

# The Era-Leader.

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NUMBER 48

## FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

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(Incorporated.)

## The Scarcity Of Good Land And A Shortage Of Bread

When the Maryland and Virginia section of the country was first permanently settled, there were only a few people who had forethought enough to acquire a great deal of land while it was available and cheap. Such people as the Randolphs, Nesbits, Lees and many other old line Virginia families whose estates show today in themselves had no more golden opportunity in their day than have the people of this section to obtain land which will grow in corresponding value and productivity. They are bound to grow in value because this is the pioneer day of South Louisiana and Mississippi. They will grow in productivity because they will be used, to say nothing of the abandonment of the ill practice of burning the woods every year.

When the Astors and others whom we know of as being our richest citizens, first set foot on New York soil their first monies were put in real estate. Real estate was then available and cheap. It is not so now in any of the localities where people have grown rich by its purchase. The territory of available soil at reasonable prices is growing less every day. To grow rich in money should not be our only purpose in buying these lands while we can, but we must use them and develop them.

In a day not far distant in the past the lands of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and the whole middle west were as plentiful as our own right at our own door and it was in just as undeveloped a state as this land is. The pioneers who settled these states, which states are now the heaviest agricultural producers of this nation and of which the early settlers only acquired a few acres, have never been heard of individually and contribute only in a small way to the real force of the farming business. These men could not buy additional land now if they wanted to, it is not available. There were men, however, who saw their opportunity, and with a small outlay at the time land was cheap, and available, bought it right at their very door. These men constitute what is called the real farmers of Kansas.

Within the last 30 years we could have bought the timbered land in this section for the taxes on it. It was available, nobody warned us that it would be valuable. Other men came to our parish and country and bought every acre they could. We lost that opportunity—Sometimes a good opportunity knocks twice in the same place—not often—and never more.

The reason this section is not advanced in agricultural development, is largely because our lands within the past 15 or 20 years have not been available. These same lands are again offered to us and they are not going to lie idle long. Somebody is going to grasp this opportunity. They can now be bought just as the land of Virginia and the middle west was bought at one day.

Every law of reason tells us that this is a repetition of the opportunity mentioned above.

The South is noted for its agriculture. Right in this section is about the only part which is available at a price we can pay.

Because land is poor or impoverished in a certain element or elements of plant food, does

not necessarily mean that the land is not good and suitable for agricultural purposes.

The old German said that "good land is any good place to put manure."

When this statement is analyzed and applied to the world's supply of land, it is astonishing at the great amount of land for one reason or another that is not even a good place to put manure.

For instance, wet or water-logged land, land without a good sub-soil, or land with hard pan and various other causes, represent places that to use manure would even fail to produce profitable crops, and for this reason we are confronted with the great shortage of good land in the world today.

The farmer of China is fortunate and rich if he happens to be the owner of a single acre of good land.

The good lands in the whole of Europe are cultivated intensively, and as already suggested, the East, North and Middle West of our own country is rapidly adopting the intensive methods of farming. The intensive cultivation of the soil becomes necessary more and more as our population increases. The world shortage of food, both bread and meat makes this necessary.

Referring again to the lands of this locality. The high piney woods land of South Mississippi and Louisiana. What is the matter with these lands? They unquestionably represent good places to put manure. These lands are good because of the excellent clay sub-soils, because of their foundation. These sub-soils are rich in the elements of plant food, especially potash, but these elements are in a latent state. To be made saluable or available requires cultivation. The chemical action of the elements, the sunshine, rain and frosts of winter, on our sub-soil, renders immediately available the said plant foods which are now in a latent condition. The piney woods land are good because of the excellent climate, because of the abundance of pure water and ample rainfall.

But it is a sad fact with which we are confronted, that the top soil of these lands is not what it once was. Tradition and history tells that one or more centuries ago, when our great pine forests were young, that our top soils were rich in humus and vegetable matter. Every little creek, swamp, every little marsh in our woods was covered with a growth of reeds or switch cane and every hill with luxuriant growth of wild peas and other leguminous plants, on which the cattle and wild animals kept immensely fat winter and summer. These soils were full of humus due to the annual decay of all the grasses and herbs which had grown on the land year after. Since the occupancy of the early settlers, however, a system of annual burning of the woods, which has been kept up for 100 years or more has impoverished and greatly reduced the fertility and available vegetable matter in the top soil of these lands. Little did our foreparents think of the need of conserving these soils to their prosperity. And to know that this sinful waste of burning the woods each year, thus destroying everything nature is trying to do to restore fertility to these soils, is permit-

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14.	J. W. McGehee	4.
15.	Pink Morgan	1.
16.	T. G. McClendon	4.
17.	Geo. Patton	5.
18.	H. H. Williams Jr.	5.
19.	F. D. Brumfield	6.
20.	J. H. Penny	1.
21.	B. K. Knight	6.
22.	Ollie Biekham	2.
23.	Ed Watson	2.
24.	G. M. Tate	2.
25.	B. J. Alford	2.
26.	W. W. Walters	1.
27.	Q. E. Kemp	2.
28.	Ephraim Rester	4.
29.	Weston Burch	2.
30.	Earlv Corkern	5.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is true and correct list of Jurors drawn for service at the March Jury Term of the 26th Judicial Court of Louisiana for Washington Parish.

This February 19th, 1915.

M. A. Thigpen, Clerk.

### A Patron of Home Industry

(Arkansas Democrat)

He gets up at the alarm of a Connecticut clock, buttons his Chicago suspenders to Detroit overalls; washes his face with Cincinnati soap, in a Pennsylvania pan; sits down to a Grand Rapids table; eats Chicago meat and Tennessee Flour, cooked with Kansas lard on a St. Louis stove; puts a New York bridle on a Kentucky mule fed Iowa corn; plows a farm covered with an Ohio mortgage, with a Chattanooga plow; when bed time comes he reads a chapter from a Bible printed in Boston, says a prayer written in Jerusalem, crawls under a blanket made in New Jersey only to be kept awake by an Arkansas dog—the only home product on his place.

Sraved Lost or Stolen—One dark brown mare mule with black stripe down the back, stripe across the shoulder, with white spot in one eye. Will pay \$25 reward.

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(Continued on page 4.)