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RESOURCES OVER \$3,000,000.00

OUR NEW HOME



The Speed Craze

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THE STORY OF COTTON

By GEORGE CLAIBORNE SIMMS

"The importance of cotton in the civilized life of today is probably but vaguely realized by the majority of people. In this country we consume raw cotton at the rate of about twenty-six pounds per capita each year, which if transferred to yards of cloth and other fabrics, would make a strip longer than the distance from the earth to the moon, and a yard wide all the way.

Perhaps the best illustration of the importance of this fibre can be found in the plight of Germany during the recent war. In spite of her accumulated stores of cotton and her domestic production of wool, hemp and flax, in spite of the fact that considerable cotton filtered through in the early months of the blockade, her population at the end of four years was wearing clothes made of paper, tablecloths, napkins, towels, sheets, underwear, hosiery, not to mention draperies, were practically unobtainable. Bandages and surgical dressings were made of paper; gun cotton had to be displaced with "Ersatz," as did sail cloth, the duck, and numberless other commodities."

"The word Cotton," is said to be derived from an Arabic word, "Qutun" originally meaning flax; and the botanical name of the plant Gossypium, signifying the fleece worn, was first found in the writings of Pliny, and is derived from the Sankrit. Thus, in the mere origins of the colloquial and scientific designations of the plant we have ample proof of its antiquity.

"Is a Sun Plant.

The cotton plant belongs to the mallow family and is a native of the tropics. It is a sun plant and never grows at night but closes up at sundown. The genus has a great many botanical varieties, all of which, in the wild state, are perennial, but under cultivation tend to become annual.

One variety, Gossypium Arboreum, which is found chiefly in Mexico and Brazil, attains a height of over fifteen feet. This tree cotton, however, has not been extensively cultivated because of the obvious expense of picking. Of the herbaceous varieties the most commonly known are the American and the long staple Egyptian, G. Barbadense, known as Sea Island cotton, is another long staple variety which is grown only in certain counties of Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Characteristics Vary.

In all the cultivated species the plant attains a height of two to four feet. The leaves vary but all have characteristic lobes. The blossoms also vary a good deal in color, but have this in common, that the seeds are contained in a pod or boll which is filled with a mass not unlike that of the common milk-weed. In due course the boll bursts, exposing its elasticity. From the point of mass fluff fibre from which the plant derives its extraordinary value.

The superiority of cotton over other vegetable fibres, such as hemp, or flax, is in the natural twist, which makes it inherently adaptable to spinning. The single fibre consists of a hollow tube

having transverse joints at irregular intervals, and this tube, when dry, has a tendency to flutter out and curl. The more of this natural elasticity is found in the fibre the better it is for spinning purposes, and an immature fibre is for this reason unsatisfactory.

Very Susceptible to Moisture.

Cotton is exceedingly susceptible to moisture, and a succession of violent atmospheric changes will cause such a rapid contraction and expansion in its fibre as to destroy its spinning qualities. In the view of the manufacturer there is very little difference between immature cotton and that which has suffered loss of vitality.

Besides yielding a natural wool from which a tremendous number of products are derived, the seed of the plant gives forth a highly useful vegetable oil.

History and Distribution.

"The origin of the cultivation and commercial use of cotton is shrouded in the dim veils of antiquity. The records of India show that the plant was grown, and its fibre utilized, from the earliest times. The Phoenicians, and the Hebrews are known to have made cotton clothing, and later the art was transmitted by them to the Greeks and Romans. The vague annals of China indicate a familiarity with this plant and its value extending back to the remote past and the same is true of Japan.

American Aztecs Worked Textiles.

Cortez found a flourishing textile industry among the Aztecs in 1519, and in Peru Pizarro found cotton garments said to antedate the civilization of the Incas. Again early Portuguese chroniclers relate the discovery of native cotton in Brazil.

The First Virginia Cotton.

The Arabs and Saracens were largely responsible for the introduction of the textile industry to Western Europe in the ninth century, but it was not until about the middle of the seventeenth century that any great progress was made. During this time the British began to attempt the cultivation of cotton in their colonies and it was about 1650 when the first Virginia plantations were begun. Since that time the United States has forged ahead until at present it grows over three-fifths of the world's crop.

The Cultivation of Cotton in Egypt was begun about 1821, American Sea Island seeds being imported at that time. The fertile alluvial soil of the Nile delta was found particularly adapted to this use, and extensive irrigation later expanded the area. The construction of the Great Assuan Dam late in the nineteenth century gave a tremendous impetus to the industry. Egyptian cotton is mostly of the long staple variety, the best known as Sakellarides, averaging an inch and three quarters. The 1919 crop consisted sixty per cent. of this variety, the remainder being composed of Ashmouni, Mitah, Abassi, and other kinds, roughly classed as Upper Egyptian.

Lotton culture in India, is perhaps the oldest of all, but Indian cotton is of the short staple variety, and can only be used by certain manufacturers most of which are located in Japan and Germany. About twenty-five million acres are said to be under cultivation, but statistics are very meagre.

4,500 spindles in the country; in 1825 there were 800,000.

Progress by Inventions.

Various inventions, notably Lowell's power loom in 1814, and Jenek's ring spindle in 1830, made it possible for the New England manufacturer to compete with the skilled labor of England and up to the time of the Civil War the industry made rapid strides. In 1821 795 establishments with 1,207,000 spindles used 77,800,000 pounds of cotton and manufactured \$32,000,000 worth of goods. Thirty years later there were 1091 mills with 5,200,000 spindles using 422,700,000 pounds of cotton and making a product worth \$115,700,000. At this time 570 of the mills were in New England, 340 in the middle Atlantic States and 159 in the South, and 22 in Western states. The New England mills, however, averaged twice as many spindles as the others, and Massachusetts and Rhode Island alone contained 48 per cent. of the total.

Home industries at this time supplied most of the coarse drills and sheetings, while the fine goods were imported from England. There was a small export trade of coarse goods to Asia. The civil war cut off the industrial centers from their raw material so that for five years no progress was made, and when normal life was resumed, a new tendency toward concentration became manifest. From then on the number of plants decreased and the individual establishment grew larger, so that in 1880 there were fewer mills and four and one-half times as many spindles as twenty years before.

Yankees Forsake New England.

While we shall discuss the geographical distribution of the industry but briefly, it is worthy of note here that the feature of the period beginning about 1880 and extending to the present time was the gradual growth of the spinning and weaving industry in the South. The social and economic system in the Southern states before the abolition of slavery made those states entirely agrarian, but as soon as a recovery from the war was accomplished, manufacturing, and particularly cotton manufacturing, grew up surprisingly fast. The Yankees of New England foresaw the need to build mills in the South where cotton grows and get away from long, costly freight hauls. Sixty per cent. of the increase from 1880 to 1910 was in the South.

Figures Which Tell a Story of Progress.

From other sources the information is gained that the South now has about fifteen hundred mills with half a billion of investment, 20,000,000 spindles and 400,000 looms in operation. It is coming into its own.

John F. Street & Company, Providence R. I., have been appointed selling agents for the Roxboro Cotton Mills, Roxboro, N. C., which manufacture 88 and 90s carded cotton yarns. It is understood that the Roxboro management is planning to install 5,600 new spindles with complete preparatory and finishing machinery, replacing considerable old equipment by improved types of machines.

The Williamston, S. C. Mills have awarded a contract for the construction of a new one-story school building and auditorium for mill operatives, estimated to cost about \$22,000.

National Lumber Co. Largest in County

The National Lumber Company is the largest building material supply house in the county, with trade connections extending away north into the New England states and doing a large business throughout the Carolinas. Organized in 1910 by G. S. Klutz and J. A. Cannon, they were joined a few years later by W. H. Gibson, the three owning all of the stock. Mr. Klutz is president; Mr. Gibson vice president and Mr. Cannon secretary-treasurer and general manager. The company has furnished the material for practically all the important buildings which have been erected since its organization 13 years ago and are known far and wide in building trade circles. A complete line of building material, including anything from roof to cellar, shingles, laths, floorings, ceiling, siding, mouldings, plaster, lime, cement, etc., is carried, and the company ships many thousands of dollars worth of material to the New England States. Sheet rock, said to be cheaper than ceiling or plaster and better than either is another line the company distributes.

King Tut Service Depot Tanks Up

The King Tut Service Station, Inc., is a new enterprise composed of Concord folks who felt the need of service stations that give service. At present they have one station completed on the National Highway around the bend below the Southern station, which is equipped with the very best service equipment possible to buy. They have a fine brick building with all conveniences for tourists such as ladies' rest room, shower bath, comfortable rocking chairs and music. They carry a complete line of tires, accessories and refreshments. They give night hawk service, keeping open till everybody is home. Two more stations are under construction and promise to give just as good service. They have an 18,000 gallon gas storage tank and buy gasoline in car lots and own their own service truck. The slogan of King Tut Service Station is "Drop in and get tanked up" and as an auxiliary slogan "Stick to the Standard" as they sell Standard Oil products.

Concord Bakery Has Record of Advance

Starting with a capital of \$50, 23 years ago, G. T. Barnhardt, owner of the Concord Steam Bakery, is able to look back to the first few weeks of his business life when 95 loaves of bread retailing for \$4.75, was a big week's turnover, and compare that result with his present business which produced over 15,000 loaves of bread weekly, not to mention many pies, cakes and pastries.

Born in Stanly county he came to Concord as a boy in 1885 and worked at odd jobs, finally starting in the bakery business in 1910. With his capital of \$50 he bought flour, etc., and rented everything else. It was a hard road for everyone did their own baking in those days, but gradually the public came to appreciate the convenience of having its

baking done, and the high quality of Mr. Barnhardt's bread and the business prospered. At that time it was known as the City Bakery. Gradually business expanded and machinery was added, until in 1910 the present home of the business at 80 W. Corbin street was built—a two-story brick structure with basement and concrete floor equipped with three ovens and nine bread making machines. The building and plant is worth about \$25,000. In addition Mr. Barnhardt owns his own home and eight pieces of real estate in Concord. He is a deacon in the Missionary Baptist Church, a Knight of Pythias, a Woodman of the World and a member of the Merchants Association.

John R. Query Has Many Big Contracts

Within a few months from the time he finished his apprenticeship with the late D. A. Caldwell, contractor, John R. Query was contracting for himself. His first contract was to build the Methodist Church parsonage at West Depot street in 1908. That gave him his start, and he has been pushing forward ever since with the ups and downs incidental to the risks of contracting business, but even so generally ending up at the end of the year on top of the heap. A reputation for knowing his business and being reliable brought Mr. Query contract after contract and his business gradually expanded until today he is one of the best known contractors in this part of the state and has to his credit much important work of which the following are some examples: \$40,000 school building for the Jackson Training school; 9 cottages costing \$18,000 each for the Jackson Training School and the following buildings for the same state institution: dairy barn, \$10,000; grainery, \$8,000; bakery and laundry, \$10,000; storage room, \$6,000; stone memorial bridge, \$3,500; stone pavilion, \$3,750; Cannon memorial building \$42,000; C. E. Beger residence \$7,000; W. W. Johnson residence \$3,500. Other contracts were the Methodist Church at Rocky Ridge, \$11,000; warehouse for the Kerr Bleaching Mill, 60x120 with wing 60x60, of four stories of brick, \$60,000; addition to two schools last year costing \$30,000, and the Forest Hill Methodist Church costing \$20,000, on which he superintended the work. Contracts underway at present include the city high school; the new colored school and the business building for Dr. King to cost \$25,000.

Mr. Query is a staunch member of the Methodist Church and in a recent building campaign is believed to have contributed the sum of \$1325 towards the fund. He is a Mason, a mighty hard worker, is married and has four children—all boys.

Coley Shoe Shop Is Giving Good Service

The Coley Shoe Shop at 206 W. Depot street, is an example of convenient service as given by J. M. Coley, the owner. The business was established three years ago and now has a plant and stock valued at about \$2,500. For six years prior to starting in business for himself he was a machinist. He was born in Catawba county; attends the Baptist

Church; is a member of the American Legion. He is married with one child.

Jones and Crooks Sell General Merchandise

Jones and Crooks, general merchants at 156-8 McGill street, Concord, established their business in October, 1919, when they bought the business of the C. A. Dry Company. Premises of brick, 40 x75 feet, house the business which specializes in groceries, but carries a well assorted stock of general merchandise and has a large circle of patrons. J. Luther Jones was a salesman in the former C. A. Dry Company for 25 years and with L. R. Crooks, who was an overseer at the Roberta Mills for two years, bought the business in October, 1919. Mr. Jones was born in Ireland. He is a member of the Baptist church; is married with 4 children. He is a member of the Merchants Association. L. R. Crooks attends the Presbyterian Church. He is married with two children.

Niblock Tinsmith Shop Busy Place

When F. C. Niblock four years ago decided to start a tinsmith shop he resolved to secure the best man to take charge of it he could find, who was also a practical tinsmith, and accordingly engaged M. L. Eudy, who had the reputation of being one of the most efficient tinsmiths in the state. The dependable work of Mr. Eudy backed by the high quality of materials used and the reputation of F. C. Niblock as an honorable business man, has caused the tinshop to prosper and grow, until today five men are being worked and are kept busy the year round on new installations and repairs.

The shop does all sorts of metal work including roofing and skylights, installs and deals in the well known Caloric furnaces, and does a general tinsmith shop business, making a point of giving prompt service.

Corl Motor Co. Selling Nash Cars

George F. Corl is president and manager of the Corl Motor Company which he founded four years ago, and is exclusive agent in Cabarrus county for the distribution of Nash fours and sixes. In addition he handles accessories and Fisk and Pennsylvania tires, carrying a stock of about \$15,000 in a two-story brick building 50x180 feet. Mr. Corl was in the livestock business with M. J. Corl & Son for many years. He attends the First Presbyterian Church. M. C. Corl is also an active member of the firm.

The Carlton Yarn Mills, Inc., of Cherryville, N. C., are completing the installation of additional cards, spinning and spooling frames. This new fine yarn mill is also beautifying its surroundings by grading embankments and planting flowers and shrubs. The mill, which was completed in the spring after being erected in record time, has been operated steadily at capacity.

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