

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.

AUGUST 20, 1919

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. V, NO. 39

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, J. G. de R. 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, 1913.

A STATE AND COUNTY COUNCIL

A PUBLIC WELFARE SCHOOL

A state and county council, composed of representatives of the state and county administrations, headed by Governor Bickett, will assemble at the University of North Carolina September 15 for a week's study of state legislation with a view to better correlating state and county activities in carrying it out. Plans for the Council were announced yesterday, following a final conference between state officials and representatives of the University of North Carolina. It will be held under the auspices of the Governor and the University in connection with the State Department of Education, the State Board of Health, the Board of Public Welfare, the State Tax Commission, and the State Highway Commission.

Every official body in all the counties of the state will be invited and urged by the Governor to send at least one accredited representative. This should bring to the Council from all parts of the state County Commissioners, members of Boards of Education, Juvenile Court Judges, Superintendents of Public Welfare, Road Commissioners, Tax Assessors, and others.

The Governor Endorses

Governor Bickett has given his enthusiastic endorsement to the proposal. He will open the Council Monday night, September 15, and will preside during the entire week's series of conferences. These will deal with local and state problems. Six hours each day will be devoted to a study of problems and the means of meeting them with the legislative machinery already available. There will be ample time for fraternizing during the day and night. Speakers of national importance will deliver addresses at the night sessions. These will be of inspirational nature.

The cooperation of state and county forces for the upbuilding of the state is the principal aim in view. Heretofore the counties have been standing alone and the state has followed somewhat the same policy. The Council will let the various counties know what the others are doing, and all will come into a better understanding for a fuller cooperation with the state.

Recent Legislation

The last session of the General Assembly was noteworthy for some far reaching legislation which the counties must put through if it meets the purpose of the legislators. All these matters will be brought before the Council, and will be thrashed out in an open and intelligent fashion.

A detailed schedule for the Council sessions is being mapped out allotting time for the various subjects to be discussed. The conferences will go on much after the manner of college classes. In fact, it will be a short course in North Carolina legislation, given at the University of North Carolina. Incidentally, it will be a sort of extension course for the University, knitting its activities more closely with the everyday life of the State.

A Thousand Expected

More than a thousand persons are expected to be in attendance upon the Council meeting. The press of the state will receive an urgent invitation. Mr. R. F. Beasley, Commissioner of Public Welfare, and a moving figure in the inauguration of this Council, will extend the invitation to the editors at the meeting at Wrightsville soon. The University has provided all the necessary room and arrangements for the entertainment of the visitors. Lodging and meals will be furnished by the University for the sum of \$1.25 per day. The fact that the Council meets on the eve of the opening of the University, makes this possible.

The first announcement of the Council meeting was made by Commissioner Beasley after conference with Prof. E. C. Branson, Prof. L. R. Wilson, of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. W. S. Rankin, Secretary of the State Board of Health; Dr. E. C. Brooks, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mr. A. J. Maxwell, Corporation Commissioner, and Mr. Frank Page, State Highway Commissioner.—News and Observer.

A GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

The coming together of the State and County officials of North Carolina at the University the week of September 15 may not at once result in that correlation of their activities which is the ultimate object of the gathering; but it cannot fail to do the whole outfit good. There's a lot of lost motion in North Carolina government that could be taken out to the increased comfort and satisfaction of governing and governed, if county and state authorities always knew where they were going.

There's some, perhaps not much, working at cross purposes, and now and then friction arises between county and state. This lack of co-ordination of effort is not wholly the fault of the county authorities, either. True, the counties are inclined to resent centralization of authority here in Raleigh; but intelligent helpfulness on the one big job of properly administering the affairs of North Carolina will be appreciated rather than rebuffed.

Great Responsibilities

Just where this idea came from does not at present matter, although we trust the originator will meet with due appreciation. No better place for the meeting could be found than the University, which may be termed neutral territory. The University has long since come to realize its vital connection with the state as a whole and its 100 integral parts. Its extension work has brought it into closer contact with the counties than is enjoyed, perhaps, by any other state institution. In addition it can tell many of the state officials things they do not at present know about the counties, and the counties, in turn, a lot about state government.

No better time could be found for the meeting. Never was there so great need for the closest sort of harmony between the state and counties. Public health laws of the most progressive kind have been enacted and must be enforced; the educational system has been given a broader and deeper foundation; the taxation system is being made new. Departments of Health and Education and the Tax Commission are powerless to secure to the people of the state any small part of the benefit which should and must be derived from the epochal legislation of the last General Assembly, unless the counties each catch step and forward march toward the common goal.

The meeting, a government institute, so to speak, should become a yearly institution, for it has great possibilities.—The Raleigh Times.

A BIG OPEN FORUM

The County and State Council to be held at Chapel Hill the week beginning September 15 is an event that every county of the state should take part in. This meeting is no legalized appointment, but it is a popular gathering of representative people headed by the Governor of the state, for the exchange of ideas on state and county activities, and it is in line with the new phases of education and community advancement springing up here and there constantly in North Carolina.

This state is full of new ideas, and it is profitable for the people to meet and talk over the suggestions that are cropping out. The isolated community may come along in the course of time, but the community that gets out and looks around and sees what others are doing is the one that makes progress.

A feature of the meeting will be the consideration of the work of the last Legislature. The recent session of the Legislature enacted a lot of progressive work, and much of it is not yet realized or understood by the people. The Chapel Hill meeting will take up that work and help to apply it as widely as possible. The themes to be discussed in public and the subjects that will call forth discussion between individuals will send the delegates back home with a broader knowledge of many things in state work, and will pay generously for the slight time and money spent in attendance. Chapel

THE TEST OF A MAN

Franklin K. Lane

The test is to be in peace what it was in the time of war. Are you fitted for the fight? The man who knew how knowledge could be converted into power was the man for whom there was unlimited call. So it is increasingly to be.

To be useful is to be the test that society will put. Each man's rights are to be measured, not by what he has, but by what he does with what he has. The honors—the Croix de Paix—the richest rewards will go to the capables, those who are not standardized into "men machines," those who dare to venture and learn to lead.

But all must work, and this duty to work and respect for work should be the earliest lesson learned. And it should be taught in the school, not as an homily, but in a living way, by tying work with instruction, making the thing learned apply to something done.

I should like to see the day when every child learned a trade while at school, trained his mind and his hand together, lifted labor into art by the application of thought. To be useful is the essence of Americanism, and against the undeveloped resource, whether it be land of man, the spirit of this country makes protest.

Hill is always a profitable place to go to, and an occasion of this sort makes it all the more profitable.—News and Observer.

HURRAH FOR NASH

Nash county pays her sheriff \$6,500—an increase of \$1,500 dating back to Dec. 1, 1918, so by order of the legislature that adjourned last March.

It is a handsome salary, as salaries go in North Carolina, and yet it is not a penny too much if he does his full duty in collecting and accounting for the taxes of the county with business-like method and dispatch, and in preserving law and order in Nash without fear or favor. It is all too little for effective services of this sort in any county.

The sheriff's office in Nash pays \$1,500 a year more than a Supreme court judgeship in North Carolina. Leaving out the residence, domestic service, travelling expenses, and automobile, the sheriff of Nash gets the same salary as Governor Bickett. He gets \$3,000 more than five of the state house officers and more than twice the salary of all the rest.

We are heartily glad to see him get it. We hope that every other brave, efficient sheriff in the state is appreciated and rewarded just as highly as the resources of the county will allow.

The register's salary in Nash was also moved up to \$3,350, and the clerk's to \$3,750, beginning with the 1st of last December.

Also the treasurer's salary was increased from \$1,200 to \$1,500.

We don't know the circumstances in Nash, but at long range, it looks as though a county treasurer is a useless luxury in any county that has a trust-worthy bank at the county seat. Up to 1915 forty-one counties had come to this conclusion. Other counties have gone into this list since that date.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY ROADS

Nearly one hundred and fifty miles of roads usable 365 days of the year, report County Engineer Howerton and Board of Trade Secretary Buckner of Buncombe county, in the July issue of The American City.

Concrete, asphalt, bitumen, brick, gravel and macadam are the several materials used in building these improved highways. They comprise about ten percent of all roads in the county and are the work of the last five years or so. Cost and maintenance estimates are compactly stated.

There's no hip-hip-hurrahing in the article. The achievement speaks for itself.

PAMLICO MOVES UP

The total savings deposits and time certificates of Pamlico county on December 31, 1918 were \$220,852, bank-account savings per inhabitant \$19 in round numbers, and the rank of the county in this particular 36th, instead of 60th as published in the University News Letter July 16.

This rank places Pamlico next below Wake and ahead of Wayne, Rowan, Buncombe, Edgecombe, and a lot of other mighty good counties.

The revised figures also move Pamlico up in the war thrift column as published in the University News letter July 9, her rank in December 1918 in war-securities and bank-account savings combined being 62nd instead of 71st.

Pamlico fell behind for some reason in liberty bond and war stamp purchases. The total was a little less than \$250,000. Nearly half the war-time thrift of Pamlico is in savings deposits in the Bank of Pamlico, Oriental and Bayboro.

THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

What would you think of an engineer who, after a head-on collision, said: "Well, let's back up and try that over again?"

Some of your engineers are saying that. The great war brought civilization to the brink. The wreckage of lives and means of livelihood strews a quarter of the globe. Some of it is in your town—in the gold stars and crippled figures in khaki. Reactionaries want to back up to 1914, set the scene all over as it was then, and see what will happen.

They are purblind men, mole-eyed from long habituation in legalistic dust; shut in by the narrow life of professional politics; unable to understand what has happened or what the country feels. They utter learned words that have no meaning—about entangling alliances, Washington, anything but to the main point.

The United States risked all to fight a war for democracy. It can risk much to give permanence to the objects for which it fought. It is ready and eager to risk much. It knows that in a humane world some chances must be taken. It will take its chances on the League-of-Nations side that promises stable peace and order; not on the Balance-of-Power side that promises only a repetition of 1914.—The Saturday Evening Post.

CHEAP CHICAGO PROFESSORS

The average milk-driver in Chicago is paid more than any assistant professor in the University of Chicago. A janitor gets more than a school principal. Plumbers get more than teachers in the Windy City.

The milk-drivers' union in Chicago recently struck to get \$35 a week, and got it. Whereupon the milk-dealers added a cent a quart to the price of milk, and more than reimbursed themselves for the rise in wages.—Prof. J. Paul Goode, University of Chicago, in Engineering and Contracting.

THE FARMER IN DEMOCRACY

An examination of many recent books on democracy and the new epoch reveals an almost utter failure to sense the significance of the farmers' place in democracy in social and industrial reformation. Agriculture is still the largest single industry in America, however measured. It employs directly more men than any other industry.

Do we desire social justice for our people? Nearly half of them live under rural conditions. Do we wish to reorganize our educational system in the interest of a sater democracy? Considerably more than a third of the children of the land are to be found in the little red school house. Are we anxious lest the new day will fail to give us a firmer grip on the spiritual and ideal aspects of our work and life? Probably forty million souls are either touched or untouched in the matter of religious values and motives by the country church.

The declaration of the British Labor party is all but silent with respect to the rights and duties of farmers in the new social order. Yet the food problem of Great Britain is vital. If Russia is ever redeemed it will be achieved through the education and organization of her peas-

antry, which constitutes more than 75 percent of her population. The Balkan states are nothing but rural provinces, China and India are largely rural.

The Big Question

Is the farmer really coming into his own?

The war has once more brought to the fore this old-age query. It has shown us in America in particular both the great, splendid strength and the serious, menacing weakness of our farming and farm life. We must pause to discover whether the American farmer is moving upward in his place in society or gradually sinking in the scale.

Is it to be easier or harder for his sons to buy land and to make a fair profit from it, than it was for him or for his grandfather?

Whither? This is the big question in our rural affairs. Is the farmer holding his own? The American farmer has been a great exception to the century-old rule that "He that holdeth the plow shall not understand the covenant of judgment, nor be sought for in the council of the people."

But in the New Day, in which we devoutly hope and fervently pray that we may have an end of economic serfdom, can we preserve this yeoman, this well-bred, highly intelligent, individually effective citizen, the American Farmer?—Southern Ruralist.

DISEASE AND CRIME

Chattanooga, Tenn., is one of the first American cities to officially recognize certain social diseases as a prime factor in crime, and as a result every person arrested on a charge which might warrant the assumption is examined by an official of the United States Public Health Service before going to trial.

If the prisoner is found to be infected with certain diseases, the trial court judge is acquainted with the fact, and in passing judgment directs that the person be treated while in jail, or paroles him for treatment at one of the free clinics.

Ninety percent of the prisoners examined were found to be suffering with social diseases.—Farm Tracts.

GEOGRAPHY IN COLLEGE

Geography as a college study, since its first appearance in a university curriculum about half a century ago, is discussed by Prof. R. H. Whitbeck, of the University of Wisconsin, in a recent article in The Journal of Geography. He points out the following interesting facts:

In 1860 Harvard and Princeton were the only American universities offering courses in geography. Cornell and the University of Wisconsin introduced the subject in 1868, and Yale followed in 1882. In 1900 only twelve American universities taught the subject, but by 1910 thirty-one universities were offering a variety of 142 courses in geography.

With 704 students enrolled, the University of Wisconsin led in 1910. With 1,069 enrolled in 1917, it led all others except Pennsylvania. It now offers seven courses in physical and economic geography, climatology and other phases of the subject.—N. Y. Times.

SAFETY IN LIGHTNING RODS

Lightning rods properly installed reduce risk of loss by lightning to almost nothing, say officials of the United States Department of Agriculture. The annual property loss from lightning in the United States is about \$8,000,000, and by far the greater part of this loss is in the rural districts.

Directions for installing lightning rods are given in The Federal Farmers' Bulletin 842, "Modern Methods of Protection Against Lightning," which may be obtained free from the Division of publications of the Department. All fire insurance companies, says the bulletin, should reduce premiums in favor of buildings satisfactorily rodded.

UNION COUNTY'S LOW RANK

Five of the Union county banks made no reports of savings deposits and time certificates in separate items, as called for by the State Bank Commission and the Comptroller of the Currency in November and December, 1918.

That is why the rank of the county is low in bank-account savings. It will be higher when the bank officials render full reports.