

# Need of Reclamation by Drainage Emphasized.

Seventy-seven Million Acres in Eastern Part of Country May Be Made Fertile Farming Lands by Drainage - Would Provide Homes for Nearly Two Million People.

(By E. J. Watson, first Vice-President N. D. C. and Commissioner of Agriculture of South Carolina.)

The movement for the reclamation of the low lands of the coastal plain and those sections bordering upon the principal river basins is one of supreme economic concern. This is particularly true of the States along the Atlantic seaboard, and more particularly the State of South Carolina.

Many have wondered perhaps why some of us here in the South have been doing such earnest work, through the formation of the National Drainage Congress, for the cause of drainage reclamation. Out in the West science has already bidden the desert to drink. Abnormal conditions following the development of water powers have brought about a condition in the

the 17th annual session of the National Irrigation Congress in Spokane, Washington, to bring the drainage reclamation situation to the attention of the country, and from that really began the movement that now promises to bring the final result. It is less than four years ago that the movement gathered such strength that the Drainage Congress was formed in Chicago during the session of the National Irrigation Congress, and all of us who have been in the movement here have not been stopping a moment since.

"Disregarding the vital question of the public health, I might say that this is not alone a Southern question. The drainage area of the States east of the Rocky Mountains amounts to the enormous total of 119,972 square miles. North Dakota and South Carolina far apart, have about an equal area, the one 4,840 square miles, (of territory absolutely worthless without drainage, and not taking into consideration that which would be rendered more productive) and the other 4,870 square miles. Georgia has 4,210 square miles, North Carolina 4,130 square miles; Alabama 2,310 square miles, and Florida more than anybody else. Minnesota is concerned to the extent of 6,000 square miles; Wisconsin, 3,680 square miles, and Michigan 4,600 square miles. In all thirty-eight States are involved.

"Let's look at it another way: In the eastern portion of the United States there are 77 million acres of wet lands. This is an area sufficient to make an empire such as the British Isles, an area as large as six of the New England States, New York and the upper half of New Jersey; an area, as some one has said, that would make a strip of territory 133 miles wide, reaching from New York to Chicago, and which, if divided into farms of 40 acres each, would provide homes for one million nine hundred and twenty-five thousand families of people. But this empire with its priceless soil, for when you consider the richness of that soil; it is an empire, is lying idle and unproductive, while American citizens are flocking into Canada to seek homes at the rate of 65,000 a year, and while the cry about the high cost of living is being heard throughout the land, and while thousands of our own people are dying each year as a result of the deadly malarial germ.

"Anybody who quietly digests these staggering facts and conservatively estimates the possibilities of the ideal soil, rich in the humus of ages, the restoration of perfect health conditions, and the possibilities of increased production of money value crops, not to mention anything else, need not ask me or anyone else why we are pushing as hard as we know how to get the federal government and the people themselves under State laws to draw the water from the land.

"I could discuss the bearing of this work upon forestry, and I could deal with its bearing upon public highways, with its more important bearing upon the opening of inland waterways, and many other phases of the matter, but that would take too much time. The problems of drainage, highway construction, improvement of natural water-ways and water power developments are nearly always so closely related that the solution of each must be worked out with due consideration of the others. The run-off waters of these great basins ought to be powerful agencies for industrial development, and not the dreadful messengers of ruin and devastation that they are under existing conditions.

"In short, the whole movement means more from an economic standpoint at this particular moment to every man, woman and child in South Carolina and every other Southern State, than any other one thing that I know of, politically, sociologically or economic. Because of this every Southern State should be largely represented at the fourth annual sessions of the National Drainage Congress, meeting in Savannah, Ga., April 22-25. All railroads have given the cheapest rates possible to the congress in all the territory south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi. Our States, counties and cities should all be represented officially. Every man interested in Southern development by works along this line will be heartily welcomed.

### Real Estate Transfers.

D. R. McCallum to R. B. Belsor, lot on Main street, \$400 and other considerations.

## HUERTA'S MOVE NEXT.

PRESIDENT WILSON WILL NOT RECEDE FROM POSITION.

Plea for Arbitration Will be Rejected and if Salute is Not Forthcoming All Ports will be Blockaded and Foreign Governments Will be Notified That War Exists.

Washington, April 16.—Unanimous endorsement of President Wilson's action in sending the Atlantic fleet to Tampico was given by the house committee on foreign affairs at a special meeting today.

The Mexican situation today is as follows:

The president will stand firmly by the demand for a salute to the flag; ships will blockade Vera Cruz, Tampico, Puerto Mexico, Mazatlan, Acapulco and Salina Cruz, depriving Huerta of the revenues and customs receipts; Huerta is expected to ask that the dispute be submitted to arbitration; the American government will reject any plea for arbitration on the grounds that the government in Mexico has not been recognized and that matters of national honor can not be submitted to arbitration.

Huerta is believed to have no intention of yielding, as the recent victories of rebels indicate that Huerta will be overthrown soon and he would rather have intervention.

If Huerta resists the demand of the United States it will be unnecessary to declare war, but foreign governments will be notified that war exists. Hundreds of volunteers for service have been received today at the war department.

### CALL ON MILITIA.

National Guard Will Probably Be Called Out to Supplement Regular Army.

Washington, April 16.—Brig. Gen. Mills, chief of the division of militia affairs, today notified the adjutant generals of all the States to forward details of the strength and equipment of the State forces. This information is wanted so the war department may call on State troops if necessary to supplement the regular army.

### THINKS SITUATION GRAVE.

Constitutionalists Leader Keeping an Eye on Developments in Latest Phase.

El Paso, Texas, April 15.—Gen. Villa and his latest victory at San Pedro were virtually lost sight of among Mexicans and refugees here and in Juarez today in the intense interest felt over developments in the Tampico incident. Gen. Carranza, at Chihuahua, was kept fully informed of the orders to the fleet and the attitude of Washington, but no statement of the position he would assume should the Americas take Tampico and Vera Cruz was forthcoming.

Among officials the word went round not to comment on the situation, but it was learned from the lips of one of Carranza's closest advisers that Carranza views the whole situation as one of the greatest gravity to Mexico as a whole.

Robert V. Pesquera, confidential agent of the constitutionalists in El Paso, said for publication that all rebel leaders are convinced that Huerta would not hesitate to lunge the whole country into a foreign war when he feels his power crumbling, thinking to save himself by uniting the country against an alien enemy.

### TO KEEP TORPEDO SECRET.

Injunction Issued to Restrain Bliss Company.

Washington, April 15.—A temporary injunction granted by Judge Veeder in the United States District Court of New York restraining the E. W. Bliss Company from revealing to other nations the construction of the Bliss-Leavitt torpedo used by the United States navy has been rendered permanent.

The Bliss Company was about to demonstrate the operation and construction of this torpedo, which, officials say, the navy has developed into the finest weapon of the kind in the world, to the Whitehead Torpedo Company, of Fiume, Austria, when checked by temporary injunctions sought by the navy department.

### MRS. A. F. LEVER ILL.

Serious Operation on Wife of Congressman.

Washington, April 13.—Mrs. Frank Lever, wife of Congressman Lever of South Carolina, today underwent a serious operation at a hospital in this city. At a late hour tonight it was stated that while Mrs. Lever was still quite sick, bright hopes were entertained for her recovery.

Mrs. Lever, before her marriage to the South Carolina congressman about three years ago, was Miss Lucille Butler of Saluda.

## MILITIA STOPS RACING.

TULSA JOCKEY CLUB OFFICIALS CLL OFF SPRING MEET.

If Further Racing is Attempted Soldiers Will Shoot to Kill Horses.

Tulsa, Okla., April 15.—Disregarding a restraining order issued by Judge M. A. Breckenridge, of the Superior Court, State troops took possession of the Tulsa Fair Grounds, proclaimed under martial law by Governor Lee Cruce, and when an attempt was made to run the races carded for the afternoon, a squad of militiamen fired a volley over the heads of the jockeys.

With this show of force and the declaration of Adjt. Gen. Frank M. Canton, who was in personal command of the troops, that if another race was started the militiamen would fire to kill the horses, officials of the Tulsa Jockey Club ordered the spring race meeting, which began Monday, abandoned temporarily at least.

Today's action brought to culmination a contest as to the right of "bookmakers" to operate at the track. Monday open betting was permitted and Monday night District Judge L. M. Poe issued an injunction prohibiting the placing of wagers. Tuesday report was made to the governor that violations of the State anti-gambling laws continued, and last night the proclamation declaring the track under marshal law was issued.

The next move will be the hearing of habeas corpus proceedings, instituted in behalf of several men arrested by the State troops today. Application for the writs was filed before the court of Criminal Appeals, in Oklahoma City late this afternoon. No date has been set for the hearing.

Two companies of militia were employed in stopping the races today. First the stands were cleared of spectators and orders given formally for the discontinuance of the races. This order was disregarded and ten horses entered in the first race were sent to the post.—The starter lost no time in dropping the barrier, and as the horses entered the stretch the militiamen fired over the heads of the jockeys.

J. M. Stewart, a private detective, who had refused to leave the ground; a stable boy, who attempted to lead a horse from the track, and a spectator who tried to force his way through the guard lines, were arrested.

### I. O. R. M. MEETING.

Red Men Elect Officers—End Rock Hill Session.

Rock Hill, April 14.—The Great Council of the Improved Order of Red Men, Reservation of South Carolina, elected chiefs at the annual meeting held in the wigwam of Calumet tribe, No. 36, in this city this morning.

The following were elected: Great sachem, A. E. Hill, Spartanburg; great senior sagamore, O. D. Gray, Williamston; great junior sagamore, Max G. Bryant, Rock Hill; great chief of records, B. C. Wallace, Sumter; great keeper of wampum, W. M. Allen, Greenville; great prophet, E. H. Aull, Newberry; trustees, R. L. Cromer, Union; F. C. Garner, Columbia; great representatives, Otto Kletner, Newberry; Cole L. Blease, Columbia; J. P. Carlisle, Greenville; E. H. Aull, Newberry; S. M. Clarkson, Columbia.

Newberry was selected as the place for the next annual meeting.

The great council adjourned this evening, the business of the meeting having been largely disposed of already. Routine business, in addition to the election of chiefs and selection of next place of meeting, was given attention this morning.

### STATE PRESENTS CASE.

Louisiana's Cuban Sugar Growers' Plea Heard.

Washington, April 14.—The right of the State of Louisiana to enjoy the secretary of the treasury from continuing to allow Cuban sugar to enter the United States with a 20 per cent. preferential duty in addition to the general 25 per cent. reduction in sugar rates under the Underwood tariff act was presented today to the supreme court for decision.

Attorney General Pleasant of Louisiana and Former Senator Joseph W. Bailey maintained the right of the State to bring injunction proceedings and argued that the granting of the preferential should be enjoined. Mr. Bailey contended that despite 100 years of acquiescence in the policy, the granting of preferentials and reciprocity treaties was unconstitutional.

Attorney General Pleasant argued that the 20 per cent. preferential promised under the reciprocity treaty with Cuba was to be figured on the Dingley rates and pointed to a proviso in the treaty. Solicitor General Davis said this provision was repealed by the Underwood bill, but Mr. Pleasant argued that a repeal could not be made without Cuba's consent.

## SING PRAISE OF SOUTH.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS AT THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

Daniels and Bryan Deliver Addresses Before Assemblage of Notables—Praise for Wilson.

Washington, April 15.—Sons and daughters of the South sang praises of her rapid commercial development and expanding influence in national affairs at the third annual banquet tonight of the Southern Society of Washington. Secretaries Bryan and Daniels put aside their responsibilities for the hour to attend. Other notable diners included Maurice Francis Egan, minister to Denmark, many of the Southern congressional delegation and Southerners in Washington official life.

The scene was enlivened by the frequent singing of Southern melodies, led by an old time negro quartette.

As a North Carolinian, Secretary Daniels spoke for "The Womanhood of the South," referring to the changing scenes that have made women figure in modern economical life. The chivalry of the type that was exemplified in the surrender of a seat in a street car, he thought, must be applied so as to lighten the burdens of women who were compelled to contribute to the support of their families.

"Chivalry in its highest sense," he declared, "must not confine itself to the ball room, but must prove its genuineness by seeing that the woman who works is better paid and is not compelled to labor through long hours."

"Perhaps we have been too tardy in this respect," he continued, "but conditions are growing better. The Southern States are constantly improving conditions by the enactment of laws governing the employment of women, and the time is not far before it will be illegal for women to work at night or any longer than eight hours daily."

Secretary Bryan, responding to the toast, "Grandsons of the South," declared that when history was written President Wilson, the latest president the South had given the nation, would stand out as illustrative of a courage not surpassed by any warrior.

### WEAVERS STRIKE FOR RAISE.

Withdrawal of 200 Men From Plant Leaves 800 Operatives With No Work.

Spartanburg, April 15.—Because of the strike of 200 weavers yesterday the Union Buffalo mills of Union were forced to discontinue operations this morning. It is said the operatives demand an increase of 10 per cent. on all grades of cloths manufactured at the mills, and O. T. Bennett, general manager, has refused to accede to the ultimatum of the strikers and he declares that the mills will be open Monday and all operatives applying for positions at the present scale of wages will be taken. The closing down of the mills throws 800 operatives out of work.

Mr. Bennett declared over long distance tonight that the strike was engineered by 40 weavers who were "disgruntled" because the mill changed its grade of cloth from plain sheeting to drills. They struck Monday and persuaded the other weavers to go out Tuesday, he says. Because of the lack of weavers the mills were forced to close this morning.

A delegation of the strikers called on Mr. Bennett today and demanded the increase in pay. The general manager said tonight that he informed the committee that the market conditions of the country for cotton mill products is very unfavorable at this time; that the mills of the country should now be operating only three or four days a week; that it would be suicidal for them to grant an increase in wages, and that the Union Buffalo mills positively refused to grant the demands of the strikers.

Mr. Bennett stated that all operatives would be paid their wages tomorrow and the mills will be placarded, informing any who wanted to work at the prevalent scale of wages would be given positions Monday when the mills would resume operations.

### TO PRESENT ANTI-TRUST BILL.

Newlands and Robinson in Conference.

Washington, April 15.—Senator Newlands, chairman and Senator Robinson of the interstate commerce committee conferred with President Wilson today relative to the anti-trust legislative programme. It was announced after the conference that they, as members of a subcommittee, would submit to the full committee soon their draft of an anti-trust bill. When the committee would report it to the senate was not announced definitely. Senator Newlands said he thought the bill might be ready within a week or ten days, but Senator Robinson thought it could not be agreed upon for two or three weeks.

### THREE COMPANIES FAIL.

May Muster Out B, First Infantry; K, Third Infantry, and Second Coast Artillery—Have Forfeited Federal Aid.

Washington, April 14.—From information given to The State's correspondent today, three companies of South Carolina militia have forfeited their right to receive further federal aid from the government and the date of their being mustered out is now up to the governor of South Carolina. The companies are Company B, First Infantry; Company K, Third Infantry, and the Second company of coast artillery.

This action, as explained today by Gen. Mills, chief of the division of military affairs, is the result of a recent inspection made by Col. Shanks at the request of the governor of South Carolina.

"These companies," Gen. Mills said, "failed to meet the requirements of the war department. Hence they will not hereafter participate in the distribution of federal funds. The date of their being mustered out is a matter that must be left to the governor of South Carolina."

### CANCELS POLICIES.

Sinking Fund Issues Statement as to Readjustment Under Act of Legislature.

Columbia, April 15.—The sinking fund commission yesterday passed an order that existing fire insurance policies on State property, issued by old line companies since January 1, 1914, carrying 65 per cent of the insurance concurrently with the sinking fund policies issued since January 1, 1913, be cancelled at noon April 15. This order applies to old line insurance policies heretofore issued upon the property of the State Hospital for the Insane in Columbia and at State Park and upon the property of the institution for the deaf, dumb and blind at Cedar Springs.

D. H. Means, chief clerk of the commission yesterday issued the following statement:

"As to insurance or reinsurance policies, the sinking fund insurance policies and the reinsurance policies are issued to take effect at noon, April 15. These policies are issued under the terms of the appropriation act of 1914. The matter of detail was closed up with the several companies to whom the insurance contract was awarded at the last meeting."

The sinking fund commission was in session for several hours yesterday at the State house. After the meeting it was announced that action had been deferred on the sale of the Ilichland Distilling company property in Columbia.

### NATIONAL HEAD AT FLORENCE.

Will Add Much Interest to Grand Council Meeting Next Week.

Florence, April 16.—It will be a great pleasure to the members of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, especially the delegates to the Grand Council, which meets in this city on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21 and 22, to learn that they will have an opportunity of seeing and meeting the head official of the order in the United States, for Mr. A. D. Wilkins, National Councillor, has sent word to the members of Gate City Council, No. 150, that he will be in attendance upon the meeting here next week. Mr. Wilkins is a resident of Pittsburgh, Pa., and this will be his first visit to the South Carolina State Council, hence his coming will be of great interest.

The Florence Juniors are going forward with a vim making preparations for the coming of the 300 or more delegates to the State Council, and hope to give the visiting Juniors the very best entertainment and most cordial welcome that has ever been accorded them.

The Florence Council, Gate City, No. 150, is one of the very best in the State and has made a most rapid growth.

### BANKS SEND MONEY.

Many Have Already Paid for Their Subscriptions to Federal System.

Washington, April 14.—That the work of the organization committee in setting up the new federal reserve banking system will not be delayed by the banks was indicated today by an announcement that already many banks have forwarded checks or cash in payment of the first part of their subscription to the stock of reserve banks in their districts.

The subscriptions are premature, however, and the money offered will be returned pending notification that the committee is ready to take this step in the organization of the system. Under the law subscriptions to reserve banks are to be under the call of the board.

The tenth successive year without a forest fire has just been passed by the Powell national forest in south central Utah.