

RESOURCES AND ADVANTAGES

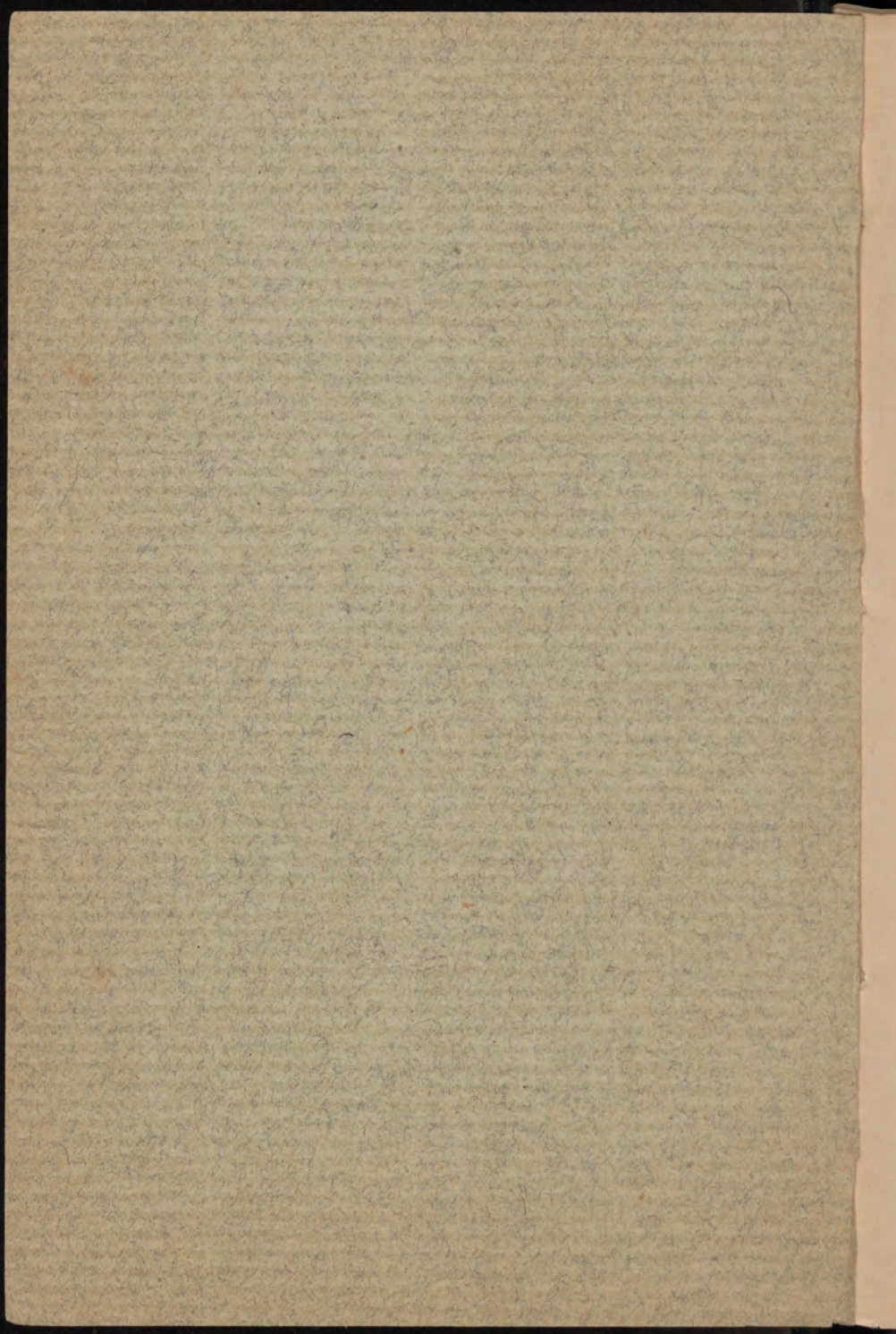
OF

NORTH CAROLINA,

BY

GOVERNOR ELIAS CARR.

1893.



RESOURCES AND ADVANTAGES

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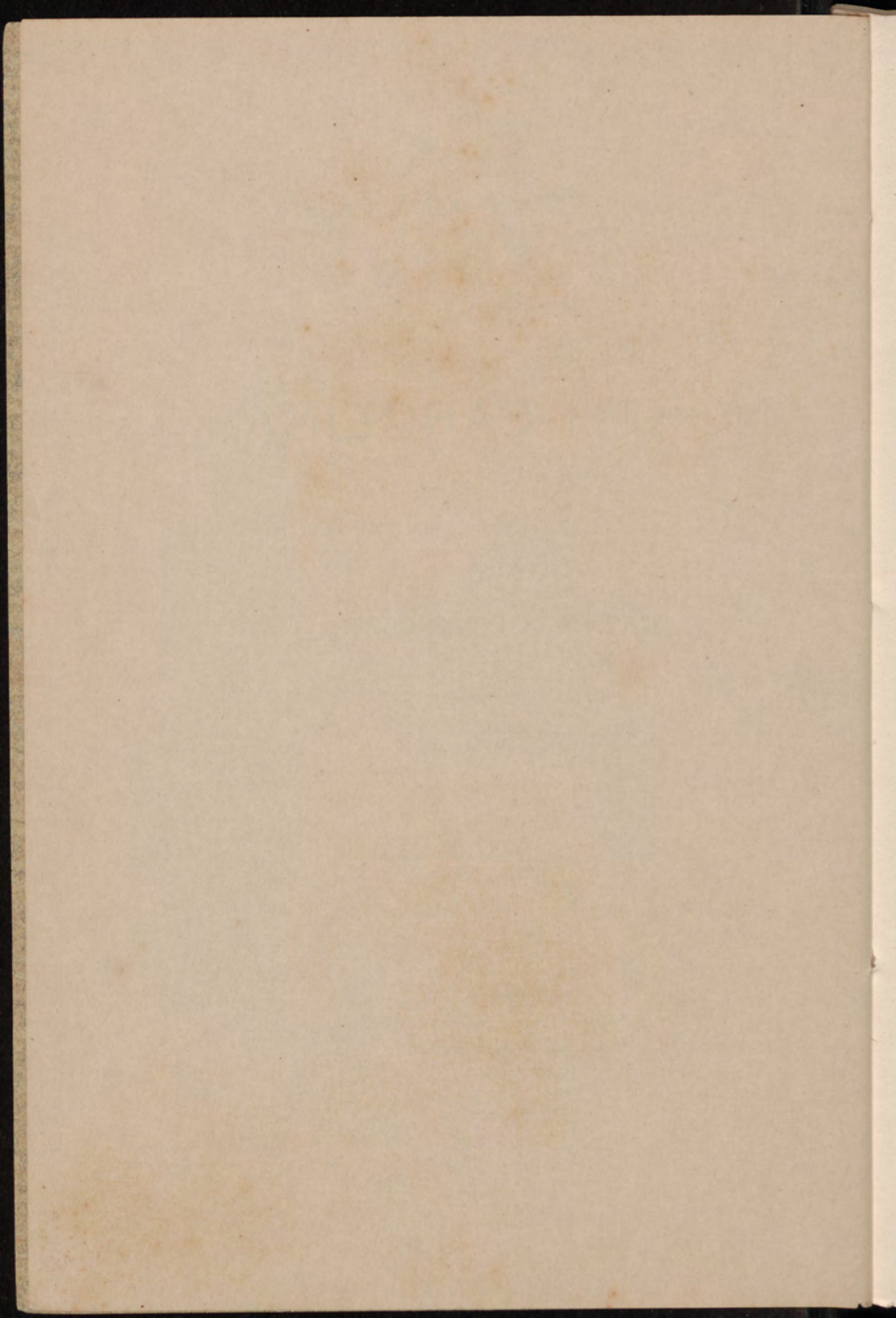
GOVERNOR ELIAS CARR.

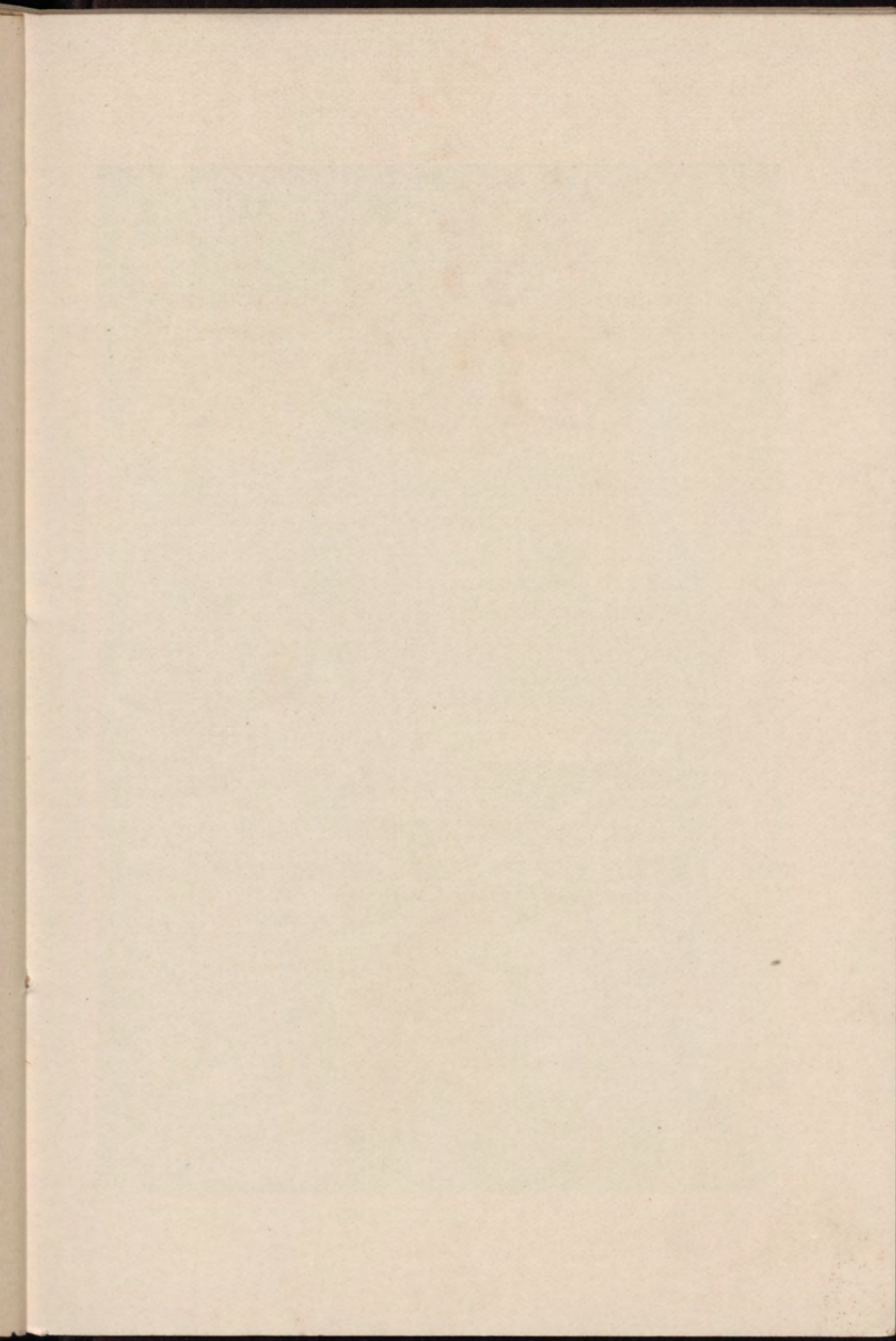
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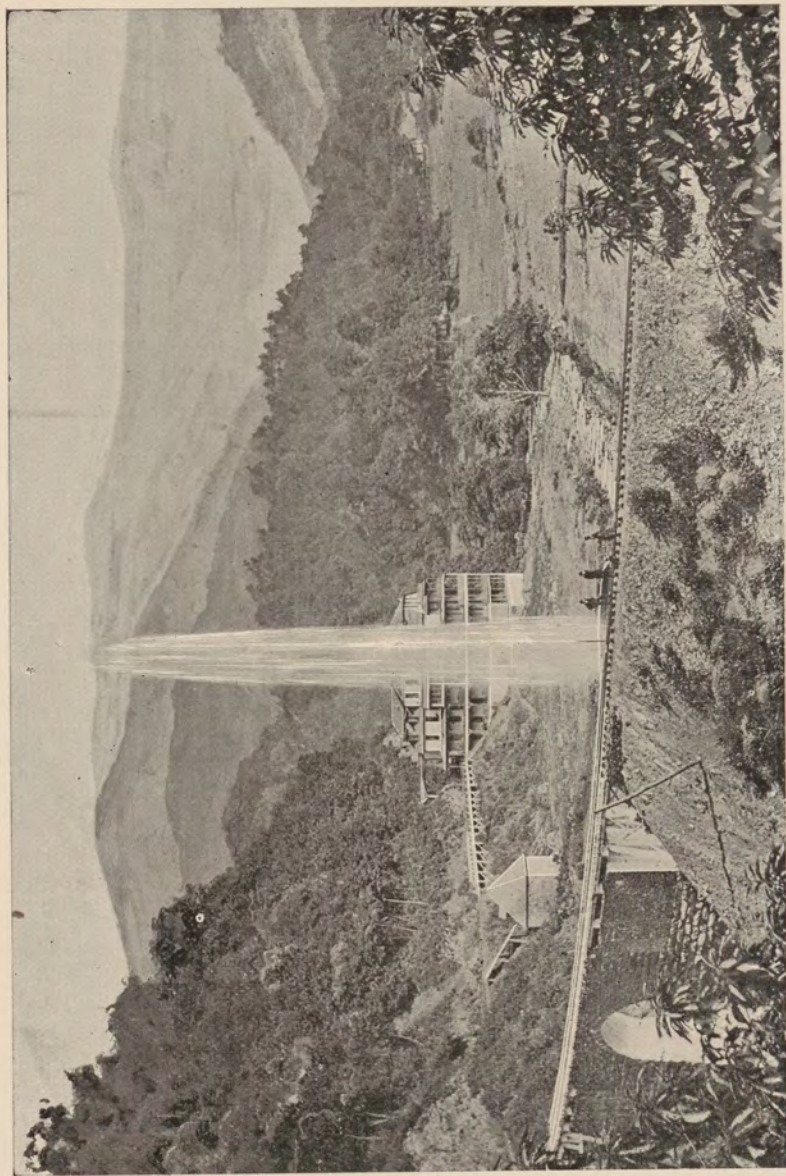
RALEIGH:

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PRESSES OF E. M. UZZELL.







ROUND KNOB AND FOUNTAIN IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

North Carolina.

Immigrants and capitalists are at last turning their attention southward, and it behooves us, desiring their presence, to set forth some of the advantages we offer, and I confidently assert that North Carolina, without any disparagement of her sister States, can and does offer more varied inducements to the home-seeker than any spot upon the habitable globe.

First, above all else desired by mankind, is health, and this, without cavil, must be conceded to North Carolina. Situated between parallels 34° and $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ north latitude, and meridian $75\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and $84\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ west longitude, having an extreme length of 500 miles from east to west, its topography rising gradually from the Atlantic Ocean to the culminating point of the Appalachian Chain, a height of 6,711 feet above the sea. Passing between these two points one beholds every variety of soil and climate, from

NOTE.—In the preparation of this paper I have felt at liberty to draw freely from statements prepared and published by other State officials and myself.

E. C.

the semi-tropical growth of the palmetto and live-oak, near Wilmington, to the balsam-clad peaks of the Smoky Mountains, in the extreme west.

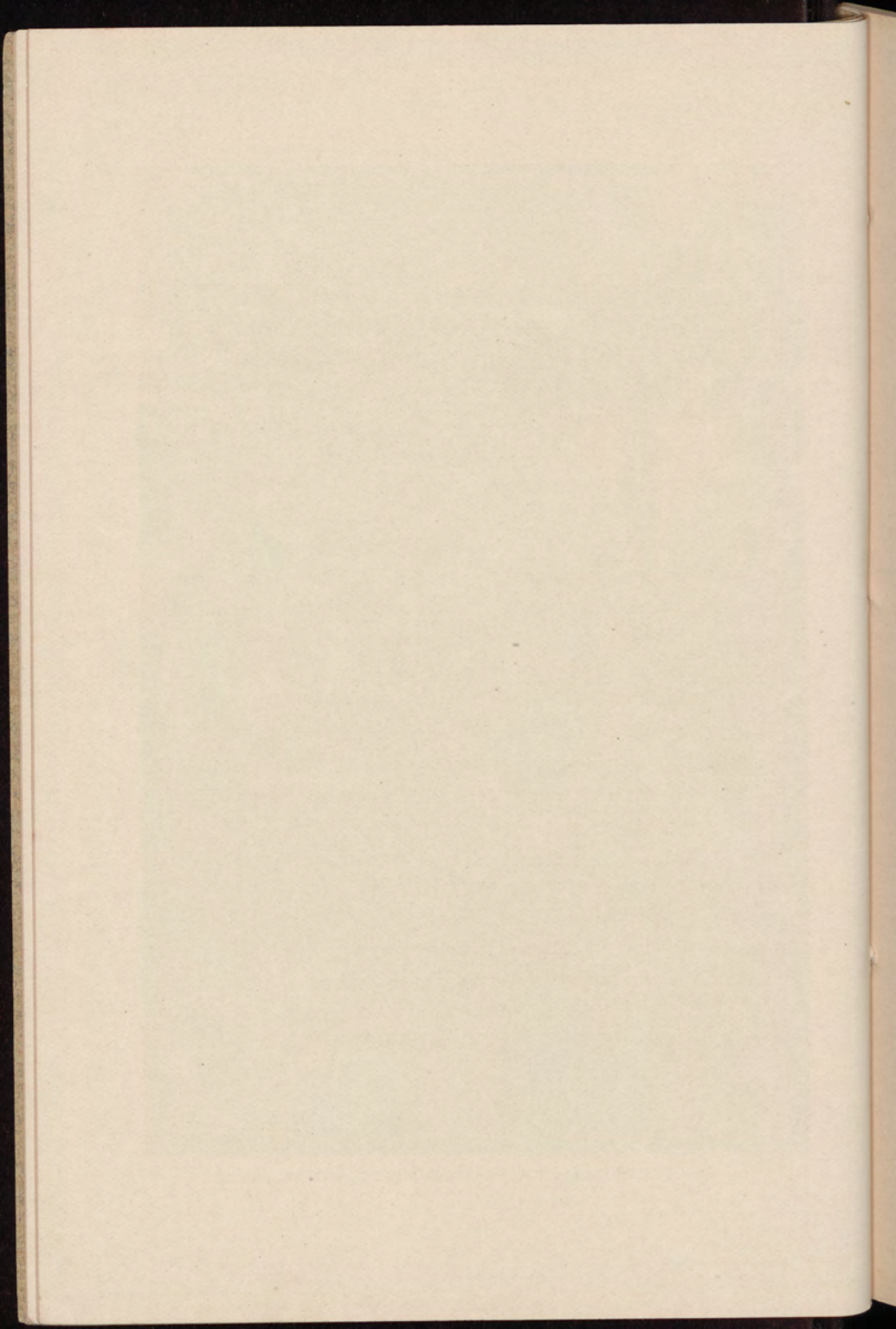
CLIMATE.

The diversity of climate which exists in North Carolina is a natural accompaniment of the diversity of physical feature, and it is well illustrated by the variations in forest and flora.

Dividing the State into three general climatic regions, we have the following average temperature for the year: Eastern Region, 60.7°; Central Region, 59.5°; Western Region, 55.9°. The general average temperature for the entire State is 59°, while the yearly average for the whole Northern Hemisphere is 59.05, thus showing while we have diversity of climate, we have also a general average annual temperature, and one free from extremes. In only a few localities in the State does the thermometer ever fall below zero, even in cold winters, and it rarely rises, even in the central counties, which are the warmest, above 100° in midsummer. The climate of Eastern North Carolina is often said to resemble that of Southern France and Italy, while that of Western North Carolina resembles Northern France and Belgium. The average annual rain-fall (including



SUB-TROPICAL FLORA—EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

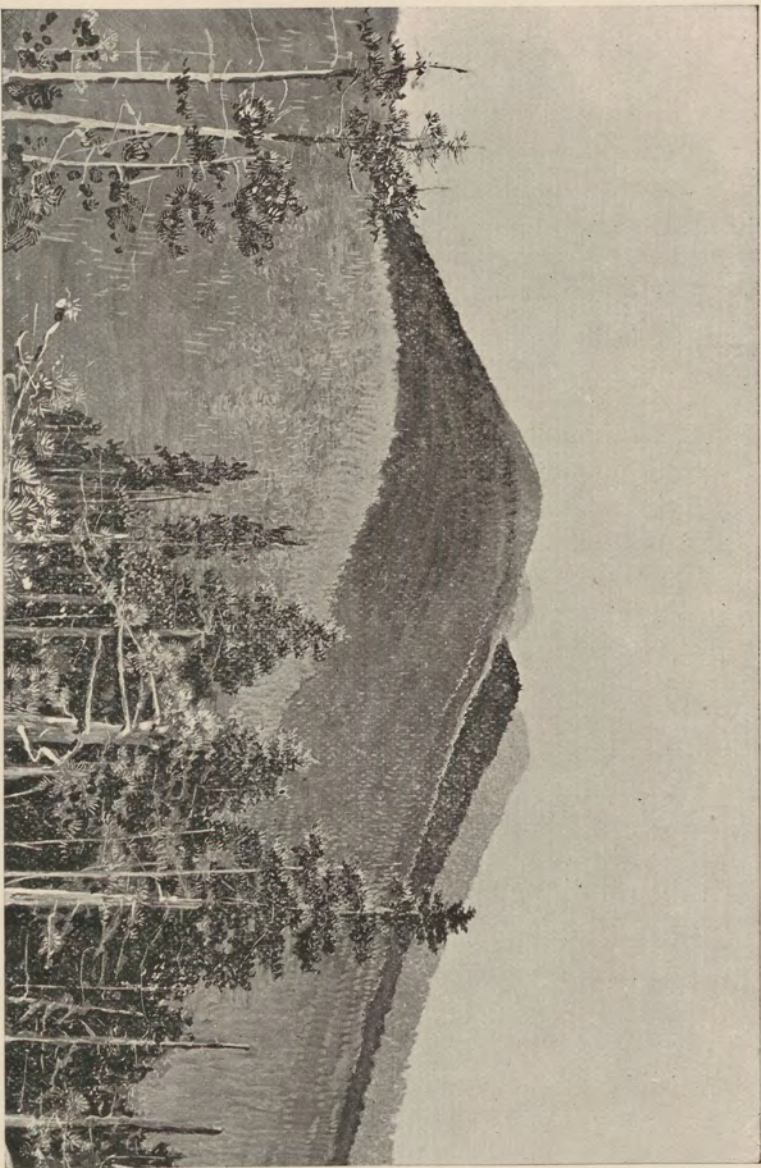


snow and sleet) is 53.29 inches, while that for the three general regions is as follows: For the Eastern Region, 55.23 inches; Central Region, 49.85 inches, and for the Western Region, 53.32 inches. This precipitation is divided nearly uniformly through the different seasons, with a slightly greater amount during the summer and less in the autumn. Notwithstanding this large amount of rain-fall, the humidity tables show that the climate is as dry as that of France and other countries having a smaller rain-fall. This dryness of our atmosphere, especially in the middle and western counties, is found to be decidedly favorable to the prevention of, and recovery from, consumption and similar disorders which develop in more rigorous climates. As this fact becomes more widely known, the number of consumptives from other States who visit those dry places in North Carolina is yearly increasing, notably in the long-leaf pine belt and beyond the Ridge. The proportion of those who recover entirely or greatly improve is phenomenally large. There are areas in North Carolina, thickly inhabited, where consumption is unknown except among persons who visit them to be cured by pure dry air. The death-rate for North Carolina is appreciably less than the average for the United States; and the climate for

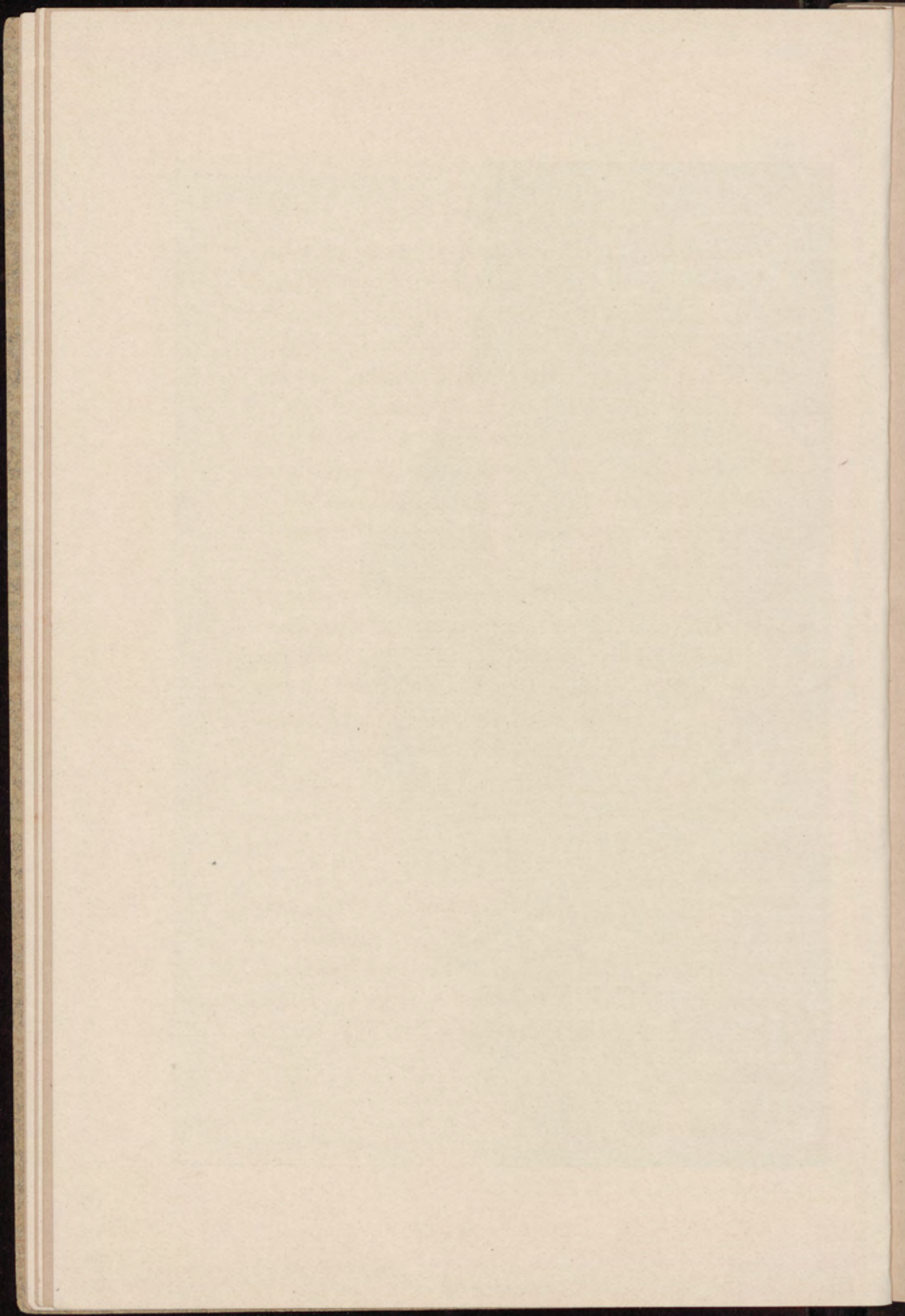
the whole State, except in limited malarial tracts along some of the eastern rivers, is remarkably healthy. The reports of the prevalence of this malady are greatly exaggerated. Speaking from an absolute knowledge, where it is met with, it is due more to the use of impure surface drinking water than to any peculiarity of the atmosphere of the region. In a number of cases where it had long been common I have known it to disappear as soon as cistern water was used for drinking purposes.

By reference to the sanitary department of the census report, it will be found that two of the three most healthy localities in the United States are to be found in North Carolina, and the entire State is remarkably exempt from epidemic diseases of any kind. So, with health and climate as near perfect as any country under the sun, it is not wanting in any other desirable requisite for the home-seeker.

In the southern half of the Piedmont section we find the home of the famous long-leaf pine (*Pinus australis*), a country well and widely known as the *North Carolina health resort section*, and which is being largely patronized by persons from the Northern States who are suffering from pulmonary complaints. Many hotels and cottages have been erected among the pines, and are well filled with



THE BLACK BROTHERS FROM MOUNT MITCHELL.



Northern visitors who invariably express themselves as thoroughly satisfied with the results. A most singular feature of this section, although a sandy soil, is its wonderful adaptability to the growths of fruits, notably grapes, peaches and berries. In the immediate vicinity of the winter resort of Southern Pines will be found large areas in these fruits that will vie favorably with vineyards and orchards anywhere else on the American continent. But this long-straw pine section, covering an area greater than the State of Massachusetts, has its rivals in other sections, notably, Warren county, the Tryon Valley, Polk county, in south-western North Carolina; Burke county, at the foot of the Blue Ridge, and all of the transmontane country to the Tennessee line. In fact, from its peculiar exemption from disease and its near proximity to people who feel necessitated to seek climate, no State in the Union offers greater inducements.

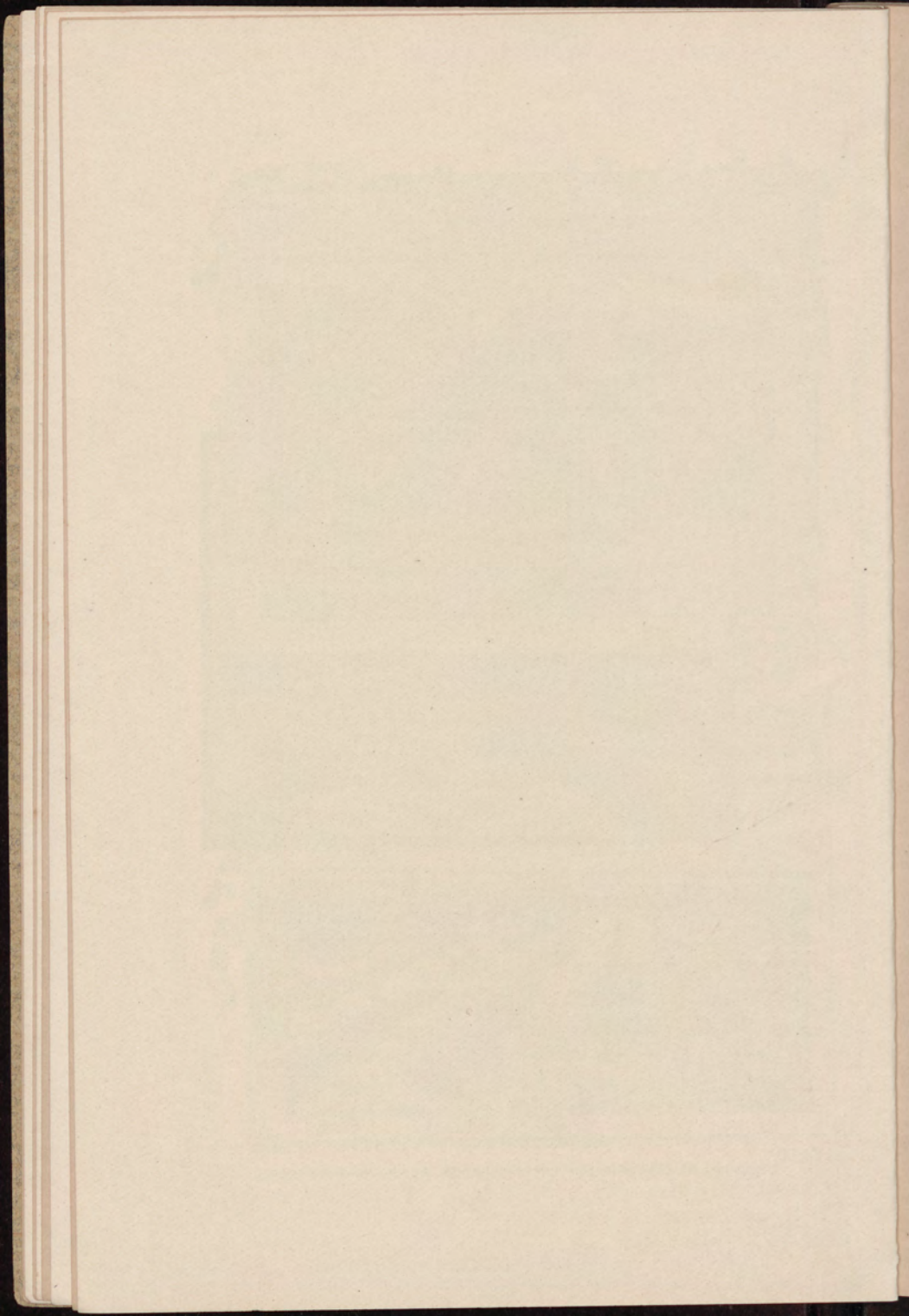
AGRICULTURE.

It is a well-known fact that in North Carolina alone are all the divisional columns of the census report completely filled, so varied are her agricultural products. This variety of products is due to the existence of great diversity in soil and climate.

The eastern margin of the State, but little above the sea-level, is pushed out in the ocean and comes in contact with the warm breezes, and along the south-eastern border, where the influence of the Gulf-stream is most marked, sugar-cane, the palmetto, live-oak, and other semi-tropical plants attain a vigorous growth. Further inland, along the lines of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad, under the modifying influences of the sea, has grown up a great and profitable trucking business. In passing from the east, with its lowlands near the coast, westward to the mountains, which lie 300 to 400 miles distant and rise to the height of 6,711 feet above the ocean, we find the same variations in temperature, soil and products as if this area extended from Eastern Carolina north-westward across Pennsylvania and New York, the forest trees and other vegetation of the mountain counties resembling that of the latter States. In the east, in addition to the field crops usually grown of corn, cotton, tobacco, pea-nuts, peas, wheat, oats and rye, truck for canning and shipment to the Northern markets has assumed vast and almost fabulous proportions. From the city of Newbern alone, during the year 1892, there were shipped 80,000 barrels of



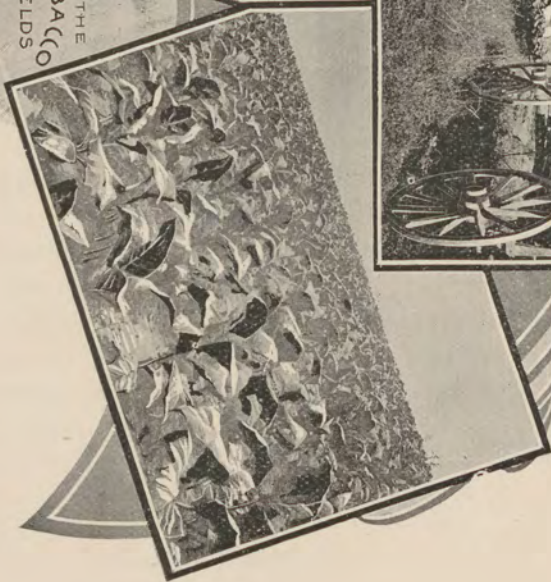
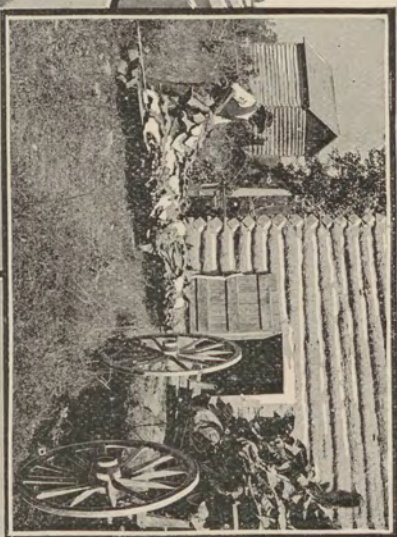
TRUCKING IN EASTERN CAROLINA—CABBAGE, PEAS AND POTATOES.



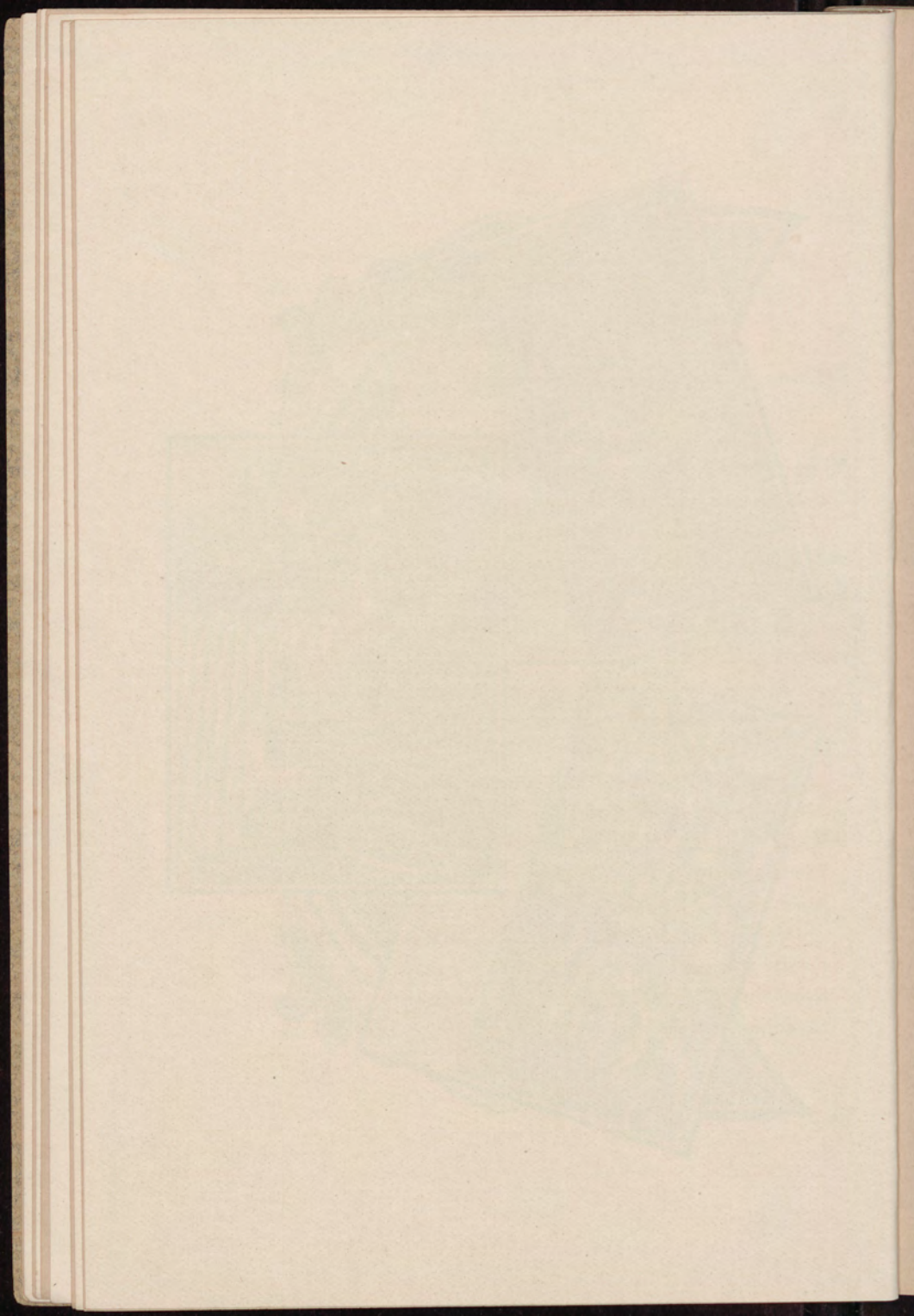
potatoes and 214,000 packages of peas, cabbages, asparagus and other trucks. As an illustration of the diversification of yields I will state that most of these truckers produce, from the same acres, every year three and sometimes four different crops. Nearly the whole of Eastern North Carolina, containing an area of 25,000 square miles, is peculiarly adapted to truck-growing, and its accessibility to the great urban population of this country, being within less than twenty-four hours of New York by fast freight, destines it to be literally, as well as figuratively, the garden spot of this country. For lack of population and capital these lands can now be had at a very reasonable figure. Cotton is produced in a majority of the counties—in almost the entire section east of the Blue Ridge—and notwithstanding the low price at which it has ruled for the past few years (7 to 9 cents), it continues to be quite largely grown. But this decline in price has been quite largely counterbalanced by the increasing profits arising from the sale of seed for the manufacture of oil and meal, the price paid at one time during the past season for the seed produced from one bale of cotton being as great as \$11. But it must be admitted that exclusive cotton-growing, or any other crop, does not pay in North Carolina.

There is as wide a difference from the stand-point of material prosperity between the farmers who have adopted the policy of raising, as far as possible, their own supplies, and the exclusive cotton producers, as is conveyed by the meaning of the words success and failure. Another important by-product of the oil mill is the hull of the seed, at first a waste product and used only for fuel, but now considered a valuable stock food, selling readily for three dollars per ton, and making it possible for the cotton-planter to keep cattle, thereby aiding largely the barn-yard manures, the basis of all agricultural prosperity. Edgecombe county in the east, Wake county in the center, and Mecklenburg in the west, can exhibit herds of Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein cattle, and stables of thorough and standard-bred horses not excelled by breeders anywhere.

Grapes and small fruits thrive all over the State. The scuppernong grape, originating in the east, and thriving there as nowhere else, is perfectly hardy and the most prolific of all grapes. The celebrated Tokay Vineyard in Cumberland county, near Fayetteville, and Medoc in Halifax county, near Ringwood, grow largely of this variety, and from which most of their wines are produced. Orchards on a commercial scale are being set along the "thermal



IN THE
TOBACCO
FIELDS



belts" of the mountain section, the apples grown there being of superior quality and size.

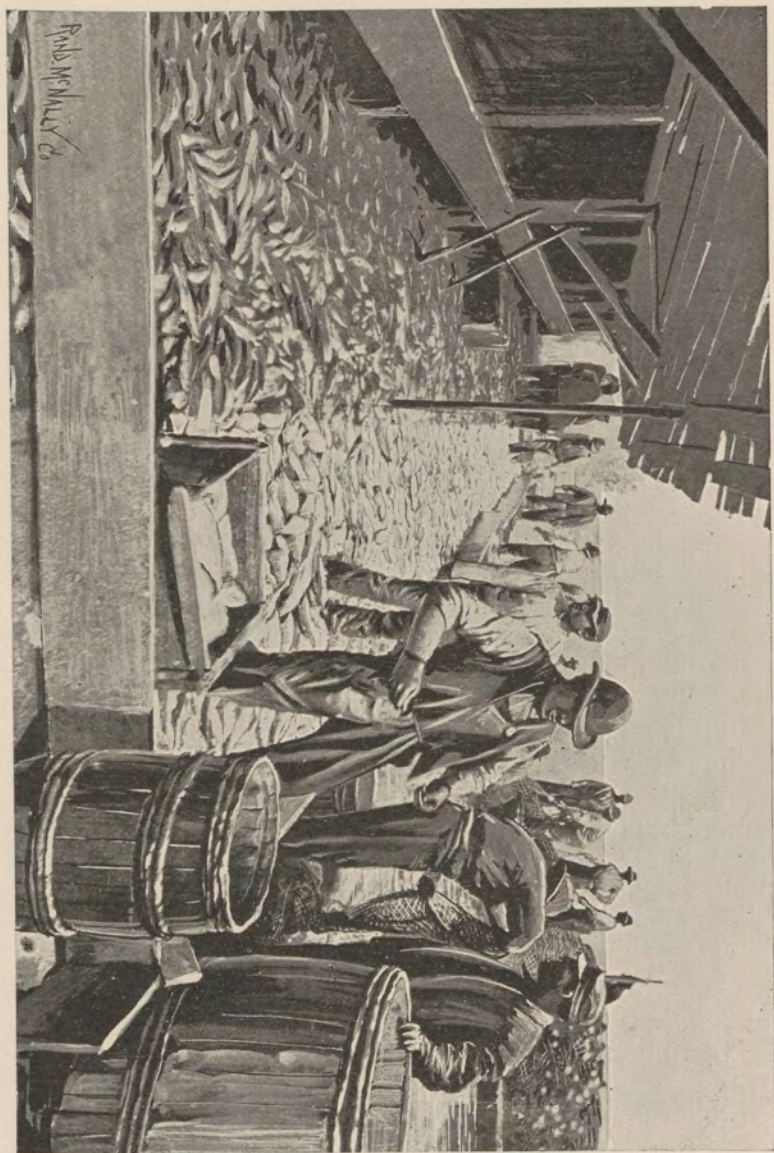
MANUFACTURES.

But it is in manufacturing enterprises that North Carolina has shown the greatest development during the past few years. The numerous streams which, as they pass across the State, descend from the mountains and hills to the lowlands, furnish water-power here and there, which in the aggregate is estimated to be equal to 3,500,000 horse-power. The abundant supply of wood furnishes a cheap fuel to supplement coal. Labor is cheap and satisfactory, and the climate mild enough to allow uninterrupted work. A great advantage claimed, and justly so, for our water-power is its uniformity, owing to the regularity of the rain-fall, being in spring 12.94 inches; summer, 15.87; fall, 11.71, and winter, 12.77. Under these favorable conditions manufacturing establishments have been springing up rapidly during the past few years, and are certain to increase in number, magnitude and variety in the near future. There are in the State at the present time 160 cotton mills, located in thirty-eight different counties, operating about 12,000 looms and more than 600,000 spindles. The

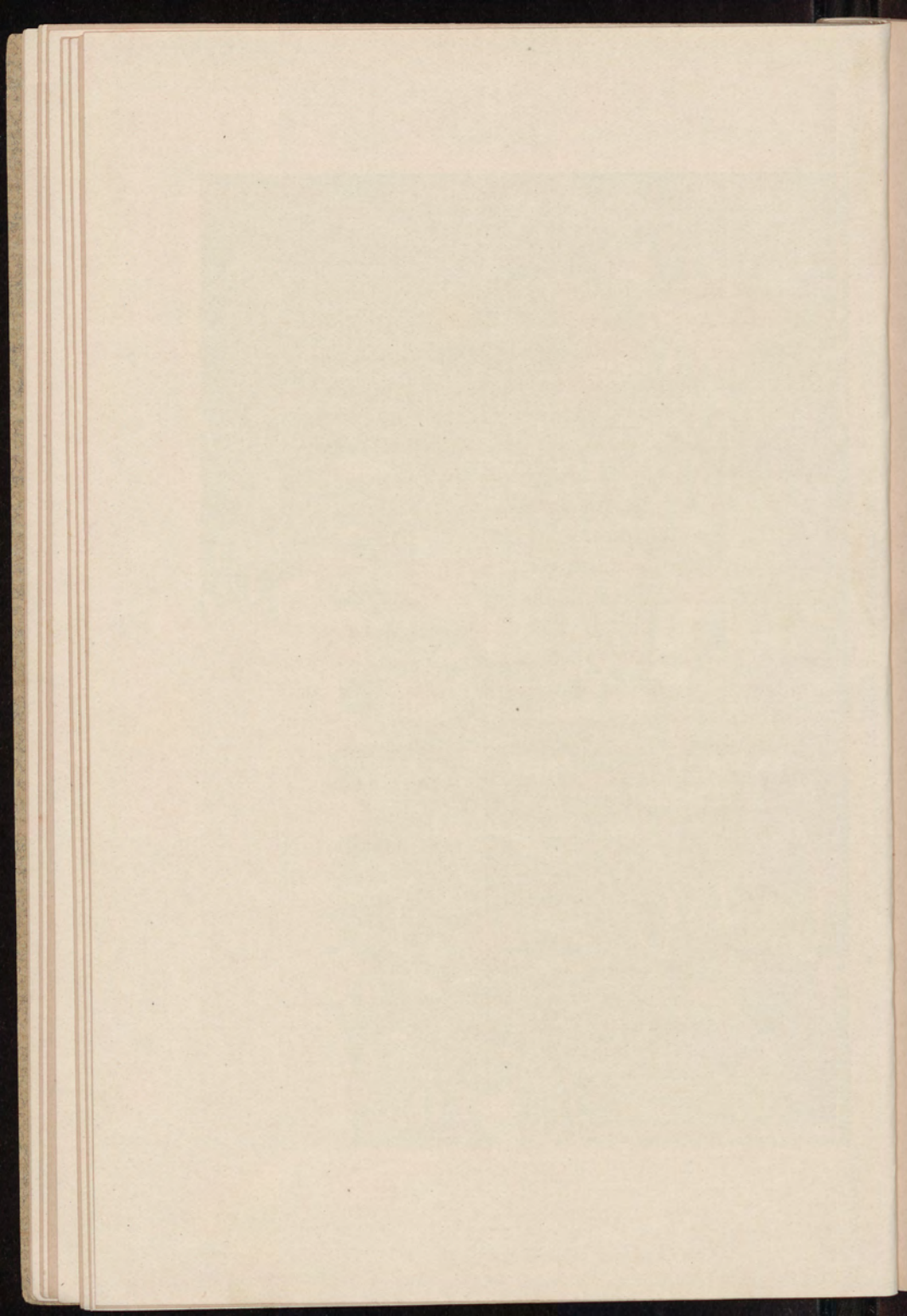
profits arising from many of these mills range from ten to twenty-five per cent. on the capital invested. There are thirteen woolen mills, operating 100 looms and over 10,000 spindles. There are tobacco factories located at Winston, Durham, Reidsville, Henderson, Oxford, Raleigh and elsewhere, 110 plug and nine smoking tobacco factories, the aggregate business of which amounts to several million dollars per annum. There are fifty-seven carriage factories, located in thirty counties; thirty-two wagon factories, twenty-five furniture factories, six hub and spoke factories, twenty-four sash, blind and door factories, three paper mills, eight knitting mills, forty-two canning establishments, including vegetables, fruits and oysters; fourteen cotton seed oil mills, sixteen fertilizer factories, and a considerable number of miscellaneous establishments. Probably the greatest progress has been made in the growth of cotton factories, cotton seed oil mills and tobacco factories, and these have continued to yield the largest profits.

FISHERIES.

The waters of the Eastern section are quite as fruitful as the land, yielding always an abundant and fruitful harvest where judiciously worked.



LANDING FISH AT AVOCA BEACH.

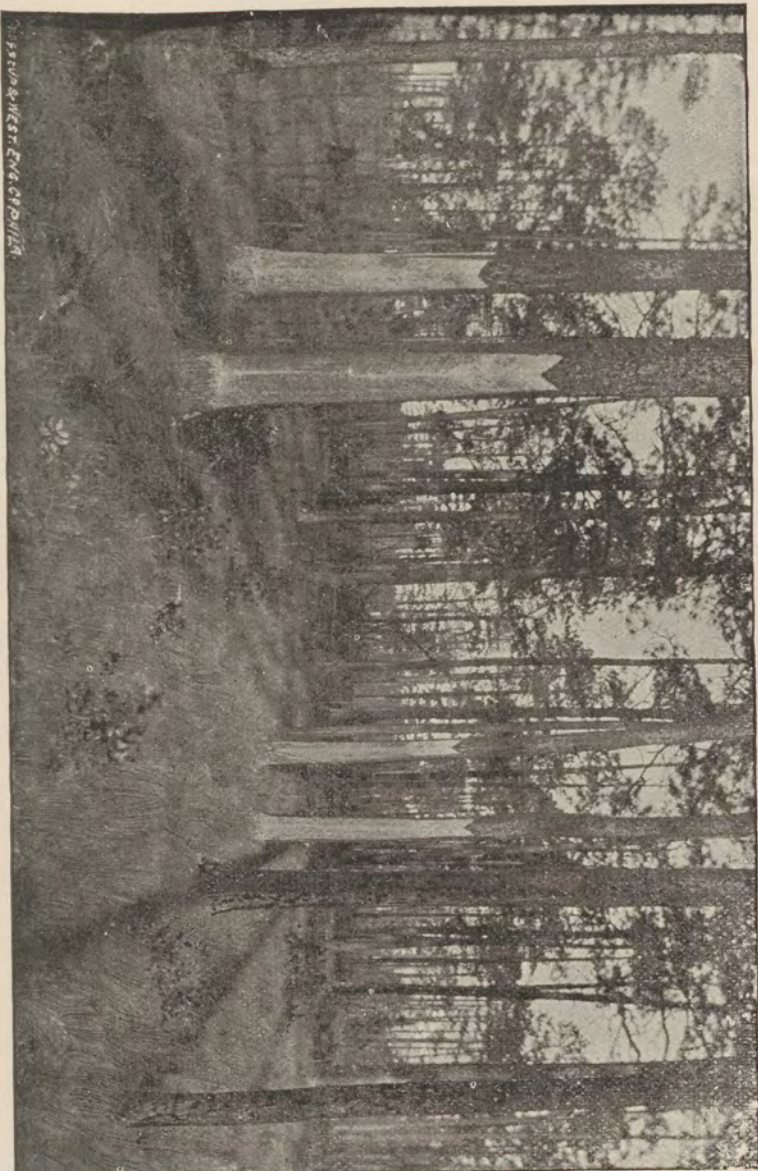


From the one port of Newbern alone there were shipped last year 63,000 packages of eatable fish, consisting of seventy varieties. Probably the largest fishing plants in the world are the shad and herring fisheries of the Albemarle section, notable among which are those of Edenton and Avoca. Seines 2,400 yards long, taking at a single haul 350,000 herring, or 6,500 shad, the "*shooting*" and hauling all done by steam, the "*catch*" being disposed of fresh in the Northern markets to which they are accessible. Oyster culture in North Carolina may be said to be in its infancy. The State, viewing with alarm the deterioration of the oyster waters to the north of us, has taken prompt action, lest her beds also suffer depletion, enacting wise laws to protect this interest and to promote the growth of an industry which, if wisely managed, will eventually yield an immense revenue to the State and individual. In quantity and quality, where cultivated, the North Carolina oyster cannot be excelled.

LUMBER.

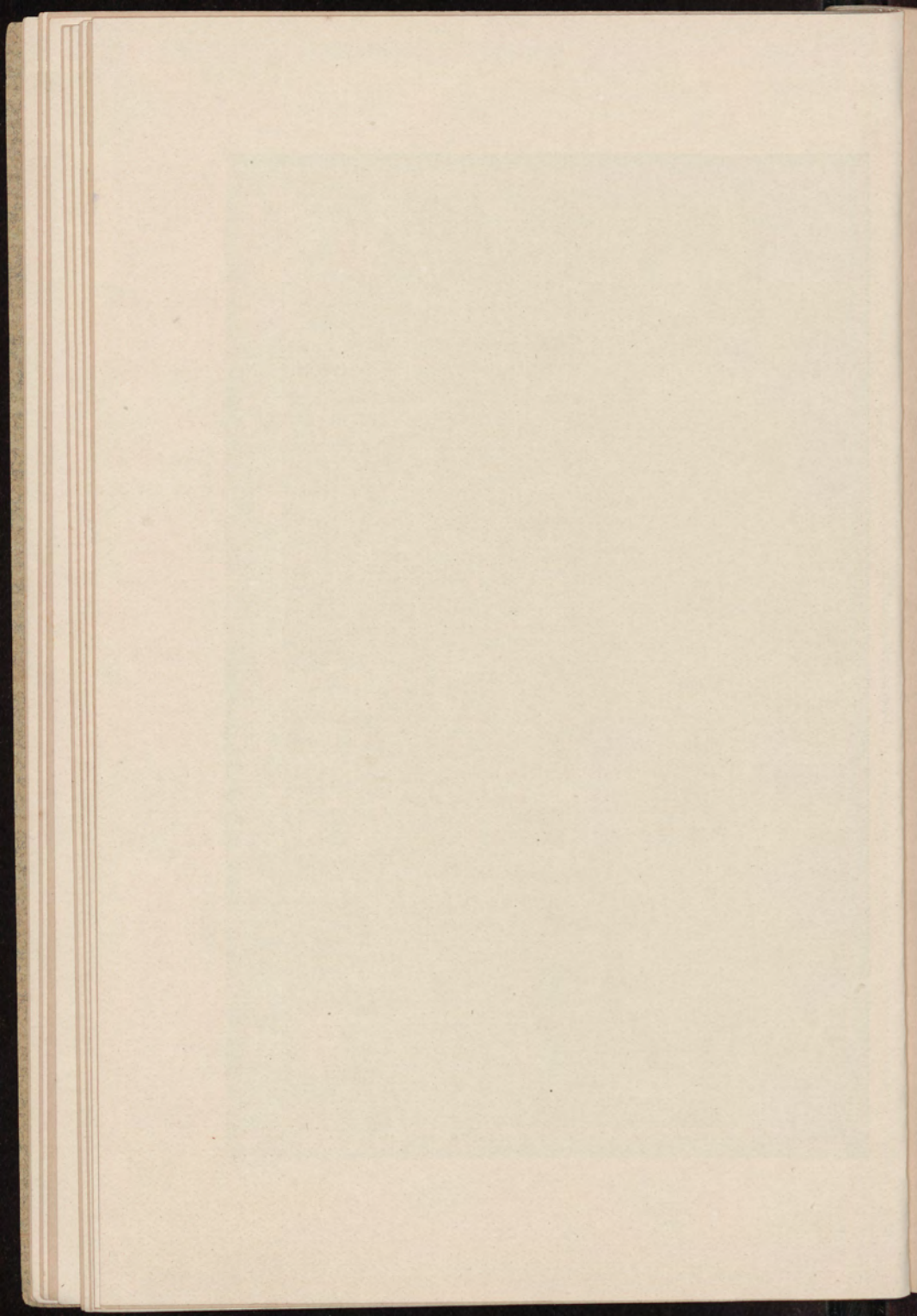
Here too, in the Eastern section, is the home of the lumberman. The many streams penetrating like a net-work the entire section, and more lately the introduction of well-equipped lumber roads,

has developed this interest to a point beyond belief, and yet it continues to expand, the timber seeming to be inexhaustible. Lands that were denuded of timber forty years ago are again yielding a second crop. But this lumber interest is by no means confined to this Eastern section, but extends to every part of the State. The whole area of the State was originally forest-covered, except a few tracts of "savanna" lands in the east and a portion of Mecklenburg county, and from one-half to two-thirds of it is still in this condition. The great variety of soils, together with the wide range of climate, give rise to a remarkably rich and varied flora. While the highest mountain section of the west is covered with forests of spruce, firs, and other trees common to the Lake States and Canada, the middle and seaboard sections luxuriate in the pine and cypress of a more southern latitude. There are three well-marked and broadly distinguished forest regions in the State, corresponding almost identically with the three geographical divisions—pine and cypress on the seaboard, long-straw pine in the middle, and almost exclusively hard wood in the mountain section. The total number of trees being found is about 115, and twice as many of shrubs, which together give our forests an aspect of wonderful richness and variety.



Massachusetts Eye Hospital

TURPENTINE FOREST.



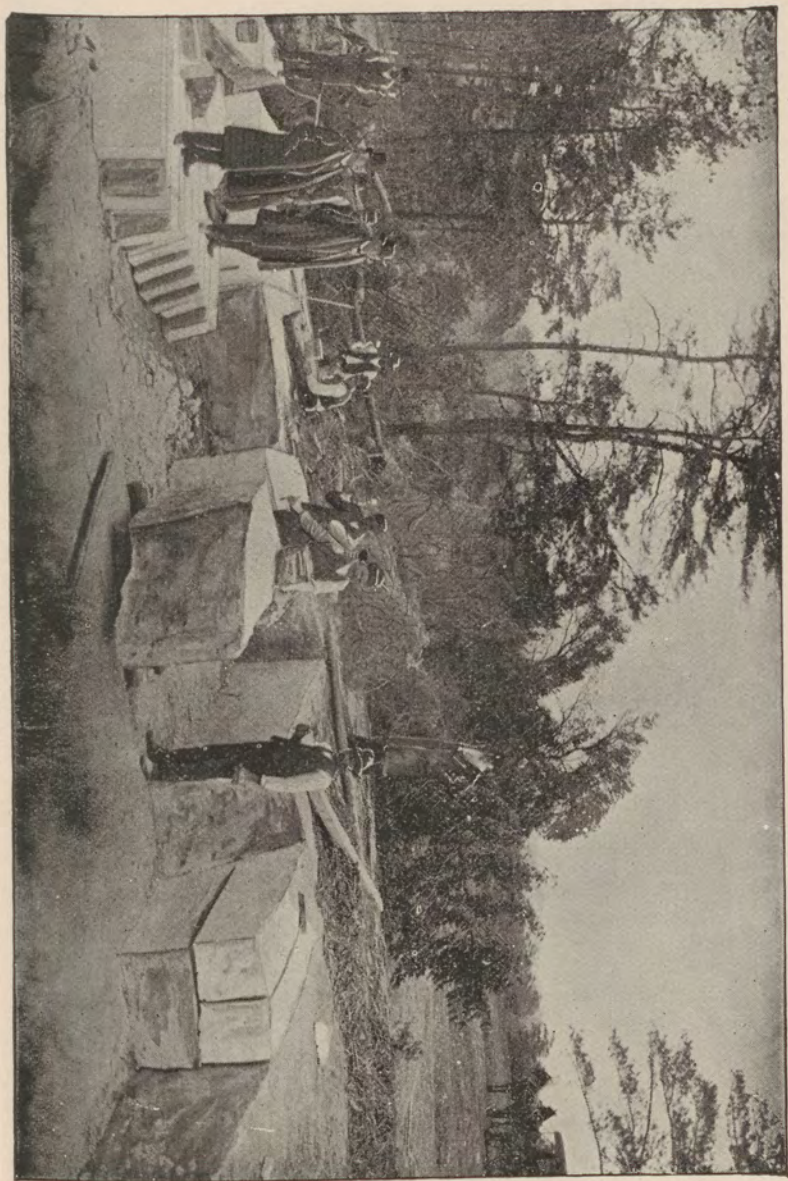
TRANSPORTATION.

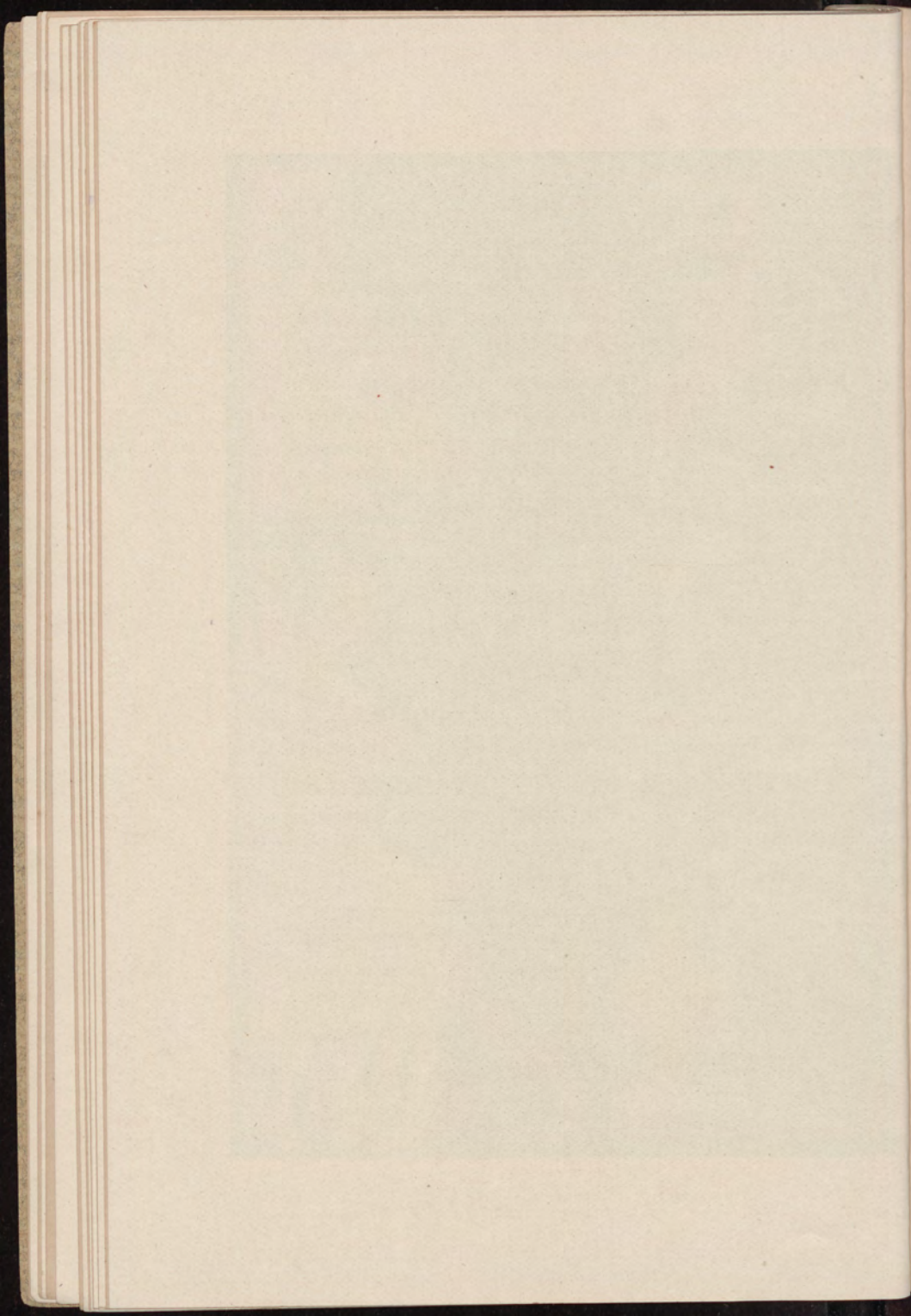
The demand for rapid transit for both travel and perishable freight has greatly stimulated the transportation lines. To meet this we have now more than 3,000 miles of railroad and 1,000 miles of water-ways open to steam-boat navigation, forming lines of communication with the various ports along the coast from Wilmington to Norfolk, Va. Our facilities for foreign commerce at Wilmington have been greatly improved. Large vessels drawing twenty feet of water reach her wharves without difficulty and her excellent compress facilities have aided in stimulating her growth as a cotton market.

MINERALS.

North Carolina has been facetiously styled the specimen State in regard to the matter of minerals. To those desiring to see the largest and most varied collection of gems and geological specimens, and to have the history of that most wonderful mineral section, Western North Carolina, I would refer them to Mr. T. K. Bruner, who is in charge of that department of the North Carolina exhibit at the Columbian World's Fair. More than 180 species have been discovered, some of great rarity. Nearly a score of different species of gems have been found,

including the diamond, ruby, sapphire, emerald, beryl, lazulite, amethyst, garnet, agate and zircon. There are many minerals occurring having special applications in the useful arts, viz.: Mica, corundum, asbestos, baryte, chromic iron, garnet, zircon, kaolin, black oxide of manganese, talc, etc. Mica is found in large veins or dykes in the gneisses of the middle and western counties, but the most extensive and valuable mines are found in the mountain region, where veins are numerous and extensive and yield sheets of mica of unusual size and excellence. Corundum is about as widely distributed as mica, and occurs in the same series of rocks, as well as some of the slate belts. Corundum is not only found but extensively mined throughout the entire mountain section lying between the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains. In this region are also beds of white and variously colored marbles. Building-stones of every variety are found in nearly all the sections, and whetstone, millstone and grindstone grits, as well as potters' clay and fire clay, and in the seaboard section are immense beds of peat and marl. Iron, copper and gold ores are co-extensive with the outcrops of all crystalline rocks. Several parallel ranges of magnetic and hematite iron ore beds cross the State in a





north-east direction in both the middle and the mountain regions. These ores are of a high grade and are in demand at the Bessemer furnaces in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Beds of limonite are numerous and extensive in all parts of the State. Iron for domestic purposes has been manufactured for a hundred years in the middle region, and half as long in the other sections. A fifteen-ton blast furnace is in operation at Cranberry. A one hundred blast furnace has just been completed at Greensboro, and it is expected that another furnace will be erected at an early date. Coal is found in Chatham and adjoining counties, and coal mines are being operated at Egypt. Gold occurs in both placers and veins from Halifax county on the upper margin of the eastern region, within 110 miles of the sea-coast, through all the intermediate sections to Cherokee county in the extreme north-west. The more extensive and productive deposits are found in the midland region in the southern half of the great State belt and in the central part of the Piedmont region among the foot-hills and spurs of the mountains. These placers consist of coarse shingle in the beds of the streams and of the bordering level bottoms. Climbing the slopes and benches of the hills adjacent, they pass insensibly

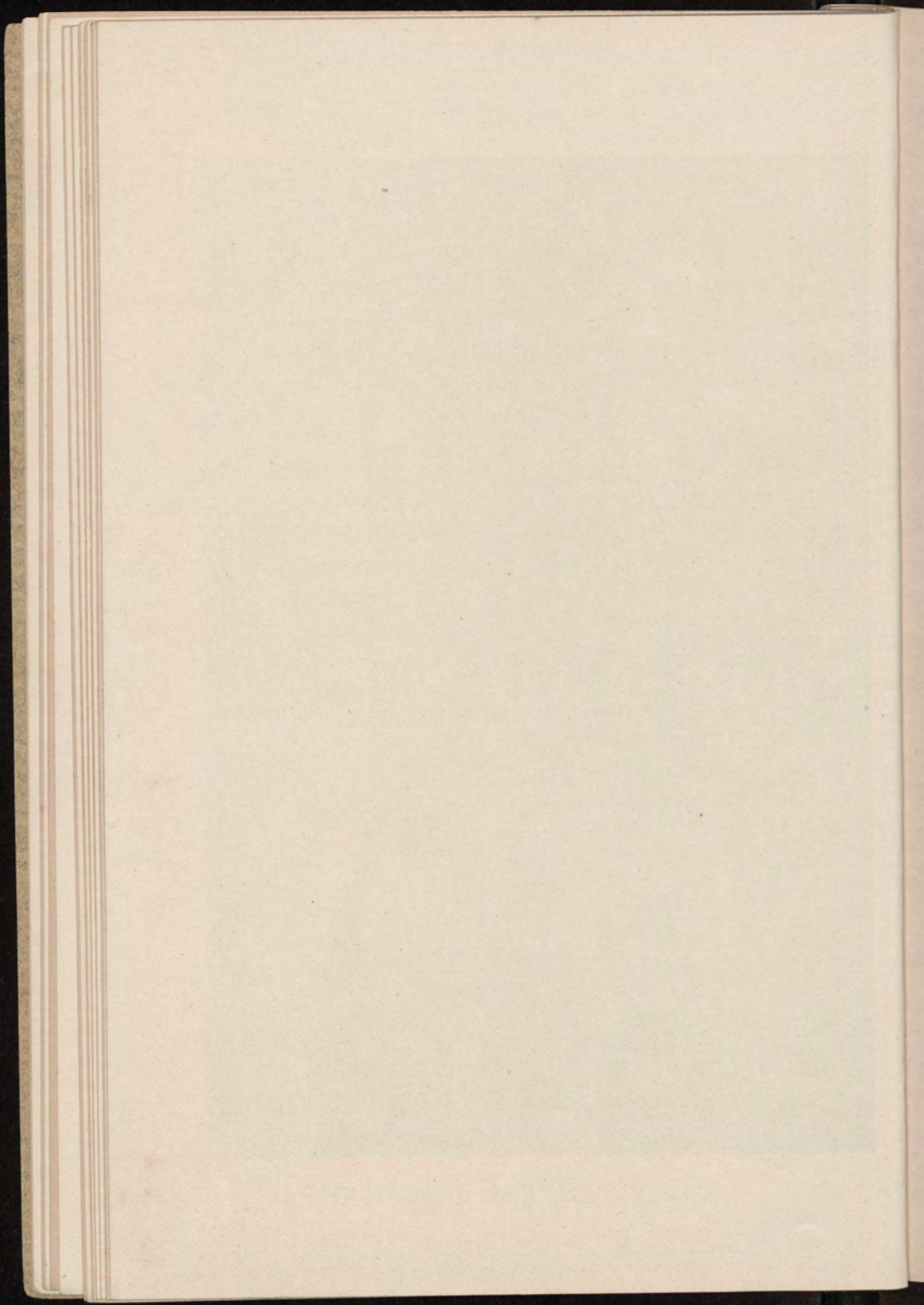
from half-stratified shingle gravel and sand-beds into unstratified earth with mingled fragments of stone. These deposits cover several hundred square miles of territory and are of recent age. Compared with those of California they are of very slight thickness, generally not above five, ten to twenty feet, and only occasionally reaching forty to fifty feet. The most important valuable vein mines are also found in the midland regions. One of these, the Gold Hill Mine, near Salisbury, has been worked to a depth of 750 feet, and its total produce exceeds two million dollars of bullion. The total yield of all the gold mines in the State has been about \$22,000,000. In the same section are several noted silver mines—Silver Hill, Silver Valley, and others. Many of the gold veins of the midland regions carry also copper ores, and there are numerous copper veins in various parts of the midland and western regions.

SOILS.

The soils of the eastern regions are transported sands, gravels and clays. The upland soils (the common characteristic cotton soils) are generally sands and loams of moderate fertility, with here and there wide alluvial tracts, especially along the borders of the streams and the shores of the sounds



VIEW IN HAPPY VALLEY, CALDWELL COUNTY.

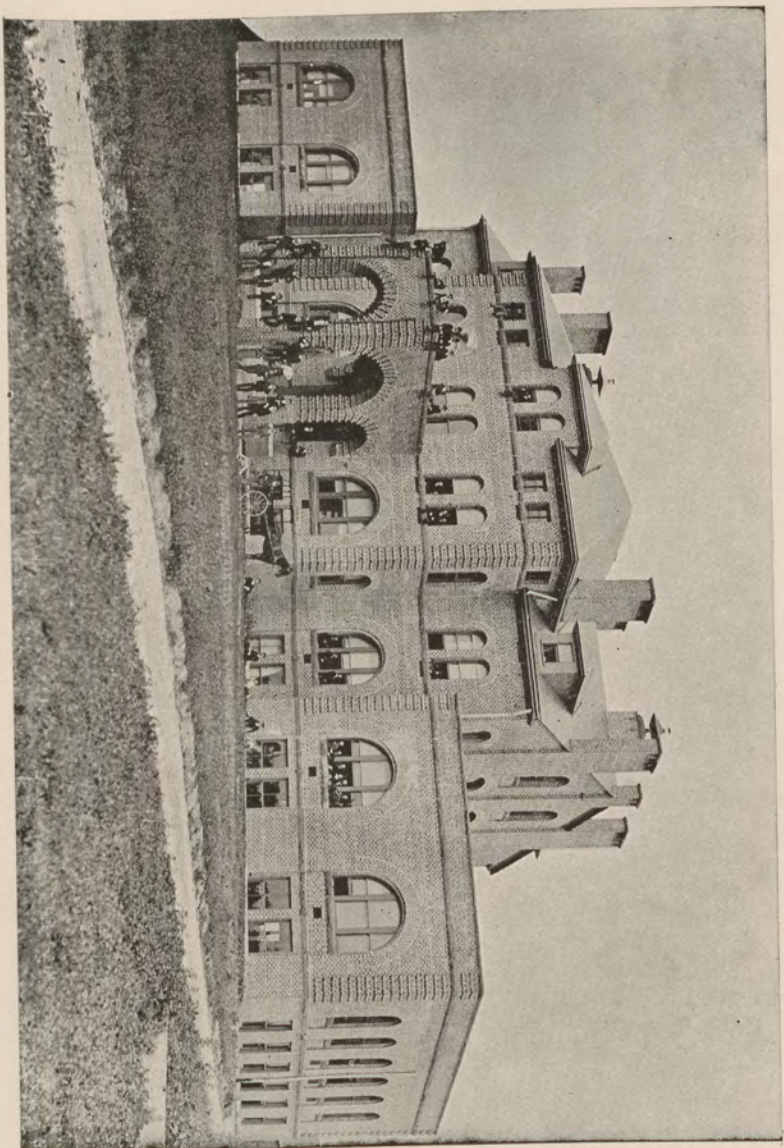


and bays. On the low divides between the lower portions of the great bay-like rivers and around the margins of the lakes, as well as along the borders of the creeks, are extensive tracts of swamp lands, with a black peaty soil of great depth and inexhaustible fertility. These soils resemble somewhat those of the prairies of the north-western States, but contain a larger per cent. of organic matter and less gravel; and are much more productive and durable, producing fifty bushels of corn to the acre for a hundred years in succession without rotation and without manure. In the middle and western portions of the State the soils are of every variety of texture and composition, and of every grade of fertility. They may be generally described as clayey, sandy and gravelly loams; but there is a considerable proportion of clay soils, not only in the alluvial deposits of the numerous creek and river bottoms, which are commonly of this description, but on the uplands as well; these are the most productive and durable. The mountains are covered with soils and forests to their summits and very fertile. The counties of Warren, Montgomery, Stanly, Union and Richmond, with their slaty-clay lands, productive of the most nutritious grasses, are well adapted to sheep husbandry. The texture of

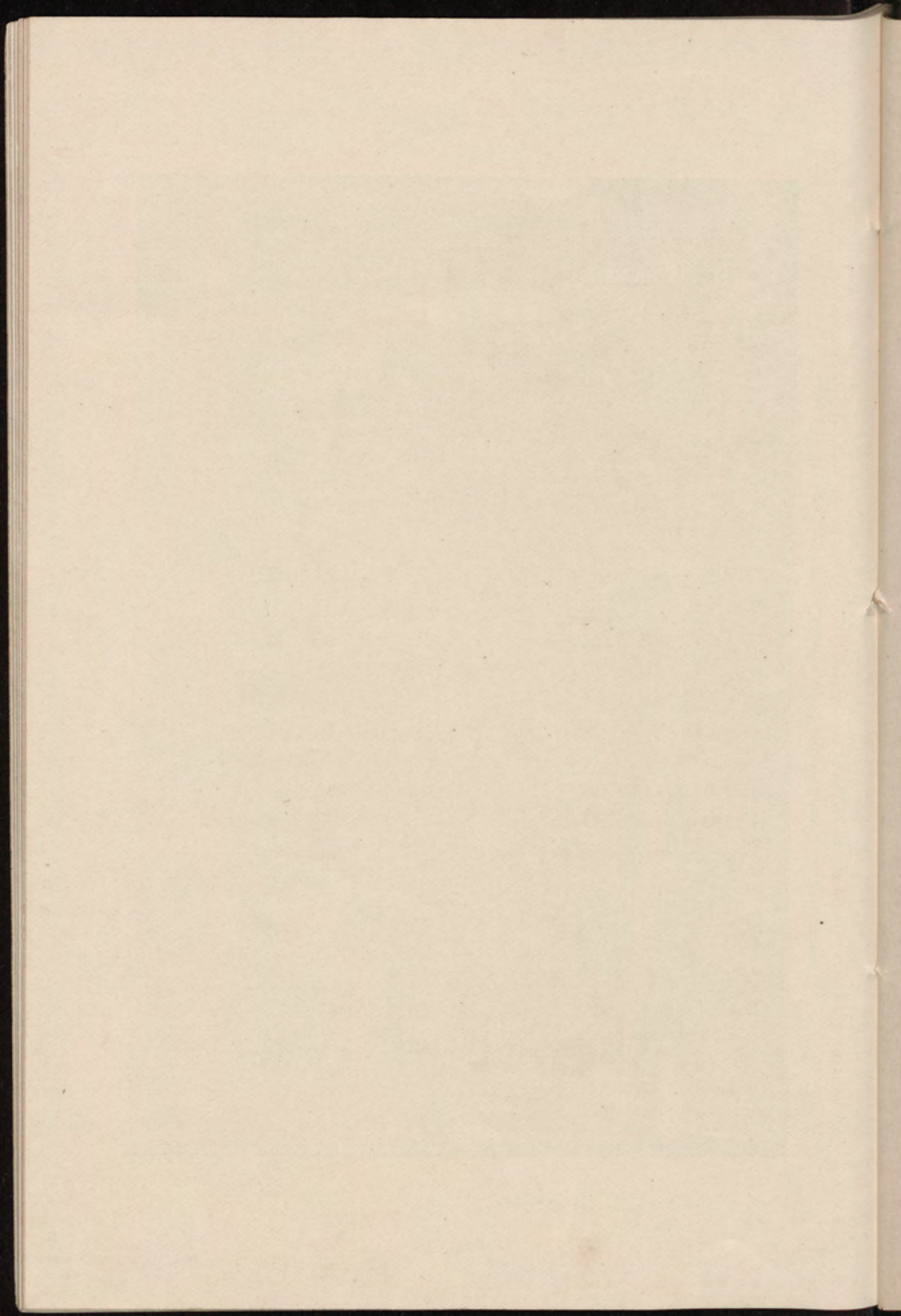
the wool and flavor of the mutton cannot be excelled.

EDUCATION.

The utter destruction of our public schools during the days of reconstruction, one of the many disastrous results of the late war between the States, so crippled education in North Carolina that it was not until 1876 rehabilitated, and it might be said to have had its beginning at the above date, since which time, under wise and judicious laws, faithfully administered, such rapid progress has been made in education that there are now excellent public school facilities for both races throughout the State. The public schools in the country districts are still greatly in need of larger revenues and longer terms of instruction, but the system has already reached the point when a child can enter the best graded schools at the age of six years, and subsequently graduate from the University without leaving the public school system. The private schools have multiplied and grown until scarcely a prosperous county in the State lacks a good academy, while here and there may be found classical academies of high grade, drawing large patronage from other States. The colleges and seminaries have increased their endowments and patronage to the



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS, RALEIGH.



point that enables them to do creditable work in higher education. The State has established a college for the training of young men in agriculture and the mechanic arts, and also a school for the normal and industrial training of young women, and has long maintained at the head of its school system a University which continues to grow in usefulness and to stimulate the development of every branch of education.

TAXES.

Taxes in North Carolina are very light comparatively. A cap^{1/4}tion tax is imposed which cannot exceed two dollars upon the poll, and a constitutional restriction of sixty-six and two-thirds cents on each \$100 worth of property. The total State debt amounts to \$5,939,100, but this is offset in part by the State's interest in the North Carolina Railroad, amounting to \$2,700,000, so that practically the State debt amounts to \$3,219,100 at 4 per cent.

LAW AND ORDER.

The laws of the State are enacted and enforced impartially, without distinction as to class or color; and the right of every citizen to vote as he pleases

and the duty of every citizen to protect the purity of the ballot-box is fully recognized. This is well illustrated by the fact that in the last election of State officers the laborers employed on my plantation voted at the same precinct as myself, some of them for and some against me, the latter feeling in every way secure, both as to employment on my farm and as to their protection as citizens.

In conclusion, it may be said that the outlook for the increasing material prosperity of the people of the State is decidedly encouraging. Our people are making an earnest effort in this direction, and are offering a cordial welcome to intelligent settlers who may come among them with capital to invest or with skilled labor to be employed.

ELIAS CARR,

Governor of North Carolina.

JUNE 21, 1893.

