

its unpreparedness to handle affairs of today in pleading for a chance for the New South.

Miss Mildred Lewis Rutherford of Georgia, so plainly of the Old South, goes so far as to admit: "The civilization of today in its achievements, it must be admitted, is broader, its prospects are brighter, more steadfast and more buoyant."

The New South has a great day coming.

The Village of Arden

BY FLORENCE GARVIN



THE single-tax village of Arden, Delaware, enters its twenty-fifth fiscal year on March 25, 1925, without a public debt, except a \$400 balance on the original land mortgage, which will be paid off the coming year.

Arden comprises 160 acres. About half of the tract is in open green and woodland; the remaining is leased for 99 years to residents in quarter-acre to one acre house-lots. No land is sold, and the administration is by three legal trustees.

The land is reassessed each year to ascertain the land values, and the yearly rent is gauged accordingly. This reassessment of this locality has been a yearly necessity, as the neighborhood of Wilmington, Del., during the war, was subject to a world-created gunpowder boom.

This year the land rents range approximately from \$25 to \$125, according to size and location of the lot. The yearly land rent is collected by the Trustees, who pay the State and local taxes out of the fund thus collected, the County assessment being directly upon the Trustees.

Though the State of Delaware does not recognize as yet the Arden system of land rent, the county assessment being the usual one of buildings and land lumped together without scientific discrimination, yet the community assumes for the individual this lump tax.

The Arden Trustees refund to leaseholders who are also residents their automobile license fees and their business taxes. No attempt has been made to refund the income tax, as that tax was put on after the Arden Deed of Trust was written. The present tendency seems to be for States to do away with the income and inheritance taxes.

times that a Southerner should have thrown himself into the propagation of the idea. It is a sign of far more significance that it should have been received not with yells for the police, but with applause."

From an editorial in the *Macon Telegraph* I quote the following, which is further indicative of the reasoning of the New South: "... there was a fine flowering in the South as a result of a certain courtesy and gentleness and human consideration. But that side has been laid before our minds so often, we Southerners no longer benefit from it, and there is a wide-spread feeling here in the South, especially among the young college people, that the time has come to emphasize the negative side.

"We of this section have bragged on ourselves for fifty years to prove we are superior to the outside world, probably knowing all the while we are behind the times and therefore not superior.

"To say that the women of the South are the highest and in every way the noblest the world has ever known is a fine sentiment, but the truth is that high and noble women have flowered in France and in England and even in China, perhaps in South Africa, and (pardon us) even in the North. Let's not lay ourselves open to suspicion any longer by making ourselves appear so serious in the statement of glittering and complimentary generalities.

"Of course there are many beautiful things about the old home and its love and domestic culture; that is the positive side and all of us born and bred in Georgia and cradled and schooled in its traditions, its likes and dislikes, know all about that and can get mad at the drop of a hat when any of our conventional traditional claims to absolute superiority over the whole world 'in every way' are contested. But that is a matter simply of giving a twist to an inferiority complex; and we are never going to have the proper pride and the adequate opportunity to keep abreast of the world until we shed off this sentimental sensitiveness, put aside our futile defending, laugh with the universe, get out of our general laziness, self-satisfaction and self-congratulation, and set out with mind determined to pull with the rest."

The Civil War taught the South its unpreparedness for war. Such men as Dr. Odum and his collaborator, Gerald W. Johnson, of Greensboro, and the editorial writer of the *Macon Telegraph* above quoted, are doing much to show the Old South

A bill has this year been introduced into the Delaware Legislature by Senator Highfield, who represents the political district in which Arden is located, proposing to do away with the income and inheritance taxes for Delaware, but no further progress has been made. The local representative in the House is the first woman member of the Delaware Legislature. Arden has had from its founding in 1900 equal suffrage in the monthly town meeting, and the influence of Arden has always been thrown for equal rights for women with men.

To return to the finances of Arden, after the payment and refund of taxes the Trustees spend the remaining money of the yearly fund on the roads that intersect the leaseholders. The monthly Town Meeting of residents elects a board of Townsmen who administer the road-making and have charge of public greens and woodlands.

It has occasioned surprise to visitors that the waterworks and the public school do not belong to the village of Arden, and are not administered by its officers, but in the Arden Deed of Trust there is nothing to be collectively owned or administered except the bare land.

The fundamental economic difference between the single-tax and the socialist philosophy has been insisted upon in Arden in favor of the single-tax philosophy. No paternalism has been allowed. The Arden system is absolutely individualistic and American in principle, and must not be confused with any charitable scheme, though it is perfectly democratic.

Single-taxers believe that the quickening of bankers' and lawyers' businesses by the abolition of the income and inheritance taxes in Florida is only a beginning of the advantage that would accrue to all the people by the removal of hampering taxes and tariffs.

Well do many of us know poverty row in our own home towns, a row of houses owned by people who are not poor but who put not a single stroke of paint on the outside of their houses for fear of the tax assessor. What greater farce could there be in civilization when the government is supposed to be the friend of the people?

The Arden system having succeeded in spite of the handicaps, the same group of single-taxers bought the next farm of about a hundred acres and are developing it along the same lines under the name of Ardentown.

The working of the Arden system is about as follows with the individual family. A family secures a house-lot without purchase price. It plants some trees and shrubbery the first

year; it builds a summer shack the next year. For Arden, because it has a cool creek and is 300 feet above sea level, is exceedingly popular in summer.

In another year or two, this typical family in Arden enlarges its house, digs a cellar for a heater, and stays most of the year, commuting to Philadelphia or other neighboring cities. Another year, it builds a garage, makes a lawn, and becomes a group of permanent residents.

The Arden lease forbids the cutting of trees or the killing of birds except by special permission of the Trustees. This safeguard has resulted in a delightful bird life and a picturesque growth of wild dogwood and cherry, so that the esthetic aspect is worthy of note.

There is a craft shop, owned by the Stephens family, where hand-wrought ironwork, hand-woven dresses and scarfs of homespun from sheep in Arden and hand-made furniture are made by about twenty persons. The Roberts family has a studio of illustration and Christmas cards; and nurseries are conducted by the Nearing family.

Prices in Arden before the war were very moderate; but during the war the neighborhood of the Delaware River, where the governments of two continents were pouring money in a wild frenzy into a gunpowder and shipping business, of course inflated and forced up prices for miles around.

All these inflated prices being registered in the land values, the assessments of land values in Arden since the war have been the most difficult and important feature of the work.

That the people might not be robbed of their economic rights, the Trustees collected these publicly-created land values in the interest of the whole people.

The founder of Arden, Mr. Frank Stephens, is professionally a sculptor and exterior decorator and a disciple of the William Morris school of England; hence the houses in Arden, with the exception of the two remodelled original farm-houses, are of the arts and crafts style of house.

The houses are small because of the difficulty of the "help" problem in the country, because also athletics are the rule, and because too much housekeeping is not desired. An amateur Players' Guild has a picturesque open-air theatre for Shakespearean plays.

It is the opinion of single-taxers that if States would remove the tax on houses, such a number of houses would begin to build as has never been dreamed of in the life-time of the contractors, architects, carpenters, masons, decorators, and

gardeners who at present wonder where their next client is coming from.

Legislatures do not remove the tax on houses because of our political ancestor-worship. Because our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers paid taxes on their dwelling-houses and business buildings and improvements, therefore it seems that we must pay them world without end. By neglecting to raise all revenues from a tax on land, according to its value, and apart from its improvements, the governments of the States and the Federal government are hampering the progress of America.

The Speech Against Conscription

BY DANIEL WEBSTER

The speech, of which the following excerpt is the part most interesting to present-day readers, was delivered by Daniel Webster, in Congress, on December 4, 1814. The Secretary of War had proposed that Congress pass a bill of military conscription; and, because of the defeats this country had suffered recently at the hands of the British soldiers who actually burned the city of Washington, there was a disposition on the part of many Americans to condone extreme measures. However, such was the power of Webster's eloquent protest against the draft as absolutistic and therefore undemocratic and wholly subversive of American liberty that the bill was decisively defeated.

At the time the United States was on the verge of entering the World War, a reprint of the speech was published by Tom Watson, with this warning not only to the people of Georgia but to the entire nation:

"My countrymen! The deadliest danger to your country and to your liberties lies on this side of the ocean.

"American Prussianism is not aimed at German Prussia: it is aimed at the plundered American producers; and aimed by the plundering non-producers.

"The Standing Army is to be built up, on the Prussian model, for the purpose of maintaining and perpetuating an infernal system of class-legislation, which enriches the non-producing classes, by the pillage of the producing masses.

"The Standing Army's real purpose is, to support a heartless Aristocracy of Dollars, whose patents of nobility are writ-

ten in the "laws" which confer Special Privileges upon incorporated wealth."



UT, Sir, there is another consideration. The services of the men to be raised under this act are not limited to those cases in which alone this government is entitled to the aid of the militia of the States. These cases are particularly stated in the Constitution—"to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, or execute the laws." But this bill has no limitations in this respect.

This, then, Sir, is a bill for calling out the militia not according to its existing organization, but by draft from new created classes—not merely for the purpose of repelling invasion, suppressing insurrection, or executing the laws, but for the general objects of war.

What is this, Sir, but raising a standing army out of the militia by draft, and to be recruited by draft, in like manner, as often as occasions require?

This bill, then, is not different in principle from the other bills, plans, and resolutions which I have mentioned. The present discussion is properly and necessarily common to them all. It is a discussion, Sir, of the last importance. That measures of this nature should be debated at all, in the councils of a free government, is a cause of dismay. The question is nothing less than whether the most essential rights of personal liberty shall be surrendered, and despotism embraced in its worst form.

I have risen, on this occasion, with anxious and painful emotions, to add my admonitions to what has been said by others. Admonition and remonstrance, I am aware, are not acceptable strains. They are duties of unpleasant performance.

I am anxious above all things, to stand acquitted before God, and my conscience, and in the public judgments, of all participation in the counsels, which have brought us to our present condition and which now threaten the dissolution of the government. When the present generation of men shall be swept away and that this government ever existed shall be a matter of history only, I believe that it may then be known that you have not proceeded in your course unadmonished and unforewarned. Let it then be known that there were those who would have stopped you, in the career of your measures, and held you back, as by the skirts of your garments, from the precipice, over which you are plunging, and drawing after the government of your Country. . . .