

The Percentage of Increase; Agriculturally, Industrially and Educationally in North Carolina has Surpassed Any State in the Union.

The Great Development in Elizabeth City and the Adjacent Territory is Simply Phenomenal. The "Picture City" In the Heart of the Immigration Influx that is Bound to Gather Much Meritorius Human Material —18,000 Souls in A. D. 1920.

In a statement issued nearly ten years ago, the then Governor, R. B. Glenn, said:

"The great development now going on in our state is not confined to any one locality but extends everywhere and is simply phenomenal.

"In 1860, North Carolina was the poorest state in the Union, while today its percentage of increase, agriculturally, industrially and educationally, has surpassed every other State.

"The value of our lands has advanced fifty, and in some places one hundred per cent. No other state has as many cotton mills, and we are third in number of spindles and looms. Next to the largest furniture town in the world is in North Carolina; we make about six hundred thousand bales of cotton, and manufacture more than we make, and this year have surpassed all other states in the manufacture of plug tobacco. Our increased valuation of property from 1900 when it was 306,000,000, to 1905, when it amounted to \$443,000,000, was 41 per cent, while the increase in Texas, the next largest, was only about twenty per cent."

Now look back, and without invoking statistics, for they are not at all necessary, and think of the remarkable progress in all lines since Mr. Glenn made those remarks. The increase must have been more than fifty per cent during the past decade, when the greatest wave of prosperity in the history of the commonwealth swept over it from the beach to the Tennessee line. Nowhere in this State has this progress been more marked than in Pasquotank and the counties adjacent thereto and in no section have the people adopted a more wide awake policy than here, and as a result in an incredibly short time, rural districts have been converted into villages, and villages into thriving manufacturing towns where the hum of machinery and the clatter of saw, spindles, hammer and other implements make music to the industrial ear.

Here, too, gardens and truck farms have been reclaimed from the marshes and barren fields until in truth we gather roses where thistles once abounded, and fruit instead of briars. Nature has given this section every variety of soil, from the muck of the swamp, the stiff clay land of the higher elevations, the sandy loam and alluvial soils, to the fertile rich lands of the rivers and creeks—producing every kind of crop from peas to cotton, after the same farm yielding corn, wheat, peanuts, cacao, cotton, melons, grapes, fruits and grapes. Along the "valleys" of the streams, it is not unusual to find lands that will yield from one thousand pounds to a ton of cotton and seed to the acre, and from forty to fifty bushels of corn or more.

During the past twenty years along the railroads and streams traversing this fertile country,

special attention has been given to trucking, and the vast amount of cabbage, lettuce, potatoes, strawberries and all other early fruits and vegetables, show that the productive quality of the soil is equal if not superior to the far famed trucking farms of Florida and Georgia. So immense has been the yield of these farms that sometimes during past years it was almost impossible for the railroads to furnish cars sufficient to supply the demand needed for shipping to Northern markets.

Not only has Northeastern Carolina a soil suitable for all cereals, fruits and vegetables, but it is also rich in timber, such as pines, cypress, gum and oak, and while already vast quantities have been cut, still enough remains to furnish employment to thousands of laborers in carrying on the work done in the lumber, sash and blind and box factories, etc.

"At one time owing to bad water and malarial diseases prevalent in certain localities of the East", said Mr. Glenn, "home-seekers rather dreaded casting their lot here, even tho' the inducements were great, but preferred to go elsewhere, even though in a poorer section. All this, however, is now remedied by the establishment of waterworks in the towns and a system of driven wells in the country, and by using nets and screens against the malarial mosquito, until today Eastern Carolina is as healthy as any other portion of the State, in fact, the mortality being even less than in the West."

Climate? What's the matter with a climate which has no extremes, where it never gets zero cold and seldom too hot for comfort, when the death rate is lower than it is in a mountainous section, fre-

quented by health seekers? One or two wealthy men are proposing the establishment of more health resorts in Eastern Carolina and one of the leading authorities on health in the world says that one Eastern Carolina county is the healthiest in the entire South. Typhoid is soon to be entirely eradicated because many counties are now taking steps to immunize and administer free preventive treatment and within the next twelve or fifteen months every

other county in the state will, impelled by the spirit of progress now dominating every phase of life in the Tar Heel commonwealth as a matter of course follow suit. There is not nearly so much malaria in the State now as five years ago. The mortality rate in the State as a whole is not gratifying to the medical profession, so with the most diligent and patriotic medical organization of its scope in the Nation exploring our backwardness in this respect, we will lower it

if you please. The doctors in Convention last year determined to reduce the death rate fifty per cent within a decade. Will they do it? What did the educational authorities of the State do when they suddenly took note of the fact that only one other State in the Union surpassed it in illiteracy? They got a move on, passing a state or two a year in their anxiety to put North Carolina near the top of the list. It is rapidly approaching the top now. North Carolina builds a little matter of a school house a day, 365 a year including 52 for the Sundays and not forgetting Christmas and the Fourth of July.

Fifteen years ago North Carolina was some eighteen or twenty thousand square miles about as effectually isolated from the great Republic of which it is a part as a section could be. Its people to the South of the Picture City joyously remarked when they started on a trip into the North, West or South that they were going to "the States".

There wasn't—honest, now—a Pullman in the entire State East of the main line of the At-

lantic Coast Line. Some of the lines carrying passengers were narrow gauge affairs. There wasn't a respectable passenger coach in the region. Now there are as many trains for the size of the towns, as up-to-date service, schedules as fast, and rates as fair as can be had anywhere in the country except in the very thickest populated parts of the the North. The Norfolk Southern Railroad touches at nearly every point in the east of more than 3000 population. Fifteen years ago Elizabeth City was its Southern terminus—it was one of the most insignificant little carriers in the country. Today it is a really true great system so far as truckage and the amount of business done are concerned. The Norfolk Southern in little more than a decade has extended its line to Washington, to Newbern, to Beaufort, to Goldsboro and from Washington west through Greenville, Wilson, Raleigh, and on to Charlotte. Charlott is almost as distant from Elizabeth City as is New York.

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