WHITE LABOR SOUTH

BY IT GREAT AND REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENTS BEING ACCOMPLISHED.

White Men Moving in and Taking the Earth Not Only in Manufacturing But Also in Agricultural Pursuits—The New Revolution is Now On in the Gulf Coast.

Mobile, Ala., Special: One of the great southern railway lines which has paid especial attention to building up the cotton mill industry has located mills all along its road in the south. Its policy heretofore, and from which it is to some extent now receding, was to encourage the locating of cotton mills at interior points and not on or near an export point. One very quickly arrives at the not inaccurate conclusion that its purpose was to get two hauls, one of the raw material to the mills and the second to the export point. Now large mills are either in operation or in the course of construction at one or the other of its ports. That the cotton was not worked up in the south where it is raised, heretofore, was due to the fact that there was not sufficient white labor in the south to operate the mills. The condition was overcome by operators from Massachusettes and New York moving their plants south and bringing their employes along at the same time. So that all through the south you will find little settlements clustering around typical New England mills in which are employed entire families. The whites of the south seek employment and find it in these mills, but no negro can get employment except as a drayman, freight handler or fireman, while his wife and daughters can only get work such as scrubbing and scouring about the mill. Black children employes will not be tolerated by the white spinners. Therefore, tiny white children, twelve and even so young as nine years of age, work among the flying spindles, taking up the trade, and learning of which is denied the black child.

It is toil that is dwarfing mind and body of these future citizens, while the colored children are attending the public schools. The owners of these mills are northern men and they can operate these plants much cheaper than the mills they own in the New England states by virtue of saving in freight rates and the absence of child-labor laws, such as prevail in the North.

It is only a matter of time until all the big cotton mills will be located in the South. However, there is a healthful public sentiment that has resulted in such legislative enactments in most of the Southern states that raises the age at which a child is allowed to work in a factory and therefore some of these profits will be lost.

I only speak of this branch of manufacturing in the South to show how white labor already predominates. The prejudice against working with the blacks is so much more pronounced on the part of the mechanics from the North than with white labor born and raised in the South, that I am more convinced that segregation of the colored race will be the ultimate and final solution of the problem.

Nor is the factory hand and office man from the North alone who objects to holding a position along-side the negro, but the Northern settler who is coming south by the untold hundreds, is just as earnest in his objection to the black race, not wanting him for an employee on the farm nor as co-laborer, no matter if time and a careful investigation show that the black race in the South is often quite equal in intelligence and certainly fully as honest as the negro employee these people may have had in their Northern homes. There is a notable illustration of this condition of things at several points. Over on the Southern railway line there is a South Carolina town called Pelzer, with nearly 10,000 white inhabitants, all from the North and all employees of cotton mills owned and operated by Northern capital. They have no saloons, therefore no jail; no newspapers and no actresses, but they have a pretty Y. M. C. A. building, a free library and the most moral town in the South. They bar editors and actresses, along with the blacks.

The Southland company, now settling thousands of people in the highlands half way between Mobile and Pensacola, have a new white man's town in "a white man's empire" of a quarter million acres in which is not to be one single black family. It is a newly developed country and the settlers are all from the North, many coming in search of a more healthful climate. At their pretty little town called Gateswood, I found farmers from nearly every Indiana, Illinois and Ohio county, and fruit raisers from every congressional district of Michigan and Wisconsin and nearly every Northern state. There I met a Mr. Muir, a Chicago attorney. He took a prominent part in the Haymarket anarchist trial for the state. He came to the Gulf coast to see if he could recover from an attack of pneumonia that had made him a physical wreck. He and his three sons are now farming near Gateswood and he has found health in the open air. Said he: "Here I am surrounded by people from Chicago, Milwaukee and Michigan points, people whom I have known for many years. From my window at night I can see the lights in houses on every hand and these lights stand in every case as a beacon from the home of a family who came from the North. I have no prejudice against the negro. I had none up North and I have none here, but we do not want him as a neighbor or servant."

"But is not the negro indispensible to the South?" I asked him.

"Not at all" he answered, "for that question so often asked in the North, and by people who make flying visits to the South, is assumption quite current in the North, based on two assertions. The first assumption is that owing to the climate, white men are unable to compete with the blacks as cultivators of the South's staple products. The second assumption is, that, if such physical objection did not exist, whites could not be attracted to the South to compete with the blacks. A partial answer can be made to your question if you will visit the big Swedish settlement in Alabama where that sturdy race has colonized vast stretches of land with splendid success and are raising fruit and garden truck and grain. All these large tracts of sugar cane and cassava, corn and potatoes raised here this year were planted and taken care of by Northern people. I superintended the construction of a number of houses during the past summer and with the help of my sons cleared up several acres of land with my own hands. Let me tell you there is no doctor within fifteen miles of Gateswood and we never need one. We have the magic balsam of the pine and an atmosphere tempered by the ocean which guarantees perfect health conditions. These great sweeps of grassy acres will pasture thousands of sheep and cattle. Here will be the garden spot of the world. Here we have neither grip nor bronchial diseases. We are out of the "white plague" belt, though, I know, as the value of these highlands become known, the weak-lunged people will come from the north. We have a good school and every religious denomination will soon have its own church. We have an independent railway line that connects with the L. & N. R. R., the greatest railway system of the south. We have no winter at all, nothing except a few days of frost, while blizzards are unknown and our summers are never so warm as you have them in the North. When you consider that the soil is productive and yields abundantly of grain and nearly everything that you raise in the North; that we are in the fruit and melon belt; that disease is unknown among hogs, sheep and cattle; and when you further consider that three crops of vegetables can be raised in one year, that these things are being accomplished by white people from the North, who are happy, prosperous and contented, it is then I think I have answered your question most completely."

It is my observation that Mr. Muir gives a fairly accurate view of the labor problem in the South. I find that he and his neighbors have brought their help from Chicago or other points in the North. They are determined to waste no time on the race problem. While the South has put up with the service of incompetent farm hands, the settler from the North, finding that everything was to his own liking as to climate and soil, brought his own laborers with him. last year one railway line settled fifteen hundred white families while over seven thousand immigrants were scattered along other lines in the South.

During the next few months, you can be sure that there will be such an immigration into the Gulf Coast as California never saw in her boom days.

J. M. KEENEY, Jr.

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Not Much Opportunity There at This Time for Men From the States Unless Well Equipped With Capital—A Great Future Not Remote.

Havana, Cuba, Special: There are several steamship lines connecting various ports of the United States with this enchanting island. Walking the streets of any of her cities, you will meet citizens from nearly every state. Of an evening when the bands are playing on the plazas you will meet fair-faced women from nearly every city in the Union, particularly at this time of the year. Some are merely sightseers, others the wives and daughters of men engaged in diplomatic callings, families of men engaged in professions, in manufactures, in commerce and trade, or engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Yet Cuba is not an unpleasant place of residence in the summer season—contrary to the universal belief of those who have never visited the island, the summers are not uncomfortable. I am told by permanent residents that they don't feel the heat so much as the hot periods of the states. However, there is a luxurious indolence in the air itself, and one's energy soon runs down.

Since the American army took possession and Colonel Waring's "white wings" cleaned the streets and byways, putting Havana in a sound sanitary condition, it is one of the healthiest and cleanest cities in the world. Yellow fever has been banished forever.

Cuba is doing fairly well as an independent republic, but there is not a little internal dissension, and some day when a cigarette-consuming native fires off a revolver and starts a revolution the people will rise up and ask annexation. Porto Rico, a near neighbor, has prospered so amazingly under our benign rule that Cuba looks toward statehood herself. Cuba's natural resources are being developed largely by American capital; and under American sovereignty, as it were, a still greater prosperity will be assured when complete control is had. There is an agricultural bureau that is flooding America with literature, and settlers from the States are sought to reclaim from riotous nature the millions of acres in rich soil now heavily cumbered with forests and a tropical jungle. Lands that were under cultivation up to the recent war soon grew up in a wilderness and must be cleared anew, so luxuriant is the growth of tree and plant life. There are several small settlements where Americans are engaged in growing tomatoes, onions, etc. Irrigation is pretty generally required, but if properly provided three and four crops can be guaranteed. The soil is so rich that sugar-cane need not be replanted as in the States, but yields crop after crop for ten or fifteen years before running out. Cane culture, tobacco and orange growing are great interests in the island. Improved methods in the cultivation and care of pineapples have met with gratifying results. Bee-keeping is destined to be a profitable industry also. Stock-raising is beset with great difficulties in Cuba, however, and it will be many years before satisfactory results may be looked for. I find that fear of tornadoes is the greatest terror old residents experience. These disturbances occur at certain seasons of the year and often wipe out of existence great estates.

If the country ever fills up with Americans these settlers must come from California or the southern tier of states. Most certainly farmers and fruit-growers from the middle and northern states would be pretty sure to make a decided failure in following their usual avocations here. The science of farming and fruit growing and truck gardening would have to be learned all over again.

By personal observation I found the soil not any more productive than the lands of south Alabama or west Florida. In fact, the hogs that supply Havana and all the other cities come from the farms about Mobile and Pensacola, and most of them are of the long, lean "razor-back" variety that run wild in their native country.

Several men that I met said they were not pleased with the instability of public affairs, and they were going back to the States. One man in particular, from near Decatur, Ill., said that he had made a careful tour of the South before going to Cuba, and has now decided that there are greater opportunities in the rice lands of Louisiana and Texas, but that in diversified agricultural pursuits he thought the territory contiguous to Mobile and Pensacola the best. He had been on the peninsula of Florida during the summer months and found that the same army of mosquitoes and insects that made life in the summer an agony at Tampa, Palm Beach and Sanford were abundant also in Cuba. He remarked that the higher cut-over pine lands near Mobile and Pensacola were always entirely free of these pests, and he believed that section would be the great cattle producing part of the country. Perhaps he had undue American prejudice against living under a foreign flag.

J. M. KEENEY, JR.

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The European powers have warned Colombia that if she gets into trouble with the United States they will not help her out. The European powers have learned a whole lot in the past few years.

A Missourian claims he has discovered a process by which cigars can be made out of straw. There is reason to suspect that some one made this discovery years ago.

It will be time enough to make wagers on the result when Russia and Japan begin firing something more deadly than cable dispatches.

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