

The news in this publication is released for the press on receipt.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

MAY 14, 1919

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. V, NO. 25

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, J. G. deR. Hamilton, L. R. Wilson, D. D. Carroll, G. M. McKie.

Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

EDUCATION AND DEMOCRACY

WASTE IN CAROLINA

Hon. William C. Redfield, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Commerce, in a speech yesterday before the Wholesale Grocers of New England, gave some interesting figures as to the production and consumption of North Carolina pine timber. He stated that two-thirds of the tree was wasted before it reached the market, only one third being marketed profitably.

It follows, therefore, said he, that when the total annual cut produces 15,000,000,000 feet, board measure, of merchantable timber, twice as much other material derived from the same tree has been allowed to go to waste. The amount of this waste in the pine industry alone is enough to furnish raw material for the production every day of 40,000 tons of paper, 3,000 tons of rosin, 300,000 gallons of turpentine, and 600,000 gallons of ethyl grain alcohol. The potential values of these products are many times greater than the total actual values now developed by the industry.—S. R. Winters, in the News and Observer.

GREAT WORK

If the country civilization of North Carolina were organized in every county as it is in Anson the levels of country life would soon stand away above high water mark. The community clubs in that county number 13, the community fairs 8, the township fairs 4, the clubs of country women 23, and the clubs of boys and girls 22. All told, 58 country organizations in Anson. Not one of the eight townships has been neglected, even the most remote. Every township has from one to five country-life organizations.

And the genius who is doing this remarkable work of organizing country-life in Anson is Mrs. Rosalind Redfeare. May her tribe increase. She needs to be multiplied a hundred times over in North Carolina.

Superintendent H. H. McLean is also lending himself and his school forces to the home and farm demonstration agents, and setting the woods afire in Beaufort.

The County Agricultural Association is doing the same thing in Johnston.

The Chamber of Commerce is getting ready to do likewise in Mecklenburg. Six thousand dollars have been set aside to do it with. What is wanted is just the right sort of man or woman—what President Graham loved to call 'a real person'. We are trying here to find such a right-hand man for these generous business people in Charlotte.

Strange, how few real persons there are in the world. Forked radishes was Carlyle's phrase for the common run of men. What these Mecklenburgers want is a man with a first-class head-piece, big visions and policies, and effective leadership in vital concerns.

If you know him, name him. There's a great work for him to do in the best agricultural county in North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA LEADS

In the states of Washington and Kansas proposals are pending for the establishment of county boards of public welfare. North Carolina has had such a law for two years, authorizing county welfare boards under the supervision of the state board of public welfare.

The general idea underlying this plan is that relief and preventive work should be united, and that, except in New England, and under the unique conditions of New York city, the county is the natural political unit, not only for public outdoor relief but for child welfare activities, the court supervision of domestic relations when that is necessary, the oversight of delinquents through probation and parole, and many other kinds of social work which are now regarded as suitable for public action.

By the coordination of all such work in the county it becomes possible to have a trained social worker in charge of it. Rural social work will always be likely to be done badly if it is merely an incidental occupation and if done by an untrained person. A synthetic program of social work in which each age group is considered, each specific task put in its right

place, each social danger duly estimated and protective measures ensured, would enable every county in the United States to justify the appointment of at least one trained worker on full time. In the larger or more populous counties a specialized staff would become necessary.

Dangers to be Avoided

The law establishing such boards should be flexible. It should create no confusion between public and voluntary agencies. Public health, like public education, is everywhere sufficiently important to demand a distinct county or municipal organization, with qualified medical and engineering experts in charge. The board of public welfare as the undifferentiated agency may at any given moment, however, be dealing with questions quite as serious and difficult. Housing becomes a health problem at its margins, but might engage the attention of a board of public welfare long before any recognized health nuisance is involved. The board of public welfare might constantly be passing clearly formulated permanent responsibilities to new social agencies, while it might also retain many which do not become large enough or permanent enough to acquire a specialized board or institution.—Edward T. Devine, in The Survey.

OUR UNIVERSITY Y AFIELD

The world had wagged a long long time before anybody seriously began to consider loneliness as a curable ill. Then for another long time urban loneliness came in for pretty strenuous attention. It remained for the Y. M. C. A. to set afoot definitely purposeful efforts to reduce loneliness wherever it might be found, and, never neglecting its city work, it decided to move into the country. Wisely it began with firmly rooted institutions, the church and the Sunday school. All our social agencies would function wiser if they would tie up tight with the age-old institutions of society.

Early among the pioneers in country territory were our North Carolina University lads. Almost twelve years ago they began their weekly trudgings to and fro, storm and mud no hindrance, fair weather and University pleasures no temptation to keep them from their labor of love. The bleaker the accommodation, the smaller the attendance, the more faithfully did these youthful teachers of the young stick to their country Sunday school jobs.

Chapel Hill lies in the center of a circle of six country settlements, five miles deep or so. They are Smith's Level, Clark's Chapel, Rankin's Chapel, Calvander, Mount Carmel, and Williams's Chapel. At each of these places a Sunday school has been born or re-born. At each point the people have responded gladly, as people always do respond when the leader calls. In many a country home in these six settlements the drudgery of the week has been lightened by the cherished thought of congenial intercourse on the day of rest. Remembrance of the faithful young men who never yet have failed in kindness, in patience, in gladness, in simple loyal Christian teaching has brought joyous song out of many a young throat that might else have been constricted by a sob of loneliness as its owner bent over plow handles or the wash tub.

Results

Last Sunday we saw about sixty light-hearted children, boys and girls, lads and lasses, fathers and mothers, at Clark's Chapel. We heard singing that would have done credit to any highly trained group of children anywhere. When the question was asked about how many would like to take part in a community pageant that is being planned to bring them all together shortly at the University for a day of picnic sports and play, every hand went up in eager assent, every young face beamed with smiles.

At Smith's Level on the same day we saw an only slightly smaller gathering and were as much impressed by the lovely lack of self-consciousness among the children. The attention and interest in the Sunday school lesson were faultless.

No fewer than three college men go to each of these six country Sunday schools every Sunday afternoon. The average at-

TOPPING ALL THE ARTS

Dr. Cyrus Thompson

The art of living is the finest of all the fine arts. It is also the art which both individuals and nations of men are slowest to learn. But in all nations individuals are readier to learn it than are the nations themselves. These good men are the salt of the earth. You may find civilized men in every nation in the world, but nowhere in the world may you find a civilized nation. In every nation you may find individuals honest and neighborly to individuals of any other nation, but an honest and neighborly nation is as yet an unknown social product. The individual loves the plow-share, but the nation does not farm; the individual loves the pruning hook, but the nation has no orchard or garden. The nations do their work with swords and spears and lying tongues.

tendance is around two hundred persons—some thirty or more at each place. They learn Sunday school lessons. They sing and pray together. They plan how to carry out week-day community entertainments, plays by the children, parties, and singing bees. The tension of monotonous living is loosened. The possibility of community expansion is greatly increased.

These college boys and farm families in their weekly meetings are likely to stumble upon many of the eternal verities as they puzzle out their lessons and sing their songs together. The first and greatest of these may very well be, as Mr. Moss phrased it on Easter Sunday, that in the midst of life we are in life. Did he not also mean that if we work together, sing together, and study and play together in building up community spirit we shall all together come to have life more abundantly?—E. N.

SCHOOLS AND DEMOCRACY

"The war has revealed a most alarming amount of illiteracy. In one state, North Carolina, 487 out of 961 drafted men were found to be illiterate," says Edgar P. Hill, in the New Era Magazine, March issue.

Miss Mary Scales Miller, one of our alumnae, sends us this quotation from Washington City, saying, These figures astound and distress me; let me know what is really the truth about illiteracy in my home state.

There are several things to say about the illiteracy figures quoted from the army records.

First, army and census illiteracy rates were reckoned in different ways.

In the census taking, if a person could write his name, or even said he could write his name, he was not recorded as an illiterate. Yet on this exceedingly slender and unsatisfactory basis, nearly one out of every five people in North Carolina in 1910, ten years old and over, was illiterate, both races counted; while nearly one out of every eight native born whites was illiterate. The figures are appalling and they put North Carolina near the bottom of the illiteracy column.

Illiteracy, Sheer and Near

In the army count, a drafted man was counted as an illiterate unless he could read intelligently as well as write. Of course there are many people who can write their own names and nothing or little else; who can read a little but cannot read anything intelligently. These people were all recorded as illiterate in the draft examinations. The army figures, therefore, cover both sheer-illiteracy and near-illiteracy. Near-illiteracy in every state is a far bigger problem than sheer-illiteracy—a fact that we are only recently discovering. The census figures on illiteracy do not tell the whole story; the army figures come nearer the real truth.

Roughly, the army illiteracy figures are usually two or three times the census illiteracy figures for any given state. The army rate of 50 percent in the North Carolina group referred to above is nearly twice the census rate, if these drafted men

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

LETTER SERIES NO. 168

A BIG PROBLEM

The greatly increased enrollment in our high schools all over the United States presents a series of difficult not to say baffling problems.

So long as we were content to provide educational advantages for only a few and to train up a selected number of leaders the plan of operating our academies and high schools was very simple indeed. Only a special type of pupil was fitted for leadership and a limited number of channels were open through which to attain the leader's place.

Changing Needs

But today we are trying to meet the needs of a heterogeneous population and to fit these various as well as varying types into all sorts and manner of places. To meet these diversified needs we must plan for many classes in many more subjects. We must organize to find places for brilliant, average, and slow pupils. We need to discover and make effective the rela-

tions existing between community, individual, and social needs.

Two Views

Such changes and such radical moves as these conditions make necessary shock the sensibilities of many who believe only in the culture value of education. That there can be and must be a plane found for the more practical and utilitarian values they cannot or will not see.

As a consequence many who do not see the place and value of the practical have entirely lost their sense of proportion and would have us do nothing but supply the vocational, leaving the cultural wholly to one side.

The Golden Mean

Neither extreme will do. The desirable and necessary position to take is rather to try to find the place where we can find the balance, the poise which shall care for the needs of many and of the few. Truth is not found in extremes.

Aycock's Prayer

Elsewhere in this issue we are ranking the states of the Union according to the per capita expenditures for public school education in 1915-16. The figures cover (1) all public school expenditures except school bond moneys, and (2) the number of pupils in average daily attendance.

The figures for North Carolina were \$12.31 per pupil, and only Mississippi made a poorer showing.

Under our new law our total will move up from \$5,493,000 in 1915-16 to nearly \$9,000,000 in 1919-20, (as estimated); and our public school term will rise from four to six months the state over.

We use the 1915-16 figures because they are the very latest available for all the states. The '19-'20 figures will show an immense sudden gain in North Carolina; but we must remember that almost every other state is also making a like heroic effort, and we must not be surprised therefore to find ourselves next year still near the bottom of the list.

"God give us patience and strength that we may work to build up schools that shall be as a light shining throughout the land—ten, fifty, a thousand candle power. Behind this movement for the education of the children of our land there stands One who said, Let there be light."—C. B. Aycock.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL

In the United States in 1915-16

Covering (1) administration, salaries, textbooks, miscellaneous operating expenses, sites, new buildings and equipments; every expense indeed, except school bonds, and (2) average daily attendance.

Total public school expenditures in N. C. in 1915-16 were \$5,493,000; authorized by the 1919 legislature, \$9,000,000 (estimated).

Based on the 1917 Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education, pages 73 and 81.

Rank	States	Per Pupil	Rank	State	Per Pupil
1	Montana	\$86.36	25	Michigan	\$47.66
2	California	78.17	26	Illinois	45.16
3	Arizona	77.85	27	Wisconsin	44.90
4	Nevada	76.26	28	Vermont	43.91
5	North Dakota	69.62	29	New Hampshire	39.44
6	Washington	68.33	30	New Mexico	38.79
7	Idaho	63.56	31	Maine	34.31
8	New Jersey	61.69	32	Missouri	33.65
9	South Dakota	61.26	33	Maryland	30.93
10	Wyoming	57.65	34	Texas	30.50
11	Minnesota	57.22	35	West Virginia	28.85
12	Colorado	55.90	36	Oklahoma	28.47
13	Massachusetts	53.75	37	Florida	26.44
14	Connecticut	53.09	38	Delaware	24.06
15	Ohio	52.88	39	Kentucky	23.56
16	Oregon	52.59	40	Louisiana	23.36
17	Iowa	52.15	41	Virginia	21.53
18	New York	52.15	42	Tennessee	15.76
19	Indiana	51.77	43	Alabama	15.49
20	Pennsylvania	50.88	44	Arkansas	14.63
21	Utah	50.84	45	Georgia	13.77
22	Rhode Island	50.32	46	South Carolina	12.80
23	Nebraska	50.06	47	North Carolina	12.31
24	Kansas	49.40	48	Mississippi	9.30