

This Is New Jersey

by JOHN T. TETLEY

WHILE New Jersey is known as The Garden State, it long has been also among the leaders in industry. It is represented in 90 per cent of all industries and first in the U. S. in dollar value of chemical products.

The state was settled in 1618 and was one of the original thirteen states to form the United States of America. The state motto is "Liberty and Prosperity." At present the population is approximately five and a half million. It is the eighth largest of the forty eight states and the third most densely populated. The 1950 census revealed 67.3 percent native born. The land area, with 7504 square miles (greatest length 166 miles, greatest width 32 miles), is 46 percent forest and 35.8 percent farms. The most concentrated railroad trackage per square mile in the U. S. is in New Jersey, and it also has a higher ratio of buses per square mile than any other state. New Jersey has led the nation in highway development and there are close to thirty thousand miles of highways at present. The Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike and U. S. Routes 1 and 22 are among the most heavily travelled roads in the world. There are outstanding universities including Princeton and Rutgers.

Less than 29 percent of the land in New Jersey is in use—more than two-thirds of the land in the state is idle. Its farm real estate (land and buildings) has the highest value in the nation, with an estimated average value of \$482.85 an acre.

It is interesting to contrast rent today with the 1600's. When King Charles II granted all of New England and as far west and south as

the Delaware river to his brother James, Duke of York—James paid him 40 beaver skins yearly as rent and kept all the revenues. The duke in turn granted New Jersey to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, and the latter got it for rent of "one pepper corn and twenty nobles of lawful money of England" a year.

Two companies which can trace every piece of surveyed land in New Jersey, the West and East Jersey companies, started in the land business in the 1680's and are still functioning. A group of 24 men bought East Jersey from Cartaret's widow in 1681 and established the Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey. Now in its 273rd year, meetings are held semi-annually.

The Council of Proprietors of the Western Division of New Jersey was formed in 1688 by a group of Quakers who acquired possession of Berkeley's lands. An island which has arisen out of Barnegat Bay through alluvial deposits left by tides over the years is claimed by this company. Genealogists and persons searching land titles for one reason or another frequently visit the West Jersey office in Burlington or the East Jersey office in Perth Amboy.

While the Federal government owns about 22 percent of all the land in the nation, its New Jersey holdings are but 2 percent of the state area.

Henry George's father, Richard Samuel Henry George was born in New Brunswick (N. J.) and one of the principal thoroughfares in that city is George Street.