

only when they are interpreted in terms of life that they become vividly real. The implications in the brief statements of wages, increased wealth, and hours of labor are extremely significant. Those implications are higher standards of living—better food, clothing, housing—better schools, churches, automobiles, good roads. The addition of such funds to the purchasing power of any people is important and full of meaning for all industries. Concentration of population, and its attendant social and educational problems combine with the problems of child labor and the employment of women to stimulate constructive thinking. Human life in all its phases has been and will be intensified by the tremendous development of the state's premier industry.

The supply of power is the one basis on which depends the growth, not only of cotton manufacturing, but of most other industries of the state. The phenomenal expansion of all North Carolina's industries is primarily due to the increasing availability of power,—steam, water, electric. The latest reports of the United States Geological Survey ranked North Carolina fourth among the states east of the Mississippi in developed water power, and gave her the same ranking in undeveloped resources. In 1926, 122 companies developed from water power 597,000 horse power. Of these companies, 47 are municipal or public utility corporations which utilize 410,000 horse power for lighting and power purposes.

Altogether, 1,067,150 horse power were developed in the state in 1925; and while an increasing amount of this power is generated from water, 37.9 per cent was produced by fuel. A telling proof of advancing efficiency in the use of fuel for the production of power is contained in these facts: It required, in 1919, 4.94 pounds of coal to produce one kilowatt hour of electricity; in 1925, but 1.94 pounds.

Of course most of the power developed from water or fuel is transformed into electricity, which in turn may be transmitted far from its source and becomes an advance agent of change and progress wherever it penetrates. The volume of electrical energy increased 126 per cent in the six years 1919-25 reaching a total in the latter year of almost one and one-half billion kilowatt hours. This vast to-

tal becomes yet more significant when it is known that it represents 25.22 per cent of the total electrical power of the Southern Appalachian states.

At the present time sixty-seven of the hundred counties of North Carolina are crossed by electrical transmission lines which may be tapped for industrial use at almost any point. Forty-five towns have plants municipally owned and operated; and in the entire state, 336 towns are supplied with electrical power for industrial or light purposes. Of the power used for industrial purposes, over one-third is utilized in the manufacturing of cotton. The Southern Power Company, and the Electric Bond and Share Company, who together control 78 per cent of the developed power, are even now planning projects as great as any thus far executed.

In the power resources of a state, more than in any other single resource, reside its industrial potentialities. The Tidewater-Piedmont belts have naturally been in the foreground in the changing character of the state. The mountainous section of North Carolina has had its share of progress, but that share has been limited by the difficult geographical conditions. The development of power sites along the tumbling rivers of the west will be followed by the erection of mills and plants of every sort near the source of such power.

"Of the estimated undeveloped horse power available, not more than fifteen or twenty per cent is upon streams draining east of the Blue Ridge. Much the greater amount of undeveloped power lies on streams flowing into the Tennessee and is remote from present industrial development. From this there will probably arise two results: (1) New industrial development will grow up in western North Carolina near the available power supply, and (2) power from these sources will, at some future time, be transmitted to the industrial regions of the Piedmont."

This brief glance at two of the major industries of North Carolina is indicative of its steady growth, and is, at the same time a prophecy of a new era destined to wipe out sectional differences and to transform the character of the entire state.