

COAL! — COAL! — COAL! — COAL! — COAL!

The coal situation during February and March has been the worst we have ever experienced. In addition to a coal shortage and a car shortage, it has been impossible to get coal delivered by the railroads after being shipped.

A large part of the coal shipped to us has been confiscated or gone astray.

Naturally we ran out and Monroe has faced a real coal famine, along with Concord, Salisbury High Point, Thomasville, Greensboro and other towns.

However, we are getting coal delivered now with fair regularity, and can make prompt deliveries on ton and half ton lots.

We are not in any position to make prices on coal for summer delivery as yet, due to the fact that all the mines are behind with their orders and will not make any contracts, until they find out what the Board appointed by the President is going to do regarding wages.

The foreign trade is offering fancy prices for both steam and domestic coal, and higher freight rates are predicted, with no improvement in the car shortage soon, so we believe we are safe in saying that prices on coal will not be any cheaper, after the Government turns loose the coal industry on April 30th.

MONROE ICE & FUEL COMPANY.

PRESIDENT WANNAMAKER'S TRIBUTE TO COTTON MULE

Young Missouri Boy Seeks Information on Southern Product, And Gets Reply That May Be Read With Profit by All Men.

"I have just received an invitation from Prof. John A. Todd of Oxford University," writes Mr. J. S. Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, "a great expert, requesting a conference with me and members of the association. He sails from England on the 6th of March. He sends me one of his addresses and I note that the English are using all of our literature, and Prof. Todd advises that our literature had been used in addresses before parliament, university lectures and manufacturer's associations, pointing out the complete change that is facing the cotton industry as a result of our work. All of this convinces me that the work being done by our association is bearing fruit.

"I receive letters asking for practically every known piece of information; just in receipt of a letter from a rural school boy in Missouri regarding the cotton mule. I enclose you a hurriedly written reply."

Webster Groves, Missouri, February 13, 1920.

Mr. J. S. Wannamaker, President, American Cotton Association, St. Matthews, S. C.

Dear Sir: Would you please give me some information on the Cotton Mule? I am a boy living out of the cotton states and our agriculture in school requires us to know something about them. If you cannot give me any information would you kindly put me in touch with some one who can. Your respectfully, Earl R. Paschur.

Mr. Earl R. Paschur, Webster Groves, Mo., Dear Mr. Paschur:

I have your letter of February 15th. The question you ask is not at all clear to me. We buy a great many mules from Missouri, yet you ask for information on the cotton mule.

If you refer to the mule that we buy in Missouri and Kentucky and which we have recently learned to raise in the South under our program of diversification in farming then you refer to an animal that did not exist at the time of the ark, and evidently due to the fact that he is unable to trace his pedigree back to the misty ages of the past he frequently expresses his regret in a sound that is impossible to imitate and extremely distressing to hear; however, he can console himself with the fact that Balaam, of Biblical fame, rode one of his paternal ancestors and doubtless he has maternal ancestors back to the famous team driven by Ben-Hur in the chariot race.

Without the mule we cannot make cotton, so that he performs a wonderful service. Cotton clothes nine-tenths of the world, brings the balance of trade to America and maintains our gold reserve. Without the mule we could not cultivate the soil of the South at all. The South has recently made tremendous strides in the production of her crops so that without the mule almost the entire fertile section of the South would be uncultivated; hence, on one side the mule is an aristocrat, regardless of the fact that he cannot trace his ancestry back to the time of the ark; and on the other side he is a philanthropist, furnishing clothing and food to the world. He is also a great financier, furnishing to America, as stated above, the balance of trade and her gold reserve; without the services of the mule England would perish, the financial fabric of England being dependent on cotton and the production of cotton dependent on the mule.

While the mule has many valuable points and appears to be very docile he carries with him a kick almost as deadly as a Gatling gun, and if we could have legislation passed which would force the unnecessary middlemen who stand between the producer and the consumer to stand for a few seconds in the rear of the mule he would bring tremendous benefits to civilization by kicking them into the next world and I am strongly inclined to think that it would be the lower world.

The mule, or his ancestral forefathers received more Divine attention than any other known animal. He is the only animal ever used for the purpose of performing a miracle, and strange to say as the result of the question he asked he actually forced man to think. It is a great pity that he could not again to-day be endowed with the power of speech. I feel convinced that he could give some very valuable advice to some of our statesmen, both national and local, in fact I believe he could give valuable advice to the entire human race. I often give advice that I afterward find out was far from correct, much more incorrect than that a mule could give were he able to speak.

The mule was the greatest honored of all animals: Christ rode into Jerusalem on one of the paternal ancestors of the mule. If God were again to use the mule for the purpose of asking questions and would endow him with power of speech I feel sure one of the first questions he would ask would be: "Why have we not on earth to-day 'Peace and Good Will Toward all Men'"; he would also ask: "Why is it to-day in our educational institutions of this great nation we have failed to teach to our boys and girls the commercial side of life in all of its branches, including the business side of production; why is it that we have these uneconomical conditions in the handling of our products; why is it that the producer fails to receive a profit that will enable him to improve rural conditions so as to make them attractive and draw to the rural sections and to the greatest of all professions—agriculture—a tremendous increase in our population." He would also doubtless ask: "Why have we not an uncorrupted commerce men with men nation with nation, this was intended by God when he created one section to produce one crop and certain minerals and another section to produce another crop and certain minerals; the world certainly get of certain life people why is it they are not here; and he would ask, why is it that two

thousand years after the birth of Christ, the man of Galilee, the greatest of all teachers, left this world, we continue to have wars; continue to have conditions that should have been blotted out by good men, united to change conditions from what they are to what they should be. He would ask of the idler, why is it that you do not work, the mule would say: "We have now arrived at a period when we have decided that idleness is not only a disgrace, but a crime, and a very dangerous form of immorality."

He would ask: "Do you realize that God is a worker? That he has thickly strewn infinity with grandeur. God is love; He yet shall wipe away Creation's tears, and all the world's shall summer in His smile. Why work you not? The veriest mote that sports its one-day life within the sunny beam has its stern duties."

He would ask: "Do you realize that you pass this way but once, your allotted time is three score years and ten; that this is but the kindergarten of your existence, and that life goes on, until death accomplishes the catastrophe in silence, takes the worn frame within his hands, and, as if it were a dried up scroll, crumbles it in his grasp to ashes. The monuments of kingdoms, too, shall disappear. Still the globe shall move; still the stars shall burn; still the sun shall paint its colors on the day, and its colors in the year. What, then, is the individual, or what even is the race in the sublime re-occurrences of Time? Years, centuries, eons are nothing to thee. The sun that measures out the ages of our planet is not a second-hand on the great dial of the universe."

I will be delighted to have you come and visit me. The saying of the Bible that God has made no two things alike holds good in the mule-kingdom. Of the four hundred mules I own there are no two alike. Can't you also attend the conference of the American Cotton Association called for Montgomery, Alabama, March 9th-12th and bring some of our Missouri friends? This great gathering is called for the purpose of bringing economic reforms in the handling of cotton and other products which the mule helps to produce. Would be delighted to have you. Assuring you of every good wish.

Sincerely yours, J. S. Wannamaker, Pres. St. Matthews, S. C., Feb. 27, 1920.

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