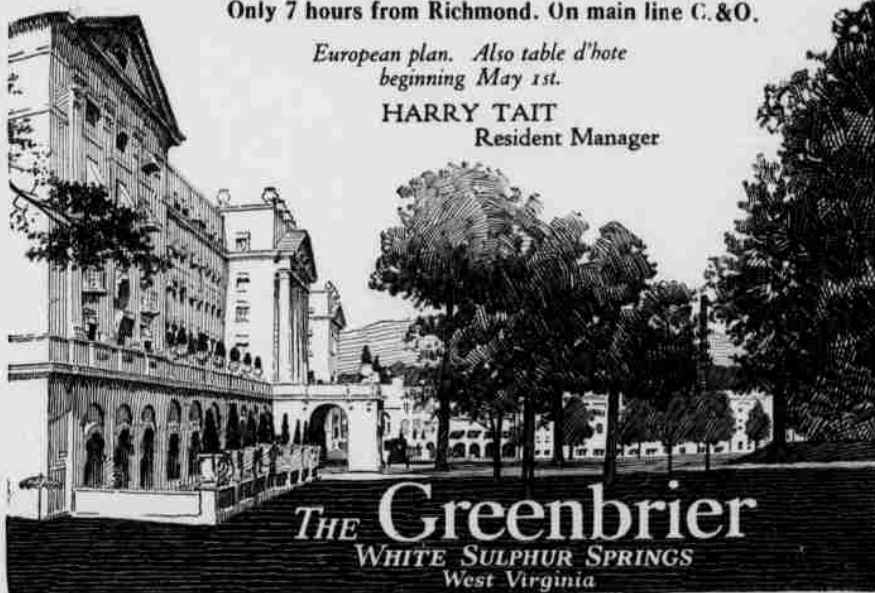
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