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F. A. Wardwell. G. G. Thompson.

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The Pioneer Express.

THE TRAVELLING EDITORS.

How much interest our readers may have in the travels of the North Dakota editors to the "Sunny South" is somewhat of a query to the writer, as he again takes his pencil and again assumes his daily share of the "white man's burden." Our trip from Pembina and back covered nearly 5,000 miles of railroad travel. This in itself gives one some idea of the wonderful breadth of our great country, and to the traveller much to show its remarkable variety and wealth of resources. As one whizzes over the smooth tracks from the realm of the wheat king through the empire of king cotton, with the principalities of iron and coal at intervals along the way, he can get some conception of why this land of ours has become so great, and he can further realize, that great as is the present product, that the bountiful granaries of nature are still full to overflowing only awaiting the hands of millions yet unborn to fully utilize the free gifts of Providence.

Our journey assumed the general form of a gigantic X. Starting from St. Paul thence south via St. Louis, thence southwest to Tampa, Florida. In Florida we took in St. Augustine, Jacksonville and Tallahassee, then across via Mobile to New Orleans. From New Orleans straight north via the Illinois Central to Chicago and then home via St. Paul.

Ninety excursionists, nearly half of them ladies, and each with an average of three big grips filled two Pullmans pretty full. They were all "editors," except some of the ladies and grips and they belonged to editors' families. Occasionally some fellow with a big diamond in his shirt-front or with a large, clean collar on, was questioned pretty sharply by the conductor as to his connection with the newspaper business, but when it would be shown that he was the owner of, or devil in, a weekly newspaper office in North Dakota, that was sufficient. "They all wear diamonds" do North Dakota newspaper men. Editors Burke and Strong of the Chronicle insisted on putting on clean shirts and collars every day and the conductors in the south not being used to that kind of editors, occasionally wanted to put them off and if they had not succeeded in getting adopted by two, real, lady editors who were traveling singly, they might have had to walk back.

From St. Paul to St. Louis we travel-

ed via the Burlington. An inspection of the train to which our cars were attached showed the extreme of elegance and convenience attained in railroad transportation. The day coaches, chair cars, and particularly the compartment sleepers were simply magnificent. It may be possible that there are finer cars, but we can see no necessity or that anything could be added for the comfort of the traveller. From St. Louis to Birmingham, Alabama we ran over the fine road bed of the Louisville and Nashville making good time. Thence to Tampa via the Plant system, whose equipment was rich and elegant, befitting their immense winter excursion travel which is largely composed of wealthy northerners, seeking the milder climate of the south. From New Orleans, north, the old Illinois Central, runs at forty miles an hour for the 921 miles of distance. It is the oldest western road and one of the best paying corporations in the United States. It has a fine road bed and is well equipped. The excursionists owe many thanks for the kindly courtesies extended by each of the railroads over which they passed.

The climatic experiences of the party were a disappointment. Cold, cloudy weather was the rule and a bit of sunshine was exceptional. Of course the cold wave that followed and remained with us, was exceptional to the south, and while inconvenient and unpleasant to us, meant many thousands of dollars of direct loss to the residents. Fruit and early garden stuff which are largely cultivated there, is certainly a total loss for this season, while it still remains to be seen how much permanent damage has been done to peach, plum, orange and banana trees.

The North Dakotans, kept on their overcoats and warm clothing, all the way, needing it just as much as if at home. While the thermometer was not as low, the moist atmosphere of the south brought the shivers at 30 above, so that a warm stove was just as grateful there as here when 30 below. The difference is, that there one shivers uncomfortably, while here he can freeze without special discomfort.

In so long a trip one can only generalize as to the features of the country; beside a large part of the time spent in travel is at night. Besides this the time taken in mere travel is so great that stops are necessarily brief and only a small part of the sights can be taken in at the various points of interest. Tennessee and Kentucky were both in darkness going and coming. Southern Georgia, Alabama and northern Florida are but thinly settled as to farms, as seen from car windows. Great forests of yellow pine, mostly girdled for the turpentine sap are the most prominent features. Generally, the land is gently rolling with numerous swamps. In Florida the trees are mostly covered with hanging gray moss which gives a dismal look to the forest. The girdled pine trees give up their lives in about three or four years, and then are burned or cut into cord wood. The Plant system locomotives are generally wood burners. Here and there are large saw mills, which cut the "long leaved" pine into lumber, much of which is sent north and used for flooring and inside finish. The fields for crops are small. They raise corn, oats and cotton and considerable stock. Wild land is of nominal value. Thirty cents an acre is a nominal price. It has to be cleared and cultivated at considerable expense. Fruit farming is venturesome. If successful in getting the trees growing and yielding, it pays well, but there are many draw backs, like the recent frost, and then it is not only a year's crop, but may be many years labor and expense is lost. Cotton of late has been proportionately much less in price than wheat, and pays to raise accordingly. Truck farming, raising vegetables for early northern markets, is quite a success, if successful. The most of the labor is performed by negroes, at wages from 25 to 50 cents per day.

The first "show town" that we came to was Tampa. Here we began to see things, vegetable, animal and human, strange to northern eyes. Tampa is quite a city of some 20,000 people, two-thirds of whom are Cubans, mostly engaged by the great cigar factories as operatives. Negroes are also plentiful, and seem remarkably so to northern eyes. Tampa sidewalks and streets were mostly in a state of chaos, natural and artificial, but there are some fine buildings. We went the following morning via the Plant railway to Tampa port about ten miles away where the U. S. soldiers embarked for Santiago. We then went to St. Petersburg, across the bay via steamer, an hour's pleasant sail. Landing, we walked along a half mile pier to the town and went to the first hotel to get warm and get some breakfast. Later we, to-wit, Mr. and Mrs. J.

K. Fairchild of Cavalier, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Short, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Kneeshaw and Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Wardwell, chartered a delivery wagon with two large seats and one small horse and a native driver and took a delightful drive out in the suburbs, making one of the most enjoyable days on the trip. Of course we can not speak for the horse, who though attached to the party was not one of us; besides none of us were heavy weights except W. J. To most of that party, it will be long remembered that on that day for the first time, they saw growing, bananas, oranges, lemons, guavas, a cactus pear, grape fruit, pineapples, and perhaps other fruit, besides many strange and new forms of tropical growth. Many gardens of early vegetables were seen, mostly however just started, while each lady had permission to pick from a bed one ripe strawberry. In this locality the frost seemed to have been absent in the great freeze of six years ago and we saw some magnificent orchards of orange trees, some of which were twenty years old and a foot or more through at the ground. The fruit is gathered the first part of December, and at the time we were there, the white of the blossom was just peeping through the green covering. Some of the yellow fruit is permitted to remain on the trees, where it will keep in good preservation for many months, and is afterwards picked for a late market. Pineapple cultivation is costly. Several "pineries" were visited. About five acres was in the largest. The apples grow quite close to the ground, on stems, with large cactus-like leaves about in the same style as kohlrabi grows. The whole pinery is surrounded by high fences made of boards or lath, covered completely over with a lattice work of lath, over which, to protect the plants from both sunshine and frost is stretched canvas cloth. Only the very earliest were ripe and they were held at fancy prices.

On our way back on our ride here, we visited some very curious mounds, built away back of historic times, consisting entirely of oyster shells. They were about forty feet high, conical in shape, perhaps a hundred feet in diameter. One of these mounds is being utilized to "pave" the streets of the village and makes a splendid road. Mammoth oyster shells, far larger than are ever seen in modern times, are found among the rest.

Farther down Tampa bay near the gulf are other towns and villages. At Palmasola lives Mrs. J. C. Bridges formerly Miss Ruby White, a niece of Mr. W. J. Kneeshaw, who resided in Pembina for some years. Visiting with her this winter are Grandma Kneeshaw and Miss Hazel Kneeshaw and with whom Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Kneeshaw spent a pleasant stay of a week or more. Near by is Palmetto, the home of our former friend and resident of Bathgate, Isaac F. Houston. We regret exceedingly the brevity of our stay prevented our meeting him. Mr. and Mrs. Kneeshaw visited him and reported him doing well financially, but that the climate did not seem to agree with his own or his family's health. It is claimed that this Tampa Bay region is mostly free from frost and Mr. Kneeshaw was so pleased with it that he bought a partially improved farm near Palmasola. He however does not expect to remove there until he can sell his share in the "X-Rays."

St. Augustine, said to be the oldest town in the United States, has much of interest to the visitor. Here old and new are strangely mixed. Just on the edge of the frost line, tropical growth of palmetto and palm are abundant. An old and somewhat extensive fortification would bear pages of description legend and history. Just now it is used as a prison for military criminals. An open building supported by massive pillars is said to have been the slave market, and fronting on the square in which it is situated is an ancient cathedral. Some old, narrow streets, six to ten feet wide, with overhanging balconies projecting from ancient buildings, are picturesque if not commodious, while other streets lined with splendid modern buildings, are wide and spacious, and finely paved.

At Tampa, the "Plant System," which runs railroads and steamships, have spent thousands in beautiful buildings and other improvements, but at St. Augustine Henry D. Flagler, the Standard Oil magnate, has spent millions in beautifying the old city. Someone in our party asked a native "How the people lived in Florida?" The answer was: "For three months we live on Northern Yankees, and on hog and hominy for the rest of the year." For this great influx of winter visitors there are hotels galore, but of which, for size and magnificence, two stand pre-eminent, the Tampa Hotel and the Ponce de Leon at St. Augustine. While each is different in style of archi-

Oh, the Pain of Rheumatism!

Rheumatism often causes the most intense suffering. Many have for years vainly sought relief from this disabling disease, and are to-day worse off than ever. Rheumatism is a blood disease, and Swift's Specific is the only cure, because it is the only remedy which can reach such deep-seated diseases.

A few years ago I was taken with inflammatory Rheumatism, which became so intense that I was for weeks unable to walk. I tried several prominent physicians and took their treatment faithfully, but was unable to get the slightest relief. In fact, my condition seemed to grow worse, the disease spread over my entire body, and from November to March I suffered agony. I tried many patent medicines, but none relieved me. Upon the advice of a friend I decided to try S. S. S. Before allowing me to take it, however, my guardian, who was a chemist, analyzed the remedy, and pronounced it free of poisons or mercury. I felt so much better after taking two bottles, that I continued the remedy, and in two months I was entirely cured. The cure was permanent, for I have never since had a touch of Rheumatism though many times exposed to damp and cold weather.

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Swif's Specific is a perfectly and permanently acting remedy for Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Neuralgia, Sciatica, and all other forms of Rheumatism. It is sold by all druggists and chemists.

Jacksonville is not a "show city" but still has many interesting sights and unlike many of the other southern cities is full of life and business. It is on the St. Johns River some twenty-five miles from the sea and is considerable of a shipping point for southern lumber. A ride over a ten mile "shell" road and a visit to the ostrich farm where some forty or fifty of these birds were kept, were pleasant experiences here. Tallahassee, a quaint old town with steep hills, home like residences and grounds, an ancient capitol building, and a general sleepy air, was where we spent a Sunday, and where about twenty-five of the party went to a colored church. It was a finely built new building, that would seat five or six hundred, but alas, a cold, rainy day kept the regular attendants at home, and so our party, in company with three or four colored folks, listened to a sermon from a colored pastor.

Next day via Mobile to New Orleans. The thermometer stood at zero that morning with several inches of snow on the ground. The North Dakotans with their heavy coats and furs shivered and shook in the cold north wind, while the natives just wilted like their frozen peach trees and garden stuff. At New Orleans a visit to the French market showed everything, and there were thousands of dollars worth, of perishable fruit and vegetables, frozen stiff, while the owners were apparently about in the lethargic condition of frogs in North Dakota this time of year. Five deaths from exposure to the cold, in the city, were reported in the daily papers. We have not time or room to expatiate on the wilderness of marble in the city cemeteries where all bodies are buried above ground, and where on this occasion nature had furnished a smooth, white flooring of frozen snow almost like marble in appearance. Nor yet of the many quaint old streets and buildings, or of the kind courtesies of the press club, or of the grand, beauties of the Mardi Gras processions.

Here the travellers who had spent a pleasant week of travel together began to separate. Most of the Pembina contingent, including John L. Carr, stopping off at various points in Illinois for visits to friends, and after leaving Chicago only about half the company coming to St. Paul on schedule time.

In conclusion we may add that Mr. W. L. Straub, who had arranged the excursion, did his work well; the trip in spite of cold weather, abounded in pleasant experiences, and quoting from the old song and referring to the North Dakota Press Association "When next he doth ride abroad may I be there to see."

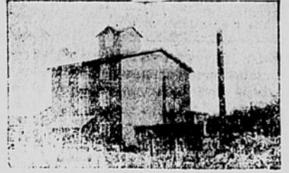
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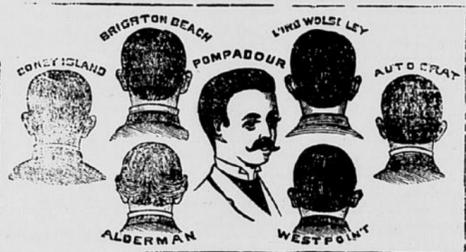
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