FLORENCE COUNTY
Economic and Social

—By—

J. P. McNEILL, JR., and
JOHN A. CHASE JR.

A Laboratory Study in the Department of Rural Social Science
of the University of South Carolina

JUNE 1921
CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ................................................. 3
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ......................................... 5
NATURAL RESOURCES .............................................. 7
FACTS ABOUT THE FOLKS .......................................... 14
SCHOOLS ................................................................ 18
WEALTH AND TAXATION ............................................ 26
FARM CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES ............................ 33
BALANCE SHEET IN FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTION .......... 42
EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS ........................................... 49
OUR PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTION ......................... 57
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE PUBLICATION of this booklet would never have been possible had it not been for the untiring efforts and cooperation of Dr. Wilson Gee, Professor of Rural Social Science at the University of South Carolina. During every step of its preparation he was on the job with valuable suggestions, and here and there through the booklet, though unrecognizable as the works of his hand, will be seen fruits of his efforts in much more concrete form than suggestions.

The work of J. W. Brunson in preparing "The Historical Background," T. Benton Young on "Co-operative Marketing," E. E. Brunson on "Idle Lands," J. M. Lynch on "Good Roads," Allan C. Mimms on "Livestock," and R. E. Currin on "The Pee Dee Experiment Station," deserve special mention, and we wish to express our sincere appreciation to these gentlemen for their valuable assistance.

We also wish to acknowledge our obligation to the other public spirited men and women of the county who furnished us with valuable information not readily obtainable.

J. P. McNEILL, JR.,
JOHN A. CHASE, JR.

University of South Carolina,
June 4, 1921
FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Most Modern, Best Equipped High School Buildings in the South
I.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

J. W. Brunson

In 1853 and 1854 the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad was built and the present city of Florence had its beginning. Corps of construction working from both ends of the line met just at the terminus of the first curve of the line going west, on land now belonging to the estate of William Revell. Here Samuel Muldrow kept a small eating house for passengers and employees of the railroad company. This point was connected with Cheraw, Society Hill, Darlington, and points north by a stage line, one of the drivers being Mr. Cutts, subsequently a passenger conductor on the railroad. Mr. E. E. Brunson and Mr. Wilden were among the first conductors.

Soon afterwards the station was established at a point north of the track and a little east of Church Street, then merely a settlement road. At that time the road connecting with the Camden Road south of Middle Swamp at Muldrow's Mill, and projected as the Goose Pond Road, north of Florence, had not been established. The station was a rough warehouse with a platform, at one end an apartment having been cut off for a ticket office and United States Postoffice. The agent, Mr. Campbell, lived in a small house on the south side of the railroad track at a point near the present terminus of Ravanel Street.

The next improvement was an eating house on the south side of the track and east of the settlement road. This building was used also for religious worship. Mr. Jacobi was among the first merchants. In 1854 the Northeastern Railroad Company purchased a part of the Thomas McCall property and S. S. Solomons, surveyor, laid off into streets and lots that portion of the city bounded on the east by the east margin of Dargan Street; south by the south margin of Cheves Street; west by the west margin of McQueen Street, and north by the right-of-way of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad Company.

Florence then began to grow slowly in importance at a railroad center and trading point. Among those conspicuously active in the incipient development of the town were Jerome P. Chase, Wm. Norris, Samuel O. McCown, James McCown, James Pawley, W. A. Brunson, and the railroad companies. But the greatest service rendered was by General W. W. Harllee, whose indefatigable perseverance in the face of obstacles, to many insuperable, secured the location of the Wilmington-
ton and Manchester Railroad Company. He was a gentleman of fine education and of a high order of intellect, integrity and energy, and in his political views, firm as the everlasting hills. To him a monument is due from the people of Florence. It is interesting to note that it was for his daughter that the city and county of Florence were named.

In 1889-90 the new County of Florence was established, composed of that portion of Darlington County lying east of a line running from Sanders' Bridge on Lynch's Creek to the center of the C. & D. trestle over High Hill Creek; thence down said creek to Black Creek; thence up Black Creek to Muses' Bridge; thence a straight line to Back Swamp; thence down said creek to Great Pee Dee River; all of Marion County lying west of Pee Dee River; and a part of the counties of Clarendon and Williamsburg. Among the citizens of antebellum times in the Darlington section of the county, are the names, R. R. Cannon, W. H. Cannon, Moses McCall, Thomas McCall, Captain John McSween, Bacot, Brockinton, Ervin, McClenaghan, James, Dargan, Brunson, Green, Gee, Muldrow, Burris, Connell, Britt, McCown, and Cole. South of Middle Swamp are Hepburn, Pettigrew, Ward, Brockinton, Williamson, Woods, Kennedy, Revell, Timmons, Burch, McLaughlin, Lawrence, Langston, Ham, Welch, Munn, Morris, Gamer, Hill, Hewitt, Mims, and Lockhart.

The Marion section contributed greater wealth and also many of our best citizens, among whom are the names, Evans, Gregg, Howard, McIntyre, Jarrott, Harllee, Pearce, Brown, Gibson, McPherson, Claussen, Johnson, Singletary, Fladger, Ross, Myers, Cusack, Finklea, Poston, McWhite, Gasque and Fryer. Many of our best citizens were also contributed by Williamsburg and Clarendon counties.

Florence is nearly one hundred per cent American. Our people are, with comparatively few exceptions, the descendents of the early colonists of the State, Scotch-Irish, Huguenot and English, with a fair scattering of pure Scotch. There are a good many royal grants, and a fair number of our people are now living on land granted to their ancestors by King George. James Cole, at Cole's Cross Roads, is living on land granted his ancestor, James Cole, in 1750, and there has been a continuous family ownership ever since then.
II.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES

J. A. CHASE, JR.

Geography

Florence County is located in the east-central portion of South Carolina, entirely within the coastal plain. Its boundaries are as follows: On the north, Darlington and Marlboro counties, on the south, Clarendon and Williamsburg counties; on the east, Dillon and Marion counties, from which it is separated by the Pee Dee River; on the west, Sumter, Lee and Darlington counties.

In size, Florence County ranks twenty-seventh among the counties in South Carolina; with an area of 607 square miles, or 388,480 acres.

The topography of the county is generally flat, but there are some slight variations in the surface, consisting principally of elevations in the undulating uplands and the gently rolling surfaces along drainage courses. The stream bottoms are all practically level, except for slight interruptions of drainage-way depressions, and abandoned stream channels. Hence, the county is well suited for cultivation and too nearly level to be subject to serious erosion.

Climate

The climate of Florence County is mild and pleasant, and there is no time that the farmer cannot occupy himself profitably. The extremes of temperature seldom occur. The average date of the last killing frost in the spring is March 31 and of the first in the fall, November 7. However, the last record of killing frost in the spring is April 24 and the earliest in the fall, October 12.

Following is a table of the normal monthly, seasonal, and annual temperature and precipitation at Florence.
### TABLE I.

**Normal Monthly, Seasonal and Annual Temperature and Precipitation at Florence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Absolute</td>
<td>Mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Fahr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>44.0</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>62.8</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Soils**

The predominant type of soil in Florence County is sand, which includes coarse sands, fine sandy loams, and very fine sandy loams. There are scattered, however, throughout the county, bodies of loam, silt loam, and clay, making an important total area; but very small as compared with the total extent of the sandy types. This difference in the character of the soils may possibly be attributed to drainage.

In Florence County there are thirty-one distinct soil types mapped, and these types are separated mainly on the basis of the texture. They
are grouped into ten series on the basis of similarity of origin, color, or range of color, of the soil and sub-soil and general topographic conditions. The area and names of the ten series are as follows: Norfolk, 33.5 per cent., Coxville, 25 per cent., Portsmouth, 10.3 per cent., Kalmia, 5.7 per cent., Okenee, 3.2 per cent., Ruston, 2.2 per cent., Johnston, 1 per cent., Myatt, 0.9 per cent., Cahaba, 0.6 per cent., Orangeburg, 0.5 per cent. The first two series comprise over one-half the area of the county. Hence, they are worthy of a detailed description.

The surface soils of the Norfolk series are characterized by the light-gray to grayish-yellow color, and by the yellow color and friable structure of the sand or sandy-clay subsoils. Throughout the Coastal Plain they occupy nearly level to rolling uplands and have been derived from unconsolidated deposits of sands and clays. There are seven types of the Norfolk series in Florence County, as follows: the coarse sandy loam, very fine sandy loam, sandy loam, fine sandy loam, sand, fine sand, and coarse sand. These are excellent agricultural soils, being well suited to cotton, corn, oats, tobacco, peanuts, sweet and Irish potatoes, forage crops, and any variety of vegetables, but generally, applications of commercial fertilizers are made with all the crops.

The surface soils of the Coxville series are dark-gray to nearly black in color. The subsoils range from a moderately mellow, friable clay in the upper portion to yellowish, rather plastic, compact clay molded with drab and bright red in the lower portion. The topography is prevalingly flat, with frequent sparsely settled timbered areas. In these shallow depressions the drainage is exceedingly poor and most farmers find it necessary to dig ditches, apply liberal additions of vegetable matter and lime, in order to prevent the tendency to compact. The principal products of the Coxville series are tomatoes, peas, beans, potatoes, cabbage, strawberries, corn and oats, and a small amount of tobacco and cotton, all of which requires artificial drainage and some fertilizing before they can be cultivated.

The soils which are prevalent around Florence are the Coxville, Norfolk and Rustin series and those around Lake City are the Norfolk, Portsmouth, Coxville and Kalmia series. As a further proof of this fact, corn, cotton, oats, tobacco and potatoes are grown around Florence, which the three series are especially adapted to raising. Around Lake City, we find tobacco the chief product, this town being the largest tobacco market in the county, in addition to cotton, corn, oats, velvet beans, cowpeas, watermelons and cucumbers, all of which occupy place in the crop possibility of the four series named around this area.

Minerals.

The mineral resources of Florence County are barely worth mentioning, marl and Fuller's Earth being the only minerals. Neither of these
are found to any appreciable extent, but if they are developed they may prove a small asset to the agricultural interests of the county.

**Timber**

According to the 1910 census, there are 162,941 acres of woodland in Florence County. This is 42 per cent. of the total area of the county, Florence ranking fifth in this particular. Loblolly pine seems to predominate in the forests, with small amounts of long leaf, short leaf, oak, gum, poplar and cypress.

Statistics are not available as to the number of feet of merchantable timber specific for the county. The 1920 report of the State Commissioner of Agriculture gives Florence County $669,164 as the value of the lumber and timber products for that year. The machine shops and foundries are the only industry in Florence County which outranks the lumber business in value of the annual product in 1920.

It is interesting to note the timber situation in the state as a whole. Last year the United States Forest Service recorded 13,889,000,000 feet as the stand of merchantable pine timber in South Carolina. The figure given for 1908 is approximately 45,000,000,000. The decrease is readily seen to be marked. The annual growth in the state is estimated to be 250,000,000 feet. Over the country as a whole, our consumption of timber is four times as great as our annual growth. At this rate, and it represents a conservative estimate, we are sustaining in this state a deficit of three-quarters of a billion feet annually. Such forest depletion will not allow many years until we shall have "killed the goose that laid the golden egg." It is time we are taking intelligent steps toward the proper utilization or conservation of our forest resources.

**Industries.**

In spite of the fact that Florence County is predominantly agricultural, of late years manufacturing is rising into large proportions. In a brief synopsis like this it would be impossible to give a detailed account of the organization, growth and present importance of each of our industries, and in fact one short paragraph devoted to each would make a story entirely too long to be included in this bulletin. **However, the reader will find at the end of this chapter, in a tabulated and consolidated form, the most important facts about our industries.**

For the development of industries there are four things absolutely necessary. They are sufficient capital, available raw products, efficient workers and ample transportation facilities. Fortunately, Florence is blessed with all of these.

It is practically impossible to secure from the state reports the exact capital invested in manufacturing in a thriving town like Florence. It takes time for the reports to be sent by the different manufacturing con-
cerns to the state department at Columbia, and there to be tabulated and printed. During this time other capital is being added to the old plants and new plants are started. Consequently, we can get it only approximately correct.

According to the state report for 1920 we had a total capital stock of $1,706,839. Of course there was much more than this invested in our industries and carried under such heads as "surplus" and "undivided profits." Florence has sufficient capital invested in her industries to insure steady work for several hundred wage earners and large returns to capital.

As shown in a succeeding chapter, Florence County is well located in the midst of a tobacco and cotton growing area, ranking first among the counties of the state in the former particular. Great quantities of these products are brought in annually by the farmers and sold on the local market, which would save our manufacturers the cost of transportation.

It is needless to say how necessary efficient workers are in the advancement of an industry, and this is one of the most important things which help to produce large returns in this work. The other important things are the right kind of machinery and good management. When we have these there is no need to worry.

There are few towns in South Carolina with greater transportation facilities than Florence. Located on the main line of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and a side line of the Seaboard Railroad, there is no reason why we should complain. With available freight facilities, this enables the industries to import and export easily from all directions. These advantages are indispensable in a growing industrial center.

But strange to say, with all these opportunities we find that the receipts from industries are two and one-half times less than those of agriculture.

What do we need? We need for some of our far-seeing and wide-awake citizens to come to a realization of this fact and thereby inoculate an impetus into industrial activities. During the last few years there has been a tremendous growth in all of our industrial plants. But we have all the requirements for still more industries. Besides having the things necessary for the development of industries, we have a good climate and assured markets. Obviously, we can see that the only thing lacking is initiative.

Atlantic Coast Line Shops.

The estimated value of the shop property at Florence at the present time is as follows, based on the only information possible:
Shop Buildings ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... $ 96,600.00
Fuel Stations ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 22,000.00
Shop Machinery ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 239,035.74
Real Estate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 175,000.00

The work of the men consists principally in making repairs to locomotives and cars used in transportation service. A percentage of the assigned locomotives are given general classified repairs, while running repairs, such as can be made between the arrival and departure, are made on all engines running into Florence, which includes four districts—Wilmington, Fayetteville, Columbia and Charleston. All freight equipment damaged or becoming bad order in this vicinity is brought into Florence for repairs at this point.

Prior to reduction of forces, which is probably only temporary, the payrolls for Florence shops proper amounted to approximately $115,000 per month. This payroll only covers the amount paid to the shop forces and does not take into consideration the payroll from transportation, yard or agency forces, which if added, would probably double the amount mentioned.

From this we can see what a tremendous asset the Florence shops are, not only to Florence township, but the surrounding country.

TABLE II.

Classified Industries in Florence County Based on 1920 Report of the State Commission of Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Value of Output</th>
<th>Estimated Wages</th>
<th>Number of Wage Earners</th>
<th>Number Days Plant Operated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bakery Products ... ... ... ... $ 100,000</td>
<td>$ 400,000</td>
<td>$ 15,600</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxes, Baskets, etc. ... ... 18,000</td>
<td>145,599</td>
<td>27,545</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confectionary ... ... 74,790</td>
<td>217,981</td>
<td>18,213</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity ... ... 117,449</td>
<td>169,043</td>
<td>36,296</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizer ... ... 25,000</td>
<td>109,457</td>
<td>4,909</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundries and Mch. Shops 328,000</td>
<td>2,533,000</td>
<td>1,017,057</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour and Grist ... ... 18,275</td>
<td>24,980</td>
<td>3,070</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas ... ... 102,161</td>
<td>51,201</td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice ... ... 35,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Value of Output</td>
<td>Estimated Wages</td>
<td>Number of Wage Earners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumber and Timber</td>
<td>669,164</td>
<td>669,164</td>
<td></td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerals and Soda</td>
<td>186,000</td>
<td>186,125</td>
<td>37,867</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monuments and Stones</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and Publishing</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>21,484</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,706,839</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,578,750</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,197,517</strong></td>
<td><strong>1235</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III.

FACTS ABOUT THE FOLKS

J. A. CHASE, JR.

This chapter is an attempt to weigh the most important facts available concerning the folks themselves, constituting the population of Florence County. The data must still be largely derived from the Thirteenth Census of 1910; for although a new census was taken last year, the complete results of this will not be published for at least a year or more. All of the advanced reports made by the Bureau of the Census are at our disposal and the figures for 1920 indicated in them are used whenever possible.

A study of the census reports shows that current tendencies are rarely developed within a period of ten years. Consequently, the data treated reflect conditions as they are in 1921.

The attention of the reader is directed to the table at the end of this chapter, where the statistics on which this discussion is based are to be found in compact form for ready reference.

Population

We will take first into consideration the increase of the total population for the last two decades. In 1920 Florence County had a population of 50,406 people; in 1910, 35,671; in 1900, 28,474 people. The figures of the Thirteenth Census indicate an increase of 25 per cent. from 1900 to 1910; the figures of the Fourteenth Census indicate an increase of 41 per cent. from 1910 to 1920. In short, the county shows an increase of 77 per cent. in population between 1900 and 1920.

In 1910 43 per cent. of the total population was white and 57 per cent. was black. A comparison of the relative increase of whites and negroes will be next treated. In 1890, there were 10,471 whites; in 1900, 11,819 whites; and in 1910, 15,329 whites—or a percentage increase of 12.7 per cent. between 1890 and 1900, and 29.7 per cent. between 1900 and 1910. In 1890, there were 14,554 negroes; in 1900, 16,654 negroes; and in 1910, 20,340 negroes—or an increase of 14.4 per cent between 1890 and 1900, and 22.1 per cent. between 1900 and 1910.

Florence County also shows interesting figures on the rural population. There was an increase of 9.3 per cent. between 1910 and 1920 for the rural population. Also, the population per square mile was 58.8 in 1910, and 72.1 in 1920, or an increase of 13.3 per cent. How-
ever, 80.2 per cent. of the total population was rural in 1910, and in 1920, 78.2 per cent. of the total population was rural—a decrease of 2 per cent. The increase in each of these is 37.8 per cent for the rural between 1910 and 1920, and 55.4 per cent. for the urban population and 22.1 per cent. between 1900 and 1910.

These latter figures are important for the tendency toward urbanization seems to have begun to get a grip on the country. While we would not say anything to disparage the growth of our towns, yet we would not care to see them make their progress at the expense of the rural sections upon which the material and moral welfare of our county, state and nation largely depend.

**Illiteracy**

One of the most serious problems confronting our State is that of illiteracy. According to the United States Bureau of Education publications, which are the most authoritative on this subject, 25.7 per cent. of the population of South Carolina are illiterates, ranking only one state, Louisiana, with 29 per cent. The same reference indicates that in the number of illiterates per thousand of the total white population, ten years of age and over in 1910, South Carolina ranked forty-fifth, with an average of 103.

Essentially, the same condition exists in Florence County. Eleven of every hundred of our native white voters cannot read their ballots or write their names, Florence ranking eighteenth among the counties in the State in this particular. Our illiterates ten years old and over in 1910, numbered 1,020 whites and 5,007 negroes; or to state it in percentage, 9.3 per cent white illiterates and 35.9 negro illiterates. Nearly six hundred white children six to fourteen years of age, or 18.4 per cent. of this age group, were not in school. Yet in the negro school attendance we have a still worse condition existing. Of every hundred school children there are 39.8 out of school. The county must play her part to wipe out this bad blot, and this end cannot be accomplished unless the compulsory school law is enforced and the parents of the county cooperate cheerfully in having their children attend school regularly.

**Birth Rate Exceeds Death Rate.**

The following figures show that the health conditions in the county are not what they should be. The death rate is not decreasing, but slowly increasing, which situation does not look favorable. In 1919, Florence ranked fortieth in the death rate per 1,000 inhabitants, 19.9 being the number. In 1916, the death rate was 18.2 per 1,000 inhabitants, showing an increase of 1.7 in the three years.

This situation is due in part to the fact that the negroes in Florence greatly outnumber the whites; and it is an understood fact that the negro is more susceptible to disease. Yet we must realize that this condition
is not due to this one fact. There is much illness that could be prevented by the greater care of the individual, and more diligent efforts on the part of the health authorities. This condition is caused by the combined forces of ignorance and lack of cooperation between the individuals and health authorities, city and state.

Now is the accepted time and opportunity for the public health officer, working in cooperation with the State Board of Health, to render the fullest public service. It is also a fact that a very large percentage of the deaths which occur are those of babies under the age of one year. This is due to ignorance on the part of the mother, and to the unsanitary and improper care of the babies.

What is needed? A corps of public nurses stationed throughout the county to instruct the old as well as the young, in all matters pertaining to good health and the ways of living, and to aid and advise them in every way possible.

Henceforth we can see that the solution of this high death-rate problem is up to the people of the county; and unless there is cooperation between the health authorities and the individuals it will continue to rise. It is left to the people of the county which course they will pursue.

Yet, on the other hand, it is a very interesting fact to note that Florence County ranked second in the births per 1,000 inhabitants for 1919. In that year there were 1,569 births, with an average of 38.3 births per 1,000 inhabitants. Another very interesting fact to note is that our birth rate exceeds our death rate by 14.9 per 1,000 inhabitants.

**Church Membership.**

With 59.94 per cent of our population members of some church, Florence stood seventh in church membership. This is a fact we should treat with the greatest concern. In spite of the fact that we do make a good stand, we are not proud of the fact that 40.6 per cent of our people belong to no church whatever. When we consider the population ten years of age or over, we had 85 per cent of this classification church members. Only five counties making a better showing in this regard. All told, there were only 21,383 of our people members of the church in 1916. Of these there are 9,929 Baptists, 5,678 of whom are negroes; 8,191 Methodists, 1,272 Presbyterians; 536 Episcopalians; 200 Roman Catholics; 85 Lutherans; and 1,170 of other bodies

**An Agricultural People.**

We need no figures to prove that the people of Florence County are an agricultural folk, for we can see from statistics that our population is made up mainly of farmers. According to the figures of the Fourteenth Census (1920), of a total population of 50,406, 39,438 were clas-
Florence County: Economic and Social

...sified as rural. In other words, much more than one-half of the population are farmers.

As a further proof, in 1920 there were 1361 inhabitants employed in industrial pursuits against 39,438 employed in agriculture.

In 1920, the total value of the eleven leading crops of Florence County was $8,063,000, with an industrial output of only $3,196,896 dollars; approximately two and one-half times greater receipts from crops alone, not including livestock products, than from industries.

Hence, we are convinced that our people are a farming folk, and that the problems which confront us, ought to be viewed in large measure from the farmer's point of view, for this will affect the greatest number of people.

Facts About the Folks.

27th in size in South Carolina, acres ... ... ... ... 388,480
8th in population, 1920 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 50,406
9th in density of rural population per square mile ... 56.4
10th in population per square mile ... ... ... ... ... ... 72.1
18th in negro decrease in ratio of the total population, 1900-1910, per cent ... ... ... ... ... ... 1.5
(The decrease was 58.5 per cent. (1900) to 57 per cent. (1910); in seven counties the negroes were an increasing ratio of the total population; the negroes were an increasing ratio in 30 counties of the State.)
6th in percentage that church members are of total population, 10 years old and over ... ... ... ... 85
7th in church membership, per cent. of total population 1916 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 59.94
(Non-church members in the total population, 1916, was 14,288.)
22nd in native white illiterates 10 years old and over, per cent. 1910 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 9.3
(Native white illiterates 1,018; State average 10.3 per cent.; U. S. average 3 per cent.)
26th in native white illiterate voters, per cent. ... ... 11.2
(432 in number; State average 10.8 per cent.; U. S. average 4.2 per cent.)
3rd in death rate per 1,000 population, 1919 ... ... ... 19.9
(Average for United States (1915) was 13.5.)
2nd in birth rate per 1,000 population, 1919 ... ... 38.3
27th in paupers in almshouses, rate per 100,000 population 1910 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 35
(Total number in county 11.)
43rd in total number of homicides per total population, 1920 30
(Total number in county 15; State average 15.2.)
Florence County, with her 50,406 inhabitants in 1920 had a total taxable wealth of $31,647,912, or a per capita wealth of $627. There are only 14 counties in the State which make a better showing. During 1919 we spent $1,472,217.75 in operating our automobiles, or an average expenditure of $29.50 for every person in the county, regardless of whether he owned a car or not. During the same period each of us spent only $3.10 for the education of our children. In 1919 we had invested in automobiles $2,667,500; in school property, $461,138.

Rank of Schools in State and Nation.

There are few, if any, governmental activities for which so many significant facts have been gathered, by uniform methods, over so long a period of time as has been done in the matter of education. A comprehensive method of indicating school conditions and tendencies has been worked out by the Department of Education of the Russell Sage Foundation by means of the index number, which is a well established statistical evidence commonly used for measuring changes in wholesale and retail prices and rates of wages over long periods of time, and which number lends itself readily in denoting changes, conditions and cost of education over a period of years.

The ten sets of educational data that have been considered as set out in the table below are unusually adapted for inclusion in an index number. Increases in them reflect improved educational conditions and decreases reflect worse conditions. Like the stock prices they can all be measured in terms of a theoretical par value of 100, and because of this they can be combined in an index number that is a direct average instead of a relative percentage.
TABLE III
Index Figures for Florence County Schools 1909 and 1919

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Per cent. of school population attending school daily</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>88.</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Average days attendance, each child of school age</td>
<td>36.64</td>
<td>19.</td>
<td>51.75</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>33.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Average number days schools kept open</td>
<td>55.</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>36.</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Per cent. that high school attendance was of total attendance</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>8.37</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Per cent. that boys were of girls in high schools</td>
<td><em>73.41</em></td>
<td><em>73.41</em></td>
<td><em>58.59</em></td>
<td><em>58.59</em></td>
<td><em>73.41</em></td>
<td><em>58.59</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Average expenditure per child in average attendance</td>
<td>13.42</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>32.05</td>
<td>4.95</td>
<td>7.77</td>
<td>18.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Average expenditure per child of school age</td>
<td>8.95</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>28.38</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>13.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Average expenditure per teacher employed</td>
<td>17.18</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>57.08</td>
<td>7.82</td>
<td>12.80</td>
<td>24.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Expenditure per pupil for purposes other than teachers' salaries</td>
<td>5.26</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>18.70</td>
<td>.66</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>12.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Expenditure per teacher employed for salaries</td>
<td>27.64</td>
<td>8.54</td>
<td>40.85</td>
<td>12.81</td>
<td>20.84</td>
<td>32.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLORENC Ex COUNTY INDEX</td>
<td>31.13</td>
<td>20.73</td>
<td>44.83</td>
<td>22.48</td>
<td>27.62</td>
<td>33.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE INDEX</td>
<td>24.87</td>
<td>29.39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) State Figures.

South Carolina is at the bottom of the list of states in the matter of education with an index number of 29.39. Montana leads with 75.79. In 1910 there were 276,980 illiterates in the State, or 25.7 per cent; 50,245 of these being whites. Negro majority can not be given as the sole cause of South Carolina's position in this regard, though this fact does ma-
Florence County's schools have an index number of 33.08 and thereby outstrip the general average of the State. Were the average for the State equal to that of Florence County, South Carolina would rank 47th instead of 52nd in the list of States, while a State average of 44.83 or the average of Florence County's white schools, would bring South Carolina to the rank of 35th instead of 52nd in the list of States.

Consolidated Schools

Better schools are not only a question of money, but also one of the wise expenditure of that money, and as time goes on close study reveals different methods and policies as to obtaining the greatest efficiency from the given amount of money and effort. In the beginning, with our scattered population and poor means of transportation, the idea of bringing the school to the pupil prevailed, and the consequence was a great number of one or two teacher schools. In spite of the realization of the passing out of the necessity of the one teacher school and the appreciation of the innumerable advantages of the consolidated school we have never been able so far to rid ourselves of them, for right now in South Carolina 85 per cent. of our schools have only one teacher. Fortu-
nately for Florence County our capable and wide awake Superintendent of Education, A. H. Gasque, realized the advantages of consolidation, and has been gradually consolidating our one and two teacher schools until now only 33.8 per cent. are one teacher affairs, a wonderful improvement over the average of the State.

The question naturally arises, what are benefits of consolidation? From a financial standpoint, the saving brought about by discontinuing several one teacher schools and creating a large school with a competent corps of teachers to accommodate the pupils formerly attending, the one teacher schools can be compared with the saving obtained by buying a commodity from the wholesaler rather than from several small retailers. But consolidation has this further advantage, it yields increased quality as well. And this result is a logical one, as a consideration of the following well established and well recognized benefits of consolidation will show: It increases the attendance; makes the attendance more regular; increases the enrollment; keeps the older pupils in school longer; provides high school privileges at one-third the cost; makes possible the securing of better trained teachers; results in higher salaries for better trained teachers; makes possible more and a better grade work; improves industrial conditions in the country; enriches civic-social life activities; conserves more largely the health and morals of the children; increases the number of eighth grade completions; provides adequate supervision; reduces truancy and tardiness; develops better school spirit; gives more time for recitations; increases the value of real estate; produces greater pride and interest in country life; prevents the drift to the larger towns and cities; brings more and better equipped buildings; eliminates the small, weak school; creates a school of greater worth, dignity and usefulness; makes possible a more economical school; provides equal educational opportunities; gives much greater and better results in every way.

As has been said above, Florence County has been very forward in consolidating its schools, having consolidated nine schools since 1914, which allowed the discontinuance of seven—the result being two large, well equipped, efficiently conducted schools in place of the nine weaker ones. The disadvantage of location whereby some pupils have a greater distance to go between home and school than they had under the one teacher regime has been overcome by motor transportation furnished by the county. In this way motor busses collect the children in the morning, take them to school, and bring them back home after the school day is over. For this service Florence County spent $4,400.32 in 1919, this being over twice the amount spent by any other county in the State for this purpose during the same period.

Consolidation is cheaper, it is practical, and brings about better results. Wherever feasible we want to consolidate in Florence County and do away with the inefficient one teacher school.
Attendance.

During the school year 1919-1920, there were enrolled in the schools of Florence County, under the operation of the compulsory education law, 15,500 children of school age. Of this number, an average of 10,709, or 69 per cent., were in daily attendance. In other words, 31 per cent. of the pupils were absent every day of the school year, or approximately every third desk was vacant every time the roll was called. We need go no further to show that there is clearly some part of the educational machinery that is failing to function properly.

So long as there are undue numbers of absences in a school that school will never attain the highest degree of efficiency of which it is capable. Absences mean a loss, not alone to the pupil who is absent, but to the pupil who is present, for absentees retard the progress of the class in that it becomes necessary that the teacher slacken up in order that the absentees might not be hopelessly behind at the end of the school term. So it behooves every parent to see that the neighbor's children are regular in attendance as well as his own. And, too, absences mean a financial loss. In Florence County during the scholastic year 1919-1920 we expended a total of $289,803.31 for the further of education in the county. During the same period 31 per cent. of the children on whom this sum was expended were habitually absent. It therefore follows that for the year 31 per cent., or $89,838.02 of this money was a waste so far as educational production is concerned. Is not this a startling state of affairs? We can not afford to allow a continuance of this condition, looking at it from any standpoint. We must see that our children attend school and attend regularly. This showing, coming as it does, after the compulsory education law has taken effect, clearly indicates that the law has not been fully enforced and has not borne the fruit that we should expect. During the school year 1917-1918, before the operation of the compulsory education law, we had enrolled 12,319 children and an average attendance of 8,469, or 69.7 per cent. Consequently it can be seen that the law has increased enrollment by 79.4 per cent., and yet the attendance, the thing that really counts, has only increased three-tenths of one per cent. This act provides for regular attendance just as explicitly as it does enrollment, yet the recent enactment of this measure and the consequent inexperience in its enforcement may be given as the reason for the poor showing in attendance for the first year. But the Legislature of the State in its last session sounded the death knell, it is to be hoped temporarily, to the enforcement of the act and therefore to the benefits to be derived from its enactment by abolishing truancy officers in the counties. A law which does not carry with it machinery for its enforcement becomes a dead weight upon the statute books of the State, and in the end does more harm than good. Until we enforce this compulsory education law we can entertain little hope of dragging...
South Carolina from the bottom step of the educational efficiency ladder up to that position where we will be able to boast of our educated citizenship, rather than blush, as we now do, at the mention of our educational standards and conditions.

Teachers.

The average salary paid white school teachers in Florence County during 1919 was $497.70, a mere pittance compared with the services rendered. The average annual salary paid men teachers was $980.43, but there were only 16 such men teachers as compared with 181 white women who received the pitiable amount of $455.02 for a year's work—a little over one dollar a day. A sound price warrants a sound commodity, but there is no warranty when that sound price is not paid, and the citizens of Florence County have no kick coming if their children are poorly trained when they fail to pay their trainers a living wage. If they don't want to pay but $450 for a teacher, let them be satisfied with a $450 variety of teaching. A comparison of the teacher's salary with the remuneration given employees in other trades in Florence County as derived from estimates furnished by the 1919 report of the State Department of Agriculture will give a clear conception of the injustice being done the teacher. Bakers receive $878 annually; confectioners $1234; electricians $2105; machinists $1535; plumbers $2,000; and day laborers $720. We expect our teachers to spend years and hundreds of dollars in preparation for their work in the education of children, and then pay them about one-half as much as we do to get our bath tubs installed or a burst water pipe repaired. There's a cruel awakening in store for any people that value brawn more than they do brain. We should insist that the teachers in our public schools receive salaries that compare favorably with those paid in similar occupations, and then we can expect and demand a more efficient service.

Negro Schools.

We have two distinct systems of schools, one for the white and one for the negro. While the State has never yet secured sufficient funds to provide everything in the way of education that it realizes is needed, still each year shows a steady advance in that direction. And the negro schools in Florence County show marked improvement during the decade between 1909 and 1919. For example, in 1909, $6,692.08 was expended for the education of the negro in Florence County; in 1919, $18,761.82, an increase of almost 300 per cent. in ten years; or, $1.10 per colored child of school age in 1909, as compared with $2.92 per colored child of school age in 1919. This showing is interesting and also gratifying; but a great deal more might be done for the negro race along these lines, with advantage to the whites as well as to the negroes.
## Ten Year Gains in Our Schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1909</th>
<th>1919</th>
<th>Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$66,410.93</td>
<td>$171,221.34</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value school property (white)</td>
<td>129,935.00</td>
<td>405,698.00</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value school property (col.)</td>
<td>12,695.00</td>
<td>55,440.00</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. local tax districts with extra levy</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. extra levy</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. town schools</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. country schools</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. white teachers</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. white school houses</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent for teachers and supervision</td>
<td>33,169.35</td>
<td>98,046.92</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent for buildings and supplies</td>
<td>8,067.11</td>
<td>38,965.65</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spent for transportation pupils</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4,400.32</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total school population</td>
<td>5612</td>
<td>6512</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total enrollment</td>
<td>3626</td>
<td>6295</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per cent. of enrollment</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average daily attendance</td>
<td>3071</td>
<td>4275</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per cent. average daily attendance</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual salary (white men)</td>
<td>578.90</td>
<td>980.43</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual salary (white women)</td>
<td>294.80</td>
<td>455.02</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual salary (colored men)</td>
<td>129.15</td>
<td>417.71</td>
<td>223.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av. annual salary (colored women)</td>
<td>85.10</td>
<td>175.91</td>
<td>106.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## How We Rank in Schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1920</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>in percentage in regular attendance (white)</td>
<td>69.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgetown leads with 80.89 per cent.; Cherokee last with 60.30 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th</td>
<td>in percentage in regular attendance (negros)</td>
<td>68.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgetown first with 87.24 per cent.; Hampton last with 61.31 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>in percentage in regular attendance (both races)</td>
<td>69.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgetown first with 84.89 per cent.; Dillon last with 61.51 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>in percentage of white schools that are one-teacher schools</td>
<td>16.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darlington leads with 10.34 per cent.; Beaufort last with 76.47 per cent. Average for State 43.22 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>in average length of session in town schools (white) in days</td>
<td>177.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calhoun, Georgetown, Lancaster and Richland tie for first place, with 180 days; Horry last with 136 days.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>in average length of session in country schools (white) days</td>
<td>139.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charleston leads with 159; Cherokee last with 90.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Florence County: Economic and Social

10th—in per capita expenditure according to enrollment (white) $34.04
  Darlington leads with $72.67; Abbeville last with $16.69
8th—in per capita expenditure according to enrollment (negro) $3.61
  Charleston leads with $11.57; Bamberg last with $1.45
4th—in per capita expenditure according to enrollment (both) $18.69
  Charleston leads with $33.11; McCormick last with $7.23

16th—in average salary paid white teachers (men) ... $1,170.66
  Charleston first with $2,317.62; Lexington last with $537.60.
9th—in average salary paid white teachers (women) ... 615.55
  Charleston leads with $890.25; Lexington last with $385.38

1st—in per capita investment in school property ... $29.07
2nd—in total value of school property ... $1,465,310.00

Greenville first with $2,568,374; Fairfield last with $75,331

16th—in number of local tax districts ... 51
12th—in number local tax districts levying special tax ... 51

5th—in receipts from State appropriation (both races) ... $38,325.63
  Spartanburg leads with $49,511.38; Jasper last with $3,180.

7th—in av. number white pupils to school according to enrollment 101
  Charleston first with 159; Berkeley last with 31
6th—in average number white pupils to school according to average attendance ... 69
  Charleston leads with 114; Jasper last with 21.

21st—in average number white pupils to teacher according to enrollment ... 31
  Beaufort, Berkeley and Jasper tie for first place with 23;
  Greenville last with 53.
29th—in average number white pupils to teacher according to average attendance ... 21
  Jasper and Williamsburg tie for first place with 15;
  Greenville last with 31.
WEALTH AND TAXATION

J P. McNEILL, JR.

The total taxable property in Florence County in 1920 amounted to $31,647,900, ranking eighth in this respect among the counties of the State; Charleston, Spartanburg, Richland, Greenville, Anderson, Orangeburg and Aiken, in the order given, having a larger total proportion on the list. This constitutes a per capita of taxable property in Florence County of $627, and thus ranking fifteenth among the counties. In 1910 the total taxable property amounted to $14,040,300, which, compared with the figures of 1920, indicates an increase of approximately 12.4 per cent.

An Agricultural County

Florence County is and always has been preeminently an agricultural county, and there are only nine other counties in the State which can boast a greater agricultural wealth, these being, in almost every instance, of greater landed area. In 1910 our total farm wealth amounted to $11,401,794; in 1900 the value of all our farm property was only $2,847,938. These figures indicate a remarkable increase of over 400 per cent, while the average increase for the State for the same period, the decade between 1900 and 1910, was 155.3 per cent. We rank first among the counties in this respect, which is all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that there are nineteen counties with a larger amount of land in farms.

Tenancy and Mortgage Debts

In 1910 only 35.1 per cent of our farms were operated by owners, while the State average was 36.5 per cent. One-seventh of our owner operated farms were encumbered by mortgage, with an aggregate mortgage debt of $250,412. The average value of land and buildings on owner-operated farms in 1910 was $1,102,236; so it can be seen that 22.7 per cent of their value was mortgaged. Mortgage debt on farm properties is not an evil when the end is property ownership. Statistics do not indicate for what purpose the money borrowed is applied, but if it is converted into more land, live-stock, farm buildings and farming implements, then the mortgage debt represents expansion and development, but not so when used for bread and meat, hay and other operating expenses.

Sixty-four and three tenths per cent of our farms are cultivated by
During the decade from 1900 to 1910 tenancy in Florence County increased 4 per cent and an increase is noted in South Carolina and the United States generally. The counties in which tenancy is smallest are led by Georgetown with 21.1 per cent and Horry and Beaufort with 27 per cent and 29.2 per cent respectively. Tenancy, like mortgage debt, as a means to ultimate ownership, is not to be looked upon as a harmful tendency. But if a tenant uses rented land merely as a means of scant livelihood year after year with no thought of saving his profits for the purpose of purchasing land on which to live, he becomes a liability rather than an asset to the community and country. Farm ownership breeds thrift, pride and independence; tenancy encourages laziness, indifference and dependence. There is plenty of room for improvement in this direction in our county.

Roads

In 1904 we had 676 miles of public road in the county. According to figures furnished by the County Supervisor, in 1919 we had 1557 miles of public road, 50 miles of which was in improved sand clay and top soil. Our 4 mill road tax yielded $50,000 in 1919 which, together with $25,000, the estimated value of the labor tax, constituted our total expenditure in road building and road upkeep during the year 1919. These figures indicate an expenditure of $48.17 per mile, as against $27.82 in 1904. This does not mean, however, that the roads were given twice as much attention in 1919 as in 1904, for the increase in population was about as great as the increase in the number of miles of public road for the same period, but the increase in per capita expenditure is due to the higher wages demanded and the higher price of material.

It is hardly necessary to offer argument in favor of good roads; it is universally conceded nowadays that the benefits derived from good roads greatly overbalance their cost. Yet some of us continue to look upon a universal system of smooth, well graded highways as an ideal, the attainment of which will require so many more years than any of us can possibly hope to live, that we lose our personal interest in the matter, fold our hands, heap coals of fire upon the heads of the County Supervisor for not building good roads without money, and leave it to the next generation to experience the same mental and physical attitude. Good roads in Florence County are possible, and the time is not far distant when, our shoulders to the wheel, we can prove the allegation that Henry Ford made walking a pleasure in Florence County and not the highway authorities.

A glance at the following figures will indicate that good roads are entirely within our grasp. The average cost of hauling cotton to market has been estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture to be eighty cents per bale. In 1919 Florence County raised 42.5/9 bales of cotton. The cost of marketing this crop was $34,039, if computed on this
basis. To each bale of cotton there is about one half ton of cotton seed which was hauled from the farm to the gin, and then a large percentage of it hauled again to the shipping point. The average cost of hauling cotton seed in the United States is $3.00 per ton. It therefore cost us $67,837 to haul our 1919 crop seed. The total cost of hauling our 1919 cotton crop was $97,876. Any system of road improvement which would reduce the annual hauling charge 40 per cent and that is a conservative estimate of the value of good roads, would effect a saving of $39,150.40 each year. In other words, we would save on the hauling of cotton alone, not to mention the many other commodities to be hauled and the numerous other uses to which the roads will be put, an amount sufficient to pay 5 per cent interest annually on a bond issue of $783,008. This sum applied to sand claying roads at an average of $6,000 per mile, for very light grading is necessary in our county, would place 130 miles in tip-top shape, and thereby almost treble our present improved road mileage.

This is merely a comparison to show the many economic advantages of good roads. Space will not permit a discussion of diversified farming, more favorable marketing, and the increase in the value of farm lands incident to good roads. The added advantages of improvement in schools, rural mail delivery, and improved social conditions are factors to be reckoned with, and while the benefits thus derived cannot be stated in the common denominator of the dollar, no one will gainsay the fact that anything which causes better educational facilities, adds to the enjoyment of the home and to the social uplift of himself and family does not pay.

We need good roads. Let’s get them!

Automobiles

In 1919 there was one automobile for every 17 people in Florence County. In this respect she ranked third among the counties of the State; Richland, with the ratio of 1 to 12 and Marlboro with the ratio of 1 to 16, outranking her. The average for the State was one automobile for every 23 inhabitants.

Assuming $1,100 as the average price per car, Florence County with her 2425 automobiles has invested, at first cost, $2,667,500.

Based on the one-eighth of a cent a gallon tax on gasoline we used 1,132,475 gallons during 1919. At the average value of 27 cents a gallon, this totals $395,768.25.

Rating the average number of miles per gallon as 13, there were 14,722,175 miles traveled on this gasoline. Ten cents a mile would be a conservative estimate for the operating expenses of a car, this to include gasoline cost, tires, repairs and depreciation on car. At this estimate it would indicate that it cost the people of Florence County $1,472,217.75
to operate their cars during 1919, or a cost of $607 per car, or $1.66 per
day per car. Further, this represents an average expenditure of $29.50
per capita per annum, based upon the total population of the county, car
owner or no car owner. Since automobiles have come into general use
they have been increased approximately 20 per cent per year, and on
December 31, 1920, we find 3318 automobiles in Florence County.

The report of the Superintendent of Education for 1919 estimates
the value of all school property in Florence County at $450,403, or about
one-sixth of the value of the automobiles. The total expenditure in 1919
in our county for schools was $155,774.39. In other words, we spend
over nine times as much to ride in automobiles in one year as we do
to educate our children. These facts show conclusively that we are
abundantly able to spend thousands of dollars more for their education
and thereby place our money in an investment which yields ever in-
creasing dividends and which knows no yearly depreciation.

Banks

In November 1919 we had 18 banks in Florence County, 3 national
and 15 state banks, with total resources of $11,956,417.07. In 1914 we
had 14 banks, one national and 13 state, with total banking resources of
$3,619,127.30. These figures indicate an increase of 326.7 per cent in our
banking resources during five years, or a per capita increase from $101.46
in 1914 to $238.18 in 1919.

The years 1914 and 1919 were chosen to indicate the growth and ex-
pansion of banking in our county for the reason that the figures for
1914 will indicate pre-war conditions, and those of 1919 post-war con-
ditions. The report for 1920, the latest figures available, could not be
looked upon as indicative of normal conditions.

Comparing loans and discounts for this period, the 1919 figure is
$7,171,602.93; those for 1914, $2,815,281.74. An increase of approxi-
mately 250 per cent is indicated here.

In regard to savings, we find that in the 15 state banks they amounted
to $1,063,486.26 in 1919, and only $318,062.48 in 1914, or an increase of
300 per cent. The national comptroller of the currency does not require
the national banks to report savings as such in their regular reports,
and consequently the savings on deposit in our national banks are not
included in the totals given above.

The increase in capital stock has not been so marked. The figures
for 1919 are $980,000, and those for 1914 are $726,000, or an increase of
only 74.1 per cent. In other words, an increase of 326.7 per cent of total
resources has been effected on a 74.1 per cent in capital.

This increase in all phases of banking cannot be attributed to the in-
crease in population, for from 1910 to 1919 we only increased 42 per
cent in population, while we increased 74.1 per cent in capital stock,
250 per cent in loans and discounts and 326.7 per cent in banking
resources. It just means, that while times are good we gained in wealth and have laid it up for rainy days ahead.

**Taxation**

Florence County with her total taxable wealth in 1920 of $31,647,912 ranked eighth among the counties of the State in that respect; in 1917 the figures were $25,072,327. Nineteen counties had a higher tax rate than Florence County. Our rate, state and county, was $3.80 on each hundred dollars worth of property. The City of Florence, however, with its total tax levy of $8.75 per hundred dollars worth of property is outstripped by only two other cities in the State, Charleston and Ridgeland. Even with such high tax rates, under the present general property ad valorem tax the revenues are insufficient to keep pace with the increasing demands made for government, education and improvements.

The present tax system, and no other, is authorized by the Constitution of 1895, and though only 25 years old, has proven itself inadequate to provide for a fast growing society. The law requires that all property, real, personal and possessory, be listed and returned, assessed and taxed, at its actual or true value in money. That this provision is in practice a dead letter is so well recognized by everybody in the State that the State Tax Commission in 1915 found it necessary to recognize this fact officially and openly to proceed with the equalization of assessments on a 42 per cent basis. Thus the general charge of outlawry against our system as it exists in point is proved, for 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."

Of course, taxation is a state wide problem and its solution will be state wide and not confined to any one county, but it will be interesting to mention some of the conditions that have arisen in our county by reason of the general property tax. For example, in 1910, the United States census value per acre of land in Florence County was $27.08, and we all know that a census value is ultra conservative when compared with considerations actually paid when land is sold. The assessed tax value per acre for 1910 was $4.42. Ten years ago might be considered history by some, but we learn that in 1920, last year, the assessed value of an acre of land in Florence County was couched in the grand sum of $8.85. This is perfectly absurd when land all around us is being sold for from $100 to $400 per acre. From a report made by a Special Committee appointed in 1920 by the General Assembly of South Carolina to make a thorough study of the tax situation in the State and to make recommendations of a solution thereof we find that out of a number of tracts of land sold in Florence County between July 1917 and February 1918 the assessed value for taxation was less than one-third of the considerations actually paid therefor. And yet we wonder why we have
ASTRETCH OF FLORENCE COUNTY'S "APPIAN WAY"

Between Florence and Timmonsville, the day of permanent highways is here. First cost is practically last cost.
such high tax rates and still not raise sufficient revenue to meet the increasing demands of government! In addition to this, most of the personal property, both tangible and intangible, which constitutes a large part of our wealth and from which a large part of our taxes should be derived, does not find its place upon our tax books. The land owner and the corporations in Florence County bear the burden of taxation simply because the man whose wealth is composed of personal property can keep it off the tax books and the land owner and corporation cannot. And the present tax law in the State makes such a state of affairs possible.

| REAL ESTATE   | $7,001,735 | 52.6% | TOTAL ASSESSMENT of PROPERTY | PERSONAL PROPERTY | $4,357,986 | 32.8% | RAILROADS | $1,932,402 | 14.5% |

The special committee mentioned above, after studying the tax conditions in the State from every angle, came to the conclusion "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."
FLORENCE COUNTY: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

**Facts About Wealth and Taxation in Florence County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>in total farm wealth, 1910 census</td>
<td>$11,401,794.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>in farm wealth increase 1900-1910, per cent</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>in per capita country wealth, 1910</td>
<td>390.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>in total taxable property, 1920</td>
<td>31,647,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>in increase in taxable property, 1910-1920, per cent</td>
<td>123.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd</td>
<td>in tax rate per $100 ass'd valuation for tax year 1920</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>in average property tax rate 1920 (mills)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>in per capita wealth 1920</td>
<td>627.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>in per capita crop values on the eleven leading crops 1920</td>
<td>159.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>in farm land improved, per cent</td>
<td>42.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th</td>
<td>in average improved acres per farm, 1910</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>in farms operated by tenants, 1910, per cent</td>
<td>64.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>in percentage of mortgaged farms are of total number of farms, 1910</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number farms 3870; number mortgaged 354.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>in percentage that mortgaged farms are of total farms owned by white people, 1910</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number farms owned by whites 3664; number mortgaged 306.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>in percentage that farms owned by negroes are of total farms in county, 1910</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>in per cent of negro farms mortgaged, 1910</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>in number of automobiles, 1920</td>
<td>3318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One auto for every 16.9 inhabitants.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>in number inhabitants per bank, 1920</td>
<td>2653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number banks 19; population 50,406.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>in per capita bank resources, 1919</td>
<td>240.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>in per capita bank capital, 1919</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>in per capita bank loans and discounts, 1919</td>
<td>134.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>in per capita bank account savings, 1919</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FARM CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES

J. A. CHASE, JR.

A table compiled from the 1910 census and other authoritative sources of information will be found at the end of this chapter. In some items very recent figures are obtainable and these have been used as far as possible. The table simply shows certain fundamental facts about Florence County set against similar facts about other counties and the state at large, and also the comparative standing over a term of years, usually five or ten.

Idle Land Predominates

Industries see to it that their entire plants are in operation all the time. This is not true of our farmers. In 1910 only 33 per cent. or one-third of our total land area was under cultivation, Florence County ranking 21st in this particular among the counties of the state.

The fact is, there is plenty of room for new farm families. Reserving 50,000 acres for wood-lot uses and 75 acres to each family, there is room for 1680 new farm families. If we estimate 5 to the family, this would mean 8,400 more country people in the county. This would be a distinct social advantage, because it would bring the people closer together and afford an opportunity for greater cooperation.

In 1910 our farms averaged 32.3 acres per farm. There were 381 farms, which contained 175 acres or more, which could be divided to the best advantage. It is these large farms which should be divided. Certainly we do not need farms reduced to the small, one-horse type, which would preclude the profitable use of much labor-saving machinery. The need is for more such machinery, with more and heavier work animals. Small mules and horses and the one-horse plow are among our greatest farm disadvantages.

Farm Tenancy and its Evils

This is one of the grave problems confronting our county, as well as our state and nation, and one which should receive its due consideration by every one. The history of farming clearly shows that no community ever reaches its highest stage of agricultural development until the farms are operated mainly by owners. There are three facts which are detrimental to the existence of tenancy—industry, thrift and sagacity.
If it were not due to the lack of any one of these or a combination of these, tenancy would not exist today. We can see too that living on this basis, the tenant does not have any personal interest in the advance of the land that he occupies and never looks to the future and the benefits it will bring. Existing on the supply-merchant plan, he is forced to grow ready-money crops and neglect food and feed crops and livestock. How can we expect to develop a community spirit where its people are frequently moving from place to place? The tenant has no inclination to beautify his home or premises or in helping to maintain good schools, roads, churches, and law and order in his community.

Let us draw a general comparison between the general conditions of the state and Florence County in this particular. Only two states in the nation have a greater percentage of tenancy; namely, Mississippi, with 66.1 per cent., and Georgia with 65.6 per cent. South Carolina has 63 per cent. In 1910 there were 176,433 farms in South Carolina. Of these 111,221 were operated by tenants, or to state it in percentage, 63 per cent. of the farms were operated by farmers who did not own them. One striking fact is that tenancy is on the increase not only in South Carolina, but in the nation as a whole, particularly in the Southern States. The increase in South Carolina has not been so pronounced in any decade, still it has been rather uniform. Of the 43 counties (1910) of the state, 24 had a percentage greater than 63 per cent., the average for the state as whole. According to statistics, the percentage of farms operated by tenants is higher in the Piedmont than in the Coastal section.

In 1910 there were 3,970 farms in Florence County. Of these, 2,552 were operated by tenants, or to state it in percentage, 64.3 per cent. of the farms were operated by farmers who did not own them. In this particular Florence ranked 24th among the counties of the state. Another striking fact is that 35.1 per cent. of all our farm lands were operated by tenants. There are two prevalent types of tenancy in our county—share and cash. Of all the tenants in the county, 29.3 per cent. are share tenants, and 64.6 per cent. cash tenants.

Of all the farms operated by whites and negroes, we find that where tenancy is prevalent there is a greater negro problem. Of all the tenant in South Carolina 68.6 per cent. are negroes, while 31.4 per cent. are white. This further shows that tenancy is more prevalent among negroes than among whites.

What is the remedy? Encouragement and unselfish cooperation by fortunate land owners is the only hope. The tenants need to buy and maintain their own farms and devote their attention to the betterment of their own farms and their communities, and the road to this seemingly unsurmountable problem will be advanced.
Agriculture Predominates

We know that Florence is predominantly agricultural and consequently in solving her problems, we should take the farmer's point of view, for it affects the majority of the people. Only eight counties of the state preceded Florence in value of farm property in 1910, this amounting to $11,401,794. The grand total for wealth produced in 1910 amounted to $4,596,078. But a damper is thrown on this when we note that 76 per cent. of this total wealth, which covers both crop and livestock products, was produced by non-food crops, such as cotton and tobacco.

But how much do the farmers actually retain of this farm wealth? Well, the plain fact is that our farmers create 76 per cent. of their total annual wealth out of cotton and tobacco, and then it is paid out to western farmers who supply us with the necessities of life. The western farmers produce the bulk of the food and feed that is consumed in our state annually.

The idea seems to prevail that it is more profitable for our farmers to produce these non-food crops and then buy their food and feed crops from the outside. But such is not the case. According to government experiments, the man who raises food and feed crops along with tobacco and cotton is in a better condition than his neighbor who raises cotton and tobacco and buys food and feed.

There are still two stronger arguments for the farmer to correlate his food and feed crops with his non-food crops. First, results compiled from experiments made by the government have proved that hay, forage, corn, pork and beef can be produced in the South much cheaper than in the West. Second, if the farmer raises his own home necessities, he is saved from the high and at times unjust prices of the middleman and adds to his own bank account.

Yet farmers argue that it is more profitable to raise the money-crops and then buy the food and feed crops, but no doubt most of them will agree that it is cheaper to produce.

We are not unaware of the fact that there is a great profit in these money crops, but, when we realize that such a large part of these profits have to be used to buy food that we can ourselves raise more cheaply, it is a very unwise policy to expend all our energy in the production of cotton and tobacco. The point we wish to emphasize is that the attention of the farmer should be directed to food and feed crops and to livestock, as well as to the two big money crops.

One Crop System

There are seven fundamental evils to this plan of farming: (1) It impoverishes the soil; (2) It increases the risk of the farming enterprise; (3) It makes the supply of money available at one time and develops the time-credit system; (4) It makes the marketing machinery difficult;
(5) It makes for idleness of machinery and labor; (6) It lowers the
general intelligence of farm labor; (7) It has a depressing effect on the
social life of the community. A discussion of these evils is not necessary
for it is obvious from the mere statements themselves what a bad effect
they have on agricultural advancement.

In South Carolina 48 per cent. of the total acreage of the crops in
1920 was cotton, and 51 per cent. of the value of the eleven leading crops
was cotton. Consequently, we join the list of the State's practising the
one-crop system.

There were two possible stimulants to the one-crop system in the ear-
lier days—the invention of the cotton gin and slavery. In 1793 when
Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, immediately this crop began to ad-
vance and grew so rapidly that in a few years it became the chief crop
of our county, as well as state. In 1796 when our state enacted a law
against the slave trade, the cotton production began to decline and finally
went to such a point that it was necessary to repeal this law in order
that cotton be produced successfully. In other words, the Southern farm-
ers found that for cotton culture to prove profitable, the negro, the cheap-
est human labor, would have to be employed.

Consequently as long as we persist in employing the one-crop system,
we need not ever expect to be a self-sufficing county. From an eco-
nomic standpoint this should be the aim and goal of every county in
South Carolina.

Cotton

Florence takes a high rank in total cotton production among the coun-
ties of the state, only 12 counties preceding her in this particular. An
interesting fact to note is that the production of this crop increases an-
nually. As an example, 35,204 bales were ginned in 1917; 40,357 in
1918; and 42,549 in 1919; with the record, 43,000 bales in 1920. Taking
the value on the basis of December 1, 1920, price, the cotton crop of
1920 would sell for $2,992,800. Only 9 counties preceded Florence
in the total production of cotton in pounds per acre, the county average
being 278 pounds of lint cotton.

Tobacco

Within the last few years Florence has come to be a great tobacco
producing county. In 1920 our county tied with Williamsburg for first
place among the tobacco producing counties of the state, our production
amounting to 9,900,000 pounds. What does this mean? It means that
for the past few years more money has come into the hands of the farm-
ers, and that they are better able to support good schools, good roads,
better teachers for rural schools and to take part in all forms of com-

munity improvement.
Corn

This crop has made a remarkable increase in the last decade. For example, in 1900 we produced 381,970 bushels of corn, in 1910 an increase of 203,491 bushels or 585,461 bushels produced; or to state the same fact in percentage, we made an increase of 53.27 per cent. in ten years. In 1920, there was a production of 1,392,000 bushels, with a value of $1,614,729. Another noteworthy fact is that only two counties preceded us in yield per acre, Florence producing 24 bushels to the acre, on the average.

There is still another distinction that Florence County can boast of—the world's record in corn produced per acre. Under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1910, Jerry Moore of Mars Bluff produced 228 3-4 bushels of corn on a one-acre plot. Up to 1920 this is the authentic record yield in the world.

Non-Food Crops

The value of the non-food crops in 1910 was $3,206,580, only nine counties preceding Florence in this particular. According to 1920 statistics from the Bureau of Crop Estimates, the value of the two main non-food crops, cotton and tobacco, amounted to $5,348,800. A marked increase of $2,142,220, despite the fact that the value of these two crops was on a considerable decline during the past year. Of the total crop of the county the non-food crops produced constituted 76 per cent, Marlboro preceding by only 9 points with 85 per cent.

We can see the crying need from these facts, of an efficient local market. Effective markets lower the cost of living by bringing producers and consumers into direct relation with each other. A probable solution of this problem in cotton, would be to adopt the cooperative plan now advocated by the Extension Service of Clemson College. Its aim is to effect saving in those steps between the growing and consuming of a commodity where loss or unnecessary waste now occur, by efficient grading and pooling of cotton to adjust the supply to the demand so that this law may operate freely and fairly. The system has been tested in California and has proven to be an excellent one. Why not adopt it in South Carolina?

Sweet Potatoes

In 1910 there were 1,218 acres planted in sweet potatoes with a yield of 145,228 bushels. According to the Bureau of Crop Estimates in 1920 there were 2,500 acres planted in this commodity with a yield of 290,000 bushels. In other words, in ten years we had more than doubled our acreage and yield, and this crop has never become a valuable asset among the crops produced in the county.
But Florence needs more individual and cooperative sweet potato storage houses in the county, and if we will only begin on a small scale the advantages of cooperation could be realized. There are four main advantages of a cooperative sweet potato association: First, it furnishes a more regular and ready market; Second, it supplies a market of wider range than that of the independent grower; Third, it enables packing and marketing of a more uniform product; and Fourth, it secures higher prices resulting from shipment in bulk.

The movement is becoming widespread throughout the state and in it lies the hope of a solution of the present situation.

**Farms**

According to the advanced Census Report of 1920, there are 5,291 farms in Florence County, only seven counties in the State preceding her in this particular. In 1900, there were 3,173 farms; in 1910, they numbered 3,970, so we observe that there has been a steady increase for the past two decades.

The enumerators of the Census were instructed to include under improved land, "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." In 1910 the average number of improved acres per farm in Florence County was 32.3 acres, being below the average for the state by 2.3 acres. Also in the per cent. of improved land in farms Florence fell below the state average by 1.1 per cent., Florence having 42.2 per cent and the state 43.3 per cent.

There is one fact we must notice, that there are more negro farmers in the county than white farmers. In 1910 there were 1,926 white farmers against 2,044 negro farmers. What does this signify? It shows that the county's agricultural advancement is being handicapped and retarded by the ignorance of the negro in his farming operations and is hindering the county from becoming one of the leading agricultural centers of the state. Either the negro must be educated to the modern and economic plan of farming or he must be restricted in his energies along this line.

One fact will prove this. According to a computation of Thomas J. Jones in 1909, the product per agricultural worker in 1900 was for the State of Iowa $1,088; and South Carolina $147.46, or the Iowa worker, largely because of greater skill, is able to produce more than seven times as much wealth annually as the worker in South Carolina.

What we need more than any other element in our Southern industrial life is trained laborers and this necessity can only be remedied by the cooperation of the whites.

**Our Livestock Situation**

The farms in Florence are too lightly stocked. We do not have
enough animals and those we do have are not all of the best quality. According to the 1910 Census there are 77,696 animal units needed in the county, yet there are only 20,651. A shortage of 57,045 units. The same fact in percentage is that of our farms are stocked, only 27 per cent. on a lightly stocked basis, in other words, we are 73 per cent. below the level. Our livestock ought to be quadrupled in number.

What is the solution? To create an interest in livestock and make improved farm animals the basis of farm property. They will fertilize our soils and feed our families, leaving the money-crops to furnish cash for our pocket-books and bank accounts.

There are 176,030 acres absolutely idle in the county which would take years to be brought into proper cultivation by planting them in crops. Why not utilize this land by raising livestock? There is every reason why we should. We have a climate well suited to livestock, and wonderful opportunities to develop livestock farming and livestock industries, creameries and the like. Again, too, our soils are well adapted to grains and grasses, being fertile and well drained.

Yet there is room for encouragement. Florence has shown an increase of 12 per cent. in the number of poultry from 1900-1910. This was a good gain but not in comparison with the increase in population or the demand for poultry and eggs. Doubtless the present high prices for poultry and eggs have stimulated the energies of some of our thrifty farmers in these profitable side lines. It is one of the most profitable by-products on South Carolina farms today, and we say by-product because with only a little attention a barnyard hen may produce approximately 200 eggs a year, which at the present prices are worth $6 or more.

According to the 1910 Census and the 1920 figures of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, there has been an increase of 74 per cent. in the number of hogs raised in Florence County from 1910-1920, twenty-three counties preceding Florence in this particular. The value of home-raised meats is known to every one and this subject need not be enlarged upon here. Prevailing prices certainly afford a sufficient stimulus, so let us hope that we shall continue to increase in pork production and save the many hard earned dollars derived from the reduction of cotton that are being spent for imported meat.

In our standing in number of cattle and their increase from 1910 to 1920, the figures are most encouraging. In 1910 there were 5,824 cattle and 11,000 in 1920; an increase of 5,176. A percentage increase of 88 per cent., Florence ranking fourth in this respect.

Horses have increased rather slowly, from 2,012 in 1910 to 2,600 in 1920. But this is probably due to the growing popularity of the automobile and the advancement of farm machinery.

Mules, in contrast to horses, have shown a greater increase. In the
past decade there was an increase of 3,169 mules, so this shows that our farmers are a bit reluctant in the newest plans of land cultivation. That is, our farmers have been slow in adopting the farm tractor and other farm motor machinery for the cultivation of the land.

Our farmers ought to bear in mind the fact that whether we consider the state or the United States, we find that high per capita country wealth goes hand in hand with an abundance of domestic animals, and that low per capita wealth is always found where cattle and other farm animals are lacking.

**Facts About Farm Conditions and Practices**

(Note—Rank indicates counties of state that make a better showing.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>in total farm wealth, 1910</td>
<td>$11,401,794.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>in per capita country wealth, 1910</td>
<td>390.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>in percentage of negro farm owners of the total farms of the county, per cent</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negro farm owners in Florence County</td>
<td>306</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>white farm owners in Florence</td>
<td>3,664</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41st</td>
<td>in white farm mortgages in 1910, per cent</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of white farms mortgaged</td>
<td>306</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>in negro farm mortgages in 1910, per cent</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of negro farms mortgaged</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>in per cent of total land under cultivation</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land under cultivation 128,269 acres. Idle and other unimproved land, 176,030 acres. Reserving 50,000 acres for woodlots and allowing 75 acres to each family, there is room for 1680 new farm families in Florence County.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>in number of farms, 1920</td>
<td>5,291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average cultivated acres per farm 32.3. Size of cultivated farms larger in 25 counties; 3,058 farms are less than 50 acres in size; and 2,419 farms are over 50 acres in size, both cultivated and uncultivated considered.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>in poultry increase, 1900-1910, per cent</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>in cattle increase, 1900-1910, per cent</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>in hog increase, 1910-1920, per cent</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>in farm tenancy, per cent</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State average 63 per cent. Share tenants are 29.3 per cent of the total farm tenants, and cash tenants are 64.6 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>in tobacco production, 1920, pounds</td>
<td>9,900,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>in tobacco production, per acre, 1920, pounds</td>
<td>660</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>in cotton production, 1920, bales</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>in cotton production, per acre, 1920, pounds</td>
<td>278</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10th—in value of non-food crops produced, 1910...$ 3,206,580.00
31st—in food and feed crops, per cent of the total crop value
   Beaufort 56 per cent; Marlboro 15 per cent.
11th—in crop value of eleven leading crops, per capita, 1920...$159.96
   Calhoun $234.01; Charleston $25.37.
18th—in room for new settlers, 1910...8400
12th—in value of crops per acre, 1920...$41.00
   Value of crops $8,063,000. Beaufort $72; Lancaster, McCormick and York $27.
7th—in value of farm implements per acre, 1910...$2.86
9th in annual farm wealth produced, 1910...$4,584,504
   This total covers both crops and livestock products.
   The need is for more food crops, better livestock and more livestock industries.
BALANCE SHEET IN FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTION

J. A. CHASE, JR.

$2,170,850 Under-Production

According to a statement at the end of this chapter compiled from the 1910 census, the food and feed supplies for the household and farm consumed in Florence County amounted to $2,170,850 more than the farmers of the county produced. This is to say that the farms of the county failed to produce the food and feed needed for man and beast by this amount. It must be borne in mind that this deficit comes from staple bread-stuffs and not dainties and luxuries; and that these annual consumption averages are based on figures as reported by federal authorities.

One very noticeable fact is that Florence County has an over-production of meat by 1,232,234 pounds; yet this encouraging state of affairs is modified when we notice that the per cent. of animals in a lightly stocked farm area are only 27 per cent. of the normal, in other words, the county is 73 per cent. below the level. Or to state it differently, the farms of the county are supporting only one-fourth of the livestock which they should be carrying under a balanced farming system.

This under-production in detail covers 1,597,534 pounds of butter, 372,112 dozen eggs; 245,627 fowls; 558,034 bushels of corn; 125,194 bushels of wheat, and 5,845 tons of hay.

Some Reasons Why

Our farmers do not supply this two and a quarter million dollar market demand, because of (1) the inherited one-crop system, or too much attention to cotton and tobacco and too little to food and feed crops; (2) the lack of ready cash markets for home-raised supplies; (3) excessive farm tenancy, coupled with the time-price system. Perhaps the most important reason is that there is no ready cash market for home-raised supplies, which forces the farmer to raise cotton, tobacco and other money-crops to the utter disregard of the food and feed crops.

Shortage in Home Raised Supplies

At the very outset it is scarcely necessary to say that our home-raised
Florence County: Economic and Social

Supplies are not sufficient to meet the demand. This is all due to one fact, the farmers of the county are devoting too much attention to cotton and tobacco and too little attention to grain crops, hay and forage, domestic animals and livestock products. Therefore, so long as it is necessary for us to purchase supplies outside of the county, we are not on a safe farming basis.

In 1910 our population was 14.1 per cent. greater than in 1900, and the corn crops show a 1.3 per cent. increase. In 1900 we produced 17,640 bales of cotton and in 1910 we produced 56,590 bales or an increase of 220 per cent. These facts are within themselves convincing evidence that such a condition exists.

According to government statistics, in the census year 1910 we needed 1,105,801 bushels of corn for man and beast, but we only produced 547,767 bushels, leaving a deficit of 558,034 bushels. Florence ranked 16th in per capita production of corn, producing 16.1 bushels per inhabitant when 31 bushels were consumed, thereby showing a deficit of 14.9 bushels per person.

Our wheat production also showed a striking deficit. The demand was 142,684 bushels, while the production was 17,490 bushels, showing a shortage of 125,194 bushels. Twenty-three counties preceded Florence in per capita production of wheat. Four bushels were needed per person but only 0.5 of a bushel per person was produced.

Our hay and forage also fell behind. With a consumption of 10,298 tons the production was 4,453 tons, showing a shortage of 5,845 tons. It is interesting to note that Florence preceded 26 counties in the total hay and forage production. The county ranked 20th in the increase from 1900-1910, with 73 per cent.

Likewise we are deficient in our production of butter. With 1,712,208 pounds needed, 114,674 pounds were produced, showing that 1,597,534 pounds had to be secured from outside sources. We preceded nineteen counties in per capita production of butter, the total being three and two-tenths pounds per person out of forty-eight pounds for the average consumption.

Seventeen counties produced more eggs than Florence; we needed 624,242 dozen and produced 242,130 dozen—a deficit of 372,112 dozen. Florence averaged 10.4 dozen in the production per person.

Our poultry deficit was 245,627 fowls, which fact is inexcusable, for we must remember that there are no city ordinances against raising poultry in the city limits. We produced 5.1 fowls compared to twelve fowls needed, ranking 25th in the state.

Florence fell to a low rank in beef production. The state average was 19.5 pounds while ours was only 10. Thus, it is obvious that there is a great need for the raising of more cattle.
Three Main Causes

It has already been stated that there are three main causes why our county fails to be a self-feeding one: (1) Excessive farm tenancy, (2) lack of attention to food and feed crops, (3) and the necessity for a ready cash market for home-raised supplies. We shall elaborate upon these three causes.

In 1910 nearly two-thirds of our farms in South Carolina were operated by tenants, or to state the same fact in percentage figures, 63 per cent. of the farms were cultivated by farmers who did not own them. And the most striking phase of this situation is that tenancy is on the increase not only in South Carolina, but in the nation as a whole, especially in Southern States. In Florence, which ranks 24th in farms operated by tenants, 64.3 per cent. of the farms are operated by tenants, and as long as this condition exists is it reasonable to suppose that more attention will be given to money-crops than to feed crops? For we can see, that so long as the supply-merchant and the time-credit system exist, under which tenants do business, it is imperative for them to grow a ready-money-crop, such as cotton or tobacco. The situation created by such a year as the present one, points very emphatically to the fact that even the tenant farmer must learn to live at home in as complete a sense as is advocated for the owner-operator.

In Florence the annual consumption of these food and feed crops amounts to nearly three and one-half million dollars; while we produce only one and one-quarter million dollars worth of them. Thus we send out of the county over two million dollars, which we might have produced at home and thereby, have increased our wealth by just that amount. In 1919, the total banking resources of Florence County were $11,956,417.07, so we see by sending $2,000,000 out of the county every year, in 5 years we would have covered the amount of the banking resources. It is clear that now is the time for tenants to redouble their efforts to produce more and save more until they are able to buy farms of their own, and give their attention to food and feed crops and not have to cultivate exclusively money-crops desired by the landlord.

The need for a local ready cash market is unquestionable. There is always an organized world market for cotton and tobacco, and hence the farmer does not need to seek markets for them, the market seeks him. He can sell them for ready money and is able to secure credit on them before they are even planted. But in the food and feed crops the status is very different; it is necessary for the farmer to haul his produce to town, peddle it, and lose this time which could be spent more profitably on the farm. Thus we can see that there is absolutely no encouragement for the farmer to produce goods he cannot sell, and the establishment of a well organized local, ready-cash market is imperative.
Doubling the Farm Wealth

We realize that the farmer cannot well afford to stop raising cotton and tobacco altogether, but the point that we are endeavoring to drive home is for him to do both—with the bread-and-meat farming system as a basis. There is only one way to materially increase our farm wealth and that is to have our pantries, smoke-houses and barns filled with home-raised supplies, no matter what else we can produce on the farm. Let us leave the town consumer out of consideration; is there any excuse why the farmer cannot produce the supplies he needs to feed his own family and farm animals from year to year? If this could be accomplished the farm wealth of Florence County would be doubled in the next few years.

The problem which is confronting every town in Florence County, is the failure of nearby farmers to supply the demand for food-stuffs at high prices in local market.

Need For Local Markets

Cotton and tobacco, from the very nature of the products, lend themselves readily to world-wide markets. They can be shipped long distances or kept for long periods of time without deteriorating to any great extent. Neither can be utilized by the producer in its natural state, and the demand for both is universal. It is therefore natural to expect that they are the ideal money crops for this section of the country.

But why cannot the same thing be said with reference to marketing our excess food and feed stuffs? Of course, as a whole, there are no excess supplies of food stuffs in our county, with the exception of meat, but in individual instances one farmer may raise more sweet potatoes than he can use, another more irish potatoes, another more corn. Under the present marketing conditions in our county for these products what incentive is there for the one to raise an extra supply of sweet potatoes, the other irish potatoes, and the other corn?

The Boll Weevil Problem

If only the farmers of the county could foresee the losses that will run into appalling figures by the entrance of the boll weevil, they would not hesitate to minimize on their acreage of cotton production and maximize in their food and feed crops. The per cent of losses, as estimated by the State Entomologist for 1920, run from 10 per cent. in Greenwood to 70 per cent. in Beaufort—the southwestern counties have thus far suffered most from the pest.

We know that the net profit from cotton is arrived at by substracting the cost of production from the selling price, and also we know that the cost of production would be greater under boll weevil conditions and hence a smaller marginal return will be realized.
According to statements from the best cotton authorities, "for the past 40 years farmers have not been selling their cotton at the price it costs to produce it and not until the last three or four years have any profits been made."

So under such an outlook why should the farmers persist in raising a ready-money crop when a fifty-fifty plan of raising money-crops and food-crops would yield them a greater income and make the county a self-feeding one.

Home Raised Food and the Local Market Problem

The following facts are derived mainly from the 1910 census. Rank indicates the number of counties that make a better showing:

13th—in corn production, bushels 585,461
Orangeburg ranked first with 1,112,863 bushels. Ten year increase in corn production 1900-1910, was 203,491 bushels. The increase was 30.66 per cent.

16th—in corn production per person, bushels 16.1
Needed per person 31 bushels; deficit per person, 14.9 bushels; total deficit 558,034 bushels. State average per capita production, 13.7 bushels.

24th—in wheat production per person, bushels 0.52
Needed 4 bushels per person; deficit 3.5 bushels; total deficit 125,194 bushels.

7th—in oats production per acre, bushels 23.9
The oats produced amounted to 6.3 pints per work animal per day. The ten year increase in oats production, 1900-1910, was 184 per cent.

17th—in hay and forage production, tons 4,453
Ten year increase 1900-1910, was 73 per cent; rank 20th. The hay and forage production amounted to 4.4 pounds per work animal per day.

32nd—in per cent of farm buying feed, per cent 18.3
716 farms bought feed.

30th—in beef production per person, 1910, pounds 10
State average, 19.5 pounds.

25th—in poultry production per person, fowls 5.1
Needed 13 per person per year, deficit 245,627 fowls.

24th—in butter production per person, pounds 3.2
Needed 48 pounds per person per year; deficit of 44.8 pounds per person.

27th—in livestock production per person 30.90
State average $29.70. Per capita crop production was $118.62 in Florence. Total farm wealth produced was $149.52 per inhabitant.
There is no reason why Florence should not rank first by enrolling 75.

Greenville County ranks first in this particular with an enrollment of 290.

**Balance Sheet in Food and Feed Production**

*Based on 1910 Census.*

1. **Food and Feed:**
   - **Needed:**
     - 35,671 people @ $84.00 = $2,996,364
     - 5,644 work animals @ 39.39 = $222,317
     - 2,689 dairy cattle @ 18.55 = 49,880
     - 3,135 other cattle @ $8.09 = 25,362
     - 699 sheep @ $1.79 = 1,251
     - 21,300 swine @ $6.69 = $142,497
   - **Total food and feed needed** = $3,437,671

2. **Food and Feed:**
   - **Produced:**
     - Food and feed crops = $1,024,994
     - Dairy products = $11,574
     - Poultry products = 26,959
     - Honey and wax = 1,002
     - Animals sold and slaughtered = 202,292
   - **Total food and feed produced** = $1,266,821

**Shortage in home raised food and feed** = 2,170,850

**Cotton and other non-food crops** = 3,206,380

**Distribution of Food and Feed Shortage:**

1. **Meat needed for 35,671 people @ 152 lbs.** = 5,421,992
   - Produced: 667 calves @ 150 lbs. = 100,050
   - 5,824 cattle @ 350 lbs. = 2,038,400
   - 73,079 poultry @ 3 1-2 lbs. = 255,776
   - 21,300 swine @ 200 lbs. = 4,260,000
   - **Total meat produced** = 6,654,226

2. **Butter needed for 35,671 people @ 48 lbs.** = 1,712,208
   - Produced = 114,674
   - **Deficit** = 1,597,534

**Over production** = 1,232,234

**Pounds**
Florence County: Economic and Social

(3) Fowls needed for 35,671 people @ 12 fowls
Produced
Deficit

(4) Eggs needed for 35,671 people @ 17 1-2 doz.
Produced
Deficit

(5) Corn needed for 35,671 people @ 31 bu.
Produced
Deficit

(6) Wheat needed for 35,671 people @ 4 bu.
Produced
Deficit

(7) Hay needed for 5,643 work animals @ 10 lbs. per day
Produced
Deficit

Florence County Livestock 1910 Census

I. Animal Units on Hand:

Animal Units
5592 mature work animals
13 spring colts (1-4)
2689 dairy cows
38 yearling colts (1-2)
3135 other cattle (1-2)
12560 mature hogs (1-5)
8740 spring pigs (1-10)
541 mature sheep (1-7)
158 lambs (1-14)
73079 poultry (1-100)

Total animal units

II. Animal Units Needed—388,480 A divided by 5

Per cent of animals in a lightly stocked farm area
Per cent below the level

Note—A lightly stocked farm area means one animal unit for every 5 acres—a horse, a cow, 2 colts, 5 hogs, 7 sheep or 100 hens.
EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS

J. P. McNEILL, JR.

While we should bear in mind that there exists always room for improvement, still, in comparison with other counties of the State, many of greater landed area, older and more populous, this study has revealed many things of which the folks of this county may be justly proud.

Wealth

Between the years 1900 and 1910 our total farm wealth jumped from less than three million dollars to over eleven million dollars, or an increase of approximately 400 per cent. No other county in the State can boast of such an increase. The increase for the State as a whole for the same period was 155.3 per cent. Our per capita country wealth in 1910 was $390.00, in which respect we ranked 7th among the counties of the State.

Our rank is eighth in total taxable property amounting to $31,647,000 in 1920, a fact to be proud of, but when we learn that between 1910 and 1920 we lead the counties of the State in increase in total taxable property with a percentage of 123.72 our pride is boosted considerably. According to these figures every person in the county is worth on the average $627. Only 14 counties make a better showing.

With her 5291 farms, and ranking in this respect 8th among the other counties, she ranks 11th in per capita crop values based on the eleven leading crops with $159.96. Comparing this figure with the per capita country wealth of $390 it would seem that in less than three years each farmer will produce more than he has saved since Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492. We can produce, but we cannot save. Let us learn this difficult lesson and keep our money at home.

In 1920 we had 3318 automobiles in our county, or, one to every 16.9 persons. Greenville, Anderson, Richland, Spartanburg, Charleston and Orangeburg are the only counties that have more.

We have a bank in our county for every 2653 people, in which respect we rank 6th. We rank 5th in per capita bank resources with $230 and 5th in per capita bank capital with $18.00; 7th in per capita bank loans and discounts with $134.00, and 12th in per capita bank account savings with $21.00.

To follow up statistics with reference to all phases of wealth in Flor-
Florence County will reveal a steady increase from year to year, sometimes gradual, sometimes marked. We should continue, however, to produce, save and accumulate.

Agriculture

Upon the health, happiness and prosperity of the farmers of our county, depend in a large measure the health, happiness and prosperity of the county as a whole.

Florence county, with her acreage of 388,480, composed of 31 distinct types of soil, with 42.2 per cent. of her farm land improved, not only holds her own, but is on intimate terms with the leaders in per acre production of the eleven basic crops. Among the counties of the State only 12 can boast of a greater corn production; 6 in the production of oats; 16 in hay and forage; 12 in cotton production as a whole and 9 in production per acre. In 1910 we raised crops valued at $8,063,000 or a per acre value of $41.00. In this respect we ranked 12th.

Only recently have our people realized that the Norfolk, Portsmouth, Coxville and Kalmia series of soils that are found Lake City and elsewhere in the county are peculiarly adapted to the raising of tobacco. Consequently, in the last few years more attention has been given to the production of this crop and in 1920 we had the distinction of tying Williamsburg County for first place in its production with a grand total of nine million nine hundred thousand pounds raised. Lake City is the largest tobacco market in the State.

Pee Dee Experiment Station

The Pee Dee Experiment Station, a branch of the State Experiment Station, with headquarters at Clemson College, was established in the Pee Dee section with a view of ascertaining agricultural information applicable to that part of the State. It is located one and one-half miles northwest of Florence. The station property consists of about two hundred acres and embraces the following soil types: Coxville Sandy Loam, Norfolk Fine Sandy Loam, and Orangeburg Fine Sandy Loam, which are the most prevalent in the Pee Dee section. The first experiments of any note were commenced in 1914 and since that time the work has been enlarged until at the present time practically all the station land is devoted to experimental work of some nature.

Fertilizer Tests: About fifty acres are developed to testing fertilizers under different crops and in different combinations and amounts under these crops. The plots are usually one-tenth acre in size, which gives something over five hundred field plots.

Rotation Studies: In connection with the fertilizer tests a great field is open for the study of the value of rotations. The following are now being conducted: Three-year rotation; corn the first year, fol-
lowed by fall oats and peas sown for hay the second year; followed by cotton the third year. In the two-year rotation corn, in which peas or other legume are sown at the last cultivation, is planted the first year, followed by cotton the second year. Running through all these rotation tests is a comprehensive system of fertilized plots and to check the benefit derived from the rotation there is a corresponding number of plots planted continuously to the above crops.

Variety Tests of Field Crops: Inasmuch as variety tests are always of such immediate value to farmers, the leading varieties of all important field crops are tested each year as follows: Cotton, twenty-five varieties; corn, twenty varieties; soy beans, forty-five; sweet potatoes, fifty-six; several varieties of velvet beans; and all known varieties of peanuts.

Tests With Tobacco: Tobacco seems to be peculiarly adapted to the Pee Dee section and considerable work is carried on at this station relative to this crop. From time to time the different varieties are grown, chiefly to show their differences. Complete fertilizer tests as well as studies to determine the best rotation practices are conducted. In addition to these tests are conducted with different poisons to combat the worms.

Hog Feeding Tests: All the work of this nature done so far has been hogging off various field crops, and much valuable data along this line have been obtained. Practically all the field crops suitable for hog grazing have been tested.

Cotton Breeding: Inasmuch as a considerable area of land on the station farm is infested with the cotton wilt disease organisms, special attention has been given to the breeding and selection of wilt-resistant cotton seed. These seed are distributed among the farmers of the State in such manner as to place them in newly infested areas each year.

Horticultural Work: A small area is devoted to horticultural work. Different varieties of peaches, grapes and small fruits are grown as a matter of demonstrating. This work has received a great deal of attention and has been the means of inducing numbers of farmers in the section to plant on their own farms the fruits that are grown here.

The interest in the work of the station is increasing from year to year as the farmers of the section become better acquainted with what is being done. Recently farmers from Arkansas, Mississippi, Kansas and Alabama have visited the station in large numbers to study the work done here.

Boys' Agricultural Club Work.

The Boys Corn Clubs and the Girls Canning Clubs are organizations designed for a purpose, and right well are they living up to that purpose. They arouse the interest of the children in better farming, which will in turn produce better farming conditions, and should receive the
support of every man, woman and child in the rural communities, and there are 39,438 of these rural folk in the county out of a total population of 50,406.

**Schools**

With the exception of our standing in attendance the whole school situation in Florence County may be looked upon as reflecting credit upon the citizens of the county. This is said, of course, in view of the comparison with the other counties of the State. However, in no respect have we attained that ideal toward which we are ever striving and which we hope some day to attain.

We lead the State in our per capita investment in school property, The school property in Florence County is estimated to be worth $1,465,310, while Greenville, with her very much greater wealth and population has $2,568,374.

With only 16.39 per cent of our schools one-teacher schools, we rank third among the other counties, Darlington with 10.34 per cent and Dillon with 10.71 per cent, outranking us. This has been brought about by consolidating the many small schools into a few large, well built, well "teachered" schools. Our standing is made more striking when we learn that the average for the State is 43.22 per cent.

For every child enrolled in our schools in 1920 we spent $18.69. Only three counties are ahead of us in this respect.

**Florence City Schools**

In the words of Professor George Briggs, Principal of the Florence High School:

"In 1906 the town of Florence had two school buildings, one brick building for white people, and one wooden building for negro pupils. In the school system at that time there were fifteen teachers who received from thirty-five to forty dollars per month. The superintendent received one hundred and thirty-five dollars per month. The course of study offered the usual work in English and Mathematics and covered about nine grades. There was no science and no foreign language offered except Latin. There were about five hundred pupils in attendance.

"In the system now there are four brick buildings for white pupils, worth half a million dollars, and one brick building for negroes worth fifty thousand dollars. There are now employed seventy teachers whose pay ranges from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty dollars per month. The superintendent's salary is four hundred dollars per month. The course of study now includes the usual English branches, Mathematics, Latin, French, Spanish, General Science, Physics, Chemistry, Domestic Art and Science, and covers eleven grades."
Florence County: Economic and Social

Next session it is probable that the twelfth grade will be added. There are in attendance now more than three thousand pupils."

Florence Civic Improvement Society

Realizing the need of an organization to look after the civic improvement of a fast growing city, the men and women of Florence called a meeting of the citizens to be held on September 16th, 1902 for the purpose of developing such an agency. Accordingly, on that day, a good number of the leading women and business men of the city, together with the Mayor and members of the City Council, met and after a free and enthusiastic discussion of the matter in hand decided to leave its operation in the hands of the women, the men promising to uphold them and assist them in every way possible. A second meeting was called for October 8th, at which time an election of officers was held, resulting in the choice of Mrs. Theodore Kuker, for President, Mrs. D. M. McEachern, Secretary and Mrs. James Evans, Treasurer, after which the following committees were appointed: Street Committee; Railroad Committee; Finance Committee, and one to take in hand the beautifying of the grounds of the County Court House.

This organization has been unceasing and untiring in its effort to improve the city in every way that presented itself. The length of this article will not permit comment upon every phase of the society's activity, but a cursory review of their achievements will show clearly that they are for Florence, first, last and always, and as public servants should be backed by every citizen of Florence that has the welfare of his city at heart.

Here are some of the things that it has accomplished: changed the grounds surrounding the County Court House from that of an unkempt public hitching ground to that of a well kept lawn with hedges and walks; beautified the two small plots in front of the City Hall; establishment of Industrial Fair; Baby Show; curb vegetable market; public drinking fountains; and public play grounds.

The Florence Civic Improvement Society is a live thing today and is laying plans for bigger things in the future.

County Y. M. C. A.

Florence County has the distinction of being the first county in South Carolina to organize a rural Y. M. C. A. work which was begun April 15, 1921. The primary aim and purpose of this work is the development of the character, health and spirituality of the more than two thousand white boys of Association age in our county.

The work is non-equipment in that it invests in personality rather than in buildings and paraphernalia. To carry on the work a County Secretary is employed who gives his entire time and promotes the work
under the direction of a Committee of leading business and professional men of the county, who, together with the people of the county are giving their moral and financial support to a work that is developing one of our country's greatest assets—BOYS.

The Florence Chamber of Commerce.

The Florence Chamber of Commerce is organized to foster the agricultural, industrial, commercial and civic interests of Florence and her vicinity, and while naturally Florence has first claim upon her activities, still the Chamber fully recognizes the principle that by helping others we help ourselves. This may be considered briefly the aim and purpose of the organization.

In the words of its Secretary: "Our program includes such achievements as the establishment of various subsidiary organizations in numerous lines. Among these are a cash potato market in which the members practice the most approved methods of planting, handling, grading and packing on a cooperative basis; getting built in Florence more warehouse facilities for handling her tobacco and cotton crops; the establishment of a market reporting service, both direct and comparative, for potatoes, tobacco and cotton; creation of a traffic bureau in the Chamber of Commerce which is in a position to give and procure the very best corrective and protective measures for our transportation resources and advantages; successful advertising of Florence by newspapers and magazines to more than ten million people during the past year by placing in such publications news articles of interest to this section and South Carolina at large; we also aided in creating a cooperative spirit among the interests of Florence County; by various means interested other parts of the State and of the county in Florence. We have made our resources known and recognized in many parts of the world, including South Africa and India, by motion pictures which attracted the interest of foreign governments to the extent that they procured copies for display in their colonies; we had one party of 150 farmers from Arkansas, with other parties from Louisiana, Texas and a number of other states, come to Florence to see how we farm; we also established and maintained very cordial relations between the city at large and our transportation companies and public carriers. In many other ways we have given a widespread service to the people of Florence and the surrounding territory."

Rotary Club of Florence

The Rotary Club of Florence came into existence during the early part of 1920, due to the efforts of J. Boon Aiken, who became its first president. Its membership is limited to one man from each profession, but in some cases a second active member may come in from the same
FLORENCE COUNTY: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

firm or business from which the active membership in the club is filled.

The Florence Club has established a Rotary Educational Fund whose object is to aid worthy young men in completing their education, men who would not otherwise be in position to do this. A deserving young man is now being aided by this fund, and its operations will be extended as the finances of the club will permit. The Rotary Club does not undertake many public movements as a club, but seeks to aid those agencies already established in the furtherance of their work, for example, the Young Men's Christian Association, Boy Scouts, Red Cross—any force that has for its object the betterment of those conditions under which we live. It takes absolutely no part in politics.

"He profits most who serves best," is the slogan of Rotary, the idea of the organization being to promote a feeling of fellowship among the members and to give them a new realization of the unselfishness of service. While the Florence Club has only recently celebrated its first anniversary, it is hoped that the community has absorbed through its dealings with Rotarians some new idea of the nobility of service.

The idea of Rotary had its inception sixteen years ago when four Chicago business men met once each week for luncheon together, and the weekly luncheon of each club is the backbone of the existence of the organization.

Where We Lead

There are forty-six counties in South Carolina, and it is considered conservative to call Florence County a leader when her rank is 15 or below in comparison with the other counties of the State.

Rank.

1st—in tobacco production, 1920 (pounds) .... 9,900,000
7th—in oats production per acre, 1910, (bushels) .... 23.9
13th—in corn production, 1910 (bushels) .... 585,461
13th—in cotton production, 1920 (bales) .... 43,000
10th—in cotton production per acre, 1920 (pounds) .... 278
10th—in value of non-food crops produced, 1910 .... 3,206,580
11th—in per capita crop values of eleven leading crops, 1920 .... 159.96
12th—in value of corn crops, per acre, 1920 .... $41.00
4th—in cattle increase, 1900-1910 .... 5,291
10th—in total farm wealth, 1910 .... $11,401,794
10th—in Boy's Corn Club, 1920 (members) .... 35
8th—in population, 1920 .... 50,406
10th—in population per square mile, 1920 .... 72.1
9th—in density rural population per square mile, 1920 .... 56.4
2nd—in birth rate per 1000 population, 1919 .... 38.3
6th—in church membership per cent of total population ten years old and over 1916, 14,288 of our people were members of no church .... 85
Florence County: Economic and Social

1st—In farm wealth increase 1900-1910 per cent. 400
2nd—State increase 155.3 per cent.
3rd—in total farm wealth, 1910 $11,401,794
4th—in per capita country wealth, 1910 $390.00
5th—in increase in taxable property, 1910-1920, per cent. 123.72
6th—in total taxable property, 1920 $31,647,900
7th—in per capita wealth, 1920 $627.00
8th—in percentage that mortgaged farms are of total farms owned by white people, 1910 8.4
9th—Number farms owned by whites 3664; number mortgaged 354.
10th—in percentage of negro farms mortgaged, 1910 15.7
11th—in number of automobiles, 1920 3318
One auto for every 16.9 inhabitants.
12th—in number of inhabitants per bank, 1920 2653
Number banks 19; population 50,406.
13th—in per capita bank resources, 1919 $230.00
14th—in per capita bank capital, 1919 18.00
15th—in per capita bank loans and discounts, 1919 $134.00
16th—in per capita bank account savings, 1919 $21.00
17th—in per capita investment in school property, 1920 $29.07
18th—in total value of school property, 1920 $1,465,310.00
19th—in percentage of white schools that are one teacher schools, 1920 16.39
20th—in per capita expenditure according to enrollment (both races) 1920 18.69
21th—in per capita expenditure according to enrollment (white) 1920 $34.04
22th—in per capita expenditure according to enrollment (negro) 1920 $3.61
23th—in average salary paid white teachers (women) 1920 $615.55
24th—In receipts from State appropriation (both races) $38,325.63
25th—in average number white pupils to school according to enrollment, 1920 101
26th—in average number white pupils to school according to average attendance, 1920 69
IX

OUR PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTION

J. P. McNeill, Jr.

In the preceding chapter we have enumerated the many things of which we can well afford to be proud in Florence County, but unfortunately there are many conditions prevailing in our county of which the opposite is true. In every such unfavorable condition we come face to face with a problem, which problem will have to be solved before we can attain that social and economic position to which we aspire.

No doubt many a citizen will be shocked to learn in what and in how many respects Florence County ranks low in comparison with the other counties of the State. It is the primary purpose of this work to call these defects to the attention of our people, with the hope that with this realization will come determination to eradicate these evils, for evils they are, that are thwarting our development, retarding our progress, and hindering our people from obtaining that efficient, prosperous and wholesome life which all of us want.

Illiteracy

Every State in the American Union, with the exception of Louisiana, can boast of a fewer number of illiterates, persons who cannot read or write their own names, than can South Carolina. United States Census figures of 1910 show that 25.7 per cent of the people in South Carolina are illiterates, or, about one in every four.

We find practically the same condition existing in Florence County. In 1910 there were 1020 white people over ten years of age in our county who could neither read nor write, or 9.3 per cent., while 5007 negroes, or 35.9 per cent. of the population, were in the same condition of utter ignorance. This fact is appalling. We can never hope to grow and flourish while this situation obtains all around us. Just as surely as the veil of ignorance retards progress does the lifting of that veil through education make progress possible.

The remedy for illiteracy is, of course, education. The majority of our illiterates are of such age that they can be educated in the public schools. The efficiency of school depends upon the attendance of the pupils. We cannot expect illiterate parents to realize the importance of an education, nor can we expect the children of illiterate parents to attend school voluntarily. Yet they must be educated if the future
is to find them an educated folk. It is simply up to the educated people in our country to see that our children attend school through persuasion, legislation or any other way that is feasible. The passage of the compulsory education law was the greatest constructive step toward the eradication of illiteracy in South Carolina. Let us insist upon its enforcement.

But there is another large group of illiterates in Florence County who are too old to attend school, yet it is our duty to do all in our power to open the doors of learning to them for two reasons: (1) that their remaining years might be years of greater usefulness to themselves and to society; (2) that in the realization of the value of an education they will appreciate the absolute importance of the education of their children.

The question arises, how can persons above school age be taught? How approach them on the subject? In many instances they know that they are ignorant but are sensitive about their condition and rather resent any suggestion that they owe it to themselves and to the community to better this condition. It is a very delicate proposition and must be handled tactfully. Their salvation along this line, it seems to me, lies in holding meetings of an educational nature in our community school houses and in our churches, and in making the appeal to them strong enough to insure their presence at these meetings.

The work of the Illiteracy Commission in the organization of adult schools, schools organized for the sole purpose of teaching grown illiterates to read and write, has done a wonderful work in the State. When handled tactfully the pupils enter into the spirit of the school with enthusiasm, and it is desired that every county in the State establish these adult schools. So far, Florence County has no organization of this kind. Surely we cannot afford to turn the cold shoulder to anything that looks to the eradication of illiteracy in our county. Upon these schools being organized it becomes the duty of the different communities to lend their support by encouraging the adult pupils and evidencing a just pride in their accomplishments.

Better Schools

In a preceding chapter it was stated that, with the exception of attendance, the whole school situation in Florence County, as compared with the other counties of the state, reflected credit upon the county. Suppose we led every county in South Carolina in all matters relating to schools, could we afford to be satisfied with our educational achievements when there are over six thousand people above the age of ten years living within the limits of our county who can neither read nor write! Does the fact that we happen to lead all other counties in per capita investment in school property with $29.07
mean that $29.07 is just the right amount of money for each person in
the county to have invested in school property, and that a larger amount
would be superfluous? Even a cursory review of the educational condi-
tion in our county will not permit such an attitude.

It just takes three things to secure an ideal school system: money,
the realization by the people of the vital need of education, and time.
We have the money, for people using almost a million and a half dollars
yearly for the operation of their automobiles and raising yearly crops
valued at eight million dollars can certainly spare more than the $150,-
000 usually expended for education in the county each year. Time
is an important element, for as the years pass close study of the prob-
lem of education reveals new methods of teaching, school administra-
tion, organization and equipment which should be substituted for the
old methods hindering our progress. Folks, as a rule, are wary of
the "high-browed" school teacher who tries to upset things in general
with some "new-fangled" notions about the art of teaching. Just be-
cause the pupils of today are not taught the "blue back" spelling book
and do not write on slates, do not think that schools have gone to
rack and ruin. On the contrary, in no field has there been a greater
expenditure of time and effort, sober reflection and laborious experi-
mentation in the last twenty years than there has been in the field of
education. Capable men have devoted their lives to the improvement of
the methods of teaching your children and these methods are never
adopted until they have proven to be practical. We should welcome a
change when we know that in the end ourselves and our children will be
benefited.

The compulsory education law, even if the means for enforcement
were provided, requires the attendance of the pupils enrolled for only
four months of the year. Our hope, therefore, lies in getting the pa-
rents to insist upon their children attending school during the whole
school year, regardless of the compulsory education law. The average
child does not realize the importance of an education and will not there-
fore attend school on his own accord. He must be made to go. We
who are older and know what is best, should never lag in our duty to
our children. Send them to school and they in after years will insist
upon their children attending school. Once we get the educational ball
rolling all will be well. It is up to us to start it.

Idle Lands

Florence County ranks among the larger counties of the state with
a total area of about 390,000 acres. Of this amount about 130,000
acres, or one-third of the total area, is under cultivation. About 60,-
000 acres are devoted to pasturage, and something like 50,000 acres are in
mature timber and good growing timber, leaving a balance of about
150,000 acres which may be classed as idle land. It is with this latter class of land we wish primarily to deal.

The above figures afford an interesting economic study. At the outset we find that not quite half of the land in the county is being put to use for profit, the total area in cultivation, pasturage and timber being less than the acreage in idle or cutover land. Florence County ranks 21st among the counties of the state in this respect. The problem before us is how should this idle or cutover land be put to use so that the owners, and the county at large, might derive a fair benefit and profit therefrom.

Some few calculations are necessary in order to arrive at a fair estimate of the situation. The idle, pasturage and timber lands, together aggregate 260,000 acres. Of this amount we estimate 100,000 acres in swamps, bays and low flat lands not suitable for cultivation without expensive drainage systems, which would be impracticable with so much other land ready for planting upon clearing with the usual amount of ditching. Deducting further the area in timber which should, of course, be allowed to stand and grow, we therefore have 110,000 acres of available idle or cutover land suitable for planting with the ordinary labor of reducing to cultivation. Of this acreage, however, 25,000 acres should be set aside for reforestation, which with the area already in timber, would make a total timber wooded acreage of 75,000 acres, in addition, of course, to the wooded land included in swamps, bays and low flat lands.

The above figures in wooded and timber lands may seem excessive at first glance, but with the rapid consumption of all available timber all over the country, and the slow and imperfect process of reforestation, it will not be many years when it will be necessary for each particular section to supply its own timber needs. And though that date be fairly remote at this time, it is coming with exacting certainty, and then it will be that the wisdom of providing sufficient local timber will be effectively seen.

The wooded and timber lands, however, would be serving a twofold purpose, that of growing new timber, and at the same time affording pasturage for three times as many cattle as are now pastured. With the arrival of the boll weevil in force and the consequent necessity of engaging in other pursuits on the farm it is safe to assume that the total available acreage for pasturage under this classification will be none too large. Every farm should have a small acreage in woods and pasturage.

By deduction we therefore arrive at the figure of 85,000 acres of idle cutover upland suitable for cultivation without greater than the ordinary expenses of clearing and ditching. After reserving the necessary timber and pasturage for capacity farming population of the
county there is room for 1,500 more farm families of five persons each, or 7,500 more people to live in the country, allowing 50 acres for each farm. In 1910 our farms averaged 33 acres cultivated for each farm. There were 381 farms containing 175 acres or more. This would make room for many more farming families by reason of better and more intensive cultivation of the land.

General improvements in the method of farming are needed. By experience of successful farmers it is known that small horses and mules and poor stock are not money-makers on the farm. The one-horse plow should be supplanted by the two in much of the plowing, especially in breaking the soil and preparing the land for seed. Improved farm machinery is needed to be more generally used. Besides saving labor and expense, it does the work better than the old hand and plow method. There is a successful improved farm implement for almost every sort of work on the farm and the use of such improved farm machinery should be adopted by every farmer, large and small. We assume that farming is a success with all who follow it, and therefore every farmer should be able to purchase improved machinery. If he is not he is not farming and ought to get at something else, for no occupation is worth while that does not bring a fair reward for one's labor and time. And by reward we mean a living and a reasonable accumulation of material things from year to year.

The natural increase in population will, of course, in time take up all the available plantable land in the county. The only other way to increase the farming population would be to bring more people into the county from outside parts. Importation of foreign people has been tried in many sections with more failures than success. We hardly think that increasing the population of the county in that way would be of any marked benefit, and on the contrary it might settle with us an undesirable element. Our solution is to induce Americans from less fertile sections to come to Florence County and locate. Our climate and the fertility of the soil is unsurpassed in any state in the Union, and any man, no matter from what state, who wants to farm for a living can do no better than to locate in Florence County. The foundation for successful farming, good land, is here, and all that is needed is determination to succeed, energy and the ordinary labor of farm work.

**Tenancy**

This subject has been discussed before in several of its aspects. As a stepping stone to farm ownership tenancy cannot be looked upon as an evil tendency, but when a tenant uses rented land simply to earn a living year in and year out, entertaining no hope of better things, tenancy is an evil. The solution is, of course, farm ownership.
Florence County has made marked progress towards better livestock and especially pure bred hogs. The county ranked seventh among the counties in South Carolina in livestock on January 1, 1921. This value was $2,565,400 compared with $1,067,418 in 1910. Dairying has increased to a considerable extent, but as yet there are no pure bred herds in the county. Each dairymen has only a few pure breds in his herd, but the tendency is favorable towards increasing them. In the summer of 1918, the county agent placed about seventy-five grade Guernsey heifers and five registered Guernsey bulls out over the county. These cattle were bought from the best herds in Wisconsin and already one can see the improvement made by the use of these bulls.

Florence County was one of the first, if not the first, to establish co-operative bull associations, there being one in practically every part of the county. The herds of dairy cattle that predominate are Guernseys and Jerseys. Beef cattle are not raised to any extent in Florence County. There are only a few herds of beef cattle in the county. More interest has been taken in hogs in the last few years than any other phase of livestock. There have been many herds of pure bred hogs established, and if Lake City the breeders of Poland-Chinas have gone so far as to organize a breeders' association. From 1910 to 1920 hogs increased 73 per cent., which shows that practically all of the farmers are interested in hogs. Through the untiring efforts of the county agent, the hog-cholera fear has been practically overcome.

Florence County produces more meat than she consumes, but this is a splendid policy as the farmers can find a ready sale for this surplus meat, or they may pool their hogs and form co-operative shipments, under which conditions the highest market prices are secured.

One of the greatest possibilities of livestock is the raising of sheep. If every farmer would keep a few sheep the production of mutton along with the wool would greatly add to the assets of the county.

The weakest point in Florence County livestock is the raising of horses and mules. Most of the farmers look upon the raising of a colt as rather expensive, but when the facts are figured, a colt can be raised until about three years old for about one hundred dollars, besides the farm mare doing her share of work. If every farmer would solve this problem there would be less four hundred and fifty dollar mules shipped from all parts of the country, thereby keeping our money at home.

Although Florence County is lightly stocked with livestock, she is going to be one of the foremost in the state if the progress that has characterized the past decades continues for the next ten years.

Good Roads

Good roads are desirable. They pay. With these axiomatic state-
ments, the vast majority of the citizens of Florence County will agree. But unless they have devoted some serious thought thereto, they probably do not realize just how desirable good roads are, nor how well, nor in what varied ways they pay.

The first step, therefore, towards the solution of our roads problem, must be a process of education, whereby our people may be more fully informed and more thoroughly convinced as to the desirability of good roads. Their attention must be directed, of course, to the incalculable social advantages which such roads bring. The drawing together of neighbors and the development of community life; the elimination of the isolated farm house; greater intercourse between town and country, are some of the results which come with good roads. The influence of such factors in social betterment is appreciated by all thoughtful persons.

Not only, however, is there a social value in good roads, but there are distinct economic advantages. A few figures suffice to illustrate. The Department of Agriculture estimates the cost of hauling a bale of cotton to market to be eighty cents. On this basis, in 1919, Florence County paid out $34,039 to carry a crop of 42,549 bales to market. When we include the cost of hauling the cotton seed, it raises the total cost of the movement of our cotton crop to market in 1919 to $97,876.29. The conservative estimate of forty per cent. has been made, as to reduction in such costs over improved roads. This would mean an annual saving of $39,150. What is said of cotton may be applied to nearly all kinds of rural transportation. The saving which would be effected in one year would probably pay a large part of the cost of a system of good roads. The betterment of roads means the lessening of the time consumed in travelling back and forth—it means greater accessibility to markets and business places, the enhancement of real estate values, the development of back country, all of which would be of distinct economic value. Space does not permit a more complete exposition of this phase, but it serves to indicate the wealth of material for use in argument and propaganda in favor of good roads.

When this educational process shall have reached a point where the people are thoroughly aroused to the desirability, value and necessity of improving our roads, then we need to have a definite system of roads to propose, and a sound plan for financing their construction.

As to the first, it would seem that at the outset, provision should be made for a complete and comprehensive survey of our road system by competent engineers. The main arteries of travel should be determined upon, and their course, (with as much regard to directness as the territory to be served might allow) should be chartered. Then, leading from these main lines, lateral roads extending into every community
should be projected. In these surveys, it would seem desirable to use present locations wherever not wholly undesirable from an engineering standpoint.

Having fixed the roads, the kind of construction would next receive attention. And as to that, experience has taught that the main roads, at all events, should be permanent, hard surfaced highways. None other will stand the traffic. In time, other roads might be added to the permanent construction program, but from the beginning it seems foolish to build other than permanent roads for our main highways. Sand clay will not stand up, and the costs of its maintenance would soon dissipate the difference in cost between that variety and the hard surface.

These things all carefully planned—the last and most vexatious problem remains—how to finance. Float bonds? Of course, but how to pay the interest and create a sinking fund for retirement, as well as provide maintenance.

Two ideas have been suggested:
1. A tax on motor vehicles.
2. An abutting property tax, based on a zone system.

Both of these appear to be good and feasible. Certainly the owner of a motor vehicle can afford to pay a substantial tax for improved roads. The saving in tires, repair bills, and wear and tear to machine would offset, many times, the amount to be paid.

The owner of abutting property, on account of the enhancement in value of such property, and the accruing advantages, could afford to pay a reasonable tax. The only difficulty here is to provide an equitable system of division into zones, and a fair assessment of a tax thereupon. This is not insuperable.

The present road tax, being general, should probably be retained to provide a maintenance fund; thus permitting all revenues derived from other sources to be applied directly to improvement.

The ideas here suggested are not original. They merely reflect the consensus of opinion among those who have devoted thought to the solution of our roads problem. Along some such line we must work, and the sooner the movement begins, the better for Florence County.

Co-Operative Marketing

The great problem with the farmer today is to market his product to the best advantage; that is, with the least possible lost motion or excessive overhead expenses. Many millions of dollars have been lost by the 'farming class of people as a result of uneconomic and unbusinesslike 'marketing' methods. Many European countries have recognized the 'evil practices of marketing' and have instituted co-operative marketing for most of their products.
California, which is one of the most progressive states in the Union, also recognizes the advantages to be had in co-operative marketing, and during last year approximately two hundred and ninety-seven millions worth of products were sold out of California co-operatively.

The whole country has become permeated with a spirit of co-operative marketing. It is rapidly convincing the business world of its merits and it is believed by many that it is not a wild prophecy to state that within the next five years the majority of the products of this country, even the large staple crops, will be marketed on a co-operative basis, as advocated by the Agricultural Extension Service of Clemson College, which has given much study to this subject.

Not only is this proposition of interest to our people for the big crops such as cotton and tobacco, but it is the only hope, by which we can successfully grow and market the smaller crops of truck, such as sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, beans, peaches and such perishable crops. Progress in this direction is rapid and local organizations are being built up all through the lower half of South Carolina, and it is believed that owing to the railroad facilities and material advantages as a center that Florence will be a routing and office headquarters for large quantities of truck which will be grown and sold co-operatively through a central office, as a result of diversification, which will necessarily follow the ravages of the boll weevil so evident throughout this section.

**Taxation**

Our present method of taxation is inadequate. There must be something wrong when we are continually voting extra levies on ourselves, continuing to increase the amount we have to pay, and yet find our government "in the hole" at the end of every year. Those who pay taxes pay enough. There is many a man in Florence County whose property is never listed on the tax books. Herein the trouble lies. The present method of taxation makes such an evasion possible. Real estate bears the burden, for it is hard to prevent its being placed upon our tax books. But what of the man whose property consists of stocks and bonds and other intangible forms of wealth who can escape taxation by the simple method of forgetting he owns it when the time for property returns rolls around? Surely there is no justice in having a tax system which makes the landowner foot the bills and allows others, and a vast number there are, to enjoy the advantages and protection of our government free of charge! Under the State Constitution of 1895 we cannot pursue any other method of taxation. The only way to get relief is to amend the Constitution, providing for a revised system of taxation properly adjusted.

Let the revision provide for a state income tax. Why should a map
who works for a salary and owns no tangible property be excused? Why should a man whose wealth is in stocks and bonds and which pay him a handsome income in interest be excused? Our government must be financed—taxes must be paid, and it is only right that every citizen bear his share of the burden.

Let the new system provide for a state inheritance tax. Were it not for the protection and advantages afforded by society, and society is government, no man could accumulate property. Why should this wealth so accumulated pass to his heirs upon his death without the government receiving its share for its part in the creation of the wealth?

Let the revision provide for a method by which the failure to correctly return property will become impossible.

There are still other means of raising revenue which are proving successful in other states, and which, of course, will receive due consideration and study by our general assembly before finally devising our own tax system.

We are able to pay taxes, for we paid to the Federal Government last year over twenty-five million dollars. We paid to the State about nine million dollars. But every man should pay his proportionate share. Under our present system many pay nothing. These do not kick; they are perfectly satisfied with the present method. But are we, who do pay, willing to sit tight and continue as we are now?

### Our Problems

**Rank**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage or Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>in native white illiterates 10 years old and over, 1910</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native white illiterates 1018; State average 10.3 per cent; U. S. average, 3 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>in native white illiterate voters; per cent</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>430 in number; State average 10.3; U. S. average 4.2 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>in percentage in regular attendance in our schools (both races)</td>
<td>69.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgetown first with 84.89 per cent; Dillon last with 61.51 per cent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th</td>
<td>in average number white pupils to teacher according to average attendance</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jasper and Williamsburg tie for first place with 15; Greenville last with 31.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>in farm land improved, per cent</td>
<td>42.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th</td>
<td>in average improved acres per farm, 1910</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24th—in percentage that farms owned by negroes are of total farms in county, 1910 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 7.7
21st—in percentage of total land under cultivation ... ... ... 33
Land under cultivation, 128,269 acres; idle and other unimproved land 176,030 acres. Reserving 50,000 acres for wood lots and allowing 75 acres to each family, there is room for 1060 new farm families in Florence County.
31st—in food and feed crops, per cent. of the total crop value 24.00
Beaufort 56 per cent; Marlboro 15 per cent.
18th—in room for new settlers, 1910 ... ... ... ... ... 8400
Horry 19,270; Calhoun 1820.
32nd—in per cent of farms buying feed ... ... ... ... ... 18.3
716 farms bought feed.
30th—in beef production per person, 1910, pounds ... ... ... ... ... ... 10
State average 19.5.
25th—in poultry production per person, fowls ... ... ... ... ... 5.1
Fowls needed 13 per person per year. Deficit 245,627 fowls.
27th—in livestock production per person ... ... ... ... ... ... 30.90
State average $29.70. Per capita crop production was $118.62 in Florence. Total farm wealth produced was $149.52 per inhabitant.
24th—in farms operated by tenants, 1910, per cent. ... ... ... ... ... 64.3
26th—in percentage mortgaged farms are of total number of farms, 1910 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 8.9