

THE SOUTH---Vast Resources, Rapid Development, Wonderful Opportunities for Capital and Labor.

At no time in the history of the Nation has there been so wide an interest manifested in the economic conditions and resources of the South as at present. What the friends of the South have clearly seen for years the country in general is now beginning to recognize.

Cotton-mill men have been investigating the conditions as to climate, cost of production, and availability of suitable labor, with the result that the spindles in the South have increased from 600,000 to 3,000,000 in fifteen years, and are now being added to at the rate of 500,000 a year.

The iron world has awakened to the fact that the South can produce a high grade of iron at a cost regarded as incredibly low a few years ago, and it causes no surprise now to hear that the South is preparing to compete with other iron-producing sections for a share of the world's markets in iron. In coal the South is preparing to extend her trade throughout South America and in other foreign countries.

The forests of the South contain about one-half the standing timber of the United States. With plenty of water power and cheapness of coal assured, every variety of woodworking manufactories is increasing at a rapid rate.

Southern marbles and granite are finding their way into every part of the Union, for building purposes, interior finishing, and street paving. Georgia marble is being used in the construction of the magnificent St. Luke's Hospital in the City of New-York, and her marbles are used for tiling and other purposes in residences and buildings all the way from Maine to California.

Georgia melons, peaches, pears, and grapes are making their growers rich, and are supplying the markets of the North and Northwest with the first and best fruits of the season.

The agriculturists of the North, East, and West are discovering that the

South, with its variety of soil, cheapness of lands—ranging from \$1.50 to \$30 an acre—certain abundance of rainfall, and proximity to markets, affords alluring opportunities for profitable agricultural operations, and through the assistance of immigration agencies the South is increasing in population.

And there need be no disappointments in the expectations of these immigrants. It cannot be expected that the South is a place where the penalties of shiftlessness, indolence, and incompetence can be averted, but it is a place where effort is followed by results, where work brings certain reward, where the elements are kind, and where the pathos of unrequited toil—the tragedy of a total ruin of crops—can never come.

Most significant, in view of the great part they played in the development of the West, is the fact that within the last year, for the first time in their history, the railroads of the country have provided for land seekers' excursion tickets at low rates for the benefit of intending immigrants to the South. Other features of the Western method are being introduced. A noteworthy example is the offer of a colony company of Birmingham, Ala., to give thirty alternating farming tracts to families who will become actual settlers on the company's property.

The transportation facilities enjoyed by the South, with trunk lines and connections in every direction and steamship lines from a dozen ports, emphasize the advantage the South has over the West in the point of proximity to the great markets; and this is a factor which must mark an ever-increasing benefit to the producers of that section.

It is the prime object of the Cotton States and International Exposition to be held in Atlanta this Fall to make an effective presentation of the proofs of the claim long made by people of the South that their region needs only adequate development of its abundant resources to make it a leading manufacturing centre, an agricultural section of unsurpassed productiveness, and a part of the

country of almost general prosperity. Never before has such a presentation been made. At the Chicago World's Fair there was not anything like an adequate display of the mineral, manufacturing, and agricultural resources of the South, and even had there been, they could not have aroused the same widespread interest which is being given to that section alone.

Some idea of the magnitude and importance of the exposition of 1895 may be gained from the story which appears in this issue of The New-York Times. It may be remarked in passing that, while New-York will always be the great commercial clearing house of America, the energetic citizens of the Western centres—Chicago, Cincinnati, and St. Louis—are making strong bids for closer commercial union with the South. The railroads and the newspapers of the West are doing whatever they can to extend the commercial power of their section, and it may be worth New-York's while to note the fact that they are establishing some rather surprising intimate trade relations between their part of the country and Southern points.

It being an astonishing thing that any city should plan a world's fair at a time of great business depression and so shortly following the Chicago exposition, it is interesting to study at some length the characteristics of the plucky City of Atlanta. And as investigation shows that Atlanta's marked enterprise is only typical of the spirit which animates the cities of Savannah, Augusta, and Macon, and, in fact, almost every part of the South, some indications are here given of the reasons for the faith which is in the Southerner generally. To Georgia is given prominence in this exposition of Southern resources and opportunities because that State furnishes a type of what the South contains, and is in the foremost rank of the present development of Southern resources, as will be seen in the stories of her four chief cities printed in The New-York Times of to-day.

