

TURNER COUNTY DEVELOPMENT EDITION

THE WIREGRASS FARMER

AND STOCKMAN

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A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WIREGRASS GEORGIA.

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400 Cars Watermelons; 48 Cars of Cantaloupes; 200 Cars Cotton Shipped From Ashburn and Vicinity in 1913

TURNER COUNTY

Lies in the Famous Wiregrass Region and Investors Who Have Crossed its Borders Have Practically all Stayed and Prospered.

Ashburn, Turner county, Georgia, is one of the live small cities of the South. Turner county is comparatively a new county having been carved into a separate county from several adjoining counties and Ashburn was made the county seat. Twenty years ago Ashburn was a country store and now it has a swiftly expanding population of 2,700 people.

For some years development has been the keynote of South Georgia. Twenty-five years ago where Ashburn now stands was one seemingly endless stretch of long leaf yellow pine forest. Then finally came the Georgia Southern & Florida railroad and with the earliest trains that came puffing into the vast forest came the inevitable saw mills. For twenty years this section poured its stream of yellow lumber forth into the markets of the world. Vast stretches were "cut over" and the saw timber removed. With this removal came the first timid farmer. He cut away the remaining timber and pulled up the stumps. He found that cotton, corn and other grains thrived and other farmers came. They pulled their stumps, too, because pine stumps do not rot out like oak stumps in the north. They stick in the ground eternally unless pulled up. People discovered that this section, with its soft, balmy air the year around, its rich

The above is a likeness of the splendid high-school which is one of the centers of civic pride in Ashburn. The building cost \$20,000 and is modern and complete in its appointments. There are 425 pupils enrolled in the Ash-

soil, splendid water and fine shipping facilities was a good place for homes and the homes grew like mushrooms. Lumber is cheap here and as a result the tendency is good houses, barns and other improvements on the farms.

But to return to Ashburn for a moment: This city is one of the most substantial small cities in the state. Big, substantial brick business blocks, splendid stocks, of goods, beautiful homes all combine to make a home and business center with a manifest future. Ashburn owns its own water system and the supply is at all times plentiful and of the finest possible quality. The city also owns its own electric light plant and the town is lighted at all points, likewise the business houses and the homes. Ashburn has a splendid sewer system, which indeed should be classed among its best assets. Good walks penetrate every part of the town and streets are neatly graded. The G. S. &

burn schools. One of the very useful departments is that of domestic science, including cooking and sewing. There is a splendid manual training department and the business course includes two years' study in bookkeeping and

F. railroad and the H. & F. S. line both pass through the city giving excellent freight and passenger service.

Church life in Ashburn is vigorous and flourishing, the denominations of the Baptist, Methodist and Wesleyan Methodist having houses of worship and earnest and growing congregations. The school system of the city is excellent. A splendid building costing \$20,000 has all facilities for its work in which it excels. The Turner county court house was built at a cost of \$50,000. The county jail cost \$11,000.

Fraternal life in Ashburn is strong and growing, a number of the well known orders having flourishing lodges in the city. The city is especially fortunate in having one predominant trait that means much for its future growth, namely, there is a powerful spirit of co-operation on the part of its citizens to make the town a bigger and still better place in which to live and do business. Furthermore, these men believe in the future of their city, and knockers are very scarce in Ashburn. They are willing to work to the end that it may have its chance. Of course, this is not an altogether unanimous spirit. There are always some hold-backs in the liveliest town in the country. There are some people who wouldn't give you a paper dollar for a gold one for fear you had made the gold one yourself. But people of this nature are scarce in Ashburn. There isn't many people here who insist on living for themselves alone and exclusively.

For the benefit of Northern readers the writer, who is a Northern man himself, wants to say one thing right here: This

city and community has not been made by Northern people. Remember that. There is an old fable up north about Northern people having made every southern town that has had a big development. They haven't done it by a whole lot. The most Northern man that the writer has found here was a North Georgian. The Southern people are having an enormous awakening. They are seizing opportunities and maturing them with precision, success and speed. Northern farmers will find out that they are coming among a very live and progressive citizenship.

At the present time the tenant system is prevalent in Turner county. Naturally, arrangements between farmers and tenants vary, but one farmer the writer has in mind follows the plan of furnishing seed, fertilizer, and plows. The tenant furnishes the mules and the labor on shares. This farmer, Mr. J. L. Evans, of the Betts-Evans Land company, handles 2,000 acres of land in this way. Cotton on this land averaged 60 per cent of a bale to the acre the past season. Mr. Evans last year shipped 5,000 crates of cantaloupes which brought \$1.00 a crate and he also marketed 50 cars of watermelons that grew on 100 acres of land. Cantaloupes and watermelons are becoming two of the staple crops of this section. They are of a superior quality and flavor that commands a wide sale in the large markets.

Land in Turner county sells at widely varying prices. Unimproved, cut-over timber land sells as low as \$5 per acre a few miles out from town. This is good land and the timber alone on it is worth, in many instances, a large

The sanitary features include a drinking fountain and modern plumbing. One of the leading authorities on the subject in Georgia has gone so far as to say that the Ashburn schools lead over any in the state in several respects.

per centage of the purchase price. Prices run up from this low figure to from \$30 to \$75 per acre according to the distance from town and the character of the improvements. Practically all of the timber in this section is pine. The topography of the country is gently rolling, and there is a strong sandy element manifest in all of the soil. There is no loose rock to be found. Corn yields fifty bushels to the acre when well tended. Oats give splendid yields. Little ground has been sown in wheat here but enough to indicate that wheat would be a successful crop. Almost no attention has been given tame grasses, although some few alfalfa fields flourish.

Strangers will want to know what is meant by the "wiregrass region" as this is termed. Wiregrass is the only known grass that will thrive and grow in the shade of thick pine forests. It has a long wiry stem, hence its name

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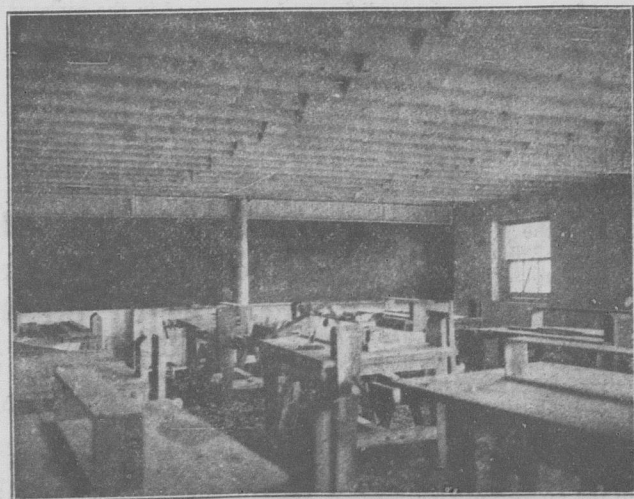
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VISIT OF A NORTH GEORGIAN

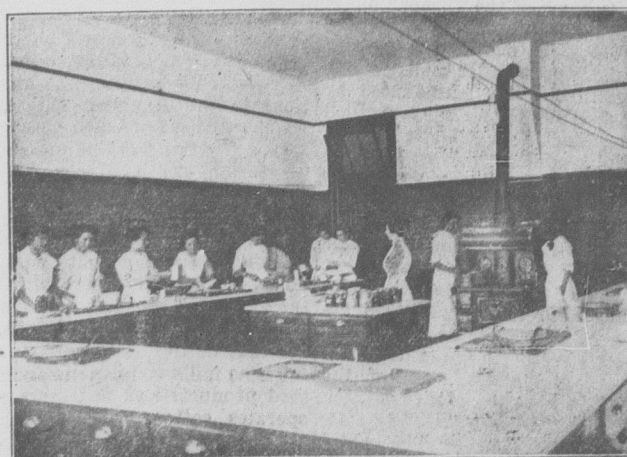
Mr. J. H. Johnson, of Woodstock, Ga., is at present in Turner county, having arrived in Ashburn Tuesday morning. He is a large land owner, banker and merchant of North Georgia. He owns considerable property in this county also and wishes he had come to South Georgia twenty years ago. He is a man of considerable travel, but, says in all of his travels from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Lakes to the Gulf, he never saw any section of country to beat this part of South Georgia. He is loud in his praise of the productiveness of our land and says, it is destined to vastly increase in value. Those who buy now will make a fine investment. Men of travel and experience agree on the superiority of our climate. They do not want to go any farther South than here. They want to keep fairly above the frost line, where there is a sufficiency of pleasantly cold weather to kill out all germs.

While Turner county is far enough South to get the benefit of the balmy breezes from the Gulf. It yet lies in a latitude where the beneficial effects of light frosts makes it one of the healthiest portions of the earth.

We are always glad to have Mr. Johnson with us.



MANUAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT ASHBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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