

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
NEWS LETTER

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NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

OUR NEWSPAPER PUBLIC

In 1915 we had 326 newspapers in North Carolina with a combined circulation of 1,406,214. It is an average of three papers for every home in the state, counting both races.

Back yonder in 1850, we had 51 papers with a combined circulation of only 38,839. That is to say there was only one paper in circulation for every five families upon an average; only one for every three families counting whites alone.

A tremendous increase in our newspaper public in 65 years!

A HARD PROBLEM

In 1850 there were 73,569 white persons in North Carolina, twenty years old and over, who could not read and write, or 29.2 per cent of all the whites of these ages. Our rank in this particular was 31st among the 31 states of the Union.

In 1910, the illiterate native white voters twenty-one years of age and older in North Carolina were 49,619, or 14.1 per cent of the total whites of voting age. Our rank in this particular was 47th among the 48 states. Only Louisiana made a poorer showing. Counting our illiterate white women 21 years old and older, we have more illiterate white adults of both sexes now than we had 65 years ago.

Can it be that our illiterates are the crab-like souls that Victor Hugo describes in *Les Miserables*—"who before advancing light steadily retreat into the fringe of darkness!"

Our Moonlight School Campaign in North Carolina will throw a flood of light on this question.

PACKAGE LIBRARIES FOR DEBATING SOCIETIES

The University Bureau of Extension is prepared to supply package libraries upon the following subjects for debate. Packages are sent free of charge except parcel post charges (usually from six to ten cents each way) upon request, and may be kept two weeks. Requests should be countersigned by the principal of the school or the president of the literary society.

Resolved, That capital punishment should be abolished.

Resolved, That the United States should grant the Philippine Islands their independence.

Resolved, That the United States should extend its system of ship subsidies.

Resolved, That the United States should fortify the Panama Canal.

Resolved, That women in North Carolina should be allowed to vote under the same qualifications as men.

Resolved, That labor unions are beneficial to society.

Resolved, That the Monroe Doctrine should be continued.

Resolved, That a commission form of city government should be adopted in every city in North Carolina having over 7500 inhabitants.

Resolved, That North Carolina should enact a law prohibiting all children under 14 years of age to work in any mill, factory or manufacturing plant.

Resolved, That all international disputes should be settled by an international court of arbitration.

Resolved, That Congress should provide for a system of agricultural credits.

Resolved, That members of the President's Cabinet should have the right to be present and speak in the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That the United States should adopt a system of compulsory military service.

PREPAREDNESS

One of the severest and most widespread epidemics of infectious colds that this country has ever experienced is now in progress.

Dr. C. S. Mangum, the University physician, has recently mailed to every student in the University a card warning him against grippe and colds, and giving timely advice for their prevention, as follows:

The AVENUES OF INFECTION are the THROAT and NOSE. Avoid crowds and especially avoid those who cough or sneeze. Always hold a handkerchief before your mouth or nose when you must cough or sneeze. Spray your nose and

throat with Dobell's Solution night and morning.

The FORTIFICATIONS of health and strength lie in systematic habits. Do not over-eat nor permit yourself to become constipated. Drink water freely and avoid alcohol. Keep your feet dry and your body warm. Spend a few minutes in vigorous exercise in the early morning and again at night; do this with the windows open. Sleep in the fresh air, on a porch or with all your bed room windows open. Stay outdoors as much as possible but keep moving.

The RESERVES and REINFORCEMENTS consist in medical care. Do not try to treat yourself. See a physician promptly. Give the health officer your co-operation.

ABOLISHING THE CROP-LIEN

A debate outline furnished by the class in English 15-16, University of North Carolina.

Resolved: That the crop-lien law should be repealed.

AFFIRMATIVE ARGUMENTS

I. The crop lien law was a necessary outgrowth of Civil War conditions, for

- A. The tenant needed help.
- B. His only security was his future crop.

II. The point of view has changed, for

- A. Instead of helping the tenant it hinders him, for it keeps him in debt to his landlord or merchant, who are frequently the same man.

III. The crop lien law prevents farm progress, for

- A. It fosters the one-crop system under which no farmer can prosper, for the holder of the lien demands a money crop as security.
- B. It keeps the farmer poor, for on eight principal farm supplies, the merchants charge an average of 62 1-2 per cent in interest and profits.
- C. It forces the crop on the market at a time which is usually the worst for the farmer.
- D. The tenant, oppressed as he is, gets all he can out of the soil and so exhausts it.

NEGATIVE ARGUMENTS

I. The same need exists now that existed after the Civil War, for

- A. There are thousands of tenant farmers in the South that need help.

II. The remedy for the abuses of the crop lien law is for the farmer to raise more of his own food supplies.

III. The accusation of extortion on the part of holders of liens is not valid, for

- A. The charge that they demand excessive interest is not proved.
- B. Interest on such loans must be high, for the risk is great, due to uncertain security.
- C. The farmer can protect himself by having his case examined by the court as to his rate of interest.

IV. Bad farming is not a result of the lien but a cause for it, for

- A. Good farming would produce more food supplies and so necessitate smaller liens.

V. A repeal of the law would result in driving many families from the farms to the cities, for

- A. The lien is their only insurance of a living on the farm.

TAX BURDENS IN NORTH CAROLINA

The cost of our State government in 1912 was \$1.46 per inhabitant. It was exactly the same in South Carolina. It was more in 46 states. In Georgia, for instance, it was \$1.92, in Mississippi \$2.29, in Virginia \$3.22, in Wisconsin \$5.27, in California \$7.98, in Nevada \$10.45.

The figures for all the states were published in the University News Letter, March 24, 1915. They were taken from a recent Census Bureau Bulletin.

Our County Tax Burdens

Elsewhere in this issue we give the per capita cost of County governments in the

THE TRUE UNIVERSITY SPIRIT

Dr. Edward Kidder Graham

The true university spirit requires an unconquerable, uncompromising passion for the discovery of new truth for its own sake; it requires also an equally vivid passion for propagating through the youth it instructs the best that has been hitherto thought and said in the world; and it no less requires in the same spirit of free and complete circulation that it extend and release this truth without let or hindrance through the people whose institution it is, that it may quicken them with the creative spirit that it supremely cherishes, and be in turn quickened by their creative and fruitifying spirit.

In this way it not only "turns," in Arnold's phrase, "a stream of fresh and free thought" upon the state's stock notions and habits, but the state turns on the university's stock notions and habits an equally reviving stream of fresh and free thought. So the university would lose none of its fineness and power, its sweetness or light; but it would gain what James warned it that it must have if it would hold its leadership—"the robust tone."

United States in 1912, as they appear in another Census Bulletin given to the public in 1915.

The North Carolina Club has merely re-arranged the figures so as to show the rank of the states in this particular.

In an early issue we shall publish a table arranged from the same source exhibiting the per capita cost of county governments in North Carolina in 1912.

North Carolina Ranks 37th

The cost of county government ranges from 38 cents per inhabitant in Vermont to \$20.69 in California. In North Carolina the average per inhabitant was \$2.99.

Thirty-six states were more heavily taxed for county support.

In Arkansas, Alabama, South Carolina the figures are smaller. In all the other Southern States, they are larger—in Oklahoma \$3.38, in Georgia \$3.61, in Texas \$3.65, in Kentucky \$3.76, in Tennessee \$4.44, in Louisiana \$4.55, in Florida \$7.52.

Where County Costs Are Heaviest

The per capita burden of county government in Oldham county, Ky., in 1912 was \$7.04; in Troup county, Ga., \$7.52; in Dillon county, S. C., \$7.80; in Osage county, Okla., \$8.41; in Monroe county, Mo., \$9.93; in Luna county, N. Mex., \$10.68; in Cecil county, Md., \$11.38; in Polk county, Tenn., \$13.53; in DeSoto county, Miss., \$16.09; in Vernon county, La., \$16.63.

But now look at Pecos county, Texas, with \$45.60 per person invested in public progress and prosperity! And St. Lucie county, Fla., with a county tax burden of \$53.75 per inhabitant!

The heaviest per capita county-tax burden in the United States is \$54.82 in Lincoln county, Montana. Against such figures as these, North Carolina's average of \$2.99 looks small indeed.

Where County Costs are Lightest

In the New England States the per capita cost of county government is small, because county government is here a small detail. The township, or as they say the town, is the real unit of taxation and control. In the South the township is merely a name on the map. Only of late years are we establishing school-tax units smaller than the county.

In New England the county is barely more than a name. Democracy there calls for smaller areas of organization and control; a thing which is worth our thoughtful study in Southern States.

Our Three Big Problems

The three biggest problems in North Carolina are (1) Larger stores of accumulated wealth, (2) Larger public revenues,

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO 58

OUR SCHOOL COMMENCEMENTS

One of the biggest things in North Carolina and one of the most valuable factors in the uplift of the state is the school commencement of modern times. Before the Civil War and for many years following it, great crowds attended the college commencements, for these were practically all of the

General Educational Meetings in reach of the people. But today, nearly every village and county has its annual school commencement, and at least

Ten Times More People

attend these school and county commencements than attend the commencements of the higher educational institutions. These annual country gatherings are

The Mainsprings of Life

in the state, and they are the milestones in the educational process of the land. More nervous yet loyal energy is spent by teachers and pupils in their preparation for

The Commencement Festival

than is spent by any other equal number of people on any other public function. Already, this early in the year, many teachers are writing around for suitable matter for their pupils to present at the next commencement, and soon the long and

and (3) Larger willingness to convert our wealth into wealth.

Our undeveloped resources call for capital. Our farm regions need more cash for operating expenses and marketing purposes. We need improved public roads and highway maintenance funds. We need to invest liberally in public health and sanitation; in whole-time health officers and community nurses; in hospital facilities for our afflicted—the victims of tuberculosis, pellagra, epilepsy, insanity, feeble-mindedness, blindness, deafness, and old age.

We need more money for our orphans and our old soldiers. We need better school advantages for all the people, and immensely increased public library facilities. We need larger support for our Normal Schools, our Agricultural and Mechanical College, and our University.

We need greater wealth, greater public revenues in our state treasury and our county treasuries, and a greater willingness to convert our wealth into welfare and well-being. And our wealth is greater than our willingness.

Making Brick Without Straw

In bygone days North Carolina wrought miracles with meagre tax revenues: but we are now making brick without straw. We are not likely to work any more miracles under present circumstances. We are now at the end of our tether in North Carolina

Tedious But Profitable Drill

for the final display will begin. Along with the music and the singing, and the speaking and the acting there should come something of a more serious and at the same time equally valuable nature. It would be exceedingly

Entertaining and Valuable

to have a few of the pupils in the upper grades prepare short essays on local history. The audience would take great interest in such subjects as Our County's Part in the Revolution; Historic Places in our County; Some Old Schools and Schoolmasters in our County; The Increase of Wealth in our County since the Civil War;

Our Leading Industries

Our best paying Crops; Our Natural Resources; Our present Educational Status; Taxation and Public Education in our County. These subjects are among the many subjects that any audience would like to hear discussed at commencement providing that the reading of no paper would require more than five minutes.

The County Newspaper Always

a willing and powerful friend of the schools will delight to publish these papers and in writing them the children will get together in permanent form much valuable data for future historical students.

Too Little For Public Education

The other day the Wisconsin legislature voted \$7,080,000 for public education alone. It is more than the expenses of our State government for all purposes whatsoever.

The burden of Public Education in North Carolina is \$1.76 per inhabitant. It is less in South Carolina and Mississippi alone. It is more in 45 states. It is \$3.48 in Texas, \$4.15 in Oklahoma, \$7.48 in Nebraska, and \$10.54 in Montana.

As a result, our public school money, per child of school age in 1913-14, was only \$8.01. The per capita fund was less in Mississippi alone. It was more than \$20 per child in 20 States; more than \$30 apiece in 13 states; more than \$40 apiece in 5 states; and in Nevada it was \$52.67 for every child of school age in the State.

How can North Carolina hope to sponge out an overplus of illiteracy with a school fund that averaged only \$8.01 per child of school age in 1913-14?

The school fund averages of Kentucky, Maryland, Louisiana, New Mexico, Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma are more than twice as large as ours in North Carolina.

Without larger wealth, larger public revenues, and larger willingness in North Carolina we must be content to trail the rear in the forward march of American states.

PER CAPITA COST OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, 1912

CENSUS BUREAU BULLETIN, 1915.
Average for the United States \$4.49

Rank	States	Per Capita	Rank	States	Per Capita
1	California	\$20.69	24	New Mexico	\$4.10
2	Nevada	17.18	26	New York	4.09
3	Montana	15.64	27	Minnesota	4.07
4	Arizona	11.78	28	Kansas	3.98
5	Oregon	10.83	29	Kentucky	3.76
6	Idaho	9.57	30	Texas	3.65
7	Washington	9.43	31	Georgia	3.61
8	Colorado	9.19	32	Oklahoma	3.38
9	Wyoming	7.71	33	Wisconsin	3.37
10	South Dakota	7.62	34	West Virginia	3.09
11	Maryland	7.59	35	Pennsylvania	3.06
12	Florida	7.52	36	Michigan	3.05
13	Iowa	7.25	37	North Carolina	2.99
14	North Dakota	6.79	38	Arkansas	2.58
15	Utah	5.93	39	Illinois	2.57
16	Mississippi	5.52	40	Alabama	2.33
17	Nebraska	5.32	41	South Carolina	2.28
18	New Jersey	5.10	42	Virginia	2.13
19	Ohio	5.03	43	New Hampshire	1.71
20	Louisiana	4.55	44	Massachusetts	1.23
21	Tennessee	4.44	45	Maine	1.07
22	Delaware	4.28	46	Connecticut	.68
23	Indiana	4.17	47	Vermont	.38
24	Missouri	4.10		Rhode Island	No report