

Survey of Current Events

BIG COTTON ACREAGE.

Advices from all sections of the cotton belt are to the effect that preparations on an extensive scale are being made for the new crop. In many States farm work is much further advanced than at this time last year, as a result of favorable weather conditions and sales of plantation supplies, fertilizer and live stock are of record-breaking proportions. Indications point to a record acreage to be planted to cotton this year. Large fertilizer sales are a fair indication of this. The selling season in the South is more than half finished, and it looks as if 300,000 to 400,000 tons more of fertilizer would be consumed in that section than last year. In the 1912 season there was a disposition to restrict acreage, owing to unsatisfactory prices for cotton following the 16,000,000 bale crop of 1911. Consumption of cotton during the past year, however, has been on an unprecedented scale, prices for the staple have been well sustained, and planters are consequently encouraged to renew effort.

SKIES BRIGHTEN IN OHIO.

An authoritative message from the Ohio capital says, Ohio has arisen from the floods. Such a pitiless blow from nature as we sustained would have wiped out society and destroyed governments in other days, but our Commonwealth, refreshed by the tears of the American people, stands ready from today to meet the crisis alone. We cannot speak our gratitude to President Wilson for Federal aid, to the Red Cross, to States, municipalities, trade organizations and individuals that sent funds and supplies. They will never know their contribution to humanity. The relief situation, so far as food and clothing are concerned, is in hand. The Legislature has recessed for a week for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of the damage to public works that must be repaired by legislation. The Red Cross, acting in concert with the State Relief Commission, will begin a movement to rehabilitate the homes of the poor. Thankful to those who succored her, Ohio faces tomorrow serene and confident.

THE FEE SYSTEM.

Quoting from figures recently published in Norfolk, Va., the Times-Dispatch, of Richmond, contains the following: Seventeen thousand eight hundred and forty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents was only a part of what the people of Virginia paid to James V. Trehy, clerk of the Corporation and Law and Chancery Court of the city of Norfolk, for his services in the year beginning September 1, 1911, and ending August 31, 1912. Sixteen thousand eight hundred and forty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents of that amount was paid in fees under the operation of the fee system. That sum represents the compensation received for only seven of the seventy-five different sorts of services for which clerks of Corporation and Chancery Courts are allowed fees by law. "From a conservative estimate these items should make the total receipts of his office considerably over \$20,000 and, allowing liberal salaries to his employes, the office nets Mr. Trehy probably not less than \$25,000 a year," asserts Eugene A. Billisly, who declares that he has carefully examined the records of Mr. Trehy's office, and who has set forth the results of his inquiry in the Norfolk Gazette, whence we derive our information. Seventeen thousand eight hundred and forty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents at the minimum! Even were it the maximum,

James V. Trehy would receive \$5,847.79 more than William J. Bryan, Secretary of State and the foremost Democrat of his day. He would receive \$7,847 more than Woodrow Wilson did as Governor of New Jersey. His compensation would be as great as the salaries of the Governors of South Carolina, Nebraska, South Dakota, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont combined. He would be paid \$5,847.79 more than the highest salaried Governor in the United States. He would draw \$10,347.79 more than the chief clerk to the President of the United States. He would get \$5,847.79 more than the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States. The clerk of the Corporation and Law and Chancery Courts of Norfolk would receive \$2,847.79 more than the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He would have in his annual pay envelope \$2,847.79 more than Senators Martin and Swanson together are paid in yearly salary, \$12,847 more than the Governor of Virginia receives, and \$12,647 more than the President of the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

TO DEVELOP THE SOUTH.

The executive committee of the Southern Settlement and Development Organization which was formed to develop the the industrial and agricultural resources of the south, met in Baltimore recently. More than a score of men representing the transportation, agricultural and commercial interests of the Southern States were present. One of the objects of the meeting was to work out plans for raising money to carry on the development work. S. Davis Warfield, chairman of the executive committee and president of the organization presided. Mr. Warfield reviewed the history of the organization and explained its objects, the principal one of which, he said, was to secure desirable information for colonization of vast areas of unoccupied lands in the South. He said it was hoped to get co-operation of the State governments the railroads serving the territory and commercial organizations. To make the organization a success, Mr. Warfield continued, not only a great deal of money was required, but men who have constructive genius. He estimated that \$1,000,000 a year would be necessary to carry on the work planned. A general discussion showed that the keenest interest in the movement had been aroused all over the South. It was agreed that a strong central organization to guide and control the work was required and ample assurances were made that the necessary funds would be forthcoming.

PASTOR RUSSELL'S WAY.

According to dispatches sent out from New York the ways and means of Pastor Russell, the inventor of the new religion known as Millennial Dawn, are being ushered into the light. A statement in the Times-Dispatch to the effect that Mrs. Maria Francis Russell, who is separated from her husband, "Pastor" Russell, of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, was a witness against her husband at a hearing before the City Commission. Pastor Russell is claiming exemption from taxation of his many publications and business enterprises, on the ground that all his activities are philanthropic and religious. Mrs. Russell, who secured a separation from her husband on the ground that he treated her cruelly, said that when Pastor Russell started the Zion Watch Tower in Pittsburg she was entirely in his confidence. She said that he sold memberships in the society at \$10 each, and at the last election in Pittsburg,

of which she had knowledge, 50,000 membership votes were cast, indicating that the society had taken in \$500,000. "Pastor" Russell, so his wife testified, also had William Van Amberg, secretary and treasurer of most of the concerns under the Russell management, buy land near Pittsburg for a cemetery at a cost of many thousands of dollars. The stock of the cemetery was sold to the pious. The cemetery company was merged into the United States Investment Company, a holding corporation for Russell, under a contract which stipulated that only 10 per cent. of the profits of the cemetery should go to the cemetery corporation stockholders, and that 90 per cent. should go to the United States Investment Corporation.

TO UPLIFT WASHINGTON.

President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan have been urged to take an active part in a movement for the religious uplift of men in the District of Columbia. Twenty prominent ministers called upon the President and Secretary, extending to them a welcome to the city and asked their aid in the movement. The President was invited to make an address before a mass-meeting of the local Christian Endeavor Society Union on the last Sunday in April. He said he would consider the matter and give his answer later. Secretary Bryan was asked by the clergymen to deliver a course of six addresses to men to be held Sunday afternoons, beginning in April, under interdenominational auspices. He intimated he probably would acquiesce, but deferred a definite answer until he returns from his trip home to Lincoln, Neb.

AN EDITOR GETS A PLUM.

President Wilson has appointed Dr. Walter H. Page, editor of "World's Work," and a personal friend of the President, to the high honor of ambassador to the Court of St. James. Mr. Page was born in Cary, N. C., in 1855, and has devoted his life since he left Johns Hopkins University to the pursuit of literature. When but a young man he took journalism as a step up the ladder of his dream, and worked for many years on newspapers in the West and South. His special studies have always been in the direction of the social problems of the day.

THE FRIEDMANN REMEDY.

The Public Health Service, through Surgeon General Blue, has issued a statement relative to the Government investigation of Dr. F. F. Friedmann's alleged tuberculosis cure. The statement which emphasized the Government's policy to proceed cautiously, is as follows: "On March 8th the Secretary of the Treasury, on the recommendation of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, caused a board of medical officers to be detailed to make a thorough investigation of Doctor Friedmann's alleged cure for tuberculosis. These officers proceeded immediately to New York and arranged with Doctor Friedmann for demonstrations of his remedy upon persons suffering from tuberculosis. These demonstrations are being carried on in certain New York hospitals through the courtesy of their respective authorities and will be continued until sufficient information has been obtained for the forming of an opinion as to the merits of the treatment. Doctor Friedmann has submitted to the board a culture of the bacteria, which he states are used in his method of treatment. In addition to the observation of persons under treat-

ment by Doctor Friedmann, the board of officers will make experiments to ascertain whether this culture is, as Doctor Friedmann claims, harmless to warm-blooded animals. Considerable time will necessarily be required to carry out these investigations. The work will be carried out as rapidly as possible."

KING CONSTANTINE.

The Crown Prince Constantine, who has succeeded King George of Greece, is the generalissimo of the Greek army in the field in the Balkan War. He has distinguished himself in fierce fighting, and only two weeks ago news came that, at the head of a big force, he had forced the surrender of the important Turkish fortress of Janina, the key to the Province of Epirus. The surrender of this fortress brought 32,000 Turkish prisoners under control of the Greeks, and for his success the crown prince was thanked by the Chamber of Deputies at Athens, after the Premier, Mr. Venizelos, had congratulated him in addressing the deputies. Born at Athens on July 21, 1868, the work of the young prince after he attained his majority was largely devoted to re-establishing the Greek army upon a firm footing. His early life was spent at Athens, where part of his education was under the direction of a noted German tutor, Dr. Luders. Then came the military education of the prince, conducted in the main under the direction of Colonel Klokotronde, the director of the Military Academy at the Piraeus. The crown prince is known to hold liberal views, as did his father, the King. The prince bears the title of the Duke of Sparta. On October 15, 1889, at Athens, the prince married the Princess Sophie of Prussia, a sister of the German Emperor. Soon after the outbreak of the war in the Balkan States the crown prince started for the front to lead the Greek army. He spent several months in battering away at the big fortress of Janina, which was commanded by Essad Pasha. The crown prince has been credited with building up the Greek army from almost nothing into a compact fighting machine.

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