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trade or for cash.

J. W. PERRY

Louisburg, N. C.

ADDRESS OF SENATOR PERSON.

On the Floor of the Senate of North Carolina in Behalf of His BMI to Remedy the Crop Lien Evil in North Carolina February 19, 1917.

The Senator from Franklin:

Mr. President, and Fellow Senatora:
As the proponent of this measure, and I will say to the Senator from Robeson that I will not be long, but that if I should be a little too long for him I hope that he will exercise a little patience. I desire to make a few remarks.

Mr. President, and fellow citizens, this is not only the most important bill that has come, but it is also the most important bill that could come before this General Assembly. And I have heard no opposition to this altruistic measure, except that which comes from the merchants, bankers and chambers of commerce, as represented here by the Senator from Robesson, the Senator from Vance and my colleague, the Senator from Nash.

The people of Franklin County and Nash County have always been one people with no difference, except that the people of Nash County have always had better breaths on account of that elixir of the gods, Nash County brandy that they drink.

Sirs, I am not only speaking for the Farmers' Union, but I am also speaking in behalf of the poor, oppress ed tenants of North Carolina.

I own property in the county of Nash and pay taxes there, so that I have a right to speak for her also. The full opposition comes from the

The full opposition comes from the Senator from Robeson, the Senator from Vance, and the Senator from Nash.

Why, gentlemen, you have studied history and know that the Rabbis collected one-tenth to support the Jewish theocracy; and that in the days of the Confederacy the Government took onetenth of the portions of her citizens; and, now, this bill provides that the time-merchant may have a one-tenth portion for supplying a needy man with provisions for a few months, and yet the Senator from Robeson, and the Senator from Vance and the Senator from Nash are not satisfied with that. What do they want? What would satisfy them? What is demanded by the men that they represent in the halls of the Legislature? My God! Do they want the earth with

a fence around it!

My Fellow Senators: know something about time-merchants I come from a county that is literally ridden with them. They are great pests in our county. They have failen into disrepute in my county, so that they cannot come into court and get justice at the hands of a Franklin County jury; and justly so, for the? have pulled down that retribution and that vengeance on their own heads. They take a little fellow and put a heavy lien on everything that he produces, and I have known of as heavy a lien as a four thousand dollar lien (\$4,000) being placed on a crop, when everything planted was a market crop not even an acre of corn, but every crop a market crop, such as tobacco and cotton; and the time-merchant swept it all up. And this, my fellow citizens, has been going on m the east year after year.

Why, Mr. President and fellow Senators, this is a relic of Reconstruction! We freed the negroes, and then the Legislature enslaved the poor white man, the old free man, by this iniquitous crop lien law. And for one-half of a century we have labored and suffered under it.

Why, fellow Senators, I have had some experience in regard to this foreign. I know what they the there. They do not know the crop lien law is, and it is proposalled the Empire State of the South, for they have made more than

c called the Empire State of the South, for they have made more than ten dollars to every one that we have made. Why, down there the tenant gets his money from the bank, with a proper endorsement, and they pay him cash; and only charge him ten per centum.

In the State of Virginia there is no such law. And one Virginian, who lives near the line, since this Legislature began, told me how he always charges his North Carolina customers twenty-five per cent more than he does his Virginia customers, because twenty-five per cent of the debts of the North Carolinians were never paid is that fair? Can the Senator from Robeson give his consent and his en-

dorsement to that?

I am not afraid to trust the people, by exempting them from this law!

When the spring of the year comes these time-merchants spring up like wet-weather springs do. Just as soon as the first of November comes along, or before the debts are due, they sweep down upon the poor tenantry "like the wolf on the fold." They issue forth from their lair, and say in the words of the old giant:

"Fa! Fee! Fie! Foe! Fum! I smell the blood of a cropliep-man;
Be he alive, or be he deac,
I'll grind his bones to make

me bread."

Mr. President and fellow Senators, I heard the other day of a time-merchant who had four hundred and fifty customers upon his books. He went into the back room one day, and discovered that someone had stolen one of his hams. He said to his clerk that he wanted hi mto charge the ham to all of his customers, and perhaps the man that got the ham would pay ADDRESS OF, SEN PERSON—GALLELY TWO.

Mr. President, imagine, for a moment the condition of these peons, these serfs, these chattels, for that is what they are. Have you not read the Ode of the Crop Lien Man?

"His horse went dead, and his mule went lame; And he lost his cows in a po-

ker game; And a hurricane came on a summer's day,

And blew the house that he lived in, away;
An earthquake came, when that was gone,
And swallowed the ground

that his house stood on; And the tax-collector when he came around, All he could find was a hole in the ground."

The Senator from Robeson: Mr President.

The President of the Senate: Does the Senator from Franklin yield to the Senator from Robeson?

The Senator from Franklin: I do with pleasure.

The Senator from Robeson: I just wanted to say that our farmers do not play poker.

The Senator from Franklin: I do not think that the gentleman can speak for all of his constituents, for I have it, that some of them play.

Mr. President, shall we not enact this measure into law? I promised my people of Franklin County, not only in the primary, but also precel not the election, that I would do my best to repeal the crop lien law; and I recognize their wishes in the matter and am doing my level best to carry out my campaign promises.

The farmers of Franklin passed a unanimous resolution asking me to repeal this great evil, and in obedience to that voice, I began to work on the bill as soon as I got here. I, at first, wanted to repeal it absolutely, and then I thought that would be asking too much.

Dr. Ross, Dr. Gough, and Dr. Mc-Coin remind me of that old story about the doctor who had a patient he cos...] do nothing for, and he became werse and worse, until, finally, when he was almost in extremis, the doctor told him that there was no hope for him. that he was going to die, but that if he had any last wish or request to make. he would swear to faithfully carry it The patient said that he had a wish, but that it could not be carried out now. The doctor asked what if was, whereupon the patient told him that the only thing he wished was that he had got another doctor before it was too late. The people of North Carolina ought to say to Dr. Ross-Dr. Gough and Dr. McCoin, before it is too late, that they are afraid that if they take the dose that the above doctors want them, to, they will wish ney had got another doctor

Mr. President, this bill will affect forty-five per cent of the farmers of North Carolina. The men affected by this bill represent the rank and file of the Democratic party. If we grant this great boon to them I believe that it will be a measure that will not only do a great deal of good for them, but I believe also that it will be a measure that they will never cease thanking us for, and a measure that will make memorable the great Session of 1917. I believe that we ought to do all that we can to strengthen and help and upbuild the Anglo-Saxon race, for I believe unspeakably in the rule of the Angry-Saxon.

The people have asked for this measure, for relief from the crop lien law: and who says, nay? No one but those speaking for the time-merchants and bankers and chambers of commerce. and my colleague, Dr. Ross. good and great Governor has recommended the passage of this bill. Shall we holp up his hands, and help him in his efforts to emancipate the people of this grand old State, or shall we proclaim by our voices and votes, that the principles advocated by the Senator from Robeson and the Senator from Vance and the Senator from Nash shall prevail, contrary to the welfare of North Carolina and the Democratic party? I beg that you will heed the

voice that has said better than I can say:

"Ill fares the land too hastening ills a prey Where wealth accumulates, and men decay,

Lordlings and princes may flourish, or may fade; A breath may make them, as a breath has made; But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, When once destroyed, can nev-

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