

tion of swamp land by drainage, in the conserving of our natural resources, and as an agricultural State, Louisiana is leading the South. Of this twenty-eight million acres of land, about one-quarter is in cultivation, in cotton, sugar cane, rice, corn, hay and forage crops, Irish and sweet potatoes, peanuts, vegetables of every known variety, and over the Florida Parishes they are growing rich in the production of strawberries and early vegetables for the Northern markets. Tobacco grows here in abundance, and considerable attention is given to eggs, poultry, honey, wool and dairy products. Since the advent of the boll weevil, which has made our farmers diversify and get out of the rut of "Old King Cotton," we have stolen the honors from the West in the production of corn, and this year we have raised over thirty-one million bushels, and we are actually shipping corn into Texas, and another thing that I am glad to see is the large number of farmers who are raising hogs and stock.

You want to know something of the natural resources of which we are the leading State. Our State has in pine lands as near as we have been able to figure, four million two hundred and sixty-nine thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight acres; in hard woods, such as oak, gum, willow, persimmon, hickory, magnolia, beech, elm, sycamore and poplar, three million three hundred and thirty-eight thousand, four hundred and eighty-six acres, and about as near as I can figure nine hundred thousand acres of cypress. We are showing the great State of Washington close for first place in the production of lumber. We have here from statistics and the Census Bureau, as near as I can figure, five hundred and sixteen saw mills, which in 1908 cut almost three billion feet of lumber; we have the largest saw mill plant in the world in this State, built only four years ago, and is now running at its full capacity. I mean the big steel mill of the Great Southern Lumber Company, of Bogalusa; this plant is built in the very heart of the pine belt in Washington Parish, by the Goodyear Lumber Company, of which my friend, Mr. W. H. Sullivan, is the general manager. They employ from sixteen to seventeen hundred men, and cut on an average of six hundred and fifty thousand feet of lumber per day; they used thirty-two cars of dynamite to blow up the stumps where the mill now stands. Their mill ponds cover a space of twenty-six acres of ground; the belt that drives the big wheel took the hides of five hundred large steers to make it. Their motto is "Utilization as well as conservation." They now make charcoal of all the limbs, refuse wood and tops of trees, and are erecting a large paper mill which will use up all the slabs and refuse stuff that now finds its way into the furnace, and when this paper mill is completed it will give employment to one hundred and fifty more men, and will make a fine quality of paper. In a short while

they will begin to work up the stumps; there is more turpentine in a pine stump than any other part of the tree, and they will soon erect a plant to extract this valuable product of turpentine, so you see the large plant will utilize everything in a tree. They are clearing up their high lands for settlers, and will reserve their low lands for forestry, and in their cut they never touch anything under eight inches in diameter. It is a pity that all of our plants do not do this. The town of Bogalusa has a fine future, with a population of six to eight thousand, a magnificent hotel, a fine Masonic temple, just completed, a large Y. M. C. A. building in the course of erection, a well-equipped hospital which is the pride of the town, and any number of beautiful residences, with churches of all denominations, and a fine high school with a large attendance. This mill town is well divided, the whites are on one side of the mill and the colored people on the other, each class being kept apart. Their homes are all supplied with water and electric lights, and every advantage given the laboring man.

Our bayous are lined with mills of all descriptions, and the railroads running through the hill parishes are dotted with large mills, which are fast cutting up our fine forest of pine, cypress and hardwood. I am glad to say, however, that some of our large mill people are experimenting in the raising of orange and fig trees and the planting of potatoes on the denuded pine lands. Our forests are teeming with timber of all kinds, and we have more different kinds of woods than any other State. Our pine trees are the finest in the world, they obtain a pre-eminence from a combination of qualities; they possess such qualities of strength and elasticity, combined with comparatively light weight and ease of working, which make them adaptable to all kinds of work. Our cypress which grows principally in the lower part of our State and some of the low swamps of the northern parishes, is of extremely slow growth, but is the most lasting of all wood, and under water is practically indestructible. We ship more cross-ties of oak, pine and cypress, and staves of oak and cypress than any other State. Another tree which is receiving a great deal of attention in this State is the paper shell pecan. East Baton Rouge has one farm of seven hundred acres. Iberville Parish has several large pecan farms, and in some of the Teche Parishes they are going into the pecan culture on a very large scale. We also have several creosote plants for treating of timbers to prolong their life. From a lumber point of view, after this census is completed, I am sure that Louisiana will lead the list. We are now drafting some laws to protect our forest from fire, and we are trying to educate our people to adopt methods of conservation, in the use of our forest. Over in the mother parish of Calcasieu, we have the Union Sulphur Mines, now turning out over one thousand tons of