

LENOIR COUNTY--ITS HISTORY--RESOURCES AND POSSIBILITIES

HISTORY.

In 1791, Dobbs County which had been founded from Johnston County in 1758, was divided into Lenoir and Glasgow (now Greene). The county was named in honor of General William Lenoir, a Wilkes county soldier for his services in the war of the Revolution.

Many are the instances in which through its native sons, Lenoir county has caused for itself in the history of the Old North State, pages of glory. Perhaps, foremost in the early affairs of the county was Richard Caswell. Although a native of Maryland, Richard Caswell came to North Carolina when seventeen and established himself in Lenoir when this county was still known as Dobbs county. He served as a public officer for many years, studying law and later practiced in Lenoir as an attorney. Lenoir county is proud of his memory and a beautiful monument stands in Kinston, the county seat, to perpetuate it. Other names prominent in Lenoir's early history are those of Hardy B. Croom, Hon. W. D. Maseley, Henry Goodman, Shadrach Wooten and Amos Johnson.

AREA AND POULATION.

Lenoir county is situated in Eastern North Carolina, about sixty miles from the Atlantic ocean, having as its neighbors on the North, Greene and Pitt counties, on the East, Craven and Jones counties, on the South Duplin county and on the West Wayne county. It has an area of 397 square miles of which over one half is under cultivation and has a population under the 1915 census estimate of about twenty-five thousand.

CLIMATE, GEOGRAPHY AND RAINFALL.

The benignant climate of Lenoir county is characteristic of this section of Eastern North Carolina. Properly speaking Lenoir has no winters or summers, the succession of the season being so mild and gradual as to do away with the sudden changes that in other sections of the State call for radical changes in the mode of living. Because of its location, Lenoir escapes the harassing heat of the real Southern summer and knows nothing of the freezing Northern winters. The surface of the land is rolling and is well drained by numerous creeks and small streams, most of them emptying into the Neuse river, which passes through Lenoir county on its way to the sea. The average annual temperature is 61 degrees and the rainfall is consistent and abundant throughout the year, there being no particular rainy season. The average annual rainfall for the past ten years has been about 54 inches.

SOIL AND TIMBER.

The soil of Lenoir county is a rich sandy loam with a clay sub-soil. The land is easy to till and responds generously to intelligent care and cultivation. Near the river where there are large tracts of semi-swamp lands, the soil is very rich and productive. The county is well timbered, the river bottoms supplying almost unlimited quantities of both kinds of pine and the other varieties include oak, hickory, birch, ash, beech, sweet and black gum, dog wood, persimmon, juniper and cypress.

TOBACCO.

Tobacco is the chief money crop of the county. Lenoir county lies in the belt where bright loose leaf tobacco is raised and grows a large amount of it. The lands of this section are particularly well adapted to the production of high grade tobacco and the farmers give it their particular attention.

COTTON.

Cotton is the next chief staple of Lenoir county, and has been one of the most important industries of the community for generations. The cotton grown is of a high quality, possessing generally a clean pearly colored fine fiber and strong staple, fully 1 1-8 inches in length. The average grade is strict middling and it is highly prized by the manufacturers of the finished product. The yield in the county is very high, averaging about one bale to the acre. Up to January 1st of this year there had been 11,100 bales ginned in the county or about one third less than last year. Last year, however, the prices due to the war were very low and the farmer this year will receive more money for his smaller crop than last year, and in addition has advantage of having raised other

FRUITS.

Lenoir county is a garden land for fruits. The soil is admirably adapted to the growth of peaches, apples, pears, plums, apricots, quinces, cher-

garden truck. Both sweet and Irish potatoes do well, and cabbage thrives all of the year around. Lettuce, asparagus, beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, kale, turnips, onions, beans, radishes, parsnip, celery, pecan, nuts, peanuts and other truck are produced in big quantities and the quality of the product bespeaks the intelligence of the farmers as well as the generosity of the soil. The location of the county is so favorable and the railroad facilities so excellent that the larger cities of the North can be reached in a few hours, and command premium prices.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

The means of communication and transportation in Lenoir county are all that could be expected of a progressive county. The Norfolk Southern Railroad, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Kinston Carolina Railroad and the Carolina Railroad take care of the freight and passenger traffic, and the Neuse river and tributaries afford a natural means of communication of which the people of Lenoir county avail themselves when the seasons permit of it. The county roads are in good condition and work is being constantly kept up to improve them and maintain them on a high standard of excellence.

COUNTY STATISTICS, 1915.

The following statistics in reference to Lenoir County will prove of

CITIES AND TOWNS.

Kinston is the county seat of Lenoir county, and a separate article will be found in this issue describing it in detail. Other flourishing towns are, LaGrange, Pink Hill, Graingers, etc.

POSSIBILITIES.

Situated in one of the most fertile sections of the country where practically anything can be grown blessed with a mild and agreeable climate, possessed of an abundance of good water, a copious rainfall and favored with splendid transportation facilities to great centers of population in the North by rail and water who can prophecy anything else for this section, but increasing wealth

part of our people to realize their opportunities and to so conduct themselves as to take the proper advantage in every possible way.

The sun does not shine in a fairer land than ours. Nowhere are there better opportunities for making a good living. Nowhere can be found a more intelligent and law abiding class of citizens. The future lies invitingly before us. Let us all strive together, forgetting past differences, with the common purpose in view of making Lenoir county still more prosperous and of handing down to our children high ideals of a happy community life which it will be their pride to cherish and maintain.

KINSTON.

Kinston, the county seat of Lenoir county is located on the Neuse river in the North eastern part of the county, and is about sixty miles west of the Atlantic seaboard. It is one of the old towns of the State, having been incorporated in 1762 and is now well past its 150th birthday. Historically it is important, the sons of Kinston having played their part nobly in the war of the Revolution and again in the great strife between the states.

Though old in years, it is in its aspects of a modern city, as a city of opportunity, that it presents its most interesting features for the growth and development of Kinston is comparatively new. In 1890 the city had a population of but 1,726 and this has been increased in the past twenty six years to a present urban population of considerably over 10,000, a record for growth not exceeded by any other city in North Carolina. Kinston is therefore an essentially modern city, with modern business buildings and homes, modern factories and with all the improvements that go to make up an up-to-date and hustling community.

CLIMATE.

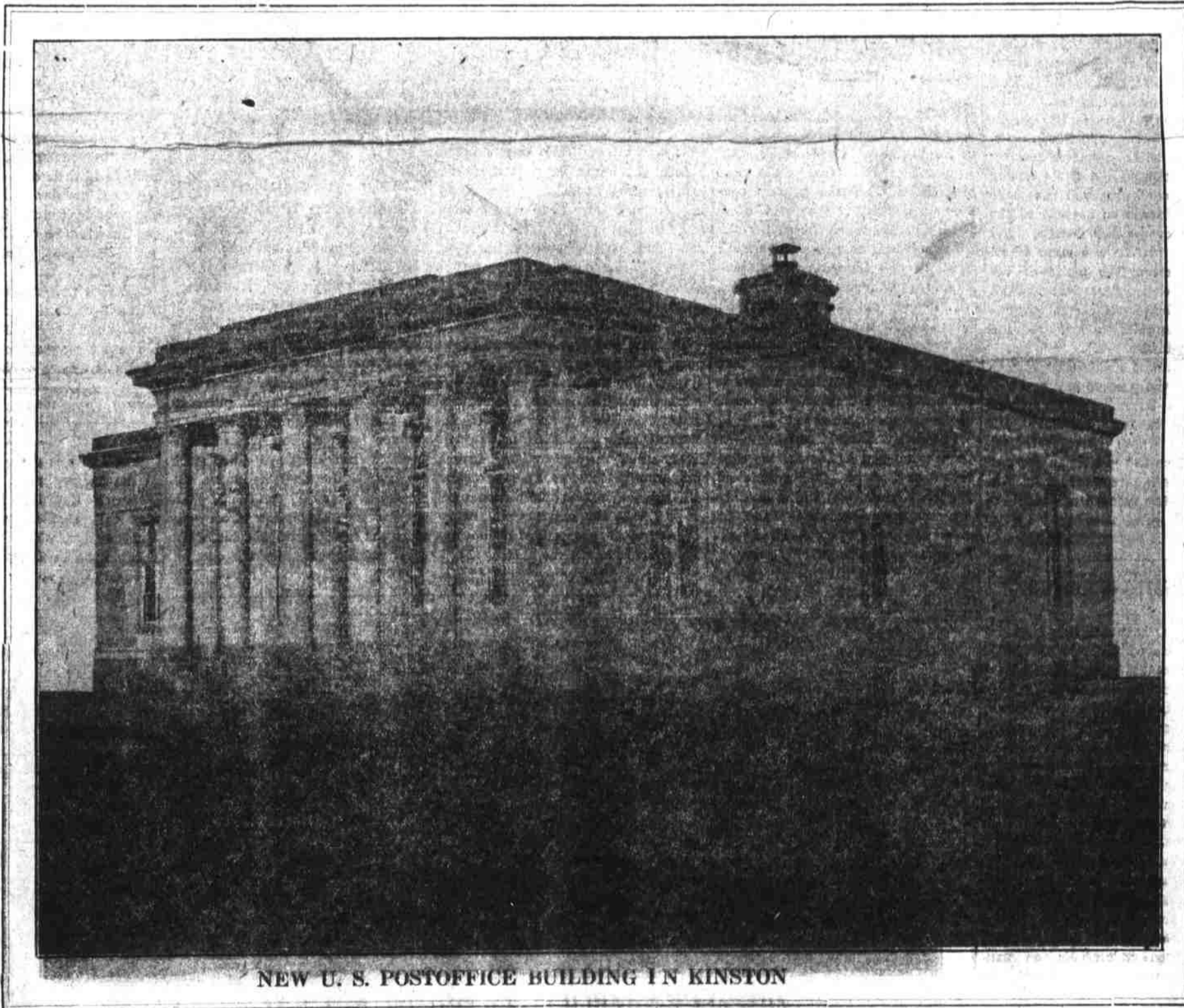
The climate of Kinston is healthful and salubrious. Situated near enough to the seacoast to obtain cooling breezes in summer and surrounded by pine forests with their delightful aromatic odors, it would indeed be hard to find a pleasanter place to live in. The temperature is equal all of the year around, neither too cold in winter nor too hot in summer, and the rainfall is abundant and not confined to any particular season.

RAILWAY AND WATER FACILITIES.

Kinston is the Northern terminal of the Weldon-Kinston Branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and is also on the Beaufort division of the Norfolk Southern, being therefore in direct communication with Norfolk and the North. Other roads making Kinston their terminal are the Kinston-Carolin Railroad and Carolina Railroad. Altogether fourteen passenger trains enter Kinston every day. A line of steamers, during the greater part of the year, connects Kinston with the Atlantic ocean via the Neuse river, which gives it the advantage of water rates and which has assisted greatly in making it an important jobbing and manufacturing centre.

MANUFACTURING PLANTS.

From the number of factories operating in Kinston it can be gathered that the combined pay-rolls of the various enterprises have a great deal to do with the prosperity of the city. In fact it is not too much to say that the weekly pay-roll is the most important factor in the prosperity of the community. Among the factories now here are two cotton mills. (Continued on Page Two)



NEW U. S. POSTOFFICE BUILDING IN KINSTON

crops on land that was not planted in cotton this year.

OTHER FARM PRODUCTS.

Practically all of the staple crops can be grown successfully, among them being barley, wheat, oats, corn, broom-corn, rye, buckwheat, etc. Among the grass crops are clover, red top, timothy, orchard grass, alfalfa, millet, etc.

A very encouraging sign in the farming industry has been the increase in these crops grown in this county. Crops of this nature mean food for man and beast, and with a land that bears as plentifully as this does, it seems worse than foolish to be compelled to buy elsewhere what can be so easily grown at home.

GARDEN TRUCK.

The soil of Lenoir county is particularly well adapted for the raising of all kinds of vegetables and

ries, figs, etc. Grapes of all varieties do extremely well and mature early. Berries of all kinds grow luxuriantly and bear profusely. Among the varieties are strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, huckleberries, currants, etc. The same is true of fruits, as of garden truck, that as they ripen early, excellent advantage can be taken of the Northern markets and the premium in prices.

LIVE STOCK AND POULTRY.

A very good grade of horses and mules are raised in the county, and the country is also well adapted for raising cattle, hogs, and sheep. One of the important industries of the country is raising poultry. Every farm—practically every house has its chickens. Spring chickens are raised practically all of the year around and there is an abundance of fresh eggs at reasonable prices.

interest:

- Number of acres, 238,706.
- Value of land, \$2,274,202.
- Value of land per acre, \$9.52.
- Value of manufacturing property outside city, \$66,835.
- Number of town lots, 2,675.
- Value of town lots, \$2,475,320.
- Average value of town lots, \$925.35
- Aggregate value of real property, \$4,816,357.
- Number and kinds of stock and their value:
- 1,820 horses, \$120,232.
- 2,587 mules, \$212,370.
- 3 Jacks, \$375.
- 3,692 cattle, \$40,239.
- 20,458 hogs, \$30,416.
- 404 sheep, \$404.
- 358 goats, \$238.
- 246 dogs, \$1,384.
- Total value of personal property, \$2,754,683.
- Aggregate value of real and personal property, \$7,571,040.

and prosperity in its industrial, manufacturing and agricultural development. Nature has endowed Lenoir county generously with all those elements that tend to make a progressive community and our duty beckons clear, to make the prosperity of the present but a stepping stone in her progress towards a greater development in the future.

The needs of Lenoir county are apparent. What we require are more farmers to till our fertile fields, more factories to manufacture into finished product our tobacco, cotton and lumber; more intelligent and diversified farming so as to take advantage with seasonable crops of the markets that are ours rightfully; the erection of flour mills and canneries to turn our crops into finished product; more attention paid to the raising of live stock and finally an united and persistent effort on the