

North Carolina's First Great Colonization Movement

...with one accord, voted that Mr. Fisher had misled them as to the real queen of the colony and passed resolutions of censure for his deception. Mr. Fisher's excuse was that the queen was a very recent arrival and hence his error, and with that apology the crowd decided to grant him a reprieve.

Another interesting character is Richard Jordan, a new youth whom the company has detailed at the colony as teamster and man of all work, who has rendered the colonists valuable aid in their pioneer work. The remarkable thing about Jordan is that in less than two years he has learned to speak the Italian language fluently. Mr. D. S. Adesides, a gentleman who accompanied the party,

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The interpreter for the colony is Little Laura Rykaczewski, sister of the priest. Neither her father nor mother speak a word of English, but Laura, who is 12 years old, speaks it like a native and with a slight lisp that is very cute. She has a public school education and undoubtedly made good use of her time, for she is as bright as most American girls several years her senior and never have I seen an exhibition of more wonderful memory. She knows every one of the colonists men, women and children by name, knows how many acres each family owns, what vegetables and fruits they have under cultivation and everything else there is to know about them. She has easy, graceful manners that would make her at home almost anywhere.

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he happens to cast his lot becomes his adviser and counsellor. There is any risk of overdoing the thing—will there be land enough to take care of this steady stream of new citizens which this great, concerted movement has turned this way?

ROOM AND TO SPARE.

These are questions Mr. Fisher expects and he is quick to give an affirmative answer. The colonists now established are but a nucleus of this great movement. The company now controls approximately 60,000 acres of land, sufficient to make 10,000 ten-acre farms and provide for 50,000 colonists—and they are adding to their possessions slowly but surely. Every acre that is coming under their control is being the same rigid inspection as to soil and title that marked the first acquisition, too.

It is the intention of the company to push the colonization back into the States and when the necessity arises, to take up lands in other Southern States. This movement will become the object lesson for the whole South; the methods and plans of the company are being studied, and others will take them up and pattern after them. These promoters have made their mistakes and paid dearly for them. Not until their methods and systems were perfected were they made public. Through this work has been developed at Wilmington's very front door, the people here as a whole knew no more about it than they knew when Mr. MacRae first determined that the world should be kept in the dark as to his plans until they were fully developed—until the mistakes had been corrected and a true course mapped out. The movement will grow and spread to the upbuilding of the South and its enrichment, but these people are the pioneers and but they belong all honor. Yes, there is room and work for all who come.

THE SERVANT PROBLEM.

There is another phase of this colonization movement about which I did not interview any of the promoters, but it is suggested by the query of a good Wilmington woman. What about the servant problem? This housekeeper believes she sees a solution of it in the advent of the colonists, and why not? A position such as trained cook or housemaid offers better and more lucrative employment to the young foreign woman than can be found upon the truck farms, and certainly it is lighter labor. I understand that at least one Wilmington household has secured a young German girl from the colony at New Berlin, but I did not learn of the result of the venture. The satisfactory settlement of a question as vexatious as any that confronts Southern housekeepers may be here, and it is worth looking into.

The Italian Colony

I had the pleasure of visiting St. Helena, the Italian colony, with a party of nearly sixty Wilmington business men. St. Helena is 12 miles north of Wilmington, on the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad.

The party went up on a special coach attached to the regular train, as guests of Mr. MacRae and other gentlemen, together with Secretary Sheppard, Vice President Van Leeuwen and General Agent Fisher accompanied them. The delegation embraced Mayor William L. MacRae and other prominent businessmen, including Secretary Sheppard, Vice President Van Leeuwen and General Agent Fisher accompanied them. The delegation embraced Mayor William L. MacRae and other prominent businessmen, including Secretary Sheppard, Vice President Van Leeuwen and General Agent Fisher accompanied them.

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When the car was sidetracked at St. Helena, Mr. MacRae addressed the visitors by means of a megaphone. He outlined the scope of the work of colonization and his associates have undertaken. He called attention to the fact that while the development of the enterprise had been under way for nearly three years, the work had been quietly done and this occasion would be the first revelation of results to Wilmington business men. He knew, he said, that they had heard him here and there of the project, he realized that probably many of them were prejudiced against the Italian, viewing him as a sinister fellow with a stiletto up his sleeve, and he had a surprise for them. He made good his word.

Truly it was a continual succession of surprises from the time the visitors left the coach until they returned. Mr. Hugh Overstreet, well known and a courteous gentleman, is superintendent of the colony, and he, together with the officials of the company acted as guides.

This is perhaps the most interesting of all the colonies. It was started in December, 1905, with seven men and now there are 115 colonists, men, women and children. The colonists have a church—a handsome structure built by themselves, the company having donated the land and a generous money contribution to the building fund. It is supplied now by the Rev. C. E. Brainerd, a zealous and Catholic church in Wilmington, but very soon the colonists will provide their own pastor. Bishop Hald will dedicate this church shortly. They have also a co-operative store, a blacksmith shop and bake oven, where all the bread for the colony is made. These enterprises are worked on the co-operative system, the colonists being joint stockholders and are thus enabled to get their groceries and bread at cost. The colonists are their own architects and builders and

Two views of one of the colonies, presenting an interesting comparison. The lower picture shows the virgin pine forest, with cleared portion in the foreground, and a new road; the upper picture shows a completed, macadamized road and truck farms in active operation.

their work in this line is wonderful. As has been stated the settlement here is restricted to Northern Italians—those coming from the provinces North of Tuscany—and the company has made special concessions to many of these people, selling them farms without a first payment, furnishing them with sufficient work to insure a living during the time their first crops are maturing, supplying implements, seeds, use of mules and even necessary household goods. They are also paid \$2.50 a cord for the wood from their land. Incidentally a prize of \$10 in gold is given for every child born in the colony.

The promoters of the project had faith in the people they brought to the colony and the Wilmington businessmen who inspected the colony have seen that that faith is justified. Men, women and children, barefooted, were in the field, side by side, all the pine saplings grubbing stumps, plowing, tilling the soil and sowing the seed. It was a revelation to the visitors.

The Italians follow native methods of farming. When they purchase a ten-acre tract the first step is to plant fruit trees around the entire enclosure. The trees serve as a fence to mark off the farms and they are awarded so as to shade the crops. Mr. Fisher showed me photographs he took in Italy showing each little farm enclosed with fruit trees and the St. Helena colony is a replica of these views.

The entire morning the Wilmington businessmen wandered around the colony, each turn of the road bringing some fresh revelation. The inspection extended even into the houses of the colonists. The labor in the fields, the woman find time to keep house and to cook; the homes were marvels of cleanliness—any one of the visitors would have been willing to eat off the floor of any of the business men, and the colonists themselves are affable and agreeable. They seemed to appreciate the interest taken in them and the few who could speak English answered questions freely. They are contented with their lot—there is no doubt about that and that is half the battle.

Here the visitors witnessed every phase of the development of a colony—from the virgin pine woods to the model truck farm, from Here is the forest primeval. The murmuring pine and the hemlock, and these industrious people are converting it into a modern Acadia.

There were some humorous incidents of the trip. State Senator George L. Morton, so deeply interested in the project, had with him himself agreeable to the colonists and investigated closely their methods. Spraying a young Italian woman in the field, hard at work with a grubbing hoe, Mr. Morton tried to draw her out. She couldn't speak a word of English and hence Mr. Morton experienced some difficulty. He did make her understand, however, that he was interested in her work and just to see for himself how arduous it was, he took the grubbing hoe from her and tried it himself. The genial State Senator made several efforts to do stunts with the hoe, but finally gave it up and the Italian girl, laughing heartily, took the hoe from him and with the ease and grace of a veteran, showed Mr. Morton how to grub stumps. The laugh was on Mr. Morton and Mr. Sheppard snapped his Kodak on "The Man with the Hoe."

There was another little scene on Mr. Fisher, who, with a great flourish of trumpets, placed the crown up to the home of what he declared was the most beautiful woman in the colony. The visitors, acquiescent followed Mr. Fisher and were ready to subscribe to his testimony after they had gazed upon the dark-eyed, black-haired beauty from Tuscany. She was gracious to the visitors and showed them around a little home that might serve as a model for neatness and cleanliness. A half-hour later, however, the visitors spotted in the field a new Venus—a fair-haired, blue-eyed beauty who might have come from the province in Germany. With one accord, attracted by her beauty, the visitors gathered around and let fall remarks appropriate to such an occasion. Witness their dismay when, after listening to some of the calculations of admiration, the maiden in question, English, began to speak. Then for a period she held levee, and the vis-

itors, speaking several languages and for the entertainment of the visitors he conversed with Jordan, who had up his end of the conversation to the astonishment of all Jordan was permitted to pose for his picture along with the business men and it is reproduced elsewhere. The colored boy bears testimony to the nature of the colonists. I questioned him concerning them. He declared that they were all "kind, nice people" and the hardest working folk he ever saw.

Still another interesting figure is Mary—I promised not to give her other names—a bright, pretty little girl of 12, who speaks English like a native and is interpreter and "guardian" angel for the Italian colony just as Laura is for the Polish settlement.

In fact the day spent in the Italian colony was one series of surprises for the visitors. The determination, pluck and energy required to attack this primeval forest and make it to blossom as the rose compelled the outspoken admiration of every man in the crowd. Here every stage of the great work of making a garden of pluck and industry and prosperity. To complete the picture—the first carload of strawberries was shipped from the colony Saturday.

The greatest surprise was to come. The visit over, the businessmen wended their way back to the car and as they boarded it fourteen of the colonists, with bright, shining brass instruments, gathered at the little station and struck up Dixie. It was a rendition of splendid time and never did music sound sweeter than that rendered by these hardy sons of Italy. Rough and tanned, perspiring from their arduous lot in the fields, the visitors looked and listened and applauded. Truly such men cannot but succeed—indeed, it is theirs, for they can do everything for themselves. Architects, builders, farmers and—to while away the idle hours—musicians. The last act of the delegation before the train pulled out from St. Helena was to make up a song for the band, which was gratefully received.

On the return trip President J. Allen Taylor was delegated to convey the thanks and appreciation of the party for Mr. MacRae's hospitality and the privilege he had given his guests of visiting this model colony and Mr. Taylor did in a neat speech. He expressed for himself and the others the great surprise to which they had been treated and commended in highest terms Mr. MacRae and his associates for the great work they are doing for North Carolina. Mr. Taylor then proposed resolutions pledging the support of the Wilmington business men to Mr. MacRae in his work of developing the State, and also urging New Hanover's representatives in the Legislature to work for a State no-fences law, which is deemed necessary for the State's best interests and the continued development of her resources. The vote on these resolutions was unanimous and enthusiastic.

Castle Hayne

At Castle Hayne, 3 miles north of Wilmington, on the Wilmington & Weldon division of the Atlantic Coast Line, the promoters made their first move. Here is located what they term their "mixed colony" because settlement is not restricted to any nationality. It is peopled, however, almost entirely by Americans and English-speaking people. It has a postoffice, school, church and stores, and here one may see trucking at its perfection. The company makes a depot and large barns, and the 4,000 acres in the colony are divided into 10 and 20-acre farms for the most part. Mr. J. A. Perry, an expert agriculturist, is superintendent. In the colony's stable there is a score or more of the mules, vehicles of every description and every

sort of farming implement. These mules, with any desired vehicle or farming implement, are hired to truckers unable to purchase them for themselves at the rate of ten cents an hour and the company feeds the animals and pays the superintendent and his assistants.

There are now about 150 people in this colony. For the benefit of those who desire to live in the little village the company has staked off a number of town lots for residence sites, but most of the colonists prefer to live on their farms, and here one may see some really pretty cottages, surrounded by almost every comfort and convenience. Besides the railroad, a magnificent macadamized road

The Polish Colony

Not a great distance from Castle Hayne, and 4 miles north of Wilmington, also on the turnpike and the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, is located Marathon, the Polish colony, and it is the largest in the colony. Mr. J. A. Perry has charge of the colony, his home being nearly midway between this settlement and that at Castle Hayne, so that he may have constant supervision of both. The largest landowner in the colony and by far the most interesting figure in it is Rev. J. A. Rykaczewski, a Polish priest, who owns 190 acres. He has charge of a Polish Catholic church at Wilmington. In the colony there are 50 families and they have nearly all of the land under cultivation in truck and fruit. Father Rykaczewski is only 28 years old and was a classmate in college of Rev. C. Dennen, pastor of the Catholic church at Wilmington. In the colony the promoters are erecting a handsome church at Marathon, the company donating the land and making a generous contribution to the building fund, as it has done with the other colonies.

There are about 6,000 acres in this colony and over 200 colonists, all Poles, for the settlement is restricted to people of that nationality. The Polish people are thrifty and industrious, and a new family comes in and takes up a farm the members of it do not stand on ceremony, but pitch in and prepare to make the earth yield them a livelihood. They are plain, unassuming people and hardly any of them speak English. Those now in this colony came from Pennsylvania, where most of them were engaged in the coal and iron mines of that State. They made good wages as miners, but life is hard and precarious and it is an occupation in which one does not live out the allotted span. Their pluck has been repeatedly demonstrated since this colony was founded. From time to time Polish families have come in, taken up ten or twenty acre tracts and prepared to farm. In nearly all these

cases the colonists paid cash for everything and found sometimes that their capital was exhausted before the farm became productive. Leaving the wife and children to take care of the farm they go back to their work in the mines until they can lay by a little more money and then return to take up a permanent residence in the colony.

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The German Colony

The German colony, known as New Berlin, is located 19 miles west of Wilmington, on the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad. The settlement is restricted to German-speaking people, and there are now settled here thirty-five German families, or nearly two hundred souls. Fifteen of these have taken up land within the past six weeks and six more families are scheduled to arrive shortly. The thrift and industry of the German people is known of all men and it is hardly necessary to elaborate upon them here. The colony has a school, a Lutheran church, well equipped at present by a Wilmington pastor, a postoffice and two stores. The colony also maintains a co-operative boarding house for the accommodation of new arrivals until they are established in their own homes.

The superintendent of the colony is Mr. H. S. Lippincott, a polished, gentle gentleman of culture and refinement. Mr. Lippincott is a graduate of Cornell University and after graduation determined to take up scientific agriculture as a profession. He returned to Cornell after making this decision and took a post-graduate course in agriculture and soils, and nowhere in the South is there one better qualified for the work he has undertaken, that of building up an ideal agricultural colony. Under his guidance New Berlin is rapidly becoming a model colony. Among other interesting experiments that are being carried on here is the growing of alfalfa, which is now yielding profit to its owners. These gentlemen have secured a number of contracts in their line and are well equipped to handle them. They are paying particular attention to fruit culture, as well as trucking, and are making some experiments with floriculture that promise success. They have an exhibit on their farm, fronting the railroad track and in full view of all passing trains, which always attracts the attention of passersby. Certainly there is no prettier farm in the country and both gentlemen are well prepared to handle the large number of the prospects for the future.

At Castle Hayne one finds the largest, most luscious strawberries and vegetables of every sort. Here, too, the company is conducting experiments in the growing of alfalfa, which and clover is yielding a most profitable crop. Castle Hayne is one of the two colonies which cannot take in more territory, though of course the 4,000 acres in the colony have not yet been taken over by colonists. This is where the Western settlers have taken root.

The English Colony

Artesia, the euphonious name by which the English colony is called, is situated 29 miles from Wilmington, on the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta division of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. The settlement is restricted to English people, and at the present time there are thirty people in the colony.

This colony is perhaps making slower progress than any of the others. The English people are not giving evidence of the industry that characterizes the colonists of other nationalities, and it must be confessed that the promoters are just a little disappointed though there is little doubt of the colony's ultimate success.

Winter Park Garden

Just a half-mile from the demonstration farm and also on the Wrightsville trolley line is Winter Park Garden, a new residence suburb, which has recently been established by Mr. MacRae and his associates. There are 1,600 acres here, cut into residence lots \$5x30 and backed by five-acre farms. Here one is within call of the Atlantic ocean and the delightful salt breath of the sea fills the nostrils. No lot can be purchased here unless the investor agrees to erect a dwelling to cost not less than \$2,500. The contract for laying off and beautifying this already favorably located suburb has been given to Van Leeuwen and DeWitt, of whom mention is made elsewhere, and this means that Winter Park Garden is to be one of the most beautiful residence suburbs in the State. Certainly for natural beauty and healthfulness this location cannot be surpassed anywhere. There is only a five-cent car fare to Wilmington and the splendid turnpike furnishes a grand drive for vehicles.

Maraco, a New Colony

Just 10 miles from Wilmington, on the W. C. & A. division of the Atlantic Coast Line, the company is getting into shape the sixth colony. Engineers have been busy for months laying off roads and streets and arranging for the planting of another settlement. The land here—more than 6,000 acres—has passed the same rigid inspection as to soil and title and now it is about ready for the colonists. Just what nationality will be installed here has not been decided, as the plans regarding the new colony have not fully matured, but there will be "room for thousands," it is said.

One farm planted entirely in strawberries.

was: "How can I drink without a glass?"

And that is the trouble with the English colonists. They haven't the self-reliance, the pluck and energy of the Italians and the Germans and consequently they do not succeed at all as pioneers or else make haste very slowly.

But the English colony is doing very well. Mr. Lippincott has charge of this colony as well as the German colony and certainly the Englishmen have a good counselor and guide. The colony has a postoffice, school and store, but no church as yet. It is situated just three miles from Lake Waccamaw, a beautiful sheet of water five by seven miles in area and excellent fishing and hunting can be had there. Then, too, it is but a short distance—fourteen miles—from Chadbourne, the great strawberry-growing center and the soil type is the same. Certainly the English colonists have every advantage—every incentive to make the demonstration farm for sound and under him are experienced agriculturists who know what to do and how to do it. Here the process of trying out new vegetables goes on daily under most approved conditions and the results are transmitted free of all cost to the colonists.

The Demonstration Farm

The test or demonstration farm, as it is called, is located three miles east of Wilmington, on the trolley line to Wrightsville sound, and also in the direction of Mr. P. W. Davis, with a tract of 60 acres, experiments are made for the best methods of planting and growing various truck and fruit crops. The farm is under the direction of Mr. P. W. Davis, and under him are experienced agriculturists who know what to do and how to do it. Here the process of trying out new vegetables goes on daily under most approved conditions and the results are transmitted free of all cost to the colonists.

The Men Behind The Movement.

It may be of interest to take stock of the men behind this colonization movement, which promises so much to North Carolina and the South.

Of course Mr. Hugh MacRae is the head and centre, the guiding spirit and the propelling force of the project. He is the man who conceived it and with a man's hand and indomitable energy has brought it to pass. There is no more prominent figure in North Carolina's world of finance to-day than this young man. He is quiet, unostentatious, of simple tastes and most approachable. To keep in touch with his vast interests, requires remarkable mentality and extraordinary energy and these Mr. MacRae possesses in a marked degree. Here is a list of the corporations in which he is the controlling factor: Hugh MacRae & Co., bankers; Carolina Trucking Development Company; Tidewater Power Company, which owns the street car and lighting systems of Wilmington; Carolina Real Estate Investment Company; Consolidated Railways Light & Power Co.; Linville Improvement Company, owning 15,000 acres in western North Carolina; Winter Garden Company; Linville Power Company; Tidewater Construction Company; Rockingham Power Company, which controls the big water power development on the Pee Dee river; Georgia-Carolina Power Company, owning several large water powers in Georgia and South Carolina; Wilmington Cotton Mills; Investment Trust Company, and he is also president of the Southern National Bank.

All of these are active, "going" concerns, most of them capitalized in the millions and the task of keeping daily touch with each and every one of them, directing their financing, and solving the problems each must needs meet, is significant enough to stagger a dozen ordinary financiers, but this is what Mr. MacRae does and does it, and he is an ordinary man. With all his indomitable will, unflagging energy and concentration the man possesses a magnetic personality. I was struck with the admiration and devotion of the men he touches in his business. They wear by him. His kindly manner and genial good humor makes the caller feel perfectly at ease and with all the multitudinous cares that rest upon him he seems to have time for everybody and a moment now and then to enjoy a jest.

The Carolina Trucking Development Company, with which this article has to do, has for its president, Major William L. MacRae, who is an associate of engineers, United States army, for years in charge of the river and harbor improvements at Wilmington. Mr. C. Van Leeuwen, the second vice president, is in active charge of the company's affairs. Mr. H. H. Gouverneur is first vice president; Mr. R. M. Sheppard, secretary; Mr. F. W. Holden, assistant secretary; Mr. G. D. Crow, treasurer, and M. C. L. Fisher, general agent in charge.

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