

The Man Behind the Plow.

(WALTER H. PAGE AT A. & M. COLLEGE.)

"Now the best way of getting a right economic measure of North Carolina is by comparing it with some other State of a generally similar character and opportunity. I therefore invite you to make a comparison between North Carolina and Iowa. They are both agricultural States.

"North Carolina has 48,000 square miles and Iowa 55,000; North Carolina has nearly two million people; Iowa nearly two and a quarter millions.

"When we come to an educational comparison of the two States, Iowa has the better of us. Of children from 5 to 9 years of age North Carolina has 39 per cent. at school; Iowa has 67 per cent. Of children from 10 to 14 years North Carolina has 63 per cent.; Iowa 91 per cent. But the progress made in popular education in twenty years is much to our credit—very much to our credit. The descending black line of illiteracy has come down from 48 per cent in 1880 to 28 per cent. 1890—a wonderful record to the everlasting glory of the North Carolina school-master, school-mistress, school-agitator, and to the undying credit of an awakened people. This is one of the most creditable chapters in the recent history of any commonwealth or of any country.

"So much for these general items in the comparison. Now, let us look at the industrial differences between these two rural States. Sixty-four per cent. of the persons who work in North Carolina work on farms; forty-seven per cent. in Iowa. We have more farm workers in North Carolina than they have in Iowa. But in trade and transportation they have more persons engaged than we have. In manufactures each State has approximately the same—Iowa having a few more. In each State about the same number are engaged in domestic and personal service. We have a few more servants than they have. But in professional service the Iowans have many more. That is, they have more lawyers, preachers, doctors, editors, etc. The main facts are that in a general way the number of persons engaged in manufactures are the same in each State and the number engaged in farming. They have a few more workers in factories and in shops; we have more farmers and farm laborers.

"Now to consider farming for a moment—although we have more farm workers and very nearly as large an area, their farm products are every year worth more than four times as much as ours are worth.

"Not only are their farm products worth more than four times as much as ours; but their farm property is worth eight times as much as ours. Our farm property has increased fifty per cent. in twenty years; theirs has increased one hundred and fifty per cent. It is two and a half times as great as it was twenty years ago.

"What has caused this difference? We have rich land. Else our Immigration Bureau and our Agricultural Department have many sins of misstatement to answer for. We have a greater diversity of soil than the Iowans. We are near markets as they are. We grow some great staples that they cannot grow—such as cotton and tobacco and rice.

"The key to the difference is the efficiency in labor.

"The average income of farm workers in North Carolina is \$146 a year, and in Iowa \$611 a year. In other words a farm worker in Iowa makes, earns and gets nearly four times as much as a farm worker in North Carolina. In other words, he is four times as capable a man—four times as good at his business.

"That's the whole story. It's the difference between the men behind the plows.

"Now, how have the Iowans made their property eight times as valuable as ours, their farm products four times as valuable, and their income for farm workers nearly four times as great as the income of our farm workers? That is the lesson for us to learn.

"In the first place they have better men. Many of our farm workers are slaves. A trained white man on an Iowa farm is better than an untrained negro on a North Carolina farm. He is better also than an untrained white man on a North Carolina farm.

"They have trained their farmers. They have had agricultural schools, and they are now having agriculture taught in the public schools.

"This is the central secret of the whole difference—they have trained their people better. They till the soil better; they know it better; they use more machinery; they use more intelligence.

"Our first duty then clearly is to train the man behind the plow. If many of the men behind the plows in North Carolina were slaves, that is our misfortune—a misfortune of our inheritance; but there is no other way to remedy the matter than to train them. So long as the man behind the plow is untrained, the earth resents the insult and becomes barren; and every untrained man behind the plow makes the soil of North Carolina poorer—makes the State poorer—makes us all poorer. It is the old mistake of supposing that cheap labor is a benefit.

"Here comes your opportunity—you who are the first generation of men in North Carolina that has had a chance to be trained to scientific agriculture. You have the high duty to make the man behind the plow an efficient man. In doing this you will do more than to add incalculably to our wealth. You will bring also a better view of life.

"Although the value of Iowa's farm products is more than four times as great as the value of North Carolina's farm products, Iowa's manufactured products are not twice as great as ours. If the Iowans are four times as good farmers as we are, they are not much better manufacturers.

"And the average annual wage per hand in manufactures is only a little more than twice as much in Iowa as in North Carolina. You will notice that the farm worker in Iowa gets \$611 a year; the factory worker only \$408. But in North Carolina the factory worker gets \$196, and the farm worker only \$146. Yet every factory worker in Iowa turns out a product about twice as valuable as the factory worker in North Carolina.

"Our manufactures have gone beyond our agriculture in value. This has happened only because we have had better trained men in our factories, and better trained men to manage them.

"Now, gentlemen, what the Iowans have done, we can do, and more—in manufactures, in agriculture, in the sum total of civilization; and we can do it by the right training of men—of all men, not of a few only; and we can do it no other way.

"And it is a pleasure to survey the prospect that lies before you—you who make and who profit by such an institution as this. You understand the right training to work—to work with the hands. Of course no man can work properly with his hands without working with his brains and his heart also. Labor by mere main strength, a mule or a donkey engine can do. Your institution, therefore, comes right down to the bottom of the problem of life in North Carolina. Other people may fool themselves, if they still care to do so. Some may think that it is better to be a jockey lawyer than a master carpenter. Some may think that a lazy drone of a preacher is better than a good blacksmith. Some may think that a life of idleness makes a gentleman. Some may think that to be an unproductive 'prominent citizen' is better than to make good split bottom chairs. But you know better. You have got away from all these delusions. You have set your life square with the great truth that underlies all progress in a democracy—that a man is

the state exactly what he can do well—no more, no less. His work may be any sort of work—no matter what. He is sound in proportion to his skill in doing it well. He may be a great leader of the people; he may be a great preacher, a great teacher; a great organizer of industry; or he may be a worker at a humble calling. In the economics and in the religion of a democracy he is worth what he can do well.

"A man who makes a bad buggy or who builds a poor house, scratches a poor farm, or does anything badly—he makes us all poorer. He pulls down the level of our life. The only substance that most men have is their labor. It is the most precious substance that anybody can have—the best gift of God. The man that wastes his labor throws his own life away, and he wastes the time and degrades the standard of all other men who have to do with him. Every inefficient man is a burden on the State.

"On the other hand a man who does a thing well—makes a buggy, builds a house, preaches a sermon, or tills an acre—he is the wise man, and the only useful man in the state. He is saved—he saves himself—he is the only man worth saving. He saves the community. He is the only man that makes the community worth living in. Out in Wake county when I was a boy the preachers used to make a great effort every fall to save a lot of sinners who scratched the bottom lands of Swift creek. But I never attended a 'revival' without asking myself this question—'If a man was of no account in Wake county, of what account could he be in Heaven after you got him there?'

"But there is no field work which offers a greater reward in human progress than agriculture as it is today, and as it is in North Carolina. We have seen that the soil of our State, if it were well cultivated as the soil of the Island of Jersey, could sustain three-fourths of the population of the United States. But the trained farmer has hardly yet appeared anywhere in the world. We have not yet found out, even in laboratories, half the secrets of the soil. As for the average Iowa farmer, he is but a bungler in comparison with the man who is about to come, the man under whose labor the earth will be in truth the all-nourishing mother.

"The largest fact that man has discovered since waking to consciousness is the fertility of the earth—the variety, the richness, the unending succession of growth, beyond comprehension. It is a field of inquiry almost as unknown to us as it was to the first man who pushed a rude implement through the soil and made his first conscious experiment in planting seeds. During the countless years since then, he has scratched and poked a living from the soil wherever he has been. In the tropics he yet gathers food without toil. In our zone we plant and plow and reap with some improvement over the knowledge Abraham had. But we are yet ignorant of the fertility of the earth. We are beginning to learn that there is no infertile land. Men can make any land fertile. The gardeners of Paris now make their own soil. In their leases they stipulate that if they move they may carry their soil with them. By properly heating the soil, men now make their own climate and grow fruits in Northern latitudes that were a little while ago thought to be confined to softer climates. There is no infertile land. The very deserts are productive under trained men.

"And we are only beginning to learn the secrets of the breeding of plants—how one breed of corn or wheat may increase the value of a crop by many millions of dollars—and how we may improve the kinds of wheat as we improve the breeds of berries or live stock. The secret of it all is in the better training of men. The fertility of the earth and its variety of growth—we ourselves are but part and parcel of it, one of the products (for the sacred poet was right when he said that we are made of the dust)—the fertility of the earth remains the most interesting fact that man has faced. No man yet lives who can estimate the potential yield of any single acre of land.

Thirty years ago an old man in Rhinehart worked two acres of land and made just enough 'trunk' to buy liquor on Wilmington street to get drunk twice a year. I used to see him riding out Hillsboro street standing in his wagon, making a speech in praise of Governor Vance. I have seen two acres in a colder climate of no better land—till it was made better by man—yield a crop of \$600 an acre net. The difference is not in the soil. It is in the men.

Next to the fertility of the soil is its constancy. All other occupations change in relative value. Agriculture remains constant. It is this that links us to all preceding generations of men. The low lands that fed the Pharaohs are more fertile now than they were before the pyramids were built. The Valley of the Euphrates yield good harvests yet. Gaul grows more grain every year than Caesar's legions needed during all his wars. The ground on which this building stands would grow better maize than any red man ever saw in the centuries before Columbus discovered America. Everything else changes—the earth remains fertile. Men multiply, but the all nourish

MR. FIFE EXPLAINS.

Health Broke Down and He Asked God to Open Up a Way for Him to Support Himself and Family.

Rev. William P. Fife, who is well known over a good portion of the United States as the 'drummer evangelist,' is in town for a day or two. Mr. Fife now registers from San Antonio, Tex., where he is president of the Fife Mining and Investment Company.

In an interview with a Chronicle reporter Mr. Fife stated that he had not, as many people seemed to think, given up the active work of an evangelist for a career of money-making in the commercial world. In fact, he preaches now, whenever opportunity offers and his strength permits. His physical condition alone, he says, is responsible for his present occupation, and he hopes to be able to again engage actively in evangelistic work, in which he has been signally successful.

When Mr. Fife's health broke down he began to cast about for some avenue of business in which he could engage that would support not only himself and family, but also the charitable and benevolent work in which he had been engaged for a number of years. He was supporting 18 missionaries in foreign fields and 40 orphans in India, and, in addition, was spending quite a neat sum of money each year on similar work in the United States. When an opportunity to engage in the investment business presented itself, Mr. Fife says he carried the matter to God in earnest prayer and was led to believe that it was the divine will that he should direct his time and energy in this direction.

"I did not go into this business," said Mr. Fife, "without making the proper investigations. A Christian friend in New York had previously induced me to invest in mining stocks in Alaska and I had become, in a measure, familiar with the business. Last February I spent entire nights in agonizing prayer to God, and, believing that I had His approval of my contemplated plans, I proceeded to organize the company of which I am president. We do not deal in futures, but invest our customers' money in mining properties which have borne the scrutiny of investigation by experts. When I opened our office in San Antonio I pulled down the window shades and got down on my knees and asked the Lord to bless the undertaking, and we never hold a directors' meeting or make any deal without invoking the blessing of the Almighty."

Startling Evidence.

Fresh testimony in great quantity is constantly coming in, declaring Dr. King's New Discovery far surpassing coughs and colds to be snuffed, and a recent expression from E. J. McFarland, Bentonville, Va., serves as an example. He writes: "I had bronchitis for three years and doctored all the time without being benefited. Then I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery, and a few bottles cured me." Equally effective in curing all lung and throat troubles, consumption, pneumonia and grip. Guaranteed by English Drug Co. Trial bottles free, regular sizes 50c. and \$1.

Big Smelter for This Section.

Before next September a smelter plant to cost \$150,000 will be in operation in Mecklenburg county, within six miles of Charlotte. The plant will be owned and managed by the United States Smelting and Refining Company, which has its head office in New York city, and has selected Mecklenburg county as the main base of operations. The company has already purchased or leased several mines and is getting ore out of them. The pay roll of the company in Mecklenburg is now \$400 a day. The machinery for the smelter has been purchased and it is hoped to have the plant ready for operation in three months' time. They will handle gold, silver and copper ore. When in full operation the pay roll of the company will be about \$5,000 a week. The projectors of this enterprise claim that Mecklenburg is one of the best mining districts of its size in the United States. In speaking of the enterprise the Charlotte Observer says: "The smelter and mining enterprise in this county, projected by Northern capitalists and reported in detail in yesterday's paper will, if inaugurated and operated on the scale proposed, be the biggest thing, so far as this county and the adjoining gold-bearing counties are concerned, that ever came down the pike."

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh That Contain Mercury.

Mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by druggists, price 75c. bottle. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

BISHOP SMITH LEAVES.

While Liking to Live in Charlotte Very Much, the Ambitions of Other Men Drove Him Away.

Bishop A. Coke Smith has given up his residence in Charlotte. After much solicitation, Bishop Smith came to Charlotte, accompanied by his family, about eight months ago, and this city, as well as the State, was pleased to learn that the bishop had decided to make his permanent residence here.

But, quietly and without making any explanation, except to a few people, Bishop Smith and his family left the Queen City several weeks ago, and are now at their summer home at Willoughby Beach, near Norfolk, Va. After the summer is over they will make their home in Norfolk, Va. They like Charlotte; were delighted with their reception here; the climate was exceedingly beneficial to Bishop Smith's health, and yet he has left for good.

A statement of the reason of the departure of Bishop Smith is a delicate matter, and yet the cause is plain and admitted.

The ambition of two other clergymen in the Methodist Conference in this State is directly responsible for Bishop Smith's leaving North Carolina. They—and maybe others—wish to be bishop, and it was intimated, too clearly for doubt to remain, that they thought that if Bishop Smith remained in North Carolina this would militate against a new bishop being selected from the ranks of the North Carolina clergymen.

True, everybody knew that Bishop Smith came here from Virginia and his residence here was merely circumstantial, and yet it was feared by a limited few that the bare statement of the fact, "There is a bishop in North Carolina" would be taken into consideration when the General Conference of the Methodist Church meets three years hence to elect a new bishop.

In the Southern Methodist church there are 12 bishops, and new bishops are only elected at four-year intervals. An election then is not compulsory, but a matter of advisement, or a question that is settled in accordance with the demands of the Church.

The two North Carolina preachers expected to be struck by the lightning of promotion, and they became uneasy as soon as Bishop Smith came here. And the bishop, who is a man of wonderful tact and penetration, soon saw the truth of the situation. After a good deal of consideration he decided to save any possible embarrassment by leaving the State.

Bishop Smith has charge of the districts of Tennessee, western North Carolina, northern Alabama, South Carolina.

There are now no Methodist bishops in North Carolina. There have been no Methodist bishops in this State for many years, if ever. Will a bishop be chosen from North Carolina three years from now? It is thought not. The underrunning of feeling that was manifested against Bishop Smith may be the very thing that will cost some clergyman one of the highest honors—if not the highest honor—that can be bestowed by his church.

Worst of All Experiences.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years," she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, and stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was miraculous. I improved at once and now I am completely recovered." For liver, kidney, stomach and bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by English Drug Co.

Driven to Desperation.

Living at an out of the way place, remote from civilization, a family is often driven to desperation in case of accident, resulting in burns, cuts, wounds, ulcers, etc. Lay in a supply of Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It's the best on earth. 25c., at English Drug Co.'s.

When in need of fresh meat—phone No. 91, J. D. Parker.

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Pure New Orleans Molasses at 75 cents at S. H. Hudson's.

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You can get ice at Cadieu & Wallace's. Phone 36.

Come to see me for chewing tobacco, smoking tobacco, cigars, etc. S. R. Doster.

BIG EARTHQUAKE.

Five Hundred People Killed on April 29th—Details Mangre.

London, May 25.—The foreign office has received details from the British consul at Esch-sur-Saone regarding the recent earthquake at M. laiguerd, involving in which a strong shock, lasting 30 seconds, was felt on the morning of April 29th, throughout the district between Lake Van and the Russian frontier, and an eye-witness at Kailip. The town of Moulins-sur-Auzou, consisting of 500 houses, was destroyed and much havoc wrought in the surrounding villages. Col. Khalil, commanding the garrison of Moulins, with his wife, family, three other officers and eighty soldiers, perished in the ruins. Lieut. Col. Taylor, whose family perished, became insane. The telegraph operator who sent the news of the catastrophe said he himself was badly injured and his wife and sister were killed. The foreign office has approved for subscriptions for the relief of the destitute Moulins-sur-Auzou and the Christians of Moulins-sur-Auzou.

CONTINUE

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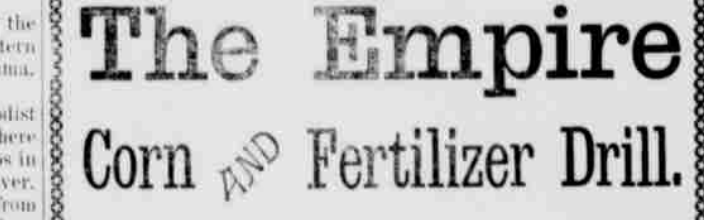
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is decidedly the best on the market. No chain attachment; no links to slip or break, and cause you trouble or inconvenience, but a POSITIVE FORCE FEED.

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The best Typewriter on the market. You can pay more but you cannot get a better one. Its work is always in full view of the operator; it is simple in construction; and has stood the test for many years, proving its durability. The alignment is always perfect, and the price is \$75.00 to all. For sale by the Monroe Hardware Co., or any of the offices of CUTLER-TOWER CO., Boston, Mass.

The Franklin

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Advertisement for Force baby food, featuring an illustration of a baby and a woman, with text describing the product as 'The Ready-to-Serve Food' and 'a good fairy to all youngsters'.