Thirty years are most people hat-of to go into dobt. They know, from their own experiance and the experi-ence of their friends and relatives, that it i' very hard to conduct a beautoes or a farm so as to make mough money pay off the inter-st on the morrgage, let alone setting mide anything to apply on the prin-digal. From the Civil War until 1896, prices on the whole were tending lownward and those people who were trying to pay off mortgages were lighting a loaing fight. The men who were active in basiness and in farm-ing during the 'Tor' and '36's were right when they shunned indebted-ware as they would the plague.

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a spotted one in Georgia and other Southern States that have taken it up in like manner. The spots, how-ever, constitute most of the cases of prosperity that during the last year have stood out from the weltering desert of devastation caused jointly by the boll weevil and the collapse of

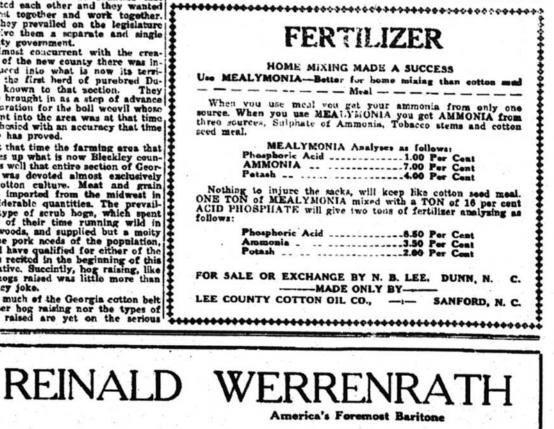
by the boll weevel and the collapse of cotton prices. One of those cases is a little county almost in the center of the Georgia cotton belt. It is known as Pleckley, asmed, on its creation about ten years ago, for a former noted chief justice of the Georgia Supreme court. The creation of the county was due in large measure to the fact that located around what is now its seat, the town of Cochran, there was an element of business men and farm-ers of unusual enterprise. They were ont off into different counties that ent off into different counties that abutted each other and they wanted to grit together and work together. So they prevailed on the legislature

o give them a separate and single Almost concurrent with the creat Almost concurrent with the crea-tion of the new county there was in-ioduced into what is now its terri-tory the first herd of purebred Du-rocs known to that soction. They were brought in as a step of advance prophasic of the boll weavil whose advent into the area was at that time prophesied with an accuracy that thme since has proved. since has proved.

At that time the farming area that makes up what is now Bleckley coun-ty, as well that entire section of Geor-gia, was devoted almost exclusively to cotton culture. Meat and grain were imported from the midwest in considerable quantities. The prevail-ing type of scrub hogs, which spent most of their time running wild in the woods, and supplied but a moity of the pork needs of the population, could have qualified for either of the jokes recited in the beginning of this narrative. Succintly, hog raising, like the hogs raised was little more than a julcy joke. In much of the Georgia cotton belt neither bog raising nor the types of hogs raised are yet on the serious At that time the farming area that

foundation that they should be. But the progress has been almost, monu-in all the section there has been con-mental. Certainly it has been the siderable progress, and in the little salvation of the farmers in the coun-county of which I speak specifically ty.





at the

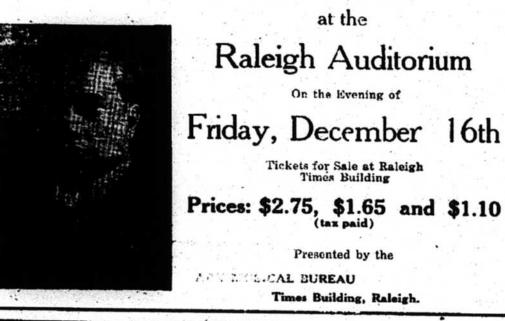
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