

The news in this publication is released for the press on the date indicated below.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

Published weekly by the
University of North Carolina
for its Bureau of Extension.

AUGUST 4, 1915

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. I, NO. 37

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NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

ELBOW-ROOM FOR HOME-SEEKERS

A fundamental problem in the South is our immense wilderness area, some two hundred million acres, our sparse population, and the scarcity of farm labor.

We need more folks in North Carolina. Our population is too sparse. Our rural population in the state-at-large is only 39 to the square mile. We have 9 counties with fewer than 20 people and 3 counties with fewer than 15 people to the square mile.

And in these 9 counties there are three million wilderness acres. In the Cape Fear Country, the uncultivated area in eleven counties almost exactly equals the entire farm area of Belgium!

We need more folks; not more tenants but more one-horse farm-owners. We need our share of the middle western home-seekers, who since the first of last January have taken over into Canada some twenty million dollars of wealth.

Twenty-Two Million Wilderness Acres

There are 22,000,000 uncultivated acres in North Carolina. Four-fifths of it is valuable for farm purposes. A little more than seven acres in every ten are left at present to scrub-pines, black-jacks, sassafras bushes, mullein stalks, may-pops and broomsedge.

Here is a neglected area almost exactly twice the size of Belgium. Here is room for every manjack of the 450,000 Belgian farmers, on farms twice the average size of the little pocket handkerchief fields they have been used to cultivating. And we should have some nine million acres of our wilderness spaces still left for wood-lot uses.

Calmness and Solitude

At present, only 29 per cent of our total area is devoted to farms, meadows and pastures, orchards and gardens, yards and barn lots! Seventy-one per cent is devoted to what Colonel Mulberry Sellers called calmness and solitude.

The uncultivated acreage in North Carolina ranges from 34 per cent of the total in Alamance county to 98 per cent in Dare. We have 48 counties, with three-fourths or more of their area uncultivated; 39 counties with four-fifths or more of it held out of productive farm uses; and 8 counties with nine-tenths or more of the land lying idle.

Disappearing Chances

And this, in face of the fact that our landless, homeless people in North Carolina, in the towns and the country regions, numbered 1,136,000 souls in the census year. Around two-fifths of our farmers and two-thirds of our city dwellers were tenants and renters.

And the further fact, that our homeless multitude steadily increases year by year. As communities become more and more populous and prosperous, the fewer are the people who live in their own homes.

Foolish Policies

1. Our tax system in the United States favors land-ownership by the few and land orphanage for the many.

It allows one and a half billion acres in the country-at-large to be held out of productive farm uses, for speculative rises in value; in the South some 200,000,000 acres; in North Carolina, 22,000,000 acres!

In the United States, during the last census period farm lands increased in value eighteen billion dollars! The railroads of the country did not dare to water their stock to this amount.

In North Carolina during these ten years farm lands increased in value \$200,000,000. Land values ranged all the way from a decrease of 9 per cent in Dare, to an increase of 383 per cent in Pamlico.

Of course the chance of land ownership by our landless multitudes is a dwindling, disappearing chance! And everywhere it ought always to be easily possible for the intelligent, industrious, thrifty, upright tenant to rise into ownership.

Our Chinese Wall

2. It is foolish for a county or a state to beat tom-toms about the opportunities that lie in its soils and seasons when land-

owners refuse to sell to new comers at reasonable figures and in this way build a Chinese wall of speculative prices against home-seekers.

If the holder of a thousand idle acres can see no business wisdom in selling off 500 acres at fair prices to ten new farm families and thereby trebling the value of his remaining land by increasing the population of his community ten times over; if landlords in general with 22 million wilderness acres on their hands in North Carolina cannot develop what Calhoun called a policy of intelligent self-interest in this matter, then in sheer self-defense the state will be driven to adopt New Zealand's graduated land tax, sensibly modified to suit prevailing conditions.

Room for 250,000 New Farm Families

In the table that follows, Mr. O. L. Goforth of Durham county and Mr. L. L. Lohr of Lincoln county, students in the University Summer School, exhibit (1) the per cent of uncultivated area in each county and (2) the room there is for new farm families, allowing 75 acres to each family and reserving 50,000 acres in each county for wood-lot uses.

We have in North Carolina on our present uncultivated areas room for 250,000 home-seeking farm families. This number would almost exactly double the farms we have at present, and still leave 5,000,000 acres for wood-lot purposes.

The room for new farm families ranges from 55 in Alleghany to 7,000 in Bladen county.

UNCULTIVATED AREAS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Census 1910

O. LER. GOFORTH, Durham County, L. L. LOHR, Lincoln County.

Total in North Carolina 22,380,000 acres; or 71% of the total.

Room for 250,000 new farm families, on 75 acres each.

Rank	County	Per Cent	Room for uncultivated new families	Rank	County	Per Cent	Room for uncultivated new families
1	Alamance	34.1	2,100	49	Hertford	67.8	1,320
2	Alleghany	35.9	55	51	Mitchell	69.0	1,500
3	Ashe	38.2	800	51	Wilkes	69.0	3,620
4	Watauga	50.7	815	51	Orange	69.0	1,630
5	Catawba	51.8	1,140	54	Durham	70.7	1,160
6	Davie	52.5	490	55	Yancey	71.2	990
7	Mecklenburg	53.3	2,050	56	Randolph	71.4	4,250
8	Lincoln	53.8	700	57	Scotland	71.9	1,470
9	Greene	53.9	500	58	Martin	72.1	2,020
10	Edgecombe	54.2	1,690	58	Rutherford	72.1	2,620
11	Rowan	54.3	1,600	60	Sampson	72.6	5,180
11	Granville	55.4	1,980	60	Haywood	72.6	2,720
13	Cabarrus	56.2	1,200	60	Henderson	72.6	1,560
14	Gaston	57.1	1,140	63	Chatham	72.7	3,650
15	Halifax	57.2	2,640	64	Camden	74.1	1,260
16	Iredell	57.6	2,226	65	Duplin	76.3	4,430
16	Franklin	57.6	1,700	66	Bertie	77.0	3,950
16	Forsyth	57.6	1,200	67	Caldwell	77.2	2,700
19	Buncombe	58.1	2,690	68	Cherokee	78.1	3,950
20	Clay	58.4	880	69	Lee	78.3	1,090
20	Person	58.4	1,270	70	Burke	79.0	2,930
20	Cleveland	58.4	1,760	71	Currituck	79.4	1,310
20	Union	58.4	2,130	72	Harnett	79.8	3,390
24	Yancey	59.0	740	73	Macon	80.5	2,840
25	Yadkin	59.1	970	74	Polk	81.6	1,060
26	Wilson	59.3	1,290	75	Jackson	82.7	2,780
26	Madison	59.3	1,540	75	Gates	82.7	1,700
28	Davidson	59.6	2,230	77	Jones	83.1	2,170
29	Caswell	59.7	1,380	78	Richmond	83.9	3,030
30	Johnston	60.7	2,930	79	McDowell	84.0	2,500
31	Lenoir	60.8	1,390	80	Cumberland	84.5	6,580
31	Perquimans	60.8	770	81	Montgomery	84.6	2,920
31	Northampton	60.8	1,950	82	Craven	86.5	4,100
31	Wayne	60.8	2,530	82	Washington	86.5	1,670
33	Surry	64.1	2,170	84	Beaufort	86.8	5,560
36	Alexander	64.3	925	85	Moore	87.4	4,090
36	Pasquotank	64.3	560	86	Pamlico	87.6	1,950
38	Wake	64.5	3,980	87	Columbus	88.0	6,300
39	Stokes	64.9	1,990	88	Transylvania	88.1	2,190
40	Pitt	65.1	2,680	89	Graham	88.3	1,580
41	Hyde	65.2	4,100	90	Bladen	89.5	7,000
42	Warren	65.9	1,760	91	Pender	90.0	5,600
43	Nash	66.1	1,300	92	Onslow	90.1	4,870
44	Rockingham	66.2	2,600	93	Swain	90.4	3,600
45	Stanly	67.0	1,720	94	New Hanover	93.0	1,050
46	Guilford	67.1	3,130	95	Brunswick	93.5	5,640
47	Anson	67.2	2,520	96	Carteret	94.5	3,950
48	Robeson	67.6	5,400	97	Dare	95.4	2,530
49	Chowan	67.8	290		The State	71.0	250,000

WATCH WESTERN CAROLINA

Western North Carolina has entered vigorously upon an era of livestock and dairy farming.

It means larger areas in permanent pasture, abundant winter cover crops, more grain, hay and forage, more and better breeds of dairy and beef cattle, more pigs

WHAT DOES YOUR SCHOOL DEVELOP?

Any form of school that weakens the child's interest in the life of his community is deficient in the elemental requisite of the school as an agency of civilization. Something is radically wrong with a school in an agricultural community that develops motormen, stenographers and typewriters and fails to develop farmers, dairymen and gardeners. A course of study prepared with the view of correcting this condition is the first step in reform.—Report of Vermont Education Commission.

HILLSBORO LEADS

Recent town ordinances in Hillsboro specify water-tight, fly-proof receptacles for all surface closets; provide a scavenger service to empty these receptacles once a week and to dispose of the contents properly; and a sanitary officer to see that the health ordinances are faithfully enforced.

Here is an intelligent, vigorous assault upon the one source of home-bred typhoid fever. It will also lessen other intestinal diseases. It will decrease the high summer death rate of infants.

It is passing strange that we cannot everywhere realize the deadly menace of unsanitary surface closets.

HENDERSONVILLE ACTS

Here is another alert little city. The town council has just ordered all surface closets along sewer mains to be connected therewith or otherwise abolished. All

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 38

THE CASE OF WAKELON

Down in the eastern part of Wake county seven years ago there were two little school districts in which there was neither town, village, nor railroad. The schoolhouses in the two districts were not worth five hundred dollars, and their combined seating capacity would not accommodate more than one hundred pupils—a sorry provision for the children in an area of twenty square miles.

The Farmers Take a Hand

The farmers in the districts fell to thinking about the lack of education their

children were suffering, and they decided that something must be done, and something was done that transformed that whole section of the county and made it a model for other communities throughout the state.

What the Farmers Did

The farmers first and foremost consolidated the two districts and then they voted a special local school tax of 30 cents

and a \$10,000 bond issue for the erection of a schoolhouse. Five years later a railroad came into the neighborhood, property values increased and these same farmers found themselves able to make another bond issue, this time for \$15,000 without increasing their tax rate; and therefore, unafraid to assume a small debt for their children's good, they borrowed \$1,000 from the state, got an appropriation of \$8,000 from the county fund, raised additional funds by private subscription, and with this money doubled the size of their building so that today they have

A Thirty-Five Thousand Dollar

Schoolhouse

heated by steam and equipped with the best modern furniture. In addition they own nineteen acres of land nearby on which they are beginning to establish a farm-life school, and all this happened in one of North Carolina's farming communities when the farmers determined to act.

surface closets in the unsewered portions of the city must be made water-tight and fly-proof. Night soil must be removed regularly and properly disposed of. Milk, meats, fruits and vegetables must be screened in the shops, markets and delivery wagons. Stables must be cleaned out once a week, and so on and on.

Chapel Hill and Carrboro and many other towns in North Carolina must move fast to catch up with Hillsboro and Hendersonville.

A DOMESTIC CANNING CLUB

We found it in the home of an Orange county farmer over in Bingham township. It numbered thirteen members, Mr. Thompson, his wife and eleven children.

Last year the record of the club was 2,100 cans of apples, pears, peaches and tomatoes. The entire output was readily sold, almost all of it locally. The profits were a snug sum for the family purse.

INEXPENSIVE WATER WORKS

An Orange county farmer, Mr. Monroe Smith, in Bingham township, has solved the problem of running water for his home, simply and at small expense.

His ram, the necessary plumbing, and the little water-house at his kitchen door cost, all told, less than \$20.

If you will write him at Teer, Route No. 1, he will be pleased to tell you how he saved his good wife from the back-breaking task of carrying water daily from the far-away spring.

May his tribe increase!

GOOD FOR PAMLICO

During the last ten years, school disbursements in Pamlico county, says Superintendent Attmore, have risen from \$8,000 to over \$33,000 a year. Only 15 per cent, or about 500 of the children, go to the old-fashioned, one-teacher schools; 3,000 are in schools taught by two or more teachers.

Every school has a library and more than half the white schools have pianos. Two-thirds of the white children have a chance at seven months of schooling each year.

School money raised by local taxation is greater than the general property tax revenues of the county.

Nobody in the county has been sent to the penitentiary or to the county chain gang in over three years. Fines, forfeitures and penalties have amounted to less than \$75 a year during this period.

The one post-office in the county in 1872 has grown to 20, with seven rural routes. There is a double daily passenger and mail service on two railroads.

Pamlico looks good to home-seekers.

READY TO BE SCOURGED

Here is a little community of 321 homes. There are 188 unsanitary surface closets, open to flies or domestic animals or both and sources of contamination to the 93 wells and springs that are in constant use.

The homes that are entirely unscreened

against flies and mosquitoes number 137.

There have been 83 known cases of typhoid fever in the 321 homes of this community in the years gone by, to say nothing about the cases of diarrhoea, cholera infantum, and other intestinal diseases; and nothing about the 44 postponable or preventable deaths in the county last year.

In 1913 there were 18 deaths in these 321 homes; 12 of these deaths occurred during the fly-infested months; 4 of these deaths were of infants less than a year old; 5 of them, of children less than five years old!

It looks as though this community could afford to get busy; that is to say, if loved ones in the family circles are really loved—in particular, the babes and little children!

One hundred and eighty-eight surface closets breeding flies to scatter human filth upon the food of 137 unscreened homes challenge prompt attention by an intelligent people.

DEVELOPING FARM ENTERPRISES

In June 1910, the creamery butter produced in North Carolina was less than 10,000 lbs.; in June 1915, the creameries of the state produced 150,000 lbs. Western Carolina is the region of developing creameries and cheese factories.

The Monroe creamery has more than doubled its output since last April, and the Mooresville creamery has done the same thing since last March.

The two cheese factories in Watauga are turning out 250 lbs. daily. In a single year these two cheese factories will have made more cheese than the whole state produced five years ago.

North Carolina consumes around four million pounds of cheese yearly. So far we are producing about one-fortieth of this amount.

Iredell county farmers have thirty silos more than were in existence two years ago.

These counties and this region of the state are on the broad highway to permanent, not merely seasonal, prosperity.

OUR CORPORATION INCOME TAX

The corporation income tax in North Carolina paid to the Federal Government for the year ending June 30, 1914 was \$173,267.

Five Southern states paid more—Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and Texas; six states paid less.

The corporations, firms, companies, associations and the like numbered 4,586; their capital stock was \$286,251,000; and the taxable net incomes amounted to a little more than \$24,000,000.

THRIFTY YANKEES

Thrifty people in the South in 1914 had in the Savings Banks deposits amounting to \$97,000,000, all told.

New Hampshire alone had \$102,000,000 in her Savings Banks; or more than the saving deposits of the Southern states all put together.—Figures from the last Report of the Federal Treasurer.