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NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

THE JULY EXTENSION CIRCULAR

The July Circular of the University Extension Bureau bears the title, Our Carolina Highlanders. As usual the edition is small. It will be mailed out free upon application.

The headings are (1) Our Highlanders are not a Peculiar People, (2) A Coming, not a Vanishing Race, (3) A New Era in the Hill Country, and the Challenge to Mountain Workers, and (4) The Type of Education Needed.

This circular sums up the two years of particular study put upon our Hill Country Civilization, in the headquarters of the North Carolina Club at the University.

Drop us a post card if you want it.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AT THE A. & M.

Four events of state-wide importance occur at the A. & M. College in Raleigh, August 22-31: (1) a three-day school for the members of the Boys' Clubs, from the 22nd to the 25th, (2) the annual conference of the ninety-odd Farm Demonstration agents of the State, (3) the Farmers' Convention headed by Roger A. Derby of Jackson Springs, August 29-31, and (4) at the same time the Convention of Farm Women.

The Extension Farm News of July 22 is devoted entirely to the various programs. The schedule of events is exceedingly attractive. It ought to be read in every farm home in the state. Write for it. It offers a charming vacation for the whole family.

We heartily wish that the limited space of the University News Letter permitted us to reproduce these significant programs in full.

THE FATHERS TOO

The enrollment in poultry, pig, and corn clubs in North Carolina for the past two years has exceeded five thousand each year. Besides these main clubbers there are scattering cotton, peanut, and potato clubs.

The boys' fathers are taking off their coats and getting ready to show the youngsters that they are also in the better-production race, although a little late in starting.—Farm and Fireside.

A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM

New Brunswick, Canada, is a little more than half the size of North Carolina, and has about an eighth of our population; but during the year ending in March of this year her exports foreign and domestic exceeded her imports by 116 million dollars.—Federal Commerce Report, July 21.

It is an average of \$360 per inhabitant—for a single year, mind you! In two hundred and fifty years in North Carolina we have managed to save and accumulate a per capita country wealth in farm properties amounting to only \$322. It is about one-third of the average for the country-at-large.

Evidently our outgo is too near our income from year to year in our farm regions. Our farm wealth is too little and our yearly increases are too small. This simple, single fact is a challenge to the intelligence of all our people—farmers, bankers, and other business people, and especially teachers and preachers whose success depends largely upon the wealth and the willingness of the communities they serve.

It is a big problem. The North Carolina Club at the University has been puzzling at it for two years, and the longer they work at it the bigger it gets. But it is a fundamental problem and it calls insistently for solution if North Carolina is to move up among the foremost states in the Union.

AN IMPORTANT NEW BOARD

The Federal Land Loan Board created by our new Rural Credits Law consists of the Secretary of the Treasury ex-officio and four members appointed by the President.

We wonder a little why the Secretary of Agriculture was not made an ex-officio member of the Farm Land Banking Board.

This Land Loan Board ought to be

composed of men who are competently schooled and skilled in the big general subjects of finance, banking, and credit; but also they ought to have a competent acquaintance with Farm Land Banking, and a proper attitude toward the new field that the Federal Government is venturing to enter with a new kind of banking; new, at least, in the United States although old enough in the old world countries.

The South over, no other man so perfectly satisfies all the requirements of membership on this Board as Mr. John Sprunt Hill of Durham. If men of this type are appointed the farmers of the United States may hope for the best that is possible for them under our new law.

THE BANKS ARE HELPING

The papers of late have noted the general interest of the banks in better agriculture and greater farm prosperity in North Carolina.

In Gaston county the First National Bank of Gastonia, The Bank of Belmont, The Mount Holly Bank, and the First National Bank of Cherryville are backing the Pig Clubs with pigs and prizes.

Both the banks of Warrenton in Warren county are doing the same thing.

In Catawba county, The Hickory Bank and Trust Company offers to start an endless chain of pigs for any number of club boys.

In Guilford, The American Exchange National Bank offers to finance 10 pig club boys.

In Forsyth, The Wachovia Bank and Trust Company offers prizes in an annual state-wide hay growing contest.

In Lee, The Bank of Sanford has distributed 100 gallons of highbred seed corn.

Doubtless there are others. The University News Letter will be glad to know what they are doing.

BABY BEEF CLUBS

We found in Mississippi the other day that the banks of the state are quite generally backing the Baby Beef Clubs.

For many reasons, Beef Clubs are more important in the South than Fig Clubs. For instance, lean meat—beef, mutton, and poultry—needs to be a tremendously increased item of common daily diet. In 55 country homes in Gaston county in 1913 the Federal Department of Agriculture found that the average annual consumption of meat per person was 122 pounds; which, by the way, is 34 pounds below the average for the United States.

But the significant thing was the fact that this total consisted of 120 pounds of pork and only 2 pounds of beef!

Pellagra threatens to be a devastating scourge in our country regions. Last year there were 75,000 cases in the United States and 7,500 deaths—mainly in the South; in North Carolina, 551 deaths.

This dread disease is sourced, says Dr. Goldberger of the U. S. Public Health Service, in an ill-balanced diet; too much corn bread, fat meat, molasses, and the like, and too little beef, mutton, poultry, eggs, milk, pease, and beans. And the cure lies in a well-balanced diet.

Domestic beef production needs to be stimulated in North Carolina as in Mississippi.

Why not Baby Beef Clubs as well as Pig Clubs in North Carolina? Cannot our banks take the lead?

BLADEN'S HEALTH COMMENCEMENT

There have been eighty-odd county school commencements this year in North Carolina.

But Bladen is perhaps the first county in this or any other state to hold a County Health Commencement.

It marked the close of a three-month campaign against pellagra and other preventable diseases, under the direction of Dr. T. M. Jordan.

The events were a picnic dinner, addresses by prominent men, essays and speeches by the young people, and the award of prizes for the best essays on public health.

These prizes amounted to eighty dollars in gold and were given by seventy public spirited people of the county. A

BETTER SUPPORT NEEDED

Dr. Archibald Johnson

Our country churches, as a rule, do not feel the obligation to support their pastors. They think the pastors ought to support themselves, and accept with thankful hearts the little the churches dole out to them of their surplus pocket change. The churches would resent this charge but it is true nevertheless.

A hundred and fifty members, after a mighty struggle raising one hundred and fifty dollars for the preacher for a year's service, means exactly what I have described. In their hearts they think a pastor ought to find his own living and preach once a month for the dime they carry in their vest pockets to church on Sunday morning!

How to open the eyes of the people in our country churches to the Scripture truth that "They that preach the gospel should live of the gospel" is the fundamental and essential thing before us; and until that is done we need not expect any further development among our country churches.

ten-dollar gold prize was awarded by the State Health Board to the school that had the largest number of its pupils present on this occasion.

Hurrah for Bladen.

BUILT-TO-BURN

There are 250,000 school buildings of one sort or another in the United States. A fire occurs every day in some school.

Built-to-Burn ought to be written over the doors of three-fourths of them. Two colleges and twelve school houses are burned in the United States every week.

In North Carolina the average is 36 school buildings burned each year. So said Mr. James R. Young, our State Insurance Commissioner, to the University Summer School teachers the other day.

If the buildings that house our children for five days of the week are fire-traps, it is time for the school public to wake up in North Carolina.

Mr. Young furnishes information about safe school buildings and will arrange with the State Department of Public Instruction to furnish plans for smaller buildings free of cost.

THE BROWN MOUSE

In these times of forty-day floods of pen-poison, when, as Dr. Burroughs says, the worst smellers are the best sellers, it is refreshing to read The Brown Mouse, by Herbert Quick, Bobbs Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

A charming little love story is woven into an account of a country school fitted to country life by a home-bred country lad. The story is of a sort with Gene Stratton Porter's Laddie, Freckles, and the rest.

All these books ought to be in country homes everywhere; particularly in the homes of country school trustees and county school board members. There is, by the way, a dearth of entertaining, inspiring books for the young people in our country homes.

Mrs. Robert E. Ranson, the Carolina genius who charms the University Summer School with her twilight story-telling hours, will shortly give us the story of The Brown Mouse.

YADKIN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

Mr. Paul B. Eaton of Yadkin, a student at the University of North Carolina, has just finished a remarkable study of his home county.

The chapters are that he has assembled in twenty-two written pages more of accurate information about Yadkin county than the oldest inhabitant ever dreamed of.

His chapters cover: 1. History, a brief sketch; 2. Resources—timber, mineral, and water-power; 3. Industries; 4. Facts (1) About the Folks, (2) About Schools, (3) About Wealth and Taxation, (4) Farm Conditions, (5) Farm Practices, (6) Food and Feed Production, (7) The

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

LETTER SERIES NO. 84

SUMMER WORK

It is rather a common delusion that school work is neither possible nor necessary during the summer months. Somehow or other folks have come to think of education as a very limited affair. Nothing can be more untrue.

During the time when school is not in session (and that ought not to be over three months every year at the most), there is work to do for everyone connected with our schools. Just think about it a minute.

Mr. Committeeman

What can the members of the school committees do? Well, is that schoolhouse out there in the woods locked and are the windows properly protected against the ravages of destructive vagrants? Do you know if the house needs to be shingled or painted? Is the flue safe? Are there any little repairs needing to be made—a few panes of glass set, a new hinge on one of the doors, a little tinkering done to some of the desks.

Local Market Problem, and 5. Where Yarkin Leads, Where She Lags, and The Way Out.

It ought to be put into print by the county authorities and placed in every home in the county. It would cost perhaps \$50, but five pages of advertising by the merchants would cover this expense.

It ought to be read thoughtfully by the ministers, the farmers, and the business men of the county. It will appeal especially to the instinct of leadership.

It ought to be a text-book in the high school grades and the Teachers' Institute.

It will stimulate county pride and provoke generous cooperative efforts for better things in Yarkin.

SECRETARY LANE TALKS SENSE

Secretary Lane in his last annual report to President Wilson sounds a clarion note for a nation-wide campaign for better country schools, and he urges upon Congress an appropriation of \$100,000 a year for two or three years to be used in arousing national interest in this most important matter.

Why not take the \$250,000 a year that has been wasted on free garden seed, mailed out in picayune amounts the whole country over, and use this sum to seed down the public mind with a proper concern about country schools and the preservation of country life—the nation's largest asset?

This garden-seed waste of a quarter million dollars of public money year by year is a fat contract for the seed houses, but it is also an affront to the intelligence of the plain people of the country. It does not lack much of being an insult to common sense.

The Senate, by the way, has just had the nerve to cut out the garden-seed appropriation. What will the House do with it?

And will Congress have the intelligent patriotism to put the money to the better use suggested by Secretary Lane?

EXCLUSIVE CROP FARMING MEANS:

1. Selling the farm by the wagon load.
2. Uncertain returns and, in the end, crop failure.
3. More and more ditches and gullies.
4. Unsteady employment of men and reduced labor efficiency.
5. Sale of unfinished products and hence lower prices.
6. More tenant farmers.
7. More temporary agriculture (unless the soil is artificially fertilized or green manuring practiced.)

Profitable Meat Production Means:

1. Keeping on the farm much of the fertility produced.
2. Crop insurance and increased returns.
3. Better use of untilled land.
4. Better help and better distribution of labor.
5. Manufacture of crops into meat.
6. More farms operated by owners.
7. More permanent agriculture.

Better still is the plan which was carried out at White Cross in Orange county last week, where the schoolhouse and grounds were put to use as a general meeting place for the citizens in the section. Why cannot the people's property be used during the summer for general community purposes? It is their property and they ought to get good use of it. Incidentally, that will help to keep off the ruthless destroyers of public property.

Others Are Working

The teachers are getting themselves ready to do better work next year. The superintendents are laying plans for next year's work and getting their forces lined up. Why might not the trustees get on their job now and prepare the buildings, grounds and equipment, instead of waiting until after school opens and then interfere with the year's work after it has started, thus wasting more of the public taxes for schools!

Why not plan right now to give the folks 100 cents of value for every dollar of their school tax!

Profitable Dairying Means:

1. Enriching the soil.
2. A regular income and a growing bank account.
3. Fewer gullies and ditches, and land made more tillable.
4. Steady employment of labor and better men.
5. Manufacture of high-priced finished products, better prices and higher returns.
6. Better business methods and, in the end, land ownership.
7. More permanent agriculture.—The Banker-Farmer.

INTELLIGENT FORESTRY

An effective forestry system, (1) regulates the timber cut, (2) protects the undergrowth, (3) maintains a sufficient forest fire patrol, and (4) systematically reforests bare areas.

Korea is about twice the size of North Carolina and has about four times the population. Our Consul-General at Seoul reported on June 21 that nearly 94 million young trees were reared in seeding nurseries in that country in 1915.

Korea is busy two or three centuries after wholesale devastation by floods; we ought to have sense enough in North Carolina to begin a century or so ahead of time.

A DANGER SIGNAL FIVE YEARS AGO

In a paper on the Hanging Valleys of Alabama presented at the Washington meeting of the Association of American Geographers in December, 1911, and widely quoted at the time, Prof. Collier Cobb of the University of North Carolina said:

"Statistics gathered by correspondence with people scattered pretty well over our southern states show that there is hardly a community in which there has not been for ten years past a steady lowering of the ground-water as shown in the shallowing of wells, necessitating the deepening of the wells in every single piedmont or mountain county of the entire south and in many of the sandhill counties as well.

"This sinking of the ground-water is closely correlated with bad forestry methods followed by bad farming, permitting an ever increasing amount of runoff, while allowing less and less water to soak into the ground. This lowering of the water level is only one of many evils, for the water that does not have a chance to soak into the ground runs off over surface slopes, washing away the soil, cutting gullies in fields, and spreading silt, sand and gravel over the meadows and lowgrounds.

"The changes that have taken place in the memory of the younger generation will, if unchecked, lead to disastrous floods, to be followed through the lapse of years by an increasing arid climate, until our fertile fields have become veritable bad lands. Such has been the history of a large part of Northern Africa, once the granary of the Roman Empire.

"But much of this may be prevented by keeping hilltops and steep slopes under forest cover, by decreasing forest fires in the slashes, by changing surface drainage in some fields to underground drainage, checking the rush of water by means of brush or stone dams, and especially by renewing organic matter in the soil by cover crops, green manuring, mulching, and by thorough cultivation."