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# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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## NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

### THE GOOD ROADS INSTITUTE

The Third Roads Institute will be held at the University February 7 to 12. Emphasis this year will be laid on systematic supervision and maintenance of public roads, with illustrated lectures, and demonstrations of the drag and other implements of repair.

A large attendance of road engineers, superintendents, and board officials is expected.

### A RARE DISTINCTION

Dr. Charles H. Herty, Smith Professor of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina, has been re-elected President of the American Chemical Society. It is one of the highest distinctions in the world of American Science.

Outside the Universities of North Carolina and Virginia, the headship of this great society has never been held in the South.

This honor has been held by two men in the University of North Carolina: by Dr. F. P. Venable in 1905, and Dr. C. H. Herty in 1915. Only Columbia University has ever before held this distinction twice.

And now with Dr. Herty's re-election, the honor for the third time comes to our State University.

### EXTENSION LECTURES

Prof. Collier Cobb opened a series of University Extension addresses in Henderson on January 13th, with an illustrated lecture on Old World Highways. The lecture was given in the high school auditorium before a large audience. Five other University professors will make addresses to Henderson audiences in this series. The Woman's Club of Henderson is the organization under whose auspices the lectures are given.

### 312 SCHOOLS ENROLLED

Three hundred and twelve high schools in 93 counties of North Carolina have enrolled with Secretary E. R. Rankin for the approaching contests of the High School Debating Union. The triangular debates will be held throughout the State on March 31st, and the final contest for the Aycock Memorial Cup will be held in Chapel Hill on April 14th.

The contests of the Union from first to last will be participated in by fully 2,000 student debaters, and the total audiences will number 75,000 North Carolinians.

Buncombe County leads the State with an enrollment of 13 schools. Robeson comes next with 12, and Guilford follows with 10. Alamance has 9 and Mecklenburg 8. Johnston, Nash and Wake have 7 each. Gaston, Iredell and Union have 6 each. Beaufort, Durham, Cleveland, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Vance, Warren and Wayne have 5 each enrolled.

### DECLAIMING CONTEST

The third annual declaimers' contest among the schools of Ashe, Caldwell and Watauga counties was held at the Appalachian Training School on Saturday, November 20th.

All the declaimations were taken from the University Extension Bureau Bulletin, and were creditably rendered.

The girls' prize of a five-dollar gold piece was won by Blanche Sherrill of Oak Hill and the five-dollar prize for the boys was won by Bryan Dickson of Silas Creek, Ashe county.

Thus are being made devotees of our democratic educational system, — free schools, publicly supported to provide an equal opportunity for all the children of all the people.

### HEALTH WORK SPREADING

Supt. C. G. Credle of Moore county writes that at the beginning of the current year all the children in the Carthage Graded School were examined for diseases of eyes, ears, noses and throats by Dr. M. R. Gibson of Raleigh.

As a result of this examination about 40 per cent of the children were found defective in one or more of these particulars. Many of these children have been treated with most favorable results.

### Larger Results

All this was done under the direction of the Carthage Betterment Association.

## TO ALL GOOD MEN

Dr. Edward Kidder Graham

There have been, during the past year, many inspiring evidences that we are coming more and more to see that true loyalty to the University consists not merely in pride in the institution, nor merely in love for it as our Alma Mater; but, also, and mainly, in our personal devotion to the high things for which the institution stands and our practical service in making these things prevail.

This devotion we share with all good men everywhere, whose aims and ideals are kindred, and with every agency that seeks to make them effective in the life of the State. The essential character of the University is cooperation in its fullest and deepest sense. It is the institution for expressing in intelligent and constructive terms all of those varied aspects of human effort that make complete and united the life of the State.

Adequate equipment, therefore, to do its work with freedom and vigor it asks not in any selfish measure, but as the heart of the general good.—The President's Report for 1915.

property of the county was worth \$8,400; in June 1915, there were 14 automobiles valued at \$9,400. Which means, of course, that investment in education has not yet bankrupted us anywhere in North Carolina.

### OUR COUNTY TAX BURDENS

The University News Letter of March 24, 1915, contained a table showing the per capita cost of State government in North Carolina in 1912, as compared with other states of the Union.

Our issue of January 19, 1916, contained a similar table showing the per capita cost of county government in the various states of the Union in 1912. Here it appeared that the average cost of county government in North Carolina was \$2.99 per inhabitant, against an average of \$4.99 in the country-at-large. The per capita burden of county government was larger in 36 states.

### County Costs in North Carolina

Elsewhere in this issue is a table showing the per capita cost of government in the counties of North Carolina in 1912. These figures are taken from a 1915 Census Bureau Bulletin on County Revenues, Expenditures and Public Properties. They were re-arranged in The North Carolina Club headquarters to show the rank of our counties in this particular.

### Least in Yadkin; Largest in Iredell

The per capita cost of our county governments in 1912 ranges from \$1.36 in Yadkin to \$6.91 in Iredell.

Yadkin is not the poorest county in the State; in per capita country wealth 71 counties are poorer. Nor is Iredell the richest county in North Carolina; in per capita country wealth 10 counties are richer. In country wealth per person they are not very far apart. Iredell with \$377 ranks 11th, and Yadkin with \$314 ranks 27th.

### Iredell a Progressive County

Iredell invests liberally in public education and improved public roads; two elementary factors in progress and prosperity. In 1910, only six counties in the State had less illiteracy among native whites; and on January 1, 1915, more than two-fifths of the entire public road mileage was improved—295 miles were graded, and 275 of these miles were surfaced. Only twelve counties made a better showing.

She invests in the medical inspection of schools. She is one of the 15 counties that employ rural school supervisors who keep the club work of the boys and girls going with effectiveness and multiply many times over the value of every dollar spent in public education.

Aside from the 20 cent school tax, which is uniformly levied in all the counties, she raised by local taxation for her schools in 1912-13 nearly \$20,000. She spent nearly \$5,000 for new country

## UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO 59

### THE POINT OF VIEW

Have you ever considered this matter of public education, elementary and secondary, as a business proposition? Have you ever tried to grasp the magnitude of the capital invested? Have you ever considered the sources from which this revenue is derived? What business principles apply, or should apply to the handling of this business? These are all questions worthy of careful consideration.

### The Basis

Of course the basis for the consideration of public education from this viewpoint must be the financing of the system. Of course, too, there must be recognition of the fact that free, public education is a function of the state and not of the local town or district on the one hand or of the Federal Government on the other. These considerations are fundamental.

### A Business Necessity

It is readily recognized that every business must have capital upon which to do

business. So must there be capital for the business of public schools. This capital is usually considered of two sorts, investment capital and operative capital.

### Investment Capital

Investment capital in the commercial world is that capital represented by buildings, sites, machinery, raw material, etc. In the school business this sort of capital is represented by permanent school funds, unsold school lands, buildings and sites used for school purposes.

### Operative Capital

By operative capital is meant that capital which makes a going business; money in the bank, profits from the business, interest on the investment capital, any revenue that keeps the business going. In the school business this operative capital is derived from the income from permanent school funds and unsold school lands, from state tax or appropriation, from local tax or appropriation, and from miscellaneous sources like bequests, endowments, subscriptions and the like.

school buildings. She had \$62,385 invested in rural school property; and 66 of her schools were equipped with modern furniture.

She voted bonds for The Statesville Air Line Railway and now she joins Catawba in building a \$15,000 bridge over the Catawba river. For many years she has supported the work in farm demonstration.

Iredell has been investing in brave, big ways in law and order, progress and prosperity.

And she is reaping her reward in better schools, better churches, increased population, new farm enterprises, livestock associations and silos, cream routes all over the county and a creamery, larger business for the trade centers, greater prosperity, and larger social outlook.

### New Hanover Ranks High

New Hanover stands next to Iredell in per capita cost of county government. Her rate is \$5.27 per inhabitant.

New Hanover employs a whole-time school nurse. She keeps a food inspector busy the whole year around. She has a modern abattoir, a reduction plant, and well equipped meat markets. The children in the city and country schools undergo medical inspection. She has more sanitary closets than any other county in the State.

The city and the country are enjoying the fruits of these investments—better health, clean homes, and a low death rate. Since 1911 her smallpox cases have fallen from 800 to none; and her death rate has dropped from 29.4 per 1,000 inhabitants to 16.4. Public funds fairly raised and effectively expended are an investment in social well-being.

The natives of Dahomey pay no taxes at all; but then most people would rather live in New Hanover or Iredell county, North Carolina.

## COUNTY TAX BURDENS IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1912

CENSUS BUREAU BULLETIN, 1915

Average for the State \$2.99; for the U. S. \$4.99

Rank	County	Per Capita	Rank	County	Per Capita
1	Yadkin	\$1.36	50	Madison	2.63
2	Surry	1.38	51	Hyde	2.67
3	Gates	1.41	52	Currituck	2.74
4	Burke	1.52	52	Catawba	2.74
5	Stokes	1.59	54	Pitt	2.82
6	Wilkes	1.64	55	Haywood	2.83
7	Ashe	1.65	55	Montgomery	2.83
8	Carteret	1.81	57	Cleveland	2.84
9	Davie	1.86	58	Clay	2.85
10	Cherokee	1.88	59	Moore	2.91
11	Davidson	1.89	60	Northampton	2.93
12	Chowan	1.92	61	Vance	2.94
13	Caswell	1.93	61	Columbus	2.94
13	Rutherford	1.93	63	Washington	2.95
15	Pasquotank	1.94	64	Wilson	2.98
15	Warren	1.94	65	Alamance	3.00
17	Harnett	1.95	66	Hertford	3.06
18	Chatham	1.97	67	McDowell	3.19
19	Bladen	2.00	67	Lenoir	3.19
19	Wayne	2.00	67	Guilford	3.19
21	Greene	2.02	70	Onslow	3.23
22	Randolph	2.06	71	Scotland	3.24
23	Martin	2.07	72	Dare	3.25
24	Jones	2.08	73	Rockingham	3.28
25	Lincoln	2.10	74	Macon	3.31
26	Johnston	2.11	75	Edgecombe	3.40
26	Alleghany	2.11	76	Richmond	3.43
28	Alexander	2.12	77	Swain	3.50
29	Graham	2.15	78	Pender	3.51
30	Lee	2.16	79	Craven	3.57
31	Yancey	2.17	80	Granville	3.73
32	Perquimans	2.18	81	Cabarrus	3.74
32	Duplin	2.18	82	Mecklenburg	3.76
34	Person	2.26	83	Forsyth	4.01
35	Stanly	2.27	84	Gaston	4.12
36	Franklin	2.31	85	Anson	4.30
37	Sampson	2.32	86	Wake	4.52
38	Nash	2.36	87	Transylvania	4.56
39	Union	2.37	87	Henderson	4.56
39	Halifax	2.37	89	Durham	4.69
41	Pamlico	2.38	90	Rowan	5.00
42	Bertie	2.43	91	Buncombe	5.20
42	Orange	2.43	92	New Hanover	5.27
44	Beaufort	2.51	93	Iredell	6.91
45	Tyrrell	2.53			
46	Brunswick	2.57			
46	Polk	2.57			
46	Jackson	2.57			
49	Camden	2.59			

Per capita cost not computed for Avery, Caldwell, Mitchell, Watauga, Hoke, Robeson, and Cumberland counties, because of changes in boundary lines since 1910.