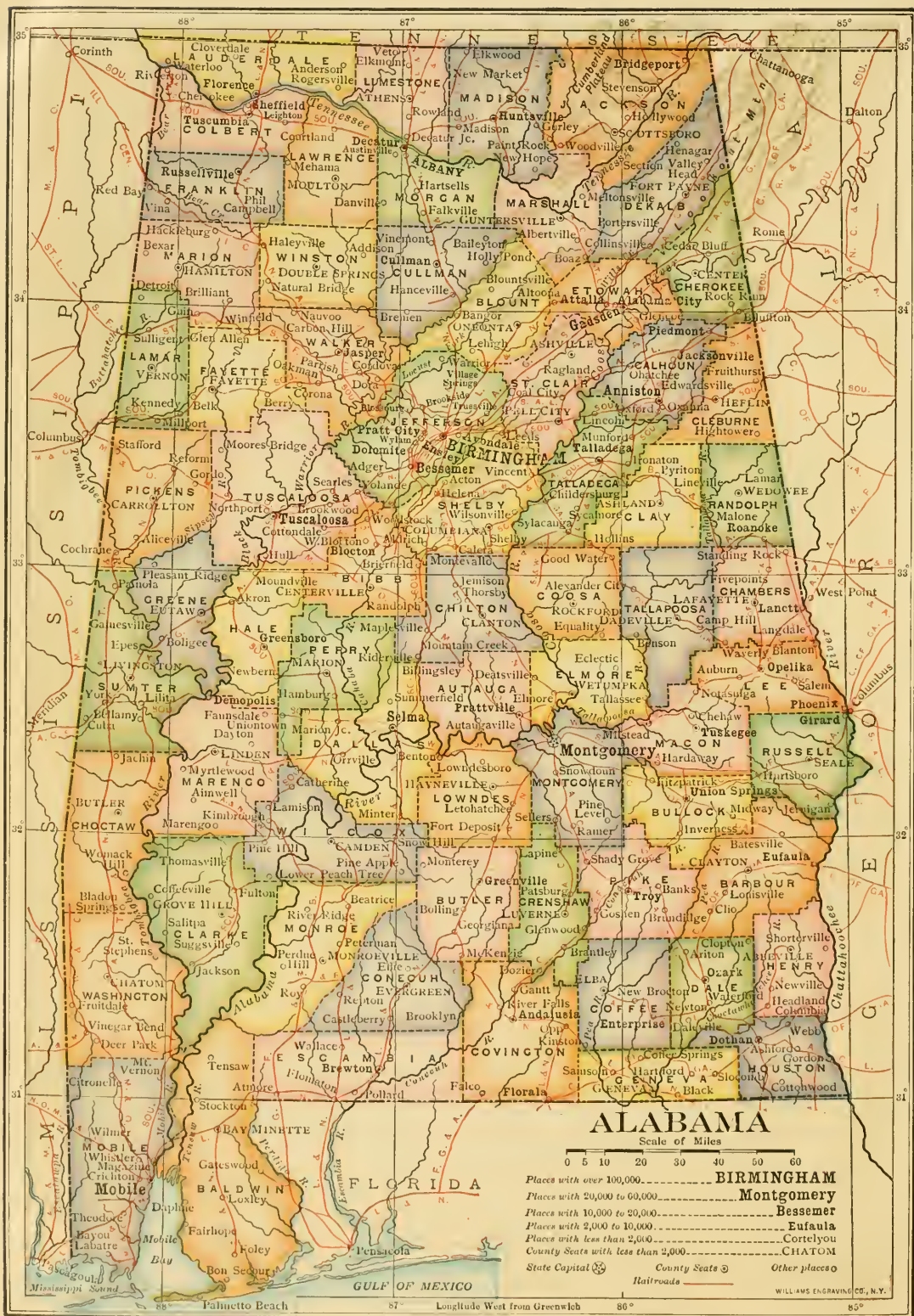


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ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT

By P. W. HODGES, DOTILAN, ALABAMA

I. General Facts

1. Name the states which touch Alabama. 2. Measure by the scale of miles as shown on the map the length of each of these boundaries. 3. Tell which of these places is farther north: Montgomery or Atlanta; Mobile or Savannah; Gadsden or Rome, Ga.; Tuscaloosa or Meridian, Miss.; Birmingham or Richmond, Va. 4. Measure from north to south the longest line on the map.

Alabama lies in what is called the eastern section of the Southern States. It is sepa-

Location and boundary rated from the Atlantic Ocean by Georgia on the east, while it touches the Gulf of Mexico on the south. The states which bound it are Tennessee on the north, Georgia on the east, Florida on the south, and Mississippi on the west.

Alabama is about the same in area as Louisiana, Arkansas, and North Carolina. **Size and extent** The area of each of these states is just about 50,000 square miles. The area of Alabama is 51,998 square miles. It measures 336 miles from north to south and 200 miles

from east to west at the points of greatest distances. About 720 square miles of the surface is water from Mobile Bay and other small arms of the Gulf of Mexico.

The number of people living in the state is over 2,000,000. Most of these belong to the **Population** white race, though many negroes live here. Many of the white people who live in Alabama were born here, and a great many have moved here from time to time from other states to make their homes.

II. Drainage

Alabama is well provided with rivers and streams to carry off the surplus water and keep the soil well drained. The rivers do more, however, than drain the state. They furnish drinking water for cities, water and power for mills, and a means of transportation.

The Tennessee is a large and important river of the state. It flows Tennessee from the northeast corner west- **River** ward across the state through a rich and

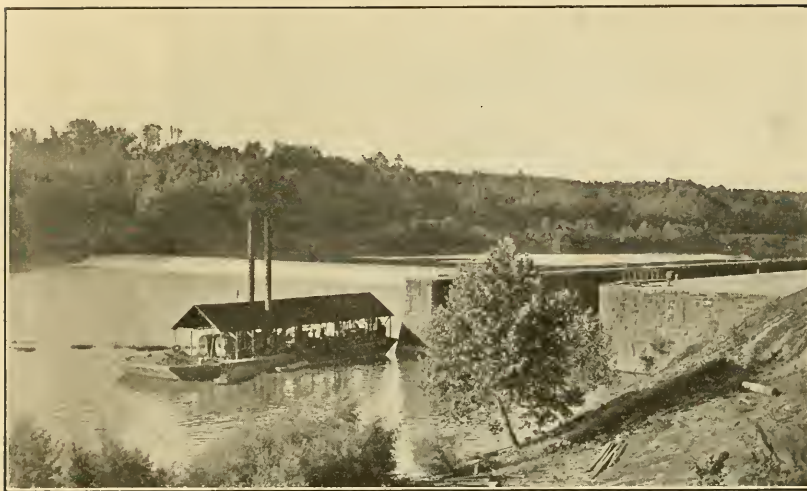


Big Spring, Tuscumbia, flows 18,500 gallons a minute.

beautiful valley. Along its banks are found many attractive and thriving towns.

The Alabama is formed by the junction of the Coosa and the Tallapoosa rivers not far from Montgomery. It flows Alabama through the central part of the **River** state in a southwestward direction and joins the Tombigbee forming the Mobile.

The Black Warrior, the Sipsey, and the Tombigbee furnish water power and a means of transportation **Other rivers** for an important part of the western



Lock and dam, Black Warrior River, Tuscaloosa.

section of the state. The Coosa supplies drainage, transportation, and power for a large part of the east central portion.

III. Surface

The surface of the state possesses three well-recognized divisions, viz.: the Mountain Section, the Black Belt, and the level southern section called the Coastal Plain.

The northern portion is broken by spurs of the Appalachian Mountains which, reaching in from the northeast corner, cross the state toward Mississippi and extend south toward the center of the state. On these mountains and ridges are found valuable timber and under them lie rich deposits of minerals. Between the mountains are beautiful and fertile valleys that produce abundant crops of all kinds of grains and fruits. This section is also noted for its wonderful springs that flow in great numbers from the sides of the mountains.

The southern part of the Mountain Section has been given the name Piedmont, meaning foot-of-the-mountain. Under the ridges and hills of this section lie immense coal beds and iron ore deposits.

South of the Mountain Section lies a belt of deep **Black Belt** fertile soil called the "Black Belt," on either side of which, north or south, are timber sections of pine and hardwood.

Below the Black Belt is the Coastal Plain, a **The coastal gently plain** rolling section on which, in the wooded areas, grow immense

forests of long-leaf pine, and other valuable timber. Some of the largest timber mills in the world have been built in this timber belt. In the cleared areas there are fertile farms on which a variety of crops are raised.

IV. Climate

The climate in Alabama is mild. In the northern part some snow falls in the winter, though south of Montgomery there live many grown men and **Snow and ice** women who have never seen snow. Ice and frost are not uncommon even in the southern portions of the state, though the weather gets very warm in summer even in the northern part, except on the mountains.

The rainfall for the whole state is ample to make good crops. It seldom happens that there is too much or too little **Rainfall** rain for a good harvest of all kinds of useful plants.

V. Animals and Birds

Although much of the timber has been cut from the land, there still are found in many portions of the state a variety of wild animals.

In the mountains and in the great forests of the southern portions of the state may yet be found a few bear and deer. In all portions of the state there is an abundance of squirrels, foxes, raccoons, opossums, and rabbits.

All parts of the state abound in game birds which are killed in large numbers for food.

Birds The commonest and most widely scattered is perhaps the quail. The wild turkey is a bird that is also common to all parts of Alabama. At certain seasons of the year, large droves of wild geese and wild ducks may be found on the streams of the state. The state is rich in the number and variety of birds that bring pleasure and profit to man in other ways than by furnishing him food. Among the song birds which abound in the state, the mocking bird is by far the most common and the most appreciated. Other birds of this type are the bluebird, the blackbird, the field lark and the yellowhammer.

VI. Industries

Productive soil and favorable climate with abundant rainfall combine to make agriculture the chief occupation of the people of the state. For a great many years cotton has been the main crop in all sections. The usefulness of this plant is well known to every boy and girl. The fiber is employed in making clothing for the people of every civilized country in the world. The seed is crushed to secure oil from which food for man is made. The hulls are used to make fertilizer and feed for cattle and hogs.

Corn is an important crop that is raised in large quantities in all sections of the state.

1. Cotton fiber and seed For many years the people raised cotton, which they sold to buy corn for themselves and their live stock. A few years ago the boll weevil destroyed

much of the cotton crop, so that the farmers had to raise some other crop. Corn was the most promising substitute. The crop was planted on all kinds of soil and a great harvest was gathered. Since that time it has not been necessary to bring corn into Alabama, and thousands of bushels have been sold in other states.

Peanuts is a crop that has become very valuable within the last few years. The southeastern section of the state is best suited to the growing of this crop. This plant furnishes fertilizer for the soil on which it is grown and provides hay and nuts for cattle and hogs. Many farmers fatten their hogs with no other feed than the peanuts in the field. A larger part of the peanut crop is harvested and carried to mills where the peanuts are crushed to secure oil for food.

The cultivation of the sweet potato, sugar cane, rice, wheat, and many kinds of vegetables and fruits receives attention in different portions of the state. The sweet potato is common to all sections for home use and it is grown in large quantities in central and southern Alabama for the markets. A fine quality of syrup is made from the sugar cane, which grows only in the central and southern portions. In the northern counties, syrup is made from the sorghum cane, which is cultivated for that purpose. The northern section of the state is adapted to the growing of wheat. Many farmers raise enough for home use, while some is sold. Rice is raised in small quantities on the lowlands, while berries and fruits of many kinds grow well all over the state. Castleberry in southern Alabama, and Cullman in northern Alabama ship to the large cities of the North many earloads of strawberries every year.

Another important and valuable agricultural industry is the raising of live stock. In former times, even the farmers of the state bought from

3. Peanuts

4. Other crops

5. Live stock

stores and markets most of the beef and pork which they used. The raising of corn and peanuts instead of cotton has made it possible for the farmers to grow cattle and hogs. They now raise all the live stock that may be needed to furnish meat for the people of the state and a great deal to send to other parts of the world. This industry is common to all parts of the state.

Mining is an important industry in the central and northern sections of the state.

into lumber, and iron into tools before these can be used in making homes and comforts for men. Manufacturing is growing as an industry in Alabama.

VII. Cities

The three largest cities in Alabama are Birmingham, Mobile, and Montgomery. Other important cities are Gadsden, Anniston, Bessemer, Albany, Decatur, Huntsville,



An iron foundry at Bessemer.

Coal and iron, the chief products of the mines, together with limestone quarried in the same neighborhood, furnish the material for the great steel industry that has grown up in this section, of which Birmingham is the center. Alabama ranks among the first states in the number of tons of both coal and iron that are mined every year.

In some sections of the state are found minerals and metals, such as gold, mica, and graphite, which may be produced in paying quantities.

By manufacturing we mean the making of the "raw" material into things that can be used. Cotton must be made into cloth, logs

Florence, Tuscaloosa, Selma, Talladega, Troy, and Dothan.

BIRMINGHAM is situated in north central Alabama in the rich coal, iron, and limestone region of the state. Abundance of these three essentials to the Birmingham manufacture of iron and steel has led to the establishment in recent years in this region of a great number of large iron and steel mills and manufacturing plants. Birmingham is the center of this industry. With the increase in industry has come a rapid increase in population. The rapid growth of the city from a small village in 1880 to one of the most important cities of the country in 1910 has caused the city to be named the "Magic City."

MOBILE, on Mobile Bay, is the oldest city in Alabama.

Mobile It was founded by the French in the year 1711. The streets are broad and beautiful. Many trees that are hundreds of years old shade its homes and its streets. The harbor is one of the best of the entire southern coast, and as a seaport it ranks among the most important in the country.

MONTGOMERY has a beautiful location on a bluff of the Alabama River in central Alabama. It is an important city in Alabama for the reason that it is the capital of the state and an important commercial city, with much railroad and steamboat trade. A large camp for the training of United States soldiers and a field for the training of aviators have recently been established in the vicinity.



A business street, Birmingham.

Just west of Montgomery on the Alabama River is

SELMA, the county seat of Selma Dallas County. It has a large trade in cotton, which is sent by river boats to Mobile.

TUSCALOOSA, on the Black Warrior River, is an important commercial and manufacturing place. Two important institutions, the University of Alabama and the Alabama Hospital for the Insane, are located here.



Bird's-eye view of Montgomery, the State Capitol in the distance.

ANNISTON has a beautiful location among the hills of northeast Alabama, in a region that abounds in timber, minerals, and farm products.

Anniston The people engage in the manufacture of different kinds of machinery, engines, boilers, pipes, lumber, and cotton goods. The Government of the United States has recently placed a camp here for the training of American soldiers.

Gadsden GADSDEN is an attractive and prosperous city among the mountains of northeast Alabama. On the mountains near by is found a supply of many kinds of useful timber. Under the surface of the same mountains is found a vast supply of iron ore. Steel wire, nails, tile, pipe, brick, and leather goods are manufactured.

Huntsville HUNTSVILLE, the largest town in the Tennessee Valley, is the center of a rich agricultural section. The

north central portion of the state. The mountain valleys surrounding it are rich in agricultural products and timber. **Talladega**

The mining of iron and the quarrying of marble are valuable industries for many of the people in the county and those near by.

Albany and Decatur ALBANY and DECATUR are important shipping and manufacturing cities located on the Tennessee River between Huntsville and Florence. Decatur is known in history for being the eastern end of the first railroad that was built in Alabama.

The road ran westward to Tusculumbia. Albany, formerly called New Decatur, has the immense shops of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. These shops give employment to hundreds of men.

Bessemer BESSEMER is in Jefferson County and is one of the most important of our cities. Its location among the coal and iron deposits makes it a leader in the manufacture of iron products.

Troy TROY is in Pike County about fifty miles southeast of Montgomery. It is both an agricultural and a manufacturing city. The raw material for the manufacturing is obtained from cotton, peanuts, and lumber.

Dothan DOTHAN, situated in the southeastern part of



Bridge and site of the nitrate plant near Florence.

manufacture of many kinds of cotton products is carried on here. The center of interest for many visitors to Huntsville is the Big Spring which supplies water for the people of the city. This city is one of the oldest in the state and was the capital for a short time in its early history.

Huntsville In the northeast corner of the state on the Tennessee River is the pretty little city of FLORENCE.

Florence, Sheffield and Tuscumbia Its people engage in the manufacture of woodenware, cotton goods, and iron products. It has extensive commerce by railroad and steamboat.

Sheffield and Tuscumbia SHEFFIELD and TUSCUMBIA are two thriving cities just across the river from Florence. A short time ago, the Government of the United States agreed to build a nitrate plant near these places to cost \$20,000,000.

Talladega TALLADEGA is a beautiful old city situated in the

the state in a rich and prosperous farming section, has a large wholesale and retail trade with several counties in that section of Alabama as well as with a number of counties and towns in Georgia and Florida. A system of graded roads brings much trade from the rural sections and three railroads furnish a means of trade with more distant places.

VIII. History

The first white man to place foot on Alabama soil was a Spaniard named De Soto. He came to Alabama with a party of about 1000 men in the year 1540. He was making a trip in an effort to find gold, about which he had heard on

a former visit to South America. On this journey De Soto and his companions crossed from the northeastern part of Alabama through the central part of the state to where Mobile now stands. Here took place one of the bloodiest battles of Indian warfare.

From Mobile De Soto turned northwest and continued his journey across the state. He found the country inhabited by tribes of Indians.

Years later the Indians were driven from Alabama by Andrew Jackson, who defeated them in many bloody battles. They gave up their claims to the land and were removed to territory farther west which had been given to them by the United States Government.

For nearly 200 years after De Soto's visit, the Indians held control of Alabama. In the year 1711, a Frenchman by the name of Bienville made a settlement at Mobile, which is the oldest town in the state. The territory was rapidly settled by white people. In the year 1817 Alabama was separated from Mississippi and in 1819 became a state of the United States.

From this history it can be seen that Alabama, as a state, is about 100 years old. Plans are being made to celebrate its 100th birthday by exercises in all of the schools.

Alabama has had five capitals in the order named: St. Stephens, Huntsville, Cahaba, Tuscaloosa, and Montgomery.

In the War between the States Alabama had an important part. Upon the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of

the United States, delegates in a meeting at Montgomery withdrew Alabama from the Union. Soon after that some representatives from six states of the South met in Montgomery and organized the Confederate States of America.

Jefferson Davis was inaugurated the first president of the Confederate States of America, and Montgomery was made the capital a short while afterwards. Some important battles were fought in Alabama,



The old State Capitol, Tuscaloosa.

and our state gave 120,000 men to the "Lost Cause."

IX. Government

The government of Alabama is a republic. By this we mean that the people elect the men who make the laws under which we live.

The laws are made by a body of men called the Legislature of Alabama. This Legislature consists of 106 men who compose the House of Representatives and 35 men who are known as the Senate. These men

The Legisla-
ture

meet in Montgomery every four years and pass laws for the people of the state.

The man who sees that the people obey the laws that have been made is called the Governor. He is elected once every four years by the votes of the people. He lives in Montgomery in a beautiful house called the Governor's Mansion. The office in which he attends to the business of enforcing the laws is in the State Capitol.

When the state is obliged to decide a question of law for people, or when a man does something that is against the laws passed by the Legislature, a trial is held before a court. The chief courts in Alabama are the supreme court with seven judges; the appellate court with five judges; and a number of circuit courts each with one or more judges. There are also smaller courts, such as the justice court and the probate court before which persons charged with small offenses may be tried.

Alabama has twelve members in the Congress of the United States. Ten of these are called Representatives and are elected once every two years by the voters of the districts in which the people live.

Each of the ten districts of Alabama has from five to nine counties in it. The other two representatives from Alabama are called Senators. These Senators are elected by the votes of the people of the entire state once every six years. The Congress of the United States meets every year to make laws for all

of the people and the representatives from Alabama are there to assist in the passage of laws for the good of the people of the state and country.

1. To what group of states does Alabama belong?
2. What is the area of Alabama?
3. About how many people live in the state?
4. What portion of Alabama is mountainous?
5. Name the important rivers of Alabama.
6. In what part of the state are minerals found?
7. What is meant by the "Black Belt"?
8. Describe the climate and rainfall of Alabama.
9. Name some of the wild animals of the state.
10. What are some of the best known game birds?
11. Name uses of the cotton plant.
12. Give three uses of peanuts.
13. What are the two most useful kinds of live stock raised in Alabama?
14. Name several kinds of plants that are cultivated for food in the state.
15. What are the two leading mineral products of Alabama?
16. Name and give uses for three other minerals found in Alabama.
17. What is meant by manufacturing?
18. Name and locate the three largest cities of Alabama.
19. At what two places in the state have camps for the training of soldiers been located?
20. State an important fact each about Tuscaloosa and Huntsville.
21. What important industry has recently been located near Florence?
22. Why are Decatur and Tuscumbia important in the history of the state?
23. Locate and briefly describe each of the following: Gadsden; Talladega; Albany; Bessemer; Troy; Dothan; Selma.
24. Who was the first white man to come to Alabama?
25. Describe his march through the state.
26. In what year will Alabama be one hundred years old as a state?
27. Name the places that have been capitals of Alabama.
28. What part did Alabama take in the War between the States?
29. By whom are the laws for the people of Alabama made?
30. What are the duties of the Governor?
31. What can you do to help in the good government of the state?

**Congress of
the United
States**

**Review
questions**

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