

The news in this publication is released for the press on the date indicated below.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

Published weekly by the University of North Carolina for its Bureau of Extension.

AUGUST 30, 1916

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. II, NO. 40

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

NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

COUNTRY CHILDREN MORE DEFECTIVE

On account of its natural advantages we have always considered the country as the best place to raise children, but strange rumors have reached us of late. Upon the request of the American Medical Association, the National Educational Association and other organizations of like standing, an inquiry into the health of country children was made simultaneously in several distant states.

The reports show that the rural child is from 5 per cent to 20 per cent more defective than the city child; that he shows more of nutritional defects; more of respiratory disturbances; more of mental and nervous complications; a larger percentage of tuberculosis, especially of the bones; and that his eyes, ears, nose, throat and teeth are in grave need of attention.—Dr. Frances Sage Bradley.

PAUPERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

The tax payers in North Carolina spent \$19,000 upon 6,405 paupers in 1914. These figures cover the paupers outside as well as inside our county homes.

This sum is big enough to call for accurate account keeping on part of our county commissioners; but not so it seems—at least, in a score or more of counties.

Don't know, nobody knows, can't tell, about so and so, were the answers that came back to us about these details in thirty odd counties last year. It sounds incredible, but so it is.

Is it not time to establish (1) uniform county account keeping, (2) standardized annual exhibits of county finances, (3) efficient oversight of county accounts and (4) to require under penalty of law the publication of county balance sheets, at one time and not piecemeal, within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year?

The tax payers know nothing about county finances in full in Alamance, Orange and Iredell. And there are other counties equally in the dark. How long will intelligent citizens allow this sort of thing to go on?

THE COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in a manufacturing center fairly calls for a living wage. But the labor cost of production must be kept low enough to enable the manufacturers to compete in prices with the big wide world; otherwise the mills and factories must go out of business.

An industrial center is therefore self-defensively interested in solving the problem of local markets for the food products of the farmers in the surrounding trade territory. If consumers and local producers of food products can be brought together in direct dealings the advantage is mutual: the farmers get more for their products and the consumers get more for their money.

If the food supply of a factory center must be hauled in over long distances, a swarming multitude of middlemen must be rewarded. The cost of food products is therefore higher, and city consumers at last pay inflated bills for breadstuffs. The cost of long-distance marketing is always greater than the cost of producing the food itself.

The Labor Cost of Production

A city that dreams of steady growth as a manufacturing center must solve the problem of markets for home-grown food and feed supplies, otherwise its wage scale must be increased. If a city neglects the problem as Atlanta, for instance, labor unrest, labor unions, and strikes are inevitable.

The local market problem is a difficult problem, but it is a purblind policy that blinks it.

Raleigh has a market house but not the market habit. The same thing is true of Greensboro. The habit is more important than the house. If Charlotte cannot develop the market habit as Grand Rapids did, with free, open market space and booths, the market house will be a waste of public money, as in Durham, Raleigh, and Greensboro.

A growing city must be the center of a well-developed food-producing region—and more, it must reward the nearby

farmers with fair prices and profits. Which is to say, it must work everlasting at the local market problem.

It is a fundamental problem, and the biggest business problem that a city or a city chamber of commerce faces. It is a job for business men of statesmen-like stature.

SMALL ACREAGE PER FARMER

In this issue we present another table and study that concern our small per capita country wealth in farm properties in North Carolina.

Our rank is high in the power to produce crop values per acre. The 1910 census shows us ahead of 38 states in this particular.

But our rank is low in the power to retain and accumulate farm wealth per person. In this important particular, 43 states stand ahead of us, and only Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama make a poorer showing.

This radical deficiency in economic system does not affect the farmer alone. It affects every business and everybody in the state. This fact becomes clear when we examine the per capita wealth of the state, all properties whatsoever considered.

A Federal Census Bulletin issued

last year gives North Carolina, with \$794, a place next to the last. Only Mississippi is poorer.

Everybody's Business

This problem therefore concerns every business and everybody in the state; and most of all the bankers and other business people whose fortunes rise or fall with the prosperity of the farm regions.

It is significant to note that the richest state in the Union, in per capita wealth, all property considered, is not New York nor Massachusetts nor Pennsylvania nor any other state in the great industrial area North and East. Iowa, a well developed farm state, does not stand at the head of the list, but she stands ahead of New York State by \$913 per inhabitant, Pennsylvania by \$1,600, and Massachusetts by \$1,734.

The promotion of agricultural prosperity is the broadest, safest policy for boards of trade, banks, and other businesses in our cities to build upon.

Taking interest in the farmer is better

in the long run than taking interest from the farmer.

Averages the Country Over

As noted in our study in the University News Letter of August 16, 1916, the average of acres cultivated per farm worker in the United States ranged from 11.9 in South Carolina to 156.2 in North Dakota.

In North Carolina our average was only 14.5 acres and our rank 45th. Our per capita country wealth in farm properties was \$322, and our rank in this particular was 45th. This coincidence looks causal.

Our State Averages

In North Carolina the average cultivated acres per farm worker in the census year ranged from nine-tenths of an acre in Dare to 36.2 acres in Alleghany. Just as these two counties illustrate the two extremes in acreage per farm worker, so they illustrate the two extremes of per capita country wealth in North Carolina, \$47 and \$560.

Small acreage per farm worker, small totals produced per farm worker, and small per capita country wealth are certainly related. It seems clear that farmers who produce crop values averaging only \$236 a year on 14.5 acres in North Carolina stand a small chance to accumulate wealth when compared with Iowa farmers who average 83.2 acres per farm worker and produce crop values that average \$884.

When a year's labor by a farmer yields only \$236 in crop returns, he has of course a smaller chance to accumulate wealth than the farmer whose year's labor yields him \$884. And the difference is increased by the fact that one farmer is working at a much labor expense raising cotton or tobacco with simple hand tools mainly, while the other is raising crops that have a smaller value per acre but a larger margin of profit to \$560 in Alleghany.

Only 18 counties in this region fall below the state average of acres per farm worker, and all but two, Henderson and Forsyth, are below the line in per capita country wealth.

THE OLD NORTH STATE Dr. Archibald Henderson

In the hearts of all of us, I daresay, there is a deep, abiding affection and reverence for the virtues of a people who, throughout an historic past, have given to North Carolina the rich, mellow name of the Old North State. I sense those ancient virtues as a fragrant breath from some distant garden of old-fashioned flowers—a full-blooded parochialism redeemed by the abiding love of Christian faith, of family, of fireside; an inflexible integrity which puts love of the truth and passion for the making of men above love of place and passion for the making of money; a rugged provincialism which had its roots firmly fixed in a love of naturalness and a scorn for all pretense; a granite conservatism which cherished tradition and ever looked with stern disfavor upon the new and the empiric.

The latest data (1910) available concerning the length of term for urban schools and for rural schools separately give the average number of days the school was in session during the year for urban schools, 184.3, and for rural schools, 137.7. "For the United States as a whole the urban schools are in session 46.6 days longer each year than the rural schools," says A. C. Monahan, the Bureau's Specialist in Rural School Administration.

Comparisons

In Rhode Island and Connecticut, the difference between the urban and rural school term is 3.8 days, while in South Carolina it is 88.5 days. The average number of days in the rural school term in the several States ranges from 90 in New Mexico to 190 in Rhode Island.

dium farms ranging from 100 to 150 acres in size, (2) in sufficient livestock and profit-producing machinery, (3) in a larger average of cultivated acres per worker, (4) in cotton and tobacco, if the farm also feeds the farmer, the farmer's family and the farm animals—at least in the standard, staple bread and meat products, and (5) in farms cultivated by owners who have sufficient cash operating capital or sufficient collateral to command the necessary cash at reasonable interest rates.

2. In a county where the prevalent farm system calls for maximum crops of cotton or tobacco and a minimum amount of bread and meat products, the power to retain and accumulate farm wealth is small—no matter how large the cash crops are or how high the market prices. And this is especially true in the counties that are afflicted by excessive farm tenancy.

3. As a rule, the farmers in the grain, hay and forage, and livestock region of middle and western Carolina produce smaller crop values per acre; but they cultivate larger acreages per worker and produce greater per capita farm wealth.

They handle less money year in and out, but they accumulate greater per capita wealth in farm properties.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 88

THE RURAL SCHOOL TERM

The first problem in the program of the Federal Education Bureau in its nationwide campaign for better rural schools is that of a longer school term. A school term of not less than 160 days for each child is the minimum term, according to Commissioner Claxton, which all States with a shorter term should strive to reach.

The latest data (1910) available concerning the length of term for urban schools and for rural schools separately give the average number of days the school was in session during the year for urban schools, 184.3, and for rural schools, 137.7. "For the United States as a whole the urban schools are in session 46.6 days longer each year than the rural schools," says A. C. Monahan, the Bureau's Specialist in Rural School Administration.

In Rhode Island and Connecticut, the difference between the urban and rural school term is 3.8 days, while in South Carolina it is 88.5 days. The average number of days in the rural school term in the several States ranges from 90 in New Mexico to 190 in Rhode Island.

dium farms ranging from 100 to 150 acres in size, (2) in sufficient livestock and profit-producing machinery, (3) in a larger average of cultivated acres per worker, (4) in cotton and tobacco, if the farm also feeds the farmer, the farmer's family and the farm animals—at least in the standard, staple bread and meat products, and (5) in farms cultivated by owners who have sufficient cash operating capital or sufficient collateral to command the necessary cash at reasonable interest rates.

2. In a county where the prevalent farm system calls for maximum crops of cotton or tobacco and a minimum amount of bread and meat products, the power to retain and accumulate farm wealth is small—no matter how large the cash crops are or how high the market prices. And this is especially true in the counties that are afflicted by excessive farm tenancy.

3. As a rule, the farmers in the grain, hay and forage, and livestock region of middle and western Carolina produce smaller crop values per acre; but they cultivate larger acreages per worker and produce greater per capita farm wealth.

They handle less money year in and out, but they accumulate greater per capita wealth in farm properties.

AVERAGE CULTIVATED ACRES PER FARM WORKER IN NORTH CAROLINA

Based on 1910 Census of Agriculture and Occupations

J. H. LASSITER, Northampton County University Summer School, 1916

Average for the State 14.5 Acres

Rank	County	Acres	Rank	County	Acres
1	Alleghany	36.2	49	Hertford	15.
2	Watauga	23.5	49	Onslow	15.
3	Caswell	20.8	52	Vance	14.5
4	Ashe	20.7	53	Scotland	14.4
5	Lenoir	20.6	53	Johnston	14.4
6	Catawba	20.1	53	Gates	14.4
7	Davidson	20.	53	Bertie	14.4
8	Camden	19.6	53	Robeson	14.4
9	Jones	19.6	58	Surry	14.3
10	Granville	19.1	58	Wake	14.3
11	Yadkin	18.9	60	Currituck	14.2
12	Edgecombe	18.9	61	Jackson	14.1
13	Person	18.8	61	Warren	14.1
14	Cabarrus	18.6	63	Wilson	13.9
15	Davie	18.6	64	Polk	13.8
16	Clay	17.9	64	Nash	13.8
17	Halifax	17.8	64	Graham	13.8
18	Northampton	17.8	67	Caldwell	13.6
19	Randolph	17.7	67	Transylvania	13.6
20	Montgomery	17.7	69	Tyrrell	13.4
21	Madison	17.6	69	Henderson	13.4
22	Rowan	17.4	71	Guilford	13.3
23	Mecklenburg	17.4	71	Mitchell	13.3
24	Iredell	17.4	73	Craven	13.2
25	Greene	17.4	74	Rockingham	12.7
26	Alexander	17.4	75	Lee	12.4
27	Pasquotank	17.2	75	Forsyth	12.4
28	Lincoln	17.1	77	Gaston	12.3
29	Perquimans	17.	78	Cherokee	12.2
30	Orange	16.9	79	Hyde	11.9
31	Chatham	16.8	79	McDowell	11.9
32	Anson	16.4	81	Rutherford	11.6
33	Wayne	16.4	81	Richmond	11.6
34	Washington	16.4	83	Chowan	11.4
35	Haywood	16.2	83	Cumberland	11.4
36	Martin	16.2	85	Burke	11.3
37	Franklin	16.1	85	Harnett	11.3
38	Yancey	16.1	87	Bladen	11.2
39	Macon	16.1	88	Moore	10.8
40	Union	16.	89	Pender	10.4
41	Cleveland	15.9	90	Beaufort	10.1
42	Stokes	15.8	91	Swain	10.
43	Pitt	15.5	92	Pamlico	9.4
44	Stanly	15.4	92	Columbus	9.4
45	Wilkes	15.4	94	Durham	8.2
46	Sampson	15.3	95		