



A 7-YEAR-OLD COTTON PICKER.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JAMES J. DAVIS, Secretary

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

GRACE ABBOTT, Chief

THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
IN COTTON-GROWING
AREAS OF TEXAS



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THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
IN THE GROWING
AREAS OF TEXAS

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
CHILDREN'S BUREAU,
Washington, October 19, 1923.

SIR: There is transmitted herewith a report on The Welfare of Children in Cotton-Growing Areas of Texas, one of a series of studies on the welfare of rural children with special reference to farm labor and school attendance, which the industrial division of the Children's Bureau is making.

The investigation upon which this report was based was made under the general supervision of Ellen Nathalie Matthews, director of the industrial division. Helen M. Dart, formerly a special agent of the division, was responsible for the details of the plan, the direction of the field work, and the preliminary organization of the material upon which the report is based.

Acknowledgment is made of the helpful cooperation of members of the staff of the United States Department of Agriculture, especially of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; officials of the University of Texas, the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the State department of education; county school superintendents and local school principals and teachers; and county agricultural agents.

Respectfully submitted.

GRACE ABBOTT, *Chief.*

HON. JAMES J. DAVIS,
Secretary of Labor.

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THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IN COTTON-GROWING AREAS OF TEXAS.

INTRODUCTION.

The present study of children in cotton-growing areas of Texas is the fourth¹ in a series of surveys made by the Children's Bureau dealing with problems of rural child welfare with special reference to the effect of child labor upon school attendance. Such an inquiry is of peculiar significance in the cotton-growing districts of the South, where so large a part of the farm work is done by women and children, and where the percentage of illiteracy is high.

Texas has for many years produced more cotton than any other State in the Union,² and in 1920 its yield constituted about one-third of the cotton crop of the country.³ The cotton acreage included more than one-third of the improved land in the State,⁴ and was almost two and one-half times the acreage of corn, the next most important crop in the State.⁵ Most of the cotton is grown in the eastern half of the State, though cotton production is increasing in west Texas.⁶

The present study was made in two important cotton-growing counties, selected because of different social and agricultural conditions. (See Table I.) Hill County, located in the north-central part of the State, was chosen as being typical of the "black lands" of the central-prairie country, so named because of the soil, which is a black, waxy clay, and the most fertile of the trans-Mississippi region.⁷ The country is practically all under cultivation. Plantations are large and are worked chiefly by tenants, most of them white. Rusk County, near the Louisiana border, was chosen for study as fairly representative of the cotton-growing regions of east

¹ The first three studies dealt with children in beet-growing areas of Michigan and Colorado, on the truck farms of Maryland, and in rural North Dakota. Subsequent studies have dealt with children on the truck farms of Virginia and New Jersey.

² Atlas of American Agriculture, Part V, The Crops, Section A, Cotton, p. 22, fig. 76. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Office of Farm Management, Washington, 1918.

³ Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1920-21, U. S. Bureau of the Census Bulletin 147, pp. 14 and 15. Washington, 1921.

⁴ Computed from figures of U. S. Bureau of the Census, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. VI, part 2, Agriculture, Reports for States, The Southern States, Texas, pp. 655 and 662. Washington, 1922.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 662.

⁶ Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1918-19, U. S. Bureau of the Census Bulletin 140, p. 135. Washington, 1919. Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1920-21, U. S. Bureau of the Census Bulletin 147, p. 138.

⁷ U. S. Geological Survey, Twenty-first Annual Report, 1899-1900, Part VII, Geography and Geology of the Black and Grand Prairies, Texas, pp. 60 and 61.

Texas, an area in which the social and agricultural conditions of certain parts of the old South are more nearly reproduced than in any other part of the State. The land is rolling and wooded, drained by numerous rivers and creeks, and only partly cleared. It is a less fertile country than Hill County, crops are somewhat more diversified, and a larger proportion of the farms are operated by their owners.

TABLE I.—Comparison of the State as a whole, Hill County, and Rusk County, as to population and agricultural conditions.¹

State and county.	Total population.	Per cent of negroes in total population.	Per cent urban in total population.	Per cent of farm land improved.	Average improved acreage per farm.	Per cent of improved land in cotton.	Average land value per acre.	Per cent of farms operated by tenants.
Texas.....	4,663,228	15.9	32.4	27.4	71.6	36.9	\$28.46	53.3
Hill County.....	43,332	12.6	16.0	80.2	80.9	55.0	108.23	65.2
Rusk County.....	31,689	40.1	.....	58.1	46.7	35.1	22.38	49.2

¹ Compiled from the Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. I, p. 173; Vol. III, pp. 984, 1000, 1010; and Vol. VI, Part 2, pp. 653, 655, 662, 674, 682, 725, 733.

Most of the inhabitants of east Texas come from Alabama, Georgia, or other near-by States, and its population includes a large proportion of negroes. The population of the "black lands" is more varied, containing whites from the North and some foreigners, as well as southern whites and negroes. Rusk County was created in 1843, and Hill County in 1853, though the settlement of the counties dates back to the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century.⁸

In both counties the open country where cleared is thickly settled, so that few houses are separated by more than one-fourth or one-half mile. At the time of the study in Hill County 16 per cent of the population was living in the county seat, a town of about 7,000, and the county had 10 other incorporated places varying in population from 300 to 2,000.⁹ In Rusk County, the county seat had only about 2,300 inhabitants, and there was but one other incorporated town, which had about 500.⁹

In 1920 seven railroads ran through Hill County, four of them through the county seat. All the public roads of the county, with the exception of a few miles, were dirt roads, good during the summer but practically impassable in wet weather when the black clay became so soft and sticky that even a four-mule team hitched to a two-wheeled vehicle had difficulty in traveling through it.¹⁰ Bad mudholes often closed miles of road to travel. In Rusk County railroad service was not so good as in Hill County. Two corners of

⁸ Thrall, Homer S.: A Pictorial History of Texas, pp. 669 and 692. St. Louis, 1879.

⁹ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. I, Population: Number and Distribution of Inhabitants, pp. 303-305.

¹⁰ A good road north from Hillsboro was in process of construction at the time of the survey.

the county were cut by main north-and-south lines, but the county seat, the principal town of the county, was reached only by two branch lines with infrequent and uncertain train service. The public roads over the sandy soil were usually passable even in wet weather, although poorly built bridges, frequent washouts, and steep grades might close certain routes for days at a time and make travel uncertain and difficult at other times. In both counties the rural mail service was well developed.

Hill County had an agricultural agent; Rusk County did not employ one until after the study was completed. While the survey was in progress, a farm bureau was organized in Hill County under the direction of the agricultural agent. In Rusk County a farmers' union was active. The general purpose of both of these organizations was similar—to bring about an improvement in farming methods and to further cooperative buying and selling. Neither county had a home-demonstration agent.

The present study included 13 school districts in Hill County and 12 in Rusk. Information was secured in regard to all children between the ages of 2 and 16 years on September 30, 1920, living in families resident on farms in these districts at least 6 months of the year previous to that date. Families with children who had come into the districts to work as seasonal cotton pickers and were working there at the time of the study were also included. Data in regard to them will be found in the section entitled "Children in Migratory Laborers' Families." Prior to the interviews with individual families in each school district selected for study, school-attendance records for the year 1919-20 were secured for each child enrolled. In order to omit no children who might have failed to be enrolled, school-census records were also consulted and a careful house-to-house canvass was made. The study was begun in Hill County in September, 1920, and concluded in Rusk County in January, 1921. A total of 1,121 families with 3,131 children were interviewed.

Most of the families interviewed in each county were native white. The negro population, which is comparatively small in the State as a whole, is concentrated in the eastern and southeastern parts of the State. Of the resident families included in the survey, 44 per cent of those in Rusk but only 10 per cent of those in Hill County were negro. Only two families in which the father was foreign born were interviewed in Rusk County, while in Hill County, where there were German and Bohemian settlements, 36 such families, or 7 per cent of the total number of Hill County families in the study, were interviewed. Twenty-five of these 36 fathers had been born in Germany; 24 had been in the United States 20 years or more; but 3 could not speak English. Mexican families, numerous in

the southern part of the State, were not common in the northern part; two were included in the study in Hill County, none in Rusk County.

As has been said, the percentage of tenancy in Hill County is high, and that of farm ownership relatively low. Of the 509 families interviewed in Hill County only 185 (36 per cent) owned their farms. Only 3 of the 51 negro fathers were farm owners. A few of the fathers were farm laborers,¹¹ but the majority (58.7 per cent) were tenant farmers. In Rusk County as a whole and among the families interviewed the percentage of farm owners was considerably larger; well over half the families interviewed (56.7 per cent) owned their farms. Of the 295 white fathers (all except 2 of whom were native born) 200 were farm owners; of the negro fathers 101 out of 236 were farm owners. Two-thirds of the white farm owners interviewed in Hill County, and 59 per cent of those interviewed in Rusk, had farms of 100 acres or more. Farms owned by negroes were much smaller; only one of the three negro farm owners in Hill and 44 per cent of those in Rusk County had farms comprising as much as 100 acres.

Typical of the well-to-do white farmer in Hill County was one owning 390 acres, all except 100 of which he rented out to tenants. His principal crops were cotton, corn, and oats. He had 4 mules; 7 head of cattle, 2 of which were milch cows; 13 pigs; and a number of chickens. He owned an 8-room house, substantially built, and screened, and an automobile. He had a telephone in his house and other household conveniences including a washing machine; and the family subscribed for several periodicals. The farm was located $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the nearest town and school.

The owner of one of the larger farms in Rusk County was a native white man who held 215 acres, and raised cotton, corn, peanuts, oats, and ribbon cane. His stock consisted of 2 horses, 3 mules, 15 pigs, 300 chickens, 20 milch cows, and 10 steers. He owned a comfortable 6-room house and an automobile, had a telephone, and subscribed for several magazines and newspapers. This family was 7 miles from the county seat and 3 miles from a school.

A negro farmer in Rusk County owned 60 acres which were planted in cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, and sorghum. He had three mules, seven pigs, two milch cows, and a few chickens. His 5-room frame house built on piles was ceiled inside but had no conveniences and was entirely unscreened. It was 14 miles from the county seat and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from a negro school. Although both the father and the

¹¹ Farm hands, it is reported, are usually young unmarried men, many of whom make use of the farm-hand stage to accumulate capital to become tenant farmers. In a survey of tenancy in the "black lands" made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, it was found that 72 per cent of the total time spent as farm hands was spent while the operators were single. Farm Ownership and Tenancy in the Black Prairie of Texas, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bulletin 1068, p. 31. Washington, 1922.

mother could read and write, the family took no newspapers or magazines.

Similar to his circumstances were those of Rusk County white farmers owning small farms. A native Texan, for example, owned 80 acres, 50 of which were cultivated, cotton, peas, corn, peanuts, and ribbon cane being the principal crops. He owned 2 horses, a mule, 15 pigs, 5 milch cows, 5 head of cattle, and 40 chickens. His 6-room frame house, slightly larger than his negro neighbors' houses, was like these built on piles, boarded inside, and without conveniences. It was 4 miles from a town and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the nearest school.

Practically all the tenants included in the study paid as rent part of the crop they raised—either one-third of the corn and one-fourth of the cotton, or half of each crop, according to the terms of their tenancy.¹² In each county 17 per cent of the white tenant farmers were half-share croppers; in Rusk County 48 per cent and in Hill County 92 per cent of the negro tenant farmers were renting on half shares. Renters on half shares have less capital than those on a one-third and one-fourth share basis, and can therefore make less favorable rental contracts. They are, to quote a student of the land problem in Texas, "at a serious disadvantage, since they are usually furnished with inferior equipment, and are at the same time more under the control of the landlord as to crops planted and methods used."¹³

One-third of the 45 white half-share renters in Hill County were furnished credit, work animals, and farm implements by their landlords. An additional one-third were furnished only work animals and farm implements. Only two received nothing but the land and farm buildings from the owner. The proportion of negro half-share tenants receiving credits, work animals, and farm implements was even greater than the proportion of white tenants thus supplied. Among the white third-and-fourth tenants, on the other hand, 87 per cent had received only the land and buildings from the landlord; 8 per cent had received credit alone; only a few had been furnished work animals or farm implements by their landlords.

The half-share tenant, but one stage removed from the farm laborer, ordinarily has little or no capital, and as he receives no money for his crop until it is sold, he must depend on credit to support his family

¹² According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture the following types of tenancy may be distinguished: "*Share tenants* rent all the land they operate and furnish all labor and equipment used on their farms, and as a rule receive two-thirds of the grain and three-fourths of the cotton raised. *Share croppers* rent all their land and furnish only the labor used in operating their farms, the equipment, feed, repairs, etc., being furnished by the landlord and the crops being shared equally." *Farm Ownership and Tenancy in the Black Prairie of Texas*, U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1068, p. 16, footnote 17 Washington, 1922.

¹³ *Studies in the Land Problem in Texas*. University of Texas Bulletin 1915, No. 39, edited by Lewis H. Haney, p. 15.

in the meantime. As a result half-share croppers are often in debt. As one negro mother said, "Times are so tight we never can move where the children can have schooling." This family had seven children of school age and lived 11 miles from a negro school. During the four years they had worked for their landlord they had never been out of debt. Others said that they had been unable to send their children to school because they could not afford to buy clothes and shoes; one negro mother said her family ate only twice a day, adding, "We are trying to stretch as far as we can."

The income of the share cropper is also seriously affected by the one-crop system, especially as the price of cotton, the only money crop, is exceedingly variable, and the crop itself is highly susceptible to unusual weather conditions. In 1919, although the price of cotton was high, the yield was considerably lower than the average, and the grade of cotton in most cases was inferior, owing to the prolonged rains in the fall of the year. In 1919 the bollworm and in 1920 the boll weevil had been very destructive. In 1920, also, the price of cotton was low. Many of the tenant farmers interviewed declared that the low price of cotton had "ruined" them. "A lot of farmers round here haven't a cent in the world, and their wives and children are going without clothing enough to keep them warm," said one renter on a one-third and one-fourth share basis. Those who could afford to do so were holding their cotton for a higher price, but others had been forced to sell because they had needed the cash.

Because of their disadvantageous economic status share croppers move often—moving was twice as common among tenants as owners, and a fairly large proportion of the half-share tenants moved annually.¹⁴ As a result they can take but little interest in or responsibility for community projects, so that rural communities made up largely of tenant farmers are likely to have poor schools and churches and few organizations for community betterment.

¹⁴ See General Table 1, p. 74.

CHILDREN IN RESIDENT FARMING FAMILIES.

THE CHILDREN AT WORK.

The child labor law of Texas prohibits the employment in industry of children under 15 for more than 10 hours a day or 48 hours a week,¹ but children engaged in farm work are specifically exempted from the provisions of the law.² While it is generally true that children working on farms work under the supervision of their parents at tasks which need not involve danger or undue hardship and which may have a distinct educational value, it is important that consideration be given to the extent to which rural child labor does involve long hours, physical strain, and serious interference with education.

Nearly all the children over 10 years of age included in the study had done field work. For most of them the working day had been at least 8 and, in many cases, 12 to 14 hours long, and the work of about one-third of the children had interfered more or less with their school attendance. Most of the children begin doing field work when they are very young—42 per cent of all the white children in the districts studied under 10 years of age, and 26 per cent of those under 8, had worked in the fields. Negro children started to work on an average even younger than white children.³

Many of the parents, although realizing in some degree the undesirability of overworking their children, felt obliged nevertheless to avail themselves of the children's help in field work either because of labor shortage or because they could not afford to hire help. One father, for instance, a farm owner, said that labor was so scarce and wages so high that farmers had to have their children pick cotton. He said, "I worked my children as soon as they were the least bit big enough." During the year studied four of his children ranging in age from 6 to 10 years, had worked 30 days hoeing and chopping and a total of nearly four months picking cotton. The 10-year-old boy had also helped with the cultivating. The two older children had entered school two months late on account of cotton picking. The 4-year-old girl took care of the two babies in order that the mother also might pick. This family owned a farm of over 100 acres and were better off than most of their neighbors. Yet the father said, "A farmer's life is spent trying to get out of debt for the

¹ Texas, General Laws of 1917, ch. 59, sec. 4.

² *Ibid.*, sec. 1.

³ Table II, p. 8.

year before." In one of the families in which the children had missed most of the school year largely because of work in the cotton fields the father said, "The children ought to have the education their mother got (a normal-school course), but if it weren't for their work we would be lost. I feel, though, that their work is a great drawback to their education." Another father said he was very particular about his children's work and did not allow them to work long hours or during the heat of the day. Reports on hours of work for children indicate, however, that his policy was the exception rather than the rule.

TABLE II.—*Proportion of children of each specified age, in resident farming families, doing field work, by sex and race; Hill and Rusk Counties.*

Age and race of child.	Children. ¹			Boys.			Girls.		
	Total.	Who did field work.		Total.	Who did field work.		Total.	Who did field work.	
		Number.	Per cent. ²		Number.	Per cent. ²		Number.	Per cent. ²
White.....	³ 2,026	1,301	64.2	1,010	699	69.2	1,006	602	59.8
Under 6 years.....	516	58	11.2	262	36	13.7	251	22	8.8
6 years, under 8.....	312	156	50.0	144	87	60.4	168	69	41.1
8 years, under 10.....	319	265	83.1	161	143	88.8	158	122	77.2
10 years, under 12.....	298	275	92.3	146	139	95.2	152	136	89.5
12 years, under 14.....	306	288	94.1	163	161	98.8	143	127	88.8
14 years, under 16.....	268	259	96.6	134	133	99.3	134	126	94.0
Age not reported.....	7								
Negro.....	813	555	68.3	408	287	70.3	405	268	66.2
Under 6 years.....	207	32	15.5	98	15	15.3	109	17	15.6
6 years, under 8.....	131	69	52.7	75	47	62.7	56	22	39.3
8 years, under 10.....	122	105	86.1	70	62	88.6	52	43	82.7
10 years, under 12.....	118	116	98.3	45	44	97.8	73	72	98.6
12 years, under 14.....	120	120	100.0	60	60	100.0	60	60	100.0
14 years, under 16.....	102	102	100.0	52	52	100.0	50	50	100.0
Age not reported.....	13	11		8	7		5	4	

¹ Excludes 71 white and 17 negro children who had been in the area less than 1 year.

² Not shown where base is less than 50.

³ Includes 10 children for whom sex was not reported—3 under 5 years and 7 with age not reported.

The attitude of another group of parents was expressed by a farmer with 100 acres under cultivation who stated: "The country is ruined because you can't have your children work on the farm but such a short time in the year. Hired help is so high you can't afford it, and there you are!" Three of his children, aged 10, 12, and 14, respectively, had all worked 12 hours a day hoeing and chopping and 9 hours a day picking cotton; one had missed 12 days, the second 11 days, and the third 35 days of school for farm work.

Field work.

Kinds of field work.—Practically all the children who had done field work had helped with cotton picking. (Text Table III.) Seventy per cent of the children in Hill County and 80 per cent of

those in Rusk had hoed and chopped cotton or corn; few children in either county reported picking (gathering) corn, though almost twice as many had done so in Rusk as in Hill.

TABLE III.—*Kinds of field work performed by children¹ in resident farming families, by race and county of residence.*

Kind of field work.	Children under 16 years of age doing each specified kind of field work.											
	Hill County.						Rusk County.					
	Total. ¹		White.		Negro.		Total. ¹		White.		Negro.	
	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.
Total.....	883	100.0	770	100.0	113	100.0	973	100.0	531	100.0	442	100.0
Plowing.....	79	8.9	69	9.0	10	8.8	183	18.8	99	18.6	84	19.0
Harrowing.....	93	10.5	83	10.8	10	8.8	90	9.2	55	10.4	35	7.9
Planting.....	124	14.0	107	13.9	17	15.0	253	26.0	125	23.5	128	29.0
Cultivating.....	134	15.2	122	15.8	12	10.6	142	14.6	64	12.1	78	17.6
Hoing and chopping.....	622	70.4	547	71.0	75	66.4	778	80.0	406	76.5	372	84.2
Picking cotton.....	855	96.8	747	97.0	108	95.6	953	97.9	514	96.8	439	99.3
Picking corn.....	67	7.6	61	7.9	6	5.3	128	13.2	54	10.2	74	16.7
Picking peanuts.....							46	4.7	30	5.6	16	3.6
Picking peas.....							92	9.5	45	8.5	47	10.6
Pulling fodder.....							30	3.1	6	1.1	24	5.4
Shocking oats.....	89	10.1	86	11.2	3	2.7	2	0.2	2	0.4		
Cutting sprouts.....							84	8.6	53	10.0	31	7.0
Cutting wood.....	4	0.5	3	0.4	1	0.9	33	3.4	25	4.7	8	1.8

¹ Excludes 58 white and 14 negro children in Hill County, and 13 white and 3 negro children in Rusk County that had been in the area less than 1 year; also 437 white and 35 negro children in Hill County, and 288 white and 223 negro children in Rusk County that did no field work.

Planting and plowing were reported by about twice as large a proportion of the children in Rusk as in Hill. Harrowing was reported by approximately the same proportion in both counties.

The greater variety of field work reported by Rusk County children reflects the greater diversity of farming in that county as compared with Hill County. Four of the 13 kinds of work tabulated (see Table III) were not reported by any of the 883 Hill County children doing field work and a fifth was reported by only 4 of them. In Rusk County, on the other hand, 12 of the 13 kinds reported had been done by 30 or more of the 973 children. In each county white and negro children did practically the same kinds of work.

Duration of field work.—Estimates as to how many days of field work the children included in the study had done during the preceding year were obtained from parents and children. The working days were not necessarily consecutive; in fact, most of the kinds of field work reported, except cotton picking, necessitated only a few days or a week or two at a time. Neither parents nor children, however, could remember in most cases exactly how long the work had lasted at one time, so that it was not practicable to obtain the more detailed information for each piece of work. It should be borne in mind, therefore, in considering the reports on duration that a

child who is reported as working 90 days, for example, may possibly have worked 10 days a month for 2 or 3 days at a time during 9 months of the year. It would appear that the average⁴ duration of field work throughout the year had been 3 months for white children in Rusk County; for those in Hill County, where the cotton crop was more important and had yielded well, 4.2 months. Negro children in Rusk County had worked about four months, and in Hill, almost six months. Older children worked more months on the average than younger ones, and in every group except among the negro children in Hill County, boys worked longer than girls.

The average duration of working periods necessarily fails to emphasize the longest periods reported. For instance, 35 white children in Hill County and 16 in Rusk had worked a total of eight or more months during the year. In one family the three younger children, 8, 11, and 13, respectively, had each hoed and chopped cotton 90 days or more in the spring and summer, and had picked cotton between 150 and 180 days in the fall and winter. About one-fifth of the white children in Rusk County and one-third in Hill had worked four months or more during the year. The year covered by the survey was probably a fairly typical one; although the 1919 season had been exceptionally rainy, that of 1920, aside from the delay in planting caused by cold weather in March and April, had been about normal.

TABLE IV.—Median duration of field work performed by children under 16 years of age in resident farming families, by age, sex, and race of child, and county of residence.

Age of child and county of residence.	Median duration of field work (months).					
	White.			Negro.		
	Both sexes.	Boys.	Girls.	Both sexes.	Boys.	Girls.
Hill County.....	4.2	4.5	3.7	5.9	5.3	6.3
Under 7 years.....	1.2	1.1	1.3	(1)	(1)	(1)
7 years, under 10.....	2.9	3.3	2.4	4.8	(1)	(1)
10 years, under 13.....	4.7	4.9	4.4	6.8	(1)	(1)
13 years, under 16.....	5.3	6.1	4.6	7.4	(1)	(1)
Rusk County.....	3.0	3.8	2.4	4.0	4.0	3.9
Under 7 years.....	1.2	(1)	(1)	2.0	(1)	(1)
7 years, under 10.....	2.2	2.7	1.8	3.0	2.9	3.2
10 years, under 13.....	3.6	4.3	2.9	4.4	4.7	4.1
13 years, under 16.....	4.3	5.8	3.1	4.6	5.5	4.4

¹ Median not shown where number of children is less than 25.

The following accounts of the work done by individual children will convey more graphically than statistics the conditions under which the work was done.

⁴ The form of average used throughout this report is the median. The median is the point which divides the group into two equal parts, one-half above and one-half below the median. Thus, in the case in which the median duration was 4.2 months, half the children had worked less and half had worked more than the time specified. In the present report the median is used instead of the arithmetical average, (1) because of its greater convenience and (2) because in many cases it is more significant.

An 11-year-old Rusk County boy who had begun to do field work at the age of 4 years lived on a rented farm of 65 acres, which his native white father was operating on a third-and-fourth basis, growing cotton and corn. He had missed 70 days for farm work out of the school term of 115 days. He had worked in the fields a total of 8½ months. Beginning in February he had plowed and cut sprouts⁵ the equivalent of half a month; in March he had harrowed and planted. In April he began cultivating, which lasted into July; in May he began planting and spent two weeks at it; about May 25 he began to chop cotton, work which occupied him 15 days. In June his principal work was hoeing. During part of August he cut wood. Cotton picking began August 24, and he picked cotton for more than 3 months. His brother, aged 10, had had precisely the same program, but his 9-year-old brother, who had been absent from school for farm work only 55 days, had only hoed, chopped, and picked cotton.

A 13-year-old Hill County boy who had missed no time from school on account of farm work had done plowing, harrowing, planting, and cultivating on Saturdays and after school during January, February, March, and April. He worked 2 hours after school and 10 hours on Saturdays. In May, June, and July he had hoed and chopped and cultivated. In July he had cut, raked, shocked, pitched, loaded, and hauled sorghum for five days. Beginning August 15 he had picked cotton or gathered corn until December. His 12-year-old brother had done practically the same work with the exception of the plowing, harrowing, planting, and cultivating. The father, a native white Texan, owned a 78-acre farm.

Three negro boys, aged 10, 12, and 14, who had lost from 23 to 32 days from school on account of farm work, had done a variety of work. All had hauled wood for five days in January and had plowed for nine days in February, and all except the youngest had harrowed one Saturday in February. They had planted and cultivated field crops during part of March, April, and May and had spent four Saturdays of these months on the garden. In May and June they had hoed and chopped cotton. In September they had picked cotton, corn, and peas, the cotton picking extending into November. The father cultivated 80 acres on a third-and-fourth basis.

The 12-year-old son of a native white farm owner had missed 70 days of school for farm work and had completed only the first grade. He had plowed, harrowed, planted, cut sprouts, and cultivated during March, April, May, and June, withdrawing from school on the

⁵ The fields are cleared of blackberry, sassafras, and other bushes by cutting down the sprouts of the young plants.

12th of March, 20 days before school closed. In May also he had hoed or chopped cotton most of the month. Beginning in July he spent 10 days cutting wood, 7 cutting and baling hay or cane, and 21 raking, loading, and hauling. He picked corn for more than three weeks in September; beginning September 24 he picked cotton until December 28. He entered school on December 29, 50 days late.

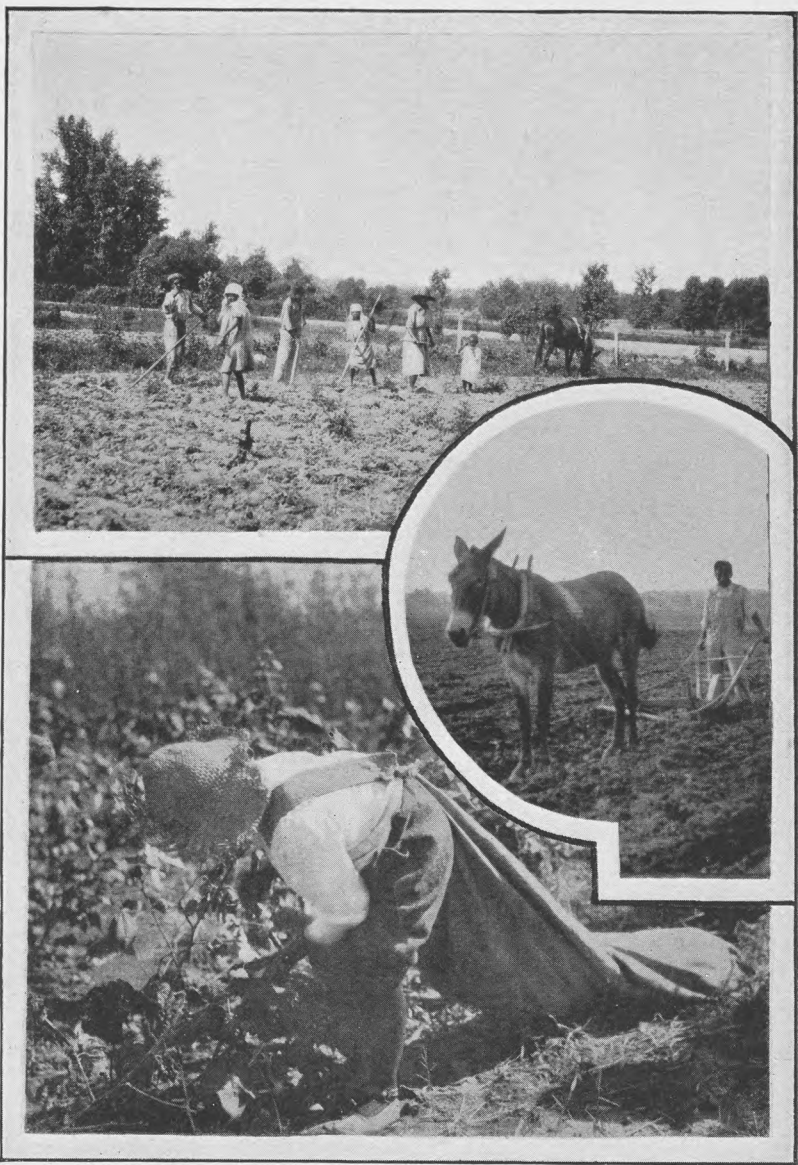
An 11-year-old son of a prosperous farmer owning 150 acres had entered school 15 days late the preceding school year and had withdrawn 18 days early. In all he had missed 46 school days for farm work. He had completed only the second grade. His work had extended over a period of more than six months. He had plowed, harrowed, planted, and cut sprouts, in March, April, and May, and cultivated from April to July. In June he had cut oats and raked, loaded, and hauled. He had spent half of September and October picking cotton. During half of September he had also cut wood.

The 12-year-old son of a white tenant on a third-and-fourth basis cultivating 50 acres, worked during a period of eight months. He worked at plowing, harrowing, planting, and hoeing, in February, March, April, May, and June; he cultivated and chopped cotton in April and May. He spent a few days during the summer cutting wood, raking, loading, and hauling. Beginning September 1, he picked cotton for about six weeks. He had been out of school 45 days on account of farm work, having withdrawn in February, 40 days before the end of the school term. He had completed only the first grade.

Two brothers, aged 11 and 12, sons of a white half-share tenant, had each been absent from school 45 days on account of farm work. They had chopped cotton during June and July, and during the latter month and part of August had hoed; they had picked corn also for two weeks in August. For three weeks in September and throughout October, November, and December, and part of January, they had picked cotton. They had not entered school until January 13. School had begun November 10.

The 14-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son of a Bohemian tenant cultivating over 200 acres of land, worked during a period of about 6 months, the former missing 16 days of school for farm work. They had both harrowed for two days in May, and the boy had also spent a few days planting. The girl had hoed and chopped during May and June, and the boy had hoed through June and cultivated one week in July. They had both picked cotton, the girl about 2½ months, the boy about 1 month.

Cotton picking.—So simple is the task of cotton picking and so great the demand for labor that the younger children are pressed into service for this kind of work more than for any other. Almost all the child field workers had picked cotton. The work involves considerable exposure to cold and dampness as well as to heat inas-



CHILD WORKERS IN THE FIELDS: ABOVE, HOEING AND CHOPPING; AT RIGHT, SIDE HARROWING; BELOW, COTTON PICKING.



A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY AND HIS 6-YEAR-OLD SISTER PICKING COTTON.

The former worked 12, the latter 8 hours a day.

much as it lasts from late August or early September into November or December, a period during which thermometers in these localities climb to 98° or 99°, and fall to 24° or even 20° above zero.⁶ Unlike most of the farm work done by children in these areas, cotton picking extends over an uninterrupted period of weeks or months. Day after day is spent in the fields, the children working long hours under considerable pressure. Inexperienced pickers who have not acquired the knack of grasping the cotton so that the fingers take hold between the sharp, dry carpels of the burr without touching them are likely to have very sore fingers at the end of the day. Some of the cotton plants grow shoulder high, with cotton bolls nearly all the way to the ground. Little children can pick without stooping, but older children and adults have to stoop or move along on their knees. The worker picks rapidly with both hands and puts the cotton into a big sack which he drags along by a shoulder strap.⁷ Full bags are carried to the wagon, weighed and emptied. Little children often carry flour sacks or other small bags instead of the full-sized cotton sacks.

The average duration of cotton picking was about 2½ months for white children in Hill County and over four months for negro children, while in Rusk County the average duration of this work was only about 1½ months for all children. Four months or more had been devoted to picking cotton by 11 per cent of the white children of Hill County; only 16 white and negro children in Rusk County had picked cotton four months or more.

Although it was not in all cases practicable to find out exactly how much the children picked, estimates as to average amounts picked by children of various ages were secured from a number of fairly typical families. The average day's work for 153 children ranging in age from 3 to 15 years was slightly under 100 pounds of cotton each. The majority (22 out of 33) of the children 14 and 15 years of age had averaged 150 pounds or more a day; about three-fifths (18 out of 31) of the 12- and 13-year-old children had averaged over 100 pounds, and nearly the same proportion (22 out of 39) of the 10- and 11-year-old boys and girls had picked on an average more than 75 pounds. Even the 8- and 9-year-old children could pick from 50 to 75 pounds a day, and most of those who were younger could average 50 pounds. Working 12 hours, a 6-year-old girl, who had begun field work at the age of 4, picked 80 pounds a day, and 4-year-old twins in the same family working beside their mother in the field put into her bag on an average 12 or 15 pounds a day. Since cotton picking was usually paid for at the rate of \$2 per 100 pounds, such quanti-

⁶ U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau: *Climatological Data, Texas Section, September and November, 1920.*

⁷ See illustrations facing page 12.

ties as the children could pick will be seen to represent an appreciable saving in wages paid to labor.

Hoeing and chopping.—Cotton is planted in rows 3 or 4 feet apart; after the plants are well started the workers go over the field and "chop the cotton to a stand," that is, cut out extra plants with a hoe so that one or two stalks are left in hills 12 to 18 inches apart.⁸ Most of the cultivation is done by machine, but there is usually at least one hoeing of the crop during the season to cut out the weeds and extra stalks. Similar work is done on the corn crop. The work begins about May 1 and is done at intervals during the two or three succeeding months. In Hill County the average total amount of time spent in this work by white children was 2.3 months; in Rusk County 1.8 months. Negro children in both counties worked at hoeing somewhat longer than white children. It is somewhat heavier work than cotton picking and involves a stooping position. Very young children do not usually do this work because of the greater strain and the care that must be exercised to work around the growing plants without injuring them. Three-fourths of the children who hoed were 10 years of age or more, and less than 2 per cent were under 7.

Plowing, harrowing, and planting.—Over one-sixth of the working children of each race in the Hill County districts surveyed had done plowing, harrowing, or planting. In Rusk County, perhaps because of the greater diversity of crops and the use of lighter teams and implements the proportion was higher—26 per cent among white and 31 per cent among negro children. Though the work is heavy and involves the use of animals and machinery, which makes it more difficult and dangerous than handwork, 12 white and 12 negro children in Rusk County and 10 white children in Hill County under 10 years of age were reported as doing it. About half the children in Rusk County and two-thirds of those in Hill who reported plowing, harrowing, or planting during the year covered by the study were 13 years of age or older. Thirty-four white and 49 negro girls had done this work; 13 of them were under 12 years of age. A few children did such work off and on for a total of as much as three or four months, but the average amount of time devoted to it by all children reporting was about one month.

Cultivating.—Table III shows that cultivating was done by about 15 per cent of the working children in each county. Cultivating also requires the use of work horses and machinery. The difficulty of the operation varies with the kind of machine used and the kind and degree of growth of the crop. In the "black prairie" section two-

⁸ This process is very similar to that of blocking sugar beets. See Child Labor and the Work of Mothers in the Beet Fields of Colorado and Michigan. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 115, p. 4. Washington, 1923.

horse cultivators, and in east Texas either one or two horse cultivators, were most commonly used. Cotton and corn are cultivated several times during the growing season.

Picking corn, peanuts, dry peas, and other crops.—Picking corn was reported by 13.2 per cent of the working children in Rusk County and 7.6 per cent of the Hill County children. Usually the workers walk through the field beside a slowly driven wagon into which they throw the ears of corn as they pick them. Five per cent of the Rusk County children but none of those in Hill County reported picking peanuts, which have to be taken from the vines after they have been cured on the stalk. It is a dirty, dusty job. Twice as many children in Rusk County had picked dry peas as had reported picking peanuts. None of the Hill County children reported picking either. Picking small fruits, vegetables, and melons was reported by a few children in each county.

Other field work.—Cutting sprouts of blackberry and sassafras and other bushes that grow in the fields, and clearing or cutting brush—somewhat heavier work than cutting sprouts—were reported by a number of Rusk County children. Only 4 children in Hill County, where wood was scarce, as compared with 33 in Rusk County, reported cutting wood. In both counties children helped for a few days at a time with cutting, raking, and pitching cane, and in harvesting small-grain crops, and in Rusk County in stripping ribbon cane or sorghum.

Chores.

Children on farms usually help with the housework, and many of them as a matter of course assist in caring for poultry and live stock, carry water, bring in wood, and do other farm chores. Many of the children who reported doing field work had done chores in addition to the work in the field, and some of the children who did not go to the fields had had regular duties in connection with the routine work of the farm. Unlike field work, chores were performed throughout the year, most of the children reporting them for the entire 12 months.

About two-thirds of the children had done chores—over nine-tenths of those 10 to 15 years of age, three-fourths of those 7 to 9, and three-tenths of those under 7. In both counties the percentage of negro children reporting chores was slightly below the percentage of white children, perhaps because of the smaller number of animals owned by negro farmers. Somewhat fewer girls than boys had done chores; but correspondingly more, as might be expected, had done housework.

TABLE V.—*Kinds of farm chores performed by children in resident farming families, by race and county of residence.*

Race and county of residence.	Children under 16 years of age—										
	Total.	Who did each specified kind of farm chore.									
		Carrying fuel.		Carrying water.		Care of chickens.		Care of stock.		Milking.	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.
Hill County:											
White.....	1,265	683	54.0	479	37.9	317	25.1	283	22.4	139	11.0
Negro.....	162	90	55.6	77	47.5	32	19.8	20	12.3	10	8.0
Rusk County:											
White.....	832	542	65.1	408	49.0	75	9.0	166	20.0	90	10.8
Negro.....	668	418	62.5	349	52.2	48	7.2	114	17.0	89	13.3

The number of children reporting each specific kind of work is indicated in Table V. Carrying fuel was the work most often reported, and carrying water was next in importance. The latter often involved a certain amount of strain, since only a few families had pumps or drew from cisterns above ground with a faucet near the bottom, and most of them used a bucket and rope or windlass or pulley with a bucket. Moreover, in many cases the water had to be carried a considerable distance. All the water for 11 per cent of the white families in Hill County and for 5 per cent of those in Rusk had to be carried 300 feet or more, and 21 per cent of the negro families in Rusk had to carry it 300 feet or more.

Besides carrying fuel and water, children in both counties reported milking and caring for chickens and live stock.

Housework.

Not unlike chores, in that it furnishes practical information and cultivates a sense of responsibility, housework for children is objectionable only when it causes physical strain or over fatigue, usurps the place of school, or allows too little time for play. About two-thirds of the girls and one-third of the boys in the study had done housework of some kind during the preceding year, most of them throughout the year. The percentage increased from about 18 for children under 7 years of age to 65 for those from 10 to 15. "Doing dishes," the most usual form of housework, was reported by between 35 and 45 per cent of the children. Cleaning was reported by between 30 and 36 per cent. From 12 to 22 per cent had done laundry

work or cooking or had taken care of younger children. In general, here was little equipment even of the most common kind for facilitating housework.¹⁰

TABLE VI.—*Kinds of housework performed by children in resident farming families, by race and county of residence.*

Race and county of residence.	Children under 16 years of age—										
	Total.	Who each did specified kind of housework.									
		Dishes.		Cleaning.		Laundry.		Cooking.		Care of younger children.	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent.
Hill County:											
White	1,265	545	43.1	384	30.4	206	16.3	213	16.8	211	16.7
Negro	162	72	44.4	51	31.5	31	19.1	28	17.3	33	20.4
Rusk County:											
White	832	301	36.2	255	30.6	140	16.8	128	15.4	99	11.9
Negro	668	274	41.0	244	36.5	150	22.5	132	19.8	104	15.6

Hours of work.

Some of the children worked in the fields, at housework, and at chores, "from sun to sun." More than one-third of the working children had worked 12 hours or over a day (Table VII), the average number of hours per day being $11\frac{1}{2}$.¹¹

How the hours of work were distributed between field work and other work is shown in General Table 2.¹² The average number of hours per day in field work was about $10\frac{1}{2}$. One-fourth of the white children in Hill County who worked in the field 8 hours or more a day and about one-third of those in Rusk spent in addition approximately 2 hours or more in chores and housework.

¹⁰ Page 38.

¹¹ In cases where hours varied at different seasons of the year tabulations were based on hours prevailing during the longest period.

¹² Page 75.

TABLE VII.—Total daily hours worked and median period during which such hours were worked by children¹ in resident farming families while not attending school, by race and county of residence.

Total daily hours worked while not attending school, and county of residence.	Children under 16 years of age who worked while not attending school.					
	White.			Negro.		
	Number.	Cumulative per cent.	Median duration (months.) ²	Number.	Cumulative per cent.	Median duration (months.) ²
Hill County: Total.....	759	100.0	3.3	113	100.0	5.4
Less than 8 hours.....	44	5.8	1.0	13	11.5	.....
8 hours and over.....	651	85.8	3.5	91	80.5	6.5
9 hours and over.....	616	81.2	3.6	85	75.2	6.6
10 hours and over.....	559	73.6	3.7	76	67.3	6.9
11 hours and over.....	455	59.9	3.7	59	52.2	6.8
12 hours and over.....	252	33.2	3.6	39	34.5	7.2
13 hours and over.....	107	14.1	3.6	18	15.9	.....
14 hours and over.....	37	4.9	2.8	7	6.2	.....
Not reported.....	64	8.4	1.8	9	8.0	.....
Rusk County: Total.....	539	100.0	3.0	448	100.0	3.4
Less than 8 hours.....	72	13.4	1.5	35	7.8	2.0
8 hours and over.....	417	77.4	3.4	357	79.7	3.5
9 hours and over.....	380	70.5	3.5	341	76.1	3.6
10 hours and over.....	326	60.5	3.7	325	72.5	3.6
11 hours and over.....	261	48.4	3.9	256	57.1	3.8
12 hours and over.....	192	35.6	4.0	182	40.6	4.0
13 hours and over.....	67	12.4	4.2	97	21.7	4.3
14 hours and over.....	16	3.0	.....	39	8.7	4.7
Not reported.....	50	9.3	1.6	56	12.5	3.3

¹ Excludes 58 white and 14 negro children in Hill County and 13 white and 3 negro children in Rusk County that had been in the area less than 1 year; also 448 white and 35 negro children in Hill County and 280 white and 217 negro children in Rusk County that did no work while not attending school.

² Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

Although the proportion of girls doing field work was smaller than the proportion of boys their working day averaged about as long. The average working day for negro girls in Hill County was, in fact, more than an hour longer than that for negro boys. According to Table VIII, long working days were not confined to the older children; although the proportion of children under 7 years of age who had worked in the fields was small, the average daily hours for these children, both negro and white, in both counties was between 8 and 10. The median working day for older children was slightly longer, being for each group between 10 and 12½ hours.

It might be expected that children in families of farm owners would be less under the necessity of working long hours than children of tenant farmers. The children of white farm owners in Rusk County reported a slightly shorter average day than the children of tenants—11 as compared with 12 hours. White farm owners' children in Hill County and negro farm owners' children in both counties, however, reported slightly longer hours than did tenants' children.

The average duration of working days of the number of hours specified was for white children a little more than 3 months; for negro children in Hill County, 5.4 months, and for those in Rusk, 3.4

months. White children working 8 hours and over worked an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ months, and negro children in Hill County, $6\frac{1}{2}$ months. Younger children who worked less than 8 hours a day, a comparatively small group, about three-fourths of whom were less than 10 years of age, reported the longest working days as lasting a considerably shorter time.

TABLE VIII.—Median total daily hours worked by children in resident farming families who did field work, by sex and age of child, race, and county of residence.

Age of child and county of residence.	Median total daily hours worked by children under 16 years of age doing field work. ¹					
	White.			Negro.		
	Both sexes.	Boys.	Girls.	Both sexes.	Boys.	Girls.
Hill County: Total who worked.....	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.4	10.8	12.2
Under 7 years.....	9.1	8.3	.....	.....	.....	.....
7 years, under 10.....	11.1	11.3	10.8	10.2	.....	.....
10 years, under 13.....	11.6	11.6	11.6	10.7	.....	.....
13 years, under 16.....	12.0	12.1	11.9	12.1	.....	.....
Rusk County: Total who worked.....	11.2	11.4	11.1	11.8	11.8	11.8
Under 7 years.....	8.4	.....	.....	10.3	.....	.....
7 years, under 10.....	10.3	10.0	10.6	10.8	10.7	11.0
10 years, under 13.....	11.8	12.1	11.2	12.1	12.4	11.9
13 years, under 16.....	12.0	12.1	11.8	12.4	12.4	12.5

¹ Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

Practically all children attending school did housework and chores, and in Hill County 110 white children (18 per cent of those who reported any work) also worked in the fields while attending school. Field work in addition to chores and housework during the school term was not nearly so frequently reported by children of either race in Rusk County, a situation which may have been due to the fact that the cotton-picking season in Rusk County was usually shorter than that in Hill. The work of most of the children during the time they were attending school, however, was limited to chores and housework. About one-fourth of all the white children and one-third of all the negro children in the areas studied devoted as much as two hours a day to chores or housework, and 7 per cent of all spent three or more hours a day in odd jobs about the house and farm. The average length of time spent in doing chores by white children in Hill County who also did field work either before or after school was about two hours a day, and the average amount of time spent in housework by school children also doing field work was $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Nine of the older children did between two and three hours of field work and either two or three hours of chores and housework. When several hours of chores, and in some cases of chores and field work, are added to the long hours spent at school and in going to and from school, little time is left for the play and recreation which are essential to the child's development.

In some of these families the mother was ill or away, and the responsibility for the greater part or all of the housework fell on the children. Thus two children, a boy of 9 and a girl of 11 years, did everything in the house, including cooking, washing, and ironing, throughout the year. They did no field work. Another girl aged 12, whose mother had been ill for two years, under her mother's direction did all the housework for a family of six. The family moved to the farm on which they were living at the time the study was made because it was next door to the schoolhouse and the girl was able to get breakfast, wash the dishes, and sweep, before going to school. She had missed 38 days of school because of her household work but had never stayed out of school to do field work, though she had hoed, chopped, and picked cotton.

TABLE IX.—Total daily hours worked by children in resident farming families while attending school, by age and race of child; Hill and Rusk Counties.

Total daily hours worked while attending school, and race.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age attending school. ¹							
	Total.		Under 10 years.		10 years, under 13.		13 years, under 16.	
	Num-ber.	Per cent distri-bution.	Num-ber.	Per cent distri-bution.	Num-ber.	Per cent distri-bution.	Num-ber.	Per cent distri-bution.
White.....	1,246	100.0	395	100.0	460	100.0	391	100.0
Less than 1 hour.....	211	16.9	115	29.1	66	14.3	30	7.7
1 hour, less than 2.....	521	41.8	141	35.7	222	48.3	158	40.4
2 hours, less than 3.....	248	19.9	38	9.6	104	22.6	106	27.1
3 hours, less than 4.....	59	4.7	9	2.3	15	3.3	35	9.0
4 hours and over.....	32	2.6	2	.5	7	1.5	23	5.9
Not reported.....	71	5.7	31	7.8	19	4.1	21	5.4
No work.....	104	8.3	59	14.9	27	5.9	18	4.6
Negro.....	² 454	100.0	151	100.0	164	100.0	139	100.0
Less than 1 hour.....	73	16.1	36	23.8	22	13.4	15	10.8
1 hour, less than 2.....	161	35.5	52	34.4	59	36.0	50	36.0
2 hours, less than 3.....	124	27.3	26	17.2	57	34.8	41	29.5
3 hours, less than 4.....	28	6.2	2	1.3	6	3.7	20	14.4
4 hours and over.....	8	1.8	—	—	6	3.7	2	1.4
Not reported.....	36	7.9	21	13.9	7	4.3	8	5.8
No work.....	24	5.3	14	9.3	7	4.3	3	2.2

¹ Excludes 55 white and 17 negro children that had been in the area less than 1 year; also 2 white and 1 negro children that were under 6 years of age.

² Excludes 11 children for whom age was not reported.

THE CHILDREN AT SCHOOL.

Information concerning the school progress of the children was secured from the families visited. In addition, data were obtained through visits to schools in session, interviews with teachers, reports from teachers' records in school roll books and in county superintendents' offices, and school-census records. For some schools in the districts covered by the study it was impossible, for one reason or another, to secure complete information, and in order to obtain a broader basis of fact, data were obtained from schools in near-by districts in which conditions were similar to those in the area studied.

School attendance.

Compulsory attendance law.—The compulsory school attendance law of Texas in effect at the time of the survey provided that every child between 8 and 14 years of age should attend school at least 100 days each school year. Exemptions were granted children attending private and parochial schools, children mentally or physically incapacitated or defective, children living more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from a public school for children of the same race to which no transportation was provided; and children over 12 years of age who had completed the fourth grade and whose services were needed for the support of their parents. Moreover, children were not required to attend the full 100 days in districts where the public-school term was less.¹ In counties in which no attendance officer was employed the compulsory attendance law was enforced by the county superintendent or by peace officers. In Hill and in Rusk Counties the assistant to the county superintendent acted as attendance officer, but they spent only a small proportion of their time in this work. In commenting on the enforcement of the attendance law the State commissioner of labor said:

Our compulsory school attendance law is very defective in many respects, and its enforcement in a majority of the counties in the State is never seriously attempted. The method provided for its enforcement is cumbersome and ineffective, and except in some of the larger cities of the State it has had no appreciable effect in raising the percentage of attendance in schools of children within the compulsory age.²

Length of school term.—School terms in schools for white children in the two counties ranged from five months to as much as nine months in one district in Hill County, but they usually lasted only

¹ Texas, General Laws of 1915, ch. 49.

² Texas Bureau of Labor Statistics, Sixth Biennial Report, 1919-1920, p. 31.

six or seven months. The negro schools were in session from three to six months. Only 6 of the 12 negro schools included in the study had had as much as five months of school, whereas only 2 schools for white children in the parts of either county included in the survey had had terms of only five months. Four schools for white children had been in session eight months or longer, and 28 had had terms of from 6 to 7½ months.

Children attending school.—Eighty-one per cent of the children between 6 and 16 years of age included in the study reported having attended school during the year for which information was obtained. The proportion of white children of these ages attending school was practically the same in both Hill County and Rusk. Of the small group of negro children of the same ages in Hill County only about 44 per cent had attended school during the year of the study, whereas the proportion of negro children in Rusk County who had attended school was slightly larger than the corresponding proportion of white children in either county.

Of the 398 children between 6 and 16 years of age who had not been to school at all during the year of the study, 74 (27 white and 47 negro children)³ were of compulsory school age. The 34 negro children of compulsory school age in the Hill County study who had been absent the entire year constituted 45 per cent of the negro children in their districts who were of compulsory school age; the negro children, 6 to 15 years of age, not attending school in Rusk County were only 4 per cent of those who were of compulsory school age.

Some of the children not attending school lived in sparsely settled communities where children of compulsory school age were so few that local authorities were not required to organize a school. None of the Hill County^{3a} districts included in the study provided schools for negro children, and 3 of the 12 in Rusk County had none. A number of children lived more than 2½ miles from the nearest school—that is, outside the compulsory-attendance limit, unless free transportation were furnished. Only two of the school districts studied had supplied pupils living at a distance with free transportation. Information obtained in Rusk County regarding the distance pupils lived from the nearest school showed over two-fifths of the white children and half the negro children living 2½ miles or more from a school; in Hill County the situation was similar.

Under these circumstances some children had reached the end of the compulsory-school period without ever having gone to school,

³ Of those children, 13 white children and 14 negro children were only 8 years of age at the time of the home visits and may not have been within compulsory school age limits at the time the school census for the preceding year was taken.

^{3a} Some of the Hill County children included in the study attended a private school. See p. 37.

and many had attended only a few months in their lives. Thus, a 14-year-old white girl who had always lived on isolated farms had been able to attend school so little that she had reached only the third grade. A negro renter's children of school age had always lived so far from a school that none had attended more than four months in their lives, though the oldest was 13 years of age. One father said that he had always lived so far from school that his children went or not as they liked. His children, aged from 9 to 14 years, had not stayed out for farm work or illness but missed from 93 to 98 days of the school term. The distance from school did not prevent some children from attending, even though legally exempt, but many parents described the great difficulties caused by their distance from school. A farmer living $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the nearest school told the bureau agent how his children had been nearly three hours returning home one evening, riding in a surrey drawn by two mules; they had had to get out every few rods and scrape mud off the wheels of the carriage. One mother said that her 7 and 9 year old children, who had to walk 3 miles to school, were very tired at night. "Elsie jes' about give out," she said. Other mothers said that their children came home exhausted or crying with fatigue after a walk of several miles to and from school. In one family during the period when school was in session the children had to leave the house at 7 a. m., not returning until 5.30 p. m.

Percentage of attendance.—Although most of the white children, at least, of school age were enrolled in school, the short terms and irregular attendance resulted in inadequate schooling for practically all of them. Six per cent of the white children in the study lived in districts having less than six months of school; only 20 per cent lived where school was in session as much as eight months of the year. Seventeen per cent of the negro children in the districts for which information was obtained lived in districts having only a three or four month term; 43 per cent lived in districts having between six and six and one-half months of school; and in none of the districts were negro schools in session more than six and one-half months. One negro mother, whose 10-year-old daughter attended a school in session but two months of the year, observed, "Schools out here ain't much; never a-goin'."

TABLE X.—School attendance of children in resident farming families, by race, farming status of family, and county of residence.

Farming status of family and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age. ¹							
	White.				Negro.			
	Total.	Attending school.			Total	Attending school.		
		Number.	Per cent. ²	Median per cent attendance. ³		Number.	Per cent. ²	Median per cent attendance. ³
Hill County: Total..	897	745	83.1	76.7	110	48	43.6	.....
Owner.....	385	327	84.9	81.0	9	8	.....	.....
Tenant.....	473	385	81.4	71.5	87	35	.....	.....
No farm ⁴	39	33	.....	.....	14	5	.....	.....
Rusk County: Total.	606	501	82.7	78.9	496	417	84.1	82.1
Owner.....	467	364	83.3	80.5	221	195	88.2	85.1
Tenant.....	142	114	80.3	67.8	263	213	81.0	77.6
No farm ⁴	27	23	.....	.....	12	9	.....	.....

¹ Excludes 45 white and 14 negro children in Hill County and 10 white and 3 negro children in Rusk County that had been in the area less than 1 year.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

⁴ Includes farm laborer and father not farming.

In Rusk County where cotton was not such an important crop as in Hill County all the schools for white children and all but four of those for negro children opened in October. In Hill County the opening of school was frequently postponed until November or even December in order that the children might continue cotton picking. Those that did open earlier were likely to be handicapped by poor attendance. One school in Hill County, in a district near those included in the study, for example, should have had an attendance of 350, according to the school census, but six weeks after its mid-September opening the enrollment stood at 120 and daily attendance averaged only 40. About 15 per cent of the white children in each county had attended less than 50 per cent of the term provided; about 35 per cent had attended less than 70 per cent of the term; and about one-fifth of them as much as 90 per cent. Seven-tenths of the negro children in Hill County for whom reports were secured had attended less than 70 per cent of the term; in Rusk County about 12 per cent had attended less than half the school term, about one-eighth more had attended 50 but less than 70 per cent, and about one-fourth had been in school as much as 90 per cent of the term.

Six and 7 year old children reported the lowest average per cent of attendance; 14 and 15 year old children, the next lowest. The older children were more likely than the younger to be kept out of school for work; the youngest were kept at home by bad weather, and also

when their older brothers and sisters stayed out to work, as it was considered unsafe for them to go alone. The average per cent of attendance of children of all ages was less in Hill than in Rusk County; less among boys than among girls.

The distance children lived from the nearest school influenced attendance. Among the white children in Rusk County included in the study the average attendance varied from 68 per cent of the term for children living $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles or more from school to 85 per cent of the term for those living less than 1 mile.

Number of days attended.—Much more significant than percentage of attendance in indicating the actual amount of schooling received is the number of days which the children attended. Few children had attended school more than six months during the year preceding the study; and only about 2 per cent of the white children studied in one county and none of the negro children in either county had attended as much as eight months.⁴ Negro children in Hill County had had much less schooling than Rusk County negro children. Slightly larger proportions of white children in Rusk County than in Hill had attended from three to six months, but the percentage of white children having had six months or more of schooling during the year preceding the survey was higher in Hill than in Rusk County.

The average number of days' attendance had been greater for the children of farm owners than for those of tenants. (Table X.) The average attendance for Hill County farm owners' children was about 10 days more than for the children of tenants; for Rusk County farm owners' children, about 12 days more; while the difference between average attendance for the children of negro tenants and of negro owners in Rusk County was about 8 days. Children of negro tenants in Rusk County had an average attendance amounting to more than a week longer than that of the children of white tenants in either county. For white children in Hill County the average number of days' attendance was 76.7; for white children in Rusk County, 78.9; and for negro children in Rusk, 82.1.

Reasons for absence.⁵

Farm work.—Notwithstanding the short terms and late openings, more than half the children 11 years of age or older,⁶ and more than one-third of all the children attending school had missed part of the school term on account of farm work. Although fewer children stayed out for farm work than were kept away by illness or bad weather or roads the average number of days lost on this account was larger than the average number lost for either or both of the other two

⁴ General Table 3, p. 77.

⁵ Absences, as defined for purposes of this report, include all time lost from school by late entry, early withdrawals, or periods of nonattendance.

⁶ General Table 5, p. 79.

reasons. For white children in Hill County the average number of days of absence due to farm work was 21, or more than four school weeks; for white children in Rusk County, 19 days. The average for negro children in Rusk County was also 19 days.

TABLE XI.—Absence from school on account of farm work of children in resident farming families, by race, farming status of family, and county of residence.

Farming status of family and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age.							
	White.				Negro.			
	Total.	Absent from school on account of farm work.			Total.	Absent from school on account of farm work.		
		Number.	Per cent. ¹	Median days absent. ²		Number.	Per cent. ¹	Median days absent. ²
Hill County: Total...	942	370	39.3	20.8	124	48	38.7	.....
Owner.....	387	131	33.9	15.9	9	8	.....	.....
Tenant.....	512	219	42.8	25.8	99	36	36.4	.....
No farm ³	43	20	.....	.....	16	4	.....	.....
Rusk County: Total...	616	199	32.3	19.3	499	166	33.3	18.6
Owner.....	441	142	32.2	19.4	223	63	28.3	17.2
Tenant.....	148	55	37.2	20.0	264	102	38.6	20.3
No farm ³	27	2	.....	.....	12	1	.....	.....

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

² Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

³ Includes farm laborer and father not farming.

Much more prolonged absences for farm work were not uncommon. A 12-year-old white girl in the third grade stayed out 85 days for field work; school had opened September 18 and although it was November when the child's family was interviewed none of the children in the family had entered school. In another white family the children had not entered school until January, though it had opened in November. The girl, aged 13 years, had missed 40 days, and the 11-year-old boy 20 days for farm work. These children were handicapped also by the fact that they lived 3 miles from school, and during bad weather in January, February, and March they had been absent a day or two every week. Under these circumstances it can not be wondered at that they were about three years retarded in their grades. A white girl, aged 10 years, stayed away from school 70 days to work on the farm which her father rented; she had completed only the first grade, having been handicapped by illness as well as farm work. A 12-year-old girl who had completed only the third grade had lost 64 days because of her work on the farm.

The younger children, as a rule, were kept out of school for farm work less frequently and for shorter periods than the older ones. Girls, too, were less often withdrawn from school for farm work than were boys and remained away fewer days. Among the white

children in Rusk County only 22 per cent of the girls as compared with 43 per cent of the boys had been out of school for this reason and the average total amount of their absences was a week less than that for the boys, 17 school days instead of 22. The tendency for girls to be absent fewer days than boys was seen in the case of negro girls as well as white, though almost as large a proportion of negro girls as boys had been out of school for farm work.

As Table XI shows, absences for farm work were more frequently reported by the children of farm tenants than by farm owners' children, and the average total amount of their absences also was greater.

Weather and bad roads.—Children in Rusk County reported an average absence of about six days on account of bad weather or bad roads; the average number of days of absence was larger in Hill County. Roads in both counties were frequently impassable in wet weather, and the children were frequently "water bound," as one parent expressed it; but because of the muddy soil roads were likely to be in somewhat worse condition in Hill County than those in Rusk where the soil was more sandy.⁷ One mother in Rusk County said that her children had great difficulty in getting to school when the creek was high. They had to go through bottom land that was sometimes completely under water. In some cases, creeks were so high that the children could not get to school at all. A Hill County father referring to his children's absence, said, "'Tain't no use, the children would rather work than walk 5 miles through the mud." Bad weather and bad roads sometimes delayed the return to school of children who had been ill. In one family the children had stayed at home several weeks after their recovery from influenza because of the weather and roads, despite the fact that a horse had been purchased to make the trip to and from school easy for them. A 14-year-old girl living 3 miles from school had left 39 days before the end of the session because the roads and creeks were in such bad condition that she could not make the journey to school. In bad weather the father in another family had to walk to meet his 8 and 10 year old children and carry them across two streams. Three children, aged 9, 11, and 13 years, in another family had missed 77 days because of bad weather and roads. None had been able to complete more than the first grade.

⁷ Page 3.

TABLE XII.—Absence from school on account of bad weather or roads and illness of children in resident farming families, by race of child and county of residence.

Race and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age—						
	Total.	Absent from school on account of bad weather or roads.			Absent from school on account of illness.		
		Number.	Per cent.	Median days absent. ¹	Number.	Per cent.	Median days absent. ¹
Hill County:							
White.....	942	542	57.5	9.2	614	65.2	10.3
Negro.....	124	41	33.1		42	33.9	
Rusk County:							
White.....	616	212	34.4	6.1	414	67.2	13.8
Negro.....	499	215	43.1	5.8	331	66.3	8.8

¹ Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

Illness.—Illness was the reason for absence most frequently given, but absences on account of illness were not of such long duration as were those due to farm work. Table XII shows that the average absence from this cause of children in each race in each county ranged from 9 to 14 days during the year.

Illness added to farm work often works havoc with a child's attendance. A boy absent 45 days for farm work had lost 41 days because of illness; a girl absent 70 days for field work had lost 25 additional days on account of illness. In one family the 13-year-old daughter was still in the first grade; during the school year preceding the survey she had been absent 95 of the 115 days during which school had been in session, 40 for farm work, 55 for illness. An 11-year-old boy whose father was a prosperous farmer had missed 69 days' schooling, 46 for work on the farm, 23 for illness; his younger sister had been out of school 10 days for farm work and 36 for illness.

Other reasons.—Another important cause of absence was the frequent moving of tenants from one farm to another. Again and again parents would say it "wasn't worth while sending him as we were moving so soon," or "it wasn't worth while going for the little time left of the school term." One child whose parents had moved every year during his school life, had lost 20 days on account of moving, 20 on account of farm work, and 23 because of illness—three entire school months. Although 12 years of age he had completed only the second grade. Two children whose family had moved three times in 5 years had entered school 35 days late, owing to their last move, and then had lost 16 more days because the roads were bad.

Other circumstances reported as interfering with regular attendance included lack of suitable clothing, conditions at school considered unhealthful by the parents, disagreements with teachers or other pupils, and loneliness of the road. In a few instances the

parents seemed unaware of the importance of sending the children regularly. One father said that he had not sent his 10 and 12 year old children to school because none of the children in the neighborhood had gone.

In perhaps the majority of cases several reasons combined to interrupt the child's schooling. Thus, the 10-year-old son of a white renter, apparently above the average in prosperity had been absent from school 76 days, or 60 per cent of the school term. In the fall, he had stayed away from school to pick cotton, not finishing until "along in January." Then the roads and the weather were so bad that "we just kept him home till it was so he could go." In February he missed seven days because the "creek was up," and in the spring was ill for several days. It was hardly surprising to learn that he had not completed even the first grade. The 11-year-old daughter of a white landowner had missed 87 days of the school term, 37 because she had been ill, and 50 because her older brothers had stopped school to work on the farm, and it had seemed inadvisable for her to go 3 miles to school alone.

Retardation.

Considering the unsatisfactory attendance of many of the children, it was to be expected that a large number would be retarded in their school work. According to the standard adopted by the United States Bureau of Education a child is regarded as having made normal progress if 6 or 7 years of age when entering the first grade, 7 or 8 when entering the second, and so on; and to be retarded if he is 8 or 9 when he enters the first grade, 9 or 10 when he enters the second, and so on. This standard permits a child who enters school at the age of 6 to repeat one grade without falling into the retarded group. Measured by even this conservative standard 58 per cent of the white children included in the survey in Hill County were retarded and 68 per cent of those in Rusk, while in each county an even larger proportion of the negro children, with their more meager school opportunities, had failed to make normal progress in school.⁸

⁸ General Table 6, p. 80.

TABLE XIII.—*Retardation of children in resident farming families, by age¹ of child, race, and county of residence.*

Age ¹ of child, race, and county of residence.	Children between 8 and 16 years of age attending school and in area entire year. ²												
	Total.	Retarded.								Normal.		Advanced.	
		Total.		One year.		Two years.		Three years and over.		Number.	Per cent. ³	Number.	Per cent.
		Number.	Per cent. ³	Number.	Per cent. ³	Number.	Per cent. ³	Number.	Per cent. ³				
HILL COUNTY.													
White.....	644	375	58.2	167	25.9	109	16.9	99	15.4	259	40.2	10	1.6
8 years, under 11 .	257	102	39.7	65	25.3	32	12.5	5	1.9	151	58.8	4	1.6
11 years, under 14	253	166	65.6	73	28.9	52	20.6	41	16.2	81	32.0	6	2.4
14 years, under 16	134	107	79.9	29	21.6	25	18.7	53	39.6	27	20.1		
Negro.....	40	38	.....	10	.....	7	.....	21	.....	2	.....	
8 years, under 11 .	17	15	.....	8	.....	5	.....	2	.....	2	.....	
11 years, under 14	13	13	.....	1	.....	1	.....	11	.....		.....
14 years, under 16	10	10	.....	1	.....	1	.....	8	.....		.....
RUSK COUNTY.													
White.....	465	317	68.2	130	28.0	94	20.2	93	20.0	143	30.8	5	1.1
8 years, under 11 .	174	90	51.7	62	35.6	32	12.6	6	3.4	81	46.6	3	1.7
11 years, under 14	188	138	73.4	46	24.5	45	23.9	47	25.0	48	25.5	2	1.1
14 years, under 16	103	89	86.4	22	21.4	27	26.2	40	38.8	14	13.6		
Negro.....	339	285	84.1	94	27.7	66	19.5	125	36.9	54	15.9		
8 years, under 11 .	139	99	71.2	63	45.3	25	18.0	11	7.9	40	28.8		
11 years, under 14	128	116	90.6	24	18.8	31	24.2	61	47.6	12	9.4		
14 years, under 16	72	70	.....	7	.....	10	.....	53	.....	2	.....	

¹ Age as of Sept. 1, 1920.² Excludes 28 white and 5 negro children in Hill County and 1 white and 25 negro children in Rusk County for whom age or grade was not reported.³ Not shown where base is less than 100.

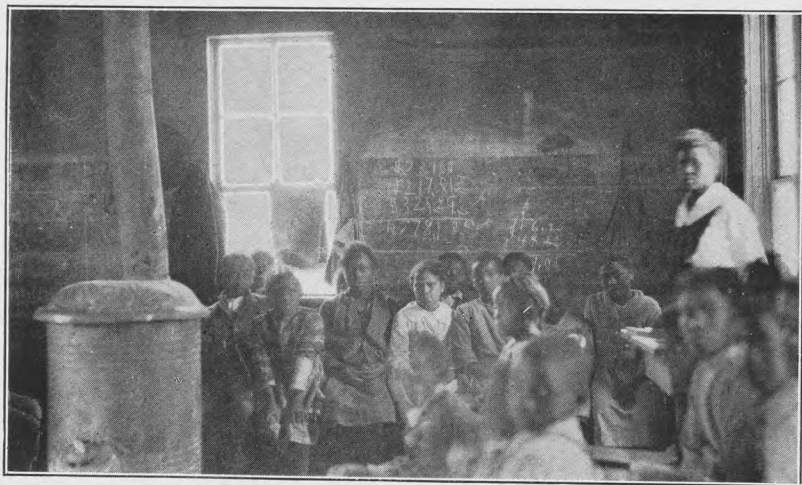
The proportion of children failing to reach grades considered normal for their years practically invariably increases with the age of the children, and the cumulative effect of conditions unfavorably affecting school progress is very apparent among the children in the areas studied. Among white children in Hill County, for instance, the proportion of retarded pupils among children 14 and 15 years of age was twice that among children 8 to 10 years of age. The amount of retardation found among the younger children was, however, unusually large: Thus 40 per cent of the Hill County white children of 8, 9, and 10 years were below grades which were normal for their years, whereas, at average rates for children of these ages,⁹ only 16 per cent of them would have been retarded.

Conditions associated with tenancy without doubt affect unfavorably the school progress of tenants' children. The children of tenants were more often retarded than those of farm owners, and those of the poorer tenants more often than those whose fathers were more prosperous. The poorer tenant was obliged to avail himself of

⁹ Based on the proportions from a distribution of 1,142,179 pupils in 80 cities, 1917-18. Unpublished figures furnished by the U. S. Bureau of Education.



A STATE-AIDED SCHOOL.



A CROWDED PRIMARY ROOM IN ONE OF THE NEGRO SCHOOLS.



BAD ROADS.

The condition of the roads often makes it impossible for the children to reach school.

the labor of his children more extensively than those who had achieved a greater degree of economic independence. Thus the sons of a widow renting on half shares were much retarded in school; they had missed 50 days because of farm work, and each, though 12 and 11 years of age, had completed only the first grade; their 10-year-old sister who had had only eight days' absence was in the third grade. An unusually bright white girl 14 years of age had completed only the fourth grade; her schooling had been much broken into because of farm work; she had lost 40 days during the preceding school year for that reason.

TABLE XIV.—Median per cent of attendance for normal and retarded children, by race and county of residence.

Race and county of residence.	Median per cent of attendance.					Normal.
	Total.	Retarded.			Three years and over.	
		Total.	One year.	Two years.		
Hill County ¹ : White.....	77.4	71.3	75.8	71.5	58.8	83.9
Rusk County:						
White.....	79.9	73.2	82.6	71.5	62.0	89.4
Negro.....	83.8	82.3	84.6	85.9	73.5	92.5

¹ Median not shown for "Negro" in Hill County, as number reported is less than 25.

Some of the tenant farmers in the area were so poor that they could not afford to buy clothes or school books for their children. One 10-year-old negro girl whose father owned a small farm had been promoted to the third grade, but had had to go back into the second because she could not afford to buy the third-grade books. One mother, referring to her children's schooling, said, "Can't send 'em to school naked." Another had "peddled" through three towns trying to buy second-hand shoes to fit her children so that they might enter school. Children in families that had moved frequently, as the poorer tenants were likely to do, were more retarded than others; among the white children of Hill County, for example, the percentage of retardation increased from 53 among children in families that had not changed farms during the preceding five years to 73 among those whose families had moved three or four times during the period. While retardation is due to a great variety of causes—social, economic, mental, and physical—it would appear that a solution of the problem of regular school attendance and of retardation is closely associated with the solution of the problem of tenancy in the cotton-growing areas.

School organization and conditions.

The county-unit system of school organization,¹⁰ generally conceded to be the most satisfactory for rural school administrative and supervisory purposes, existed in Texas in what is known as its "weaker" form;¹¹ that is, authority was divided between the county board and local district boards. School districts were organized according to one of three plans—as common-school, independent-school, or consolidated-school districts. By far the greatest number, in the territory covered by the study, including most of the distinctly rural ones, were common-school districts which were under the management of local boards of trustees who acted with the advice of the county superintendent of public instruction. The few independent districts reported directly to the State superintendent of instruction and had the advantage, which previous to the passage of the amendment of the school law in 1920 other types of school districts did not have, of being able to increase taxation for school purposes above 50 mills on the dollar.¹² The superiority of the schools in these districts, especially those in the larger towns, was pronounced, and children who lived near them were often transferred to them from the districts where they resided. Consolidation of school districts could be arranged if there were less than 20 children of either race in a common-school district and that district and one adjoining wished to unite in providing a school¹³ or if it were deemed desirable to establish a high school for the use of two or more districts.¹⁴

Schools were financed by local taxation and by State and county funds apportioned according to school population. Until the school law was amended in 1920 the school-district tax in common-school districts could not exceed 50 cents per \$100 property valuation.¹⁵ Schools coming up to certain standards were eligible under a rural aid law passed in 1915¹⁶ to receive State aid, the amount to any one school being limited to \$500. This law had done much to improve conditions in schools attempting to qualify as well as in those succeeding in meeting the requirements. Federal aid under the Smith-Hughes law¹⁷ was limited to the few city schools having a special teacher for vocational subjects and meeting certain other requirements. Annual expenditures per capita, based on the school census, averaged in 1917-18, the last year for which such information was available, \$12.14 in Rusk County Schools¹⁸ and \$10.96 in Hill

¹⁰ A Manual of Educational Legislation. U. S. Bureau of Education Bulletin 1919 No. 4, p. 16. Washington, 1919.

¹¹ Review of Educational Legislation. U. S. Bureau of Education Bulletin 1922 No. 13, pp. 7-8. Washington, 1922.

¹² Texas, Revised Statutes 1911, arts. 2827, 2857.

¹³ Texas, Revised Statutes 1911, art. 2759.

¹⁴ Texas, General Laws of 1915, ch. 36, sec. 4.

County.¹⁹ The average expenditure per pupil for current expenses, based on enrollment, was \$12.78 in Rusk County,²⁰ whereas Montana spent in the same year \$59.61 and New Jersey \$44.09 per pupil enrolled.²¹ The corresponding figure for Hill County expenditure is not available.

Public-school buildings.—The rural aid law had enabled a number of the school districts to provide new, well-constructed school buildings.²² In common-school districts schools for white children were usually two or three room frame buildings in good repair. Several of those in Hill County were built of brick and had plastered walls. Thirteen of the 24 visited had cloak rooms for the children's wraps, which in the remaining buildings had to be hung on nails or hooks in the schoolroom or kept at the children's desks. The independent districts had brick schoolhouses, well plastered, of five or more rooms for classes and in addition cloak rooms, principal's office, and library. One of them had a music room and an auditorium that seated 200 persons. Few of the children included in the survey, however, shared in such advantages. Most schools for negro children were either poorly built one-room structures, many of them unceiled, or church buildings used as schools during the week. Five of the 11 negro schools were held in churches erected by the negroes. The lighting in most of the white schools met the accepted standard; they had windows at the left or rear and left of the room.²³ Most of the teachers reported shades or blinds at all or some of the windows. In six rooms in the negro schools, on the other hand, the children faced the light—in one room there were windows on all four sides—and in the remaining rooms visited the light was admitted from the two sides or from the rear and right. In one instance only was the lighting from the left or rear and left, and no room had shades or blinds.

Equipment.—All except 2 of the 21 white schools reporting were equipped with jacketed stoves, all reported adequate heat, and

¹⁹ In November, 1920, following an active state-wide campaign an amendment to the State constitution was passed which raised the maximum district tax for school purposes from 50 cents to \$1 per \$100 valuation of taxable property. This change in the law merely extended to the common-school districts the same privilege that independent districts had previously had. Some Recent School Legislation, p. 8, Department of Education State of Texas Bulletin 99.

²⁰ Twenty-first Biennial Report State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Texas, 1916-1918, p. 341. Austin, 1918.

²¹ 39 Stat. 929.

²² Twenty-first Biennial Report State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Texas, 1916-1918, p. 600. Austin, 1918.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 593. The amount is reported to have increased considerably since this date.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 600.

²¹ Statistics of State School Systems 1917-18, p. 67. U. S. Bureau of Education Bulletin 1920 No. 11. Washington, 1920.

²² In the Hill County territory included in the survey there were 50 comparatively new buildings, 25 of which had been completed since 1918.

²³ Public School Laws of the State of Texas, Department of Education Bulletin 70, sec. 143 (State schoolhouse building law) and sec. 203 (rural school aid law).

nearly all had cold-air intakes or some means of ventilation in connection with the heating system. The negro schools visited were not so well equipped, only 1 of the 11 having a jacketed stove, adequate heat, and means of ventilation other than doors and windows, and in some of the buildings, cracks in the floors and walls.

In all except one of the common schools, both white and negro, the responsibility for sweeping and dusting and for building fires and care of the stove rested with the teachers, who usually enlisted the help of the older children. In one white school one of the older boys was hired to care for the building.

The dug well, usually equipped with pulley and bucket, was the most common source of water supply, though a few of the schools had cisterns or drilled wells and five had spring water. Most of the white schools were provided with "bubblers" or inexpensive drinking fountains. In the few schools not so equipped individual drinking cups were the rule, although a few of the schools reported a common cup or dipper. The water for three of the white and five of the negro schools had to be carried 100 feet or more, and for 3 schools, 600 feet. In none of the schools were washing facilities provided.

About half the white schools reported sanitary privies; 4 of the 24 reported pit privies; and 7 had the surface type of privy, open in the back. All had separate toilets for boys and girls. Five of the 11 negro schools visited had no toilets at all; one of these schools was attended by 105 children; and in four others the toilet was reserved for the girls. Six negro schools had surface, open-back privies. Only two reported separate toilets for boys and girls.

The white schools were fairly well supplied with the most important articles of teaching equipment—all had blackboards, and 17 of the 24 for which information was secured had maps, globes, and books for supplementary reading. All the Rusk County and most of the Hill County schools were equipped with teachers' desks and with individual seats for the children. Only a few double seats were reported. Many schools had pictures and flags, and a few had clocks and thermometers. Some schools had playground equipment such as basket-ball apparatus, volley ball and net, footballs and baseballs, and swings or seesaws.

Schools for negro children were lacking in even the most essential equipment. Only 4 of the 11 visited had a commercial type of blackboard. Five schools had blackboards composed of ordinary boards nailed together and painted, or rectangular spaces on the walls painted black. This type of board was especially unsatisfactory because of the poor arrangement of the windows in most of these schools. Individual desks were found in none of the schools for negro children; in fact, the only desks in the schools visited were a few double ones in three of the schools. Rough benches or church

pews commonly served as seats. In a two-room school having 105 pupils there were 16 double seats and 6 benches built by the children's parents; the children who could not secure these accommodations sat on the floor. The teachers' desks were crude, handmade tables or cracker boxes standing on end. None of the schools had libraries or books for supplementary reading; a few, however, had a small collection of free textbooks. Only one of the schools had maps or a globe; four had flags, only one had a clock, only two had bells. Three had baseball outfits, croquet sets, or swings.

Teachers.—The majority of the teachers were inadequately trained. Of 28,823 teachers in service in the State in 1918, about 40 per cent (11,384) were graduates of no school above elementary grade; 26 per cent had graduated from high school; and 34 per cent, or a total of 9,847, had graduated from normal schools, colleges, or universities.²⁴ As these figures were for the State as a whole and included the more highly trained teachers in high schools, normal schools, colleges, and universities, in all probability the great majority of the rural and small-town schools were taught by persons who had had no more than an elementary or, at best, a high-school education. The State law provided that no person was entitled to teach in the public schools of the State who did not hold either a county or State teacher's certificate,²⁵ but no educational prerequisites to the taking of teachers' examinations were specified in the law. Only about one-eighth of the white teachers in the survey area held permanent certificates, and the proportion of teachers in these districts holding low-grade certificates was high as compared with the State as a whole.

In a few independent-school districts each teacher taught two or three grades only, but in common-school districts, where most of the children included in the survey went to school, teachers of schools for white children taught three or four grades and those in negro schools as many as five or six.

Salaries were very low. A number of the white common-school district teachers reported annual salaries of \$400 or less. Eight hundred dollars was considered an exceptionally high salary. Teachers in negro schools almost invariably reported lower monthly and yearly salaries than white teachers. One teacher in a negro school in session only two months reported a yearly salary of \$75, but the majority received between \$200 and \$400 per year, the most usual monthly rate for negro teachers being between \$50 and \$60.

School activities.—Twelve of the 35 schools reported no outside school activities whatever. Among the others the most common form of activity for the pupils was athletic teams, such as boys' and girls' basket-ball teams, tennis clubs, and baseball and football teams.

²⁴ Biennial Report State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1916-1918, p. 643. Austin, 1918.

²⁵ Texas Revised Statutes, 1911, art. 2780.

One Hill County school had a corn-and-cotton club for the intermediate and high-school pupils. Another reported a social club, and still others debating or dramatic societies. The Interscholastic League, an athletic league fostered by the extension department of the State university, had done much to encourage athletics and promote school clubs and recreational activities. The county agent in Hill County had organized agricultural clubs in several communities.

The child in the small rural school has few children of his own age and sex with whom to associate. The school census showed that there were in the rural districts from 16 to 232 white children of school age. (The number of colored children of school age in each district was usually considerably smaller.) Even if all these children had attended school (which was never the case) each child would have had less than six children of his own age and sex to work and play with. On the other hand, meager opportunities for companionship are partly compensated by greater opportunity than the city child has for fishing, hunting, swimming, and other sports which may be enjoyed alone or in company with one or two others.

The larger towns of both counties had flourishing parent-teacher associations; a systematic effort was being made to organize such an association in each district in Rusk County. In three white and one negro common-school districts in Rusk County parent-teacher associations had been active during the winter of 1919-20, and the negro women in another district had organized a mothers' club which had activities similar to those of the parent-teacher associations. Twenty-four white and 13 negro mothers visited in Rusk County were interested in these clubs. Most of the teachers seemed to feel the need of closer cooperation between themselves and the parents, though it was the exception rather than the rule to have any definite visiting back and forth. The parents came to the schools only for entertainments or occasionally by special invitation, and most of the teachers called at the homes only in case of sickness or trouble with the children. Frequently, however, the teacher had been reared in the same neighborhood, or had lived there long enough to become acquainted with most of the parents and therefore was more or less familiar with the homes from which the children came.

Six of the white schools and the same number of negro schools were used for religious services. Several were used for political or other community meetings, lodge meetings, or social gatherings of various kinds. Seven of the white and two of the negro schools were kept exclusively for school purposes. In the independent districts the school buildings with their larger auditoriums were used for lyceum courses and were becoming more and more popular for all kinds of public entertainments.

Private schools.—The German Lutheran Parochial School and the Holiness School were the only important private schools in the area studied. The German Lutheran Parochial School, attended by most of the children of German parentage included in the study, had a total enrollment in 1919–20 of 89 children.²⁶ It had outgrown its one-room school building and had converted part of the church auditorium into a classroom by removing the pews from around one of the stoves and putting in double seats. Beaver board painted black served as a blackboard. The schoolroom itself had maps, a globe, teacher's desk, bell, and flag, but the annex had no equipment except the homemade blackboard and a small table and kitchen chair for the teacher. The principal was a graduate of a State normal school and his assistant was within one year of completing a theological course in one of the Lutheran seminaries. Both were ambitious to have a new building and to raise the standard of the school to the level of the public schools.

The Holiness School for negro children was maintained by the communicants of the Holiness Church in and around Hillsboro. It followed the curriculum prescribed for all the county schools by the State superintendent of public instruction and in addition gave religious instruction. The school was held in the large wooden tabernacle used also for worship and was very limited in its equipment.

²⁶ Children attending parochial schools are exempt from the requirement of the compulsory school attendance law providing the principal or teacher notifies the county school authorities of the enrollment of these children. Texas, General Laws of 1915, ch. 49, secs. 2, 3.

THE CHILDREN AT HOME.

Living conditions.

Houses.—The cotton planter or the tenant farmer in central and east Texas lives in one of three types of houses—the typical southern farmhouse with wide, open passage through the middle from front to back and a chimney at each end; the square house with hipped roof; or a barnlike structure with, in some cases, an ell at one side to provide more room. The houses of the families included in the study varied in size from one room to eight or more rooms, but the majority of those occupied by the white families had four or five rooms. Among negro families the three or four room house was the most common. Practically all were one-story frame buildings with no basement and no foundation other than pillars of masonry or wooden blocks. The open space under some houses was fenced in, in order to keep out the chickens, dogs, and other domestic animals that sought shelter there. A few farmhouses were well painted and clapboarded, but most were of rough, unpainted, upright boards with weather strips over the cracks, affording scant protection against storm and cold. Twenty-seven per cent of the white families visited in Hill County and 41 per cent of those in Rusk County were living in houses the walls of which consisted of but a single layer of boards; only 8 per cent in both counties were living in plastered houses. As might be expected, negro families lived in much poorer houses than white families, and farm tenants were more poorly housed than farm owners.

Household conveniences.—Few houses had any modern conveniences. In Hill County most of them were heated by stoves, but in Rusk County 89 per cent of the white and 82 per cent of the negro families visited depended upon a fireplace for heating. In Hill County, also, 82 white families had oil stoves, or, in one or two instances, an electric or gas range, for cooking; while in Rusk County coal or wood stoves were used except in four instances (two white and two negro families), where the fireplace was used for cooking as well as for heating. Only three white families in each county had either gas or electric lights. Only 32 per cent of the white families in Hill County and 17 per cent of those in Rusk had water in the house or on the porch. Among negro families in Rusk County only 7 per cent, and only 2 per cent of the 51 negro families in Hill County reported water in the house or on the porch. In Hill County only 5 per cent of the white families, and in Rusk County only 2

per cent had sinks; none of the negro families in either county had this convenience. These figures are all considerably below the average for farm homes in 33 western and northern States reported in a survey made by the office of extension work, north and west, of the United States Department of Agriculture: Of over 9,000 families giving information on these points, 21 per cent secured light from sources other than kerosene lamps, 65 per cent had water in the kitchen, and 60 per cent had sinks.¹

The distance of the water supply from the house is an important factor in the work of farm women and children. Twenty-six per cent of the white families in Hill County and 32 per cent of those in Rusk County reported that the source of water supply was 30 feet or more from the house; 11 per cent of those in Hill and 5 per cent of those in Rusk County had to go 300 feet or more for water. A much larger proportion of negro families had to go long distances for water; in Rusk County about half the negro families had to carry water 30 feet or more, and 21 per cent carried it 300 feet or more. For the families included in the Department of Agriculture survey referred to above, 39 feet was the average distance water had to be carried, although the averages for families in western States was 65 feet.²

Screens.—Large numbers of houses were without screens or were not screened throughout. In Hill County one-fourth of the white families and 44 of the 51 negro families visited were living in houses inadequately screened. In Rusk County conditions were even worse, for 64 per cent of the white and 92 per cent of the negro families lived in unscreened houses. Unscreened houses were frequently the ones under which chickens, dogs, and other domestic animals found shelter, and since many of them had no toilets, the lack of screens was especially dangerous. In Rusk County 28 per cent of the white and 75 per cent of the negro families had neither screens nor toilets. Conditions in Hill County were better—only 12 per cent of the white families there had neither screens nor toilets. As part of the program for malaria control, screening is of particular importance in these areas. Malaria was common. Many a child who had been out of school several weeks for farm work would “take to chillin’” and miss several more. One girl had missed the greater part of several school terms, it was reported, because she was “full of malaria.” Two other children living in an unscreened house had “missed lots of time” from school because of chills and hookworm. They were retarded in school from three to five years.

¹ Ward, Florence E.: *The Farm Woman's Problems*. U. S. Department of Agriculture Circular 148, pp. 4, 8-9. Washington, 1920.

² *Ibid.*, p. 8.

The father was a native white man, owning 186 acres of land. One mother living on a rented farm said that because there were no screens to keep out the mosquitoes, the entire family had been ill during the summer. The 13-year-old girl had been ill with malaria for more than two months, and in October still "felt miserable." The rest of the family were said to have had large sores resulting from mosquito bites, which were always followed by chills lasting several days.

Overcrowding.—Overcrowding was considerably more common in the areas studied than it is popularly supposed to be in rural districts. Thus, in Hill County one family of 10 persons was living in a two-room house, another of 11 in a three-room house. Nor were these isolated cases—room congestion was as great as that found in the crowded tenement districts of large cities. For instance, a study of families in tenements of Brooklyn showed 13 per cent living with more than two persons per room;³ and a study of typical housing conditions in Jewish, Italian, and negro quarters of Philadelphia showed 21 per cent of the families living with more than two persons per room;⁴ the corresponding figure for the white families, included in this study was 12 per cent, and for negro families 30 per cent. It must be remembered that these figures apply to a group representative of all the rural homes in the counties in which the survey was made and not, as in the case of the city studies, to homes in sections chosen for study because of bad conditions. A housing study in Detroit in 1920 in which blocks were chosen which were representative of the best, as well as the worst conditions, showed only 21 per cent of the population living with more than one person per room.⁵ Sixty-four per cent of the white and 77 per cent of the negro families included in the study of the Texas cotton-growing areas were living in homes thus congested. Table XV shows that conditions were somewhat worse in Hill than in Rusk County and considerably worse among negro than among white families. Similarly, overcrowding was also more common among tenant than among farm-owning families.

³ Gebhart, John C.: *Housing Standards in Brooklyn: An intensive study of the housing records of 3,227 workingmen's families*, p. 19. Brooklyn, 1918.

⁴ Craig, Frank A.: *A study of the housing and social conditions in selected districts of Philadelphia: Eleventh Report of the Henry Phipps Institute*, p. 64. Philadelphia, 1915.

⁵ Vaughan, Henry F.: *Housing problems in America—Proceedings of the Eighth National Conference on Housing*, Bridgeport, Conn., 1920, pp. 185-186.

TABLE XV.—Average number of persons per room in resident farming families, by county of residence and race.

Average number of persons per room.	Resident farming families.										
	White.						Negro.				
	Total.		Hill County.		Rusk County.		Total.		Hill County. ¹	Rusk County.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution.		Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	753	100.0	458	100.0	295	100.0	287	100.0	51	236	100.0
Less than one person.....	156	20.7	90	19.7	66	22.4	28	9.8	1	27	11.4
One person.....	117	15.5	64	14.0	53	18.0	39	13.6	3	36	15.3
Over one, less than two.....	327	43.4	195	42.6	132	44.7	97	33.8	9	88	37.3
Two persons.....	59	7.8	38	8.3	21	7.1	38	13.2	7	31	13.1
Over two, less than three.....	74	9.8	52	11.4	22	7.5	46	16.0	14	32	13.6
Three and over.....	20	2.7	19	4.1	1	.3	39	13.6	17	22	9.3

¹ Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 100.

From the point of view of child welfare it is of more significance to consider congestion from the standpoint of the number of children affected rather than the number of families affected. For instance, while only 12 per cent of the white families were living in houses with more than two persons per room, 18 per cent of the white children were living under such conditions. As large a proportion of adolescent as of younger children were subject to overcrowding.⁶

Toilets.—Sanitation was generally neglected. In 1916 and 1917 a sanitary survey in Hill County, made by the United States Public Health Service, had done much to improve conditions of sanitation in that county, but much of the value of this work had been lost because adequate follow-up inspection and supervision had not been provided. When the present survey was made—a little over three years later—many of the sanitary privies previously installed had fallen into disrepair. Only 20 white families (4 per cent) reported sanitary-can privies, and only about 14 per cent reported the closed-back or pit privies. A large majority of the families who had privies reported the insanitary open-back type unprotected from flies, chickens, and domestic animals. The most striking fact, however, was that many white families (20 per cent) and 19 of the 51 negro families had no privies at all.

⁶ General Table 7, p. 8.

TABLE XVI.—*Type of toilet used by resident farming families, by race and county of residence.*

Type of toilet.	Resident farming families.						
	Hill County.			Rusk County.			
	White.		Negro. ¹	White.		Negro.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.		Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	453	100.0	51	295	100.0	236	100.0
Privy.....	361	78.8	32	194	65.8	50	21.2
Surface.....	318	69.4	32	191	64.7	50	21.2
Open.....	274	59.8	29	185	62.7	49	20.8
Closed.....	44	9.6	3	6	2.0	1	0.4
Pit.....	22	4.8	.....	2	.7	.....	.....
Sanitary can.....	20	4.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Not reported.....	1	.2	.....	1	.3	.....	.....
Water closet.....	6	1.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
No toilet.....	90	19.7	19	101	34.2	186	78.8
Not reported as to toilet.....	1	.2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 100.

In Rusk County the situation was worse. There were no sanitary and few pit or closed-back privies. An even larger proportion of families than in Hill County had no privy—nearly one-third of the white farm owners, one-half of the white tenants, 71 per cent of the negro farm owners, and 87 per cent of the negro tenants. The importance of safe sanitation was seldom recognized. A white renter's family with no privy said that they thought the landlord ought to build one for them, but they had never requested him to do so, as there were so many things that they needed they were ashamed to ask for anything that they could get along without. The dangers inherent in the sanitary situation in these counties are especially obvious where, as the State board of health points out, hookworm, typhoid, dysentery, and other diseases may be traced to improper disposal of excreta.⁷

Water supply.—Most of the Hill County families visited were getting their water from shallow wells or cisterns liable to pollution from various sources. Although in most of the county it was possible to sink artesian wells, the necessary depth varied from 500 feet at the western edge of the county to over 3,000 in the extreme east,⁸ and few farmers could afford to drill such wells for themselves. The geological formation of Rusk County rendered artesian wells out of the question. Dug wells were reported by the great majority of the families and a few used cisterns. Some families in each county were getting water from springs or brooks. Two of these springs

⁷ Rural Home Sanitation. Texas State Board of Health Publication No. 2, p. 17. Austin, 1919.

⁸ U. S. Geological Survey, Twenty-first Annual Report, 1899-1900, Pt. VII, Geography and Geology of the Black and Grand Prairies, Texas, pp. 546-547.

were located in pastures where horses had easy access to them. There was nothing to indicate that other springs in common use were any safer. Five families in Hill County secured water from "tanks;" that is, small reservoirs constructed in pastures to furnish water for live stock. When a family's water supply failed, water had to be hauled from a neighboring farm and the inconvenience of a scanty supply was experienced.

Most of the wells were equipped with a windlass or pulley with a bucket or container, but in some cases a bucket and rope was the only means of drawing water, rendering the task more arduous as well as serving as a means of polluting the water.⁹ A pump, the safest means of drawing water, was in use by only a small proportion of the families visited, though some of the cisterns in Hill County were above ground so that water could be drawn from a faucet near the bottom.

TABLE XVII.—Source of water supply for resident farming families, by race and county of residence.

Source of water supply.	Resident farming families.						
	Hill County.			Rusk County.			
	White.		Negro. ¹	White.		Negro.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.		Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	458	100.0	51	295	100.0	236	100.0
Dug well.....	184	40.2	23	275	93.2	191	80.9
Cistern.....	171	37.3	9	5	1.7	1	.4
Spring or brook.....	12	2.6	2	13	4.4	43	18.2
Other.....	91	19.9	17	2	.7	1	.4

¹ Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE XVIII.—Equipment of water supply used by resident farming families, by race and county of residence.

Equipment of water supply.	Resident farming families.						
	Hill County.			Rusk County.			
	White.		Negro. ^a	White.		Negro.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.		Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	458	100.0	51	295	100.0	236	100.0
No equipment.....	97	21.2	17	15	5.1	46	19.5
Pump only.....	43	9.4	9	7	2.4	.....	.....
Pump and windmill.....	82	17.9	12	1	.3	.....	.....
Windlass and pulley.....	199	43.4	13	265	89.8	189	80.1
Other.....	28	6.1	.....	6	2.0	1	.4
Not reported.....	9	2.0	.....	1	.3	.....	.....

¹ Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 100.

^a Listed under "No equipment" in Table XVIII.

Work of mothers.

Kinds and duration of work.—The cotton crop demands the labor of women as well as children. In each county, more than one-half the white mothers and 85 per cent of the negro mothers included in the study had worked in the fields at some time during the preceding year. Most of these women were used to farm work, having done it as children. Since employment of the mother, even on the home farm, involves many hours away from home, hurriedly prepared meals, and a tax on the mother's strength, it is likely to affect unfavorably the welfare of the children. The majority of the mothers in this study who did field work had children under 6 years of age.

Field work was somewhat more customary for the wives of tenant farmers than for those of farm owners, and much more customary for the wives of negroes and the foreign born than for native white women. Nevertheless, many native white farm owners' wives worked in the fields, labor shortage as well as economic pressure being given as a reason for the widespread use of woman labor. One of the white mothers in Rusk County said that inasmuch as they could not get help to chop the cotton and "the weeds were getting ahead" of them, she had been obliged to help out, although she was pregnant. The work usually extended over several months, the longest stretch being at cotton-picking time.¹⁰ Of the white mothers who had done field work, 40 per cent had worked a total of from three to six months of the year; 8 per cent had worked the equivalent of six months or more. Slightly over half the negro mothers working in the fields had worked as much as between three and six months; one-sixth had worked six months or longer. About two-fifths of the mothers in Hill County had picked cotton at least three months of the year. The season in Rusk County had been considerably shorter.

TABLE XIX.—*Kinds and median duration of field work performed by mothers in resident farming families, by race and county of residence.*

Kind of field work and county of residence.	Mothers who did field work.					
	White.			Negro.		
	Number.	Per cent.	Median ^a duration (months).	Number.	Per cent. ^b	Median ¹ duration (months).
Hill County: Total.....	266	100.0	3.5	43	.....	.....
Cotton picking.....	236	88.7	2.4	41	.....	.....
Hoing and chopping.....	186	69.9	2.2	35	.....	.....
Plowing, harrowing, and planting.....	29	10.9	.....	3	.....	.....
Cultivating.....	32	12.0	.....	1	.....	.....
Loading and hauling.....	2	.8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other.....	32	12.0	.....	2	.....	.....
Rusk County: Total.....	148	100.0	2.4	195	100.0	4.2
Cotton picking.....	133	89.9	1.5	179	91.8	2.2
Hoing and chopping.....	124	83.8	1.7	178	91.3	2.4
Plowing, harrowing, and planting.....	15	10.1	.....	66	33.8	.7
Cultivating.....	4	2.7	.....	40	20.5	.....
Loading and hauling.....	2	1.4	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other.....	32	21.6	.....	47	24.1	.....

^a Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

^b Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

¹⁰ As in the case of child workers the time spent by the mothers in field work was not necessarily consecutive. See p. 9.

The most common field work was cotton picking, reported by about 90 per cent of all the mothers who had worked in the fields. A large proportion of the mothers had, however, done other work also in connection with the corn and cotton crops. Thus, 70 per cent of the white working mothers in Hill County, 84 per cent of those in Rusk County, and 90 per cent of the negro mothers who did field work in both counties had done hoeing and chopping. About 1 in 10 of the white working mothers, but 1 in 3 of the negro mothers, had done the heavy work of plowing, harrowing, or planting. One mother had planted corn in February, hoed and chopped during June and July, and picked cotton four months in the fall. Several others reported a similar schedule.

TABLE XX.—Duration of field work of mothers¹ in resident farming families, by farming status of family, county of residence, and race.

Farming status of family, county of residence, and race.	Total mothers. ¹	Mothers who did field work specified number of months.					
		Total.	Per cent. ²	Less than three months.	Three months, less than six.	Six months and over.	Not re- ported.
White: Total.....	722	414	57.3	192	165	36	21
Owner.....	373	197	52.8	91	82	13	11
Tenant.....	322	203	63.0	93	79	21	10
No farm ³	27	14	.....	8	4	2	.....
Hill county.....	433	266	61.4	106	113	32	15
Owner.....	176	103	58.5	33	53	10	7
Tenant.....	243	154	63.4	68	58	20	8
No farm ³	14	9	.....	5	2	2	.....
Rusk County.....	289	148	51.2	86	52	4	6
Owner.....	197	94	47.7	58	29	3	4
Tenant.....	79	49	.....	25	21	1	2
No farm ³	13	5	.....	3	2	.....	.....
Negro: Total.....	274	238	86.9	57	122	47	12
Owner.....	101	80	79.2	22	46	10	2
Tenant.....	160	146	91.3	33	70	34	9
No farm ³	13	12	.....	2	6	3	1
Hill County.....	44	43	.....	9	15	17	2
Owner.....	3	2	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Tenant.....	33	33	.....	7	11	14	1
No farm ³	8	8	.....	1	3	3	1
Rusk County.....	230	195	84.8	48	107	30	10
Owner.....	98	78	.....	21	45	10*	2
Tenant.....	127	113	89.0	26	59	20	8
No farm ³	5	4	.....	1	3	.....	.....

¹ Excludes 15 white and 7 negro mothers in Hill County and 4 white and 2 negro mothers in Rusk County that had been in the area less than 1 year.

² Not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Includes farm laborer and father not farming.

Hours of work.—One of the outstanding problems confronting the average farm woman is the shortening of the working day.¹¹ Seventy-three per cent of the white mothers in Hill County and 62 per cent

¹¹ Ward, Florence E.: *The Farm Woman's Problems*. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Department Circular 148, p. 16. Washington, 1920.

of those in Rusk County who had done field work and reported hours spent on the average 8 hours or more a day in the field during a considerable portion of the year.¹² Among negro mothers one-fourth spent 11 hours or more a day in field work, and nearly one-tenth had done field work 12 hours a day or more.¹³

TABLE XXI.—*Total daily hours' work performed by mothers¹ in resident farming families while doing field work, and median period during which such hours were worked, by race.*

Total daily hours' work during field-work period.	Mothers reporting total daily hours worked during field-work period.					
	White.			Negro.		
	Number.	Cumulative per cent.	Median period during which such hours were worked (months). ²	Number.	Cumulative per cent. ³	Median period during which such hours were worked (months). ²
Hill County: Total.....	240	100.0	3.5	40	.....	5.7
8 hours and over.....	240	100.0	3.5	40	.....	5.7
10 hours and over.....	228	95.0	3.6	37	.....	5.9
12 hours and over.....	160	66.7	3.7	30	.....	6.3
14 hours and over.....	78	32.5	4.1	16	.....	.....
16 hours and over.....	13	5.4	4.4	3	.....	.....
Rusk County: Total.....	143	100.0	2.5	180	100.0	3.9
Less than 8 hours.....	2	1.4	.....	3	1.7	.....
8 hours and over.....	141	98.6	2.4	177	98.3	3.9
10 hours and over.....	134	93.7	2.5	165	91.7	3.9
12 hours and over.....	104	72.7	2.7	115	63.9	4.1
14 hours and over.....	71	49.7	3.1	52	28.9	4.5
16 hours and over.....	36	25.2	3.5	17	9.4	.....

¹ Excludes 15 white and 7 negro mothers in Hill County and 4 white and 2 negro mothers in Rusk County that had been in the area less than one year; 167 white mothers and 1 negro mother in Hill County, and 141 white and 35 negro mothers in Rusk County that did no field work; 26 white and 3 negro mothers in Hill County and 5 white and 15 negro mothers in Rusk County for whom total daily hours' work was not reported.

² Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

³ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

Housework and the chores and garden work that fell to the lot of most farm women, added to long hours in the field, made the working day very long. Fourteen per cent of the white working mothers had at least nine persons to provide for, and large households with few household conveniences¹⁴ and practically no labor-saving devices make housework arduous and time-consuming, however simple the standard of living may be. Even when they were not helping in the fields nearly one-third of the white mothers in Rusk County and one-tenth of those in Hill County who reported hours worked had worked 14 hours or more a day. The average day for 9 or 10 months

¹² In cases in which hours varied at different seasons of the year the tabulations were based on hours prevailing during the longest period.

¹³ General Table 8, p. 82.

¹⁴ The only important labor-saving device in common use in either county was the sewing machine. Washing machines were found only among white families in Hill County and were reported by only 15 per cent of these. (More than half the women replying to the U. S. Department of Agriculture questionnaire had washing machines.) Several housewives in Hill County had purchased gasoline irons.

of the year was about 12 hours for Rusk County white mothers and 10 hours for those in Hill County—longer than that of the average farm woman, as comparison with the figures obtained by the United States Department of Agriculture in the study referred to above indicates. The replies to the questionnaires answered by over 9,000 farm women showed that the average working day was 13.1 hours in summer and 10.5 hours in winter, or 11.3 hours for the year.¹⁵ When they were doing field work two-thirds of the mothers in Hill County reported an average of 12 hours or more a day of field work and housework; nearly one-third had worked 14 hours a day or more. Such hours mean work from sunup to sundown or even more. One mother who worked 12½ hours a day in the field said she “went with the rest,” having rushed through the housework while “the feeding was being done.” This mother had done field work as much as five or six months of the year. Another mother, who could not give exact hours because she had no clock, said she usually got up about 4 o’clock, went to the field as soon as the morning work was done, and, except for about 1½ hours at noon, worked there till sundown; after that she had to get supper and finish the housework. Negro women worked longer hours in the field, but spent less time in housework.

TABLE XXII.—Daily hours worked by mothers^a in resident farming families while not doing field work and median period during which such hours were worked, by race and county of residence.

Daily hours' worked while not doing field work.	Mothers reporting daily hours of work.					
	White.			Negro.		
	Number.	Cumulative per cent.	Median period during which such hours were worked (months). ^b	Number.	Cumulative per cent. ^c	Median period during which such hours were worked (months). ^b
Hill County: Total.....	325	100.0	9.2	32	.....	6.1
Less than 8 hours.....	80	24.6	8.9	14	.....	.....
8 hours and over.....	245	75.4	9.2	18	.....	.....
10 hours and over.....	169	52.0	9.0	14	.....	.....
12 hours and over.....	92	28.3	8.8	7	.....	.....
14 hours and over.....	31	9.5	8.8	.....	.....	.....
16 hours and over.....	10	3.1	(¹)	.....	.....	.....
Rusk County: Total.....	272	100.0	10.1	191	100.0	7.8
Less than 8 hours.....	35	12.9	11.6	50	26.2	8.4
8 hours and over.....	237	87.1	9.9	141	73.8	7.5
10 hours and over.....	192	70.6	9.7	104	54.5	7.3
12 hours and over.....	143	52.6	9.8	59	30.9	7.1
14 hours and over.....	86	31.6	9.6	28	14.7	7.4
16 hours and over.....	19	7.0	.....	3	1.6	.....

^a Excludes 15 white and 7 negro mothers in Hill County and 4 white and 2 negro mothers in Rusk County that had been in the area less than one year; 3 white mothers in Hill County, and 3 white and 5 negro mothers in Rusk County that did no work; and 105 white and 12 negro mothers in Hill County, and 14 white and 34 negro mothers in Rusk County for whom total daily hours' work was not reported.

^b Median not shown when number reported is less than 25.

^c Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

¹⁵ Ward, Florence E.: *The Farm Woman's Problems*. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Department Circular 148, p. 7. Washington, 1920.

The total number of hours per day spent in field work and housework by mothers who worked in the field was longest among white mothers in farm-owning families in Rusk County, who reported an average working day of 13 hours. Mothers in tenant farmers' families in the same county reported 12.9 hours of work per day. In Hill County the working day was slightly longer for the wives of owners of the smaller farms and was longer for those of third-and-fourth tenants than for the wives of half-share renters. In Rusk County the wives of half-share tenants reported the longest hours. The greater number of hours worked by some of the more prosperous mothers may be partially explained by their higher standards of housekeeping. Working days of the number of hours of field work and housework combined specified in Table XXIII extended for white mothers in Hill County over about three and one-half months of the year and for Rusk County white mothers over about two and one-half months.

TABLE XXIII.—Median daily hours' field work and median total daily hours' work of mothers in resident farming families while doing field work and median period during which such hours were worked, by farm tenure, county of residence, and race.

County of residence and race.	Mothers who did field work.				
	Median daily hours' field work.	Median ¹ total daily hours' work while doing field work.			Median period during which such hours were worked (months).
		Total.	Farm tenure		
			Owner.	Tenant.	
White	9.1	13.1	13.5	12.8	3.0
Hill County	9.5	12.8	13.1	12.7	3.5
Rusk County	8.6	14.0	14.1	13.0	2.4
Negro	10.1	12.7	12.4	12.9	4.1
Hill County	10.6	13.2	.....	13.3	5.6
Rusk County	9.9	12.6	12.4	12.8	3.8

¹ Median not shown when number reporting is less than 25.

During the cotton-picking season the pressure of work is so great that a woman's working day is far longer than the average during the rest of the year. A maximum working day of 10 hours or more was reported by four-fifths of the white mothers in both counties; one of 14 hours or more by more than one-fifth of those in Hill County and by two-fifths of those in Rusk County. Sixty-two women reported working 16 hours a day or more as a maximum.

Studies of maternity care in rural areas¹⁶ have shown to some extent the possible harmful effects of exhausting field work imme-

¹⁶ Maternity Care and the Welfare of Young Children in a Homesteading County in Montana, pp. 58-60. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 34. Maternity and Infant Care in Two Rural Counties in Wisconsin, U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 46, pp. 44-50. Rural Children in Selected Counties of North Carolina, U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 33, pp. 34-36. Maternity and Child Care in Selected Rural Areas of Mississippi, U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 88, pp. 37-41.

diately before and after confinement. In this study no information was secured about the relation of field work to pregnancy and confinement. It is probable, however, that at any time work involving undue strain will have an injurious effect upon a mother's health and consequently upon the welfare of her home and children.

TABLE XXIV.—*Longest daily hours' work reported during year preceding study by mothers¹ in resident farming families, by race and county of residence.*

Longest daily hours' work reported during year preceding study, and county of residence.	Mothers reporting longest daily hours' work.					
	White.			Negro.		
	Total.	Cumulative per cent.	Median period during which such hours were worked (months).	Total.	Cumulative per cent. ²	Median period during which such hours were worked (months). ³
Hill County: Total.....	325	100.0	9.5	37	.....	7.1
Under 10 hours.....	67	20.6	12.0	3	.....	.....
10 hours and over.....	258	79.4	7.6	34	.....	6.8
12 hours and over.....	163	50.2	6.2	30	.....	7.0
14 hours and over.....	73	22.5	5.3	15	.....	.....
16 hours and over.....	17	.....	8.5	3	.....	.....
Rusk County: Total.....	270	100.0	11.1	192	100.0	6.6
Under 10 hours.....	47	17.4	12.0	27	14.1	12.0
10 hours and over.....	223	82.6	9.1	165	85.9	5.4
12 hours and over.....	174	64.4	9.1	119	62.0	5.1
14 hours and over.....	112	41.5	8.3	55	28.6	6.8
16 hours and over.....	45	16.7	4.9	18	9.4	.....

¹ Excludes 15 white and 7 negro mothers in Hill County, and 4 white and 2 negro mothers in Rusk County that had been in the area less than one year; 3 white mothers in Hill County, and 3 white and 5 negro mothers in Rusk County that did no work; 105 white and 7 negro mothers in Hill County, and 16 white and 33 negro mothers in Rusk County for whom the longest daily hours were not reported.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Median not shown where base is less than 25.

Care of young children.—Especially difficult for the mother with young children is the problem of their care while she is at work. Sixty-four per cent of the white mothers who did field work had children under 6 years of age. Most mothers took their children with them to the field, either giving them what care they could themselves or delegating the responsibility to older children. A 3-months-old baby was seen lying in a cotton wagon while her brothers, 5 and 8 years of age, respectively, took turns watching her. More than one-third of the mothers who had children under 6 years of age to care for while they were doing field work left them at home. In less than half these families was there an adult to care for the children; for about 1 child in 5 the only caretaker was a child under 7 years of age. One mother said that sometimes she was able to leave her baby with a neighbor while she was at work, but often she left the baby in bed alone in the house and took only her 2-year-old girl with her to the field.

TABLE XXV.—*Caretakers of children under 6 years of age of mothers¹ in resident farming families, by race; Hill and Rusk Counties.*

Caretaker of child.	Mothers ¹ with children under 6 years of age.			
	White.		Negro.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	264	100.0	138	100.0
Caretaker adult.....	203	76.9	99	71.7
Caretaker child.....	61	23.1	39	28.3
Under 7 years.....	16	6.1	16	11.6
7 years and over.....	45	17.0	22	15.9
Age not reported.....			1	0.7

¹ Includes only mothers who did field work.

Diet.

In considering the diet of country children, the food resources of the farms are of great importance. Information was secured from the families concerning these resources, and as an index of the kind of meals the children were having, the foods that had been served the day preceding the agent's visit¹⁷ were ascertained.

No attempt was made to determine the quantity of food used except in the case of milk. Table XXVI indicates the types of foods the menus contained, and General Table 9 (p. 83) gives the usual daily milk supply. In order to show the particular kinds as well as the general types of food used the results of an analysis of 351¹⁸ reports as to vegetables grown in the home gardens and menus for the day selected are given.

Farm food products.—Farm families, as a rule, either grow the fruits and vegetables used, butcher cattle and hogs, kill chickens from the barnyard flock, and secure milk and butter from their own or neighbors' cows, or go without. For this reason data as to the food resources of the farm constitute a more trustworthy indication of what foods commonly appeared on the family table than menus for any one day. The food possibilities of the farms deserve special attention in this study because the days for which menus were secured were in different seasons of the year—some of those for Hill County as early as September and some of those for Rusk County not until January—and are therefore not strictly comparable.

Ninety-six per cent of the white families in the study and 86 per cent of the negro families in both counties had had home gardens the

¹⁷ If for any reason meals on that day had been unusual, information as to the meals of the most recent day on which they had been representative of the customary diet was substituted.

¹⁸ One hundred white families in each county, 100 negro families in Rusk County, and all (51) of the negro families in Hill County included in the study.

preceding summer. Gardens were reported more frequently by Rusk County than by Hill County families, and by farm owners than by tenants.

Because the information as to gardens was not secured until late in the year it is quite possible that some of the families may by that time have forgotten certain early spring vegetables, and undoubtedly in some instances vegetables grown in the fields rather than in home gardens but used by the families were omitted through misunderstanding. An analysis of the 351 schedules shows that 69 per cent of the Hill County white families included had grown white potatoes, and 79 per cent navy beans; the percentages of families that had raised cabbage, lettuce, onions, peas, and tomatoes, ranged between 45 and 60; beets, cucumbers, okra, radishes, sweet potatoes, and turnips were raised by from 20 to 40 per cent of the families. A few of the gardens had furnished mustard, peppers, and squash.

The gardens of the 100 Rusk County white families included in the analysis had yielded a slightly greater variety of vegetables than those of the Hill County families. Navy beans, cabbage, onions, and tomatoes had each been grown in from 80 to 93 per cent of these gardens; cucumbers, mustard, peas, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, radishes, and turnips in between 40 and 60 per cent; collards, lettuce, peppers, and squash in between 25 and 40 per cent.

About the same number of kinds of vegetables had been produced in the gardens of negro families included in the analysis, but comparatively fewer kinds had been grown in each garden.

With the long growing season and fertile soil in both counties it would be possible to grow a considerably greater variety of vegetables. String beans, carrots, chard, okra, beets, parsnips, eggplant, kale, and spinach¹⁹ would readily grow in these localities, as would rhubarb and many small fruits. The United States Department of Agriculture has called attention both to the value of home gardens to farmers and to the fact that "in most sections of the South, though vegetables can be grown in nearly every month of the year, the garden is neglected; in fact, no feature of southern agriculture is more neglected than the production of vegetables for farm use."²⁰

Unless the family lived near town it was largely dependent on its own efforts in obtaining meat. Approximately 90 per cent of the white farmers kept pigs, most of them five or more, and pork in one form or another was consequently the most available meat. Farm owners had, as a rule, more pigs than tenant farmers had. About seven-tenths of the negro half-share tenants and a rather higher

¹⁹ Thompson, H. C.: Home Gardening in the South. U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 934. Washington, 1918.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

proportion of white half-share tenants had pigs. Just after the fall butchering fresh pork was available, but most of the meat was salted soon after the butchering. In one community in Hill County a beef club had been formed; each month one member butchered a calf and distributed the meat among the other members. All except 5 of the white farmers in Hill County (4 of them tenant farmers) and 9 of the 51 negro families (all of them half-share croppers) kept chickens. In Rusk County all the white families reporting kept chickens, but 11, or 5 per cent, of the negro families had none. Eighty-seven per cent of the white families in Rusk County had flocks numbering 25 or more; 42 per cent of the negro families had flocks as large as this.

All except 28 of the white families kept milch cows. In Rusk County three-fourths but in Hill County only half of the negro families kept cows. The higher percentage of families having cows in Rusk County was possibly due to the larger proportion of farmers there who owned their farms, as farm owners were found to be more likely than tenants to have cows.

In connection with the relative use of home products by the different tenure classes, the following quotation from a survey of Farm Ownership and Tenancy in the Black Prairie of Texas, made by the United States Department of Agriculture,²¹ is of interest:

Share tenants (one-third and one-fourth share tenants) received from the farm (in garden, dairy, poultry, and pork products) a value that is about 75 per cent as much as owners thus receive, while croppers (half-share tenants) receive only 41 per cent as much value from these sources as owners. The most striking lack of these articles is, therefore, found with croppers.

An interesting fact brought out in connection with the data on value of groceries purchased is that croppers, with the lowest standard of living [annual amount expended], buy the most groceries; while owners, who have decidedly the highest standard of living, buy the smallest amount of groceries, notwithstanding the fact that they have the largest families. The edibles from the farm for share tenants and owners supplement their groceries sufficiently to maintain about the same difference in values of foods that are found in clothing values.²²

The usual diet of operators who do not cultivate gardens and raise fresh meats consists almost entirely of groceries bought at local stores, few of which handle fresh vegetables and fruits. As a result, these important constituents of a well-balanced diet are often wanting in the meals of those who do not have gardens. Furthermore, good milk is relatively hard to buy in many localities. It is the lack of these important articles of food, or their inferior quality when bought, that makes the money value of family living an inadequate measure of the difference in family living standards.

²¹ Farm Ownership and Tenancy in the Black Prairie of Texas, pp. 53-54. U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1068. Washington, 1922.

²² Owners spent for groceries on an average \$294; share tenants \$296; and croppers \$310. Average expenditures per family for clothing were \$358 for owners; \$259 for share tenants; and \$201 for share croppers. Meat, poultry, garden, and dairy products from the farm were estimated as being worth on an average \$450 a year to farm owners' families; \$338 to share tenants' families; and \$184 to share croppers' families. It will be seen, therefore, that although share tenants spent more than did farm owners for groceries the value of their total food supply was only about 85 per cent of that of farm owners, while that for share croppers, who bought most and produced the smallest proportion of what they ate, totaled only about 66 per cent of that of owners.

Dietaries.—Menus for the day preceding the agent's visit or the most recent day on which the meals had not been unusual, though by no means showing exactly what the children ate, indicate in a general way what was available for their use.

Only 14 per cent of the white families in Hill County and 7 per cent of those in Rusk reported the use of fruit of any kind—fresh, dried, or canned. Of the negro families, 10 per cent of those in Hill and only about 3 per cent of those in Rusk County had had fruit.

Although vegetables²³ had been used more generally than fruit over one-half the white families in Hill County and one-third of those in Rusk had had neither fruit nor vegetables at any meal on the preceding day. Very few negro families in either county had had both fruit and vegetables, and almost half had had neither (43 per cent of those in Hill and 47 per cent of those in Rusk County).

A tabulation of the menus of the 351 families whose reports on home gardens were analyzed showed that cabbage was the vegetable most frequently occurring in the Hill County menus (reported by 13 per cent of the families.) Peas, turnips, turnip greens, onions, collards, pumpkins, tomatoes, corn, lima beans, peppers, beets, and cushaws were also reported. Peaches, apples, and cranberries comprise the list of fruits. In the Rusk County menus greens occurred most frequently (turnip greens 66, and "greens," 22 times). Peas had been served in 29 white and 7 negro families. On the whole, fewer vegetables were listed in Rusk than in Hill County menus, possibly because the data were obtained earlier in the autumn in Hill than in Rusk County.

TABLE XXVI.—*Dietaries in resident farming families, by county of residence and race.*

Diet items. ^a	Resident farming families.						
	Total.	White.			Negro.		
		Total.	Hill County.	Rusk County.	Total.	Hill County.	Rusk County.
Total.....	1,040	753	458	295	287	51	236
Adequate milk supply.....	606	520	321	199	86	8	78
Fruit.....	57	56	46	10	1	.....	1
Vegetable.....	309	265	140	125	44	3	41
Meat.....	424	372	202	170	52	2	50
Butter.....	554	494	302	192	60	3	57
Fruit and vegetable.....	29	28	24	4	1	.....	1
Fruit and meat.....	38	37	31	6	1	.....	1
Fruit and butter.....	55	54	44	10	1	.....	1
Vegetable and meat.....	210	188	85	103	22	.....	22
Vegetable and butter.....	284	253	133	120	31	.....	31
Fruit, vegetable, and meat.....	19	18	17	1	1	.....	1
Fruit, meat, and butter.....	37	36	30	6	1	.....	1
Vegetable, meat, and butter.....	195	179	81	98	16	.....	16
Fruit, vegetable, meat, and butter....	18	17	16	1	1	.....	1
No fruit, vegetable, meat, or butter...	4	2	2	.....	2	1	1

^a A daily supply of 9 pints per family was considered an adequate milk supply. The term "vegetable" has reference to vegetables other than or in addition to potatoes and navy beans. The term "meat" is used to represent the group of foods that includes fish, poultry, and eggs. Bacon, however, is excluded because of its small protein content.

²³ Other than or in addition to potatoes and navy beans.

TABLE XXVI.—*Dietaries in resident farming families, by county of residence and race—Continued.*

Diet items.	Resident farming families.						
	Total.	White.			Negro.		
		Total.	Hill County.	Rusk County.	Total.	Hill County.	Rush County.
Inadequate milk supply.....	366	203	123	80	163	41	122
Fruit.....	40	30	20	10	10	6	4
Vegetable.....	165	83	39	44	82	22	60
Meat.....	266	162	90	72	104	21	83
Butter.....	260	167	97	70	93	21	72
Fruit and vegetable.....	18	13	9	4	5	2	3
Fruit and meat.....	34	27	17	10	7	3	4
Fruit and butter.....	27	24	16	8	3	.....	3
Vegetable and meat.....	109	70	31	39	39	9	30
Vegetable and butter.....	126	77	34	43	49	12	37
Fruit, vegetable, and meat.....	15	11	7	4	4	1	3
Fruit, meat, and butter.....	25	22	14	8	3	.....	3
Vegetable, meat, and butter.....	92	65	27	38	27	6	21
Fruit, vegetable, meat, and butter....	12	10	6	4	2	.....	2
No fruit, vegetable, meat, or butter...	8	2	2	.....	6	2	4
Not reported.....	68	30	14	16	38	2	36

Navy beans and potatoes, excluded from the foregoing list on account of their markedly different food content, were mentioned in a large proportion of the menus—sweet potatoes in 42 per cent, white potatoes in 30 per cent (relatively oftener in Hill County than in Rusk), and navy beans in 42 per cent of the Hill and 7 per cent of the Rusk County menus.

About 70 per cent of the menus of all the families included in the study included meat;²⁴ rather more than 80 per cent contained butter; both articles were listed in almost 60 per cent of the menus. In Hill County the menus of one-third of the white and more than one-half of the negro families contained no meat, while one-eighth of the white and one-third of the negro families in Rusk County reported no meat. No butter appeared in the menus of one-sixth of the families—one-tenth of the white families in Hill and one-sixteenth of those in Rusk County, and more than one-half of the negro families in Hill and nearly two-fifths of those in Rusk County had had none. Five per cent of the 1,040 families had had neither butter nor meat.

The special analysis indicated that fresh pork was the kind of meat most frequently used. One-half the Rusk County families and 13.2 per cent of those in Hill County reported it. Pork was not so often reported in Hill County because the inquiry in that county was made in the early fall before most of the families had butchered

²⁴ The term "meat" is used to represent the group of foods which includes fish, poultry, and eggs. Bacon, however, is excluded because of its small protein content.

their hogs; hence, a somewhat greater variety of protein food was reported—almost three-tenths of the families had had eggs, and a few reported chicken, beef, fish, or game. About one-half the menus (more in Hill than in Rusk County) contained bacon.

Of the menus studied in detail, 72 per cent included corn bread and 87 per cent biscuits. Light bread (mentioned more frequently in Hill than in Rusk County menus) was reported by 14 per cent of the families, and oatmeal or rice by 7 per cent. Breakfast cereals were reported by a few white families, but very few negro families reported any cereals other than corn bread, biscuits, or rice.

Eighty-one per cent of the families had used sirup (a larger proportion in Rusk County, where ribbon cane was commonly grown, than in Hill County), and a few reported preserves, honey, or molasses. Slightly less than three-fourths of the menus included coffee, with which milk or sugar or both were usually taken. Only a few families reported the use of tea. Soups, gravies, and pastries appeared on a few of the menus.

Although almost 90 per cent of the families included in the study reported a regular supply of milk during most of the year and only 4 per cent were known to have had none or only small quantities of condensed milk (usually used only with coffee), milk appeared as an item of diet in only 81 per cent of the white-family menus in the special analysis and in only 51 per cent of those of negro families. A larger proportion of Rusk County families of both races than of Hill County families had used milk.

The greatest deficiency in the diets was fruit, entirely lacking in 90 per cent of the menus. Only about 3 per cent of the families had had diets including both fruit and vegetables²⁵ as well as meat and butter on the day previous to the agent's visit, and a little over 1 per cent had not had any of the four. Thirty-four per cent of the menus included meat, butter, and either fruit or vegetables; 59 per cent included both meat and butter; 12 per cent meat but no butter; and almost 23 per cent butter but no meat.

In a large number of instances what would appear to be an insufficient diet was probably enriched by the addition of a generous quantity of milk. More than two-thirds of the white families in each county reported that they used 9 pints or more of milk a day during most of the year and an additional one-sixth reported a milk supply ample enough to allow 1½ pints a day for each member of the family. Over two-thirds of the white families whose diets lacked meat or butter, or both, and the same proportion of families whose diets lacked fruit or vegetables or both, reported 9 pints a day or more. Thirty-three per cent of the Rusk County negro families reported that they used 9 pints or more, and almost 15 per cent more had an average of 1½ pints of milk per person per day.

²⁵ Other than or in addition to potatoes and navy beans.

It is clear, however, that in many families the dietaries were inadequate to meet the needs of growing children. In some families, for example, the day's food had consisted almost exclusively of corn bread or biscuits and sirup. Commenting on the sickness among half-share croppers the report of the survey referred to on p. 52 states²⁶ that "* * * it is not at all unlikely that the lower dietary standards of the poorest accumulators cause much of the larger amount of sickness found among them * * *," and that the percentage of sickness which it points out is higher for half-share croppers than for other classes of tenants is "doubtless * * * due in large part to the fact that croppers lack the fresh, home-grown foods that the other classes have." An unwise selection and preparation of food, resulting from a lack of knowledge of dietetics, is also no doubt an influential factor. In educating the housewife to the importance of the various food elements it is believed that a home-demonstration agent in each of the counties studied would more than pay for herself in better health and physical development of the children.

Literacy of parents and periodicals taken.

There was the greater need for demonstration work among the families included in the survey, in that many of the parents were limited in their outside contacts by reason of illiteracy. Although in the counties studied, the proportion of illiterate native whites 10 years of age or over (2.6 per cent in Hill County and 2.5 per cent in Rusk) was lower than the average for the State as a whole (3 per cent) the rate of illiteracy among negroes in both counties (19.8 per cent in Hill and 20.6 in Rusk) was in excess of the State average (17.8 per cent). The high rate among the large negro population in Rusk County raised the average for that county (9.7 per cent) above the State average (8.3 per cent), but in Hill County where the negro population was almost negligible, the county average was lower than that for the State (5.4 as compared with 8.3 per cent).²⁷

Since these figures are for the entire population 10 years of age and over, and the rate of illiteracy has steadily decreased in recent years, it is not surprising that the rate among the parents of the children in this study should prove higher than the census rate. Of the Hill County white parents visited 5.6 per cent, and of the Rusk County white parents included in the study 4.4 per cent were illiterate. Among negro parents the rate was 24 per cent for those in Rusk County and 20.6 per cent in Hill. In 13 white and 36 negro families in the two counties both parents were illiterate. The proportion of illiteracy was greater in Rusk County, where the negro population was larger, than in Hill, and a larger number of fathers than of mothers were illiterate.

²⁶ Farm Ownership and Tenancy in the Black Prairie of Texas, pp. 48, 53.

²⁷ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. III, Population, Table 9, pp. 919-1014.

TABLE XXVII.—Proportion of resident families in which parents were illiterate, by race and county of residence.

Race and county of residence.	Resident farming families.				
	Total.	Father illiterate.		Mother illiterate.	
		Number.	Per cent. ¹	Number.	Per cent. ¹
Hill County: Total.....	509	42	8.3	30	5.9
White.....	458	31	6.8	20	4.4
Negro.....	51	11		10	
Rusk County: Total.....	531	84	15.8	55	10.4
White.....	295	18	6.1	8	2.7
Negro.....	236	66	28.0	47	19.9

¹Not shown where base is less than 100.

For the illiterate, as has been said, educational work must be largely through personal contact, but for others, especially on isolated farms, newspapers and periodical literature are valuable not only in enriching the family life but also in bringing to parents much that they need to know in the interest of their children's welfare. Table XXVIII shows that about 16 per cent of the white and 61 per cent of the negro families took neither newspapers nor magazines of any kind; 31.5 per cent of the white and 25.4 per cent of the negro families had only one type of magazine or newspaper. The number and variety of periodicals accessible in the homes bore a direct relation to the economic status of the family. Relatively more farm owners than tenants reported that they subscribed for periodicals, and farm owners read a greater variety of papers and magazines than did tenants.

TABLE XXVIII.—Kinds of periodicals taken by resident farming families, by race and county of residence.

Kind of periodicals.	Resident farming families.										
	White.						Negro.				
	Total.		Hill.		Rusk.		Total.		Hill. ¹	Rusk.	
	Num-ber.	Per cent.	Num-ber.	Per cent.	Num-ber.	Per cent.	Num-ber.	Per cent.		Num-ber.	Per cent.
Total.....	753	100.0	458	100.0	295	100.0	287	100.0	51	236	100.0
Farm.....	253	33.6	137	29.9	116	39.3	69	24.0	8	61	25.8
Women's.....	249	33.1	140	30.6	109	36.9	31	10.8	2	29	12.3
Children's.....	15	2.0	9	2.0	6	2.0	1	0.3	1		
Newspapers.....	514	68.3	316	69.0	198	67.1	52	18.1	7	45	19.1
Local only.....	101	13.4	53	11.6	48	16.3	13	4.5	1	12	5.1
Other only.....	177	23.5	135	29.5	42	14.2	31	10.8	5	26	11.0
Both.....	234	31.1	127	27.7	107	36.3	8	2.8	1	7	3.0
Newspapers, n. o. s. ²	2	0.3	1	0.2	1	0.3					
Religious.....	60	8.0	41	9.0	19	6.4	5	1.7	2	3	1.3
Fraternal.....	37	4.9	19	4.1	18	6.1					
General and miscellaneous.....	127	16.9	68	14.8	59	20.0	3	1.0		3	1.3
None.....	119	15.8	67	14.6	52	17.6	174	60.6	34	140	59.3

¹Number only. Per cent not shown because base is less than 100.

²I. e., not otherwise specified

It was difficult to classify exactly many of the periodicals reported; and even where the periodical in question was plainly a woman's magazine or a farm paper or other type of magazine, it usually contained matter dealing with other interests. Many newspapers, for instance, have a section devoted to women's interests, a children's page, and articles of special interest to farmers, besides the usual news items and editorials. From the point of view of rural child welfare, periodicals dealing with women's and children's interests, and also farm papers, are especially important. Three families reported all three kinds; farm papers or periodicals of special interest to women were reported by about one-third of the white families; and 8 per cent of all Hill County families in the study and 14 per cent of those in Rusk reported both farm and women's papers. Very few families took magazines or papers especially for children. Newspapers were more commonly subscribed for than any other form of periodical. One-fourth of the families taking newspapers took only local papers; nearly one-half took both local papers and those published outside the county of residence.

Community life and social activities.

One of the most serious problems of rural life is that of affording adequate means for social intercourse to families living at a distance from towns or villages. The present discussion will be confined to the forms of social activity actually reported in the homes and schools visited. While the material is far from complete it does indicate the kinds and extent of recreation and social organization in the rural parts of the two counties. The members of 11 per cent of all the families visited said that they had no recreation of any kind and belonged to no social organization. About one-third of the families reported only one kind of recreation;²⁸ few reported three or four kinds. Many of the mothers visited complained of the loneliness of country life. The mother who, when asked what she did when she was not working replied, "I jes' sets 'round the house and gets up and walks 'round the yard and looks at the chickens," summed up the situation for scores of families.

In rural communities where, because of isolation, social custom, and their many common interests, neighbors are likely to be well acquainted with each other, and where differences in economic status are less emphasized than in the city, greater democracy in social life and social organization exists. It is therefore not surprising to find that the social life of farm tenants was but slightly less varied than that of farm owners.

²⁸ Included in this tabulation were (1) religious meetings, (2) school entertainments or mothers' meetings, (3) parties, socials, or dances, (4) going to town, and (5) games and sports.

Schools and churches.—Schools and churches were the most important community organizations affording opportunity for social intercourse. The social intercourse supplied through activities centering in the schools has already been described.²⁹ Some of the small towns with populations of only 300 or 400 had as many as four or five churches of different denominations. For one-sixth of the white and about one-third of the negro families church was the only community organization providing social contact.

Social gatherings.—Only about one-fifth of the white families in Hill County and one-half of those in Rusk County reported parties, picnics, or "socials." The proportion of negro families in each county having these forms of recreation was considerably smaller. In the country social gatherings are usually attended by all the members of the families, regardless of age. Many picnics were reported. In some communities "graveyard" picnics were held once or twice a year, for the purpose of putting the cemetery and churchyard in order. Many families in each county reported "singings" at which neighbors gathered to spend the evening singing together. Dances and parties were also frequently reported.

Going to town.—For many families in Hill County going to town was the only recreation. On Saturday afternoon whenever roads were passable the streets and stores in the small towns were crowded with farmers in from the country to buy supplies and enjoy what amusement the town afforded. The first Monday of each month was another day when farmers gathered at the county seat to buy or trade horses, mules, or cows, or to market farm produce. Probably women and children went to town less often than the men, but there were always a number of them in the market-day crowds. Recreations which the towns offered—such as moving pictures, lyceums, and lectures—were reported by some families. County fairs held annually and attended by most of the rural population not only afforded a chance for recreation and sociability, but also aroused interest in good stock, good farm products, and household arts. A few of the families visited had attended State fairs.

The recreation and social intercourse of the towns was more easily available to the people in Hill County than to those in Rusk County, where there was only one town of any size. Somewhat over half the families visited in Rusk County lived from 5 to 10 miles from town; 19 per cent of the white and 37 per cent of the negro families lived 10 miles or more from town. In Hill County, on the other hand, about 60 per cent of the families lived less than 5 miles from town and only 6 per cent were 10 miles or more from town. Families living near town had more varied opportunities for recreation and social contact

²⁹ Page 35-36.

than families living in remoter parts of the country. Telephones in the homes of 64 per cent of the Hill County white families and 40 per cent of those in Rusk County, and automobiles owned by 57 per cent of the white families in Hill and 30 per cent of those in Rusk County lessened the isolation to some extent. Only 8 per cent of the negro families, however, had telephones and only 20 of the negro families in the two counties had automobiles.

CHILDREN IN MIGRATORY LABORERS' FAMILIES.

Migratory labor was employed by Hill County farmers to supplement the local supply during the cotton-picking season, and to a somewhat less extent also during the planting season. Families coming in for seasonal work were not, of course, so well known as were those living in the community all the year around; hence a considerable proportion of them were probably overlooked, although all that could be found were interviewed. These interviews showed that at least 81 families, including 202 children, and 2 children unaccompanied by their families had come into the school districts included in the study principally to pick cotton. About half the families were negro. Among the white families seven fathers were Mexican and one was of German birth, the remainder being native born. The two children working independently, both of them 12 years of age, went back and forth from their homes in near-by towns to the cotton fields each day. Eight of the families also (four white and four negro) had found places to live in town and were transported to and from the fields by their employers. The remaining 73 families had found living accommodations in the districts near their work. Only these families who came from outside and settled for the period of their employment in the districts where they worked are included in the following discussion of migratory families, those who went back and forth between their homes and the farms where they worked having been excluded from the tabulations.

Only 14 of these families had been with their present employer as much as three months; 25 had been with their employers for as much as one month but for less than two months; and 21 families, for less than one month. Of the families giving information as to their last place of residence, 6 had come from outside the State; 23 (10 white and 13 negro) from the larger cities¹ of the State; and only 13 (9 white and 4 negro) from towns in the same county.

In many cases, particularly those in which the families came from cities, the employer had sought the workers; in others, the family had come to the country looking for work. In still other instances arrangements had been made through friends or relatives. Two Mexican families had found work through a labor organization in one of the larger cities of the State. The usual rate of pay for cotton picking was \$2 per 100 pounds, in some cases \$1.75 per 100 pounds, in addition to board. Chopping was usually paid for at the rate of \$3 a day.

¹ The smallest of these cities reported had a population of more than 12,000.

In two white families the mother was the chief breadwinner. One mother worked in a peanut factory in the winter, on truck farms in the early spring, and in the cotton fields in the fall. The other mother and her five children were traveling with another family and picking up what work they could along the way. The sole occupation of 8 of the white fathers or other chief breadwinners² was agricultural labor, and 13 more did some farming on their own account, 12 of them helping other farmers. Three Mexican families were traveling aimlessly through the country, living in tents and picking up whatever work they could find. Several of the fathers worked in town as day laborers, carpenters, barbers, or mechanics.

Seven negro mothers, most of whom did housework or laundry work as well as field work, were the chief breadwinners of their families. Most of the negro fathers who were chief breadwinners for the family group had some occupation other than farm labor in which they engaged during part or all of the year. Twelve of these fathers, for instance, were general day laborers; six did farming on their own account; one was a hotel porter; one was a janitor.

² In one instance the mother's brother was the family's chief breadwinner.

THE CHILDREN AT WORK.

In the migratory families were 180 children (90 white and 90 negro), 132 of whom (57 white and 75 negro) had done field work. More of the older than of the younger children, both white and colored, had worked in the fields. Of the 40 white children, between 10 and 16 years of age, 35 had done field work; 18 of the 25 between 6 and 10; and 3 of the 25 less than 6 years of age had also worked in the fields. Proportionately more boys than girls had done farm work. Most of them had begun field work at an earlier age than children in resident families.

Cotton picking was practically the only kind of field work done by these children. Seven white and three negro children had hoed and chopped in the spring, and one child had helped in threshing.

TABLE XXIX.—Daily hours' field work performed while not attending school by children in migratory families, by total daily hours' work and race; Hill County.

Daily hours' field work while not attending school, and race.	Children under 16 years of age—								
	Total.	Who worked while not attending school.							Who did no work.
		Total hours.							
		Total.	Less than 8 hours.	8 hours, less than 10.	10 hours, less than 11.	11 hours, less than 13.	13 hours, less than 14.	Not reported.	
White.....	90	57	3	13	24	9	2	6	33
Less than 8 hours.....	5	5	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8 hours, less than 10.....	17	17	.....	11	5	1	.....	.....	.....
10 hours, less than 11.....	28	28	.....	.....	19	8	.....	1	.....
11 hours, less than 13.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
Not reported.....	5	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....
Did no field work.....	33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
Negro.....	90	75	7	7	21	15	9	16	15
Less than 8 hours.....	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8 hours, less than 10.....	8	8	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
10 hours, less than 11.....	29	29	.....	.....	21	8	.....	.....	.....
11 hours, less than 13.....	18	18	.....	.....	.....	7	9	.....	2
Not reported.....	13	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	.....
Did no field work.....	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15

Very few children in migratory families had farm chores to do; none did milking, two helped care for stock, six helped care for chickens; only three children did gardening. Seventeen white and 48 negro children, however, carried water, and 25 white and 51 negro children carried fuel. The proportion of children reporting house-

work was much greater than the number reporting farm chores, although smaller than the proportion of children in resident families doing housework. Seasonal laborers had even fewer household conveniences than resident families. One family had a sink, 1 had a washing-machine, and 17 had sewing machines. Eleven white and 21 negro families got water from a source 300 feet or more from the house; only 7 (all of them white families) had water on the porch or in the house.

When field work was in progress the average total number of hours worked by white children who went to the fields was 10.4 per day; the number worked by negro children was 10.7. Inasmuch as most of these children had few chores and little housework to do the total number of hours they worked differed only slightly from the number of hours spent in field work. For the same reason, as might be expected, the average total hours of work per day was shorter for children in migratory families than for children in resident families. Working days of great length continued a shorter time for children in migratory families than for those in resident families, the average duration for children in migratory families being 1.4 months.

THE CHILDREN AT SCHOOL.

One of the most serious effects of migratory farm labor is its interference with school attendance. Only 2 of the 139 children of school age (6 to 16 years) who had come to the country to pick cotton had attended school while there. Compulsory education laws do not function in such instances since these children are not residents of the school district to which they go and are out of the jurisdiction of the districts from which they come. If they return to the city or town schools, they are likely to have lost several weeks of school work that can be made up only with the greatest difficulty, if at all. One family with two boys, 12 and 14 years of age, had left Tyler the very week school had opened. They had done the same thing the year before with the result that neither year had the boys entered school until the week before Christmas—75 days after school had begun.

Eighteen white and 20 negro children between 6 and 16 years of age had never attended school; 9 of these children were of compulsory school age, i. e., between 8 and 14. Forty-three of the white and 69 of the negro children had not attended school during the year 1919–20. Thirty-four of the children who had started school had not done so until they were 8 years of age or older. As the school records of the children of migratory laborers were available in only a few instances, it was impossible to secure reliable data in regard to the median number of days attended or the per cent of attendance for the group. According to statements made by parents and children, 21 of the 65 white children attending school had stayed out during part of the year to do farm work. Most of these children had lost less than 20 days; but two had missed between 20 and 30 days and five had lost 40 days or more of school. Only 11 of the children had completed a grade higher than the second, though 57 were at least 12 years of age, and 29 were 14 or 15.

THE CHILDREN AT HOME.

Living conditions.

Since migratory laborers seldom stayed on the farms longer than a month or two, they were usually given makeshift living accommodations. Some lived in the same house with their employers, others in tents or in farm buildings. On one farm a Mexican family of two children and three adults was living in the smokehouse, a building with no floor or windows and only one door. They slept on cotton sacks and had only the few dishes and cooking utensils which they had brought with them. Eight persons, a Mexican family of six and two single men, were housed in an old one-room shack. A native white family of seven persons was living in a tent barely large enough to shelter the three beds which it contained. Cooking was done on a stove in the open. Near by was another tent sheltering 10 persons. In the farm house, which had been vacated by the farmer so that it might be occupied by cotton pickers, a family of four was living in one room and another of six in two rooms, while a single man occupied the hall between. Another migratory laborer's family was living with his employer's family in an old, poorly built frame house having great cracks in the walls and holes in the roof. The household of 14 persons lived in four rooms. Because the cistern needed cleaning, all the families on this farm were getting water from a reservoir or tank from which mules, cows, and poultry also drank. Negro families had worse living conditions than white families. Practically every negro family had "doubled up" with some other family and quarters were very crowded.

The average number of persons in a household was nine. Half the families were living in houses of one or two rooms. Fifteen of the 35 white families had but one sleeping room; only eight had as many as three or four. Twenty-six of the 38 negro families had two sleeping rooms; four had three or four. Negro families averaged slightly larger than white families, and their houses were on an average smaller. More than half the white families and seven-tenths of the negro families were living with three or more persons per room.

At the time the study was made 10 white and 21 negro families were using dug wells, 4 families secured water from springs or brooks; 17 from cisterns; 13 used drilled wells; and 6 had "tanks." Privies had been provided for only 18 (about half) of the white families and only 15 of the negro families. Nearly all were of the open-back type. Only 12 families, all of them white, had screens. Fifteen white and 23 negro families had neither screens nor privies.



HOUSING: ABOVE, FARMHOUSE IN CENTRAL TEXAS; CENTER, MIGRATORY WORKERS' TENT HOUSING 11 PERSONS; BELOW, SHARE TENANT'S HOUSE IN EAST TEXAS.

Work of mothers.

In 29 of the white and 33 of the negro families the mother, or some one who took her place, had come to the district with the family. Nineteen of the white mothers and 32 of the negro mothers worked as cotton pickers; 2 negro mothers had done hoeing and chopping; but none reported any other field work. Twenty-eight of the mothers who worked in the fields had children under 6 years of age. Only three had an adult to care for their children while they themselves were away at work. One mother left her child at home alone; five others left the little children at home in care of other children, the "caretaker" in one family being less than 7 years of age. The more common practice was to take the child to the cotton field.

All except 1 of the 51 mothers (19 white and 32 negro) who worked in the field reported a working day of 9 hours or more while field work was in progress. Only five white mothers reported less than 12 hours; eight reported from 12 to 13; and four mothers had had even longer working days. Working days for negro mothers averaged slightly shorter than those for white mothers. Nevertheless two-thirds of the negro mothers who reported length of the working day had worked 12 hours a day or more. One-half the white mothers and two-thirds of the negro mothers had spent 10 hours or more in field work; 30 mothers had worked 12 hours or more in the fields. Although housekeeping was primitive and the diet simple, housework added at least one or two hours to a long day's work in the fields. Field work for most of the mothers who did such work was coextensive with their stay in the district. Eleven mothers worked the number of hours specified above less than one month; 20 reported working these hours for one month but less than two months; and the remainder had had working days of these lengths during longer periods.

Diet.

The diet of migratory farm laborers' families was more restricted than that of resident families. Moving from place to place, as the migratory families did, it was not possible to keep cows or chickens, and only four white and five negro families had had gardens during the year of the study. Only 12 of the 35 white and 21 of the 32 negro families submitted menus for the previous day that contained vegetables other than potatoes or dried beans. The diets of 22 families included what was probably a fairly adequate supply of fresh milk (8 pints or more a day), but 7 families were having less than 3 pints a day, and one-third of the families reported no regular daily supply of fresh milk.

Literacy of parents and periodicals taken.

The proportion of illiteracy was much higher among the parents in migratory laborers' than in resident farmers' families. Table XXX shows that in 8 families both parents were illiterate, and in 15 either father or mother was illiterate. Native white parents had a lower illiteracy rate than did negro parents, but in four of the seven Mexican families both parents were illiterate.

Only 11 families, 6 white and 5 negro, took any periodicals whatever; 3 of these families took farm papers; 4, women's papers; and 9, newspapers.

TABLE XXX.—*Literacy of parents in migratory families, by race and nationality of father; Hill County.*

Race and nationality of father.	Migratory families.				
	Total.	Literacy ¹ of parents.			
		Both parents literate.	Father literate.	Mother literate.	Both parents illiterate.	Not reported; one or both parents absent.
Total.....	73	39	7	8	11
White.....	35	21	3	4	3
Native.....	27	19	1	4	3
Foreign born.....	8	2	2		4
German.....	1	1			
Mexican.....	7	1	2		4
Negro.....	38	18	4	4	8

¹ Ability to read and write in any language.

Social life.

About one-third of the families of migratory laborers had to go 5 or more miles to reach the nearest town; only one-fifth of them lived less than 2 miles from town. Very few of the families participated in the activities of any society or club or attended social gatherings while in the communities included in the study. Of the white families, four reported church attendance, three attended "singings" in the neighborhood, and four reported "going to town" for recreation. Negro families seemed to be even more cut off from social intercourse than were the white families.

CONCLUSION.

Many of the unfavorable conditions surrounding children described in this report are closely related to the economic situation of the farmer in cotton-growing areas. Tenants' families, who are on the whole poorer than those of farm owners, are not only less comfortably housed and probably less adequately fed¹ than the latter but also the children and their mothers work in the fields longer hours over longer periods, the children's school attendance is less regular, and the children are more retarded in school. Among children in negro families a large proportion of whom are tenants and who, as a class, likewise, are less prosperous than the whites, conditions are markedly less favorable in every respect than those surrounding white children. Better farming methods, with less reliance on one crop, an improved system of marketing and of farm credits, and any measure which will render the cotton planter more prosperous, may be expected to advance the welfare of children in Rusk and Hill Counties. In its study of the problems of tenancy in the black lands of Texas, the United States Department of Agriculture points out in the following words the relation of tenancy to child welfare, especially as regards farm work and school attendance:

* * * this difference in the economic status of the two classes causes tenants to draw more heavily on their children's time for farm labor than do owners. If the tenant were an owner, with his present wealth, he would doubtless still demand more field work of his child than the average owner now demands of his child. Consequently, it is impossible to say how much of the backwardness of the tenant's child is attributable to tenure and how much to financial status. Regardless of this question, it is quite evident that the tenant's child is having to bear a heavier burden than is the owner's child. And it is evident that some of the more important rural school problems of the area are closely bound up with the problem of tenancy, and that they must be solved in conjunction with solutions of the tenure problem.²

While increased prosperity, especially of the tenant and small-farm owner, may be expected to improve the situation of children in cotton-growing areas, there is need also for popular education, especially in regard to sanitation and dietetics. The fact that 38 per cent of the families included in the present study had no toilets of any kind, and that less than half of the dwellings had adequate screening, indicates the need for popularizing, for example, information in regard to the relation between sanitation and infectious diseases. Analysis of the dietaries of the families who were interviewed showed a lack of fruit and vegetables, due to some extent

¹ See p. 52.

² *Farm Ownership and Tenancy in the Black Prairie of Texas*, pp. 59-60.

at least to a limited knowledge of their importance. The possibilities of the home garden need emphasis; not only were garden products limited in variety and amount, but 6.3 per cent of the resident families interviewed—all living on farms—reported that they had no home garden. These are factors in the general welfare of the children which could be improved by further support of the work of the county agricultural agent and by the employment of a home-demonstration agent in each county. The work of the latter, also, may be depended upon to introduce into rural homes more household conveniences and better methods of housework; labor-saving devices and even ordinary conveniences were rare among the families visited, and the house-keeping activities of mothers were consequently unnecessarily prolonged and laborious.

In addition to educational measures, some public supervision of housing and sanitation would seem to be desirable. A more liberal interpretation of the sanitary and health regulations now in force might effect an improvement in housing, but the enactment of a rural housing and sanitation law may be necessary in order to insure healthful living conditions for children growing up on the farms of these counties.

Further and more scientific study of the effect of the various kinds of farm work upon children's health and development is undoubtedly necessary before it can be determined whether or not particular occupations are physically harmful to the growing child; but the present survey indicates that many children both white and negro in sections of the country where cotton is grown are working long hours at tasks which appear to be too heavy for them to perform without injury to their health and physique, and, in addition, they are losing a large part of their schooling on account of the work which they do in the cotton fields.

Practically all the children over 10 years of age, and a large proportion of younger children, living in the areas included in the study had worked in the fields at some time during the year preceding the inquiry. Ninety-seven per cent of the working children 10 years of age and over reporting duration of work had worked at least 30 days, the median length of their working day being nearly 12 hours. Parents need to be awakened on the one hand to the possible dangers to the health of their children resulting from excessive hours and too heavy work, and on the other to the importance of regular school attendance. The compulsory school attendance law should be strictly enforced, and school terms should not be shortened for the benefit of farm work. Possibly school sessions for older children might be adjusted, in spite of the administrative difficulties involved, to seasons of the year when the children are not so acutely needed on the farms, but there is always danger in such an arrangement that

the needs of the children will be lost sight of and the demands of field work given first consideration. In addition to any measures designed to insure rural child workers an adequate amount of schooling, some legal restriction on the age at which children may begin to do farm work and the number of hours a day which they may work would seem necessary under present conditions to protect them from the hazards of unregulated farm labor.

Although field work seriously interferes with schooling, irregular school attendance in Hill and Rusk Counties is by no means entirely due to this cause. Forty-six per cent of the children in Rusk County, for example, stated that they lived $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles or more from the nearest school and so were exempt from the compulsory school attendance laws unless transportation was provided. The provision of transportation to and from schools for both white and negro children is urgently needed. Consolidation of school districts should be encouraged. In this connection the desirability of better roads should be mentioned. More emphasis should be placed upon the provision and improvement of school facilities for negroes. Improvement in the schools would probably in itself bring about an improvement in school attendance. Better-qualified teachers, a curriculum more suited to the needs of an agricultural community, and better school equipment are needed. Further State aid to rural schools would enable such schools to lengthen the term, provide better equipment, and pay higher salaries. A complete, instead of partial, county-unit form³ of school organization should result in improved administration.

The welfare of children in migratory laborers' families deserves special consideration, particularly as regards their education and housing. Few communities making use of migratory labor make any provision for the schooling of the children in the seasonal workers' families or attempt to enforce the compulsory school attendance law in their behalf, though so far as the community profits by such labor the responsibility of providing adequate schooling is clearly a local one. If, however, local authorities can not or will not meet the need, some provision should be made by the State. In California⁴ special schools for the children of seasonal laborers are provided by the State in the localities to which the workers migrate. California has also for some years been trying out a system of State supervision of housing for migratory workers.⁵ Both of these experiments should prove of practical value to States such as Texas having similar problems.

³ See p. 32.

⁴ California Laws of 1921, ch. 691.

⁵ Advisory Pamphlet on Camp Sanitation and Housing (Revised 1919), p. 5. Commission of Immigration and Housing of California, San Francisco, 1919.

GENERAL TABLES

TABLE 1.—Number of removals of resident farming families during last five years, by farming status of family and race; Hill and Rusk Counties.

Farming status of family, and race.	Resident farming families; Hill and Rusk Counties.												
	Total.	Number of removals during five years next preceding the time of survey.											
		No removals.		One.		Two.		Three to four.		Five and over.		Not reported.	
		Number.	Per cent. ¹	Number.	Per cent. ¹	Number.	Per cent. ¹	Number.	Per cent. ¹	Number.	Per cent. ¹	Number.	Per cent. ¹
White.....	753	356	47.3	137	18.2	100	13.3	106	14.1	44	5.8	10	1.3
Owner.....	382	260	68.1	65	17.0	34	8.9	18	4.7	5	1.3	.....	.....
Less than 100 acres..	137	85	62.0	25	18.2	13	9.5	11	8.0	3	2.2	.....	.....
100 acres, less than 200.....	157	105	66.9	32	20.4	15	9.6	4	2.5	1	0.6	.....	.....
200 acres and over... Acreage not reported	82 6	67 3	..... .....	7 1	..... .....	5 1	..... .....	2 1	..... .....	1.....	..........	.....	.....
Tenant.....	343	82	23.9	68	19.8	65	19.0	84	24.5	35	10.2	9	2.6
One-half share.....	59	3	.....	8	.....	8	.....	21	.....	14	.....	5	.....
One-third and one-fourth share.....	264	74	28.0	55	20.8	52	19.7	59	22.3	21	8.0	3	1.1
Other.....	20	5	.....	5	.....	5	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Laborer.....	7	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	2	.....	1	.....
Father not farming...	21	14	.....	3	.....	1	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Negro.....	287	121	42.2	60	20.9	40	13.9	38	13.2	19	6.6	9	3.1
Owner.....	104	79	76.0	16	15.4	5	4.8	1	1.0	1	1.0	2	1.9
Less than 100 acres..	50	39	.....	8	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
100 acres, less than 200.....	36	27	.....	5	.....	1	.....	1	.....	1	.....	1	.....
200 acres and over... Acreage not reported	9 9	5 8	..... .....	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tenant.....	166	36	21.7	42	25.3	33	19.9	34	20.5	15	9.0	6	3.6
One-half share.....	97	12	.....	25	.....	24	.....	19	.....	14	.....	3	.....
One-third and one-fourth share.....	68	24	.....	17	.....	8	.....	15	.....	1	.....	3	.....
Other.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Laborer.....	13	3	.....	2	.....	2	.....	3	.....	2	.....	1	.....
Father not farming...	4	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....

¹ Not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE 2.—Total daily hours' work performed while not attending school by children ¹ in resident farming families, by daily hours' field work.

Daily hours' field work while not attending school and county of residence.	Children under 16 years of age who worked while not attending school.									
	Total.	Total daily hours' work.								
	Less than 6 hours.	6 hours, less than 8.	8 hours, less than 10.	10 hours, less than 11.	11 hours, less than 12.	12 hours, less than 13.	13 hours, less than 14.	14 hours, and over.	Not reported.	
HILL COUNTY.										
White.....	759	20	24	92	104	203	145	70	37	64
Less than 6 hours.....	34	20	4	4	2	1	1			2
6 hours, less than 8.....	47		20	19	2	3	2			1
8 hours, less than 10.....	133			69	43	18	2			1
10 hours, less than 11.....	232				55	133	33	3	1	7
11 hours, less than 12.....	162					48	74	33	1	6
12 hours, less than 13.....	103						32	34	28	9
13 hours, less than 14.....	5								5	
14 hours and over.....	2								2	
Not reported.....	41				2		1			38
Negro.....	113	5	8	15	17	20	21	11	7	9
Less than 6 hours.....	6	5			1					
6 hours, less than 8.....	18		8	10						
8 hours, less than 10.....	12			5	6	1				
10 hours, less than 11.....	27				10	14	2			1
11 hours, less than 12.....	19					5	9	5		
12 hours, less than 13.....	19						9	6	3	1
13 hours, less than 14.....	3								3	
14 hours and over.....	1								1	
Not reported.....	8						1			7
RUSK COUNTY.										
White.....	539	31	41	91	65	69	125	51	16	50
Less than 6 hours.....	54	29	13	5	4		2			1
6 hours, less than 8.....	50		28	20		1				1
8 hours, less than 10.....	124			66	39	12	1			3
10 hours, less than 11.....	126				22	50	41	3	1	9
11 hours, less than 12.....	106					6	72	24	4	
12 hours, less than 13.....	39						9	22	8	
14 hours and over.....	1								1	
Not reported.....	36							1		35
No field work.....	3	2								1
Negro.....	448	17	18	32	69	74	85	58	39	56
Less than 6 hours.....	23	14	6	1		1				1
6 hours, less than 8.....	29		12	10	4				1	2
8 hours, less than 10.....	76			21	32	12	4		2	5
10 hours, less than 11.....	134				33	56	32	3	3	7
11 hours, less than 12.....	102					5	46	37	8	6
12 hours, less than 13.....	43						3	18	22	
13 hours, less than 14.....	3								3	
Not reported.....	34									34
No field work.....	4	3								1

¹ Excludes 58 white and 14 negro children in Hill County, and 13 white and 3 negro children in Rusk County who had been in the area less than one year; also 448 white and 35 negro children in Hill County, and 280 white and 217 negro children in Rusk County who did no work while not attending school.

TABLE 3.—*Number of days' school attendance by children in resident farming families, by age and race of child and county of residence.*

Age and race of child and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age—								
	Total.	Attending school specified number of days.							
		Less than 20 days.		20 days, less than 40.		40 days, less than 60.		60 days, less than 80.	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹
HILL COUNTY.									
White.....	942	11	1.2	28	3.0	41	4.4	99	10.5
6 years, under 8.....	195	5	2.6	10	5.1	4	2.1	5	2.6
8 years, under 11.....	295	2	.7	3	1.0	16	5.4	38	12.9
11 years, under 14.....	284	1	.4	7	2.5	12	4.2	35	12.3
14 years, under 16.....	168	3	1.8	8	4.8	9	5.4	21	12.5
Negro.....	124	3	2.4	4	3.2	1	.8	4	3.2
6 years, under 8.....	25								
8 years, under 11.....	41	1		2					
11 years, under 14.....	35			1		1		3	
14 years, under 16.....	23	2		1				1	
RUSK COUNTY.									
White.....	616	17	2.8	19	3.1	42	6.8	61	9.9
6 years, under 8.....	126	4	3.2	6	4.8	3	2.4	5	4.0
8 years, under 11.....	184	4	2.2	7	3.8	12	6.5	20	10.9
11 years, under 14.....	195	6	3.1	3	1.5	12	6.2	23	11.8
14 years, under 16.....	111	3	2.7	3	2.7	15	13.5	13	11.7
Negro.....	² 486	8	1.6	26	5.3	46	9.5	60	12.3
6 years, under 8.....	109	3	2.8	11	10.1	11	10.1	6	5.5
8 years, under 11.....	155	4	2.6	4	2.6	12	7.7	20	12.9
11 years, under 14.....	140	1	.7	6	4.3	14	10.0	16	11.4
14 years, under 16.....	82			5		9		18	

¹ Not shown where base is less than 100.² Excludes 13 children for whom age was not reported, 2 of whom were not attending school.

TABLE 3.—Number of days' school attendance by children in resident farming families, by age and race of child and county of residence—Continued.

Age and race of child and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age—							
	Attending school specified number of days.							
	80 days, less than 100.		100 days, less than 120.		120 days, less than 140.		140 days, less than 160.	
	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent.
HILL COUNTY.								
White.....	155	16.5	175	18.6	84	8.9	46	4.9
6 years, under 8.....	14	7.2	11	5.6	4	2.1	2	1.0
8 years, under 11.....	58	19.7	66	22.4	28	9.5	20	6.8
11 years, under 14.....	53	18.7	65	22.9	39	13.7	18	6.3
14 years, under 16.....	30	17.9	33	19.6	13	7.7	6	3.6
Negro.....	1	.8	2	1.6	1	.8		
6 years, under 8.....								
8 years, under 11.....	1		1		1			
11 years, under 14.....			1					
14 years, under 16.....								
RUSK COUNTY.								
White.....	114	18.5	130	21.1	58	9.4	6	1.0
6 years, under 8.....	2	1.6	6	4.8	1	.8		
8 years, under 11.....	39	21.2	46	25.0	25	13.6	1	.5
11 years, under 14.....	44	22.6	55	28.2	23	11.8	2	1.0
14 years, under 16.....	29	26.1	23	20.7	9	8.1	3	2.7
Negro.....	129	26.5	46	9.5				
6 years, under 8.....	6	5.5	1	.9				
8 years, under 11.....	48	31.0	16	10.3				
11 years, under 14.....	47	33.6	20	14.3				
14 years, under 16.....	28		9					

Age and race of child and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age—							
	Attending school specified number of days.				Not attending school.		In area less than one year.	
	160 days and over.		Not reported.		Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹
	Num-ber.	Per-cent.	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹				
HILL COUNTY.								
White.....	19	2.1	87	9.2	152	16.1	45	4.8
6 years, under 8.....	3	1.5	7	3.6	124	63.6	6	3.1
8 years, under 11.....	8	2.7	29	9.8	13	4.4	14	4.7
11 years, under 14.....	7	2.5	29	10.2	1	.4	17	6.0
14 years, under 16.....	1	.6	22	13.1	14	8.3	8	4.8
Negro.....			32	25.8	62	50.0	14	11.3
6 years, under 8.....			2		20		3	
8 years, under 11.....			12		17		6	
11 years, under 14.....			10		17		2	
14 years, under 16.....			8		8		3	
RUSK COUNTY.								
White.....			54	8.8	105	17.0	10	1.6
6 years, under 8.....			5	4.0	91	72.2	3	2.4
8 years, under 11.....			20	10.9	9	4.9	1	.5
11 years, under 14.....			20	10.3	4	2.1	3	1.5
14 years, under 16.....			9	8.1	1	.9	3	2.7
Negro.....			91	18.7	77	15.8	3	.6
6 years, under 8.....			11	10.1	60	55.0		
8 years, under 11.....			41	26.5	10	6.5		
11 years, under 14.....			30	21.4	3	2.1	3	2.1
14 years, under 16.....			9		4			

¹ Not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—Per cent of school attendance by children in resident farming families, by age and race of child and county of residence.

Per cent school attendance, race of child, and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age. ¹								
	Total.		Under 8 years. ²	8 years, under 11.		11 years, under 14.		14 years, under 16.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.		Number.	Per cent distribution. ²	Number.	Per cent distribution. ²	Number.	Per cent distribution. ²
HILL COUNTY.									
White.....	745	100.0	65	268	100.0	266	100.0	146	100.0
Less than 25 per cent.....	27	3.6	11	3	1.1	4	1.5	9	6.2
25 per cent, less than 50.....	77	10.3	9	28	10.4	22	8.3	18	12.3
50 per cent, less than 60.....	51	6.8	3	22	8.2	19	7.1	7	4.8
60 per cent, less than 70.....	85	11.4	9	30	11.2	27	10.2	19	13.0
70 per cent, less than 80.....	133	17.9	8	48	17.9	52	19.5	25	17.1
80 per cent, less than 90.....	151	20.3	11	58	21.6	54	20.3	28	19.2
90 per cent, less than 100.....	131	17.6	5	50	18.7	58	21.8	18	12.3
100 per cent.....	3	.4		2		1	.4		
Not reported.....	87	11.7	7	29	10.8	29	10.9	22	15.1
Negro.....	48	100.0	2	18	100.0	16	100.0	12	100.0
Less than 25 per cent.....	2							2	
25 per cent, less than 50.....	5			1		4			
50 per cent, less than 60.....	3			1		1		1	
60 per cent, less than 70.....	1					1			
70 per cent, less than 80.....	2			2					
80 per cent, less than 90.....	2			1				1	
90 per cent, less than 100.....	1			1					
100 per cent.....									
Not reported.....	32		2	12		10		8	
RUSK COUNTY.									
White.....	501	100.0	32	174	100.0	188	100.0	107	100.0
Less than 25 per cent.....	27	5.4	8	6	3.4	9	4.8	4	3.7
25 per cent, less than 50.....	52	10.4	4	18	10.3	11	5.9	19	17.8
50 per cent, less than 60.....	38	7.6	4	14	8.0	11	5.9	9	8.4
60 per cent, less than 70.....	49	9.8	2	12	6.9	24	12.8	11	10.3
70 per cent, less than 80.....	67	13.4	1	29	16.7	25	13.3	12	11.2
80 per cent, less than 90.....	93	18.6	4	34	19.5	36	19.1	19	17.8
90 per cent, less than 100.....	109	21.8	3	39	22.4	46	24.5	21	19.6
100 per cent.....	16	3.2	1	4	2.3	7	3.7	4	3.7
Not reported.....	50	10.0	5	18	10.3	19	10.1	8	7.5
Negro.....	3406	100.0	49	145	100.0	134	100.0	78	100.0
Less than 25 per cent.....	7	1.7	4	3	2.1				
25 per cent, less than 50.....	42	10.3	17	7	4.8	10	7.5	8	
50 per cent, less than 60.....	26	6.4	3	6	4.1	12	9.0	5	
60 per cent, less than 70.....	27	6.7	3	10	6.9	3	2.2	11	
70 per cent, less than 80.....	37	9.1	3	11	7.6	13	9.7	10	
80 per cent, less than 90.....	79	19.5	6	26	17.9	28	20.9	19	
90 per cent, less than 100.....	82	20.2	1	33	22.8	34	25.4	14	
100 per cent.....	15	3.7	1	8	5.5	4	3.0	2	
Not reported.....	91	22.4	11	41	28.3	30	22.4	9	

¹ Excludes 45 white and 14 negro children in Hill County and 10 white and 3 negro children in Rusk County, who had been in area less than one year; also 152 white and 62 negro children in Hill County and 105 white and 79 negro children in Rusk County, who were not in school.

² Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Excludes 11 children for whom age was not reported.

TABLE 5.—Absence from school on account of farm work of children in resident farming families, by age and race of child and county of residence.

Absence from school on account of farm work and race and county of residence.	Children between 6 and 16 years of age.									
	Total.		Under 8 years.		8 years, under 11.		11 years, under 14.		14 years, under 16.	
	Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.	Per cent distribution. ¹	Number.	Per cent distribution. ¹	Number.	Per cent distribution. ¹	Number.	Per cent distribution. ¹
HILL COUNTY.										
White.....	942	100.0	195	100.0	295	100.0	284	100.0	168	100.0
No absence for farm work.....	572	60.7	184	94.4	177	60.0	141	49.6	70	41.7
Less than 10 days.....	61	6.5	2	1.0	19	6.4	25	8.8	15	8.9
10 days, less than 20.....	85	9.0	4	2.1	29	9.8	34	12.0	18	10.7
20 days, less than 30.....	51	5.4	1	.5	14	4.7	25	8.8	11	6.5
30 days, less than 40.....	37	3.9	.....	.....	12	4.1	14	4.9	11	6.5
40 days, less than 50.....	24	2.5	.....	.....	8	2.7	9	3.2	7	4.2
50 days and over.....	42	4.5	1	.5	9	3.1	13	4.6	19	11.3
Not reported.....	70	7.4	3	1.5	27	9.2	23	8.1	17	10.1
Negro.....	124	100.0	25	.....	41	.....	35	.....	23	.....
No absence for farm work.....	76	61.3	22	.....	24	.....	20	.....	10	.....
10 days, less than 20.....	2	1.6	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
30 days, less than 40.....	1	.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
50 days and over.....	18	14.5	1	.....	5	.....	7	.....	5	.....
Not reported.....	27	21.8	2	.....	11	.....	6	.....	8	.....
RUSK COUNTY.										
White.....	616	100.0	126	100.0	184	100.0	195	100.0	111	100.0
No absence for farm work.....	417	67.7	123	97.6	135	73.4	107	54.9	52	46.8
Less than 10 days.....	48	7.8	.....	.....	11	6.0	29	14.9	8	7.2
10 days, less than 20.....	40	6.5	1	.8	16	8.7	16	8.2	7	6.3
20 days, less than 30.....	27	4.4	.....	.....	5	2.7	12	6.2	10	9.0
30 days, less than 40.....	25	4.1	.....	.....	4	2.2	9	4.6	12	10.8
40 days, less than 50.....	12	1.9	.....	.....	2	1.1	3	1.5	7	6.3
50 days and over.....	18	2.9	1	.8	3	1.6	6	3.1	8	7.2
Not reported.....	29	4.7	1	.8	8	4.3	13	6.7	7	6.3
Negro.....	² 486	100.0	109	100.0	155	100.0	140	100.0	82	.....
No absence for farm work.....	325	66.9	102	93.6	120	77.4	70	50.0	33	.....
Less than 10 days.....	23	4.7	1	.9	6	3.9	11	7.9	5	.....
10 days, less than 20.....	50	10.2	3	2.8	10	6.5	23	16.4	14	.....
20 days, less than 30.....	31	6.3	.....	.....	6	3.9	13	9.3	12	.....
30 days, less than 40.....	15	3.1	.....	.....	3	1.9	6	4.3	6	.....
40 days, less than 50.....	5	1.0	.....	.....	1	.6	1	.7	3	.....
50 days and over.....	8	1.6	1	.9	.....	.....	4	2.9	3	.....
Not reported.....	29	6.0	2	1.8	9	5.8	12	8.6	6	.....

¹ Not shown where base is less than 100.² Excludes 13 children for whom age was not reported.

TABLE 6.—Retardation of children¹ between 8 and 16 years of age in resident farming families, by farming status of family, race, and county of residence.

Farming status of family and race and county of residence.	Children between 8 and 16 years of age attending school and in area entire year.												
	Total. ¹	Retarded.								Normal.		Advanced.	
		Total.		One year.		Two years.		Three years and over.		Num-ber.	Per-cent. ²	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ²
		Num-ber.	Per-cent. ²	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ²	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ²	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ²				
HILL COUNTY.													
White.....	644	375	58.2	167	25.9	109	16.9	99	15.4	259	40.2	10	1.6
Owner.....	284	138	48.6	66	23.2	39	13.7	33	11.6	140	49.3	6	2.1
Less than 100 acres	84	41	.....	22	.....	12	.....	7	.....	41	.....	2	.....
100 acres, less than 200	124	59	47.6	29	23.4	12	9.7	18	14.5	61	49.2	4	3.2
200 acres and over.	73	36	.....	14	.....	15	.....	7	.....	37	.....	.....	.....
Acreage not reported.	3	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Tenant.....	331	217	65.6	96	29.0	64	19.3	57	17.2	111	33.5	3	0.9
Laborer.....	16	15	.....	3	.....	5	.....	7	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Father not farming.	13	5	.....	2	.....	1	.....	2	.....	7	.....	1	.....
Negro.....	40	38	.....	10	.....	7	.....	21	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Owner.....	7	6	.....	2	.....	2	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Tenant.....	30	29	.....	7	.....	5	.....	17	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Laborer.....	3	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RUSK COUNTY.													
White.....	465	317	68.2	130	28.0	94	20.2	93	20.0	143	30.8	5	1.1
Owner.....	339	224	66.1	99	29.2	66	19.5	59	17.4	111	32.7	4	1.2
Less than 100 acres.	105	68	64.8	32	30.5	22	21.0	14	13.3	36	34.3	1	1.0
100 acres, less than 200	143	94	65.7	40	28.0	28	19.6	26	18.2	46	32.2	3	2.1
200 acres and over.	84	59	.....	27	.....	15	.....	17	.....	25	.....	.....	.....
Acreage not reported.	7	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	4	.....	.....	.....
Tenant.....	104	87	83.7	25	24.0	28	26.9	34	32.7	17	16.3	.....	.....
Laborer.....	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Father not farming.	21	5	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	1	.....
Negro.....	339	285	84.1	94	27.7	66	19.5	125	36.9	54	15.9	.....	.....
Owner.....	157	124	79.0	51	32.5	30	19.1	43	27.4	33	21.0	.....	.....
Less than 100 acres.	74	58	.....	23	.....	17	.....	18	.....	16	.....	.....	.....
100 acres, less than 200	49	39	.....	16	.....	7	.....	16	.....	10	.....	.....	.....
200 acres and over.	18	13	.....	7	.....	1	.....	5	.....	5	.....	.....	.....
Acreage not reported.	16	14	.....	5	.....	5	.....	4	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Tenant.....	176	156	88.6	42	23.9	34	19.3	80	45.5	20	11.4	.....	.....
Laborer.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Father not farming.	4	4	.....	1	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Excludes 28 white children and 5 negro children in Hill County, and 1 white and 25 negro children in Rusk County for whom age or grade was not reported.

² Not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE 7.—Average number of persons per room in dwellings of children in resident farming families, by age and race of child, and county of residence.

Age and race of child and county of residence.	Children under 16 years of age.												
	Total.	Average number of persons per room.											
		Less than one.		One.		Over one, less than two.		Two.		Over two, less than three.		Three and over.	
		Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹	Num-ber.	Per-cent. ¹
HILL COUNTY.													
White.....	1,265	139	11.0	139	11.0	573	45.3	128	10.1	204	16.1	82	6.5
Under 7 years.....	420	52	12.4	53	12.6	177	42.1	41	9.8	69	16.4	28	6.7
7 years, under 10...	290	27	9.3	35	12.1	128	44.1	36	12.4	46	15.9	18	6.2
10 years, under 13...	289	31	10.7	29	10.0	136	47.1	26	9.0	50	17.3	17	5.9
13 years, under 16...	259	29	11.2	22	8.5	132	51.0	20	7.7	37	14.3	19	7.3
Age not reported...	7							5		2			
Negro.....	162	1	.6	4	2.5	19	11.7	18	11.1	59	36.4	61	37.7
Under 7 years.....	52					7		5		20		20	
7 years, under 10...	40			2		3		4		15		16	
10 years, under 13...	33	1				3		5		13		11	
13 years, under 16...	37			2		6		4		11		14	
RUSK COUNTY.													
White.....	832	110	13.2	96	11.5	444	53.4	81	9.7	96	11.5	5	.6
Under 7 years.....	277	26	9.4	33	11.9	148	53.4	28	10.1	40	14.4	2	.7
7 years, under 10...	195	21	10.8	27	13.8	103	52.8	21	10.8	21	10.8	2	1.0
10 years, under 13...	193	29	15.0	20	10.4	111	57.5	14	7.3	18	9.3	1	.5
13 years, under 16...	167	34	20.4	16	9.6	82	49.1	18	10.8	17	10.2		
Negro.....	668	38	5.7	58	8.7	239	35.8	96	14.4	137	20.5	100	15.0
Under 7 years.....	223	11	4.9	18	8.1	80	35.9	31	13.9	47	21.1	36	16.1
7 years, under 10...	152	12	7.9	9	5.9	52	34.2	22	14.5	32	21.1	25	16.4
10 years, under 13...	151	9	6.0	9	6.0	53	35.1	19	12.6	38	25.2	23	15.2
13 years, under 16...	129	6	4.7	17	13.2	51	39.5	24	18.6	20	15.5	11	8.5
Age not reported...	13			5		3						5	

¹ Not shown where base is less than 100.

TABLE 8.—Total daily hours worked by mothers¹ in resident farming families, by daily hours of field work, race, and county of residence.

Daily hours of mother in field work and race and county of residence.	Mothers who did field work.						
	Total.	Total daily hours in all kinds of work.					
		8 hours, less than 9.	9 hours, less than 11.	11 hours, less than 13.	13 hours, less than 15.	15 hours and over.	Not reported.
HILL COUNTY.							
White.....	266	5	32	91	76	36	26
Less than 7 hours.....	51	4	9	13	16	7	2
7 hours, less than 9.....	54	1	20	21	5	7	2
9 hours, less than 11.....	64	.....	2	46	13	3	.....
11 hours, less than 13.....	64	.....	.....	9	35	18	2
13 hours, less than 15.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Not reported.....	31	.....	1	2	6	1	21
Negro.....	43	1	4	14	13	8	3
Less than 7 hours.....	4	1	.....	2	1	.....	.....
7 hours, less than 9.....	3	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....
9 hours, less than 11.....	17	.....	1	10	4	2	.....
11 hours, less than 13.....	11	.....	.....	2	5	4	.....
13 hours, less than 15.....	3	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....
Not reported.....	5	.....	1	.....	1	.....	3
RUSK COUNTY.							
White.....	148	7	15	38	34	49	5
Less than 7 hours.....	47	7	9	16	7	8	.....
7 hours, less than 9.....	33	.....	5	13	3	12	.....
9 hours, less than 11.....	46	.....	1	8	17	20	.....
11 hours, less than 13.....	15	.....	.....	1	6	8	.....
Not reported.....	7	.....	.....	.....	1	1	5
Negro.....	195	9	24	74	43	30	15
Less than 7 hours.....	26	7	9	4	1	3	2
7 hours, less than 9.....	46	2	14	23	5	2	.....
9 hours, less than 11.....	70	.....	1	44	14	10	1
11 hours, less than 13.....	38	.....	.....	3	23	12	.....
13 hours, less than 15.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....
Not reported.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	12

¹ Excludes 15 white and 7 negro mothers in Hill County, and 4 white and 2 negro mothers in Rusk County, who had been in area less than one year; also 167 white mothers and 1 negro mother in Hill County, and 141 white and 35 negro mothers in Rusk County who did no field work.

TABLE 9.—Amount of milk used daily in resident farming families, by number in household, race, and county of residence.

Number in household, race, and county of residence.	Resident farming families.							
	Total.	Amount of milk used daily.						Not reported.
		None and con- densed. ¹	Less than 3 pints.	3 pints, less than 6.	6 pints, less than 8.	8 pints, less than 9.	9 pints and over.	
HILL COUNTY.								
White.....	458	9	9	23	6	76	321	14
2.....	3			1			2	
3.....	36		1	4		14	16	1
4.....	76	2	1	5	1	20	43	4
5.....	74	2	1	5	1	9	55	1
6.....	81	1	4	5	3	10	58	
7.....	59		2	2		9	42	4
8.....	51	1		1	1	6	40	2
9.....	40					4	34	2
10.....	19					4	15	
11.....	11	3					8	
12.....	2						2	
13.....	6						6	
Negro.....	51	9	7	11	6	8	8	2
3.....	5	2		3				
4.....	6	1	1		3	1		
5.....	4	1	1	1		1		
6.....	9		1	2		3	3	
7.....	7	2		1		2	1	1
8.....	5	1	1	1		1	1	
9.....	6	1	3	1	1			
10.....	2			1			1	
11.....	3				2			1
12.....	2						2	
15 and over.....	2	1		1				
RUSK COUNTY.								
White.....	295	1	3	5	5	66	199	16
3.....	26			1		11	10	4
4.....	51		2	2	3	15	28	1
5.....	57			1		16	36	4
6.....	53		1			16	35	1
7.....	35	1		1		5	24	4
8.....	40				2	3	33	2
9.....	22						22	
10.....	6						6	
11.....	3						3	
12.....	2						2	
Negro.....	236	25	10	22	1	64	78	36
2.....	4		2					2
3.....	25	2	3		1	8	4	2
4.....	38	6	3	2		10	10	7
5.....	45	6	2	4		12	11	10
6.....	32	5		4		13	8	2
7.....	29	4		4		4	15	2
8.....	25	2				4	11	7
9.....	17			1		6	10	
10.....	7					2	3	2
11.....	8			1		2	4	1
12.....	3					1	1	1
15 and over.....	3					2	1	

¹ Condensed milk was in most instances used in such small quantities, usually in coffee or tea, as to be almost negligible.



The following table shows the amount of deposits in each of the several classes of deposits for each month from January to December, 1913.

Month	Amount of deposits in each class				Total
	Checking	Savings	Time	Other	
Jan.					
Feb.					
Mar.					
Apr.					
May					
June					
July					
Aug.					
Sept.					
Oct.					
Nov.					
Dec.					
Total					