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# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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## NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

### NORTH CAROLINA LEADS

North Carolina again leads the South in the amount of raw cotton consumed and in the total value of manufactured cotton goods.

Our 1914 crop was 970,479 bales, and the cotton consumed by our own mills during the year was 918,192 bales, or just 52,287 bales less than the entire crop of the state.

Our 378 cotton mills, cordage, and knitting mills with their 3,814,000 spindles easily consume all the cotton our farmers now raise in average years.

### NEARLY INDEPENDENT

An increase of 80,000 acres in our hay and forage acreage would save us from shipping into the state 100,000 tons of hay and forage next year and end our dependence upon western hay makers.

An average increase of a third acre per farm would make us independent of this particular; or a little more attention to these crops upon our present acreage would do it.

This year we have raised all the wheat we need and have a small surplus to market abroad.

Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas with a slight effort could easily be independent in the matter of hay and forage.

We are wondering which of these states will win out first.—Figures from the Federal Farmer's Bulletin No. 677.

### OUR COTTON OIL MILLS

In 1914, they numbered 885, 66 of them in North Carolina, and all but six being in the South.

They crushed 5,780,000 tons of seed and turned out 832,400 bales of lint.

Here is a business peculiarly Southern in nature, but also peculiarly conditioned for success or failure by outside influence.

During the year ending with last June we exported 65 per cent more than during the previous year. The increase in value was nearly as great, 58 per cent.

The ocean freight charges were enormously increased, but we got there with the goods just the same.

Southern Cotton Oil Mills ought to have closed the year with comfortable dividends.

But did they?

### MORE CRIMSON CLOVER

The Crimson clover seed imported into the United States in 1910, mainly from France and Austria, amounted to one and a half million pounds. This year the amount imported was twelve million pounds.

The cost of crimson clover seed is high. From thirty to seventy per cent of it will not germinate. Good seed, by the way, are a bright greenish yellow; poor seed are brownish in color.

The price, and the difficulty of securing good seed and good stands, keep our farmers from growing this valuable forage crop more extensively.

Clover hullers are too expensive for the individual farmer to own individually.

Here is a chance to bunch up, buy and use a machine co-operatively; secure abundant home-grown seed cheaply; and increase our clover acreage at a rapid rate.

### HALF-AND-HALF FARMING IN TEXAS

The expression means half the acreage in money crops, and half in food and feed crops.

Taking for illustration a 40-acre, 2-horse farm supporting a family of five, it means 20 acres in cotton, 12 acres in corn, 5 acres in forage crops, 2 acres in winter cover crops, and 1 acre in vegetables. It calls also for 4 pigs, 50 laying hens, and 2 milk cows.

A supply-merchant can discount at the bank a crop-lien that meets these specifications; otherwise not. A farmer who crops his farm upon this system can get credit from the supply-merchant; otherwise not.

### GIVE HIM A CHANCE

The tenants of our county should be encouraged to buy their own homes.

It is a sad picture to see a good man spend his life on a farm as a tenant, with a large family and no way for him to provide an estate for his children and for himself and wife in old age.

Give the tenant a chance in the race of life. Sell him land at low rate of interest. This will encourage him to make the first payment, and after that is done the way will be open for him.

There should always be a strong tie between landlord and tenant. The children of the latter should be given a chance to make strong men and women.

Nobody knows what the future has in store for these poor boys and girls when they are given a show.

Don't let them have to say "I ain't never had no chance." Come to their rescue today.—The Columbus County News-Reporter.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 41

### THE LESSON OF THE MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS

The state is forging ahead in its efforts to wipe out illiteracy and five hundred more teachers who work all day in the schools with the children have volunteered to work at night free of charge with the illiterate adults who are ignorant of the enlightening power of the twenty-six little letters in our alphabet.

#### Illiteracy a Disease

At least it has been called such, and if so it is a disease that is contracted in early life. Our self-sacrificing teachers are heroically risking their lives in night work to effect a cure.

#### An Ounce of Prevention

It is the heaviest and most effective ounce that was ever put upon the scales. We vaccinate against the small pox, not to cure it but to prevent it, and the doctors are now successfully fighting the dread disease typhoid fever with a preventive rather than with a cure. They tell us that the way to "stamp out" typhoid fever is to prevent it, and hence free anti-typhoid treatment may be had for the asking only.

#### Prevent Illiteracy

This should be the cry of every crusader against illiteracy. The way to stamp

it out forever, as with small pox and typhoid fever, is to prevent it. The cry "prevent illiteracy" should be heard in the day school and in the night school, in the pulpit, on the rostrum, at the street corner and along the highways.

### Compulsory Vaccination Against Illiteracy

Is successfully accomplished the very moment we compel our children to attend school every day in the term. There should be no absences. If we had compulsory school attendance in every county in the state we should soon have no illiteracy in North Carolina.

### Why Compulsory School Taxes

On the ground that ignorance and illiteracy are a disease and a danger why let the children stay out of school at will and grow up ignorant and illiterate and thus later on in life increase the enrollment in the moonlight schools of the future?

### From Moonlight to Sunlight

Let's prevent illiteracy in the youth of today and thus avoid having to treat it in old age when the disease is chronic. Let's fill the sunlight schools of today with children of the land and there will be no need of moonlight schools in the future for any of the grown up people.

eggs. They are a by-product of the home and farm worth far greater attention than we are giving to the matter at present.

### DRAWN BATTLES WITH WHITE ILLITERACY

Between 1900 and 1910, three counties spent money liberally on public schools and struggled bravely with the problem of illiteracy, only to find that they had almost exactly as many white illiterates at the end of the census period as at the beginning of it, as follows:

In Cabarrus, the white illiterates in 1900 were 1653; in 1910 they were 1652.

Caldwell had 2130 white illiterates in 1900 and exactly the same number in 1910.

Carteret had 1143 white illiterates in 1900 and 1144 in 1910.

This state of affairs calls for more school money, better schools, and a still braver struggle.

And they are equal to the task. In 1904-5, the total public school fund in these counties was \$61,858; five years later, it was nearly \$100,000; in 1913-14 it was nearly \$160,000.

### WAGING A LOSING BATTLE

Six counties of the state during the last census period led a sort of forlorn hope in the war against white illiteracy.

In spite of the activity of teachers, school officers, and tax payers, there were 1708 more white illiterates in these counties in 1910 than in 1900, as follows:

Columbus in 1900, white illiterates 2267; in 1910, 2644.

Gaston increased from 2665 in 1900 to 2934 in 1910.

Guilford, from 2241 in 1900, to 2606 in 1910.

Pamlico, from 455 in 1900, to 492 in 1910.

Rutherford, from 2002 in 1900, to 2590 in 1910.

Scotland, from 876 in 1900, to 948 in 1910.

New Mexico alone excepted, North Carolina made greater inroads upon white illiteracy during the last census period than any other state in the union.

But these six counties lost instead of gaining ground in the war upon white illiteracy; and a knowledge of the fact may serve to stir the people of these splendid counties to greater efforts than ever before.

During the last five years of the last census period, the total school fund of these six counties was nearly doubled. In 1913-14, the total school fund was \$587,411, or more than treble the total in 1904-5.

### CONQUERING WHITE ILLITERACY

Between 1900 and 1910, nine counties of North Carolina made remarkable in-

roads upon native white illiteracy. The decrease in number of white illiterates being around 50 per cent in each county.

In Alleghany the white illiterates in 1900, ten years old and over, were 1029; in 1910 they were 524.

Bertie decreased her white illiterates during this period from 1131 to 559; Currituck, from 465 to 298; Dare, from 670 to 238; Gates, from 802 to 357; Graham, from 950 to 318; McDowell, from 1515 to 794; Perquimans, from 501 to 279; and Person, from 1719 to 870.

Splendid records!

### FERTILE BRAINS AND POOR SOILS

Jim Kai, a Chinese coolie, farming in California, spanned the gap from penury to competence in six years—going home to China with \$24,000. Portuguese farmers raise crops on steep hills, apparently impossible to cultivate. An Italian farmer, when he takes a load of produce to town, never drives the empty wagon home, but brings manure. A Japanese truck gardener made \$2,500 clear in one year on two acres.

The American can do all the aliens are doing. He can substitute his mental suppleness for the foreigner's instinctive cunning. Business men and others, new to farming, are doing it in California today.—The Banker-Farmer.

### GERMANY'S GREIVANCE

During the year ending with June 1915, business firms in the United States shipped to Germany and Austria-Hungary 30 million dollars worth of goods and supplies of all sorts; but to the rest of Europe they shipped nearly 1800 million dollars worth.

Our trade with France, Italy, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain was more than doubled during the year, but with Germany and Austria-Hungary it fell from 367 millions the year before to 30 millions in 1914-15.

And thereby hangs many a tale. Figures from the last report of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington.

### WHY NOT?

The Housewives League in Goldsboro is offering two hundred premiums for exhibits of household arts and crafts at the Fair in October—preserves, jams, jellies, breads and cakes of all kinds, sewing, crocheting, embroidery, fancy work, etc.

We expect to see the country homes of Wayne carry off most of these prizes. Why not?

A farmer of this sort, tenant or owner, is self-feeding and self-supporting. Therefore, he is a good credit risk, no matter what the price of cotton may happen to be. His crop-lien is good collateral at the bank.

### The Bankers Did It.

The Texas bankers are deliberately forcing the supply-merchants to force the farmers into diversified farming in order to hold down in Texas the 155 million dollars that has been going out of the state year by year to pay for Western corn and corn products, hay and forage, salt-pork sides, ham and bacon.

The bankers in any cotton or tobacco county in North Carolina can do more in a single year to promote diversified farming than our 63 farm demonstrators can do in a whole life time.

It is good sense and good business policy on part of the bankers.

### A LONG WAY TO GO IN THRIFT

Eleven million, one hundred thousand thrifty people had nearly five billion dollars in the 2,100 banks of the United States on June 30, 1914. That is to say, one person in every nine had something laid away against a rainy day. The average savings deposit was \$444.36.

In North Carolina 56,199 people or only one person in every forty, had money on savings account in our 28 Savings Banks, the average account being \$183.96 and the total \$10,338,466.

The increase over 1913 in the number of savings banks in North Carolina was 2; in the number of depositors, 12,138; and in the amount on deposit, \$2,779,000.

In the number of savings banks, North Carolina ranked 12th; in average account per depositor, our rank was 36th; in total deposits, our rank was 26th.

### How Cotton and Tobacco States Save

Including the savings deposited in the so-called savings banks of Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, the Southern States made the following showing in the last report of the Comptroller of the Currency:

	Total Deposits	Av. Acct.
1. Louisiana	\$17,650,833	\$279.44
2. Tennessee	16,079,166	220.75
3. Georgia	12,491,633	228.17
4. South Carolina	10,873,392	300.56
5. Virginia	10,784,314	244.60
6. North Carolina	10,338,466	183.96
7. Texas	10,019,781	.....
8. Alabama	9,971,424	.....
9. Kentucky	7,361,257	157.29
10. Mississippi	4,908,623	320.20
11. Arkansas	3,798,011	.....
12. Oklahoma	3,306,565	.....
13. Florida	1,580,615	166.27
The total deposits on savings account in these 13 Southern States was \$118,894,135.		

### How a Food and Feed State Saves

The single state of Iowa, which is mainly a farm state well developed in live-stock industries, had \$217,038,520 in her savings banks; or nearly twice as much as the savings of the entire South.

We have a long way yet to go in thrift.

### A SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS

When war broke out in Europe in August of last year we had in sight the largest cotton crop ever raised in the South, more than 17 million bales.

Middling cotton dropped from an average of 13.49 cents a pound in August 1913 to 7.94 cents in August 1914.

All told the crop was nearly six million bales more than the crop of 1909, but it was worth 95 million dollars less. It was nearly two million bales more than the crop of 1913, but was worth 385 million dollars less. North Carolina's share of the loss was around 14 million dollars.

### Why this Enormous Loss

We did not believe that European mills in a time of war could use their customary nine million bales. We did not believe that we could command bottoms enough in which to ship this amount abroad.

We knew that considerably more than

half our crop was distress cotton raised by tenant farmers and small farm owners who could not hold it off the market, and in this way hold market prices upon a fair level. Loss of confidence threatened wholesale bankruptcy in the South, and cotton prices went to the bottom.

We estimated that foreign takings would be four and a half or five million bales at the utmost, that domestic consumption would call for five million bales more, and that our left-over cotton would be some seven million bales at the very least.

### The End of the Story

It now turns out that for the year ending in June, 1915, we shipped abroad 8,426,143 bales or within a few hundred thousand bales of the usual amount; that Southern mills consumed 3,163,000 bales, or more than ever before; that Northern mills consumed 2,618,000 bales, and the entire world 14,134,000 bales.

With our left-over cotton and the 12,000,000 bales in prospect in our fields, we will have this fall barely more cotton than the world consumed during a year of war.

### The Meaning of It

If we had been live-at-home farmers in the South, self-feeding and self-financing for the most part, we might have stored our cotton, toasted our skins comfortably by the winter fires, and waited till the clouds rolled by.

We would have received some \$400,000,000 more for our cotton. More than that, we could have held down at home the 936 million dollars that goes out of the South into the Middle West year by year for grain, hay and forage, beef, pork, and mutton, and the like; or the larger portion of it.

Without immensely larger food and feed crops we can never hope to have permanent farm prosperity in the South, and to establish stable business conditions for landlords, tenants, supply-merchants, bankers and business people of all sorts.

### A Heroic Rally

Last year was a year of hardship in the South, but we have come through this period of adversity with 1,834,000 pigs and 300,000,000 bushels of corn and other grains more than we have raised on our farms at any time since the war.

The South can easily win a safe economic freedom, if only she is driven to it by pinching necessity; the only school-master that ever yet taught such a lesson to any people.

### IMPORTED CHINESE EGGS

The egg crop of the United States last year was worth 700 million dollars; or nearly as much as our seventeen million bales of cotton.

Nevertheless the eggs produced were fewer than we needed for home consumption. For instance we imported 3,600,000 dozen eggs at 15 cents a dozen from Shanghai, China, some 540 million dollars worth. It cost just a little more than 1-1/2 cents a dozen to land them in America.

North Carolina with her mild, short winters has a great advantage over the North and West in the production of