Development of Natural Resources of Barnwell, Beaufort, Dorchester and Hampton Counties

Strom Thurmond

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Barnwell, Beaufort, Dorchester, and Hampton Counties are situated in the Coastal Plains of the southern part of South Carolina. These great Plains lie between the Atlantic Ocean and the Piedmont Plateau, having an average rainfall of 55 to 60 inches, and the climate is of the humid sub-tropical type characterized by long summers and mild winters. The dominant type of soil is a sandy loam, but there are other yellow soils which are members of the Norfolk series.

This combination of soil, climate, and rainfall makes this region of South Carolina naturally adaptable to agriculture. Farming is the basis of the economy and holds promise as a great source of income for the future with the extensive use of modern intensive methods of cultivation. Great progress has already been made in inaugurating modern farming methods and the reward can be readily observed. It is my hope that this progress will be even more accelerated in the future.

These Counties rank among the top in the State in the number of acres of vegetables and melons harvested for sale. Barnwell County in 1945 - 1946 ranked above all other Counties in the State in the acres of vegetables and melons harvested for sale in the peanuts picked or thrashed (pounds). Hampton County was second in South Carolina in the number of pounds of pecans harvested for the same period. Dorchester County was the fourth ranking County in South Carolina for the cords of timber per acre of timber land. Beaufort County was sixth in South Carolina in the bushels of Irish Potatoes harvested.

-Beaufort and Port Royal afford a beautiful, protected, inland harbor. The Beaufort - Port Royal area has a protected, inland harbor with deep water and wide channels. These factors, plus an exceptional high tidal range, contribute toward making
this area excellently suited for a natural harbor. This harbor is now served by modern roads, a railroad, truck lines, the Inland Waterway, excellent wharves, housing, power, sanitation, and seven-year mild weather from the Gulf Stream. I sincerely hope that this fine harbor will be developed to the fullest in the years to come. Since earliest times those connected with shipping and the sea have recognized its great natural advantages.

The shrimping and shark oil production along the southern part of the Carolina Coast is very promising, and I hope the industry will continue to develop.

Barnwell, Beaufort, Dorchester, and Hampton Counties are fortunate in their natural resources, and every effort should be made to fully develop them. In the years to come I believe that their rich historical background will be supplemented with a thriving industrial and agricultural economy.