

At Tarboro the first waterworks system, installed by the town in 1888 or 1889, derived its supply from Hendricks Creek, and was used for fire purposes only. This was used until 1897. In that year the Tarboro Water Supply Company installed a system, the water being obtained from wells. In November, 1899, this plant was transferred to the town. Previous to taking over this plant, the town had a deep well drilled which entered the crystalline schists underlying the deposits of the Coastal Plain at a depth of 328 feet. (See section, p. 104.) Very little water was found in this well.

The present supply at Tarboro is obtained from eleven wells situated on the east bank of Hendricks Creek. Two of these wells are 6 inches in diameter and the remainder 4½ inches. A number of wells drilled by the former company are now abandoned. Seven of the 4½-inch wells tap a water-bearing bed about 35 feet below the creek bed, while the remainder are supplied from a horizon 60 feet below the bottom of the creek. All obtain their supply from Patuxent beds. The water from the deeper horizon overflows 6 feet above the creek bed at the rate of 2½ gallons per minute from a 6-inch pipe, but will rise about 10 feet higher when confined in a pipe. The wells are all pumped together, yielding 75 gallons per minute, the water level being lowered about 13 feet by pumping. A pipe runs to the creek, and the creek water can be used in case of fire. N. H. Darton¹ refers to several wells in Tarboro drilled to depths of from 75 to 160 feet, the water of which comes nearly to the surface in the main part of the town.

A small flowing well area is located in the valley of the Tar River in the southeastern part of the county. Small flows are obtained from Patuxent horizons at from 70 to 110 feet below the surface on land less than 45 feet above sea level. The well of Mrs. W. O. Warren is reported to have flowed 15 gallons per minute when it was first drilled, but the entrance of sand into the pipes has reduced the flow to 3 gallons per minute. The flow of the well at Old Sparta has also decreased considerably.

For detailed information regarding deep wells in this county, the reader is referred to the table of well data given below.

Information concerning the water supply of Rocky Mount, which is partly within this county and partly within Nash County, is given in the discussion of the water resources of the latter county.

Assays of waters from this county are given in Table 1, pp. 496, 497, assays Nos. 85-88. These are discussed on page 487.

Artesian Prospects.—The Patuxent formation is the principal water-bearing horizon in Edgecombe County.

¹Bull. U. S. Geol. Survey, No. 138, p. 201.