

SOUTHLAND STORIES

Larry Gantt Gives Some Interesting Recollections.

TELLS OF THE MEN OF OTHER DAYS

Col. William Simmons of Atlanta and His Long Time Connection With the Ku Klux Klan.

Recently there has been considerable controversy in the state press over the introduction of a society named the Ku Klux Klan, of which Col. William Simmons, of Georgia, is organizer and Grand Cyclops.

I have known Col. Bill Simmons, organizer and chief head of this Ku Klux society, for to these many years. We lived in neighboring counties and the same congressional district.

Colonel Simmons has a commendable ambition for public honors, but his extreme views have never permitted him to advance further than his front gate.

When we Democrats in the old Ninth Georgia district were beating the bushes to find a candidate to pit against Emory Speer, the brilliant young independent in congress, Bill Simmons would have been given the nomination, but as Mr. Speer had defeated two of the strongest men in the district by over 7,000 votes, the colonel decided not to act the part of political lamb led to the slaughter.

I will now give you a brief history of the original Ku Klux Klan and as both my father and my brother were Klansmen I write authentically. I have watched long lines of these night riders, with masks and long, shroud-like robes, silently pass along the public roads.

Had Abraham Lincoln never been assassinated, the south would never have been subjected to the horrors and degradation of reconstruction. His death left a free hand to the bitterest and most vindictive enemies of the south, led by Thad Stevens, whose iron-wrongs our soldiers had burned on their invasion into Pennsylvania.

A band of political vultures from the north flocked to the south, backed by federal bayonets. Every man who sympathized with the Confederacy was disfranchised and these "carpet-baggers" organized the ignorant negroes and not only took control of the governments of the different states, but encouraged and upheld the blacks in the most abhorrent acts of lawlessness.

It was then that General N. B. Forrest, a gallant Confederate officer, organized the Ku Klux Klan and its membership was made up of disbanded Confederate soldiers and quickly spread over the south. The members were initiated in some secluded spot in the dead hours of night and the most solemn and binding and threatening oath of secrecy administered.

The ex-soldiers constituting the Ku Klux Klan had no malice or antagonism against their former slaves. On the other hand, they felt kindly toward the negro and realized the fact that while they were fighting for his continued enslavement at the front

these faithful blacks not only tilled the fields and fed their armies, but supported and guarded their helpless families left among them. The vengeance of the K. K. K. was directed at the white adventurers who were misleading the negroes.

Before imposing punishment on a prisoner a regular court of justice was held and the accused given an opportunity to state his side. It was only in instances where white women were mistreated that the death penalty was imposed.

And the secret organization did work wonders in bringing order out of misrule and chaos and paving the way for white control of the southern states.

When this work was completed General Forrest issued an order disbanding the members of the Ku Klux Klan, when its members dispersed and returned to their peaceful pursuits.

Some irresponsible parties and boys over the south began to perpetrate all manner of outrages upon negroes, for which the Klansmen got the discredit. But when regular K. K. K.'s ran up on such bands their coats were "shucked" and they were given a switching.

In their redemption from such intolerable conditions, the Southern states were aided by the influence of many business men of the north, irrespective of party lines.

STEVENSON TALKS TARIFF

Protection of Long Staple Absurd—Bounty to Encourage Potash. Congressional Record July 21.

Mr. Stevenson. The gentleman, (Mr. Treadway) has offered an amendment to put compensatory duties on all goods made of cotton an inch and an eighth in length. We make a million bales in this country and import only 400,000 bales, and therefore 90 per cent. of the goods made from cotton in this country pays no duty at all.

Mr. Stevenson. Yes. Mr. Chindblom. Why did some of the members on the Democratic side vote for the tax on long-staple cotton if we are importing so little?

Mr. Stevenson. I will.

Mr. Herrick. I would like to have the gentleman give the house the benefit of his knowledge and tell us why the Arizona farmers now have 500,000 bales of long-staple cotton which they can not sell.

Mr. Stevenson. I do not believe it. The highest they have ever made in Arizona and California is 70,000 bales a year, and it would take several years to make 500,000 bales. In fact, since the crop of Arizona and California were large enough to be set out separately in the government reports up to 1920, they have only produced 166,000 bales of long-staple cotton, and it was selling a year ago for \$1.50 a pound, and it is impossible to have 500,000 bales on hand, or the man who did not sell at \$1.50 per pound does not need tariff protection, but a guardian.

No such figure as that is to be found in the cotton reports of this country. Somebody has made a mistake or has been dreaming about figures. You have already put a tax of \$12,500,000 on the farmers of the south who make cotton in the matter of potash alone, and you are going to increase by this amendment the expenses of all of the cotton goods that they buy, because there will be enough long staple put into every yard of cloth made to raise the price to every farmer in the south. We object to having a little bagatelle of less than a hundred thousands bales of Egyptian cotton used to raise the cost of living to our people who make long-staple cotton, and who ask for no protection upon it, who can make it in competition with Egypt or any one else.

Now, I desire to discuss this potash question, which enters into the cost of cotton. We use annually 250,000 tons of potash—pure potash—and a tax of \$50 a ton on that is \$12,500,000 tax levied principally on the cotton farmers of the south for the benefit of potash producers of the west on whose product the freight rate alone is prohibitive. Confessedly this is to enable those people to develop their industry so that the nation will have an independent supply.

The government give this industry a bounty, which will be borne by all the people if it must be nursed. Do not penalize the cotton farmer to build up national defense. I thought 12 per cent. German kaint this year at \$18 a ton. It has 12 units potash to the ton. Under this

SHIPPING BOARD A WRECK

Victim of Stupendous Rascality or Imbecility.

The United States Shipping Board, according to a Washington dispatch, is a financial wreck.

Congress and the country have been deceived as to its true condition. Only at stupendous and undreamed-of cost can the American merchant marine be salvaged to a place on the seas.

These were assertions Monday of A. O. Lasker of Chicago, chairman of the new shipping board, when, following a conference with President Harding, Mr. Lasker gave what he said was the first accurate detailed statement for a fiscal year of the cost of operation of the board.

Seeks Huge Appropriation. Congress and the country were flagrantly deceived as to the actual cost of operations last year, Chairman Lasker charged in announcing that he must go before congress and asked for an appropriation so large "it may disrupt the administration's whole fiscal program."

The books of the board, Mr. Lasker declared, were not in a commercial sense books at all, and he said that if a purposeful effort had been made to keep the books so as to cheat and defraud congress and the country, they

bill at 50 cents to the unit the price would have been \$24 a ton, 33 per cent. higher. I am informed that it can now be bought at \$12 a ton, but the \$5 tariff or 50 per cent increase in price will be a fixed charge and indefensible.

Again, the excess of iron in the western product has destroyed thousands of dollars of crops in our country, and it is not yet refined so as to suit our crops. Finally, the freight from California to South Carolina is prohibitive.

could have been kept in no different manner.

The chairman said the disclosures, which he later gave out publicly, had amazed and distressed President Harding when laid before him at the White House, but that the president had laid down the policy that in his administration the public must be given all the facts, not a "doctored picture."

For Year, 380 Million.

Mr. Lasker stated that whereas congress had understood that 99 million dollars which it appropriated for the old shipping board in the last fiscal year (ending June 30.) was for the board's operations for that year, as a matter of fact the cost was 380 million dollars.

The board used, in addition to the appropriation, he said, 80 million dollars that it had to its credit in the treasury, and 200 million dollars which it received from the sale of ships and turned back into the enterprise instead of into the treasury.

The chairman revealed that he would inform congress that the shipping board for the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 1922, would need possibly 300 million dollars, which, in the language of Mr. Lasker, will "put a lot of sand in the gear box of a tax revision."

Mr. Lasker absolved both Admiral Benson, former chairman of the board, and the comptroller from blame for the bookkeeping system, which he said had been in the use from the start, "begun under war pressure and continued in incompetence."

PROTECTION OF FORESTS.

Need of the South Declare Well Known Experts.

Warnings that the south is now cutting three times the amount of timber she produces and that unless steps are taken to prevent waste and



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Remember to call on the

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fires and to replace trees that the next five years will see 85 per cent. of the southern lumber mills cease operations were issued in Atlanta, Ga., last week, by Clifford Pinchot, former federal commissioner of forestry, and W. B. Greeley, United States forester.

Both delivered addresses before the third Southern Forestry congress and the Georgia senate and also conferred with Governor Hardwick regarding a bill pending in the legislature to create a forestry board which would investigate the status of Georgia forests.

The congress also sent a delegation to urge the senate agriculture committee in charge of the measure to make a favorable report on it. The house committee already has taken favorable action.

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SOME OF MY OFFERINGS:

40 Acres—Seven miles from York, bounded by lands of J. B. McCarter, C. W. Carroll, H. G. Brown and others; 8-room residence, barn, and cotton house. Well of good water; five or six acres bottom land. Buck Horn creek and branch runs through place. About 4-acre pasture; 5 or 6 acres woods. Mostly pine, oak and hickory land. About 3-4 mile to Beersheba school. It is going to sell; so if you want it see me right away. Property of H. C. Farris.

60-2-5 Acres—4-1-2 miles from York, and less than half mile to Philadelphia school house, church and station. Four room residence, besides hall; 4-room tenant house; barns; 3 wells of good water, and nice orchard. About 8 acres in pasture and woods and balance open land. Act quick if you want it. Property of C. J. Thomason.

90 Acres at Brattonsville—Property of Estate of Mrs. Agnes Harris. Will give a real bargain here.

144 Acres—Five miles from Filbert on Ridge Road, bounded by lands of W. M. Burns, John Hartness and others; 7-room residence, 6-stall barn, and other outbuildings; two 4-room tenant houses, barns, etc.; 2 wells and 1 good spring; 3 horse farm open and balance in timber (oak, pine, etc.) and pasture. About 2 miles to Dixie School and Beersheba church. Property of Mrs. E. J. Barry.

33 Acres—Adjoining the above tract. About 3 or 4 acres of woods and balance open land. Will sell this tract separately or in connection with above tract. Property of J. A. Barry.

195 Acres—Four miles from York, on Turkey creek road, adjoining lands of Gettys, Queen and Watson; 2-horse farm open and balance in woods and pasture. One and one-half miles to Philadelphia and Miller schools. The Beersheba church. Property of Mrs. J. J. Barry.

Five Room Residence—On Charlotte street, in the town of York, on large lot. I will sell you this property for less than you can build the house. Better act at once—On Charlotte St.

McLain Property—On Charlotte St. in the town of York. This property lies between Neely, Cannon and Lockmore mills, and is a valuable piece of property. Will sell it either as a whole or in lots. Here is an opportunity to make some money—on a 90-acre tract, 2 miles from York, 5 miles from Smyrna and 5 miles from King's Creek. Smyrna R. F. D. passes place. One horse farm open and balance in woods—something like 10,000 feet saw timber. 12 acres fine bottom, 3 room residence. Property of P. B. Biggar.

210 acres—3-1-2 miles from York on Pinckney road. 8 room residence, well of good water, 2 large barns, three 4 room tenant houses and one 3 room tenant house. 40-acre pasture. Good orchard. About 150 acres open land, balance in oak and pine timber. Property of M. A. McFarland.

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