

Folk Southern in this region has kept pace with the progress in other lines, and to see the condition of things now and then remember what it was only a few years ago is the mind with wonder and amazement. Cotton factories of every kind, saw mills, some of the largest in the world—cold storage plants, turpentine stills and many other works, all attest the onward march of this thrifty section, and is but an earnest of what the future will most assuredly be. The people too, are not only industrious, sober and alert to everything that makes for their upbuilding, but are also awake to the educational needs of the hour. Everywhere splendid high schools and colleges are furnishing young men and women too poor to seek education in the universities and private colleges, a sufficient education to fit them for all the duties and requirements of life.

Elizabeth City the Hub of This Happy Land

Elizabeth City, the county seat of Pasquotank county and commercial center for a dozen others, is one of the most progressive towns in North Carolina. Its growth has simply been marvellous. Once it was a little village, and that within the memory of people not near arrived at middle age. Now it has grown into a city however, with banks, markets, warehouses, factories, several railroads, many boat lines, paved streets, electric lights, waterworks, fine business houses of every description, well-conducted newspaper, splendid schools and churches, and an up-to-date energetic population, bound to prosper and go forward, and soon to be a powerful factor, in the industrial, political and religious life of the entire State. This fertile section of North Carolina and this hustling city of the future offer unsurpassed facilities and opportunities to every class of men—men with capital seeking investment, laborers wanting work, home seekers desiring peace and plenty; truck and crop farmers wanting rich yet cheap lands, sojourners for health or pleasure, the fisherman, doctor, lawyer, merchant, broker preacher—will find here conditions and opportunities both agreeable and profitable. Right here it might as well be said in all frankness that undertakers need not apply. Their profession is going out of style. Undertakers who are willing to depend upon some other avocation for a livelihood and employ the black business only as a side line will be enabled to get along nicely enough.

Elizabeth City is a modern city. It offers hundreds of inducements that other cities offer, and many that other cities do not have to offer.

The water rate in Elizabeth City is only 50 cents per tap for domestic use at the flat rate, and twenty five cents for each additional tap, per month. Unlimited is the supply. It usually costs about \$2 a month to supply a ten room house. For small families the meter rate is only about thirty cents per 1,000 gallons for the first thousand and 20 cents for each additional thousand. The commercial rate is twenty cents per thousand gallons for the first one thousand gallons; 15 cents for the second hundred thousand; 10 cents for the third hundred thousand, and so on. The water supply is excellent, according to State expert's analysis. The supply comes from Knobbs Creek, three miles from the city. The company is making

arrangements for digging deep wells to supplement and possibly do away with the old water source except in an emergency. Electric lights can be had here at a lower cost than in many of the large cities of the country, because fuel is unusually cheap.

The city has a fire department of volunteers which would do credit to a town several times the size. There are two steam engines. Most places this size have no steamers for fire use when they have ordinary main pressure. Elizabeth City's pressure for fire purposes is 110.

Elizabeth City is governed by a mayor, city manager and board of aldermen—live, progressive, energetic, typical men. In their private business they play important parts in the upbuilding of the community commercially; in their public capacities they take the same pride—in making it a bigger, better and brighter community for people to live and work and worship in.

The franchise has been given for a street railway system.

Elizabeth City has seven miles of paved streets and is building more. It has many more miles of improved streets. Brick is the material generally used, which shows the thoroughness of Elizabeth City's way of building things in general. Sidewalks are of modern concrete construction.

There are many beautiful churches here. In the awakened life of this community in the new energy and development of every commercial interest about it, Elizabeth City has not fallen into the idolatry of the material to the dwarfing of the spiritual well-being of its citizenship. It is too often the case that one or the other suffers while the other is advanced. There are six principal congregations, with a total membership of around four thousand. All are comfortably ensconced in handsome edifices. The Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist denominations have the greatest strength numerically. Numerous other beliefs are represented in the population.

The health department is a paying investment. It reduces the mortality rate by several per cent annually. Capable men are at its head, having the backing of the administration to the fullest extent. Come to Elizabeth City and if you are not already a zealous sanitarian you will soon be forced to be come one. The example is set you, to begin with. The back yards here are kept as clean and attractive as the front yards in most towns.

The County courthouse, the United States Post Office and a magnificent hospital are among the handsome buildings.

Elizabeth City's public schools are among the finest in North Carolina. The graded schools were opened in 1907 with an enrolment of 933. Now the average attendance is several hundreds greater. The High School is rated among the half dozen leading institutions of its kind in the State. The methods used in the school are the same as apply in the city schools of the North, the teachers are well paid, and the effect of the educational system upon

the community generally is felt in manifold ways.

The hospital is one of the best equipped institutions of the kind in the South. Its own nurses are trained and graduated in the hospital.

There are a number of clubs and many other social organizations here. The Elks have a large membership. All the fraternities that have taken hold in this part of the country have lodges here. Church Societies are numerous.

The banks are strong financially and managed by prominent men. They testify with their remarkable records of growth to the gains made by the community during the past decade. They have a capital of more than two hundred thousand dollars.

Elizabeth City has better transportation facilities than any other place in the city. Water lines connect it with the Virginia Coast Cities, Baltimore, and every point of any consequence whatever in the Tidewater North Carolina where continuous passage is possible. The new intrastate freight rates work to its advantage decidedly. Rail connections are good. Frequent trains are had for passenger service, and the freight service by rail is ample.

The business of the Post office here increased a hundred per cent in the ten years ending in 1914. Nineteen people are employed in the office.

Warehouse accommodations on the Pasquotank river are unexcelled by those of any port town of any size in the State.

Elizabeth City's ideal location has made it the commercial capital of this great region. Look at the map and try to conceive of a more appropriately situated town.

One of the many lumber plants here manufactures 30,000,000 feet of sawed lumber in twelve months. About 75,000,000 feet are shipped out of the local market every twelve months.

Elizabeth City has scores upon scores of handsome homes. Some of them cost many thousands of dollars. Realty values have increased consistently with the advance of the community commercially and the broadening of its territory. The increase in valuation during the past 15 years was approximately 300 per cent.

The Civic League conducts rest rooms, supports every public movement for the betterment for all the people, championed the Chautauqua, an established institution of Elizabeth City's midsummer life, has converted a vacant lot into a creditable park, and is making itself tremendously useful in general. It plants trees, engineers "clean-up" weeks, supervises community Christmas trees, and so on.

Elizabeth City's population is now increasing at the rate of almost a thousand a year. Well posted people confidently expect the 1920 census to give it a total of something like 18,000 souls. It is not unlikely that the population will even exceed 18,000 then, since the influx of immigration is just beginning in this section, and Elizabeth City being directly in the path of the tide, will gather much of the best of the humane material that is sweeping North Carolina ward.

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