FIGURES SHOW GREAT INCREASE

1909 Industries $16,500,403 Over 1908

THE LEADING COUNTIES

Corporation Commission Completes Assessment of the Various Corporations—Increase of $13,919,707 in Industrial Corporations over 1908—Total Assessment of All Corporations in North Carolina is $185,998,995.

The Corporation Commission has completed the assessment of the various corporations and the certificates of apportionment to the various counties and towns have been sent out.

The result is as follows:

	Valuation.
Railroads	$ 86,345,553.00
Telegraph, telephone, street railway, electric light and power companies	7,774,544.00
Bank stock	1,683,711.00
Industrial corporations	73,302,356.00
Total	$185,998,995.00

	Increase over 1908.
Railroads	$ 764,750.00
Telegraph, telephone, street railway, electric light and power companies	372,391.00
Bank stock	50,028.00
Industrial corporations	13,919,707.00
Total	$ 16,500,403.00

The increase in corporation excess (the difference between the capital stock and local assessment of real and personal property) is $5,893,342.

There are four large railway systems and 51 miscellaneous roads in the State.

Of the banks in North Carolina, there are 315 State and 70 national, a total of 385. There is not a single private bank in the State.

There are 66 electric light and power companies; 118 telephone companies and more than 2,000 corporations.

The number of individual shareholders in banks is 19,244. The name of each shareholder, the number of shares and name of bank in which held with the value of each share and total value have to be certified to the county officials in which the shareholder resides.

The counties having the largest apportionment of valuations are as follows:

Alamance	$1,493,316.00
Anson	1,282,672.00
Buncombe	2,766,325.00
Cabarrus	1,797,001.00
Catawba	1,444,435.00
Columbus	2,638,780.00
Craven	1,982,745.00
Cumbreland	2,609,818.00
Davidson	1,695,651.00
Durham	3,708,305.00
Gaston	2,221,115.00
Guilford	6,793,117.00
Halifax	2,747,952.00
Johnston	2,809,044.00
Mecklenburg	5,960,007.00
New Hanover	3,096,896.00
Pitt	2,386,874.00
Robeson	3,768,255.00
Wayne	2,242,612.00
Wake	3,307,304.00

OBJECT IN HOLDING CROPS.

Many papers that never did so before are now advising farmers to hold their crops, especially the grains; but these papers do not seem to fully comprehend the reason for doing so. It is almost invariably the case that the advice is to "hold for higher prices." That is too selfish a purpose to be either right or popular, says Up-to-Date Farming.

Farmers do not contend for "high" prices any more than do manufacturers or merchants. All they ask for is equitable prices, prices up to the general level of values, which will no more than place their rewards on a plane or level with the rewards received by other classes of labor, especially of creative labor.

We advise the holding and gradual marketing of crops to bring farming to a business basis. The practice that has so long prevailed, and that has been peristently taught by the farm, press and other educational agencies, of dumping the crops from the harvest fields upon satisfied markets, is in no way allied to business methods. It places farmers at an insurmountable disadvantage, and makes them the easy prey of everybody else. The supplies of a year are harvested in a very few weeks. To rush that year's supply on the market within those few weeks is not only idiotic from a business point of view, but it is suicidal from a practical standpoint. Nobody wants more of it than to supply his needs, and few will take more than enough to supply present wants. Hence somebody must hold the future supply until future demand requires it.

The present method of marketing could do nothing else but build up the system that has now grown into such proportions that it can easily rob the farmers by forcing prices down when everybody is so unwisely selling, and just as easily rob the consumers by making the prices to them excessively high, when they must buy to supply their personal and family needs.

The theory of farm holding is not to starve the market into high prices, but to supply it at prices that should be paid throughout the year. A price up today and down tomorrow is of itself evidence of an unnatural adjustment. and it is proof positive that somebody is being robbed—either the producer who must accept the low price or the consumer who must pay the high. When the much-talked-of law of supply and demand is allowed to control the price, and the year's supply is marketed to meet the year's demand, prices cannot be other than steady varied only by the fluctuations in production and irregularity in consumption, neither of which will often be preceptible. The producer may then figure upon his income with reasonable certainty, and with like certainty the consumer may estimate his probable expense bill.

We wish our friends would thus take a proper view of the situation, and advise the holding of crops, not especially to obtain high prices, but to secure steady prices, and get farming on a business basis, not for the benefit of farmers alone, but for that of consumers also. Steady prices so secured cannot be other than remunerative prices while at the same time they cannot be exhorbitant prices. It is the unsteady prices, the fluctuating prices, the unnatural prices, that rob at both ends of the market.

"WHAT'S THE NEWS?"

Nine Men Out of Ten Will Tell You, "Not a Bit."

The following story, borrowed from Harper's and given an Osark setting, illustrates an experience quite familiar to newsgatherers:

A country editor was out in the hills of Missouri looking for whatsoever he might devour and for some news for his journal, when he met one of his rural subscribers:

"Thar ain't a bit of news," said the farmer. "All down this way is too busy with their crops to think of anything else."

"Fine crops, eh?" asked the news man.

"Couldn't be better," asserted the farmer. "I oughter to ge in my field right now, and would be only I come to town to see the coroner."

"The coroner! Who is dead?"

"Yes; he's wanted to hold an inquest on a couple of fellers in our place."

"Accident?"

"I reckon not. Ran Morgan ain't doin' nothin' like that by accident. He got Jim Jeffords and his brother Tom with two shots. Got to have an inquest though."

"What led to the fight?"

"There wan't no fight. Ran never give the other fellows no chance to make it a fight. Jes' hid behind a tree and give it to 'em when they come along."

"Has Ran been arrested?"

"No; what's the use? Some of the Jeffords people burn Ran's house and shot him and his wife and set fire to the barn. No; Ran ain't been arrested. But I ain't got time to stand here talkin' to you. Got to get to my harvestin'. Thar ain't no news down our way, but if anything should happen I'll let you know. Get up, Hawk!"

SHOWS ITS ABSURDITY.

How The French Penalized Curtiss in The Trials at Rheims.

(New York Sun.)

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: Although I could hardly pass for a "sport," I take the keenest interest in aviation, and I was delighted to read of the triumph of Curtiss, the American, at Rheims.

I was also delighted to hear that those logical Frenchmen had added five minutes to the time it took him to cover the air course. To quote:

"Curtiss went out for the speed prize at 3:30 and covered eighteen miles in 24 minutes 15 1-5 seconds, but being under a penalty of ten per cent., in addition to 5 per cent. each for not contesting on Sunday and Tuesday in the same race, his official time became 27 minutes 51 2-5 seconds. Then the committee discovered that he was driving a different aeroplane from the one he used on his previous appearance in this race, so he was penalized another 5 per cent., making his time 29 minutes 11 2-5 seconds.'

If Curtiss had not shown up at all until the day of the race I suppose that they would (quite rightly) have made his official time 2 hours and 45 minutes or something like that.

While all this is logical, I would like to suggest that instead of figuring in time they should have figured in height. We will say that Curtiss actually flies 500 feet into the air, beating all competitors for a certain day, but that contestants are "penalized" a hundred feet deduction for every day in which they have failed to contest.

There have been contests on succeeding days and Curtiss has not been present; therefore the judges deduct 500 feet from his elevation, and we find that Curtiss, although he has actually flown higher than any of his competitors, has "officially" not left the ground.

These "handicaps" always strike a layman as logic carried to attenuation.

In a life-saving contest, B, B and C jump into the water and save a child each, while D saves twins, but owing to the fact that D has not been present at the previous contests he is officially shown not to have saved the twins, who are therefore dead, and ought to be buried. And the French are logical.

CHARLES BATTELL LOOMIS.

Leonia, N. J., Sept. 3.

A "GOLD MINE" IN FLEA HILL TOWNSHIP

(Fayetteville Index.)

Did you ever see land produce 40 to 100 bushels of corn to the acre without an ounce of fertilizer or any kind of manure? Mr. Henry W. Downing (otherwise known as "Corn" Downing), of Flea Hill township, Cumberland county, has over 300 acres that will yield that much this year, and a considerable portion of it has never had a plow in it. He has many acres that have never had a plow which will make easily 75 bushels to the acre, and a good portion of this will certainly yield very nearly or quite 100 bushels to the acre.

"They have a gold mine, and don't know it!" Such was Mr. Downing's remarkable declaration to me last Thursday afternoon as he and I were driving through a portion of "the swamps" on the east side of the Cape Fear river between Fayetteville and Wade. He was referring to the people who own the land in that section. When we concluded the drive I said, like the queen of Sheba when she had beheld Solomon in all his glory, "The half had not been told me." Verily that is the Kansas of Cumberland county.

The key to the door of immense possibilities, in that portion of the county, the key to the door to wealth, is drainage. I am convinced that digging the proper canals and ditches in that section is but the digging of the shaft to the gold. Thus will the "gold mine" be developed. Mr. Downing and a few others have recognized the key to the situation, and they are already gathering the gold, but they would not say so. Modesty with them forbids.

These lands are not lowlands in the ordinary sense of the term, although they are called "the swamps." A drainage fall of over ten feet to the mile is comparatively easy to get. The land is perhaps as much as fifteen to twenty-five feet above the water in the Cape Fear river, and the section referred to lies within two or three miles of the river. The soil is very dark, but not stiff. It is loose, and can be cultivated with remarkable ease. When drained it never gets too dry to plow and never sobs. One who is any judge of the qualities of land does not have to see a crop on it to be convinced that it is "rich as cream." You know that when you look at the soil. The growth on the uncleared land is blackgum, sweetgum, poplar, white oak, etc. The soil itself is a rich dark loam, loose and light when in cultivation.

Thursday afternoon I went with Mr. Downing to his beautiful home, two miles from the river and three miles from Fayetteville, went over his plantation there and then drove with him to his upper plantation, which is divided by the main line of the A. C. L., just beyond Beard station. We went by the "Plank" road and returned by the "Dirt" road and the "River" road. It is undoubtedly one of the finest pieces of country I have ever seen. And it is pretty thickly settled. Cumberland has some of her most valuable citizens over there. The McLaurins, the Geddies, the Williamses, the Boltons, etc., live there. We passed Eastover school. There is a school building that is a credit to the entire county.

At Mr. Downing's home place he has 684 acres of land, in one body. About 300 acres of it is in cultivation. And the major portion of it is under corn. There is the finest corn field I ever saw. Level, well drained, soil pulverized, not a stump to be found, it is a thing of beauty. The corn is planted about three feet in the drill, rows about four feet apart, and it has two ears to almost every "hill," and many of them three. It will easily make fifty bushels to the acre, and much of it will do even better. On but few acres of this was any fertilizer used. It is fully the equal of much fine corn I have seen on what was considered rich land well manured. Plenty of land in North Carolina that produces not more than 25 bushels of corn to the acre is considered fine land. Mr. Downing has here a test acre of corn on which he has 16 varieties growing. This is his method of selecting the best variety for his land. He has eleven test rows of cotton in one place, and each row planted in a variety different from all the others, and in another place he has another such test. A hundred bales of cotton are grown on his land every year, besides the thousands of bushels of corn.

Mr. Downing took a premium at the Fayetteville Fair one year for raising over 98 bushels of corn on one acre without a "dust" of fertilizer.

At Mr. Downing's upper place, at Beard, he has about 600 acres of land. Over 200 acres of it is cleared. There is some of the finest corn I ever saw. There are acres and acres of it in which a plow has never been used. This was cleared a little over two years ago. The woods growth was cut from it and allowed to lie awhile. Then this was burned off in the spring and the corn was planted by punching holes in the ground with a stick. The weeds and grass were kept down with a hoe. The logs lie there still, and it will make close to 100 bushels to the acre. The stalks are twelve to fifteen feet tall. The corn is planted three feet one way and four the other and two stalks to the hill. Every stalk has a heavy ear, most of them two and many of them three. It is simply wonderful. If I had not seen it I would hardly have believed this tale had some one else told me. But if any "doubting Thomases" read this story, all I have to say is let them go and see it for themselves. Mr. W. F. Bullock, who is on the place, or Mr. D. A. Bain, will show you through. Otherwise you would be in danger of being "lost in a corn field."

Mr. Downing cultivates his land by the tenant system, on "shares." He gets thousands of bushels of corn every year, and to his cribs come people from all of eastern Cumberland and western Sampson to buy. He sells at a good price and makes money. Think of getting ten thousand bushels of corn every year with no expense practically but the taxes on the land—after it is drained!

J. A. PARHAM.

For A' That and A' That.

(With apologies all round.)

The summer girl sits by the sea,
While others, envious, pass her by,
A well contented maid is she,
For by her side, a beau doth lie.
His tie is green, his hair is red,
A cross is there within hi eye;
A cross is there within his eye;
But e'en content, the maid doth sigh,
Aye, for a' that and a' that,
His wobbly legs and a' that,
Theres only one at that hotel—
A man's a man' for a' that.

It matters not that he's quite young,
And she, well she is over twenty;
She wouldn't notice him a mite,
Were she at home, with beaus a plenty;
But while she does this quiet spot,
Here with her auntie, Mrs. Pratt;
She's up against it quite for beaus,
And he's a man for a' that.
Despite his way and a' that.
His ties so gay and a' that.
He's in demand, you understand—
A man's a man for a' that.

Yes, often, men are necessary
Articles of furniture;
If your school friend comes to visit,
Then, escorts you must lure.
To motor, to drive, to boat, to walk,
We've all been where "you're at;"
You qualify not in the least
You want a man for a' that.
To woo each way and a' that,
To dance till day and a' that
She'd like him swell, but yet! you bet!
A man's a man for a' that.

Mrs. W. F. HARDING.

Grifton, N. C.

Took the Wrong Medicine.

(Burlington News.)

One night last week Mr. W. C. Isley happened with what might have been a fatal accident. Before retiring he took what he supposed were four calomel tablets, but what in reality were four strychnine tablets containing in all 4-10 of a grain of strychnine. He did not discover his mistake until he began to have severe pains, and a physician was summoned. By using a stomach pump and administering antidote, he was soon brought around all right and was out next day.

"I suppose, among other things, one won't be able to get a Democratic cook to work with a Republican housemaid."—Pittsburg Post