

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

# NEWS LETTER

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## THE FARMERS ARE PATRIOTIC

### FARM STATES FIRST

Who says the farmers are lacking in patriotism?

Whoever they are—and the accusers have been many—they need to be reminded that the first state over the top in the third Liberty Loan subscription is Iowa, a farm state—the best developed farm state in the Union.

And the second state to take up its allotment of Liberty bonds is Oregon, another farm state.

The people of Iowa are not only rural, 70 per cent of them, but more than two-fifths are foreign born or born of foreign parentage. In Oregon three-fifths of the people are rural and nearly three-fourths of them are foreigners either by birth or immediate descent.

They are rural and largely foreign; nevertheless they are loyal Americans in the mass. They have fully subscribed their share of Liberty Bonds, and they over-subscribed the third issue in less than a week.

They put to shame the rich states of our great industrial area. Their ardent faith in our government and our cause is a lesson to farmers in every state of the Union.

### THE WIDOW'S CRUSE OF OIL

The papers are telling once more the wonderful story of the widow's barrel of meal and cruse of oil. You will remember that she and her household and the prophet lived for many days on a handful of meal and a little oil in a cruse, and still the barrel of meal wasted not neither did the cruse of oil fail.

The bank reports are telling this story over again these days, perhaps without recognizing its parallel in the Bible.

But look. During the last year the national banks of the country and their customers have invested more than three billions of dollars in Liberty Bonds. Bankers with narrow space between their eyebrows prophesied bankruptcy for the banks. So much for the foresight of foolish bankers—or the lack of it.

But instead of bankruptcy the volume of national bank deposits was nearly one and a half billion dollars more in March 1918 than in March 1917, while national banks resources were more than two billion dollars larger. So run the figures of the Federal Comptroller of the Currency.

Which is to say, the national banks of the country furnished the money to pay for three billion dollars worth of Liberty Bonds and at the end of the year they and their customers were two million dollars richer than ever. Their barrel of meal wasted not neither did their cruse of oil fail.

It is the same story in North Carolina. We invested 37 million dollars in Liberty Bonds and yet our bank account savings last December were 15 million dollars more than they were in 1914. While our savings in war bonds and thrift stamps, and in the banks of the state were, all told, three and a half times greater than they were when the world war began.

Bankers with sense, to say nothing of patriotism, will be busy with this third Liberty Loan. Or so it would seem.

### SHORT-SIGHTED BANKERS

There are 540 banks of all sorts in North Carolina, but only 257 of them are acting as agents for the sale of War Savings Stamps, while 283, or more than half of them all, are doing nothing to encourage thrift of this sort among people who ordinarily live from hand to mouth and lay by nothing for rainy days.

And yet banks could not live a single day without thrift on the part of their customers. The greater the thrift and the larger the number of people with thrift habits, the larger the business of banks, and the fatter their dividends year by year.

Looks plain as a pikestaff, doesn't it? But strange to say, 283 bankers in North Carolina do not seem to have mastered even the abc's of their business. Patriotism as well as common business sense on the part of our bankers are both necessary, if 48 million dollars worth of thrift stamps are taken by the people of

small means in North Carolina within the next six months.

So far 41 states of the Union make a better showing than North Carolina, and we suggest that the directors of these 283 banks get together at once and discuss the short-sightedness of their cashiers.

It takes long-headed people to run banks that pay dividends and pile up surpluses for stockholders. In Minnesota, Montana, and Washington four-fifths or more of the banks are actively selling War Savings Stamps, but in North Carolina less than half of them.

This exhibit appears in a press letter sent out by Col. F. H. Fries, our state director of war savings, and it shames us.

Our allotment of thrift stamps sales is 48 million dollars, but so far only two million dollars worth have been sold. We need to wake up in this matter; and better than anybody else the bankers can wake us up!

### SOME REASONS WHY

The sale of 48 million dollars worth of Savings Stamps and Thrift Certificates is more important in North Carolina than the sale of 56 million dollars worth of Liberty Bonds; not more important to the government and the cause of humanity but more important to the State, because they develop thrift habits in careless people and decrease the vast majority of wasters and spenders.

The people who have subscribed to 37 million dollars worth of war bonds in North Carolina are already thrifty people, with surpluses large or small laid by for a rainy day.

But the people who will buy 25 cent Savings Stamps and 5 dollar Thrift Certificates will be the people who as a rule do not have the impulse or the habit of thrift and who now have a chance to develop this virtue on the highest possible level of motive.

### Those Who Save and Have

The people who save are the people who have forethought and self-denying power. But most people have neither, and we are beginning to know pretty definitely how a large fraction of population the thriftless represent. They are right around nine-tenths of the people of every community and country, state and nation on the globe. Or so various investigations show.

One-tenth of all the people own nine-tenths of all the wealth of the United States, is the statement with which the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations startled the country in 1916.

One-tenth of the people of Great Britain own nine-tenths of all the wealth, is the recent statement of the British Labor Party.

One-tenth of all the people in a mid-state Carolina township own nine-tenths of all the taxables, as the North Carolina Club at the University recently discovered.

Just about one-tenth of the people of the United States have taken nine-tenths of the Liberty Loan Bonds. Their purchase in Durham represents less than three per cent of the population.

Only about one-tenth of the people who die leave property enough to call for an administrator. The business of probate courts concerns the wills of just about one-tenth of the community death roll.

All of which indicates that just about nine people out of every ten lack the property-owning virtues, some one or more or all of them—industry, foresight, self-denial, sagacity, sobriety, and integrity. They are homely virtues, but they are very rare.

Just about nine people of every ten live from hand to mouth, day by day; with nothing saved and laid away or invested.

Just about nine men in every ten do not have money enough to bury a dead wife or child without going into debt, said one of the undertakers in Raleigh some years ago.

### The Fatal Ratio

Nine-tenths looks like a fatal ratio. The question that the War Savings Stamp Campaign puts to each man is, To which group do you belong—to the Thrifty Tenth or the Thriftless Nine Tenths? To

### OUR PART AND YOURS

They say, who have come back from over there, that at night the troubled earth between the lines is carpeted with pain. They say that death rides whistling in every wind, and that the very mists are charged with awful torment. They say that of all things spent and squandered there young human life is held least dear. But, please God, our love of life is not so prized as love of right. In this renaissance of our country's valor, we who will edge the wedge of her assault make calm acceptance of its hazards.

For us the steel-swept trench, the stiffening cold-weariness, hardship, worse. For you, for whom we go, you millions safe at home—what for you?—We shall need food. We shall need care. We shall need clothes for our bodies and weapons for our hands. We shall need terribly and without failure supplies and equipment in a stream that is constant and never-ending.

From you, who are our resource and reliance, who are the heart and hope of that humanity for which we smite and strive, must come these things.—Citizen Soldier No. 258, —th District National Army Draft.

the small group that saves or the large group that wastes?

The War Savings Campaign is giving us all a chance to take stock of ourselves seriously in North Carolina. Our fatal weakness is waste, and we now have a noble motive for curing this childish weakness. We say childish, because forethought and power of self-denial are the qualities of maturity, and the lack of them indicates the inability of a man or a people to put away childish things.

### IS THE FARMER PATRIOTIC?

It has been said of farmers recently that they will not fight, pay taxes or buy bonds. This sounds as if the farmer is a slacker!

If it were true that the farmer is a slacker then I tremble for my country. America must win and America cannot win without its farmers. No nation can long survive unless its rural population has a strong love of home and country.

Our farmers do love their homes and their country. How then have they acquired the reputation of being indifferent and back-pulling in this war which means freedom for farmers if we win, and going back to peasantry under German overlords if we lose?

It is because farmers are just people and a few of them are selfish and short-sighted and have made a great noise in complaining, while remaining quite inaudible as to suggestions for helping the common cause. All the farming population gets the blame for the mistakes of the few.

### The First to Enlist

The farmer boy was first to enlist and quickest to learn military discipline. The farm family is therefore doing its part in the first line of defense. Every farm family I know raised more garden stuff this year than ever before. Most of the "cow ranches" are feeding their helpers on home grown potatoes and beans, most of them for the first time.

What a pity that a blot should be cast on this good work by the complaining letters which we see in the newspapers and the farm journals. Every time I see one of these grouch letters I always hope the man in the training camps will not read it. It would make his hard task harder for he would feel that the farmers were stabbing him in the back, and failing to give that support which he must have to win.

Many retired farmers went back to the land last spring and broke up new land which they have been holding as a speculation. That was patriotic—and profitable.

Some of them persuaded their sons not to enlist, though they wanted to go, and the older men could have taken their places on the farm. This was unpatriotic and unfair to the sons.

My women neighbors raised an extra supply of poultry, one raising 250 chickens from three dozen hens. That was

fine, but they were not willing to sign food pledge cards nor service cards, and put themselves on record as behind the men in khaki. They suspected the motives of their own government, which means ourselves, but they believed the silly lies told by German agents, that their household supplies would be confiscated.

### Like Other Folks

I believe most farmers are like the great majority of Americans, ready to help in every way by putting aside selfishness and personal privilege, but a few farmers have demanded exemption of their sons and hired men from military service; exemption from price regulation; exemption from food regulations, especially in regard to sugar; and exemption from everything which touched farmers in any way. A general exemption is a slacker, and a slacker is a pro-German, whether he is a farmer or a trust magnate.

The patriotic farmer has been so busy that he has not expressed himself as plainly as he might. He has done his duty but not all of his duty. He is sometimes a passive American when he should be an aggressive American. He should consider himself a member of the council of defense; should refute statements his good sense tells him are untrue; should report un-American activities of deed or word; should do his part in resenting slanders of our army and navy; and should not indulge in captious fault-finding and sneering criticism. He should be active in rebuking criticism and back-pulling on the part of neighbors and if he has any suggestions which he thinks might be helpful he should present them to the public.

Every farmer knows in his own conscience whether or not he has been 100 per cent American, or whether he is what has been called a fifty-fifty American. We want our army and navy to know by the words of farmers themselves that farmers are standing shoulder to shoulder behind them every day and every hour.

If some few farmers had not expressed themselves in an unpatriotic way we would not now need to be defending farmers in general from the charge of slacker.—Minnie Boyer Davis, of The Vigilantes.

### WINNING THE WAR

Emphasizing the fact that the war can be won not only by producing but also by conserving Mrs. Jane McKimmon, of Raleigh, state home administration agent, made a very interesting and instructive talk before the regular fortnightly meeting of the North Carolina Club on Monday night. Mrs. McKimmon is the first lady that has ever addressed this club. Many ladies were present, and she received the closest attention of her hearers.

Albert Coates, president of the club, introduced the speaker and spoke of her work as requiring wonderful executive ability and infinite tact; and said he, after several years of experience North Carolina feels that she has made no mistake in selecting Mrs. McKimmon.

Home demonstration work since its organization in North Carolina in 1911 was fully discussed by Mrs. McKimmon. The expenses of this work are met by contributions by county, state and federal governments. Canning club work was started with not over 100 girls in any one county in 1911, but before the end of that year they had produced 35,000 tin cans of tomatoes. Today, said she, there are 75 counties organized for such work, with 54 trained home economics women as instructors and co-workers—women who are the very best community workers.

Mrs. McKimmon told of the increasing interest and response of the counties to the growing demands of this community work. When the work was begun some of the county commissioners grudgingly gave \$50 for this community club work; now four counties are giving \$1200 each per year.

The work of the home demonstrators in organizing canning campaigns especially among the factory girls, of interesting the people in growing gardens, however small, and of encouraging the conservation of food were all discussed at length by Mrs. McKimmon.

In this work we have closely co-opera-

ted with the state and national food commissions, the speaker said. People have been urged to eat less wheat, meat, fats, and sugars in order to help our allies. Smaller rations make healthier and more alert people.—Myron Green, Secretary.

### WILSON WON THE CUP

Chapel Hill, N. C., April 15—Before an audience that more than taxed the capacity of Gerrard Hall, the Wilson High School, represented by Thomas Burton and Will Anderson, last Friday night triumphed over the Jamestown High School, represented by Wills Staley and Nellie Haynes. Wilson defended the negative, while Jamestown supported the affirmative of the query: Resolved, that Congress should enact a law providing for the compulsory arbitration of industrial disputes.

No final debate in the history of the high school debating of North Carolina has been closer or more exciting. Both teams received the rapt attention of the audience and were frequently interrupted by applause. The speeches were declared by many as much above the average, and the rebuttals were brilliant and full of vigor.

One new feature was introduced last night. Gold medals were presented to all four debaters who took part in the final contest. These were given by President Edward K. Graham and Prof. M. C. S. Noble, of the School of Education.

In opening, President Graham declared that these debates have come to be a real influence in state life. He spoke of the closeness of the contest this year and the fine spirit shown, even though the weather was a bad break in the game. Prof. N. W. Walker, in delivering the cup, spoke of the far-reaching influence of the debates, which have been listened to by 100,000 North Carolinians throughout the state. There were 300 schools participating this year. After the debate, a reception was tendered the visitors in the gymnasium.

Wilson now wins the cup for the second time. Sixty-seven schools took part in the finals here. The contest was close throughout. Four schools,—Burgaw, Concord, Jamestown and Brevard Institute,—won on both sides in the preliminaries of Thursday night.

The following schools won the cup in the past years: 1913, Pleasant Garden; 1914, Winston-Salem; 1915, Wilson; 1916, Graham; 1917, Waynesville. The negative team has won in the last two debates. Six girls have so far participated in the final contest. Two Wilson girls, Miss Ethel Gardner and Lalla Rookh Fleming, won the debates in 1915. Wilson is the only school to win twice.

The track meet, which was postponed because of the weather, will be held most probably on April 27, here. The teams competing for honors in tennis have already made arrangement for playing off the tennis tournament later.

The reception to the visitors and their friends in the gymnasium after the final debate marked the end of the sixth contest. The debaters were entertained by the University and the town during their stay here.—Press Report.

### A COLUMN AND A HALF

The Philadelphia Public Ledger of April 14 devoted a column and a half to leaflet No. 14 of the War Information Series of the University of North Carolina—National Ideals in British and American Literature, by the English department of the University.

It is a truly splendid thing, the writer says; and it goes far, he adds, to give patriotism the material out of which real patriots can be made. He quotes Dr. Edwin Greenlaw's Foreword in full and goes on to record his opinion that the 15 War Leaflets of the University of North Carolina ought to be put in the hands of all those publicists and others who in pulpit or on platform are supposedly engaged in helping us to understand what the phrases "hands across the sea" and "blood is thicker than water" really mean.

We should be indeed grateful if our own home papers would give these war leaflets space enough to catch the attention of the folks in North Carolina who ought to have them. They go free of charge to those who write for them, so long as the supply lasts.