

FARM TENANCY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

(University Weekly News).
Sixty-three per cent. of all of the farms in South Carolina are operated by tenants. In 1910 there were 176,434 farms in this State, and of these only 65,213 were operated by owners and managers.
Only two states in the nation have a greater percentage of tenancy than this state. These are Mississippi with 66.1 per cent of all her farms operated by tenants, and Georgia with 65.6 per cent.
The general average of tenancy in the East North Central States, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin was 27 per cent. The highest groups are the West South Central States with 52.8 per cent tenancy, the East South Central with 50.7 per cent, and the South Atlantic with 45.9 per cent. These three consist largely of the cotton growing

States.
While the term "tenant," according to the Thirtieth Census interpretation, includes both share-croppers and renters, the situation is not materially modified by this qualification. The essential point is that the greater percentage of the farms in South Carolina are operated by others than the owners themselves.
Moreover, the tendency in this direction seems to be on the increase in 1880 the percentage of tenancy in South Carolina was 50.3; in 1890, it was 55.3; and in 1900 the figure was 61.1. There has been accompanying this a progressive decrease in the size of farms from 541 acres in 1850 to 76.6 acres in 1910. The number of tenant farmers in 1880 was 47,219; while in 1910, it was 111,221.
Twenty-four counties in South Carolina average more than 63 per cent tenancy. Marlboro leads with 80.4 per cent. Abbeville and Union following with 77.9 per cent, and 76.2 per

cent respectively. The accompanying table ranks the counties in the state with the exception of those formed since 1910.
This situation assumes unusual importance when we consider its relation to the existing boll weevil situation. It is the tenant farmer who will find the matter of adjustment most difficult. He has never leaned toward the system of safe farming which makes him provide his food and feed supplies at home; and it is going to be hard to instill into him as quickly as is necessary new methods of farming which must be learned to accommodate an enforced change from the present system of agriculture.
The opportunities of landowners, merchants, bankers, and business men to aid in this program of education for readjustment constitutes a responsibility; for it is the tenant farmer as a rule, who is most inaccessible to the ordinary methods of

propaganda. He must be reached by the direct contact of those who are accustomed to advise him in his business affairs.
Also, it is generally conceded that ownership is a better type of farming than tenancy. Denmark, Ireland, England, and more recently the new republic of Czecho-Slovakia have inaugurated national policies to encourage ownership. An increasing tendency towards tenant farming is

to be regretted. Everything possible should be done to stimulate the owners living on their own farms and taking an active interest in the vital matters of maintaining soil fertility, and building up community life.
Lexington County, with a percentage of 44.1 per cent stands 29th in the list of counties.

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[610-N]

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SOUTHERN RAILROAD LINES

DEPART	ARRIVE
7:32 a. m. Trenton, Edgefield and Augusta	9:28 a. m.
9:28 a. m. Columbia	7:32 a. m.
11:45 a. m. Trenton, Edgefield and Augusta	3:02 p. m.
3:02 p. m. Columbia, Washington and New York	11:45 a. m.
6:30 p. m. Trenton, Edgefield and Augusta	10:25 a. m.
10:25 p. m. Columbia	6:30 p. m.

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