

Carolina and finds conditions satisfactory will become an immigration agent. He will write to his relatives and friends, telling them what he is doing, and will often attract additional settlers. There are localities in the Southeastern States where the location of a single settler has been followed by a succession of others from his former home. I have in mind a locality in Mississippi where a farmer from Illinois located some years ago. He has been highly successful and has kept the people at his former home informed as to what he has been doing, with the consequence that several families have followed him.

Therefore, if your solicitation of farm settlers results in locating only a few during the first year or two of the work, you should not be discouraged, for each one of them will almost inevitably attract others. In fact, I believe that one of the most effective ways of soliciting immigration is through the co-operation of those who are first located. You already have in Western North Carolina men from other parts of the United States. I have no doubt that many of them could give you the names and addresses of friends in their former homes who would probably be interested in this region, and toward whom your work of solicitation might be directed with prospects of success. In many cases those who are already here will doubtless be glad to supplement your efforts by writing personal letters.

Among the agencies which will be effective in the building up of this region we should not overlook the annual religious gatherings which are becoming an important feature of summer life in Western North Carolina, such as the great Methodist Chautauqua at your own town, the gatherings of Presbyterians at Montreat, and of Baptists at Ridgecrest. As I understand the plans for the Methodist Chautauqua at this place it is not to be, in any sense, a local affair, but is to be Church-wide in its extent. When the broad plans for the improvement of the grounds and the erection of buildings have been carried out, it will be one of the most complete and extensive institutions of the kind in the United States, and I feel sure that it will draw many thousands of visitors annually. The immediate effect of these assemblies is to bring to this locality large numbers of a desirable class of people who might possibly not come otherwise, increasing the business of your merchants, affording a broader market for your fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and other food supplies, and enlarging the opportunities for employment. But these assemblies have broader and more far-reaching results. Their educational and moral influences are widely disseminated throughout our entire section. In addition to all this they are, I believe, effective agencies for spreading abroad the fame of this region and among those who will attend there may be some one who may become permanent residents.

In your work for the further development of this region you have advantages in that it is already widely and favorably known, and in that a splendid beginning has already been made. This may best be measured by your increase in population. The census figures for the eight mountain counties in Western North Carolina traversed by the lines of the Southern Railway show a total population in 1910 to 151,940 as compared with 79,920 in 1880—an increase of 90.1 per cent. Allowing for the growth since 1910 it is safe to say that the population of these counties to-day is more than twice that of 1880. Your own thriving city of Waynesville has grown in population from 455 in 1890

to 2,008 in 1910, an increase of 341 per cent in twenty years.

Such exact figures as to agriculture and industries are not available, but it is a matter of common knowledge to all those acquainted with this region that there has been a material advance in agriculture and that by far the greater part of its industrial development has taken place since 1880. If these results have been accomplished without any systematic and comprehensive campaign such as is now being carried on, may we not expect still greater progress in the future?

It shall continue to be the policy of the Railway Company that I have the honor to represent to co-operate as effectively as possible with the Greater Western North Carolina Association and with every other agency working for the upbuilding of this region.

As the members of the Waynesville Board of Trade already know we are exerting ourselves to secure the establishment of industries and the location of settlers in Western North Carolina and to bring a larger number of tourists to your resorts. We believe, however, that, outside of the location of industries and the bringing in of immigration there is a great field in which our Railway Company may properly co-operate for the development of greater prosperity in the territory traversed by its lines.

There is probably no other section in the United States where there are better opportunities for progressive agriculture than in the Southeast. Climatic and soil conditions are favorable for the widest diversification in farming and for substantially increasing the average yield of farm crops. There is no one thing, in my opinion, that would go so far in the direction of increasing the prosperity, not only of our farmers, but of all the people of the Southeast, as an increase in the volume of agricultural products through building up soil productivity and increasing the average yield per acre.

The management of the Southern Railway Company is so thoroughly convinced of the importance of this kind of agricultural development that we now have in course of organization a comprehensive Department of Farm Improvement Work, which will co-operate with State Commissioners of Agriculture, State Agricultural Colleges, and the United States Agricultural Department. I can assure you that, in planning the details of this work throughout the territory traversed by our lines, we shall not overlook Western North Carolina.

The special advantages of this region for the growing of fruits and vegetables of various kinds have been demonstrated by the results already obtained. In addition to the work for general agriculture to be done by our Department of Farm Improvement Work in this locality, we shall continue our special efforts for the development of your fruit and vegetable industries. In this connection I may say that, in my opinion, the organization of the Haywood County Fruit Exchange is a step in the right direction. Such an organization can be beneficial in many ways. It can advise as to the best cultural methods, encourage the growing of the most profitable varieties, give instructions as to proper methods of packing for shipment, investigate market opportunities and aid in other ways in the development of the industry. Its work will tend to establish a reputation for the products of its members and, by making this locality more widely known as a fruit-growing region, will attract to it those whose are looking for opportunities in this line. The mere fact that you have such an organization is a good advertisement. It is notice to the world that the industry in your county is established and thriving.

In addition to your opportunities for agriculture and manufacturing, you have a region with splendid scenic attractions, with a climate which, at all seasons of the year, invites to out-door work and out-door sports. It is a region of far-famed healthfulness in which nature has lavished conditions which combine to make it an ideal locality for human habitation. With all your advantages, I am convinced that this region will reap the full benefit of the general interest that is being awakened in our Southeastern section and that we may date from the present year a movement that will grow in volume as it progresses and that will bring increased population and material prosperity to Western North Carolina.

Overpowering.—"Is your gwine ter let dat mewel do as he please?" asked Uncle Ephraim's wife. "Wha's you' will power?"

"My will power's all right," he answered. "You jest want ter come out hyar an' measure dis here mewel's won't power."—Christian Register.

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Schedule in effect March 3rd.

N. B.—The following schedule figures are published as information only and are not guaranteed:

Trains Leave Raleigh—

- 9:15 p. m. Daily—"Night Express," Pullman Sleeping Car for Norfolk.
- 6:00 a. m. Daily—For Wilson, Washington, and Norfolk—Broiler Parlor Car Service between Raleigh and Norfolk.
- 6:00 a. m.—Daily, except Sunday, Sunday, for New Bern, via Chocowinity. Parlor Car Service.
- 2:40 a. m.—Daily, except Sunday, for Washington.

Trains Arrive Raleigh—

- 7:20 a. m. Daily—11:20 a. m. daily, except Sunday, and 8:30 p. m., daily Buffet Parlor Car Service on 8:30 p. m. train from Norfolk.

Trains Leave Goldsboro.

- 10:15 p. m.—Daily—"Night Express"—Pullman Sleeping Car for Norfolk via New Bern.
- 7:10 a. m.—Daily for Beaufort and Norfolk. Parlor Car between Washington and Norfolk.
- 3:10 p. m.—Daily for New Bern, Oriental and Beaufort. Parlor Car Service.

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