we are enabled to furnish full cargoes outward, and the return voyage with cargoes of sugar, coffee, fruits, molasses, and other tropical products would be laid down in our market cheaper than in any other on the coast. Again, being "headquarters" for spirits of turpentine, rosin, tar, pitch, lumber, timber, etc., we are enabled to furnish the European markets with these products on the best terms and to receive cargoes in return of their products and manufactures laid down at as low cost as in any other port.

This being a great railroad center, with one line extending southward and westward through the Gulf States, with another, in course of completion, extending its arms almost in an air line to Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago, and other cities of the great Northwest; another extending northward and connecting with lines to every point of the country, Wilmington offers every facility for the safe and rapid distribution of importations, and for the return of the products of the whole country for exportation.

Steam communication on the Cape Fear River is had with Fayetteville, and by a comparatively small outlay for improvement of the navigation of the upper rivers, which is in part complete, would put us in easy reach of the great deposits of iron, coal, and various other minerals in which the valley of Deep River abounds. The development of these mining interests only awaits the restoration of our harbor. Then the value of this port to the General Government as a coaling and naval station can hardly be estimated.

The trade of this port is steadily and constantly increasing, and as our harbor improves will continue to do so in more rapid proportion.

Since the late War between the States, the article of rice, which was at one time among our principal articles of export, has almost ceased to be produced, owing to the indifferent, hard-to-be-controlled labor. The crop will not now exceed 10,000 bushels, not enough for home demand.

The production of cotton in this State has been very largely increased, and although no accurate figures can be given, in consequence of a large portion leaving the State via the ports of Virginia and South Carolina, it is believed that the crop amounts to at least 200,000 bales. At this port is handled cotton from Georgia and South Carolina, as well as our own State, and during the year 1871 there were exported, principally coastwise, over 95,000 bales. The extension of the Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad and its completion will, it is estimated, at least double our receipts of the staple.

Spirits of turpentine is manufactured to a considerable extent in the city, and the whole pine region of this State and South Carolina is dotted with numerous distilleries worked by owners or tenants of the forests. Most of the products find their way to this market.

Exports of naval stores for the past year from this port have been as follows:

	Coastwise.	*Foreign.*
Spirits turpentine, barrels	64,862	47,162
Rosin, barrels	441,341	127,100
Tar, barrels	31,993	5,874
Turpentine, barrels	17,126	836

Leaving stocks in port of spirits turpentine, 7,299 barrels; rosin, 72,166 barrels; tar, 2,640 barrels, and crude turpentine, 2,842 barrels.

Pitch is manufactured in sufficient quantity only to supply the demand, and the reputation of "Wilmington pitch" is excelled by none. The manufacture of this article is confined to the distillers of turpentine in this city, very little being made in the country.

These articles alone show material to occupy quite a fleet of vessels. In this connection it should be stated that no vessel has ever been obliged from choice to leave this port in ballast.

The timber and lumber trade, though not what it was fifteen years since, has steadily increased since the war, and should reach and exceed its former figures. Our shingles (cypress and juniper or cedar) have an established reputation in the Northern and West India markets, and may be had in quantity to suit any demand from the very extended and heavily timbered swamps on our water courses and railways. Staves could be had of the best white or red oak to supply any demand. At present they are called for almost entirely for home consumption.

Our principal supplies of corn reach us by sea from the eastern counties; but our rail connections with the West will soon throw the corn and other grain from that section into competition.

Peanuts are produced to considerable extent in the surrounding country and form quite a feature in our domestic exports.