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## IRRIGATED LANDS OF WEST VERY FERTILE

Did Not Know Full Meaning of Irrigation—Land to be Irrigated Almost Level—Water is Turned in Every Other Row.

(By Dr. R. J. Noble)  
ARTICLE III.

In this letter I shall write of irrigation and the country from Chicago West.

I must admit that I did not know the full meaning of irrigation and how it was done. In the first place their soil is nothing like ours. It is hard and close. Were one in Johnston to draw all the water out of his well and pour it over a row of freshly plowed corn or cotton, it would not run over fifty yards down that row much less over hundred yards or more; but that is what can be done out there. The land to be irrigated is almost perfectly level, or that is the way it looks. The water is turned in every other row and runs down that row for a distance of one hundred yards or more. Now, how the water is turned in I cannot say; but it is in every other row for some distance along the canal. When the water enters the row the wet ground seems to be about one foot wide and at the other end looks to be about six inches wide, just a long wet streak. We were told that the next time the crop needed water, it would be turned into the rows that were left the first time—just as we plow corn and cotton in dry weather. Wherever irrigation was used the country blossomed like a rose; everything was as lovely as could be and so prosperous looking. There were nine large barns and all necessary out buildings with small dwellings. Very few fruit trees and the grove around the house was of Lombardy Poplars all had been planted for they were in rows. There were large fields of sugar beets which looked like ruta baga turnips. The land was only irrigated for farming. Not a drop put on land that was not cultivated. Right up to the last row planted the sage brush grow. The only thing that will grow in that country without water. At one stop we made to let the train ahead of us go on I asked the flagman to get me a piece of the sage brush, thinking to bring it home as a souvenir, which he did. When I had taken a few whiffs of it I was afraid it got into my suit case I would never get the odor out, so I threw it away. It was sage all right, but about twenty times as strong as any sage I ever smelt. It grows on the dry land and only on dry land. It is a brush about eighteen inches to three feet high and not thickly set on the ground. I should think that a good hand with a grass blade could clear three or four acres a day. The land looked poor; but was not. All it needed was water. No fertilizer is needed. The land will grow anything that can be grown in that country if given water.

Now how do they get this water? It is taken from rivers. At the proper place a ditch or canal will be cut and as the river goes down hill the canal will be carried on the level. I saw one place that the canal must have been ten feet deep as there was a low place in the ground and the canal must be level or the water would not go over the next rise in the land. This canal was about twelve feet wide. In other places the water was carried for miles in corrugated iron pipes about fifteen inches in diameter. Occasionally there would be a small nail hole in the pipe and the water would squirt out, some times on top showing that the pipe was full. I don't know whether water could be gotten with bored or driven pumps; but I noticed when there was irrigation I saw no pumps or windmills.

I cannot say just where I saw the first snow fence; but think it was in North Dakota soon after leaving Grand Forks. The first snow fence I saw, I did not know what to make of it. A fence about six feet high right out in the open field. Just one side of a fence, I thought it ought to have ends to it; but no ends or the other side. Then seeing another fence the same way I remembered reading of fences to keep snow off the track. Then I noticed that the fence was always opposite a small cut, or deep cut. Of course it could only be a snow fence. If these fences were not

put near the cuts to catch the snow, then the snow would drift into the cut and fill it up. We people in Johnston cannot understand why snow drifts so, but where the wind has a clear space of miles to blow in, with nothing to stop it the snow just rolls on getting deeper against anything, so the fence catches snow and it packs many feet deep. If it went into the cut 'twould be the same' and snow plows would have to be used to get it out. Then in the mountains we went through many snow sheds. They were built on the sides of the mountains and were just like a covered bridge. These would be for miles at times, not always long sheds. Some times these sheds were wide enough for a side track to be under them. I suppose they were pass tracks as there were no stations near. Then these sheds were to keep rocks from falling on the track as the side of the mountains were so straight up that continued wet spells, that is snows melting, cause the rocks to fall off. I thought that the railroad authorities also feared that the jar of the train might loosen the rocks for a man followed every train that passed the high side mountains. I noticed that whenever there was a pile of cross ties by the side of the road there was dirt piled on the top of the pile. This was to keep the hot sun from cracking the ties. I was told that a cross tie lasted in that dry climate from fifteen to twenty years. I saw old ties that had been removed from the road and all were worn from one to one and a half inches where the railroad iron lay on them. It was a case of wear out, and not rot at the bottom of the tie. We saw very few large droves of horses, several droves of cows, the white-faced Hereford, and no sheep till we started home. The hogs were few and far between, small lots of them and these not looking fat and nice. Looked like they had not had enough corn.

(To Be Continued.)

## POLAND WANTS U. S. SUPPORT

Appeal Made to State Department And President Wilson—Is Under Consideration.

Washington, July 23.—Poland, sorely beset by the Russian bolshevik armies, called upon the United States today for moral support in her now desperate battle with the soviet forces.

Through its legation here, the new republic not only asked for an expression from the state department, but also from President Wilson, declaring that such public statements would go a long way toward strengthening the moral of its soldiers and people.

Poland's request was given serious consideration at the state department, and it was expected a decision would not be long delayed. Meanwhile officials refrained from discussing it.

Arguments for American support presented by the Polish legation, set forth the incongruity of the United States abandoning the republic with whose establishments it had so much to do. Representatives of the legation declared that while the situation of their country had been made desperate by the enormous weight of the Russian forces, it was not yet too late to avert disaster and that an expression of support and sympathy by the President would be of great aid.

## BRYAN REFUSES NOMINATION

Fresh From Fishing Trip in Montana, He Reiterates Previous Position.

Bozeman, Mont., July 22.—William Jennings Bryan tonight reiterated his refusal to accept the Prohibition party nomination.

The first intimation of his nomination for the Presidency by the Prohibition convention at Lincoln, Neb., was received by him at 1 o'clock this afternoon at Madison Lake, upon his return from a forenoon of fishing when he read an Associated Press dispatch giving the text of the telegram sent to him by the convention at Lincoln. He was forty miles from any telegraph office at the time, but as soon as he reached Norris, Mont., he telegraphed a reply declining the nomination.

A woman gets suspicious when a man shaves off his mustache while she is away on a visit.

## INCOME GOES AHEAD EXPENSES THIS YEAR

Reduction in Gross Public Debt Announced—From Peak Of 26 Billion August 31 There Is Reduction of \$2,297,380,180.

Washington, July 25.—The government's income for the fiscal year ending June 30, exceeded its expenses for the first time in three years. Secretary Houston declared today in a statement in which he announced a reduction in the gross public debt and forecast a further "important reduction" for the coming 12 months.

While the annual operations of the government showed a surplus of \$219,221,547, the more important change treasury officials said, was the cutting of \$1,185,184,692, from the gross public debt during the year. The national debt aggregated \$24,299,321,467 on June 30 and \$25,484,506,160, a year previously, but in the meantime the obligations of the nation had mounted to their highest point—\$26,596,701,648, on August 31—due to the operations incident to the handling of maturities of treasury certificates of indebtedness. Thus, a reduction of \$2,297,380,180 from the peak is shown.

Outside of the transactions involving the gross debt, treasury receipts for the year aggregated \$6,694,565,388 while expenditures totalled \$6,403,343,841. The statement revealed, however, that the surplus was due largely to a partial liquidation of the assets of the war finance corporation. Exclusive of the special income from that source, there was a deficit of \$71,879,072 in the actual handling of income and expenditures.—Associated Press.

## GOVERNOR ORDERS INQUIRY

Action of Alamance Civil Authorities Reason for Investigation—Commission of Three Will Conduct Hearings.

In view of the action of the coroner's jury in Alamance county in declaring the Durham Machine Gun Company responsible for the death of Jim Ray, who was killed Monday night in Graham, Governor Bickett yesterday ordered a careful investigation of the conduct of the troops who were sent to the county in compliance with a request from county authorities to protect three negroes held on a charge of criminal assault.

Three leading citizens of the State have been asked by the Governor to sit on the investigating commission, but their names are being withheld until they have indicated their willingness to serve. The hearings will be held as soon as the commission can be called together. The commission will visit both Graham, where the disturbance took place, and Durham, the home of the troops involved.—News and Observer, July 23rd.

## Negro Watchman Dies to Save Others

Asheville, July 23.—While attempting to stop an automobile with two white men in it, "Uncle" George Bradley, the aged negro watchman, at the Southern Railway crossing at Biltmore, was knocked under the train, No. 9, from Spartanburg and killed, about 3:30 this afternoon.

Seeing the machine bear down on him in an effort to beat the train at the crossing, Uncle George stepped in front of the car in a last effort to save it from destruction. He met the same fate that he kept from being meted out to the others.

The car struck him as he was holding his large "stop" sign above his head, and threw him backward on the track just as the engine crossed. The machine was sidwiped and dragged several feet but the occupants were not injured.

Carl Clapp, the driver, was later arrested by a deputy sheriff.

## Harding Sends Telegram of Sympathy

Marion, O., July 15.—Telegram of sympathy was sent by Senator and Mrs. Harding today to Senator Swanson, of Virginia, whose wife died Tuesday in Washington.

"We can fairly appraise your deep sorrow," said the message, "and wish we might some way help to lighten it. We both held Mrs. Swanson in high esteem and know what a great loss has attended her untimely going."

## DUDDING MAKES REPLY TO GOV. BICKETT

Says His Investigation of Brutality Charges in the Road Camps Already Made—It Is Too Late to Stop It.

Washington, July 25.—Earl E. Dudding, president of the Prisoners' Relief society, which organization is conducting an investigation of conditions under which convicts in North Carolina live and work and their alleged mistreatment, came back today at Governor Thomas W. Bickett. Washington newspapers gave prominent display to the statement issued last night by Governor Bickett, wherein he said in effect that "outsiders" had nothing to do with North Carolina penal affairs and that he would take all the "cussing" Tar Heels wanted to give him but wouldn't take it from others.

The main trouble about Governor Bickett's statement, thinks Mr. Dudding, is that it came too late. The investigation in North Carolina, Dudding says, has already been made and is not yet to be made public. The report of Mrs. Duckett, the society's special investigator, is ready for submission to the executive board of the Prisoners' Relief society and if complaints from North Carolina are borne out that report will go to the legislature at its next regular session.

Mrs. Duckett is now said to be at Zebulon with her relatives and will return to Washington shortly and advise Mr. Dudding of what she saw and heard in North Carolina about its convict camps.

Mr. Dudding seemed somewhat hurt that Governor Bickett had referred to him as an ex-convict.

"I thought Governor Bickett was a better lawyer, if not a better sport," was the terse and enigmatic comment of Dudding.

Dudding is an ex-convict and frankly says he spent several years in a West Virginia penal institution. Since his release his entire time has been devoted to prisoners' relief work. His means are small and his organization is supported by voluntary contributions. Most of its activities are given to finding jobs for discharged convicts; again prison conditions are investigated in all parts of the country. Dudding has never hidden the fact that he is an ex-convict, but appeared injured today that Governor Bickett should refer to that fact in attacking the investigation being made in North Carolina.

Dudding said that Mrs. Duckett's report would go to the legislature at its first regular session if it shows conditions warranting the attention of that body. At the same time, he said, the society would offer suggestions for remedying these conditions.

As previously published in the news dispatches, Dudding explained that Mrs. Duckett was sent to North Carolina two weeks ago because of an "epidemic of complaints" about the brutal treatment of convicts at some of the camps in the state. Whom and what Mrs. Duckett saw during her two weeks in the state is not known here, but, anyway, Dudding says the inquiry has already been made and it is too late for Governor Bickett or anyone else to stop it.—Theodore Tiller in Greensboro News.

## SCHOOL REVISION IS URGED

Committee Named by Governor Recommends Big Changes in Public School System.

That the school system of the state should be organized on the basis of the county unit of taxation and administration, is among the recommendations of the report submitted today by a committee appointed by Governor Bickett at the citizens' conference on education, that met at the North Carolina College for Women here May 4.

The state should continue to aid the weaker counties, the report says, by making the educational opportunities as nearly equal as possible.

Other recommendations of the committee include:

Adequate facilities for the training of teachers should be supplied as quickly as possible by the establishment of additional training schools. The program outlined by the state superintendent of public instruction

for training teachers at summer normal schools, at summer sessions maintained by state institutions and departments of education attached to high schools should be adopted until adequate facilities for the training of teachers can be provided.

The economic independence of the public school teachers of the state should be assured by the payment of salaries, not merely sufficient for living expenses, but sufficient for professional training and culture.

The public school teachers of the state should be employed for the full-year period with salaries on the 12-month basis. When teachers are thus employed the problems of illiteracy, length of school terms, et cetera, will be readily solved.

The community should provide comfortable homes for its teachers.

The courses of study in the public schools should be adapted to the needs of the community and the demands of modern life.

The health of school children should be properly safeguarded; every child should have a thorough physical examination twice each year and this should be supplemented by physical education.

The public school should, wherever feasible, be utilized as the educational, social, and recreational center of the community.

An efficient and well-trained man or woman should be at the head of the school system of each county, and this office should be supplied with assistants for school supervision as the need arises.

The state of North Carolina faces a real emergency in higher education. The institutions of higher learning are utterly inadequate to meet the demands of the young men and young women who ask for admission. Provision for enlarging and strengthening all of the institutions of higher learning in the state should be made at once.—Greensboro dispatch to Wilmington Star.

## LABOR ENDORSES CONG. POU.

Rumors That Congressman Pou Had Been Put On Black List Denied By Gompers.

Washington, July 22.—Organized labor, speaking through President Samuel Gompers, said today that there was no truth in the report that Congressman Edward W. Pou has been put on the black list in North Carolina. Rumors have been rife about the Capital for some time to the effect that labor was out for the scalp of several candidates for office in North Carolina and that Congressman Pou headed the list.

Like the death of Mark Twain, the report seems to have been exaggerated. Labor did take a hand in the primary contests in the State and is taking to itself some of the credit for the defeat of Max Gardner, Hannibal L. Godwin, John H. Small and Charles L. Abernethy. Messrs. Gardner and Godwin drew more punishment than the other two, in whose cases the activity of labor was incidental.

It is often said that labor would like to get the scalp of Representative Claude Kitchen but about the only chance it has to make a dent in the Kitchen stronghold is to put out a strictly labor candidate.

One of the reported grievances against Mr. Pou seems to have been his vote against the Esch-Cummins railroad bill. Mr. Pou would not vote for this measure until after the anti-strike provision was eliminated because he believed it an unconstitutional clause. So far as labor has been able to check him up, it has expressed satisfaction with his nineteen years of service in the House.

The fourth district member left for Smithfield today. He will remain in the district for a month and will return in August to join with Representative Hal Flood in mapping out the program for the Democratic congressional campaign committee this fall. He will make several speeches in the State when the weather gets a little cooler.—R. E. Powell, in News and Observer.

When you hear a woman has educated her husband, it may merely be meant that she has been giving him "pieces of her mind" at various intervals.

You never realize how many men there are out of work until you start to do some outdoor job that is a little difficult of performance.

## TEACHER SHORTAGE IS GETTING WORSE DAILY

Educational Chiefs at Chapel Hill Say It Is Serious and Will Be More So—Teachers Are Hard to Find.

Chapel Hill, July 23.—Officials of the University of North Carolina summer school are unanimous in the opinion that the teacher shortage in the state is more serious than it has ever been and is getting worse every day.

"It is a critical situation and far worse than I have ever seen it before," said Prof. N. W. Walker, director of the summer school, here today. "In the end I suppose the cities and counties with most money will fill their positions, but I see no hope for filling all the teaching positions in the rural schools. Last year there were 700 vacancies; this year apparently there are going to be many more vacancies. That means that more than 700 schools in the state will be without teachers and will have to close.

This takes no account of the large number of teachers at work in the schools in the state who cannot measure up to the minimum standard set by the state department of education. Many of them are not fit to teach, but superintendents have to hire them because they cannot get anyone else."

Since the university summer school opened, June 22, a steady stream of county and city superintendents has been pouring into Chapel Hill looking for teachers.

"We have had an average of eight superintendents a day for the past three weeks," said Henry B. Marrow, director of the teachers' bureau conducted by the summer school. "One day 14 superintendents were here looking for teachers. One of them said he needed 200 teachers, another was looking for 160 and nearly all of them needed at least 10. We have had delegations from county school boards here and some counties keep scouts in the summer school the whole term, spending a great part of their time looking for teachers."

"Are they finding any teachers?" "Not many," Mr. Marrow replied. "Most of the better teachers have already made engagements for next year and others are holding off in the hope of getting more money."

"There has been a remarkable change in the work of the teachers' bureau since, say, 1917," continued Mr. Marrow. "Formerly a superintendent looking for teachers had plenty of applications. Now he has virtually none and has to scout around and find them instead of their looking for him. And he has difficulty in hiring them after he has found them."

He agreed with Mr. Walker that the greatest trouble was in the rural schools. The higher pay that cities and towns can give, together with their marked social advantages over the country districts, puts the rural districts at a distinct disadvantage. Many of the big city schools can pay up to \$1,800 to \$2,000 and occasionally higher than that, whereas the small country schools, some of them one-teacher schools, are simply out-classed. They can't compete with such salaries with the money they have available and they are losing out.

"The only solution is consolidation," said Professor Walker. "If several small schools are thrown together into one large school, more money becomes available and obvious social advantages are gained. But the present situation is almost desperate."—Greensboro News.

## Prominent Episcopal Rector is Dead.

Washington, July 15.—Dr. Randolph Harrison McKim, pastor of Epiphany Episcopal church here since 1889 and author of numerous works on theology, died today at Bedford Springs, Pa. Born in Baltimore in 1842, Dr. McKim served in the Confederate army throughout the war between the states.

During his Washington rectorship Dr. McKim has had as members of his congregations many cabinet members and other high government officials. Prior to coming to Washington he served as rector of churches in Baltimore, Portsmouth, Va., Harlem, N. Y., and New Orleans.

Virtue is a fault with some people.