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CHESTER COUNTY Economic and Social

BY
D. A. GASTON
AND
ARTHUR CORNWELL

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CHESTER COUNTY

Economic and Social

By

D. A. GASTON and
ARTHUR CORNWELL

A LABORATORY STUDY
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SOCIAL SCIENCE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
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FOREWORD

If one should ask the citizens of any county in the State the relative size of the county, area, the population, proportion white and colored, the minerals to be found, principal industries, state of literacy, conditions of health, wealth, value of crops, food and feed shortage, idle lands, farm tenancy, and many other pertinent questions, he would receive many opinions but little reliable information. The guessing would be wide, but the facts few. And yet it is opinion based on facts that is worth while.

To supply these facts is the purpose of the following study. It was made by Messrs. D. A. Gaston and Arthur Cornwell, students in the University of South Carolina, and native sons of Chester County. It is dedicated to the citizenship of Chester County in the hope that from it will be drawn inspiration that will beget a nobler future.

S. M. Derrick,
Department of Rural Social Science,
University of South Carolina.

April, 1925.
HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CHESTER COUNTY

Arthur Cornwell

The territory of Chester County was originally a part of Craven County, a vast region covering virtually the entire “back,” or up, country of South Carolina.

In 1785 South Carolina was divided into 37 minor judicial subdivisions, and Chester as a county is mentioned for the first time, for then the county was surveyed and its present boundaries established as Chester district. Previous to, or about the time that Chester became a recognized district, a district court was held and established for 10 years at a place called Walker's, near what is now Lewis' Turn Out. Chester, now, with York, Fairfield and Lancaster compose the Sixth Judicial Circuit. In 1798 the State was again divided, but this time into 23 districts, Chester still holding to the survey made in 1785. Chester received its town charter in 1849 and its city charter in 1893.

The earliest white settlements in the confines of the present county were made near the mouth of Rocky Creek. This was in 1732. Most of the early settlers were Scotch-Irish. A good many of them came from the counties of York, Lancaster and Chester in Pennsylvania, which accounts for the three counties of the same name in this State. Many came direct from Ireland by way of Charleston. This tide of immigration set in about 1755 and continued up to the Revolution.

Some of the early settlers suffered greatly from the savage Cherokee Indians, who inhabited the western part of the State. In order to protect themselves against the Indians they built forts as places of refuge. One of the forts was on Fishing Creek and known as Steel's Fort, and the other at Landsford, known as Taylor's Fort. In 1761 a party of Indians appeared unexpectedly in the Fishing Creek neighborhood near the homes of William and James McKinney, who were on a trip to Camden. Several of the neighbors assembled at the house of William McKinney for defense. John Ferguson was killed; Barbara McKinney (wife of William McKinney) was captured, tomahawked in the back and head and left for dead half a mile from home. She, however, regained consciousness after a time and crawled back home. When
the Indians came to the neighborhood of Rocky Creek they killed John McDaniel, his wife, and carried off their seven children—the oldest being a girl of fifteen. These brutal acts aroused the people and a party, headed by Thomas Steel, was in pursuit. Thomas Garrett, of Rocky Creek, killed the one who had tomahawked Mrs. McKinney and found her scalp in the Indian's shot-bag.

The County Seat

About 1795 commissioners were appointed to locate and erect a court house. "Old Purity" church, being the geographical center of the county, the commissioners were at first disposed to locate it there. At that time, General Edward Lacy owned and was living on at least part of the land that Chester was eventually situated on. Gen. Lacy was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war. Tradition has it that a jug of whiskey, a good dinner, and the influence of Gen. Lacy had a lot to do with the selection of the present site of Chester. The first court house was erected on the site now occupied by the McFadden building (Hough's Jewelry store and various offices being in it) in front of the Confederate monument. The old court house was torn down and the bricks sold. The present building was erected in 1850.

Major John Kennedy, who came to Chester from County Antrim, Ireland, was the father of Chesterville. In front of Major Kennedy's house (which was situated on the site of Nail's store) was a kind of museum or curiosity shop. In this collection was a silver trumpet, which had been captured from the British, and sent to Major Kennedy by a friend from Camden.

The first store in Chester was kept by a man named Stuart. The first church built within the limits of the present city was the Baptist, and it occupied very nearly the same ground as the present church of that denomination occupies. The Charlotte and South Carolina railroad, to run from Charlotte to Columbia, was commenced in 1840, in 1852 extended to Augusta, Georgia, was known as the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta railroad. It was Chester's first railroad; now she has four. The Chester Public library has a key-sketch by Miss Margaret Ann Kennedy, which gives a picture of Chester in 1835. It gives the following buildings: Major Kennedy's house, Major Eaves' house, John McKee's house, Old Court House, James Graham's house, Baptist church, Henry Letson's hotel, Currie's house, Law offices, the McNinch house, Dixon Henry's store, and the McCormick house. On the first Masonic records of Chester are three names, Major John Kennedy, John McKee and John Knox.
Chester had two big fires, 1869 and 1872. On February 19, 1883, a terrific storm of wind and rain struck Chester and hit it hard. Everything that could be lifted went flying that night, and strong new houses rocked. On August 31, 1886, a visiting earthquake, after having nearly ruined Charleston, Columbia, and other places, landed in Chester. Chester suffered some, but Charleston was badly hurt.

Aaron Burr was brought thru Chester. Perkins was in charge of the prisoner. As they approached the village of this district, Perkins halted the party and changed the order of their march, placing two men in front of the prisoner, two more behind, and one at each side of him. In this manner they proceeded, without incident, until they passed near a tavern, before which a considerable number of persons were standing, while music and dancing were heard from within. Here, Burr threw himself from his horse, and exclaimed in a loud voice, “I am Aaron Burr, under military arrest, and claim the protection of the civil authorities.” Perkins snatched his pistols from his holster, sprang to the ground, and in an instant was at the side of his prisoner. With a pistol in each hand, he sternly ordered him to remount. “I will not!” shouted Burr in his most defiant manner. Perkins, unwilling to shed blood, but resolute to execute the commission intrusted to him, threw his pistols upon the ground, caught the prisoner round the waist with the resistless grasp of a frontiersman, and threw him into the saddle: One of the guards seizing the bridle of Burr’s horse, led him rapidly away, and the whole party swept thru the village in a mass, and disappeared, before the group of spectators had recovered from their astonishment at the scene. A mile or two beyond the village, Perkins halted the party to consult with his comrades. Burr was wild with excitement. After conversing with his men, Perkins sent them forward with the prisoner, under the command of his lieutenant, and returned himself to Chester, where he bought a gig, and rejoined the party before night. Burr was then transferred to the vehicle, with one of the guard to drive, and, in that manner, traveled the remainder of the distance.

Chester in The Revolution

At the beginning of the war the Scotch-Irish of Chester were almost to a man on the side of liberty. This was quite natural, as many of their ancestors before them had been persecuted on account of their views on civic and religious liberty. The following list of soldiers was given by John Craig, a Revolutionary sol-
dier, and published in The Chester Standard in 1854; the Mc-
Lures, Steels, McCowans, Walkers, and Irish Walkers, Gastons, 
Hemphills, Strouds, Craigs, Lacys, Wallaces, Dixons, Bishops, 
Houstons, Hannas, Andersons, Bonds, Hardages, Evans, Mc-
Calls, Strong, Agnews, Brooms, Reids, Aikens, Miles, Samons, 
Saddlers, Carrolls, Adairs, Leaches, Ashes, Townsends, Colars, 
Burns, Knoxes and Samuel Neely.

The first resistance made in this part of the State against the 
British was made at Beckhamville, situated in the south-eastern 
part of Chester County. This was on November 12, 1780. The 
battle of Fish Dam was also fought in Chester County. Capt. 
John McLure, the Gastons, Gen. Adair, Capt. Hugh Knox, and 
Gen. Edward Lacy were some of the outstanding Chester soldiers 
in the Revolution.

The women of the Colonial districts during the Revolutionary 
period showed themselves the possessors of strong characters 
stamped with the spirit of lofty heroism, homely simplicity,
patience, constancy, and self-sacrifice without any aspiration 
for praise or thought of reward. A list of the older women fol-
lows: Katherine Fisher, Mrs. Beard, Barbara McKinney, Nancy 
Green, Mrs. Strong, Sarah McCalla, Mary Adair, Mary Nixon, 
Mary Mills, Isabella Wylie, Molly Haynes, Margaret Elliott, Jane 
Morrow, Mrs. Simpson, and Jane White. The young girls no less 
than their mothers gloried in deeds of generous enterprise with 
all who needed help. Mary, Margaret and Ellen Gill, Isabella 
and Margaret Kelso, Sarah Knox, Margaret, Elizabeth and Mary 
McClure, and Nancy Brown, revealed their love and common 
humanity, and proved that true nobility and christianity are one 
and the same.

**Chester in the Mexican War**

Chester's division of the Palmetto troops left here in 1846, and 
came back in 1848. Company B., Palmetto Regiment, was com-
posed of R. G. M. Dunovant, Captain; First Lieutenant, John T. 
Walker, Second Lieut. W. B. Lilley, Third Lieut. Benjamin Culp, 
First Sergeant, G. W. Curtis, Second Sergeant, R. A. Pagan, 
Third Sergeant, John Dunovant, Fourth Sergeant, William B. 
Triplett, First Corporal, Jackson Hood, Second Corporal, E. T. 
Gibbes, Fourth Corporal, William Wilks, and 85 privates.
Chester in the Confederate War

“Never hand waved sword from stain so free,
Nor purer sword led a braver band—
Nor braver bled for fairer land,
Nor fairer land had cause so grand,
Nor cause a chief like Lee.”—Dunlop.

On April 11, 1861, several companies left Chester to answer the call “to arms,” going on to Charleston, and from there to be mustered in the Sixth Regiment of South Carolina. Before the first gun was fired on Fort Sumter, before there was any civil war, and before Lincoln had called out 75,000 militia or 1,000,000 volunteers, Chester County responded to the call of the Palmetto State. She responded with five companies, Company “A”, under Capt. Walker, Chester Guards, under Capt. Obadiah Hardin, Chester Blues, under Capt. Ed. McLure, Catawba Guards, under Capt. Lafayette Strait, and Pickens Guards, under Capt. Michael Moore. The Pickens Guards went out from the Hopewell neighborhood. During the war Chester furnished eight companies of infantry, two companies of cavalry, and in the last year of the war gave her last—three companies of reserves. Chester County furnished 1941 men to the Confederate army. Out of this number, the highest ranking officers, with the exception of General Dunovant, were Lieutenant-Colonel Culp, and Lieutenant-Colonel Walker. The veterans of the Confederacy could not have chosen two names more worthy to be linked together in perpetual memory than the names of its patriotic sons, Captain J. Lucious Gaston, and Lieutenant-Colonel William Alexander Walker. Capt. Gaston was in the infantry and Col. Walker was in the cavalry. Capt. Gaston was killed at the Battle of Seven Pines, May 31, 1862. R. G. M. Dunovant and John Dunovant were generals in the war, and were brave and gallant soldiers.

After Appomattox Chester accepted the issues of war in good faith, and set to work to rebuild. The reconstruction period was a long drawn out war in itself, and the county had to stand the blows of a bad state government, and wrong administration of those, who only cared for the South for what they could get out of it. In 1876 Wade Hampton took charge of the government, and led the people of South Carolina into paths of peace, patience, progress and prosperity.
Spain had for many years abused the privilege of ownership and government in Cuba, until the Spanish-American War ensued, April 25, 1898—August 12, 1898. The U. S. battleship Maine stood in the port of Havana—an act of friendly visiting lasting three weeks. On the night of February 15, 1898, the ship was destroyed by an explosion, with great loss of life. Satisfactory explanations were not forthcoming, and Congress formally declared war. The war lasted a little over a hundred days. The Union and Confederate veterans were brought into service under one fearless government, every governor of every State holding its sovereignty of the country at large, and ruling with the consent of the governed. Chester sent a company of picked men. Their period of service was short, and the pride of race and county held them to the traditions of their ancestors.

Chester in the World War

“All that the mind would shrink from of excesses;
All that the body perpetrates of bad;
All that we read, hear, dream of man's distresses;
All that the devil would do, if run stark mad,
All that defies the worst, which pen expresses,
All by which hell is peopled, or is sad,
As hell—mere mortals who their power abuse—
Was here (as heretofore and since) let loose.”—Dunlop.

The United States government, Woodrow Wilson, President, had waited long to send the first protest, but with the coming of the A. E. F., the war took on a display of greater fury, and the fight was on for a finish. All that heroic Belgium, gallant France had borne became as an electric bolt shot from the Soul of America. On November 11, 1918, the Armistice was signed and peace was once more. “1776-1917”—France and LaFayette stood remembered and repaid.

Churches and Schools

Fishing Creek church was started about 1752, Catholic Presbyterian church is about 166 years old—the name “Catholic” being used to signify broad and liberal. “Old Purity” church was started about 1770. Hopewell, A. R. P. church is about 137 years old. Woodward and Calvary Baptist churches, Capers Chapel and Armenia Methodist churches are old places of worship too. Pleasant Grove Presbyterian church is about 77 years old. It is
impossible to give a complete list in this very brief sketch, so the following list is offered: Pisgah, Hebron, Uriel, Beaver Creek, Cool Branch, Liberty, Ebenezer, New Bethel, New Hope, Heath Chapel, Mount Prospect, Cedar Shoals, Harmony, and many others. A number of these churches belong to the Colonial period. Church chronicles state that the ministers were as faithful shepherds, and had a great influence over their congregations. One minister influenced slave-holders, another held together feeble churches, while one became a shining light for the cause of liberty and freedom. They were unafraid and ready to carry plough-share, Bible or rifle whenever occasion demanded. These plain temples of God were the meeting places of the "old time religion," where services were held nearly all the Sabbath day. The congregation, as was the custom, served dinner—picnic fashion. Near each church was a small "God's Acre", where after services the people would repair there, to call up sad and tender remembrances of those gone before. Many of the largest plantations held their own rock-walled or iron-railed burial plots, and none dared to break the repose of the dead.

At many of the churches, or not far away, stood the little log-cabin or rough made schoolhouse. Many of the children had to come two or three miles to school. The daily session lasted until afternoon. A spring was usually near the schoolhouse. The big rock chimney had a big open fireplace, which heated the room. The benches were "no-back." Near the teacher's desk or table was placed a bundle of stout switches. The "Three R's" with the Bible, stood as the building plan, bedrock, superstructure and sky-touching dome of education.

President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis passed thru Chester and stayed all night at Woodward Baptist church, about five miles south of Chester. The night was stormy and they were forced to abandon their trip until morning. They were on their way to Dr. Isaiah Mobley's house to spend the night. Four children were with them, two girls and two boys. Tradition says that Mrs. Mobley had each of her children to hold Winnie Davis, saying "You have held the daughter of the Confederacy."

The little settlement on the Hill was established 60 years before the first church was built; and the whole matter was brought to pass in the following way. It came about that a revival was held by a Mr. Barnes, during which Major John Kennedy became converted. Straightway, the major showed that he could make his conversion a solid groundwork on which to build a living faith in God, and a Christian goodness to his fellowmen in services of
common humanity. He was instrumental in the erection of the first church in Chester. It was a Baptist church. He gave the land and helped greatly in the erection of the church. The church was occupied in 1834. Before that time all services had been held in the court house, so prayers, hymns, sermons, sentences, pleadings, shows of all kinds, fun, frolic, and profanity held full sway in the temple of law.

In 1840 the Methodists had a house of worship on land donated by Thomas McLure. The Presbyterian church was erected in 1873 or '74. Previous to that time they had worshiped at "Old Purity" three miles from the county seat. In 1855 the present church of the Presbyterians was dedicated. The church used first by the Methodists was sold to the A. R. P. congregation and is now owned by the Episcopalians. The first building of the Presbyterians is now the house of worship of the Catholics.

"Old Purity" church was destroyed by fire several years ago. In the graveyard, tho, of this grand old church stand many marble shafts marking the last resting place of some of the finest men and women that ever lived—among them, Major John Kennedy, the father of Chesterville.

Chester's first schoolhouse was erected on the McLure hill, near the present site of the standpipe. It was called Chesterfield Academy, and was a two-story frame building. To this school boys and girls, alike, wended their way five days in the week. The school was supported by private funds and tuition fees principally. A fire having destroyed this wooden building, a brick structure was erected on the same spot, but just before the war the lot was sold and a new building erected in another part of town, known as the Brick Academy. It was situated on the site of the home of Jos. A. Walker. Miss Ann Foster, a northern woman, opened a school in the building which subsequently became the residence of Dr. A. P. Wylie. Wylie P. Jones had a school in the building on Pinckney street which was later the carriage factory of C. F. Holst, who in the 60's gave use of it as a hospital. It is not known who were the first teachers of the Academy, but some of the teachers were Davis, the Rev. Sealy, Shirley, Shelton, Bansemer and Patterson. In time the location of the academy was removed from McLure Hill to the rear of the residence of Dr. A. P. Wylie, and given the name of Chesterville Male Academy, and it was there that Giles J. Patterson began his work as teacher. A female school was opened on York street in the building afterwards owned by Richard Kennedy, later by Judge T. J. Mackey and eventually becoming the property of Mrs. Alice Smith.
Some time in the 60's Mrs. C. L. Strobel, widow of a Charleston banker, opened a young ladies' seminary on Wylie Street, a long low wooden building. It, too, was under the auspices of the school commissioners of the district. It is now the residence lot of E. H. Hardin. Miss E. E. Guynemer and her mother of Charleston conducted a school there previous to the coming of Mrs. Strobel. In the middle of the 80's James Hamilton conducted a young ladies' school in this building. He, however, gave up teaching and opened a book store, which now bears the family name, and is owned by his two sons, John and Ernest.

In 1879 an act was passed by the legislature granting the town of Chester, the right to establish a graded school. In 1880 the school was organized in the Old Chesterville Male academy building, with Prof. W. H. Witherow in charge as superintendent. The first teaching staff was composed of the following: W. H. Witherow, Mrs. C. L. Strobel, Mrs. Bland, Miss Annie Gott and Miss Killian. M. E. Brockman is the present superintendent of the Chester Public Schools. The graded school on College street was erected at a cost of about $13,500, not including the lot which was a gift of J. J. and Paul Hemphill. Besides this building Chester has a school on Foote street, one on Reedy street, a manual arts building (named for Mr. Witherow) and a large new high school building, which has just been completed.

Brainerd Institute (negro school) was organized in 1868 by Dr. Samuel Loomis, A. H. Greene and others. This school is owned and supported by an organized board of Northern Presbyterians. It has been in operation about 57 years. Prof. J. S. Marquis has charge of the school. The negroes have a well equipped graded school, with S. L. Finley as principal. All schools are under the control of the city school board. There are some well-equipped churches belonging to the various denominations in Chester, and are a great credit to the negro population. Among the former teachers at Brainerd was Prof. Henry A. Green. After leaving the school he lived in a small house near the school and had a curiosity shop. He had a biological and geological collection of specimens that would do credit to a college. He was never married and lived alone among his rocks, plants, books and his telescope.

While on the subject of education it seems eminently proper to give a short account of one who made for himself a name that will ever shine bright in the annals of his county and state, to wit, Joshua Hilary Hudson. He graduated from South Carolina College, with first honor, in December 1852. He moved from Chester and lived in Bennettsville until his death. Judge Hud-
son was born in the first jail built in Chester, located at the foot of the Hill, in the direction of the depot of the Charlotte and Columbia railroad. The jail held a residence section as well as the section reserved for the detention of prisoners. He was born on January 29, 1832. His father at that time was county jailor; he was also a tailor. On May 7, 1836, his father died, leaving a widow with seven children, ranging in ages from 12 years to eight months. She was permitted to stay in the jail for the remainder of the year, during which time she discharged the duties of a jailor. After a time she moved to a small house generously given for a period, rent free, by John Rosborough, Esq. Major John Kennedy donated to her for life tenure a half acre lot in the valley section of the town. The little home was erected by the help of friends, and was a small log cabin, but without a chimney. In the winter the family baking oven was placed in the center of the room, while old quilts were hung about forming a hollow square. The smoke escaped through the large open cracks and gaps. Later these countless openings were packed with clay. At night his mother and two older sisters sewed on pantaloons, coats, and vests cut out first by a regular tailor. They used the light of a tallow candle to work by. Joshua Hudson, and his younger brothers and sisters entered school as poor scholars, under the laws covering such cases. The oldest son, John, was apprenticed to a tailor. For his night study Joshua saved the bacon gravy every day from the scrapings of the dinner plates, and placed the grease in an old tin plate, into which was placed a twisted cotton rag or string. In cold weather, he used an old quilt as a shawl. His college preparation work was made by using borrowed books and the Sunday School Library. Samuel McAliley, Richard Kennedy and James Graham assisted the struggling boy in many kind and generous ways. To all who lent him funds he made repayment, of others who gave help he spoke gratefully. His testimonial to his mother for her worth, devotion, piety and love gives full evidence of a high minded nobility of character.

Railroads

The first train on the Charlotte and Columbia railroad arrived in Chester in August, 1851. When this railroad was completed to Chester a big barbecue was held to celebrate that great event. The whistle of the engine announced its approach, and soon the train came in sight, decorated with flags and evergreens. It was full of passengers, gathered from different points along the road,
who, tho not at ease, had their curiosity gratified as to results. The president of the railroad company was the Hon. Edward G. Palmer. He was on board and made an address to the people. Obadiah Farrow, a blacksmith of the town, after a close inspection of the engine, declared it the greatest wonder of the world, and announced his readiness to die. The train started from Columbia in the morning. It stopped at Cornwells for dinner (this had also been the stopping place for stage coaches.) The old house now stands which was used—a long building, part rock and part lumber. It was owned by Elijah Cornwell, whose father Eli Cornwell came to South Carolina from Dinwiddie County, Virginia in 1783. The place is still owned by the Cornwells. The train stopped 10 minutes at small stations, and 20 minutes at the larger ones. The first conductor on this road was a man named Fowler from Feasterville district. The first engineer was a Davis. No tickets were sold. The conductor collected cash payments at the rate of five cents a mile. This subsequently became the Southern railway company.

Chester's other railroad of the 50's was the King's Mountain Railroad (now C. & N. W.). W. T. Vandiver, of Indiana, an engineer from another railroad line was the first to run on this line, thus making his advent into South Carolina as a borrowed engineer. He later became a resident of the county, having married Louise Cornwell, a daughter of Elijah Cornwell. The first agent at Chester was John W. Walker, better known as "Sheriff Walker."

Chester is situated on the Southern, Seaboard Air Line, Carolina and Northwestern and the Lancaster and Chester railway companies. Chester is only 18 hours from New York, and is in close touch with the Eastern seaport towns as well as the larger inland cities.

The first telegraphic line here was erected in 1850. The first operator was C. H. Brennecke. The office was in the freight depot of the Charlotte and Columbia railroad. Trains did not run on telegraphic orders. They ran by certain rules. If a train did not come, the one at the station waited 20 minutes and then allowed five minutes for difference in time, and then had the right of way until the other train was met. Freight trains had to observe the same rules. The trains were wood burners and their speed was slow. Freight trains had no conductors; the engineer had all the responsibility. The business of the road was heavy because all the goods from Union and York had to be shipped from Chester. When the first telegraph wires went thru Chester
some people objected. They were afraid that horses and cows in pastures over which the wires ran would be killed by lightning. One man near Blackstock remarked, “Those things can carry letters, but I'll be hanged if I see how they can carry newspapers over them.”

Manufacturing Companies

The first cotton factory in Chester was the Chester Mills. It was built with a capital stock of $100,000. It produced fine ginghams, and had its own dye works to color yarn for 435 looms. In 1894, John Gilligan, of Providence, R.I., was superintendent and manager. Two hundred and forty operatives were employed then. The board of directors was Jos. Wylie, E. C. Stahn, George Wilson, S. B. Lathan and D. A. Thompkins. After the Chester Mills had been in operation for some while, the management, realizing that it would be an advantage to get their yarn at home, decided to attempt the building of a yarn mill at Chester. The first brick was laid June 1, 1892. In 1896 they were running 5,000 spindles, and had 125 hands employed. The superintendent was C. B. Skinner, of Baltimore. It was called the Catawba factory. D. A. Thompkins was president. The following were on the board of directors: S. M. Jones, G. W. Gage, J. W. Dunovant, A. G. Brice, R. H. Cousar, Jos. Wylie, S. B. Lathan, E. C. Stahn and Paul Hemphill. Chester had the following manufacturing companies: Moffatt Mfg. Company, B. M. Spratt & Co.'s door, sash and blind factory. There was a Chester Development Company. The object of this company was to develop factory sites and to furnish homes to home-seekers. S. M. Jones and E. C. Stahn were at the head of this organization.

The first bank in Chester was the Exchange Bank. The capital stock in 1896 was $75,000 and the surplus $10,000. The officers were: Joseph Wylie, president, J. L. Agurs, vice-president, T. H. White, cashier, M. S. Lewis, teller, and W. A. Corkhill, collection clerk. The board of directors included the above officers and the following: Dr. G. B. White, S. B. Lathan, R. C. Stewart, A. G. Brice, R. A. Love and J. C. Hardin. The Commercial Bank was organized soon after, with a capital of $50,000. G. W. Gage and James McLarnon were two of the moving spirits in the enterprise. The Spratt Building and Loan Association and the Chester Building and Loan Association were both doing good business in 1896.
The "Old Cornwell Home," 8 miles from Chester

Previous to the coming of railroad stage coaches stopped here en route to Columbia. After the coming of the railroad the train stopped here for dinner.
Journalism

After the war of 1812, the little village began to plan enterprises for its future good and well-being. It is recorded that in 1836, Chester had about 15 houses situate on and near the base of the Hill, and the district and all told, about 600 inhabitants.

The Chester Observer was started some time in 1849 by Zion Bridwell, Jr., editor and owner. After the departure of Mr. Bridwell, the name of the paper was changed to "The Palmetto Standard," edited by C. P. Melton. It later became The Chester Standard, eventually taking the name of The Chester Reporter. The first number of The Chester Standard appeared January 12, 1854, C. Davis and Samuel W. Melton (brothers and lawyers) were owners and editors.

The Standard of the 50's was a large seven column double sheet. In the 60's paper was hard to get, so the size of the sheet was affected. It became very small, only a five column publication—when folded, the size of a man's handkerchief. Some of the owners have been, J. B. Mickle, E. J. McDaniel, George Pitcher, E. C. McClure, J. A. Bradley, Jr., (who established it as the Chester Reporter, January, 1869), J. H. Buchanan, J. C. Hardin, and finally J. T. Perkins and W. J. Irwin (present owners.)

Chester Bulletin was established in 1879 by Thomas W. Clawson and E. C. McClure. The paper was sold to J. A. Bradley, Jr., who in turn sold it to Whitlock and Morgan. It passed then to F. H. Morgan, W. P. Crawford and W. A. Barber. Later it was owned and edited by Crawford. He served in Spanish-American war, and on his return to Chester contracted a fatal illness and died. After his death the paper ceased to exist—save only as a memory.

The Lantern was started in 1897. J. T. Bigham was editor and owner. The following have been owners of this paper: W. F. Caldwell, J. Dana Jones, J. Otis Hull, C. N. Wrenshall, J. E. Nunenery, S. L. Cassells and W. W. Pegram (present owner.) It is now The Chester News. It, like the Reporter, is a semi-weekly newspaper.

The Chester High School has a monthly publication. It was first named, "The Chestonian," but was later changed to "The Cestrian."

Great Falls

One of the historic places in the county is Mount Dearborn, which is situated on the bank of Catawba falls—Great Falls. It was named in honor of General Dearborn, who was secretary of
war during President Jefferson's administration. It was first owned by General Sumter, and was sold by him to the United States government during the administration of Jefferson. A United States military post was established and maintained for sometime. General Senf, a celebrated civil engineer, who surveyed the old Santee and Catawba canals, is buried at Mt. Dearborn. Tradition says that the United States Military academy at West Point came, within one vote in Congress, of being established on Mt. Dearborn. In 1825 the state constructed a canal around Catawba falls at a cost of about $3,000,000. The locks on the canal and the rock house, in which the superintendent of the canal lived, are splendid specimens of rock work, and are said to have been done by skilled workmen from Scotland. At this historic place on the ruins of long gone years a most marvelous and wonderful transformation has come to pass. The great natural wealth was only waiting for utilization and development, and the whole South has felt the "power of achievement" of Great Falls. The late Dr. W. Gill Wylie, of New York, was the chief promoter of the enterprise. Dr. Wylie was born and reared in Chester County.

Farmers

No paper or sketch can be considered as historically completed when dealing with the structure of a county, state or country, unless the farmer may, also, bear his share of the laurels as he has borne his burden of the work.

"The man behind the plow, or with the hoe, is after all the blood, sinew, muscle and nerve of the world—no matter the land or sky, wealth or education."

As in the Revolution and 1812 wars, in the 60's the farmers of Chester, from all its townships and precincts rallied as one in spirit, and met the storm of shot and shell with undaunted courage. Many fell, but there were many, who stood with Lee at Appomattox, returned to ruined homes, and shabby farms, there to fight the trying days of reconstruction. In all the wars our farmers have rallied nobly to the cause, and helped carry the Stars and Stripes to victory. In the community service flag of our county there shines many a golden star amid the bright ones of blue. And they who served, did so to make men free, and that Liberty might not perish from the earth.

Acknowledgements:

My Grandmother's Scrapbook (Virginia Colvin Cornwell).
Mills' Statistics of South Carolina.
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Women of the American Revolution (Courtesy of W. D. Knox).
A sketch of the resources and industries of South Carolina by the State Department of Agriculture, 1888.
Sketches and Reminiscences of Judge J. H. Hudson (Courtesy of Mrs. McCandless.)
Files of the Chester Standard, Gastonia Gazette, and the following persons: Dr. Yates Snowden, Miss Sallie Wilson, Mrs. Eugenia Babcock, Mrs. W. M. H. Randall, S. B. Lathan, H. W. Hafner, H. J. McKeown, F. A. Nunnery, Ainsley Grant and J. T. Howard.
II.

NATURAL RESOURCES

David A. Gaston

Location

Chester County has a north-central location in the Piedmont Plateau or foot-hills of South Carolina. It is bounded on the north by York County, on the east by Lancaster, on the south by Fairfield, and on the west by Union. The northern and southern boundaries are parallel lines running east and west. The eastern and western are natural boundaries—the Catawba River on the east and the Broad River on the west. The northern and southern boundaries are about 18 miles apart; the rivers on the east and west include an average length of about 32 miles. These boundaries enclose an area of 592 square miles or 378,880 acres.

Chester, the county seat, is at about the center of the county and lies 48 miles by air line from Columbia.

Elevation and Drainage

The elevation of Chester County varies between almost 700 feet above sea level in the northwest to about 500 feet in the southwest. Chester has an altitude of 487 feet. This range of altitude in the county gives considerable fall to the rivers.

As these figures indicate the land has generally a southeastern slope. The drainage is by many small streams which are tributaries to the two main streams. There is a high ridge thru the center of the county which divides the drainage almost equally. Rocky Creek is the most important stream in the eastern portion. It flows in a southeasterly direction to the Catawba River. Sandy River in the west flows to the southwest and enters Broad River near the southwest corner of the county. Turkey Creek in the west and Fishing Creek in the east are also important drainage streams.

The county thruout has been eroded by the drainage streams. Some of the larger streams have cut valleys to the depth of 200 feet. The difference in the grades of soil and rocks have kept this erosion from being uniform. Thru the center of the county
for example, runs a strip of eruptive rocks which have worn down much more than the gneiss and granite on each side. Thru this belt the land is generally level or gently rolling. The granite lands on the other hand have a greater altitude by 50 to 100 feet and are rolling and hilly. This condition exists throughout the western portion of the county. The eastern half is mostly rolling and highly prized for agriculture.

Soils

The soils of Chester County fall into two natural groups—the soils of the uplands, left after other parts of decayed rock have been washed away, and the soils of the stream bottoms, formed by the overflow of water. The latter is of little value for agriculture due to the frequent overflow of the streams. It is classed as meadow. The upland soils include a variety varying from coarse sandy loam to heavy clay. They are divided into fourteen types which fall into six groups according to the differences in origin, color and structural properties. They are as follows: Five types in the Cecil soils, three in the Durham, three in the Iredell, and one each in the Appling, Mecklenburg, and Worsham. The Cecil sandy loam, Cecil coarse sandy loam, Cecil clay loam and Iredell clay loam are most abundant and important types, the others being of less extent.

The Cecil sandy loam which covers 113,280 acres or 29.9 per cent of the county is the most important soil, both in extent and agriculturally. It occurs mostly in the eastern section of the county where it extends over a picturesque gently rolling section of country. This soil is also found in the fork formed by Turkey Creek and Broad River, south of Turkey Creek extending to Chalkville, and other smaller areas. It is easy to cultivate and is used for a variety of crops—principally for cotton, corn, oats, and fruits.

Cecil clay loam follows Cecil sandy loam in extent. It covers 80,384 acres or 21.2 per cent of the entire county. It is familiarly known as “red clay land” and is more difficult to handle than the sandy types. This soil does not bear drought well, but with proper management it is a strong soil and can be maintained in a high state of cultivation. It is found scattered all thru the county, but the largest areas occur to the south of Chester and in the eastern and western parts of the county. This “red land” washes easily and should be terraced carefully when under cultivation. Where it is gullied and going to ruin it should be seeded to Ber-
muda grass and turned into pasture lands. Cotton and corn are the principal and practically the only crops.

Iredell clay loam, "black jack land" covers 61,440 acres or 16.2 per cent. It forms a wide broken strip thru the center of the county, extending from north of Lewis in a southeasterly direction past Chester. Other areas are found around Little Sandy River and Turkey and Susybole Creeks.

Cecil coarse sandy loam includes 48,000 acres or 12.6 per cent. It is very much like Cecil sandy loam and is found in a large belt which extends from Lowryville in a southwesterly direction to beyond Baton Rouge. Other areas occur north of Chester and thru the eastern part of county.

Minerals

Brick clay, soapstone, and wad constitute the minerals of Chester County. Brick clay is found in the southwestern section of the county, around Leads. Soapstone which is a very useful article is located in quantities near Harlesville and Chester. Wad or bog manganese is a mixture of manganese and other oxides. It occurs in the northwestern part of the county. These minerals have been abandoned or ignored but there are rich prospects buried in each.

Timber

Chester County according to 1920 census has 99,977 acres of farm woodland. This is 25.5 per cent of the total farm land of the county. There is an invested capital of $30,000 in the lumber and timber industries of the county. The total value of timber products for the year 1920 was $50,000 according to the report of the State Commissioner of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries. The most abundant and important type is the short leaf pine. There are also various hardwoods such as oak, hickory and walnut.

The whole State of South Carolina according to the 1920 census had 13,889,800 feet of timber against approximately 45,000,000 feet in 1908. These figures show a rapid decrease in timber. Unless this drain is checked the State will soon be lacking in a most valuable resource. We are at present consuming four times the yearly growth, which is estimated at 250,000,000 feet.

Water Power

Uninterrupted service for water power is assured from the Catawba River. Upon this river seven of the eight hydro-electric
NATURAL RESOURCES

plants of the Southern Power Company are located. The Catawba is a large stream rising in the mountains of North Carolina. It flows as the eastern boundary of Chester County with a large fall in elevation and impounded in many places for the development of hydro-electric power. The Broad River is a similar stream to the Catawba. The flow is with less fall, and falls or rapids are less numerous.

At Lockhart in Union County, however, there is a dam which develops power for the Lockhart Mills of that town.

At and near Great Falls on the Catawba River enormous power is developed and distributed to Chester, Spartanburg, Greenville, Charlotte, and other points. At Great Falls is located the Great Falls station. Two miles below Great Falls is the Rocky Creek station, and five miles above is the Fishing Creek station. Wateree station is thirty miles below Great Falls. All these are less than forty miles from Chester. Across the river from Great Falls the Dearborn station is under construction. It will have a generating capacity of 60,000 horse power, making a total of 214,000 horse power as the maximum generating capacity of plants less than forty miles from Chester.

Three of these hydro-electric plants are in Chester County. The two plants in operation, Great Falls and Fishing Creek stations, generate 90,000 horse power and the third, the Dearborn station, adding 60,000 horse power to this will make a total of 150,000 horse power available for manufacture and general use in Chester County.

Climate

The county has a mild and healthful climate which produces a large variety of crops. The summers are long and hot, but without oppressive heat, except for short sultry periods. The winters are mild and short with rarely a ground freeze more than 2 or 3 inches deep. Only an occasional fall of sleet or snow is found. Killing frost generally comes between the middle of October and the first of March. This gives a growing period of about 7.5 months.
### Normal Monthly, Seasonal, and Annual Temperature and Precipitation.*

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>105</td>
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*As Chester County has no Weather Bureau Station this record is taken from the station at Santuck, which is only a few miles across Broad River in Union County.

Several points are noteworthy in this record. The mean annual temperature is 61 degrees Fahrenheit. The lowest temperature reached is 11 degrees; while the highest is seen to be 105 degrees. The average rainfall is 48 inches. We note that the distribution of rainfall for crop production is highest during the summer months.
III.

FACTS ABOUT THE FOLKS

David A. Gaston

This chapter attempts to bring out the most important facts about the folks themselves of Chester County. The information is largely obtained from the Fourteenth Census of 1920. Be sure that the table of statistics at the end of this chapter is not overlooked.

Population

Tho Chester is smaller than the average county of the State it has more people than the greater part of them. In 1920 Chester had a population of 33,389 people against 29,425 people in 1910, and 28,616 in 1900.

Since 1900 there appears an increase of 5,773 or 20.1 per cent. While this is not as great a gain as some of the other counties have made, it is large and shows substantially an advancement for Chester.

In 1920 Chester County's population was 14,051 or 42.1 per cent white and 19,338 or 57.9 per cent negro. In 1910 the whites constituted 34.9 per cent, the negroes 65.1 per cent. In 1900 the whites were 32.3 per cent, the negroes 67.7 per cent. These figures show that the whites have increased at a much greater rate than the negroes. The percentage increase in the white population to total population is 9.8 for the past twenty years, while the negro percentage has decreased by same amount.

Rural and Urban

The rural population, that residing outside incorporate places having 2,500 inhabitants or more, of Chester County in 1920 was 47 persons per square mile or a total of 27,832. This was 83.4 per cent of the county's population. In 1910 the rural population was 24,671 or 83.8 per cent of the total population. In 1900 the rural population was 24,541 or 85.8 per cent of the total. In short the ratio between rural and urban population has been approximately constant.
Chester County can well boast of this fact—that the rural population has remained stable. It is well for cities to increase in size but not by the drainage of the best from the rural sections upon which the future welfare of the nation largely depends.

The condition of the State is not so good as this. The rural population showed a 7.7 per cent increase for the last ten years.

The urban population during the same time increased 30.8 per cent. Thus the rural increase is seen to be only one-fourth the urban.

Illicity

Illicity is one of the problems of greatest concern to any nation or state; and is one in which our State is far behind. South Carolina, according to the 1920 figures of the United States Census, is 18.1 per cent illiterate. It is saved from being last by the State of Louisiana alone, 21.9 per cent of whose population is illiterate. According to the same authority South Carolina in 1910 averaged 103 illiterates for every thousand of the total white population ten years old and over.

Chester County is very little better off than the State in regard to illiteracy. In 1910, 30.4 per cent of the total population ten years old and over or 6,379 were illiterate. In 1920, 23.8 per cent or 5,842 were illiterate. In that year 566 or 5.4 per cent of the white population and 5,275 or 37.6 per cent of the negro population were illiterate. From these figures a substantial gain in literacy is seen for the past ten years.

This increase in literacy results directly from the improved educational facilities of the county. In the past few years the school and school systems have advanced by leaps and bounds. In the 1921-1922 session in the city schools there were enrolled 1,338 pupils or an increase of 68 pupils over the previous year. Similar increase has been manifest throughout the county each year since the Compulsory Education law went into effect. But there should be a marked improvement in the school equipment. Every citizen should stand for an advanced and progressive education. Chester needs to increase her taxes for education and improve and enlarge her schools on a proportional ratio to the increase of attendance.

Birth and Death Rates

The comparatively low death rate in the county proves what has been said about the climate. This low rate, 340 or 11.3 deaths per thousand in 1919, however, is due to the efforts of the citizens
as well as to the good climate conditions. Chester County is well to the front in public health work. Community nurses and other energetic health officials have been at work thru the county and their efforts have shown results. It is hard to realize and impossible to express the good they have done the county. But there is room for improvement. Every citizen should know that all public health work is directly for his good. He should cooperate with the workers and help them cooperate with the State Board of Health.

Chester County's birth rate is also comparatively low. This low rate, however, is not desired. The rate for the negroes and the lower classes is larger than that of the more cultured. This points to a decline in culture. The converse of this condition must be attained before the quantity and quality of the culture of our nation can be advanced. Chester ranks 39th in this particular.

During 1919 there were 22.7 births for every thousand in population. It is important to note that the death rate is lower by 11.4 per thousand than the birth rate.

A Law Abiding People

The people of Chester County as a whole, and comparatively, are not law breakers. During 1920 there were only four homicides or a ratio of 12 per 100,000 of total population. In this respect Chester ranked 22nd in the State and was below the State average which was 15.2 per 100,000 of population. In 1921, Chester had only two homicides or a rate of 6.0 per 100,000 of total population. The State average for that year was 14.7 and Chester ranked eighth.

Out of less than 2,000,000 people 247 homicides is entirely too high a rate for South Carolina. But this was the case in 1921. And in 1920, it was even worse than this. Chester is better off than the State. Yet, two homicides in a little more than 33,000 shows much room for improvement. What is the cause of such a condition? What is the best remedy? These are questions that confront the citizens of our State and county. Every effort must be put forth to restrain and prevent a recurrence of such a situation in coming years.

The crime of homicide is, of course, only one of the many crimes. But this is a good gauge for the others. In fact Chester stands as high or even higher in the rate of other crimes.

This to a large extent is due to the education which has been shown to be extensive in Chester County. The religious attitude
of the people is also somewhat dependent on the education and controls to a great extent the crime of that people.

**Church Membership**

The church membership of the State of South Carolina is something of which we may be proud. South Carolina stands sixth among the states of the United States and has a church membership of 73 per cent. Those states leading South Carolina are largely Catholic and credit their membership with children under 10 years of age while their total population is given on a basis of 10 years old and over. If those baptized counted as church members, South Carolina would have a still better percentage.

Chester County stands even higher than the State in this point. According to the United States census report on Religious Bodies published in 1916, Chester has a total church membership of 17,015 or 81 per cent of the population 10 years of age and above. There are only eight counties in the State which lead Chester in this particular. According to denominations the memberships are as follows: Baptists, 8,321, of whom 1,825 are whites and 6,496 are negroes; Methodists, 6,137, of whom 2,366 are whites and 3,771 are negroes; Presbyterians, 1,739, of whom 1,389 are whites and 350 are negroes; Episcopalians, 35; Catholics, 8; and all other bodies, 775.

As said, education, law obedience, and religion parallel each other in the life of a county. Upon the extent of the religion of a community largely depends its success, growth and prosperity in other lines. Altho Chester is near the top in church membership the people of the county should not take this fact as an excuse for lying down on the job. There is yet and always will be great room for improvement along this line. The religious attitude in many sections of the county is anything but cheerful. Every citizen should be made to realize not only the good effects spiritually, but as a secondary result the good effects materially, of religion on a community and the people of that community.

**Facts About the Folks**

Chester County's rating as compared with other counties in the State in items of interest. Figures for 1920 are used except where others are indicated.

27th—in area square miles ........................................ 592

Berkeley County first with 1,238; Cherokee County last with 375; total State area 30,495.
FACTS ABOUT THE FOLKS

18th—in total population                                        33,389
  Charleston County first with 108,450; Jasper County
  last with 9,868; total State population 1,683,724.

21st—in rural population per square mile                       47.0
  Spartanburg County first with 93.6; Jasper County last
  with 16.6.

18th—in population per square mile                             56.4
  Spartanburg County first with 123.2; Jasper County
  last with 16.6; State average 55.2.

23rd—in per cent of white in the population                    42.1
  Pickens County first with 82.6; Beaufort County last
  with 21.5; State average 48.6.

23rd—in smallness of per cent of negro population               57.9
  Pickens County first with 17.4; Beaufort County last
  with 78.4; State average 51.4.

5th—in per cent increase in white population, 1910-1920        36.0
  Florence County first with 66.2; State average 20.5.
  Seven counties failed to show an increase.

22nd—in per cent increase in negro population 1910-20          1.0
  Richland County first with 27.3; State average 3.5.
  Nineteen counties showed a decrease.

5th—in negro decrease in ratio to total population 1910-20,    7.1
  per cent
  Greenwood County first with 9.4; Williamsburg County
  per cent increase 4.3; State average 13.6.

38th—in percentage of total illiteracy                         23.8
  Pickens County first with 10.7; Berkeley County last
  with 38.4; State average 18.1.

21st—in percentage of white illiterates                        5.4
  Charleston County first with 1.5 per cent; Chester-
  field County last with 13.3 per cent; State average 6.5
  per cent.

19th—in per cent native white illiterates, males 21 years and
  over                                                         7.7
  Charleston County first with 1.7; Chesterfield County
  last with 17.3; State average 8.5.

18th—in per cent native white illiterates, females 21 years and
  over                                                         6.2
  Calhoun County first with 1.7; Chesterfield County
  last with 18.0; State average 8.5.

35th—in death rate per 1000 for 1919                           11.3
  Richland County first with 26.1; Colleton County last
  with 7.4; State average 13.6.
39th—in birth rate per 1000, 1919

Horry County first with 39.1; Colleton County last with 18.1; State average 27.1.

9th—in per cent of church members to total population ten years old and over, 1916

Barnwell County first with 114.0; Colleton County last with 54.0; State average 73.0.

Growth in total population of Chester County: 1790-1920

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>18,038</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>33,389</td>
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Governor Hammond many years before the Confederate war, said: "Investigation would show that only the nations that developed commerce and manufactures in addition to agriculture were prosperous." Further on he added that he hoped God would speed the day when the people would turn their political clubs into societies for the "advancement of scientific agriculture and the promotion of mechanical arts."

He was wise for his day and generation. It is even more evident now that no country can be permanently prosperous whose whole life is based on agriculture alone, and that agriculture will deteriorate without industrial development. By concentrating more thought to industries the people will bring about not only larger prosperity to all interests, but a broadening of thought and interests. For, said the memorable governor:

"Wider range and additional pursuits are needed to awaken all dormant intellect and energy."

The Community Creamery Company

The creamery was organized with a capital stock of $10,000.00 and began operating in 1920. R. B. Caldwell is president, H. M. Davega, secretary and treasurer, and G. G. Gilmer, manager.

Altho the creamery is a new enterprise for Chester it has already proven a great success and promises to grow and improve in the future.

Cream is bought from the farmers and churned to butter. The creamery butter is sold at home and regularly shipped to foreign markets. This is done with a minimum profit and at a minimum cost so that while the farmer receives the highest price possible for his cream the consumer can buy butter at the lowest price possible.

The plant installed has an estimated value of $45,000 with a capacity of approximately 10,000 pounds per week. Four men are employed at present. From the eighth of May 1922 to the end of that year about $20,000.00 was expended for cream. This gives an idea of the business which the creamery is doing.
The Chester Ice Cream Company

The Chester Ice Cream Company was organized in April of 1922 with a capital stock of $7,000.00. The president is R. C. Gray, vice-president, E. Wilson, and secretary and treasurer, R. B. Owings. Five men are employed in the plant which has a daily capacity of 200 gallons. Ice cream is manufactured in blocks and churns.

The Electrik-Maid Bake Shop

The bakery started operating in 1922 under the management of G. W. Rhoades. The capital stock is $5,500.00. Six men are employed and the annual payroll is $7,124. The value of the plant and equipment is estimated at $10,000.00. Bread, cakes and pies are baked. The average daily sales are about $95.00 which makes the value of the annual product $29,735.00.

The Chester Chero-Cola Bottling Company

The plant at Chester was started in 1914, the capital stock of the company being $20,000.00. Mark Newman is manager of the plant. Eight men are employed and the annual payroll is $6,500.00. The value of the annual product is $50,000.00. Chero Cola and other soft drinks are made and bottled.

The Chester Coca-Cola Bottling Company

This company was first organized in 1906, again in 1909, and a third time in 1920. Under the present organization it is a branch plant of the Carolina Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc., which includes five such plants. The other four plants are at Lancaster, Camden, Sumter and Bishopville. The capital stock of this corporation is $500,000.00. J. M. Jones is manager of the plant at Chester. Seven men are employed in this plant. The payroll is $9,144.00 per year. The value of the annual product is about $75,000.00. Coca-Cola and other soft drinks are manufactured.

The Chester Ice and Fuel Company

The plant was built and first run under the name of The Chester Ice Company, by T. L. Eberhardt. In 1912 H. M. Davega took over the plant and changed the name to The Chester Ice and Fuel Company. Coal is handled now. Mr. Davega is the present manager of the plant. Eighteen men are employed and the annual
payroll is about $10,000.00. The value of the plant is estimated at $50,000.00. The value of the annual output is about $35,000.00. The plant is given over to the manufacture of ice.

The Chester Oil Mill

The Chester Oil Mill, a plant of the Southern Cotton Oil Company, is located at Chester. It was first built and run about 1900. Martin was in charge of the mill at that time. At the present time J. W. Young is manager. Eight men are employed and the capacity of the plant is about 75 tons per day. Connected with the oil mill is a cotton gin with five "eighty" saws.

The principal products are those derived directly from the cotton seed such as crude oil, meal, lint and hulls. After the oil is refined it may be made into lard substitutes, salad oils, and soaps. The meal is used extensively to feed cattle and also for fertilizer. This fertilizer is one of the most important by-products of the cotton seed. The hulls are used as cattle feed along with the meal. Many uses are made of the lint or linters. Some of the most important are in the manufacture of mattresses, stuffing for horse collars, and in making leather substitutes, imitation ivory, paper and explosives.

The Chester Machine and Lumber Company

The first organization of the company was in 1894. In 1916 it was reorganized and incorporated with a capital stock of $30,000.00. C. D. Crosby is president and treasurer, F. Lucile Crosby, vice-president and secretary, and J. S. Colvin, manager. Thirty men are employed in the plant. The annual payroll is $16,000.00. The principal product of the mill is lumber, especially in the form of sashes, doors and general building material. There is also an important department for repairing machinery.

The Edwards Marble and Granite Company

The Edwards Marble and Granite Company was organized in 1922 with a capital stock of $5,000.00. C. C. Edwards is president and J. E. DeBose is manager. The plant had been running before but was reorganized in 1922.

The payroll in the present plant is $10,400.00 per year. Ten men are employed. The value of the annual product is $40,000.00 and consists entirely in marble and granite materials of all kinds.
The Chester Fertilizer Works

An important industry to Chester County and the surrounding territory is the Chester Fertilizer Works of Swift and Company. This is a branch operated by Swift and Company of Chicago, and is one of the number of similar plants located throughout the southeastern section of the country. The Chester plant has been in operation since 1911. The value of the annual output is close to $300,000.00. The major portion of the fertilizers produced is marketed within a radius of 100 miles of Chester.

The Toy Factory

A recent development in the industrial line is the toy factory whose organization has been about completed and which is soon to be erected. The capital stock was first placed at $115,000.00 but was later increased to $200,000.00. J. D. Wix of Syracuse is the chief promoter and will very likely be at the head of the plant. It is expected that at least 200 men will be employed. Juvenile furniture will be manufactured.

The Springstein Mills

The Springstein Mills were organized in 1899 with a capital stock of $3,000.00. Leroy Springs is president, H. S. Adams, secretary and treasurer, A. H. Robbins, general manager, and P. L. Wagener, superintendent.

The mill employs 275 workers, the annual payroll being $1,716,000.00. It operates 14,570 spindles and 610 looms. The value of the product shipped yearly is $1,000,000.00. Dress gingham is manufactured.

The Eureka Cotton Mills

The Eureka Mills were organized in 1892 with a capital stock of $150,000.00. The president is Leroy Springs, secretary and treasurer, H. S. Adams, and general manager, A. H. Robbins.

The mill operates 25,752 spindles and 600 looms. It has 275 employees and an annual payroll of $1,456,000.00. The value of the annual product is $150,000. Print cloth and sheeting are manufactured.

The Baldwin Cotton Mills

The Baldwin Cotton Mills was established in 1903. In 1916 it was reorganized with a capital stock of $400,000.00. The capital
stock has later been increased to $1,982,400.00. Alex Long is president and treasurer, E. R. Lucas, secretary and treasurer, and K. C. Etters, superintendent.

The present value of the plant is $1,250,000.00. The mill operates 31,488 spindles consuming annually 16,000 bales of cotton. The plant employs 750. The value of the annual product is $3,000,000.00. Sheetings, yarns and osnaburgs are manufactured.

**Republic Cotton Mills**

The Republic Cotton Mills was incorporated in 1909 in New Jersey. In 1916 it was reincorporated with a capital stock of $1,200,000.00. The capital stock is now $3,000,000.00. Robert S. Mebane is president, Hal B. Mebane, vice-president and treasurer, J. A. Howard, secretary, and Dever Little, superintendent.

The mill runs 58,848 spindles, and has 2,000 employees. Print cloths are manufactured.

**Manetta Mills**

The Manetta Mills was incorporated in 1896. The capital stock figures at $300,000.00. B. D. Heath is president, R. A. Willis, secretary, treasurer and general manager, and G. A. Bulhanon, superintendent.

The mill has 23,000 spindles and 60 employees. Cotton blankets, flannels and yarns are manufactured.
### Classified Table of All Industries in Chester County
(Based on 1923 Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Capital Invested</th>
<th>Value of Annual Product</th>
<th>Number of Days Plant Operated</th>
<th>Number of Persons Employed</th>
<th>Total Wages Paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confectioneries</td>
<td>$7,200</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creameries</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>52,436</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>9,034,677</td>
<td>1,187,512</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizer</td>
<td>668,700</td>
<td>177,625</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>8,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour and Grits</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>10,400</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumber and Timber Products</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monuments and Stone</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>11,833</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing and Printing</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>25,500</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Mills</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>172,083</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>15,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>$5,182,400</td>
<td>$8,607,263</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>2,377</td>
<td>$1,313,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>$15,032,977</td>
<td>$10,329,652</td>
<td>2,871</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>$1,432,048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V.

SCHOOLS

David A. Gaston

"The universal education of its people is the greatest glory of a state."—Andrew Carnegie.

South Carolina can never attain this glory without cooperation. Have the people of Chester County been doing their part?

Rank of Schools in State and Nation

South Carolina is ranked last in the list of states with respect to the condition of her public schools, according to Dr. Leonard P. Ayers, Director of the Department of Education of the Russell Sage Foundation. It is only fair tho to be reminded here that South Carolina, as all Southern states, is handicapped by the dual (white and colored) system of schools. Furthermore, it might be said in explanation of Chester County's rating that the percentage of negroes in the population is comparatively large, being 57.9 per cent.

In Dr. Ayer's report the scheme is to apply to the problem of education statistical methods that have long been used in the field of economics. By taking the official data showing the percentage of the children of school age who attended school, the average number of days attended, the per cent of high school attendance to total attendance, the average annual expenditure per child, the amount expended for buildings and supplies, the salaries paid to teachers, and other corresponding items as seen in the table below, and combining these factors into a single index number, Dr. Ayers shows the general comparative standing of school system. A perfect school according to the standards of the Russell Sage Foundation would have an index number of 100.

South Carolina is at the bottom of the list of states, rated according to educational efficiency with an index number of 29.39. Montana holds the top place with 75.79. South Carolina in 1910 had 276,980 illiterates, or 25.7 per cent of our total population; 50,245 of these were whites. This situation cannot be blamed altogether on negro majority. We lack progressiveness in white
education. To think that we can people a city larger than Columbia with white people over ten years of age and not a single one able to write his name!

Index Figures for Chester County Schools 1910 and 1920

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1910 White</th>
<th>1910 Colored</th>
<th>1920 White</th>
<th>1920 Colored</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Per cent of school population attending school daily</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>55.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Average days attendance, each child of school age</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>50.65</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Average number of days school kept open</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Per cent that high school attendance of total attendance</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Per cent that boys were of girls in high schools</td>
<td>54.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Average expenditure per child in average attendance</td>
<td>21.29</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>32.09</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Average expenditure per child of school age</td>
<td>10.34</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>23.72</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Average expenditure per teacher employed</td>
<td>19.35</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Expenditure per pupil for purposes other than teachers' salaries</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>23.34</td>
<td>.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Expenditure per teacher employed for salaries</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chester County Index | 31.80 | 12.44 | 46.81 | 13.86 | 24.70 | 34.36 |

State Index | 24.87 | 29.39 |

Chester County's schools have an index number of 34.36 and thereby stand 16th among the counties of the State. South Carolina if she had Chester County's index figure would rank 45th instead of 52nd. If South Carolina had an index figure equal to that of the white schools of Chester County (46.81) she could rank 36th in the list of states. It is seen then that tho Chester County stands higher than the State as a whole, yet we do not stand on
top; and there is much that can be done to better the existing conditions in our schools. It is sincerely hoped that this chapter will enlighten the people of Chester more as to the conditions of their educational system.

Attendance

In 1912 the total enrollment for the schools of Chester County was 4,725, with an average attendance of 2,733 which is only 57.6% of the enrollment. In ten years we find that the enrollment has increased to 10,021, or an increase of 122.7 per cent. The average daily attendance has increased to 6,985, an increase of 151.6 per cent. The per cent of the attendance to the enrollment has now become 69.7 per cent which is 21 per cent gain for the ten years. Yet there should be a still greater per cent of attendance. Paying for education and then allowing the children to stay at home is like raising a crop and then gathering only a part of it. Every absence involves a financial loss to the county. In the session of 1921-1922 there were enrolled in the schools of Chester County 9,722 pupils. Only 6,657 were in average daily attendance. In other words 3,065 or 31.5 per cent were absent daily—very nearly every third seat being vacant.

It is evident from the above figures that the schools of Chester County cannot give full returns in educated men and women. When a child is absent from school the loss is multiplied three fold. The primary loss is, of course, to the pupil himself. He never fully gains or makes up for the time missed. The next loss is to the other members of the class. They are held back by the students who cannot go forward on account of the time missed. The third loss and one which is seldom recognized is the loss to the taxpayers. In the 1921-1922 session 31.5 per cent of the pupils being absent daily, there is a loss involved of 31.5 per cent of the expenditures for that year. The school must be prepared for the total number of pupils enrolled and it costs no more to prepare for them when they are all there. Therefore when a certain per cent of them are absent, there is a loss of that per cent in the total possible results of education. The total of expenditures for 1922 in Chester County schools was $181,996.78. Taking 31.5 per cent, the per cent absent daily, of $181,996.78 we get $56,419.90 as the loss to the taxpayers of Chester County due to the absences of school pupils in 1922.

Every pupil, before "playing hooky" should remember that he is an investment of the taxpayers of his county. Every parent,
before keeping the children home, should recall the same fact. And greater effort should be expended to enforce the compulsory education law. Greater cooperation is needed by authorities to enforce the law. Indeed the attitude should be such that no authorities would be needed. All unnecessary absences should be cut out. The result will be a great gain in education to the pupils and a great saving of money to the county.

Teachers

The most important factor in any school, if indeed there is one factor more important than another, is the teacher. A good teacher in a poor building can accomplish more and produce greater results than a poor teacher in a good building. Surely Chester County wants its boys and girls, the most prized possession of the county, to have the very best educational advantages. They should have the best teachers to be procured. There is no question about the fact that as a general thing the best teachers, like the best clerks, lawyers, doctors, or any other class of people, are found where the highest salaries are paid.

The average salary paid white women teachers in 1921 was $632.70 and Chester County was placed 35th among the counties of the State in this respect. The average salary paid white men teachers was $766.13 and Chester County was 42nd. There were 18 men and 119 women teachers making the average salary for school teachers $687.50. Teachers' salaries all over the State are too small but Chester ranks even lower than the State average. Wake up! Chester, to the importance of the school teacher. The following figures quoted from the report of the State Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, for the year 1920 are interesting. The workers employed by cotton seed oil mills receive an average salary of $1,332.13. The men in the textile industry receive an average annual salary of $1,001.10, and the women $699.18. Electrical employees are paid $2,398.33, and the manufacturers of ice receive $1,408.50. These are taken as representative of other lines of work. Each of them is higher than the teacher's salary. The years of training which a good teacher requires certainly warrant their receiving more than a mill hand. Could the teachers be blamed if they went into other lines of work? Our children and future generations would be in a pitiable condition if they formed teacher's unions and went on a strike.
Negro Schools

Improvement of negro education will help to solve all the numerous problems involving the negro which confront us. For example, the best way to check the negro from crime is to educate him. Negro illiteracy is a great drawback to our State and is the chief factor which causes our State to stand so low in literacy.

Chester County has, like the other counties of the State, a white school and a negro school. The two systems are distinct from each other and operated separately. In 1922 the total enrollment for whites was 3,822; for negroes 6,199. In the same year the total expenditure for white schools was $199,258.69; for negro schools $16,195.03. The expenditure per pupil according to enrollment was $52.18 for whites and $2.61 for negroes. In 1921 the per pupil expenditure was $46.67 for whites, ranking Chester 11th in the State, and $2.06 for negroes, ranking Chester 44th. Our rank in this item for negro schools is very low in comparison to our rank for the white schools. It is evident from the above figures that the negro schools have made more improvement in the last few years than the whites. But this is due to the fact that there was more room for improvement in the negro schools. And as much as the white schools can stand improvement now; there is still more needed by the negro schools.

Consolidated Schools

We need to lay more emphasis on our rural schools. The boys and girls of the country comprise a greater portion of our future citizens. The rural population comprises 83.4 per cent of the total population of Chester County. Education of the rural child is of equal importance with that of the urban child. The fact that a child happens to be born in the country should be no reason why he is not given educational advantages as good as those of the city born. Yet this condition confronts us at present. The sessions of the country school are far outstripped in length by those of the town schools. Buildings and equipment of the town schools are far better. The average salary paid teachers is greater, the annual expenditure per pupil is more, and the best prepared and most experienced teachers have naturally emigrated from the rural schools. The fault, however, is not that the conditions of the urban schools are better than the rural conditions but that the rural conditions are worse than urban. A great improvement is needed in the educational and social conditions of country life.

One of the most important steps in improving rural educational and social conditions is consolidation of rural schools. Do this
and many other improvements naturally accompany and follow.

In Chester County in 1922 there were 86 one teacher schools, 8 two teacher schools, 5 three teacher schools, and 7 schools with more than three teachers. The old idea seems to predominate that the proper method of rural education is to take the school to the pupil. Each little community wants a school near and seems to think that its children are enjoying great advantages when they are in walking distance of some little one teacher affair where they can go, stay all day and get perhaps 30 minutes of the teacher's time. The new and far superior method is, not to take a poor school to the pupil, but to bring the pupil to a good, well-equipped school where he can get a thorough yet well-rounded education.

The one teacher schools, it is true, have greatly improved over those of long ago; new subjects have been added to their curriculum and due to state supervision they have been forced to raise their standards. With the increased curriculum the country teacher is expected to train his pupils thoroughly in reading, writing, arithmetic, drawing, spelling, history, geography, grammar, language and other arts and sciences. These must be taught in such a way as to fit the various ages and grades of pupils. One teacher stands about as much chance doing it all as a baseball pitcher does of covering the whole diamond—infield and outfield.

Not only will the consolidated school make a varied course possible but it will greatly better education generally. It will warrant the services of a competent superintendent. Larger and more regular attendance will result and tardiness will be eliminated. More pupils will be made accessible to a high school education. Pupils can be grouped into classes on the basis of advancement. The students' time can be divided much more efficiently between study and recitation. Teachers of a higher calibre can be obtained. Better equipment will be possible and from every viewpoint consolidation will be a step forward in education.

But on top of all this the consolidated school does more. The building is constructed for a broader purpose than merely a school building. It becomes the center of community interests and life by affording an auditorium for the community. It brings about a closer relation between patrons, children and school. Around the schools are centered many activities such as a lyceum course or community entertainments. Athletic and physical activities also have their place. These and similar social activities center about the school and make it indispensable in the rural life of today.

The consolidated school system costs more than the one-room
SCHOOLS

school system but is less extravagant. It costs more but accomplishes more. It costs less for what it accomplishes than the one-room system. If the consolidated school merely took the place of several one-room schools in a certain area and gave the identical instruction—nothing better nor broader—would certainly be cheaper, but it would fail in its purpose in that it would not offer to its pupils a fuller and a better life.

And by no means minor advantage of consolidated schools is their influence on better road construction. Consolidation and good roads go hand in hand, but consolidation must not wait to be led. Consolidation should forge ahead. With public transportation the school is made easily accessible to the whole district. This has proven universally satisfactory.

These, of the numerous advantages in consolidation, it is hoped will make more plain to those of Chester County, who are interested in education (and this should include every citizen), that our system wants consolidation.

The following statement made by P. P. Claxton, former U. S. Commissioner of Education, sums up the whole situation. "The improvement and consolidation of rural schools and the use of such schools as rural social centers have a marked influence upon the prosperity and intellectual development of the people who live in the country. The movement in this direction has only begun and its continued progress is dependent in a large measure upon the improvement of highways and highway transportation. Better roads are essential to better schools."

Chester's Rank Among the Other Counties in School Figures.

35th—In average salary paid white women teachers, 1921 $ 632.70
First, Charleston, $1,131.22; last, Berkeley, $453.03; State, $717.98.

42nd—In average salary paid white men teachers, 1921... $766.13
First, Beaufort, $2,044.82; last, Berkeley, $648.53; State, $1,151.36.

36th—In average number of white pupils to teacher according to enrollment, 1921 27
First, Pickens, 39; last, Fairfield, 21; State, 31.

30th—In average number of white pupils to school according to average attendance showing, 1920 39
First, Charleston, 114; last, Jasper, 21; State, 51.

27th—In average number of negro pupils to school according to average attendance showing, 1920 53
First, Charleston, 130; last, Jasper, 27; State, 55.
35th—In average number of white pupils to school according to enrollment, 1919
First, Charleston, 159; last, Berkeley, 31; State, 81.

23rd—In average number of negro pupils to school according to enrollment, 1919
First, Charleston, 132; last, Jasper, 41; State, 84.

11th—In average length of session in days, 1921
First, Charleston, 180; last, Cherokee, 96; State, 131.

24th—In number of school districts levying special tax, 1920
First, Horry, 93; last, Jasper, 4.

38th—In receipts from state appropriation for school purposes, 1921
First, Spartanburg, $101,727.26; last, Jasper, $2,399.73.

16th—In the index figure for the schools
First, Darlington, 48.16; last, Berkeley, 19.79; State, 29.39.

1st—In average number of white pupils to teacher according to average attendance, 1921
Anderson, Lexington, Greenville and Greenwood have 26 per teacher; last, Fairfield, 16; State average 22.

21st—In per cent in regular attendance—white, 1921
First, Georgetown, 82.70; last, Horry, 62.45; State, 70.11.

31st—In per cent in regular attendance—negro, 1921
First, Georgetown, 84.09; last, Anderson, 63.00; State, 69.37.

22nd—In number of local school tax districts, 1920
First, Spartanburg and Greenville, 27; last, Beaufort, 9
## Ten Year Gains in School Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1912</th>
<th>1922</th>
<th>Per Cent Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$73,639.39</td>
<td>$233,753.15</td>
<td>217.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total value of school property (white)</strong></td>
<td>$78,736.00</td>
<td>$527,626.00</td>
<td>583.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total value of school property (colored)</strong></td>
<td>$9,202.00</td>
<td>$63,602.00</td>
<td>602.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of local tax districts with extra levy</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>190.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of town schools</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of country schools</strong></td>
<td>103</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>-4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of white teachers</strong></td>
<td>81</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spent for teachers and supervisors</strong></td>
<td>$38,161.83</td>
<td>$131,921.56</td>
<td>245.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spent for buildings and supplies</strong></td>
<td>$1,518.76</td>
<td>$13,635.57</td>
<td>797.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spent for transportation of pupils</strong></td>
<td>$3,140.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total enrollment</strong></td>
<td>4,725</td>
<td>10,021</td>
<td>122.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average daily attendance</strong></td>
<td>2,733</td>
<td>6,985</td>
<td>151.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per cent average daily attendance</strong></td>
<td>57.6</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average annual salary (white men)</strong></td>
<td>$756.59</td>
<td>$1,444.43</td>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average annual salary (white women)</strong></td>
<td>$351.96</td>
<td>$806.93</td>
<td>126.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average annual salary (colored men)</strong></td>
<td>$97.79</td>
<td>$257.55</td>
<td>163.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average annual salary (colored women)</strong></td>
<td>$93.95</td>
<td>$181.72</td>
<td>93.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The figures given below for the wealth of Chester County are arrived at by an indirect method. According to the letter of the law, property should be returned for taxation at its actual value. This is carried out, however, neither by the tax payers nor the tax collectors. The United States Census Bureau gives the basis of assessment for all property on the books in South Carolina as 25 per cent, with the exception of bank stock, which is given 42 per cent.

It might be well to include here what we believe to be the reason for this general disregard of law and also its effect on the levy rate. The revenue needs of the State constitute a certain sum and the State is going to set a rate which will yield this amount. Now when the taxpayer returns his property at half its value (not because he wants to beat the State, but because the other fellow is doing the same thing and he doesn't want the other fellow to pay proportionately less taxes than he), it becomes necessary for the State to double the levy rate. The fact being that the assessed value is only approximately one fourth of the actual property value, the State has to about quadruple its levy rate.

Wealth and Taxation

The assessed value of the total taxable property in Chester County for 1921 was $9,305,859. On the basis explained above, Chester is found from this figure to have an actual property value of $37,223,436. By the same method the actual property value in 1910 is found to be $26,974,062. These figures show an increase of $10,249,374 or 27.3 per cent.

The above figures show that every man, woman, and child of Chester County is worth an average of $114.81. In a rating made of the counties in 1920 Chester ranked 11th in amount of per capita wealth.
Farms and Farm Mortgages

In 1920 all farm property in Chester County was valued at $16,436,123. Chester ranked 26th in the State in this particular. Ten years before that time the value of farm property was $6,749,949. These figures show an increase of 143.5 per cent for the ten years. Though the farm wealth in Chester County is smaller than the farm wealth in the average county, still, the per cent increase during the ten years 1910-1920 is greater than that for the average county. If this increase continues it will be only a matter of a few years till we shall rank higher than 23rd in the item of total farm property.

According to the 1920 census, 6.3 per cent of the farms were mortgaged, ranking Chester 28th in the State. This per cent included 265 farms with a total valuation $1,633,335. The amount of the mortgage debt was $460,232 or 28.2 per cent of the value of the property mortgaged.

In 1910, 9 per cent of the farms of Chester County were mortgaged. In other words, there were 326 such farms, with a total value of $654,502. The amount of the mortgage debt was $185,262 or 28.3 per cent of the total value.

Mortgaging property to secure a loan of more capital is a necessary and often a wise step in all business.

The farmer is at a disadvantage to other business men in that he has to mortgage his home. His home and business are one and the same. Hence the farmer even more than other men should be careful not to borrow money except for capital. Furthermore he must be comparatively sure that he can use it and turn it over so that it will yield or pay him a larger dividend than he had to pay interest on the money. This excess of the dividend which he makes the money yield over the interest he had to pay for the money is what he clears as profit.

The above very apparent rule of business is no doubt already seen and understood by all. But certainly it is not carried out. Such common practices as borrowing money to buy automobiles for pleasure or borrowing money that cannot possibly be put into use with immediate return are sure to lead to ruin.

Rural Credit

A great forward step was made in farm finance when the Farm Loan Act was passed by Congress and the 12 Federal Land Banks were established. The land bank for the district which includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, is located
at Columbia, South Carolina. The national farm loan association is the local agency thru which the farmer negotiates his loan with the Federal Land Bank. Such a loan association is an organization of ten or more farmers who apply to the land bank for a loan of $20,000 or more. The minimum loan per individual farmer is $100 and the maximum $10,000.

Loans are made only to bona fide farmers, and upon fifty per cent of the value of the land, and 20 per cent of the improvements.

There are three farm loan associations in Chester County, one at Chester, one at Richburg, and one at Great Falls. The association at Richburg was first to be chartered in January 1918. The associations have loaned at Chester, $149,000 to 40 members; at Richburg, $72,000 to 20 members; and at Great Falls, $58,000 to 25 members, totaling $288,000, aggregate loans for the three. These facts indicate that Chester farmers are realizing the value of the farm loan association in extending credit on first mortgage farm security.

The general purposes of the Farm Loan Act are as follows: To lower and equalize interest rates on first mortgage farm loans; to provide long term loans with the privilege of repayment upon the amortization plan in installments thru a long or short period of years, at the borrower's option; to stimulate cooperative effort among farmers; to make it easier for the landless to get land and to provide safe and sound long term investments for the thrifty.

The farm loan associations over the nation are increasing in number and are steadily growing in popularity with the farmers who have become acquainted with their methods of doing business. They have enabled many men to extend their interests and others to go into farming on their own responsibility, who otherwise would have been doomed forever to the fate of tenants.

Anything which will reduce the amount of farm tenancy in the nation or that will help to lift the farmer from the "time credit" plan to the cash basis of financing his farming operations is a contribution to the welfare of the State and nation. The Farm Loan Act is a long step forward in a right direction. It provides excellent long term credit for the farmer at reasonable interest rate, and with amortization privileges.

Automobiles

In 1920 Chester had 1,423 automobiles, and ranked 26th in the State. The next year, 1921, there was one automobile in the county for every 223 persons, Chester ranking 27th among the counties in the State and having 1,496 cars.
We do not intend to discourage the automobile business, for in many ways automobiles are useful to business or even in many instances are they good as pleasure vehicles.

The following comparative figures are, however, amazing.

Assuming $1,100 as a conservative average price for a car in 1921, Chester had $1,645,600 invested in cars.

Based on the receipts from the eighth of a cent per gallon tax on gasoline there was consumed in Chester County during 1921 about 606,927 gallons. Estimating an average of 25 cents per gallon this represents $151,731.75.

On a basis of 13 miles to the gallon there were 7,890,051 miles traveled in Chester County in 1921. A conservative estimate of 10 cents per mile for operating expenses would indicate approximately $789,000 as the cost of operating cars in that year.

In the year 1921 Chester produced, according to the Census report 25,466 bales of cotton. The value of this crop is placed at $2,037,280. It seems that more than one-third of the cotton crop of that year was used to meet automobile expenses.

The value of all school property in Chester County in 1921 is estimated in the report of the State Superintendent of Education at $489,453. The value of automobiles was $1,645,600 or almost four times the value of school property.

The total expense in operating schools in Chester County in 1921, was $116,901.27. This is less than one-sixth the amount spent in operating cars which in that year was $789,000.

The value of automobiles in the county is four times the capital stock of all the banks of the county.

Banks

There are six banks in Chester County. Four are located in Chester, one in Great Falls, and one in Blackstock. Chester County has a bank for every 5,565 inhabitants.

The total capital stock of all the banks on December 29, 1922 is $305,000. The total resources amounts to $3,988,100.35. Loans and discounts reach a sum of $2,380,353.22. The surpluses and undivided profits figure at $356,216.55.

The per capita banking resources are approximately $120.

Comparative figures are given below for the years 1914, 1919 and 1922. These years will represent conditions before and after the World War.
Condensed Statement of Banks in Chester County as of December 29, 1922

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Capital Stock</th>
<th>Loans and Discounts</th>
<th>Total Resources</th>
<th>Surplus and Undivided Profits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The National Exchange Bank</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$740,559.93</td>
<td>$1,208,216.69</td>
<td>$106,229.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Commercial Bank</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>650,529.94</td>
<td>1,312,710.94</td>
<td>111,062.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Peoples National Bank</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>334,333.93</td>
<td>499,568.21</td>
<td>59,822.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bank of Great Falls</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>367,343.10</td>
<td>492,686.20</td>
<td>51,638.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White Bank</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>208,803.53</td>
<td>317,606.53</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bank of Blackstock</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>60,782.79</td>
<td>165,865.81</td>
<td>7,403.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,380,353.22</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,988,100.35</strong></td>
<td><strong>$556,216.55</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1919 we had five banks in Chester County, two national and three state banks, with total resources of $3,284,507.13. In 1914 there were six banks, one national and five state, with total resources of $2,062,804.21. In other words banking resources increased in the five years 1914-1919, 59.2 per cent or from $70.11 per person in 1914 to $98.31 in 1919.

In the same period loans and discounts increased 30.7 per cent or from $1,634,790.53 in 1914 to $2,135,770.59 in 1919.

Capital stock decreased $100,000.00 in the time. The reason for this is the failing of one bank. In 1914 the capital stock totaled $380,000.00, in 1919 $280,000.00.

Banking figures as a whole have increased at a much greater rate than the population which gained only 13.4 from 1910 to 1920. Furthermore, the banks of Chester have held the gain. Many banks have suffered a decrease since the inflation of economic conditions around 1919. But as shown by the figures below Chester has not.

The capital stock increased from $280,000 in 1919 to $305,000 in 1922, which is a gain of $25,000 or 9 per cent. Loans and discounts increased from $2,135,770.59 to $2,380,353.22, which is $124,582.65 or 3.9 per cent gain. Total resources show an increase, from $3,284,507.13 to $3,988,100.35, of $709,593.22 or 17.7 per cent.

It is seen that bank figures have continued to increase since 1919.
Taxation

Only 15 counties of the State have a greater total wealth than Chester which figures at $23,468,700. Twenty-one counties have a greater tax rate, Chester's being $3.67 per hundred dollars of property.

By the constitution of 1895 the present system of taxation, and no other is authorized. Tho less than 30 years old it has proven itself inadequate in a fast growing society. The law requires that all property, real and personal, be listed and returned, assessed and taxed at its actual or true value in money. This provision has been entirely neglected and the law at this point so completely broken that the State Tax Commission in 1915 found it necessary to recognize the fact officially and give in to custom. They, recognizing, along with everybody else, that the law had become a dead letter, openly proceeded with the equalization of assessments on a 42 per cent basis. Thus the general charge of outlawing against our system as it now is administered is proved. The Joint Special Committee on Revenue and Taxation appointed by the General Assembly, Session of 1920, says the operation of the tax system in South Carolina “is as much of an outlaw business as the gentle art of cracking safes or of distilling moonshine whiskey.”

Altho taxation is a problem which concerns the whole State and is not confined to the county, it is interesting to see the conditions which the general property tax has brought about in Chester County. According to this report of the Joint Special Committee on Revenue and Taxation, out of a number of lots and tracts of land sold in Chester County the assessed value of land was 25.2 per cent of the selling price and of lots 40.5 per cent.

In 1920 the assessed value of land in the county was $4.48 per acre. This is absurd when we know how much land sold for in that year. It is only 13.8 per cent of the census value which is itself very conservative with $35.26 per acre. Chester County is 13th from the top in the value returned per acre. These figures plainly show why our tax rates are so high in figure, but, not being so in actual fact, there is not a sufficient amount raised to meet the increasing demands of the government.

Not only does there exist such an unfair return value of property but those who are best able to pay the most taxes return far less than those who are least able to pay. A great part of the personal property, lots tangible and intangible is not listed on the tax books, or if listed, is at a very small percentage of its actual value. On landowners and corporations in Chester County falls
the burden of taxation. This condition is made possible by the present tax law in South Carolina. The farmer is the “goat” and is paying the bulk of the taxes simply because he can’t hide his properties while the owner of personal property can keep his wealth off the tax books.

This intangible or invisible personal property consists of moneys, credits, non-exempt stocks and bonds, etc., and includes a large proportion of the taxable property of the State. The State is losing a considerable amount when this property is allowed to slip by untaxed, and the burden is falling on the farmer and other tangible property or real estate owners. It was estimated by the committee mentioned above that all taxable intangible property in South Carolina escaping taxation in 1919 was not less than $300,000,000 which was more than 70 per cent of the assessed value of all property of every character in the State—at that time $402,859,947. Moneys alone deposited in all the banks of the State, amounted on June 30, 1920, to the sum of $215,328,171. It is evident that $300,000,000 was a low estimate.

As stated the fault is with the present law. The special committee named above after studying closely the tax problem in the State made the following statement:

“That there can be no sound, sane, thorough-going reform of the taxing system of South Carolina until the constitutional restrictions upon the power of the General Assembly in relation to the general property tax are removed. Any improvement in method of assessment or in administrative machinery is mere tinkering. The institution of other methods of raising revenue might result in some temporary relief from the present strain upon the timbers of a tottering structure. All such devices are but props to keep the house from falling when the foundation has rotted away. The only sensible course is to rebuild the foundation.”

### Facts About Wealth and Taxation

26th—In value of total farm property, 1920 $15,436,123
Anderson first with $61,635,823; Jasper last with $4,255,029.

20th—In percentage increase in farm wealth by counties, 1910-1920 143.5
Georgetown first with 244.5; Barnwell last with 24.7; State, 143.

11th—In per capita wealth $703.00
Richland first with $891; Horry last with $354.
13th—In percentage that assessed value of land per acre was to census value. Census value $35.26; assessed value, $4.88. Jasper first with 22.9; Census value $17.49; assessed value $3.99; Clarendon last with 7.2; Census value $58.81; assessed value $4.22.

16th—In total wealth $23,468,700. Charleston first with $89,464,800; Allendale last with $7,802,500.

25th—In percentage increase in total taxable property 46.16. Florence first with 123.72; Barnwell last with 27.7; State as a whole, 60.22.

7th—In per capita wealth $1,977.00. Richland first with $2,271.00; Clarendon last with $853.00; State, $1,517.87.

Computed by State Tax Commission on an arbitrary basis—the proportion that the assessed value of farm property bears to the total value in the State as applied to the Census value of all farm property.

22nd—In average property tax rate inclusive of Chester (mills) 36.7. Dillon first with 49.25; Fairfield last with 28.00; State average, 37.6.

26th—In State and County tax rate per $100, assessed valuation for tax year 1920 $2.87. Pickens first with $4.00; Beaufort last with $2.00.

28th—In percentage that mortgaged farms are to total farms 6.3. Oconee first with 14.7; Marlboro last with 2.6; State, 21.1.

39th—In per cent of negro farms mortgaged 38.7. Beaufort first with 1.4; Edgefield last with 48.5; State, 23.3.

25th—In per cent of white farms mortgaged 6.7. Horry first with 13.5; Beaufort last with 1.8; State, 9.5.

26th—In total number of automobiles 1,423. Greenville first with 6,726; Jasper last with 228; Total for State 93,843.

30th—In number inhabitants per automobile in 1921 23. Greenville first with 11.8; Berkeley last with 60.3; State, 18.6.
42nd—In number of inhabitants per bank 5,565
Hampton first with 2,172; Jasper last with 9,868; State, 3,644.

20th—In total banking resources, 1919 $4,174,322
Charleston first with $48,792,245; Berkeley last with $151,628.

28th—In per capita banking resources, 1919 $125.00
Richland first with $454.00; Berkeley last with $7.00; State, $149.26.

32nd—In per capita bank capital, 1919 $9.00
Richland first with $29.00; Berkeley last with $.65; State, $11.77.

23rd—In total capital stock in banks, 1919 $305,000
Charleston first with $2,500,000; Berkeley last with $15,000.

22nd—In total loans and discounts $2,412,696
Charleston first with $24,766,630; Jasper last with $94,555.

41st—In percentage increase in per capita banking resources, 1914-1919 72
Saluda first with 469; Berkeley last with 7.5.
VII.

AGRICULTURE

"When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization."—Webster.

The farmer is certainly the most important man in Chester County. This chapter was written with the aim in view of helping him better to realize the condition of his profession as a whole in the county.

Lands, Farms, and Farmers

Estimating 50,000 acres for woodland and impossible farmland, Chester has 95,972 idle acres of land—more than one-fourth of all the land in the county. There is room for 6,398 men settlers giving each newcomer 15 acres of land, or family of five, 75 acres. Industrial concerns realize that idle machinery is a dead loss. Why do not farmers of Chester realize this in respect to their land? The increase of population made possible by these lands which at present are used to no profitable purpose would greatly benefit the county materially and socially. Cultivation would turn the present loss into gain. Thicker population to a certain limit is an advantage in making possible better schools, better roads, better churches and a fuller social life to the citizens.

There is a total of 4,144 farms in Chester, averaging 70.5 acres each. These farms cover 292,055 acres, constituting only 77.1 per cent of the total land area of the county.

Only one-half of the farm land is improved—or 146,083 acres. Improved land, according to the United States census, is "all land regularly tilled or mowed, land pastured and cropped in rotation, land lying fallow, land in gardens, orchards, nurseries, and land occupied by buildings." We are behind 26 counties in the per cent of farm land improved.

The average number of acres of improved farm land per farm is seen to be 35.3 (in 1910 this figure was 43.1.) Eight counties rank higher than Chester in this item. This is a very good average size farm, being a little larger than the average size farm of the State which is 32.1 improved acres. However, there must evidently be many farms much smaller than this average. And very small farms are disadvantageous. They make the use of labor saving farm machinery impossible. With farm labor as high
as it has recently been the conservation of labor takes a high place among the farmer's problems. Furthermore the small farm as a rule does not employ improved methods. A scientific fight on the boll-weevil is thus made harder. Only when population so increases that labor becomes plentiful and farming becomes more intensive will it be practical to decrease the size of farms.

Only seven counties are below, that is, have a larger percentage of farm tenancy than Chester County. In 1920, 3,159 or 76.2 per cent of all the farms were operated by tenants. It is true that about ¾ of these tenants were negroes, but even at that the figure is too high. There were in the same year 963 owner-operators and 22 managers. The value of farms operated by owners was $6,107,545, managers $310,115; while those operated by tenants were worth $7,181,896. It is seen that the average tenant farm is worth less than $2,500.

In Chester County and, in fact, throughout the United States the percentage of farm tenancy has increased alarmingly. In 1910, 74.7 of the farms of Chester County were operated by tenants. What is the cause of the increase? Some economists optimistically explain it by saying that more wage laborers are becoming tenants. A more nearly correct answer, however, is that because of the high price of farm hands the young farmer has difficulty in buying sufficient land for a farm. Indeed it is in the best and most profitable farming areas that tenancy thrives best and there is the tendency for a "tenant caste" and "absentee landlord."

Farm tenancy and illiteracy are twin-born evils. Educate the people out of the idea of dependency, instill into them the ideal of the home and its value, and encourage them to ownership. When this is done, and the farmer has the desire for ownership, there are no barriers in the path of the young white man's acquiring his farm and home. Especially is this true since the establishment of the Federal Farm Bank.

To make every farmer land-owning, however, is impossible as well as impracticable. The negro, for instance, does better as a tenant where he is supervised to some extent by the owner. But it is desirable that as many as possible of the young white men become thrifty land-owning farmers. This will keep that important man on the farm and greatly raise the standard of our farming—beside benefiting the farmer so greatly.

Farm tenancy is a good thing only to the extent that it helps the laboring class to become owners. It is in some cases the stepping stone to ownership. As a general thing, however, it is undesirable and should be worked against.
Another influence which makes for unprogressive farming is the extent to which the ordinary type of negro exists as farmers. Of the total number of farms, 7 per cent are owned by negroes, while only about twice that number are owned by white owner-operators. Among the tenants, the negroes are nearly five times the whites. Of the 3,159 tenant farms in 1920, 2,612 were operated by negroes.

Borrowing money on the farm is not a bad practice when it is the only and necessary way to raise money with which to carry on the farm work. Many farms, however, are mortgaged to furnish owners with unnecessary luxuries, automobiles and the like. Only 6.3 per cent of all the farms of Chester County are under mortgage. This is not extremely high but is not as low as 18 other counties. Of the white farms, 6.7 per cent were mortgaged in 1910, while 38.7 per cent of the negro farms were under mortgage.

Farm Machinery

Agriculture has progressed with the increase in the use of farm machinery, or the improvement of methods. When a farmer fails to adopt new methods, he is retarding progress and unjustly holding himself back. Chester County is ahead of only seven counties in the per improved acre value of farm implements and machinery—only $6.13 worth of implements on each acre of improved land, that is, land under actual cultivation. With the increasing scarcity of labor and with progress man has to work his head to save his hands. At one time man merely picked fruit with his hands and this was all the farming he had to do. Agriculture has so progressed that now man plows with tractors and sows and reaps with machines. Why do not the people of Chester keep up with progress?

One answer to the above question is that cotton requires hand labor and cannot be cultivated by machinery. True, but is $6.13 worth of implements sufficient to properly cultivate an acre of cotton? Other reasons for the small use of farm machinery are the small size of farms and the general backwardness and ignorance of our negroes, who constitute such a majority of our farmers. However, we believe that a greater amount of farm machinery will be profitable in saving time and labor and in general efficiency.

Cotton—the One-Crop

The most important crop grown in Chester County is cotton.
Nearly half the farm land of the county is given over to its production, and it is the only money crop of the county.

In 1922, only 56,000 acres were planted in cotton. The production in bales was 18,800, averaging 168 pounds to the acre. The whole crop was valued at $2,162,000, which was larger than the value of the previous year's crop.

In 1921, 26,500 bales were produced, valued at $2,120,000. The average yield for the same year was 190 pounds per acre. Chester was led by seven counties in the production of bales.

The decrease from 1920 was deplorable, and is mainly attributed to the boll-weevil. In this year, about 35,000 bales were produced, valued at $2,436,000. It is seen that the value of the crops is approximately the same figure. The yield per acre was 230 pounds, and 73,000 acres were cultivated.

Chester ranked 28th in pounds per acre. Marlboro ranked first with 336 pounds per acre; while Beaufort, Charleston and Jasper produced only 96 pounds to the acre and ranked last. It is interesting to note the difference in Chester's rank in 1922, 1921, and 1920 with respect to this item: twenty-sixth place in 1920, 10th in 1921 and 5th in 1922. It seems that we contended very creditably with the boll-weevil.

The above statistics were obtained from B. B. Hare, Agricultural Statistician of the Bureau of Crop Estimates.

With 62,655 acres in cotton, out of a total improved farm land acreage of 146,083, the predominance of cotton is clearly seen for 1920. In 1922, according to B. B. Hare, the number of acres in cotton was 56,000, while the total number of acres in all the other thirteen leading crops of South Carolina, corn (42,000 acres), wheat, oats, rye, rice, hay, irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, tobacco, cow peas, peanuts, sugar cane, and sorgum (syrup), was only 73,150 acres.

Under the condition existing in Chester County there is apparently more money in cotton than in any other one crop. But does it pay best to raise this one crop to such an exclusive extent? The one-crop system impoverishes the soil. It increases the risk—"putting all the eggs in one basket." It makes the supply of money available at one time and develops the time credit system. It makes the marketing machinery difficult. It makes for idleness of machinery and labor—by not keeping them employed the year round. It lowers the general intelligence of the farm labor. It has a depressing effect on the social life of the community. And it aids in the development of pests, and poisons...
the soil for that crop. When cotton is raised year after year in a field, the boll-weevil becomes stronger and stronger each year.

Competition or conflicting crops are those that require labor at the same time. Supplementary crops require labor at different times of the year. H. C. Taylor, Chief of the Office of Farm Management, U. S. Department of Agriculture said, “Everything considered, choose from each group of competing crops the one which will add most to the farmer’s total net profit, and combine as many non-competing crops as will add enough to the total profits of the farm to make it worth his time to produce this crop rather than use the time for self-improvement or enjoyment of life.” Cotton is a crop which can be followed by nothing. Many farmers do not realize the gains possible in raising other crops. The boll-weevil has taught this to many sections, and has been a blessing instead of a curse.

Food and Non-Food Crops

The term “food-crops” refers to those crops which can be eaten by man and beast. Of course, the non-food crops are those which cannot. Cotton is the principal and practically the only non-food crop of Chester County. It is certainly the only commercial or money crop which is in the class of non-food crops. The extent to which cotton dominates the agriculture of the county has been discussed above.

The food crops are more numerous but not (with the possible exception of corn) very extreme. Of the other 13 leading crops of South Carolina, according to B. B. Hare, all but two are grown in Chester County, and of these 11 all are food crops except cotton. In order of their acreage they are as follows: Corn, hay, oats, cow peas, wheat, sweet potatoes, sorghum syrup, peanuts, irish potatoes, sugar cane and rye. The total value of these crops in 1922 was $882,908.

Corn

Chester County raised in 1920, 82,296 more bushels of corn than in 1910, an increase for the ten years of 26.6 per cent. The rank for the increase was 30th, and for the per cent increase 24th.

In 1922, Chester had, as stated above, 42,000 acres devoted to corn, producing 588,000 bushels or 12 bushels to the acre. The value of the crop for that year was $511,560.

In previous year, 1921, the acreage was 41,000, producing 615,000 bushels, or 15 bushels to the acre. The value of the crop was
$455,100. In the comparison for the two years, it is interesting to note that while 1921 was a much better year for corn yet the value of the crop was less.

In 1919 Chester raised 11.7 bushels of corn per capita. Calhoun County was first in this particular with 31.8 bushels per capita, while Charleston was last with only 4.2 bushels per capita. It is estimated that 31 bushels is the average per capita consumption of corn. This does not imply that each person actually requires 31 bushels, but that the number of bushels used for all purposes, including such as poultry and live stock feed, would be equal to 31 times the number of population. It is seen that Chester County falls far short of producing enough corn for its own consumption. The farmer of Chester County has always been stubborn and bent on planting too much cotton. When he realizes how much it is to his advantage to raise sufficient corn for his own consumption, there will be fewer indebted and bankrupt farmers.

**Hay**

The third most important crop in Chester County according to the acreage and value of product is hay. In 1922, 10,500 acres of Chester County were in hay, producing 10,500 tons valued at $183,750. Nineteen counties had a greater hay crop than Chester, the largest being in Orangeburg—23,000 tons, valued at $402,500. The smallest hay crop of the State was in Georgetown County where 2,500 tons were produced.

Hay is an important feed crop and one which is seldom, or, to a small extent, a commercial product. It is more nearly produced by every farm in sufficient quantities for its own use than any other farm product.

**Oats and Other Grains**

Chester is not a grain county. Oats next to corn is the most important grain crop of the county. Eighty thousand acres, in 1922, were sowed in oats. The production for that year was 192,000 bushels valued at $145,920. Twenty-five counties produced more oats than Chester, Orangeburg first with 638,000 bushels valued at $484,880.

Seventeen counties produced more wheat than Chester. In our county, for 1922, the acreage was 4,200, yielding seven bushels per acre or 29,400 bushels valued at $45,158.

For the same year 100 acres were devoted to rye, yielding 900 bushels valued at $1,620.
Our farmers should devote more energy toward the raising of livestock. On every farm there is room for a certain amount of stock which will be profitable. Yet, out of 4,144 farms of Chester, only 3,894 reported domestic animals of any kind.

Since 1910 there have been, it is true, some encouraging gains. The total value of domestic animals increased from $948,372 in that year to $1,845,282 in 1920. The number of cattle increased 14 per cent—from 10,442 in 1910 valued at $173,837 to 10,639 in 1920 valued at $518,542. Hogs during the same period increased from 8,200 valued at $38,906 to 11,777 valued at $163,076. Horses show a slight increase—from 1,254 in 1910 valued at $163,500 to 1,293 in 1920 valued at $205,044. Mules increased from 3,950 valued at $567,663 to 4,755 valued at $954,774. Poultry also increased decidedly. The number of all kinds in 1910 was 59,235 and the value $26,573. In 1920 the number was 85,710 valued at $87,302.

It is seen that in every case the value increased more than the number. This is, of course, greatly due to the rise in prices, especially for 1920. The gain has been good it has been mainly due to the increase in demand for livestock products with the growing population. The per capita extent of livestock is not much greater than it was in 1910.

According to B. B. Hare, both the number and the value of livestock has increased since 1920. In 1922, there was $1,026,760 worth of livestock in the county. There were 9,100 head of cattle valued at $237,500, 12,000 hogs valued at $132,000, 1,200 horses worth $110-400, and 4,400 mules valued at $545,600.
VIII.

BALANCE SHEET IN FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTION

David A. Gaston

It is a sound economic principle that although in a section one crop may be grown more readily than another, yet it is not advisable always to grow that crop for the simple reason that another crop has even a greater advantage. For example, it may be possible to raise corn at home cheaper than it can be bought; yet, at the same time, it may be possible to raise cotton and buy more corn than could have been raised on the cotton acreage. When this is the case, other things being equal, it pays to raise cotton and buy corn. But other things are very seldom equal, and that is what this chapter will attempt to show.

Our County's Dependence

Chester County produces less than one-half of the food and feed stuff needed by man and beast in the county. We have a food and feed shortage valued at $3,819,903.32. We consume annually $6,207,134.32 worth of food and feed actually needed, not such dainties and luxuries as ordinarily are classed as food. Reflect! There is not half enough food produced in Chester County for the people and animals to live on.

We depend on other sections for 49 per cent or 2,493,538 pounds of the meat consumed in the county yearly. We import from other sections 79 per cent or 1,262,552 pounds of our butter; 79 per cent or 315,058 of our fowls needed; 67 per cent or 392,945.5 dozen eggs; 62 per cent or 643,303 bushels of corn; 94 per cent or 127,263 bushels of wheat; and even 26 per cent or 5,988 tons of hay. No one would expect Chester County to supply itself with sugar and rice. On the other hand no one would expect Chester County to produce meat, corn, or wheat for the market. Cotton is practically our only market crop. But we contend and believe that Chester County can produce profitably and should raise enough of these staple food and feed products for home consumption.

All Eggs In One Basket

The business of farming is not fundamentally speculative or a gambling business. And yet, this is what the farmer is making of
his profession when he stakes his all on one crop. There are too many things likely to happen for this to be advisable—too many chances for the failure of that one crop. The success of the farmer is so controlled by weather, pests, and prices that it behooves him not to take the chance at complete failure that must be assumed if he grows only one product.

There is an excellent example of this in the wheat farming of the West. In 1923, the farmers of that section raised only wheat, and raised it so well, that they flooded the market with their crop. They produced more than the world needed. Consequently, some were to be left with wheat on their hands which they could not sell. Every fellow wanted to be sure that he was not to be left with unsalable wheat on his hands. He was willing to sell at a sacrifice to prevent this happening to him. Wheat brought less in some instances than the cost of production. The market was ruined, and along with it, those who had raised only wheat. Luckily for them it was wheat. When this happens to us we can not eat our market crop, cotton.

The following statement of the situation relative to cotton is found in the “Manufacturers Record” for December 6, 1923: “There is a danger, of course, that high prices this year may cause farmers to neglect other crops and turn to cotton alone next year. In which case one of two things will likely happen—either overproduction will force down the price or the boll weevil will clean them out of house and home. But the Southern farmer is no fool. He has been pretty badly burned by the one-crop system, and it is a safe bet that he will plant only such acreage as he can take care of, and use calcium arsenate on that. It is even a safer bet that he is going to keep right on adding livestock and diversified crops to his farm.”

The Tub’s Own Bottom

This seems to be a day of high specialization—higher specialization than yesterday, but not so high as the specialization of tomorrow. There was a time when each man produced everything he used from his sandals to his ox cart. Now one produces nothing but pins, another, nothing but radiator caps, and so on, each depending on the other fellow, who is likely a specialist to the same mechanical point, to supply him with his other necessities. We are told that this is high civilization, and we know that such conditions are essential for the existence of the large numbers of people on the earth. But we doubt the increase of happiness, or of pleasure either, over the old independent conditions.
Admitting that extreme specialization is necessary in industry, is it necessary in farming? Does the increased production (if indeed there is an increase) resulting from specialized farming pay for the happiness lost with the self-supporting farm? The farmer who, having his cows, hogs and food crops to depend on, does not have to anxiously watch the market price of cotton or the ravages of the boll weevil to determine whether he will live comfortably thru the year, is much better off than the farmer who is constantly in fear of losing his all by a cotton failure—especially when his fears are so often realized.

One practical reason why a farmer should not specialize, or concentrate his all on one crop, is the fact that under this system neither he nor his land will be able to do full time duty. It is true that, with the boll weevil menace, the farmer is required to work some during “lay by” time and also during the winter, but he is not actually busy except during the months spent in cultivating and harvesting his cotton. There is no doubt that the same labor force can raise more cotton than it can pick. Certainly, no farmer wants to produce cotton that he cannot harvest. The wise farmer plants what he is certain he can harvest. Then he is bound to have extra labor during cultivation, which should be expended on some other crop, whose harvesting does not conflict with cotton, or whose harvesting requires less labor than its cultivation. Corn is an example of this kind of crop.

George McCutchen says in his interesting and instructive work, “The Case for Cotton:” “Cotton is a crop which is very exacting in its demands on the farmer’s time because of the long growing and harvesting season. It is therefore difficult to find a non-competing crop to go with it. But the labor necessary to pick the crop is more than that which is necessary to grow it. The man and the mule of the typical family farm of the South, for example, can grow more cotton than the labor force can pick. Therefore to reduce the labor cost and, what is as important in many cases, the mule cost of growing cotton, other crops should be grown.”

Cotton is a crop that fits in poorly with any other for rotation. But rotation with legumes is better than diversification, when that diversification is for some other money crop. Cotton is undoubtedly our best money crop. The farmer should grow that combination of crops which will most nearly work at full time his labor, his work animals and his land. Each farmer can best work this out for himself. Many seem to think that growing cotton almost exclusively is the best “combination.” Cotton, being our best pay-
ing money crop, should seldom be neglected for other crops (especially money crops). But much food stuff can be produced on our farms without in any way cutting down the yield of cotton. And food crops should take first place over cotton to the extent that they make the farm self supporting.

Reasons and Excuses

Many forces are making easier the specialized crop sections, and the trend is toward the condition of greater sectional specialization. The great mistake is that we seem to think something is being gained while really this unhappy condition is being forced upon us by increased population. But we seem to jump for it and to stay ahead, or become more specialized than is necessary or advantageous. As transportation becomes less frictional, as credit grows more easily available, specialization may increase and the South may devote more energy to cotton and less to food production.

Wonderful advances have been made. It would be useless to discuss the great improvements in shipping in the last few years. From covered wagons to railroads, motor trucks and aeroplanes. Everyone is familiar with the increasing efficiency not only of the railroads, but also of all means of transportation. The banks too are doing all they can to help the farmers. Many, who do not call themselves old, remember the times, before the Federal Reserve Banking System, of panics, flush periods, and money shortages. Every locality tried to finance itself. At a successful harvest the banks were flushed with money. They could not keep it all on hand, so they sent it to the only place where they could get rid of it, New York. Then when the new crop began to be worked the farmers needed money for fertilizer, seed, food for themselves and their stock, and numerous necessary supplies. Occasionally the banks were able to obtain money from New York, but more often they could not. Hence the money shortage and panic. But now the Federal Reserve supplies money to one section which needs it to raise a crop, from another which is flushed from the harvest. For example, when the wheat farmers of the West are harvesting, we are in our time of greatest money demand. The let up in demand for credit in the West is felt immediately in the South thru the furnishing of funds by the Federal Reserve Banks. The home banks should not take advantage of this credit to lend money to farmers to spend foolishly. It is the banks' duty to help promote good farming and they can do this by lending
money to farmers to farm with. A farmer has no business borrowing money on his home or farm in order to buy a pleasure car.

Furthermore the middlemen's charges are being cut down steadily. The new methods of marketing and the different schemes to get the consumer as close as possible to the producer are great steps in making sectional specialization more profitable.

But with all these the farmer wants to be more careful about leading off. He should not get ahead of the times and concentrate on one crop more than is practical. And it seems that the farmers of Chester County as a general thing are doing this by planting too much cotton.

There are other indirect reasons for the food shortage. Of course, the fact that there is too great a tendency for one crop is the one direct reason for the failure to raise food-stuffs. But a great cause of the one-crop bane is found in the old problem of farm tenancy.

The extent to which the farms of Chester County are tenant farms, and the evils of farm tenancy are discussed in previous pages of this bulletin. A renter who is only temporarily on a farm is naturally going to try to make the greatest amount of money possible, and very often the landlord encourages this, not foreseeing that he will have to spend that much more money to "run" the tenant if he keeps him another year. It is often the case that tenants go from one farm to another each year. When they do the new landlords are forced to buy food for them, which comes from out of the county. The tenant cannot be entirely blamed. He cannot be expected to take interest in the welfare of the community or the farm on which he lives when his average stay is only three years. He cannot be expected to raise livestock or food products or to build up a self supporting farm. He has already been fed by his landlord for that year and expects the same thing from another the next year. Furthermore, he is usually capable of raising only the greatest "fool-proof" crop, cotton.

Another reason for a failure to raise more food products is the absence of a home market. The merchants find that the food crops produced at home are very irregular in their amount. He can not depend on them and buys from foreign markets. Consequently, the farmer finds the market choked with foreign products and either has to peddle his products or sell at a sacrifice. Can he be blamed if the next year he doesn't raise food products? He has a ready market for cotton. He should have one for food products.

Certainly a local market is practicable. By it all the vast num-
bers of middlemen and their charges are eliminated. It is estimated that 28 per cent of the consumers' money reaches the farmer. Middlemen and freight charges sap up the other 72 per cent. Naturally the farmer has been thinking the consumer was paying him a measly price for his products and the consumer has likewise thought the farmer was cheating him by charging exorbitant prices. Home markets will bring these two together and make for the benefit of both.

**Left With the Farmer**

The situation is in the hands of the farmer—we believe the competent hands of the farmer. Is he going to punish himself and those depending on him? It is left with him to improve the situation and bring about a great favorable change to the wealth of the country and the happiness as well as the wealth of himself. When will our farmers be able to look farther than "how much cotton they can raise next year?" When they do, they will greatly alter the conditions presented in the following tables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meat produced:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,026 calves @ 150 pounds</td>
<td>153,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>499 cattle @ 350 pounds</td>
<td>174,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>154,400 poultry @ 3½ pounds</td>
<td>540,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,704 swine @ 160 pounds</td>
<td>1,712,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total meat produced</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,581,590</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shortage</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,493,538</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Butter needed for 33,389 people @ 48 pounds per person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Produced</th>
<th>Deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,602,672</td>
<td>340,120</td>
<td>1,262,552</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Fowls needed for 33,389 people @ 12 fowls per person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fowls</th>
<th>Produced</th>
<th>Deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400,568</td>
<td>85,510</td>
<td>315,058</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Eggs needed for 33,389 people @ 17½ doz. per person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eggs</th>
<th>Produced</th>
<th>Deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>584,207.5</td>
<td>191,262.0</td>
<td>392,945.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Corn need for 33,389 people @ 31 bushels per person 1,035,059
   Produced .......................................................... 391,456
   Deficit .............................................................. 643,603

6. Wheat need for 33,389 people @ 4 bushels per person 133,556
   Produced .............................................................. 6,293
   Deficit .............................................................. 127,263

7. Hay need for 6,055 work animals @ 10 pounds per day—tons 11,048
   For 10,639 cattle @ 6 pounds per day 11,650
   For 284 sheep @ 3 pounds per day ................................ 155
   Hay needed ........................................................... 22,853
   Produced .............................................................. 17,865
   Deficit .............................................................. 4,988

Chester County Live Stock: 1920 Census

1. Animal units on hand:
   6,358 mature work animals (1) .................................. 6,358
   41 spring colts (1-4) ............................................. 10
   104 yearling colts (1-2) .......................................... 52
   9,046 dairy cows (1) .............................................. 9,046
   1,593 other cattle (1-2) .......................................... 794
   6,292 swine (1-5) .................................................. 1,258
   5,885 pigs (1-10) .................................................. 589
   248 sheep (1-7) .................................................... 35
   44 lambs (1-14) .................................................... 3
   45,439 poultry (1-100) .......................................... 454

   Total units .................................................................. 18,599

2. Animal units needed 292,055 acres in farms divided by 5
   Per cent of animal units in a lightly stocked farm area .... 32
   Per cent below the level ............................................. 68
   NOTE: A lightly stocked farm area means one animal for every five acres—a horse, a cow, 2 colts, 5 hogs, 7 sheep, or 100 hens.
FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTION

Facts About the Food and Feed Production

40th—In number bushels of corn produced, 1920 391,456
Orangeburg first with 1,460,318; Jasper last with 154,526; State 27,472,013.

30th—In number bushels increase in corn 1910-1920 82,296
Anderson first with 477,080; Hampton last with 34,845.

24th—In per cent increase in corn production 1910-1920 26.6
Charleston first with 108.2; Hampton last with decrease of 50.6.

40th—In corn production in bushels per acre, 1919 11.3
Charleston first with 23.6; Barnwell last with 9.5; State 15.0.

40th—In bushels corn per capita, 1919 11.7
Calhoun first with 31.8; Charleston last with 4.2; State 16.3.

29th—In bushels of oats per capita, 1920 1.3
Saluda first with 10.2; Charleston last with 0.08; State 2.1.

32nd—In bushels of oats per acre, 1920 15.16
Marlboro first with 28.10; Jasper last with 8.1; State 18.3.

39th—In bushels of wheat produced per acre, 1920 5.9
Dillon first with 13; Marlboro last with 1.4; State average 7.4. There were no figures for Berkeley or Jasper.

24th—In bushels of wheat produced per capita, 1920 .2
Lexington first with 1.9; Charleston last with .0002; State .37. No figures are given for Berkeley or Jasper. Four bushels are needed per person.

26th—In beef production, pounds per person, 1920 12.1
Beaufort first with 129.8; Greenville last with 3.6; State 17.8.

24th—In number pounds of poultry produced per person, 1920 9.2
Saluda first with 15.4; Charleston last with 2.6.

35th—In animal pork production in pounds per capita, 1920 51.4
Horry first with 183.3; York last with 22.0.

23rd—In egg deficit in dozen per capita, 1920 9.8
Lexington first with 2.6; Charleston last with 16.1.
18th—In butter production per capita, 1920
Cherokee first with 23.6; Charleston last with 1.

28th—In percentage increase in hogs 1910-1920
Anderson first with 276; Hampton last with 49.

6th—In tons of hay and forage produced in 1920
Orangeburg first with 19,775; Jasper last with 1,835.
EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS

Wealth

A keynote to progress of the county is the increased wealth. Chester has an actual property value of $37,223,436, while in 1910 the property value was $25,974,062—an increase of $10,249,374 or 27.3 per cent. This increase in the actual property value of almost one-third makes a creditable showing.

A still greater progress is evidenced in the increase of farm wealth. In 1910, the value of all farm property was $6,749,949. In 1920, this figure had expanded to $16,436,123, an increase of 143.5 per cent.

The total banking resources amounted to $3,988,100.35 in 1922. The figures taken from the building permits of the city treasurer’s office for 1923 are $292,857.57 as compared with $142,385 for 1920. The latter figures represent the peak of building activities in the immediate after-war period. This big increase in 1923 will portray the progress of Chester. Growth is also shown by the figures given out from the post office. The receipts were $24,972 in 1922 and $26,978.25 in 1923.

Education

The progress of the county along educational lines is seen from the chapter on schools. Special note should be made of the index figure for the county which increased from 24.87 in 1910 to 29.39 in 1920. This figure represents the condition of education as explained in that chapter.

The table at the end of that chapter, showing ten year gains, is also interesting and shows some remarkable gains in education. The total value of white school property increased 583 per cent since 1910. Teachers’ salaries were 245 per cent more in 1920 than in 1910. The amount spent on buildings increased 797.9 per cent.

These figures go to show that the people of the county have begun to appreciate the value of education and, consequently, Chester County has progressed by leaps and bounds. This improvement in education in turn is an example of the improvement of the whole county.
Agriculture

The progress of Chester County depends more upon the agricultural development than upon any other single factor. This fact is a pleasing one because the whole phase of farming throughout the county has been steadily moving forward. The condition of the lives of the farmers has been raised to a higher plane through education. Farm methods have shown marked improvement in the last few years. In general, the whole business of farming has been improved. Consequently, marked increases are shown in the crop results. With the exception of cotton, which has fallen off since 1921, due to boll-weevil, the production of almost every crop of the county has shown a gratifying increase.

The cotton production has fallen off considerably in the number of bales produced, it shows a decided increase in the value of the annual product. In 1920, Chester County produced a crop of 35,000 bales worth $2,436,000.00. In 1921, 26,000 bales were produced and were valued at $2,120,000.00; in 1922, 18,800 bales worth $2,162,000.00; and last year, 1923, 22,100 bales worth $3,536,000. So the value of last year’s crop was greater than it has been in four years, even tho the production in bales was comparatively small.

Very nearly 100,000 more bushels of corn were produced last year than the previous year, with an increased value for the year’s crop of $100,000.00. The production and value of the wheat crop was more than doubled.

Admitting that last year was a good farming year and that the year before was a bad one, still, of the agriculture of the county it must be said that progress is being made.

The Chester Chamber of Commerce

The chamber has existed as such for eight years. During this period it has evidenced clearly its value to Chester and Chester County. This period has seen a wonderful growth in the Chamber of Commerce in membership and field of work. It has steadily grown also in the esteem of the citizens—and worthily, because of its continued willingness and efforts to serve the community. Our Chamber of Commerce has always been an organization aiming both to promote and protect the commercial and industrial interest of the community, as well as to improve the living conditions and social well-being.

Some of the recent accomplishments, such as managing the
EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS

Chester County historical pageant, conducting the 13th annual Chester County Fair, cooperating in the promotion of the “Carolina Short Route,” conducting a campaign for the Chester free library, securing stock subscriptions for the furniture and toy factory, and indorsing an industrial survey to be made of the county, all show the work being done by the Chester Chamber of Commerce for Chester County.

Chester County Fair

Chester County has had its 13th annual fair. Each year this fair has grown better and better. It has done more and more in coordinating the interests of the town and county. The fair’s success from an educational standpoint is clearly seen from the increased number of exports. Some of the conspicuous features have been the community exhibits, poultry show, Guernsey show, educational exhibits and the amusement program.

Chester’s fair has always been recognized as one of the best county fairs of the State. It has certainly done a wonderful work in getting the people of the county together in order that each might see what his neighbor is accomplishing and profit by what he sees. The town people see what is being done in the county and go away pleased and proud of the rural citizens, while the farmers are just as pleased with their urban neighbors. This “rubbing of elbows” at a county fair is a great factor in bringing about that spirit of cooperation which is so necessary in any democratic community.

Where We Lead

Based upon 1920 Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th—In per cent increase in white population, 1910-1920</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th—In per cent decrease in ratio of negro to total population, 1910-1920</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th—In average acreage of farms</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th—In average improved acreage per farm</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th—In percentage of assessed value of land to census value</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th—In total value of property</td>
<td>$23,468,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th—In average number of pupils to teacher according to enrollment</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th—In average length of session in days</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9th—In average number of white pupils to teacher according to average attendance

11th—In per capita annual expenditure for white schools according to enrollment

9th—In per cent that church members are of total population ten years old and older

18th—In butter production in pounds per person

18th—In value of live stock products in pounds per person

8th—In production of cotton in bales

17th—In amount of capital invested in textile industries

12th—In number of textile establishments

8th—In value of the annual product in the textile industry

19th—In value of non-food crops

9th—In annual death rate per 1,000 population

15th—In annual birth rate per 1,000 population

14th—In per cent of Liberty Loan quota subscribed

16th—In hay and forage produced, tons

10th—In number of factory wage earners

10th—In total wages paid factory workers

10th—In value of manufactured products

10th—In per capita expenditure for white schools according to average attendance (1921)

Chester County has well kept pace with the recent mode of travel. We have not allowed our county to form a weak link in the chain of highways. In the last few years, since the building of the first top soil road by the State in Chester County, nearly $1,000,000 has been spent on the roads and bridges of the county. The result is more than 100 miles of improved top-soil roads leading out from Chester in all directions.

There is little need to trace the benefits of good roads here. In bringing the people closer together they afford a wonderful social advantage. Better roads place the town and the county nearer to each other. Schools and churches too are made more accessible. But besides these social advantages, the roads will more than pay for themselves from an economic point of view. Transportation cost is reduced and there is a great saving on the wear and tear of vehicles. The markets are more easily reached.
The farmer is induced to bring more country produce to town and trades more in town. The advantages of good roads are also well manifested in the enhancement they effect to the value of real estate.

A few of the recent roads constructed and also some of the immediate projects give an idea of the work which is going on. The Chester-Lockhart project was completed about November, 1923. About 11 miles of top-soil road is completed from Chester to the Armenia section. The road between Chester and Great Falls has recently been taken over by the State and resurfaced. The first piece of road construction by the State in Chester County was on the road from Chester to York county line toward Rock Hill. This with the road to Blackstock forms Chester's section of the famous "Carolina Short Route." The county is at present maintaining the Ashford Ferry road. The eastern section of the Calhoun Highway thru Chester County will be completed in a few months. Plans are under way for the Fishdam road from Chester to Carlisle which will be the western section of the Calhoun Highway. This project will cost around $80,000. The Lockhart bridge over the Broad River and the bridge over Fishing Creek on the Saluda road are among the most recent bridge constructions of the county. The Saluda bridge is one of the prettiest of its kind in the country and was built at a cost of $15,960.

Farm Demonstration Work

A great evil tendency of the farm is to "kill the goose." Impoverishment of farm land must be stopped and is being stopped only by persistent work. The County Agent movement is evident throughout the country and no less so in Chester County. But soil building is only one of the many and important fields of the farm demonstration agent. His function is to influence farmers by any and all wise means within his power, both as individual farmers and as groups.

The Federal Smith-Lever Act of 1914, by providing a fund by which farm demonstration agents are employed to help stimulate agriculture, has greatly strengthened the work of Agricultural experiment and education.

H. K. Sanders is our agent in Chester County. He reports much scientific progress in the farming of the county. Among the phases of his work the orchard movement is one of the most important. This is being pushed and the farmers are beginning to realize the importance of independence in food production. Also Boy's Clubs
are being organized all over the county. In this way scientific methods are instilled early. The boys are given an interest in the noblest of all professions and the farmer is kept on the farm. With the fearful trend of population to the cities the importance of this is clearly made manifest. Terracing is a no less important work, especially in a hilly county like Chester. Stump blasting stands out as another field in which Mr. Sanders has made much progress and improvement. As mentioned before, soil building holds the constant attention of every good farmer. Much is being done along this line, consequently, check is being put on soil impoverishment throughout the county. Another work of the agent is in getting up governmental reports, very necessary statistical data which make available governmental research and scientific conclusions so beneficial to farmers.

One very material evidence of the work being done is the Community Creamery, of which we are proud, and rightly so, and which could never have been started or maintained without the aid and effort of an efficient farm demonstration agent. Mr. Sanders should be commended for the work done. He deserves the cooperation of every citizen of the county.

Public Libraries

Libraries are necessary to make possible the continuance of the broadening of men after their school days. Reading broadens the intellectual view of the people.

If intellectual shriveling and shirking is to be avoided after schooling days are over, much reading is necessary. The best and only way to make this possible to all is thru public libraries. There is a strong tendency for men and women after finishing school to be thru with study. Business and other duties of life take attention from books.

A public library working with the public schools offers great advantages to the teachers and pupils thru the possibility for reading.

Beyond the practical considerations, a public library has sentimental values. To those who are lonely and live in sorrow or neglect, it opens a way to comfort and solace. Books as a source of happiness, enlightenment and relief from sorrow and monotony, are incomparable.

In Chester County there is a free library at Chester and one at Lowryville. The Chester Free Library was at one time called the Patterson Library (see historical back-ground by Arthur Corn-
Four years ago the library was organized, made a free library and given its present name. There are some 2,500 volumes on the shelves. In the first two years, 21,697 books were put in circulation. The expenditures for 1923 amounted to about $500.00. In that year there were 191 enlisted borrowers. About 500 books were taken out per month. Mrs. Ada C. Stone is the librarian. Support is obtained mainly by subscription. Much work has been done for the library by the Chamber of Commerce which is responsible for its present existence.

The Lowryville Free Library was organized in 1902. It has average circulation of 20 or 30 books per month. Mrs. Abell is the librarian.
One of the greatest problems of any people is education. This is especially true of Chester County. It is in a State whose illiteracy ranks her next to the bottom among the states of the union, and it has a standing in literacy which is hardly higher than that of the State. While it is true that many advances have been made in the county, still there is much work to be done and many improvements which should be made.

A cause of the low ranking of our county in the matter of literacy is the large number of uneducated or illiterate negroes. The menace of the uneducated negro is indeed threatening when over 37 per cent of them can neither read nor write their names. It will be an advantage to the county as a whole in a countless number of ways when the negroes receive more education. Not only will the negro be greatly benefited but the standard of the whole population will also be raised.

Another problem upon which the education and welfare of the county depends is that presented in the illiterate adult. With the compulsory education laws children of school age are being fairly well reached for at least four months of the year. However there are 5,225 adult illiterates not affected by this law. For them our only hope is the adult school. Chester's progress in adult education has been gratifying. We have 21 teachers and 571 pupils in adult schools.

The length of the school session does not present such a hard problem for Chester since we rank fairly well in this particular. There are only ten counties in the State with a longer session; but it must be remembered that South Carolina as a whole ranks very low. Then too, the length of the sessions of the country schools is very much shorter than that of the town. In 1922 the average length of the white school session was 172 days in the town and 150 days in the country, while the negro schools showed an even wider difference and shorter sessions. The term
for the accredited schools in the country is nine months or a minimum of 180 days. If it is necessary to have a full session in schools where the teachers have only one or two grades to teach it is even more necessary in the smaller county schools where each teacher has as many as five grades. Furthermore, it is nothing but fair that all schools should have a term of nine months.

Twenty-two counties of the State have a higher percentage of the school population attending school than Chester. In 1923 the average attendance was only 70.31 per cent of the total enrollment. This fact represents a great waste of energy and funds and should be corrected, or at least improved. Improvement will be brought about when the new compulsory education law is properly enforced.

In 1914, ninety-seven, or 85.2 per cent of schools of the county were one-teacher schools. The number is now 86 or 74.1 per cent. Chester needs to get away from the old idea of taking the school to the pupil. Greater advantages are every day being recognized in the consolidated rural school and every day consolidation is being facilitated. It was at one time impossible because of poor roads; but with the progress and improvement now seen in road building, there should be many more trucks to carry the rural pupils to better schools established at rural centers throughout the county. The continued progress of our roads and that of our schools are dependent upon each other.

A demand for better trained teachers should never cease to be agitated, and better trained men and women as teachers can be demanded only by better salaries. The average salary of a teacher in Chester County is $636.91. So long as there are weak and inefficient teachers the schools cannot educate the children as they should. "As is the teacher, so is the school."

Financing the school is a primary and most difficult problem of education. The solution of the others depends upon how it is solved. It can be seen in the chapter on Schools that Chester was 38th in the amount received from State appropriation. The county was 23rd in the per capita expenditure for education. Until a better and more nearly equal system of financing the schools is found, the education of the people will lag. Not until the schools are more sufficiently financed will it be possible to increase the length of the school term, to better the attendance, to obtain more consolidation of schools and better transportation, or to obtain better teachers. And not until these are accomplished will the standard of education be raised in Chester County.
Food and Feed Deficit

Food has been a most important item and one of the greatest concern for centuries. It is the one commodity which man cannot do without. With our increasing population and the tendency for food production to decrease as the population increases, or, at least to decrease in ratio to the population, we see that this problem of food production is a modern as well as ancient one. Those people who have been the most nearly self supporting as to their food demands have proven the most prosperous and happiest.

For the last census year the food and feed production in Chester County was little more than a third of what was required. In that year only $2,387,231.00 worth of food and feed was produced, while the need of our county was over $6,000,000. If figures were available now the shortage would be even greater, for the population of the county has increased and the production of food and feed has not shown a proportionate increase, if any at all. This food shortage ($3,819,903.32 in the last census year) represents a vast amount of wealth going out of the county each year. A great part of it could be kept at home. There is a need for more improved agricultural methods, more of the higher class of farms, and more growing of food stuffs.

The growing of cotton is peculiarly adapted to negro labor or some other form of cheap labor. Take together all the costs of producing cotton in our section and it has been estimated that 41 per cent of this cost is labor. For wheat in the west labor amounts to less than 21 per cent. For corn, labor figures around 13 per cent. So cotton is comparatively a cheap labor crop, and until we raise more food products it will be impossible to do without cheap labor and to better the conditions of our farmers as a class. Until this is done there can be little improvement made in the farming methods used at present. Let us start the ball rolling and work for the result of improving the agriculture in Chester County.

Farm Tenancy

With the necessity for growing a cheap labor crop comes the negro and with the negro comes the evil of farm tenancy. Of the number of farms in Chester County 76.2 per cent are operated by tenants and about three-fourths of these are negroes. Only seven counties have a larger percentage of tenant farms.

The vital importance of this problem of farm tenancy is clearly
shown by the way in which it is interwoven with other phases of economic and social life. Tenancy makes for smaller farms. It is more prevalent among the negroes and is hard to avoid with the percentage of negroes in our population. From the way that tenancy causes frequently moving farm families and consequently an aimless irresponsible class with little interest in community development, it is vividly seen that the problems of education, soil building and all problems requiring community cooperation hold a key to their solution in that of farm tenancy.

Dr. Wilson Gee has clearly stated the situation in his article on "Farm Tenancy in South Carolina":

"To make every tenant farmer a land-owning Iarrnc r would not be desirable, even tho it were practicable. There are many, particularly in the case of the negro, who thrive better as share-tenants and croppers under the close supervision of their landlord than they would were they their own bosses, and it is better for the economic well-being of the commonwealth that they remain so.

"However, for the thrifty young white man, there should be no barrier placed in his way to speedy ownership of his own farm and home. The sense of this ownership will breed in him qualities of self respect that make him a stable element in the community, a greater social factor to his neighborhood, a center of wealth production and retention, and one whose interests encompass the development of the neighborhood, community, county, state and nation. A study of the various aspects of farm tenancy in a typical upcountry community made a little more than a year ago shows that the young fellow who starts out working hard, living within his income and saving all he can, is the one who steps out of the tenant class into the owner group. There are no insuperable barriers to ownership as yet, except those of rank misfortune, in a state where 50.2 per cent of our farm lands are lying idle. The principal obstacles in the way of ownership in South Carolina are a lack of ideals of ownership and a great deal of ignorance, indolence and thriftlessness."

**Boll Weevil Control**

Chester County being, as we have seen, a cotton county, has been hard hit by the boll weevil. Since the pest reached us our farmers have learned by experience and study much about the ways to fight it, and work has been done toward getting it under control. But much remains yet to be done. The weevil is still
a dangerous menace. It is hard to determine what method can best be pursued and which will be the best adapted to the conditions of the tenant farmer. Certainly all should cooperate in the task of exterminating this profit taker.

Even with the most of care there will be a risk of weevil destruction. Therefore the most important and first step which should be taken is a "live-at-home" program. Raise plenty to eat and something to sell besides cotton. If an ample supply of calcium arsenate were available and at a reasonable cost it is estimated with liberal figuring that not 10 per cent of the cotton acreage of the South would be poisoned. Therefore it is recommended that all farmers follow those proven cultural methods which tend to insure great production and give direct aid in controlling the weevil damage. Important among these are:

1. The use of well drained fertile soil.
2. Good seed of standard early maturing varieties.
3. The use of ample seed in order to insure a good stand.
4. Closer spacing than under non-boll weevil conditions.
5. Intensive careful cultivation.
6. Liberal fertilization to induce quick growth and stimulate early maturing.
7. Where practical the early destruction of cotton stalks in the fall and of hibernating places in the filla.
8. The picking up and destruction of all punctured squares for a period of 30 days.

It must be realized that the control of the weevil will involve study for years to come. Everyone should give the problem first and serious thought. Numerous remedies will be offered but the safe way is to accept only those which are tried by scientific test.

Cooperative Marketing

The problem of marketing is also one of the most vital which the farmer must face. His success is entirely dependent upon his finding a ready and profitable sale for his produce. If the farmers sell independently of each other they will be imposed on by buying combinations and will not have the least control of prices. In this way each farmer works against his neighbors and so hurts himself. But by cooperation the farmer can take the situation in hand and demand a just price for his crops.

By cooperative marketing the crop can be sold:
1. More intelligently and collectively.
2. Without dumping.
3. With modern and scientific financing.
4. With proper grading.
5. Thru the most expert selling agencies.

None of these advantages can be reaped without the real cooperation of all the farmers. All should join the South Carolina Cotton Growers Association. Upon membership and the spirit of its members is the success of the association dependent.

Roads

There is little need to trace the benefits of good roads here. In bringing the people closer together they afford a wonderful social advantage. Better roads place the town and county nearer to each other. Schools and churches too are made more easily accessible. But besides these social advantages the roads will more than pay for themselves from an economic point of view.

Transportation cost is reduced and there is a great saving on the wear and tear of vehicles.

The markets are more easily reached. The farmer is induced to bring more country produce to town and trades more in town. The advantages of good roads are also well manifested in the enhancement they effect on the value of real estate.

Tho the roads are on a par with those of other counties of the State, there is always work to be done in order to keep up with the general good roads movement which is sweeping the country. We need to stir up more agitation for repairing those roads we have built. It is a great deal easier and cheaper to keep a road in repair than to rebuild it after it has been allowed to wear out.

This very point suggests an advantage in hard surfaced roads, which call for scarcely any repair. The initial expense tho greater is about the final cost. Chester certainly needs more hard surfaced roads. It is foolish to say that we cannot pay for them. With the amount of travel on our roads a hard surface road would pay for itself by saving in the wear and tear on automobiles and in the gasoline bills.

Taxation

In a previous chapter, "Wealth and Taxation," an attempt has been made to describe the conditions and evil results of the sys-
tem of taxation in our State. This of course applies to Chester County as well. Let us here look at some of the steps taken to remedy and improve the present system. It is a problem for every citizen and each should make an individual study of the tax system in his State. When this is done there will be a general understanding of conditions and remedies will come easier.

The remedy must start at the bottom. The constitution should be amended to provide for a revision of the tax system and a proper adjustment of the burden. Our system needs to follow more the principles of taxing proportionately those who are best able to bear and those who are receiving the benefits.

The income tax has already been adopted (March 13, 1923) and is one of the most successful of the new taxes. The advantages of this tax are clear. It never imposes a burden upon the man who works hard all year and then has nothing to show for it except that he lived on the farm and raised necessities for his fellow humans. This tax cannot exact a tribute from a man who has little or no income, and takes only a few dollars unless the income is large.

A law enforcing the inheritance tax went into effect on February 23, 1923. This form of tax is also sound in principal and practical of administration. For the first year it brought in very little owing to the long delays in settling up the estates. But it promises to be a very profitable source of revenue.

The gasoline tax is another new measure whose enforcement has been accomplished with minimum friction and cost. It is an excellent form of “painless extraction” taxation. All taxes of this kind have the wholesome tendency to cut down the mill levy. They bring in a good income to the State from sources where it is felt less.

Our general property tax is better in theory than in practice. At present it could be much improved by a more equitable assessment of real property—city, town and rural. The time is now ripe for a revaluation of all property, placing it upon a uniform value for taxation.

Taxes should be unhesitatingly put on luxuries. Such when first imposed may be an inconvenience to the public. If they are wisely levied, however, their effect as far as they have any slight influence upon economic conditions is to encourage thrift and in every case they reach the people who can afford to pay small amounts for the public good. The great aim in all taxation should be as much as possible “painless extraction,” that is, to derive an
income from sources where it hurts least. It is also only fair to tax in proportion to benefits received. As near as possible a tax should be imposed proportionately upon those who receive the benefits and are able to pay. These are not always the same people but the levy should be made with both principles in mind.

So the tax system in South Carolina shows need for at least two improvements:

1. A revaluation of all property for general property tax and assessment of intangible property so that it will bear a reasonable burden of taxation.

2. More methods of "painless extraction" taxation.

**Our Problems**

8th—In per cent of population totally illiterate........................................ 23.8
26th—In percentage of native white illiteracy........................................... 5.4
26th—In per cent of farm land improved................................................... 50.0
28th—In per cent of farms mortgaged....................................................... 6.3
9th—In percentage of farm tenancy........................................................... 76.2
5th—In per cent of white schools that are one-teacher schools.................... 67.35
31st—In per cent of enrolled negro pupils in average attendance.................... 66.34
27th—In per cent per capita investment in school property, in dollars.............. 8.50
30th—In number of bushels increase in corn production, 1910-1920................ 82,296
40th—In corn production in bushels per acre........................................... 11.3
26th—In beef production in pounds per person.......................................... 12.1
35th—In pork production in pounds per person.......................................... 51.4
34th—In value of crops in dollars per acre.............................................. 29.00
29th—In per cent that non-food crops are to total crops........................... 79.0
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