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A showing unrivalled in the city. Richest Silks and Satins, made up in the newest swell Ascots, Imperials, Four-in-Hands and Teck Scarfs. All the new colorings and latest patterns. Prices, . . . **25c, 50c, 75c, \$1**

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Suits for all occasions, in Cassimeres, Cheviots, Worsteds, Etc. All the correct patterns, made in fashion's latest styles. . . . **\$7.50 to \$20.00**

Full line of Frock Coats, Sack Coats and Separate Trousers. Clothing for particular men at prices to please.

trade, in Smoking Jackets and House Coats, the biggest and most comprehensive display we have ever made. They come in plain colors, plaids, etc **\$4, \$5, \$7.50, \$9.50**

Overcoats=== Long Chesterfields in the correct fabrics for holiday season, and by the way, an overcoat makes a splendid Christmas present, finely tailored, perfect fitting, in black and grey **\$8 to \$22.50**

Children's Clothing=== Receive a great deal of attention at our hands. Sailor Suits, Russian Blouse Suits, Vestee Suits, Single and Double-Breasted Suits..... **\$2.50 to \$10**

Richards & Wirth, 326 Lackawanna Ave., Scranton

BIRMINGHAM AND VICINITY

[Continued from Page 10.]

a score or more of private schools conducted by first-class teachers. The thorough and up-to-date system of the Birmingham schools received the highest award at the Atlanta exposition in 1895. All political parties recognize the importance of education for both races, and planks favoring the maintenance of these schools are embodied in all their platforms.

The Birmingham Age-Herald is joyful over a bill just passed by the Alabama legislature, which provides for a five months' term in every year for the free schools of the state.

No reference to education in Alabama would be complete without reference to the important work being accomplished by President Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, of which he is the moving and controlling spirit. This institution may well be termed the most successful of any in the country designed for the education of the colored youth. It was organized in 1881 by President Washington, himself a colored man, and leader of his race, and today it owns property valued at \$200,000, which includes 2,257 acres of land, upon which have been erected by the handicraft and labor of the students themselves forty-two buildings. It has 1,073 students, 86 instructors and every year young men and young women are sent out who, with their intellectual and industrial training, are willing to go among the ignorant of their people and labor, even though the compensation is hardly sufficient to supply the ordinary needs of the teacher.

Birmingham is peculiar in the splendor of her public buildings and among the most magnificent are the court house, costing a half million dollars, the government building, the postoffice, St. Vincent's hospital, erected by the Sisters of Charity, school buildings, hotels, theaters and the auditorium. If there is anything the people are proud of, it is their beautiful auditorium—magnificent in its proportions, a noble monument to civic pride. It is a commodious house. The stage is one of the largest in America, sixty feet wide,

forty-five feet deep and capable of seating 400 persons. The building itself is 140 feet deep by 100 feet front and 60 feet high, with a seating capacity of 3,600, while 5,000 can gather here to hold conventions. It cost \$50,000. The government building and postoffice each cost \$100,000.

The south's industrial giant is the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company—the most extensive producer of pig iron for the open market in the world, and the largest iron, steel, coal and coke making corporation in the southern states. Some idea of the vastness of its investment and the great scope of its operations can be had when it is stated that its capital stock is \$23,000,000, all of which is common stock; that it alone produces one-half of all the iron made in Alabama, over half of the total of all the coal mined; three-fifths of the state's output, and operates the only important steel plant south of Pittsburgh, being the pioneer in southern steel production. It owns fourteen iron furnaces in this district—in addition to the largest coal mines and coke plants south, besides operating a steel mill with a daily capacity of 1,000 tons of steel made from Alabama iron. It has 2,687 coke ovens, with a capacity (yearly) of over 200,000,000 tons. Iron ore capacity is 2,500,000 tons, and coal, 5,250,000 tons yearly, and the furnaces 1,300,000 tons. The employment of help runs well up into the thousands.

The Birmingham district is seldom troubled with a scarcity of labor, owing to the fact that practically all of the labor employed at the furnaces, coke ovens, ore mines, limestone quarries, and half that at the coal mines, is colored, and therefore very easy to replenish from the immense agricultural sections of the state. About the coal mines quite a per cent. of northern and some foreign labor is employed. A feature worthy of special notice is the friendly relations existing between the employer and employes. Fixed scale of wages are in vogue, and consequently labor troubles are rare. This locality is peculiarly free from strikes and labor disputes, and this practical unanimity from them comes from the fact that the negro is proverbially easy to get along with, and does not ask or expect the high rate of wages paid in the north. It is very evident that much, or all, of our labor strikes in the mining centers north would have been averted had our coal and iron oper-

ators imported "negro labor," instead of the incorrigible Hungarian, Polish and Italian of the socialist and anarchist persuasion.

While the claim is sometimes made that southern labor is not as efficient as that obtained at the north, the numerous tests so far made have resulted satisfactorily and proved that this contention does not hold good, for negroes have become good mechanics, such as carpenters, bricklayers, engineers, etc., but it is admitted in work which requires delicacy of manipulation and taste, ability for skilled workmanship, he has not shown much aptitude, owing to lack of training and opportunity, but in one and coal mining, as well as in iron-making industries, he is very largely employed and fills many little, though none the less important, niches in the conducting of the numerous business of this section. This fact should not be lost sight of in these troublesome times of strikes in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Common day labor is paid ninety cents a day for ten hours, and skilled labor is proportionately low.

The destiny of Birmingham is guided by an able set of men. The greatest single influence in the well-being of the city and most powerful factor in its material upbuilding and advancement is the aggregation of up-to-date business men, known as the "Commercial Club of Birmingham," a model organization of its kind. We are indebted to J. B. Gibson, its secretary, and to General R. N. Rhodes, member of the board of directors, who is also proprietor of the Birmingham News, for valuable memoranda, and polite attention. Among the two other dailies and the fifteen weekly and monthly papers published in Birmingham there is only one straight Republican, the Birmingham Times, and it has established a good business. The News is Alabama's leading daily. It owns and occupies the most commodious building, it is the largest sheet, and prints more news, local or telegraphic. It owns the Associated Press franchise and receives the full day report, amounting to 15,000 to 20,000 words, over a special wire running into its editorial rooms, and has connections with local and long distant telephone companies throughout the country. It carries more advertisements for home and foreign patrons, it employs more people, and spends more money, and has the largest circulation of any daily newspaper in Alabama. With its 20,000 three-decker press, it prints 24,000 complete newspapers per hour.

RECAPITULATION.

Few northern people fully realize the resources of this great "boom city," and mineral district. It's inexhaustible natural resources are not more marvelous than the development of the same. Less than twenty-five years ago the first coal mine was opened. In 1878, fires were lighted in the first furnace. There are now in this district 125 coal mines, with a capacity of 20,000 tons per day; 500 coke ovens, with a capacity of 5,000 tons coke output per day; 26 furnaces with a capacity of 4,500 tons per day; two steel mills with a capacity near 1,200 tons per day; a wire rod and nail mill, with a capacity of 500 tons per day; also 30 foundries and machine shops; 3 rolling mills; 3 structural works and 12 brick works, besides 50 more small manufacturing concerns. The output of coal for 1900 was 8,750,000 tons; coke, over 2,000,000 tons; iron ore, 3,000,000 tons; pig iron, 1,315,000 tons.

In the vicinity of Birmingham during the last twelve months plants have been completed, old ones enlarged and extended, new enterprises begun and improvements made amounting to \$7,625,000. New companies of various kinds not included in the above have been organized with capital \$1,833,900, and 1,700 new buildings have been erected, costing \$2,000,000, making a grand total, \$11,278,900, and throughout the state it is not a rash claim to say fully \$100,000,000 of outside capital have become interested in the development of industrial Alabama in the last twelve months. All hail! Birmingham, J. E. Richmond.

CLARK'S SUMMIT.

The farmers' institute, which was held in the Methodist Episcopal church on Saturday and Sunday last, was more largely attended than any of the preceding ones at this place. Representatives from all the nearby towns were present and a general good time was enjoyed during the entire institute.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller, of Edella, visited friends in this place recently.

Miss Leonora Bortree is teaching in the High school in place of her sister, Minnie, who is still unable to attend to her duties, although she is much better.

Mrs. M. E. Brown has issued an attractive holiday "ad," calling attention to the special reduction sale of holiday goods which she is conducting this week.

Dr. J. E. Lynch has been in Athens, Pa., for a few days, attending the funeral of his sister, Mrs. G. W. Mingo.

After an illness of but a little over a week our esteemed neighbor, Mr. M. A. Colvin, succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, passing away on Thursday evening. The news of his death is received among his acquaintances with expressions of deep sorrow. He was a man of the kindest disposition and firm religious convictions. Always ready to favor those in trouble or adversity of any kind, he will be remembered with great respect by the many in whose hearts remain these acts as monuments to his memory. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

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