### THE GUILFORDIAN

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### EDITORIAL COMMENT

This is Progress.

The report of the census bureau Carolina shows that it has decreased from 18.5 per cent in 1910 to 3.1 per cent in 1920. The percentage of illiterate whites has decreased from 12.3 to 3.3; of illiterate negroes from 31.9 to 24.5 In other words, the fight against illiteracy in the state has been one-third won in 10 years. But this decade was also one of organization for the battle against ignorance. Only within the last few years could our organization have been described an anything like complete, and unquestionably its work has been more effective toward the close of the decade than it was in the beginning. Hence there is every reason to believe that the next census will show an even greater ratio of progress.

In other words, North Carolina at last has begun to realize what a terrific handicap is ignorance, and how hopeless it is for an ignorant people to attempt to compete in the modern world with the educated. And we want to compete successfully with the best. Hence the prodigious effort that has succeeded in cutting down illiteracy by one-third.

This is an effort that will mean more to the state than the labor that has raised her to third position in value of agricultural products, or that has made her output of manufactures more valuable than her farm products. Her material advance doubtless was necessary as a basis for her intellectual advance; both efforts went along together and supplemented each other. But the wealth that we create in material things would be a curse, rather than a blessing, if it were unattended by the creation of intellectual and spiritual wealth. The goods with which we dower the children of the state may be taken from them, but the mental training that we give them is theirs as long as they live, and the craving for intellectual food that we stimulate in them will be handed down to their the San Francisco fire, and greater heirs and assigns forever.

And what a destroyer of pessimism yet so far to go, has yet so much to do, before she can be brought abreast of the more advanced states of the union, that any thoughtful must have moments of depres sion when the task seems hopeless. Then along comes something like this report, to show how much ground we have already traversed, and one is compelled to abandon his pessimism for very shame.

There is a great deal the matter with North Carolina's educational, political, and economical system, but after all she is sound at the core. She may have a long distance to travel, but she is headed in the right total number of spinning cotton direction, and she is moving. All spindles, both active and, idle, is that is necessary is to keep her about 155,000,000.

going, and in due course of time she will arrive at the goal which her on illiteracy in the state of North most patriotic citizens would have

### SIX MILLIONS READY TO KILL

Aitive armies of the fourteen most important nations of the world today include approximately 6,000,000 men, according to figures obtained as reasonably correct. With the inclusion of land armaments in the agenda of the forthcoming conference limitation of armaments these are the figures with which it is expected the assembled commissioners will have to deal.

While China stands first among the nations in this summary of soldiers actally under arms about September 1, last being credited with 1,137,000 active troops. France is far ahead, among nations not distressed by civil strife, in the number of men with the colors. The French army strength is placed at 1,034,000 men, the Brittish Empire standing next with 740,000, and Germany last, with 100,000. The United States stands thirteenth, with 149,000 men in he regular army, exceeding only Germany, while Italy has 350,-000 and Japan 300,000 active troops.

Figures for other powers include, Russia, 580,000; Poland, 450,000; Greece, 255,000; Spain, 253,000 Switzerland, 170,000; Turkey, 152,000; Czecho-Slovakia, 150,000.

### OUR ANNUAL FIRE LOSS

The first ten days of October have been designated by various municipalities througout the country for the education of the public in means of fire prevention.

"Fire Prevention Week" never carries more significance, it is said, than it does this year. Statistics compiled by the National Fire Pro-Statistics tection Association show that last year's fire waste will run higher than \$500,000.000, a property loss nearly equal to that of 1906, the year of than any other year's total in the country's history. This loss, it is would have equaled amount needed to overcome the Russian famine.

### WORLD COTTON STATISTICS

The world's production of commercial cotton, exclusive of linters, grown in 1920 as compiled from published reports, documents and correspodence, was approximatly 18,-810,000 bales of 500 pounds net, while the consumption of cotton (exclusive of linters in the United States) for the year ending July 31, 1921, was approximately 15,-520,000 bales of 500 pounds net. The

Board realize that accounts of college activities and of daily happenings on the campus are not of very great interest to those who have been away from the college for a number of years. But this column which is reserved for Alumni notes each week, we should like to make of real interest to you, Alumni and old studwents of Guilford, but if this is to be done we must get in closer touch with each other. We have tried writing personal letters but so far this has not proved a very satisfactory method and it is evident that some other resort is necessary. We suppose that most of the classes are, or have been, organized, and we suggest that each secretary be asked to keep the Guilfordian informed concerning the members of his class. If your class is not organized do so as early as possible, and let us hear from you. We should also like to suggest to you, the members of the various classes, that you get in touch with the secretary of your class, or with the Guilfordian, and send us any information you are able to command about yourself, your work and your meetings with other Guilfordians, that your friends who are among our subscribers may feel that they are once more at least indirectly in touch with you. It is hard to send you word of your friends unless you respond to this appeal for news. Don't get too busy to write the Guilfordian, or your class secretary, a word of what you are doing. Deaths, births, marriages, business accomplishments -anything which you thing will be of interest to Guilfordian readers.

### MANY FAILURES IN OCTOBER

October failures reported by Bradtreets number 1,806, an increase of 17 per cent over those of September and the second largest number in any month since March, 1915. Insolvencies last month were nearly four times those of October, 1919. Liabilities aggregated \$47,722,293, 31 per cent above September's total, but smaller than in any preceding month back to November of last

The biggest increase came in the South, which had about two and onehalf times the failures and liabilities of October, 1920. In ten months of 1921 there have been 15,535 failures involving liabilities of \$591,105,741.

### WOMEN 21-YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

Census reports disclose that the total number of women 21 year's of age and over in the United States comprises 26,671,061 whites, 2,730,469 Negroes, 55257 Indians, 3,646 Chinese, 22,316 Japanese, and 401 wo-men of other races. Of the white women 21,100,793 were natives, and 5,570,268 were foreign born! and of the natives, 15,202,194 were of native parentage, 4,045,947 of foreign parentage, and 1,852,625 of mixed native and foreign parentage. The total number of female citizens, of all races, 26,759,952, comprised 23,-860,351 native and 2,899,601 foreign-born naturalized women.

### TAX BILL AMENDMENTS

revenue bill by the Senate has been increased by the introduction of a number of amendments proposed by the Democrats and representing the party's views. Among them is a proposal to reduce the higher brackets of the personal income tax from 65 per cent down to 52 per cent instead of down to 32 per cent, as provided in the bill reported in the Finance Committee. The 52 per cent rate would apply only to incomes in excess of \$500,000. on freight, passenger and Pullman rates, effective January 1, 1922. The of the American Expeditionary committees' bill retains these taxes Forces in eighteen months of war. during the next calendar year at half the present rates and on January 1, 1923 cuts them off altogether, There are several other proposals of minor importance.

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