

# The Tarborough Southerner.

BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT; THEN GO AHEAD.—D Crockett.

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TARBORO', N. C. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1890.

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## EDGECOMBE COUNTY.

The Foremost Agricultural Section of the State.

## A GARDEN SPOT.

WHERE PLENTY AND HEALTH COMBINE TO BLESS HUMANITY.

## Edgecombe County and Tarboro. History and Industrial Enterprises.

Edgecombe county has an area of 500 square miles. The tax lists show 309,000 acres. Population, 28,173, of which 7,956 are whites, remainder colored.

Edgecombe was formed from Craven in 1733 by Governor Barrington and his council, and this action was confirmed by the Legislature which met in Edenton in 1741. During the period of the Revolution the county of Edgecombe was foremost in resisting the exactions of the mother country. The spirit and patriotism of her people were well attested by two noteworthy events.

At a very early day in our colonial history laws were passed making the rent due for lands (all then held of the crown) payable in produce and collectible on the premises. Governor Johnson undertook to force the people to bring their rents to the collectors at places designated by the government. The trouble began about 1735 and continued for several years. Finally patience ceased to be a virtue. Some how it got abroad among the people of Edgecombe in the year 1736 that a man had been imprisoned by the General Court at Edenton for refusing to deliver his rents at the appointed places. The people rose in arms to the number of 500 and marched on the town, but when within five miles of Edenton they learned that the man was detained for a different cause, they quietly dispersed and returned to their homes.

The second event alluded to happened in 1759 and grew out of the oppression of the people appointed by Lord G. Anville to collect the rents in the province. The people of Edgecombe submitted for a time to these oppressions, but finally they rose in their wrath and marched to the house of Colonel Francis Corbin, Granville's chief agent, living near Edenton, seized and carried him to Edfield, then the county seat of Edgecombe, and required him to enter into heavy bond for his appearance at the ensuing Spring Term of the court and to discharge all the fees he had unjustly taken.

But it must not be supposed from this that the people of Edgecombe are of a turbulent character. They challenge comparison with any people for civility, intelligence, industry and everything which goes to constitute good citizens.

**TARBORO.**

The county seat is situated on the Tar river, at the head of navigation, about 75 miles east from Raleigh. The state's capital, and inland about 100 miles. Population, 3,000. It derives its name from the river on which it is situated. Tar or "Tau" is the Indian tongue means "Health."

**RAILROADS AND NAVIGATION.**

Now town in the State has superior railroad and navigation facilities. Four lines of railroads and three steamboat lines give to Tarboro all the benefits and advantages of cheap freights and easy communication with all sections.

**MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES.**

While Tarboro is located in an agricultural section, yet her people are awake to the progressive spirit of the age and will not be outstripped by her sister towns of the South in this new race of industrial progress.

Without the aid of foreign capital we have in successful operation a cotton mill, with ten thousand spindles, a knitting mill, manufacturing cotton into history and underwear in large quantities, four cotton seed oil mills and factories in town and county, manufacturing the cotton seed into oil and the cake and hulls into fertilizers.

The success of all these enterprises encourages us to believe that Tarboro is destined to become a manufacturing center of cotton products.

A tobacco warehouse is at once to be erected.

**HOTELS, BUSINESS AND TRADE.**

The hotel accommodations of Tarboro cannot be surpassed in the State.

There are three printing establishments, banking, insurance, Building and Loan, express and telegraph facilities, saw, planing and grist mills, Agricultural implements, iron and Machine Works, blacksmithing, brick yards, buggy, carriage and harness factories.

**WATER WORKS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS.**

The town has just completed the handsome city hall in the State, has a system of water works, and has just closed contract for electric

lights, street railway and ice factory with cold storage.

### IMPROVEMENT COMPANIES.

A company of local and Baltimore capitalists have recently purchased a large tract of land lying in and adjoining the town, and in the junction of three railroads, upon which it is proposed to build an industrial town. Inducements will be offered parties seeking a good location for manufacturing enterprises. The people of Edgecombe county are noted for their hospitality, intelligence and thrift, they extend a cordial welcome to all industrious people to come and locate with them.

There has recently been organized here a "Real Estate, Stock and Bond Brokerage company" with a bureau of information for the purpose of disseminating information in regard to this section, negotiating purchases, sales, loans, &c. They solicit correspondence with all immigration bureaus and real estate agencies. Address J. E. Dixon, Tarboro, N. C.

### WANTED.

There is an inviting field here for many other enterprises such as shoe factory, shirt factory, tub and bucket factory, paper box factory, trunk factory, furniture factory, tannery, canning factory, twine factory, tailoring establishment, &c. All the above enterprises would succeed well here and would receive the encouragement of home investments.

### TOBACCO.

Tarboro is destined to be a great center for the sale and manufacture of tobacco. The coming year will witness large investments in this interest of tobacco, such as the building of factories, warehouses, prize houses &c. We invite all to come and join with us in building up this great industry.

## CHEAP FREIGHTS.

### Railways and Waterways.

The transportation facilities of Tarboro are second to those of few if any other North Carolina towns.

Four railroads now run to or through the town, viz. The Wilmington and Weldon, the Albemarle and Raleigh, the Norfolk and Carolina and Hamilton Railroad. Besides these railroad lines, we have three lines of steamers navigating the Tar river, viz. The Old Dominion and Clyde lines running from Tarboro to Washington and the low water and up river steamer "Bea" owned by the Farmers' Co-operative Company and running on the river above Tarboro and up Fishing creek, one of its important tributaries. The attention of Congress has of late years been called to the importance of this navigation, with the result of government appropriations which are being applied to clearing away obstructions for the purpose of giving more intimate communication between the Tarboro market and points up the river and creeks.

The Wilmington and Weldon railroad is one of the most complete and perfect in all its appointments in the whole country, being one of the most important links of the great Atlantic Coast Line, connecting New England and New York with Florida and the South east, and by which route we have quick rail communication with the world.

The Albemarle and Raleigh road is now under the Coast Line management and runs to Wilmington and Plymouth on the lower Roanoke river, putting Tarboro very close to all the great fisheries of Eastern North Carolina.

The Norfolk and Carolina is a new and fast line running from Norfolk and Portsmouth and connecting with the Wilmington and Weldon roads here, and it is expected will in the very near future run direct to the State capital in a couple of hours run at the outside, and at the other terminus connecting with the great Pennsylvania system of roads for Philadelphia and New York and the Bay Line steamers from Norfolk to Baltimore. This line offers its special facilities for getting our early truck to northern markets.

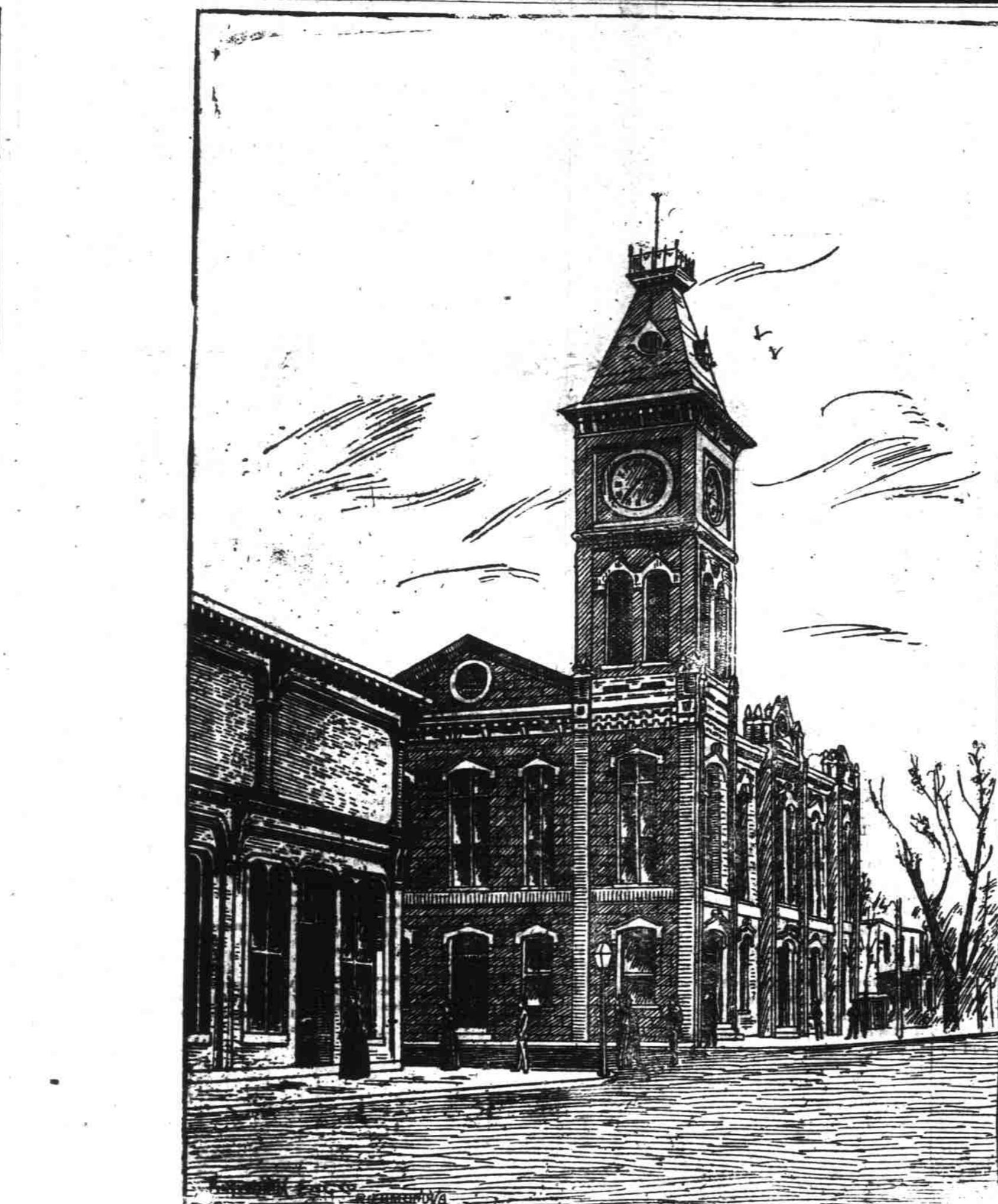
The shortest rail line we have is what is known as the "Hitch Rail Road" running from Tarboro to Hamilton, and connecting with Hitch's line of steamers, plying between Hamilton on the Roanoke river and Norfolk and Baltimore. This is a private line, owned mostly by Mr. Frank Hitch, who built this road and has large lumber interests in connection with it and is now building a branch of the road in the direction of the towns of Lawrence, Whitakers and Enfield, bringing us much nearer than we have ever been to some of the most fertile and productive lands in this county and Halifax.

This line offers low rates of freight to Tarboro shippers, thereby holding in check any tendency on the part of the great trunk lines to extort on us in freights.

With all the advantages of location and transportation referred to above, what can hinder Tarboro from outstripping all competitors for the trade of the surrounding country? Where is the town in all the land offering to manufacturers and traders better and more numerous facilities for a rapid and general distribution of their wares? We challenge any town or city in the State to match us on these points, and we reach out the hand of welcome to all strangers or friends who may come among us with the thrift and energy which are the only things necessary to enable them to pluck success out of the golden opportunity

which are now to be had among us for the taking.

Come and bring your families and your money, be it little or much, and cast your lot with us and you will find work ready to your hands and diversity of advantages such as few communities on the face of the earth are blessed with.



TOWN HALL.

This imposing and handsome structure, 60x100 feet, of brick and stone was completed this year. It is an office for Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, Chief of Police, Janitor, Assembly Rooms for two Fire Companies, rooms for fire trucks, hose reels engine and lock-up, or city prison—all on the first floor. The second floor is fitted for concerts, theatre, &c., in the most approved manner. Its seating capacity is 900. In the tower, 115 feet high, besides the clock, is the electrical fire alarm. The structure cost \$22,000.

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### OTHER POINTS OF TRADE IN THE COUNTY.

Edgecombe not only has its county town as a center of trade, but besides there is dotted over several villages, where living is cheap, society good and trade brisk. No high city taxes to pay, and still with the advantages of good society, schools and churches, good mail facilities and cheap freight rates.

Upon the Tar river 8 miles below Tarboro is the village of Old Sparta with a daily mail cheap freight and enterprising merchants. There are two churches already built and one in prospect.

Five miles south of Tarboro on the A. & R. R. R. is the village of Mildred with two daily mails and the same freight rates with Tarboro. Here is one church already built and more in course of erection. It is sufficiently near Tarboro to enable the children to attend school here and the railroad schedules are such that the children can leave home after breakfast and return for supper. Four miles farther South is Conover, a thrifty live town with one cotton seed oil mill, several stores and two churches. Conover has all the mail and freight advantages that Mildred has. East from Tarboro, eight miles, is Coakley, situated on the Hamilton railroad. Here, too, there is a daily mail and freight, and it is sufficiently near Tarboro for the children to attend school with the railroad schedule to suit.

Twelve miles east is the town of Lawrence, a thrifty village surrounded by fine agricultural lands and beautiful farming sections in the cotton belt of North Carolina. The postoffice is within a few miles of Swift Creek Oil Mills, a very flourishing institution, which enables all the farmers of that section to convert

their cotton seed into fertilizers at a profitable rate of exchange.

Eight miles north of Tarboro is a settlement known as Leggett's where there is a tri-weekly mail and weekly church services. A good school has always been maintained here. Besides these villages which are entirely in Edgecombe county we have Rocky Mount, Battleboro and Whitakers upon the main line of the W. & R. R. R., half in Edgecombe and half in Nash counties. They are all three near enough to the county seat to allow the citizens to come to the Court-house, spend several hours in attending to their business and return to their homes all between the suns. They are all thriving, growing towns. About one mile from Rocky Mount at the Falls of Tar river is the Rocky Mount Cotton Mill, one of the most profitable in the South, and in the town is a machine shop, two tobacco warehouses, a good hotel and churches of four of the Protestant denominations, and very superior schools.

At Battleboro are good schools and churches with another building. At Whitakers there are good schools and churches. There will be found ten miles south-west of Tarboro the little village of St. Lewis in the Town creek section where both cotton and tobacco are successfully raised, and four miles to the south of St. Lewis is the Eagles settlement. These two sections are especially prominent for their prosperity and are largely owing to the fact that this is the section of small farms where there is less hard labor and more home supplies made.

Between St. Lewis and Tarboro, about six miles from Tarboro is the settlement of Appleton, where there is a Methodist church and a good school.

All of these country villages are surrounded by prosperous and intelligent farmers who make up a good neighborhood society, and when there are no mail lines reaching them they have a neighborhood arrangement by which the mail is delivered regularly from Tarboro and in no one of them does a person fail to get his mail several times each week, and it is a notable fact that a large proportion of the farmers take some daily newspaper.

The good roads of the county enable the farmers and also the merchants of the county towns to haul very heavy loads to Tarboro where they have not railroad facilities, but most of them have the choice between railroad and county road, and owing to the especially good freight rates which the number of railroads coming to Tarboro give her, many

## A GREAT FUTURE.

### Edgecombe and the Tobacco Plant.

The county of Edgecombe embraces an area of about 320,000 acres of the best farming lands in this or any other State, of which about 150,000 are cleared for cultivation. They are assessed higher for taxation than any other lands in the State, and are better drained than any other lands in the State. Heretofore the cultivation of tobacco has been confined to the middle section of the State and the conviction has prevailed that the plant could not be successfully grown east of the Wilmington and Weldon railroad, but the experiments that have been made for the past three or four years prove that we have the best tobacco lands in the State or Union.

About 1,200 acres were cultivated the present year by farmers in all parts of the county, each cultivating a few acres by way of experiment, and while they were wholly without experience the result was wonderful. The average yield was \$125 to the acre. Extra care produced better results. For instance, Armstrong's crop of 30 acres is worth \$10,000. Many others have done as well, though in smaller quantities. Nobles, Nettles, Foxhall, and many others have sold from \$250 to \$400 to the acre. We have more than 60,000 acres of the best bright yellow tobacco land within our borders. Its average production is more than 750 pounds to the acre. Because of the mildness of our soil the crop matures earlier and is produced at much less cost than that grown farther west. We can cure our crop by the first of September. Our farmers will largely increase their crops next year and within five years Edgecombe will cultivate not less than 20,000 acres of tobacco.

Tarboro, our county seat, is perhaps the handsomest and most progressive town of its size in the State. It must very soon be a leading tobacco market. Along side of Edgecombe are the counties of Pitt, Halifax and Martin, whose soil and climate make them our equals in the production of the weed. Our location and transportation facilities naturally make Tarboro the market for the sale of the crops of these counties.

The growing town of Oxford sells annually 5,000,000 pounds of tobacco

of the country merchants have their goods shipped to county depots and hauled from these centers.

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renders it unnecessary to grow roots. In addition to all this we have our cotton seed as a great source of food supply. Cotton seed hulls and meal make the very best and cheapest known cattle food. Four cotton seed mills in the county furnish an abundant supply of this food.

The investigations of Prof. Stone of the Tennessee Experiment Station, seem to justify the following conclusions:

1. The practice of feeding cotton seed hulls and meal as an exclusive diet well established, and increasing in the vicinity of the cotton seed oil industry. All the information available indicates that the practice is economical and profitable.
2. It seems in no way harmful to the health of the animal nor to the healthfulness of the products (beef and milk) resulting.
3. The diet seems adapted both to the production of beef and mutton as well as milk.
4. The average ration should consist of 25.35 pounds of hulls, and five-eighths pounds of meal daily.
5. The hulls are a cheap and effective substitute for hay.
6. The manure produced by this system of feeding is an important factor in considering its profitability.

Another important food for live stock, which is now attracting much attention and promises well, is the peanut. Both the nut and vine are relished by all kinds of stock.

**DAIRY FARMING.**

The mildness of our winters gives the dairy men of this section great advantages. The warm climate permits good grazing all the winter and requires the minimum consumption of food to keep up animal heat. No expensive barns are required as is the case in colder climates. Ordinary shelters to protect the cattle from the sun's heat in summer and the rain in winter are sufficient.

**LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATIONS.**

It is justly claimed that the best thoroughbred horses in the State are bred in Edgecombe county. An association has just been organized in this county for the promotion of this great interest. Any one desiring information upon this subject can address Dr. L. L. Stator, Tarboro, President of the association.

## Suaviter in Modo, Fortiter in Re.

The culture, high moral character and refinement of the people of Edgecombe are proverbial.

In whatever is essential to good society our people possess it to the highest degree, and for hospitality, and generosity they maintain an enviable reputation. It is noteworthy that visitors among us always take away with them the happiest recollections of the generous hospitality, kind favors and courtesies extended them by our people.

When an effort is made to welcome and entertain visitors it is always attended with the highest success and satisfaction. Picture to your mind a community composed of the most enlightened, law-abiding, liberty-loving, congenial, and courteous citizens and you will beautifully present the best and most exalted characteristics of our people.

In Tarboro and Edgecombe county the professional men possess every requisite to win for them the esteem and confidence of their fellow-men and it is an indisputable fact that for advancement and thoroughness in their professional duties they are unsurpassed in the State.

The merchants and other business men are honorable and straight-forward gentlemen and are worthy of the confidence of any one.

We can not speak of the society of our section without bringing conspicuously into view our women, who are the backbone of all society, and in whom, to a great degree, rests the destiny of any country. They are the most refined, and intelligent; and possess all the attributes of body and mind that are essential for them to adorn the highest society of the land.

**THE CHURCHES.**

There are five churches in Tarboro with a list of 166 communicants as follows: Methodist 100, Presbyterian 68, Episcopal 20, Missionary Baptist 38, Primitive Baptist 40.

Throughout the county there are 865 Methodist, 100 Episcopalians, 300 Missionary Baptists, 23 Presbyterians, 465 Primitive Baptists and 23 Catholics.

In every section of the county there can be found churches or chapels in which the word of God is preached, and generally the attendance upon the services is very large. The churches of Tarboro, taken as a whole, are as handsome as could be desired. The members of the Missionary Baptist Church are having erected a handsome and attractive ten thousand dollar edifice which is of the latest style and finish, and when completed, will be an ornament to the town.

The Episcopal Church is a massive brick structure and is said to be, in some respects, the most handsomely finished church in the State. The grounds are a lovely spot, where the rarest, most beautiful and fragrant flowers are cultivated and at all times they are kept in good condition, which make the grounds present a most neat and attractive appearance.

No more cultured, able and impressive ministers are to be found anywhere, and the word of God is here imparted in the most instructive and intelligent manner. The regular attendance is very large and the efforts of the ministers are appreciated.

## HEALTH.

### THE WHY AND THE WHEREFORE.

WE ONLY DIE FROM OLD AGE.

As to the health of Tarboro and Edgecombe, it is necessary only to state that in a series of observations extending over many years, its reputation for healthfulness is well established. A high and dry sandy soil, well drained low lands and climatic advantages unsurpassed furnish a reasonable basis for the opinion that where there is proper application of personal hygiene the amount of sickness of whatever nature is far less than in communities making greater pretensions as health resorts. The annual reports of the State Board of Health show a death rate from all causes exceedingly low and a majority of these are from those diseases which occur the world over, being influenced but little by climatic conditions.

The best recommendation of its healthfulness is the hale, hearty and vigorous condition of the people. Scores of the inhabitants of this section have passed for beyond the allotted three scores and ten and still do duty at the plow, the anvil or in the workshop with vigor equal the mature manhood of less favored localities. One critical glance at the sturdy yeoman assembled in Tarboro on any public day, would reveal as fine developed specimen of physical manhood as the world could produce.

It is probable, as a residence for those unfortunate suffering with pulmonary affections, that this section has its greatest reputation. For a number of years these people have found a hospitable shelter here from the rigidity of Northern winters, and it has been invariably the case that they have returned home much benefited. It is not claimed that we have an Eldorado, but the fact is indisputable that the antiseptic exhalation of the piney woods, the natural growth of this section of country, the mild winters, the comparatively low degree of humidity and the sandy soil, which dries of rapidly offering little opposition to outdoor exercise and the abundance of game, offer superior advantages to the consumptive in his efforts to regain his health.

Here the sportsman finds an abundance of game of all kinds, a genial and hospitable people and companions for the hunt that will give him ample opportunity to display his skill.

Persons contemplating a residence here may rest assured that no diseases will have to be contended with other than which mankind is heir to "whither soever he goeth."

### REFERENCES.

Anyone desiring information in regard to the capability and adaptability of Edgecombe soil to the cultivation of tobacco can communicate with any of the parties named below, all of whom are successful tobacco growers:

- O. C. Farrar, Tarboro, N. C.
- L. Lee Stator, " "
- F. D. Foxhall, " "
- A. B. Nobles, " "
- T. H. Rutlin, " "
- Battle Bryan, " "
- John A. Davis, " "
- W. L. Stallings, " "
- W. T. Knight, " "
- Elias Carr, Old Sparta, " "
- B. F. Eagles, " "
- R. D. Armstrong, Rocky Mt., " "
- J. G. Nettles, " "
- Jesse Brake, " "
- C. L. Killebrew, " "
- W. H. Powell, Battleboro, " "
- J. R. Vick, " "
- W. H. Whitehead, " "
- F. M. Rawlings, " "
- J. O. Bryan, " "
- W. V. Land, Whitakers, " "
- W. D. Pittman, " "

It is rumored that the citizens of Henderson, recognizing the capabilities of Edgecombe for the production of tobacco, contemplate building a railroad in this direction to offer us their market for the sale of our leaf. We welcome any communication with you, gentlemen, but Edgecombe proposes to manufacture and sell her own weed and also that of her sister counties!

Edgecombe has been proud of her cotton and, producing a bale to the acre, and so it was good enough until we knew how to do better. But now we know that almost all of our land will yield from \$200 to \$500 in tobacco.

Count the fortunes that have been made out of the sale and manufacture of tobacco at Durham, Henderson, Winston, Reidsville and other points in the State, and come here and make yours.

We hazard the assertion that no better investment can be found within the confines of North Carolina than in the tobacco interests at Tarboro.