

## COLUMBUS COUNTY.

*Topography.*—The surface of the county is formed entirely of Pleistocene terrace plains, which are dissected somewhat by stream erosion. There are no topographic maps of any portion of the area. From elevations obtained from railroad profiles and from field observations it has been determined that a considerable area in the northeast which extends westward along the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad as far as Whiteville constitutes a portion of the Wicomico terrace plain, at elevations of 60 to perhaps 80 feet above sea level. The next lower or Chowan plain is believed to form the surface over much of the south and southeastern part of the county. Waccamaw Lake occupies a depression in this plain, and Green Swamp, which lies to the southeast of the lake, forms a part of its area. The Wicomico plain is present also along Lumber River in the western part of the county. The Sunderland terrace plain, which is next higher than the Wicomico, is believed to cover a considerable area in the west along the line of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad connecting Elrod and Conway, at elevations exceeding 100 feet.

*Geology.*—Pleistocene terrace deposits consisting of sands, sandy loams, and clays belonging to the Sunderland, Wicomico, and Chowan formations, cover the entire county. With the possible exception of the extreme northwest, where the Black Creek ("Bladen") formation may be present, the entire county is underlain by beds of the Peedee ("Burches Ferry") formation, consisting of marine sands and clays. Over considerable areas in the northeastern part of the county thin sheets of Miocene or Pliocene sands, clays, and shell marls intervene between the overlying Pleistocene deposits and the Peedee surface below. These relations have been observed on the north shore of Waccamaw Lake, along Cape Fear River, and in a number of well sections at intervening points. Miocene is mapped by Kerr along White Marsh to the west of Waccamaw Lake.

*Water Resources.*—In Columbus County, as in nearly all the Coastal Plain counties of the State, the Pleistocene surficial deposits offer a practically inexhaustible supply of water for general purposes. In some parts of the county these beds are relied upon for the chief supply at the present time, and in the past practically the whole county depended upon this source. The water is obtained by means of open dug wells and driven wells.

The unsatisfactory nature of shallow well waters, however, led to attempts to obtain supplies from deeper sources, and the results have been exceedingly gratifying. No county in the Coastal Plain of the State has a greater number of flowing wells. The quality of the water