

# WEST VIRGINIA.

Population 762,794.....Dem. Plur. in 1892, 4,174

Dem. vote, 84,467; Rep. 80,293; Peop. 4,166; Prohib. 2,145.

STATE CAPITAL, CHARLESTON.

WEST VIRGINIA is bounded north and east by Pennsylvania and Maryland, east and south by Virginia, and west by Kentucky and Ohio. Its greatest length from north to south is about 240 miles; greatest breadth, 160 miles; land area, 24,645 square miles. A large part of the surface is mountainous and hilly; about two-thirds is covered with forest. The soil of the ridges is fertile to the tops, and the summits of many mountains are flat, natural meadows or glades. The valley of the Great Kanawha is the finest grazing region of the State. Blue grass is indigenous; the lumber trade is important, the forests being principally composed of hardwood timber of the most valuable kinds. Nearly the whole of the State lies within the Allegheny coal system, and large quantities of coal are exported both by river and rail, and new mines are constantly being opened. The total area underlain by coal is estimated at not less than 16,000 square miles. The production increased from 600,000 tons in 1873 to over 4,000,000 tons in 1886. It is generally bituminous. The Kanawha Valley is one of the great salt producing regions of the United States. Petroleum is extensively produced, chiefly in Ritchie, Pleasants, Marshall, Wood, and Wirt Counties. Natural gas is found in several sections, Wheeling and the Northern Pan Handle using it as a fuel almost to the exclusion of coal. Limestone, sandstone, and grinding stone abound generally through the State. The minerals and mineral springs are inexhaustible. West Virginia is especially famous for wool, while the live stock interests generally are large. Other great staples are corn, wheat, oats, and tobacco. Manufactures are comparatively undeveloped, except in the towns along the Ohio River. The State has enormous water power, all its streams having a rapid descent, but so far this has been but little utilized. The leading industries are steel and iron in various forms, glass, flour, salt, wood pulp, liquor, lumber, queensware and porcelain, fire brick, leather, cigars and tobacco, and machinery. The cigar manufacture is important, there being produced in the year ending June, 30, 1888, 46,928,300 cigars in 114 factories. Wheeling is the largest and most important city; it is the manufacturing center and all the industries enumerated above, except salt, flourish there. There are 54 Counties in West Virginia; newspapers are published in all.

**BARBOUR CO. (N.E.C.).....Pop. 12,702**

Dem. vote in 1888, 1,522; Rep. 1,497; Pro. 23; Peo. 23. Hilly; soil fertile. Products—Cattle, horses, and sheep leading; corn, wheat, hay, oats, hogs and wool. COUNTY SEAT, Philippi, pop. 378.

Barbour Democrat.....Dem.....Philippi †.....	Circ 1500
Jeffersonian-Plaindealer.....Dem..... "	750
Republican.....Rep..... "	1800

**BERKELEY CO. (N.E.).....Pop. 18,792**

Rep. vote in 1892, 2,259; Dem. 2,133; Pro. 18; Peo. 8. Uneven and broken; soil fertile; sulphur and chalybeate springs. Products—Corn, wheat, oats, butter, wool, and hay; live stock. COUNTY SEAT, Martinsburg, pop. 7,226.

Times (fortn'tly).....Neut.....Gerrardstown.....	Circ 600
Berkeley Free Lance, Non-part.....Martinsburg †.....	11,060
Herald.....Rep..... "	1,200
Independent.....Ind..... "	11,300
Pioneer Press (Col'd).....Rep..... "	1780
Statesman.....Dem..... "	11,750
World (evg.).....Dem..... "	843
World.....Dem..... "	1,100

**BOONE CO. (S.W.).....Pop. 6,885**

Dem. vote in 1892, 782; Rep. 541; Peo. 4; Pro. 2. Hilly and mountainous; soil fertile in parts. Cannel coal abundant; iron ore in paying quantity. Products

—Corn, oats, wheat, rye, potatoes, tobacco, all small; butter, honey, and wool, lumber, staves, etc. Coal mined extensively at Peytona; excellent building sandstone and some limestone; live stock. COUNTY SEAT, Madison, pop. 100.

Boone Democrat.....Dem.....Madison †.....	Circ 250
Herald.....Ind.....Peytona.....	1230

**BRAXTON CO. (C.).....Pop. 13,928**

Dem. vote in 1892, 1,790; Rep. 1,113; Peo. 244; Pro. 23. Hilly, with large forests; soil generally fertile; salt springs; coal, iron, sandstone and limestone. Products—Corn, wheat, oats; live stock, and grass; lumber, salt. COUNTY SEAT, Sutton Court House, pop. 276.

Braxton Central.....Rep.....Sutton C. H. †.....	Circ 725
Braxton Democrat.....Dem..... "	1340

**BROOKE CO. (N.).....Pop. 6,660**

Dem. vote in 1892, 776; Rep. 740; Pro. 40; Peo. 4. Hilly; soil very fertile; coal, mined for local use; limestone abundant; some building sandstone. Products—Corn, oats, wheat, barley, potatoes, grass, butter, wool, and hay; sheep very numerous. Manufactures. COUNTY SEAT, Wellsburg, pop. 2,238.

Herald.....Prohib. & Rep.....Wellsburg †.....	Circ 700
Pan-Handle News.....Ind. Dem..... "	1800

CIRCULATION: † Publishers' reports. Roman figures—estimated. \* Sworn.  
POPULATION: Census of 1890. \* Estimated. † County Seat.