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OUR SOUTH AMERICAN LETTER.

(By C. T. Tooraen, Jr.)

Mr. Tooraen writes from Ponte Nova, Brazil, under date of June 26, as follows:

"Just a few lines to let you know I am still on the map, although in a far corner of it.

"We haven't started the mill yet but expect to do so in a few days, as everything is ready except my outfit, which hasn't arrived from Rio yet, although it was shipped from there two weeks ago. Had I known all this I could have remained with Prof. Kerr at least a month longer.

"I have been talking with Mr. Woolman about the timber proposition here in Brazil and neither of us think much of it. In the southern and northern parts there is considerable timber but it is almost impossible to realize a profit on it from exporting. Many companies have tried it and most have failed. The railroads charge nearly half the value for freight, and the government dips in for about ten per cent more. When it gets to the coast there is a heavy export duty levied on it. I should think, though, that money could be made by making lumber for the home market, especially for furniture-making, as furniture sells down here for about four times as much as it does in the U. S. The majority of the timber is very beautiful hardwood, most of which takes a high polish without the application of oil.

"The company I am with is capitalized at \$300,000, most of the stock being held by two old Portuguese brothers, who were the originators. The rest of the stock is owned by another Portuguese and Mr. Woolman. Both the old men are doctors. One lives here and the other in Rio. I am living with the one here and I find him to be about the finest old fellow I ever came in contact with.

"Mr. Woolman is certainly a lucky dog. He came out here to put in a railroad. When packing up to leave along came the two old men, who patted him on the back and said, 'Come with us. We will give you \$70,000 worth of stock and make you president and general manager of the concern.' He doesn't have to pay them the money until he realizes it from the factory. He says it all came as a surprise to him and gives as the reason that the two old men wanted to retire from active management. I have no doubt it is a good proposition for him but I certainly would not care to locate in a place like this. The vast majority of the population are negroes or tainted with negro blood, and the disgusting feature of it is that those who do claim to be white recognize the negro as their social equal, and the customs and manner of living are pretty bad.

"I am getting along fairly well with the Portuguese 'lingo,' as I have a teacher in the person of the book-keeper. I am teaching him English in return and find that he has acquired a reading knowledge of it from a correspondence school in the States. He is a real nice sort of fellow. He took me to his home last Sunday where we had a pretty good dinner. After dinner we went out hunting for monkeys and birds, with tiny French shotguns, smaller than 20 gauge. We found no monkeys but flushed up some sort of birds resembling wild turkeys. A few days later, however, as I was walking along the spillway through the woods, I saw several monkeys jumping about in the trees like squirrels. One was very large, the largest I have ever seen.

"The cane here appears to be very much better than that of Louisiana. It grows for twelve or eighteen months and yields an average of about thirty tons, with scarcely any cultivation, some places yielding fifty tons or more. The sugar content is also very high. There is very little level land and most of the cane grows on the mountain sides. Small mules are used in cultivating and large Brahma oxen bring the cane in two-wheeled carts to the railroad. There are very few horses here and in Rio there are none, all the draft animals being little mules."

Between 150,000 and 300,000 Americans are said to be in Europe for business or pleasure, and are in more or less straits to get home. The United States is arranging to bring them back in safety.

Three good laughs an hour, three square meals, and three hours work out of doors, every day, is the recipe given by Mrs. Thomas Bennett of Brooklyn, New York, for living, as she has, to the age of 102 in the full enjoyment of her faculties.

CAUSE OF THE WAR.

The assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir apparent to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his morganatic wife at Sarajevo three weeks ago is the pretext and not the cause for Austria's war against Serbia, says an exchange. Sarajevo is a part of that territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina which is peopled by Serbs and which Austria seized in 1909 from the weak government of Turkey, so weak that Bosnia and Herzegovina were already looking forward to the day when the union could be made with their brother Serbs in Serbia.

Such a union would have laid the foundations for a truly great and menacing Servian empire. It would have forever barred Austria to the Aegean sea. It would have drawn under its banner the millions of Serbs in the empire of Austria-Hungary, numbering half as many as the Austrians of German lineage in Austria, actually almost as many as the Austrian-Germans in Hungary, and about one-fourth as many as the Hungarians in Hungary.

Serbia at that time had to hide her disappointment over the frustration of her dreams of empire. The then Crown Prince George, eldest son of the king, was deposed from his position and set aside because he loudly and incautiously declared that he would never mount the throne of Serbia unless the people would take a solemn oath to help him free the Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Austrian rule. Many stories were set afloat about the depraved character of Prince George and that this was the cause of his being set aside for his younger brother, Prince Alexander. The only reason was the Servian desire to dwell quietly and peacefully beside her powerful and menacing neighbor, Austria, and not to provoke her unduly.

The Servians, who are the Serbs of Serbia, deeply deplore the assassination of Francis Ferdinand and the duchess of Hohenberg by a Serb in Bosnia. The Servians at once regarded it as a serious blow to their ambition to occupy their proper position and receive due respect from the great nations of the world.

That the Servians have a passionate sympathy for their brothers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, unwilling subjects to Austrian rule, it would be idle to deny. But there is not a national approbation of the murderer's act.

The one important fact which does not seem to have penetrated the Austrian brain is that the world is not to be kept from being correctly informed upon any questions relating to the Serbs is the fact that the Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina had the right to fly their own flag if they wanted to instead of the Austrian flag. This is a right granted to them by the imperial decree of the Emperor Francis Joseph.

When the emperor's heir entered the Serb territory which Austria had seized, and the Serbs unfurled their flag in his face, they committed an act of the grossest discourtesy—if they could be expected to be courteous under the circumstances. But when Francis Ferdinand commanded that the police tear down the flag and hoist instead only that of the dual monarchy his act was more than a mere discourtesy. It was an abrogation of the emperor's authority, making his own superior, and it was a flagrant violation of right.

Francis Ferdinand was generally an extremely silent man. He made few public utterances on questions of a public nature. But when he did speak it was, in the majority of cases, to give vent to his implacable hatred of the Serbs. Many were the indiscreet utterances he let fall, in public and private, to show his disgust and his enmity of these people whom he expected to rule some day.

The Servian minister in Vienna did not need to possess any secret or special information to be in a position to advise the archduke to keep away from the Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Gov. Hall says that he is glad that Louisiana has no short terms on her hands, and New Orleans is not burdened with the Panama Canal Exposition in view of the great war now on. This is an instance of it's better to be lucky than rich.

The London Standard reports that Roland Garros, a famed French aviator, destroyed a German war dirigible containing 25 persons. He hurled his monoplane into the gas bag of the Zepplin, Samson-like losing his life with theirs.

French and German citizens now in this country are returning home in large numbers in response to call.

Truck Farming and Raising Live-Stock in West Feliciana

J. R. Matthews in Modern Farming:

West Feliciana parish is particularly well suited to live stock production because of abundant forage, plenty of fine water and the presence of lime in the soil, giving "big bone" to all animal life. Numbers of our farmers have lately gone into the dairy business and are doing well, shipping milk to New Orleans for 2 cents a gallon, and selling it the year round for between 20 to 26 cents a gallon. And with the prevalence of magnificent grasses, wild cane, drainage and efficient transportation, this section is bound to become, in time, one of the leading dairy and live stock sections of the South.

Since the coming of the boll weevil and the passing of the cotton from former importance, there has been a noteworthy development in oats and lespedeza, trucking crops and live stock; a great deal of seed oats and lespedeza are, each year, shipped out of West Feliciana all over the South. As a result of these developments and the strong trend toward live stock raising, considerable transfers of farming properties have been recorded during the past 18 months. Chief among such sales may be mentioned the purchase by Hon. John M. Parker, of New Orleans, of a 4,000-acre place near the town of St. Francisville, which he is converting into a model stock farm. His son, John M., Jr., now lives on the plantation, and in connection with Mr. J. Bob Daniel, who has a managing interest in the place, they are spending much money in converting the property into one of the finest stock places in the state. Mr. Parker has bought nothing but the best blooded animals obtainable, such as Aberdeen Angus and Hereford cattle, Berkshire and Duroc-Jersey swine, French coach studs, splendid Kentucky jacks and brood mares.

Mr. A. Smith Bowman, of Lexington, Ky., has acquired about 4,000 acres of land here for general farming and live stock. Mr. Bowman is president of the Bellevue Farm Company and of the O-K Suburban R. R. line of New Orleans. He and his family are now living here on the Afton Villa plantation, one of the grand ante-bellum homes of the "Old South," located near Wilcox post office.

Messrs. J. B. Murphy and Edward Murphy, sons of the president of the Sugar Exchange, and the former for many years a sugar planter, are now living in West Feliciana, being engaged in raising cattle. Mr. Lee O. Lester and Dr. E. S. Milford, from Deming, New Mexico, are also most worthy additions to the parish, they having just bought about 3,000 acres of land here for farming and the raising of blooded live stock of all kinds.

Another move in the right direction for the putting of West Feliciana parish to the topmost position in variety of profitable farm production rests in the move of a colonization company selling off one of the big plantations of the parish to Ohio Valley people, who are buying in tracts of 100 to 300 acres. So far, nine colonizing families have located here, more arriving every month, those who came in time to start at crops this year having raised cabbage, potatoes and followed general farming; these farmers located at Plettenberg station, on the L. R. & N.R.R.

twelve miles north of St. Francisville.

Other newcomers to West Feliciana parish are Mr. John F. Page and family, also his son and family, who came from Covington, Ky., and located at Wakefield.

We grow all the clovers here, lespedeza, white and sweet clover grow wild, and crimson clover does especially well. We have begun planting alfalfa, too, and it promises to do fine in this section.

Here are some of the results obtained: Mr. M. J. Daniel, at Elm Park, pastured 95 hogs on red clover from January to May, and they all kept fat and fine. Mr. Fielding Merwin, at Pinckneyville, pastured cattle and hogs on his fields of crimson clover right through the winter. Mr. A. Smith Bowman, on his Afton Villa plantation, raised 10 acres of rye this year, it growing splendidly and giving big returns. We make from 30 to 50 bushels of corn to the acre, though 60 to 70 bushels have been obtained. Our lands ordinarily produce from 25 to 50 bushels of oats to the acre, there being a record of 68 bushels per acre on an 80-acre field. Our 1913 sweet potato crop averaged 40 barrels per acre, following behind Irish potatoes, the average price last season on "sweets" being \$1.50 per barrel. On Irish potatoes the yields this year ranged between 50 and 70 bushels, and satisfactory prices were obtained as a whole. Cabbage, too, do mighty well, this year's winter crop producing an average of 125 to 155 crates per acre, and the selling price held to 75 cents per crate all season.

Another instance of the rare adaptability of this section to live stock is furnished by Dr. J. W. Brandon's stock raising experience. He pastured his cattle through the past winter without any trouble at all from cold, and in March he sold a bunch of beef cattle to New Orleans butchers; of the lot, three were especially fine; two of them weighed 1,300 pounds, and one weighed 1,400 pounds. These cattle did not have a solitary mouthful to eat the entire winter except wild cane and grasses of the range, and a handful of salt occasionally. Messrs. J. B. Neely and F. S. Percy, at Plettenberg, carried through the winter 600 head of cattle on their ranges and lost but 6 head from all causes; they sold several head in March and April weighing 1,000 pounds. Horses and mules are also raised here, which would be a credit to Missouri or Kentucky.

Blessed as this country is with the finest grasses on earth; Bermuda, carpet and other native grasses, growing all the clovers, full of wild cane, with 240 days between frosts, with the finest of water, with 58 inches of rainfall, superior transportation facilities and low shipping rates to all parts of the United States, it is a case of being simply impossible to hold West Feliciana parish down. Add to the above a country full of good people, churches and schools, and you have a section worth while—just what West Feliciana is; and in conclusion it may be said without much fear or contradiction that West Feliciana is offering the homeseeker as much as, or more, today, for his money than any other part of Louisiana.

DEMOCRATIC BANKING.

(New Orleans States.)

Suppose you owned a small farm which was just about paying its way but needed fertilizers and improved machinery to make it yield as it should.

Why should you pay 6 or 8 per cent to a bank or private note shaver on a short-time loan to meet these needs when Uncle Sam, in his postal savings bank, where you get your mail, has money not working, on which he pays only 2 per cent interest?

At present, that idle money in Uncle Sam's postal bank, when used at all, is first loaned to a banker, and he, in turn, takes a nice toll before he re loans it to some producer of wealth who needs it in his business. The scheme is rigged to give the banker first chance at a profit.

With due respect to the banker, what is the matter with letting Uncle Sam loan the money direct, thus cutting out the unnecessary profit of the banking middleman?

That is exactly what is proposed in the Keating bill now in Congress awaiting action.

Keating would let a real farmer, for creative farming purposes, borrow up to \$12,000, for not more than thirty years, on his farm as security, if double the value of the loan, at 4 per cent interest, he pledging to pay not only interest every year, but also at least 1 per cent of the principal.

Of course, to make this plan workable, the present limit on what a person may deposit in a postal savings bank, a limit fixed low to appease frightened private bankers, would need to be removed. But why should there be a limit, any how? If a man prefers Uncle Sam's 2 per cent interest and safety to what a private banker will give him shouldn't he be allowed his choice as far as he wants to go?

The Keating bill probably won't come up till next session, but it's none too early to be thinking about it and sitting up nights plotting to kill it.

Keating restricts this low-interest borrowing chance to farmers, preferably those needing small loans. That makes it look like class legislation.

Come to think of it, why not let anybody in who can hock the required security? Seems to us that's the real way to pull the teeth of the money trust.

DON'T LET THE BODY SETTLE.

One is apt to let the body settle, as so many women do when they get toward middle life. Keep up the normal elasticity of the muscles and ligaments by keeping the body erect and taking such exercises as will help you retain this strength. Try this exercise, sitting or standing: Slowly lift the chest as high as possible, then let it go, being careful not to allow it to sink beyond the relaxing point—that is, do not let the muscles about the waist drop or sag. Repeat this ten times without stopping and repeat the exercise many times a day. You know you can raise up the chest by power of the muscles any time during the day without especially setting aside time for the exercise. You see your heavier appearance is due to the fact that you are not making the muscles about the waist do their work of supporting the body, so the chest sinks, and the whole body settles, making a shorter and heavier appearance to your figure.

HONEY CURES RHEUMATISM.

(Iowa Farmer.)

D. Bonney, an Iowa physician and chemist, has discovered that honey taken in two tablespoon doses five times a day for ten to twenty days will cure rheumatism. There is but one thing to observe. The honey must be taken between meals, the last dose at bed time, and no fluids must be ingested for at least one hour after taking a dose. Investigating the claims that bee sting poison will cure rheumatism led to this curious discovery, which is at least absolutely harmless; and that is more than can be said of secret remedies sold at immense prices. Either strained or combed honey will do to take.

When a man wants to go to the legislature he ought to want to go to do something for the people instead of something for himself. A man who does not know what he wants to do or does not know what he ought to do when he goes to the legislature, generally does what the "crowd" wants him to do. That means that sometimes he does things he ought not to. A man who has no program of his own is generally persuaded to take a minor part in the program of some other fellow.

NEUTRALITY PROCLAMATION.

(Times-Picayune.)

While most of the European nations are making declarations of war, or are giving out ultimatums, President Wilson has issued for the United States a proclamation of neutrality. Italy was ahead of us in this; but, in view of the fact that it was the supposed ally of Austria and Germany, it had to announce its position at the very beginning of the fray. The United States will figure as the great neutral power of the present European war. It will have to feed and clothe the fighters; it will have to look after their citizens in hostile districts, and it will finally have to arbitrate the struggle should it ever come to interference and arbitration. A bill has already been introduced in Congress inviting the President to offer his good offices to the warring nations. It is a little early in the day to bring out "the dove of peace," but whether Senator McCumber's resolution passes or not there can be little doubt that President Wilson will act in the interest of peace, whenever he finds a suitable opportunity of doing so.

In the meanwhile, however, all we can do is to proclaim our neutrality and not allow the combatants to come to blows within our territory. The obligations of neutrality are not nearly as stringent as they were of old, when a nation had to be very careful not to be drawn into the struggle. The President's proclamation does not interfere with the sale of arms or ammunition to the belligerents, but simply forbids any of the powers at war from making America the headquarters for hostile military and naval operations directed against a nation with whom we are at peace. The fighters are also warned against any battles in American waters. They must do their fighting elsewhere.

In the meanwhile, however, we are indirectly affected by the large number of foreigners settled in America, many of whom owe military service to their native lands—to Germany, Russia, France or England. There are 2,400,000 people of the United Kingdom in the United States, 1,500,000 Scandinavians, 2,600,000 Germans, 120,000 French, 1,500,000 Italians, 1,800,000 Austrians, 120,000 Greeks, 200,000 Russians. All these contending races have thousands of their people in America sympathizing with them, and not a few are willing to return to Europe and shoulder a rifle if they can get there. There will probably be no disposition to interfere with these reservists—there was none in the Balkan wars—but no recruiting will be allowed here.

There is no probability of the violation by any country of the United States' neutrality, and there is little likelihood of our becoming involved in the struggle. We are not in the way of the combatants like little Belgium, and, unlike that country, we are big enough to protect ourselves. Again the wisdom of Washington's advice to Americans to steer clear of foreign entanglements is verified.

CONSERVATION LAWS CHANGED.

(Times-Picayune.)

Many important amendments were made to the conservation laws of Louisiana at the recent session of the General Assembly. These amendments more particularly pertained to the protection of fish and game, a more uniform regulation as to seasons in which same can be taken, and were made to better conform to the Federal regulations for the protection of migratory game. As a whole, the Conservation Commission is well satisfied with the measures which were passed.

Other important changes made pertaining to the game laws was shortening the season for the killing of squirrels, which now reads from Oct. 1 to Feb. 15, the striking of robins from the list of game birds and placing them under the list of nongame birds and protected at all times against shooting.

A specific law that was passed was one authorizing the Federal government to conduct a fish hatchery in the state, another providing for the importation of elk and protecting them for five years. The Conservation Commission propose to accept the government's offer of a small herd of elk, which will be placed on the 600-acre tract prepared for them in the northern part of the state. This experiment will be watched with a great deal of interest, and, if successful, will mean much toward the development of the state's game resources.

A. P. Pujo says he will not run for governor.

Announcement

We beg to announce to the general public that we are now open for business, and solicit the patronage of all in accounts of general banking.

Farmers & Merchants Bank