

Practical Nurse Tells

Mrs. N. E. Snow, of Route 1, near Paris, Tenn., tells the story of her experience as follows:

"I am 62 years old and I have been a practical nurse for more than 30 years, taking mostly maternity cases. One of my daughters suffered from cramping at . . . She would just bend double and have to go to bed.

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was recommended to her and she only had to take about two bottles, when she hardly knew that it was . . . she suffered so little pain.

"My youngest daughter, was run-down, weak and nervous, and looked like she didn't have a bit of blood left—just a walking skeleton, no appetite and tired all the time. I gave her two bottles of Cardui. It built her up and she began eating and soon gained in weight and has been so well since."

Cardui, the Woman's Tonic, has helped suffering women for over forty years. Try it. At all druggists.

THE NEGRO EXODUS.

Camden Man Gives His Views Why Negroes Left The Farms.

(By W. H. Kirkbride in the Boston Transcript.)

That more than two millions of farmers, discouraged with their efforts to make a living from the soil, abandoned their farms and moved to the cities in 1922, is shown in a survey of farming districts in the United States made by the Department of Agriculture. To offset this, nearly one million came from the cities to the farms, but it still leaves a loss to the farm population of the United States of over a million in one year. This exodus is more than double the normal shifting.

The report discloses that this movement from the farm to the city started in 1921 and was progressing at the time of the survey; that the cities are increasing at an average annual rate of 4 per cent, while the farm population is decreasing at the rate of more than 1 per cent; that, in 1922, one farmer out of every sixteen in the United States sold out; that the occupants of one out of every five farms moved to another locality; that two hundred and thirty thousand tenants discontinued farming altogether; that there was, at the end of 1922 a shortage of labor on farms of 11 per cent compared with an excess of 10 per cent one year previous.

There was not a section of the United States, North, South, East or West, that did not show a decrease in farm population. The New England States showed a loss of 15,000; the Middle Atlantic, 42,000; the Pacific 47,000; the Mountain, 63,000; the West North Central, 144,000; the East North Central, 148,000; the West South Central, 157,000; the East South Central, 180,000; the South Atlantic States, 324,000. The latter group comprises Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, the heart of the cotton belt. The decrease in population in this section exceeds the combined loss of the New England, the Middle Atlantic, the Pacific, the Mountain and the West North Central States. The nearest approach in loss of farm population is shown in the East South Central group 180,000, taking in the cotton growing States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. This is because of the migration of the negro from the plantations of the South to the industrial North and West.

From every locality in the cotton belt comes a tale of the exodus of the negro laborer from the farm. In some sections it reaches from twenty-five to fifty per cent of the available farm labor. Private reports estimate that eighty per cent of the farms are short of labor, thirty per cent of which have not more than half the labor necessary to make a crop. Senator Smith of South Carolina reports that at least thirty-five per cent of the farm labor in his locality has gone North and that the migration continues.

The Department of Agriculture reports that Georgia has lost thirteen per cent or 32,000 and South Carolina three and one-half per cent, or 22,750 of their negro population during the last twelve months. The negro population in 1910 formed fifty-five per cent of the total population of the State of South Carolina.

I attribute this to the following seven causes:

- 1.—The ravages of the cotton boll weevil.
- 2.—The attraction of high wages in the industrial centers.
- 3.—Restrictive immigration laws.
- 4.—The breakdown of the contract labor system.
- 5.—The war.
- 6.—The increase in public works.
- 7.—Segregation laws and curtailment of civil rights.

The advent of the boll weevil into the cotton fields of the South demoralized the negro farmer. Successfully to combat this insidious insect takes brains, industry and capital, all of which essentials are lacking in the average Southern negro.

There are four classes of negro farm laborers in the South—those who

work their own land; those who rent land from the large land owners; those who work for day wages; and those who work on a share-crop basis. The boll weevil hits them all and hits hard.

The land owners have found cotton raising under boll weevil conditions so unprofitable that many have abandoned their farms. Bankers and merchants who had formally given them credit no longer came to their aid, and they were unable to buy fertilizer and poison, without which essentials the crops were failures.

Those who rented land found themselves in the same predicament. Without sufficient fertilizer they did not make enough cotton to pay the rent, and were disheartened.

Large planters, who were accustomed to plant twenty-five to thirty acres of cotton to the plow were compelled, under the new conditions, to cut their acreage to from five to ten acres, thereby greatly reducing the number of hands employed at day labor. The negroes, no longer able to secure work at home saw but one way, and that was to go where work was to be had.

The negro who farms on a share-crop basis, under the supervision of the owner, fares the best of all, but even he cannot make anything like the wages he could earn in the industrial centers. The best negro sharecropper I have on my plantation in South Carolina has an industrious wife and nine children, six of whom are old enough to help in the fields. I let him work last year on the share-crop system, fourteen acres of my best land, which always had made better than a bale of cotton to the acre. I furnished the land, the fertilizer, the poison and the tools. He and his family furnished the labor; we divided the profits. He owned and fed his mule. I allowed him four extra acres of land and the fertilizer to plant corn for feed. He had the use of two additional acres of land for a garden, and his house, wood and water free. These conditions far exceeded those of the average sharecropper. From the fourteen acres planted to cotton he made seven bales, or 250 pounds of lint cotton to the acre. The average yield per acre for the United States was 124.5 pounds, and for the State of Georgia, ninety pounds, so he was far above the average. I sold those 350 pounds of cotton for 28½ cents a pound, or \$97.50, half of which, \$48.75, was his share. That is practically \$500 for a year's work for himself, wife and children, or an average wage of \$1.37 per day for a family of eleven.

The second cause of the exodus of the negro I attribute to the attraction of the higher wages offered by the mining and industrial North and West, and to the more attractive living conditions to be found there. The negro loves the South. Cotton is better than gold to him. He revels in hot weather and suffers tortures in cold. But he must eat to live and when he cannot provide for himself and family at home, he naturally begins to inquire about other localities. His more adventurous brother or cousin or friend writes him from Gary, or Pittsburgh, or Chicago, or Philadelphia, telling him what a fool he is to be working fourteen hours on the farm for \$1 a day when he might be earning seven times that amount for eight hours' work. They assure him that a job is waiting for him, and often enclose money for his transportation. Is it any wonder that the negro on the farm drops his plow in answer to this siren call? Many planters, during the last few years, have lost heavily on their farms even at \$1 a day wage to laborers.

Unfortunately for the South, it is the better class of negroes, the young, strong and intelligent who are answering the call and the greater part of those who remain on the farm are the old, feeble and unambitious. Raising cotton under such conditions is hazardous.

On a cotton plantation the women are a big factor. They do most of the "chopping," hoeing and picking of the cotton. Often they earn more than do the men. These useful workers have left the South by the tens of thousands. Many accompany their husbands and fathers North, but most of them go to large cities, where they find employment in private homes and hotels. New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Atlantic City and the New England resorts are full of the former cotton pickers of the South. This exodus of women has made the servant question, as well as the farming question, troublesome for the Southerner. The planter who used to pay his cook \$2 a week has to compete with the Northern scale in his kitchen as well as in the field. Those women who remain South during the cold months usually go north in summer, just as they are needed on the farm.

Then there is the restricted immigration law. Formerly accustomed to secure their unskilled labor from all parts of Europe, the great industrial concerns of the North of late have been compelled to draw their supply from any source possible. The only supply of unskilled labor in the United States was to be found in the South. They explored the field, found it fertile, planted the seeds of allurements, and, under supervision of their overseers, the labor agents, gathered the crop. That it has proved a profitable one—for them—is without question. These recruiting agents, both black and white, told in glowing words the advantages and pleasures to be had in the North. Their persuasive inducements, with the gloomy outlook of the crop situation, made their task easy. The immigration law is also responsible, in great measure, for the situation.

Then comes the breakdown of the contract labor system. In former times a planter would engage his hands for a year, or for a number of years, and during the term of his contract virtually they were his slaves. The "contract" often bore the man's cross or signature to something he could not read, or there might be a verbal contract, overheard by a convenient witness or two. Such contracts bound the negro to his employer

for the time stipulated. If he was brave enough to leave, he was arrested. If he refused to go work, he was put in jail. Another scheme was to get the negro in debt, pay him so small a wage that he never could hope to pay the debt, and, under the law which prohibited a negro from leaving a plantation until he had paid his debts, keep him at work indefinitely.

Before the war the average negro knew little and cared less about conditions in other parts of the country. His father, his grandfather and his great-grandfather had lived and died on the plantation, and he took his existence there as a matter of course. Then came the war. Negroes from all over the South were called to the colors and sent to training camps. For the first time, they came in contact with the white man on more or less of an equal footing. They saw the great cities; they tasted pleasures heretofore never dreamed of. They heard of the high wages paid in the North for mere brown—they saw how the other half lived. When the negro soldier returned from France, where his pay had made him feel like a millionaire, and where he had been treated as a hero, and as an equal by white men and women, he resented a return to the old regime. He was restless and dissatisfied, and soon infused those who had stayed at home, with the same spirit. Is it any wonder that when the boll weevil and the employment agents visited their neighborhood they said, "Let's go!"

Then there is the industrial activity in the southern cities, especially Atlanta, Birmingham and Richmond, which have had an unparalleled demand for unskilled labor and have gone to the farm to meet that demand. There has been a great revival of public works throughout the south (where \$400,000,000 is being spent on roads alone, and this has taken many men from the farms. The contractor, takes the place of the industrial magnet. He offers higher wages than the farmer can afford to pay and he gets his man.

Another cause of the negro exodus is the segregation law and the curtailment of his civil rights. It is not my intention to discuss the ethical or social side of the treatment of the negro in the South, it is too old and too complicated a question with rights and wrongs on both sides.

These, I believe, are the essential reasons why the South Atlantic States show the huge loss of 324,000 in their farm population. It is a serious situation for the cotton belt, for it is growing worse instead of better. It is impossible to get actual figures on the migration taking place, but the station agents at all points in the South are unanimous in declaring that the largest exodus in history is taking place. Some report an average of one man a day, some more, some less. One has but to glance at any of the north-bound trains on the Southern, Seaboard, Illinois Central and other Southern railroads to convince him of the truth of the assertion. Formerly the negro-travellers were accommodated in one-half of the smoking car devoted to their use; today one frequently sees two or three "Jim Crow" cars on a single north-bound train, packed to the doors.

The migration will continue unless the economic problems which are causing it are solved. The negro loves the sunny South. He will be quick to answer the call of the soil when conditions warrant his return. The South needs the negro—no other labor ever really can replace the "darkie and the mule" in the cotton fields. It is of vital importance, therefore, to the welfare of America for the North and South, in conjunction with the Government, to realize the danger arising from the exodus of the negro from the cotton fields, and the subsequent depreciation of the world's cotton supply, and to endeavor to find some way to solve the problem.

The Republicans of the New York legislature are proposing to reduce the state income tax by exempting the incomes up to \$5,000 for married men and \$2,500 for single men. This is in the face of a move of Governor Smith, Democrat, who proposed a reduction of 25 per cent from the income limits as at present, \$2,500 for married men, and \$1,000 for single men.

Robert E. Wood, former postmaster of Charleston, W. Va., was shot and killed late Monday night in a fight with police who sought to search his automobile for contraband liquor. Wood shot a policeman, and when reinforcements arrived he opened fire again. He was hit by eight bullets. The police believe the man was crazy from drinking moonshine.

SAYS JUDGE WAS DRUNK.

Anderson Grand Jury Asks Recall of Judge C. C. Simms.

Anderson, Feb. 9.—Following disclosures here today on the alleged misconduct of Special Judge Charles Carroll Simms of Barnwell, who is serving as special judge of the Anderson term of Court of General Sessions, and the sending of a telegram to Governor McLeod by Senator Rufus Fant, Jr., requesting Judge Simms' recall, the Anderson county grand jury convened late today to probe the rumors current in connection with the case.

After considering the evidence at hand, the grand jury tonight, in a formal presentment signed by thirteen of its members and filed with the clerk of the court in the absence of any judge to receive it, reported as follows:

"State of South Carolina.

"County of Anderson.

"To the Presiding Judge of the Court of General Sessions:

"Some of the members of the grand jury having heard rumors on streets to the effect that the presiding judge of this court has been guilty of conduct unbecoming the high office he now holds, and which has tended to degrade and disgrace our courts, and the suggestion of some of the members of our body and the solicitor of this circuit that some action be taken in the matter, the grand jury has been called together for the purpose of investigating such rumors and ascertaining their correctness or incorrectness. Such investigation has been made and we beg to report as follows:

"We find that the Honorable C. C. Simms, special judge, has been under the influence of intoxicants while sitting on the bench and out of court during the present week.

"We further find that the said Hon-

orable C. C. Simms and two other parties on Friday night, February 8, 1924, about the hours of 8 or 9 o'clock, while riding in an automobile in an intoxicated condition ran the car into the car of another party, a citizen of this county and after the collision occurred they cursed and abused the occupants of the car they ran into and after being admonished that ladies occupied the car continued such abusive and profane language.

"We, therefore, recommend that the Honorable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of this State take such steps as is necessary to have the commission of the said Honorable C. C. Simms revoked and that some person of ability and sobriety be commissioned to finish the duties of special judge during the remainder of this session of this court."

When the grand jurors filed into court, there was no one present except Deputy Clerk Bogue Young, Solicitor Leon W. Harris, and a couple of newspapermen. Clerk John C. Taylor was summoned from downstairs, and Solicitor Harris contended that, under the circumstances, the clerk should receive and publish the presentment, but this the latter refused to do, taking the position that with no judge present court was not in session, and all he could do was to receive the presentment and file it for later publication in court. Clerk Taylor refused to permit newspapermen to read the jury findings, but later J. H. Tate, foreman of the grand jury, on the ground that the grand jury's findings are public property, authorized the giving out of copy of presentment.

Solicitor Harris conveyed to Chief Justice E. B. Gary, at his home in Abbeville, by phone, the grand jury's recommendation that the chief justice proceed for the revocation of Judge Simms' commission and the naming of

another special judge.

At a meeting this afternoon the Anderson Bar Association took a position favorable to Judge Simms to the extent of wiring Governor McLeod not to take precipitate action "and that Judge Simms be not interrupted in holding the term of court now in progress."

Leon L. Rice, president of the bar association, stated after the meeting, that the attendance of the bar was not complete and that the action taken did not represent unanimous sentiment of the meeting; also that the message to the Governor was in opposition to the telegram sent by the State's Chief Executive early today by Senator Rufus Fant, Jr., urging Judge Simms' recall, and not in opposition to the grand jury, whose action was not known to bar members at the time.

R. W. Nickels, of Greenwood, has been notified that his son, Aubrey Lee Nickels, under sentence of death in Florida for alleged criminal assault, has been granted a new trial by the Florida supreme court. Application for a new trial was based by the attorney for the youth on the ground that Nickels pleaded guilty because of fear of personal violence in the court room. Nickels, who is about 20 years of age, is accused of assaulting a white woman at De Land, Fla., December 8, 1921. He has been twice denied a commutation of sentence by the state pardon board and the governor has three times signed the death warrant fixing the date for his execution.

The Nichi Nichi, one of Japan's most influential newspapers, commenting on the death of Woodrow Wilson, said: "His death deprives Japan of one of its most esteemed benefactors and the world of its most powerful peacemaker."

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