

# THE TRUTH ABOUT WEST VIRGINIA



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## WEST VIRGINIA'S PROGRESS

By E. F. MORGAN, Governor of West Virginia

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**I**N 1727, almost two centuries ago, Morgan Morgan, a paternal ancestor, crossed the Alleghanies and became the first white resident of what is now West Virginia. It was then a part of the Old Dominion which extended from the seaboard to the Lakes, a mighty empire from which great states have been carved, an expanse of territory which has produced some of the world's greatest statesmen, whose names will be echoed down the corridors of time as long as history is recorded.

### POPULATION

¶ In 1890, one hundred and sixty-three years after the pioneer had established a settlement in this boundary the population of West Virginia is recorded by the census department as 762,794. And then in thirty years, in 1920 to be exact, the census figures reveal the fact that West Virginia had almost doubled her population, there being in the state 1,463,000 persons of which 1,401,000 are native citizens.

¶ As great as has been the growth of West Virginia in population in recent years, the progress of the State in other lines of endeavor, in education, in industry, in agriculture and commercial expansion is even more amazing. Those who malign and defame West Virginia are either ignorant of the great progress she has made as one of the sisterhood of States or their destructive criticism is insincere.

### THE PEOPLE

¶ There is not one of the 55 counties of West Virginia in which I have not been a visitor. I have mingled with her people in fair weather and foul. I have seen them put to every form of service and have watched them meet every test and it is not so much civic pride that I have in my native State as recognition of their virtues that impel me to say that in no quarter of this world will be found a more hospitable, more charitable, more patriotic and God-fearing people than are born and grow to manhood in the fertile valleys and on the verdant hills of West

Virginia. There has never been an instance when they have failed their country and the spirit of liberty, which they breathe at birth and is forever found in mountain folk, will never be extinguished while life lasts. There is no force that can muster sufficient strength to crush out their love of freedom.

¶ As a State, West Virginia made her progress in that interim between 1890 and 1920, a period of thirty years. Without those traits of character which I have enumerated, it would have been impossible for West Virginia to have advanced so far, to have occupied her niche among the great states which comprise a mighty nation. No state can achieve greatness unless her population is fundamentally sound, any more than an individual can permanently succeed without character.

### THREE GREAT INDUSTRIES

¶ In thirty years three great industries of the State have advanced to proportions that command the attention and respect of all her sister states. The development of the coal industry, in which more than one hundred thousand miners are engaged, holds first place and the State is now the second largest coal-producing State of the Union. Approximately forty percent of our total population is dependent on this single industry.

¶ From less than a half million barrels to more than eight million barrels is our thirty-year record in oil production, while the State is ranking among the leaders in natural gas production.

¶ It was most unfortunate for the State that the development of our manufacturing industries was retarded for a period that resulted in the large gas companies which were developing our fields of natural gas, building pipelines to cities outside the State. They are now giving service to manufacturers in other states that ultimately would have been supplied to these manufacturers within the state. Manufacturers have in recent years been attracted to the centers where cheaper fuels are found in abundance and while our natural gas will be exhausted before many years the uncontradictory evidence that manufacturers are being attracted to our state

is found in the unbiased reports of the census department which shows a growth from \$38,000,000 in 1890 to almost one-half billion in the value of our manufactured products in 1920. In the next three decades I am convinced that our greatest growth will be in the manufacturing industries. We have a right to feel proud that a group of government experts who made an exhaustive investigation in a dozen states publicly declared that West Virginia was the best place for manufactures and in another thirty years I believe there will be a continuous line of industrial plants from Wheeling to Huntington, up the Kanawha Valley from the Ohio River to Montgomery and throughout the Monongahela Valley contiguous to Fairmont, Clarksburg and Weston.

### AGRICULTURE

¶ There are approximately 15,000 more farms in West Virginia today than there were thirty years ago. With less tillable ground because of growing urban sites, the number of farms have increased, and the value of our farm products have multiplied fourfold. This is most gratifying, but we have made only a slight advance in our agricultural production, for only in recent years have our farmers realized the benefits that accrue from scientific agriculture. The same is true of our horticultural production. The value of our orchard production in 1920 shows but a small increase over the value of 1890, but the bad fruit year of 1920 fails to indicate the extent of our development. The commercial orchards of West Virginia have attracted nation-wide attention and a fruitful season will show the immense possibilities of this industry.

### EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

¶ There is no better yardstick with which to measure our potential possibilities than the increase that has been shown along educational lines. From 1890 to 1920 our schoolhouses increased from 3,680 to 7,489, the number of teachers almost doubled, and the value of our school property advanced from nearly two million dollars to more than \$31,000,000. In this period our enrollment at the State University increased eight times and the Normal School enrollment almost trebled.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

The progress of West Virginia is told in figures rather than story and I submit to those who may be unacquainted with our growth to review these items in the following comparative statement, which indicates the growth and progress West Virginia has made during the last three decades:

	1890	1920
Population of West Virginia .....	762,794	1,463,701
Production of Coal (tons) .....	5,643,946	79,991,316
Number of Miners employed .....	7,677	97,426
Production of Crude Oil (bbls.) .....	492,578	8,173,000
Production of Natural Gas (M. Cu. Ft.) .....	*	201,500,000
Number of Farms in State .....	72,773	87,289
Value Farm Production .....	\$ 25,696,189	\$ 96,537,459
Value Orchard Production .....	\$ 7,642,193	\$ 9,962,747
Number Miles Hard Road .....	61	753
Number of Automobiles .....	None	118,249
Railroad Mileage .....	1,328	3,994
Number of Banks (State and National) .....	72	339
Amount of Bank Deposits .....	\$ 14,064,896	\$290,157,268

### *Elementary Schools*

Number of School Houses .....	3,680	7,489
School Enumeration .....	266,326	449,663
Number School Teachers .....	6,091	11,866
Value School Property .....	\$ 1,941,350	\$ 31,491,473
State University Enrollment .....	208	1,725
Normal School Enrollment .....	840	2,291
Number State Institutions .....	11	28
Amount Annual Expenditures .....	\$ 294,000	\$ 3,733,575
Number of Corporations Licensed .....	4,187 (yr. 1900)	8,208
Fire Insurance Written .....	\$ 22,758,275	\$731,922,040
Life Insurance Written .....	\$ 3,591,605	\$346,853,165
Value Manufactured Products .....	\$ 38,702,125	\$471,000,000
Lumber Production (M. Ft.) .....	299,709	720,000

\*—Practically no production.

# SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WEST VIRGINIA

COMPILED BY WEST VIRGINIA PUBLICITY COMMISSION

## LARGEST IN THE WORLD

Axe Factory—Kelly, in Charleston.  
 Bottle Factory—Owens, Fairmont.  
 Electrical Porcelain—General Porcelain Co., Parkersburg.  
 Proprietary Remedies—Sterling Products Co., Wheeling.  
 Hosiery—Interwoven, Martinsburg.  
 Sanitary Pottery—Bowers, Mannington.  
 Clothes Pin—Fulton Manufacturing Co., Richwood.  
 Shovel Factory—Baldwin, Parkersburg.  
 Sheet Glass Factory—Libby Owens, Charleston.  
 Pressed Prism Glass Plant—Morgantown.  
 Monel Metal—The International Nickel Co., Huntington.  
 Thermos Bottles—Amer. Thermos Bottle Co., Huntington.  
 The largest stogie factory in the world is located at Wheeling.  
 Vitrolite Plant—Parkersburg.  
 The deepest well in the world is near Fairmont, 7,386 feet.  
 Largest tannery in the world at Richwood.

## AREA AND POPULATION

Area, square miles .....	24,022
Population, native white .....	1,315,329
Population, foreign born .....	61,906—4%
Population, colored .....	86,345
Population, Indians and others .....	121
Total population (1920 census) .....	1,463,701

Density, 60.9 per square mile. For United States, 35.5 per square mile.

West Virginia stands fourth in Sunday School efficiency in the United States.

Charleston has more wealth per capita than any city in the United States.

West Virginia has more coal than any state in the Union.

Unmined coal 160,000,000,000 tons.

Coal Mined since 1888, 1,241,719,768 tons.

Second state in production of coal in the Union; Pennsylvania first.

Best Smokeless coal to be found in the world.

Best Bi-product coal to be found in the world.

At our present rate of coal production (87,000,000 tons annually, it will take nearly 2000 years to exhaust the supply.

West Virginia is now producing about 60% more coal than was mined in the United States in 1880.

Forty-nine of the fifty-five counties are underlaid with coal.

West Virginia is the heart of the greatest coal field in the world, the Appalachian.

There are twenty-nine different seams mined in a commercial way.

## ASSESSED VALUATION OF WEST VIRGINIA

1922	
Real Estate .....	\$1,208,796,358.00
Personal Property .....	438,272,746.00
Public Utility Property .....	445,502,758.00
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$2,092,571,862.00</b>
1910	
Total Assessed Valuation .....	\$1,068,000,000.00
<b>INCREASE</b> .....	<b>\$ 1,024,571,862.00</b>
Wealth per capita, based on assessed valuation \$1,429. For United States, 1920 Census, \$2,800.	
State and National Bank Deposits, 1920 .....	\$ 281,509,000.00
State and National Bank Deposits, 1910 .....	103,289,590.00
<b>INCREASE</b> .....	<b>\$ 178,219,410.00</b>

## AGRICULTURE

	1920	1910	Increase
(1920 Census Bureau Report)			
Number of all farms .....	87,289	96,685	(Decrease 9.7%)
Value all farm property .....	\$496,439,617	\$314,738,540	57.7%
Live Stock .....	67,261,153	43,336,073	55.2%
Poultry and Eggs .....	13,042,688	5,890,889	
Sales of Dairy Products .....	6,470,872	2,532,324	155.5%
Wool Produced, value .....	1,587,359	839,555	89.1%
Crops .....	96,537,459	36,167,014	166.9%

62.2% of total acreage of State of West Virginia in farms.

## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	1920	1910	
(1920 Census Bureau Report)			
Number of establishments .....	2,785	2,586	
Persons engaged .....	93,000	71,000	
Primary horsepower .....	328,000	217,000	
Salaries and wages .....	\$119,000,000	\$ 38,000,000	
Value of products .....	471,000,000	161,000,000	

## MINING INDUSTRIES

	1920	1910	Increase
(1920 Census Bureau Report)			
Number of enterprises .....	1,714	798	114.8%
Number of Mines and Quarries .....	1,325	718	84.5%
Petroleum and Natural Gas Wells .....	27,363	15,146	80.7%
Natural Gas Gasoline Plants .....	230	none	
Persons engaged .....	110,327	77,814	41.8%
Salaries and Wages .....	\$134,532,198	\$39,809,620	262.26%
Horse power used .....	704,279	416,282	69.2%
Value all Mines and Quarries .....	\$295,606,620	\$76,287,889	287.5%