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MEMPHIS APPEAL.

WEDNESDAY : : : : MAY 28, 1884

SECTIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

The [illegible] of opposition to Congress providing for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river, appears to be in the extent and importance of the Mississippi river. Persons unfamiliar with what the Mississippi is and who would have nothing to object against certain amounts appropriated to these or four different river improvements grants of money, begin to hesitate and doubt when they see the aggregate of those sums are all granted for the needs of one single river. It is desirable that such persons should have some idea given them of what kind of river the Mississippi really is, and the relation it bears to commerce. Mr. A. D. Anderson has just published a volume that supplies the needed facts, and those who know nothing of the nation's great national highway may learn from the perusal of that book surprising things about the mighty river, the Father of Waters and commerce that swells it, and which it already possesses, and will increasingly possess, to an extent that [illegible] the mouth of St. Louis, and the theme to St. Paul. The river there are forty-two tributaries with an area of [illegible]. The Mississippi and its tributaries drain one-third of the area of the United States, [illegible] within that area find most of the United States's best lands. The Ohio valley alone in 1879 produced eighty per cent. of the corn grown in the United States, forty-nine per cent. of the wheat, forty-five per cent. of the oats, and nearly all the cotton and nearly sixty-six per cent. of the tobacco, [illegible] per cent. in value of the cotton, [illegible] per cent. in value of the tobacco. The value of the commerce of the Mississippi is over twelve [illegible] the total foreign commerce [illegible] of the United States. If one-half of the grain produced in the four-teen States in 1879 had been [illegible] to New Orleans by river instead of to New York, the saving would, at ten cents a bushel, at less than the [illegible] If the [illegible] of the lower valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries [illegible] an average of 127,[illegible] acres of land, [illegible] from floods, their cultivation [illegible] proper cultivation [illegible] $1,[illegible] to the taxable property of the country. If they produced [illegible] to the acre the value of their product, at 40 pounds to the bushel, at 40 cents per pound, would be $[illegible]. These vast interests are national by law, and [illegible] navigation from the nation, they confer [illegible] besides they are a bond of union between the Northern and Southern States, and a connecting link between national and international commerce. The river terminates where it [illegible] other American countries and which [illegible] imports and exports [illegible] in value. It navigates to free water commerce, that the first New York State having made the Erie canal free for the tolls and charges of the St. Lawrence, [illegible] are charged, lying unemployed in Kingston, and the Canadian [illegible] people are calling upon their government to do the same. The Mississippi is the Father of Waters and commerce that swells it, and which it already possesses, and will increasingly possess, to an extent far beyond that [illegible] the mouth of St. Louis, and the theme to St. Paul. Its tributaries and the river there are forty-two [illegible]