

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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CAROLINA CLUB NOTES

The Pity of It

More than 90 per cent of the country school children in the United States never get beyond the elementary grades. Around ninety-four per cent of high school pupils stop short of a diploma; and only about 3 per cent of them enter colleges and universities.

The Church Affiliation of University Students

According to church affiliation the student body of the University of North Carolina this year is divided as follows: Presbyterian 155, Baptist 234, Episcopal 116, Methodist 290, Christian 23, Hebrew 15, Lutheran 15, Catholic 6, Friends 6, Moravian 6, Universalist 3, German Reformed 3, Unitarian 1, Adventist 1, Holiness 1, Armenian 1, Congregational 1, and All Saints 1.

What Becomes of Our American Feed Crops?

Consumed on farms: Corn 85.5 per cent, oats 72 per cent, barley 47 per cent, hay 83 per cent. The surpluses for market are: Corn 14.4 per cent, oats 28 per cent, barley 53 per cent, hay 17 per cent. Thirty-nine per cent of the value of these feed stuffs is consumed by horses and mules, 17 per cent by swine, 16 per cent by milk cows, 12 per cent by other cattle, 4 per cent by sheep, 3 per cent by poultry, 2 per cent by human beings, 2 per cent for seed, and 5 per cent goes to other uncertain purposes.

A Giant's Task

Three and one-half million country children, or nearly 30 per cent of them all in the United States were out of school in the census year.

Denmark and North Carolina have just about the same population. But in Denmark only 370 country children were out of school in 1910.

In North Carolina, the number of children out of school was 221,000. Of this number 186,000 were white children, and 109,000 were white children living in the country regions.

Here is a giant's task; but North Carolina faces it with a giant's courage.

Calmness and Solitude

At present we have in North Carolina, upon an average, only 20 sheep, 23 cattle, and 48 hogs per thousand acres!

And our uncultivated, wilderness area is twenty-two million acres!

Col. Mulberry Sellers once said: Everybody knows there ain't no money in calmness and solitude.

Our small home-owning farmers in North Carolina ought to be troubled in number during the next ten years, and our empire of waste places brought into productive uses.

There is indeed too little money in calmness and solitude.

Needed: A Hundred or So More

The Current Topics Club at Rocky Mount is a genuinely democratic body. The members are the business people, bankers, manufacturers, artisans, teachers and doctors, lawyers and preachers of this brisk, bustling, business center.

Every Monday night for three years they have broken bread together at 6:15 o'clock in the Y. M. C. A. building—which, by the way, would do credit to a city many times larger.

Apparently the membership is limited only by respectability and a twenty-five cent piece for a seat at the board; and surely there never was such another bite for two bits!

But the get-together feast of reason and flow of soul is still more wonderful. It is tonic and quickening to the intellect and spirit.

The concerns of the community and the affairs of the big wide world are brought under able review week by week, by the men at home and by guests from abroad.

The club idea is simple, easily practicable and possible anywhere. There ought to be a hundred such clubs in North Carolina.

A FIFTEEN DOLLAR LIBRARY

The following list of books was compiled recently by the Librarian of the University in response to a letter asking for a \$15 library suitable for a school literary society:

Extension Series Bulletin No. 2—Addresses on Education for Use in Declaiming; No. 5—Initiative and Referendum; No. 6—Public Discussion and Debate; No. 11—Ship Subsidies. Supplied free by the Bureau of Extension.

Bliss—Encyclopedia of Reform. By Funk & Wagnall. \$7.50.

Bryce—American Commonwealth, abridged. By Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.

Ringwalt—Briefs on Public Questions. By Longmans, Green & Co. \$1.25.

Blackstone—New Pieces That Will Take Prizes. By Hines, Noble & Eldridge. \$1.25.

Three Minute Declamations. By Hines, Noble & Eldridge. \$1.25.

Roberts—Rules of Order. By Scott, Foresman & Co. \$7.75.

World's Almanac and Encyclopedia. By New York World. \$2.25.

Robins—High School Debate Handbook. By A. C. McClure & Co. \$1.00.

ROAD ENGINEERING PRIZE

The University of North Carolina has been included in a select list of twenty American institutions which will be given \$50 each to be awarded to that student of the senior class in civil engineering who presents the best paper on some subject pertaining to bituminous roads or pavements.

The prize is offered by the Barber Asphalt Paving Company of Philadelphia.

The offer of this prize is based on the work done by the University in the courses in Engineering and by its students who are now engaged as road engineers, among whom are the following: W. L. Spoon, of Alamance County, senior highway engineer of the Office of Public Roads, Washington, D. C.; Brent S. Drane, of Mecklenburg County, chief engineer in charge of municipal improvements, road surveys, etc., Charlotte; Robert G. Lassiter, of Granville County, contractor in charge of pavement construction in Raleigh; Charles R. Thomas, Jr., of Chicago, Ill., associate editor of Engineering and Contracting Magazine; N. C. Hughes, Jr., highway engineer of Halifax County; R. T. Brown, highway engineer of Orange County; R. P. Coble, highway engineer of Lee County; J. B. Clingman, highway engineer of Madison County; James V. Price, superintendent of roads in Rockingham County; J. L. Phillips, of Lenoir County, and Peyton Smith, of Lynchburg, Va.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IN WAKE COUNTY

The last day of Community Service Week in Wake County was celebrated in Raleigh with a great round-up meeting of teachers, committeemen and corn-club boys. The fine note was struck that Every Day is Community Service Day in Wake County.

Three-minute reports of community activities were made by teachers; and Miss Edith Royster, Assistant Superintendent, gave a summary of community activities for the past year, showing that interest had been taken in and aid given to better school buildings and grounds, more and better school equipment, longer school terms, better salaries for teachers, domestic science in the schools, and that in numerous other ways volunteer workers have helped to advance educational and racial interests. The result of the voluntary efforts of the year in money was \$9,596.16.

Luncheon Served

A fine expression of the spirit of Community Service was the wholesome and delicious luncheon served to the assembled crowd, given by the Merchants National Bank, prepared by a committee of ladies,—Mrs. Jaques Busbee, Mrs. George Summey, and Miss Sleiter and served by ten Raleigh High School girls.

Corn Club Boys

Wake County leads the State with 318 members of the Corn Club. The boys made a fine showing as they marched with their full-eared corn stalks.

Twenty prizes were awarded to the boys. Among them two scholarships to the A. & M. College by the Commercial National and Citizens National banks, and two cash prizes by the County Farmers' Union.

PERMANENT FREE GOVERNMENT

You can believe that permanent free government is possible only if you also believe that public opinion can be led by clear thinking, sound judgment, and ripe experience.—F. A. Vanderlip of the National City Bank, New York

SIGNIFICANT WORK IN HALIFAX

In answer to the recent request to the County Superintendents to send in, for the UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER, an account of significant work, Dr. Harrison of Halifax sends the following interesting communication.

Finding and Mending Broken Links

The greatest obstacle to progress in the schools of Halifax is lack of contact and cooperation between teacher and patrons. As an example, in one of our one-teacher schools, the teacher is well trained, has had several years experience, and is now teaching for the second time in the same community. She got along well with the children and the community seemed to be well satisfied.

Superintendent Finds Weak Link

On a visit to this school, I found the enrollment and average attendance so poor that I began to make inquiry and incidentally learned from the teacher that she knew very few of the parents, had never visited any of their homes and had never held meetings of her patrons.

Visits Homes

Soon afterward, I sent the Assistant Superintendent into this community. She visited practically all of the homes and planned for a patrons' meeting. The teacher stated most positively that the patrons would not come out; but to her surprise, every home was represented at the meeting. All had a good social time and discussed school problems freely. When the meeting adjourned the teacher and the patrons felt that they really knew each other for the first time.

A Patrons' Club Formed

As a result of this meeting a patrons' club was organized and has since held meetings monthly. Funds were subscribed for a school supper which was given for the benefit of the school.

Enrollment and Attendance Improved

As a direct result of this meeting, the enrollment in this school has greatly increased and the average daily attendance is much better. Altogether there is a finer spirit in the community. Instead of passively accepting the school as something given by the State and county, the people are now actively seeking to cooperate with the teacher in making improvements.

The Movement Spreads

In order to facilitate this work, I have printed a form letter. Just before the Assistant Superintendent goes to a community to spend a week, I send this letter to the teacher. She signs it and sends it to all of the patrons, inviting them to meet the Assistant Superintendent on a fixed day. Out of these efforts there have been organized, in a number of communities, sewing and cooking clubs which meet weekly at some neighbor's house.

In this way not only are the people learning some practical things, but teachers and patrons are coming into closer touch. Teachers are learning the desires and needs of the people and the people are learning that the schools are trying to be of genuine service.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND PUSH IN GATES COUNTY

Community Service Week, says T. W. Costen, meant a great deal for Gates County. Saturday the 5th, was a bad rainy day, but notwithstanding this fact about one hundred representative people gathered at the court-house and discussed "Good Roads", "The Whole-Time Health Officer", "The Farm Demonstration Agent", and other questions of interest.

The meeting was so full of enthusiasm that the meeting adjourned to meet again on the 11th. This meeting was also largely attended and mass meetings were called in each Township in the county to meet not later than the 9th of January to dis-

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 8

A Reminder and a Suggestion

In the development and progress of the public schools in North Carolina during the past thirty years no single agency has contributed more to help the leaders in the work than the daily and weekly papers of the State. They have at all times given their aid and influence to public and private efforts in every nook and corner of North Carolina. Many localities however, neglect to get from the newspapers the help and assistance that they are always ready to give to the schools.

The Press and the Schools

The otherday one of the daily newspapers in North Carolina printed a half page of interesting information about the city schools. The articles were written by pupils who gave in clear-cut sentences short but accurate accounts of the work in the schoolrooms, the improvements being made on the playgrounds, the athletic association and its various teams, the debating societies, the musical association with its glee club and orchestra, and the programs for the observance of Community Service Week by the various schools.

In fact, regularly every week fully a half page is given to the schools of the county. In Johnston, Wake, Forsyth, and many other counties the same use is made of the press every week and in this way spirit and enthusiasm are aroused and quickened. This consideration of the interests of the schools is splendid and the work of the pupils is fine and inspiring for any school. It keeps par-

ents, children, and teachers interested and informed, about the work and progress of the schools, it gives the pupils most excellent training in the reportorial art, and it helps to promote school pride and self-respect.

How about Your Schools?

What are the boys and girls in your school doing to keep the public informed about the educational interests of the county and the hopes and dreams of those who are charged with the care and management of the schools? There ought to be a short letter from each school in the county paper every week. At first, the pupils may be bashful and afraid to "try their hand" at letter-writing, or they may think that there is nothing to write about; but the teacher should encourage them, should talk to them about that which the school is doing, should lead them into an eyesight to see the things and a pen-stroke to tell things that are taking place and that are of interest to the friends of education in the county.

College Men and Home Papers

Our University students read their home papers with a great deal of interest and they are always anxious to learn all that they can of that which is being done at home so that they may use this knowledge in their county club meetings here at Chapel Hill. It is hoped therefore that all teachers who read this will encourage their pupils to write letters to the papers and thus let the work of the school be known. The newspapers want to help the schools and their help is powerful for good.

A DEBATE FOR SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION CLUBS

University's Interest in Public Discussion

One of the most obvious privileges of a free citizen is that of active participation in public discussion.

To enable the citizen of North Carolina to enjoy this privilege, the University is working in at least two ways: first, through the Extension Bureau in initiating and promoting throughout the State high school debate and public discussion clubs; and second, in providing means for practice at the University itself.

All Freshmen registered as candidates for the A. B. degree are required to take Public Speaking I, a course which is concerned largely with the discussion of subjects of current interest.

Enlargement of the Navy

The condition of the cotton market and the part great navies are playing in controlling international trade in time of war have raised again the question of the adequacy of the navy of our own country.

The question will undoubtedly be one of the most important before the present Congress. School literary societies and debating clubs may well feel, therefore, that in debating the question of the increase of the United States navy they are taking part in a nation-wide discussion of first importance.

ways and means of securing Good Roads.

A strong committee was also appointed to discuss a farm demonstration agent with the Board of County Commissioners at their next meeting.

We feel that these two things are assured for Gates county. We feel that it is a question of only a short time when a whole-time officer will be employed by the county.

The people in Gates were greatly interested and the harmonious spirit shown by all was indeed commendable and satisfying.

The teachers and the school committeemen were the aggressors in these movements.

About four out of every five in the census survey favored a road tax, and the great majority wanted consolidation and better dwellings after roads were secured.

Resolved, "That the United States Navy Should Be Greatly Enlarged"

In debating this question the following points may prove helpful:

Affirmative Arguments

1. Our navy is not so large as the navies of possible enemies.
2. Our coasts are hardly fortified at all, and we need more battleships to protect them from foreign invasion.
3. We need a greater merchant marine, but such a marine would be useless in war time without a large navy to protect it.
4. The best guarantee of peace is an equipment for self-defense, which a large navy would furnish.

Negative Arguments

1. For America to increase her navy would be for her to question the possibility of international peace.
2. A navy is the most expensive kind of protection that a nation has to support.
3. The money necessary for a material increase would give much larger returns on the investment if used for schools and colleges, and would not be used to emphasize war.
4. Our citizens are protected in every nation by international laws, and we do not need a greater merchant marine if other nations can transport more cheaply than we can.

STATE-WIDE INTEREST

There is ample evidence that the entire State is interested in the Correspondence Study Courses at the University. Representatives of the following 10 counties are now at work: Duplin, Camden, Johnston, Lincoln, New Hanover, Stokes, Guilford, Caldwell, Halifax, Lenoir.

Farmers, editors, teachers, ministers, are discovering this new opportunity to secure helpful guidance in study along their particular line. The idea is spreading rapidly.

Inquiries are coming in daily from every section of the state asking for specific information. A post card addressed to the Extension Bureau will bring you full information if you are at all interested. Can you afford to let a chance like this go without looking at it?