

**FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE
AND LABOR OF THE STATE OF
GEORGIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1915**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649366538

Fourth Annual Report of the commissioner of commerce and labor of the state of Georgia for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1915 by H. M. Stanley & J. T. Derry & W. E. Christie

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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H. M. STANLEY & J. T. DERRY & W. E. CHRISTIE

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STATE OF GEORGIA
FOR THE
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1915

H. M. STANLEY, Commissioner
J. T. DERRY, Assistant Commissioner
W. E. CHRISTIE, Chief Clerk

ATLANTA, GA.
Chas. P. Byrd, State Printer
1916

Each.
N. Y. Public Library
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REPORT

ATLANTA, GA., January 1, 1916.

To His Excellency HON. N. E. HARRIS, Governor.

SIR: In accordance with law, I have the honor and pleasure of respectfully submitting to you the fourth annual report of the Department of Commerce and Labor for the term ending December 31, 1915.

The report embraces a resume of the progress Georgia has made industrially from the early history of the State to the present time; an article upon the natural resources of the State, including the forest timbers and the minerals. The latter relate especially to the Department of Geology, but I have thought proper to include a list of the minerals in order to give greater publicity to Georgia's natural resources and to show in a concise form just what this State possesses in the way of raw material. In addition to the above can be found statistics showing the amount and value of the raw material used during the year 1915 by the manufactures of the State, the amount paid wage earners, the value of the manufactured articles, the number of wage earners and other valuable information. The concluding pages are devoted to the publication of a list of the various industries, properly classified for ready reference.

On the 12th day of September last a fire occurred in the quarters occupied by this department. The fire did considerable damage to the walls, ceiling, woodwork and the furniture. No records were destroyed, but a consid-

erable quantity of blanks and other printing was burned. The loss to the furniture and fixtures was placed at \$519.65. By authority of the General Assembly this money was expended by me under your direction and a report made, which is of file in the Executive Department.

A measure is pending before the General Assembly to give to this department a factory inspector. The original bill provided for two inspectors, but the Committee on Commerce and Labor in the two houses reduced the number to one and favorably reported the bill. I trust that the members of the General Assembly, in their wisdom, will enact this measure into law at the coming session.

In my second annual report I called attention to the fact that Georgia is badly in need of a vocational school. This subject is now engaging the best thought of the educational world and I trust that the time is not far distant when our law-makers will see the wisdom of making some provisions for our large army of industrial workers that they may be put in a position to greatly increase their earning capacity.

In my third annual report I strongly stressed the importance of a compulsory educational law. By all means the State should enact such a measure. It would not only be the means of giving an education to children who are now growing up in ignorance, but would in a very large measure solve the child labor problem.

During my incumbency of the office of Commissioner of Commerce and Labor I have sought in every way to conservatively and economically perform the duties delegated to me by the Act. In that connection it is with a great deal of pardonable pride that I point to the report on this department for the years 1914 and 1915 by the Audit Company of the South.

Permit me to take this occasion to express my appre-

ciation for the many acts of kindness and consideration shown me by your Excellency and the officials of the Executive Department during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

H. M. STANLEY, Commissioner.

PROGRESSIVE GEORGIA

Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin in 1793 on a Georgia plantation and at the suggestion of a Georgia woman, gave great impetus to the growth of cotton and then began a period of great prosperity in Georgia which lasted until the present times except when there was a period of depression due to wars. The war of 1812 affected every industry then in Georgia and the Civil War bankrupted almost every citizen of the State. The recovery from the devastating effects of the latter war was rapid, owing to Georgia's excellent climate, fertile soil, natural resources, healthful surroundings, energetic people and the intelligent direction of affairs.

As early as 1787 William Longstreet, a resident of Augusta, had begun experimenting on a boat that should be propelled by steam. As communication was at that time difficult between the States as far apart as Georgia and Pennsylvania, Longstreet probably knew nothing of John Fitch's steamboat built and operated in 1786, and of other boats of Fitch's that ran on the Delaware in 1787-1788, when the company failed.

If he did know anything of Fitch's work, it only convinced him that he might succeed where Fitch had failed. Without financial backing he had at last got his boat ready and with a few friends who were willing to risk a ride upon this new craft, he took his steamboat on a trial trip in 1806 several miles down the Savannah River and back to Augusta, landing amid the cheers of those who had ridiculed his enterprise. Robert Fulton, backed

by the money and influence of prominent men, had been also experimenting and in 1807 made a successful voyage in his steamboat, the Clermont, to Albany and back to New York City, thus proving the complete feasibility of navigation by steam. The news of this came to Longstreet, just as his friends were starting to Washington to get a patent for his invention. He is at least entitled to be classed with those who made successful experiments in steamboat navigation.

The opinion was prevalent that only on quiet waters could steam be thus used. But William Scarborough, an enterprising merchant of Savannah and a planter of large means, had a steamship built for him in New York and sent to him at Savannah. Securing a crew for his steamship, which he had named the Savannah, Scarborough sent it forth from Savannah in 1819. This vessel visited Liverpool, Copenhagen and St. Petersburg, exciting everywhere wonder and admiration.

In 1811 the first cotton factory in Georgia was built on Upton Creek, nine miles southeast of Washington, in Wilkes County. It had two stories, basement and attic and was built of stone quarried in the neighborhood. The hinges, hooks and nails were made in a neighboring blacksmith shop. Soon came the war of 1812 and circumstances were not favorable to new enterprises. So after a struggle to keep going the factory was closed. Later the machinery was purchased by Thomas Talbot, who started a small factory on his plantation to furnish clothing for his own slaves and those of his neighbors.

Early in Georgia the best plantations and the best farms had their blacksmith and carpenter shops and also a room equipped with one or more spinning wheels and others provided with one or more looms. From these varied domestic little manufactories various useful

articles were turned out. Gentlemen and ladies were frequently well versed in the use of the spinning wheels and looms worked by hand, and servants were trained by them to do this kind of work. Thus coarse cloth was made at home and styled homespun. From this homespun clothing was made for use on the plantation. The blacksmith and carpenter shops kept up the needed repairs. There were many neighborhood mills for grinding corn or wheat; also many mills to supply such lumber as was needed on the plantation.

After the Indians moved west the best tracts of the Creek and Cherokee lands were rapidly settled, immigrants pouring in from neighboring States on the east and even from the far northern States. At the same time immigrants passed across Georgia to the western southern States, and Georgia herself furnished her proportion to this movement.

Two factors in Georgia's growth had by this time been fairly launched upon a career in which they have mightily aided in developing a strong, vigorous and enterprising State. These factors were the textile industry and the railroads, whose forward march not even the great war between the States could long impede. It was in 1827 that Augustus S. Clayton, Thomas Moore, Asbury Hull, James Johnson and W. A. Carr began the erection of the first successful cotton mill in Georgia, and, it is even claimed, south of the Potomac. It was and still is located at Whitehall, near Athens, and was incorporated as The Georgia Factory in 1828. John White became superintendent and his descendants to this day own the mill, which is still doing business at the old stand under the name of the Georgia Manufacturing Company. The Bolton Mill in 1811 had failed, but this had been a complete success and hence deserves to be ranked as the pioneer of Georgia's textile industry.