

EVANS TALKS OUT

Former Governor Evans Says General Assembly Didn't do Much.

STATE IS WASTING MUCH MONEY

Cotton Growing and Manufacturing Always Will be Predominant Industries He Says—Declaras States Government Has Evolved into a Bureaucracy—Sees Need for Judicial Reform.

Replying to an inquiry from a Spartanburg newspaper man as to his views on the political conditions in the nation and in the state, Former Governor John Gary Evans has given out the following statement, asking the question: "Is it a condition that confronts us, or is it a mere theory?"

"The South Carolina senate seems to have regarded our crisis as a mere theory and to have dismissed it as such. As a matter of fact, it is a condition that confronts us. The farmers of our state are in a worse plight financially than they have been in fifty years. They have seen their fields ravaged by the boll weevil, the market for their cotton destroyed and their ability to pay debts reduced to a minimum. On top of this, the national government under Republican rule has decreased the money in circulation over \$8 per capita and refuses in any manner to restore our foreign market for cotton and cotton goods.

"The money power is again in the saddle and when such is the case, the agriculturists, laborers and debt payers are oppressed and made to suffer. The Republicans have got back to "normalcy," the president remarked and that means, for us, cheaper cotton, less money, increased debts and decreased ability to pay. The south and west have got back to bankruptcy. What must we do? you ask me. We must get back to the weapons we used thirty years ago. Our farmers must be organized in every state in the union and made to realize the importance of unity of purpose and action. We must commence in the state and arrange our own house before we can expect the aid of others. The conditions in South Carolina have been brought about by two co-operating factors: (1) the boll weevil that seeks to prevent us from raising cotton, and (2) the Republican party that prevents us from selling it abroad. Of the two evils, the Republican is the greater. The people of Europe are naked and suffering for the want of American cotton clothes. Our cotton would be bringing 50 cents a pound if the government would restore the foreign markets.

Cotton Predominant. "Every man that lives in the south must realize that cotton growing and cotton manufacturing will always be the predominant industries of our country. Our prosperity depends upon the price of raw cotton and cotton cloth. It is silly to write one down a demagogue who pleads for fair treatment by the government of the farmer upon whom we are all dependent. According to statistics furnished by Governor Cooper, the land owners are now paying about 70 per cent of the taxes. This burden cannot be borne much longer and unless relief is given, the farmers will soon become, as their brethren in Europe, the most abject slaves on the face of the earth. The only way out is to impose a tax on luxuries, credits, incomes, stock and other species of property that are now escaping their just proportion of the burden. The farmers must be relieved and at once, before it is too late. The time of the people should not be taxed unless absolutely necessary. The policy of the true republic is to afford every head of a family a homestead, free and unencumbered. We want American patriots, and not European peasants. The failure of the state senate to pass the bills, taxing luxuries and a proper income tax was inexcusable. The tax system should be reformed so as to place the burden equally upon all. There are hundreds of men and women in the state who are receiving salaries of from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per annum and who pay no taxes whatever except a poll tax. Is this fair? The only way to reach them is through the income tax and a tax upon the luxuries which they consume. I was much interested in reading the report (1920) of the special legislative committee on revenue and taxation, written by Senator Marion. It was a clear and forced presentation of the defects of our tax system. The recommendations for relief were sound and yet the senate refused to adopt it or to do anything to relieve the inequalities therein set forth.

State Bureaucracy. "Our state government has evolved into a bureaucracy. We have a multitude of boards and commissions and the whole system is wrong. It was responsive to a fad that extended all over the country, "Commission Form of Government." We must get back to individual responsibility. It is better to have one good man in charge of an office and hold him responsible for its conduct than to have a board of six or eight with nobody responsible. Take the railroad commission. We started with one and have not got to seven. One good man could do the work just as efficiently as seven. Have we degenerated to the extent of the tailors in the song, "It takes nine tailors to make a man?" Does it take six South Carolinians to make a railroad commissioner? There are sixteen and maybe more, boards and commissions supported by the state and numbers of them can be dispensed with by combining their duties with other departments. These boards and commissions have bred an army of of-

WILL SIT IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.



Viscountess Wolsley, one of the twenty peeresses who, through the action of Lady Rhonda, are entitled to seats in the upper house of the British Parliament. She is one of the breeders of the famous Cair terriers, recently sold for a large sum.

ice holders who besiege the legislature with demands for increased salaries and appropriations. They encourage extravagance, form combinations and make trades of pulls and influence that make the life of the legislator miserable.

Should Bar Corporation Men.

"Corporations are creatures of the legislature under general laws. No member of the general assembly, while retained as attorney or agent of any corporation, should be allowed a seat in either house, otherwise the creature becomes the creator and this is contrary to nature and to our form of government. The legislative is the most important of our state government. The governor and state officials can do nothing without the hearty co-operation of the law-making body. United action alone can bring prosperity to the people. It is time to give the women of the state representation in the legislature. We can never reach the highest stage of civic virtue until both sexes co-operate for the public welfare. The women should have a voice in making the rule that binds her and her property.

"The spirit of lawlessness that exists in the state is, in my judgment, a direct result of the World War. The spiritual force of a people is always at its lowest ebb at the conclusion of a war. We should meet this by a strict enforcement of the laws. The prohibition laws, especially, should be rigidly enforced and the bootlegger driven from the state. I am satisfied that the happiness and prosperity of our people will never be complete until the illicit traffic in liquors is destroyed. "We have made excellent progress in stamping out illiteracy and increasing the length of the term of our common schools. We are spending lots of money, but our people do not complain so long as the results are satisfactory. There is no state in the union more alive to the importance of the education of the masses. We will not submit to one step backward in this respect. We must continue to advance until every common school in the state has a term of nine months and until every child is given the foundation for a college education. Our system of higher education is top heavy in proportion to our common schools. There are thirty, and more colleges for men and women in this state, exclusive of orphanages and reformatories and, while they are not all state institutions, nevertheless, they are supported by the people and must be accounted as parts of our educational system. We cannot afford to close the door of a single college so long as a reasonable number of students attend them, but a consolidation of a number of them might be wise from a standpoint of economy and efficiency. Let us put out no lights, but merge the dim ones into one brilliant beacon to the glory of the state.

Too Many Lunatics.

"We are spending too much money on lunatics and prisoners. There are too many of them in South Carolina. It should not be too easy to get into the hospital for the insane nor too easy to get out of the penitentiary. Both of these institutions should be nearly, if not entirely, self supporting.

"We have materially enhanced the value of the farms of the state by the building of good roads. Next to education, this is most important. We cannot countenance any policy that would retard the efforts of the state and counties to make available every dollar of national aid to good roads, but we must go gradually and not disregard our ability to pay. It is easy to vote bonds but hard to pay the interest.

Need Judicial Reform.

"Our judicial system needs reforming. We have fourteen circuit judges and there is no necessity for but eight. There never was. The larger circuits are adopting county courts which take away over half the business of the circuit courts. We can, therefore, do away with six judges, six solicitors and six stenographers besides lengthy terms of court, saving the people

thousands of dollars.

"These are only a few of the reforms we can accomplish. The time has come when we must economize and cut off all unnecessary offices and appropriations. Our taxes on lands can and must be reduced.

"Our young soldiers who fought in France for the preservation of Democracy, the uplifting of humanity and to prevent Germany from absorbing and enslaving the weaker nations of Europe, will realize that the fruits of their victory are but Sodom apples, if their own fathers and kinsmen are reduced to the level of European peasants. The sordid interests in America who deny us a market for our cotton, aided by our own legislators who refuse to lift the burdens from the shoulders of our producers should be defeated. Our veterans can be depended upon to do their duty at all times. The salvation of the farmer means the prosperity of every business in the state. We are members of one economic and social body absolutely interdependent, nourished by the same blood from one heart. It behooves all of us to get together and meet this crisis like South Carolinians.

"This is no time for sulking in the camp or partisan feeling. We need the hearty co-operation of every citizen."

REGULAR CHURCH THIEF

Woman Says Dozens of Women Loot Worshippers' Purses Unmolested.

Looting handbags of women worshippers in fashionable churches is classed among the professions by the woman arrested in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Friday, and denounced by Magistrate Cobb in the West Side Court as a "dangerous criminal," who held her without bail for examination on a charge of attempted theft.

The woman's history is mysteriously interesting. She was arraigned as Catherine Fitzhugh. Her police record, so far as known commenced in Washington, in 1911, when she was arrested for stealing in churches and stores. She then gave her name as Catherine Fennell, and was sent to a sanitarium, classed as "mentally abnormal." In 1913 she was arrested, under the name of "Mrs. Randolph Fitzhugh," charged with stealing \$500 from a mesh bag belonging to Miss Dorothy Fisk, in St. Leo's church, on East 28th street.

She spent months in the Tombs awaiting trial, and was defended by Creed M. Fulton, a Washington attorney, assisted by prominent lawyers of this city. At that time it was said she had attempted, at the age of sixteen, to murder her fiancé with an axe and had been kept ten years in an insane asylum at Staunton, Va.

She was released in 1911. Her father, mother and brother had gone insane in the meantime, and she went to Washington to live with a married sister. There she eloped with a young lawyer, who later deserted her. Her sister declined to receive her back. A son was born. The young mother came to New York with her baby and lived at the Hotel Flanders. Occasional remittances came to her from the lawyer, then living in Chicago. Later these remittances ceased. No record of her marriage had been found.

In 1916 she was again arrested, this time in St. Patrick's Cathedral, calling herself Catherine Northrup. When a reporter for The World talked with her yesterday in the Jefferson Market Women's Prison she wept at the mention of her little boy. The child is now nine years old and she is thirty-seven.

"Why do they always arrest me?" she queried. Dozens of women are following this same profession—if it is a profession—and nobody arrests them. I know one woman who does it all the time—taking things from purses—and she is never arrested. It was never proved that I did it, either. Just because I have been arrested before they are always ready to arrest me again."—New York Herald.



Comfortably Located.

Eli Balles Post of the American Legion at Fort Mill, is now comfortably located in its new club rooms in that town and everything connected with the post is moving along nicely. While nothing definite has been done about it yet, it is quite likely that a county-wide Armistice Day celebration will be pulled in Fort Mill next November under the auspices of Eli Balles Post.

3,000 Members in S. C. The South Carolina Department of the American Legion at present has a membership of about 3,000, according to Morris C. Lumpkin, the department commander. Quite a number of posts over the state have plans for membership drives within the next few weeks. The total Legion membership at the end of last year was about 4,500 and Commander Lumpkin has high hopes that the end of the present year, which comes in September, will show a considerable increase over last year's total.

Sharon Post Dragging. Hope Byers Post No. 99 of the American Legion at Sharon, is just dragging along now, according to J. Clyde Plexico, post commander, who says that ex-service men of that community are not joining the legion like they should. In fact so far only about eleven ex-service men have paid their dues as members of the legion. The post hopes to put out a good baseball team this summer and the commander and other officers have plans for a number of post activities.

Hickory Grove. J. Herschell Hood, commander of Hickory Grove Post, hopes that the post will soon be in its own quarters. The legionaires have their eye on a second story hall on Main street, and they believe that they are soon going to be in position to rent this hall and equip it as a legion home.

The State Convention. It is hoped that every post in York county will send a full delegation to the next convention of the South Carolina department, which convention will be held in Florence in September. Each post is entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five members or fraction thereof. Since there are five posts in York county, the largest number, by the way of any county in the state, York county should have quite a little army to move on Florence.

Let Them Know. By the way, do you know an ex-service man in your community who, in your opinion, is entitled to government compensation because of wounds or injuries incurred in line of service? If you do tell the service officer of the American Legion Post nearest you about it. The duty of the service officer of each post is to look after such cases and they will be glad to do it.

Government Insurance. By the way, buddies, what about your government insurance? Are you still holding on to it, or have you allowed it to lapse? If you have dropped it suppose you talk it over with the insurance officer of your post. Government insurance is the cheapest insurance going for an ex-soldier—insurance that he can hardly afford to be without. The veteran's bureau proposes to put on a drive for the purpose of renewing insurance in the near future, since there are thousands and thousands of ex-soldiers who have allowed theirs to drop. The American Legion post commander living nearest you will be glad to give you all information relative to government insurance.

Fourth of July. How about a Fourth of July celebration somewhere in York county under American Legion auspices? It would be a good thing to do and it is time that some action was started if anything is to be done. Which of the towns of the county would like to have a big Fourth of July celebration under legion auspices?

—A government of groups, by groups and for groups.

IN THE THROES OF CHANGE

Secretary of Cotton Association Says Old Order Has Passed.

A FULL CROP NO LONGER POSSIBLE

Inflated Debt Incurred in the Production of the Crops of 1920 and 1921 Has Completed the Disaster—Labor is Leaving the Farms and Outlook for Consumer is Dark.

Houston, Texas, April 1.—In my trip throughout the entire cotton belt, I find that the farmers are unable to meet their obligations, are compelled to reduce their standard of living, and to strip their communities of the things that make them attractive, causing stagnation in both town and country. The farm population shows a marked decrease, especially during the last two years, and the young people, especially, are leaving the farms and taking up their residences in the cities and towns. Negro labor is showing an alarming decrease in the agricultural sections, seeking employment in other lines.

I do not think it will be exaggerating to state that there are thousands of vacant farms throughout the cotton producing section of America due to these conditions, which are the outgrowth of an unsound agricultural policy which has been pursued for the last fifty years. After the War Between the States, when the negro was set free, he and his white masters were immediately required to enter into a struggle for an existence in competition with each other by the production of cheap products, especially cotton.

The old system has broken down. The debacle in prices of farm products since 1920 has wrecked the worn-out shack. The South is either in a death struggle or on the eve of a new birth, and I am convinced that the latter is the case. We are on the eve of a new, more prosperous and greater South. In conferences with leading business men, bankers, merchants and farmers throughout the entire South, I find that people are thinking as never before. The statement was made to me over and over that the old order of things is passing away; that it has served its day and generation. People tell on all sides: "We need white immigration; we can never continue under the old order. It has caused both the negro and white man to pay a fearful penalty."

Even were scientific methods discovered today for eradicating the boll weevil, it would be impossible for the South to produce a full cotton crop. The assets necessary for the production of cotton have been depleted to a greater extent within the last two years than in any similar period during the last half century. The South, like the other agricultural sections of America, is loaded with a tremendous inflated debt incurred for the production of the crops of 1920 and 1921, and this burden alone means the certainty of a short production and a complete change. Two billion, three hundred million dollars is a stupendous sum, and this is what the South lost, based upon the cost of production of the last two cotton crops. It is in proportion to the twelve billions of dollars lost by the agricultural producers of America based upon the cost of producing the last two crops and the selling price.

The remedy to these conditions is to change this old worn-out haphazard system. The people of the South realize they cannot continue same and that they must place agriculture upon a hope and market by accident. Diversified agriculture is a certainty. The producers must secure a price for their products on a level which will enable them to receive cost of production plus a reasonable profit. The fact that the agricultural producers of America and the various lines of industry that extended credit for the production of the crops of 1920 and 1921 are in the same predicament as the people of the South, means the absolute certainty that these conditions are going to be changed for the better, and no section will show a greater change for the better than the South.

For the present year, even with ideal seasons, we are facing the certainty of a small cotton crop. With adverse seasons common sense plainly dictates

the certainty of a record-breaking short crop. The law of cause and effect can have no other effect.

The world has been sick. Some months ago it stepped from its sick-bed. It has passed through its convalescent stage. The world will have an abnormal appetite for food and clothing. From whence will these supplies come? While the world was sick supplies exceeded demand. Now that the world is returning to health and vigor demand will exceed supplies, which will mean famine supplies, famine prices and the consumer will pay the penalty.

TURN AGAINST RABBIT

Not So Popular Now in Germany as Formerly.

Germans according to a Berlin dispatch, are turning against the use of tame rabbits as food. Rabbit sausage was a staple of the Teuton table in war time and Germans explain its present unpopularity by saying they had too much of it in that "hunger period."

Millions of tame rabbits were imported from Belgium and Holland by

the states and the municipalities and sold at a normal cost to the citizens, who established rabbit hutches and bred them to replenish the beef and pork supply in the war.

Berlin alone bought 100,000,000 marks worth of rabbits in one order, for which the city is still indebted. Whole trainloads of the little animals were distributed from 1917 to the middle of the following year.

Many families tasted no other meat but rabbit for months, and the sweetish flavor of it palled. Then came a time when the cost of rabbit feed became so high that the citizens were compelled to kill the animals and eat them or see them starve. Soon the rabbit houses on the roofs of buildings, on balconies, in back yards, gardens and odd corners of alleys and streets, disappeared.

Wild rabbit is still sold in the market stalls, but the tame variety of the species has virtually vanished, unlamented.

"All the world needs is to cheer up and get on its feet." It might help some, however, to get on its knees at intervals.

Mrs. L. writes:

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WILD WEST AUTHOR A CORPORATION OFFICER.



Photo by Underwood & Underwood. What's that—author? Sure, unless you prefer authoress. Well, anyhow, B. M. Bower, whose stories of ranch life and doings in the cow country you have read, is Mrs. R. E. Cowan. Here is the first published photograph of her. She has just been elected president of El Placacho Mining Corporation of Nevada.

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