

Look Up and Not Down  
Look Forward  
And Not Back

# The Messenger

Look Out and Not In  
Lend A Hand

DR. EDWARD EVERETT HALE

VOLUME 1

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## New Business!!

Furniture! Furniture! Furniture!  
**C. G. ELLIS, GATESVILLE, N. C.**

Largest stock of furniture ever brought to Gatesville at one time. Bought direct from factories and shipped in car loads. Bought for cash and will be sold cheap. Solid Oak Suites \$35.00.

Same as sold at other places for \$50.00. In fact all prices from one-third to one-half lower than elsewhere. HOW DO WE DO IT? Plenty storage room—small expense.

Special Attention Given to my

## Undertaking Business



WILLEYTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

### Some Interesting Facts About Gates County gleaned From the 1910 Census.

The land area of Gates County approximates 229,760 acres, of which area 136,748 acres is in farms including improved fields and woodland in farms. As every Gates County man knows the alluvial soil of these farms is rich, easily worked and highly productive.

Now it is very interesting to note the rank of the county as compared with other counties of the State with respect to the things which concern these farms and their owners, expense in labor and money, products and returns. This should be no idle study to the people of Gates County, but one of vital interest, because upon these very conditions and the efforts of her people to better them must rest the material weal or woe of the County, for Gates is strictly a farming county and must remain so, and whatever concerns her farms is of vital importance to her people.

The following facts collected as a study in the U. N. C. Summer School will help you to know your own county. It will be well to preserve this copy as other articles will appear from time to time using these facts as a basis for comparison.

#### How Gates County Stood in the 1910 Census Year as Compared With Other Counties in the State

In the year 1910 Gates County stood 30th in farm tenancy among the counties of the State. This means that 29 counties of

the State had a smaller percentage of tenant farmers. Twenty-eight out of every 100 farmers (28.2%) in the county are tenants. There are 225 white tenants and 181 negro tenants. This is to say that more than one-fourth of the farms of the county are run by renters. More than one-half of these renters are share tenants (51.6%) and only six counties in the State have less percentage. The total number of tenants in the County being 406, and the number of share tenants 210. The total number of tenants for the State is 187,287; share tenants 80,215, making the percentage of share tenancy in the State 74.7 per cent. Since 42 farmers out of every 100 in the State are tenants, it will be seen that Gates County is below the average in this particular.

To understand the effect of this condition of our farming system one has to note the tenancy of tenant farming, which is inevitably toward a lowering of farm efficiency. Some of these farms are owned by non-residents, some by professional men or merchants; at any rate the farm lacks the personal supervision of the owner who would have the interest of Tennyson's Northern Farmer in doing "his duty by the land." On the other hand they are run by renters, some of whom never hope to own a foot of land, and who year after year, plant a money crop to pay rents and to spend for the supplies they do not raise, most often to the neglect of permanent soil efficiency and farm betterment. This practice holds even more emphatically in the case of share tenancy (more than one-half the

total number of tenants in Gates County are in this class.

Fortunately for the county, however, the average is already less than the State average, showing that tenancy is decreasing in Gates and ownership farming increasing, and this is a step in the right direction.

A significant fact in this connection is this: While the number of negro farm owners (268) is of course much less than the number of white farm owners (763), yet negro farm ownership is increasing more rapidly than white farm ownership. Sixty out of every 100 negro farmers in the county own their own farms, and since Gates ranks 26th in this particular, twenty-five counties in the state have a smaller percentage of negro farm owners. The round number of negroes owning their farms is 268, of white farmers 763, since twenty-eight and 2-10 per cent of white farmers are tenants, this number represents less than 75 per cent of white farmers owning their own farms.

Farm ownership sometimes involves mortgage indebtedness, and this accounts in part for the large percentage of debt on the farms in Gates County. Out of every 100 farms owned by white men in the County 25 are mortgaged, and out of 100 farms owned by negroes 44 are mortgaged. Each of these ratios exceeds largely the State average which is 17 out of every 100 for white farmers and 41 for negroes.

Now there are two classes of folks who mortgage their farms: Those who are paying for a home which they hope to make comfortable and supporting for their families, and those who have failed in farming ventures through inefficiency or indifference. Since farm ownership is on the increase it is probable the former class will swell the percentage of mortgage indebtedness and the next census will show the debt on the decrease.

The conclusion naturally to be drawn from these facts is in favor of the live-at-home farm owner, who plants such crops as he needs for home supplies and such as he needs to meet the expense of supplies he cannot raise, while his personal attention is given to improvements that will make his farm more and more efficient.

Naturally one might suppose that the richer the farm and the higher its rate of productiveness, the fatter would be the pocket book of the owner, but the facts show the fallacy of this hypothesis.

In crop producing power North Carolina varies from \$42.02 per acre in Scotland County down to \$4.83 per acre in Alleghany County. Thirty-five counties have a larger yield than Gates, which is \$17.64 per acre. The United States average is \$16.41 and the State average is \$15.31. Gates County beats three of the banner counties of the United States in this respect, the lowest of which, Whitman county, Washington has a per acre crop producing power of \$14.00.

The per capita wealth of Gates County is \$302. The average of the State is \$322 and for the United States is \$994. The average for Illinois is \$2655 and for Iowa \$3386.

Now while Gates has a per acre crop-producing power of \$17.64 and Whitman County Washington has a per acre crop-



GATESVILLE SCHOOL BUILDING

producing power of \$14.00, Gates has a per capita wealth of only \$302, and Whitman County, Washington, a per capita wealth of \$2414. Alleghany County, N. C., has a yield of \$4.83 per acre and her per capita wealth is \$560.

Evidently the money made on the farm in Gates County is not retained and does not enrich the farmer. Where does this money go? The compass of the article does not admit a consideration of this question. Doubtless our farmers who read this article will have reached a conclusion upon this subject before our next issue, in which this question with others of like interest will be treated.

### School News (White)

A petition has been signed by the patrons of school district No. 4 Haslett Township, and will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their next meeting asking for an election in the district for the purpose of voting a special tax for the support of the school. They expect next year to build a new house.

The two schools near Roduco have been consolidated and the consolidated district is now erecting a nice two room house preparatory to opening the Fall term with two teachers. The ladies of the community are deeply interested in the project and are helping to finance the matter. The new building is being erected near Roduco, which is near the center of the new district.

The following schools opened on the 30th of October: Hobbsville, Trotville, Muddy Cross, Acorn Hill, Willeyton and Bosley. All of these schools will have a six months term. The remainder of the white schools will open on the 13th day of November.

Miss Briding Parker of Willeyton has accepted the work at Bosley in place of Miss Viva Rector who resigned to accept a position in the school at Knotts



SUNBURY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

this school and in the near future another room will be added to the building and a third teacher employed.

The question has often been asked this Fall whether school books would be changed or not. They will not. School books can be bought from L. A. Rountree and Co., Sunbury; W. A. Sykes, Hobbsville; and R. M. Riddick, Gatesville.

A new library has been ordered for the school at Acorn Hill. If YOUR school wants a library and will raise \$10, the State will give \$10 and the County \$10 and the County will furnish a book-case.

Gatesville High School has ordered a supplementary library, consisting largely of reference books.

The Chautauqua held in Gatesville last month was a success in every way. The attendance was large and the Civic League realized more than \$200 profit which will be used toward improvement of the school property.

### School Attendance

Let me urge upon every parent to place their children in school the day school opens and keep them there until it closes. Your child missing a day or two days each week cannot make progress in their work. Absence from school on the part of any child has a tendency to retard the progress of every one of his or her classmates. The absent child misses an important lesson and when he or she goes back to school the other children have gone over that particular lesson which it is necessary to understand in order to comprehend the next lesson or subject. Absence then not only affects the absentee but all of the class. See to it that your children are regular in their attendance.

### A Beautiful New Home For Sale

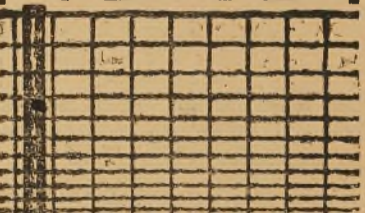
Large corner lot, 8 rooms and out-buildings, Good school, 3 churches and excellent neighbors, cheapest insurance, electric lights and phones. If you desire a home of these and other advantages. Call to see us and give the property personal inspection.

### Cross & Costen, Real Estate

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