

# FARM POPULATION IN STATE SHOWS A SUBSTANTIAL GAIN

### Federal Figures Show Increase of Nearly One Hundred Thousand in Past Ten Years. Former Governor Angus W. MacLean Reveals Interesting Figures on Back to Farm Movement.

Raleigh, N. C.—While the farm population of the United States as a whole has decreased more than a million in the last decade, farm population in North Carolina increased nearly 100,000, according to a statement made here Saturday by former Governor Angus W. MacLean. "The total number of farmers recorded in this state, according to the 1920 federal census, recently made public, was 1,289,918, whereas ten years ago it was 1,011,227. This is a decidedly healthy gain, considering conditions and the fact that only in states out of the 48 actually shows an increase during that period. Further, the gain was made in actual farm population, mostly, and not in the so-called rural non-farming population, although there was an increase of 191,492 in that classification, showing that there are more people leaving their homes in the country and working in the cities than previously.

These facts indicate that the movement from the cities and towns in North Carolina started prior to 1910. Since then there has been a substantial increase in the movement, if the number of farms that are being purchased is any indication. The sale of farms, however, is not altogether a guide to the movement from the towns and cities to the country, for many of the sales being made at the present time are to farmers who have desired that land as a bargain and so are purchasing additional acreage or farms. There is, of course, a natural increase in the number of farms being raised on the farms and becoming of farming age, and this increase in itself would do far toward accounting for the large number of individuals in farms in North Carolina compared with a decade ago.

Although the federal census figures recently released show a decline in farm population over a period of ten years, other census figures are more encouraging. For in 1920, a total of 1,142,000 persons left the towns and cities to farm—the largest movement of this kind since the government began to record such shifts in 1922. During the last year, the exodus from the farms was reported as only 151,000.

In the depressions of 1893 and 1895 many farmers bought farms in their neighborhoods. In some instances, the farmers selling remained on the farms as tenants. Later, in the prosperous times of 1897, many of the tenants were able to purchase farms. Many an investor in farms in the early nineties laid the basis of a handsome profit which he was able to realize upon in later years. In the present situation, we probably have a duplication of the conditions of 1893 and 1895. Land prices are relatively low for prices have declined probably in the neighborhood of 35 to 40 per cent. as compared with the peak figures immediately after the war, and, in some instances, in some localities, they are on a pre-war level. Thus, once more they are on a level which is attractive to the investor. While prices of farm products right now may preclude any expectation of great profit for some little time, it is evident that there are many people who once more regard farm ownership as a reliable source of income and are purchasing land.

In addition to the farmers who are buying land, many sales are made to city and town people. Many of these are former farmers or sons of farmers who quit farming a few years ago when jobs in the cities were plentiful and wages high, and who have come to the conclusion that there is more net gain over a series of years, on the average, in farming than in city occupations, even with farm commodity prices at low levels. On the farm they are assured of a living, good shelter and an opportunity to make much more. Those who are returning to the farms under present conditions should look around and get a vivid and lasting impression of the disaster which has been brought about by the formerly prevailing practice of specialization on a single crop without first making sure of a good living by raising food crops.

### WINSTON-SALEM MAN BERATES JUDGE AFTER LONG SENTENCE

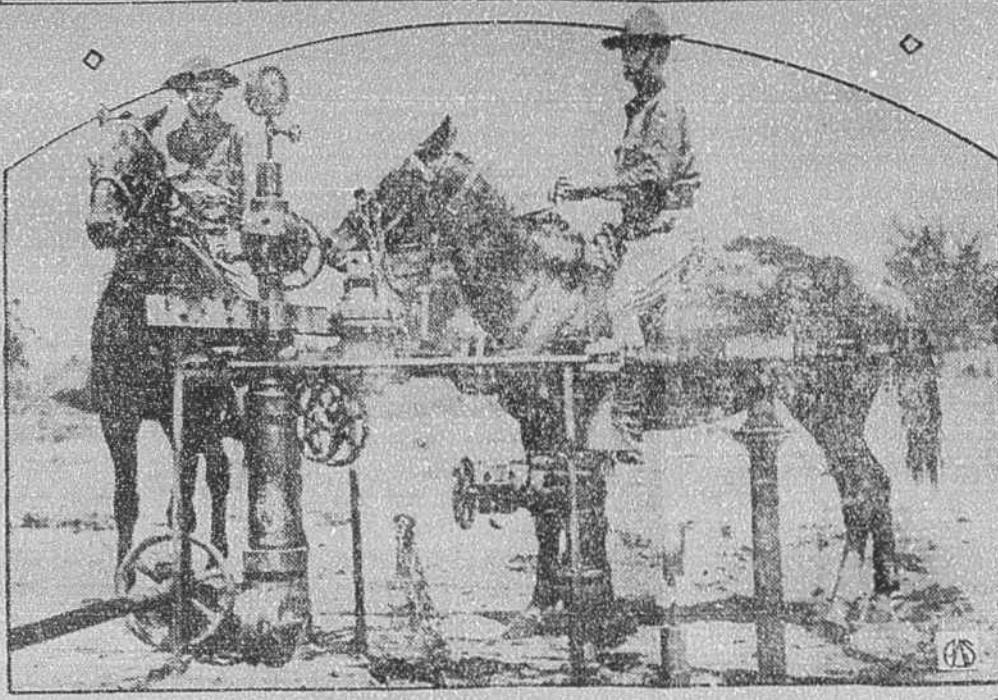
Winston-Salem, N. C.—Convicted of the second-degree murder of his wife, C. C. Cranfield, 33, was sentenced to serve 30 years in the State Prison late Friday in Forsyth Superior Court here.

As he was being led from the courtroom after Judge John H. Clement had given him the maximum sentence for murder in the second degree, Cranfield shouted to the judge, "Why didn't you make it 40?" Judge Clement did not comment.

Cranfield shot his wife to death at the home of Percy Newsom near here last month.

Testifying in his own behalf, Thursday, the defendant denied he intended to kill his spouse, stating that he was shooting at Percy Newsom with whom he had engaged in an argument a few minutes before the tragedy.

## Texas Rangers Padlock State's Oil Wells



In order to keep the price of oil up the Lone Star State has chained up the pumps on hundreds of oil wells and set its famous rangers to guard them.

### Heavy Laying Fowls Require Green Feed

Plenty of green feed for the flocks of hens going into lay this fall and winter will cut down the consumption of mash and grain and will form one of the most economical parts of the poultry ration.

"Green feed is valuable for its mineral and vitamin content as well as for its laxative effect with molasses," says N. W. Williams, poultryman at State College. "Our experiments at the college poultry plant indicate that laying hens having access to all the green feed they will consume will lay eggs with a more uniform shell texture, the yolks of the eggs are darker and the food value is increased. Sometimes there is occasional objection to dark yolk eggs, but the well-informed purchaser knows this is not a real objection."

Alfalfa and clovers make the best forage crop for laying hens, Mr. Williams notes. Ryegrass and grasses, such as the Kentucky blue grass, are related more, but it is necessary to have some kind of green feed for best egg production. The bulky forage helps in correcting certain types of intestinal disturbances as well as supplying the growth-producing vitamins.

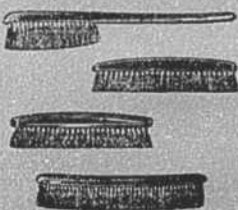
Mr. Williams says that climatic conditions are such in this State that there is no valid excuse for the poultryman failing to supply green feed during a greater part of the year. The triple-yarding system may be used for this purpose. One yard is seeded to permanent pasture, and the other two planted to temporary crops. For the permanent pasture, alfalfa and white clover are recommended and for the temporary grazing, eye grass and rape make rapid growth and are appetizing to the hens. If weather conditions are such that the birds cannot graze, the green feed should be cut and carried to low houses at the rate of four or five pounds to each hundred birds.

### 42-YEAR-OLD MULE DIES

Durham, N. C.—Kate, a 42-year-old mule, which for 37 years was in the service of Duke University, has just died. She survived by three years her harness mate, KIL, who shared her burdens for 28 years. For some months Kate has been pastured on the old Washington Duke homestead near here.

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### Negro Farmer Looks Two Seasons Ahead

Raleigh, N. C.—A North Carolina man whose work causes him to visit many farms both in this State and in Southern Virginia tells the following story:

"Recently a negro farmer, name W. D. Hicks, in Powhatan County, Virginia, was showing me the wonderful store of products he had canned for home use. I complimented him and asked, 'Do you do this every year?' 'Yes, boss, I does every year, he replied. 'An' it's what keeps me off o' the cross."

"His 'off o' the cross' was a term I had never heard before. I asked the old man what he meant by it. 'I means this here Red Cross. I didn't have to do a thing for me. At the other places, 'round here had to go on it last year,' he declared.

"As the drought destroyed all o' your crops, too, how'd you keep from having to get help from the Red Cross?" I inquired.

"It's this way, the old man explained. 'I learned long ago that the good Lord sometimes sends drought and sometimes sends flood. And 'count o' that, I always puts up foot for two years ahead. I had plenty last year from what I put up the year before and I'll put up enough this year to last me two years."

"I looked through his stores and found he had filled 350 glass containers, most of them of a half-gallon size each, with all kinds of fruits and vegetables. He was planning to put up much more and a lot of sausage before the year ends. I never take out the last can of anything 'til I have filled a new can with the same thing," he told me.

"He thus was kept 'off o' the cross," as he picturesquely phrased his escape from dependence on charity in 1930.

"I rather think that there's a lesson for white folks, particularly farmers, in that negro's experience."

### Prof. Edwin Greenlaw Passes at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, N. C.—Edwin Greenlaw, one of the most distinguished English scholars in America, and former dean of the graduate school at the University of North Carolina, died of a heart attack at his home here Thursday night after an illness lasting several months.

Professor Greenlaw was the author of a number of textbooks among the better known of which was "The Great Tradition." He was also a recognized authority on the life and literature of Edmund Spenser.

Professor Greenlaw was associated with the University until 1925 at which time he joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins. He came to North Carolina from Adelphi College in Brooklyn in 1913. He first served as head of the English department, later being made dean of the graduate school.

He had been in declining health for many months and had been in Hot Springs, Ark., in an effort to regain his strength, returning only recently to his home in Chapel Hill. His health was believed to have been considerably improved until the sudden heart attack Thursday.

### Clemency Strikes S. C. Murderer Speechless

Columbia, S. C.—News of executive clemency, brought to Luther Graham in a death cell at the State Penitentiary Friday, just 14 hours before he was to have been electrocuted, left the 28-year-old Horry County man temporarily speechless.

Graham's death sentence imposed for the slaying of Sam Singleton, his brother-in-law, was commuted to life imprisonment by Governor Ibra C. Blackwood on recommendations of the pardon board.

Shortly after Governor Blackwood had acted, Captain Olin Sanders, of

## From Our Early Files

Items from The Democrat of September 15, 1892

Treasurer W. E. Greene raised a tomato which weighed 18 ounces.

Mr. John S. Williams began school at Shulls Mills Monday.

Coffey Brothers of Boone cut and put up 185 stacks of hay this summer.

Captain E. F. Lovell and J. C. Fletcher have formed a co-partnership in the law. Mr. Fletcher is boarding at the Bryan house.

Mrs. N. M. Horton and Mr. Pat Cottrell of Caldwell are teaching a class in the National Garment Cutting System at the Bryan house.

Mr. L. L. Greene is making some improvements on the postoffice in Boone. He is fitting up a nice office in the store room of the building in which the office has been kept for the past three years. It is gratifying to know that Miss Nannie Hodges has been employed as clerk in the office.

On last Thursday on the lands of Mr. Bradley in Georges Gap of this

county, Harrison Lee, living on one side of the mountain, and a Mr. Featherston living on the other side, were both out squirrel hunting, neither one knowing his neighbor was in the woods. Lee saw a squirrel and started to shoot it, but the gun discharged itself before he got it in range with his game. When the gun fired Lee saw a man throw up his hands and fall from a large rock. He went to the man and discovered that he was shot in the back of the head, the wound causing almost immediate death. Lee ran to the nearest house and told of the circumstances and on investigation it was found to be Mr. Featherston who lives nearby. An inquest was held and the jury decided that the killing was purely accidental. Lee was arrested the next day and tried before Esq. Mast and Harbin, but no evidence disclosed any facts that Lee did the killing intentionally, and was released. Mr. Featherston formerly resided in Gaston County and was recently married in that county.

After exacting from Graham a promise that he would be a "good prisoner," Captain Sanders told him his sentence had been commuted.

The 28-year-old man twice attempted to speak, but no articulate sound came from his throat. After gulping and swallowing several times he finally said:

"Thank the good Lord; He spared me."

Automobile accidents took a record toll of 31,273 lives during last year.

### "I DESIRE TO DIE YOUNG," SUICIDE WRITES IN NOTE

New Orleans.—Austin Parker, 30-year-old bond salesman, was found shot to death, a pistol at his side, in his apartment here Saturday. Notes found in the apartment said he had "lived a hard life and a good one and I desired to die young," and requested that he be cremated and his ashes scattered over the fields of South Carolina.

Friends said he was a member of a socially prominent family of Greenville, S. C., where an estranged wife lived. He had resided here for several years.

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| 4.40-21 (29x4.40) | \$7.05 | 5.00-19 (29x5.00) | \$ 9.15 | 5.50-19 (29x5.50) | \$12.00 |
| 4.50-21 (30x4.50) | 7.85   | 5.00-20 (30x5.00) | 9.40    | 6.00-20 (32x6.00) | 13.50   |
| 4.75-19 (28x4.75) | 8.55   | 5.25-19 (29x5.25) | 10.80   | 6.00-21 (33x6.00) | 13.90   |

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