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CITIES AND TOWNS HAVE INCREASED

Raleigh Goes Ahead of Asheville Taking Third Place in List.

Washington, Jan. 4.—North Carolina's population did not show the same tendency of drifting from rural districts to the cities during the last ten years as was the case in many other states. Announcement today by the director of the census of the population figures as enumerated in the 17th census of cities and towns in North Carolina having a population in excess of 5,000 indicates that slightly over 26 per cent of the state's total increase in population—312,477 inhabitants—was contributed by these cities and towns. The rural districts furnished 229,391, or about 73 per cent of the increase as compared with the 83,106 increase in the cities.

Eight municipalities increased in population from below 5,000 to totals above that number. The thirteenth census statistics show twenty such cities and towns in North Carolina in 1910, compared with twelve in 1900. Not a single loss in population was recorded in these places during the ten years.

Biggest Gain.

In point of increase in population Rocky Mount holds first place, with a 274 per cent increase. Durham follows closely behind with 273 per cent and High Point shows a 228 per cent gain.

The larger cities rank as follows in percentage of increase:

Charlotte, 88 per cent, Greensboro, 58.3 per cent; Raleigh, 40.8 per cent; Asheville, 27.6 per cent, and Wilmington, 22.7 per cent.

How They Stand

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Kitchen Sends Long Document to Legislature, Making Many Recommendations.

Raleigh, Jan. 5.—In the house a bill by Ray, of Macon, passed all readings, prohibiting the sale of malt, near beer or beerine or any beverage containing any alcohol whatever.

Evert, of Henderson, introduced a resolution that North Carolina delegation in congress support the parcel post act; also New Orleans for holding the Panama Exposition.

The entire morning session of the house was taken up with the reading of the Governor's message. In the senate, Martin, of Buncombe, introduced a bill to empower married women to make contracts.

Hobgood—A bill to amend the charter of Greensboro.

The Governor's Message.

After a few minor bills had been introduced in the Senate, a messenger was announced from the governor and Col. A. J. Feild, private secretary, was introduced and the message was read by the clerk. The reading consumed a little over an hour and the members and those in the lobbies and galleries seemed much interested, giving undivided attention throughout.

A resolution, offered by Graham of Orange was adopted directing that 500 copies of the governors' message be printed for the use of the senate and different portions of it referred to such committees as the presiding officer shall deem appropriate.

Governor Kitchen's message to the legislature was rather lengthy, so much so that nothing more than a brief resume of it can be given here.

After reporting on the bond situation, he takes up prohibition and says:

makes the following recommendation:

"The state institutions have but one certain reliance, and that is the people's legislatures. I therefore recommend that you ascertain the legitimate, urgent needs of our institutions, charitable and educational, and that you properly provide for them, taking care that no backward step is taken and that they be not crippled or unjustly handicapped in the performance of their duties to the public. You should see that every extravagance is eliminated and every economy enforced which will not seriously impair their influence to the state. I sincerely trust that you can provide for their necessary enlargement and equipment, without causing other interests to suffer or failing to make other necessary and proper appropriations."

Anti-Trust Law.

The governor suggests slight changes in the anti-trust law to make it conform more nearly to the federal law.

In regard to water powers Governor Kitchen recommends that light and power companies be placed under the jurisdiction of the corporation commission.

He devotes much space to the insurance business and recommends a number of changes in the law.

Railroad Rate Reduction.

After reviewing the railway situation, he says:

"I therefore recommend that the passenger fares on all roads now under the 2 1-2 cent per mile basis, be reduced to 2 cents, with a proper provision that all railroad companies whose mileage books with interchangeable privileges are sold at the present mileage book rate and pulled on the train as they were four years ago and for whose coupons no tickets are required prior to taking the

TO EQUALIZE TAXATION

Senator Brown Is Going After So-Called Pauper Counties.

Raleigh Times.

Senator J. A. Brown, of Columbus, who is named by President Newland, of the senate, as chairman of the finance committee, declares his intention to go in for a material reformation in the North Carolina method of tax assessment with a view to equalizing taxation among the counties and ridding the state of the forty-eight "pauper counties," so-called because they receive from the state for schools and other purposes more money than they pay, into the state treasury in taxes. He proposes to undertake getting through the legislature an act that will create a separate state tax commission, relieving the corporation commission of this duty, and requiring of this commission that it equalize taxation by counties. He would have the commission completely removed from politics, possibly appointed by the governor. He would have these commissioners confer at the beginning of each assessment period with the county authorities, meeting the officers of the groups of counties in convenient railroad centers and explain just what is expected of them in the light of existing conditions. And he would clothe them with final authority to say what the assessments must be. Where there are differences between the property owners and the local assessors, he would have appeal go to an intermediate board, composed of, say five men, one from each of a group of five counties. In this way no one county could be left alone to "juggle" its assessments so as to deprive the state of its equitable share of revenue. After this composite board has passed on the differences, the state

AVERAGE MAN HAS \$35.10 IN POCKET

Government Currency Report Proves It, So Why Deny It?

Have you got \$35.10 about you? Can you produce \$35.10 on call? Have you got it in your clothes or at home in a bureau drawer? If not you are shy your share of the circulating medium, for \$35.10 is the per capita circulation according to a government report that has just been received by Minneapolis bankers, which gives the total amount of money of all kinds that was afloat December 1.

Of gold coin, gold certificates, silver dollars and other silver, United States notes and national bank notes there is \$3,192,615,314.31 in circulation, which figures out \$35.10 for every inhabitant. A year ago at this time there was \$3,180,084,499.22 in the circulating total, which, divided by the population at that time, made \$34.71 per capita, so that, theoretically, everybody in Minneapolis ought to have thirty-nine cents more about him for Christmas shopping this year than last.

"Let us see what that would amount to," said the Minneapolis banker on whose desk lay the government report.

"With 301,408 people in Minneapolis and each with thirty-nine cents more that would be \$127,491.12 more, in theory than the Minneapolis people have to spend for Christmas presents."

Once, in 1908, the per capita circulation was higher, the figure being \$35.59, but at other times, as circulation was in part retired and population increased, it fell down and was as low as \$28.73 in 1901.

"And The Cat."

It is many years since the famous voyage when—

EARTHQUAKE'S AWFUL DAMAGE.

1,000 Square Miles of Territory Devastated in Asiatic Russia.

Tashmend, Asiatic Russia, Jan. 5.—Two thousand soldiers, accoutered for relief work, were today rushed into the earthquake stricken territory of Turkestan, where fully 2,000 are now reported to have been killed or wounded in the terrific and devastating tremors which lasted all day yesterday. Practically 1,000 square miles of territory are said to have been ravaged with whole towns wiped out and wild fissures in the Steppes growing hourly.

Reports from towns and villages on the edge of the death belt, whither refugees fled in great numbers during the night today that conditions in the interior of the devastated zone are horrifying beyond description.

A big detachment of troops was ordered to hurry at all possible speed from the Tashmend barracks towards Vyerny, a fortified town of 23,000 inhabitants which is reported wholly in ruins.

At Kopal a great section of the town lies in ruins today, according to the meager reports. Communication was practically cut off today and from the interior of the earthquake zone no definite word came at all.

In the Sirke Desert, East of Kopal, and upon the vast steppes stretching among the mountains hundreds of members of Turkestan tribes are said to have been swallowed up by the earth. Scores of persons perished in Lake Issky-Kull. When the earth began to rock many fled into boats upon the water, thinking themselves safe from falling buildings or cracks in the earth.