

Cabarrus County Has Great Agricultural Wealth

With Growing Seasons of 218 Days, Most of Money Crops Can Be Raised Here

More and Better Feed is the Greatest Need to Improve and Extend the Livestock Industry Here.

(By R. D. GOODMAN, County Farm Agent)

Cabarrus County, located in the Piedmont Section of the West-central part of North Carolina contains 368 square miles, or 235,520 acres. The general surface features or topography of Cabarrus County consists of a series of gently rolling, inter-stream areas, which become more rolling, hilly and broken as the streams are approached, and the natural drainage is good with the principal water courses, Rocky River, Dutch and Irish Buffalo, and Cold Water Creeks, with their small feeders, flowing from North to South through the County, making a well watered and an ideal location for the growing of good live stock, as well as general farming. The climate of Cabarrus County is well suited in general to the successful production of the crops now grown, as well as live stock, as the average date of the last killing frost in the spring is April 1, and of the first in the fall November 4, giving a growing season for pasture and farm crops of 218 days, with a mean temperature for this period of 63°.

Crop Statistics.

As a bit of history it would probably be interesting to note that in 1860 Cabarrus County produced about 121,900 bushels of wheat, 398,000 bushels of corn, 3,000 bushels of oats, about 5,000 bushels of cotton, about 5,000 tons of hay, and 6,000 bushels of peas, a considerable number of bushels of sweet and Irish potatoes, some rye, a large number of live stock. Until 1880 there was practically no change in the production of crops other than the production of wheat had decreased to 84,000 bushels and cotton had increased to 7,500 bales. This condition continued until 1900 when the average size farm was 102 acres. The amount of cotton had increased to 8,000 bales and wheat to 127,000 bushels, while the production of corn had decreased to 284,000 bushels. It was during the period from 1800 to 1900 that agriculture began to be carried on upon a more scientific basis and a much greater variety of products were grown, and in 1907 when the U. S. Department of Agriculture decided to put on Farm Demonstration Work in North Carolina, and after looking over the State for counties that would cooperate with the Department; the following eight counties were chosen: Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union. Up to the present time the above initial list has continued to increase until 60 of the 100 counties in the State have farm demonstrators employed to assist the farmers in improving their soil, securing improved seed, growing a more standard product for market, growing more legumes, getting better live stock, and poultry and caring for same, as well as improving farm buildings and living conditions on the farm. The work was begun with A. H. Litaaker, Concord, Route 5, N. C., as the first county agent in 1907, and with the exception of about eight months the demonstration work has been used to help the farmer with his every day problems up to the present time.

Cotton.

At the present time cotton is the important money crop and may continue to remain such. However this will depend on the effort the farmer puts forth to fight the boll weevil. While it is well to grow this money crop, too much attention is being paid to it in proportion to other crops grown, and the present production of 12,000 bales on 20,464 acres could well be secured from a smaller acreage, thereby giving a larger acreage to other crops, providing a greater diversification and promoting more scientific methods of soil improvement. The principal variety of cotton grown for the past 10 years was 'Cook'; but since the experiment stations have been breeding up different varieties and testing them for the largest money value per acre and the quality and length of staple most desired by the manufacturer, there is being grown a considerable acreage of the following varieties, on the 21 different types of soil found in the county: Lightning Express, Webber, Edgecomb Cook, Cleveland and Mexican Big Boll. The last named has proven from tests to be the most desirable short staple cotton from the spinner's standpoint as well as the farmers', as the 'flat' will average a little better than an inch in length and the breaking strength of the fibre is the greatest of the short staple varieties. Lightning Express is being used with good results on late maturing soils as it is the earliest maturing variety that we have and it has a premium flat measuring 1.3-1.6 inches.

Corn.

Corn ranks next to cotton in importance and is grown in all parts of the county on practically every soil type. The ground seed type is the most popular, while a number of the farmers grow the flinty prolific varieties. The growing of corn and soy beans in the same row is a practice that is growing rapidly in popularity and giving the farmers good yields of corn and at the same time a first class legume to turn under for soil improvement without decreasing the yield of corn. While the average yield for the county is only 20 bushels per acre we have farmers averaging 40 and 50 bushels per acre on their farms and some yields of 100 bushels, proving that we can compete with the west in the growing of corn per acre as well as in quality if we build up our soils with more beans, peas, and clovers as well as stable manure. As a proof of the quality of corn that we can grow, a farmer just over the line in the county on our north exhibited at the National Corn Show at Chicago, Ill., last fall and won second prize at the largest corn show in the United States.

Wheat.

Wheat hasn't been making a profit to the farmer only when the following practice is used, either discing corn stalk land or pea or soy bean stubble and seeding then with a grain drill or the open furrow method between the cotton rows. While we have some farmers growing over 25 bushels per acre, our average yield is a little less than 10 bushels and if the cost of preparing the land isn't kept to a minimum there will be no profit in the crop for the farmer. The principal bearded varieties grown are Fulcaster and Marvelous, and the beardless, Leaps. The crop has been damaged considerably in the past by Red Rust, but the plant breeders are breeding a new beardless variety that is very resistant to the disease and after five years' testing are offering it to the public. So by the aid of the plant breeders we are hoping to increase our yield in the future.

Oats.

Oats is on the increase and the farmers are more interested in using better seed and treating them with Formalin to prevent smut. While Fulgum and Applier oats are the most popular varieties, we have a farmer who originated an oat that he named after the County—Cabarrus Prolific—that is giving good yields of grain, as well as a large yield of hay when sown with vetch. A great many of the farmers are growing oats and vetch for hay for their stock and find it a very profitable crop.

Rye.

Rye is becoming one of our money small grain crops as there is a great demand for it at home for early spring grazing as well as a cover crop and a greater demand for good seed in the strictly cotton belt to sow for a cover crop. The pedigreed strain of the Abruzzi Rye has practically replaced the old winter rye and practically doubled the yield of the latter, making it more profitable than wheat at present.

Legumes.

Of the legumes or soil building crops grown red clover is decidedly the leading one as to acres grown, however alsike and crimson clovers are increasing very rapidly and by another year there will be a good start made with Lespedeza, the legume that will grow on any kind of soil, as plans are being made to secure seed. As to summer legumes, cow peas have been the standby but the soy bean is rapidly replacing them as on the experiment stations as well as the farmers have been convinced that they will make about double the amount of hay per acre besides being richer in feeding value, and the seed is easier to gather with machinery than peas.

A small acreage of velvet beans for winter feeding of cattle and soil improvement is raised, though they are not very popular. The Mang Bean is just beginning to be grown in the county and is gaining rapid popularity as a summer legume, as to date it is claimed that no insect or soil disease has been found that decreases the yield.

Over 100 acres of alfalfa are grown in the county and where the soil has been properly prepared it has been a very profitable hay crop and some of the best farmers have cut a total of over five tons of cured hay per acre in four to five cuttings. One of the records kept this summer shows a plot sown last September to have been already cut six times with an average length of 20 inches per cutting, or a total length of ten feet, growth for hay the first season.

All of these legumes will be exhibited by the farmers at the County Fair and you are invited to be there with an exhibit of some farm product and also learn more about what your neighbor in another section of the county is growing.



R. D. GOODMAN
County Farm Agent

Bee Keeping.

Bee keeping offers a nice little side line of which a good man of the farmers are taking advantage. There are 2,290 hives, a good many of which are in standard hives. The keepers are using Italian Queens and producing a real good grade of honey, for which they find a ready market locally at a fair price.

Home Orchard.

The home orchard is being cared for and increased from year to year and the necessity of plenty of fruit for the farm family is being realized more and more. Our crop has been almost a failure this year due to the extremely late freeze in the spring and our fruit exhibit at the fair will be small compared to what it would have been had it not been for the freeze. Pruning and spraying are being fully recognized to be absolutely necessary in the growing of first class fruit. Cabarrus county has the honor of being the home of the noted "Tony" apple which has very few rivals when it comes to flavor and keeping qualities, and only two years ago it was introduced into the nurseries for the public as it had been propagated from sprouts for years from the old trees.

Dairy Cattle.

Considerably more of the fox grapes, as well as the muscadine family should be grown on every farm for home use, as they have proven to be easily grown all over the county. During the past year we have completed what we had in mind for a number of years, the cattle business of the county, that of having them all tested for tuberculosis under the federal and state government and we now belong to the accredited county list of about a dozen in the whole state. We think this is one of the greatest things ever done in the county for the advancement of the cattle industry, for no business can be built up without a solid healthy foundation. The next thing to be done for the growth of the cattle business is the growing of more and better feed as well as pastures, as we have too many pines and briars under fence and not enough good land seeded to cultivated grasses. We are not growing good cow peas, soy bean and clover hay to feed them well through the winter. One farmer in particular last year instead of keeping two cows as he had been doing, kept only one of the two and fed her all the soy bean hay that she would eat and then a little grain, and he tells me that the one he kept produced as much as the two had been producing on ordinary feed, which goes to prove that you can't cheat a dairy cow.

There are several small herds of registered cattle in the county with the Guernsey in the greatest number and the Jersey next, and a few Holsteins. As to beef cattle the Aberdeen Angus is practically the only registered breed raised.

We have a number of good dairy as well as beef bulls in the county and the best breeders are only using registered sires, and the cattle are being rapidly improved.

Hogs.

As to the swine industry of the county, practically all the farmers grow their own meat and lard and a few are raising hogs for market. Some of them are using corn and soy beans, others grass, clover and ground feed supplemented with tankage of fish meal, and some are trying out the self feeder and the dry lot. However, those using the green pastures with the dry feeds have been the most

successful financially. As to the breeds: we have a few real good breeders as well as feeders, for they go together. Berkshires are in the majority, with Poland-Chinas next, followed by Durocs, and a few Hampshires.

Poultry.

With the very definite effort that is being put forth by county agents, chambers of commerce and poultry organizations throughout the south, poultry is assumed to be one of our leading industries. At the present the farms of the county are closely dotted with small flocks of poultry bred well enough that one passing through will notice instead of mongrels, the predominating blood of some of the following breeds: Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, Wyandottes, as well as Leghorns and a few other breeds.

While the income from an individual hen is very small, if the total returns from the farm flock for the year were all sold at one time instead of weekly to buy supplies for the family, the return would compare very favorably with some of our other principal crops. Considerable interest is being taken throughout the state and instead of having to spend the night in a cedar tree using all their energy and skill keeping their balance on this kind of a perch, with the sleet and snow to keep them cool and the rain for leaning the house, while the moon and stars furnish light, all thought to be necessary by the nineteenth century farmer in order to keep down lice and mites and insure sanitation and health during the night while during the day she was permitted against her owners' will to gather the wasted grain from the feeding places of the larger animals with the addition of a little grass and worms in the spring, managed to exist and lay a few eggs and perpetuate her race; until she was admitted into society of the present century and modern houses are being built for the farm flock with only an open southern exposure, providing four square feet of floor space per hen, covered with litter in which she can scrawl, for her grain regardless of the weather outside, with 9 inches of roost space on a piece of timber sawed for that purpose, access to self feeders containing the proper feeds to produce eggs, with plenty of fresh water and lime-stone manure a package in which to market the product which man has not improved on, this little hen is supplying many farm families, as well as the product for which hotels and boarding houses pay out the largest amount, as well as making a nice income for the poultryman that keeps them by the 500 and 1,000.

This fall they will have the privilege of being shown in a nice new building at the county fair October 16 to 20, where you can come and see a number of different breeds. Any one being from Missouri in regard to any statement in this article, will do the writer a favor by coming to the fair or going over the county with him and seeing the improvements for himself.

Concord Furniture Co. Large Concern

The Concord Furniture Company, presents an unbroken history of successful trading. Established in 1909 it came under the present ownership in 1913 when C. B. Wagoner, president; A. B. Davis, vice president and J. E. Davis, secretary-treasurer and manager, formed the Concord Furniture Company, Inc., and bought out the business of Royall and Borden. A stock of about \$65,000 is carried with an annual turnover of about \$75,000 a year. A fine brick building at 4-6 South Union street provides ample show rooms 40x115 feet, of two stories and a basement. They are exclusive dealers for Buck's stoves and ranges, Globe-Wernicke office equipment and book cases and carry a full line of general furniture. Ten employees, of whom eight are salespeople, comprise the staff. Three trucks are required to keep up with deliveries. C. B. Wagoner, the president, is one of the best known business men in the Piedmont Section, being president of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company. A. B. Davis was born in Wayne county, and he has been in the furniture business all his life. He attends the Central Methodist Church and is a member of the Junior Order of Pythias. He is married with one child and takes an active part in the business. J. E. Davis for 20 years was manager of Royall and Borden here and has been in the furniture business all his life. He is an active member of the Central Methodist church being superintendent of the Sunday school and a member of the Board of stewards. He is in the Junior Order of American Mechanics, a Woodman of the World and a Knight of Pythias. He is married with three children.

To have attained the age of 71 without ever having travelled on a steamer before, or in fact without journeying a greater distance than 15 miles from her home, is the unique distinction of Mrs. Simon C. Cokum, who, with her 75-year-old husband, has left her home in Yarmouth, N. C., to spend the winter with their son on his ranch in California.

The great cathedral of Cologne is represented on a new stamp issued by Germany, and having a value of 10,000 marks. Two of these stamps are required for domestic postage and six for foreign postage.

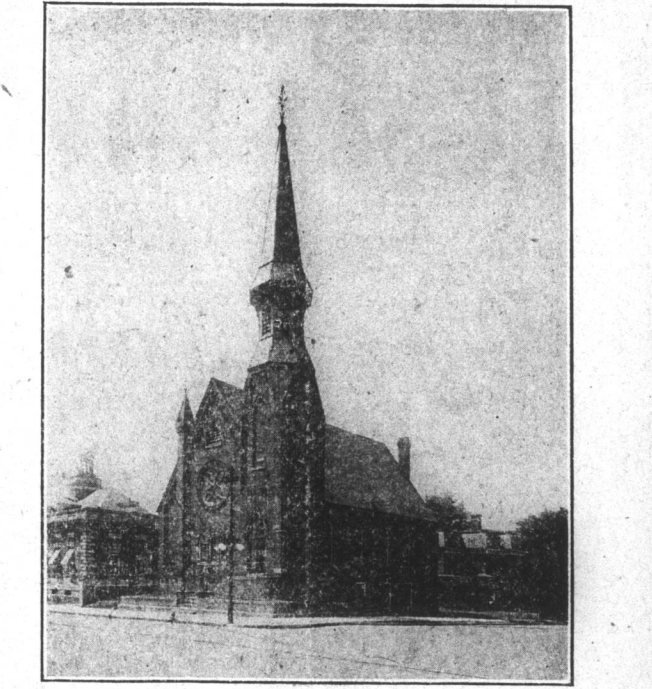
Religious Life of City Reflected In The Fine Churches and Attendance

Growth of Christian Life Has Kept Pace With Development of the City and the County.

(By REV. L. A. THOMAS.)

In estimating the things that enter into the making of a community one must necessarily take into consideration its religious atmosphere. This, after all is the true guide of any development. The increasing of the population indicates the value of the place to live and transact business. This is one of the best signs of real life. There are few towns that do not have a desire to grow, and to have institutions and business firms established among them. The prosperity of a town is an indication of the thrift of the people, and probably certain natural conditions that aid in this direction. But there is a progress that is possible for every town and community, but is not taken advantage of by every one that easily could. And that is the religious life and consciousness in this Concord has always been conservative but has kept steady pace with her other developments. The religious life of this town will compare most favorably with that of any other, either in or out of the state. If the religion of Concord could be measured by the number of churches and her loyalty to them then here can be no loss by comparison.

As an indication of the external growth of the religious forces of the town, fifty years ago there were four churches with a membership of less than 100. Now we have eighteen white, and seven colored churches. The white membership is a little more than four thousand, with a Sunday school enrollment of three thousand and eight hundred. In looking at the development we find that the religious growth has more than kept up with the numerical and material growth of the town. If this be an indication of the spiritual increase, then Concord has a most excellent record. Neither do we suffer in comparison in



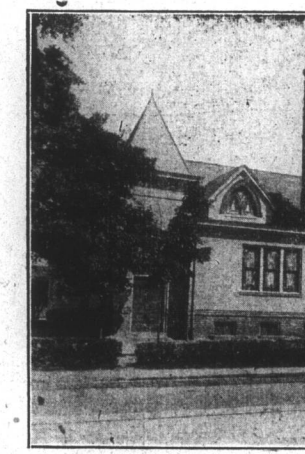
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONCORD, N. C.

locate and putting up a splendid new church. The Central Methodist Church possesses one of the most beautiful locations that can be found in any community and has a well appointed house of worship. St. James Lutheran Church

dedicate their remodeled church and Sunday School building on September 30. The Epworth Methodist Church has recently dedicated their new church on Depot street. This is but an evidence of the interest that the people of Concord are taking in that part of their life that will eventually tell in the whole fabric of the community life.

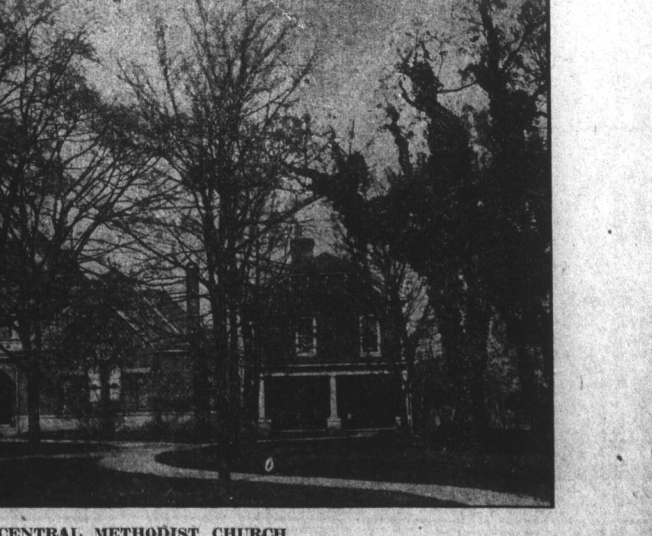
But there is something that is more durable and even more in evidence than these beautiful houses of worship. This is found in the splendid character of the people of Concord. With a population made up more or less of the citizens of this county and state, she has never been flooded with an element that has no interest in the religious development of the town. Therefore her religious life has never been disturbed with beliefs that disrupt the spirit and life of the people. The ideal of Concord has been to make this town a place so that it will make its own appeal to the better class of people. The ideal has always been to make this a place where parents may bring their families and feel that they are getting the very best that can be gotten anywhere. This has been to a large extent realized through the wonderful progress that has been made in her religious life. These forces have said that the town must be made as dry as a town can be made and to this end they have labored and the results of the efforts are evident. They have been back of every effort for a better school equipment and higher standard school system. You need only to compare the schools of Concord with those of any other town to see how well

(Continued on Page Thirty One.)



EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH, CONCORD, N. C.

the beauty and churchliness of our places must either enlarge or rebuild. Calvary Lutheran Church is just now completing a new church on Buffalo street. Like



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH