

Dixieland Fast Being Transformed By Energetic Industrial Revolution

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ATLANTA, June 27.—(AP)—The easy-going South of magnolias, mint juleps and the shuffling gait is just about dead—if it isn't already.

The South today is a bustling land, eager to undertake new things and to tell the world in the words of the Southern Railway, "Look Ahead, Look South."

JUST ABOUT every chamber of commerce, every Kiwanis, Rotary or Lions club has some pet project in the fire, they're talking about it.

It is a land where "the war" now means the late global conflict and not the Civil War—and that is change indeed.

A new crop of southerners has come into being. Nearly any college professor can tell you that the youngsters of today are not so much interested in where the south has been so much as where it is going.

The end of World War I spurred the south along the road to progress and World War II accelerated the process.

In the short span of one generation—33 years by common reckoning—the South has expanded its manufacturing labor force by 653,681, or from 912,458 workers to 1,566,142.

The worth of Southern labor, measured in the statistical term "value added by manufacture," has multiplied from \$1,965,140,000 to \$7,687,600,000.

It is a land which has seen its farm income rise in the same generation from \$2109,000,000 to \$3,899,000,000.

All these figures, mind, apply only to the "Old South" states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina Tennessee and Virginia.

These same states have seen their per capita income rise over the generation in amazing fashion. Here are the figures:

Alabama \$6 to \$891; Florida, \$110 to \$1,137; Georgia, \$75 to \$971; Louisiana, \$112 to \$1,002; Mississippi, \$56 to \$758; North Carolina, \$63 to \$930; South Carolina, \$84 to \$865; Tennessee, \$82 to \$955, and Virginia, \$107 to \$1,159.

The South also is a land of changing attitudes. Despite the highly publicized examples of intolerance and race baiting, you need only to live here to realize that more and more Southerners are willing to live and let live.

Slowly disappearing, too, is the double standard of justice. Southern juries will convict White men of crimes against Negroes. The record is there to prove it.

A GOOD EXAMPLE of this changing attitude is to be found in an editorial which appeared in the Jackson Daily News in Jackson, Miss., at the time the Mississippi legislature was considering the Negro education problem. It read:

"For the first time in a good many years, the Mississippi legislature faces a serious phase of the Negro problem and unless it faces that problem in a fair, impartial and courageous manner, the result is going to be unhappy for the state.

"It is senseless to say 'there is nothing new' about the Negro problem.

"There may be nothing really new concerning the Negro problem per se, but there is a new Negro in our land and the Southern lawmaker, or citizen, who fails to realize that fact is being stupid at his own cost.

"The New Negro has more education. He has better health. He has better clothes. He reads more newspapers. He is adopting the White man's customs, the White man's speech, the white man's standards and the white man's shibboleths.

"Now it doesn't make sense to assume that this new Negro is going to be content in the cabin of his slave grandfather. And it doesn't make sense to pretend that is where he ought to be. His eyes are on better things, materially considered. He is going to have a car and drive it. He is going to buy a home and live in it. He is going to step into citizenship and exercise its rights and demand its privileges.

"Indeed, our use of the future tense is merely to gentle the recalcitrant of our readers to the fact that the new Negro already is doing these things. The new Negro is not a man of tomorrow. He is the man of today.

"The important thing is not that the Negro is new, or that he is a Negro. Those things are important to him, of course; but the chief significance to the White man in determining his own attitude to the new Negro is a man. There is an adulthood about his status that cannot be ignored.

"The old time Negro was in some ways a child with many endearing ways. Even his faults were most childish ones, easy to chuckle over, easy to forgive, the new Negro is growing up. Maybe he is not fully grown, but he has grown amazingly. He is no longer a child.

"THAT MEANS this, among other things—having become a man, he must put away childish things."

The editorial wound up with the conclusion that it was up to the white lawmakers to revise the ground rules of living together. It is up to the whites, said the editorial, because this is a democracy and the white man is in the majority.

Until the ground rules are revised, the editorial advised, "both sides will have to be patient."