

The Smithfield Herald

VOLUME 41

SMITHFIELD, N. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1922

NUMBER 14

N. C. HAS HIGHEST BIRTH RATE IN U. S.

Death Rate Decreases In 1921; Matter of Pride to North Carolina

RALEIGH, Feb. 16.—With a total of 89,623 births registered for the past year North Carolina has broken its own record for the highest birth rate in the Union established in 1920. At the same time a new low level in the death rate for the state is established with a total registration of 29,964 deaths. These figures are preliminary, and are subject to slight alterations as delayed certificates for 1921 are filed with the State Board of Health. Such delayed returns, however, cannot be sufficient to materially effect either the birth or death rate.

In 1920 the birth rate in the state was 31.8 per thousand population as compared with the rate of 23.7 for the registration area of the country. The death rate was 12.6 per thousand population for the state as against 13.1 for registration.

In 1921 the birth rate goes up and the death rate is lowered. On the preliminary figures available the birth rate for the year is 33.1, and the death rate is 11.4. Figures for comparison with the remainder of the country will not be made available by the United States Bureau of the Census until late in the present year. In this connection, however, it is of interest to note that the state of New York announces a death rate of 12.2 for the past year, a new low level for that state but one higher than for North Carolina. The city of Chicago announces a death rate of 11 for 1921, and the health commissioners of that city states that probably this is the lowest rate possible of attainment.

The net increase in the total population of the state for the past year, that is the excess of births over deaths, is 59,659, or a rate of increase of 2.3 per cent. If this rate of increase is maintained the population of the state will have passed the 3 million mark well ahead of the next decennial census.

While the birth rate is a matter of pride, yet it is the death rate that health officials watch most closely, and the constantly declining death rate in this state is the cause of genuine gratification. In terms of lives saved the lowering of the death rate for 1921 as against the previous year means that approximately 3,292 more Tar Heels are today alive and serving their respective communities than would have been if the 1920 rate had prevailed. Compared with 1914, when the death rate was 18.8, it means that approximately 19,656 more citizens are alive today, a population comparable with that of a number of the larger towns of the state.

Year by year since accurate statistics have been kept the birth rate in the state has been steadily climbing upward, and at the same time the death rate has been more markedly declining. The figures eloquently attest the fact that North Carolina is a good place in which to be born and to live and that its people as a whole are constantly growing healthier and happier.

THIEF ENTERS COTTER-UNDERWOOD STORE SUNDAY

Police Authorities Get Busy and Recover Articles at Rob Hines'

During the early hours Sunday morning, a thief entered the store of Cotter-Underwood Co., and made away with about \$150 worth of shoes, wearing apparel and dry goods. It seems that things had been missed from the store on one or two occasions for which no one could account. Between three and four o'clock Sunday morning a passerby thought he saw some one coming from the rear of the store. It was reported to the proprietors and during the day investigation was made. It was found that iron bars on the windows of the basement had been prized apart so that a person could squeeze through. The police were notified, and yesterday morning the stolen goods were located at the home of Rob Hines, colored. The goods were found concealed in the loft of the house. Hines was not to be found.

Mrs. H. L. Graves spent Sunday in Benson with relatives.

ELECTRIC SIREN BEING INSTALLED

City Commissioners Make Efforts to Improve the Fire Department

For some time the town commissioners have been working to improve the fire department of the town. Until a few months ago there had been no organized fire company since the war had taken so many recruits from the farmer company. Realizing that every town should be ready to fight fire two companies were formed, one from the white population and one from among the negroes. A new fire truck has been purchased and a new electric siren is now being installed. The town has grown to such size that the court house bell which has been used to sound fire alarms so long, is now inadequate, hence the installation of the siren.

The town has been divided into ten fire districts and charts are being prepared showing the location of these districts. When the system is completed, the fire company will know by the manner in which the alarm is sounded where the fire is, and no delay will be necessary to find in which direction the fire apparatus and the members of the companies shall proceed. We understand that soon daily drills will be engaged in by the companies until the signals shall become perfectly familiar. It is characteristic of Smithfield not to do things by halves, and the fire department does not promise to be an exception.

SELMA TO PAVE STREETS; CONTRACT AWARDED TO W. W. PIATT

Citizens Taking Steps For Securing a Union Station at That Junction.

SELMA, Feb. 18.—At a meeting of the city commissioners yesterday afternoon, the contract for engineering in the paving of the business section of Selma was awarded to W. W. Piatt, of Durham. The surveys have been made and the actual work of the paving will begin at once. There will be a great deal of sidewalk improvement in the proposed work.

J. L. Morehead, of Durham, has been employed as the city attorney in the handling of the bond sale.

A volunteer fire company of 22 members has been organized and practices will be held weekly. Equipment for the company has been purchased, including coats, hats, boots and other fire-fighting apparatus.

The town is having installed an electric siren fire alarm which will give a signal loud enough to be heard several miles. This was necessary as the fire bell now in use is not loud enough to give the proper signal.

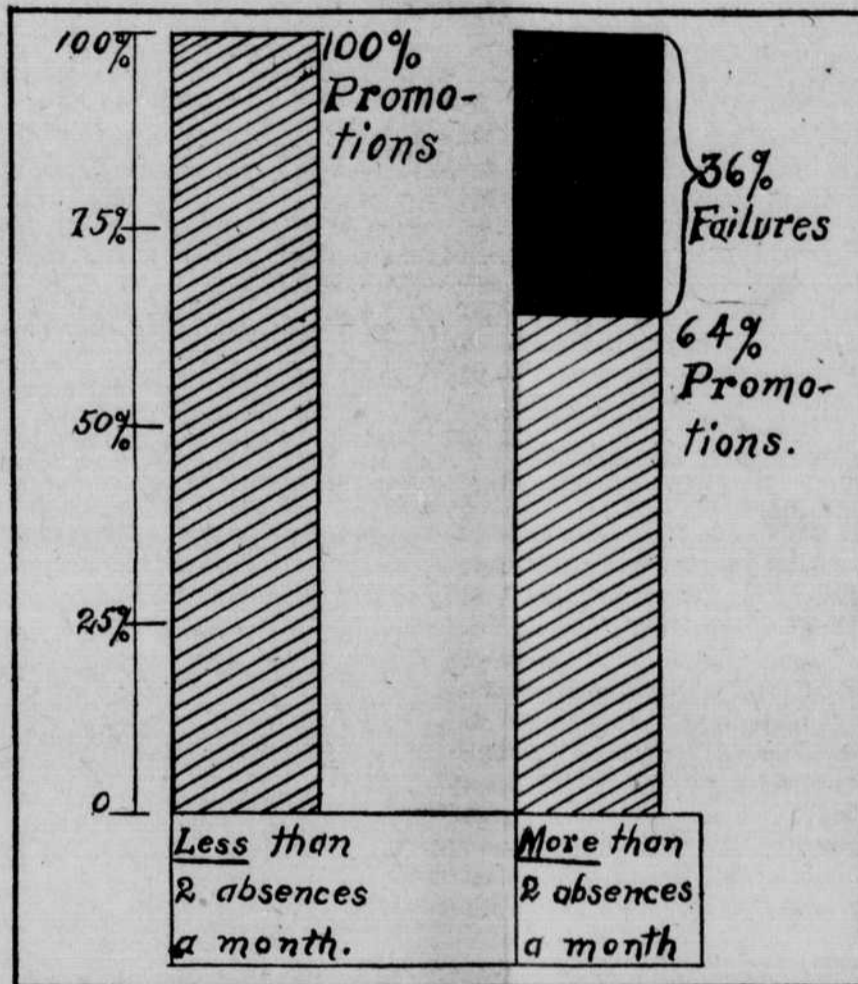
The chamber of commerce is planning an extensive campaign to help educate the farmers in the diversification of crops, and the eradication of the boll weevil. This work will begin at once and is expected to do a great deal of good in assisting the farmers in solving some of their problems the coming year.

As Selma has decided to take another step forward in progress by paving the streets and erecting a new hotel in the near future, the chamber of commerce has taken the position that it is time for the railroad companies to build the new union station that has been authorized but was not erected due to the war. There is no question as to how greatly this station is needed since more than 500 passengers pass through here daily. The old station now in use is poorly lighted and has not enough space to accommodate the crowds. There are no sheds to protect passengers in rainy weather nor other conveniences that should be provided. The chamber is going to press for some action on this proposition.

Bulletins on Gardening.
Gardening time is about here, and those interested in gardening in formation may get bulletins on the subject from Mr. S. J. Kirby, County Farm Agent or Miss Minnie Lee Garrison, Home Demonstration Agent. The bulletins available are: Extension Circular 121. The Home Garden; Extension Circular 122. The Farm and Home Garden Manual; Extension Circular 123. The Farm Garden.

IRREGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND FAILURES

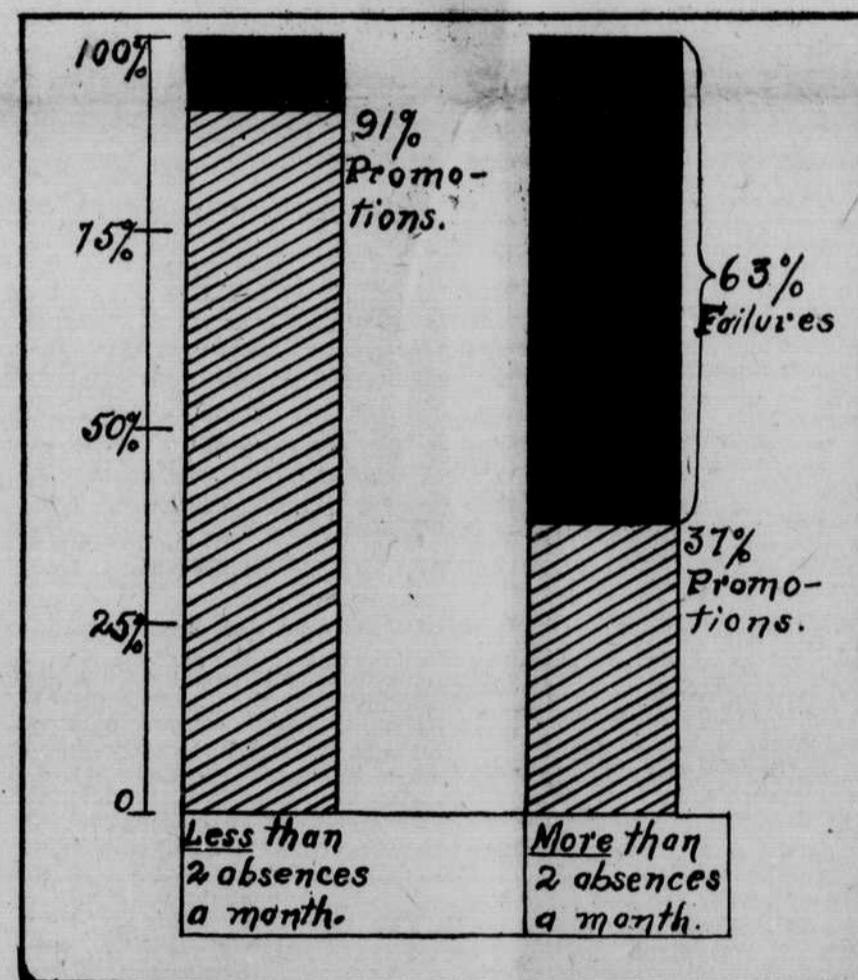
FIRST GRADE, 1920-21, TURLINGTON GRADED SCHOOL SMITHFIELD, N. C.



There were 107 pupils in the first grade last year, 1920-21. Thirty-two were absent less than two days a month, and every single one of them was promoted, 100 per cent promotion.

Seventy-five were absent more than two days a month, and only 48 of them were promoted, 64 per cent promotion. Twenty-seven of the seventy-five failed, 36 per cent failures.

FOURTH GRADE, 1920-21, TURLINGTON GRADED SCHOOL SMITHFIELD, N. C.



There were 67 pupils in the fourth grade last year, 1920-21. Forty-three were absent less than two days a month. Of these 43 pupils 39 were promoted and 4 failed, 91 per cent promotion and 9 per cent failures.

Twenty-four were absent more than two days a month. Of these 24 pupils only 9 passed. Fifteen of the twenty-four failed. Of the twenty-four who were absent more than two days a month only 37 per cent were promoted. Sixty-three per cent failed.

The above shows that even keeping children out of school on rainy days may cause them to fail of promotion at the end of the year.

WORLD'S COAL SUPPLY SHOWS A BIG DECREASE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Decrease of more than 200,000,000 tons in the world's production of coal in 1921, compared with the output in 1920, was noted in a statement on mining activities issued today by the United States geological survey.

From reports so far received, the statement said, the total world output of coal last year was 1,100,000,000 metric tons, with France and Germany the only nations showing an increased production. The chief factors in the lessened output in other countries, it was said, were the strike by British miners and "a world-wide industrial depression."

James Lane Allen, who put Kentucky on the literary map of the world is past 72 years of age. He is a bachelor and present resides in New York City.

10,000 PEOPLE ESCORT BILLY SUNDAY TO HIS TRAIN

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Feb. 19.—Rev. William A. Sunday closed a six weeks revival campaign here today, speaking four times to audiences of more than eight thousand in each gathering, and was escorted to the railway station upon his departure tonight by ten thousand people, hundreds of them carrying flaming torches.

During the campaign twenty thousand people have responded to his invitations.

Tonight the free will offering to Mr. Sunday amounted to \$22,654.80.

What They Stood For.

Tommy—What does L.L.D. after a man's name mean?
Jimmy—I guess it means that he's a lung and liver doctor.—Concord Times.

PROPERTY VALUE GREATLY REDUCED

Taxes Are More; 26 Million Collected for County Purposes in 1921

More than a half billion dollars in values was written off the tax books in North Carolina during 1921, and in that year a total of \$26,326,339 was levied in taxes for county purposes, an estimated increase of five million dollars over the preceding year. The figures for taxes levied do not include municipal taxes. Through reductions made by the commissioners of more than half the counties in the State, and approved by the State Revenue Commission, aggregate property values have shrunk from \$3,158,480,072 reported to the General Assembly in 1920 by the State Tax Commission to \$2,575,230,000. The estimated revenues for all county and State purposes in 1920 were \$21,000,000.

Final reports of tax values and the total of taxes levied and collected have been made to the State Revenue Commission from 96 of the 100 counties. Figures for the remaining four counties are approximated upon the basis of their percentage of reduction from the values fixed by the State Tax Commission in 1920 under the Revaluation Act.

Included in the total of 26 million dollars of taxes paid are all items levied by the county boards of commissioners, special road taxes, school taxes by districts, taxes to cover the interest on bonds, county fund, and all other taxes levied. Poll taxes are also included in the totals. No taxes were levied during the year for the support of the State Government, or any of its departments.

No semblance of uniformity of tax rates remain among the counties, except in the county fund tax, which is limited by the constitution to fifteen cents on the \$100 valuation of property. School taxes are at wide variance, as are also special taxes levied for school, road and other improvement bonds. The average for the entire State is about \$1.00 on the \$100 valuation of real and personal property.

From Alleghany where less taxes are paid than in any county in the State, with its \$33,000 for all purposes, to the county of Mecklenburg, the only county in the State where the taxes amount to more than a million dollars annually, exclusive of municipal taxes, estimated at three-quarters of a million dollars, the uniformity aimed at in the revaluation act has disappeared.

The ratio between the amount of taxes collected and the total of the property valuation is the same in no two counties. In the county of Madison, with ten millions of value, the taxes total \$182,000. In Martin, with a valuation of seventeen millions the taxes collected are but \$5,000 more than the total collected in Madison.

No authentic estimates of the taxes collected in 1920 are available. The estimated revenues under the ten per cent clause of the revaluation act for all county and State purposes was placed at \$17,639,892. Disregard of the ten per cent clause in many counties of the State advanced the taxes collected to beyond twenty million, according to estimates. In 1919 the taxes collected totaled \$16,036,265.

Values have risen and fallen throughout the State as it pleased the county authorities to change them. In Guilford county a total of six million dollars was added to the tax books and in New Hanover two million. In Durham county, property values shrunk from one hundred and twenty-two million to eighty-two million. Large tobacco properties there are valued at less than the prevaluation values. Revenues have been increased from \$500,000 to \$700,000.

As a general rule western counties have cut their values but little. The most drastic reductions in tax book values have been made in eastern counties, in some instances ranging as high as 50 per cent of the 1920 figures. Western counties that have not tinkered with the figures fixed by the State Tax Commission have been required to make but few alterations in their tax rates.

Tax rates in the counties where drastic reductions were made have been increased by a corresponding

A BOOKLET ON JOHNSTON COUNTY

W. M. Sanders, Jr., and Geo. Y. Ragsdale at Work on Book at University

Mr. William M. Sanders, Jr., who is a student at the State University spent the week end at his home here and while in the city called in to see us, and told us of a project which he, together with Mr. George Y. Ragsdale, also a student at Chapel Hill, is planning as part of their spring work in the course on sociology. They propose getting out a 75-page booklet to be entitled "Johnston County: Economic and Social." During last year the department of Rural Social-Economics at the University made thirty-two special county studies, and we are glad to know that Johnston county is to be included in the studies for this year. The pamphlet as outlined by Mr. Sanders will certainly be a valuable publication and one which every citizen of Johnston county would be proud to possess. The subject matter will include historical backgrounds, natural resources, industries and opportunities, facts about the folks, facts about rural schools, farm conditions, and practices and other phases of our county life. Cuts of various institutions in our county of which we are justly proud will add to the attractiveness of the booklet. It is the purpose of these young men to make it possible to issue 3000 copies of the book which the University will mail free to as many families in Johnston County. In order to finance the publication advertisements will be solicited from the various business concerns of the county. It is hoped to have the book ready to mail out by the first of July.

This is a worthy undertaking, and such a compilation of facts about Johnston County should meet with approval and encouragement on all sides. We wish Messrs Sanders and Ragsdale a rich measure of success in this work.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY'S RECORD OF ON-TIME TRAINS, 1921.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—During the year 1921 the Southern railway system operated 179,835 passenger trains, many of them being through trains operated in connection with other lines and covering distances of from 1,000 to 1,500 miles.

Of this great number of trains, 172,182 or 95.1 per cent ran on schedule, or made up time while on the Southern and 166,277, or 92.5 per cent reached final terminal on time, Vice President Henry W. Miller, in charge of operation, announced today.—Charlotte Observer.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX MAN TO VISIT JOHNSTON COUNTY

Mr. A. T. Uzzle, one of the Federal Income tax men was here last Friday and Saturday looking after the government tax business. He will come back to the county soon being at Kenly, February 23rd and at Clayton February 24th, and 25th. He will be at Smithfield Monday and Tuesday, February 27 and 28. Mr. C. M. Peek will be with him here.

ratio, or at a higher ratio in comparison with the reductions made. Faced with the necessity of raising sufficient revenues to meet the demands of their county government, schools and other institutions, the commissioners have been forced into raising the tax rate. Reduced values have but one apparent effect that of demoralizing the taxing system.

Numbers of counties that made drastic cuts in values last April when the matter of values was reopened, petitioned the revenue commission later for permission to restore values to their former level. Permission was granted in several instances. No county in the State has been able to reduce the aggregate of taxes through a reduction in the values of property, or through any other means.

Caswell county, which cut values twenty per cent last April, paved the way for restoring the revaluation act when its representative secured the passage of a bill at the December special session, giving the commissioners authority to go back to the old level of values, but no higher.—News and Observer.