

# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

A LABORATORY STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY  
OF NORTH CAROLINA, DEPARTMENT  
OF RURAL ECONOMICS AND  
SOCIOLOGY

BY THE

## ROCKINGHAM COUNTY CLUB

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## Acknowledgments

The Rockingham County Club at the University of North Carolina gratefully acknowledges its indebtedness to the Reidsville Agricultural and Commercial Association for information, for many other courtesies, and for direct aid in placing this bulletin in the homes of Rockingham.

The Association stands for an important doctrine, namely: the inescapable interdependencies of trade and agriculture, the sympathetic federation of town and country interests, and the joint promotion of common purposes for mutual advantage.

The future prosperity of Rockingham and every other county depends upon county-wide organization and coöperation based on mutual fair dealing. Suspicion, contest, and collision hurt everything, every business, and everybody in a county. They are destructive to progress and prosperity everywhere.

Such are the common ideals of the Rockingham Board of Trade in Reidsville and the North Carolina Club at the University.

W. E. PRICE,  
*Vice-President and Business Manager of  
the Rockingham County Club.*

## Foreword

Rockingham County: Economic and Social is the work of the Rockingham County Club, in the headquarters of the North Carolina Club at the University, during the chance intervals of a busy college year.

It has been good for these young men to explore the problems of life and business, progress and prosperity in their home county, to hunt down the conditions and causes that cripple and disable her civilization, and to puzzle at the ways and means of lifting her to the very highest levels of noble achievement. It has been a self-educative preparation for competent citizenship and intelligent public service.

They have come to believe that it is a shame for any Rockingham County citizen to be ignorant about Rockingham County, no matter how much he may know about Greece and Rome.

I strongly entertain the same belief, and I therefore suggest that this bulletin be used as a text-book by the seniors in the high schools of the county and by the public school teachers in their professional studies; and that it be thumbed thoroughly by the preachers as well as by the farmers, merchants, bankers, and manufacturers of the county. All of them will find it full of food for reflection.

The study of Rockingham County by Rockingham boys at the University is well worth while, but the study of Rockingham County by Rockingham people in Rockingham is even better; and it is the next step forward in the developing democracy of Rockingham. The people who have a genuine, generous interest in the welfare and well-being of their home county could do no better thing than to bunch up in Rockingham for studies of this sort. Local Study Clubs: Essays at Citizenship is a new University bulletin that shows them how to do it. It can be had free of charge upon application to the Extension Bureau here.

It may be important for the big outside world to know about the resources and advantages of Rockingham; about the opportunities she offers to capitalists seeking profitable investments in producing enterprises, and the bargains she has for western farmers in her soil and seasons, good roads, and excellent schools. But it is far more important for Rockingham people to have an intelligent grip upon their own problems of life and business.

The future of the county depends upon native intelligence, native genius, and devoted home-bred leadership far more than it does upon imported capital however large, or imported men however enterprising and generous.

Democracy develops from within. It cannot be laid on from without, dropped down as manna from above, or imported as a blessing from

abroad. It must be the free outward evidencing of inner grace and grit. Every community rises, if it rise at all, by heroic tugging at its own boot-straps.

This is our American ideal of Democracy; and it must be the ideal of Rockingham and of every other county and community in the United States.

E. C. BRANSON,

*Department of Rural Economics and Sociology,  
University of North Carolina*

CHAPEL HILL, June 1, 1918.

# The Historical Background of Rockingham

T. D. STOKES, Ruffin, N. C.

## Location and Name and Population

Rockingham County was formed in 1785 from Guilford. It was named in honor of Charles Watson Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham, who was leader of the party in the British Parliament that advocated American independence. He was Prime Minister of England when the Stamp Act was repealed. He was also a distinguished friend of America in the English Parliament, and acted in concert with William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, in opposition to Lord North.

Wentworth, the county-seat, is 116 miles northwest of Raleigh, and is located very near the center of the county. It is built upon a high ridge that commands a beautiful view of the whole country for miles around. The court-house is a very handsome building, being one of the best in the State. It is an ornament to the town and an honor to the county.

Before the Revolutionary War there were no townships in the county, and the only division was into "captain districts." After the adoption of the Constitution of 1868 the county was divided into seven townships. Subsequent divisions give eleven townships in all at present. The township in which the court-house is situated was called Wentworth in honor of the county seat.

Rockingham is located in the northwestern part of the State. It is a north-central piedmont county and lies along the Virginia line. Rockingham is bounded on the north by Virginia, east by Caswell, south by Guilford, and west by Stokes.

The population of Rockingham County was 36,442 in 1910. Today it is around 45,000. The people are chiefly native-born, and about a fourth are negroes. The whites are principally of English and Irish descent. "who learned the lesson of liberty at the feet of the prophets of the American Revolution that brought down the tables of the commandments of freedom from the smoking Sinais of that struggle; whose statesmen and orators have added to the parliamentary and forensic glory of the Nation; whose sons, falling in the defense of liberty, lie mouldering upon every battlefield of our Nation's glory; whose sons are brave and true; and whose women, fair as the dames of Caucasus, are as virtuous as they are fair."

"All the physical features and attributes of Rockingham are in harmony with the rare felicity of its geographical situation. The climate

is mild and genial, the rigor of its winters and the heat of its summers being tempered by the sheltering barriers of forests and mountains, and by the soft breezes from the sea. Its soil is fertile and wondrously varied in the range of its capabilities. Its majestic hills and smiling valleys unroll to the eye like a panorama of beauty and grandeur, and laugh into the harvest of plenty beneath the mystic touch of nature and men. From the bosom of its hills come the sunny streams which irrigate the landscapes and form by their union the majestic rivers whose rushing waters keep music with roaring wheels and humming spindles."

The charms of Rockingham are thus preserved by Wheeler in his Sketches of North Carolina.

### County Builders

1. Hon. Thomas Settle, Senior (born 1791; died 1857), was born in this county. He was distinguished for his ability as a statesman and as a judge, and for his virtues, learning, and deportment, in every walk of life. He entered public life as a member of the House of Commons from Rockingham in 1816, and in 1817 succeeded Bartlett Yancey as Representative in the Fifteenth Congress. He was reelected to the Sixteenth Congress, but declined reelection. He was succeeded by Romulus M. Saunders. In 1826, Judge Settle had again returned to the State Legislature, and was reelected in 1827-'28. During the latter years he was Speaker of the House. His course as a member of the Legislature was marked by patriotism, consistency, and dignity. When the fiery crusades of party were directed by the energy of Robert Parker against the banking institutions of the State and the bill was carried, by one vote, to prosecute and crush the banks, Judge Settle as Speaker voted with the minority and prevented its passage.

In 1832 he was elected one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, which elevated position he held, for nearly a quarter of a century, with great satisfaction to the country and credit to himself. Increasing years caused his resignation. His health from the labor of a long life failed and, unusually lamented, he died in August, 1857.

We give a correct genealogy of this family because it is seldom that a family less numerous can show more distinguished members. The Settles furnish two senators and four representatives in Congress, three judges, a Governor, and a formidable aspirant for the Presidency of the United States, besides others of the name distinguished for their ability and integrity.

2. Thomas Settle, Junior, son of the above, whose sketch has just been presented, was born January 23, 1831. He was liberally educated at the State University and was graduated in 1850. Later he read law with Judge Pearson, and was licensed to practice in 1854. He was elected



member of the Legislature from 1854 to 1859. The latter year he was chosen Speaker of the House. He was one of the federal electors in 1856, and cast with others the vote of the State for Mr. Buchanan.

In 1860 he advocated the claims of Stephen A. Douglas for the Presidency. How far personal influences or preferences influenced his judgment (for they were closely connected by marriage) is not known, but doubtless the matchless genius and brilliant eloquence of this distinguished statesman greatly moved his supporters.

He was elected in 1865 a member of the State Convention, held in Raleigh, October 15, 1865, and in the same year he became a senator in the State Legislature, of which body he was chosen speaker. It is rare that the speakership of both bodies of our Legislature is conferred upon so youthful a public man. He took an active and prominent part in the Convention in devising means to reconstruct the broken-down walls of our political zone. In April, 1868, he was elected one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the State. This elevated position he held until 1871, when, on February 18th of that year, he was commissioned Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Peru. He was also president of the National Convention that nominated Grant. In 1872 he was nominated as a candidate for Congress in the Fifth Congressional District, opposing General James M. Leach. General Leach was elected by 268 majority.

He was reappointed one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the State, which position he held until he was nominated as the Republican candidate for the governorship in 1876, and was defeated by Governor Vance by more than 13,000 votes. He was later appointed judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, January 30, 1877.

3. Josiah and John Settle were brothers who came from England. John Settle located in Virginia. Josiah Settle located in Rockingham County. He was the father of David Settle, who married Rhoda Mullins. Their son Thomas was born 1789. Josiah Settle entered public life as a member of the State House of Commons in 1816 and 1817, and in 1819 he was elected Member of Congress. He declined reelection. Appeared again in public life in 1826 as a member of the House of Commons of North Carolina, and was reelected in 1827-'28. The last year he was Speaker of the House. In 1832 he was elected Judge of the Superior Court.

4. His son Thomas was born in 1831. He was elected to the Legislature in 1854-'55-'56, and during the last two years was Speaker of the House; was elected to the Senate and made President of the body in 1865-'66; was elected Solicitor of the Fourth Judicial Circuit in 1859, and held this position for nine years, with the exception of one year

when he was in the Confederate Army; was elected as a Superior Court Judge and then as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 1868.

5. David Settle Reid was a native of Rockingham, the son of Reuben Reid. He was born April 13, 1813. He was educated in the schools of the county and studied law. But he was more distinguished as a faithful and frank statesman than as a lawyer. Bold and intrepid, he often led where the timid hesitated, and when success had followed his efforts the sagacity and justice of his policies were generally conceded.

His first appearance in public life was in 1835, as a senator from Rockingham County. Such was the wisdom of his course that he was continuously reelected by the people until 1840. He was then elected to the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Congresses. In 1848 he was nominated for Governor by the Democratic State Convention, without his knowledge or consent. Defeat seemed to be a certain prospect for the Democrats. The Whigs had triumphed and were jubilant over victories won on a hundred fields. The opposition was well organized, and their leader, Charles Manly, was able, genial, and popular.

But Mr. Reid felt it his duty to attempt what his friends felt certain that he could accomplish. He made a gallant canvass, and so greatly reduced the Whig majority that their leaders felt and knew that such another victory would ruin them. At the next convention, although he had written that under no circumstances could he again be a candidate, he was nominated and elected Governor of the State. The great issue urged upon the people of the State by Mr. Reid in the party campaign of 1851 was free manhood suffrage. His election to the governorship ended Whig supremacy in the State. He served two years as Governor, and in 1854 he became Senator in the Congress of the United States, in which capacity he served until 1859.

Governor Reid was keenly alive to the great trouble then approaching. He had been long in Congress, and was most observant of the affairs of the Nation. He felt that the ship of state, built by our fathers and freighted with all our hopes and happiness, was drifting on a lee-shore and in peril. He would have had this bitter cup pass from him, and with this hope he was a delegate with the sage and wise of our country to the Peace Congress at Washington in the year 1861. But its efforts were futile. The storm had arisen, and no human power could avert its fury. Governor Reid viewed with calm philosophy and sad resignation the events of the Civil War period, and, though denied by age the privilege of going to the field, he contributed wisdom to the counsels of the Confederate Congress.

Few men have enjoyed more fully the respect and affection of the people of the State than Governor Reid for unaffected simplicity of

character, stern integrity, and unsullied purity of life. The most prominent trait in the character of Governor Reid was the consistency and uniformity of his political career. Cautious and circumspect in forming his opinions, when once formed, his firmness and ability in maintaining them were heroic. No one who knew him, or who observed his long, successful, and brilliant career, could ever doubt where to find him. He was the unwavering supporter of popular rights and democratic principles.

6. John Henry Dillard was one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court from Rockingham. He was born near Leaksville in 1825. He was a student at the University of North Carolina, and after completing his sophomore year went to William and Mary College, Virginia, where he was graduated with high distinction. He was admitted to practice law in North Carolina at the age of twenty-one; moved to Patrick County, Virginia, and was elected commonwealth attorney, which office he filled with high credit to himself for several years. He married Anne J., daughter of the late Colonel Martin of Henry County, Virginia. After a few years he returned to Rockingham County and devoted himself to the practice of his profession with great diligence and success. He was elected county attorney of Rockingham and served in that capacity for many years. He was always noted for the accuracy with which his bills of indictment were framed; so much that his "forms" passed into the hands of other prosecuting attorneys, and have been used by them with unvarying success. Having been appointed Clerk and Master in Equity, he became at an early age devoted to equity jurisprudence, in the practice of which he became pre-eminently distinguished.

He removed from Rockingham County to Greensboro in 1868 and associated himself in the practice of law with Col. Thomas Ruffin of Orange, then a resident of Greensboro, and Col. John A. Gilmer of Greensboro, the style of the firm being Dillard, Ruffin & Gilmer.

Mr. Dillard was a man of imposing personal appearance, great simplicity and geniality of manner, and remarkable courtesy, especially to the younger members of the bar, who always received from him the heartiest sympathy and encouragement, and who entertained for him a respect and admiration amounting often to the warmest affection. He was always decided in his political views and a faithful member of the Democratic party, though never a partisan or aspirant for political preferment.

Judge Dillard was an elder in the Presbyterian Church at Greensboro, and a gentleman of unimpeachable character and incorruptible integrity, devoted to the institutions of the State, and ardently attached to every enterprise that tended to the moral and material growth and prosperity of North Carolina.

7. Hamilton Henderson Chalmers, born in Rockingham County, October 15, 1835, was one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Mississippi. Judge Chalmers was graduated by the University of Mississippi in 1853, read law at Jackson in the law office of his relative, Hon. O. C. Glenn, then Attorney-General of the State and one of the most brilliant orators of the State. He resided for a short time in New Orleans, where he studied the civil law and was admitted to the bar. He was an ardent participant in the politics of the period, and though seeking no office became a prominent leader in the Democratic party of the State. Upon the accession of the Democratic party to the control of the State in 1875, he was preferred by the almost unanimous wish of the bar of his section, and was appointed to the Supreme Court bench of the State at the early age of forty.

#### Another Distinguished Son

8. Daniel M. Courts was born November 26, 1820, in Rockingham County. He was graduated in law by the University of North Carolina in 1823. In 1836 he was elected Treasurer of the State, and was re-elected in 1838 by a Legislature differing from him in politics. In 1839, he was appointed consul of the United States at Matanzas, which he accepted. He repaired to his post, but resigned in a short time. He removed to Rockingham and, in 1846, was elected from this county to the House of Commons, and again in 1848. In 1850 he was elected, without opposition, State Senator from Rockingham, and at the session of 1850-'51 he was elected Treasurer of the State.

#### Our Contribution to the State and the Nation

Rockingham County has furnished four Councilors of State: Thomas Henderson, Sterling Ruffin, Peter H. Dillard, and James Watt, who were elected by the Assemblies of 1795, 1816, 1834-'35, 1836-'37, and 1842-'43, in the order named.

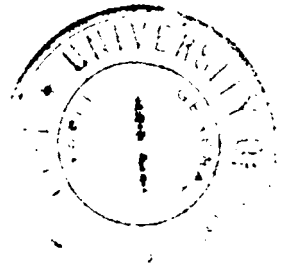
Rockingham has furnished only one Secretary of State—William Hill, who served for forty-eight years, from 1811 to 1859. William Hill held the office of Secretary of State longer than any person before or after him.

The county has also furnished four Superior Court judges: Thomas Settle, who served from 1832 to 1857, a period of fifteen years; Thomas Ruffin, from 1861 to 1862; W. H. Mebane, from 1894 to 1895; and Henry P. Lane, from 1910 to the present day. Judge Lane is the youngest man ever elected Superior Court judge in North Carolina.

Rockingham has produced two speakers of the State Senate, Alexander Martin and Thomas Settle, who were elected by the Assemblies of

1805 and 1865-'66; and two Speakers of the House, Thomas Settle and John R. Webster, who were elected by the Assemblies of 1828 and 1887.

Last and most important of all, she has given to the State four Governors, Alexander Martin, 1782-'85; D. S. Reid, who served for two terms, 1851-'54; A. M. Scales, who served for two terms, 1885-'89; and R. B. Glenn, who served for two terms, 1905-'09. David Settle Reid was the first Democratic Governor elected by the people of North Carolina.



# The Natural Resources of Rockingham

T. D. STOKES, Ruffin, N. C.

## Geography

Rockingham is a north-central piedmont county and lies along the Virginia line. It is on the extreme eastern border of the western piedmont region. The area of Rockingham county is 366,720 acres. Its topography on the whole is fairly level, although hills of medium size are found in the northwestern portion. The Meadows is a stretch of gently rolling country lying north of Dan River.

The county is drained by the Dan River, flowing northwest, and Haw River, flowing east through the southeastern portion of the county. On both streams and their tributaries we find a large number of cotton mills, most of which are located at and near Spray. Grist mills also occur, scattered through the county on the streams. Several such water-power grist mills have sawmill attachments for doing custom sawing. Big Troublesome Creek, a tributary of Haw River, furnishes the town of Reidsville with its water supply.

Our transportation facilities are fairly good. The main line of the Southern Railway runs through the eastern part of the county, passing through Reidsville; and a branch of the Southern comes up from Greensboro to Madison in the western portion. The Norfolk and Western and the Danville and Western railways traverse the northern district.

Wentworth, the county seat, is six miles from the nearest railway station. The main wagon roads are good. Our rank in this particular in 1914 was eighth. An improved road goes from Reidsville through Wentworth to Leaksville, and from Wentworth to Madison. It is macadam and sand-clay and is in good condition. The unimproved roads are for the most part rough and steep, and offer an instructive contrast to the improved highways of the county. The most important roads are worked by county convict labor.

## Soils and Seasons

The soils of the uplands are mostly of a light, gray, sandy loam, admirably adapted to the raising of fine yellow tobacco, and this fact has made Rockingham noted among the bright-leaf counties of the Southern tobacco belt. In some sections of the county the soil is red or a dark-gray loam, and produces heavy crops of wheat and other grains. In fact, all the soils of the county are suited to the production

of wheat, oats, rye, corn, and other grains. They can all be laid down in permanent pastures when desired.

But devotion to the single-crop system has sadly impeded the agricultural development of the county. Rockingham offers great opportunities for dairy farming and beef production. The typical white lands, usually put in tobacco, produce large yields of crimson clover, soy beans, and other legumes.

The soils of the county may be divided, further, into cecil clay, cecil loam, and cecil sandy loam, which give to Rockingham a wonderful variety of the most productive grain and grass soils in the entire piedmont section. These cecil soils may be depended upon to produce corn, wheat, oats, rye, millet, herdsgrass, Bermuda, cowpeas, soy beans, and other cover crops in lavish abundance, under skillful farming.

Both Irish and sweet potatoes can be grown with advantage, and this is especially true of sweet potatoes in sandy loams. The deep clay land is an inviting field for apple farming, and there are many old orchards in the county. No attempt has been made to grow apples on a commercial scale because our farmers are mainly absorbed in tobacco culture. The tobacco soils found in the Rockingham belt are pronounced to be among the finest in the world; but it is a hazardous crop, even to those who have been born and bred to the work, and is not recommended to the home-seeker.

The State Department of Agriculture in an official publication declares that the piedmont region of North Carolina is surpassed by no area in the South for corn, wheat, and clover production, and for livestock farming. Rockingham is in this area, and has the distinct advantage of quick railway transportation to Northern market centers. The future of Rockingham depends not on tobacco culture, but on livestock farming, on the production of meat and dairy products.

The climate of Rockingham County is temperate. It is free from excessive heat or cold. The spring and fall are ideal. The summer days are comparatively warm, but the nights are pleasant. The winters are short and mild. On the average, there are about three snowfalls a year. The rainfall is ample and well distributed throughout the year. Droughts seldom occur, and damage to crops is rarely suffered except on the poorer soils of the slate belt.

#### **A Land of Large Farm Owners**

Practically all the land is held in large farms by resident owners. The antebellum type of planters is still found in large numbers in Rockingham County. In the early days most of the immigrants who came to Rockingham were slave-holders, and this accounts for the large number of big farms at the present time. The early settlers owned a great many slaves, and hence they could cultivate large plantations.

But the inevitable multiplication of small farms by the tenancy system of tobacco culture is in operation in Rockingham.

Classified according to size, 938, or nearly one-third, of the farms are less than fifty acres in size. There are 843 farms between 50 and 100 acres in size; but there are 1,274 farms between 100 and 500 acres in size, and 29 having between 500 and 1,000 or more acres each. It is thus seen that the typical Rockingham farmer is the large farmer, and it is he on whom rests the hope of future agricultural development and country culture in the county. The soil, therefore, is the greatest natural asset of the county.

### Timber Resources

Approximately 51 per cent of Rockingham is wooded area. The original forest of hardwood and pine, amounting to about 14 per cent of the whole, occurs in small quantities here and there throughout the county. In this type of hardwoods, the principal ones—oak, hickory, black-gum, and maple—all occur in commercial quantities; the several other species are of minor importance. The original forest pine attains a size of 80 to 120 feet in height and two to four feet in diameter.

The total stand of timber in the county is estimated at nearly 90,000,000 feet board measure, or about 465 feet per acre, for all the forest land. The different species occur in about the following proportions: swamp growth pine 43 per cent, only one-seventh of which is short leaf, forest pine 7 per cent, and hickory 3 per cent.

Logging is carried on in small ways only. The largest mills do not exceed an average output of 700,000 feet per year, while the average annual cut of the nearly forty mills is a little over 200,000 feet. The total annual cut for the county is a little more than eight or nine million feet.

Our hardwood areas should be managed so as to produce a large proportion of oak and poplar. Both these species are vigorous trees in this region, and both make desirable and valuable lumber. The reproduction of oaks can be secured from sprouts where the trees are not of a very large size; but in order to secure poplar, trees of this species should be left on the cut-over area. Inferior trees of that species should be taken off the ground to secure a desirable second crop. If near a town, the market for cordwood usually makes this financially possible. The selection system, using a low diameter limit for the inferior species, will tend to raise the standard of the forest. Large openings in the crown cover must be prepared for the reproduction of pine.

Forty and sixty years ago destructive forest fires swept across the northwestern part of the county, and the signs can still be seen. Such intense fires have not occurred, however for a long time, though small surface fires are occasionally set by sparks from locomotives on the railroads.



**Dairy Farming**

The fertile farm lands around Reidsville and throughout Rockingham County are especially adapted to the growing of grains, grasses, and clovers, which makes this the most attractive region along the whole middle Atlantic slope for the dairy and beef farmer. In the dairy districts of Missouri and Iowa the high price of land and the adverse climate add largely to the fixed charges on dairy farms, requiring costly barn constructions, long periods of barn storage, and in frequent instances restricting or eliminating permanent rotating pastures.

In Rockingham County, land that can be made to produce as much grain and grass as any of the lands in the states named can be had for about one-fifth the price. Our winters are mild, thus it is not necessary for the dairy farmers to put so much money in costly buildings. The long grazing season allows them to raise cattle on rotating pastures. Our climate allows the dairy farmer in Rockingham to produce hogs, poultry, and eggs as profitable by-products; and also to raise his calves at a minimum expense.

In 1914, Virginia, North Carolina, and six other Southern States bought \$65,000,000 worth of butter and cheese from points north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers. Why not do more dairy farming and keep this money from going out of the State? Here is a great opportunity for enterprising farmers in Rockingham.

# Industries and Opportunities

L. H. HODGES, Leaksville, N. C.

Our people proudly call Rockingham the Gem of the Piedmont. And, indeed, in many particulars our county is one of the most advanced counties in the two Carolinas. She is especially famous for her tobacco factories, cotton mills, and various other industries.

We find that North Carolina has more cotton mills than any other State in the Union, and Rockingham is one of the leading cotton mill counties of the State. Few people have any idea, or at least any comprehensive idea, of the size and importance of our manufacturing establishments. In 1915 there were 73 industrial enterprises in Rockingham with a total capital of \$37,659,500 and 11,508 operatives. The yearly output was \$169,913,885. (Since that date the value of our mill and factory products has nearly doubled.) These 73 industries are classified into cotton and woolen mills, tobacco factories, buggy and wagon factories, job printeries, roofing, ice, and brick plants, and numerous others too varied for classification. These are the figures obtained from local authorities.

We have all the requirements necessary for successful industries—good climate, excellent water power, abundant labor, ready capital, raw materials, and ample transportation facilities.

## Climate

Our climate is typical of the middle Atlantic Piedmont region. It is free from extremes of both summer heat and winter cold. It is a comfortable area for industrial workers, and very few of them emigrate. We have an excellent hill-country drainage which helps to keep down diseases of various kinds. Well-organized welfare departments look after the health and comfort of the folks. Rockingham is a region of industry, health, and happiness.

## Raw Materials

We are blessed by being situated in the heart of the best tobacco-growing area of the Piedmont. The fertility and variety of our soils make Rockingham one of the most profitable farm counties in North Carolina. Our tobacco factories therefore have raw tobacco in abundance right at their doors, and naturally the tobacco industry is a leading one in the county. The output of our tobacco factories is based mainly on the tobacco that we raise here at home. We also have easy access to the great cotton fields of our own and the near-by States, and

thus the material for our next great industry is within close range of us. Practically all our raw materials are secured from near-by farm areas and markets.

#### **Railroad Advantages**

We are peculiarly well favored with good transportation facilities. Reidsville, near the center of the county, is on the main line of the Southern Railway, and the county thereby gets the benefit of a main trunk line for its imports and exports. We have the Southern Railway on the east of the county, the Norfolk and Western on the west, and the Danville and Western runs as far as Leaksville at the northern end of the county.

There is urgent need for a branch line from Leaksville-Spray, our industrial center, to either Reidsville or Stoneville, preferably Reidsville. Any products that are shipped out of Leaksville-Spray or Draper must be sent to Danville or Martinsville, Virginia, before they can get to either Northern or Southern markets. There is great necessity for a trunk line through these towns.

We have improved public highways throughout the county which facilitates our hauling and marketing. There are 850 miles of these roads. They are mainly of sand-clay construction, with some macadam. Our county is growing rapidly, but it needs to be better provided with good highways in order that we may more easily market our farm and factory products.

#### **Capital Invested**

It is hard to say at this time just what is the total capital invested in Rockingham industries. No figures have been given to the public since 1915, and since that date our industries have jumped far ahead of their figures of three years ago. In the last report of the State Labor Commissioner, 18 of our manufacturers declined to disclose the capital they employed. Omissions of this kind keep us from making a proper showing for our county. This report shows only 43 industrial enterprises with a combined capital of only \$3,088,000.

Most of the capital invested in the county is by foreign corporations, notably the American Tobacco Company, and the Thread Mills Company, a branch of the Marshall Field Company of Chicago.

In the 1916 report of the State Department of Labor we find \$2,666,000 invested in cotton and woolen mills. Since that date four new mills have gone up and are now in operation in Leaksville-Spray-Draper, which is a brisk industrial center in the northern part of the county. Our investment in other industries, not counting the Penn Branch of the American Tobacco Company and a few other industries of minor sort, is more than \$500,000. These totals look small, and they are, but we make a poor showing because the mill owners fail to make reports in full to the State departments.

Much more capital than is here listed has been invested in Rockingham, but the figures we present give at least a hint of our industrial wealth and enterprises. The output of our factories is tabulated at the end of this chapter.

### **Machinery, Management, and Labor**

We are proud to say that all our factories are equipped with the best modern machinery and with other aids to maximum production. The new tobacco factory that is going up at Reidsville will be completely outfitted and modern. This is also true of the sheeting mill at Draper, the bleachery at Spray, and the bedspread and knitting mills at Leaksville.

There is excellent coöperation between the managements and the operatives. Each strives to aid the other, and there is unbroken harmony between them. Many things promote this good feeling between employers and employees—good wages, excellent health conditions, and the character of workers and foremen. Agencies that go to keep things running in smooth order are Y. M. C. A's and the departments of welfare and health. The Y. M. C. A. has frequent social events to which employers and employees are both invited, and where they are privileged to discuss common problems and to know each other better. The departments of welfare and health encourage properly kept yards and houses, and offer prizes for the best conditioned house and yard. They also hold community center meetings and serve in many ways to encourage and promote democratic ideals and true fellowship.

There seems to be no danger of a war between capital and labor in our county.

### **Our Tobacco Industries**

The tobacco goods of our county go into practically every city in the United States. Made-in-Rockingham brands are famous the country over.

Some of the earliest tobacco plants in the United States were located in Rockingham, and today the annual tobacco output of Reidsville alone amounts to 9,500,000 pounds of plug and 1,750,000 pounds of smoking tobacco, having a value of \$7,500,000. Hundreds of people find employment here, and the salesmen on the road are having such success with these products that the factories are running \$2,000,000 behind in orders. Practically every large concern in America has its buyers in Reidsville markets. The American Tobacco Company has a branch in Reidsville—the F. R. Penn factory. From this one factory goes four million dollars worth of plug tobacco year by year. In 1914 the Penn factory paid out \$461,000 for revenue stamps and probably a full million dollars during the year ending on June 30, 1918.

R. P. Richardson operates in Reidsville a large granulated tobacco factory. This concern makes the "Old North State" brand of smoking tobacco which is famous throughout the country. All in all, Reidsville makes Rockingham County one of the leading centers of the United States in the production of tobacco goods.

Because of this vigorous industry in Rockingham, we have naturally attracted many other industries into this prosperous manufacturing area. Our capital stock has been augmented by the advent of factories making paper goods, fertilizers, tobacco sacks, while job printeries and other collateral industries have sprung up and flourished. We have a good reason for being proud of our tobacco industries and of the excellent opportunities they offer to so many breadwinners.

### **Our Textile Mills**

There are now in the county 16 mills, as follows: 10 cotton mills, 2 woolen mills, 1 knitting mill, 1 bleachery, 1 sheeting mill. These have a combined capital stock of nearly \$7,500,000, and employ several thousand men, women, and children. The mills are all progressive and prosperous, and offer most excellent advantages to any one who cares to have real work to do at good wages in pleasant communities.

Thirteen of these mills are at Leaksville-Spray-Draper, a triple town in the northern part of the county. The products of these mills are found in every State in the Union and in almost every nation of the world. These three neighbor-towns have made rapid progress under their excellent systems of town and mill management, and with the introduction of improved railway facilities and first-class bakeries, laundries, and ice plants and the like, this factory center bids fair to spring into such prominence as Durham, Winston-Salem, Gastonia, and Charlotte have won.

The Mayo Mill system at Mayodan is an extensive textile establishment. It has the largest capital stock of any mill in the county, and gives excellent employment to a thriving and busy population. The mill is the backbone of the town. Mayodan is a town with a backbone but with no backache.

The Edna Mills, at Reidsville, is not so large a mill as some of the others, but it is growing. It is an attractive factory and it plays fair with its employees. It ranks among the model cotton mills of the State. Reidsville, however, is most widely known for her tobacco factories, and she is proud of her success in this field of enterprise, but she can also speak with pride of her cotton mills and other thriving industries.

### **Other Establishments**

The main industries under this heading are lumber mills, bakeries, bottling works, construction companies, repair shops of various kinds,

flour and roller mills, printeries and the like. Their combined total capital stock in 1915 was over \$500,000. It was probably more, but this total is all the owners were willing to report to the State Department of Labor.

They are all busy, and most of them are prosperous, but they are not keeping pace with the development of our tobacco factories and our cotton mills. We need more industries of a diversified sort, and they ought to be modern and well equipped. There are excellent advantages along our railroads for the building of factories of every kind. The field is far from being fully occupied.

For instance, we are nearer to the forest areas of hardwood than High Point is, and our facilities for shipping hardwood products are just as good. It seems strange that wood-working industries—furniture factories and the like—have not been developed in this favored area.

This chapter has been based on the incomplete figures furnished by the mill and factory managements of the county to the State Labor Commissioner. They cover the year 1915. We know in a general way what industrial progress Rockingham has made during the last three years. Establishments, capital, employees, and output have been doubled in most instances and trebled in many others.

Rockingham is well in the lead in manufacture, but we are not satisfied to stop where we are. We must work as a unified, energetic people to put Rockingham over the top in industrial wealth and enterprise. It was effort of this sort that put our three Liberty Loans across; and it is just this kind of common purpose and effort that is needed to put Rockingham into the forefront of every good thing and to keep her there.

#### TEXTILE MILLS IN ROCKINGHAM

<i>Town.</i>	<i>Mill.</i>	<i>Operatives.</i>	<i>Capital.</i>	<i>Annual Output.</i>
Draper.....	Wearwell Sheetting Mills....	150	.....	.....
Draper.....	German-American Mill .....	230	\$600,000	\$975,000
Leaksville..	Wearwell Bedspread Mill...	300	.....	.....
Leaksville..	Athena Knitting Mills.....	200	.....	.....
Mayodan...	Mayo Mills .....	855	650,000	1,500,000
Reidsville..	Edna Cotton Mills.....	220	120,000	412,000
Spray.....	Leaksville Cotton Mills....	308	.....	499,000
Spray.....	Lily Mills .....	124	88,600	190,000
Spray.....	Morehead Cotton Mills.....	115	163,000	265,000
Spray.....	Nantucket Mills .....	411	260,300	519,000
Spray.....	Rhode Island Mill.....	275	208,000	600,000
Spray.....	Spray Cotton Mill.....	218	200,000	600,000
Spray.....	Leaksville Woolen Mills....	115	270,000	250,000
Spray.....	Spray Woolen Mills.....	150	105,000	250,000
Spray.....	American Warehouse Co....	250	.....	.....
Spray.....	Spray Bleachery .....	100	.....	.....

MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES

Town	Firms	Products	Capital
Leakeville	Hampton Buggy Co.	Buggies and Repair Work.	\$ 18,100.00
Leakeville	J. B. Taylor Tobacco Co.	Chewing Tobacco	20,000.00
Leakeville	Twin City Grocery Mill	Feedstuff	7,900.00
Madison	Penn Bros. Suspender Co.	Suspenders and Garters	2,000.00
Madison	A. J. Pratt	Dressed Lumber	2,000.00
Madison	Wall Sawmill	Lumber	300.00
Mayodan	Mayodan Bottling Co.	Soft Drinks	13,100.00
Reidsville	W. H. Boly	Harness	1,200.00
Reidsville	R. Ice and Coal Co.	Ice	25,000.00
Reidsville	Collins' Bakery	General Bakery Products	6,000.00
Reidsville	Concrete Const. Co.	Concrete Products	500.00
Reidsville	Robert Harris & Bro.	Tobaccos	2,100.00
Reidsville	Martin Roofing and Plumbing Co.	Gutters, Flues, etc.	300,000.00
Reidsville	Penn Branch Am. Tob. Co.	Plug, Chewing Tobacco	2,500.00
Reidsville	Piedmont Cigar Co.	Cigars	20,000.00
Reidsville	Rogers & Cook	Building Material	
Reidsville	R. P. Richardson, Jr. & Co.	Smoking Tobaccos	
Reidsville	Reidsville Mfg. Co.	Smoking Tobacco Bags	
Reidsville	Reidsville Paper Box Co.	Paper Boxes	
Reidsville	Smith & Bro.	Wagon Shop Repairs	
Reidsville	Smith & Fagg	General Repair	
Ruffin	Ruffin Roller Mills	Flour and Meal	
Spray	Eagle Printing Co.	Job Printing	
Stoneville	J. H. Adkins	Rough Lumber	1,000.00
Stoneville	J. M. Leach	Custom Sawing	
Stoneville	J. A. Alley	Accessories, Vehicles	
Stoneville	Mitchell & Son	Flour and Meal	
			<hr/>
			\$420,700.00

# Facts About Wealth and Taxation

ROBERT B. GWYNN, Leaksville, N. C.

## Industries

The reader is reminded that this and other chapters are based on tables that close each discussion.

Rockingham is both an agricultural and an industrial county. While agriculture is and always has been the occupation of a majority of the inhabitants, industries, and especially the textile mill industries, have had a tremendous growth during the last ten years. Leaksville-Spray, including Draper, has more than doubled its investment in cotton and woolen industries since 1910. Since the beginning of the World War five new cotton mills have been erected by Marshall Field & Co. Leaksville-Spray is a community of 9,000 people, eight-ninths of whom have moved into this growing mill center since 1900.

The town of Reidsville, with a population of some eight thousand people, is chiefly engaged in tobacco manufacturing, as is also the smaller town of Stoneville. In Mayodan, a smaller town of the county, there is also a textile mill. The total investment in textile mills in 1915 was about \$2,666,000. Or at least, this was the total reported to the State Labor Commissioner.

Other industries in the county are lumber and timber mills, soft drink factories, flour and meal mills, wagon and buggy factories, brick factories, and several others of minor importance. Rockingham is coming more and more to the front as a growing industrial county; but the reluctance of our industrial concerns to report the details of their business makes it impossible for me to establish our rank and progress.

## Agriculture

Rockingham is still largely an agricultural county. In 1910 she ranked 31st in the State in farm wealth with a total of \$6,050,152, a tremendous increase of 68.7 per cent over the values of 1900. Since the census year the total farm wealth has increased at about the same ratio until at the present time it is nearly double what it was in 1910. Improved methods of agriculture have been largely responsible for this increase. The chief agricultural product is tobacco. In 1910 Rockingham produced 8,280,000 pounds of tobacco. Only Pitt County stood ahead of us. The wealth produced by tobacco is now far greater than ever, because our farmers are obtaining good prices of late—prices nearly three times better than those of 1910. Here is the explanation of our great increase in the value of farm properties since the census year.



Our farmers are also coming more and more to realize the need of producing sufficient meat, wheat, corn, potatoes, hay, and forage for their own needs at least, and are consequently endeavoring to produce these necessary supplies in addition to their tobacco, thus bringing about a better-balanced farm system. In agriculture as well as in manufacture Rockingham is fast becoming one of the most progressive and up-to-date counties in the State.

### General Facts

This county stood 15th in the State in taxable property in 1913, with a total of \$12,335,873. This was an increase of 80 per cent over the total of 1903; the State increase was only 81 per cent. In taxable wealth and in professional and income taxes paid, Rockingham ranks among the 15 richest counties of the State. These are facts about wealth and taxation for us to be proud of. Since 1910 our farm properties have more than doubled in value; that is to say, our total farm wealth is now around twelve million dollars. Our industrial capital alone is around seven million dollars. These estimates fairly indicate tremendous gains since the new century began. One thing that has helped to produce this wonderful increase in wealth is the excellent road and highway conditions throughout the county. In 1914 we ranked 8th among the counties of the State in improved roads and highways. Wealth, good roads, and good schools are the basis of social progress and development. Rockingham has its faults, and some of them rather serious ones. It has its problems to be solved, but we have the resources, the intelligence, and the will to solve them.

A county with \$4 in motor cars for every single dollar in school property has the wealth, to say the least.

### HOW ROCKINGHAM RANKS IN WEALTH

<i>Rank.</i> Rank indicates how many counties made a better showing.	
31st in total farm wealth, 1910 census.....	\$6,050,152
15th in total taxable wealth, 1913.....	\$12,335,873
Ten-year increase, 80%; State increase, 81%. In 1916 the total had moved up to \$13,371,387—a clear million-dollar increase.	
91st in farm wealth increase, 1900 to 1910, per cent.....	68.7
State increase, 130%.	
59th in increase in value of domestic animals, 1900 to 1910, per cent .....	97.0
State increase, 109%; Robeson, 200%.	
87th in per capita country wealth.....	\$191
Alleghany, \$560; State, \$322; U. S., \$994; Iowa, \$3,386.	
Per capita taxable wealth all property in 1910 was \$207. White per capita taxable wealth in 1910 was \$279; negro per capita taxable wealth in 1910 was \$28.80.	

74th in negro farm owners, per cent of all negro farmers....	24
State average, 33%. Negro farm owners in Rockingham, 180. White farm owners in Rockingham are 51% of all white farmers; in North Carolina, 68%.	
58th in tax rate (State and county) on the \$100 in 1913.....	\$98
42 counties had a higher rate, Yancey County highest, \$1.68%. In 1916 our rate was the same, but 49 counties had a higher rate, Clay highest, \$2.02%.	
19th in tax value of farm land; compared with census value, 1910, per cent .....	34
State average, 38%. Average tax value of our land in 1916 was \$8.41 an acre; around a fifth of current market values.	
11th in State income taxes paid, 1913.....	\$1,077.85
33 counties paid no income taxes in 1913, 32 paid none in 1914, and 26 none in 1916. Income taxes in Rockingham in 1916, \$1,733; rank, 10th.	
17th in professional taxes paid, 1913.....	\$240
48 lawyers, dentists, doctors, photographers, architects, etc., in Rockingham. Only 3 in Rowan; none at all in Harnett, Duplin, Caswell, and Avery on the tax list. In 1916 the total was \$315; rank, 15th.	
56th in white farm mortgages, per cent.....	19
State average for whites, 17%.	
35th in negro farm mortgages, per cent.....	25
State average for negroes, 26%. For both races 18.5% in North Carolina.	
8th in improved roads in 1914, per cent.....	52
313 miles of improved roads in Rockingham.	
36th in per capita bank capital, 1915.....	\$6.34
State average, \$8.51. New Hanover highest, \$40.06; Stokes, \$2.51; Caswell last with 33 cents.	
34th in per capita bank loans and discounts, 1915.....	\$32.50
State average, \$45.28. New Hanover highest, \$296; Stokes, \$14; Caswell next to last with \$2.90.	
43rd in per capita investment in public school property, 1915-'16 .....	\$4.16
State average, \$4.78. New Hanover highest, \$11.89; Stokes, \$2.19; Caswell, \$1.86; and Graham lowest, \$1.09.	
27th in per capita investment in automobiles.....	\$15.56
State average, \$12.43. Greene highest, \$29.91; Caswell, \$10.90; Stokes, \$9.59; and Yancey lowest with 24 cents. Rockingham has nearly four times as much wealth in motor cars as in schools. Our cars in 1917 numbered 1,000—a fourfold increase in 3 years.	

# Facts About the Folks

E. F. DUNCAN, Mayodan, N. C.

Our facts about the folks in Rockingham County are based on the table at the end of the chapter. These come mainly from the last Federal Census. They are true for the dates given, not for the year 1917. Only once every ten years does any county in the United States have a chance to take stock of itself. However, the facts we give are suggestive. They show us certain drifts and tendencies in our county, and enable us to compare Rockingham with other counties of the State.

## Density of Population

In 1910 the total population of the county was 36,442. Although Rockingham ranks twenty-ninth in size, only nine counties in the State have a larger population. Our rural population was 54.6 people per square mile. Only ten counties in the State had more. This means, of course, small farmers and a closely settled farm population, which is a distinct social advantage. Rural people like to have neighbors fairly near by. Often they become dissatisfied and move into town simply to mingle with folks. But our density of rural population also means that Rockingham is located in the great industrial area of North Carolina. Industries depend on an abundant labor supply in the surrounding territory, and this we have in Rockingham, just as in Forsyth, Durham, and Gaston.

This desire for association, together with other factors, has caused our city and town population to increase at the expense of the rural communities of Rockingham and the adjoining counties, but so far it has not alarmingly decreased our rural population. In spite of the low prices of farm products during the first ten years of the new century and the call of the cities for industrial workers, our rural population increased 5.7 per cent, and it was mainly a white increase. This means that our farmers, the producers of bread and meat for our town populations, are fairly well holding their own in numbers if not in prosperity. Since 1910 the proportion of our rural population has fallen from four-fifths to two-thirds of our total population, while our town dwellers have increased from 7,200 to 20,000 or more.

## Law and Order

Usually when the countryman moves to town he takes with him his love for elbow-room, his independent, democratic spirit. He has had no one to dictate to him about what time he shall go to work, when he may stop, how much he may talk and laugh, how loud he may yell,

where his pig-pen shall or shall not be, on which side of the street he may tie his horse, and how long he may leave him. In short, he has been his own boss. When he gets to town, town customs and ordinances are all new to him. It takes time for him to become socially adjusted, and it is during this time that most of our fights and homicides occur. Misunderstandings often become shotgun affairs. Here, in brief, is an explanation of our homicide rates in Rockingham and the rest of the State. They are too high, but they are due to the rapid growth of our small towns and cities.

### **Rockingham County Patriotism**

Perhaps no county in the State has worked with a greater spirit of patriotism than Rockingham for our country and our allies in the present crisis. She has been one of the foremost counties of the State to sacrifice her sons and to give her dollars for the cause of liberty and humanity. Company E was among the first to reach war strength by the addition of volunteers. Rockingham has over-subscribed her share of the three Liberty Loan issues, and she contributed freely to the Red Cross and the Army Y. M. C. A. funds. These war loans and gifts were not made by wealthy men alone, but by preachers, teachers, students, school children, factory employees, farmers, and business men alike. Besides all this, last November found many housewives, white and colored, pledging themselves to aid Mr. Hoover in the conservation of food supplies. Others today are helping Uncle Sam by the purchase of Thrift Stamps. At the meeting of the Committee on War Savings Stamps in Raleigh the other day, Rockingham was represented by a larger delegation than any other county in the State.

### **Marriage, Birth, and Death Rates**

The development of a community is closely related to the marriage, birth, and death rates.

In the number of marriages per thousand of population in 1914, we ranked twenty-second, which is to say, only twenty-one counties made a better showing. We ought to have the same high rank in birth rates, but in this particular 61 counties made a better showing in 1915. Those who believe that there is a world-wide danger of race suicide should study these facts closely. We are fairly near the top in marriage rate but too near the bottom in birth rate. The reasons therefor challenge the thought of all who are interested in our future.

In our death rate, 12.1 per thousand inhabitants in 1915, we are a little below the average of the State and well below that of the United States. Forty-one counties made a better showing, but our excess of births over deaths was 20 per thousand inhabitants, and, comparatively, this is an excellent showing.

### **Factory Work and Motherhood**

Whether our low birth rate is in any way related to the fact that many of our girls and mothers work in the factories is a question which our industrial captains, as well as our health departments, can well afford to ponder over. It is an economic as well as a social problem. It concerns wealth as well as welfare. And the problem here, as well as elsewhere, is heightened by the absence of so many of our men in the service of their country. If our farms are to be improved, our waste lands made productive, and our industries expanded, our birth rate must far exceed our death rate.

It is just as important to lower the death rate as it is to increase the birth rate. The difference between the two is what counts.

The economic and social conditions in which most of our children live present the most vital problem that any community has to consider. In many of our well-to-do homes we usually find only one or two children, or perhaps none at all. On the other hand, in most back alleys and in many factory settlements we find as many as six, eight, ten, or even more children in the home.

This does not mean that the women in our factories tend to have more children than women who work outside. Many of these large families have just moved in from country communities. It does show, however, that the birth rate is related to farm conditions, factory conditions, home conditions, and a score of other causes that need to be studied by our thoughtful people.

A main question for our leaders to ask is, How are we to raise the level of our community? If ignorance and poverty tend to multiply themselves faster than education and wealth, what is our problem? Do not these people who furnish the workers for our industries and the fighters for our armies deserve the very best that we can give? These are some of the things that we need to think about.

And our leaders are alive to these problems. The factories have wonderfully improved the conditions under which their employees labor, as well as the homes in which they live. Some of our most recent tenant houses rival many of our most comfortable and coveted bungalows. Besides all this, some of our factories employ one or more trained nurses to look after the health conditions of their employees and to care for them while sick.

### **Our Health Work**

In this connection we ought to mention the health work done in Rockingham. We have come to realize fully that it is important for a community to do everything in its power to keep the people well, and so several competent physicians and nurses are employed to look after the concerns of community sanitation and health. They are public health workers paid by school and factory authorities.

All children in the schools, both white and colored, are examined, and as far as possible cared for by the school nurses. Besides being good for the children, it is an advantage to keep them able to be regular in their attendance at school.

As a result of the coöperation of various agencies in this work, much sickness has been prevented, many epidemics avoided, smallpox almost eradicated, typhoid moved toward zero, and the general death rate appreciably lowered.

However, Rockingham County employs no whole-time public health officer, as do thirteen other counties of the State. Here is a step forward that our county commissioners need to take.

### **Social Welfare Activities**

Otherwise, Rockingham is striving to do as much for the social welfare of its people as any other county in the State. Our good women have organized various clubs and societies which contribute to the good fellowship of our people and the beauty of our towns.

The Junior Order of American Mechanics has contributed largely to the social welfare of the county. The taxpayers have provided a county home for those that need it.

Various charitable organizations look after the needs of the deserving poor, while a good school is in reach of every child. At Leaksville-Spray we have an up-to-date Y. W. C. A. building for the girls and women of the community. It has a hospitable open door for the girls and women of other communities who go to live in this brisk mill center. Reidsville needs such a building, and both towns need Y. M. C. A. buildings. The Graded School in Spray has provided a gymnasium for the girls.

Besides the social agencies named, we have well-equipped playgrounds at some of the schools and in several of the factory settlements, as well as public playgrounds and parks in the towns. For work of this kind, the various mill authorities deserve special mention. Some of them provide reading-rooms and games for the amusement and instruction of their people. In some of these mill communities, baseball is one of the most popular games, and it is generously promoted by the mill owners. The people take a lively interest in baseball and look forward to the season each year with great anticipation.

In Spray, open-air motion pictures—some for amusement, others for instruction in public health and sanitation—have added to the equipment for recreation. These with the band furnish recreation for the entire community. The Graded School building in Spray is a center for all the social agencies of the town. Here are held community meetings of every sort. The amusements are free or inexpensive, and the instruction concerns the common affairs of life—the school, the Red

Cross, War Savings, the Liberty Loans, health, morals, and what not. We have heard a vast deal about making the school a center of community life. The school in Spray is exactly such a center.

### **An Educated People**

Whether or not we can consider ourselves a well-educated community depends upon what showing we make when compared with other counties and communities.

In the matter of white illiterates, ten years old and over, 52 counties in North Carolina make a better showing than Rockingham, and 51 counties have smaller ratios of native white illiterate voters. In 1910 there were 2,302 whites in the county ten years old and over who could not read and write, which was a little more than twelve people in every hundred. Included in this number were 848 white voters. They were over one-seventh of our total white voting population. For our State, this is not such a bad record, but we should remember that North Carolina is almost at the bottom of the illiteracy list. Only South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Arizona rank lower in total illiteracy, but these States have excessive negro, Indian, or Mexican populations.

With these facts in mind, every voter in the county ought to welcome the opportunity to cast his ballot in the coming election for the amendment to the Constitution, which provides a six months school term for our rural communities.

### **Church Membership**

Only by comparison can we realize our status as a religious people. The table that follows shows that only 38 of every 100 of our people ten years of age and over are members of any church of any name or faith. In this particular, 85 counties make a better showing. We are slightly more than one-third efficient as a church community. We can never boast of our religious status as long as 15,657 of our people in 1906 were not on the rolls of any church whatsoever. It is not encouraging to realize that we were 6 per cent below the State average of church membership and 1.1 per cent below the average for the United States, but such are the facts as they appear in the last published census of religious bodies in the United States.

However, we have many faithful church and Sunday School leaders, and almost everywhere we see old church buildings improved or replaced by magnificent ones. It indicates the willingness of a small group of people to give freely of their wealth for Christian welfare. Our church membership ratio is too low; our active, devoted church and Sunday School workers are too few, and a vast work lies ahead of our church people in Rockingham.

### **A Working People**

We need no figures to prove that we are a working people. The great hordes of operatives pouring into our industrial plants in the mornings and out again at nightfall are proof enough.

It may be consoling to some and a warning to others to know that we have a large number of girls and women in our factories. There were over 1,100 of such workers in our mills and factories in 1915. Many of our business people and industrial captains will say we stand high in this matter, while our doctors and public health workers, perhaps, will call it low. No matter what opinion we may have, we must take off our hats to the women workers of Rockingham for the part they are playing in helping to support their homes and to build up our industries. And we shout, "Long live the factory managers who are improving living and sanitary conditions in the factories and factory communities, who are providing playgrounds for the young, night schools for the mentally hungry, nurses for the sick, and who, without being requested to do so, are increasing the wages of their workers time and again to meet the increased cost of living."

### **A Satisfied People**

With conditions of this sort, no wonder our people are contented. As long as we continue to give attention to the important concerns of our social life, we are not likely to be bothered with the labor troubles of the North and West. As long as the wages of our industrial workers are fair and their surroundings are healthful, wholesome, and satisfying, our factory centers will be filled with contented breadwinners and the dividends of capital will be secure. However, it is well to remember that a landless, homeless people in our farm regions or in our factory centers is everywhere a fertile soil in which to sow seeds of restless discontent. No wage-earner can ever have wages enough to keep him from wandering about from place to place; but if he owns his own home place, a pig, some chickens, and a garden, he is satisfied to stay on in the same place from year to year, even if wages are higher somewhere else. With this said, let us consider the significance of the fact that the people who live in somebody else's houses and cultivate other people's land in Rockingham are 602 in every thousand of population, and that in this particular 78 counties make a better showing. We have too few home and farm-owners for social stability, sanity, and safety.

### **A Homogeneous People**

Our whites are almost wholly an Anglo-Saxon people. Our foreign-born in 1910 numbered only 50 all told, in a population of nearly 37,000. Only 4 were Germans, 7 were Russians, while Italy, Sweden, Holland, and France were represented by 1 each. Our Indians, Chinese, and



Japanese were 3. The rest were born in Canada and the British Isles. We know nothing of the foreign-born anarchy and pro-Germanism that afflicts the North and West.

**HOW ROCKINGHAM BANKS**

Rank in important particulars. The rank at the left margin indicates the number of counties that make a better showing.

<i>Rank.</i>	
28th in land area, 1910, acres.....	370,560
10th in total population, 1910 census.....	36,442
11th in density of rural population, people per square mile....	54.6
68th in rural population increase from 1900-1910.....	5.7
13th in total white population in 1910.....	25,965
23rd in total negro population, 1910.....	10,474
11th in ten-year decrease of negro population, per cent decrease, 1900-'10 .....	6.3
53rd in native white illiterates, ten years old and over, per cent Total white illiterates, 2,302. State average, 12.3%; United States average, 4.2%.	12.3
52nd in native white illiterate voters, per cent..... Number, 848. State average, 14%; United States aver- age, 4.2%.	14.4
22nd in marriage rate per 1,000 population, 15 years old and over, 1914 .....	12.2
State average, 10.1%; Pasquotank, 23.4%. Total mari- riages in 1914 pere 442.	
62nd in birth rate per 1,000 of population, 1915.....	32.5
Average for the United States, 26.6 in 1913; average for North Carolina, 33.4 in 1915.	
42nd in death rate per 1,000 of population, 1915.....	12.1
Average for the United States was 15 in 1913; average for North Carolina, 13.2 in 1915.	
86th in church membership, per cent.....	38.0
15,657 people ten years old and over outside the church. Average for North Carolina, 44%.	
42nd in homicides, average annual rate per million inhabitants, 1910-'14 .....	75
Average for the United States, 72. Average for North Carolina, 95.	
79th in tenancy, town and country, per cent.....	60.2
75th in farm tenancy, per cent.....	54.5

**Foreign-Born Population in 1910**

Only 50, all told.

Canada .....	8	Japan .....	1
England .....	18	China .....	1
France .....	1	Scotland .....	5
Germany .....	4	Russia .....	7
Holland .....	1	Italy .....	1
Wales .....	1	Indian .....	1
Sweden .....	1		

# Farm Conditions and Practices

C. H. SMITH and N. A. WOMACK, Reidsville, N. C.

At the close of this chapter will be found a table worked out of the 1910 census and other authoritative sources of information. This table shows (1) certain fundamental facts about Rockingham set over against similar facts about other counties and the State at large, and (2) how the county stands in each particular when compared with other counties of the State.

This table affords the basis for an interpretative chapter of great length, but there is room for only a brief, simple discussion of it in this bulletin. The reader is asked to study carefully this and similar tables closing other chapters in this bulletin.

## Rockingham Mainly Agricultural

We may be surprised to know how greatly Rockingham still remains on the agricultural side of the balance sheet. The 1910 census shows that there were 31,614 people outside our six towns. The rural population per square mile was 54.6 per cent. The total population of the county in 1910 was 36,442, but it can justly be estimated now at 50,000; nevertheless nearly exactly two-thirds or 66 per cent of our population still dwell in our country regions. Rockingham is fortunate, however, in having some large towns that are good markets for home-raised products.

The cities can increase the wealth of the county twofold by rewarding the farmers with fair prices and profits for home-raised food products. At present the farmers swarm into town on Saturdays and glut the markets with country produce. In consequence, they get poor prices for their products. Oftentimes they must give their products away or almost so rather than take them back home. By Wednesday of every week the towns suffer a sort of food famine.

What I am trying to say is, that our farmers are confirmed in the habit of raising tobacco and neglecting bread and meat products because they can turn tobacco into instant, ready cash. Not so with their farm produce. The habit of producing food supplies in abundance could be established in them if only the towns would provide free public market houses, camping yards, and hitching stalls. Our larger towns need market arrangements, facilities, and conveniences. Reidsville offers unbounded advantages to the man who will put in a cold storage plant and handle county produce, says the Chamber of Commerce.

If such an enterprise is not developed as a municipal undertaking, private capital will seize upon the opportunity here as in so many other lively cities. The chance once lost is never recovered by a municipality.

There are 370,560 acres of land in Rockingham, and this ample area affords us a chance to become one of the richest food-producing counties in the South. But 245,000 acres, or nearly two-thirds of the entire county, are idle, wilderness acres, unused at present for farm purposes. At \$20 an acre this land represents nearly \$5,000,000 of dead capital—or nearly so, because the wood-lot products yield a very small dividend upon the investment. A full half of this area ought to be turned into live-stock farm uses.

As we are 66 per cent a farming people, let us see what the total farm wealth of Rockingham is. The 1910 crop census gives it at \$6,050,152. The crop values produced in that year amounted to \$1,834,525, and our animal products were only \$436,494; which is to say, four-fifths of our farm wealth is produced by crops and only one-fifth by live-stock and animal products.

We are crop farmers mainly, and crop farmers never accumulate wealth as live-stock farmers do. In 1910 we were 81 per cent below the level of even a lightly stocked farm area. Eighty-two counties made a better showing in this particular, and fifteen a better showing in meat production. We need more farm animals of every sort, and in particular more meat and dairy farming. We need more and better swine and an immense increase in pork production. Our unused farm areas are sufficient, and our soils and seasons are the very best for it in the Atlantic Piedmont region. In no other way can we ever keep our tobacco money at home to enrich our farmers, our merchants and bankers. The bulk of our crop wealth now goes to Western farmers for food, so let us change that and keep our money at home. How? We can raise enough wheat, corn, and hay to feed our families and stock and use our surplus land for money crops. We can open up swamp lands and drain them, making admirable grazing lands for cattle. The field that is too rocky to grow corn can be cleared and sown in grass. If manured properly it will bring good returns in grass and feed for our cattle.

A great lesson we must learn is to build up our waste lands and raise more food and feed. The prices of food ought now to induce our farmers to produce food crops in abundance; not less tobacco, but more bread and meat. Tobacco is high at present, but nobody knows any better than Rockingham farmers that tobacco prices are as uncertain as the turn of a gambler's wheel. Our gullied areas ought to be turned into orchards. We have too few young orchards in one of the best orchard areas on the Atlantic coast.

The world needs all the food America can produce, both now and for the next ten years. Nothing is any clearer than that. There is almost a world famine in meat animals, and it will take a decade to restore the balance when war is over. Every available field must be cleared, enriched, and used. Any far-sighted farmer might see that after this war

the eyes of the people of stricken Europe will turn to America as never before. If we have fertile, well-developed farm lands we can sell them readily at a good price. And if we don't care to sell them, then we can rent them at much higher prices.

### **Latter Day Developments**

Rockingham has always had some farmers as good as the farmers of any county or country on the globe; farmers who have always raised tobacco on a bread-and-meat basis; live-at-home farmers with cribs, barns, and smokehouses filled to bursting year by year with home-raised food and feed supplies. And they have always been prosperous and influential. But they have always been too few in number. We must have more such farmers if agriculture in Rockingham is to keep pace with our development in manufacture.

In general, however, our common practices are improving. We clear a field and put it in tobacco the first year, sow it with wheat in the fall, and follow wheat with peas and clover. We terrace our lands, fill up our gullies, and build up our soils with sensible rotations. We are gradually improving our farm animals in quality as well as in numbers. We are headed the right way, but we are not moving fast enough. In 1914 the bottom dropped out of tobacco prices, and as a result we produced more tobacco than ever in 1915, but also we more than doubled our production of corn, wheat, and oats, hay and forage, pork and poultry. And we can keep up this pace year by year unless we are incurably afflicted with tobacco mania. And as farm labor steadily decreases, we must have more labor-saving, profit-producing farm machinery in our grain and hay fields, or we shall fall hopelessly behind. The Iowa farmer cultivates six acres with machine power for every acre we cultivate with human power, using simple farm tools. Neither on the farm nor anywhere else can hand power compete successfully with machine power.

### **The Lessons of Half a Century**

During the fifty years between 1860 and 1910 the population of Rockingham has more than doubled, the increase being from 16,746 to 36,442. Our work animals increased from 2,533 to 4,611. Our tobacco crop in 1860 was only 3,158,333 pounds, while in 1910 it was 8,279,194 pounds, or nearly three times as large. At the end of the last census period Rockingham ranked second in North Carolina in the production of this crop.

In other words, during the last fifty years we have been mainly occupied in producing cash crops and getting ready money into circulation. This has been done under the pressure of hard necessity. The Civil War left us with land and labor in abundance, but with no oper-

ating capital. We needed money, and tobacco produces greater gross values per acre than any other standard farm crop on earth. A county without cash crops and ready money is hopelessly crippled in these days of modern commerce.

Our tobacco has saved us from being a static or stagnant farm area like some of the tidewater counties. But also it explains why we are comparatively a poor farm population. Our per capita country wealth in farm properties in 1910 was only \$191, and 86 counties made a better showing. It is a small figure to set against \$560 in Alleghany, \$994 in the United States, and \$3,386 in Iowa. For long years we have tried to get rich buying farm supplies with tobacco money. We have tried it long enough to know that it cannot be done. In 1860 we were farming on a domestic level, which is to say, we lived on products with little concern about markets and profits, and we lived well. But today every business, farming included, is inescapably related to commerce, and commerce is a world dominated by prices and profits. We produce the finest farm crop known to the world of markets. The gross values are great, but so is the cost of producing it; and because we have lost the art and the impulse of living-at-home on our own bread and meat, our meager net profits on tobacco slip through our fingers and leave us just as poor as ever. Indeed, the farmers of only thirteen counties in North Carolina are poorer. In 1860 our cash crops were practically nothing; in 1910 they were worth nearly a million dollars. But they paid less than half our bill for imported bread and meat supplies.

We have failed to attain the prosperity that abounds among the farmers of the Middle West. They buy our tobacco and sell us food and feed supplies. We buy their food and feed supplies and sell them tobacco. They get rich and we stay poor. The point is this: If ever we learn to keep our tobacco money at home, by producing it on a live-at-home, bread-and-meat basis, we shall be, in ten years, the richest farm people on the continent. For instance, this year our tobacco crop has brought into the county three million brand new dollars. If only we could hold it down in Rockingham, or some reasonable share of it year by year, we would double our farm wealth in three years.

In 1860 we were producing small grains, peas, and beans at the rate of 33 bushels per inhabitant. It was nearly enough for both folks and farm animals, but with no surplus to sell. In 1910 we had fallen to 17.2 bushels per inhabitant; which is to say, we nearly trebled our tobacco but our grain crops had fallen behind a full half. All told, the food we produced per inhabitant was \$48 less than we needed, and our total bill for imported food and feed for man and beast was \$2,130,000 in the census year. If we have not produced breadstuffs in larger abundance this year, our bill for imported bread and meat is around five million dollars. Naturally this imported food must be paid for with

tobacco money for the most part, and our tobacco money this year is only \$3,000,000 at 30-cent prices.

We need to increase our production of grain, hay, and forage. Both in 1860 and in 1910 we were producing potatoes in meager quantities—only 2½ bushels per inhabitant, which is less than a third of what we need. We are probably producing pork enough for home use, but our meat diet is deficient in beef, mutton, poultry, and eggs. And an ill-balanced diet means pellagra, as the United States Public Health Service is now demonstrating.

Rockingham, however, has moved up in agricultural development since the last census year. But in looking back at our agriculture sixty years, let us see and see clearly the wisdom of our forefathers in producing abundant home supplies on every farm. In those days a farmer was in disgrace if he had to buy meat and corn in the run of the year. Our ideal must be to retain the largest amount possible of the wealth we produce. This ideal can never be reached until we have a better balanced farming system. More domestic animals, and larger crops of grain, hay, and forage are what we need.

### HOW ROCKINGHAM RANKS

Based mainly on the 1910 census. Rank indicates how many counties made a better showing.

*Rank.*

31st in total farm wealth .....	\$0,050,152
91st in farm wealth increases, 1900-'10, per cent.....	68.7
State increase, 130%.	
87th in per capita country wealth.....	\$191
Alleghany, \$560; State, \$322; United States, \$994; Iowa, \$3,386. Per capita taxable wealth, all property, in 1910, was \$207; white per capita taxable wealth in 1910, \$279; negro per capita taxable wealth, \$28.80.	
74th in negro farm owners. Per cent of all negro farmers...	24.0
State average, 33%. Negro farm owners in Rockingham, 180. White farm owners in Rockingham were 51% of all white farmers; in North Carolina they were 66%.	
19th in tax value of farm land compared with census value in 1910, per cent .....	34.0
State average, 38%.	
56th in white farm mortgages, per cent.....	19.0
State average for whites, 17%.	
35th in negro farm mortgages, per cent.....	23.0
State average for negroes, 26%; for both races, 18.5%.	
44th in land under cultivation; per cent of the total area....	33.8
State average, 29%. Land under cultivation, 125,119 acres. Idle, wilderness acres, 245,441, or 66.2% of the total area. Reserving 50,000 acres for wood-lot uses and allowing 75 acres to each family, there is room for 2,606 new farm families.	

34th in number of farms .....	3,189
Average cultivated acres per farm, 39.2. Size of cultivated farms larger in 45 counties. 1,488 farms, or a little over one-half, are less than fifty acres in size, both cultivated and uncultivated land considered. There is room for a 100% increase in the average size of farms.	
58th in poultry increase 1900-'10, per cent.....	12.1
65,072 fowls of all kinds in Rockingham in 1910. Rank in number of fowls on hand, 28th.	
36th in cattle per 1,000 acres.....	26
State average, 23; United States average, 61.	
10th in cattle increase, 1900-'10, per cent.....	33.0
Caldwell increased 62%. State average increased 12%. In 1860 Rockingham had 7,018 cattle; in 1910, 8,586.	
73rd in hogs per 1,000 acres.....	24
State average, 26; United States average, 66; Iowa, 263.	
71st in swine decrease, 1900-'10, per cent.....	22.0
69 counties decreased; only 28 increased. In 1860 Rockingham had 16,151 hogs; in 1910 only 7,195.	
82nd in pork production per inhabitant, pounds.....	54.2
State average, 93.3. Needed, 122 lbs.	
9th in sheep gains, 1900-'10, per cent.....	22.0
Total number of sheep gained, 170, worth \$612. In 1860 Rockingham had 6,283 sheep; in 1910 only 959.	
83rd in number of farm animals, per cent of a lightly stocked farm area .....	19.0
State average, 24%; Alleghany, 43%; Iowa, 87%.	
55th in investments in farm implements, per acre.....	\$2.04
State average, \$2.10; United States, \$2.52. The need is for larger farms and more improved farm machinery.	
56th in horse power; one work-animal for an average of, acres State average, 23; United States, 19.81 acres. Here, again, is the need for larger farms and more work-animals per farm.	27.13
75th in farm tenancy, per cent.....	54.5
State average, 42.3%. Decrease in farm tenancy in Rockingham, 1900-'10, was 3.2%. 47 counties decreased in farm tenancy. White tenants in Rockingham, 1,177; negro tenants, 561. The landless, homeless white tenants and their families number about 5,885 souls. 1,605 tenants are croppers; only 108 on a cash or standing-rent basis. Tenants raise tobacco mainly and neglect food and feed crops.	
2nd in tobacco production in 1910, pounds.....	8,279,194
Per-acre production, 563 pounds; rank 43d. State average, 625 pounds per acre.	
26th in non-food crops produced, tobacco mainly.....	\$995,385
Tobacco and other non-food crops produced annually, 54% of total crop wealth. Food and feed crops produced, 46% of the total crop values. State average of non-food crops, 53%.	

20th in annual farm wealth produced.....	\$2,330,409
This total covers both crops and animal products. Every five years the farmers of Rockingham produce as much wealth as they have been able to accumu- late in the last 125 years.	
50th in crop-yielding power per acre.....	\$14.66
State average, \$20.18. Compares well with Missouri, \$13.96; Minnesota, \$13.19; North Dakota, \$11.10; South Dakota, \$10.79, in 1910.	
66th in annual production of farm wealth per person.....	\$73.70
State average, \$85; average of French farmers, \$126.	
77th in food and feed production per person.....	\$36.00
Needed, \$84 per person; deficit, \$48 per person; total deficit, \$2,130,780.	
64th in food and feed crops; per cent of the total crop values	46.0
Alleghany, 98%; State, 47%. Alleghany is the richest county in per capita country wealth. Rockingham ranks 87th in this particular.	



# Home-Raised Food and the Local Market Problem

T. D. STOKES, Ruffin, N. C.

## The Big Bulk Shortage

We find in Rockingham County that there was a need for food and feed supplies in 1910 amounting to the sum of \$3,466,211, whereas we produced food and feed supplies amounting to only \$1,335,424, or just one-third as much as was necessary. In other words, the food consumed by man and beast in Rockingham in 1910 amounted to \$2,130,787 more than our farms produced. This was our bill for food supplies imported in the census year. If our farmers have not raised more bread and meat this year than in 1910, our bill for the imported breadstuffs is around five million dollars, present prices considered.

This shortage in detail was 1,900,000 pounds of meat, 1,186,000 pounds of butter, 205,000 fowls, 271,000 dozen eggs, 684,000 bushels of corn, 6,405 bushels of wheat, and 5,141 tons of hay. This enormous shortage in food and feed supplies means that Rockingham County needs to wake up or she will lag hopelessly behind in the retention and accumulation of farm wealth.

## Too Little Home-Raised Supplies

A little over one-half the total crop wealth produced in Rockingham year by year is produced by tobacco alone, and this ratio has been steadily increasing since 1860. Up to the last census year we gave increasing attention to tobacco and decreasing attention to grain crops, live-stock, hay, and forage. However, we have been doing more live-at-home farming since 1910. The signs point that way.

In 1910 our corn crop was 15 per cent smaller than in 1900, our oat crop was 19 per cent smaller, and our wheat crop 28 per cent smaller. During the ten years we gained 33 per cent in number of cattle, but we fell back 23 per cent in the number of our hogs. In 1910 we had only 26 cattle and 24 hogs to the 1,000 acres, and a need for 1,900,000 pounds more meat than we produced.

The population in Rockingham increases rapidly. It has nearly quadrupled in 50 years, but our cattle are only 21 per cent more. The truth is that our population is increasing faster than our production of food—in the number of cattle, 12 times faster; and so of every other food. And yet last year ten Corn Club boys in Rockingham averaged 47.2 bushels to the acre at a cost of 43 cents a bushel. At this rate the

grown-ups could have produced 1,702,774 bushels on the corn acreage of the county, or enough for home use and almost a half million bushels over for the market.

Raising corn at home at this figure beats importing 684,000 bushels at \$2 a bushel.

### **The Farm Tenancy and the Crop Lien Evil**

In 1910 more than half or 54.5 per cent of our farms were cultivated by tenants. And farm tenancy under the crop lien system in the South means more cotton and tobacco and less attention to grain, hay, and forage, fruits, nuts, and vegetables, poultry and dairy products, and to beef, mutton, and pork production.

In Rockingham the annual consumption of these products amounts to about three and a half million dollars, but our farms produce only one and a third million dollars worth of them; and so we sent out of the county a king's ransom, amounting to more than two million dollars, for food and feed supplies that we might have raised at home, and by just so much did we decrease our power to accumulate wealth.

### **The Penalties We Pay**

As a result, our per capita country wealth in Rockingham in the census year was only \$191, against \$322 for the State, \$560 for Alleghany County, \$994 for the United States, \$2,665 in Illinois, and \$3,386 in Iowa.

Although Rockingham ranks thirty-first among the counties in North Carolina in per acre production of crop values from year to year, our rank in per capita country wealth was only eighty-seventh. Alleghany County, which raises no cotton and almost no tobacco, heads the list.

The county suffers a steady loss of ready cash amounting to some two million dollars a year. This simple fact explains why the food-producing farmers of the Middle West grow rich and the cotton and tobacco farmers of Rockingham and the South remain poor. It also explains in part the high cost of living in the towns and cities in the tobacco belt, and the high cost of living hinders industrial development because it calls for higher wages, and higher wages add to the labor cost of factory production—a fact that we can well afford to consider.

### **Reidsville's Interest in the Problem**

Reidsville, like every other town and city, is interested in the local market problem, because, in the first place, it concerns the increasing high cost of living. The whole world faces this primary problem today, because once more in the round of history population presses upon the food supply. The cost of foodstuffs is higher everywhere while the purchasing power of the dollar is less. Today it is barely half of what it

was four years ago; that is to say, fifty cents then would buy as much food as a dollar will buy today. Higher costs of living compel higher wages, as Adam Smith saw a century or so ago. Higher wages mean an increase in the labor cost of production. When production costs increase, dividends on capital dwindle or disappear. Nobody has a more direct relationship to the problem of local markets for home-raised food supplies than our mill owners, and nobody ought to have a livelier interest in it.

#### **Imported Breadstuffs and Inflated Bills**

If Reidsville and Rockingham must depend upon the far-away producers of food and feed supplies to the extent of two million, one hundred and thirty thousand a year, the overhead charges of transportation and handling by a swarming multitude of middlemen will of course add enormously to the cost of farm and pantry supplies.

#### **Rockingham's Crop-Producing Power**

Our farmers can produce all the standard crops and all the animal products needed for consumption in Rockingham County. Our soils are as good as any to be found in the State and are easy to make fertile. Our Corn Club boys averaged 48 bushels to the acre in 1917, and the county could easily produce corn enough and to spare. We have in the past depended upon the West for flour when we can raise wheat at home and do it as cheaply as any county in this part of the State. Our annual flour bill has been an enormous drain on our ready cash. This situation is produced in the main by tobacco farming on a farm-tenancy, supply-merchant, crop-lien basis. And it is a farm system that must be abandoned if conditions are to be improved.

#### **Poor Market Facilities**

We have ready cash markets for tobacco, but not for home-raised food and feed supplies. The farmer must peddle his vegetables, fruits, butter and eggs, meat and poultry, from door to door or sell them to a merchant at shamefully low prices. Often when he cannot sell to any one he will leave his perishable products with the merchant to dispose of at any price obtainable, as it would be a complete loss to take them back home. The producers and consumers are not organized in ways advantageous to both. They are as far apart as though they lived on different planets. The producers and consumers of Rockingham suffer from the Iron Law of Trade as do any other people. This law is: keep producers and consumers as far apart as possible, pass economic goods from the one to the other through as many hands as possible, charge consumers as much as possible and pay producers as little as possible. As long as this law is in full operation in Rockingham everybody will

suffer. It can be broken down only by union and coöperation. Where there is a disunion and collision both producers and consumers are punished. The producer gets too little for his products, the consumer gets too little for his money, while the middlemen get the lion's share of the wealth the farmers produce.

### **Doubling Our Farm Wealth**

But, leaving town consumers out of the question, our farmers can and ought to raise the supplies that they themselves need from year to year to feed their own families and farm animals. If only the farmers could or would stop spending six hundred thousand dollars a year for these things, the farm wealth of Rockingham would be doubled in the next few years. That is to say, six hundred thousand dollars in the census year is what the farmers themselves spent for imported bread and meat. The same kind of farmers will this year send out of the county twelve hundred thousand dollars.

Our farmers will always need to raise tobacco, but while they do it they must be wise enough to have their pantries, barns, and smokehouses filled with their own home-raised supplies.

### **The Acid Test of Success**

The local market problem created by the demand for breadstuffs at high prices and the failure of near-by farmers to supply the demand is a perplexing problem in every city center in America.

The law of markets is greed for gain. It is the tooth-and-claw struggle for prices and profits. The primary law of human nature organizes a world-wide market for cotton and tobacco, and at the same time and for the same reason it denies to the consumers and producers of breadstuffs, living side by side in the same county, an opportunity for direct dealings with mutual advantage.

### **The Solution of the Problem**

Greed safely counts upon the dull unconcern of both consumers and producers. But at last city consumers awake to the fact that the cost of living is a great national problem. Farmers discover that the prices of food products to consumers have risen enormously but that their own farm profits are no more or little more than they were fifteen years ago. The simple fact is that consumers and producers are too far apart and the cost of marketing is too great.

How great the cost of marketing is can be shown from figures compiled by the Citrus Fruit Growers Association of California. These growers have done everything in their power to reduce the middlemen to a minimum and to pass the fruit from producers to consumers with

as little cost as possible. Yet, even with all their wonderful organization and business skill, they found that the part of the consumer's dollar that got back to the producer was only twenty-eight cents, while the middlemen—the packers and pickers, transporters and merchants—got seventy-two cents of it. The hard fact about marketing is that it costs more to get agricultural products from original producers to final consumers than it costs to produce them on the farm. This is especially true of fruits and vegetables.

The problem is to get producers and consumers together; the principle of action lies in coöperation, and success is achieved when farmers get more for their products and consumers get more for their money. If the farmers do not get more, and if at the same time the consumers do not pay less, then the problem is not solved, no matter how elaborate the attempt or expensive the market house.

### **Coöperation Necessary**

Producers alone cannot solve the market problem. Success calls for the direct coöperation of consumers; and in big-sale marketing it invariably calls for and depends upon the credit accommodation of the banks. If consumers are unconcerned and unorganized, or if banks and transportation companies are neglectful or hostile, then the farmer's chance of success is reduced to zero. Success lies in collusion, not in collision; in coöperation, not in contest.

### **Texas Leads**

Texas has taken a long step forward in solving her local market problems; and one of the many things she does with the help of her boards of trade is to maintain free telephone market information exchanges in charge of officials whose business it is to give reliable disinterested market news to farmers and city dwellers, and to bring producers and consumers together in direct dealings.

At present, in North Carolina and in Rockingham County neither the consumers nor producers know definitely the wants, tastes, and standards of the other.

### **The City End of the Problem**

“Success in the undertaking calls, first of all, for the marketing habit on the part of housewives, and then for well managed, centrally located markets with cold storage chambers for perishable products; for credit accommodations on stored products when needed; for ample market space for free, open-air trading; for convenient hitching grounds, camping sheds, and feeding stalls; for indications of city hospitality—rest-rooms with lavatory and toilet conveniences, chairs, tables, books, magazines, and newspapers; for a free telephone market exchange in the

city hall or the chamber of commerce, operated by a competent official whose business it is to acquaint consumers with the sources of the neighborhood supply, and to advise the farmers about the wants, standards, and tastes of city consumers; and finally, for a coöperative city delivery service." "These," says Professor Branson, "are some of the plans and projects that I find in various alert city centers."

#### **What the Banks Can Do**

Texas banks are refusing loans to supply-merchants who do a crop-lien business protected by cotton acreage alone. They have a half-and-half system. They stipulate a minimum acreage which must be devoted to food production, and farmers are required to raise specified amounts of food and feed on this acreage. They are doing this to force the supply-merchants to force the farmers to raise a sufficiency of meat and food on every farm. It is sound sense and safe business policy, they say, to keep in Texas the 298 million dollars that has been leaving the State every year heretofore to pay bills for imported food products.

This policy insures a food-producing farm civilization, and this means prosperity. It also means bigger, safer, better business for supply-merchants and bankers.

This same system could be put to work in this State, especially in our cotton and tobacco counties, where conditions are similar to those in Texas.

We have proved to the world if not to ourselves that we cannot accumulate country wealth under our present cash-crop, supply-merchant, crop-lien, time-price system. We stay poor buying farm supplies with tobacco money, while the Western farmers get rich buying our tobacco and selling us bread and meat. The bankers of a community can do more in a single year to place tobacco culture on a live-at-home basis than the farm demonstrator can do in a lifetime, and they can do it almost by lifting or lowering their eyebrows. All they need to do is to refuse to discount the supply-merchant's crop liens when based on tobacco acreage alone. It is the Texas way, and it works in Texas.

#### **The Farmer's End of the Problem**

On the other hand, our farmers must not only produce food and feed sufficient for farm consumption, but this year they need to produce three and a quarter million dollars worth more for the city consumers in Rockingham County alone. They must know more about market demands. They must not all dump their food products on a small market at one time. What they offer in competition with the big wide world must taste as good and look as attractive as imported food products. They must become expert in handling, grading, picking, and crating. They must produce meat, grain, and hay, butter, and eggs in steady

reliable sufficiencies, and stand ready to supply market demands just as Western markets do upon sudden notice.

The blame for the present sad and sorry state of affairs in Rockingham must be laid upon the farmers as well as upon the consumers and bankers. But it is this year a four and a half million-dollar proposition in Rockingham, and it is worth solving.

**HOME-RAISED FOODS**

Facts mainly from the 1910 census. Rank indicates the number of counties that make a better showing.

*Rank.*

27th in corn production, total crop, bushels.....	445,223
Robeson ranked first, with 1,142,000 bushels. Ten years decrease in corn production, 1900-'10, was 82,487 bushels, or 15 per cent. Rockingham ranked 70th in this particular. In 1860 Rockingham produced 364,790 bushels.	
79th in corn production per person, bushels.....	12.83
Needed per inhabitant per year, 31 bushels; deficit per inhabitant, 19 bushels. State average, 15 bushels per person.	
16th in wheat produced per person, bushels.....	3.83
Needed, 4 bushels per person; deficit per person, .17 bushels; total deficit, 6,401 bushels. Only 15 counties in 1910 raised wheat surpluses. Ten-year increase in wheat production, 1900-'10, was 28 per cent. In 1860 Rockingham produced 97,512 bushels, in 1910 139,363 bushels.	
35th in oats production, total crop, bushels.....	35,282
The oats raised amounted to 1.3 pints per work animal per day; rank 35th. Ten-year decrease in oats production, 1900-'10, was 19 per cent; rank in this particular, 64th. In 1860 Rockingham produced 91,349 bushels of oats.	
24th in hay and forage production, total crop, tons.....	4,580
Ten-year increase, 1900-'10, was 18 per cent; rank 72nd. The hay and forage production amounted to 5.4 pounds per work-animal per day; needed, 10 pounds per work-animal.	
48th in per cent of farmers' buying feed.....	32
1,514 farms, or nearly one-third of them all, bought feed, averaging \$30.20 per farm.	
64th in beef production per person, pounds.....	18
State average, 33.8 pounds.	
82nd in pork production per person, pounds.....	54.2
State average, 93 pounds. State average of hogs sold and slaughtered, .47 of a hog. United States average, 1.57 hogs; Iowa, 2.72 hogs per person. Needed for farm consumption, 122 pounds per inhabitant.	

32nd in poultry production per person, fowls.....	7.48
Needed, 13 fowls per person per year; deficit, 5.52 fowls per person; total deficit, 201,038 fowls.	
35th in increase of farm sales of dairy products, per cent....	229
Total sales in 1910 were \$21,730. State increase was 146 per cent. Rockingham produced 15 pounds of butter per person; rank 40th. The average amount needed was 48 pounds per person per year; the per capita deficit was 33 pounds; total deficit, 1,186,000 pounds.	
83rd in farm animals, per cent of a lightly stocked farm area.	19
Camden and Hyde first with 47 per cent; Cumberland last with 14 per cent; State average, 24 per cent.	
42nd in livestock products, per person.....	\$16.00
Alleghany, \$65; State average, \$17. Per capita crop production in Rockingham was \$50; total farm wealth produced was \$66 per person; average of French farmers was \$126 per person.	

### THE LOCAL MARKET PROBLEM

#### 1. FOOD AND FEED:

Needed—36,442 people @ \$84.00 .....	\$3,061,128
5,327 work animals @ \$39.39.....	209,831
5,378 dairy cows @ \$18.55.....	99,742
4,433 other cattle @ 8.09.....	35,862
8,651 swine @ \$6.69 .....	57,876
956 sheep @ \$1.79 .....	1,771
Total food and feed needed.....	\$3,466,211

#### 2. PRODUCED:

Food and feed crops .....	\$ 839,540
Dairy products .....	131,558
Poultry products .....	131,367
Honey and wax .....	5,163
Wool and mohair .....	477
Animals sold and slaughtered.....	227,319
Total food and feed produced.....	1,335,424
Shortage in home-raised food and feed supplies.....	\$2,130,787

#### 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND FEED SHORTAGE: •

	<i>Pounds.</i>
(1) Meat needed for 36,442 people @ 152 pounds.....	5,539,184
produced 904 calves @ 150 lbs.....	135,450
1,726 cattle @ 300 lbs.....	517,800
272,708 poultry @ 4 lbs.....	1,090,832
9,885 hogs @ 190 lbs.....	1,888,150
184 sheep and goats @ 50 lbs..	9,200
Total home-produced meat .....	3,641,432
Deficit .....	1,897,752
	<i>Pounds.</i>
(2) Butter needed for 36,442 people @ 48 pounds.....	1,749,216
produced .....	562,729
deficit .....	1,186,487



	<i>Fowls.</i>
(3) Fowls needed for 36,442 people @ 13.....	473,746
produced .....	272,708
deficit .....	205,038
	<i>Dozen.</i>
(4) Eggs needed for 36,442 people @ 17 dozen.....	619,514
produced .....	348,394
deficit .....	271,120
	<i>Bushels.</i>
(5) Corn needed for 36,442 people @ 31 bushels.....	1,129,702
produced .....	445,223
deficit .....	684,479
	<i>Bushels.</i>
(6) Wheat needed for 36,442 people @ 4 bushels.....	145,768
produced .....	139,363
deficit .....	6,405
	<i>Tons.</i>
(7) Hay and forage needed for 5,327 work animals.....	9,721
produced .....	4,580
deficit .....	5,141

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NOTE.—The figures for average annual consumption are the figures given out by the Federal Agricultural Department; also the cost prices, which refer to 1910. The cost prices in 1918 are in most instances doubled, in many instances they are trebled since 1910.

# Agricultural Production: Non-Food Crops

T. D. STOKES, Ruffin, N. C.

By non-food crops the census means crops that do not serve as food for man or beast. The main crop of this sort in Rockingham is tobacco. Tobacco is the most important single source of revenue to the Rockingham farmer, and its importance is increasing year by year.

The value of the tobacco produced in Rockingham in 1910 was 54 per cent of the total crop wealth produced in the county in that year. Only 34 counties produced larger ratios of non-food crops; which is to say, only 65 counties produced smaller ratios of food crops—wheat, corn, hay forage, and the like.

## Tobacco

Tobacco production has been steadily increasing in Rockingham since the War Between the States. During this period tobacco culture has steadily moved southeastwardly across the cotton belt into Wilson, Pitt, Greene, and Lenoir, and along the cotton belt into Sampson and Robeson. The main tobacco producing counties of this State were once the counties bordering on the Virginia line from Surry eastward to Warren. Tobacco still has a large place in the production of farm wealth in Rockingham and other counties in this portion of the State. Rockingham once led the State in tobacco production. In 1910 Pitt was in the lead with Rockingham second.

In 1860 we produced 3,158,333 pounds. In 1879 we produced 4,341,259 pounds, and in 1909 we produced 8,279,194 pounds. In thirty years we nearly doubled our production of tobacco, you see.

## Keeping Home-Made Wealth at Home

There can be no doubt that the farmers of Rockingham have profited by raising tobacco. This non-food crop serves as an important source of cash income. But it is folly for a farmer to raise tobacco to the neglect of food and feed crops. Tobacco rewards the farmer when it is produced on a bread-and-meat basis, and not otherwise. We have tried for a half century to get rich buying farm supplies with tobacco money. Man for man, the farmers of 86 other counties are richer in farm properties.

We do not urge or advocate any neglect of tobacco, but we do urge the wisdom of greater attention to food and feed crops and to live-stock. As a policy of sensible self-defense if not profits, our farmers today will do well to employ their idle hours and idle acres in the production of food and feed supplies, instead of importing these over a thousand miles of

railway and through the hands of countless middlemen, each of whom must add to the consumer's bill because each must have his profit. It would be foolish to neglect the present money crop; but it is also foolish to neglect bread-and-meat crops and to spend practically all of our tobacco money year by year, buying food and feed to raise tobacco. It is a vicious circle, and going the round of it year in and year out keeps our farmers poor.

The man that raises food and feed along with his tobacco is invariably in a better financial condition than his neighbor who raises tobacco and buys food and feed. The reason this is so is evident. Experiments made by the Government have proved that hay, forage, corn, pork, and beef can be produced in the South today more cheaply than in the West. If the farmer raises his own staple supplies he saves the middleman's profit and increases the size of his pocketbook and bank account. And clearly he is wise to do so when he can produce these supplies for less money than they cost him in the stores.

There was a time just after the war when it paid him to buy from the West because they farmed extensively with labor-saving machinery and produced foodstuffs more cheaply than we could. But that day has long since passed, apparently never to return. We can now produce bread and meat more cheaply than the Western farmers can. We must raise tobacco, but also we must use the extra hours and the idle acres for the purpose of producing farm supplies at home. It is a sure way to produce fat pocketbooks. The farmer that cannot or will not convert into gold the opportunity now offered by the war-time prices of food supplies is missing the greatest chance he has ever had in the South in her whole history.

#### **How Don Seitz Sees It**

Don Seitz, the business manager of the *New York World*, and the best-known man of his profession in the country, gave the editors of North Carolina at their institute here at the University a year ago some sound advice along this line. He said once he had an editor to ask him why his town did not grow and prosper as the other towns did. Mr. Seitz said he found out from a banker that this man's town sent out of its territory \$150,000 a year for food and feed supplies bought with money made from cash sales of non-food products. He told the editors the trouble and the editors told the people. Matters were adjusted, food and feed were raised at home, and the town began to prosper by leaps and bounds. Why? Because the \$150,000 remained at home to enrich the community in which it was made, as before it had been going to enrich other places that had produced what could be produced at home.

It is impracticable or even impossible for any farmer or community to be wholly self-supporting, but it should be self-supporting in so far as

economic advantage favors it. Mr. Don Seitz, of the *New York World*, says that people argue to him that railroads won't prosper if the people live at home.

"Well," says he, "what interest have you in the railroads or what interest have they in you except in so far as they can enrich their coffers at your expense? We have too long supported railroads at our loss, and in many ways they are becoming an unnecessary nuisance." If the advice of Mr. Seitz and a vast number of economists is followed, Rockingham as well as the South will make more rapid progress in the future than in the past.

Our 1918 motto ought to be: "Food, feed, and fertility first; and then all the tobacco we have time to raise."

# Our Public School Rank and Progress

E. F. DUNCAN, Mayodan, N. C.

My endeavor in this chapter is to show, briefly and clearly, (1) how Rockingham compares with the rest of the State in certain essential particulars of public education, and (2) how she compares with herself in a seven-year period, from 1908-09 to 1915-16, and what gains she has made during this time in her public schools. I am centering attention on our rural school status and progress, because our brisk and enterprising little cities, in Rockingham as in every other county of the State, are forging ahead in school buildings, local school tax levies, length of school terms, and in general excellence of school facilities. Our country communities are doing well, as we shall show in detail, but they are lagging behind our towns in school advantages.

For instance, 47 of our white country schools are one-room, one-teacher schools, and the average length of the county school term is only 113 days, or 67 days less than the school term in Reidsville. Every other detail shows the disadvantages of our country school children. Their brains and fingers are just as nimble and capable as those of our town children, and they ought to have just as good a chance. A square deal and a fair chance for the country children of Rockingham is what I have uppermost in mind.

This discussion is based on tables that can be found as usual at the end of the chapter.

## How We Rank

In 1910, only 30 counties stood ahead of us in total actual farm wealth, while in total taxable wealth in 1916 only 18 counties made a better showing; which means that Rockingham is among the 20 richest counties in North Carolina.

On the whole, our rank in school property is on a level with our rank in wealth. Just as we stood 19th in total taxables in 1916, so we stood 19th in total school property. In the matter of country school property alone we moved up to the eleventh place, which is to say, only 10 other counties had a larger total investment in country school property in 1916 than Rockingham had.

That looks good; but it might easily be better. For instance, our per capita investment in school property, both town and country, was only \$4.16, and forty-two other counties made a better showing, while our wealth in automobiles was \$15.56 per inhabitant or nearly four times as much. Only twenty-seven counties in the State are richer than Rockingham in motor-car wealth.

Moreover, the cost of running our public schools averaged only \$2.58 per inhabitant in 1915-16, in which particular thirty-five counties made a better showing. The per capita cost of running our automobiles the same year was \$4.74. Which means that it costs us nearly twice as much to run our automobiles as it does to run our schools.

I say we might easily have better country schools, because in 1916 our combined tax rate for all purposes, State and county, was only 98 cents on the hundred dollars worth of taxable property. Forty-eight counties carried a heavier tax burden. There is ample room in Rockingham for a 30-cent county-wide local tax levy for school support—such a levy as Beaufort and Wilson counties have just voted. Even then there would be sixteen counties with heavier tax levies for all purposes. Indeed, a 30-cent school tax levy would give Rockingham almost exactly the rank in tax burdens that she holds at present in total taxable wealth.

A county that spends nearly twice as much per inhabitant to run its motor cars as it does to run its schools is rich enough to double its school support with comparative ease.

The need for an immense increase in school support lies (1) in the white illiteracy that affects our county, and (2) in the steady cityward drift of our country people and the need of good country schools as an effective country-life defense.

1. Nearly an eighth of all our whites 10 years old and over are afflicted with sheer illiteracy, and 52 counties made a better showing in 1910; while a full seventh of our white males of voting age could neither write their names nor read their ballots, and 57 counties made a better showing. These are white illiterates, mind you; our own color, kith, kin, and kind. The near-illiterates—the people who can read and don't read, who can think and don't think—are probably a much larger company of souls in Rockingham. Together, our illiterate and semi-illiterate whites are a dead weight in our developing democracy. They cripple and retard every forward movement. They can always be hoodwinked by designing political tricksters and massed against any measure of reform or prosperity or patriotism—against tax reforms, or local school taxes, or the war, or Liberty Bonds, the Red Cross, the Army Y. M. C. A., or better church and Sunday school support—against any worthy cause whatsoever.

We must sponge the shame of illiteracy off the map of Rockingham, and we must put the fire and fervor of religious zeal into the task. And it is a task for preachers and Sunday school teachers as well as day-school teachers and school officials. The churches of Rockingham need more members and the country needs more home-owning farmers; but illiteracy multiplies the number of landless, homeless people, while illiteracy and tenancy together reduce church membership to a minimum. A little more than half or 54 per cent of all our farmers are crop-

pers and tenants, and nearly two-thirds or 62 per cent of all our people ten years old and over are members of no church of any name, sect, or sort in Rockingham. Seventy-four counties make a better showing in ownership farming and eighty-five a better showing in church membership.

So much to indicate the importance of our illiteracy problem. The situation calls for better schools, for better compulsory attendance laws, or for a more courageous enforcement of the laws we already have.

2. In the second place, the best country-life defense that a county can have is the best country schools it can afford to support, and Rockingham needs this defense, for several reasons. Our country people are moving out of our countryside in steadily increasing numbers year by year. Between 1900 and 1910 almost exactly a tenth of our negroes disappeared. Since the war they have gone out of the country even more rapidly into the mines, railway gangs, munition plants, and cities of the North. During this period our rural population increase was very small—only 5.7 per cent—but since 1910 the population of our mill and factory towns has grown from 7,230 to 20,000 or more. This increase of our town population has come almost entirely from the surrounding country regions, and mainly it has consisted of alert-minded tenants and their families, and less often of small home-owning farmers.

The cityward drift of country people means decreasing farm labor and more idle, wilderness acres. It tends toward stagnation in land values and farm rentals. Every one of these drifts and tendencies threatens the owners of country property in Rockingham, and the best investment our landlords can make is in country schools—in the very best possible country schools. Nothing will hold tenants in the country and keep them satisfied to remain on year after year in the same community like good schools. Nothing else is so inviting to home-seekers with money to invest in country property, or so certainly adds value to the market price of farm lands.

The simple fact is that manufacture is outstripping agriculture in Rockingham. Our industries are developing so rapidly that our country civilization is lagging behind and in remote corners of the county is dropping into decay. The safety of a county and a country alike depends upon the sane balancing of its rural and its urban life. It is a great problem for intelligent people of Rockingham to keep clearly in mind—the farmers, the merchants, the bankers, and the manufacturers. Prosperous country regions means prosperous towns, and the time has come when no city can safely grow fat in a lean countryside.

### **Marvelous Seven-Year Gains**

The gains made by our rural schools during the seven years between 1908-09 and 1915-16, the date of the last published report of the State

School Superintendent, were marvelous. We say this advisedly. Aside from New Hanover, Wake, and Durham, all of which are big-city counties, no other county in the State can show a more wonderful list of country school gains than Rockingham. The table at the end of this chapter tells the story in full, and it is worth studying in detail.

During this period we nearly trebled the values of our rural school property. We multiplied our rural school fund by nearly two and a half. We trebled the amount spent on teaching and supervision, and a little more than doubled the average annual salaries of our white country teachers. At the beginning of the period under discussion we had no rural school districts that levied local school taxes; at the end of it we had eighteen districts that were willing to tax themselves \$13,451 for the sake of better schools for their children.

Not only did we create better school facilities but we greatly bettered the quality of our teaching during this seven-year period. Here are some of the significant gains: (1) The white schools with old-fashioned benches or home-made desks entirely disappeared. Every white school-house was equipped with modern patent desks—a thing that can be said of only fourteen other counties of the State, (2) our rural white teachers increased from 95 to 161, (3) our consolidated schools, schools with two or more teachers, increased from 21 to 36, (4) our rural white teachers with four years of experience or more increased from 32 to 74, and (5) those with college diplomas increased from 6 to 35.

These gains are extremely significant, and they ought to be reflected in the greater power of our schools to attract country children and hold them in school. And this is exactly what has happened. Our white country population has stood still or decreased in number since 1910, but the rural school population increased 5 per cent, the number of country children enrolled increased 10 per cent, and the average of daily attendance increased 40 per cent. These are real increases, and every school man knows how significant they are. No other county in the State can show such gains in school enrollment and attendance. Indeed, many counties show increasing school costs on the one hand and decreasing attendance on the other, but not so in Rockingham.

Nevertheless, there is work that is still to be done that urgently needs doing in our country regions; manifestly so when 2,373 white children of school age in the country were not in school in 1915-16 for so much as a single day—whose names were never once on the roll books of the teachers.

We need moonlight schools and a heroic campaign in behalf of the children in Rockingham who are rapidly passing beyond the daylight schools of the State into adult illiteracy with all its disabling consequences.

We need compulsory school attendance laws courageously enforced; we need to reach and serve and save the people who retard the develop-



ment of Rockingham; and, mind you, they are at present a full eighth of our entire population.

We need at least three well managed Farm-Life Schools properly located. Guilford County has three and we need no less. We need a rural school supervisor as an efficient right arm for our county school superintendent. Sixteen counties have such additional rural school helpers, and Rockingham needs to move up into this group of progressive counties.

The county commencement has become an important event in Rockingham school life, and the people look forward to it with keen anticipation. This commencement has been held in many other counties as well as our own for several years, and it has rapidly grown in significance and value. It is an occasion on which all of the schools of the county have a chance to get together, and to have a day of competitive tests, athletics, and social enjoyment. Each year it should be made bigger and better than ever before.

**RANK OF ROCKINGHAM IN SCHOOL MATTERS**

10th in total population, 1910 census.....	36,442
11th in rural population per square mile, 1910.....	54.6
13th in total white population .....	25,965
23rd in total negro population .....	10,474
11th in negro population decrease, 1900-'10, per cent.....	6.3
1,143 negroes left the county between 1900 and 1910.	
Many more have gone since that date.	
53rd in native white illiterates, 10 years old and over, 1910, per cent .....	12.3
Number of such illiterates, 2,302. State average, 12.3%; United States average, 3%.	
52nd in native white illiterate voters, per cent.....	14.4
Number of such voters, 848, or one-seventh of them all. State average, 14%; United States average, 4.2%.	
31st in total farm wealth, 1910 census.....	\$6,050,152
19th in total taxable wealth, 1916.....	\$13,371,387
49th in tax levy per \$100, State and county, 1916.....	\$ .98
Forty-eight counties had a higher rate.	
34th in local school tax fund per \$1,000 of taxable property, 1915-'16 rate .....	\$7.11
19th in total school property, town and county, 1916.....	\$161,405
We stood 19th both in taxable wealth and in total school property.	
11th in total country school property, 1916.....	\$123,205
Only 10 counties had more country school property.	
43rd in per capita investment in school property, town and county, 1915-'16 .....	\$4.16
28th in per capita investment in automobiles, 1915-'16.....	\$15.56
Nearly four times as much money in motor cars as in schools.	

36th in per capita school expenditures, town and county, 1915-'16 .....	\$2.58
The money spent to keep our automobiles running in 1915-'16 was \$4.74 per inhabitant, or nearly twice as much as we spent per inhabitant to keep our schools running.	
36th in average annual salaries paid white teachers, town and country, 1915-'16 .....	\$289.00
For rural white teachers it was only \$274.45.	
48th in rural white schools having two or more teachers, 1915-'16, per cent .....	43
47 one-room, one-teacher schools are still to be found in our white country communities. Here is need for further consolidation. Forty-seven counties stood ahead of us in this particular.	

### SEVEN-YEAR GAINS IN RURAL SCHOOLS

	1908-'09	1915-'16	Per Ct. Inc.
Total rural school property.....	\$44,673	\$123,205	176
Total rural school fund .....	\$29,382	\$70,955	141
Rural districts tax fund.....	Nothing	\$13,451	...
Number of rural school tax districts.....	0	18	...
Spent on teaching and supervision.....	\$17,534	\$52,372	200
Spent on new buildings, rural.....	\$7,019	\$8,100	15
New schoolhouses, both races.....	5	9	80
Spent on administration.....	\$844	\$1,597	88
Total rural school population.....	10,483	10,964	5
Total rural enrollment.....	6,329	6,943	10
Per cent of rural enrollment.....	60.3	63.3	3
Average rural daily attendance.....	3,896	5,472	40
Per cent attendance .....	62	79	17
Average annual salaries (white).....	\$134.49	\$274.45	104
Number having two or more teachers....	21	36	71
Per cent with two or more teachers, white	31	43	12
Total number of rural white teachers....	95	161	69
Number with four years of experience....	32	74	131
Number with college diplomas.....	6	35	463
Number of rural schoolhouses (white)...	73	81	11
Number with patent desks.....	67	81	21
Number schoolhouses with home-made desks .....	6	0	...
Total number of white districts.....	70	68	3*
Log schoolhouses .....	1	1	...

NOTE.—\* means decrease.

# Where We Lead

T. D. STOKES, Ruffin, N. C.

Rockingham has a great many things to be proud of. Besides being one of the oldest counties in the State, it has become in recent years one of the most prosperous industrial areas of North Carolina. It has been bountifully blessed by nature with good soils in great variety and with a good climate that distinctly favors live-stock farming. However, in 1910, our per capita wealth in farm properties was only \$191 against \$322, the average for the State, against \$560 in Alleghany and \$992, the average for the United States.

## Reidsville and Spray

Reidsville, largely because of its wealth and age, is a city of wide, shaded streets and beautiful homes, costing from five to fifty thousand dollars apiece. The church buildings are of modern construction, the congregations large, and the music is under the direction of trained choir leaders. The pastors are men of civic as well as religious leadership. Reidsville every year maintains a Chautauqua week and subscribes funds liberally to secure many of the most noted lecturers and entertainers on the lyceum circuits. The postoffice building is one of the three or four best in North Carolina. Women's libraries, social and civic clubs wield tremendous influence in the life of the city. The high school building would be a credit to any city twice the size of Reidsville.

The annual output of Reidsville tobacco factories in 1914 amounted to 9,000,000 pounds of plug and 500,000 pounds of smoking tobacco, having a value of \$7,500,000. Since the war the output has been practically doubled. Hundreds of people find employment inside the walls of these massive buildings. In every small territory, in every State in the Union are traveling men pushing the output of Reidsville's tobacco factories, and so great is the popularity of their goods that these plants are running on an average of \$2,000,000 behind orders. The chewers and smokers have contributed multiplied millions of dollars to the tobacco growers of Rockingham County. Practically every large manufacturing concern in this country maintains buyers in the Reidsville markets.

Reidsville, therefore, is a busy tobacco factory center. Her future will largely depend upon the development of the marvelous agricultural resources of her trade territory. Our rolling hillsides and green meadows are becoming more famous for their grasses and live-stock than tobacco has ever made them.

### **Leaksville-Spray**

In the north central part of Rockingham County is located Spray, one of the most active and prosperous little cities of the northern tier of counties. It has a population of over 8,000 and is growing steadily. It has thirteen important cotton mills and offers exceptional opportunities for more.

Splendid schools and churches are provided for all the people. A handsome Y. M. C. A. building has recently been erected at a cost of more than \$30,000. The main public school building recently completed cost \$35,000 and is considered one of the best in this section of the country.

Leaksville, adjoining Spray, is a growing community, and contributes largely to the activity and prosperity of the north end of the county.

The people of Spray take great pride in the living conditions of the town. Every means for the preservation of health and for the general elevation of the citizens of all classes is provided. Good roads connect Spray with the surrounding country and other towns of the section.

### **Our Schools**

During the year 1914 nine new schoolhouses were built in Rockingham County and four were entirely renovated. These buildings were all erected in country districts except the new building in Spray. All these buildings have been erected in accordance with modern plans, with ample and attractive playgrounds. There are eighty-five white schools and forty colored schools in the county. There are four State high schools that offer free tuition to all boys and girls who have completed the elementary school. High school branches are also taught in four city schools and in several of the consolidated rural schools in the special-tax districts.

Although we are behind in food production we are ahead in many other particulars. A shining example to the other counties of the State is our investment in county public school property. In 1916 our rural school property was valued at \$123,205 and only ten counties made a better showing. Our country children are fairly well cared for by good teachers. There were only twenty-three counties in the State that paid their white teachers more than we did in 1914. At that time our average was \$257. In 1916 it was \$289, and only thirty-five counties made a better showing. These insufficient salaries are nothing to boast of, considering the service the teachers render and the present high cost of living. On the whole, and also in specific detail, our school system is gradually becoming modern and praiseworthy. As our industries develop, it will be more and more difficult to hold good tenants on the farms of the county. Good county schools are the best investment our landowners can make.

Rockingham ranks twenty-ninth in size, but only nine have more rural population per square mile. This density of country population means abundant labor for mills and factories. Rockingham is moving ahead rapidly in manufactures, but she will lag behind in agriculture unless our country schools are brought to the highest possible level of efficiency.

The next most important improvement is our roads. In 1914 Rockingham had 313 miles of improved roads, and only eight counties made a better showing. Our most pressing need at present is to keep our roads in good repair. One of the most serious and frequent mistakes is failure to provide for the maintenance of improved highways. The expression, "permanent improvement," is a delusion and snare. The permanency of road improvement depends upon the character of maintenance. The sand-clay, stone, or gravel surface, and the side ditches as well as the foundations of the highway, need constant attention, similar to the care given the steel rails and the roadbeds of railroads.

### **Our Farm Interests**

Rockingham County ranked second in tobacco culture in 1910. Tobacco is the main money crop of the county, although wheat, corn, hay, and forage are also important crops.

In the census year we had 8,568 cattle of all kinds, which was 26 per 1,000 acres. It was very few, but it was 3 above the State average and only 35 counties made a better showing. We need more and better farm animals. It is the one fundamental farm necessity of the county. In 1910 we were 81 per cent below the level of even a lightly stocked farm area, which is one animal unit to every five acres.

We had 7,018 cattle in 1860 and only 8,568 in 1910. Which is to say, while our population nearly quadrupled in number our cattle increase was barely 20 per cent.

In conclusion, I would say that even though Rockingham has made great progress during the last forty years she is by no means living up to her opportunities and privileges. Rockingham is a great wealth-producing but a poor wealth-retaining county.

When our farmers have learned to keep at home the \$2,130,000 expended yearly for imported food and feed products, then Rockingham will move to the forefront as a county. Better home conditions, better school and church support, better public roads, and greater attention to public health and sanitation depend on greater wealth and on the greater willingness of our people to surrender their wealth for community progress and prosperity.

To hold down the wealth they create in tobacco from year to year, our farmers must produce at home bread and meat, fruits and vegetables, canned goods and the like, sufficient for home consumption. Their live-stock needs to be quadrupled in number and greatly improved in quality, and this live-stock must be supported on home-raised grain, hay, and forage.

Then the money crops can be used to enlarge and equip their farms, improve their homes, increase their comforts and luxuries, swell their bank accounts, and in general make life on the farm more attractive. When this condition is met, the per capita country wealth of Rockingham will soon pass beyond the State average and in a few years will reach the average of the country people in Iowa, which is not \$191 but \$3,386.

Cotton and tobacco farmers with food and feed to buy always stay poor; bread-and-meat farmers with food and feed to sell always get rich.

Tobacco farming on a live-at-home basis would make Rockingham County the richest farm area in the United States in ten years.

### WHERE WE LEAD

The figures at the left margin show how many counties rank ahead of Rockingham. We are ahead of the State averages in the particulars listed below.

#### *Rank.*

10th in population, 1910 census.....	36,442
12th in total white population, 1910.....	25,965
22nd in total negro population, 1910.....	10,474
3rd in decrease in negro population, 1900-1910, per cent....	6.3
22nd in marriages per 1,000 population, 15 years and over...	12
3rd in suicides, average rate per million inhabitants.....	2
6th in female workers in factories. Number in 1915.....	1,307
19th in total taxable wealth in 1916.....	\$13,371,387
11th in investment in rural school property, 1916.....	\$123,205
8th in school attendance on enrollment, per cent.....	80
11th in investment in automobiles, 1915.....	\$600,000
27th in automobile upkeep per inhabitant, 1916.....	\$15.56
9th in amount spent on school buildings and supplies, 1913-'14.....	\$15,134
20th in average salaries paid white rural teachers, 1913-'14..	\$257.37
36th in average salaries paid white teachers, town and coun- try, 1916.....	\$289.00
34th in total revenue from local school tax districts in 1913-'14.....	\$13,579
19th in farm-land tax values, according to the census valua- tion, in 1910, per cent.....	34
10th in State income tax paid, in 1916.....	\$1,733
15th in professional taxes paid in 1916.....	\$315
8th in improved roads, January 1, 1915, per cent of total...	52
10th in cattle increase, 1900-1910, per cent.....	33
9th in sheep increase, 1900-1910, per cent.....	22
2nd in tobacco production in pounds, 1910.....	8,279,194
20th in total crop wealth produced in 1910.....	\$2,330,409
26th in non-food crops produced, tobacco, etc., 1910.....	\$995,385
17th in corn production per acre, bushels, 1910.....	16
22nd in wheat production per acre, bushels, 1910.....	9
24th in hay and forage production in 1910, total crop, tons..	4,580
16th in wheat production per inhabitant, 1910, bushels.....	3.83

# Our Problems and Their Solution

W. E. PRICE, Madison, N. C.

In these studies we have presented to the people of Rockingham, to the best of our limited power, the achievements and delinquencies of our home-county—her faults as well as her virtues.

It is my purpose here to gather up the loose ends of these details, to weld them into a simple expression of our fundamentally great and pressing needs, and further to try, with the means at our disposal, to interpret these needs and point the way so far as I am able to a broader and better community life in Rockingham. Nor need this be a depressing task. We have great reason to be proud of our heritage and our present possessions and advantages, but we should not let complacency blind us to our deficiencies. Let us examine our faults courageously, locate the causes clearly, and then proceed in a telling manner to make our civilization healthsome and wholesome, prosperous and happy in every detail of community life.

It has seemed to me that all the evils, all the backwardness of Rockingham, result from three crippling, disabling conditions: (1) an ill-balanced farm system, (2) the growth of our industries at the expense of our country civilization, and (3) the incubus of excessive illiteracy, sheer and near. I shall treat each of these in detail.

The pressing needs of our county are:

## 1. A Better Balanced Farm System

All civilizations are directly dependent for their raw materials, their power, and their culture upon the dwellers in the countryside. The tillers of the land, the foresters, and the miners are the producers of the basic wealth of the state. They foster national ideals and determine at last the level of national consciousness. Peace and progress are the blessings of a land of intelligent, prosperous farmers. If its land citizenry is struggling and poor, a country can have no prolific life.

It is vital to us, therefore, to find out the living conditions of our farmers and their estate in life.

The 1910 census shows that we have a per capita country wealth in farm properties in Rockingham amounting to only \$191. It is a very small figure and it gives us a very low standing. There are 87 counties in the State with greater per capita country wealth. In Alleghany it was \$560, in the United States \$994, and in Iowa \$3,386.

You see, our farmers are poor. They have too little money with which to introduce experiments, or carry out ideas. This fact probes to

the very quick of our country-life problems. To have contented boys and girls, to have good roads, good schools, good churches, and fine farms, we must have money—far more money than we have ever had in our country regions. Why is it that in a county whose natural resources are unequaled the country people are so poor? Clearly our methods must be wrong. We produce enormous wealth; in the last census year it amounted to \$2,330,409. Where does all this money go? In that same year we sent out of the county \$2,130,000 for imported food and feed supplies. It was a million dollars more than our tobacco produced. Here is where we lose. We slave to raise tobacco, and we neglect livestock and food crops. Year by year we create a vast volume of farm wealth; but we no sooner get it than we ride our wagons to town and send it away to the Western farmers. Every year this tremendous drain increases. Every three years we produce as much wealth as we have been able to accumulate in 125 years. This is vitally wrong. Our lands are admirably suited for the raising of food and feed; we have unequaled pasturage possibilities. We can easily raise all the meat and bread we need for home consumption. We did it in 1915 under the pressure of pinching necessity, and we can do it again, and do it every year under the pressure of hard horse-sense. Why do we raise tobacco exclusively, when, if we would be self-supporting, we could soon be rolling in wealth like the farmers of Iowa?

For many years influences have been at work upon our farmers to make them persist in farm customs that must forever keep them poor. The impoverishment of the South by the Civil War caused great numbers of whites and negroes to become tenant farmers as the only way of support. Today there are 1,738 landless, homeless farmers in Rockingham. More than half, or 54.5 per cent, of all our farms are in the hands of tenants. Two-thirds of our tenant farmers are white and nine-tenths of them are croppers.

We have been so long used to the tenancy system of farming that we have become dull to the fact that "it is the most vicious and wasteful method of land cultivation known anywhere on earth today." Farm buildings fall into ruin, fertile soils are worn out and abandoned to gullies and pine thickets. There are 103,000 acres of such land in Rockingham today. The tenant raises tobacco and neglects food and feed crops—either by choice or under the pressure of the supply-merchant or the landlord. Through his lack of home-raised bread and meat he finds himself at the mercy of the supply merchant, and every year on a poorer farm. He moves about from place to place. His children fall out of school, and his family wanders beyond the reach of church and Sunday school influences. Here is one of the reasons why we have 2,300 native white illiterates in Rockingham, and 15,000 people of responsible ages outside of our churches.



The owner as well as the tenant is absorbed by the rush for the tobacco dollar. As a result, our tobacco money, whatever be the market price, pays barely half our bill for imported food products from year to year. The bread-and-meat farmers of the West got two million dollars of our hard-earned money in 1910, and over four million dollars of it in 1917. No wonder they get rich while we stay poor. We have cleared nearly all of our virgin forest in our mad search for gold, when it has all the time been in our very hands, if we would but husband our resources, and care for our land, and produce tobacco on a bread-and-meat basis.

Our farmers do not attempt to supply our towns with food, because they have been given small encouragement to do so. The townspeople bid eagerly for tobacco, but neglect to provide well regulated public market facilities for food products. The buying and distribution of country produce has been left in the hands of small middlemen, who through unwise and frequently unfair practices have killed the tendency of our farmers to raise food products for sale. Indeed, they have encouraged them to raise tobacco and buy their food and feed supplies. The merchant thrives, the farmer loses, and the town consumers pay high prices. Under our present plan, or lack of plan, consumers get too little for their money, and farmers get too little for their produce, and the middlemen get the bulk of the consumer's dollar.

Thus our farmers, heedless of the fact that a tobacco crop is a useless crop, unless he raises his own supplies and retains his tobacco money or a reasonable share of it, continues this suicidal policy from year to year and remains a poor owner or a tenant all his life, with his land more and more exhausted. The townman, looking greedily at the farmer's tobacco money, seizes it, and neglects to provide places where farm products other than tobacco can be sold. In this way he discourages diversified farming in the nearby country regions. He is blind to the fact that by impoverishing his farm neighbors he is insuring his own ultimate loss, for merchants cannot thrive in a town supported by a poor back-country.

What can we do about it? Clearly, in the first place, we must encourage tenants to buy land, and farm owners must take a more active interest in the cultivation and preservation of their properties. How can we get tenants to become farm owners? Our schools play a big part here. We must educate our farm children in modern practices. We need two or three good farm-life schools in which our country children can learn what they need to know about well-balanced farm systems—about money crops, food crops, livestock, farm management, salesmanship, farm credit, and the like. Landowners should encourage food production and soil improvement, and show tenants how to save money and buy farms. The home-loving, land-owning instinct must be de-

veloped in our tenant farmers. Our banks could interest themselves actively in helping thrifty tenants to buy small farms on easy terms. Every citizen intelligently concerned about the county should interest himself in putting an end to our disastrous system of farm tenancy. It can be done, if we want to do it.

A second step to be taken towards a better farm system is the wide introduction of livestock farming. A well stocked farm is essential for self-support, for the diversification of crops, and for the enrichment of fields. Livestock farming goes hand in hand with farm prosperity. It is so in the Middle West, and it can be so in Rockingham. Besides furnishing an adequate supply of foods; hogs, cattle, and sheep are absolutely necessary to efficient farming. With sufficient equipment, livestock farming is the most pleasant of all farm work. Rockingham is woefully deficient in livestock. In 1910 we were 81 per cent below the level of even a lightly stocked farm area, and we produced only 54.2 pounds of pork per inhabitant instead of the 122 pounds we needed. All told, we imported nearly two million pounds of meat of all sorts in the census year. Think of it! We never can hope to hold down our tobacco money in Rockingham until we cut our imported meat bills down to zero.

How are our farmers to get the money they need for more and better livestock? Bankers and banks play a very important part in the life of any community. Many of our farmers, when they catch the vision of profitable, comfortable livestock farming will not have the necessary capital. Our banks may safely lend their money on good livestock. In these times no loans are better secured. It is wise to lend money to reliable farmers for productive purposes: say, to buy land for more extensive farming, to build good fences, to build feed and shelter barns, to import good stock males, and so on.

When our farmers once get safely settled in the habit of raising cover crops, saving every bit of manure, and returning it to the fields, caring for their animals, and raising both food and tobacco, they and the county will be prosperous.

In order to serve both consumers and producers to the best advantage, Leaksville-Spray, Reidsville, and Madison should have free public markets for country foodstuffs.

To put our farming to the front we must do three things: we must eliminate tenancy, introduce livestock farming widely, and establish local markets for home-raised food and feed supplies.

## **2. A Safe Balance Between Agriculture and Manufacture**

Rockingham is jubilant over the expansion of her industries, and truly we have a right to be proud. Spray and Leaksville are becoming

great textile centers, and Reidsville is far to the front in tobacco manufacture. Yet we have barely begun to realize our manufacturing possibilities. Today we have 43 manufacturing plants, 16 of which are textile mills, with a combined capital stock of \$2,666,000 or more. These are the figures of the State Labor Commissioner in 1916. With our natural advantages we should lead in the industrial life of the State. We have ample hydro-electric possibilities. We are in the center of a rich region of raw materials, in the heart of the tobacco belt, on the edge of the great cotton fields of the South, and close to a plentiful supply of hardwoods, in a region admirably suited to grain, hay, and livestock production. We are a thickly settled farm area. Labor is abundant. The labor cost of production can be low, if only we can develop our food producing possibilities and thus keep the cost of living on a reasonable level.

Meanwhile, we must keep in mind the fundamental fact that a large number of small plants is better than a small number of large plants concentrated in a single center or two. We need knitting mills, hosiery mills, flour mills, and woodworking plants scattered all over the county, wherever railway or improved highway facilities make such enterprises possible. There is room in Rockingham for a large increase in the number of mills and factories, and there is need for an immense multiplication of city consumers of farm produce. At present the farm wagons on any Saturday of the year glut our little cities and reduce to little or nothing the prices the farmers get.

But we are rapidly developing the populous market centers that the county needs. The inhabitants of our mill centers have trebled in number since 1910. Our towns and villages now contain one-third of the people of the county. As manufacture waxes great in our county, we will be wise to see to it that agriculture does not dwindle and almost disappear as in Durham and many other counties in the industrial area of the State and the United States. A sane, safe balance must be maintained between the town and country civilizations of our county, or both manufacture and agriculture will pay heavy penalties in the long run.

The dangers that confront agriculture lie in the cityward drift of country populations, in decreasing farm labor, in the increasing difficulty of securing good tenants and wage hands of any sort, in increasing areas of idle land, in lower land values and rents, in the decreasing support for country day schools, Sunday schools, and churches. The dangers are summed up when we say that increasing industrialism threatens depression in farming as a business in Rockingham, and in country civilization as a county asset. Even tobacco farming has almost come to an end in Durham County, and cotton culture has disap-

peared, although Durham city is one of our great cotton and tobacco factory centers. The owners of country property in Rockingham can well afford to consider this drift of things—and to act wisely before it is too late.

The dangers that confront manufacture in an area of dwindling agriculture lie in the increased cost of living which forces wages up and profits down. If four million dollars worth of bread and meat must be imported into Rockingham this year, a swarming multitude of middlemen must be rewarded. Imported foods mean inflated bills for pantry supplies. When the cost of living rises, wages must rise. If not, then capital tends to destroy the labor that helps to produce its dividends; and whenever this is the case discontent and wage-and-labor troubles arise. It is easy to raise wages, it is hard to lower them. It is far wiser to keep wages on a reasonable level by keeping the cost of living on a fair level. And this can be done by a factory center only in a well developed food-producing area and by solving the problem of markets for home-raised food supplies.

Having considered the dangers that confront both agriculture and manufacture in the development of life and business in our county, let us examine the policies that are necessary to preserve a safe balance between the two.

1. Rockingham must become an area of prosperous home-owning, food-producing farmers, a region of tobacco production on a bread-and-meat, live-at-home basis. Livestock farming and diversified farming develop together and neither is possible without the other. The mill owners, the bankers, and the merchants of our city centers must encourage food and feed farming in self-defense. They must encourage the ownership of farms by capable, aspiring tenants, and the importation of improved breed-sires; and above all they must provide free public market facilities that will bring consumers and producers of food products together with mutual advantage. In no other way can the farmer get more for his produce and the consumer more for his money. It is not an easy problem to solve, but it is worth the best thinking of our captains of industry, because here is almost the only chance to keep the cost of living and the wage scale on a reasonable level.

2. Then, again, a broad business statesmanship will lead our city centers to vote for county-wide taxes for better country schools, for a more rapid extension of improved public highways, for farm-life schools, for school supervisors, a whole-time public health officer, a home demonstration agent—for everything that will tend to create prosperity, high courage, and good cheer in the country regions of the county. There is no limit to the development of a city seated at the center of a

prosperous food-producing farm region; but the time has come when decline and depression in a trade area punishes every business interest in the city center.

The cityward drift of country people is inevitable under the conditions of modern industrialism. The thing to do is to make life efficient, satisfying, and wholesome for those that love country life and prefer to remain in the country regions.

Our country people need the best possible schools and roads and churches, otherwise the mill wages and the social advantages of our towns will attract out of the farm regions the best labor and leave behind the poorest.

The secret of industrial as well as agricultural success in Rockingham lies in the sane balance we preserve between them. In town and country alike we must educate on the highest levels in the most liberal ways possible, and we must have definite, wise policies of activity, if farm and factory life are to develop side by side with mutual advantage.

### 3. The Elimination of Illiteracy

And finally. In every forward move we make or try to make in Rockingham, we run against a certain intangible resistance which makes heartening success in any kind of social betterment rare. It is the dull, blank wall of illiteracy and ignorance which everywhere balks us as an upward struggling people. We quote the *University News Letter* of March 7, 1917:

"Perhaps the most menacing of all social ills and the most difficult to cure is illiteracy. The most menacing because illiteracy and poverty go hand in hand. They are born twins and boon companions throughout life. Few of the perils of democracy can be abolished or even held in check in the presence of sheer-illiteracy and near-illiteracy in overwhelming mass. Together they threaten both the church and the state; and both in self-defense are called on to sponge illiteracy off the map."

Our illiterates in Rockingham are more than one-fifth of all our males of voting age, more than one-sixth of our entire population ten years of age and over, nearly one-eighth of our entire white population, and more than a seventh of all our white voters. In addition to these appalling totals, consider the vast number of our people who can read and don't read, who can think and don't think, who have only a meager acquaintance with the great events and problems of the world they live in, who are uninformed or misinformed about every vital concern of life, who are unalert, apathetic, prejudiced, suspicious, and unorganizable in every worthy enterprise, but who can be fooled by every designing trickster and voted in herds against every constructive measure of improvement and progress, relief and reform.

Illiteracy, sheer and near, lies at the root of every economic and social ill in our beloved county. It explains our excessive tobacco culture under a farm-tenancy, supply-merchant, crop-lien system; our neglect of livestock and food crops; our hundred thousand worn out acres, our enormous bills for imported breadstuffs, and our excessive country poverty. Only dense ignorance will explain why a man struggles on as a tenant or as a small farm owner letting his land wash away under such a system, and wasting the precious resources of his soil and his soul, when God's richest county waits to be developed by the sweat of his brow and his brain. Ignorance is back of the apathy, the indifference to the ills of our country civilization, and the unconcern that cripples and retards education and religion in our countryside.

The greatest problems of our mill centers arise from illiteracy. Children of high school age are held out of school to work in factories and soon they fall into adult illiteracy. It explains the careless waste of wages, however large, the small bank account savings of mill hands, their restless discontent, the incessant moving from mill to mill, the lack of interest in churches, day schools, and Sunday schools, the feeble sense of citizenship and responsibility for community morals, law and order. An intelligent factory population, fairly treated, is thrifty in times of prosperity and steady in times of depression. An illiterate, ignorant mass of wage-earners can be stirred into any kind of foolish frenzy at any time by any mischief-maker. If the citizenry of a factory center is woefully illiterate, nought but bitter results can be expected in the long run. If our mill centers are to become cities beautiful, the larger spirit of intelligence must be appealed to; and in particular good trade schools must be established. Great strides are being taken in our city schools. The school at Spray is magnificent, but we should not stop here. Every child between six and sixteen ought to be in school. Vocational schools should be provided, offering well planned courses in night sessions for aspiring mill workers.

Poor day-school attendance is the cause of all our illiteracy. . Moonlight schools are important, but daylight schools are more so. In 1910, the white children between the ages of six and fourteen who were not in school for even a single day numbered 1,750. In 1915-'16 they numbered 2,373. Nearly a third of all our white country children are habitually out of school. Here is a dire menace to progress and prosperity in our county. The man who does not give the school his whole support, who grudges the attendance of his child, is as much a traitor and a slacker to the best interest of his county as the cowardly evader of his country's call to arms.

Illiteracy, then, is the active, foundational cause of all our problems. Give us an intelligent people and they will farm intelligently, they will

realize their manufacturing possibilities, and they will have fine roads and churches, and they will safely solve all the perplexing problems of a progressive democracy.

The fight against ignorance is our fundamental fight. How shall we conduct it? It is an age-old fight. We must change our method of attack. Our churches and preachers and Sunday school teachers must be aroused. More than three-fifths of our people are outside our churches. Our non-church members numbered 15,657 in 1906, and illiteracy is the main cause of this deplorable state of affairs.

We must have better teachers, and we must pay them better. In 1916 the average salary of our white country teachers was only \$274. We cannot expect any intelligent mortal to go into teaching as his life work if his pay is as little as that. Teachers have the most important civic duty in the life of every community. They should be required to be highly efficient, and they should be paid the highest possible wages.

Again, we should greatly change the nature of our schools. It is high time for us to consider the kind of education that our town and country boys and girls most need. Every child should be given a thorough grounding in the fundamentals; but why should we attempt to force children who have no aptitude for culture courses to take the Latin and upper-class mathematics uniformly required in our high schools? The common result is for such children to fall into discouragement, and then out of school years too soon. Why not teach them some practical trade? Our county desperately needs skilled farmers, mechanics, laborers. Let us show our farmer boys, by demonstration, the right way to farm. We should establish at least three good farm-life schools under competent headships. They could be located in the country near Reidsville, near Leaksville-Spray, and between Madison and Ellsboro. Then the process of selection could have full play. The children who crave pure culture courses can have them in the State high schools at Bethany, Madison, Ruffin, and Stoneville, or in the local high schools at Wentworth and Spray, or in the city high schools of Leaksville and Reidsville. But those who have a natural aptitude for agriculture or the trades should have a chance at these vocational subjects in the vocational schools of the towns and the farm-life schools of the country.

To have good teachers and good schools we must have more money. Only 18 out of our 68 country school districts levied local school taxes in 1915-'16. Our local school tax rate, town and country, was only \$4.49 per \$1,000 of taxable property. This rate is one of the lowest in the State. Schools are all-important. We should cheerfully bear heavy burdens to bring them to the highest possible level of efficiency.

The final step in eliminating illiteracy is the brave enforcement of our compulsory school attendance law. Public sentiment needs to be

aroused, and our officers sustained by the intelligence and courage of the county. This is no time for us to be slackers because of fear of disturbing or displeasing someone. Every child of age should be in school. The *University News Letter* says:

"What shall we do about illiteracy in North Carolina? Ninety-four per cent of it is rural, and 85 per cent of it is adult. Furthermore, white adult illiteracy increases steadily. It has risen from 13.3 per cent in 1850 to 14.6 per cent in 1910. Something must be done. We believe strongly that it is a church as well as a state problem.

"And, furthermore, we do not believe that it can ever be cured if the church leaves it to the state. It is profoundly a religious concern, and we need to put into the war against illiteracy the fire and fervor of religious zeal.

"Illiteracy menaces the church as well as the state. The people perish for lack of knowledge; and it is a fundamental social situation that the church will ignore at its peril everywhere.

"The Moonlight School and other agencies dealing with adult illiteracy ought to challenge the missionary zeal of preachers as well as teachers, Sunday school superintendents as well as day school superintendents, and church missionaries as well as state authorities."

In truth, no social problem of any sort can be solved where sheer and near illiteracy are massive enough to give demagogues a chance to fool the folks wherever any progressive measure is submitted to the popular vote.

It has been my effort in this brief chapter to trace our ills to their sources and to suggest as best I could the plans and policies that in my opinion will gradually lead our county into a richer and better life.

Some recent developments are suggestive of a hopeful awakening in Rockingham: the recent campaigning of livestock farming, the good schools and the welfare work at Spray, an alert county board of commerce and agriculture and its gospel of bread-and-meat farming, city market facilities, and improved stock males, and the agitation in favor of farm-life schools. All these movements are forward-looking, and all of them challenge the intelligence, the devotion, and the courage of all the people who are capable of having a genuine, generous interest in their mother-county.