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THE
Trucking Industry

IN
South Carolina

Reprint of Extract from Annual
Report for 1906 of E. J. Watson,
Commissioner, to the General
Assembly :: :: :: ::

ISSUED BY
State Department of Agriculture, Commerce ²¹¹²
and Immigration

E. J. WATSON, Commissioner
Columbia, S. C.
1907

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THE STATE CO., PRINTERS
1907



LOADED WITH ONE MILLION FROST PROOF CABBAGE PLANTS
FROM W^M C. GERATY YOUNG'S ISLAND SC
THE LARGEST GROWER OF CABBAGE PLANTS IN THE WORLD OVER A TON OF CABBAGE PLANTS DAILY

REFRIGERATOR

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THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

In the trucking industry, South Carolina's advance has been most marked. This State now possesses the "cabbage king" of America, and the largest producing pecan nut groves in this country. It also possesses the largest tea producing plantation in the whole United States, and the product of this plantation is becoming known in all the markets of the world. While tea is scarcely a truck crop, I mention it under this head inasmuch as the industry is confined to South Carolina alone in the whole United States.

I deem it my duty to give you some idea of the immense development of the trucking industry in South Carolina. It has been difficult, after the most careful investigation, to ascertain the exact acreage. The acreage of one man, for instance, was off at least 20 per cent. in 1906, yet there was an increase in yield. He averaged, however, 200 crates per acre, as against 126 crates the year previous.

No attempt is here made to give estimates; only actual figures are given. Truck growing for market in South Carolina began in the year 1868, when William C. Geraty, now the largest shipper of cabbage plants in the whole world, and his partner, Frank W. Towles, of Martin's Point, Wadmalaw Island, began operations on a small scale.

The present unparalleled development began about 1891, growing by leaps and bounds since 1900, until at this time the Charleston district alone has over 30,000 acres planted in truck, counting in replanted land. The Department is informed that this year there will be an increase of several hundred per cent. in the bean crop; of 25 per cent. in cabbage and Irish potatoes; of 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. in strawberries; asparagus will about hold its own, as will watermelons and canteloupes. Celery growing has been started, but is yet an experiment, despite good results, yet it promises well. There will be a marked improvement in the planting of lettuce, and an improvement in the quality. The quantity of tomatoes and other truck products will be about the same the coming year.

All early truck did well, but the 38 inches of rainfall in June, July and August, which was unprecedented, caused practically a total failure of melons and other late crops.

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IRISH POTATOES AS COMPARED WITH SIZE OF A SILVER DOLLAR.

Reliable reports show a great falling off in the North Carolina truck region, especially in strawberries. The region from Conway to Lake City is ten days earlier than Chadbourn, and this advantage is too great to overcome. There must be a great increase in the South Carolina strawberry belt when this becomes more generally known. The product of Conway and Lake City cannot be surpassed in America. In these regions the strawberry flourishes like a bay tree.

Trucking conditions, especially market conditions, are being better understood, and with the aid of this Department, fewer mistakes will be made in the future. The point is fast being reached when truck growing is no more hazardous than any other branch of agriculture when undertaken by intelligent men. As it is, truck is bringing millions of dollars into South Carolina annually, and the business is capable of indefinite expansion. Merely a beginning has been made up to this time.

In this connection I deem it wise to incorporate in this report certain figures that have been collated as to this new agricultural industry, which is yet confined almost entirely to the coast region, and to direct particular attention to the accomplishment of the young men from Rhode Island, whose success and example has had a most stimulating effect upon natives following their example.

VEGETABLES.

Five-year Average, Charleston District.

Irish Potatoes—

No. of acres	8,000
No. of bushels	1,100,000
No. of barrels	400,000
Approximate value	\$800,000

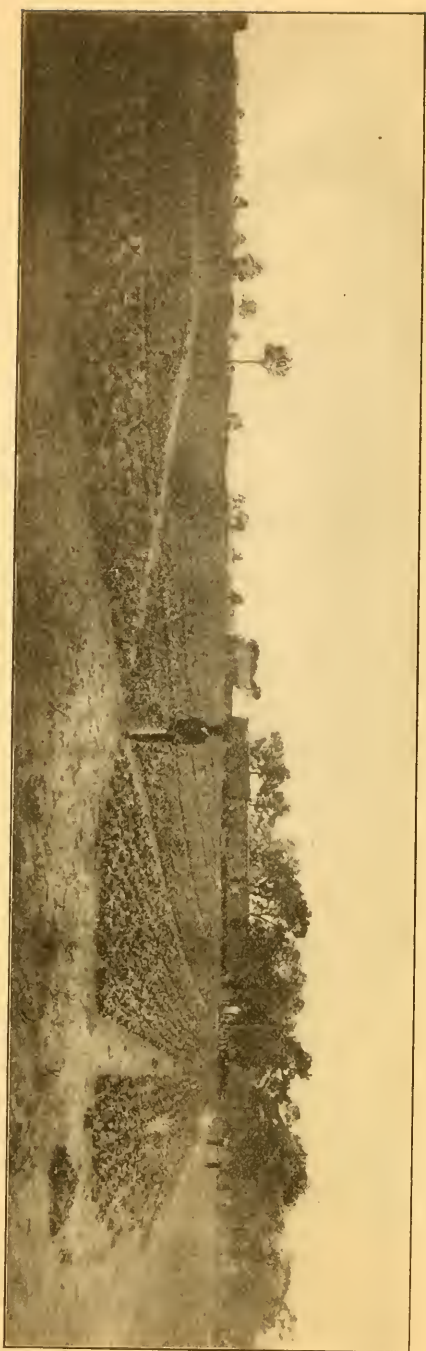
Sweet Potatoes—

No. of acres	1,200
No. of bushels	32,500
Approximate value	\$12,000

Cabbage—

No. of acres	7,000
No. of crates	1,050,000
Approximate value	\$940,000

THE FARM OF THE RHODE ISLAND TRUCKERS IN BEAUFORT THAT NETTED \$10,000 IN ONE YEAR.



Asparagus—	
No. of acres	900
No. of bunches	540,000
Approximate value	\$108,000
Cucumbers—	
No. of acres	2,500
No. of baskets	500,000
Approximate value	\$300,000
Beans—	
No. of acres	2,500
No. of bushels	375,000
Approximate value	\$187,000
Green peas—	
No. of acres	1,400
No. of baskets	70,000
Approximate value	\$70,000
Other Vegetables—	
No. of acres	2,500
Approximate value	\$250,000
Strawberries—	
No. of acres	400
No. of quarts	1,500,000
Approximate value	\$120,000

All of the above figures are strictly net; the market value is far in excess of this.

The total acreage of the Charleston District is 30,000, and the value of product \$6,000,000.

As several crops a year are raised on the same plot of ground, these figures hardly convey a correct idea of value.

TONNAGE.

Tonnage of fruits and vegetables, according to report made to South Carolina Railroad Commission, *vide* report, page 63:

Southern	88,606
Atlantic Coast Line	57,237
Seaboard Air Line	55,852
Other lines	12,116
Total tonnage	213,801

Experience of Whipple Bros., at Beaufort, S. C.—These gentlemen, natives of Rhode Island, planted thirty-six acres at Beaufort in radishes; took off crop and planted again in radishes, realizing \$10,000 from two crops net this year. They planted the same ground in beets; took off a good crop and followed this with cucumbers, making a good yield. After cucumbers, corn was planted, making over fifty bushels to acre.

Five (5) crops on the same ground in same year, in rotation, were gathered. Herewith is presented a picture of their field, taken in the early spring. They knew but little of farming at the outset.

Mr. C. M. Gibson's Experiment—From selected ground, five acres, fertilized according to his own formula, Mr. C. M. Gibson, on Yonge's Island, had the following experience with cabbage:

Five acres yielded	1,500 crates
Each acre yielded	318 crates

Total worth (\$367 an acre), \$1,835 net.

Cabbage Plants—The cabbage plant industry has grown to enormous proportions. Exact comparative figures are wanting.

Some figures for 1905-1906:

Shipped by F. W. Towles, Martin's Point	4,000,000 plants
Shipped by W. C. Geraty, Yonge's Island	40,000,000 plants
Shipped by Blich & Co., Meggett	35,000,000 plants
West of Charleston District	21,000,000 plants

Total	100,000,000 plants
Value of above (100 cars)	\$150,000

LARGEST IN THE WORLD.

The following men are the largest in their respective lines in the world:

Norman H. Blich, Meggett, S. C.—Largest grower of cabbage plants, 1,000 acres. Began a poor man, working for small wages in 1891. It costs \$110,000 to cultivate his crop. His daily telegraph bill, during shipping season, is \$100.

Wm. C. Geraty, Yonge's Island—Largest shipper of cabbage plants. Ships 40,000,000, worth \$35,000. Has booked 100 cars, 40,000,000 plants, for this year's delivery. Began poor.

John S. Horlbeck, Mount Pleasant, S. C.—Largest pecan grower. Main grove 600 acres; two smaller groves with 10,000 trees each. Annual production ten tons.

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