

Fertilizer Trust Sells Dirt and Sand, Mr. Hammer Alleges

HE WANTS HENRY FORD TO HAVE MUSCLE SHOALS

Copies of His Speech Urging That Detroit Manufacturer Be Allowed To Make Nitrates Received

"THE BEST PRESENTATION ON THE SUBJECT," SAYS HEATH

Seventh District Congressman Declares That Fertilizer People and Power Corporations Refused to Bid on Big Project Until They Saw Mr. Ford Was Going to Get It.

Fertilizer manufacturers were accused of selling farmers 80 pounds of "inert matter," sand and dirt, with every 100-pound sack of their product by Congressman W. C. Hammer, of this district, in his speech in favor of leasing Muscle Shoals to Henry Ford. This deliverance, copies of which have just been received here, was described by Major W. C. Heath, in his speech introducing Mr. Hammer to his audience at Waxhaw, "as the best presentation of the subject he had read."

Extracts from the speech read: "It was in 1888, the year of our war with Spain, that Sir William Crookes, then president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, called the attention of the scientific world to the fact that we were rapidly nearing the end of our available supply of nitrogen, and nitrogen is one of the most essential elements necessary to maintain life in any form on this planet. We are all familiar, or should be, with the history of what followed the nitrogen experiment that we tried a few years ago. We know how the nitrogen industry was driven out of the United States by the veto of President Taft when an attempt was made to locate such a plant on the Coosa River in Alabama, and the air fixation nitrogen industry from that day to this has been a beggar at the congressional doorway seeking a supply of cheap hydroelectric power that is necessary for a maintenance of the industry.

"Whether at home or in foreign lands nothing is so inspiring to a patriotic American as to behold the flag of freedom, and I am glad this is so. I am glad that we have an America we can all be proud of, and a flag that we worship with a spirit of devotion, but I bow my head in shame when I read the nitrogen record of this great country of ours.

"In spite of the fact that during the year 1917 we imported from Chile two hundred and fifty three 5,000-ton shiploads of nitrate of soda the Ordnance Department in October of that year was confronted with a very large deficiency in the supply of explosives of materials for explosives, and finally, 17 months after Congress had provided the way and the means for the solution of the war-time nitrogen emergency, the Ordnance Department turned to the only people on this continent with commercial experience in the business which they were trying to develop, namely, the American Cyanamid Co. and nitrate plant No. 2 at Muscle Shoals, with its annual capacity of 110,000 tons of ammonium nitrate, containing 40,000 tons of pure nitrogen—equivalent of 250,000 tons of Chilean nitrate, which is the amount of nitrate used in a normal year by American agriculture. This great plant was the result, but 17 months of priceless time had been lost due to misguided or incorrect views as now in the light of time fully appears, and when the plant was ready to offer the relief and make available the great tonnage of explosive material that was necessary the sacrifices had been made and the war had been won.

"Then followed the breaking up of a great war machine, a period of salvage, and the return to a peace-time basis. The administration, appreciating the fact that Congress had said, in making the original appropriation for the nitrate plants, that these plants should produce "nitrates and products for munitions of war and useful in the manufacture of fertilizer, and other useful products," sent experts to Europe to work out a plan for the utilization of the nitrate plants.

The Special Interests Intervened "Meanwhile certain special interests which for years had been doling out to the farmer his nitrogen supply in this country looked with no small concern at the prospect of the building up a great nitrogen industry in America, but they knew that the plant was an explosive plant, that for its conversion to manufacture of fertilizer products would require the investment of many millions of dollars. These interests then decided that the United States nitrate plants should not be operated by anyone in the production of fertilizer.

"A ready answer, therefore, awaited the Federal nitrate director, Dr. Arthur Graham Glasgow, when he approached the presidents of the great fertilizer companies. He offered them the use of these nitrate plants free of any rental or other charge whatever until they should earn 2 per cent on such capital as they might invest, and thereafter, he proposed, that they divide any additional profits with the Government, but with one accord they turned him down coldly.

"An effort was also made to get certain financiers in New York to undertake to form a company to operate these plants. Scant consideration was given to the scheme and no investigations undertaken; an appeal was likewise made to the coke oven interests with the same result.

Ford's Thunderbolt So, as a last resort a Government corporation was proposed by the administration, under what was known as the Wadsworth-Kahn bill. These interests, having declined the opportunity to operate the plants themselves, proceeded to bombard the members of Congress with propaganda adverse to the proposal that the Government should operate the plants, and when the bill was passed by the

Senate, it died in the House Committee on Military Affairs and the fertilizer companies and other big interests rejoiced and were made glad. It looked as though these interests had won.

The scrapping process at Muscle Shoals had already begun, and shipments of materials were going out from the nitrate plants when the farmers, who had fought for the preservation and operation of these plants from the beginning, called on Secretary of War Weeks and asked him if he would undertake to secure proposals for the purchase or lease of the Government's property at Muscle Shoals. He agreed to do so, and once more these various interests, including the hydroelectric power companies of the Southeastern States, were given an opportunity to bid on the property. Once more the answer was unanimously "no." Not an offer was made, and the House had rejected the amendment appropriating \$10,000,000 for continuing the work at Muscle Shoals. The project was a dead issue until out of the blue there dropped the thunderbolt of Henry Ford. (Applause.)

"Here was a rank outsider who did not belong to the fraternity, who had the audacity to oppose the well laid plan of these thoroughly entrenched interests. The nerve of Ford was astounding. Something had to be done, some offer had to be put in to meet the proposal of Henry Ford; and, after hasty conferences behind closed doors, it was decided that the Alabama Power Co. was the logical party to present a bid which, it was evidently expected, would be more than a match for the Ford proposal. Meanwhile, encouraged by the unfriendly reception which the proposal was receiving at the hands of the Secretary of War, other bidders of unknown responsibility began to appear until five or six proposals had been made for the property which previously had been considered on its way to the national junk heap with the entire consent and approval of the opposing interests.

Dubious House Committee Report "For seven months the Ford proposal was in the office of the Secretary of War, and finally the Secretary sent it to Congress, not with a recommendation, but with a letter of comment, in which his friendly attitude toward the offer was apparent, and after months of voluminous hearings in which the intents and purposes and motives of Mr. Ford were bitterly assailed the majority of the committee finally reported a recommendation for the acceptance of his offer. Doubtless to the astonishment of the other bidders their proposals, including that of the Alabama Power Co., did not even receive serious consideration.

"Just why the majority of the Military Committee should elect to play into the hands of the Alabama Power Co. by reserving the right to sell to that company the Government's interest in the steam plant at Gorgas, Ala., and undertaking to 'accept' the Ford proposal on this basis it is hard to understand.

"During the war, when it was necessary to provide a supply of electric power for nitrate plant No. 2 at Muscle Shoals from a source immediately available, the Government had asked the Alabama Power Co. to cooperate in an effort to secure this power quickly. After much negotiation, which was brought to a hasty conclusion on the day of the false report of the signing of the armistice, the company entered into a most remarkable arrangement with the Government whereby the Government placed an additional unit in its power plant and paid the Alabama Power Co. a profit of \$280,000 for installing this Government property on the Alabama Power Co.'s own land.

Alabama Power Co. Overplays Its Hand "This contract, which had been denounced in vigorous terms by the Attorney General and the Acting Judge Advocate General, sought to turn every possible change of circumstances to the advantage of the Alabama Power Co. Under its terms, by a simple expedient of supplying water to the Government at a price almost twice as high as the price of our mills per kilowatt hour asked by the Union Gas & Electric Co. in its contract to supply power for nitrate plant No. 3 at Cincinnati, Ohio, and applying part of the power charges on the purchase of the unit, the Alabama Power Co. would ultimately have become the owner of the Government property with no cost to it whatever. But the Alabama Power Co. overplayed its hand by refusing to bid on the Government property until after the Ford bid had come in, and then, seeing the futility of attempting to secure this power plant under a contract with the highest legal authorities in the administrative branch of the Government had declared null and void, the company finally came out with an offer of \$2,500,000—which I believe was subsequently raised to \$3,000,000—for the purchase of the Gorgas plant, which had been built by the Alabama Power Co., as heretofore stated, under a long and difficult to understand contract with the United States at a cost of about \$5,000,000 to the American taxpayers, \$280,000 of which was clear profit to the Alabama Power Co. The Alabama Power Co.'s position for years has been one of anticipation that the Muscle Shoals power project in its entirety would fall into its hands, as its clearly seen by all who have taken the time to see and understand its operations.

"Is it not the duty of the Government to bear the burdens of the rich, as has been demonstrated in the action of this Congress in its tariff and revenue bills and in attempting to pass the ship subsidy bill and other legislation? And now, in the closing days of this session, instead of attending to the public business the majority leaders have decreed a program of adjournment from day to day and refuse to permit consideration of Muscle Shoals or other legislation to the interest of the farmer and the public generally. It is not the less leaders are so scared about

the doom which awaits them at the coming election they refuse to permit the House to function until it is becoming less and less useful as a branch of the Government, so much so that even Secretary of War Weeks says this Congress has reached the 'lowest ebb of any Congress in the entire history of the Nation'?

"Even the staid old Boston Transcript declares this is—

the worst House in many years, breaking more pledges than any Congress in 20 years, its leaders being leaders in name only, and for the most part they represent either the worst of the most stupid in either party today, and by its record is unworthy of another lease of power.

Conditions are such that other great Republican newspapers condemn the House in equally strong terms.

Ford to Work Out Farm Problems

"Mr. Ford also has a provision in his offer about research that is causing no end of anxiety to those who have feasted and fattened so long upon the public. What do the fertilizer companies want with research? They have been doing business for 50 years with little or none of it, and they have finally educated the farmer to buy their 'Wonder Worker Corn Grower' with his eyes shut. They have sold him dirt and sand, inert matter, for years, all nicely sacked and neatly labeled, and if the compound contained only 12 pounds of plant food and 88 pounds of inert matter in a 100-pound sack that was no fault of theirs. The very nature of the kind of business they were doing required that it be done that way, as though the farmer did not have enough sense to mix the 12 pounds of plant food with 88 pounds of dirt and sand from his own farm, thereby greatly saving freight rates. And then by this method the railroads received more freight, and, again, a 100-pound sack looks like it is worth more than a 12-pound sack. (Applause.)

"It was merely the result of using the raw materials that are available. To be sure, there had been disconcerting moments when inventors had brought out new processes, but, happily for the fertilizer interests, the patents could be purchased and locked up in a safe, without disturbing their normal business operations. But here comes this fellow Ford with a pile of cash as big as the Pyramid Gizeh and sends along his chief engineer to testify that he is ready to spend more than \$50,000,000 to work out the farmers' problems. Of course, it is preposterous, say these interests. Ford Does Not Need This to Make Money

"But, Mr. Speaker, let us drop this point of view of the interests and take up for a moment the viewpoint of the great body of people who have sent us here to Washington to represent them. No reasonable-minded man can claim for a moment that Henry Ford needs Muscle Shoals to make money; he has a well-demonstrated working plant for that purpose at Detroit, Mich., which is one of the wonders of the world in modern industries, and it is turning out tractors and automobiles at the astounding rate of 5,200 per day. But, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to Mr. Ford, it can hardly be said that it is desirable to go down in history merely as a maker of 'flivvers,' however successful in that art he may be, and it is easy to appreciate that in making this unmatched offer for Muscle Shoals Mr. Ford is seeking to build an agricultural monument to himself that shall endure when the last of the host of 'flivvers' has gone the way of all machinery."

J. R. Turnage of Ayden, N. C., is buying from 75 to 100 milk cows to sell on time at cost to his farmer customers. This merchant wants his patrons to continue prosperous that he may prosper with them.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

To the Stockholders of Icomorlee Cotton Mills Company: You are hereby advised that at a meeting of the Directors of said above named corporation on the 1st day of November, 1922, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved that in the judgment of the Board, it is advisable and most for the benefit of the Icomorlee Cotton Mills Co. that the same should be forthwith dissolved, and to that end it is ordered that a meeting of the Stockholders be held on the 1st day of December, A. D., 1922, at the office of the company in the town of West Monroe, N. C., to take action upon this resolution, and further, that the Secretary forthwith give notice of said meeting and of adoption of this resolution, within ten days from this date by publishing the said resolution, with a notice of its adoption, in the Monroe Journal, a newspaper published in the city of Monroe, N. C., for at least four weeks, once a week successively, and by mailing a written or printed copy of the same to each and every stockholder of this company in the United States.

And you are hereby notified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of said resolution, and you will govern yourself accordingly. This the 1st day of November, 1922. R. L. DOUGHERTY, Sec'y. John C. Sikes, Attorney.

R. H. GARREN, M. D.

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A BUICK Performance

Eight thousand, five hundred miles without any engine trouble! That's the performance of a Buick driven through Monroe Wednesday by Mr. F. W. Stibbs, en route from his home in Soo, Canada, to St. Petersburg, Fla. "The only trouble I've had with my Buick since its purchase," Mr. Stibbs said to a Journal reporter, "was an occasional puncture. The engine hasn't missed a lick. At the rate I'm going now there isn't any telling how many more miles I'll get out of her."

Continuing, Mr. Stibbs said: "There is no doubt in my mind but what the Buick is the best car in its class made. I wouldn't have any other, personally. Most people in Canada hold the same opinion, as the Buick is unquestionably the most popular car in my native country."

Mr. Stibbs performance is not unusual. There are scores and scores of people in Union county getting the same big mileage with little or no upkeep charge.

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The boll weevil hurts the "wait and see" farmer far worse than it does the prepare in advance one.

LAND IN BUFORD TOWNSHIP FOR SALE

Under and by virtue of the provisions of a deed of trust dated the 14th day of January, 1918, by Balus Baker and wife, to the undersigned Trustee, said deed of trust being registered in Book A. X, page 3, to which reference is hereby craved, and at the request of the holder of the note for which said deed of trust was executed to secure, and by virtue of the provisions of said deed of trust, and default having been made in the payment of the note secured by said deed of trust, I will on Monday, the 4th day of December, A. D., 1922, at twelve o'clock at the court house door in the city of Monroe, Union County, N. C., offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, all of the following described lands:

1st Tract: Lying in said county of Union and state of North Carolina on the waters of Cane Creek adjoining the lands of W. L. Belk, R. T. Sustare, Grant McCain and others, bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at a pile of stones by 3 pines in an old field and runs S. 88 E. 13.70 chs. to a pile of stones by 3 R. O., Mrs. R. L. Belk's line; thence S. 4 W. 18.75 chs. with the old line to Belk's stone corner on E. side of a branch; thence N. 88 W. 13.75 chs. with State line near R. P. Plyler's corner; thence N. 4 E. joining corners of lot No. 6, 18.75 chs. to the beginning containing 27 acres, more or less, being lot No. 7 W. G. Sustare's land.

2nd Tract: Adjoining the above described tract and containing 55 acres, more or less, and known as Lots 5 and 6 of W. G. Sustare's place and being the same land deeded to Morrow-Heath & Co. by M. J. and John W. McCain on Nov. 20, 1839. This Nov. 2, 1922. JOHN C. SIKES, Trustee.



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