

ADDRESS OF DR. LONG BE-  
FORE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Following is the address delivered by W. W. Long, director of extension of Clemson college and United States department of agriculture, before the Press association of South Carolina at its recent meeting at Myrtle Beach on June 22:

I shall discuss first what I consider our largest and most perplexing agricultural problem which has been greatly magnified; and made more acute by the presence of the weevil; namely, the fact that 57 percent of our cultivated lands are in the hands of an ignorant and shiftless class. Second, I shall point out briefly some of the achievements within the last thirty years of the scientific man in solving the many problems of agriculture, that at this time of our perplexity and bewilderment are making it not only possible but assure us that in a reasonable time our agriculture will be on a broader and firmer basis for we will have gotten away from the one-crop system that limits knowledge, narrows citizenship and does not foster home building, for we should remember that the keystone of American civilization is the home. Third, I shall undertake to show briefly how we have within the past thirty years been growing more and more in sympathy with agriculture through legislative enactment. In conclusion, I shall comment upon the potential agricultural power of South Carolina.

Back to the Farm Movement and the Increase of Tenantry

Up to the last 25 years or possibly longer, the minds of the American people were largely directed to the development of the country along industrial, manufacturing and commercial lines. Little thought was given to agriculture other than to reap, to cook and to weave. The problems involved in agriculture were not considered of sufficient value and importance to warrant the scientific study of the scientists nor was there hope of profitable reward sufficient to interest the capitalists; and the legislator made no effort to study and investigate and ascertain if there was such a thing in existence as a rural problem, either of production or economics. Notwithstanding that, even at so late a date as 1880, when 70 percent of our people lived in the country and 30 percent in the towns and cities, it then required the efforts of these 70 percent to produce the necessary food and raiment to feed and clothe the population of this country. As an evidence of the great progress that has been made in agriculture, 25 per cent of the people are now producing on the farm more than sufficient food for our consumption and use.

In this connection it is interesting to note upon what basis the much discussed movement back to the farm

is justifiable; 25 percent of our people are now producing the necessary food supply and raw material for our clothing along with a surplus of each for export. If this movement assumes any proportions the natural result would be that the profit from the production and sale of farm products would be greatly diminished. The only alternative is revolutionary reduction in farm living standards or this vanishing return to agriculture would manifest itself in the exodus and the further increase of tenantry, so let us desist from this cheap talk of back to the farm and let us recognize that our great rural problem grows out of the fact that 57 percent of our cultivated lands are in the hands of an ignorant, shiftless class. We in the South, in South Carolina, if you please, fully realize that a prosperous, intelligent and contented rural population is therefore essential to our national perpetuity. The world's experience has shown that the best way to secure this is to encourage the division of all the lands into small farms, each owned and operated by one family.

We know the world's most important school is the home with the farm. We know this philosophy to be true—yet, how are we to bring it about with 57 percent of our cultivated lands in the hands of this shiftless class. Shall we encourage them to buy our lands and endeavor to impress upon them that there is a dignity in residing upon a farm with a fertile soil, modern buildings and an environment of education? Do we believe that they will ever be able to develop that ideal country life so beautifully pictured by Dr. Knapp when he said:

"Let it be the high privilege of this great and free people to establish a republic where rural pride is equal to civic pride, where men of the most refined taste and culture select the rural villa, and where the wealth that comes from the soil finds its greatest return in developing and perfecting that great domain of nature which God has given to us an everlasting estate."

The basis of all civilization is the ownership of land. If we are not willing to sell them our lands, then to whom are we going to sell? Are we going to drift appreciating the fact that in 1910 they owned and controlled of our farm lands, to the value of \$92,000,000.00 (ninety-two million dollars), and in 1920 \$297,000,000.00 (two hundred and ninety seven million dollars). We can't be readjusted. The boll weevil problem is largely an economic problem. There is no certain method of control. Under old conditions the growing of cotton was a fool-proof operation. Under boll weevil conditions the growing of cotton becomes a highly specialized undertaking. The shiftless, doleless, thriftless farmer's day is over. The large landed estates are in very great danger, comprising as they do the 57 percent of

our cultivated lands that are controlled by this shiftless class. The answer that the normal exodus to the North will take care of the situation, I grant that eventually this will be true, but the presence of the boll weevil has precipitated a condition that is acute. We can not afford to have 57 percent of our cultivated lands lessened in value by unprofitable returns and thus tremendously weaken our entire agricultural structure.

The Contributions of Scientific Men to Agriculture Within the Last 25 Years

There are no pages in American history of achievements that stand out more brilliantly than those that record the contributions of our scientific men within the last thirty years to our agriculture, and yet those men are today pointed to as being impractical, visionary, and peculiar, and science itself referred to as being something beyond the understanding of the average man, and as you know and I know that the very meaning of the word is the application of common sense. The tremendous advancement of American agriculture is largely due to the unselfish service of the men of the laboratories and experiment fields. Let me call to your mind a few of the results of their labor that come into the daily life of every successful farmer. They developed by plant breeding, new varieties of practically all crops grown on farms, especially adapted to specific conditions. They developed by plant breeding crops that can be grown successfully on disease infested lands. They have explored all parts

of the world and as a result of their explorations they have introduced new crops that have proved of tremendous value. The introduction of Durham wheat from Siberia has made it possible for us to manufacture our macaroni, heretofore imported from Italy. They have introduced Kafir corn, Milo and Federita, and by so doing have made farming possible on millions of acres of land in the semi-arid West, where, without these new introductions, the country would be uninhabited. How many of our farmers in South Carolina realize that many of the clovers and alfalfas that they annually seed were introduced from France, Germany and Russia? That Sudan grass, that is growing with us in popular favor, is a foreign importation? Our idea of soil fertility has been entirely revolutionized by the introduction of practically all our leguminous crops except cowpeas. Such for instance as soy beans, velvet beans, the clovers, the vetches, etc. The discovery of the little bacteria that gathers nitrogen from the air constitutes a new source of wealth that will last as long as the world stands. How many of us when enjoying our morning juicy grape fruit give a thought to the scientific man who patiently labored to bring forth this delicious appetizer? How many of us realize that the man who introduced the improved variety of figs, prunes and dates rode on the back of a camel hundreds of miles in the deserts of the Far East. Take your mind back for twenty years and recall the character of fruit then offered you, especially the peach and the apple. They were small, wormy, knotty, and compare them with the peach and the

apple of today and you will naturally ask why the difference. Easily answered because the scientific man has made it possible to control certain diseases of the peach and the apple by the use of a spray worked out by many years of experimentation. The plant pathologist of today is making as much progress in controlling the disease of our plants as the physician is making progress in controlling and preventing the disease with the human family.

Let us pass on and briefly state what has been accomplished in the development of our animal husbandry. Twenty years ago the annual death rate in hogs from hog cholera in the United States was from 6 to 25 percent—the financial loss for the United States in certain years amounted to a hundred millions of dollars. The scientific man perfected a serum and virus that has practically made it possible to control this disease. Likewise tick fever and black leg can be

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NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

I will make a final settlement of the estate of W. Grady Bedenbaugh in the Probate Court for Newberry County, S. C., on Friday, the 28th day of July, 1922, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon and will immediately thereafter ask for my discharge as Guardian of said estate.

NANCY A. BEDENBAUGH, Guardian.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

I will make a final settlement of the estate of Maggie Propes in the Probate Court for Newberry County, S. C., on Friday, the 21st day of July, 1922, at 10 o'clock in the fore-

noon and will immediately thereafter ask for my discharge as Administrator of said estate. All persons having claims against the estate of Maggie Propes, deceased, are hereby notified to file the same, duly verified, with the under-

signed, and those indebted to said estate will please make payment likewise. LEE AVERY PROPES, Administrator. Newberry, S. C. June 15th, 1922.

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I would not dare state this fact if I did not have the authority of the State Board. "Basal optional" means "left to one's choice," according to the dictionary.

Human Geography is a new and correct treatment of the subject by the leading Geographer of modern times, Dr. J. Russell Smith, a Virginian, now the head of the Geography department of Columbia University.

Likewise, the State Board adopted for basal use two sets of Readers. The Winston Readers, Books 1 to 5, comprise one of the these sets. We are receiving many orders for these Readers.

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