

# Miscellany

## Excursion Report

Another Enthusiastic Party Visits Homewood.

Mr. W. F. Wells, who conducted our July 19th excursion party to Conway, S. C., the location of our Homewood Colony, has just returned and reports a very pleasant and successful trip. Owing to the busy time of year for the farmers the party was quite small, but all that went were greatly pleased with the country and conditions as they found them, and arranged at once to make Homewood their future home. Almost 800 acres were sold and the purchasers expect to move on and begin improving their land by the first of October. One purchaser—Mr. W. W. Dowling of Michigan—made arrangements to have the land prepared and two acres of strawberries set out at once. Another purchaser—Mr. J. F. Isenhauer of Indiana—will be on the ground with team and farming tools by the 20th of this month, and will soon have land prepared and a fine field of strawberry plants growing.

Mr. Wells reports that all were much impressed with the lay of the land and the fertility of the soil as evidenced by the rich and rank growth of the cotton and corn fields.

Corn standing 12 to 14 feet high with the large, heavy ears reaching out, as it were, and shaking hands with their neighbors in the next row, was enough to astonish our northern friends who are not used to seeing such crops, especially at this time of year.

In other fields, where a crop of early potatoes had been harvested and corn had been planted as a second crop, it was higher than a man's head and was growing so rapidly as to soon overtake that planted earlier in the season.

Mr. Wells reports the weather hot, but not so hot or oppressive as it was in Chicago when he left. None of the party seemed to mind it or complained of the heat. The old settlers, however, complained of its being the hottest spell they had had for years.

On the whole the excursion was very successful and added more names and more testimonials of approval to our already long list of those who have visited our colony site.

NEXT EXCURSION AUGUST 16.

Our next excursion will go down on August 16th. Route and rates the same as before—Big Four, Chesapeake & Ohio and Atlantic Coast Lines railways via Cincinnati and Richmond, and one fare plus \$2 for the round trip, or \$29.80 round trip from Chicago. Tickets good for twenty-one days.

As this will be a better time for farmers to get away than last month, we expect to have quite a party, and hope that all those intending to join us for this trip will let us hear from them that we may measure the size of our party and make arrangements for their accommodation. Those wishing our colony literature can have it sent them by dropping us a postal card.

## Homewood Colony News

The following is from the Horry County Herald, published at Conway, S. C. Those wishing to keep posted on the local news at Conway and Homewood will do well to take the Herald. The subscription price is \$1 a year.

Mr. John Dolphin, the original settler in Homewood, is a worthy pioneer. He has cleared nearly ten acres of his land, fenced and plowed about four acres, cut about a mile of ditch, dug a well and built a house. He is happy and hopeful—the house is too large for one.

Mr. Pettenger has ordered the building of a barn 30x20 feet, two story, and the planting of one-half acre of strawberries. Mr. D. W. Starkey, our new townsman, has this work in charge.

The Homewood Farm Company has commenced work on its land. Within the last two weeks it has dug out nearly one thousand stumps, plowed eight and one-half acres for strawberries and sunk an artesian well.

Mr. C. H. Dean, of Kentucky, and Mr. T. C. Fox, of Ohio, have each ordered the planting of strawberries on the land they purchased while here in April.

Mr. Art Geiger, of Milwaukee, Wis., was here last week to inspect the land selected for him by the Homewood manage-

ment. He was much pleased with the selection and expressed a decision to plant a large portion of lot No. 40 in strawberries. It is doubtful if there is better land in Horry county than lot No. 40.

Mr. J. F. Isenhour, of Indiana, and Mr. W. W. Dowling, of Michigan, left for their homes on Monday of this week. Mr. Isenhour and partner bought eighty acres of fine savanna land and Mr. Dowling one hundred and five acres. They each ordered the planting of two acres of strawberries at once. Mr. Isenhour also gave Mr. D. W. Starkey orders to build a neat modern house into which he will move early in the fall.

Mr. E. Watrous writes from Idaho that he will arrive in Conway about August 1st with his family for a permanent residence.

Messrs. Kallahan & Williamson, the new saw mill men, will next week commence the erection of a dry house 30x115 on the ground. They will also have their planer in operation in a few days, so that very soon Conway will be able to fill orders for first-class season dressed lumber.

It is a pleasing fact to consider that our western and north-western visitors who have been here this year have been favorably impressed with Horry's soil, climate and people, and with some few exceptions, all have bought land and will come among us to live. Some few who purchased have remained and are driving ahead with a vim, while many others who invested and returned home will be here in the fall to take up their permanent residence. This betokens good for the county and our people will cordially welcome the new comers to their midst. We have no doubt but that the new ideas they bring and the energy they possess will be helpful and profitable to our people. The county paper stands ready to assist in every good work tending towards local development and expects that the county people will stand by us in the effort.

The Homewood Farm Association has removed 1078 stumps at a net cost of \$53.00. This will indicate the cost of clearing land at Homewood.

#### A Trip to Homewood

The following from an experienced Indiana farmer and fruit grower will be read with interest by the many who are interested in Chadbourn and Homewood:

Mr. W. F. Wells, Chicago.

Dear Sir: I will try to tell you what I thought of your Chadbourn and Homewood colonies in North and South Carolina, also of our trip. I think it was one of the most enjoyable I ever took. We made good connections all the way through and had a good time going and coming, notwithstanding the heat. I made it my business to talk with every one I met and would say that I never saw a more enthusiastic set of men than the colonists I found at Chadbourn. They say they can raise any thing they want to raise and in abundance, yet I find here, like every where else, that the diligent shall eat the fruit of the land. An instance I will give: While all are doing well and making money. I must relate the experience of one as I heard it from his own lips and took some notes so as not to forget the points. A Mr. Coultas, a young farmer's son from Illinois, went to Chadbourn three years ago with five hundred dollars borrowed money, bought 100 acres of land, has it all under fence, thirty-six acres in cultivation, a house and barn worth one thousand dollars, a team of mules cost two hundred dollars, house furnished, including a piano, farm implements, sixteen acres in strawberries and during the three years went back north and took him a wife, and has all this paid for and has also reduced the original five hundred-dollar loan.

It is true all have not done this well, but I could see nothing but thrift among the colonists. I will relate one more circumstance. Mr. Brown, one of the busiest men I ever came across and a gentleman besides, commenced picking strawberries April 10, planted the same ground in corn June 13th, and sowed cow peas July 10 to 20, and will sow oats in October to cut in June, which will be four crops in a little over one year. I forgot to say that this corn was from five to seven feet high and a heavy rank growth capable, if the season remains good, of making sixty bushels per acre.

I saw several fine fields of corn high as my shoulders that was planted after a crop of oats had been harvested this year. About Homewood, where I think the soil is a little better than at Chadbourn, the flowing wells is quite an item. As the colony is just commenced I have no results to give but what I saw of the natives farming. I am well pleased with the country and look for good results. In regard to the natives I will say that I never saw more sociable and friendly people any where. I have just sat and watched them when they meet—nearly always meet with a hand-shake followed with a friendly chat. Some object to the negro. I should want the colored man to stay. I don't know what the white man would do without him, as they do about all the real hard work. I wish to correct an erroneous impression many entertain in regard to the southern women all smoking and using snuff. During my stay in Conway I saw but two women smoking, one of them was white, the other colored. From what I saw of the southern ladies they will compare favorably with any in the north. In fact, I saw some real beauties, and felt a little like the old

colored preacher who said that when the Lord made Eve Adam met her in the road and knew her and kissed her and said: "Golly, but I'd liked to been Adam." Well, I would have liked occasionally to have been Adam myself.

I must say something about our trip to the beach. I hardly know how to describe the magnificent scenery and the pleasure of bathing in the rollers of the Atlantic, something I will never forget and that I would like to repeat. I will take the opportunity to express the gratitude of the crowd to Mr. and Mrs. McNeal for the hospitable reception they gave us upon our arrival at the beach; would advise all that go to Conway to visit the coast while there.

I thought I would like to say something about the nice flowers and luscious melons, and the river, the beautiful live oaks with their dress of Spanish moss and of the figs and of some of the jokes on myself by asking questions; but my letter is too long already. Hoping to enjoy another trip in the future I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Hartford City, Ind., Aug. 3, 1898.

J. C. Kegerreis.

#### A Minister's Opinion of Fair Oaks

To the Editor:

As I have recently made a visit to Fair Oaks it may be interesting to you and the readers of your paper if I give you the story of my visit and my impression of the place.

I arrived at Fair Oaks about 5 o'clock p. m. on July 7th. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbs, of the hotel, Engineer Kieffer, your agent, and Mr. Derby, the superintendent of the work, received and welcomed me. Also the rest of the inhabitants of Fair Oaks, as far as I became acquainted with them, are a very hospitable and amiable lot of people. Fair Oaks, with its beautiful hills and valleys, invigorating and refreshing breezes, fine oak groves and magnificent scenery, has been described so often that I avoid dwelling on details, but would like to add: "All these descriptions are no exaggerations!" The Lord has indeed blessed this place with an abundance of His good gifts, and the inhabitants of Fair Oaks should indeed be very thankful to the Lord for all He has bestowed upon that place and also to the Messrs. Howard and Wilson for having selected such an excellent place for the colony. According to my opinion and as far as I am able to judge it is the best place in California, and as far as climate, fine scenery, etc., are concerned, the finest place I ever saw. And should any one be in search of a region with a delightful and healthy climate, fertile soil and a grand scenery I can conscientiously recommend Fair Oaks. Leaving home I was in a poor state of health, but during my stay in Fair Oaks, which was seven days, I was entirely well. Although it was warm, the heat never became unpleasant or oppressive, for the cooling and refreshing breeze counterbalanced the disagreeable effects which would have made themselves known otherwise. As the largest part of the tract seems to be sold already by the company, those who would like to have a lot in this beautiful place should not hesitate to buy now, for, if they wait longer, it may be too late for them to buy, especially a good lot with a favorable location, etc.

The next day Mr. Derby and I drove over to the colony and to my lot. I was astonished over all the work that has been accomplished in so short a space of time. The work consisting in the expanse of the system of irrigation, the many beautiful graded roads and the extensive area transmuted from an oak forest into fine orange, lemon, almond, olive and cherry orchards. Over against the fact that a number of trees, from any reason, had died out, but were replanted by the company. In general the trees show a good and healthy growth, yes even a good many have made an admirable and wonderful progress in growth, having a stem of from three to four inches in diameter. And to add to all the beauties, a good many fine dwelling houses have been erected.

Although I could mention many more of the good features this must suffice. But before I close I wish to thank all my friends in Fair Oaks for meeting me with such complaisance and showing to me much friendliness. I am, very truly yours,

J. Ehmke.

Stettin, Wis., Aug. 3, 1898.

Ev. Lutheran Pastor.

Fair Oaks is one of the settlements established by this paper for the accommodation of those who wanted a home or fruit orchard in the land of fruit, flowers and sunshine. When we began in the fall of 1895 it was an oak forest. It is now dotted with beautiful groves of oranges, lemons, olives, almonds, etc., which will soon yield their increase of valuable fruit. The Heart of California, a 100-page, handsomely illustrated booklet, price 10 cents, tells all about it and the advantages of California for settlers.

—No one person has many friends. He may have thousands of admirers and cordial acquaintances, but the number who can truly be dignified by the name of friends, and admitted into the holy of holies of his heart, must be very few indeed. If you have one friend whom you can trust as your own soul, and who loves you more than his own life, then you may thank God that he has given you the best of earth's blessings.