

THE DISMAL SWAMP.

Region on Coast of Virginia and Carolina Interesting to Scientists and Tourist.

Few regions in America are more adorned by nature or more interesting to the tourist and scientist than the Dismal Swamp of Virginia and North Carolina. Though the entire region may present a dismal appearance in winter and some parts of it in all seasons, the swamp is annually visited by many pleasure-seekers and has long been a place of study and absorbing interest to the geologist, the botanist, and the zoologist. It lies in the Coastal Plain of southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Most of the surface consists of recently formed peat, the residuum resulting from the arrested decomposition of vegetation, but the underlying rocks are older and record events that occurred thousands of years ago, in the Pleistocene epoch. The peat ranges in depths from 1 to 20 feet. Contrary to popular belief this peat has antiseptic and preservative properties, and consequently much of the surface water is pure. Though no remains of primitive man or of extinct animals like those uncovered in the bogs of Ireland have been found in the Dismal Swamp, the peat contains many well-preserved trunks of cypress trees that lived long before America was settled by our ancestors.

The region may be readily reached from Norfolk by canals, whose banks, shaded by stately trees and graceful vines, afford an ever-changing scene from the deck of the little steamer that daily plies their waters. When the swamp was young it was entirely covered by water, but much of the water has drained off through these canals, and large areas are now dry. In the center is a picturesque body of water called Lake Drummond, the origin of which is a mooted question. According to the most valuable and plausible hypothesis that has been advanced, it is the remnant of a large body of deep water which once covered the entire region. The water in this lake, because of its remarkable keeping property, was used in earlier years for drinking on trans-Atlantic voyages. It is amber-colored and is known locally

as "Juniper water." As this name implies, the peculiar color has been ascribed to the bark of the white cedar (Juniper), which abounds in the swamp. It seems more likely, however, that this color is given to the water by its finely divided vegetal content or by the dye extracted from the brown peat.

The Dismal Swamp lies at the junction of the deciduous and coniferous forest regions of the eastern part of the United States. Its flora comprises plants of many varieties and is interesting because it shows a mingling of the northern and the southern species. Plant life is luxuriant in the swamp, and some parts of it are so densely overgrown that they are almost as difficult to penetrate as the jungles of the Amazon. The two predominant types of 'plant associations' are the black gum, red maple, rattan, and yellow jessamine, and the juniper association, comprising the white cedar, pine, sweet bay, shrubs, and cane. A few specimens of the bald cypress are still to be found in some places, but this tree was probably abundant in earlier years. The cypress knees that grow in the dark, fenest forested greas and the weathered, moss-hung cypress trunks that border the shore of Lake Drummond are the most striking features of the region. Aquatic plants have completely filled some of the abandoned ditches, and dense canabrakes grow upon their banks. With the glint of the blooming yellow jessamine in May the swamp is all that the soul of an artist would desire.

The fauna of the Dismal Swamp is wide in range and as interesting to the zoologist and hunter as the flora is to the botanist. Save for the lock keeper near Lake Drummond and a few farmers who live in marginal areas, the region is little inhabited, and there are many places where man has never trod. Bears frequently stir the brake, rabbits scamper about, muskrats and fish swim in the placid amber waters, brightly plumed birds fill the air with song, and in warm weather snakes of many species—rattlers, copperheads, water moccasins, kings, and blacks—come forth from their holes and lie coiled in the sunshine or hang from the branches of the trees.

Although the swamp contains a vast

quantity of peat that is valuable for fuel or fertilizer, little has been done to use it commercially. In the drained areas agriculture is the chief industry, and large tracts of peat land are used for the cultivation of corn, wheat, and potatoes.

Peat represents the first stage in the formation of coal. It has been shown that deposits essentially similar to those of the Dismal Swamp were laid down in many parts of the United States during the Carboniferous period and were deeply buried beneath muds, sands, silty material, and other sediments and subjected to pressure with varying degrees of heat. Lignite, bituminous coal, and anthracite represent the stages. Although peat is not widely used in the United States for fuel, it has been produced in Ireland since the traditional time when that country was deforested, and the peat fire on the hearth, like the jaunting car, typifies Irish environment.

As peat deposits like those laid down in the Dismal Swamp have played a prominent part in the formation of our coal, and as the Dismal Swamp peat is valuable for fuel and fertilizer, a report describing it should be of special interest. Such a report, prepared by C. C. Osborn, has just been issued by the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. This report (Bulletin 711-C) which contains a description of the swamp flora and of the origin, distribution, and equality of the peat, may be obtained free upon application to the Director of the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. The chapter on peat from Mineral Resources of the United States, 1918, containing statistics relating to the quantity of the peat and of the value of the peat produced in the United States during that year and a discussion of its uses and production, is also available for free distribution by the Geological Survey.

A building for the use of the officers of all of the commissioners of the state Baptist convention, those for the general board, for the secretaries of the various commissions and other officials of the denomination, has been purchased in the city of Columbia. The price paid was \$38,250.

NEWS AT CLEMSON

Correspondent Sends Happenings of Interest to Kershaw County People.

Clemson Colleges, S. C., Feb. 4.—The Clemson post of the American Legion now has 245 members, 43 of whom have served overseas. At a recent meeting they decided to convene on the first Monday of each month. Addresses will be made by prominent visiting speakers. The authorities of the college will entertain the Post at a banquet on February 7. The members of the Post from Kershaw County are J. P. Johnson, J. W. Trotter, A. E. Rash and H. E. Nettles.

Class football games are now in progress. The Senior-Junior game, the Soph-Fresh game each resulted in a tie of 6 to 6. The Freshmen beat the Juniors by one touchdown. Gregory and Holly of Kershaw are taking active part in these class games.

The Clemson Glee Club minstrel gave an entertainment last Saturday evening in the college chapel. The chapel was filled to capacity and the entertainment was a "howling success".

The famous scientist Montreville Wood gave an entertainment here last Friday night in which he demonstrated with his inventions many heretofore secrets that helped to win the World War.

The Senior Dancing Club is to have a dance on February 6 and the Garber-Davis orchestra of Washington, D. C., will furnish the music.

Miss Kate Villepique of Camden who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Furman for the past several weeks has returned home.

Calhoun County Subscribes Its Quota. Columbia, Feb. 2.—Calhoun County, through consistent hard work of its County Chairman, John B. Wannamaker, of St. Matthews, has subscribed in full its quota for State Memorial building.

Mr. Wannamaker wires as follows: "Calhoun has done its duty. Memorial Fund collected in full. All cash." Mr. Wannamaker has made a success of every campaign of which he has been the chairman. He has headed in his county the Liberty Loans, Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., United War Work and others. He and Calhoun County have made a reputation of meeting or exceeding every allotment of all campaigns undertaken.

Mr. Wannamaker, said the Memorial Commission headquarters here, has set a pace which it will be hard for the other chairmen to emulate.

Extreme Cold at the North. New York, Jan. 31.—All New England and New York state was tonight in the grip of the coldest weather of winter. New records for low temperatures were reported in many communities, the thermometer registering from 8 to 42 degrees below zero.

The frigid wave which suddenly blanketed the east shortly after last midnight was most severe in northern New York state, where the low record of 42 degrees below zero was registered at Ava, 14 miles north of Rome. At other places in New York and in New England the temperature ranged from 10 to 36 below.

LEE COUNTY NEWS

Items Of Interest Gathered From The Indicator of Bishopville.

The community was saddened last Sunday when it was announced that Miss Mary Shaw McCutchen had died during the night. The funeral services were conducted Monday morning at eleven o'clock at Mt. Zion Presbyterian church, of which she was a member. Mrs. Elmer McCutchen of the same community passed away about a week ago.

Dr. J. T. Shaw sold a tract of land to Dr. C. W. Harris in 1918 for \$6500 and bought back this week for \$20,000 and says he got it at a bargain at those figures.

Dr. J. E. McLure has bought out the Big Springs hotel and grounds and will have the whole place renovated and improved for summer business. All the property now being under one management the public may expect good service.

Mrs. J. W. Scott and little daughter, Dorothy, of Oakland, California, who has been on a visit to her old home near St. Charles left on January 21 for their home, accompanied as far as Augusta, Ga., by her two sisters, Messlames Chester W. and Luther F. Josey, who will spend a few weeks with their brother Mr. D. E. Scarborough, of Augusta, before returning home.

Mr. Bert LaBree who was taken to the McLeod Infirmary last week by Mr. L. W. Moore was operated on for appendicitis and is doing nicely since the

operation. Tom Jackson, the old colored man who still brings wood to town to sell, says he was born in 1814 which if his record is correct makes him 104 years old.

Supt. W. M. Scott and Mr. Edgar Scott went over to Florence Tuesday to attend the funeral of their cousin Mr. Otis Scott, who died at the Florence Hospital.

Last Friday night a horse, wagon and harness was stolen from the stables of Cahn Bros. and was tracked to rear of Mr. O. Levy's large dry goods store. Before going to Levy's store they broke into the garage of Mr. J. H. Stoudenmire and got some tools by which they made entrance through the skylight and let themselves down into the store and then unbarred the back door and loaded the wagon up with goods. Just how much they took from such a large stock is hard to estimate but two large trunks were missing also a lot of fine ladies' dresses, skirts and silks, shirts and shoes and many other things. Mr. Levy thinks they could have easily put \$1000 worth into the large trunk. Then they went to the rear of Mr. H. L. Atkinson's restaurant, cut the wire screen, opened the door and helped themselves to a pot of cold soup, that was on the cook stove. Sheriff Scarborough and the rural police have made diligent effort to overtake them, but they covered up their trail so well nothing has been seen or heard of them.

Miss Letha Graddick, of St. Matthews, visited friends here last week.

PAIGE

The Most Beautiful Car in America

The Car That Fulfills All Promises

The sense of satisfaction in owning a seven-passenger Paige Essex "Six-55" is two-fold.

Primarily, of course, the owner of a Paige Essex is gratified because his good judgment in choosing it is confirmed by the car's sterling qualities of reliability, sturdiness and luxurious comfort.

But there is an added satisfaction in owning the Essex because of its impressive appearance. It has all the distinctive beauty of higher priced cars, and none of the expensive disadvantages.

As a practical vehicle, free from the burden of excessive "up-keep," the Paige Essex is given quite general preference among cars of seven-passenger size.

Essex, Six-55; Larchmont, Six-55; Glenbrook Six-42. Complete Line of Enclosed Cars.

PAIGE-DETROIT MOTOR CAR CO. DETROIT, Michigan

CAROLINA MOTOR CO. (Inc) Camden, S. C.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Monday, February 16th

is pay day for our Association. If you want some shares, see our Treasurer on that day.

Series No. 4 Just Liquidated

Earned 9.14 per cent. We hope to do as well with series now starting.

Going fine and have large number of shares subscribed.

Wateree Building & Loan Association

JOHN T. MACKEY, Treasurer

BARGAINS

—IN—
Yard Goods

Spring Yard Goods for every need at less than wholesale Mill Prices.

Compare these prices with those you are paying in your town:

Sheeting, good wide quality, fine finish, limit 15 yards to person, at per yard	20c
Bleaching, yard wide, excellent quality, beautiful finish, per yard, only	25c
Long Cloth, extra fine quality; sold in 10-yd bolt, very special	25c yd
Apron Gingham, fine quality; assorted checks and colors, only	25c yd
Dress Gingham, best quality, 27-inch; Spring's newest colors and patterns, less than mill prices at	45c yd
Pajama Checks, yard wide, very fine quality, only	18c yd
Ladies' Cloth, 27-inch, beautiful new Spring patterns, excellent quality, worth 50c, only	35c yd
Cheviot, good quality, popular patterns and colors, only	25c yd
Outing, heavy quality, dark and light, plain or stripe designs	25c yd
Curtain Scrim, excellent quality, white with plain border,	15c yd

Order by Mail and Save Money
HOBBS-HENDERSON CO., Greenville, S. C., Dept. T.

South's largest mail order department
Store selling direct from the Mills.
We prepay all charges. Money refunded if not satisfactory.
REFERENCES: Any bank here.