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VOL. 14. NUMBER 7.

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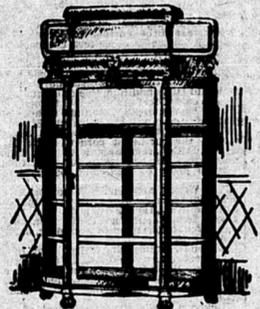
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TRIP THROUGH THE SUNNY SOUTH

What Chas. Moulton Saw During
a Trip in the Sunny South
Over the Frisco System.

A Glimpse of the Future of the
South Between Springfield,
Mo., and Birmingham, Ala.

Springfield to Birmingham is a distance of 533 miles, and there is hardly a mile of the whole distance that does not possess some special interest, either because of the work of nature, or because of historical associations. From the summit of the Ozarks at Springfield, to the shadow of Red Mountain at Birmingham, the tourist on the southeastern line of the Frisco, is never out of something to interest and instruct. Whether skirting the bluff, the gorge, and crevices of the Ozarks, or speeding through the cotton fields of Mississippi, the traveler cannot fail to realize that this is a great country. In traveling over this line there is not the lonesomeness and ameness that is experienced on the great plains of the west. A trip over this line cannot be adequately described in cold black and white, so as to be understood and appreciated by the citizen of the north, but must be taken to be appreciated, and such a trip is well worth the time and expense to any one.

It is not the intention of the writer or the object of this article to now enter into description of towns or localities but to give in a hurried, general way, some of the principal features of the country passed through.

To begin with, it is only necessary to remark that Springfield is the great operating center of the Frisco System, and the point of intersection of the traffic between St. Louis, and the southwest and west, and between Kansas City and the southeast, and the point where is located the great shops of the system. Springfield is not a mining town, and yet in reality it is a central point in the great mineral belt of southwest Missouri. It is the real home of the big red apple, and thousands of acres of orchards are in the vicinity. It is situated on the summit of the Ozark mountains, though not the highest point. It is a city of homes, schools and churches, and well deserves its application of the "Queen of the Ozarks."

Leaving Springfield on the early morning train, the traveler can enjoy a daylight ride through to Memphis, Tenn., a distance of 281 miles, and to one who is unfamiliar with that section of the country, the trip will be enjoyable. After leaving Springfield a few miles behind, the country becomes more broken and fewer large farms. To offset this, however, the scenery is in many places grand and imposing, and the many clearings and new farms indicate that development is the order of the day. At Cedar Gap, 41 miles from Springfield, the highest point on the Ozarks is passed, and soon we are on the down grade. Cedar Gap gets its name from the gap or pass through the mountains, which unfolds a view from either side or direction here that is not soon forgotten, because of the panorama of hill and valley, and the long distance that can be seen. It is said that a health and pleasure resort is to be created here that will attract summer sojourners from long distances, even from old England.

Mansfield, the next station, contends with Cedar Gap the honor of occupying the crest of the Ozarks, and is coming into considerable prominence as a mining town for lead and zinc, and it is even whispered that there are still more valuable ores in adjacent hills. It is a pretty town and bears all the evidences of the oak and pine forests that are so plentiful, and the saw mill is in evidence everywhere.

Mountain Grove is not only a pretty town but full of business and activity, and is having a healthy growth. It is in the great fruit belt of the Ozarks, and also in an excellent country for general farming and stock raising. It is the seat of the Missouri experiment station, and prides itself on its educational advantages.

Willow Springs, 91 miles from Springfield, is the point where the Current River branch of the Frisco system leaves the main line and extends east for 81 miles through the oak and pine regions of south Missouri to Grandin, passing through some excellent country and good towns. At Willow Springs, we see evidences of two great industries on all sides, the fruit and lumber interests. This is a lively town, and with the development of the country that is sure to follow, it has a flattering future.

After leaving Willow Springs we reach the section of greatest fruit development, the home of the peach, as well as the apple. Pomona is already well known for her apples, peaches, small fruits and berries, while Olden the next station, has a world-wide reputation for its large fruit farm whose name it bears. If anyone had previously entertained the idea that the Ozark Mountain region was not a fruit country, he would have changed his opinion even before reaching Olden. After passing Olden, the next town is West Plains, the county seat of Howell county, and a town of much promise, as well as present stability. It is a town of perhaps 4,000 people, and has a num-

ber of important industries to back it up in addition to the agricultural and fruit industries. Being in the cotton belt, it is in a position to develop the manufacture of cotton and cotton goods. Some good mines are found in this vicinity, and this interest is already important and constantly growing in importance. Lead and zinc bid fair to contribute in no small measure to the prosperity of West Plains. The lumber interests are by no means small, and manufacturing is getting a fair start. It is also an educational point, with a good public school system and a college.

From West Plains we continue in the section of development of the fruit interests, and find about Koehkonong a veritable forest of orchards and vineyards. If there is a better and more prosperous fruit country, with better fruits than this, it would be worth a trip around the world to see it, and as I am from Missouri, "you will have to show me." If there is a better fruit farm than the McNair Ranch, with its hundreds of acres, of all varieties in perfect condition, it is not known. Passing through this fruit belt to Thayer, a division station on the railroad, one is led to wonder why any of this land, hilly and rocky though much of it is, remains uncultivated, and can only lay it to the fact that people on the outside do not realize what has been done, or what can be done in this region in the future.

Thayer, is the last town in Missouri on this line and it is now in order to stop and look back over what has been seen on the ride through the Ozarks, as we are now practically out of them.

The Ozark mountain region of Missouri has so often been described that no attempt at this time will be made at the description of them now, suffice it to say that this region is first of all noted for the success with which all fruits of all varieties, except those of tropical nature, are grown, and it is justly called the "home of the big red apple." It is also an agricultural and live stock country. Wheat, corn, oats and other small grains do well. Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes grow to perfection, the latter equalling those grown anywhere. The melons of the Ozarks are now successfully competing with the celebrated Rocky Ford, of Colorado. The various grasses and forage crops also succeed everywhere. The climate is not excelled anywhere, and a healthier country would be hard to find.

There are numerous fine streams and springs, and good water can be found anywhere by digging, and oftentimes without, as springs abound.

One of the greatest sources of wealth of the Ozarks is the lead, zinc, iron and other minerals, and they are widely distributed through the region, and it is a good country for man and beast.

Shortly after crossing the Arkansas line the town of Mammoth Springs is reached and is indeed a beautiful place. The town is named after a big spring that bursts forth there, which is in reality the bursting forth of an underground river, forming a lake of considerable size, and the outlet forming a river of respectable proportions. This spring or river furnishes sufficient water to run a large amount of machinery and it is believed that some day this town will be quite a manufacturing center. It is in the cotton belt, and should be an important center for the manufacture of cotton fabrics. Mammoth Springs is already an attractive place for spending a few weeks of the heated term, for recreation and rest, and is also a pleasant place for a winter sojourn.

We are now in a corn and cotton district and where settlement is sufficient advanced, there is a comfortable air of prosperity and contentment that is pleasing to the traveler. It is also a fruit and vegetable country, and is hard to excel some of the tame grasses. In the newer sections the leading industry is that of lumbering, as this country is or has been heavily timbered. Through northeastern Arkansas, along the line of the Frisco, the land is generally level and in some places low and flat. The land is generally rich, being a black sandy loam, and the price is low enough for any frugal man to soon acquire a home. The homeseeker buying a home here has this advantage, the timber will pay for the land, pay for the improvements and support a family while the land is being put in a good state of cultivation; with good management.

The fine grasses, the good corn and the short winters make this an excellent location for stock raising and in many places grass is supplanting cotton as the leading crop. The complaint of the prevalence of malaria does not seem to be well founded as the people here live to a ripe old age, and especially is this true after the land has once been brought under a state of good cultivation. In the overflow districts there is more or less malaria, but the building of dykes, clearing, draining and cultivating the land have worked wonderful changes here, just the same as was worked a few years ago in the swamp lands of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and the complaints as to malaria will soon be a thing of the past.

At Black Rock the Frisco crosses Black River, after having followed South Fork for a long distance. It is at this point that the industry of hunt-

ing fresh water pearls in the mussel shells that abound in Black River and tributaries, has assumed such great proportions. It is estimated that at least \$100,000 worth of these pearls were marketed in Black Rock the past year, and the industry is growing.

Black Rock is an important lumbering center, and has also a large trade with the surrounding agricultural interests. Jonesboro, the county seat of Craighead county, is an important town being quite a center for the manufacture of lumber and lumber products with a population of about 7,000 busy people, who occupy spacious homes and attend good schools and fine churches and is tributary to three railroads. Other good towns on this line are Hoxie, Bonnerville, Sedgewick, Nettleton, Marked Tree, Decker, Gilmore, Clarkton and Mosher, the latter place having three live industries, the McCormick Harvesting Co's, plant where they cut and saw all the timber used in their plant for the manufacture of their machinery, that you all use, and the place where they saw some of the lumber used in the construction of the railroad coaches and used for furniture, and the Cooperage plant of a Springfield, Ill. firm where they make material for ten barrels per minute. I timed the workmen while looking over this plant. The capacity of the other saw mills combined is about 100,000 feet per day. At Clarkton is located one of the largest and most perfect cotton plantations in Arkansas. At Decker the Frisco extends north, this branch reaching as far as Lenoir, passing through Osceola the county seat of Mississippi county and also through a fine farming country.

At some of the points on this Osceola branch the lumber interests are quite important. There are many fine business opportunities in northeast Arkansas, as well as the lumber and farm interests, and a great many northern people have found it out and are and have been coming in and locating and developing the country and get their share of the profits of development.

On crossing the Mississippi river the city of Memphis is reached, one of the prettiest and best of the southern cities. It occupies a commanding site on the east side of the great "Father of Waters," and is in every respect a modern, up to date city. It is the financial, commercial and general center of a large scope of country, and its energetic merchants and manufacturers are constantly pushing further west, north and south for new business. While not what it once was, the traffic on the Mississippi is by no means a small factor in the prosperity of the city of Memphis. It acts as a feeder for the railroads and the railroads as a feeder for the river. Memphis is a city of homes as well as business, and a place that keeps pushing forward under all circumstances.

Only 20 miles after leaving said city the Frisco crosses the state of Mississippi, traversing it in a southeasterly direction, for a distance of about 150 miles, to where it enters the state of Alabama. In Mississippi the Frisco passes through the great cotton belt, and the tourist is seldom out of sight of the cotton field except while traveling through some of the newer districts where the cotton field has not yet superseded the native forests. Many good towns are passed through on this line, containing sawmills and manufacturing establishments of all kinds besides being important railroad centers. Tupelo is a city of fair size, manufacturing town and railroad center, which makes it a good business town. This is the town that "Private" John Allen the well known congressman, immortalized in his speech during the closing hour of his congressional career in the interests of a fish hatchery and nearly every newspaper in the country published the speech.

In the section of Mississippi through which the Frisco is built, a great variety of products is raised, and it is pre-eminently an agricultural country, while cotton is the leading crop, corn is a close second and is usually safe for a crop of from 40 to 50 bushels per acre and sometimes the yield is much heavier. Wheat is not cultivated extensively but in some sections considered a profitable crop. Upland rice is a crop that is now receiving considerable attention in Mississippi, and the yield is from 30 to 60 bushels per acre. The rice is cultivated about the same as corn and cotton. Tobacco is a sure crop and profitable as it has been demonstrated that this state will raise the finest grades. Sugar cane is not grown extensively in the north part of the state but in south part is a very profitable crop and yields as high as 1,000 pounds of sugar per acre.

The root crops all seem to thrive here as Irish potatoes make both a spring and fall crop, and sweet potatoes are a staple crop; also sugar beets, turnips, artichokes, melons and all similar crops. In grasses we have a number that are good healthy growers, such as alfalfa, Japan clover, crab grass, bermuda grass and a few other grasses that take the place of the grasses of the north and there need be no shortage of stock food. The climate is mild, there is an abundant rainfall and good water can be found everywhere.

With these conditions it can hardly

(Continued on last page.)

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