

FACTS ABOUT THE FOLKS OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

(Continued From Page 1.)

elves to aid Mr. Hoover in the conservation of food supplies. Others today are helping Uncle Sam by the purchase of Thrift Stamps. At the meeting of the Committee on War Savings Stamps in Raleigh recently, Rockingham was represented by a larger delegation than any other county in the State.

Marriage, Birth, and Death Rates. The development of a community is closely related to the marriage, birth, and death rates.

In the number of marriages per thousand of population in 1914, we ranked twenty-second, which is to say, only twenty-one counties made a better showing. We ought to have the same high rank in birth rates, but in this particular 61 counties made a better showing in 1915. Those who believe that there is a world-wide danger of race suicide should study these facts closely. We are fairly near the top in marriage rate but too near the bottom in birth rate. The reasons therefore challenge the thought of all who are interested in our future.

In our death rate, 12.1 per thousand inhabitants of 1915, we are a little below the average of the State and well below that of the United States. Forty-one counties made a better showing, but our excess of births over deaths was 20 per thousand inhabitants, and, comparatively, this is an excellent showing.

Factory Work and Motherhood.

Whether our low birth rate is in any way related to the fact that many of our girls and mothers work in the factories is a question which our industrial captains, as well as our health departments, can well afford to ponder over. It is an economic as well as social problem. It concerns wealth as well as welfare. And the problem here, as well as elsewhere, is heightened by the absence of so many of our men in the service of their country. If our farms are to be improved, our waste lands made productive, and our industries expanded, our birth rate must far exceed our death rate.

It is just as important to lower the death rate as it is to increase the birth rate. The difference between the two is what counts.

The economic and social conditions in which most of our children live present the most vital problem that any community has to consider. In many of our well-to-do homes we usually find only one or two children or perhaps none at all. On the other hand, in most back alleys and in many factory settlements we find as many as six, eight, ten or even more children in the home.

This does not mean that the women in our factories tend to have more children than women who work outside. Many of these large families have just moved in from country communities. It does show, however, that the birth rate is related to farm conditions, factory conditions, home conditions, and a score of other causes that need to be studied by

our thoughtful people. A main question for our leaders to ask is, How are we to raise the level of our community? If ignorance and poverty tend to multiply themselves faster than education and wealth, what is our problem? Do not these people who furnish the workers for our industries and the fighters for our armies deserve the very best that we can give? These are some of the things that we need to think about.

And our readers are alive to these problems. The factories have wonderfully improved the conditions under which their employees labor, as well as the homes in which they live. Some of our most recent tenement houses rival many of our most comfortable and coveted bungalows. Besides all this, some of our factories employ one or more trained nurses to look after the health conditions of their employees and to care for them while sick.

Our Health Work. In this connection we ought to mention the health work done in Rockingham. We have come to realize fully that it is important for a community to do everything in its power to keep the people well, and so several competent physicians and nurses are employed to look after the concerns of community sanitation and health. They are public health workers paid by school and factory authorities.

All children in the schools, both white and colored, are examined, and as far as possible cared for by the school nurses. Besides being good for the children, it is an advantage to keep them able to be regular in their attendance at school.

As a result of the co-operation of various agencies in this work, much sickness had been prevented, many epidemics avoided, smallpox almost eradicated, typhoid moved toward zero, and the general death rate appreciably lowered.

However, Rockingham County employs no whole-time public health officer, as do thirteen other counties of the State. Here is a step forward that our county commissioners need to take.

Social Welfare Activities. Otherwise, Rockingham is striving to do as much for the social welfare of its people as any other county in the State. Our good women have organized various clubs and societies which contribute to the good fellowship of our people and the beauty of our towns.

The Junior Order of American Mechanics has contributed largely to the social welfare of the county. The taxpayers have provided a county home for those that need it.

Various charitable organizations look after the needs of the deserving poor, while a good school is in reach of every child. At Leaksville-Spray we have an up-to-date Y. M. C. A. building. It has a hospitable open door for the men of other communities who go to live in this brick mill center. Reidsville needs such a building, and both towns need Y. W. C. A. buildings. The Graded School in Spray has provided a gymnasium for the girls.

Besides the social agencies named,

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we have well-equipped playgrounds at some of the schools and in several of the factory settlements, as well as public playgrounds and parks in the towns. For work of this kind, the various mill authorities deserve special mention. Some of them provide reading rooms and games for the amusement and instruction of their people. In some of these mill communities, baseball is one of the most popular games, and it is generally promoted by the mill owners. The people take a lively interest in baseball and look forward to the season each year with great anticipation.

In Spray, open-air motion pictures—some for amusement, others for instruction in public health and sanitation—have added to the equipment for recreation. These with the band furnish recreation for the entire community. The Graded School building in Spray is a center for all the social agencies of the town. Here are held community meetings of every sort. The amusements are free or inexpensive, and the instruction concerns the common affairs of life—the school, the Red Cross, War Savings, the Liberty Loans, health and morals, and what not. We have heard a vast deal about making the school a center of community life. The school in Spray is exactly such a center.

An Educated People. Whether or not we can consider ourselves a well-educated community depends upon what showing we make when compared with other counties and communities.

In the matter of white illiterates, ten years old and over, 52 counties in North Carolina make a better showing than Rockingham, and 51 counties have smaller ratios of native white illiterate voters. In 1910 there were 2,302 whites in the county ten years old and over who could not read and write, which was a little more than twelve people in every hundred. Included in this number were 848 white voters. They were over one-seventh of our total white voting population. For our State, this is not such a bad record, but we should remember that North Carolina is almost at the bottom of the illiteracy list. Only South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Arizona rank lower in total illiteracy, but these

States have excessive negro, Indian or Mexican populations.

With these facts in mind, every voter in the county ought to welcome the opportunity to cast his ballot in the coming election for the amendment to the Constitution which provides a six months school term for our rural communities.

Church Membership. Only by comparison can we realize our status as a religious people. The table that follows shows that only 38 of every 100 of our people ten years of age and over are members of any church of any name or faith.

In this particular, 85 counties make a better showing. We are slightly more than one-third efficient as a church community. We can never boast of our religious status as long as 15,657 of our people in 1906 were not on the rolls of any church whatsoever. It is not encouraging to realize that we were 6 per cent below the State average of church membership and 1.1 per cent below the average for the United States, but such are the facts as they appear in the last published census of religious bodies in the United States.

However, we have many faithful church and Sunday School leaders, and almost everywhere we see old church buildings improved or replaced by magnificent ones. It indicates the willingness of a small group of people to give freely of their wealth for Christian welfare. Our church membership ratio is too low; our active, devoted church and Sunday School workers are too few, and a vast work lies ahead of our church people in Rockingham.

A Working People. We need no figures to prove that we are a working people. The great hordes of operatives pouring into our industrial plants in the mornings and out again at nightfall are proof enough.

It may be consoling to some and a warning to others to know that we have a large number of girls and women in our factories. There were over 1,100 of such workers in our mills and factories in 1915. Many of our business people and industrial captains will say we stand high in this matter, while our doctors and public health workers, maybe, will call it low. No matter what opinion we may have, we must take off our hats to the women workers of Rock-

ingham for the part they are playing in helping to support their homes and to build up our industries. And we shout, "Long live the factory managers who are improving living and sanitary conditions in the factories and factory communities, who are providing playgrounds for the young, night schools for the mentally hungry, nurses for the sick, and who, without being requested to do so, are increasing the wages of their workers time and again to meet the increased cost of living."

A Satisfied People.

With conditions of this sort, no wonder people are contented. As long as we continue to give attention to the important concerns of our social life, we are not likely to be bothered with the labor troubles of the North and West. As long as the wages of our industrial workers are fair and their surroundings are healthful, wholesome, and satisfying, our factory centers will be filled with contented breadwinners and the dividends of capital will be secure. However, it is well to remember that a landless, homeless people in our farm regions or in our factory centers is everywhere a fertile soil in which to sow seeds of restless discontent. No wage-earner can ever have wages enough to keep him from wandering about from place to place; but if he owns his own home place, a pig, some chickens, and a garden, he is satisfied to stay on in the same place from year to year, even if wages are higher somewhere else. With this said, let us consider the significance of the fact that the people who live in somebody else's houses and cultivate other people's land in Rockingham are 602 in every thousand of population, and that in this particular 78 counties make a better showing. We have too few home and farm-owners for social stability, sanity, and safety.

A Homogeneous People.

Our whites are almost wholly an Anglo-Saxon people. Our foreign-born in 1910 numbered only 50 all told, in a population of nearly 37,000. Only 4 were Germans, 7 were Russians, while Italy, Sweden, Holland, and France were represented by 1 each. Our Indians, Chinese, and Japanese were 3. The rest were born in Canada and the British Isles. We know nothing of the foreign-born anarchy and pro-Germanism that afflicts the North and West.

ALL CHILDREN LOVE "SYRUP OF FIGS" FOR LIVER AND BOWELS

Give It When Feverish, Cross, Bilious, For Bad Breath or Sour Stomach.

Look at the tongue, Mother! If coated, it is a sure sign that your little one's stomach, liver and bowels need a gentle, thorough cleansing at once.

When peevish, cross, listless, pale, doesn't sleep, doesn't eat or act naturally, or is feverish, stomach sour, breath bad; has stomach-ache, sore throat, diarrhoea, full of cold, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul, constipated waste, undigested food and sour bile gently moves out of its little bowels without griping, and you have a well, playful child again.

You needn't coax sick children to take this harmless "fruit laxative;" they love its delicious taste, and it always makes them feel splendid.

Ask your druggist for a 60c bottle of California Syrup of Figs, which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Beware of counterfeiters sold here. To be sure you get the genuine, ask to see that it is made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

Chamberlain's Tablets.

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HOW ROCKINGHAM RANKS. Rank in important particulars. The number of counties that make a better showing.

28th in land area, 1910, acres	370,560
10th in total population, 1910 census	36,442
11th in density of rural population, people per square mile	54.6
68th in rural population increase from 1900-1910	5.7
13th in total white population in 1910	25,965
23rd in total negro population, 1910	10,474
11th in ten-year decrease of negro population, per cent decrease, 1900-'10	6.3
53rd in native white illiterates, ten years old and over, per cent	12.3
Total white illiterates, 2,302. State average, 12.3 per cent; United States average, 4.2 per cent.	
52nd in native white illiterate voters, per cent	14.4
Number, 848. State average, 14 per cent; United States average, 4.2 per cent.	
22nd in marriage rate per 1,000 population, 15 years old and over, 1914	12.2
State average, 10.1 per cent; Pasquotank, 23.4 per cent. Total marriages in 1914 per 442.	
62nd in birth rate per 1,000 of population, 1911	32.5
Average for the United States, 26.6 in 1913; average for North Carolina, 33.4 in 1915	
42nd in death rate per 1,000 of population, 1915	12.1
Average for the United States was 15 in 1913; average for North Carolina, 13.2 in 1915.	
86th in church membership, per cent	38.0
15,657 people ten years old and over outside the church. Average for North Carolina, 44 per cent.	
42nd in homicides, average annual rate per million inhabitants, 1910-'14	75
Average for the United States, 73. Average for N. C. 95.	
79th in tenancy, town and country, per cent	60.2
75th in farm tenancy, per cent	54.5

Foreign-Born Population in 1910.

Canada	8	Sweden	1
England	18	Japan	1
France	1	China	1
Germany	4	Scotland	5
Holland	1	Russia	7
Wales	1	Italy	1
	1	Indian	1