

three hundred pounds of eleven-cent will pay. You can figure it about this way: that is, you could figure it this way before the Kaiser took a notion to try out those new siege guns! Three hundred pounds of eleven-cent (average) cotton is thirty-three dollars. The seed on that amount of cotton will be worth six dollars more, or thirty-nine dollars for all. Allowing half of that for the tenant will leave nineteen dollars for the land. Ten dollars will buy the fertilizer and leave nine dollars for profit. On land that costs ten dollars an acre in the rough, seven dollars to clear, ten dollars for buildings, or twenty-seven dollars in all, nine dollars is a reasonable return. A better crop is better.

But best of all, North Carolina is a coming farming State. It has unlimited strings to its bow; an all-star performer. The corn States of the West are corn States. When the corn crop is taken out very little is left. North Carolina can raise corn like any other State, but besides corn it can raise nearly anything else. This State can raise corn as well well as Pennsylvania, tobacco to beat boiled eggs, sweet potatoes until there is nothing to compare, fruit of all sorts, just like the place where fruit grows wild; and other things as well. ¶ Here is a great beef possibility, and as beef keeps on going up in price, the North Carolina farmer will be induced to turn some of his corn into making corn-fed beef for the particular householder who thinks a juicy steak a necessity of existence. Here in the days to come will be a mutton country because the world will pay fancy prices for mutton. Mild climate, fine weather and plenty of it, good pasturage in most of the country above the sandhill, and long season for outdoor feeding tell what will be the future of the meat business of the State. Those pioneers in the dairy business show what can be done with butter. None better is made anywhere than in North Carolina where the farmers care to bother with dairying. That more butter is not made is simply because the North Carolina farmer has so many things he can turn his hand to that he does not need to tie himself down to those tasks that are more exacting.

To supplement the larger meat supply the North Carolina farm is rapidly getting into poultry, for in the mild climate poultry thrives to the delight of the people who are interested. You can set a hen almost any day in the year if the hen agrees, and she is in the notion usually from about the first of January up to somewhere after Thanksgiving Day. You can hatch out a bunch of frying size, eat them, and hatch another one and have them ready for the preacher by the time the Christmas holiday comes. The family at the poultry yard is in all sizes all the season of the year, from the young rooster trying to sing the opening measures of the "Song Without Words," down to the little fellow that is picking up his first bit of rolled oats and wondering what it is all about. Since prohibition set in in North Carolina, fried chicken is one of the most popular beverages left to us, and it seems to be a habit that is growing rather than falling into disuse in this country.

Like as not, while you are talking about it, prohibition is helping to put North Carolina in the king row and crown

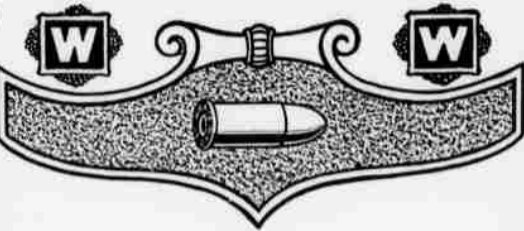
her queen, for prohibition, no matter what some of the other folks may tell you, has made old John Barleycorn more of a wallflower than he used to be. Friends up in Virginia undertook to relieve the choking sensation that came over this State with the prohibition amendment, and it still takes an occasional gallon of aqua-fortis and arsenate of lead mixture from out of the bad lands to keep your adams apple from sticking fast to your jugular vein, but taking it all around, the people have got into the habit of going to the grist mill with the money they used to take to the gin mill, and it makes a difference in people as well as in trade. A clerk of the courts where I drop in from time to time to talk about the weather tells me this prohibition business has saved him a lot of money. It cuts down the court business and that cuts down his income and that saves him from being held up by the United States income tax collector, and in that way he is ahead of the game. It is also knocking the life out of the witness fees, and that kind of thing.

You talk about reaching the limit of the food supply on the world. North Carolina has a hundred counties, and I don't believe there is one of them but could make a food crop worth ten million dollars a year. Down in Pender County, some of the Italians and Hungarians who have come over into the Hugh MacRae colonies are taking a thousand dollars from one acre in one season. That thing extended over the State would provide enough for all to eat that we could all grow fat. Moore County has four hundred thousand acres. A crop of a thousand dollars an acre in Moore county would give us four hundred millions dollars. But it would take some harvest hands to gather that crop, so it is wise not to try for it until more people are handy to help about the harvest. In this connection it is worth while to remember that a dewberry yield over at Cameron sold six or eight hundred dollars' worth of fruit from one acre a few years ago. The thing can be done if you want to try. The limit of production is not in the land. It is in the generalship of the man who plants. It is not any physical defect in the land that prevents you from making a thousand pounds of seventy-five-cent tobacco on an acre. The land will do it if you select the right seed and see that the plants have the right care all the way through. It is no great feat to raise five hundred dollars' worth of peaches on an acre. Moore County farmers have done much better than that. There is no limit to the yield that we have found out yet, although probably the limit of profit may be close enough that men will discover it some day. But when they do they will at once proceed to set it further ahead by intelligent effort.

With cheap water power, mild climate, ample rainfall, convenience to everywhere that is worth being near to, North Carolina is certain to give good accounts in answer to the attention she is attracting. No other State in the Union is making faster progress at the present time on farms or in the factories. The present lively clip is only the forerunner of what is to be expected when the fly wheel is properly in motion, for the present

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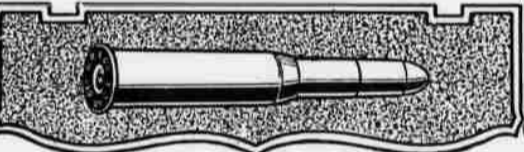


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