

and all around the Northern States, including some of the Middle States, but it does very well for young people but, of our age, it is foolish outright. This has been so far a very cold winter, having ice most every night.

The money panic, which started the latter part of October, is just now over, but left the industrial countries unsettled and, as this is a presidential election year, it is hard to tell to what extent the depression will be in some of the industries. I am already tired out in body and mind and have to quit writing.

All of which I possess is accumulation and, in case of either of our deaths, shall be divided, one-half to the children and the other half to the remaining spouse without giving any bond. This is my will.

Ernest J. Hardtner

Done this January 18th day 1908.

JANUARY 23rd, 1909

Since writing last, I will add that the year 1908 was very eventful. In the first place, several of our responsible business men have passed away, such as J. M. Barrett, J. M. Nugent, John Kramer and others. Then, in the spring, we had very cold weather with plenty of ice and planting was rather late. The potato crop was only medium and the price was as low as 50¢ per bushel, then came the highest water ever known, registered 42 1/4 on the Government gauge. For a while it looked as if the bridge would break down but it held out all right. The highest water was on the 11th day of July and then, from the 20th until the 10th or 15th of August, it rained in torrents, which caused the cotton bolls to fall off and the Boll Weevils ate up every square that came on the stalk, so that they only ginned some less than five thousand bales in the Parish, or one-tenth of a full crop.

We went off on the 21st of July to New York

by way of New Orleans on steamer and, after staying in New York a week, went to Atlantic City for a month at a cost of \$110.00 per week, hotel fare, with Alice. This is the best summer resort I have found yet. It is cosmopolitan and very healthy, full of amusements and time passes without getting tired. We stopped at Philadelphia but the City itself is not what I thought it would be and, outside of the Navy Yard, Park and Historic Buildings, it is not very inviting.

From there we went to Buffalo and via New York and Albany to Niagara Falls and Alice went home to help Mr. Crockett out, who went busted by over speculation. I had to buy their house for \$10,000.00 and some of his stock in the Bunkie Ice Company. Well, we went to Detroit by way of Canada and had a delightful time and, when we came home, the cooler weather came on. This was the 20th of September. The trip took only \$1,500.00 and was well spent.

The election for the President passed without much excitement and, on Taft being elected, business in general looked up, lumber being fairly good.

I have been trying to sell out in Pineville and move to Alexandria but can't be suited and sometimes believe best to remain in Pineville the balance of my stay, as we are pretty well fixed. The few weeks I stayed in Alexandria last year was enough for me for; no matter where you go, you will be cramped more or less, in Alexandria. My income from rents, dividends and interest on money loaned out is now fifteen thousand dollars per year and the expenses won't run over six thousand. The inventory shows my net worth to be fully two hundred thousand dollars at this date.

March 10th, 1910.

This is a rainy day, the trees are just beginning to bloom and it is supposed that winter is over, for Easter falls very early, on the 27th of March. It is