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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

NORTH CAROLINA LEADS

The Danville Register is peeved over the fact that the registration of students at the University of North Carolina runs beyond 1100 this year; while the University of Virginia lags behind with only 972.

LARGE DEMAND AND LOW PRICES

During the eight months ending with August of this year we shipped abroad 6,099,927 bales of cotton, against 3,734,444 bales for the corresponding months ending with August 1914.

Moreover, these six million bales were invoiced to foreign purchasers at an average of 8.76 cents a pound. The growers of cotton would have been happy over prices like this during the lean months of the last year.

Only self-financing farmers can hold their cotton; and self-feeding farmers are self-financing.

ENGINEERS, READ!

Do electrical and steam engineers realize that they can get instruction in their specialties through correspondence courses at the University?

The Bureau of Extension, through the Correspondence Division, is offering two courses in electrical engineering. The cost is small, the benefit great.

Many a man in this state needs but a year's instruction to make him an efficient engineer, drawing twice the wages he now gets. Who would shovel coal all life long when work more congenial and more remunerative awaits the exercise of a little gumption?

Write the Bureau of Extension for full information.

OUR PROGRESS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

According to the forthcoming report of Dr. N. W. Walker, State Inspector of High Schools, 8,986 country boys and girls were enrolled in the State-aided high schools last year; or two and one-half times as many as were enrolled seven years ago when this system of schools was established.

There are at present 214 state high schools in operation. Only five counties are without such schools—Chowan, New Hanover, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Watauga.

These schools have opened the door of opportunity for high school training to thousands of country boys and girls, and it is good for the State that these young people in such large numbers are taking advantage of the opportunities thus afforded them.

STRANGERS LOOKING THIS WAY

Mr. R. G. List, Minneapolis, Minn., wants information regarding a good farm for sale in North Carolina.

Mr. E. S. Fontaine, Home, Pa., writes to know about a position as creamery operator in this State. We wrote that our own excellent dairy school at the A. & M. college was graduating butter makers probably as fast as we need them in the State at present.

Recently we referred to Mr. Hugh McRae in Wilmington, an inquiry from Asbury Park, N. J., about the lands along the lower Cape Fear region.

The University News Letter is receiving such letters in increasing numbers.

Our office ought to have complete files of the county booklets and bulletins issued in North Carolina from time to time. We treasure them and use them as occasion offers.

UNUSUAL AND HOPEFUL

The following item was clipped from the Raleigh Christian Advocate the other day; a rather unusual kind of item in a church paper.

The editor evidently believes that the children of light can afford to make friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; and to give attention to the puzzles, problems and perplexities of the life that now is.

It would be grand to see our church

papers break into the every-day, work-a-day world of wealth, welfare, and well being.

The great problem in a democracy is the conversion of wealth into common-wealth. The church needs to capture the whole realm of wealth—the producers, the processes, and the products; and to work into and out of the work of the world the spiritual significance of life.

BETTER START NOW

Better start that marketing association right now. Here is a good example for co-operative marketing reported to us the other day. Said a farmer:

'About two or three months ago I was in town and saw one of my farmer neighbors sell some hay to a store. I asked him what he was getting for it and he told me \$12 a ton. This week I was at that same store and saw another farmer buying some of that same hay. I was curious to know what he was paying and when I asked him he said \$25 a ton.'

Moral: Isn't it time for farmers to learn more about buying and selling? And isn't it time for farmers in your county to begin organizing a 'marketing association,' as farmers in many progressive counties have done and are doing? Hadn't you better speak to your neighbor about this?—Raleigh Christian Advocate.

SANFORD AND LEE COUNTY

Sanford is generally interested in Lee county and its Commercial Club is doing county-wide thinking these days.

Twenty thousand folders, setting forth the advantages offered to home-seekers by Lee county and its brisk little capital city, will soon be given to the State and country-at-large.

When the farmers, bankers, and business men, the preachers, teachers, lawyers, and doctors of a community get together to thresh out the problems of progress, as they have been doing so earnestly of late in Lee, the future of that community is doubly assured.

When really great things happen anywhere and you look about for the explanation, you find it always in some one man or little group of men who sensibly and bravely stepped into leadership.

Whatever Lee county's resources may be, her largest asset will always lie in such men as Duncan McIver, Monroe, Pardo, Teague, Buchan, Hoyle, Reaves, Spence, Wicker, Jones, Pelton, Hutchins, Judd, and the rest; an uncommonly long list of public spirited citizens.

COMMUNITY NURSES

So far we have learned of community nurses in five cities of North Carolina—Statesville, Goldsboro, Newbern, Greensboro and Wilmington.

But also we have not yet learned of a community nurse supported by a church or a union of churches. This kind of gracious beneficence seems to be left to the municipalities or secular organizations. And still we wonder why.

During September the district nurse in New Bern made 191 visits into necessitous homes, nursing the sick, instructing the households in case of the afflicted and in sanitary matters, helping to lay away the dead, and comforting sorrow stricken homes—at a total cost of \$25.00 a week per case.

It is great work, but ought not the church to be doing it with overflowing philanthropy?

THE CHEAPEST YET

Editor Clark of the Statesville Landmark believes strongly that the righteous equalizing of taxes must begin at home in every county, among individual taxpayers within township lines, and among townships within county lines.

In illustration of this necessity, we present an item taken from the 1915 tax list of a county in his neighborhood: in one township 88,264 acres of land assessed for \$49,445.

This is to say for an average of 56 cents an acre. In another township the average was \$17.39 an acre.

The increase of 15 per cent in this county, ordered by the State Tax Com-

ORGANIZE THE TOWNSHIP

Dr. Clarence Poe

Our township serves no purpose in the world, and is not organized except to have a deputy sheriff or constable to serve as policemen. It has voting boundaries, but it has never been organized anywhere in this country so far as I know, except in New England.

A great part of the progress that New England has made, and the great influence it has wielded in the development of this nation lies in this township system.

Just one great American statesman saw this situation, Thomas Jefferson. He said: "As long as I have breath in my body I will reiterate it time and again. I am going to fight for just two things: one is the education of all the people and the other is the subdivision of counties into wards, the development of the New England system of township government."

His idea was to give every country community about six miles square a government of its own, its own free alderman or commissioners who could occupy the same relation toward the development of that community that your Town Board of Aldermen holds to the town government.

mission, raised these averages to 64 cents in one case and to \$19.99 in the other.

If the taxpayers in this county were acquainted with their tax list these inequalities and injustices would doubtless be adjusted. It is a local family matter so to speak.

Publicity and wide-spread competency of citizenship are a cure for most of our civic and social ills.

SELF-SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The study-courses in a college try out the qualities of a student's mentality. If he happen to be dull or mediocre, they help him to find out whether his spinal cord is a cotton string or a steel rail.

But what Andrew Jackson called the pluck-and-poverty courses try out the student's disposition and character. He soon learns whether he is built with a back-bone or a wish-bone. If he scuffles along bravely, earns his own money, pays his own bills, and sweats his back while he sweats his brain to win his diploma, the chances are that he has had a multiform preparation for success in after life that other students miss in their college careers.

These self-help students at the University are a perennial marvel and inspiration. They serve as waiters and dish washers in Swain Hall, forty of them. They work gardens, cut grass, pile wood, milk cows, build fires, and look after the churches in the village. They clerk in the stores and the post office. They collect bills, set type in the printery, and mail out the University News Letter. They are half-time stenographers and typewriters. They report for newspapers. They run boarding houses, barber shops, and pressing clubs. They solicit laundering, and sell or act as agents for pen-nants, athletic goods, shoes, clothing, phonographs and records. They are keen to turn an honest penny at any kind of odd jobs.

It is an heroic band of some 200 heroic students from year to year, brisk and busy all the time; and everywhere they challenge and receive the wholesome respect of the student body and the faculty.

RICH IN AUTOMOBILES

There were 16,410 automobiles in North Carolina, as shown by the figures of the Secretary of State, for the year ending with last June; or one for every 28 dwellings in the State.

Our mills and factories in 1909 used 378,556 horsepower for productive purposes. Our automobiles last year used around 410,000 horsepower, mainly but not entirely for recreative purposes.

In 1914 we had nearly \$9,000,000 invested in automobiles, and only \$9,078,000 invested in public school property.

Not counting chauffeur salaries and garage rents, our annual bill for the upkeep of motor cars was \$3,726,000;

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PROMOTION BASIS

A teacher was heard to say last summer that she had been promoted because this year she had been promised a fifth grade room while last year she had been teaching the fourth grade. It took considerable time and argument to convince her that she had not, necessarily, been promoted.

Why Not?

The viewpoint of the teacher is a common one, but it is not a true one. In fact, the opposite would be more nearly the truth. It requires skill, training, experience to teach the first four grades of our public schools. When pupils reach the upper grades they will suffer little from the clumsy teacher, especially if they have been in the deft hands of an expert teacher during their primary school years. The unskillful primary teacher will put more wrong kinks into the thought life of little children than a lifetime of study can set right.

Why?

A child in the first years of school life needs to be set right, guided correctly, in ways of thought. The facts taught during these years are fundamental to later acquisition of knowledge. An error of fact in number work, for example, will make for mathematical blunders throughout the child's entire life. An error in the interpretation of printed symbols will remain to hinder and vitiate one's reading for all time. During the primary years children are becoming acquainted with the tools of learning. It is vitally necessary that they secure a correct knowledge of them and of their uses.

A New Basis

Certainly teachers cannot think of promotion as the act of passing them on to a higher grade,—rather it is demotion. Some other basis must be considered for judgment as to professional promotion.

while the money we paid our public school teachers and superintendents was only \$3,428,000. It costs more to run our automobiles than it does to run our schools.

What we spent for automobile tires alone was \$1,575,000. What we invested in school buildings and supplies last year was only \$1,412,000.

As a matter of fact we are not quite so poor as we feel in North Carolina in assessment years.

POOR IN TAXABLE WEALTH

How poor we really are appears from a study of the 1915 tax list in an average North Carolina county that is able to own 103 automobiles, or only one to every 32 families.

Farm land in this particular county is worth \$7.22 an acre—on the tax books.

The farms are being operated with implements and tools worth 52 cents an acre. They are equipped with work-animals, meat and milk animals worth \$277 per farm; or barely the price of one good mule.

The wealth in dogs is encouraging, however. There are 1474. They outnumber the sheep more than two to one.

The real estate and personal property of the four banks amounts to \$15,312.

The culture of the county is represented by libraries, scientific instruments and the like worth 79 cents per inhabitant.

The ability of the people to get down to a cash basis in their business rests upon money in hand amounting to \$1.85 per person.

The investment in automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, pleasure boats, sailing craft, fishing tackles, nets, seines and the like is \$3.70 per inhabitant.

The homes of the county are equipped with household and kitchen furnishings worth upon an average only \$49.41 each.

A Narrow Business Basis

The 1967 farms, the 178 stores, and the 13 domestic corporations had on hand last May agricultural products, goods, wares, and merchandise amounting to only \$15.00 per inhabitant; and this sum includes office equipments and furnishings and the watches, jewelry and all other personal property of the 3244 homes of the county. It is a small basis upon which to live and to do business.

The 1915 tax digest reduces wealth to its lowest terms in this county, and but for the brave exhibit in dogs and automobiles the people might well be in despair about their worldly goods.

And yet this is an average North Carolina county. It ranks 49th in total taxable wealth.

The Simple Fact

The simple fact is, the people of North Carolina pay smaller taxes for state support than the people in any other state of the Union, South Carolina alone excepted.

In these two states the per capita tax for state support in 1912 was \$1.46; the cost, say, of two or three circus tickets.

Per capita state taxes in 1912 in the United States ranged from \$1.46 in North and South Carolina to \$7.98 in California

and \$10.45 in Nevada. The figures for all the states were given in The University News Letter, March 24, 1915.

Our state tax burdens are light; but the inequalities are many and grievous; and they still exist, both within county lines, and among the counties within state lines.

They were not wiped out the other day by the State Tax Commission.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK IN NORTH CAROLINA

In North Carolina the beneficiary of the Smith-Lever Extension Act is the A. and M. College in Raleigh. This year the college will handle \$190,515 all told in work afield among the farmers of North Carolina, and in home economics for the farm-wives.

This total for extension work is greater than that of any other state in the Union, Indiana, Iowa, New York, and Texas alone excepted.

The sources of it are as follows:

Smith-Lever fund, Federal..... \$ 32,953
Smith-Lever fund, State..... 22,953
Federal Dept. of Agriculture, Farmers' Demonstration..... 41,000
Other Bureaus, Federal Department of Agriculture..... 14,220
The State of North Carolina..... 16,674
Counties of the State..... 62,715
The A. and M. College..... nothing
Other (farmers and commercial organizations)..... nothing

Our tremendous moves forward in North Carolina in recent years show the immense value of this work.

The Smith-Lever appropriations for 1915-16 under the Federal Act are \$1,080,000. They increase year by year until in 1923 the annual Federal fund will be \$4,580,000.

The State funds must increase accordingly; so that the farmers of the United States are in a fair way at last of having ample help from the government in the production, protection, preservation and sale of the wealth they produce.

Thirty-three states in the north and west are this year spending 42 per cent of the Smith-Lever fund in direct work with the farm women in behalf of their homes and children—a fundamentally important part of the farm-life problem.

SCHOOL BULLETINS

Many of the schools are issuing a bulletin this fall previous to the opening day giving information as to the courses, text-books required, the list of holidays and vacations, tuition rates, names of teachers, organization of work, etc.

The idea is worthy of emulation. It helps to avoid confusion the first day, it takes the community into confidence, it begets interest in school affairs, it helps systematize the entire year's work.

One of the best bulletins so far sent to the University News Letter, has come from the Hertford Graded Schools, Perquimans county, L. R. Crawford, Superintendent.

Teaching agriculture without a school farm is like playing Hamlet with Hamlet left out.