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# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, J. J. deR. Hamilton, L. R. Wilson, L. A. Williams, R. H. Thornton, G. M. McKie. Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

## NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

### GREAT WEALTH PRODUCERS

Our farmers produce enormous wealth from year to year. For instance, our grain crops, hay and forage, and potato crops in North Carolina last year amounted to \$86,201,000, as shown by the December Federal Crop Report.

The total resources of 417 state banks, private banks, savings banks and trust companies in North Carolina in 1915 amounted to \$87,660,324 as shown by our Corporation Commission.

That is to say, our farmers in a single year produce nearly as great wealth in food and feed crops as our banks, other than national, have been able to accumulate in 250 years of state history.

### FORGING AHEAD IN FARM CREDITS

Two Rural Credit Unions in Mecklenburg at Carmel and Sharon, two in Union at Eureka and Downing Creek, and one at Lowe's Grove in Durham county, have opened their doors for business. Cary, Bahama in Durham county, and two other communities in Mecklenburg are getting ready to organize.

Five Rural Credit Societies, organized and ready for business, put North Carolina ahead of all the other states of the Union in this particular; that is to say, not counting similar organizations among the Jewish farmers of the North.

The bankers in Charlotte and Durham have been generously interested in these farm credit organizations. Mr. W. R. Camp, the State superintendent of Co-operative Enterprise has had the enthusiastic and able support of Mr. John Sprunt Hill, the Durham banker, and Mr. J. L. Morehead, the attorney-at-law.

Mr. Hill is working at the problems of rural credit in North Carolina with the fine fervor of an old Testament prophet.

### OUR GOOD ROADS INSTITUTE

The North Carolina Road Institute at the University Feb. 7-12 brought to Chapel Hill 128 delegates from 45 counties in the State and six men from other states to consider problems of highway construction and betterment. The entire week was spent in the study of problems affecting road building in the State, with special attention to the qualifications for highway engineers, the use of convicts in road construction, good roads in other lands, the patrol system, the use of the road drag and other road machinery, surfacing materials, bridges and culverts and many other details of road building and maintenance.

Field demonstrations daily helped to enforce some of the suggestions made in the speeches and papers. Many manufacturers of road machinery had exhibits on the grounds. Cement roads received attention, and in fact all the newest and most promising methods of road making.

The addresses of Dr. D. H. Winslow, the national superintendent of road construction, were especially helpful and inspiring.

### SCHOOLS FOR THE MILL VILLAGES

Thirty-one mills in North Carolina, located beyond the reach of town and city school systems, have invested \$199,500 in school buildings for the mill village children. In addition to the regular public school funds received by these schools, the mill owners spend \$36,743 a year for their maintenance. This contribution of the mills amounts to \$7.54 apiece for the 4,873 pupils in average annual attendance.

One mill located in a town pays \$1,103 of the \$1,451 raised by the special school tax; another so located pays 40 per cent and another pays 90 per cent of the local school tax. In the last instance, the mill property becomes responsible for a like proportion of the \$20,000 school bond issue.

These details come from an editorial in the New York Commercial, quoted in Cotton, a monthly published in Atlanta.

We have around 415 textile mills in North Carolina, employing 55,000 operatives. If they are all generously interest-

ed in this way in schools for the children of their mill families, it makes a significant story. We should be glad to have the details.

### THE UNIVERSITY COMMISSION

On January 4 and 5, the University Commission on Race Relations was a guest of honor at Trinity College and the University of North Carolina.

The members and advisory members of this Commission are Dr. J. H. Dillard, Charlottesville, Va.; President E. A. Alderman, University of Va.; President S. C. Mitchell, Delaware College; Chancellor D. C. Barrow, University of Ga.; Dean J. H. Hoskins, University of Tenn.; Chairman elect; Dean W. S. Sutton, University of Texas, retiring chairman; W. M. Hunley, Virginia Military Institute, Secretary; E. C. Branson, University of N. C.; Josiah Morse, University of S. C.; Director J. H. DeLoach, Georgia Experiment Station; Dean J. J. Doster, University of Ala.; W. L. Kennon, University of Miss.; W. O. Scroggs, University of La.; and D. Y. Thomas, representing C. H. Brough, University of Ark.

#### The Purposes of It

The Commission is an open-minded body of Southern scholars bent (1) upon sounding public opinion concerning race problems in the South, (2) hearing the conclusions of thoughtful Southern people in this field of thinking, (3) stimulating and directing college men in the study of race problems, and (4) speaking to and for college constituencies upon clear issues.

They are not investigators; other agencies are engaged in that work. They are not retained attorneys for any special set of opinions. They are hunting for the truth, whatever it is; and they are declaring it vigorously whenever they find it.

For instance, the Commission has just spoken to the college men of the country on the subject of lynching, and its utterances have been given the widest publicity in the public press. In this matter the Commission is standing with the press of the South, the clergy, the courts and brave county officials.

#### Hearing From Trinity and the University

At Trinity the Commission was addressed by President Few and Drs. Brooks, Boyd, Laprade, and Glasson; and at the University by Drs. Battle, Dean Stacy, Dean Noble, Drs. Wilson, Williams, Chase, Hamilton, and Henderson. The discussion was so interesting that no time was left to hear from Dean Raper and Profs. Toy, Wagstaff, Rankin, Daggett and Thornton, who were present and listed for addresses by Dean Sutton, the Chairman.

### INSURANCE LOANS ON FARM LANDS

The item in our columns the other day about insurance company loans, at low rates of interest, on farm lands seems to have taken our readers by surprise; especially the total of these loans—nearly \$700,000,000. They found further surprise in the fact that \$548,000,000 or seven-eighths of this grand total has gone to the farmers of the 12 north central states, \$150,000,000 to Iowa alone, and that insurance loans on farm land in North Carolina amounted to only \$2,267,000.

Heretofore the insurance companies have said, "Such loans are unsafe in your State, especially in the cotton and tobacco areas. You have too little livestock, too little diversification, too great a waste of soil fertility, too much worn out and abandoned farm land, 13,000,000 acres of this sort in North Carolina! We cannot lend on land in an area where farming is based on soil robbery, because our collateral depreciates in value."

#### Our New Farm Credit Bases

But our \$9,000,000 gain in livestock and our \$40,000,000 increase in food and feed crops since the census year establish another credit basis for agriculture in North Carolina. Collateral is safer, interest payments surer, and foreclosures fewer.

As a result the insurance companies are looking this way and beginning to invest

## THE FULLNESS OF OUR DAY

Henry W. Grady

When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pastures, and disturbed by no creditor and enslaved by no debt shall sit amid his teeming gardens, and orchards, and vineyards, and dairies, and barnyards, pitching his crops in his own wisdom, and growing them in independence, making cotton his clean surplus, and selling it in his own time, and in his chosen market, and not at a master's bidding, getting his pay in cash and not in a receipted mortgage that discharges his debt but does not restore his freedom—then shall be breaking the fullness of our day.

Great is King Cotton! But to lie at his feet while the neurer and grain-raiser bind us in subjection, is to invite the contempt of man and the reproach of God. But to stand up before him and amid grain crops and smokehouses wrest from him the magna charta of our independence, and to establish in his name an ample and diversified agriculture, that shall honor him while it enriches us—this is to carry us as far in the way of happiness and independence as the farmer, working in the richest fields, can carry any people.

liberally in farm land mortgages bearing low total interest rates. One insurance company through one agency has loaned our farmers in this way some \$900,000 to date, at an average rate more than one per cent less than the State average of 7.7 per cent.

### Insurance Company Investments in North Carolina

And it is time. What the insurance companies have loaned on farm land in North Carolina so far is a mere bagatelle—\$2,267,000, or less than a third of one per cent of their total loans to American farmers. During the year ending April 1, 1915, insurance companies of all sorts collected fourteen and a half million dollars in premiums in North Carolina and paid in death claims, fire and other losses, less than seven million dollars.

A good question to ask the insurance agent who entertains you delightfully from time to time is, "What has your company invested in North Carolina?"

### OUR MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS

So far, 638 Moonlight schools have been organized and conducted in 50 counties of North Carolina and 1,000 teachers have been engaged in teaching 5,540 pupils, says Mr. N. C. Newbold, the state rural school agent, in the Washington Daily News.

### SAFER SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The time has come for school authorities in North Carolina to consider very carefully the safety of the school buildings they erect. The day when any sort of a box would do has passed. The lives of our boys and girls are too sacred and too dear for us to neglect their protection.

The Insurance Commission at Raleigh is interested in the matter and before buildings are constructed should be called into consultation about Tower Stairways. Write to Mr. James R. Young, Raleigh, N. C.

### IREDELL DOING THINGS

Superintendent R. M. Gray writes to us to say, "One of our progressive rural schools, Cedar Grove, in Olin Township has been lighted with electricity, and running water put in. I am making an effort to have each school place a neat sign board with the name of the school, Township and District painted on it, and in a conspicuous place."

Iredell has long been famed as The County That Does Things. We rejoice to know that it is a county that still does things. Congratulations to Superintendent Gray!

## UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 62

### WHAT ABOUT IT?

After all, why consider all these figures and statistics about our investment in schools? Is it a waste of perfectly good time or has it some sense and meaning? Let us see.

We surely are not receiving a due return in the United States upon our investment capital. Can anything be done? Who has charge of the investment of these funds? We wonder if anyone is really interested in getting the most out of a sure investment of them.

#### Our Investment Capital

One thing is sure, North Carolina is using her permanent school fund to the very best advantage. Of course you know that the building of a new schoolhouse every day for a period of twelve years has been made possible because we have used this permanent school fund as a loan fund, drawing interest, to those districts most in need of this assistance.

No one objects to the way North Carolina is using this part of her investment capital. We would like to know how much revenue we derive from our \$300,000 worth of unsold school land. Are we making the most of this investment?

#### Our Operative Capital

Are we doing all we might to make our

schools a going business? It is recognized that we are doing better all the time. The question is, Are we making the most of our business? Are we putting every cent we can rake and scrape together into this most important work of our state government?

Are we depriving ourselves of the luxuries, are we cutting at some other expense bills and turning the saving into operative capital for this business? Have we strained every point, loaded ourselves to the fullest extent, and realized all we can for this big business?

#### After All

If we have done all these things, if we are doing our utmost in this respect and can afford only \$1.76 per capita of population as operative capital in this business, then we had better quit talking about how rich and full of resources is our Old North State. If we are one of the richest states in the nation we should hang our heads in shame that we care so little for our human resources.

We believe the citizens are not doing all in their power to increase our operative capital. We believe our resources will warrant a larger absolute and relative investment in operative capital.

### FIRE!

Says the Insurance Commissioner for North Carolina: "In America we burn twelve schoolhouses and two colleges every week. In the United States, a fire occurs every day in some school. Frequently the lives of our children are saved simply because the fire occurs while the school is not in session."

When we build new schoolhouses in North Carolina are we taking sufficient caution to protect the children from fires? Are our school buildings fireproof? Write to Mr. James R. Young at Raleigh and let him help you plan your buildings so as to save the kiddies."

### LOCAL TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS

For the school year of 1913-14 local taxation for schools in North Carolina counties shows some interesting characteristics.

Four counties raised between \$50,000 and \$76,000; eight between \$25,000 and \$50,000; six counties between \$20,000 and \$25,000; twelve between \$15,000 and \$20,000; twenty between \$10,000 and \$15,000; twenty-two between \$5,000 and \$10,000; twenty between \$1,000 and \$5,000; five between \$500 and \$1,000; Avery and Watauga each raised less than \$500.

No county raised over \$76,000. Wake leads the State with \$75,830, while Guilford, Forsyth and Buncombe follow closely in the order given.

#### Comparisons

Carteret, next to the poorest county in the State in per capita country wealth raised \$6,700.19 by local taxation for schools. Alleghany, the richest county in the State in per capita country wealth raised only \$425.39 by the same means for the same purpose.

Scotland, the second richest county in per capita country wealth raised only \$9,943.69. Think it over.

### RURAL LIBRARIES

According to the Reports of State Superintendent Joyner it appears that for the year 1913-14 the expenditure for rural libraries was less, absolutely, by \$664, than in 1909-10.

More than this, the relative amount spent for rural libraries was two-tenths of one per cent less this last year than five years ago.

Can it be possible that the libraries in our rural schools have become sufficient-ly complete? A visit to our rural schools would not seem to bear out the truth of the statement! What is the trouble?

### SCHOOL FOR APPRENTICES

In these days of big business a boy on leaving school, in the cities especially, is very liable to take up with blind-alley jobs, with the result that at twenty-one

he has made little advancement and is in danger of becoming a job-hunter to the end of the chapter.

There has been a great hue and cry for the good old days of the apprenticeship system. Much has been written and said concerning this whole question. It remained for the Curtis Publishing Company, in 1913, to point the way out amid the maze of opinion concerning the matter.

In connection with their printing business this company has devised a working plan for educating journeyman printers through a modification of the old apprenticeship system.

The details of the plan are explained in a pamphlet, The Curtis School of Printing for Apprentices, which will be sent free upon application to the Curtis Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Write for it! It is interesting and instructive.

### ELON AND THE HOME TOWNSHIP

The Elon College authorities, assisted by Major W. A. Graham and his co-workers in the State Department of Agriculture, the A. & M. College, and the Experiment Station, have planned a great Community Service Day at Elon on February 26 for the people of Boon Station township in Alamance.

The farmers, the business people, the teachers, the Sunday school and church workers are invited to gather for an all day program of speaking, athletic events, and an open basket dinner.

It is inspiring to see our colleges strike hands with the home communities in solving their problems and puzzles of life and business. Working every man over against his own house was Nehemiah's way of re-building the walls.

We ought to have a thousand such events in as many schools, churches, and colleges all over North Carolina. When personal concern broadens into community concern and activity it evidences spiritual growth in individuals and institutions alike.

### IT CAN BE DONE

The following is an exact reproduction of a letter written by a thirty-nine year old pupil, who attended one of our Moonlight schools for six nights:

Crouse, N. C. Jan 19 1916

Dear mr walker  
I go to the moonlight school mr Thorn is my teacher I can read some in my Bible and add some figures I am thirty nine years old and never wrote a letter tell last week if you have time I wish you would write me a letter  
your friend  
Tom Sheed

The original is perfectly legible and every word in the above is reproduced exactly as in the original copy. It is proof positive that it is never too late to learn.