

**INDUSTRIAL RECORD**

JAMES A. HOLLOWAY, Editor-in-Chief  
A. H. MARSH, Business Manager

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**THE RECORD'S OFFICES.**

The publishing plant and the main offices of the Industrial Record Company are located at the intersection of Bay and Newnan Streets, Jacksonville, Fla., in the very heart of the great turpentine and yellow pine industries.

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Industrial Record Publishing Co.

**VERDICT OF A JURY OF GEORGIANS.**

Every phase of the naval stores discussion has been met with the charge that it was simply a fight between Jacksonville and Savannah—between Florida and Georgia. When the naval stores trust was accused of misconduct and of oppression the charges were indignantly denied and the counter-charge was made, it is simply Jacksonville's attack on Savannah, Florida's attack on Georgia.

The case has been tried; the evidence has been heard. It was not tried in Florida; every man on the jury was a Georgian, from that part of the State that acknowledges Savannah as its commercial metropolis; from that part of the State that is closest affiliated with Savannah in business and is most dominated by Savannah ideas; and yet that jury was out only a few hours before it returned with a verdict of guilty.

Was that jury of Georgians prejudiced against the people of their own State? Did they look on the prosecution as an attack of Florida naval stores interests, on the naval stores interests of Georgia? No; they regarded it as an effort on the part of justice to make men obey the law. They said by their verdict that these men had not been obeying the law. From the evidence the jury saw a powerful trust crushing out competition and oppressing the small producers and they brought in their verdict quickly—not the opinion of one man or of a number of men, but of

twelve men out of twelve selected to try the case.

The evidence introduced in this case shows the need of a strong rival of the naval stores trust—one that would not oppress the people. This need is not local. It is as strong in Georgia as in Florida and is felt wherever naval stores are produced.

It also shows that the Taliaferro naval stores bill should be enacted—a bill that would place naval stores practically under the provisions of the pure food and pure drug law and would put a stop to the practice of adulteration and misbranding. Goods subject to inspection by the department of agriculture would not be tampered with, but would be sold for what they were represented to be.—Florida Times-Union, May 12.

**CONDITIONS OF NAVAL STORES DURING PAST PRODUCTION YEAR.**

Summary from a Reliable Source and Figures Given Showing That Proofs Were Obtained of Turpentine Adulterations.

Under the caption of "History of the Naval Stores Industry of the United States During 1908-09," the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter publishes a full page editorial filled with statistics compiled from Government reports, and then has the following summary of conditions:

The statistical position of turpentine has unquestionably been against high prices, but the dissensions in the ranks of the producers and distributors have not helped to mend matters. The story of the differences between the Florida interests and those of Georgia, inseparable as it is to a full narration of naval stores events, forms an interesting chapter of trade history.

**Government Takes Action.**

When the rapid collapse of the market had driven the producers desperate they appealed to Washington and the Government began an investigation with the result that in April, 1908, true bills were returned by a Federal grand jury against certain prominent Savannah companies for alleged breach of the Sherman anti-trust law. The case since then has advanced a stage or two, but the complaints, which charge "conspiracy in restraint of trade," have still to be settled by the courts.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville interests came together during the summer of 1908 in an effort to better trade conditions for themselves. A meeting was held in July, at that city, which was attended by many men prominent in mercantile and political circles, and the initiatory steps were taken to organize a company to be known as the "Naval Stores Marketing Company," with a capital of between \$1,500,000 and \$3,000,000, which should hold naval stores products for the producer until such time as prices were favorable for sale, the stock of the concern to be eventually taken up by the producers. A committee was appointed to put the plan into execution and also to cooperate with the Board of Forestry to prevent the circulation of misleading reports concerning the crop, which reports, it was said, had seriously hurt the market. It was also proposed at this meeting to call upon Congress to suppress the adulteration of turpentine and the horning or misbranding of rosin.

The committee reported at the next general meeting in September, that the organization of the company was taking definite shape and that stock subscriptions were

coming in in a gratifying way. They also reported that, as a result of their investigations, they had discovered that the practice of adulterating turpentine and of false grading rosin had become far too prevalent.

**Operators Urged It.**

The Turpentine Operators' Association met in October at Jacksonville and indorsed the efforts of the producers to establish a marketing company, and the president of the association urged that further steps be taken to have Congress take some action in the matter of insuring the purity of naval stores to the consumer. He advocated the Federal inspection of every barrel of spirits and rosin. It was also recommended at this meeting that production should be curtailed and the timber preserved by cutting no new boxes during the winter of 1908-1909. That the industry was in a bad way was conceded by the operators. Turpentine and rosin had, they said, sold below cost, while the expenses of operating had increased and there had been an unusual lack of consuming demand. In 1900, it was reported, the world had taken 639,000 barrels of spirits, but that notwithstanding the increase of consuming industries there was in 1908 a surplus of 89,000 barrels, and even of this quantity some 31,000 barrels were not for sale. This, it was claimed, was in spite of the fact that consumers in Europe had been unable to obtain adequate supplies.

About the time of the operators' meeting or shortly preceding it, the ports of Jacksonville and Savannah became embroiled over the question of alleged adulterations. The president of the Board of Trade of the latter city in a letter to the Department of Agriculture referred to a report emanating from Jacksonville to the effect that 25,000 barrels of kerosene had been consumed in adulterating the season's crop of spirits. Such statements, he said, were calculated to injure the business of the country and should receive thorough investigation. This letter was the first of a series of remarkable epistles which passed between persons prominent in the trade and in high political life, in which the charge of bad faith in respect to naval stores matters was freely made.

**The Taliaferro Bill.**

We now mention these letters, which attracted wide attention at the time of their publication, because they appeared to serve in a measure as arguments for and against the passage of the "Naval Stores Inspection Law," more generally known as the "Taliaferro Bill," introduced in both houses of Congress last December. The measure, which was fathered by Senator Taliaferro, of Florida, provided for an elaborate system of naval stores inspection by Federal authorities.

It called for the inspection of every barrel of American spirits and rosin which entered into interstate or foreign commerce and gave adequate authority to the government officers to enforce the provisions of the act. The bill came in for considerable criticism at the hands of the Savannah distributors and of a number of dealers throughout the country. The principal objections were those of expense, and the serious delays which would frequently be involved in a proper execution of the law; and it was feared also that shippers would often suffer at the hands of incompetent inspectors. It was also claimed that the protection sought was a matter for State rather than Federal leg-

islation. The bill, after a bitter contest before the Senate Committee, was finally tabled on the grounds of unwillingness to interfere with States rights. Efforts to resurrect it failed and subsequently a modified bill, modeled somewhat after the Pure Food and Drugs Act, was substituted by the Senator from Florida, who made a strong plea for the measure on the floor of the Senate. But there does not seem much prospect that the bill will become law.

**Proof of Adulteration.**

While the controversy between the rival factions in the South waxed rather warm, a premature and partial expose of the evidence collected by the Department of Agriculture in regard to alleged adulterations was made public. The disclosures were not particularly startling. Of 64 samples from the yards of primary buyers, 3 were found to have been adulterated, the average percentage of adulterant being 2.9. These samples had been drawn from goods which had not been passed out of the possession of the producers. Of 40 samples taken from goods held by primary distributors, 9 were found to be lacking in purity, but the percentage of adulterant used was only 1.6. Seventy-six samples were collected from wholesale and retail dealers, and of these 19 failed to come up to standard and the percentage of adulterant was found to be 5.6. In the non-producing States no adulterated turpentine was found in the hands of primary distributors, but of 115 samples taken from wholesalers and retailers, 31 fell below the standard of purity.

**TO TRY GROWING OF EASTERN HARDWOODS IN CALIFORNIA.**

The Pacific Coast will soon be the scene of an interesting tree growing experiment. The United States Forest Service is planning to introduce a number of the more important eastern hardwoods into California, and will this year experiment with chestnut, hickory, basswood, red oak and yellow poplar or tulip trees. Small patches of these trees will be planted near the forest rangers' cabins on the National Forests, and if those do well larger plantations on a commercial scale will soon be established on wider areas.

There are over 125 different species of trees in California, a number of which produce some of the most valuable varieties of lumber in the country. Although considerably over one-half of the species are hardwood or broad-leaved trees, yet, with the exception of the exotic eucalyptus, there is not a single species of hardwood here ranking in commercial importance with the leading eastern hardwoods. Climatic conditions in many parts of California are undoubtedly favorable for the growth of a number of the valuable hardwoods, and the absence of these trees is due mostly to unfavorable factors of seed distribution.

If the experiments are successful, a valuable asset will have been added to the forest resources of that state, which should prove of special benefit to the local furniture and vehicle industries. Chestnut and red oak are highly esteemed for furniture, while with hickory, basswood and eucalyptus at its command, California should lead all other states in the vehicle industry.