

would be his duty to do so in no greater degree than it is the duty of any other citizen. But his going to the farm is not so much to correct an abnormality in the economy of the commonwealth, as it is for his own individual good and benefit. In this, I deem, rests the strength of my argument, and it is this point that should be strongly emphasized whenever and wherever propaganda for the cause is made.

In conclusion, permit me to say, that the contrast between city and farm life I have endeavored to picture to you, and the inferences I have drawn, are not mere theories, but statements of facts gathered by observation and study in actual life. There is now a sufficiently large number of Jewish farmers settled in the different states of the Union to afford ample and correct study of the question. The lives of many of these farmers, both the life they led while yet in the city, and the life they are now leading on the farm, are well known to me. The question of agriculture among Jews can no longer be considered a subject lacking evidence in fact to prove its feasibility and practicability. It has long passed that stage. It is no longer a question admitting of academic discussion only, but one pressing for an immediate active solution. It is now a real, life question with thousands among our Jewish poor. The time has come when the Jew, recognizing his own condition and position in the city, is ready and anxious to go to the farm.

Said the late Counsel A. M. Simon, of Hanover, when during the summer of 1903 he studied the Jewish situation in America; "I rely on the sagacity of the Russian Jew and on his clear-headedness. He will embrace the opportunity America offers him for gaining a home in the country. I have full confidence in his ability to establish himself permanently and bring about his complete emancipation in this country. What he displays in his present position in the ghetto is not the manifestation of his true characteristics. It is the after-effect of his life in Russia. He abhors slavery too deeply, and loves liberty too well to remain the wage-worker in factory or sweatshop. Help him along, and he will go to the farm."

## POSSIBILITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE SOUTH.

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In presenting this paper, I beg to say, that I am not employed as an immigration agent, to earn a per capita tax for every soul delivered. Therefore I ask that my statements, as to the advisability of settling the Russian emigrant on Southern soil, be considered to be the result of the closest study at the hands of men and women, deeply interested in the question, and who can be absolutely relied on. I hope I have not misunderstood the task allotted to me, and the information, which I hereby submit to you, may be of some value in the near future.

The South has had a long and hard struggle to break the "invidious bar" of a worldwide mistrust of her climate.

Her sincere ante-bellum belief that African slavery was an indispensable necessity, not only to her prosperity, but her very material existence, has clung to her like the shirt of Nessus, and has only lately been torn from her.

Within the last fifteen or twenty years, colonization in the South has been very rapid and large, and it may be said to be strongly representative of all the white races of the earth. To particularize somewhat; in North Carolina, a large body of Germans, a colony of Waldensians from the Italian Alps, several colonies of farmers from the northwest of the United States have found homes; in South Carolina, many French, Irish, English, Swiss and German settlers have found homes also; several colonies of northern and western people have bought large tracts of land in Georgia; many Italians have found homes in Florida and Louisiana; several Swiss, German and Scandinavian colonies have been planted in Kentucky; a colony of Finns has been established in Tennessee, and many Italians are truck gardening in that state; in Alabama there are colonies of Scandinavians, Germans and Italians; there are twenty-five thousand emigrants from the North and West in Southwest Louisiana, mostly engaged in rice culture; there are one hundred families or more of Hungarians in Tangipahoa Parish, near the City of New Orleans.

Texas has the largest foreign-born population of any Southern State, and representatives of nearly every European nation. The Bohemians there are computed at nearly sixty thousand in number; and large bodies of Scandinavians have found homes in two or more counties. These immigrants have been warmly welcomed by the people of the several states where they have settled, and have been particularly successful in truck gardening, fruit growing, dairying, stock raising, soil reclamation, and intensive culture.

No stronger argument in favor of the healthfulness of the southern climate and the feasibility of field labor, could be adduced, than this steady stream of foreign immigration, through all these years.

One need not go far to explain the healthfulness of the people, as the climate of most of the South is blessed, by nature, with her choicest benedictions. Her winters are short and mild, and, in much of her area, scarce deserve the name. Her summers, though protracted, are full of refreshments in grateful breezes, heat-tempering showers, and invigorating and sleep-inducing coolness at night. So salubrious, in some districts, is the air which fans her fields, that it is an antiseptic; and fresh beef is dried and cured, by placing on a pole to protect from depredations of beasts of prey, or cut in slips and dried on the fences, without any taint of putrefaction. And, in much of this area, the air is a specific for many neurotic complaints, for nasal and bronchial catarrh; greatly alleviative of rheumatism, and a rejuvenator of the old. The vicinity of Covington, La., is world-wide in its renown for its healthfulness.

There are æsthetic aspects of the South in her bright skies, her year-long flowers, her varieties of charm, which must pass without comment.

The scope for profitable farming in the South is varied and marked by such conditions as scarcely obtain anywhere else, and are so multifarious as to be hardly enumerable. In agriculture (in its usual import), in horticulture, in trucking, in stock raising, even in floriculture, there is ample room.

The soil and climate of most of the South permit most of the products of the above vocations to be raised in her borders. Thus,

for instance, any cereal that can be raised anywhere, can be raised in most of the South.

In stock raising, before the war, the South was renowned for its thoroughbred horses and beef cattle and its immense production of farm animals. The racing stock of Louisiana and the shorthorns of Louisiana and Mississippi were the foundation of some of the most renowned strains of these respective breeds in the world, before the war. In a number of Southern States are to be found, now, fine herds of thoroughbred beef and milch cattle.

The health and fecundity of sheep are almost a marvel. The quality of their wool is unsurpassed; and some day wool manufactories will stud the South, as do cotton manufactories now. It is an unexploited and most inviting field; as is raising early lambs for the markets, North and West, and mutton for home consumption.

The healthfulness of Southern raised farm animals is another large topic, and the saving in food, by reason of their being able to graze every day in the field in winter, on the most prized summer grasses of the North and West. Thus, year-round, pasturage, healthfulness, saving of the feed that would be fed in colder climates for their sustenance, the chance for the farmer to pocket the value of this feed, these and more aspects, discriminate the South as against the North and West.

I could speak here also of the raising of hogs, but my Kosher conscience will not permit this unclean digression.

Poultry raising is a very eligible field of industry in much of the South. The largest cities of the South consume many chickens and eggs, and millions of the latter are imported into the United States. Broilers, or spring chickens, bring fancy prices in the North and West; and newcomers, in many instances, are conducting the business of chicken-raising, through the medium of incubators. Fowls of all breeds and species do well in the South, and, in some of its more southern sections, get little or no other feed in winter, but grasses growing in the field.

In horticulture, the South has made immense strides of late years, and there is hardly a state in her borders that has not large areas devoted to fruits; strawberries and peaches, especially,

whose shipment to northern and western cities, early in the spring, are a notable feature of railroad transportation, in refrigerator cars, and, as a rule, are fancy crops to their producers. It would take me too far into details to enumerate the many varieties of fruits that can be successfully raised in the South. Suffice it to say, that no area in the world can equal the South in this respect.

Trucking, or vegetable-raising, is another great development in many parts of the South, within recent years. Its proportions are immense in some areas, and the transportation of the various vegetables is a special feature with the railroads. The markets are in the northern and western cities in early spring, and the profits have been so great as to not only develop an immense business, but to bring into the South many thousands of gardeners from the North and West, who have introduced one of the most stable and remunerative industries of the "New South."

The desiccating and preserving, on the scene, the surplus of fruits and vegetables, raised in the South, affords an immense opening for a profitable line of enterprise. The South, itself, is a very large consumer of such products, and this consumption will afford an ever-widening market; and it also has a great opportunity to supplant a vast quantity of these products from the North and West.

Cheapness of living in the South is a very important matter; the mildness of climate, making clothing inexpensive in this country; the abundance and cheapness of fuel; the garden furnishing fresh vegetables all winter and much in the summer; cheap lumber for building and fencing.

While the lands of the most of the country have much appreciated in value in the past few years, many of them are still obtainable at very low prices. Much of this cheap area is virgin soil, whence the timber has been recently cut; and large tracts of such land can be had *in solido*, which are especially available and eligible for colonization. These bodies of land are in a healthful climate, ample rainfall, among a hospitable people, markets, railroads, educational advantages, religious privileges, have no equals in the world for homes of happiness and opportunities for prosperity.

It is impossible, in a paper like this, to give either an adequate view of the natural resources of the South, or her development in later years. Her waterways are invaluable in their supplies for cheap navigation, for their supplies for cities and farms; for their stores of fish; for their powers to run manufacturing industries and other purposes.

Their water powers are a prodigious and almost unexploited potentiality; and the late Abram Hewitt said of them, that "they are upon a scale of grandeur unequaled elsewhere."

The South is surpassingly rich in timber resources; in no line of industry is there so much activity elsewhere as in lumber manufacturing; and railroads are incapable of filling the needs of the occasion in supplying cars for transporting lumber for consumers.

The vast mineral resources of the South, almost untouched, largely unexplored, in many areas doubtless unsuspected, are to furnish the raw material for the greatest industrial enterprises. Its wealth in coal is inestimable. One State, West Virginia, has 16,000 square miles, while the entire coal area of Great Britain covers about 12,000 square miles. West Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee have nearly 40,000 square miles of coal fields. Almost every Southern state has a supply of coal, and much of it is easily mined, delivered on navigable water, some of it of a superb character; and, in places, an immense store so close to limestone and iron ore, as to constitute a combination of advantages and possibilities for material development unequaled in the world.

Of bituminous coal, the Southern States are mining over 70,000,000 tons. In 1880 the United States (the South included) mined only a little over 40,000,000 tons; and mining of coal, South, may be said to be only begun. With iron ore, coal and limestone in such close juxtaposition, Alabama will probably dominate the basic steel production of the world. As the basic steel so far surpasses the Bessemer, and is so rapidly supplanting it, this would seem to be the logic of such condition. It is amply demonstrated that, in both steel and pig iron production, Alabama can distance any competition elsewhere.

In pig iron production, the South furnishes nearly 4,000,000

tons or about the same quantity as the country at large a quarter of a century ago; and the activity in its development is increasing beyond any measure.

The spread of manufacturing industries based on coal, steel and iron, in the South, is the greatest marvel of Southern development. Almost every product marking the industries, anywhere, is now found South; all must soon follow the logic of development.

One could devote much space to the description of the rocks and stones of the South, which are of large varieties, fine quality, and are an inexhaustible store for future residences and manufactories of the South. Some day these stones will rear and decorate some of the most superb palaces on earth. Sandstones, limestones, granites and marbles are among the resources of this vast store, some of them unexcelled, if equaled, elsewhere in beauty and structural qualities.

In fine, one cannot at all enter into the diversity, abundance and quality of the mineral or subterranean riches of the South. Her marls and clays are topics very inviting, nor shall I comment upon oil or petroleum—a most sensational theme.

The largest topic is that of the South's peculiar product, and the industries cognate to it—cotton. This plant is, as it were, the imperishable foundation of her prosperity, the most conspicuous feature of her agriculture, a sort of preserve or private domain on which the agricultural activity of the rest of the world may not successfully intrude. Such is, of late, the wealth of the South, that, with cotton manufacturing, organization and wise management of her farmers, she bids fair to make of this product and its manufacture such a source of wealth that it is absolutely dazzling. Cotton at its present prices, 10 to 11 cents a pound, is said to be about the price of the last 100 years. For several years past, the cotton crop of the South has averaged over \$600,000,000, which is nearly twice the value of the late greatly stimulated gold production of the world. In the last five years, the South's cotton crop has yielded \$1,000,000,000 more to its raisers than the preceding five years.

Every statement made in this paper I have gathered from sources which are absolutely reliable, and are based upon the

closest study of this most important question. I have endeavored to place before you the real truth of conditions in the South, for the purpose of inviting your most serious attention to the question, whether or not our Russian immigrants should be located throughout the Southern land, in order to become self-sustaining, and for the purpose of lightening the great burden of our northern cities. I know that there are many who conscientiously oppose colonization of our Russian brethren, on account of many failures in that direction, and on account of the inadaptability of a great many of them, but still I strongly advise that a beginning be made—and, if this view will prevail, you will find that the Southern people in general, and the Southern Jews in particular, will do their share in making welcome those forlorn and homeless strangers—helping them to earn a livelihood in a benign climate and from a generous soil.

One point I have not discussed, and that is, the religious requirement of the immigrant, which I deem in close connection with the colonization question—but this must be kept for a future paper and discussion. I cannot do justice to it, under the limit of time allotted to me.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—ITS POSSIBILITIES IN PREVENTIVE CHARITY.

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The Committee on Program displayed commendable wisdom in setting aside one afternoon of the convention's limited time for a discussion of the possibilities of agriculture as a means of preventive charity. That act declares either their own belief or that of others that the pursuit of agriculture holds out the promise of relieving the congested centers of Jewish population and of restoring to physical and moral health and to self-dependence large numbers who, by reason of such overcrowding, have become diseased, defective, or dependent.

It has taken twenty-five years for this belief to mature. The desirability of it was felt from the time of the first landing upon