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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

THE MITCHELL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

The two hundred and twenty-fifth meeting of The Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society at the University of North Carolina was held in Chemistry Hall the evening of October 10th.

Two papers were presented: The Second International Chemical Exposition, by Dr. A. S. Wheeler; and some Elementary Vector Equations, by Mr. J. W. Lasley, who comes back into the faculty after a year's absence at Johns Hopkins.

The journals of this society have long gone regularly to almost every learned society in this country and abroad.

AN INTERESTING ITEM

County treasurer's 2 per cent for disbursing the school fund \$1161.37; salary of County Superintendent of Schools \$1200.—From the 1915-16 report of one of our North Carolina counties.

The county treasurer gets from the county school fund nearly as much as the chief executive of the school system and more than the average salaries of four white rural teachers. With the money the treasurer got, four more white country schools could have been run for 125 days in this county.

A LIVELY GAIT IN ORANGE

Old Orange is alive and alert this fall. The county fair at Hillsboro October 25-26 will bring our people together as never before in long years. When we looked at the crowd at Hillsboro taking part in the first school commencement of the county last spring we said: Two things will follow this awakening, first, better country schools and a bigger, better commencement next year, and second, a county fair at the county seat.

Orange is a great county. How else could it have played so large a part in the history of the state in years gone by? But for a half a century we lost faith in the strength of our soils and our souls—or apparently so.

Our fairs, our county commencements, our county board of education, forty Orange county boys in the University, and the University itself will play a large part in the revival of faith in old Orange.

DEAN NOBLE'S PET

The Chapel Hill Community Club, the city board of trade, the business men in general, and the University students and authorities are co-operating to have a larger Community Fair than ever on Friday, November the third.

Our friends and neighbors in Orange, Chatham, and Durham will find a great welcome awaiting them on the University campus—in Memorial Hall and on the athletic field.

The events will be an automobile parade, educational moving pictures, a musical entertainment by the University students, singing contests by the Sunday schools of three counties, athletic events by the children, exhibits of school and home, farm and factory products, the award of prizes, Dean M. C. S. Noble—and no speeches.

THE COST LAST YEAR

The burden of taxation for state support in North Carolina in 1915 averaged \$1.76 per inhabitant. The average was less in only one state, and greater in forty-six.

The figures range from \$1.64 in South Carolina to \$10.36 in Nevada, the average for the country-at-large being \$3.85.

So reads a Census Bureau Bulletin, The Financial Statistics of States, given to the public two weeks or so ago. It is a mine of information about the finances of North Carolina and every other state in the Union.

The first table presented elsewhere exhibits the per capita cost of state governments for 1915 and 1912 side by side.

What Went With the \$1.76

What is covered by this \$1.76 and what went with it in detail was as follows:

1. Highways and Public Recreation, less than 1 cent
2. Public Health and Sanitation 5 "
3. Protection of Person and Property 10 "
4. Conservation and Development of Resources 11 "

5. General Gov't—Leg., Executive, Judicial 14 "
6. General Expense—Interest, Outlays, etc. 25 "
7. Charities, Hospitals, and Corrections 39 "
8. Public Education and Libraries 71 "

The Common Weal

The figures are illuminating. The common notion is that tax money goes mainly to support office holders and their families, to keep fodder in the rack of the ringsters. It is an inveterate, and in places an incurable notion—or apparently so.

As a matter of fact for every dollar of state revenue that goes to oil the machinery of state government in North Carolina nine dollars come straight back to the taxpayers for the education of our children, the support and care of our old soldiers, our blind and deaf, the victims of tuberculosis, the insane and feeble minded, for the protection of our properties from fire, our persons from disease, and our farmers from fraud; for the regulation of financial institutions and other corporations in the interest of public security; for the development and conservation of our natural resources, the protection and development of agriculture, and the general public welfare.

For all these purposes of state the tax burden in North Carolina is \$1.37 per inhabitant—the price, say, of two or three circus tickets.

We can have less of these public benefits by decreasing our state revenues; but every other state in the Union except South Carolina has more of these benefits because their per capita tax revenues are larger—in Virginia, Kentucky, and Texas, they are more than twice as large.

AMAZING FARM WEALTH

1. The Big Bulk Total

At the first meeting of the North Carolina Club, for the year 1916-17, Mr. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of Sampson County, presented for discussion The Primary Wealth Produced by Agriculture in North Carolina in 1915.

The full crop total was \$202,000,000, according to the Federal Crop Report, said he. If now we add the estimated value of our livestock products we have a grand total of \$242,000,000 produced by our farmers alone.

This grand total is more than twice the primary wealth created by any other single industry of the state; and in order to see what Agriculture means in North Carolina I submit a few comparisons with other wealth-producing agencies.

2. Comparisons

1. In 1914, the total value of our industrial products was \$278,000,000; the value of raw materials used was \$159,000,000; and the value added in the process of manufacture was \$119,000,000. This last figure represents the primary wealth produced by our mills and factories of all sorts. Manufacture ranks next to agriculture in North Carolina in the creation of wealth and gets that rank even though it creates less than half the wealth.

2. Let us compare agriculture with our total banking capital in 1915. The total banking capital of the State amounts to \$25,000,000. Now if we divide \$242,000,000 by \$25,000,000 we find that it goes nearly ten times. In other words, our banking capital is a little more than one-tenth the wealth created by agriculture year by year.

3. Bank savings in North Carolina amount to \$1,000,000 less than our bank capital. The people of this State have stored away for a rainy day \$24,000,000, or less than one-tenth the wealth created by agriculture in a single year.

In my opinion, the most significant comparison of all is our agricultural wealth created in 1915 contrasted with our total bank resources. The banks of this State have been able to accumulate resources amounting in round numbers to \$200,000,000. It is immensely significant that the wealth created by agriculture in a single year is \$40,000,000 greater than the resources our banks have been able to accumulate in 250 years.

5. The wealth created by mining in North Carolina in 1912 was \$3,515,000; by fishing (in 1914) \$1,800,000; by lum-

UNIVERSITY DAY

This year's University Day marked the 123rd anniversary of the opening of the institution, one of the very earliest examples of the applied principle of the duty of the State to educate the youth as the chief investment in its future strength and greatness.

During the century and a quarter of its life the University has been a vital force that not even the disasters of war and reconstruction could extirpate. It has survived attacks from without and within. It has been persecuted by the very people for whom it was created. It has lived and grown and flourished, largely of its own inherent power as expressed in the faith with which it has endowed its sons.

In the last few years the University has come into its place as a practical part of the educational co-operation which carries light to the whole people, irrespective of collegiate training. Its civic and social work has been of marked efficiency. In the best sense, it has been popularized by deeds.

Compared with what it is and what it does, the University remains the poorest and most neglected institution in the State.

Its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary is coming none too slowly on the wings of time for the inauguration of a movement to celebrate October 12, 1938, with an endowment fund of at least \$1,000,000. —The Raleigh Times.

bering (in 1914) \$23,000,000, and by manufacture of all sorts (in 1914) \$119,000,000. Which is to say that our mines, fisheries, forests, and factories created some \$123,000,000 of annual wealth. But agriculture creates a total nearly twice as great as all these wealth-producing agencies combined.

7. In 1914, the total tax value of all property in this State amounted to \$807,673,000. In 1915, the total wealth created by agriculture amounted to \$242,000,000. In other words we create by agriculture in three and one-third years as much wealth as the State has been able to get upon the tax books in her entire history.

8. We have proper pride in the fact that North Carolina leads the South in the annual output of our lumber camps and wood-working establishments. In 1914 the products they turned out were worth \$57,000,000; but our corn crop alone in 1914 was worth \$57,500,000 and in 1915 it was worth \$64,000,000.

9. We have long been fascinated with the gold possibilities of North Carolina. And our annual output of this precious metal is more than two-thirds of the total for all the Eastern States. In 1915, the gold we produced was worth the amazing amount of \$170,000. But in 1910, we produced \$129,000 worth of wool alone, while our honey and wax was worth more than three times the gold we produced the same year.

3. Reflections

Now, having it clearly in mind that agriculture produces nearly twice as much wealth in North Carolina each year as all other industries combined, and by virtue of that fact is the fundamental basis of North Carolina life, let us consider a few related facts.

1. North Carolina civilization is predominantly rural. Our country dwellers out number our city and town dwellers more than four to one. Nearly five-sixths of the school children of the State are country children. Nearly four-fifths of all church members in North Carolina are in the countryside. The white voters in our country precincts out number the white voters in our towns and cities nearly six to one.

Barely more than five hundred thousand people in North Carolina in 1910 lived in towns and cities, or incorporated places of any size whatsoever. Nearly one million seven hundred thousand of our people lived in the open country, or seventy-

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Before the rural schools can come into possession of the things due them there must be an aroused public sentiment as to their needs. Previous talks have served to show how to increase the rural school term by a better average daily attendance on the part of the rural pupils. It has been pointed out that the average daily attendance of all pupils enrolled in the rural schools of the United States is only 67.6 per cent of the enrollment. If it were possible to take into consideration the large number of rural pupils who are not enrolled but who should be enrolled by a proper enforcement of a reasonable compulsory attendance law the average daily attendance in the rural schools for the country at large would be less than 60 per cent of the total school population.

Growing Up In Ignorance

In support of this declaration the following is quoted from the Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Schools of Georgia for the school year ended December 31, 1915. Pleading for a reasonable enforcement of a reasonable compulsory attendance law, the Superintendent declares:

"There are some men who are so mean by nature that they must be forced before they will give their children educational opportunities for school training. The figures show that 169,630 children of school age in this State did not attend school a day last year. Many of those have never been enrolled during any previous year. Without the strong arm of the law they will grow up in ignorance just as thousands before them have done."

If we go one step further our in reasoning and take into consideration the millions of rural children in short-term schools of three to four months in length, it is evident that the average daily attendance of millions of pupils in the rural schools for the nation at large is not 50 per cent of what it should be when measured by the attendance of pupils in city schools with a nine-month's term. In other words, the short term and the poor attendance in the rural schools are depriving millions of our country boys and girls of over half their birthright in matters of free school privileges as compared with city boys and girls. We are glad city children have the good school privileges that are theirs. We wish the city schools were better. But with the help of the press we are determined to expose this unjust, unreasonable, and un-American discrimination against country boys and girls. Equality before the law and equal educational opportunity have not yet been provided for the farm boy and girl.

ican discrimination against country boys and girls. Equality before the law and equal educational opportunity have not yet been provided for the farm boy and girl.

Crab-like Souls

But, strange as it may seem, sparsely settled rural communities often fight against the things which are for their own good. A striking statement of this phase of the rural problem is found in Extension Bureau Circular, No. 2, of the University of North Carolina, July, 1916. In this issue Professor E. C. Branson declares:

"Everywhere in thinly settled country regions we find people here and there who are suspicious, secretive, apathetic, and unapproachable; who live in the eighteenth century and preserve the language, manners, and customs of a past long dead elsewhere, who prefer their primitive ancient ways, who are ghettoed in the midst of present day civilization, to borrow a phrase from President Frost. They are crab-like souls described by Victor Hugo in Les Miserables, who before advancing light steadily retreat into the fringe of darkness. People like these abound in Clinton and Franklin counties (New York) where an eighth of the native white voters are illiterate, in Aroostook county (Maine) where nearly a fifth of the native white voters can not read their ballots or write their names; in Windham county (Connecticut) where an eighth of the males of voting age are illiterate. Windham, by the way, lies midway between the academic effluence of Yale on one hand and of Harvard on the other. You can find within the sound of college bells anywhere what we found the other day in a field survey that took us into every house in a mid-state county in North Carolina—a family of whites, all illiterates, half the children dead in infancy, and never a doctor in the house in the whole history of the family.

"All the ages of race history and every level of civilization can be found in any county or community, even in our crowded centers of wealth and culture. We need not hunt for eighteenth century survivals in mountain coves alone."

And yet the only remedy for such conditions is the education of these peoples. Let there be light!—J. L. McBrien, School Extension Agent, Federal Education Bureau.

PER CAPITA COST OF STATE GOVERNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Covering the Year 1915. Based on Federal Census Bulletin, Financial Statistics of States, dated April 28, 1916.

W. R. Watson, Darlington, S. C.
University of North Carolina.

Per Capita Cost in the United States at large \$3.85.		Per Capita Cost in the United States at large \$3.85.	
Rank	State	1915	1912
1	Nevada	\$10.36	\$10.45
2	California	7.32	7.98
2	Arizona	7.32	6.20
4	Vermont	6.76	6.51
5	Montana	6.72	6.66
6	Maine	6.53	5.84
7	Minnesota	6.19	6.66
8	New Jersey	6.08	4.88
9	Utah	6.01	6.09
10	Wyoming	5.96	5.20
11	Washington	5.70	4.47
12	Wisconsin	5.59	5.27
13	Michigan	5.50	4.30
14	Connecticut	5.38	5.58
15	North Dakota	5.02	4.84
16	Massachusetts	4.83	7.02
17	Maryland	4.60	5.27
17	Rhode Island	4.60	6.32
19	Oregon	4.52	4.17
20	South Dakota	4.46	4.60
21	New York	4.38	6.93
22	Idaho	4.33	7.81
23	Colorado	4.22	3.46
24	Texas	3.69	2.97
25	Pennsylvania	3.60	3.71
26	Kentucky	3.56	3.33
27	Virginia	3.54	3.22
28	Indiana	3.49	2.92
29	New Hampshire	3.47	3.41
30	Iowa	3.42	2.69
31	Nebraska	3.38	2.90
32	Delaware	3.35	3.15
33	Ohio	3.24	2.63
34	Louisiana	3.08	3.92
35	Kansas	3.03	2.96
36	Florida	3.02	3.41
37	Alabama	2.98	2.77
38	New Mexico	2.87	3.09
39	Illinois	2.82	2.21
40	West Virginia	2.64	2.14
41	Missouri	2.54	2.27
42	Mississippi	2.49	2.29
43	Oklahoma	2.24	1.89
44	Arkansas	2.20	1.87
45	Georgia	2.13	1.96
46	Tennessee	2.01	1.84
47	North Carolina	1.76	1.46
48	South Carolina	1.64	1.46

nine in every hundred of our total population.

2. If democracy concerns the welfare of the greatest number, then country civilization in North Carolina deserves to occupy the largest place in the activities of both the church and state. Legislation should concern farm interests first and foremost, and in all legislation the welfare of the farmer should be safe-guarded.

Agriculture has long been an unconsidered detail of State and National Legislation. Any constructive measures planned for the greatest service to the greatest numbers in North Carolina must have to do with country people. In the future when men are looking about them to see where they can do the largest constructive work, let them look to the countryside.