

SOUTH'S DIVERSIFIED CROPS

Wonderful Advancement in Agriculture in the Last Twelve Years

Washington, Special.—In no section of the country, probably has there been more wonderful advancement in agriculture within the past ten or twelve years than in the South. The belief is expressed by officials of the Department of Agriculture that the Southland is bound to take that place in agricultural development she merits.

A spirit of re-awakening is coming over the Southern farmer. The agricultural progress in the South has been marked by a material prosperity such as, perhaps, has never before been enjoyed by the farming element of that part of the country. The financial condition of the Southern planter began to take an upward tendency about 1897, since which time the situation has steadily improved. The production of cotton—that great staple crop of the South—increased 53 per cent., from 1896 to 1908, and the value of the crop 133 per cent. The Southern farmer, long debt-ridden, has to a marked degree been again placed on his feet as it were by the increased prices he has received from his cotton crop of late years. As a natural consequence he is devoting more time and attention to building himself a better home, to the education of his children and, he is in fact, deriving more of the comforts of life than ever before.

Work of the Department.

The agricultural progress of the South really dates back to a few years ago when the Agricultural Department inaugurated an educational campaign for a diversification in the crops. The application of practical scientific methods to Southern agriculture in the opinion of Secretary Wilson has done more to uplift land than any other factor.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture believe that the advent of the weevil was in reality a sort of blessing to the South. While it was disastrous in its effect upon that great staple crop, it at the same time made the farmer realize that he must not devote all of his land to cotton, but must depend to a considerable extent upon other crops. The South was quick to absorb the scientific knowledge so freely given by the Federal government and is rapidly recovering from past mistakes. Secretary Wilson is a great believer in the doctrine that the foundation of this nation's prosperity is an enlightened agriculture.

Secretary Wilson Pleased.

"I am happy to have an opportunity to express through The Associated Press," said Secretary Wilson "the Agricultural Department's good will toward the South and its desire to foster in every way the agricultural prosperity of that great and favored region. I have always taken a great interest in the agriculture of the South, not only because of its extremely interesting possibilities, but because I have felt a keen sympathy with a people

struggling bravely to overcome the results of a devastating war. I felt that they needed such help as the Department could give them, and I have lent a willing ear to their appeals. It is very gratifying to me to see the cordial spirit of appreciation manifested by the people of the South for the work the Department is trying to do."

Under Professor W. J. Spillman, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who has charge of the farm management investigations in the South, much has been done to encourage better systems of farm management, looking to the restoration of fertility, the bringing back of humus into the soil, and the suggestions of improved rotations.

"One of the most important methods adopted in fighting the cotton boll weevil," said Professor Spillman "is the diversification of crops and the introduction of new crops. Since the farmers have begun to realize that the weevil will in a few years spread over the entire cotton belt, they have become interested in other crops as they never were before. In many sections truck growing has developed amazingly. This is especially the case along the seaboard, and along the principal lines of railway connecting the South with the large industrial centers of the North. In other sections farmers have turned their attention to the production of hay. While not enough hay is grown in the South to supply the demand, the quantity of the home-grown product has increased to a remarkable degree since the Department of Agriculture began its propaganda for diversified agriculture in the South as a means of fighting the boll weevil. In some sections, especially in Alabama and Mississippi, alfalfa has become an important crop. Last spring one small town in Mississippi sold over \$3,000 worth of alfalfa seed. Five years ago there was hardly an acre of this crop in that vicinity."

Stock Raising.

"Many other crops formerly grown in small acreages only have been sown on an increasingly large scale for the past few years. This is especially true of corn, cow peas, and beans. The cow pea crop especially has become vastly more important than formerly. This crop is used both for hay and as a seed crop, for which there has been a steady demand at good prices."

"Southern farmers also are turning their attention to stock raising. Cattle have not been much raised in the South, both because forage crops were not extensively grown and because of the presence of the tick which spreads the dreaded Southern cattle fever. The government, both State and national, is now making an effort to eradicate this tick, with every promise of success. This will permit of the development of an important new industry in the South which is affected by the boll weevil."

"Apparently it will only be a short time before the South will adjust its agricultural industries to the changed conditions brought about by the advent of the boll weevil, and will be even more prosperous than it was when cotton was king. At the same time, owing to improved methods of culture, and increased acreage, the cotton crop will probably be even greater than it is now."

LUMBER SHIPPERS ARE REFUNDED \$165,000 BY THE RAILROADS INVOLVED

Washington, Special.—By far the largest specific allowance of reparation ever ordered by the interstate commerce commission was made Thursday, when that body approved a settlement agreement of \$165,000

in satisfaction of the claims on account of unreasonable rates on lumber shipped from Southern mills, involving about 125 cases and 11 different railroads of the South. These are said to be about one-third of claims to the same kind pending before the commission.

COURT OF ADMIRALTY TO FIX THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPUBLIC WRECK

New York, Special.—Just which ship was responsible for the Nantucket collision in which the White Star liner Republic and the Italian liner Florida figured and which company shall pay the damages will be decided by the court of admiralty. Both companies have filed suits. That of the owners of the Republic claimed damages of \$2,000,000 and recited in legal form the story of the recent sea disaster. The blame for the col-

lision was placed on the Florida. The owners of the Florida also filed a libel suit and a petition for a limitation of liability to \$224,000 against the Florida. Later the Florida's owners applied for and obtained an order from Judge Adams in the United States circuit court staying all suits for damages against the steamship Florida on the ground that their petition for limitation of liability had been filed ahead of the \$2,000,000 libel suit of the Oceanic Steamship Navigation company.

ERECT WIRELESS TOWER AT WASHINGTON

Washington, Special.—The Navy Department opened bids for locating a wireless tower at Washington for communicating with ships at sea. The specifications require that the tower or station shall be capable of transmitting messages at all times and at all seasons to a radius of 3,000 miles in any navigable direction from Washington. The messages are not to be interrupted by atmospheric distur-

bances or interference by neighboring stations. At the same time the department asked for bids for two sets of apparatus to be installed on naval vessels to be capable of transmitting and receiving messages at all times, seasons and latitudes, and from a distance of 1,000 miles, and to receive messages from the Washington station at a distance of 3,000 miles at all times.

MORE ABOUT PELLAGRA

A Grave Menace to Health Consideration in the South.

Washington, Special.—Looming up as a grave menace to health conditions in the South is the recent appearance of a deadly disease known to medical scientists as "pellagra." For several centuries "pellagra" is known to have existed in the Old World, but its presence in the South has but recently been discovered.

This peculiar disease has been diagnosed as true pellagra and the credit for its discovery in the South belongs to Passed Assistant Surgeon C. H. Lavinder, of the public health and marine hospital service. "Pellagra" is a malady caused by the eating of spoiled "maize" and produces in persons afflicted with it a sort of intoxication. The disease generally occurs among the poorer classes of the rural population who subsist largely or exclusively, on corn most usually prepared by boiling corn meal in salt water called "polenta" in Italy. Dr. Lavinder states that in pellagrous countries the corn is often of a poor quality, gathered before maturity and not properly stored and stored, so that parasites more easily develop upon it.

"The disease usually begins with gastro-intestinal disturbances," says Assistant Surgeon Lavinder, "followed shortly by the erythema of the skin, and in a brief while there is more or less involvement of the nervous system. It is slowly advancing toxemia, the brunt of which, in the end, is borne by the nervous system, and each annual recurrence leaves a deeper and more indelible mark on the mental and nervous condition of the sufferer." The great gravity lies in the number of people affected, and in its immediate and remote consequences not only to individuals, but to the race—intellectual feebleness, lessened resistance, economic loss, physical deterioration of the race, etc.

Concerning the etiology of the disease, it is said to be an intoxication due to using as food Indian corn (maize), which under the influence of unidentified parasitic growths (fungi), has undergone certain changes with the production of one or more toxic substances of a chemical nature. Within the past two or three years, for some reason or reasons unknown, this disease has rapidly increased in numbers and extent of territory affected. "Pellagra" bears a close resemblance to the agent to territory effected. "Pellagra" occurs in the old world, though differing in some particulars, and the acute cases greatly preponderate and the mortality is high. "Since it is of a serious nature, and epidemic in character," declares Dr. Lavinder "knowledge concerning it is becoming of much importance to the American physician and especially to the practitioner in the Southern States."

Roosevelt and Fairbanks Guests at Dinner of Gridiron.

Washington, Special.—Farewell to President Roosevelt and Vice-President in their official capacity only was said to them Saturday night by the famous Gridiron club of Washington newspaper men.

The occasion was the annual winter dinner of that club. In all there were nearly 200 guests, and as is always the case, the roll included many that figure conspicuously in the hall of fame. Ambassadors, justices of the supreme court of the United States, cabinet officials, senators, representatives, editors, publishers and men of affairs generally, were in this gathering of guests of the newspaper men.

It was far from a sad affair though the occasion was of a farewell nature. Gridiron dinners never are sad. As the president and vice-president were the guests of honor, so they came in for equal prominence in the fun of the evening.

Water Wagon a Feature.

The temperance movement that has swept over the country showed its effect on the club. As the souvenir of the dinner, the guests were given "H-2-O," illustrated Grid-Iron almanacs, published by the "Grid-Iron Water Wagon Press." Between it covers there was no remedy given for the ills of "statesmen, journalists, real newspaper men, molly coddles, malefactors of great wealth" other than plain "H-2-O." In this almanac the "Teddy Bear" formed the centre of the Zodiac, while the entire production was marked as forwarded to congress as "special message No. 232323232323."

"A Total Eclipse."

The guests observed particularly that a total eclipse of the year is due "early in March," and "will be viewed with interest by the United States, Canada, Africa and Oyster Bay."

Town Devastated by Fire.

Coffeyville, Kan., Special.—The town of Nowata, across the line from here in Oklahoma, was almost wiped off the map Saturday by a fire that destroyed 13 business houses, two banks and the county court house, which held all the records of that section of Oklahoma. The loss is estimated at \$200,000.

THE CONVOY.



—Week's cleverest cartoon, by C. R. Macauley, in the New York World.

CAPTAIN TELLS OF THE WRECK

Ship Sank Under Him and He Was Rescued From the Sea—Williams, the Second Officer, With Him to the End—Fished From the Water First, He Directed the Search For the Captain—Praise For All the Ship's Men.

New York City.—Captain William I. Sealby, of the wrecked White Star liner Republic, told the story of the disaster. "One thing he did not tell was why he had elected to stay with his ship until it sank. Being an officer of the Royal Naval Reserve and a commander for the White Star, Captain Sealby presupposed that this act needed no explanation.

"Before 6 o'clock on Sunday night we knew that the Republic would never live to reach Martha's Vineyard," was the way Captain Sealby began his tale. "By 7 o'clock she was way down in the stern, and wallowing with long, painful rolls, that meant there was very little more life left in her. Williams (R. J. Williams, the second officer) and I stood on the bridge and kept our eyes ahead on the lights of the Gresham and Seneca, which were towing. The ship was so low in the stern that the waves were breaking over her at that point and the water was swashing clear up to the ladder of the saloon deck aft."

"I think it must have been just about 8 o'clock when we both saw that she was going to drop under us within a very few minutes. First thing we did was to prepare a Holmes distress light, which burns when it touches water. This we left on the bridge with us so that when we went down the men on the revenue cutters could be directed to the spot where the Republic went down. While we were working over the light Williams, who has a bit of sporting blood in him, joked about our situation.

"What do you make of it, Williams?" I asked him.

"I don't think it will be a long race to the bottom," he laughed. "When you are ready let her go and we'll make a sprint of it."

"Before we had finished with the Holmes light we began to hear a roaring and cracking of the deck seams back of us. It was the air driving out ahead of the advancing water. That is the last call of a sinking ship. I directed Williams to burn two blue lights, the signal to the revenue cutters that we were going down and for them to cast off. Then I let loose five shots with my revolver.

"We were going down steadily then and pretty fast. I yelled at Williams to make for the fore rigging. We both dropped down the ladder to the saloon deck, each carrying a blue light in one hand. By the time our feet touched the saloon deck it was at an angle of nearly thirty degrees, wet and slippery. We could not keep our feet, so we grabbed the rail and crawled. The water was rushing in on us from behind and the explosions and rending of the timbers from 'midships told us that already the stern was under water.

"We had reached the fore-castle head when Williams slipped to the deck and grabbed a post of the rail with his elbow. That was the last I saw of him until after it was over. I managed to get forward to the foremast and to climb the rising as far as the forward running light, about 100 feet up. Below me about half of the ship was visible and she was tipped up like a rocking chair about to go over backward.

"My blue light would not burn because it had become wet. I fired one more shot from my revolver, the last. Then everything dropped and I was in the water with the foremast still pling down beside me like an elevator plunger.

"There was a boiling, yeasty mass of water about me and a great roaring. I went under, but came up again, for the air had gathered under my greatest and buoyed me up. I guess I went round spinning for a time: then I hit a spar. From the spar I managed to get to a hatch cover. Things were flying around in the water and I came near being badly banished up before I managed to pull my body up on the hatch cover and there they all spread out with nothing but my head and shoulders above the waves.

"It was very cold. I saw the

searchlights on the Gresham and Seneca trying to pick me up, but they went around and around and missed me. I managed to load my revolver again and it went off, although it had had a ducking. Soon after that a boat manned by four of the Republic's crew and four sailors from the Gresham commanded by Gunner's Mate Johnson slid up near me. I waved a towel I had picked up out of the water. They saw me and came and picked me up. I was weak and cold—quite finished. Williams was in the boat when it picked me up. I was glad to see. He was quite down, too. We were quite back on our feet again after the men on the Gresham had ministered to us. I cannot speak too highly of the work of the revenue cutters that were trying to tow us; it was magnificent."

Captain Sealby had a word to say about his officers and crew.

"I have nothing but praise for the actions of the officers and crew of the Republic both at the time of the collision and subsequently during the very trying task of getting the passengers transferred to the Florida. The success of this maneuver I attribute to the remarkable discipline and cohesion between officers and crew. The passengers themselves aided greatly by their conduct. There was absolutely no panic among them and the women behaved splendidly."

The Republic's commander also paid a generous compliment to Binns, the wireless operator, who had stuck to his key although part of the wireless cabin on the boat deck had been carried away by the Florida's prow.

Second Officer Williams told of his experiences after he had become separated from his superior on the sinking deck of the Republic. He said:

"When I fell down on the saloon deck on the port side I hung onto the rail with my elbow. In three minutes I was all over. I felt her lift straight up in the air and saw the prow right over my head; then she just slid down. I felt the stern strike bottom, for there was a jar and then I felt something give. I believe she broke in the middle where she had been rammed by the Florida.

"I was pitched off the deck before the last of her dropped out of sight. I just caught a glimpse of the keel dropping past me as I hit the water. I tread water for a second to get my balance, then I struck out for about a dozen strokes before the bill of the water got me.

"A grating hatch hit me and I held on. I couldn't climb onto it because the seas rolled me off every time. I scrambled by me. I was getting tired of trying when another grating came along. I grabbed it with one hand and held on between them. I guess I was in the water almost half an hour when the boat from the Gresham came along and pulled me out. I directed the men where to look for the captain and we found him in another five minutes."

Williams saved a brier pipe and a pocket-knife out of the wreck and that was all.

Jack Binns, the wireless operator who flashed the news of the Republic's ramming to Siasconset wireless station and who subsequently kept at his place communicating with the ships hastening in relief, seemed to believe that the loss of 500 cigarettes he had with him when the Republic left New York on Friday was one of the most serious features of the wreck.

"Part of the wireless cabin was torn away in the crash," said Binns, "but the instruments were not hurt. As soon as the captain heard what the damage was he sent me orders to send out the distress signal. I found that the instrument was dead. The electric motors had gone bad with the flooding of the engine room. I knew where the accumulators—storage batteries you call them—that are carried for emergencies just such as that one were kept, and I groped for them in the dark. When I got them coupled up I tried the key and found that the spark was right."

No Refuge on Earth Now For

Embezzlers and Defrauders.—Washington, D. C.—The last haven of refuge on earth for American bank wreckers, embezzlers, defrauders and other criminals of that class was removed when the Senate ratified an extradition treaty with Honduras. It is believed that under this treaty Honduras may be persuaded to surrender many old offenders who have taken up residence there, although that country has found them desirable because they always had ready cash.

Virginia Railroads Lose

Two-Cent Case Again.—Richmond, Va.—The right of appeal to the State Supreme Court of Appeals in the two-cent rate case was refused to the railroads. The roads now have two courses open to them. They can either go into the United States Circuit Court of Appeals and have the case heard at Lehigh, or they can go to the Corporation Commission and make application for a revision of the rates on the ground that the roads are losing money. Meanwhile the two-cent rate prevails.

CUBAN GOV. INAUGURATED

Provisional Governor Magoon Escorts General Gomez to the Palace For the Inauguration Ceremonies, and Then Sails From the Island on the New Maine—Cuban Gunboat Sees the Americans Safely Off.

Havana, By Cable.—Major General Jose Miguel Gomez was inaugurated President of the restored Cuban republic Thursday at noon and within an hour after he had taken the solemn oath of office administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the American officials who had been in control of affairs since the autumn of 1906 had departed from the island.

The American provisional Governor, Charles E. Magoon, who escorted General Gomez to the palace and there turned over to him the reins of government, sailed on the new Maine. The Maine was followed by the battleship Mississippi and the army transport McClellan. A swarm of small vessels joined in the procession out of the harbor.

A Cuban gunboat also accompanied the ships some little distance to sea with a band on board playing from time to time the Cuban national anthem. Earlier in the day Governor Magoon and President-elect Gomez were seated side by side in the carriage en route to the palace in the wake of a galloping escort of rural guards or native cavalry there was silence on the part of the holiday throngs who lined the sidewalks. Hats were lifted as the carriage swept by, and the salutes were returned in the same manner by the Governor and General Gomez.

At night fireworks burned throughout the city in the same profusion that characterize the 4th of July in the United States, and the cafes were gay with music and singing.

About 3,000 troops are still on the island under the command of Major General Thomas L. Barry. These will be returned to the United States as fast as the transport service will permit, the last of the troops leaving on April 1st.

Cuba begins her new period of independence under conditions which seem as propitious as could be evolved. Peace reigns from the western extremities of Pinar del Rio to the eastern promontories of Santiago province, and no disturbing element is anywhere in evidence.

TWO MORE JURORS ACCEPTED.

Nine Men Are Now in the Jury Box to Hear the Cooper Trial—Fourth Verdict is Ordered.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—The ninth day of the trial of Duncan B. Cooper, Robin Cooper and John D. Sharp, for the murder of former Senator Edward W. Carmack closed with two additions having been made to the jury, which now numbers 9. The two recent acquisitions are Gus Knipper and P. O. Beirman.

Up to Friday Night, 1,165 talesmen have been examined in an effort to get the 12 men. Of those who qualified the State challenged 13, the defense challenged 23 and the court summarily excused two after they had been declared satisfactory to both sides.

It is conceded that the action of the State in charging two talesmen with perjury has greatly reduced the chances of getting a jury at once. Many of those summoned say they may have expressed an opinion at the time the murder occurred, and for fear of an indictment, they disqualify themselves.

After hearing testimony in the case of Juror Whitworth, whose health is said to be such that his life would be endangered by the confinement incident to the trial of the case, Judge Hart was disposed to excuse him at once, but the State asked that a decision be withheld until the next panel was exhausted.

Bulgaria Complains of Turkey's Attitude.

Sofia, By Cable.—The Bulgarian government has delivered a note to the representatives of the powers, complaining of the irreconcilable and uncompromising attitude of Turkey and declaring that the Porte must be responsible for the consequences. The note does not solicit the intervention of the powers but draws their attention to the tenor of the situation.

Desperate Man Breaks Jail.

Wilmington, N. C., Special.—Jap B. Walker, a white man in jail at Southport, charged with the murder of Sheriff Jackson Standand, of Brunswick county last December while resisting arrest by a posse headed by the sheriff, made his escape from the prison at Southport by bribing the night guard, J. R. Fountain, with some heavy instrument procured in some unaccountable way after he had escaped his cell into the corridor. The guard was disarmed of his pistol and all the cartridges he carried and a white man named Butler, held as an accomplice of Walker escaped too.

European Powers Keep Peace Between Turkey and Bulgaria.

Paris, Special.—An official note issued here sets forth that the powers of Europe are earnestly continuing their efforts to prevent an outbreak of hostilities between Turkey and Bulgaria, an outcome threatened by the recent mobilizations by both countries concerned.