

NEW BERN GOES AHEAD RAPIDLY

Its Own People Hardly Realize Growth of the Past Two or Three Years

MANY BUILDINGS ERECTED

New Hospital Second to None in Elegance and Equipment—Tobacco Warehouse Gets Good Start—Work Begins on Dr. Earl Sloan's County Home

(BREVARD D. STEPHENSON.)

New Bern, Sept. 26.—A day or so ago a stranger dropped into town and desired to know something of New Bern progress. He was thereupon quickly given the usual "line 'o stuff" to the effect that this was a thriving port town at the junction of the Neuse and Trent rivers with deep water to the ocean, was on the great Atlantic Coast inland waterway, was a railroad center, had over thirty industrial plants, had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of timber, was the center of a trucking country whose soil would grow three or four crops a year, had 27 miles of concrete sidewalks and 55 blocks of streets paved with vitrified brick, was warmed by the Gulf stream in winter and fanned by ocean breezes in summer, had a low death rate, etc., etc.

About this time the gentleman interrupted that what he wished to know about was New Bern progress. "Tell me what you have done in the past year or so," said he.

Then it was that somebody made an off-hand recapitulation and was astonished to realize what New Bern really had done in the past year or two.

A few weeks ago New Bern entered the lists as a tobacco market with a big new brick warehouse. There was 20,000 pounds of tobacco on the floor the first day, and the sales on certain subsequent days have occasionally reached the 50,000 pound figure.

A row of wooden buildings on the principal business street has been replaced by the handsome new brick home of O. Marks & Son, completed only recently and now ready for the firm to move into.

A few weeks ago the People's Bank moved into its new marble-front home, said by the architect to be the most imposing building used exclusively for banking purposes between Richmond and Jacksonville.

New Hospital Going Up.

St. Luke's Hospital, now in course of construction, will yield to none in elegance and completeness of equipment. The hospital building, with a front of pressed brick, is being built by Dr. R. Du Val Jones and Dr. Joseph F. Patterson. The latter, it might be mentioned incidentally, is a son-in-law of Senator Simmons.

Mr. W. B. Blades some weeks ago had the satisfaction of seeing his new ice and cold storage plant put in operation. This made the second ice factory in the city, yet before it was completed its output had already been contracted for by local concerns.

Work has now begun on a magnificent country estate near New Bern for Dr. Earl Sloan, a millionaire, who is going to become a citizen of Craven county and had already been elected a director in a local bank. He is erecting a mansion of the style of architecture of the early English Georges, and the gardens slope down to the Trent river in much the same manner as did those of Governor Tryon's palace at New Bern. Dr. Sloan's will probably be the most completely appointed country estate in North Carolina—with the exception, of course, of Biltmore.

Dr. Sloan has been quoted as saying he wouldn't be surprised if he made another pile of money out of a spring on his grounds, which has been discovered to have very exceptional mineral properties. It so happens that the site of the Sloan estate, though as lovely as heart could wish, was once the site of the old Craven county pest-house for smallpox patients—in fact the doctor bought it from the county, which apparently had no further use for it. In this connection one elderly city father, given to irony, has remarked that it took a man already a millionaire to come down here and discover acres of diamonds on the site of the Craven county pest house.

The pretty new dwellings going up in New Bern are too numerous to tabulate, but a commodious apartment house now in course of construction by Dr. Frank Hughes deserves special mention as an evidence of progress.

The Educational Side.

Turning to the educational side of the picture, most significant in the annals of the artistic life of Eastern Carolina, was the founding last year of the Bourdelais School of Music in New Bern, an institution where piano, violin, wind instruments, dramatic art, and languages are taught. Since last year, the institution has been consoli-

dated with the music department of the city schools, and the faculty now numbers five.

Coincident with the founding of the Bourdelais school St. Paul's Academy, in charge of Catholic sisters from the convent at Belmont, began its initial session. Improvements have been made since last year. The school draws upon the Catholic population of Eastern Carolina and in addition has enrolled not a few pupils from Protestant families.

On the public school grounds, known as the academy green, there is now being rushed to completion a new \$20,000 class room building for which bonds were voted a year ago.

In the educational column there might very properly be listed as adjuncts to New Bern the first farm life school to be established in the State, that at Vanceboro, Craven county, which began its first session only a year ago, and the consolidated school of number seven township at Thurman—where last year there was put into practice for the first time in North Carolina public transportation of country pupils in specially designed conveyances from their homes to the central school and return.

Many New Amusements.

In the way of amusements, within the past two years New Bern has opened up two parks, with two dancing pavilions. At Ghent park, reached by the street car line, there is dancing, free moving pictures, and other attractions every night of the summer. The other park, Glenburnie, is out near the fair grounds and little used as yet except by picnic parties. Glenburnie is not reached by the car line, and is accessible only by boat or by means of an excellent road, but the advent of transportation facilities will not only see it in practical use as an amusement park but will mean the development of a beautiful suburban area.

From the above, perhaps some idea may be gained of New Bern progress as the gentleman quoted understood the word. New Bern is the center of a vast and potentially rich, but as yet sparsely settled, territory. The influx of more people to Eastern Carolina will admittedly be a great thing for the Old North State—and New Bern is preparing to take care of the people when they come.

DENY MEXICAN PLOT

Madero and Hernandez Indignant Over Information Bureau Charges.

New York, Sept. 27.—Ernesto Madero, who was Secretary of the Treasury in the Cabinet of the late President Madero of Mexico, and Rafael L. Hernandez, Secretary of the Interior at the time of the assassination of Madero, denied yesterday that they were responsible in any way for the breach between Gen. Carranza and Villa. They denounced as "false and slanderous" a statement issued by the Mexican Bureau of Information which charged them with plotting with Villa and others to have Gen. Angeles made Provisional President, so that Ernesto Madero could be made the candidate for President at the election in Mexico.

AUTO IN THE MUD WALK TO NEWTON

Judge Council, Son and Nephew Have Trying Experience on New Road

Newton, Sept. 26.—Judge Council, son and nephew, of Hickory, spent last night at the Trollinger House here, having walked several miles through rain and mud. They were on their way from Statesville, when through mistake they took the wrong road, which happened to be a new one, and their handsome \$3,500 car stuck in the mud. They reached here about three o'clock this morning. The judge left on the 11:10 train for Marion, where he is attorney in a case to be tried there this afternoon.

Rev. M. A. Adams, the pastor of the Baptist church, announces that the first service in the new church will be held the first Sunday in October, at which time a series of protracted meetings will begin. The new seats for the church will not be in by that time, but the old ones will be pressed into service. This is a splendid new house of worship, the handsomest in the town.

The farmers of this county are picking their cotton and packing it away in cotton houses. Very little has yet been ginned and all of that has been hauled home to await developments. There will be no cotton sold in Catawba under 19 cents, and farmers are not expecting to have to wait long to get that price.

The Daughters of the Confederacy will meet this afternoon with Mrs. R. B. Knox on Main street. Delegates to the convention to be held in Savannah, Ga., will be elected at this meeting.

The apple crop in Catawba county is the best this year ever known. They are free from the usual tendency to decay on the trees and fall off before maturity. If they continue to stick on the trees another month hundreds of bushels can be put away for winter use.

UP TO BANKERS AND MERCHANTS

They Must Require Farmers to Agree to Cut Cotton Acreage Next Year

THIS IS VIEW OF CAPT. ASHE

Movement Should Be Co-Extensive with Cotton-Growing Section—Press Should Insist on This Course and Such Advice Should Go Out From Every Sanctum

To the Editor:—The cotton situation is necessarily of interest to every Southerner; and although I do not own a bale, I have made some notes that may be interesting. First, on the breaking out of the war, because of hostile cruisers, all commerce on the Atlantic immediately ceased; but Great Britain speedily asserted her mastery over the seas and established ocean lanes which her merchant vessels could travel in safety. Consequently commerce is now re-established.

Commerce Looking Up.

The exports from the United States for the week ending September 5 were \$12,210,989, against \$14,886,148 for the same week last year; and the exports for the week ending September 12th were \$13,906,351, against \$15,393,386 last year.

The imports for the week ending September 12 were \$16,932,148, against \$16,292,111 for the same week last year.

Commerce is resuming its normal proportions.

The nations at war need wheat, oats and other food stuffs more than they do cotton,—and our wheat and other grain being ready to move, the wheat exports for the last four weeks have averaged about 9,000,000 bushels a week. We may expect a continuous outflow of grain, because it is needed abroad.

Cotton Will Be Needed Abroad.

Cotton, too, will soon be needed abroad; and when it is needed it will go. There is not now any great obstacle in the way of transporting it across the ocean to neutral countries or to those in alliance with Great Britain. Great Britain has 875,000 bales for her present supply; and because her mills are running on half-time that will last longer than usual. But in a month she will need to replenish her stock; and within a month she will begin to import cotton. Other countries will begin earlier. Spain and Italy have already taken some. But the movement abroad will be in smaller quantities and slower than usual. That may be expected.

Impediments Being Removed.

Up to the present there have been two impediments in the cotton trade, which are now being removed. One is as to the price of future contracts; that seems to be on the point of being settled on the basis of 9.50 for December deliveries; and an arrangement of other contracts on that basis. The other is the high price of foreign exchange. By an arrangement, gold is to be deposited in a branch of the Bank of England in Canada, and the exchange trouble will be remedied. The cotton crop has been coming to market very slowly.

Texas has a huge crop, that will run over 4,500,000 bales. For the week ending September 11, the receipts at Houston were 29,249 bales and for the week ending September 18, they were 44,064 bales; for the same week last year they were 118,490 bales. The total receipts at interior towns for week ending September 18 were 96,175 bales, and for the same week last year they were 193,331 bales. The stocks in these interior towns were 180,619 bales, compared with 179,500 last year. The shipments from these interior towns last week were 56,515 bales, as compared with 162,535 last year. The entire port receipts since the beginning of the season have been 190,755 bales, as against 357,511 last year. Southern mills have bought 48,000 as against 189,796 last year. The entire quantity coming from the plantations has been 312,789 bales, compared with 1,210,439 bales last year. The movement is seen to be very slow.

Farmers Holding Cotton.

The farmers are holding their cotton on the plantations; and but little is entering the market.

The Buy-a-Bale movement is said to be working extensively. And if the absolute requirements of the farmers could be provided for, a fair price could be maintained.

Heretofore Europe has taken the crop as it came to market in September, October and November—the cotton which the farmers are obliged to sell at once in order to pay for picking and their store accounts.

Take Care of Early Cotton.

Europe will now take only a part of this early cotton, and our American mills will buy sparingly in hope of the price falling still lower under

the pressure of conditions. Evidently then it is of the utmost importance to provide some means of taking care of this early cotton—say 3,000,000 bales.

Texas is building 2,000 warehouses to store her crop in.

Other States are to a greater or less extent following that example; but stored cotton will not itself pay debts or put the farmer in funds.

Some cotton must be sold in order for the farmer to pay for picking and to pay their debts.

The banks have been furnishing the money on which the crops have been made. They furnished it to the merchants, who supplied the farmers.

Under normal conditions this money would be repaid to the banks out of the first sales in September, October and November. But this year there are no sales.

The banks will not be repaid. The banks will be able to get some emergency currency, and from that fund they will be able to lend some cash. But on what security? There is no telling what the cotton situation will be two months hence; what it will be six months hence; what it will be a year hence.

If cotton becomes a drug on the market its price may decline to only a few cents a pound.

Were there an element in the conditions tending to remove this possibility, the situation would be greatly improved. As long as there is a prospect of another full crop on top of this, the danger of loss will deter persons from investing in cotton at any price.

How can relief be provided against this danger?

The banks and the merchants can by co-operation protect themselves from this danger. If they shall declare that they will furnish no assistance to any planter who does not obligate himself to limit his next year's crop to one-half his present acreage in cotton, they will largely eliminate the danger, and when that is done the battle will be half won.

But such a movement should be co-extensive with the cotton growing territory, from Texas to North Carolina.

The bankers and merchants can accomplish it, if they will. The press should insist on this course. From every editorial sanctum there should be an agitation for the banks and the merchants to exact an obligation from their customers to limit their acreage.

S. A. ASHE.

Washington, D. C.

OTTOMAN ORDER ENFORCED.

All Foreign Postoffices Told to Take Down Signs.

London, Sept. 26.—4:25 p. m.—A Reuters dispatch from Athens says that in connection with the recent decree by the Porte declaring Turkish institutions free from foreign tutelage, the administration of the Ottoman postoffice at Smyrna has notified foreign postoffices that they must remove their sign boards October 1 and hand over all mail to the Ottoman postal authorities that delivery of letters and newspapers may be made by the Ottoman office.

MECKLENBURG TO HOLD THE STAPLE

Farmers Pledge to Keep 7,300 Bales; List Kept of Those Who Will Buy

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Charlotte, Sept. 26.—At the fifth mass meeting held at the court house here to take measures to handle the cotton situation, township canvassers informed the mass meeting that the "Hold-a-Bale" canvass of the county had resulted in pledges to hold 7,300 bales produced in Mecklenburg county until the price went to ten cents per pound. The canvassers will continue their work another week, which will be the third week of the campaign and report at another mass meeting to be held next Saturday at the court house.

In addition to the pledges of the farmers to hold a specified number of bales off the market, there is kept at the office of the Greater Charlotte Club a list of people in the city and elsewhere who wish to buy cotton at ten cents per pound. During the last few days many inquiries have been received by the Greater Charlotte Club from big firms in the North and West who wish to get into the movement, while most of the local branch houses whose main offices are in the big cities and who have large interests in the South, have instructed their local representatives to buy that specified amount of cotton at ten cents per pound.

Robbers at Huntersville.

The postoffice at Huntersville, on the Southern Railway, thirteen miles from Charlotte, was entered last night and the safe blown open, presumably by professional yegmen, who are also supposed to have operated at Kannapolis last week. They secured at Huntersville \$100 in stamps and between \$15 and \$20 in money. No clue has been found today as to the identity of the robbers.