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ACRES OF DIAMONDS.

[BY GRANT H. DONNELLY.]

Communicated.
On the banks of the Indus river there once lived a very wealthy and contented Persian financier, named Al Hafed—wealthy because he was contented and contented because he was wealthy. One day there visited this farmer an aged Buddhist Priest, who told him how the world and the things on it were created. The priest told him about diamonds, saying: "With a single hand full of these you could buy a whole country, and with a mine you could place yourself and your children upon thrones."

That night Al Hafed went to bed a poorer man—not that he had lost anything, but poorer because he was discontented and discontented because he thought he was poor. He lay awake all night long studying about diamonds, and very early next morning he went to the priest and asked him where they might be found. Upon receiving the desired information, he sold his farm, collected the money, and, placing his wife in the care of a neighbor, started on his hunt. After traveling over Palestine, he went to Europe, and, at last, when his money was all spent, and he was in rags, poverty and wretchedness, he stood on the shores of that bay in Barcelona, Spain, when a great tidal wave came rolling in between the pillars of Hercules, and the poor, suffering, afflicted man could not resist the awful temptation to cast himself into the incoming tide, and he sank beneath its crest, never to rise in this life again.

Meanwhile, Al Hafed's successor had taken possession of the farm. He led his camel into the garden to drink, and as the animal put its nose into the water, Al Hafed's successor saw a curious flash in the sands of the shallow stream, and reaching down he pried up a stone which had an eye of light showing all the colors of the rainbow. He took the pebble into the house and laid it on the mantle, then went away and forgot all about the incident. A few days later, the same old priest who had told Al Hafed about the diamonds, came to visit his successor. He saw the flash from the mantle, and, springing forward, he exclaimed: "This is a diamond! Has Al Hafed returned?" No, Al Hafed has not returned, and that is not a diamond; we found it in our garden. "But it is a diamond," said he, "I know a diamond when I see it." So, together, they rushed into the garden and there, in the white sands, they found many gems more precious than the first. Thus were discovered the great Golconda diamond mines, the greatest in the world. Had Al Hafed stayed at home and dug in his own cellar or garden instead of wretchedness, poverty, starvation and death, he would have had acres of diamonds.

Just for a few moments let us apply this little story to our own dear Watauga and her sister counties. Our people are dissatisfied, just as Al Hafed was. They want riches and are surprised when told that the prosperity for which they are looking lies undeveloped at their door steps. Not willing to stay at home and help develop their own county, they sell out, go west or somewhere else, and what is the result?—penniless Al Hafeds. On the other hand, those who stay at home are too busy doing nothing to take advantage of the opportunity offered to them. As I look over the sun-kissed hills and valleys of our great mountain counties, I see diamonds—yes, diamonds of opportunity—sleep-

ing just as they have slept for centuries past and gone. How much longer is this state of affairs to exist? Just as long as we continue to sleep and dream our opportunities away. Al Hafed gave his life in a vain attempt to find diamonds. Do you suppose he would have done this had he known that upon his very doorsteps lay what he so much desired? No! We are a thousand times worse than he was, for we know and he didn't. Let us turn our faces toward the light of opportunity and success; for it is ours, ours to develop, ours to give to the world; not ours to give to our children as our fathers gave it to us, not ours to hand back to our Creator in a worse condition than we found it. We owe this great duty of improvement to our Creator, to our children and to our State and nation. Are we men enough to fulfill this duty?

The European war, helped by scheming politicians and trusts, has raised the price of most of life, and we, who above all others, should be profited by such a change, are the very people who are having to help bear a great part of the burden, because we buy almost everything we use. For instance, take meat. We buy almost all our meat, yet it is a known fact that we have the best conditions for hog-raising of any counties in the State and as good as any in the United States. A careful study of this industry shows that it is very profitable, but here we are buying western meat at 18 cents per pound.

Thousands of bushels of apples will lie under the trees and rot this year. These apples, if saved and properly marketed would mean thousands and thousands of dollars in the pockets of our farmers. Do such conditions exist in other states? No! There the apples are carefully packed and the farmers do not depend upon local markets and the peddling system. Instead, their apples go to all parts of the country, and in return they bring back rich profits.

We do not even make enough grain to supply our own needs, corn, wheat, rye and oats must nearly all come from the outside. Yet we have the best grain counties in the State. Hundreds and thousands of pounds of flour, western corn by the thousands of bushels, rye and oats all being shipped into the best grain counties in the State. What does it mean? Are we progressive farmers? No, not so long as we allow our fertile soil to remain uncultivated and buy our supplies from counties less favored than ours, not until we make our own 'chawin', not until we become exporters instead of importers will we be really progressive.

A farmer must be modern if he is successful and that is the reason we have so very few successful farmers in our counties. The modern farmer uses modern methods and among the first of these is modern machinery. Many of our farmers will tell you that this county is not adapted to such things but the reason they say this is because they have never tried it. It is true that our land is sometimes rugged and steep but, in most cases, if the rocks were piled, the stumps and bushes grubbed and the land cleaned up in general, you will find that the fault lies entirely with the farmers.

We must have system. The successful merchant, for instance, takes an inventory at least twice a year and he knows just how his business stands, he knows what to buy and what not to buy. He fits his stock to the needs of the

people. The same way with the farmer; he should know exactly what condition his farm is in. He should know at the beginning of the year just how he is going to manage his farm so that at the end of the year he will not only have a clear profit but will have his farm in a better condition than it was at first. Just as the merchant fits his stock to the needs of the people so should the farmer put his crops to the soil. In order to do this he should carefully study the soil; for by so doing he will know when each crop can be grown successfully. He should aim to produce quality as well as quantity, for quality brings the market to the farmer.

About one third of the land in our counties is classified as improved land is doing absolutely nothing in the way of growing valuable crops, and that about one fifth of the area under tillage gives annual harvests worth \$20 or more per acre, the crops on two fifths are worth only \$8.50 per acre, and Watauga makes \$4.25 per acre. When these facts are considered, the importance of a better system is recognized.

This system should give more acres to crops of higher value and fewer to the ones of lower value. It should not eliminate crops grown successfully, neither should it depend upon new or untried ones. It should contain nothing of a doubtful nature. It should if possible offer opportunity for utilizing 100 per cent of the improved land in crop growing and in many cases make farming profitable enough to justify the clearing up or reclaiming of good lands now in woods and thus make the farms large enough for improved tillage.

The system should allow not only the man but the work animals kept on the farm to do more days of profit-bearing work per year than at present. This, as you know, is one of the worst faults of our mountain farmers. The average Watauga farmer does not work more than from sixty-five to seventy-five days out of each year and the average farm team works even less than this. In the states where you will find the prosperous farmers, upon investigation you will find that both men and horses work from 275 to 300 days of each year. While it is not yet possible for us to that here, we should, at least, do much more than we are doing at the present, and if we expect prosperity we must do it.

The secret of success lies in keeping all the tillable land busy growing valuable crops, and hav-

ing enough tillable lands to give the teams work to do all the year round. The cropping system should be such as to keep the available labor busy on profitable enterprise during as many months in the year as possible.

Last, we must have co-operation and organization, for these two go hand in hand with success and prosperity. The laborer, the engineer, the manufacturer, in fact the people in almost every branch of industry have organized. The farmers stand out one great brotherhood of practically unorganized men, and it is time for them to do something. When I say organization I mean organization of the proper kind, the kind that will put the farmers in co-operation with each other; the kind that will enable every farmer to market his products at the best prices, and buy his necessities at the lowest prices. The farmers of Watauga county need the kind of organization that will make them consider the needs of the county and bring them in closer harmony with each other, for at the present every farmer is against his neighbor and, indirectly against his county. Co-operation and organization would cause them to work together to the one great end of bringing prosperity to themselves and their county.

By failing to develop our splendid prospects we are not only failing to realize any profits from our soil, but we are losing that which we can never regain—our future citizens the young men and women of our counties. Hundreds of them are leaving us every year. We cannot blame them for going away for there is nothing for them to do here. The Young man or woman with an ideal in life must have a chance to develop that ideal. Can it be accomplished in such a lifeless county as ours, with no attractions, no industry, bad churches and worse schools? Only our beautiful scenery is left to call forth the best that is within them, and that, by itself, is a mighty poor call. We must wake up for we are losing master minds, the very life of our counties to other states. Better farms will not only stop this but will bring to us better farmers, better people from other sections, better homes, better schools, railroads and good roads, and prosperity and happiness.

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BANK STATEMENT.

Following is a report of the condition of the bank of Blowing Rock at Blowing Rock in the state of North Carolina, at the close of business Oct. 30th, 1914:

RESOURCES:	
Loans and discounts	44,885.67
Overdrafts secured	661.98
Overdrafts unsecured	112.54
Banking house and lot	2,500.00
Furniture and fixtures	1,263.20
Due from b'ks and b'krs	13,782.97
Gold coin	1,545.00
Silver coin, including all minor coin currency	555.33
National bank notes and other U. S. notes	1,800.00
Total	67,106.74

LIABILITIES	
Capital stock	\$12,000.00
Surplus fund	500.00
Undivided profits, less current expenses and taxes paid	2,134.93
Time certificates of deposit	25,003.52
Deposits subject to check	27,396.84
Cashier's c'ks outstanding	74.45
Total	\$67,106.74

State of North Carolina, Watauga county, s. s.: I, G. M. Sudderth, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

G. M. SUDDERTH, Cashier.

Correct—Attest: W. L. Holshouser, W. C. Lentz, J. A. Lentz, Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of Nov. 1914.

J. H. GREEN, J. P.

BANK REPORT.

Following is the report of the condition of the bank of Valle Crucis Bank at Valle Crucis in the state of North Carolina at the close of business Oct. 31, 1914.

RESOURCES:	
Loans and discounts	\$15,724.28
Overdrafts Unsecured	148.51
Banking House	1,341.04
Furniture and Fixtures	978.06
Due from banks and bank'rs	7,094.01
Cash Items	165.78
Gold coin	122.50
Silver coin, including all minor coin currency	275.04
National bank notes and other U. S. notes	1,022.00
Total	\$27,406.21

LIABILITIES:	
Capital stock paid in	8,685.00
Bills Payable	2,500.00
Time certificates of deposit	5,810.59
Deposits subject to check	10,411.38
Cashier's c'ks outstanding	59.24
Total	\$27,406.21

State of North Carolina, County of Watauga, s. s.: I, L. M. Farthing, cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

L. M. FARTHING, Cashier.

Correct—Attest: W. J. WAGNER, W. F. WINKLER, H. B. PERRY, Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of Nov. 1914.

W. H. MAST, N. P.

The latest reports shows that the woman suffrage amendment was adopted in Montana.

HOW TO PREVENT CROGG.

It may be a surprise to you to learn that in many cases croup can be prevented. Mrs. H. M. Johns, Elida, Ohio, relates her experience as follows: "My little boy is subject to croup. During the past winter I kept a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in the house, and when he began having that croupy cough I would give him one or two doses of it and it would break the attack. I like it better for children than any other cough medicine because children take it willingly, and it is safe and reliable. Obtainable everywhere."

Some times it looks like it is the average man's ambition to get rich enough to retire and have a disease.—Galveston News.

BWARE OF CHEAP SUBSTITUTES. In these days of keen competition it is important that the public should see that they get Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and not take substitutes sold for the sake of extra profit. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has stood the test and been approved for more than forty years. Obtainable everywhere.

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