

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

NEWS LETTER

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SAFE-GUARD THE FUTURE

SCHOOLS IN FRANCE

The elementary schools are all kept open and France is keeping her children in school, although in many instances the schools have been opened so close to the firing lines that the children have been obliged to wear gas masks to enable them to attend.

Some 30,000 teachers of France went to war in the first year, and an equal number since that time, making in all 60,000 teachers now in the military service. Over 4,000 of this number have been decorated for deeds of distinguished bravery.—Smithfield Herald.

CANNOT WRITE HOME

The Secretary of the Interior recently addressed a letter to the chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Education, from which we take the following:

"At the last census there were in the United States five and a half million persons above ten years of age who were unable to read or write in any language. Seven hundred thousand men of draft age cannot read or write—cannot sign their names; cannot read posted orders or their manual of arms; cannot understand signals in battle; cannot write home or read letters from home. Illiterates in the United States above twenty years of age equal the whole population of twelve great Western States. Of our agricultural population three million seven hundred thousand cannot read a farm paper, an agricultural bulletin, a Liberty Loan poster, a newspaper, or a Bible.

Of the total number of illiterates in the country over fifty-eight per cent are white, and more than a million and a half—equal to the population of Philadelphia at the last census—are native born whites. If the average productive power of an illiterate is less by only fifty cents a day than that of a person able to read and write—probably a conservative estimate—the country loses over eight hundred million dollars a year through illiteracy."

Of the number who can read and write in some foreign tongue, but not in English, the secretary does not speak, except to say: "What a commentary upon our short comings, that in the days of peace we did not teach these men, who have been here long enough to become citizens, the language in which our laws and history are written and in which the commands of defense must now be given!"

He asks the chairmen's interest in a bill before Congress making a modest appropriation to enable the Bureau of Education to launch a campaign against adult illiteracy. That bill is commendable—on such a patch on a great hole.—Saturday Evening Post.

CAROLINA'S WAR RECORD

Nearly 1,000 students and faculty members of this and former years represented the University of North Carolina in the World War. The roster to date shows 984 men.

The number in the Army is 435, in the Navy 27, in the Medical Corps 153, in the Aviation Service 55, in the Wireless, Hospital and Ambulance Corps, 84. The privates and non-commissioned officers number 243.

Among our men in war service are 2 brigadier generals, 4 colonels, 7 lieutenants and colonels, 12 majors, 61 captains, and 119 first lieutenants in the army; the Secretary of the Navy, 4 lieutenant commanders, and 5 lieutenants in the Navy; and 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant colonel, 9 majors, 9 captains, and 93 first lieutenants in the Medical Corps.

Till the end of the war the Alumni Review will be carrying month by month the record of Carolina men. Every Alumnus is earnestly requested to help Dr. T. J. Wilson, the University Registrar, make the record full and accurate.

A BUGLE CALL TO SERVE

The bugle a thing this world war is, is sounded by the recent calls from headquarters for more doctors, chaplains, and Y. M. C. A. secretaries for army service abroad.

There are urgent needs of 5,000 addi-

tional surgeons for the army, 2,000 for the Navy, and 5,000 for the Medical Reserve Corps. North Carolina's quota is 220 volunteers. Report to Maj. J. W. Long at Greensboro, the officer in charge in North Carolina.

And for 5,000 more army chaplains—125 from North Carolina. And by the way, the pay averages \$2,400 per year, with \$300 in addition to pay the wife's house rent at home.

And for more Army Y. M. C. A. secretaries at the rate of 1,000 a month until the needs of our boys and our allies are supplied—20 a month from North Carolina.

Here is a clear call to Christian manhood—a call to the finest Christian ministry there is on earth today.

If our men can die fighting for us, surely then in God's name we can die working for them, said Harry Lauder, the Scotch comedian to a vast audience the other Sunday night in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

And it is truly heroic service. More than 70 of the chaplains in the allied armies have been killed, many have been wounded, and many others have died of disease. Two have won the Victoria Cross, 130 have been decorated, and many more have been specially mentioned in dispatches from the front, said Earl Curzon when the British Parliament gave these soldiers of the Cross a vote of gratitude the other day.

GOOD SALARIES IN SIGHT

The Federal Department of Agriculture is calling from time to time for both men and women who have had training and experience in rural economics and sociology. These calls arise out of the immense war-time expansion of work in the offices of farm management, markets, and rural organization. The salaries offered range from \$1500 to \$1800 a year.

In view of which, the attention of teachers and the general public is called to the courses in these subjects in the University Summer School, June 11-July 25.

A New Course Offered

Since the Summer School Bulletin was published a new course has been added—in the Principles of Sociology by Charles Burgess Austin, A. M., of Columbia University. He is just now in the College of the City of New York giving the courses of Prof. Woolston who is absent on war duty in France.

A brief account of Prof. Austin is as follows: A. B. University of Indiana 1907. Fellow and Assistant in Economics, University of Wisconsin, 1908-10. In charge of the work in Economics and Sociology, Grinnell College, 1910-11. Instructor in Economics, University of Texas, 1912-15. Economics and Sociology, University of Indiana, Summer Schools of 1914 and 1915.

The course offered by Prof. Austin covers: An introduction to the study of society with special emphasis upon social evolution. The physical, biological, and psychological factors will be considered. Some attention will be given to theories of social organization and social progress. Among the topics treated are: the social composition, the social constitution, motives of group action, problems of co-operation, laws of social control, etc. Large use will be made of local data in order that the student may acquire ability to interpret correctly the social phenomena of his own environment. Texts: Assigned readings; Reports; Discussions; Lectures.

This course will be accompanied by collateral work in Field Investigations and Research, with a one hour credit.

CAROLINA RESOURCES

The North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey announces the following lectures relating chiefly to the relation of certain of our natural resources to war needs and to the present and future development of the State. These are suitable for school commencements, club s, civic meetings, teachers' and farmers' institutes, etc. Application for lectures should be addressed to the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, Chapel Hill, N. C. and should be

FUTURE DEFENSES

Dr. John H. Finley

Do not let the needs of the war, however demanding, or its burden, however heavy, or its perils, however threatening, or its sorrows, however heart-breaking, make you unmindful of the defenses of tomorrow; of those disciplines through which the individual may have freedom, through which an efficient democracy is possible, through which the institutions of civilization can be perpetuated and strengthened.

Conserve, endure taxation and privation, suffer and sacrifice to assure to those whom you have brought into the world that it shall be not only a safe, but also a happy place for them—The Commissioner of Education of New York State.

made well in advance of the occasion.

By J. S. Holmes, State Forester:

1. The Forests of North Carolina.
2. Conservation of our Natural Resources.

Forest Fire Prevention, a War Necessity.

4. Wood and War.

By Miss H. M. Berry, Secretary.

1. North Carolina's War Minerals; Their Development a Patriotic Duty.
2. North Carolina's Contribution to our Food Supply.
3. Utilizing our Raw Materials.
4. Women's War Work.

DEBATE VICTORIES

By winning a double victory over Virginia and Johns Hopkins in the triangular debate of April 27, the University of North Carolina added a new chapter to the splendid record which it has maintained for 21 years in intercollegiate debating.

The question was: Resolved, that the government of the United States immediately conscript each resident of this country not engaged in military duty, for such other services during the war as the government shall deem each best fitted to perform.

Carolina upheld the affirmative side of the question against Johns Hopkins at Charlottesville, being represented by W. H. Stephenson and Leo Carr. At Baltimore, Carolina maintained the negative against the University of Virginia, being represented by M. B. Fowler and W. M. York.

Since the inauguration of intercollegiate debating in 1897, Carolina has won 32 out of the total of 47 debates that have been held.

ANOTHER COUNTY ANALYZED

Reference has frequently been made in these columns to the work of the North Carolina club at the University of North Carolina, of its year-books, and of the special county studies which club members have been engaged in preparing. Earlier in the year special mention was made of the first of these studies—Sampson County: Economic and Social.

The Daily News is in receipt of Durham County: Economic and Social, prepared by W. M. Upchurch and M. B. Fowler. This publication, 100 pages in length, is the second of the county series, and during the next few weeks is to be followed by similar publications for Wake, Rutherford, Rockingham, Orange, and other counties.

What it Means

As one reviews these publications, it is impossible to escape the conviction that in their preparation the students of the university are coming into intimate acquaintance with North Carolina. There is the further impression that the men who have made them will be better citizens for having made them and more effective leaders in the development of North Carolina life. And still further, the home folk in the counties covered by these studies have for the first time the opportunity to see themselves in a true revealing light. Hereafter there will be no reason for them to fail to know their status in a large number of particulars.

Competent Citizenship

Now that the publications are beginning to come from the press in comparative frequency, the real bigness of the idea back of them becomes doubly apparent. The study is of a new sort, but

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

LETTER SERIES NO. 146

TEACHERS' SALARIES

It strikes us that we have had about enough talk going on for the past six months in regard to the miserably low salaries paid to our public school teachers to have had some response before this. As in so many other matters it looked as if we had too dog-goned many leaders and not enough followers. From all sides we have been having it dinned into our ears that we are not by any means paying our teachers a living wage,—and we blissfully keep right on doing it.

Is it any wonder that our teachers are taking all manner of means to get out of the teaching profession and leave the schools to go their own way because some little two-by-four school committeeman thinks that in the good Lord's own good time and way He will provide for the needs of the children now growing up? It is most inordinately true that things do not turn up in this world unless someone turns them up. Here we have been talking for six months and more about this matter and scarcely a thing has been done toward trying to turn up any higher wages for the teachers.

What Are They Doing?

Meanwhile what are the teachers doing about the matter? The answer is easy,—they are resigning by the dozens and scores, they are seeking positions where they will have enough paid them to live on as well as at least as the little peanut-souled committeemen who are sitting back complacently waiting for "sunthin to turn up." They are taking a few nights off every week and fitting themselves to take up office work and then go away from us to northern cities to return no more forever,—and we have driven them out.

Can you blame them? We have an outworn idea still lingering back in the thinkers of some of our folks that the public schools are a charity and that the teachers are the objects of our benefi-

cence. We have not yet been able to disillusion some of our good and pious brethren of this fallacy about education in a democracy. There never was a more vicious idea about a public necessary than this frayed and weather-beaten idea that public schools are a public charity. They are a vital necessity to the safety and perpetuity of this nation. One reason we are now having so much of indifference and opposition to certain of the measures advocated by our Government is because we have not come out strong and sure with the demand for adequate public support of our public schools.

Can you blame these men and women who are doing more good solid work for the future of our nation than any other body of workers of equal size in the United States, if they are getting disgusted with the miserable pittance we are paying them and strike out for themselves into some new field? But even if you do not blame them what shall we be doing for teachers of our children this next year? Shall we close the schools and have it said that the South is failing in its duty toward supporting the measures of our President? Shall we close our schools and thus lay the way for a repetition of the last fifty years in our history? If we do not get busy about this matter of raising more funds and raising them mighty soon we are in a fair way to bring again upon us the hardships through which our fathers passed after the Civil War.

Can You Blame Them

Citizens of North Carolina! Awake to the need for doing something about raising the salaries of your public school teachers!

Wilson and Beaufort counties have lead the way, with 30-cent county-wide tax levies.

What will Wake, Lenoir, Franklin, Anson, Warren and Edgecombe do about it? They are all voting on the proposition this month.

A HEADLESS AFFAIR

A nation composed of units is hardly stronger than the strongest unit, stated Dr. H. S. Gilbertson, Secretary National Short Ballot Association, in his address before the North Carolina Club at the University Monday night. Speaking of county government, Mr. Gilbertson emphasized the importance of the county as a unit agency of human service. Heretofore, says he, we have looked upon county government as being little more than the making of certain records, the filing of certain papers, the care of the poor, and the apprehending of criminals. It has been our most neglected and most inefficient unit of government, yet it is the unit upon which the functions of general government are built. The county has no authoritative, unifying officer—as the governor in a state or the mayor in a city.

County government in North Carolina and the United States has failed, he continued, more decidedly than any other branch of government, in performing service, because it lacks two characteristics, namely, the single hearted allegiance of the people as a whole, and a definite policy and plan of service.

Dr. Gilbertson advocated the short ballot for electing officers for North Carolina counties, and the commission form of government for counties and cities, or better still, the commission-manager plan—such a plan as Buncombe is now considering. Safety and accomplishment do not lie in making government complex and hard to understand, but in making it extremely simple and unified, with a definite program, policy, and responsibility. Every county should have a unifying head which could be held responsible to the people for the performance of all duties by all officers, Dr. Gilbertson declared.

Our present county government was characterized as six or seven different governments acting independently of each other, without any leadership and coordination. As a result the principal concern of county officers now is to keep their jobs and collect their salaries.

In the future county government will mean a very great program of human service, but before it can perform this service it must be made possible for it to develop a policy and program. Tradition is that during the Civil War grew out of the reaction against centralized government must be modified. Reformation must come through popular education in civic matters; especially in such county studies as the North Carolina Club is making here. It is surprising and gratifying to find this club so far in the lead in this neglected field of political economy, he said in conclusion.—Myron Green, Secretary.

it is vital to North Carolina. Absolutely so. And the club, in its fortnightly meetings and in these publications, is carrying out an ambitious, effective program which spells untold good for the state.

An unusually pleasing feature in connection with the appearance of Durham County: Economic and Social, is that it is backed by the interest and support of the university alumni. John Sprunt Hill, whose varied gifts to the university during the year have been of a most distinctive character, met the expense of bringing out the bulletin.—Greensboro Daily News.

WE MEAN YOU

Today the Shah of Persia cables in to Washington an order for \$100,000 worth of liberty bonds. So much for the patriotic interest in humanity, of a pagan on the other side of the globe.

And the liberty bond purchases of the North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association of Durham now amount to \$100,000. It is a Negro insurance company—the largest in the world. So much for Negro patriotism here at home.

And the lepers at Molokai have bought \$3,000 worth of our war savings stamps. So much for the patriotism of those on whom God has laid the hand of incurable disease.

But how about your patriotism? How much is it worth—in liberty bonds, or war savings stamps, or Red Cross support, or army Y. M. C. A. contributions?

Nothing?
You can't fight and you won't work for or lend to the cause of liberty and humanity? Can't put \$50 into a liberty bond, or \$4.13 into a thrift certificate, or 25 cents into a savings stamp?

Who are you anyway?
Are you just busy laying up treasure on earth? If so, how many pockets will you need in your shroud? Are you just a tick and flea citizen?

Surely not!
Or are you just waiting for George to do it all?

In either event, your neighbors are weighing you in exact balances these days?

And their estimates of you are varied, variegated, and lurid.
When this war is over there are some people that will have to move into new communities. Their old home towns will be too hot to hold them.