

# THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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## LAND OF THE DON.

Fort Mill Man Tells of Things He Saw in Spain.

"Drop the average American down in the Pyrenees mountains of Spain, where I spent 15 months a few years ago in the employ of a New York engineering concern that had the contract for building a large electric plant near the French border, and he will imagine that time has been turned back 500 years or more," said a night or two ago John E. Jones of Fort Mill in telling a party of his friends of some of the conditions and customs he observed in that country.

"I am not surprised," he continued, "to learn that the Moors are getting the best of the Spaniards in their fight and that the Spanish government is seeking army recruits in the United States. My observations led me to believe that the average Spaniard—I mean the class from which the private soldiers must be recruited—is wholly lacking in courage and that the government is doing the natural thing in calling upon other countries for soldiers. Indeed, there appeared to be little patriotism among the working classes in Spain, and that not without reason. The government does next to nothing to improve the hard conditions in which these people live, but is continually adding to their burdens by imposing fresh taxes upon them.

"There were hundreds of day laborers employed in building the dams, canal and power houses where I was and I can testify to their general worthlessness. Here in the South we sometimes complain that the negro does not do his work as well as he should, but the average Southern negro will do more work in one day than is to be expected of the average Spaniard in four days. To get any work at all out of the Spanish laborer one must treat him like a spoiled child, for they will strike on the slightest provocation, and when there is no provocation they frequently manage to trump up an excuse to quit work. Strikes and holidays are the rule among the laboring classes in Spain.

"There is a large floating population of day laborers in Spain, many of them men past middle life. These men have no homes and move about from place to place wherever they can get work, carrying with them only the blankets in which they sleep, more frequently on the ground than in a building. The weather is much more severe in the Pyrenees mountains of Spain in winter than it is in this section, but notwithstanding the cold, I have many times seen Spaniards after finishing their day's work wrap themselves in their blankets and lie down on the ground and apparently sleep in comfort until almost time to go to work again. They are paid from 20 to 60 cents a day for their labor and of course have little with which to buy the comforts of life.

"Spain is one of the most benighted of all the European countries. One would not suspect that the country stood out a few hundred years ago as a leader among the nations of the earth. The glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome do not abide in Spain. A very large per cent of the people can neither read nor write and there is a great deal of poverty and suffering among the lower classes. But whether of the better or lower classes the Spaniards are strong for sports and what they consider a 'good time.' Sunday is the principal day of the week for pleasure over there. There is no Christian Sabbath in Spain as we observe the day in this country. On the other hand, the day is given over to dancing, wine drinking, bull fighting and other forms of amusement.

"Bull fighting is the principal national sport. I have seen a few bull fights in Barcelona, and I am glad we have nothing so brutal in this country. Thousands flock to see the fights in which some well known toreador is to take part and so excited do the

## BOOKS FOR LITTLE FOLK.

Fort Mill Graded School Session Now Under Way.

Tuesday morning was an important time in the lives of most of the little folk of Fort Mill, for then the regular fall and winter session of the local graded school opened. Despite the fact that the session was begun without the services of a regularly elected superintendent, the work started off smoothly under the direction of Capt. F. M. Mack, high school principal, who will act as superintendent until the board elects a successor to C. C. Stewart of Pendleton, chosen for the place some months ago, but who recently resigned on account of ill health.

At the opening exercises the auditorium was comfortably filled with pupils and friends of the school. Complete reports of the first day's enrollment are not yet obtainable, but in the first five grades there were 279 pupils, indicating that by the beginning of the second week the enrollment will have exceeded 500 and will, if that figure is reached, be larger than that of last year.

The various grades are in charge of the following teachers: First Misses Minnie Garrison, Marie Maunie and Edna Loftis; second, Misses Agnes Link and Julia Armstrong; third, Misses Zelma Phillips and Esther Meacham; fourth, Misses Bernice Mills and Florence Lawrence; fifth, Miss Carrie Spencer. Departmental work will be done in the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grades. Miss Dorothy Bergstrom being in charge of the sixth and Miss Charlene Carothers the seventh grades, while the studies in the higher grades will be directed by Capt. Mack and Miss Edna Tindal.

The session begins with only two teachers new to the Fort Mill school, Misses Bernice Mills and Florence Lawrence.

## Source of Ford's Idea.

Henry Ford is coming in for a great amount of praise and publicity because he took the Dayton, Toledo & Ironton railroad and made a paying proposition out of it, says the Chester News. This man Ford hasn't done a thing which surpasses a Chester county railroad. The Lancaster & Chester railway is a paying proposition because Col. Leroy Springs ships all of his freight for his various enterprises over it and that is exactly what Henry Ford is doing with the D., T. & I. As a matter of fact, we expect Henry got his idea from the Lancaster & Chester railway.

people become in their wild rush for choice seats when the event is about to begin that one must be careful or he will be trampled to death. Usually the toreador is mounted on an old grey horse too well-nigh exhausted from lack of feed and overwork to escape the rushes of the frenzied bull, goaded to desperation by spear prodding and the flaunting of red flags. As a consequence the horse is nearly always quickly disemboweled by the bull, but if it is able to stand up it is taken from the arena, sewed up and then brought back into the arena to undergo further punishment by the bull. It seldom happens that the bull kills or injures the toreador.

"Farming conditions are as backward in Spain as one could imagine. There they plow with a crooked stick as they did thousands of years ago and there is no modern farm machinery in use. Living conditions around the homes of the farmers are the most primitive.

"I was interested in the antiquity of many different things to be seen in Spain. There many houses, always of stone, hundreds of years old are a common sight. In the town of Lerida, 50 miles north of Barcelona, is to be seen a stone marker which bears the date 16 B. C. In going to and from my work I passed over the road hewn out of the solid rock in the Pyrenees mountains by Caesar's legions before the time of Christ."

## BOLL WEEVIL DEVASTATES FARMS OF LOW-COUNTRY

Fort Mill Party Sees Havoc Wrought by Cotton Pest in Counties South of Columbia—Chance to Profit in York by Disastrous Experience of Other South Carolinians.

The following detailed account of the boll weevil tour last week to the lower section of South Carolina by farmers and business men of the Fort Mill community, which was promoted by the First National bank of Fort Mill, was secured by The Times' reporter and may prove of interest to the paper's readers:

The party, leaving Fort Mill shortly after 6 o'clock last Tuesday morning, passed through Rock Hill, Chester, Winnsboro, and on to Columbia, having been joined at Rock Hill and Chester by tourists from other sections of York county, and Chester county. Most of the party reached Columbia before noon, where a stop was made for lunch, and then proceeded by way of Swansea and North to Blackville. A stop was made a few miles north of Blackville, where the party was met by the county agent of Barnwell county and conducted to the farm of Chester Matthews, reaching the farm about 4:30 in the afternoon.

Mr. Matthews is considered one of the best farmers in Barnwell county. He welcomed the party with the facetious remark that he used to ride in Franklins and Overlands, but now was wearing overalls and was walking since the arrival of the boll weevil. He showed the party a drove of about 200 hogs of various sizes with which he hopes to ease to some extent the situation, and his fields of corn covered with velvet beans and stacks of spanish peanuts in the fields. He will make an effort to raise cattle and will devote more time to vegetables, especially asparagus, cucumbers and beans, with the usual watermelon and cantaloupe crops. These, he considers, will ordinarily be profitable, but of course much depends on getting these articles early on the market in order to obtain good prices.

The Coker Seed company of Hartsville had supplied Mr. Matthews with seven varieties of long staple cotton and had furnished the necessary fertilizer with the idea of an experiment to see which variety might mature early enough to beat the boll weevil. The cotton was planted in one field, two rows of each variety side by side across the field. The whole production of the field probably would not be more than 10 per cent of an ordinary crop, and the large part of this was contained in four rows of a variety called "Lightning Express." The weevils had practically ruined the entire field. Mr. Matthews stated that about 15,000 bales ordinarily were weighed in Blackville, and that the estimate for this year was not over 1,500 bales, or one-tenth.

Proceeding to Blackville, the party divided for the night; some going on to Barnwell and others to Denmark and Williston. A few of the party turned back from Blackville, but most of them took the road Wednesday morning for Allendale. Here the reports of boll weevil damage were even worse, it being stated by some of the prominent farmers that no effort would be made to gather any of the cotton from the fields.

Some of the party proceeded to Fairfax and examined a field which had been partly under government supervision, in order to test the efficiency of poison represented by arsenate of lead. In this field a section had been wired off and this section had been regularly sprayed or powdered with the poison, but it was noted that the appearance of the crop was appreciably no better than that which had not been treated; so it was gathered that there was no use in putting any dependence in the proposition of poisoning the weevil.

Leaving Allendale, the route of the party was to Bamberg, where (Continued on page 3.)

## NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

Current Items of Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

Methodists from many communities around gathered at Sharon Sunday morning on account of the first services held in the new Sharon Methodist church building. Pews for the new church have not yet arrived, but benches and chairs were borrowed for the accommodation of the audience, which was so large that all could not be accommodated, more than 50 people necessarily having to remain outside.

Charged with abandonment of his family, Thos. P. McGrady, white, was arrested in Camden Monday and the understanding is that he will be brought back to Yorkville for trial, the warrant having been sworn out before Magistrate Fred C. Black by his wife, who, with her three children, has been making her home at the residence of Miss Sallie Adiekes on East Liberty street, Yorkville, for a number of months. McGrady worked for the Yorkville Cotton Oil company and it is alleged that he abandoned his family here in last July.

An enterprise that promises much for the farmers of this section has just been launched at Rock Hill by two York county Clemson graduates under the name of the Garrison-Faris Seed company. The firm consists of E. H. Garrison, Jr., and Karl G. Faris, the former of Ebenezer and the latter of Gold Hill, and both young men of sterling character and excellent repute. Both having been raised on farms and both having made a special study of seeds at Clemson, they believe that one of the greatest needs of York county farmers is a reliable seed house conducted by men who are in a position to understand local needs, and they propose to devote themselves to the task of making themselves especially useful and helpful along this line.

So sudden and marked has been the deterioration in the condition of cotton throughout this section during the past week that there is a pretty general belief that another condition report this month would show a decline of 10 or 12 per cent additional, as compared with August. The deterioration of the past week is commonly attributed to the hot, dry weather under which fresh, green cotton leaves have wilted and shriveled up as if scalded. The vigorous growth has been suddenly checked and in addition to that there is a fear that with the migration of the recently hatched boll weevils late squares and small bolls will be destroyed to a disastrous extent.

J. S. Brice, Esq., who has been confined to his bed in his home in Yorkville for nearly a month, is steadily improving. During more than two weeks of his illness he seemed to hover between life and death to an extent that made his friends fearful to ask about him after an interval of a few hours but for the past week he has been showing signs of slow but steady improvement. One evening last week he recalled that it was the night some of the children were to go to the picture show and instructed accordingly, and Monday he told Dr. McDowell that he was going to sit up in a few days. The doctor, however, was not yet ready to make any positive promise along that line. There seems to be every reason to hope that within another week at least the patient ought to be able to be up and about his home.

Monroe Merritt of Little Rock, Ark., recently spent a few days in Fort Mill with his uncle, A. H. Merritt, on the first visit he had made to this section in nine years. Another recent guest of Mr. Merritt's was his son, Elijah Merritt.

## RAPS FORT MILL.

Fire Prevention Officer Criticizes Local Conditions.

S. W. Lowe, fire prevention officer of the State insurance department, who visited Fort Mill a few weeks ago in a tour of 22 cities and towns of the State inspecting conditions, says in his report to the department that he found rotten roofs and dangerous flues in many of the towns he visited. In some instances, he says, the town authorities promised to have corrections made and to take action in other instances to have old fire-trap buildings torn down as the law requires.

In Fort Mill, according to Mr. Lowe's report, he was surprised at the amount of rubbish allowed to accumulate within the fire zone and especially condemned an old shingle-roofed building at the head of Main street, which he said ought to be condemned and removed.

He was pleased with conditions in a number of other towns, including Rock Hill. Kershaw was clean but has little fire-fighting apparatus. Lancaster is clean of rubbish, but has too many rotten shingle roofs. The fire department was reported good. He found similar conditions in York.

Chester has the worst fire department equipment of any town of like size in the State; merely an old time fire wagon drawn by horses that fall down. The town also has a generous supply of rubbish.

## GROCERY STORE BURNED.

Business of B. M. Bradford Destroyed Monday Morning.

A prosperous grocery business that was started in Fort Mill only a few months ago went up in smoke at 1:30 o'clock Monday morning when fire of unknown origin destroyed the stock of goods and new building occupied by B. M. Bradford on Tom Hall street. Insurance on the goods and building is said to have been sufficient to cover about half the loss.

Two young men passing the store discovered the blaze and quickly gave the alarm, but before the fire department got into action, in an incredibly short time considering the length of the run and the fact that the members live in various sections of the town, the building was enveloped in flames and a few minutes later had burned to the ground. Practically nothing was saved from the stock, but Mr. Bradford succeeded in getting his books out of the building.

The fire department did good work in saving two nearby residences which caught fire a number of times.

## Moving Dye House Machinery.

Work of moving the machinery from the old dye house at mill No. 1 of the Fort Mill Manufacturing company to the new building recently erected by the company for a dye house is now under way, but several days will elapse before the transfer is completed and the machinery is again in operation. Meanwhile, however, there will be no delay in any of the other departments of the mill, as a stock of dyed cotton sufficient to meet the needs of the mill for several weeks is on hand. The new dye house was erected at a cost of many thousands of dollars and is said to be one of the most modern dye plants owned by any mill in the Piedmont section of the Carolinas. J. F. Oates, who recently moved with his family to Fort Mill from New Bedford, Mass., is boss dyer for the Fort Mill Manufacturing company.

The Lytle drug store, now occupying the Ardery building on Main street, is preparing to move across the street to the Stewart building, until recently used by the Fort Mill Candy Kitchen. The Stewart building will be thoroughly renovated before the new tenants move in the latter part of the month and a new set of fixtures will be installed by the drug store.

## WHERE STATE QUIT UNION.

Story of Secession Convention in Charleston.

In December of the year 1860 the Democratic State convention of South Carolina, after its first meeting in the First Baptist church in Columbia, adjourned to Charleston. The sessions in Charleston were held in St. Andrew's hall on Broad street. The building belonged to the St. Andrew's society, an organization founded in 1729, principally for charitable purposes. On December 20, the famous Ordinance of Secession was passed by the convention, Gen. D. F. Jamieson of Barnwell presiding.

At 1:30 o'clock a member of the convention stood up and read the ordinance, drafted by Chancellor F. H. Wardlaw of the State university. The resolution was to the effect that the people of the commonwealth of South Carolina, through their accredited representatives, repealed the former ordinance which the State had adopted on May 23, 1788.

The ordinance was adopted by unanimous vote of the 109 members of the convention, two of whom, Col. A. B. Springs and Col. Leonidas Spratt, were from Fort Mill township, the former being the father of Col. Leroy Springs and the latter the grand uncle of Col. T. B. Spratt and Dr. J. L. Spratt. As the result of the vote was declared, a tumult broke forth which extended to throngs on the outside of the building. Many strove for entrance and the hall not being sufficiently large to accommodate them, it was resolved by the convention to adjourn to a larger hall for the ratification of the ordinance.

At 6 o'clock on the same day, December 20, 1860, the convention moved in procession to the building selected, Institute hall, on Meeting street, a building used at the time by the State for the promotion of industrial acts. After prayer by the Rev. Dr. Bachman of the Lutheran church the ordinance was signed by each member of the convention in turn. When the last signature was written, the president of the convention lifted the document from the table and holding it in view of the audience, announced its ratification, at the same time proclaiming the State of South Carolina "an independent commonwealth."

Following the announcement, as an eyewitness relates, "the whole audience rose and gave vent to their enthusiasm by prolonged cheers, accompanied by the waving of hats and handkerchiefs." The church bells began to ring and the State flag was everywhere displayed. In the evening there was a general celebration of the event. The whole city was illuminated, bonfires were built, while hurraing processions, carrying banners of various descriptions and headed by bands of music, paraded the principal streets.

In the great fire of 1861 which swept over Charleston with disastrous results, both St. Andrew's hall and Institute hall were destroyed, but some of the effects from each building were saved, among others the historic table on which the Ordinance of Secession was signed, 60 years ago on the 20th of December last.

## Hears McLendon Preach.

S. H. Sutton, R. F. D. carrier, route 2, Fort Mill, returned to his home a few days ago after spending several days with relatives at Spencer, N. C., where last Sunday he heard the Rev. Baxter McLendon, well known evangelist who conducted a meeting in Fort Mill some years ago, preach to an audience estimated at 10,000. Mr. Sutton says Mr. McLendon had a good deal to say in his sermon about conditions in the American home and that he criticized unsparingly the styles for women's dress now in vogue, tracing much of the wave of immorality now sweeping over the country to this source.

Spot cotton sold in Anderson yesterday for 23 1/2 cents.