

MR. WATSON TALKS.

The Commissioner of Immigration Tells New York Paper

OF NEW STATE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner Watson Makes a Statement of What He Hopes to Accomplish in Bringing White Labor Here.

By an act of the South Carolina legislature which went into effect on Feb. 28 there was created in the State a department of agriculture, commerce and immigration. E. J. Watson of Columbia, a representative of the new generation of energetic young business men who are the impelling force back of the recent awakening of southern industries and commercial activity, has been selected by Gov. Heyward as the first commissioner of the new department.

Mr. Watson has been in New York for several days on business connected with his office. This summer he will make a trip to Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Germany, with a view to presenting the advantages of South Carolina as a field for the desirable class of immigrants who come from those countries. Speaking Wednesday of his visit to New York and of the circumstances which led to the creation of the department of which he is the head Mr. Watson said:

"My presence in New York at this time is due to the new conditions that have arisen in the middle south, and it is no unmeaning errand considered in the light of the development of the country. The rapid development of southern manufacturing and the consequent robbing of the fields of the white tenant farmer class, the demonstration given to the world last fall of the dependency of its cotton manufacturing interests on the south for raw material, not alone in this country but abroad—these and the tendency of the negro to move to the centers of population and thence to the east are the three essentials to be considered.

"It is perhaps a strange and yet unexpeted condition that the very rapid development of the manufacturing industry of the south—particularly in my State—should result in injury to agricultural interests. The explanation, however, is easy. When we went ahead and put nearly \$40,000,000 into cotton mills, which could only be operated with white labor for reasons it is not necessary to discuss, we simply robbed our fields of the white tenant farmer class and left the agricultural interests in such a condition as to demand the attention of the State government. Then came a move of Sully and Brown which has revealed to the whole cotton manufacturing world its dependency upon the cotton growing states of this country, accentuating the acuteness of a situation already seen and realized. The farmers fared well and they have profited. Now they realize their power and their opportunity, but they find themselves without the necessary labor, and intelligent labor they must have. They consequently want something and want it quickly.

"Another phase of this situation is the negro question. Our farmers have always had plenty of negro labor on their places. Today they are crying for labor with which to work their crops. Having lost the white tenant farmer for the reasons assigned, they have suffered the additional partial loss of the negro farm laborer. This is due to the fact that the negro's tendency, in our State at least, in the last few years has been, first, to seek the larger centers of population and commerce. In the cities he finds himself poorly clad, irregularly and ill fed and a natural victim of immorality—the consequent sufferer from diseases which tend to balance the death and birth rate. Again, his tendency is to seek railroad construction camps and to move north and east. The exemplification of this can be most strikingly found in Washington and Baltimore, and even here in New York, the increase in the negro population in the two first named cities having been reached in the last two or three years.

"All of these things have combined, together with the appearance of the boll weevil in Texas, to awaken the agricultural interests of the South to a realization of the fact that something must be done. The great need is white settlers from this country and abroad. My State has seen the situation, and that is why I am here. Our farmers know that the boll weevil, unless an insect to destroy him is discovered, is likely to cross the Mississippi at any moment and do what Sully had done this year, with the additional feature that the effect on prices will be permanent. They know that if the weevil does come prices will remain high, and that the danger of the pest is an element in the situation. They realize that they want diversified and intensified farming, and, knowing this, they have succeeded in establishing, near the heart of the State, diversified farm No. 1, by the federal government, under the boll weevil appropriation.

"Further, knowing the need of intelligent labor, the State has established its department of agriculture, commerce and immigration, at the head of which I have been placed for four years, with the view of inducing desirable investments and settlers from north European and American points to come to South Carolina—the real garden spot of the world, possessing a soil and climate producing some crop the year round. We have thousands of acres of land lying idle at this time, and it is the province of this

new department to bring about their development.

"The department has been fashioned upon the best features of national and State departments of like nature, and the scope is broad enough to admit of its handling any conditions that may arise affecting industrial development.

"I am here now to set the ball in motion toward getting that which we so greatly need—intelligent white labor of Saxon origin. The work, so far as of constructive character, but I trust it will be prolific of genuine results. I am dealing with all having any interest in the situation that is attracting attention to the middle south—the southern France of America—and thus far effectively. I am trying to see all who are interested in any way, for I feel that those who invest or settle in South Carolina have a bright future awaiting them. When the waste places have been populated the act under which we are operating is so constructed that we can turn our attention to other plans of development as the necessity for them arrives.

"There is no part of the country that offers so many inducements as does the middle south just now to the native and foreign settler and investor. Our State department has just been launched, but I believe it is constructed upon better and broader lines than any similar State department in the country, and I expect noteworthy results. We are now in a position to offer to the desirable farmer from across the water lands upon which he can raise something the year round, and with due consideration to all conditions I cannot see wherein the element of failure enters. I know we have obstacles to surmount, but obstacles are ever an element in the success of any important undertaking which is of itself a departure from the beaten tracks.

"All the Southern States are beginning to awaken to the value of their own resources, and it is safe to predict that in the next few years this part of the United States will become a considerable factor in the production of the wealth of the country at large. Eastern capital is at this time paying more attention to southern land and other investments than ever before, and the spirit of progress is today running strong in places where a few years ago the people seemed to be ignorant of their opportunities."

The New Stamps.
The new series of stamps commemorative of the Louisiana purchase expedition will be placed on sale by the postoffice department April 30 and will be continued till December 1st. The designs are as follows: One cent, with portrait of Robt. E. Livingston, United States minister to France, who conducted the purchase negotiations; two cent, red, portrait of Thos. Jefferson, president at the time the purchase was made; three cent, purple, portrait of Jas. Monroe, special ambassador to France; five cents, blue, portrait William McKinley, who as president officially connected with the expedition; ten cent, brown, bearing United States map, showing the territory of the purchase.

Can't Pay More Rent.
General and concerted demands of landlords on the lower East Side of New York for more rent will send thousands of people homeless into the streets within a week. Unable to meet the demand for increased rents the tenants, who are the poorest of the poor, told the landlords that they are unable to keep the miserable hovels they call home. Notices of an increase of nearly thirty per cent have already been evicted and a hundred other eviction notices have been secured from the municipal courts and are ready for service.

No Bolter Wanted.
Because he voted for McKinley in 1896 James R. Gordon, a leading business man of Richmond, Va., has been compelled by party pressure to withdraw from the race for mayor. Mr. Gordon announced himself as a candidate in response to the request of the city's business interests. His opponent ascertained that he had declined to support Bryan and had warmly endorsed McKinley. This aroused such a storm among the "regular" people that Mr. Gordon is out in a letter announcing his withdrawal and expressing pleasure at being relieved from what he only undertook as a patriotic duty.

A Heavy Loss.
At 2 o'clock Sunday morning fire destroyed the barn and stables of T. H. Auld, at Eastover, resulting in a loss of \$5,000, with only \$700 insurance. Six buildings adjacent to the barn yard were also destroyed, including five horses, one mule, five cows, several fine hogs, all hay, corn and farming implements. The fire is said to have been of incendiary origin. Sheriff Coleman was telegraphed for and he, together with Deputy Sheriff Cuthbert, went to the scene with bloodhounds, but the weather being so dry the hounds could not accomplish anything.

She Played The Races.
The story is circulating in official circles and exclusive society, that Miss Alice Roosevelt has been banished to New York for the rest of the Washington racing season because she made bets on races and was photographed in the act by some photographer on the grounds. The man who took the snap shots tried to sell the pictures to newspapers, but the president and friends suppressed the pictures.

WANT TO COME HERE.

Views of a New Englander Who Wants His People

TO SETTLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

One Among Many Who Wish to Settle in a More Temperate Climate. A Sincere Yankee Declaration.

To the Editor of The State: I have received two letters from my friend, Mr. Howard, who is deeply interested in getting Massachusetts men to settle in South Carolina. In his letter of March 23d Mr. Howard says:

Ware, Mass., March 23d, 1904. Col. John P. Thomas, Charleston, S. C. Dear Sir: The Columbia State at hand. Your editorial O. K. I am inclined to think Mr. Watson thinks you and I have too much to say. At any rate he don't condescend to acknowledge our good intentions. I see M. V. Richards has sent a man to Columbia in the interest of Southern railroad. We no doubt will see the workings of the bureau of immigration in good time if we only will have patience. Mr. Watson is no doubt working his brains. The class of people this very State of Massachusetts has allowed to come in last year are a curse to any country, and are continually dumped over here—to the benefit of the country they leave, and a curse to the one they come to. If you don't believe it visit any of the manufacturing cities of Massachusetts. I am, Very truly yours, W. V. HOWARD.

In his letter of March 24th Mr. Howard says: My Dear Colonel: I sent you a few clippings yesterday and I see one in last night's paper I thought I would send you today, with my views of it. I have advertised my property for the last three weeks in 10 papers, viz.: Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Worcester Gazette, Springfield Republican, and Springfield Union, Springfield Homestead, Hartford Courant, Ware River News and Barre Gazette. Yes, 10 papers, and I have had but one man to call to look at my farm and some six letters of inquiry. The trouble in New England is the cold winter for me; that is the one great reason I want a change and I can't see why the west part of South Carolina is not an ideal place for me, a full blood, dyed-in-the-wool Yankee, and lots more of us who have always been workers, and are willing to let our arm out if we can come with the right hand of fellowship extended.

I know that there are some people in South Carolina who look upon the New England Yankee as tricky, sharp and always looking for the almighty dollar. This may be so to an extent, but these "Yankees" as the Yankee being a "negro lover" is all both; the class of people I would like to see have a chance to better themselves want none of it. There may be in and around Harvard college and Beacon street a few so-called "nigger lovers," but they want them at arms length. Now in my town of 9,000 people there has never been in the past 50 years but one colored family. Our people outside of the cities know nothing of them and want nothing of them, only they would like to see the colored man, as long as the Great Creator has put him on the earth, given a chance to have a home and country and some of God's blessings that are given to others; and the most of the people, that is, the class I have requested you to present to the chief of the bureau of immigration for his consideration, would much prefer this government (instead of the millions that have been blown in foolishly and needlessly in the Philippines on a lot of people who want no part of us, and 90 per cent. of the people of this country want no part of them) would give to the head of every colored family a home of 25 or 50 acres of land in, we will say, Central America, Cuba or Jamaica. Give the colored man a country of his own and a flag; establish him on his land with proper looking after and advice till his children can have the benefit of schools. That the colored people can live in this part of the world and a white man would have a hard time of it, is well known; that is the way the Yankee who works for a living would solve the negro problem.

"My dear colonel, I started to tell you how I was trying to sell out here and don't have the success I could wish; the fact is there are 1,000 farms for sale to one buyer; farms are a drug in New England. I intend to write you from time to time anyway in order to keep posted as to immigration, etc. I am, Very truly, etc., W. V. HOWARD.

This is one clipping Mr. Howard sends: "The Hartford Post lightly says: 'Four Waterbury hotels were plumed off the other night when a colored clergyman applied for a room in one after another of them.' It is for this reason that so many northerners see fit to protest against the introduction of Jim Crow cars in the south. They have an easier method here."—Springfield Republican.

"Tables of figures showing the immigration of foreigners into New England during 1903 have just been completed by Rev. Joel S. Ives of Hartford, who for the past four years has conducted a census of the foreign population of the six States in behalf of the Congregational Home Mission

society. According to his figures, the influx of foreigners last year was as follows: Maine, 1,997; New Hampshire, 1,861; Vermont, 1,611; Massachusetts, 65,757; Rhode Island, 9,467, and Connecticut, 21,813, a total of 102,506. Southern Europe supplied a great number of these immigrants, for of the total 28,151 were Italians and 11,877 Poles."—Springfield Republican.

The third clipping I give is from the same paper, the Springfield Republican:

"The south wants white immigration, but is denied it; and why that section in vain seeks to attract such immigration is thus stated by the Wilmington (N. C.) Star: "As long as we lynch in the south, and furthermore draw our guns and shoot each other to death on the streets, we are wasting time in establishing immigration bureaus. People will be deterred from immigrating to a State where a big murder record is made year in and year out."

"The Charleston News and Courier says of this that 'that is the plain truth plainly spoken. Only the desperately adventurous and most undesirable would seek residence in a community or State where a citizen's ability to draw a pistol and shoot first is his greatest security.' Such talk from southern newspapers is very encouraging. No situation, however bad, is hopeless where the truth finds outspoken and fearless utterance."

Whereupon Mr. Howard comments as follows: "There are knifing, cutting, shooting and crimes of all sorts 50 per cent. more in New England than in the south." I wish to add that Mr. E. J. Watson, the State commissioner, has informed me that it is his purpose to communicate with Mr. Howard with the view of ascertaining how he can advance the cause of immigration to the south in New England. It is such men as Mr. Matthéson and Mr. Howard and such railroads as the Southern that advance in a practical way the main purposes of the bureau of immigration. Let them be encouraged and sustained for the public good. JNO. P. THOMAS. March 30, 1904.

Fighting Paper Trust.
The resolution of Representative Lilley instructing the secretary of commerce and labor to investigate the high price and scarcity of news print paper and the causes which have produced these conditions, was the subject of discussion before the house committee on judiciary. Don C. Seltz of the New York World, and John Norris, business manager of the New York Times, were heard. Both covered practically the same ground in statements and the International Paper company and the General Paper company had divided the United States between them in the control of the news print paper. The International controlled all that section east of the Indiana line and the General company the territory west of that line. This combination, it was testified to, had raised the price of news paper during the last four years \$14 a ton and during the past year as much as \$5 a ton; it was selling paper in London, counting the freight and insurance, at 30 per cent. less than it did in New York.

Rioting Follows Strike.
Although it was announced Tuesday night that the strike at the American Can company's plant in Chicago had been settled the rioting around the place was fiercer Wednesday than it has been at any time and one man, John Nichols, lost his life by a bullet fired, it is said, from a train on which were a number of non-union men being taken back to the city after the conclusion of the day's work. The fighting began early in the morning, when 300 Greeks who have been employed during the strike attempted to come to the factory. They were met at the gates by a large number of union pickets who attacked them with stones and clubs. A large detachment of the police had their hands full in protecting the Greeks when a shot fired from the crowd aroused the Greeks to fury. Those who had entered the factory came pouring out armed with knives and revolvers and attempted to attack the union men and their sympathizer who were assaulting those Greeks who had not yet reached the gateway. The police after a desperate struggle managed to keep the two bodies of men apart. In this fight a number of men were battered up. At night when the 300 Greeks left the plant they were attacked by a mob fully 10,000 strong that pelted them with stones, sticks and bottles.

Had Nong to Out.
The House of Representatives in Washington was considering a bill to prohibit the docking of horses' tails. Congressman Perkins was speaking in favor of the measure when he was interrupted by Mr. Cooper of Wisconsin, who asked: "Why does anybody dock a horse's tail?" Mr. Perkins replied: "Chiefly because it looks a great deal better. Why do you cut your hair shodders?" The humor of this reply if any, lies in the fact that Mr. Cooper is about as bald as a turnip.

New Postal Card.
A new style of postal card for return message will be issued by the postoffice department as soon as the stock of the present series is exhausted. The card will bear two portraits, one of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman for the side bearing the message and one of Gen. Phil Sheridan for the return side. Many millions of the new card will be ready for distribution at an early date and all offices sending requisition for them will receive their quota as rapidly as they can be supplied.

HORRIBLE DEEDS

Told by a Presbyterian Missionary to the Congo Free State.

THE CANNIBAL ARMY MURDERS

Innocent Women and Children Who Are Captured to Show that Work of Raiding Villages is Well Done.

Dr. W. M. Morrison, Southern Presbyterian missionary to the Congo Free State, in an address at Louisville, Ky., gave an impressive recital of alleged barbarities practiced on the natives of Congo by the authorities, and of the obstacles thrown in the way of their correction by the officials.

He said: "I lived with these people seven years, and know what I am talking about. King Leopold has twenty thousand men, officered by white Belgians—and armed with repeating rifles. They are men representing the worst and most savage type of natives; caught and carried far from their homes and forced into military service. In turn this soldiery is used to compel the natives to bring in enormous tribute of ivory and rubber. It is worth nothing that the King of Belgium is today reputed to be the largest dealer in ivory and rubber in the world.

"As a result of forced military service and labor, great and unspeakable cruelties are practiced on the natives. I have seen five thousand fleeing to the forests to escape the cannibal soldiers of King Leopold. I have seen soldiers scouring through the forests catching men wanted by the government as laborers and taking the captives away with ropes tied around their necks.

"Raids upon villages are constantly made, some are killed, others sold into captivity and others forced into labor and military service. One can buy all the slaves wanted for ten or fifteen dollars each. In these raids innocent women and children are killed or captured. Their hands are cut off to be taken back to the Belgian officers to show that the work has been well done. On one of these raids near the mission stations, one of our missionaries counted eighty hands cut off, drying by a fire to be taken to an officer and forty-five dead lying near.

"The Belgian government make a stereotyped denial of all charges. I have seen personally the Governor of the Congo Free State and have been in the palace of the King of Belgium; neither will do anything. The British government is interested in the situation. Consul Roger Casement, the English and American representative to Congo, has just made a tour of investigation. His report is now in the hands of the government at Washington and presents a most deplorable situation."

Clearing a Mystery.
The first trace of Mrs. John C. Burns since her disappearance from a Chicago hotel two years ago was found last week when James Taylor, a negro, was arrested at Cincinnati. He had in his possession, Mrs. Burns' Daughter of the American Revolution pin, engraved with her name, as well as several articles of jewelry which bore initials. The prisoner is said to have disclosed the hiding places of other jewels, which are alleged to have been the property of Mrs. Burns. The total value of the property recovered is nearly \$5,000. About two years ago, Mrs. Burns announced that she was going away on a short visit. Her husband was believed to be in Europe. Taking several trunks, but leaving many of her belongings in her room, Mrs. Burns left the hotel giving instructions to hold mail until she sent her forwarding address. From that day to this no word has been received from her or her husband. Mrs. Burns was prominent as a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and also was connected with the organizations to which she belonged, having been located in the East, where she resided before coming to Chicago.

Stole the Mormon's Wives.
Prospectors from the lower Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico, southwest of El Paso, bring the story of a raid made by Guan Colorado, alias "John Redhead," upon Don Felipe, a newly formed Mormon colony. The noted bandit and his band pillaged the settlement, carrying away three of Elder Hiram Johnson's wives, one of which is the favorite of his large household. A posse of Mexican rural police and a squad of Mormons, who as a vigilance committee, style themselves "avenging angels," pursued the bandits for thirty-six hours and finally surprised them in the fastness of the Sierra Madre Mountains. A fight took place in which two of the outlaws were wounded. The band fled, leaving the women. They had been kept two days in a cave, where a considerable amount of bullion treasure was found, which, it is believed, was stolen from a pack train recently.

Served Him Right.
At Savannah, Ga., Henry Olson was found guilty in the United States court Wednesday morning of shanghaiing sailors out of Savannah. A receipt was shown in court, indicating that Olson had received \$250 for the shipping of eight negroes who were subsequently discharged penniless in Bristol, Eng., whence they were returned to this country by the American consul. There are other cases of a similar character against Olson.

SHOT BY CONSTABLES.

They Were Assaulted by One White Man and Two Negroes.

A dispatch from Charleston to The State says M. S. Sullivan, a lineman of the Postal Telegraph company, was shot and seriously, perhaps fatally, wounded in an affray with State Constables J. T. Owens and C. T. Hudson, which occurred Thursday night on the steam launch Hornet, between 11 and 12 o'clock on the cove beach at Mount Pleasant. The shooting grew out of the capture of contraband liquor which Sullivan was conveying from the Clyde wharf to a storehouse on the water front. Two negro men were with Sullivan at the time, one of whom, it is said, was also wounded by the constables. Their names could not be learned, for neither has been seen since the affair. Both negroes fled from the boat, it is said, when the shooting commenced.

It is not positively known which constable shot Sullivan. At the St. Francis Xavier Infirmary Thursday, Sullivan, it is alleged, stated that he was shot by Constable Owens and that the negro was shot by Constable Hudson. Sullivan is thought to be in a critical condition. He was brought to the city Thursday about 3 a. m. and sent to the infirmary. An operation was performed upon him and it was found that the ball had passed through his left arm, entered the side and perforated the intestines in six different places. The bullet was not located.

Constables Hudson and Owens arrived in the city this morning at 3:30 o'clock with 19 gallons of whiskey, which they had captured from the Hornet, Sullivan's launch, having hired a row boat at Mount Pleasant and rowed the goods over to Charleston. Chief Constable Holmes was immediately notified of the shooting of Sullivan and the capture of the liquor. Chief State Constable Hammet was informed of the shooting early Friday morning by Constable Holmes and he is expected in the city soon to make an investigation. Constables Owens and Hudson, acting upon the advice of Constable Holmes, surrendered to Sheriff Martin about 11 o'clock Thursday and were sent to jail to await further developments.

A WOULD-BE SWINDLER.
Coughed up the Money When the Doctor Dosed Him.

At Columbia Wash Kinsler, a young negro man, will be given a preliminary before United States Commissioner Vernor shortly on the charge of attempting to pass counterfeit money. The story of Kinsler's attempt to escape and his attempt to evade the charge is strange. Kinsler walked into the fruit store of the Syrian, George Mack, on upper Main street, Saturday night at 12:30. He purchased a pair of cheap earrings and some fruit and carelessly threw down what purported to be a \$2 bill. Mack spotted the counterfeit at once. Officer Dunning happened to be passing and was called in. The situation was taken in at a glance and the officer grabbed Kinsler. He was just a little too late, however, for Kinsler ramméd the bill in his mouth and swallowed it, despite the choking he received. Then Mr. Dunning called for Dr. Pope, the city physician, and the rest was easy. A hyperdermic injection was given Wash, which acted as an emetic and the bill "came up" in about three minutes. The negro was searched for more counterfeit bills. No bills were found, but a watch he had stolen was recovered and the negro stands a chance of serving a term for the State for three years and for the United States for attempting to pass counterfeit money, the penalty for the latter, according to the revised statutes, being from five years to fifteen years. The bill which Kinsler attempted to pass is an old Richard Building and Loan certificate, this association flourishing about 1878. The certificate looks very much like money and there are a number of them floating around. Kinsler lives on Gates street, near Senate, and his reputation heretofore has been very good.

Knife in the Brain.
At New Haran, Con., a portion of a long thin knife blade, which had been imbedded more than twenty years in his skull, penetrating an inch into the brain, was removed from the head of Christopher Osborn by Dr. M. J. Adams. The patient is a negro, 57 years old. He is employed by Prof. J. M. Weil, of Yale. According to Osborn's history of the knife blade, he quarreled with another negro, who struck him in the head with a knife. The blade broke off and the steel close to the skull. Osborn was sent to jail for his share in the fight, but recovered and suffered no inconvenience until a few weeks ago, when he began to have convulsions. They grew in frequency, until last week he had them every half hour and paralysis began. Dr. Adams says the man will recover.

Passing of a Fad.
The Chicago board of education has condemned the vertical system of writing. Through its official bulletin the board says: "It is an injustice to the child to impose a system of handwriting upon him and force him to adhere to it through his growing years at the cost of not only suppressing his individuality in this acquired mode of expression, but also at the sacrifice of his time and the mental faculty that comes with the ease which accompanies a mode of expression fitting the individual's characteristics."

BACK FROM NEW YORK

Commissioner Watson Well Pleased With Prospect for Immigration.

GREAT INTEREST IN THE EAST.

The South's Opportunities for Settlers and Investments Are Attracting Attention in All Classes.

The Columbia State says Col. E. J. Watson, commissioner of commerce and immigration of South Carolina, returned Wednesday evening after a ten day's trip to New York in the interest of the new work of which he has been placed in charge.

The commissioner has the faculty of taking up everything he does undertake with enthusiasm, and this instance is no exception. He is highly pleased with the results of his trip and seems fully imbued with a determination to accomplish something in the field to which he has been called. The interview and editorial is reproduced from the New York Sun show that Col. Watson "caught on" in New York, as such a paper as The Sun does not open its columns to a nobody.

Soon after reaching the city Wednesday night Col. Watson had a talk with Gov. Heyward and the governor was well pleased with the informal report which he made. Wednesday the governor received the following note from Mr. William Williams of the New York department of commerce and labor:

"Mr. E. J. Watson, the head of your department of agriculture, commerce and immigration called at Ellis Island today with your letter of introduction. It gave me great pleasure to see him and I will assist him to the extent of my ability on his present mission to the east."

When seen Wednesday night Commissioner Watson talked most interestingly of his trip and the prospects for his work. While all that he had learned, considered and undertaken could not be reviewed in the time then at his disposal, he consented to tell of a few things that had come under his observation.

"I have been in the east," he said, "for the last ten days giving the most earnest attention to the southern immigration problem, and arranging all the preliminaries for the founding of the work of the new State department upon a substantial basis. I knew at the outset that the work was one of many ramifications, and that speedy action and vigorous measures would be necessary. Since studying all conditions and the methods employed by the trunk lines of the west and the transatlantic steamship companies, who control the great bulk of the ever inflowing tide of foreign population, I can say that the task ahead of us is no easy one.

"I am greatly gratified at the manner in which I was met by the officials of the government and by those who really control the tide of immigration, and feel that the first fortnight of the new department's career has been well utilized.

"What struck me most forcibly in the east was the widespread interest in all circles—whether Wall street or on Ellis Island, or in eastern business or official circles, or at the national capital—in the movement in the south for immigration and emigration. The federal government, I gathered, would be glad to see the tide turn southward, thus preventing the congestion in large centers of commerce and the consequent misapplication of intelligent farming classes to trades and callings for which they are totally unfit, resulting in deportations. Never have the eyes of the east been so thoroughly turned to the middle south not only in population movements but in investments. The easterners realize the value of our resources better than our own people, and I have received the heartiest assurances of earnest aid and co-operation on all lines.

"In Washington the liveliest interest is manifested on all sides, as has been manifested by the prompt, favorable action taken on Senator Simons' immigration information measure. I am more than ever convinced of the opportuneness of the movement launched in this State, and I sincerely trust our effort will be crowned with success. One danger is in the people expecting too great results in a short time. The work is necessarily slow, and when it is based upon a determination to handle only such matters as possess the elements of success, patience is an essential. However, I trust results can be shown in certain branches of the work at an early date. Another danger is in the possibility of landowners wishing prices for their lands at first that will make their utilization difficult. I trust that this danger will not materialize. In a few days a call will be issued for information wanted immediately in this office concerning available lands, and official blanks calling for the exact information will be furnished the land owners. The department is already receiving scores of inquiries from all parts of the country.

"Of what has been accomplished and what has been set in motion at the country's chief port of entry I do not care to speak just now, as competition in immigration work is so strong I can only say that results thus far obtained exceed my expectations.

"Concise pamphlets of information as to our resources are badly needed and these will be issued at the earliest possible moment. Brief ones will be issued in the different north European languages for speedy use."