

DAVID CLARK EXHIBIT NO. 2.

ILLITERACY.

The 1910 census gives the illiteracy among the white population of North Carolina as 12.3 per cent, as compared with 19.5 per cent as in 1900, and shows that North Carolina made the greatest decrease during the decade of any State in the Union.

It can not be denied that this increase was to a considerable extent due to the educational work of the cotton mills and to the schools that they have established and maintained. For years the cotton manufacturers have led the fight for compulsory education.

The report of M. L. Shipman, commissioner of labor for North Carolina, issued on December 1, 1914, shows that 87 per cent of the cotton-mill operatives can read and write. In the woolen mills 89 per cent, silk mills 99.5 per cent, and cordage mills 98.3 per cent.

Dr. McKelway, as is typical of his efforts, gave you statistics of 1900, or 15 years ago, and endeavored to create the impression of extreme illiteracy.

In considering illiteracy figures it is unfair to North Carolina not to take into account the fact that we have a large crop of adult illiterates as an inheritance of the Civil War and the period of poverty and desolation that followed same. It should also be taken into account that we have a large mountain section and that it is extremely difficult to furnish schools for people living in the isolated sections. Our education is a matter that concerns North Carolina alone, and we fail to see why it is so great a concern to people of other States.

The 1913 report of the State superintendent of schools for Georgia shows only 3.6 per cent illiterate white, and yet Dr. McKelway's figures for 1900 show 44
