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VOL. III.

WILLIAMSTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1902.

NO. 18.

TOWNS GROW FAST.

Rural Districts in the South Rapidly Filling Up.

DETAILS OF THE LATE CENSUS

Population of North Congested in the Large Cities—In the South the Increase Has Been Rural.

Washington, Special.—The Director of the Census has given out a statement regarding the growth of urban population North and South, which shows the following facts:

The large cities taken collectively are growing nearly twice as fast as the rest of the country.

The per cent of the population of North States living in large cities is nearly three times as great as the corresponding per cent in the South; the North has a rate of increase no greater than that of the South.

The large cities of the North are growing much faster than those of the same size in the South, but this difference is balanced by an extremely rapid growth of small towns and cities in the South and especially rural population.

The statement says these results seem paradoxical but are correct.

Director Merriman's statement is designed to explain how the deduction that the South for the first time is now growing as rapidly as the North harmonizes with the well known fact that in the North the population of inhabitants living in cities is much larger than it is in the South and that as a rule cities increase in population much more rapidly than country districts.

The statements show that in the North the proportion of the population living in large cities is more than three times as great as it is in the South. The population living in cities of over 25,000 inhabitants increased 41 per cent between 1890 and 1900, partly by the growth of the 125 cities that had 25,000 or more in 1890 and partly by the addition during the following ten years of 36 other cities to the list. The population of the country outside these cities increased between 1890 and 1900 14.9 per cent. The 160 cities of the United States, each of which had a population of 25,000 or more in 1900, increased in population 22.5 per cent between 1890 and 1900, the rest of the United States, including Alaska and the recent insular possessions, increased 17.5 per cent.

Of the total population of 77,914,573 in continental United States 19,718,312, or 25.3 per cent live in cities of 25,000 inhabitants or more. The proportion of inhabitants of the three sections, the North, South and West, into which the census divides the United States follows:

North, total population, 47,279,629; population of cities of 25,000 or more, 16,196,659 or 34 per cent; South, total 24,223,527; cities of 25,000 or more, 2,468,253 or 10 per cent; West 14,911,317; cities of 25,000 or more, 1,023,179, or 23 per cent.

The per cent of increase of population living in places of sizes indicated from 1890 to 1900, by sections follows:

25,000 and over, North, 42.1; South, 21.2; West, 47.3; in United States, 41.1.

10,000 to 25,000, North, 22.9; South, 26.9; West, 17.9; in United States, 22.1.

5,000 to 10,000, North, 27.5; South, 37.2; West, 50.7; in United States, 36.7.

In incorporated places of less than 5,000, North, 27.9; South, 41.1; West, 48.3; in United States, 32.9.

Rural, North, 1.2; South, 7.5; West, 2.8; in United States, 2.4.

These figures corroborate the statement, show that the present growth of population is a resultant in the North of a very rapid growth of large cities, as well as growth of small cities, and a very slight growth in the country; and a resultant in the South of a rate of growth of larger cities below the average for the country, balanced by a striking growth of small cities and an increasing rural population as fast as the average for the United States.

Lee Memorial Services.

Memphis, Special.—Memorial services commemorative of the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee, were held throughout the South. At the Central Methodist church in this city, the Rev. W. K. Piner took as the text of his sermon, "The Soldier." Fifteen hundred people listened to Mr. Piner's eulogy of the dead chieftain.

Syrian Robbed.

Kirkville, Mo., Special.—A Solomon a Syrian, living at Keokuk, Ia., was held up Sunday night and robbed of a money belt containing \$8,500. Solomon had sold his business in Keokuk and was looking for a location here. Two fellow country men have been arrested for the robbery. Solomon says one of them held him while the other cut the belt from his waist. The money has not been recovered.

Smallpox in North Carolina.

Wilmington, N. C., Special.—The smallpox situation in Eastern Carolina counties is beginning to be seriously regarded. Although no quarantine has been established against any place, the health department has a watch on all trains from the infected district and will continue to keep "open house" unless conditions materially change. Dr. Joshua Taylor, State smallpox inspector, at Washington, N. C., is here and reports three very virulent cases at Clinton, all of them in prominent families. It is feared one of the patients will die. Warsaw quarantined against Clinton Saturday.

Four Buildings Collapsed.

Detroit, Special.—Four buildings, each four stories high, located in the east of the wholesale district of this city, collapsed Sunday night, without any apparent cause, and all that now remains is a smoldering heap of ruins. The buildings were a part of the block bounded by Jefferson avenue and Shelby and Griswold streets, and were occupied by five concerns and their stocks are a total loss, which is estimated at \$125,000, exclusive of the loss on the buildings, which amounts to \$25,000.

EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.

Three Hundred People Are Said to Have Been Killed.

Mexico City, Special.—One of the most terrible catastrophes ever recorded in the State of Guerrero is reported to have occurred late Friday afternoon, when an extremely violent earthquake shock was felt at Chilpancingo, causing a great loss of life and injuring many persons. Details from the stricken district are very meagre, but scattering reports received here indicate that probably 300 persons were killed and as many more injured. It is known that the State capital, the parish church and many business houses and residences are in ruins and there is much suffering from awful seismic disturbances. One of the editors that suffered most was the Federal Telegraph office, which explains the paucity of news that has so far reached this city. Later, meagre details began to arrive. The telegraph lines were badly damaged. Chilpancingo was badly damaged, but the employees, all of whom were uninjured, proceeded to erect an improvised telegraph office on the outskirts of the city. The number of dead was greater in the parish church than in any single place, as a crowd of worshippers were gathered there for the afternoon service. The solid masonry-walled roof came toppling down on the worshippers as if it had been wrenched from its bearings by a thousand strong hands. Several people were killed there. The War Department has ordered the troops in the neighborhood to cooperate in the work of rescue. Until this work is completed it will be impossible to accurately learn the number of victims. It is believed, however, that this is one of the most destructive seismic phenomena that has occurred in Mexico. The greater part of the population of Chilpancingo are now camping out on the outskirts of the town.

Earthquake shocks were felt in many other cities and towns. In Mexico City the earthquake took place at 5:17 Thursday afternoon and was of such violence as to shake the entire substantial buildings. The Pan American Congress was in session at the time. The first movement was one of trepidation and was sharp. It was followed by an easier oscillatory movement from north-northwest to south-southeast. The duration was 25 seconds. The damage in this city was only slight.

The State of Guerrero has always been the focus of seismic disturbances. Reports received here tonight state that the shock was very severe at Chilpancingo. No casualties reported so far from there. In duration the Chilpancingo shock was less important than that in Mexico City, having lasted 10 to 15 seconds against 25 seconds at the latter city.

Up to 11 o'clock at night no further news had come through from Chilpancingo. The earthquake was also heavy at Iguala, in the State of Guerrero, destroying the parish church and many buildings in the city and neighborhood. The latter was the sugar mill of General Friable, an American. The mill had just been completed and fitted up with American machinery at a cost of \$200,000. The property loss is incalculable through-out the State of Guerrero.

The Associated Press correspondent has just seen a private telegram from Chilpancingo from a gentleman to relatives in this city saying: "I and family are safe. Many houses were destroyed." The fact he does not refer to loss of life is considered significant and it is now developed that the first estimate of deaths was greatly exaggerated.

Train Wrecked.

La Fayette, La., Special.—The last passenger train which left New Orleans was wrecked Friday at Code station, 12 miles east of La Fayette. Five passenger cars were thrown from the track, all well filled with passengers, but fortunately only three were hurt. The injured are: Dr. H. C. Sisson, of Sisson, Internal Medicine; Dr. Brockley, of Detroit, leg hurt; Mrs. C. H. Hamberg, of Buffalo, N. Y., injured internally. The injured were brought here, sent to a hotel and are reported as doing well.

Bank Closes.

Albany, Ga., Special.—An application for a temporary receiver has been filed by the directors of the Commercial Bank of Albany. The bank did not open for business and a posted notice stated that the bank had suspended payment, pending the action of the State authorities. The liabilities of the bank are estimated at \$123,000, with assets of \$191,000 in bills receivable and real estate.

Morgan Makes Report.

Washington, Special.—Senator Morgan, chairman of the Senate committee on inter-oceanic canals, made a brief report of that committee, as the result of his investigation of the status of the Panama canal proposition. He stated that he had learned officially that the French government had made no proposition to the United States in connection with the Panama canal, and that nothing had been heard from the government of Colombia on that subject. A sub-committee consisting of Senators Harris, Kittredge and Foster, was appointed to take testimony concerning the various canal routes suggested.

Nominations Confirmed.

Washington, Special.—The Senate Thursday confirmed the following nominations: N. H. Alexander, receiver of public money, at Montgomery, Ala.; Postmasters: P. D. Barker, Mobile, South Carolina; G. S. McCraw, Lawrence; J. C. Hunter, Union; P. Blom, Winnsboro; T. E. Hubbard, Dillon; E. A. Appert, Manning; E. A. S. Sisson, Barwell; J. F. Esser, Columbia; E. Harper, Seaside.

THE PANAMA OFFER

Comparative Cost of the Two Available Canal Routes.

PRESIDENT SENDS IN THE REPORT

The Offer of the Company to Sell All Its Rights and Concessions is a Liberal One.

Washington, Special.—The President has sent to Congress a message, simply transmittal of the supplementary report of the Isthmian canal commission, in which it is unanimously recommended that the offer of the new Panama Canal Company to sell all of its rights, property and unfinished work to the United States for \$40,000,000 be accepted. The Senate ordered the report printed in the Congressional Record, and also as a document.

The report gives in full the correspondence which has passed between the commission and the Panama Canal Company, Paris, which included a cablegram from the president of the board dated January 5, as follows:

"The new Panama Canal Company declares that it is ready to accept for the totality, without exception, of its property and rights on the isthmus the amount of \$40,000,000, the above offer to remain in force up to March 4, 1902."

The report states that the "totality" mentioned in this message include 56 parcels of land amounting to 39,669 acres, which cover nearly all the ground required for the actual construction of the canal. It also includes 2,421 buildings, used for offices, quarters, hospitals, storerooms, etc., also an immense amount of machinery consisting of floating plants, cranes, dredges, locomotives, cars, etc. It also includes all excavation work accomplished upon the main canal line amounting to about 36,700,000 cubic yards. The value of the work already done is estimated at \$27,895,028, less contingencies estimated at \$4,574,023, leaving an aggregate of \$23,321,005. The offer also embraces all of the existing shares of the Panama Railroad and Canal Company, except 1,199 shares held by individuals in Europe and the United States. Against this property are mortgage bonds amounting to \$3,425,960. Of this amount the canal company owns \$71,000. It also holds in its treasury \$1,964,000 worth of bonds, including \$1,101,000. These bonds bear 4 1/2 per cent interest. There are also outstanding \$99,600 6 per cent sinking fund bonds. The transfer also will include three passenger and freight steamers of 2,600 tons each. The railroad company owns an undivided half interest in the islands of Naos, Culebra, Perico and Flamenco in the Bay of Panama, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company being the joint owner. Besides its right of way, terminals, wharves and considerable areas of land, it owns nearly the whole of the town of Colon, the houses there being constructed under leases. Summing up the commission finds the total value of the property to be as follows:

Excavation work done \$27,474,023; Panama Railroad stock at par \$6,886,200; maps, drawings, etc., \$2,000,000; total \$36,360,223.

Add 10 per cent to cover commissions, \$3,636,627; total \$40,000,000. The estimated cost of constructing the Panama Canal is \$45,520,794 more than the most of completing the Panama Canal. The estimated annual cost of maintenance and operation is \$1,200,000 greater at Nicaragua than at Panama. The Panama route would be 124.5 miles shorter than the Nicaragua route from sea to sea, with fewer locks and less curvature, both in degrees and miles. The estimate in the report is \$15,520,794 more than the most of completing the Panama Canal. The estimated annual cost of maintenance and operation is \$1,200,000 greater at Nicaragua than at Panama. The Panama route would be 124.5 miles shorter than the Nicaragua route from sea to sea, with fewer locks and less curvature, both in degrees and miles. The estimate in the report is \$15,520,794 more than the most of completing the Panama Canal. 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