

taken in an automobile through sixty miles of continuous corn fields. Another of the old customs there, which no doubt was taught to white settlers by the Indians, is the growing of what is known as "stuck corn." The forests are great in area, many of the trees being of immense size and there is a tangle of subtropical jungle, with vines oftentimes a hundred feet long. Trees are felled and the logs left as they lie, the underbrush is roughly cleared away and then the planting is done. With a sharpened stick a hole is made in the ground, which is often quite wet and indescribably rich, a grain of corn is dropped, covered by the foot and left to work its own sweet will. By and by the corn stalks rise like a young forest, a sea of green, concealing stumps and logs. Then when the crop is ripe men walk through this strange bit of new ground and by hand gather the corn. Early the next season logs and stumps are set on fire and much of them consumed.

Then the corn is "stuck again," and there is another big crop, for the ashes which literally form a bed make the ground as rich as cream. The next season fire is applied and the land is soon as smooth as one's hand, and then planting can be done in the regular way. Many thousand acres of what are known as swamp lands are thus reclaimed, and in the region embracing Lake Mattamuskeet and the territory round about one of the largest drainage districts in this country has been created. This embraces the lake-bed, of nearly 50,000 acres, and 75,000 acres of adjoining lands. Bonds to the amount of \$500,000 have been issued and ten immense drainage pumps will this year begin to lift the water from the lake and put it into a canal, which will empty into Albemarle sound, this canal to be used in handling freight, etc., between the lake-rim and the sound. When the lake is pumped dry its bottom will become an enormous cornfield.

In parts of that extreme eastern region are what are known as the "swamp gardens." It is a watery world and so the gardens must be raised above the water, which is a mixture of fresh and salt. Near the eastward side of the sounds there is a little salt water, which gets in from the sea through the relatively small inlets, but elsewhere the water is fresh or at the most a trifle brackish. There are fresh water lakes and ponds and the beds of these have very rich soil. This is thrown up into a sort of island and raised some distance above the water, a wire fence is put around the island to keep away the ducks, etc., and then very high ridges, at least two feet above the general level, are raised, in which potatoes, etc., are planted. Generally around these places there are myrtle bushes which make screens against the sometimes too cool north wind and so in these tiny gardens, which sometimes look like squares on a checker-board, with little intervals between, not only are large crops grown but very early ones, and fish are used as a fertilizer, being simply thrown on the ground and the place being cultivated with spade and hoe.

At the very base of the lofty light-house at Cape Hatteras these gardens are to be seen, and they remind a tourist at

once of the queer little square farms which so mark the slopes of the Azores islands and Madeira. Then along the sea-beach, which is entirely of sand, generally the sport of the winds, gardens and even little farms are to be found, and not far from quaint old Beaufort town there is on the great barrier-reef known as "Shackleford's banks," a tiny farm, on land as black as any prairie; on one side of this being gigantic live-oaks, on another a wall of Spanish bayonet or yucca at least twenty feet high, on the third side fig trees a foot in diameter and as high as the yucca, and on the fourth side the ghastly sand-dune, which is ever marching on from the sea and which in less than ten years will completely cover the farm, which is so situated and in so gentle an air that crops mature there several weeks earlier than at Pinehurst.

It is strange to observe the return to the old crops and find tobacco growing on the very shore of the sea. When the first white settlers landed in what is now North Carolina, that is in 1584, they found the Indians growing "uppowoc," which was their name for tobacco, as well as "pagatowr," as they called Indian corn, and "pappoes," their word for the Irish potato. As time passed the white settlers planted much tobacco and indigo. Then for a great number of years the culture of both ceased and no tobacco worth speaking of was grown in a line east of Raleigh. About thirty years ago tobacco-growing in the eastern section was promoted and now it is the greatest producer of bright tobacco in the United States, with such very large markets as Greenville and Kinston, and this particular tobacco, gold colored, very thin and light, is much in favor for cigarettes and of a variety known as "pin-head," which are made in this country and shipped to the far east in enormous quantities.

To a buckwheat grower in the splendid rolling country of the mountain plateau the swamp gardens would seem as utterly foreign as if they were in Holland, but all this story only goes to show what a land of contrasts North Carolina is, and how many modes there are of doing things. The miles of vineyard and of cultivated blackberries, say in Moore County and in the region round about, would be a great curiosity to the man who thinks so highly of his swamp gardens, but all of these people are making use of opportunities as they present themselves. It is this sort of thing that is making North Carolina prosperous. There is Charles Parker, a sixteen-year-old boy, in Bertie County, who holds the record in the United States as a corn-grower, outclassing all the men. Charles got from one acre last year 235 bushels of corn, and this after it was crib-dried, was again measured and showed 196 bushels, with only twelve per cent of moisture. Charles is known to the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States and the Commissioner of Agriculture of this State, and there is no guess work at what he has done, for the corn was officially gathered and measured under the direction of Thomas B. Parker, the State crop demonstrator, and Mr. I. O. Schaub, who has charge of more than a thousand boys' corn clubs in North Carolina.

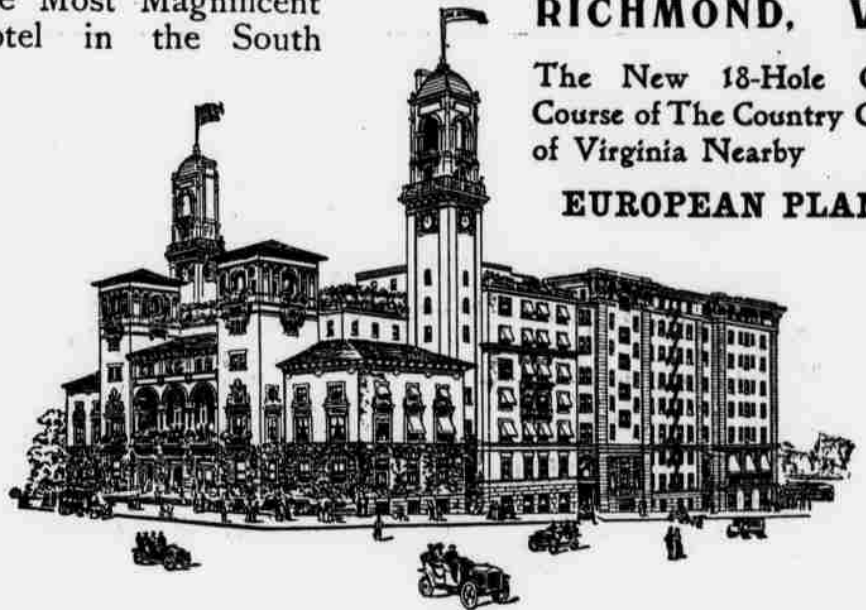
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