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### North Carolina A Corn Producing State.

In 1911, Chas. J. Parker, Jr., of Menola, N. C., raised 235.5 bushels of corn on one acre of land. Of this everybody was heard. But has everybody heard of the acre of land on which the corn was raised? In 1909 young Parker, then a member of the Boys' Corn Club, cultivated this same acre in corn, and made 67.5 bushels. The next year, his father, wishing to encourage a younger son, took the acre away from Charles and gave it to his brother. The younger son made 126.5 bushels. The next year, 1911, this same acre, remember, was given back to Charles and he made his record breaking yield on it of 235.5 bushels. And this record has not been broken by any member of the Boys' Corn Club anywhere in the whole country.

The record of the land owner is the truly remarkable thing about it. The ready response of our soil treatment is simply phenomenal. Four hundred and twenty-nine and five tenths bushels carefully measured corn from one acre of land in three years without any rotation staggers credulity. No one would believe it, were the figures not official. This is an average of more than 143 bushels each year. An acre of land brought up in three years from a yield of 67.5 bushels the first year to a yield of 235.5 bushels the last year. This need be no unusual experience with North Carolina lands. George West, Jr., of Lenoir County, who won the State-wide prize for largest yield of corn at least expense in the Boys' Corn Club contest of 1912, made his 184 bushels on an acre of land that he had been improving just three years. When he began on it it would have produced, in his judgement, not more than 25 bushels.

Improved North Carolina lands lose nothing by comparison with the naturally rich soils of some of the great grain growing States of the Northwest. Iowa, the greatest corn growing State in the Union, reported for her four highest yields in her Boys' Corn Club of 1912 the following yields: First, 141 bushels; second, 131; third, 128; fourth, 123. North Carolina the same year reported 184, 184, and 162 bushels respectively. The difference between the two highest yields is 47 bushels in favor of North Carolina. The difference between the sums of the four highest yields is 184 bushels in North Carolina's favor North Carolina is ahead of Iowa to the extent of young George West and his acre of corn. All the reports for 1914 are not yet in; but the corn growing State of Ohio reports for her highest yield in her Boys' Corn Clubs contest of this year only 143 bushels. Durham County reports 160 bushels. Just so much is Durham County's improved soils plus North Carolina climate a head of the rich glacial soils of Ohio for corn growing.

What incentive for soil improvement! Soil improvement is the fundamental problem of Southern agriculture. The climate is here. Make the soil. Then the South will become the greatest agricultural country in the world.—G. M. GARREN.

### DR. B. W. SPILMAN ILL.

Exposure on Trip to Baltimore Gives Severe Cold.

Kinston, Dec. 20.—Dr. B. W. Spilman, field secretary for Sunday school work of the Southern Baptist convention, is ill at his home on North Queen street here with what is said to be a severe cold. His sickness is not expected to develop to a worse stage, it is said today. Dr. Spilman was made ill by exposure when en route home from Baltimore to attend the funeral of his mother-in-law, the late Mrs. John A. Pollock.—News and Observer.

### The Stamp Act.

The Historical Stamp Plays a New Role.

If the government can raise millions of dollars to meet the deficit caused by the European war by the sale of stamps; if the government can run its great post office department by the sale of stamps, mostly the one and two cent kind; streetcar companies and the five and ten cent stores of Woolworth and Kress can grow rich on nickels, North Carolina can raise a sufficient sum to stamp out tuberculosis in her borders by the sale of Red Cross Christmas Seals.

The National Association for the study and prevention of Tuberculosis has placed on sale in the United States one hundred and fifteen million of these stamps to be sold at a cent a piece. This means that \$1,500,000 will be raised to fight tuberculosis, in case all the stamps are sold. North Carolina hopes to sell two million Seals and thereby raise \$20,000 for the fight.

Winston-Salem now leads in the sale, having placed a hundred thousand and given her order for fifty thousand more. A New Bern lady sold seven thousand in one day; a Hendersonville lady sold three thousand in one afternoon, while a lady in Southern Pines sold a thousand in one morning and drove to the Sanatorium in her automobile for three thousand more. The outlook for the largest sale North Carolina has ever had is bright and promising. "Despise not the day of little things." Buy your share of Red Cross Christmas Seals now.

### Recleaning Tobacco Seed.

In 1910, the Botany Division of the State Department of Agriculture began the cleaning of tobacco seed for the farmers of the State. That year we cleaned enough seed to plant about 300 acres in tobacco. The work has been gradually growing, however, until, during the winter and spring of 1914, we recleaned enough tobacco seed to plant over 43,000 acres.

The season for this work is on again and we want to advise the tobacco growers of the State to take advantage of this opportunity, at once, to get their seed cleaned free of charge, as the rush will be on a little later in the season and some will have to be returned uncleaned.

Let us have the tobacco seed at once, therefore, in order that we may serve you to the best advantage. Address the Division of Botany, State Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C., and put name and address of sender inside the package.

—Jas. L. Burgess,  
Agronomist & Botanist.

### Social Service Meeting.

Plans for State Meeting on Social Service for Next Month.

The executive committee of the North Carolina Conference for Social Service met in President Poe's office last night to formulate plans for the third annual meeting of the Conference. Plans were gotten under way to have several speakers of national reputation address the conference this year. These names will be given out as soon as the program is more nearly completed. The date of the meeting will be sometime during the latter part of January.

The matters of special importance to be considered will be the child labor question, prison reform and moonlight schools in North Carolina. The matter of moonlight schools has been taken up very successfully in Kentucky and they will no doubt also prove very successful in reducing North Carolina's adult illiteracy.

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### Build Now.

In the business world nothing is more certain than that periods of depression will be followed by periods of activity and advancing prices.

We have for some time been passing through a period of depression in which prices for nearly all manufactured products have been extremely low. Building work can be done to greater advantage at the present time at a much less cost than will be possible when the next burst of activity comes. At present men are seeking work. Manufacturers of lumber, bricks, cement, iron and steel and other building materials are hunting for customers, and hunting hard to find them. But the time will come when work will be hunting for the workers and when buyers of building materials will be hunting the manufacturers, and often paying a bonus or premium to get what they wish.

Construction work done in these periods of activity at high prices is costly, and often done in such a rush way as not to produce the best results. Construction work could now be done at great advantage and at a low cost. There are thousands of people throughout the country who intend to build dwellings or business houses, and who are abundantly able to finance construction work without embarrassment, but they are holding off merely on some "psychological" reason that they will wait for better times. The waiting may cost them money and many inconveniences. Far better would it be for men who intend to build and can do so, to do so now and thus during the period of depression get the benefit of low prices of lumber and materials, and at the same time help to improve the whole business situation by employing labor and buying materials.

Every contract let helps to brighten the business situation. Every contract withheld merely out of fear or lack of decision helps to becloud the business outlook and retard the coming of the sunshine. Build, and build now, should be the rule adopted by everybody who expects to build in the future and can build now.—Manufacturers' Record.

### Cotton and Tobacco Prosperity.

Pitt County, for instance, raises some 23,000 bales of cotton and 12,000,000 lbs. of tobacco, worth \$3,000,000 a year. Greenville handles, so they told us, about twenty million pounds of tobacco each season.

Unfortunately more than two million dollars of cotton and tobacco money go out of the county yearly for food and feed stuffs that the county does not raise.

Pitt is one of the twenty-three North Carolina counties having taxable wealth amounting to ten million dollars or more.

If the county could only just hold down even one-half of the cotton and tobacco wealth it produces every year, its taxable property would pass the twenty million mark in less than seven years.

The Wealth That Sticks  
On the other hand, the per capita wealth of Pitt County, town and country in 1913, on the basis of taxable property, was only \$303.

On the basis of total farm properties in the 1910 census, the country population alone was worth \$341—against \$560 in Alleghany County which raises no cotton and almost no tobacco.

Moreover, 30 per cent of the Pitt County farms in 1910 were mortgaged. The percent is nearly twice the State average of mortgaged farms!

The wealth that sticks is the wealth that counts.—News Letter.

The Sweet Potato State.

North Carolina leads the whole United States in the production of sweet potatoes. Our 1913 crop was 8,000,000 bushels.—News Letter.

### Failed to Send Child to School.

First Prosecution in Wake Schools For Violation Compulsory Attendance Law.

The first prosecution in the Wake county schools under the compulsory attendance law, occurred last Thursday afternoon when A. D. Atkins, a citizen of Swift Creek township, was tried for failing to put his nine-year old child in school. Mr. Atkins was found guilty and upon recommendation of the attendance officer, he was only taxed with the costs.

This law has been in force for over a year, and prosecutions have been made by the attendance officer of the Raleigh schools, but that was the first trial in the county. This case is of vital interest to the committeemen, and patrons of the schools of the county will no doubt be anxious to learn of its ending.

The defendant was prosecuted by Attendance Officer John Stephens of the Enterprise school, and the trial was before Durrell S. Franklin, justice of the peace, and by a jury of six men living in the township. After the conclusion of argument, the jury had the case only about five minutes, returning a verdict of guilty. It was then upon the recommendation of Officer Stephens that the defendant was let off with the payment of cost. Under the law, the attendance officer is entitled to a fee of 25 cents, but Mr. Stephens remitted his fee.—News and Observer.

### Impostors and Their Victims.

A "Divine Healer" was arrested and found guilty the other day in an Illinois city. There is nothing remarkable in that as fakers of all kinds are numerous and always will be so long as there are people gullible enough to accept their teachings and treatment as gospel truth and be willing to part with hard earned money. And that these "healers" make their calling pay is clear from the risks they take.

But the case of the latest "Professor" was suggestive for two things, one of which was that impostures are the more lucrative when given the flavor of religion. Such pious terms as "Dear Sister Christ," and "Your Brother in the Lord," have a magical effect in drawing money from simple-minded folks who innocently believe that anyone who uses cant words and assumes religious guises must necessarily be sincere.

The other noteworthy feature was that the "Divine Healer" has unbounded faith in the value of a beard. The more bushy and flowing the beard, the greater its value. It imparts an air of wisdom and experience. Fooled by one impostor they listen with undiminished credulity to the next one that comes along.

### WARNINGS.

Warnings against fire on Christmas holidays apply especially to stores, churches and bazaars. Fires in these are likely to occur unless proper precautions are taken; and they generally mean holocausts. Watch your decorations, gas jets! Watch smokers! Do not make the slightest change in electric wiring without consulting a competent electrical inspector. Many children are burned to death every year in America by fires at Christmas. A little precaution will prevent this.

### COTTON GINNED.

There were 3104 bales of cotton, counting round as half bales, ginned in Hertford County, from the crop of 1914 prior to December 1st, 1914, as compared with 2452 bales ginned prior to December 1st, 1913.

Very respectfully,  
A. T. Newcome,  
Special Agent.

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