Delmarva Peninsula Seen By Dr. Symons As Land Of Opportunity

BY DR. T. B. SYMONS
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There was a reason for the early settlers locating on the Delmarva peninsula. That section afforded wonderful advantages under conditions existing at that time and it affords unusual possibilities under the economic conditions of today. The basic factor for a sound system of agriculture are present in exceptional degree and it has been possible to successfully make the adjustments to meet the vastly changed conditions between pioneer days and the present times. That has been a severe test for many sections of the country.

From my knowledge of the peninsula over a period of many years I am familiar with successful production in practically all phases of agriculture, although there are particular sections that have developed naturally along special lines, such as truck crops, including small fruits, strawberries, tree fruits, and with livestock, including beef cattle, hogs and sheep. In comparatively recent years, the dairy industry has made considerable growth and has become an important factor in the economic situation.

There is no need to record here the many advantages offered by conditions on the Delmarva peninsula, nor to enumerate the wide variety of products which may be produced in abundance and of as high quality as can be found anywhere. It may be worth while to emphasize a few of the major factors, even to those who live in that area and depend upon the agriculture of the section, either directly or indirectly, for their livelihood and their standard of living.

In the first place, the fact that the area is so nearly surrounded by large bodies of water assures an equable climate and especially long growing seasons that make it suitable for raising most of the crops adapted to the Temperate Zone. This, together with a wide variety of soils, makes it possible to adjust the kinds of crops grown to changing economic conditions more easily and more successfully than can be done in sections of more limited range in climate and soils.

A factor which has been of increasing importance to the agriculture of the Eastern Shore is its nearness to markets and the development of transportation facilities for reaching these markets. With the growth of metropolitan areas, the need for the products which can be grown so successfully on the peninsula has increased constantly until it can be said truly that this territory lies within 200 miles of fifteen million people. Perhaps the ease with which agriculture may be pursued on the Eastern Shore, and the comparative ease with which a living may be derived from the waters that bathe its shores may be a reason why there has not been even more intensive development of the economic possibilities of the land. Producers who are adapting their cultural practices to market demands, both as to the crops produced and especially with respect to high quality, are being well rewarded in returns for their efforts in that direction.

For a number of years I have emphasized repeatedly the desirability of farming in Maryland, and other states with similar location, devoting their efforts principally to production of products for human consumption. The reason for following that policy seems evident, in view of the millions of human beings in such close proximity who must be fed. The economic conditions existing on the Delmarva peninsula are especially adapted to following such a policy and at the same time offer greater promise in that line than most any section with which I am familiar.

The vast majority of products marketed from this area go directly into human consumption, or at least with a minimum of processing. It leads the State and area in both Irish and sweet potatoes, and in strawberry culture, watermelons, and particularly in canning crops. It has been for years a renowned canning center and canning crops furnish a source of cash return that is not always fully appreciated in considering the agricultural production of the area. It is only in comparatively recent years that systematic and determined efforts have been made to improve the quality of canned products in this section and the results of such efforts have proved of distinct value.

Among the developments of comparatively recent years is the growth of the dairy industry, as I have mentioned, and a decided expansion in the production of poultry. An outstanding phase of the latter activity is the development of commercial flocks of turkeys. At present, it is not uncommon to find flocks of two thousand or more birds on a farm and the returns from their production have been an important factor during the last few years of economic stress. Both the dairy and poultry industries have provided regular and dependable cash income during periods when conditions with respect to some of the other products were less favorable.

There is need for more intensive analysis of the Eastern Shore area, with a view to determining more definitely than has yet been done the particular crops and products to which the several sections are especially adapted. There is need also for better organization of growers for marketing their products, and particularly along the line of improving quality and adaption to the demands. It has often been said that if the Delmarva area were situated in California, or some other far away section which presents even fifty per cent of its possibilities, we would be surprised at the use that would be made of it. Possibly its nearness to markets has permitted independent operation and has been somewhat of a drawback to more efficient organization for marketing purposes.

Caravan Star

A new portrait of Deane Janis, titian-haired songsters with Glen Gray's Casa Loma Orchestra. Deane, a brilliant newcomer to radio from the Middle West is featured with Walter O'Keefe and the Casa Loma lads over the WABC-Columbia network every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 P. M. EST (rebroadcast for the West at 11:30 P. M. EST). She won her role as Caravan soloist this season against a field of 83 contestants.

Successful Pea Culture Result Of Many Factors

Early Planting Urged; Land Yields Best On 44-Year Rotation

Fertility of the soil, rotation, inoculation, time of planting, and lime are all important factors in growing peas successfully for canning purposes, according to Herman A. Hunter, canning crops specialist for the University of Maryland Extension Service. He points out that as fixed costs for seed and fertilizer may vary but little from one year to the next, the greatest hope that the average farmer has of making a profit is to increase his yield per acre. This means adherence to better practices.

Included in these practices is planting the seed early, says Mr. Hunter. He emphasizes that as the planting season may be delayed this year because of the severe winter it is more important than ever that the land be prepared and the peas planted just as soon as weather and soil conditions will permit. This usually means from March 1st to 15th on the Eastern Shore.

It is important to use well drained and fertile soil and to see that the fertility is kept up through proper fertilizer. Five to six hundred pounds to the acre, broadcast, of a 4-8-5 or 6-6-5 analysis fertilizer will be found beneficial in maintaining fertility. Lime should be applied if needed although peas do well in a slightly acid soil.

Peas should not be planted on the same land oftener than once in four years and they should be inoculated before planting. On the other hand, tests in the state have shown that peas do very well if they follow tomatoes or other cultivated crops.

Anyone interested in more information regarding pea culture should communicate with his county agent or the University of Maryland Extension Service at College Park. In addition, county agents are in position to test land for lime requirements.

Queen Anne's County Social Register

TEMPLEVILLE

Services for Antioch M. E. Church March 15: Sunday school, 10 a. m. at which time an offering for the Strawbridge Home for Boys will be taken. Preaching by the pastor at 11 a. m

The Rev. and Mrs. Archer and children, of Virginia, spent part of last week with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Walls.

Miss Dorothy Knotts, of West River, was here for the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gurney Knotts.

Mr. and Mrs. George Latham, of New York City, spent the week-end at their farm near town.

Miss Nell Davis Knotts, of Hurlock, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Knotts.

Mrs. Gene Everett has returned home from a two week's stay with relatives in Smyrna.

The Ladies' Aid was pleasantly entertained by Mrs. Effa Knotts and Mrs. Rena Davis at the home of the former on Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan and children Lucille and Edward of Newark, Del., were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Raughley.

Mr. John Starkey, of Yeadon, Pa., was a week-end visitor of Mr. and Mrs. Medford Starkey.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shelton and children, Paul, Jr, and Doris Marie spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Riddleberger in Greensboro.

Mr. John Davis visited his father, Mr. George Davis in Kenton Sunday afternoon.

Messrs. Roland and Gurney Knotts, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Wyatt and Miss Mary Knotts visited Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Knotts in Sudlersville.

SCHENK'S CORNER

"The Amen Corner" will meet at Epworth Church March 15. Rev. W. C. Moore, of Dover, Del., will have charge of the services which will begin at 2:30. Everyone is invited to come.

Mrs. Anna Robinson spent last week with her sister, Mrs. Carl Dahn at Hartly.

To aid Immaculate Conception Church's bus fund in which everyone who wishes to may ride to church, St. Joseph's Industrial School at Clayton will give a jolly card and bingo party the evening of March 17, thus honoring St. Patrick and helping the Marydel Church. A good St. Patrick lunch will be served.

Mrs. George Dill has been quite ill some days past suffering from sinus trouble.

Young women visitors of Mrs. J. P. Carter on Sunday afternoon were the Misses Margaret Bezerics, Louise Sittig, Theresa Scheibel, Mrs. Carl Dahn and Mrs. Anna M. Robinson.

Mr. Joseph Scheibel went to Wilmington Wednesday and from there to Philadelphia to see an aunt, who has been very ill in a hospital, but has recently returned home. Miss Helen Scheibel has been with her aunt the past two months.

Miss Pauline Bezerics, a secretary of the well known Wilmington firm, Isaac and Cohen, was kept from her work by illness several days of last week

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hayes visited with their daughter, Mrs. William Garrett, Jr, over the week-end.

Mr. Lloyd Atkinson, of Church Hill was a Sunday visitor at the William Garrett, Sr.'s home.

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The Life of 'The Weather Man'

James H. Scarr, Chief Meteoroligist of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Dies In New York

FROM THE N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE

To the public Mr. Scarr was a vague figure dwelling in a tower near the Battery, squinting at heavenly manifestations through a frequently fallible spy-glass, and mentioned in small talk as "The Weather Man."

To newspapers he was the one person in two hemispheres who could be counted on to make the front page in every issue of the year—in "the weather ear," the daily forecast. To sea captains and aviators he was the greatest single factor of safety in an uncertain world of sleet and fog and cyclones. To Presidents of produce companies, ice cream firms, power corporations, and to the city's Department of Sanitation, he was a prophet who annually saved them millions of dollars. To members of the bar and the bench he was the champion witness of New York — a glutton for subpoenas, who testified in an average of two court actions each day.

Those acquainted with Dr. Scarr, however, knew him variously as a serious scientist, a gentle philosopher who habitually referred to clouds and sunshine in the figurative sense, a poet, a bibliophile who specialized in early editions of Anatole France, Joseph Conrad, James Whitcomb Riley, Mark Twain, Lafcadio Hearth, Dickens and Kipling.

Dr. Scarr was born near South Boston, Ionia County, Mich., on January 10, 1867, the son of Francis O. and Joanna Eastman Wilmarth Scarr.

His assignments took him from St. Louis to Cairo, Ill., Helena and Havre, Montana, and in 1901 to Sacramento, California.

In Sacramento he learned a lesson he never forgot, the futility of long-range forecasts. A street fair had been planned for May, and citizens of the town came to him and asked him to suggest the week wherein there was the least likelihood of rain. Dr. Scarr produced all the available records and while declining to commit himself, invited his callers to examine the figures and pick their own week. They hit upon a certain seven day period as that which had experienced the least rainfall during fifty-four years preceding, and planned their fair to fall within that week. It rained steadily those seven days.

Year after year the never-silent telephone at 17 Battery Place would ring with questions, from girls who wanted to know of a sunny day in June to get married, from church workers planning a picnic, and from golfers contemplating a week-end trip. When correspondents wrote in, asking for long-distance forecasts, Dr. Scarr would send back no formal reply, but an amiable note in contemplative vein. A typical Scarr reply follows:

"Dear Madam: Replying to yours of the 23rd instant, we beg to advise that there is no such thing as 'bad weather'—just different kinds of good weather' (The quotation is from Ruskin—one of Dr. Scarr's favorites). The long period of rainy weather to which you refer was confined to the Atlantic coast section. . . . There is always the possibility of abnormal conditions everywhere. But remember that:

"Taking the year all around my dear,
There isn't more cloud than sun."

"Laugh and the world laughs with you. Smile and even the sky will seem to reflect sunshine. And after all, the sunshine that is really most worth while and lasting is the 'sunshine of a cloudy day.' So if you have planned your vacation, go right ahead and enjoy it, cheerfully, hopefully, expectantly, and the best wishes of 'The Weather Man' go with you."

During his twenty-seven years in New York, Dr. Scarr not only served an omnipresent, sarcastic and occasionally obtuse public, but he also devoted himself to perfecting the science of weather forecasting. In 1909 he said that the aim of the Weather Bureau was to be correct 80 per cent of the time. A few years before his death he announced with justifiable pride that the records indicated his forecasts had been accurate between 85 and 90 per cent of the time.

As the years passed, his activities increased. Aviation became a major mode of transportation, and to meet the needs of fair lines for accurate presaging of winds and rainfall Dr. Scarr established a new and infinitely complex division of airplane service. For trans-Atlantic flyers he worked with his staff long hours overtime, compiling observations from ships at sea—a territory heretofore uncharted, since all local storms develop in the west.

Among the visitors to the Weather Bureau were many school children, youngsters wholly ignorant of the weather and the methods of measuring it, who wanted information about week-end weather for their picnic or anxious to learn how the Weather Man worked. Mr. Scarr was particular about talking to the children himself. He never let an assistant do it, fearing that the children would be antagonized or frightened or mystified. His explanations of their puzzles were always complete, engrossing and charming.

On April Fool's Day Dr. Scarr especially prepared for a deluge of calls, the usual question being, "May I speak to Mr. Snow—or Mr. Rains—or Mr. Frost?" To these Dr. Scarr would reply with a chuckle, "Look behind you—I think some one is laughing at you."

In the courts of the city Dr. Scarr was usually the most ubiquitous and least-challenged witness. Hundreds of divorce, damage and criminal actions were determined by his testimony concerning the possibility of a full moon, a fog or freezing weather on the date in question. In 1926 he estimated that he had testified in 5,000 cases.

In recent years he had a large staff under him. There were fourteen assistants in the New York office, eight in the Newark branch and one loaned to the city to maintain the observatory in the Belvedere in Central Park.

Mr. Scarr had no regular office hours. The earliest assistant on the day shift was likely to find him when he entered the office and his trip home to Hasbrouck Heights was usually made in the dark, no matter what time of year. About two hours of his day was devoted to answering questions from various sources interested in the weather. He had a multifarious correspondence, which he answered in long-hand, he had no stenographer. Most visitors to the office he interviewed himself.

Only a man of his vigor and physique—he was six feet one inch tall and weighed 225 pounds—could have achieved his tremendous labors. Twice a day there was the task of compiling observations from 200 meteorological stations throughout the East and crystalizing the sum total of rainfall, wind, barometer, humidity, cloud and temperature recordings into a forecast for the metropolitan area.

The forecast that appears each morning and afternoon in New York papers is to most citizens of casual significance. But to perhaps 3,000 citizens among New York's millions the accuracy of Dr. Scarr's forecasts swayed the difference between profit and loss, and in many cases life and death. These 3,000 persons usually call the Weather Bureau every day of the year. A staff of fifteen assistants attempt to answer the calls, but Dr. Scarr once reported that 2,400 calls constituted the maximum which could be answered. The others get the busy signal.

From his long experience with the weather, Dr. Scarr evolved certain generalities. He contended that "Nearly every one thinks it's a cold spring." Next to his quotation from Ruskin, he most frequently uttered a little parody of his own: "The weather man can please some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but he can't please all of the people all of the time." He argued that the weather had followed virtually the same modes of behavior for centuries, and refused to admit that any manifestation was "abnormal."

On Broadway, a friend is a guy who has the same enemies you have.—Walter Winchell.

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