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SOUTHERN BUSINESS SENSE.

Tom Reed, the sneering statesman from Maine, has recently given it as his opinion that the south "has no business sense." Like most of the critics of the south, Mr. Reed speaks from prejudice instead of knowledge. Charlotte Democrat;

Mr. Henry Watterson, in the Louisville Courier Journal, makes the following crushing reply to Reed's aspersion:

"Mr. Reed remarked the other day in his usual reckless fashion that the trouble with the south was that it had no business sense.

"The south has within a few years practically monopolized the trade in certain lines of cotton goods, and is annually increasing the volume and variety of its textile products. It is underselling New England on coarse goods, and in time will undersell it on fine goods. It is putting its own capital freely into new cotton mills. From 1880 to 1890 it trebled the number of its looms. From 1890 to 1894 it has increased them over 50 per cent.

"Perhaps that isn't business sense.

"In the year ending with June last the exports of the United States increased \$44,488,353. Fifteen southern ports, at which within a few years there have been opened direct lines of trade with foreign ports, furnished \$31,751,306 or 71 per cent, of this increase. In 1899 and 1892 the increase of direct trade from southern ports was still larger, amounting to \$89,000,000, out of a total increase for the whole United States of \$146,000,000. Four years ago the south had direct lines of trade only from Baltimore, New Orleans and Norfolk. It now loads ships for foreign ports at Savannah, Brunswick, Pensacola, Galveston, Mobile, Newport News and Port Royal.

"Perhaps that isn't business sense.

"A few years ago the southern cotton planters seemed hopelessly in debt to the cotton factors. It was getting worse every year. Every since the war they had been so poor that they had to borrow money in advance on their crops, and, what with raising nothing but cotton, raising it wastefully, paying big interest, buying on credit, sending more than their profits for food stuffs brought from the North and West, they seemed fairly on the way to bankruptcy. But this year's crop of cotton has been

raised more cheaply than last year's and last years was the cheapest ever known up to that time. Debts have been scaled down amazingly, crops have been diversified, money kept at home and many mortgages lifted.

"Perhaps that isn't business sense.

"The development of the iron and coal interests of the south has been the wonder of this generation, and Birmingham is settling the price for Pittsburg on pigiron. The business failures in the south during the panic were relatively fewer than in the west, and the southern financial institutions came through the trial in better shape. In ten years the wealth of the south, reduced almost to nothing by war and reconstruction, has more than doubled. In ten years the south has increased its expenditures for schools 96.53 per cent. In ten years it has paid off over twenty millions of public debt. And to cap the evidence of its business sense it votes the democratic ticket right along. And that last is what sours it all for the modern man from Maine."

Skeletons Found in a Cave.

Charles Rector and a boy named Morris in exploring a cave near Seven Mile Ford, Va., discovered two skeletons forty feet below the surface. The cave had long been known, but no one had ever ventured to explore it. The Morris boy was let down by a rope.

When the find was reported a party of citizens went to the cave to investigate further.

In all, ten skeletons were taken out, and were adjudged to be the bones of men, women and children. One skeleton was found in a sitting position, with the skull reclining on the arms, which were folded across the knees.

Thus far there is but one way to account for the charnel-house, says an exchange: Old citizens say that many years ago there was an inn kept near this cave by a man named Allen, and that occasionally people who stopped there had mysteriously disappeared and were never again heard of. The supposition is that they were killed after being robbed of their valuables, and then consigned to the cave.

Some of the skeletons discovered were partially buried under stones, and many of the bones were broken.

Dewitt Clinton Chase, former Postmaster of Burtonsville, Montgomery county, committed suicide by cutting his throat. He was over 70 years old, and had been in poor health. He was for 40 years Postmaster at Burtonsville. He was also an ex-Justice of the Peace and a well known Republican. A widow survives him.—Ex.

STATE FAIR NOTES.

Col. J. H. Holt, Chief Marshal of the State Fair, has appointed a corps of 160 assistants from every section of the State, all of whom have accepted the appointment and have notified him that they will be present at the Fair.

Among the greatest attractions engaged to be on the Fair grounds is Hurd & Berry's World Museum, embodying numerous novelties and curiosities.

The race program this year has excited more attention than ever before. The purses offered aggregate \$2,600. The fields of running horses will be larger and better than any ever seen in North Carolina. Mr. W. J. Carter, the turf editor of the Richmond Times, has been engaged to act as Starting Judge in all races.

More than 300 prominent farmers in the State have expressed by letter their intention of making exhibits at the Fair in all the departments.

The poultry exhibit this year will be a special feature. The Society has over 300 new and improved wire covered exhibition coops, all of which have already been engaged. Besides these a number of exhibitors will supply their own coops. The exhibition of game fowls will be superb, and the display of pet stock will be something that will please and delight every body.

Numerous additions and improvements are being made at the Fair grounds to supply accommodations and space applied for by exhibitors.

A new feature of the Fair this year will be practical lectures and essays on economic subjects by competent speakers in Commons Hall at night.

Arrangements are being perfected for good theatrical attractions during the week. Social features will be lively and exhilarating, including Germans and balls every night, elegant receptions etc.

The dates of the Fair are October the 23, 24, 25, 26th and the R. R., rate is one fare for the round trip.

Mrs. Seward Webb's new house in the Adirondacks will have one hundred rooms and require an army of servants. The cost of the castle will be \$1,500,000.

It is said that Senator Dolph, of Oregon, never smiles. In the whole course of his service in the Senate nobody has ever seen his eye light up or his lip quiver. Why is it no one has ever had the courage to ask.

The Republican Game.

The members of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee in Washington have taken pains to give out the story that they do not propose to spend any time or money in trying to win Congressional seats in the South. Generally speaking, this is probably true, but if the Democrats imagine their opponents will not make an effort to capture ten or twelve of the close districts in the South, they are very much mistaken. A Richmond Dispatch reporter says that the Republican Committee may possibly not do much in Virginia, but there are two districts in North Carolina to which they will undoubtedly send money, literature and speakers. One is the Fifth, represented by Mr. Settle, and the other is the Asheville district. They are also inclined, from what can be learned, to try to beat Mr. Bower, in the Winston district, now that the Populists have endorsed the Republican candidate in that district. In Mr. Woodard's district the committee sees little chance of accomplishing anything as long as the two colored Republican candidates persist in remaining on the track. All the efforts to induce them to retire and permit the nomination of a white Republican have so far failed.

A Little Girl's Hearing and Voice Restored By a Miraculous Bolt.

A Bolt of lightning struck John Zelinka's house last week and restored as if by miracle the hearing and voice of Mary Fisher, 13 years old, who had been deaf and dumb eight years.

A Bolt went through a two-foot brick wall in the dining room, where Mr. Zelinka, Mrs. Fisher and her little girl were discussing the storm. It passed between Mrs. Fisher and Mary. The two sat motionless several seconds, when the little girl got up, and, pointing her finger to her ear, said:

"Mamma, I heard that. Let's go home."

This is the first time, it is said, that she has spoken since an attack of scarlet fever left her dumb and speechless.—Windfield L. I. Dispatch,

A curious thing to be seen occasionally on a frequented street here says the Philadelphia Times, is a dog wearing spectacles. It is not as a joke, but the owner of the dog, is an optician, claims that the animal's eyesight is affected and that the glasses enable him to see all right, but it is barely possible that there may be something of an advertisement in the freak.

Prof. R. P. Bull