

**THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENT.**

We are glad that Harry Farmer is with us again this week; he writes from New York State where he has gone for medical treatment, and reports some helpful observations made on his trip North. We hope that he will speedily recover and resume his regular contributions to *The Progressive Farmer*. Some of our readers were disappointed because of his absence from the Farmers' Convention here last week.

An important announcement is made by Director Kilgore, of the State Experiment Station, regarding the wilt disease in cotton and tobacco. It should not be necessary for us to advise farmers to report promptly the appearance of wilt in either of these crops.

We count ourselves fortunate in being able to present to our readers Mr. R. W. Scott's paper on "Building Up Worn-out Clay Lands in Middle North Carolina," as read before the Farmers' Convention here last week. It is an interesting, practical, inspiring story, and should commend itself to many farmers as a model to pattern after.

The article on page 2, "Suggestions to Horse Breeders," is merely an outline of a longer article in the recently issued *Agricultural Yearbook* for 1902. As we have said before, a postal card application to your Congressman will bring you a free copy of this valuable work.

"Bookkeeping on the Farm" is another article that you can't afford to overlook. We especially commend it to our young farmers.

Just now our poetical selections are from the works of Henry Timrod, the South Carolina poet, whose genius, so long eclipsed by war's bitter memories, is now generally recognized at the North. He wrote several stirring war-lyrics, one of the best of which is "Carolina," reprinted in part on page 6. Timrod died in his native city, Charleston, in 1867, at the early age of 38. A new edition of his poems has recently been issued, and is quite popular. Two lines from one of his verses have long been treasured in our memory: "To-day's most trivial act may hold the seed, Of future fruitfulness or future dearth."

"Hygienic Living on the Farm" contains several helpful suggestions, but it is clipped from a paper in another State, and we do not believe that general conditions in North Carolina are quite so bad as it pictures. Our "bath-room" article will be sneered at by many, because of the large cost suggested, but our purpose will have been accomplished if it sets the reader to thinking about the need of better bathing facilities on the farm. Even if one cannot put in waterworks and a modern plumbing system, some cheaper plan can be arranged.

We are glad to have Mrs. Mull's article describing her trip to some western counties. Our people do not know enough about their own State, and such articles as this are very informing and entertaining.

The Watts Law which became effective July 1st, is published on page 11. In some counties its provisions have been misunderstood, and we think it worth while to give in full the sections that have to do with rural communities.

The Monroe Journal is right in urging greater consideration for the office of school committeeman. It is a position in which a good citizen may do much to help forward his community, and one in which a careless citizen may greatly retard its progress.

We are glad to know that our lady readers appreciate the efforts we are making to aid the cause of school-house improvement. The work of the Moore County organization, as reported on page 12, deserves commendation.

Success don't konsist in never makin' blunders, but in never makin' the same one twict.—Josh Billings.

**Another Study in Census Statistics: More Notable Facts About North Carolina.**

Let us begin with table 35. By this it appears that North Carolina is more thickly settled than the average State; we have 39 persons to the square mile, while the American average is only 25.6. Note, too, our rate of increase in population from 1890 to 1900 was greater than for any other decade save one (1870-1880) since 1800. The per cent gained was 17.1, while the highest, in 1870-'80, was 30.7. It may surprise some to know that the smallest percentage of increase was not in the decade of 1860-'70, when the Civil War slaughtered its thousands, but 1830-'40, when emigration to the South and West was at full tide. In the former decade the gain was 7.9 per cent, while in the latter it was only 2.1. It was of this period when the Western fever raged fiercest that Calvin H. Wiley wrote some years after: "It is no exaggeration to say that the State was a great encampment, while the inhabitants looked on themselves as tented only for a season; and every year the highways were crowded with hundreds of emigrants whose sacrifices in selling out and moving would have paid for 20 years of their share of public taxes, sufficient to have given their homes all the fancied advantages of those regions whither they went to be taxed and suffer with disease."

As to distribution of our population, the census shows that 5.1 per cent is in towns of 8,000 to 25,000; 2.9 per cent in towns of 4,000 to 8,000, and 1.9 per cent in towns of 2,500 to 4,000. This leaves 90.1 per cent in what the census officials call "country districts." There are only six other States and Territories in which nine-tenths of the population is set down as living in country districts. These are Arkansas, Idaho, Indian Territory, Mississippi, North Dakota and Oklahoma.

In North Carolina there are almost exactly twice as many whites as negroes, the percentages being 66.7 and 33.3. But the white race is increasing much faster; the gain in white population 1890-1900 was 50 per cent greater than that in negro population, the ratio being 19.7 to 11.3. The white increase was only 1.5 per cent below the average for whites in the United States, while the North Carolina negroes fell below their race average, 6.7 per cent.

Table 40 gives the percentages of native and foreign-born inhabitants and shows that the proportion of foreigners—one-fifth of 1 per cent—is smaller here than anywhere else in America. The proportion for the entire country is sixty-five times as great. Another table shows that North Carolina has in its borders the smallest per cent of persons born in other States. There has been much immigration from us, but little emigration to us. So while there are in the United States 2,135,286 living Tar Heels, our population is only 1,893,810.

There has been so much confusion as to North Carolina's relative rank in the educational scale that the official facts should be of some interest to the general reader. It appears that the percentage of our white children attending school (45.3) is 8.3 per cent lower than the average for the United States, while the percentage of negro children in schools is 3.5 points above the average. And while the percentages of children from 5 to 9 and from 10 to 14 in school is lower than the American average, we have a larger proportion in the class from 15 to 20 years. Moreover, we had in 1900 not only the largest proportion of any State in the two classes "attending school one month or less" and "attending two or three months," but we had actually the largest number reported by any State, however large, in either of these divisions.

And now as to illiteracy proper. In 1900 we had 175,325 white boys and girls over 10 years of age who could not read and write—the greatest number of white illiterates reported by any American State or Territory. Of our total population over 10 years of age, 28.7 per cent—19.4 of the

whites and 47.6 per cent of the blacks—were illiterate. Only New Mexico made a worse record for white illiteracy. The average for the United States is 6.2—less than one-third that here.

As to persons of voting age, it is shown that there are 54,474 white men in North Carolina—18.8 of the whole number of voters—who cannot read the ballots that they cast. Here again only New Mexico stands between us and the foot of the class. Of the negroes who could have voted when the census of 1900 was taken (we had not then passed the Constitutional Amendment), 67,489 (53.1 per cent) were illiterate.

We are a working folk, it appears, for 53.2 of our people over 10 years of age are engaged in some gainful occupation, while the average for the country is only 50.3. Most of us—64 in each 100—are farming, while 12 in each 100 are manufacturing. Taking the country over, 35 in each 100 farm while 24 are in factories.

Nor is there any evidence of "race suicide" among us. There is an average of 5.1 persons to the family; while the American average is only 4.6. The people of no other State have larger families than we have, and only three others—Indian Territory, Texas and West Virginia—come up to our 5.1 standard.

And while we are poor, the proportion of our people owning their own homes is larger than the average, while the percentage of mortgaged homes (this is worth remembering) is only about half that of the entire country—7.4 per cent to 14.6 per cent. Only 9.1 per cent of our farmers have mortgaged their homes, while the figures for America as a whole are 20. The proportion of rented and mortgaged homes among villagers is much larger.

So much for North Carolina's rank among the States. I may later compare the different counties in the State with one another.—Clarence H. Poe (Editor of *The Progressive Farmer*), in *Charlotte Observer*.

**Patriotism in Daily Life.**

It is no easy task that our democracy demands of the patriot who is not a soldier. It is much easier to become enthusiastic over a cracked liberty bell than to be sane and patient in determining whether a city shall own its street car lines or whether the nation shall control trusts. But this is the form which patriotism must take. Americans will always be ready to fight for their country. Will they be ready to sacrifice prejudice for it? The new patriot must be as ready to vote intelligently upon a franchise as to kill a man in ways approved by military science. The recurrence of the anniversary of America's achievement of independence as a political democracy must teach lessons not merely of the heroism of our forefathers, but even more distinctly of services to be rendered democracy by ourselves.—Chicago Christendom.

Our government is of the people, by the people and for the people. But such a people must have capacity for government. Essential to this capacity is an educated intelligence, and the whole people must have education. Civic rulers cannot come from the select few. The most virile form of our citizenship is found in the broad highways of the common people. Therefore, our institutions necessitate education of the people, by the people and for the people. Free politics, free press, free education and free religion are among the fundamentals of our system of government. These cardinal factors of our civilization stand against despotism, political and academic. Governments cannot be fitted upon a people as a coat upon a man. They rest upon the consent of the governed; but this consent must be given in faith and in intelligence.—Gov. A. J. Montague, in address before Southern Educational Conference.