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NORTH CAROLINA FORGES AHEAD IN LONG STRIDES

North Carolina Second in Manufacture of Cotton Fabrics—Fifth in Agricultural Products.

(By W. P. LAWRENCE)

Last Sunday's (December 9) *New York Tribune* carried two sections of the paper in pictures of the industrial progress of the Carolinas—mainly North Carolina—and also an article in the fourth section written by Mr. Harry F. Baker, of the *Tribune* staff wherein he makes the North Carolinian see himself, industrially at least, as others see him. Such splendid showing as is given in this particular edition of this great metropolitan daily will tend to turn the eyes of the nation to the Old North State and its forging-ahead industrial life in a new light.

Another luminous article dealing with the educational and industrial life of North Carolina appears in the *American Review of Reviews* for December 1923. This article was written by Mr. William H. Richardson, private secretary to the Governor of North Carolina. Mr. Richardson is a lawyer and is also a trained newspaper correspondent. It is said that not only his own splendid gifts produced this excellent, fittingly illustrated article in the *Reviews of Reviews* but that he had the sympathetic co-operation also of Mr. Albert Shaw, the editor-in-chief of that magazine.

Below is a quotation from the *New York Tribune* article cited above. The entire article is surcharged with information even for Carolinians. Mr. Baker, the author of it, was on the scene and got first-hand information before writing. What he says, therefore, is trustworthy: "Observers are prone to differ widely over the advantages that the South offers as a textile center in comparison with the North. The nearness to the cotton fields themselves is scouted as an advantage. Labor conditions possibly may be better. The one thing upon which both Northerners and Southerners in the trade seem agreed upon is that the Southern mills, being mostly of recent establishments, have more efficient machinery with which to operate.

"Any discussion of the South as opposed to the North as a textile center opens up a wide field of argument into which sentiment and bitter feelings often are injected.

"Leaving aside the arguments, the fact remains that the total value of the annual output of the textile industries in North and South Carolina is now approximately \$1,255,315,000. North Carolina alone holds second place in all states of the Union in the amount of its production of cotton goods.

"Industrial growth may be measured fairly closely by bank deposits. Combined bank deposits in North and South Carolina have reached \$528,375,285, a gain of 64 per cent over 1918.

"Also illustrative of the rapid industrial growth in this section of the South is the fact that the number of textile mills within a 100 mile radius of Charlotte, N. C., grew from 150, twenty-five years ago to 770 this year, operating a total of more than 10,000,000 spindles. This growth has been duplicated in Greensboro and other textile centers in the district. The industrial growth of Charlotte, alone is reflected in an increase in population from 46,000 in 1920 to 65,000 in 1923.

"In order to further aid in the development of North Carolina, citizens of the three cities of Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point have worked out a plan or co-operative development to be applied to their cities and the territory surrounding them to be known as the Industrial Triangle of North Carolina. An imaginary line has been drawn in a circle with a 70 mile radius and this triangle as the center. Within this circle, it is said, production of all the factories amounted to \$305,000,000 in the year 1922. The government census for 1909 gave the production of factories in this section as \$27,000,000. Similar statistics are quoted for specific industries, for bank deposits, express and post office receipts and other barometrics, from which the general conclusion is drawn that this section is one of the most rapidly growing, industrially, in the country."

For half a century North Carolina has had one hand shackled with poverty and the other with illiteracy, but such facts as are published to the world in the two articles cited above indicate the State's mind to break away from both of these shackles and be free. The magazine article contains the statement that the problem of adult illiteracy for a long time challenged the best thought of educational leaders, but it has been met with marked success through the establishment of schools in industrial centers and in many rural districts throughout the State. Miss Elizabeth Kelly, supervisor, tells of one woman who learned to read and write after she was seventy years old. The incentive that prompted her was a desire to read the Bible. These schools have a total enrollment of over 12,000.

A brief space, such as is allotted here, does not serve to do more than cite the reader to the articles that prompted these notes, but it is evident from the quotation just given and from this further statement of Mr. Richardson's, that Mr. A. T. Allen, superintendent of public instruction in the State, presides over the expenditure of \$23,000,000 annually for free education throughout the State. It is evident that the State means to break the shackles of illiteracy. Too, with freedom from illiteracy will come a larger freedom from the shackles of poverty.

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Mrs. Paul S. Kennett delightfully entertained the Nevele Club at her home Tuesday evening. Each member carried fancy work and spent the evening sewing. The hostess served vegetable salad, salt wafers and fruit punch before the guests departed. Mrs. Alice Corboy invited the club to meet with her at the Ladies' Hall after Christmas.

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