

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

NEWS LETTER

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LOCAL ESSAYS AT DEMOCRACY

DEMOCRACY AT SCHOOL

Eight of the social science associations of the United States were in session in Philadelphia during the Christmas holidays.

Everywhere it came out in the discussions, says Deardorff in The Survey, that civic and political education for the mass of people is the sine qua non of the democracy to which the United States is now committed, and that this education is to be socio-economic rather than historic-judicial.

And so it appears that our doctrinaires have at last come to realize a fundamental necessity in our developing democracy. We do not mean to be impertinent when we say that the State and County Clubs at the University got there first.

For three years they have been hard at work on the assumption that effective citizenship is based on first-hand acquaintance with the economic and social problems of the home county and the home state, and on competent interpretation of nearby puzzles in the light of world-wide conditions and universal laws of life and business. The Club Schedules and Year-Books tell in detail the story of their efforts to prepare for intelligent, effective citizenship. They have been trying to escape the "economic illiteracy" that Mr. Vanderlip says America is afflicted with. And they have been going at this difficult task right-end-foremost, as the Georgia Crackers say.

Local Essays at Democracy

What these University students have been doing here in their club studies these last three years is exactly what similar clubs ought to be doing in every county and community in the state. Which is to say, Local Study-Clubs composed of sturdy, public spirited people ought to be working at the local problems of business and life in a hundred counties. This is the suggestion of R. D. W. Connor, our state historian; but since we threshed out this idea in his office some months ago, the suggestion has come from a score or more of other devoted citizens of North Carolina.

And so the Bureau of Extension of the University has published a bulletin of 70 pages showing in detail (1) What Local Study-Clubs are, (2) The plans and methods of organization, and (3) The range and variety of local problems that challenge mastery and constructive effort. Three typical club studies are offered in illustration.

This bulletin which will be going into the mails next week makes it easily possible for alert people in any community to bunch-up for self-tuition in essential democratic concerns.

Local Study-Clubs

The title of this bulletin is Local Study-Clubs: Essays at Democracy. The chapters are (1) What such Clubs are—ideals, aims, purposes, methods, and details of work, (2) Vitalizing County History, (3) Vitalizing School Activities, (4) Home-County Studies at the University, (5) Studies in County Government and County Affairs, (6) A Local Tax-List Study, (7) Property Values and Taxes in Randolph, (8) Our Fee and Salary Systems in North Carolina, (9) The Schools and the Nation-at-War, (a) The Teacher's Chance to Serve the Flag, (b) University War Lectures, and (c) University War-Leaflets.

If you want this bulletin drop us a postcard at once. It will be sent without charge to anybody that applies for it within the state, and for 25c a copy to anybody outside the state.

LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATIONS

The following suggestions have been made concerning ways and means of establishing Lafayette Associations:

1. Have a patriotic meeting once a month in the high school devoted to special programs about Lafayette, French service to America, England in its relation to democracy and to the United States.

2. The literary societies in the high school or the college may appropriately hold a joint meeting several times in the

course of the year, this meeting to be called, for the time being, a Lafayette Association. No other organization is necessary than the appointment of the chairman from one society and a secretary from another and a program committee representing all school literary organizations.

3. The suggestions made in the University War Leaflet may be applied also to meetings of parents' associations, joint meetings of women's clubs, etc. Specimen programs will be supplied by the Bureau of Extension to any schools or organizations desiring to follow out these suggestions.

4. In the regular work of the school, or in connection with the work of some school organization, or in a specially formed reading circle there should be a copy of some such book as "American Ideals," published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, "American Patriotic Prose," published by D. C. Heath & Company, Boston, "The Battle Line of Democracy," published by the Committee on Public Information, Washington, or the community leaflets published by the Bureau of Education, Washington. A full list of such books with suggestions for their use will be supplied by the University Bureau of Extension to those who are interested.

5. It is suggested that a part of the program in any meeting such as has been suggested under the various headings shall consist of reports of the various community activities that are associated with war work, such as, for instance, the Red Cross, the Junior Red Cross, various relief organizations and other work for community welfare. By this means coordination and unity of effect may be gained.

6. It will be observed from the above suggestions that the Lafayette Association seeks more the expression of an ideal than the addition of a new and complicated organization to those already in existence. An example of the sort of thing that is contemplated may be found in the visit of the British and the French Commissions to the tomb of Washington, or the words of General Pershing in Paris before the Lafayette monument, "Lafayette, we are here!"

7. By some such simple means as are outlined above we may accomplish the following results: (1) to give expression to our feeling for France and all that France stands for in this trying hour, (2) to see clearly that in paying this debt to France we are doing just what Lafayette himself did at the birth of our nation, and (3) to realize that it is necessary for us to get into the minds of American citizens a knowledge of what American ideals are, of their significance to ourselves, and of their relations to the struggle that is now going on throughout the world.

THE TEACHERS WANT IT

The superintendents and teachers of the State are sending in a steady stream of letters for the War-Time Special issues of the University News Letter these days.

We have added to our regular mailing list nearly 5,000 names in the last eight weeks, and letters from 425 teachers are stacked on our desk in waiting.

This word of earnest request for our readers who change their post office addresses—to preachers and teachers in particular because they are most careless and most need it: Drop us a postcard when you move, that is to say if you still want the paper. Don't—please don't—fail to do it, because your paper goes to waste until the postmaster notifies us of your removal.

Four hundred and twenty-five people are now waiting for the paper you waste in this way.

A TEXT-BOOK ON CAROLINA

Ought any high school graduate or any public school teacher to know any less about the State than the new North Carolina Club Year-Book can teach him?

A high school principal and a county school superintendent fire this inquiry at us in the same mail in almost exactly these words.

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY

George Morrow Mayo,
Gunmate U. S. Navy

Here's to the blue of the wind swept North,

When we meet on the fields of France!

May the spirit of Grant be with you all

As the Sons of the North advance.

And, here's to the Gray of the sun-kissed South,

When we meet on the fields of France!

May the spirit of Lee be with you all

As the Sons of the South advance.

And, here's to the Blue and Gray as one,

When we meet on the fields of France!

May the spirit of God be with us all,

As the Sons of the Flag advance.

What's the answer? We leave it to you. Have you our new Year-Book? If you want this University Bulletin, let us know it at once before the edition is exhausted. It goes free of charge to those that write for it.

Six high school principals have ordered supplies of it for their senior classes.

They are pronounced and emphatic in stating the value of "Wealth and Welfare in North Carolina."

Is it worth adopting as a required text-book in the professional reading courses of our public school teachers? We are hoping that our State authorities will think so.

A MILLION ON DEPOSIT

The three banks in Lee now have a cool million dollars on deposit, says the Sanford Express.

Never in the history of the county has there been as much money on deposit in the local banks or in the hands of the people generally. High prices and good crops have brought this great prosperity to our people. The farmers can sell everything they raise on their farms at higher prices than they ever received for farm produce before. The manufacturers of Sanford and the other towns of the county are selling their output at high prices. Our merchants have had a splendid trade this year. Wages are higher than ever before and the people generally are enjoying prosperity.—The Sanford Express.

RICHER BY 275 MILLIONS

The value of farm crops in North Carolina in 1917 was 145 million dollars more than the total for 1916, and 275 million dollars more than the total for 1909.

In eight years the money value of our crops has risen from 142 millions to 417 million dollars. Here is an average annual increase of nearly 40 millions a year in crop values alone.

It sounds like the abundant corn, oil, and wine of Joel's prophecy. In his day the revival of material prosperity was the forerunner of a great spiritual awakening. We wonder if it is a prelude to a great spiritual awakening in North Carolina today—to a great revival of interest in children and schools and churches, in books and libraries and the larger meanings of time and eternity.

Our abounding prosperity is a great problem for the church. The church must either spiritualize the wealth of the world, or the wealth of the world will materialize the church. These are the horns of a great dilemma.

COUNTY RED CROSS WORK

The town women have everywhere been busy knitting sweaters, socks, and helmets, and making bandages, napkins, and hospital kits, and they have been more in the public eye than the farm women in the remote country homes.

But the country women have also been busy in Red Cross work. If they have been busier in other counties than in Orange then it is a glorious chapter of patriotism the country women of North Carolina are writing with their needles of mercy.

Some day when the record is complete we shall tell the story of country Red Cross work in Orange in full detail.

A note from one of our splendid farm women comes to town today calling for material for hospital shirts. "I shall undertake to make 100," she says, "before garden crops and fruit come on to be taken care of." Think of that—for a busy farm woman! It means an average of about one shirt a day for the next three months or so.

Blessings on the women—the town women and their sister women in the country, in the greatest charity Christendom has yet discovered.

THE DEBATING UNION

More than 250 high schools have enrolled in the High School Debating Union of North Carolina for this year's contest. The query which is to be discussed is, Resolved, That Congress should enact a law providing for the compulsory arbitration of industrial disputes.

A great interest is being taken in the High School Debating Union throughout the State and indications are that the contest to be held this spring will be one of the most comprehensive and instructive in the history of the Union. This is the sixth of the State-wide contests of the Union, the debates having been inaugurated in the college year, 1912-13.

The query of last year was, Resolved, That the Government should own and operate the railways. The Waynesville high school debaters, representing the affirmative side of the query, were victorious in the final debate and were awarded the Aycock Cup.

A JOB FOR SUPERMEN

Not merely training an army but training and shaping a nation for war is President Wilson's job—to use his own phrase; and to do in eighteen months what Germany spent forty years in doing is a job so huge that it staggers the imagination. It is a job not for men but for supermen, and no country turns out more than half a dozen of them in as many centuries.

It is the job of organizing a hundred million people with two hundred and fifty billions of wealth scattered over three and a half million square miles. The change from a peace to a war basis in the United States means an upheaval in life and business so radical in nature that mistakes are inevitable. Mr. Wilson admits them.

The war end of the job—that alone—involves a payroll of two million names and a business of nine billion dollars. It is a business many times bigger than the biggest private business in America. And mistakes have been made. Mr. Baker confesses them.

What Good Men Will Say

It takes rare greatness of soul to confess mistakes. Robert E. Lee did it at Gettysburg. After the assault of that fateful third day, he said to General Wilcox, "It's not your mistake, it is my mistake; and all good men must help me out of it."

And so will all good men now say to the men in executive authority who are struggling with the difficulties of transportation, with food and fuel shortage for ourselves and our Allies, with the obstacles offered by a cruel winter, with the critical necessity for men and war materials on the fighting front—the struggling most of all against delays in this year of destiny.

So they will say and so they will do—all good men.

Instead of being set by the ears, Washington ought to be set unitedly upon the job of winning this war.

Jockeying for political advantage now, when time is so precious, is quite of a sort with Nero's fiddling while Rome burned; and not impossibly it stands a chance of being just as famous or as infamous for a thousand years or so.

Superman Results

Never before in the history of time has a nation been so quickly mobilized for war as ours, or an army of its size raised, equipped, trained and prepared for battle. So say our President and our Secretary of War. And it's true.

The tragic necessity now is time, and Mr. Baker's time is being wasted in Star Chambers, exactly when he needs it elsewhere for the superman job that he is working at in superman ways.

The President holds this opinion of Mr. Baker, and the country at large can well afford to agree with him.

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION

An important part of the work of the University Bureau of Extension has been recognized by the creation of a special division—the Division for Women.

This does not separate women and their needs from men and their needs, on the contrary it gives emphasis to the fact that women have a place in the work of a great state University. Any institution which would today serve the people of the State must acknowledge with President Graham that "women are people."

That the women of North Carolina look to their state university for help and information is evident by the fact that many scores of individuals are in constant touch with the correspondence department.

Women in all ranks of life are beginning to write to the University when they want information along any line, and the range of inquiries is limited only by the variety of the activities of women of today.

Mrs. Lingle in Charge

In a sincere desire to meet these needs more fully the University has established the Division for Women, and placed Mrs. Thomas W. Lingle in charge of it. Mrs. Lingle's connection with the women of North Carolina is already vital and intimate. She is well fitted to understand and even to foresee their desires. With the resources of the University at her disposal, the head of this division will be able to meet the present demands and to direct the unfolding of plans for stimulating and encouraging North Carolina women along the lines of higher education, social welfare and individual research.

The hearty welcome that Mrs. Lingle has received in the University circle proves that Dr. Graham is not the only one who has a dream of the future usefulness of the institution to the mothers and daughters of North Carolina.

The women of the state will not be slow in their appreciation of this definite effort to meet them more than half way in their search for information and encouragement. The help that is offered is absolutely gratuitous, and is not limited to those already known or enrolled in study courses. Any woman or girl is invited to write to Mrs. Lingle about any phase of her activities. A separate office has been given over to this work and each request will receive consideration.

The generous cooperation of other department specialists, the resources of the library and her own wide experience with women and their work will enable Mrs. Lingle to put each inquirer in touch with the source of the desired information.

Studying Latin America

Over four hundred club women are enrolled in the Latin America Study Course which was published last year in booklet form by Dr. Pierson with the cooperation of Mrs. Lingle and Miss Roberson. Other courses for club and private study are now in course of preparation. Club women are invited to offer suggestions both as to the topics and the methods which would interest them for use now and next winter.

Mrs. Lingle asks that in writing for suggestions and help for club papers, members will give date of the club meeting, and will also write early for this assistance. It is well also to give some idea of the entire program for the meeting as well as the topic for the specific paper, and to state what material is at hand for reference.

The correspondence, however, is not limited to clubs, but is especially directed to serve rural women, individual readers, teachers, college graduates, and community workers.

The News Letter is offering to give some space in its columns from time to time to this Division for Women. We are therefore sending this copy to a large circle of women not hitherto on the mailing list. All that you have to do to get your name permanently on the list of subscribers is to mail a post card to the News Letter or to Mrs. Lingle giving your name and address very plainly. You may also add the words "Woman's Division" if you are interested in this special feature.