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GOV. CARR ON THE WEALTH OF THE OLD NORTH STATE.

North Carolina, one of the original thirteen States that formed the American Union, is situated on the Atlantic seaboard between 33 deg. 50 min. and 36 deg. 33 min. north latitude, and between 75 deg. 27 min. and 74 deg. 20 min. west longitude. It stretches 500 miles east and west, across the entire breadth of the Atlantic slope of the Appalachians in a long, narrow, rudely triangular belt, its western extremity, less than twenty miles wide, resting on the highest plateau and summits of that continental system of mountains, while its eastern end spreads out to a breadth of 200 hundred miles in a low, level, and gently undulating plain on the Atlantic coast, with a curving shore line of more than 300 miles. Its area is 52,280 square miles, of which 3020 are covered by water; and of the land area more than one-half is still forest covered.

The State may be easily divided into four distinctive regions: The western, or mountain region, extending from the Tennessee line on the west to the Blue Ridge; the Piedmont, extending from the foothills of the Blue Ridge eastward to about the Piedmont Air Line railroad; the midland region, lying between the Piedmont on the west and the Seaboard Air Line railroad on the east, and the eastern region, extending from the latter line eastward to the Atlantic.

The western section is a rugged mountainous plateau; it forms a narrow, irregular, much indented trough, lying between the chains of the Smoky mountains and the Blue Ridge—the former being the western boundary of the State. The length of this plateau from northeast to southwest is more than 200 miles, its breadth 15 to 50 miles, and its area nearly 6,000 square miles. The Smoky chain has a general elevation of from 5,000 to 6,000 feet, rising in many summits to 6,500 feet and upwards. The Blue Ridge, which constitutes the eastern boundary of the plateau, is a very sinuous and angular and straggling mountain chain, with a general elevation of from 3,000 to 4,000 and upwards, a few of its higher summits, about midway in the State, reaching nearly 6,000 feet. These two bounding chains are connected by a north and south cross-chain of equal elevation with themselves or greater, and separated by deep valleys. On one of these cross chains, called the Black Mountains, is Mitchell's Peak, the highest point east of the Mississippi, its altitude being 6,711 feet (400 feet above Mount Washington in New Hampshire).

The Piedmont plateau has along its western margin an altitude of from 1,200 to 1,500 feet above sea-level, and is mountainous, with high and precipitous spurs projected eastward and southward from the Blue Ridge. A few of these extend in irregular straggling ranges across the breadth of the Piedmont Section, which is 60 or 75 miles wide, and carries an elevation of 1,000 feet to near its eastern margin.

The middle region of the State is a country of hills and valleys and rolling uplands, its prominent topographical features being a succession of broad undulations with eastward or southward trends, constituting the watershed between a number of large rivers, which take their rise in the Piedmont or on the flanks of the Blue Ridge and reach the Atlantic through a system of wide valleys 300 to 500 feet below the intervening divides. The area of this region is about 20,000 square miles; its altitudes, descending gradually from 1,000 feet on the west to about 200 feet on the east, averages about 450 feet.

Eastward, to the sea, lies a region 100 to 120 miles wide and 20,000 square miles in area. The surface is generally quite level, but in places undulating and hilly towards the western border, especially near the largest rivers. Towards the coast it is diversified by numerous and extensive sounds, bays, rivers, lakes, marshes, swamps, and inland from Hatteras and the eastern shore being less than 20 feet above the sea-level. The sea is separated from this low-lying territory by a long narrow chain of sand banks or dunes, ranging from 10 to 100 feet and upwards in height and separated in half a score of places by inlets which connect the sounds with

THE CLIMATE.

The diversity of climate which exists in North Carolina is a natural accompaniment of the diversity of physical features just described, and is well illustrated by the variations in forest and flora mentioned below. Dividing the State into three general climatic regions, we have the following average temperatures for the year: Eastern region, 60.7 degrees; central region, 59.5 degrees; western region, 55.0 degrees. The general average temperature entire State is 59.0 degrees; while the yearly average for the whole Northern Hemisphere is 59.5 degrees, thus showing that while we have diversity of climate, we have also a general average annual temperature and one free from extremes. In only a few localities of the State does the thermometer ever fall below zero even in cold winters, and it rarely rises even in the central counties, which are the warmest, above 100 degrees in minimum. The climate of Eastern North Carolina is often said to resemble that of Southern France and Italy, while that of Western North Carolina resembles that of Northern France and Belgium.

The average annual rainfall (including rain, snow, and sleet) is 53.29 inches; while that for the three general regions is as follows: For the eastern region, 55.23 inches; central counties, 49.04 inches, and for the western region, 53.32 inches. This precipitation is divided nearly uniformly through the different seasons, with a slightly greater amount during the summer, and less in the autumn. Notwithstanding this large amount of rainfall, the humidity tables show that the climate is as dry as that of France and other countries having a similar rainfall.

This dryness of our atmosphere, especially in the midland and western counties, is found to be decidedly favorable to the prevention and recovery from consumption and similar disorders which develop in more rigorous climates. And as this fact becomes more widely known, the number of consumptives from other States who visit these dry places in North Carolina is yearly increasing, and the proportion of these who recover entirely or are greatly improved is phenomenally large. In a few of these areas consumption is unknown, except among persons who visit them to be cured by the pure dry air. The death rate for North Carolina is appreciably less than the average for the United States; and the climate of the whole State is favorable to health, except in limited malarial tracts in the lowlands along some of the eastern rivers, and the reports as to the prevalence of this malady are greatly exaggerated.

Where it is met with, it appears to be due more to the use of impure surface drinking water than to any peculiarity of the atmosphere of the region. In a number of cases which have come under my personal observation malaria has disappeared from plantations where it had long been common, as soon as cistern water was used for drinking purposes.

TRANSPORTATION.
Visiting health resorts in various portions of State—along the sea coast, in the midland counties and among the mountains; pleasure seeking on the seashore and in our wonderfully beautiful mountain region; and our growing commerce, have given rise to increasing demands for means of transportation. To meet this we now have more than 20,000 miles of railroad and 1,000 of waterways open to steamboat navigation, including rivers, bays, sounds, and canals, forming excellent lines of communications with the various ports along the coast from Wilmington to Norfolk in Virginia. Our facilities for foreign commerce at Wilmington have been recently greatly improved. Large vessels drawing 20 feet of water reach her wharves without difficulty have aided in stimulating her growth as a cotton market.

During the first century of North Carolina's existence as a State her people were mainly engaged in agricultural pursuits and it has been only during the past few decades that such other important elements of national prosperity and greatness as manufactures and commerce have begun to receive a considerable share of attention. This state of things has in large measure characterized the early development of all countries, but has

been more especially true of this and neighboring States because the character of the labor and conditions of climate and soil have been more favorable to agricultural development. But our people are now recognizing the fact that their future prosperity depends upon the building up of diversified industries, and they are turning more attention to manufacturing, mining and commerce. A brief statement of existing conditions will serve to show that this tendency has a basis of fact and that its future is secured.

A diversity of agricultural products may be mentioned as the first important element in the present and future prosperity of the State. A country which depends for food largely upon one product, such as potatoes or rice, may suffer from famine when this crop fails, and another which depends for its money supply upon some staple like cotton may be impoverished by the fall in price or partial failure of the crop. But, any region where exists the possibility of agricultural diversity, the failure in one crop is accompanied by the success of another. And it is claimed for North Carolina that her farmers can cultivate successfully a greater variety of crops than are grown in any other American State.

This variety of products is due to an existing great diversity in soil and climate. The eastern margin of the State, but little above sea level, is pushed out into the ocean and comes in contact with the warm breezes; and along the southeastern border, where the influence of the gulf stream is marked, sugar cane, rice, the palmetto, the live-oak and other semi-tropical plants attain a vigorous growth. Further inland along the lines of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad and North Carolina railroad, under the modifying influences of the sea, has grown up a profitable and extensive trucking business, supplying vegetables to early Northern markets. In passing from the East with its lowlands near the coast, westward to the mountains, which lie 300 to 400 miles distant and rise to a height of 6,711 feet above the ocean, we find the same variations in temperature, soil, and products as if this area extended from Eastern Carolina northward across Pennsylvania and New York, the forest trees and other vegetation of the mountain counties resembling that of the latter States. Intermediate between the coast region and the mountains lie in the Piedmont counties, which with their mild climate and their fertile loam soil, are becoming the important region of the State both in agriculture and manufactures.

COTTON CROP.
Cotton is grown in a majority of the counties of the State, and in those best adapted to its cultivation—the eastern and midland regions—it continues to be planted so extensively as in a large measure to exclude other crops. During the past few years the price has been so low (8 and 9 cents a pound) that even in case of the most careful farming the margin of profit was reduced to a minimum; but the effect of this reduction has been in a measure counterbalanced by the increasing profits arising from the manufacture of oil and meal from the cotton seed. And yet it must be admitted that the agricultural depression in the cotton belt is quite marked and general. One important cause of this depression is clearly recognized—over production of cotton and underproduction of such farm supplies as constitute food for man and beast. Those farmers who are adopting a different policy of raising these necessary supplies as far as possible at home, and then cultivate cotton as a money crop, are finding less cause for complaint of hard times, and are pointing to one of the ways by which thrift and prosperity may again be made to characterize farming in the Southern States.

To those who enter upon the subject with this latter plan as a guide, cotton farming offers many inducements, for, in addition to the profits arising from the sale of the lint and cotton seed oil, meal and hulls (or the use of the two latter for feeding stock and as a fertilizer), the farms of the cotton belt will also produce various other crops—corn, wheat, oats, clover, grasses, tobacco, potatoes, peanuts, &c. So that in Edgecombe, Wake, Mecklenburg, and Forsyth counties, where the yield of cotton is often

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from one to one and one-half bales per acre, there are some of the best stock farms to be found in the State, and in these regions yields per acre of 20 to 30 bushels of wheat, 40 to 75 bushels of oats, 50 to 100 bushels of corn, 200 to 400 of Irish and sweet potatoes, two to three tons of hay, or 40 to 100 bushels of peanuts, are not uncommon, and much larger yields are reported from individual acres.

In the lowlands of the Eastern region, where the soils are too wet for this diversity of crops, corn, grasses and rice are the profitable substitutes, the latter crop being largely grown in the southeastern section. In the mountain counties, corn, wheat, oats, rye, the grasses, buckwheat, potatoes, and tobacco, all grow luxuriantly and complete for ascendancy as profitable crops. A single acre in Buncombe county is said to have produced the large yield of 1,200 bushels of potatoes. In these counties stock raising is also an extensive and profitable branch of farming. The culture of tobacco, long common in the western and upper counties, has of late extended rapidly into the eastern counties. This has long been the most skilled and the most profitable class of farming practised in the State—the most pains-taking farmers, under favorable conditions, often selling their crops of bright yellow tobacco at prices which yield from \$200 to \$600 per acre. A careful estimate shows the annual tobacco crop of the State to approximate 75,000,000 pounds, with a valuation of \$8,000,000.

As an important element in this growing diversity of agricultural products, I may mention also that the areas devoted to trucking, vineyards and orchards have increased greatly during the past few years. Ten years ago trucking on a commercial scale in North Carolina was almost unknown; but the industry has developed so rapidly in the eastern counties, along the several lines of railroad, that during the past year the area devoted to this industry amounted to many thousand acres, and the financial returns reached several millions of dollars.

During the same period the areas planted in grapes and other fruits on a commercial scale have been considerably extended. In the eastern sandy soil the Suppermong grape flourishes, and vineyards, like the Tokay in Cumberland county and Medoc in Nash county, have won a favorable and wide reputation for their wines. In the midland and western counties, other grapes like the Concord, Ives, Catawba, etc., flourish, and many vineyards have already reached large proportions and are shipping both wine and grapes to the markets of the country. Peach orchards on a commercial scale are being established in the central counties and in the "thermal belts" of the mountain region; and on the mountain slopes of the western counties apple orchards are growing in number and area and the fruit has already become widely and favorably known.

MANUFACTURES.
But it is in manufacturing enterprises that North Carolina has shown the greatest development during the past few years. The numerous streams which, as they pass across the State, descend from the mountains and hills to the lowlands, furnish water-powers here and there, which in the aggregate are estimated to be equal to 3,500,000 horse power. The abundant supply of wood furnishes a cheap fuel to supplement the coal; labor is cheap and satisfactory, and the climate mild enough to allow uninterrupted work. Under these favorable conditions manufacturing establishments have been springing up rapidly during the past few years, and are certain to increase in number, magnitude and variety in the near future.

The profits arising from many of these mills range from 10 to 25 per cent. on the capital invested. There are 13 woolen mills, operating about 100 looms and over 1000 spindles. There are of tobacco factories located at Winston, Durham, Reidsville, Henderson, Raleigh and elsewhere, 110 plug factories, 9 smoking tobacco factories, 3 cigarette factories, and many cigar factories, the aggregate business of which amounts to several million dollars per annum. There are 57 carriage and buggy factories, located in 30 counties; 32 wagon factories, 25 furniture factories, 6 hub, spoke and handle factories, 24 sash, door and blind factories, 3 paper mills, 8 knitting mills, 42 canning establishments, including vegetables, fruits and oysters, 14 cotton-seed oil mills, 16 fertilizer factories, and a considerable number of miscellaneous establishments. Probably the greatest progress has been made in the growth of cotton factories, cotton-seed oil mills and tobacco factories; these have continued to yield the largest profits.

FISHERIES.
In portions of the extreme eastern counties, where the conditions are less favorable for agriculture and manufactures, the fishery interests supplement these industries and contribute materially to the wealth of the region. Prominent among these fisheries may be mentioned the shad and herring fisheries at Avoca and Edenton in the Albemarle sound, which are among the largest and best equipped fishing establishments in the country; the Beaufort and Morehead fisheries, where a variety of fish in large quantities are caught, and the Cape Fear fisheries, about the lower Cape Fear and New rivers, which yield large quantities of mullets. There are also many intervening points where fisheries of lesser importance exist. Many of the shad and other fish are shipped to large markets packed in ice; others are salted for later shipments. The oyster interest in North Carolina has come into prominence during the past few years. Careful surveys of the sounds of the eastern region demonstrated the fact that there exist in these waters already large natural beds of oysters and other large areas well adapted to oyster culture. It is hoped that in the future the development of this industry may result in great benefits to the people of that region and to the State at large.

MINERALS.
In consequence of the wide distribution of the older rocks there is a notable abundance and variety of minerals. More than 180 species have been discovered, some of great rarity. Nearly a score of different species of gems have been found, including the diamond, ruby, sapphire, emerald, beryl, lazulite, amethyst, garnet, agate and zircon. There occur also many minerals having special applications in the useful arts, viz: mica, corundum, asbestos, baryte, chromic iron, garnet, zircon, kaolin, black oxide of manganese, talc, pyrophyllite, &c. Mica is found in large veins or dykes in the gneisses of the midland and western counties, but the most extensive and valuable mines are found in the mountain region, where workable veins are numerous and extensive and yield sheets of mica of unusual size and excellence. Corundum is about as widely distributed as mica, and occurs in the same series of rocks as well as in some of the slate belts. It occurs generally in veins which traverse the belt of chrysolite or serpentine rock which extends from Watauga county into Georgia, between the Blue Ridge and Smoky mountains. In this region are also numerous beds of white and variously colored marbles. Building stones of every variety are found in nearly all the sections, and whetstone, millstone and grind-stone grits, as well as potter's clay and flint; and in the seaboard section are immense beds of peat and marl. Iron, copper and gold ores

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