A STUDY OF NORTH CAROLINA

The seventh grade Geography Class of Central School has completed a detailed study of the state. Papers were written on "Why North Carolina Leads the South. As a whole they were very good and showed splendid work on the part of the pupils. Ethel Gaskel's paper was selected for publication. It follows:

BY ETHEL GASKEL

Three hundred years ago no white man lived in this beautiful land which we call North Carolina. It was the home only of red men and wild animals. Great forests of giant trees covered most of the land. The rest was sandy plains, bare hills, and rocky mountains. Here and there were a few mean huts, called "wigwags," made of sticks and bark and mud. Around them were little poor patches of corn and tobacco and potatoes.

What wonderful changes we see now! The forests have been cut down and where they grew we have pretty towns and busy cities. Humming mills, beautiful homes, fine churches, and pretty schoolhouses stand where once the cheerless wigwags stood. The sandy plains and bare hills are now covered with growing crops. The savage bear and the cruel wolf are seldom seen, and in their places we have the gentle horse and the useful cow. All these great changes and many more have taken place since white men first came to this country. The story of how all this happened is almost like a fairy tale, but a stern reality especially to our forefathers who endured the hardships of early colonization.

In order that you may appreciate and understand the great progress of North Carolina within the past 20 years, it is necessary to know her past history, her agricultural and industrial life.

History tells us that Raleigh's half-brother, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, went out in 1587 with an expedition, one of the ships being commanded by Raleigh himself. This expedition soon returned to England on account of the Spaniards. Six years after Raleigh sent out at his own expense the Amadas and Barlowe expedition. They came to the North Carolina coast, landing on Roanoke Island. They spent about two months and then returned, taking two natives.

In 1585 Raleigh sent out another fleet of seven vessels. The colonists settled on the northern part of Roanoke Island near what is now Manteo.

In 1663 Charles II of England gave the territory which included what was afterwards North Carolina to eight of his friends known as Lord Proprietors. There were no good harbors and not much contact with the outside world. There was not much wealth. All the attention was given to education at the beginning. The English came in great numbers, besides many French, Scotch, Irish, Moravians, Swiss and some Germans. There was religious freedom.

The chief crops in the colonial plantation in early settlement was tobacco, though large quantities of wheat and corn, and rice were also raised.

When the slaves were not at work they were busy making tar and turpentine, or clearing new grounds. Every plantation of much size had its own blacksmith shop, and blacksmith, its carpenter, its tannery, its shoemaker, its spinning wheels and loom.

North Carolina is included nearly between the parallels 34 degrees and 36 1-2 degrees north latitude, and between the meridians 75 1-2 degrees and 84 1-2 degrees west longitude, and is bounded on the north by Virginia, east by the Atlantic ocean, south by South Carolina and Georgia and west by Tennessee.

East and west the state is 503 1-4 miles in length, its average breadth is 100 miles and its extreme breadth is 187 1-2 miles. Its area is 52,286 square miles, of which 48,666 is land and 3,620 is water.

The Mountain Plateau extending from the Tennessee line to the Blue Ridge mountains is sharply and distinctly defined and embraces about twenty of the western counties.

From the west the appearance is much like a low and undefined ridge with occasional elevations to mark its course.

The western boundary is a long chair known as the Iron, the Smoky and the Unaka Mountains, forming the dividing line between North Carolina and Tennessee.

The area of this plateau is 6,000 square miles and contains the heaviest masses and the highest summits to be found in all the territory of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains; it is also the source of many large rivers which radiate to the Atlantic, and to the Gulf as the tributaries of the Mississippi. The horse-power generated by the streams is estimated at 3,500,000.

The general contour of the mountains is gental, the summits generally presenting rounded out lines, but occasionally rising into picturesque peaks and cliffs. The mountains are covered with deep rich soil and clothed with massive hardwood, forest almost to their tops where grass and shrubbery abound in the absence of trees. The valleys are extremely fertile and afford the most profitable farming areas of the region. The general slopes are responsive and produce timothy and other grasses; apple and peach orchards and vineyards thrive, producing extra large highly covered, and richly flavored fruits: corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley, buckwheat, white potatoes, cabbage and all other vegetables are easily produced. Mt. Mitchell is the highest peak.

The Piedmont Plateau, extending from the Blue Ridge mountain range to the coastal plain, comprises more than one-third of the landed portion of the state. In passing into it a change is once noted in its topography, its production, and its industrial pursuits. It is the great general farming region; agriculture in all its forms, stock raising, dairying, corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, grasses, clover, fruits and vegetables all find congenial environment in soil and climate and form the remunerative occupation of the majority of its citizens. It is dotted with thriving villages and towns; its homes indicate a high degree of thrift and comfort. It is the region of the greatest development in the manufacturing of cotton and wool and the production of furniture. It is here that the great water power exist and where they are harnessed and trained to turn machinery in the production of power and lights. It is here that the cotton fields surround the factory; the sheep browse upon the hills about the woolen mills; the forests surround the furniture factory. It is the great industrial region of the state, because it embraces greater diversity of interest than any other.

The Coastal Plain, stretching from the seashore to the Piedmont Section, nearly two hundred miles, comprises practically one-half of the landed area of the state, and its eastern fields have just enough elevations to aid its drainage. The western boundary may be roughly defined by a line extending from the western part of Warren, through Franklin, Wake, Cumberland, Chatham, Moore, Montgomery, and Anson. This line marks what an earlier period of earth's history was a line of sea beach hence called the coastal plain.

The soil is composed of clay, silt, and sand here one and there another of these characteristics predominating. Sandy loam, silty loam, and clay subsoil are most common. For the looks of them, these eastern soils are perhaps the most productive on the Atlantic seaboard.

But its great value is in the production of early vegetables and fruits for shipment to the great markets, but a few hours to the northward. The season follows closely upon that of Florida and finds the market a few weeks in advance of the lands of Virginia and Maryland tidewater regions. This fact is of immense value and has been the foundation of many of the fortunes made in the region during the last twenty years.

The most eastern part of the Coastal Plain is the tidewater section, which covers the counties where the waters are affected by the tides.

The swamp lands cover an area of between 3,000 and 5,000 square miles, situated chiefly in counties bordering upon the sound or the ocean.

The position in the warm temperate zone determines the chief climatic features of the state these are modified by various causes, most important of which are: The proximity of the ocean in the east and the mountain system in the west.

In the mountain section the influence of elevation predominates; the summers are cooler, the winters more severe than in the east, but mild in comparison with the middle northern states; the dryness of the air renders the region salubrious.

Intermediate between these regions, in the Piedmont Plateau may be found all graduations of the climate of the two. The climatic conditions here favor the growth of a great variety of crops, as cotton, tobacco, corn, and all kinds of vegetables and fruits.

The mean temperature of the state is 50 degrees.

The normal average precipitation for the state is 52 inches; mountain region 53 inches, Piedmont Plateau 48 inches, the Coastal Plain 54 inches.

North Carolina lies outside the path of cyclonic storms. No blizzards, no cyclones, just a good healthful, all round climate.

The spring opens in the State in April on the extreme eastern coast, generally March 1. in the heart of the mountains May 10. No killing frosts before the last of December or the first of January. On account of the topography, the winds prevent the dew from forming and hence there is no frost.

The soils of the basins of the great rivers of this section, and its mountain valleys are not noted for their fertility. The capacity for the production of cereals and hay grasses is equal to that of any lands. As might be inferred from the heavy forest growth with which the entire surface is covered, the mountain sides are susceptible of profitable cultivation up to their summits. The two extensive upland soils are loam and sandy loam, with three others of minor extent, which are clay, sand, and black loam. The bulk of these fall within the present limits of the Porter's series. The Porters loam is famous as one of the best fruit soils in the country. The Toxaway soils, which are of an alluvial nature, are found in the valleys and bottom lands. In high mountain coves is found the Porter's black loam, a soil much renowned for the production of fruit of the very finest quality.

The soil of this Piedmont Plateau presents a blending of the soils of the Eastern and Western regions. The soil is composed or diversified, in connection with favorable climatic conditions, offers great agricultural possibilities, and in this section we find the widest range of production. It is here that we find the largest area devoted to the cultivation of the most profitable varieties of tobacco and it is here that the culture of cotton is largely extended and profitably pursued; and it is here also that all the cereals and all the grasses are cultivated in their highest perfection, enlisting the leading agricultural interest of the population. Here also the fruits of the temperate zone find congenial home—apples, peaches, pears, cherries, the small fruits and grapes being unexcelled in excellence, variety and abundance.

The soils of this region are of light sandy texture and are mostly underlaid with clay. They are classified by the Bureau of Soils as the Portsmouth, Norfolk and Orangeburg series. They are from sand to sandy loam and fine sandy loam. These soils warm up quickly, are easily cultivated, and are therefore valuable for vegetable growing.

The most important and widely distributed soils of the section are commonly known as "red clay" and "graylands," most of which belong to the Cecil series. The Piedmont soils are of the Cecil clay series, in which the plays predominate. Toward the east they are more or less blended with the sandy types of the Coastal Plain.

Part of the soil consists of swamps. The swamps, in their natural state, afford abundant pasturage. They are covered in part by a dense growth of reeds, which supply excellent food for cattle, winter and summer.

Eastern North Carolina is favored in its climate and soil, its nearness to great markets and ready means of transportation. These conditions have produced one of the greatest, if not the greatest truck-growing sections in the country. Everything that a fertile soil and kindly climate will produce is grown here. So steady has been the growth and development of this great industry that no one can predict with certainty the proportions it will ultimately reach. It was once said of a certain county in eastern North Carolina that it could produce enough corn to feed the whole South. The truck lands of the east are capable of supplying the country in season, North, South, East and West, with all the vegetables they can consume.

The markets are already established in the southern states, the demand is already created, and the rich cove and river lands of the mountains produce celery, cabbage and Irish potatoes of the best quality. All these crops may be grown at great ease in North Carolina.

The forests of North Carolina are and have for many years been one of the chief resources of revenue to the people of the State, their products including domestic fuel, timber for construction and such forest by-products as turpentine and its derivatives.

The forests, which extend from the sea level in the eastern and southeastern section to altitudes of 6,600 feet along the state's western borders, where the Appalachian upheavals reach their culmination, are made up of more or less distinctly marked regions having different kinds of trees, the different growth being due to changes of temperature as the elevation varies and to the succession of different soils. The coastal plan has forests chiefly of pines; the Piedmont plateau with forests of pine mixed with hardwoods, or belts of hardwoods with pine, alternating with bests of hardwoods without pines; and the mountain, the forests of which lying above 2,000 feet elevation are destitute of pine. Some of the trees are magnolias, birches, pines, hemlock and balsam fir.

The North Carolina forests contain more kinds of valuable commercial timber trees than are found in any other State or territory. No one can name a tree that doesn't grow in North Carolina. Out of these trees many different articles are made: stock wagons, furniture, crossties, telephone and telegraph poles, all these are to be obtained from the forests of the state.

North Carolina has proved to be the second California for fruit. With its wonderful and varied climate, long growing season highly adaptable soils, North Carolina should be another California for fruit growing, and should be to the East as California is to the Pacific coast.

Practically all fruits can be grown throughout North Carolina, the production of different fruit crops upon a commercial scale has been restricted to certain sections. There are so many different varieties of fruits that one could hardly mention all; part of them are: apples, peaches, strawberries, grapes, dewberries, figs, blackberries, pears, cherries, quinces, plums, cranberries and raspberries. The leading orchard fruit in North Carolina is the apples; it can be grown in any part of the State. Peaches are grown generally over the entire state, with the exception of the highest elevations in the mountain section. Peaches are grown most at where we call the sand hills in the Eastern part of the state. Strawberries are grown over the entire state for home use the crop has become developed in the Coastal Plain. Grapes are grown in great masses in North Carolina for this fruit is a native of the state.

North Carolina is the principal dewberry producing state in the union. This fruit is grown in the Coastal Plain. The fig is one of the finest fruits for home use grown in the South. The blue berry is native in North Carolina, and reaches a high degree of perfection in the swampy regions of this state. Pears are grown in all parts of the state, but there are very few orchards on account of the pear blight. Cheries will thrive in a great variety of soils. They do fairly well in the Piedmont region, but are almost invariably unsuccessful in the Coastal Plain. Quinces are grown very little in North Carolina. Plums are grown in the Coastal Plain. The cranberry grown wild in two sections of the state. Raspberries can be grown in all parts of the State but do not thrive so well in Coastal Plain. Blackberries are grown mainly in the mountains.

Cotton has been one of the principal crops of North Carolina from its earliest history. Some cotton is grown in 88 of the 100 counties in the state practically one-fifth of all improved land in North Carolina is planted to cotton every year. As the price of cotton has the freight included North Carolina has had the advantage of being nearer to the manufacturing center, both by land and sea, than other cotton growing states. During the last few years the number of textile mills has increased in this state until she ranks first in cotton manufacturing among the cotton growing states and second in the United States. Instead of having to export some of the cotton raised to other parts of the country, there is not enough raised in North Carolina to furnish the spindles in operation in the state.

Gaston County is one of the greatest cotton manufacturing centers in North Carolina. It has 94 cotton mills, producing spindles totalling 1,136,593, looms totalling 4,216, a total of 16,694 employed in cotton mill; payroll of $33,865.00 daily, manufactured products for 1923 totalling $55,433.61. Mills using 232,741 bales of cotton annually or over 831 bales a working day. Gastonia is the cotton spinning center of the south.

The cultivation of tobacco in North Carolina began with the earliest pioneers. It was first grown on the river lands of the coast country, but as settlers moved westward into the upland sections, they found that a more satisfactory quality could be produced with the result that its cultivation was finally abandoned on the river low-grounds.

The important development of tobacco production in North Carolina did not begin until after the Civil War. Among the more important factors contributing to the rapid progress in the development into the leading money crop of the State may be mentioned: First, the introduction of the modern system of curing my means of flues with furnaces fed from outside the barn; second, the introduction of commercial fertilizers enabling the grower to greatly increase his yield and often improve the quality of the tobacco, and therefore the profit from its production.

Tobacco can be grown profitably in North Carolina; however, it is a very uncertain crop due largely to the hazards which confront it and to the varying market conditions.

Winston-Salem is the world's largest manufacturing center of tobacco products. Since the earliest settlement of our state corn has been an important food crop. The fact of it is said to have been an important part in the failure of the first settlers on our coast.

During the last ten years more than 600,000 acres in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont sections have been made available for corn production by the drainage of lowlands. Corn grown more frequently in very wet years.

North Carolina has natural climatic conditions for sheep raising. Eastern and lower Piedmont North Carolina is particularly adapted to raising early or hot-hous clambs. A number of lambs help clean up the land and enrich it as well as make a profit for the owner. best for poultry raising and poultry pro-

The climate of North Carolina is of the called on mountain pastures have topped the eastern markets on pasture alone, without the addition of grain or hay. On worn-out lands, where small temporary crops can be grown sufficient to keep the sheep and where the soil is not productive enough to grow pasture, they will enrich the soil in a few years so that it will be productive. Thereafter the sheep will ductive work. The state has neither extreme cold weather in winter nor extreme hot weather in summer, and grazing crops in the Coastal and Piedmont sections can be raised the year round.

North Carolina gained 2,826,733 fowls on the farms in ten years.

The fishing industry of North Carolina is greater than that of all the other South Atlantic States combined. The oysters of North Carolina are famous wherever known and there is room for tenfold increase in the output.

The Mica which is not capable of being cut into sheets is ground to a flour and used in the manufacture of wall papers; for lubricants, etc.

Regarding the mica itself as it ocurs in the vein, it is usually in rough crystals called blocks or books, distributed sometimes nearly evenly in the vein and at others nearer the contact of the vein with the country rock.

Twelve counties have mica, there are seven that produce muscovite mica. There are many of the gem minerals that have been found in North Carolina, and deposits of some have been found in sufficient quantity to become regular producers.

In North Carolina diamonds have been repeatedly found; and there are now ten authentic ones whose occurrences are fully established. The largest diamond, weighing four and one-third carats, was found in 1886 on the farm of Albert Bright in Dysartville.

The North Carolina locality for corundum gems which have attracted the most attention is a tract of land in Macon county.

Beautiful rubies of a rich pigeon-blood red color have been found here that could not be told from the Burmah stones. The best stone that has thus far been found is valued at $1,500. Many smaller gems have been obtained that were perfectly transparent and of good color.

The sandstones in this state are found in the Triassic rocks which form two belts in this state. The sandstone is of a brownish color, and is known as "brown stone," and has been quarried for use in construction of buildings.

The economic minerals of the State are another source of great wealth. The leading ones are conrundum, mica, talc, monazite, ziron, garnet, and koalin; these are merchantable and yield good returns. Besides there are two hundred other minerals found in the state. There are many gold-bearing ore bodies located. Millions have been taken from these mines, and there is more for the man who knows how to get it out.

North Carolina is situated for a manufacturing center. It has cotton, and woolen yarn, factories, furniture and other articles of wood. Gaston county leads in cotton mills. It has close on to a hundred. The largest denim mill in the world is at Greensboro.

Furniture and other articles of wood are made in abundance. The largest chair in the world was made at the Thomasville Chair Factory. Other cities in the furniture industry are High Point, Hickory and Lexington.

Tobacco is one of the leading crops in North Carolina. The town of Wilson is the largest market in the world for the sale of leaf tobacco.

The pulp factory at Canton in the western part of the state, is in the mountains.

There are factories in North Carolina on account of several reasons. First, on account of water power. There is good water power in the State which furnishes electricity for the factories. The climate of North Carolina is favorable for the people to work. There is plenty of raw material so that the factories can run. Labor is one thing that must be had. No mill in the state has any trouble getting people to work for them. The people like to work in the factories.

Of all natural resources of North Carolina there are perhaps none of so much value to the State in connection with her industrial development as the water powers. The value of these water powers can not be over-estimated, and this refers not only to the larger streams capable of developing from 10,000 to 40,000 horse-power, but particularly to the great number of small water powers capable of developing from a few to several hundred horse-power. Of all southern states, North Carolina stands perhaps first in the number and magnitude of available water powers.

The chief trade routes of the state are highways, railroads and waterways.

The state highways are built by the state. The state highway commission has charge of the work; they are paid for in several ways. First the people pay for them through the taxes. Second we have a tax on all gasoline bought in the state of North Carolina. Some of the roads are sand clay, concrete, and asphalt.

Another chief trade route is the railroad. The "Southern" is the main branch in North Carolina. The Norfolk Southern and several others run through the state.

North Carolina ships many different things by water lines. The largest river in North Carolina is the Cape Fear.

Education is important in every state. The Department of Education in North Carolina does very much. Among the state institutions are the North Carolina Colege for Women at Greensboro; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; A. & E. College at Raleigh; school for deaf, dumb and blind, and Eastern Carolina College for Women at Greenville.

In the county in the Department of Education or the Board of Education. There are consolidated schools. A consolidated school is when a number of country schools in one county are combined. It is for the people to go to at night.

North Carolina was one of the first colonies to have an assembly of citizens to make laws for governing themselves. From this crude beginning has come our present General Assembly. There are one hundred and twenty representatives in the House and fifty in the senate. They enact laws for the government of the people of the state, appropriate money for the support of the state's educational and benevolent institutions, provide for good roads, public health, etc.

North Carolina is represented in Congress by one representative from each of ten congresional districts elected for two years, and two Senators from the State at large elected for six years.

North Carolina in the 1920 census showed 2,559,123. The cities are very thickly populated. Those over 50,000 are Winston-Salem and Charlotte. Those over 20,000 are High Point, Greensboro, Durham, Raleigh, Asheville and Wilmington. The ones over 10,000 are Salisbury, Gastonia, Rocky Mount, New Bern, Goldsboro, Wilson, Concord, Kinston, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Statesville, Washington, Burlington and Greenville. Those over 5,000 are Sanford, Beaufort, Morehead City, Belmont, Morganton, Dunn, Kings Mountain and Edenton.

North Carolina lacks a fraction of a per cent. being all native born.

North Carolina has been maintaining company with the big States in contributions of taxes to the Government, for several years past holding sixth place. From July 1, to December 1, 1923, it paid into the United States treasury the sum of $77,000,000 in revenue taxes. This was an increase of more than $12,000,000 over the same period in 1922, and indicates that North Carolina will take fourth place during 1924.

During 1922 and 1923, North Carolina ranked fourth in agriculture. It is now forging closer to the top. In 1909 the per acre crop values were $22.10; in 1923 they had risen to $59. The average per acre value in cotton, for 1923, was $100; the average in tobacoc was $160 an acre. North Carolina, with a cotton production of over one milion bales a year, now leads all the Southern States. The Empire State of Texas, alone, grows more cotton, and North Carolina grows more cotton to the acre than Texas or any State in the Union.

The State's tobacco crop in 1923 was worth $74,970,000; its corn crop was valued at $59,108,400, and its cotton brought in $174,960,000. All State crops totaled $431,500,00, an established increase from $131,072,000 in 1909. The figures, in further detail, are: Peanuts, $9,800,000; small grains, $11,000,000; fruit $7,000,000; truck $8,000,000; hays $20,000,000; Irish potatoes $5,000,000; sweet potatoes $10,000,000; home gardens, $7,000,000; soy beans, $4,000,000.

The State raises more soy beans than any State in America. It grew more corn to the acre than any other State in the Union, and it stands third in production of sweet potatoes, sorghum and peanuts. Its possessions in virgin timber are the finest in America.

The same marvelous progres is under way in industry and development of natural resources. Industry is given mighty propulsion by development of water power, of which its streams are capable of producing 1,500,000 horse-power, the full amount of which is coming progressively into utilization. Electrical energy has given North Carolina world premiership in a number of items of manufacture. Its record of "the largest in the world" includes a towel factory, hosiery plants, aluminum factory, underwear factory and damask factory. It stands biggest "in America" in manufacture of wood pulp and cigarettes, denims, furniture, good roads and education.

In minerals the State leads the nation in production of mica and feldspar, mill stones and talc, and the mountains are filled with pockets of all the precious gems known to the catalogue, except diamonds. To offset that, it is the home of the rarest of all gems, the hiddenite. One hundred and eighty-five native minerals are listed in commercial quantities. These include: Gold, iron, copper, coal, granite and marble, graphite, limestone, manganese, asbestos, shales, clays and corundum. In one county there is a mountain of abrasive garnet now being mined by a company with large capital.

The number of industrial plants in the State was listed at 6,400 at the close of 1923, and they are multiplying all the time. The factory employment roll contained over 168,000 people and the disbursement of wages footed up $130,000,000. It is the expectation that by the beginning of Spring, 1924, the capital investment in North Carolina manufacturing plants will have exceeded $1,000,000,000, and the hydro-electric development back of these indsries, now the second largest in the world, will have become the largest.

For the expansive education program, the State has provided the sum of $24,000,000. Consolidated schools are being built in all the counties, State Normal College expanded and the University at Chapel Hill is being developed into one of the greatest State educational institutions in the United States.

The State is now completing a system of hard-surface and sand clay highways at an expenditure of $65,000,000 through issue of bonds. Interest on the bond and provision for payment of principal, is met solely by the tax on automovile licenses and a tax of three cents a gallon on gasoline. The roads are thus costing the taxpayers of the State nothing. During 1923 automobiles coming into North Carolina from other States, helped to pay the bill through purchase of gasoline, amounting in taxes to an average of $500 a day. At thet end of 1923 the State had finished 3,560 miles of improved roads.

The highway budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1 and ending with June 30, 1924, involves a sinking fund from automobile and gasoline taxes of $250,000. The interrest requirements are $2,250,000, assuming that the whole of the $50,000,000 bond issue has been used, which is not the case. The sum of $250,000 is set aside for overhead expenses; $3,000,000 is applied to the maintenance fund, making a total of $3,750,000.

The approximate revenues for the year will be $7,750,000, which will leave unappropriated a balance of $2,000,000, which may be kept, in the discretion of the Highway Commission, for extraordinary emergencies, and to be converted into the sinking fund afterr the end of the fiscal year.

The sinking fund of $500,000, derived one-half from the automobile and gasoline tax, and one-half from the general fund, will, according to the calculation made by the Department of Commerce at the University, retire the $50,000,000 bonds in less than 40 years.

In spite of the vast sums it has spent in construction of good roads and in enlargement of its educational and charitable institutions, the State has no ad valorem taxes and maintains the lowest State tax rate in the Nation. All county taxes are used for county purposes.

The poplation of North Carolina lacks but a fraction of being 100 peor cent. native American.

Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,
The summer land where the sun doth shine,
Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great,
Here's to down home, the old North State.

Two Things That Always Distress Me.
The Progressive Farmer.

One thing never fails to impress me in the hill country of the South, and that is the appalling, tragic waste of soils and soil fertility resulting from gullies. One thing never fails to make me heartsick in the wooded portion of the South and that is the distressing destruction of timber growth by forest fires.

"The crime of gullying" is a crime not only against the present generation but a crime against all who come after us. The Almighty is not making any more land, but on the contrary all future generations must get their food from the soil that is already here. Hence in a very real sense each individual farmer is "a trustee for posterity," or as Professor Massey used to say, "a tenant of the Almighty," responsible to Him for the use of the land that must nourish humanity through all the ages ahead of us. The increasing attention to terracing all over Dixie is gratifying, but the campaign against gullies really needs ten times the motive power it now has behind it. "Don't let any muddy water leave your farm" is too high an ideal to be quite practicable, but most of us can and should go much further in this direction than we are now going.

Forest fires not only arouse my regret because of the enormous money-losses and fertility-losses, but more than this, they actually pain me because they seem to maim and mar and depoil the very adornment of beauty with which the Almighty seeks to clothe the earth at each recurring springtime. To see a tree that should spread forth its garment of green whole and unscarred and unbroken—to see it ravaged instead by fire, with its lower foliage scorched and half-dying, its lower limbs blackened and mutilated, its trunk blistered and perhaps made liable to decay and disease; all this saddens me just as it does to see a horse or cow suffering or crippled by some accident or disease. Timber, where rightly managed, is fast becoming one of the great "money crops" of the South, and we need ten times more strenuous efforts to keep down forest fires so as to protect not only the larger trees but the young trees growth. It cannot be too often said that it is just as important to have "a good stand" in the case of our timber crop as in the case of any other crop.

"See that fire eating its way across that farmer's land," exclaimed our traveling companion at one point on our trip. "If somebody tried to take away from him a sum of actual money equal to what he is losing by that fire, what a row would be raised! And yet he does nothing when the fire robs him as truly as any burglar ever could!"

A negro chauffeur was haled into court for running down a pedestrian.

"Yo' honah," said the dark, "I did de bes' I could to blow do hon, but it wouldn't work."

"Then," said the judge, "why didn't you slow down rather than run over him?"

A light seemed to dawn upon the culprit, for he exclaimed: "Why, jedge, dat sho' is one on me. I never thought of dat."

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