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SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1923

Factory Markets For Farmers.

Carrying on long-winded campaigns with the expectation of helping the farmers is not in it with industrial plants which furnish producers with a market for classes of products which they can grow but can not undertake to grow in the absence of a market. During all these years of talk about the coming of the boll weevil and the necessity for a substitute agriculture to take the place of cotton, nobody has yet been able to show the farmers a substitute that they can depend upon. Until we put up factories for the consumption of raw materials other than cotton, we needn't expect any other farm industry of a practical kind. Canneries and creameries can be combined in the south and be made the basis of prosperity for farmers, but our anti-weevil campaigns never stress anything so practical as that.

Some of the counties in South Carolina have gone into both the cannery and creamery industries. They have succeeded around Florence and Sumter, and now neighboring counties are following suit. Manning is to have a cannery industry, and it moves the Charleston News and Courier to say:

The cannery movement took a long time to get under way in South Carolina, but it seems to be growing at last. Last year the Sumter cannery proved a life saver to many farmers in that county. This year, it is announced, a cannery will be operated in Manning, 20 miles from Sumter. The Manning Times prints a list of prices which the cannery will pay for vegetables. It will, of course, buy for cash and farmers can know now, before they plant, what they can expect to receive for their products.

Canneries are a great help in many ways and this stabilizing of prices is one of the most important benefits which they assist in effecting. So long as the market for fresh vegetables or fruit holds up well, making it profitable to ship, the grower can dispose of his crop in this way. When the market for fresh vegetables falls off the cannery is there ready to take them and the grower is advised months in advance as to what he will get for them from the cannery.

Why more canneries are not opened in the coast country around Charleston continues to be a mystery. Here, if anywhere, it would seem, it should be possible to make them profitable. They could certainly be made to prove of great advantage to this section and if the proper foundations for such a development were laid they ought to be money-makers for those who run them. If there is any industry which would seem to belong here in the very nature of things we should think that this was it. The reorganized chamber of commerce could not do better than give its attention to seeing if something can not be done on this line on a considerable scale.

Chambers of commerce could not do any better work than to encourage and promote the kinds of industries which require raw materials for conversion into commercial products. Even if an industry is a small affair to start with it may grow into an industry of large proportions. One such industry in a North Carolina town finds itself almost in the million dollar class at this time. It did a business of about \$800,000 last year.

The Star shares the astonishment of the News and Courier that more canneries are not established in the coastal country. The same applies to the Wilmington region. A canning and preserve factory in the Wilmington strawberry industry would have developed into the largest industry of the kind in the south. However, there was an industrial market to stabilize the industry, with the result that it is a more or less haphazard enterprise. The district came very near abandoning strawberry growing some years ago. However, it is now growing again. The scuppernon grape indus-

try also could be utilized for a great manufacturing industry but we are slow about seeing our opportunity in it.

Factory Products.

One of the features of recent reports of the department of commerce is the increasing exports of American corn to European countries, but while the statistics refer to the shipment of grain in bulk, the probability is that the factory products of corn shipped abroad will soon exceed in value our exports of grain. Few consider that the greatest value in corn is in the factory products made from it. In addition to importing grain from the United States, the Europeans have been greatly increasing their imports of "corn products."

The American Corn Products association of New York has filed papers with the federal trade commission at Washington, under the Webb-Pomerene export trade act, for the purpose of exporting corn syrup, corn sugar, corn starch, laundry starch and other commercial factory products. The members of the new association are the American Maize Products company, of New York; the Clinton Corn Syrup Refining company, of Clinton, Iowa; the Huron Milling company, of Harbor Beach, Michigan; J. C. Hubinger Brothers company, of Keokuk, Iowa; Penick and Ford, limited, of New York city; the Union Starch and Refining company, of Edinburg, Ind.; the A. E. Staley Manufacturing company, of Decatur, Ill., and the Keever Starch company, of Columbus, Ohio.

These are all immense concerns and they have hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the manufacture of corn products. They have combined to handle their various products through one export corporation whose business will be to do the export business and to educate Europe on the uses of the commercial products made from American corn. Either one or all of those companies have educated the south to the uses of their products. There is not a home in North Carolina that is not using corn products in one form or other.

Utilizing corn for the manufacture of so many salable and indispensable products is not merely a matter of general interest. It ought to keep us in mind of the industrial possibilities in the farm products we grow here in eastern North Carolina. We could manufacture in North Carolina at least \$50,000,000 worth of the factory products we buy annually from abroad.

Cotton and Corn Belts Have Prospered.

The economists who have figured on the results from agriculture last year, estimate that the increased price of cotton has increased the purchasing power of southern farmers as a whole, and that is given as one of the reasons why western farmers have been able to get better prices for their feed and foodstuffs, of which the south is able to buy more.

W. O. Scroggs, in his market article in the New York Evening Post takes an optimistic and logical interpretation of the latest crop statistics sent out from Washington. The department of agriculture estimates the purchasing power of farm products for January at 68, on the basis of 100 for the year 1913. The figure is the same as for December, 1922. Of ten leading farm products whose purchasing power is computed in terms of other commodities four have an index above the 1913 level and six have one below it. Cotton and wool, with indexes of 134 and 135, respectively, are the two commodities having the highest purchasing power. The other two whose purchasing power is above the pre-war level, are eggs (112) and butter (110). Those which stand lowest in the group are beef cattle (60), potatoes (65), swine (67), and corn (76). It is evident that the producers of fibers are more prosperous than the producers of foodstuffs, and it is the low prices of the latter that bring average purchasing power of farmers a third below that of 1913. The department points out that if the cotton belt can make a good crop next year and demand remains at its present level this will prove of great help to the markets for grain and wheat, owing to the increased purchasing power of the southern states. What aids one section of the country will also benefit the others.

It will be noticed that the world is hysterical about the possible supply of cotton this year. Americans are blaming the British spinners with trying to encourage cotton growing all over the world, particularly in Brazil, but we are doing the same so far as rubber production is concerned. We have to make amends for the cotton spinners, for at their rate of consumption now, the 1922 crop will be short 3,000,000 bales. Both the British and American mills are contemplating curtailment of operations so as to make the present short crop last the mills until this year's crop comes in.

It can be said that if the world is willing to pay the price for weevil cotton, they need not fear a big crop this year.

IT IS SUNDAY MORNING

BY W. A. STANBURY

MERELY HUMAN!

"The Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the Truth."—1. Tim. 3:15.

More than ever before, men are thinking of the church as a human institution. They are judging it by the practical, secular standards employed in the appraisal of other social agencies and indeed of industrial organizations. And some of them conclude that the church does not produce more bread, it does not furnish work for the laboring man, and it does not increase his wage, and the more especially since it is dominated by the wealthy and the socially secure, it does not justify its existence; it is, they say, a needless expense and a bulwark of privilege.

Perhaps if you apply their standards of measurement, their conclusions are inevitable. If the church is only a human institution, and if there is nothing to think of but bread and play and physical comfort, if man is nothing but an animated clod and soul and spirit are vain fictions, if religion is foolishness, then their arguments are irresistible.

But if there is a God, if there is a soul in man; if there is a destiny to be fulfilled, or else defeated; if there is something more than the merely human, then the church may have a place; and the people who believe in the church may not be fools, and notwithstanding all its faults, the church may be worth while in such a world as we live in.

Dr. Charles E. Jefferson, pastor of Broadway Tabernacle, Brooklyn, observed in a little book of his a few years ago that it is worth while to have something in the world which will continually cry,

"Souls! Souls!" It is so easy to forget that a man is a soul, and that the soul needs care.

And that is the business of the church of the Living God. Not that it can forget the ordinary needs of men, or be indifferent to transient and physical circumstances. But the business of the church of God is to cry in every quarter and in every tongue and through every relationship of human life, "Souls, souls, souls!" When the church compromises or fails to make that message clear, then it fails; when it does effectively remind men of this truth, that is success.

For the church is not merely made up of men and women. There is a reality back of the church and in the church, which is not just of time and circumstance. There is something eternal, something spiritual, something divine about the church. In Paul's phrase, it is the church of the Living God.

And that church of God rings out to every man its challenge of the enterprise of eternity, and dares him with it. It commands him to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty gods of matter and greed and lust and pride and blindness and sin. It cries out to him to save his own soul, and the souls of all those who shall hear his voice or see his face.

Still, and forever, for all who have needs and hearts, who have sorrows and souls, who require courage or can bring strength to the armies of right—to all men and women and little children whatever, the church is the messenger of God, passionately pointing them to the Man of Galilee and Calvary, and crying, "In Him is our peace."

Permanent Business Conditions.

The report of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon touching present business conditions and prospects, was generally reassuring. In practically every line business has been brisk, and the secretary can see little change in the prospects for at least a year to come, provided, of course, the tendency to advance prices does not bring on a buyers' strike and cause business to slow down. He notes that the volume of business has decreased, and he fears that higher prices are responsible for it. However, the slowing down of business is not yet so pronounced that it is anything but a temporary condition. Altogether he sees permanency in the recent forward movement in and industrial activity throughout the country.

There has been a distinct commercial and industrial revival all over the United States. Good business has generally been reported, and the financial situation shows great improvement in a general way. His general diagnosis is that the country is in a healthy condition financially and industrially, and he says the signs point to satisfactory conditions for twelve months ahead. He sees no sudden cessation of activities unless high prices again bring about increase wage demands. So far as the European conditions are concerned he can't much hope to greatly increase our export trade.

In building circles there is fear that a buyers' strike is inevitable. If the trend of higher prices continues. On that account, it is predicted that building activities will not proceed on the unprecedented scale of the present. According to a statement of the Associated General Contractors of America, "climbing costs" of building materials is going to be injurious to the building industry. That organization of American contractors has appealed to the Federated American Engineering societies to help the building industry by aiding in remedying what the contractors describe as "an alarming situation."

Secretary Mellon states that the growing complaint about higher prices is sufficient warning that we can halt prosperity by what appears to be an unnecessary high price movement.

CONTEMPORARY VIEWS.

THE NEW PLANT AT GOLD HILL. The day The Observer has long looked for appears to have arrived, and this is, the day when people who know how to go after the gold ores in this section and how to treat these ores after brought to the surface, should enter this field of mining operations. People of that sort have come in, and as people of the kind might be expected to do, have gone quietly about their investment plans without making a public ado. The Rudisill, at Charlotte, and the Gold Hill, in Rowan county, are among the most famous gold producers in this part of the gold belt. Each has a record output of \$5,000,000 to its credit. Control of the Gold Hill property has recently been secured by a company abundantly capitalized—so abundantly, in fact, that it neither asks outside aid nor takes subscriptions in stock—and this company has now about completed a modern mining plant on the property. The ores will be mined and treated under a new system and by a new process, which is said to develop 100 per cent in results.

In other words, it is the expectation to get \$50 from every ton assaying \$50 in gold to the ton. Is a process of that kind assured—and the company is backing the prospect with its money—revival of the once-flourishing gold mining industry in the piedmont section on a profitable basis is on the way. The new plant at Gold Hill is said to be the most complete thing of the kind ever known in this part of the country and will be in operation within the next 60 days. Gold Hill ores have maintained a high assay and we may expect that property to be figuring extensively in the mining reports. Some of the streets of Charlotte were paved with material from the Rudisill dumps; one cotton mill within the city limits was built over a gold mine and secures its water from an abandoned shaft. These properties are to the south and west of the city. To the east and north are the St. Catherine and Chincopin Hill gold mines, with record productions. The Yellow Dog and other mines skirt the town to the east, and gold-bearing veins underlie the whole city. With the advent of the right man with the process that does the work, we may expect a revival of gold mining in this part of the state that will develop a fever which may prove a counterpart for the California fever of the 49s. If the promises held out by the new ownership of Gold Hill should be in large measure realized, it is a reasonable prospect that a revival in gold mining is on the way. The operations of the new plant and new process at the Rowan mine will be worth watching.—Charlotte Observer.

SEEKING A LOST RAILROAD. This side the Blue Ridge, not many North Carolinians know anything about the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley road and what the state probably lost when this property was sold under mortgage. But the possibilities of developing this road into a great system of traffic between central and coastal North Carolina and the west are so impressive that the legislature won instant approval here when it took steps to save whatever equity the state may have in this railway. As the Greensboro Daily News puts it, events may easily prove that, in this matter, the general assembly has performed a service which may be among the most valuable of the services rendered at this session.

Since the day of the sale, it has been contended by the state that the terms under which the road was bought and divided between two other railroad companies were improper. Plans made for looking into this question miscarried in the press of the World war, but now it is proposed to go thoroughly into the transaction so that at least the railway may be rededicated to the purpose for which it was built.

North Carolina is learning to look with keen eyes into any proposition that means better transportation; it is realized that the chasm of time and distance block progress no less than the lack of schools and development of water power. If the Cape Fear and Yadkin can be made to function as its builders dreamed, it will become one of the great agencies by which people move on to new high ground in their social and material advancement.—Asheville Citizen.

WHERE WILMINGTON SCORES. A big export and import firm that has been keeping "North Carolina headquarters" in Norfolk, has decided to move its office to Wilmington, where it will have North Carolina headquarters in fact. This move to Wilmington, by the way, would appear significant of the developing trend of business to the seat of activities at our home port.—Charlotte Observer.

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PARIS NEWS LETTER

By Cable to the Associated Press

PARIS, March 10.—(By Associated Press.)—The beggars of Paris, once thriving and well organized, are abandoning their aged profession and trying work as a means of earning their livelihood. The capital for centuries had colonies of beggars, trained in simulating mental or bodily distress. They made famous the narrow little street near the heart of the city which is still called the "Court of Miracles" where the business of the outstretched palm was taught to promising candidates, as described by Victor Hugo.

The high cost of living has stripped public generosity, or else the fashion of today are less artistic in their work than formerly; for the police records show only one-third as many arrests for begging last year as in pre-war years. Beggings, although prohibited except on New Year's and the 14th of July, still exists, particularly in the vicinity of churches. Many of the beggars, of course, obtain vendors' or police permits and offer passers-by pencils or shoe laces; but the old professionals seem to prefer to work in the old-fashioned way, in spite of the danger of prosecution. The police, through sentiment or policy, often allow old-timers who have had the same stand since their youth, to continue their trade, but newcomers are barred.

The police still tolerate the beggars' colony in "Passage Saint Ange," near the northwest wall of the city, because they much prefer to have these people who know what is going on in the underworld where they can lay hands on them when they are wanted, than many beggars after the war learned a trade or capitalized their persuasive powers or their ability to size up "easy marks" by getting into the selling end of various businesses.

King Louis XVI has taken much of the joy out of the life of the butcher of today, for the court of appeals has found an absolute decree in duty, forgotten volume which requires the king to give a year's notice of his intention to close his shop on pain of a penalty of 500 francs "or a heavier penalty." This decree of February 17, 1776, the court of appeals has decided, "disposed of the question not only for that time, but for the indefinite future."

A Bordeaux butcher, just sentenced under this old law, had won his case in two lower courts where he had been prosecuted for refusing to sell meat at prices fixed by the authorities and for closing his shop.

A theatre for presenting standard French comedies is being constructed on board the steamer Lucretia, which will sail from Bordeaux March 17 for Buenos Aires. The passengers on the voyage to South America will have all the usual diversions of the shore, for besides plays there will be motion pictures, a "Punch and Judy" show for children, and dances and all the other permanent entertainment for the steamer comprises four men and two women. Another innovation on the steamer will be a saleroom installed by a Paris department store where anything not in stock may be ordered for shipment later from Paris.

Vells, which came back some time ago as a sort of softening decoration around the edge of women's hats and lately began to stream slightly in the breeze to the rear, as they did many years ago, now are creeping down a few inches below the front edge of hats so as to mask shy eyes. Some of the fashion leaders suggest that vells soon may be worn to cover the face entirely—as was the custom a generation back, when a well-dressed woman would as soon have thought of going in the street barefooted as barfaced.

dent, dreamed of becoming a judge a half century ago, but succeeded his father as a "public writer" in a little frame lean to office against the wall of the St. Lazaire prison wall when his father died and left Georges with 12 sisters to support. Now the business, which was established 96 years ago, is to come to an end, for the prison is soon to be torn down and the 20th century no longer needs the once essential scribe who wrote love letters, formal marriage proposals and business documents for the poor and illiterate.

Mrs. S. A. Johnson Dies at the Age of 80

(Special to The Star.)
WARSAW, March 10.—Mrs. S. A. Johnson died at her home here Monday morning from the effects of a stroke of paralysis, which she had a few days previously at the dinner table. She passed away quietly at the age of 80 years. A Virginian by birth, she had lived here practically all of her married life, where her husband, Capt. S. A. Johnson, a Confederate veteran, had held an important job with the railroad. She was remarkably active in both body and mind for a woman of her advanced years, took an interest in the affairs of the community, and was always cheerful and bright, and enjoyed the friendship of a large circle, who, with a large number of relatives, mourn her passing. She is immediately survived by her husband, the following daughters: Mrs. J. T.

Gresham, of Warsaw; Mrs. L. A. Bestley, of Kenansville; Mrs. Herbert Smith, of Clinton; and Mrs. John L. Chadbourne. Also these sons: Dr. Joe Johnson, of Goldsboro; Joe Johnson, of Waynesville; Seymour Johnson, of Cumberland, Md.; and R. D. Johnson, of Warsaw, and a number of grandchildren.

Funeral services, conducted by Rev. George Mathis, of Clinton, and Rev. W. Cawthon, of Warsaw, were held at the home Tuesday afternoon and interment was in the local cemetery. The floral offerings were abundant and lovely.

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