

A STUDY OF TENANCY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Injurious Effects of Absentee Landlordism and Stimulating Effects of Home-ownership Illustrated—Landowners Should Consider Social Conditions Affecting Renters

THE tenant system practiced in the South, and to come nearer home, in South Carolina, is recognized as one of the chief evils of Southern agriculture. It is, perhaps, the worst evil, affecting as it does the very life and social happiness of more than one-half of the rural population of our state.

No section in which all the farmers are tenants can become a really prosperous community. There can be no ideal social life where a majority of the people are likely to move away at any time, or where the whites are surrounded by Negroes. Every section where tenancy predominates has a sad lack of that spirit of progressiveness and prosperity which makes everybody enjoy a real, a beneficial, and a happy life.

We in my state are apt to overlook the hold that the tenant system has on our state. Two-thirds of the farms of South Carolina are worked by tenants. Sixty-three per cent of all the farmers of South Carolina do not own the land they work, and tenantry increased 135.5 per cent from 1880 to 1910. The white and the Negro farmers of the state are about equal, yet of the whites 44 per cent are working another man's land.

How Absentee Landlordism Has Blighted One Section

A GREAT thinker has said, "Next to war, pestilence, and famine, absentee landlordism is the worst evil that can befall a country." I know of a community that well proves this statement. Twenty years ago all the land was owned by resident white farmers. They worked all the land they could themselves, hiring wage hands if necessary, and working tenants only when absolutely necessary. All the farmers were cultured and prosperous, a good school was built up which later sent out many boys and girls who were able to make a success of life. There was an ideal social life. But after several years conditions changed. Several of the owners moved away, and a few more died, leaving their property to the children, some of whom already lived in town. The result was that Negroes were put in the "big house," and almost everything was entrusted to their hands. Today a Negro owns two-thirds of the land around the white school; one part of the community is populated almost entirely by Negro tenants, with here and there a small white farmer wedged in between these Negroes.

The farms are not producing what they formerly produced, or what they should produce now, and everywhere, throughout the tenant district, there is a lack of thrift and good management. Instead of the owners getting a fair return for their land, they only get a very small rate of interest on their investment, while every year the farms are getting poorer and poorer. It is the friendly cooperation of farmers and a good social life that makes a prosperous farming section, and we cannot secure these requisites unless there is a majority of landowners working their own farms and each pulling for the betterment of his community.

Social Conditions and the White Tenant

BUT let us study the tenant and all that pertains to his social life. Have you ever seen a family of white people surrounded by Negroes, each family perhaps working on the same farm, doing the same kind of work, and receiving the same returns from the farm? How can such a family ever amount to anything as community builders? You cannot expect

these children to make the most of life, and to become ideal citizens and workers for civic betterment. They haven't the chance to develop their talents as they should be developed. Schools, churches, and social and domestic life as well, cannot be developed in such a community. Negroes simply must not be put into competition with our white tenants if we wish to remain loyal to our race and to serve our neighbor who has not the best advantages. We are not pessimists, but you must remember we have about 112,000 tenants in our state, and of these 36,000 are whites. Surely these hard workers and their families demand and require a better social environment and a better recognition in the business and political world.

But what of the business side of the tenant system? First of all, it is not a paying proposition to either the tenant or the landlord. We cannot expect a run-down farm on which the owner refuses to spend more money and the tenant refuses to build up, to remain productive. That is a direct sin against the God who made the land and entrusted it to our keeping. The tenant, furthermore, has absolutely no showing in the business world. The hardwork-

man. He must treat the tenant as a partner in business, and both will profit by the reciprocal action. The tenant should be given, by a practicable system of rural credits, a chance to buy land of his own. This could be accomplished just as easily by some form of the amortization plan as he can pay a large share of his crops on an annual cash rent.

A Happy Group of Working Landowners

I KNOW of a community that well illustrates the good results obtainable from landowners residing on their own farms. Most of these farmers work only two or three horses each, endeavoring to do as much of the work as possible themselves. No Negroes are found on most of the farms, and only those that are absolutely necessary on the others. The result is one of the most progressive farming sections in the state. A notable fact is that most of the farmers have bought and paid for their farms in the last fifteen years, they having been tenant farmers before this. Now every farmer in the community is successful from a financial standpoint, and all are pulling together for community betterment. However, within the past few years several of

Careful study of the seeds of the two grasses has disclosed differences in size, form, color, and physical characteristics which are easily detected under a good glass.

Seed inspectors and others interested in determining the purity of Sudan grass seed may obtain a technical description of this method in Department Bulletin 406, "Distinguishing Characters of the Seeds of Sudan Grass and Johnson Grass," which will be furnished on application as long as the Department's supply lasts.

NORTH CAROLINA MARKETS

Prices paid by merchants for farm products in the markets of North Carolina as reported to the Division of Markets, Wm. R. Camp, Chief, for the week ending Saturday, September 16:

Town	White Corn No. 2	Oats	Irish Potatoes Per Barrel	Sweet Potatoes Per Bushel	Apples Per Barrel
Ahoscie	\$1.07	\$0.60	\$2.75	\$0.75	...
Asheville	1.37	.57 1/2	2.70	1.00	\$1.20
Charlotte	1.00	.60	3.50	.75	...
Durham	1.05	.58	4.00	.80	4.00
Goldsboro	.90	...	...	.75	...
Greensboro	.95	.60	4.00	.80	1.60
Greenville	1.00	.65	2.50	.75	...
Hamlet	1.10	.65	4.50	1.00	...
Maxton	1.10	.57	...	.75	...
Monroe	1.10	.65	3.75	.75	3.50
New Bern	1.05	.62 1/2	3.50	.70	...
Raleigh	1.02	.57 1/2	3.75	.65	3.50
Salisbury	1.10	.60	4.00	1.00	3.50
Scotland Neck	1.10	.58	3.25	.75	...
Winston-Salem	.95	.55	3.75	.75	3.50

Chicago, Ill.—No. 2 white corn, 85¢ @ 87¢ (delivered in Raleigh, \$1.00 @ 1.02 1/2); No. 2 yellow corn, 85 1/2 @ 87 1/2 (delivered in Raleigh, \$1.00 1/2 @ 1.02 1/2).
No. 1 Irish Potatoes, per barrel—New York, \$2.75 @ \$3; Washington, \$2.50 @ \$3; Cincinnati, \$3.50 @ \$4; Philadelphia, \$3.90 @ \$4.20; Boston, \$3 @ \$3.30; Cleveland, \$3.50 @ \$4.50; Baltimore, \$2.70 @ \$3.30.
No. 1 Sweet Potatoes, per barrel—New York, \$2.50 @ \$2.75; Pittsburgh, \$2.25 @ \$2.35; Cincinnati, \$3; Washington, \$2 @ \$2.50; Philadelphia, \$1.75 @ \$2; Boston, \$2.25; Cleveland, \$2.40 @ \$2.50; Baltimore, \$1.75 @ \$2.25.

BUTTER, EGGS AND POULTRY PRICES

Town	Western Creamery Butter	No. Carolina Creamery Butter	Eggs	Spring Chickens	Hens	Per Pound
Ahoscie	\$0.33	\$0.35	\$0.25	\$0.18	\$0.11	...
Asheville	.35	.34	.30	.15	.15	.15
Charlotte	.35	.35	.30	.20	.15	...
Durham	.35	.35	.35	.20	.19	...
Charlotte	.35	.30	.30	.20	.15	...
Goldsboro	.35	.35	.30	.20	.17 1/2	...
Greensboro	.35	.35	.30	.18	.14	...
Greenville	.35	.35	.30	.45	.45	...
Hamlet	.35	.30	.30	.18	.15	...
Maxton	.35	.35	.30	.20	.12	...
Monroe	.31	.28	.28	.13	.11	...
New Bern	.37	.30	.30	.18	.16	...
Raleigh	.37	.32	.30	.18	.16	...
Salisbury	.35	.32	.33	.30	.50	...
Scotland Neck	.35	.35	.25	.18	.12 1/2	...
Winston-Salem	.33	.28	.18	.18	.14	...

**Each.
Butter—Chicago, 27 @ 32 1/2 c (creamery); New York, 33 1/2 @ 34 c (extra); New Orleans, 33 @ 34 (fancy creamery).
Eggs—Chicago, 27 @ 29 1/2 c (firsts); New York, 36 @ 37 c (extra fine); New Orleans, 26 @ 30 c (Western).

PRICES OF COTTON, COTTON SEED, AND COTTONSEED MEAL

Town	Middling Cotton Thursday	Cotton seed (Per Bushel)	Pounds of Meal for Ton Seed
Ahoscie	14 1/2 c	\$0.45	...
Charlotte	15 c	.60	2,000
Durham	15 1/2 c	...	...
Goldsboro	15 c	.75	...
Greensboro	15 c	...	...
Greenville	15 1/2 c	...	...
Hamlet	14 1/2 c	.60	...
Maxton	15 c	.75	...
Monroe	15 1/2 c	.60	...
New Bern	15 c
Raleigh	15 c	.65	...
Salisbury	15 1/2 c	.60	...
Scotland Neck	15 1/2 c

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

SALESMEN WANTED for the Help-a-Phone; almost every telephone user buys one to three; sells for \$5; profit 100 per cent; send for particulars. G. H. Bomar, 1703 1/2 3d Ave., B'ham, Ala.

GIVE THE TENANT A CHANCE

THE TENANTS of our county should be encouraged to buy their own homes.

It is a sad picture to see a good man spend his life on a farm as a tenant, with a large family and no way for him to provide an estate for his children and for himself and wife in old age.

Give the tenant a chance in the race of life. Sell him land at a low rate of interest. This will encourage him to make the first payment, and after that is done the way will be open for him.

There should always be a strong tie between landlord and tenant. The children of the latter should be given a chance to make strong men and women.

Nobody knows what the future has in store for these poor boys and girls when they are given a show.

Don't let them have to say: "I ain't never had no chance." Come to their rescue today.—The Columbus News Reporter.

ing white tenant must not be forced down to the same level with the Negro, but there must be arranged some method by which he can become a landowner in a prosperous community. We must have a more rational system of furnishing him the necessary supplies, and not make him pay from 10 to 60 per cent interest besides the retail profit. Personally I know of one ignorant white landowner who last year paid 34 per cent interest on his supply bill after the company had charged time prices.

Needed Changes in Our System

THE tenant should be recognized from a financial standpoint, for he is really the maker of the money that secures for his landlord his prestige in the business world. It is nothing but fair that he should have a "say so" in a matter that affects himself and his family so vitally.

But the tenant system is a part of Southern agriculture and must always remain so. We can only modify the system and make it become more advantageous to both the owner of the property and the tiller of the soil. An equitable adjustment of the returns of the farm; well-laid plans for the future development of the farm; and permanence of tenure, in order to give the tenant a chance to improve his condition and that of the farm as well—these are all necessary for a practicable system of tenancy. The real motive in white tenancy should be to give the worker a chance to become a landowner, and this can only be done by a mutual working together of the owner and the tenant. The owner must furnish good houses and get his tenants interested in public matters. He must not unnecessarily crowd Negroes around his white tenant's wife and daughters. Neither must he put the Negro on a competitive equality with the white

the farmers have added to their farms by buying adjoining property; and more than likely the number of tenants in the community will increase. It is hoped that the Negroes will be kept out of the community as much as possible, thus saving the section to the whites. Now there are just what Negroes there as are actually needed, their presence being a help rather than a detriment to the progress of the community.

W. F. HOWELL,

Clemson College, S. C.

Method for Distinguishing Sudan Grass From Johnson Grass Seed

SEED specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture have developed a method whereby seed of Sudan grass may accurately be distinguished from the seed of Johnson grass which, while valuable in some sections, is considered so troublesome a weed in others that state laws prohibit its admission.

The Farmers Exchange

Cordele Georgia—J. R. Kelly, Prop.—Crisp County

WE GROW—WE IMPROVE—WE BUY and WE SELL, or WE EXCHANGE for all kinds, PURE-BRED SEEDS, FEEDS and FARM PRODUCE

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Call, write or wire us—when you care to buy, sell or exchange. Seed Oats, Seed Wheat, Seed Rye, Seed Vetch, Seed Rape, Seed Peanuts Seed Peas, Seed Beans, Clover, Alfalfa or Grasses. We buy second-hand Sacks; Pecans, etc. We test all our seed and you can rely on them being pure and true to name. Samples Furnished and Required

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