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WHAT STATE GOVERNMENT COSTS

HOSPITALS AND SUFFRAGE

The open pronounced cases of tuberculosis of all sorts in Wake county number around 750 a year, and the deaths from this disease are between 90 and 100 annually, not counting the strangers who die of consumption in the local hospitals. These victims of the Great White Plague are the children, young girls, sometimes a mother, sometimes a father. They represent all classes and conditions of society. And they die in Wake at the rate of one every three or four days the year through. These by the way are the rates the state and country over.

Our state sanitarium has fewer than 100 beds. In other words, the tuberculosis victims in Wake alone are two or three times the number of beds in the state sanitarium which is supposed to serve as a curing station for 24,000 consumptives. Tuberculosis is clearly a county or county-group problem, and it calls for county or county-group TB hospitals. So far we have only two such hospitals in North Carolina. There are now twenty-one in Wisconsin. They are required by law in New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. Other states are moving into the county hospital plan of providing for the care and cure of tuberculosis victims.

The other day Wake voted on the proposition to establish a county hospital for victims of tuberculosis, pellagra, and other dire diseases. The number of patients of all sorts annually needing such hospital would run around 1,500 or 2,000. The proposition was to vote \$100,000 in bonds to establish this hospital. The proposition failed at the polls because 268 people voted against it—just 268 people, in a population of 75,000. But this corporal's guard of a vote was enough to defeat the proposition.

Which leads to some reflection on suffrage in North Carolina. First, only 100 of the 15,000 polls registered to vote in the proposition. Supposedly the other 14,900 had no interest in it. Like the priest and the Levite they passed by on the other side.

Of those who registered, something like 100 did not bother to go to the polls to vote. They could kill the proposition by not voting, and it was killed not by those who voted against it but by those who forgot to vote or deliberately refused to vote after having registered.

Second. We are submitting (1) that North Carolina, like 38 other states, ought to abolish the poll tax as a condition of voting; (2) that it ought to disqualify voters who neglect or refuse to vote; (3) that an election ought to be carried by a majority of the voters voting and not by a majority of the voters registered; (4) that North Carolina ought to have the Australian ballot, like 46 other states of the Union; and (5) that our state primary laws ought to be revised so that they are reasonably free from criticism.

THE CALL FOR 1920

The tip Van Winkle of the Union has been shaken from his century-long nap. We have shaken off the drowsy sloth that has held us bound for generations. For the first time we have alertly and manfully set about remedying the ancient ills that have sapped the strength of the state. We have started to purge our tax books of dishonesty, of the old initiatives that have struck their roots so deep that tearing them up is a Herculean task. And, as of old, we are plagued by the clamor of the faint-hearted. To write justice on the tax-books of North Carolina will entail grave responsibilities. When the real wealth is revealed, some are compelled to bestir herself, to make provision for her children and for her afflicted. Instead of urging her on to her rightful place as one of the most prosperous, one of the most progressive of the sisterhood, they raise the piercing wail, "A little more slumber, a little more sleep, a little more folding of the hands to sleep."

The call of 1920 is a call for men—bigger men than we have ever produced before—bigger statesmen, bigger business men, bigger publicists, bigger divines. We must have statesmen capable of seeing the United States not in relation to a congressional district, or a state, but to the whole world. We must have business men capable of measuring their pro-

fits not in dividends alone, but in dividends plus human happiness. We must have publicists capable of speaking the truth not as it favors party or faction, but the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. We must have divines who labor to further the interests not of sect or creed, but of the kingdom of God.

This new year holds the possibilities of being the most terrible we have ever faced; but it also holds the possibility of being the most glorious in its accomplishments. Let him not call himself American who sees the terror, but is blind to the glory.—Greensboro Daily News.

LYNCHING THE LAW

All the power of the State will be exerted to apprehend the lynchers of Powell Greene and to make them suffer the full penalty of the law, declared Governor T. W. Bickett yesterday, maintaining that the act of the mob constituted an assault upon the "very citadel of our civilization."

"The whole State is shocked and humiliated by this horrible outrage on our laws," said the Governor. "Such deeds put to open shame our boasted white civilization and make the name of Southern chivalry a by-word and a reproach. It is true that the crime committed by the negro was an atrocious one, for he shot down without cause and without provocation one of the best citizens of Franklinton. This naturally aroused great indignation, but it forms no semblance of an excuse for a mob taking the law into its own hands.

"The negro, above all others, is entitled to the protection of the law. He has no voice in the making of the law. He has no hand in its execution. All the power and all the processes of the law are in the hands of white men. And yet this mob savagely denied to a helpless negro prisoner the right to stand before a white judge and a white jury and receive a white man's justice. The sad truth is that the men who did this negro to death gave way to the same barbarous and brutish passions that made the negro shoot down his victim without cause.

"The members of that mob crucified the elementary principles of justice for which white men have fought and bled and died through a thousand years. They have assaulted the very citadel of our civilization and all the power of the State will be exerted to apprehend them and make them suffer the full penalty of the law."—News and Observer.

A WIDE-AWAKE MOVEMENT

Comfort and sanitation are outlined for the farmers of North Carolina to an extent hitherto almost unheard of outside the big cities. Electricity from small streams or gasoline engines is to give light for the farmhouse and barn, power for the milking machine, corn sheller, ensilage cutter, grinding stone, etc., and for the sweeping, washing, ironing, etc., of the household. Engineers are to supervise sanitation, sewage disposal, water supply, heating, ventilation and lighting of farmhouses, and the installation of a telephone in every home will be encouraged. Not only the conveniences, but the luxuries of life will thus be secured for the farmers in their homes.

This great movement is being fostered by the state itself, working through the State Highway Commission in collaboration with the Bureau of Extension of the University of North Carolina. The work will be done by a staff of engineers operating as the Division of Country Home Comforts and Conveniences. The services of this organization are available to any North Carolina farmer without expense. All that is necessary to do to start something is to write a letter to the director of the division at Chapel Hill.

This is the kind of plan that all states should adopt in the interest of making the farm and farm life highly attractive. When a farmhouse has more comforts and conveniences than the average city house, and when much of the rough work that falls to the boys, the women and the girls is taken care of by electrically-driven machinery, there will be less temptation to leave the farm for the city bright lights and the conveniences of the town.

A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Men are agonizing over passion and prejudice, both real and seeming injustice and inequality, and the blackness of despair would settle over our land were it not that faith, hope and charity still abide—faith that a deeper knowledge of the wisdom of our institutions will be imparted to every son and daughter of the republic; hope that more and more all men will turn from the contemplation of their rights to a consideration of their duties, and charity for all who are not vicious, but who, through stress of circumstances, have become embittered.

God of our fathers, take from us, if Thou wilt, material prosperity and national glory, but give us individually and collectively all the years to come faith, hope and charity.—Vice President Thomas R. Marshall.

It is proposed to utilize small streams for generating power where feasible; otherwise, to provide an electrical unit to be driven by gasoline or kerosene. There are many small streams in North Carolina from which one to ten horsepower may be developed. This will be sufficient to operate water wheels, generator and auxiliary apparatus. This will furnish power for all kinds of domestic purposes.

The idea should be adopted all over the South, utilizing water power where available, and other means where there are not suitable streams. It is a very wide awake move that North Carolina has made, and it is an example that should be followed generally in the interest of better surroundings for the farmer and better results from his essential work of raising food and more food for a partially famished world.—Manufacturer's Record.

A CEMETERY AND A SERMON

It was a neat little country cemetery, much like most little country cemeteries, yet there was something queer about it. There was the arched gateway and the customary weeping willow by it. The clipped hedge was like most cemetery hedges. The tombstones were about the average run of tombstones. But, withal, there was something odd—even shocking. Then you discovered what it was. These were truthful tombstones. Consoling epitaphs—"Too pure for earth," and that like—found no place. Instead, there were such epitaphs as these: "Mother—walked to death in her kitchen;" "Sacred to the memory of Jane—she scrubbed herself into eternity;" "Grandma—washed herself away;" "Susie—swept out of life with too heavy a broom."

The people who saw that cemetery—and there were thousands of them—may have been shocked for the instant, but they came away with the thought that one might be better for seeing such a cemetery. For, you see, it was a miniature cemetery, 3 feet square, and it was part of an exhibit at the Montana State Fair. Such levity with the most solemn thing that mankind knows, could not be justified merely on the theory that the things said were true—but those who saw it came away with the belief that it was justified by way of keeping just those things from being true. And that was the purpose of the exhibit. It was meant to emphasize the need for home conveniences, for lack of which many a farm woman has gone to her grave before her time.

There were other exhibits designed to drive home the same hard truth. One was a model showing a bleak farmhouse on a bare hill. At the bottom of the hill ran a little stream, and by the stream were barns and cattle. Struggling up the hill toward the house with two heavy pails of water was a bent old woman. And the legend was: "Convenient for the cattle—but not for mother." Then there was a farmhouse with the water supply as it should be, the woman in the yard sprinkling her flower beds with a hose. And the inscription read: "Convenient for mother—and the cattle, too." Another model showed a kitchen as it should be, and another, a kitchen as it should not be. And there was the legend: "A

long-distance kitchen shortens life."

The lesson taught by the exhibit is one that the State agricultural colleges and the Federal Department of Agriculture are trying to teach by every means at their command—greater convenience and a larger measure of comfort in the farm home.—Federal News Letter.

STATE GOVERNMENT COSTS

Elsewhere in this issue can be found a table ranking the states of the Union according to the average cost of state governments per inhabitant in 1918. The figures are based on a Federal Census Bureau Bulletin that has just come to hand—The Financial Statistics of States. For purposes of comparison, the per capita costs for 1915 are also given in the table.

It is readily seen that the cost of maintaining state establishments has not grown in proportion to the cost of living. The cost in North Carolina was a per capita increase of only 26 percent over 1915. The per capita increase was higher in almost every other state of the Union.

The burden of taxation for state support in North Carolina in 1918 averaged only \$2.22 per inhabitant. The per capita expenditures for state purposes was greater in 46 states. Only one state, South Carolina, spent less per inhabitant on its state government.

These figures range all the way from \$2.15 in South Carolina to \$14.94 per inhabitant in Arizona. The average for the country at large was \$5.47, being an increase of 42 percent over the year 1915. The per capita increases during the three-year period 1915-18, range all the way from 137 percent in New Mexico, to a decrease of 1 percent in Pennsylvania.

What Our \$2.22 Paid For

Just what this \$2.22 went to support in North Carolina and the cost per capita of the various purposes, is shown in the following table:

Purposes	Cents
1. Education	68
2. Charities, Hospitals, and Corrections	48
3. General Government—Legislative, Executive, Judicial	20
4. Interest on Debt	17
5. Development and Conservation of Natural Resources—mainly agriculture	15
6. Protection to Persons and Property	11
7. Outlays—Investments in Public properties	10
8. Public Health and Sanitation	8
9. Highways and Public Recreation	2
10. All other Expenses	23

The Taxpayer's Dollar

Below we give a table showing what the state did with each dollar it received from the taxpayer. Omitting outlays and interest on bonded and floating debt, the taxpayer's dollar in North Carolina was spent as follows:

Purposes	Cents
Education	34.6
Charities, Hospitals, and Corrections	24.7
General Government	10.4
Development and Conservation of Natural Resources, mainly Agriculture	7.7
Protection of Persons and Property	5.5
Public Health and Sanitation	4.5
Highways	1.2
Recreation	.2
All other general expenses	11.3

What the Figures Mean

Only 10.4 cents of the taxpayer's dollar was spent to oil the machinery of state government! This is probably the

most significant fact to be discovered in the table. This ten cents went to support the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of our state government. The other ninety cents went back as a direct benefit to the taxpayers of the state, for the education of their children; the support and care of their old soldiers, their blind, sick, and feeble-minded; for the development and conservation of our natural resources, mainly agriculture; for the protection of persons from disease and fraud, for examining banks, regulating insurance companies and other corporations in the interest of public security, and for highways, recreation, and the general public welfare.

And for the support of a state government which furnishes all these benefits the taxpayer is taxed by the state just \$2.22 upon an average; which is less than the cost of one of the shoes he wears, to say nothing of the pair, less than the cost of the family frolic on circus day, less than the cost of a single day of joy riding in a Ford.

Two discouraging items appear in a study of the bulletin on which these facts are based.

In the first place, only 34.6 cents of each dollar spent by the state went for the support of public education. This accounts for the small per capita and equalization fund for public schools, and the small teacher salaries in these schools; for the meagre appropriation to the State University, the A. and E. College, and other state-aided schools of liberal arts and technical training, and for the salaries in these institutions—shamefully small, other states considered. It also goes to explain the inadequate buildings and poor equipments on these campuses.

Thirty-one states of the Union spend a larger percentage of the state fund for educational purposes. In 7 of these states more than half of all the state taxes went to support public education. Ten of the thirty-one southern states spent a larger percent of the state fund for education, while only two, Louisiana and Florida, spent less. New Jersey makes the best showing, with 56.4 percent of her total government cost going to support public education. Texas comes next with 56 percent, and Texas, by the way, gives some \$750,000 a year to her University.

But What About It?

Is our policy wise? Are we profiting by our policy of educational support? We spend less per capita for the support of public benefits than any state in the Union, saving only South Carolina. Maybe we are proud of this fact but should we be? We can have less of education by spending less, that is, by decreasing the revenues. And we can have more of public education only by increasing our state revenues. We cannot hope to rank alongside the most progressive states in the matter of public welfare when we pay so little, for no matter how economically our taxes are administered, it is impossible for us to derive benefits equal to those of a state that spends from two to five or six times as much as North Carolina.

Many people think that extravagant sums are being spent in maintaining our state government. As a matter of fact we spend less per capita than 46 other states of the Union. As a result we derive smaller benefits from public education, public hospitals, public health, sanitation, agricultural promotion, highways, and the like.

Increasing prosperity in North Carolina ought to mean increasing willingness to invest in the common weal. And we venture to predict that this will be the case.

When ninety cents of the taxpayer's dollar in North Carolina comes straight back to the taxpayer in better schools, better roads, better health conditions, greater protection to person and property, he can afford to be liberal in his thinking about tax matters—for the simple reason that for the most part he is being liberal to himself, to his home and home community.—S. H. H., Jr.

PER CAPITA COST OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

In the United States, Covering the Year 1918

Based on a Federal Census Bulletin, The Financial Statistics of States, dated April 1919.

S. H. HOBBS, Jr.

University of North Carolina, 1919.

Per Capita cost in the United States-at-large, \$5.47.

Rank	State	1918	1915	Rank	State	1918	1915
1	Arizona	\$14.94	\$ 7.32	25	North Dakota	\$6.20	\$ 5.02
2	Wyoming	13.48	5.96	26	Colorado	5.82	4.22
3	Nevada	12.67	10.36	27	Iowa	5.17	3.42
4	California	10.90	7.32	28	Texas	4.95	3.69
5	Utah	10.35	6.01	29	Nebraska	4.72	3.38
6	Maine	9.87	6.53	30	Virginia	4.53	3.54
7	Vermont	9.82	6.76	31	Kentucky	4.53	3.56
8	Montana	8.94	6.72	32	Indiana	4.49	3.40
9	Minnesota	8.61	6.19	33	Ohio	4.22	3.24
10	Connecticut	8.50	5.38	34	Kansas	4.17	3.03
11	Massachusetts	8.49	4.80	35	Illinois	4.10	2.82
12	Maryland	8.13	4.60	36	Florida	3.98	3.02
13	New York	8.05	4.38	37	Louisiana	3.92	3.08
14	Michigan	7.95	5.50	38	Oklahoma	3.86	2.24
15	New Jersey	7.04	6.08	39	Missouri	3.79	2.54
16	Washington	7.01	5.70	40	Pennsylvania	3.57	3.60
17	South Dakota	6.94	4.46	41	Alabama	3.37	2.98
18	Rhode Island	6.84	4.60	42	Tennessee	3.11	2.01
19	New Mexico	6.80	2.87	43	West Virginia	2.82	2.64
20	Oregon	6.68	4.52	44	Mississippi	2.78	2.49
21	Wisconsin	6.55	5.59	45	Georgia	2.62	2.13
22	Delaware	6.44	3.35	46	Arkansas	2.56	2.20
23	Idaho	6.40	4.33	47	North Carolina	2.22	1.76
24	New Hampshire	6.29	3.47	48	South Carolina	2.15	1.64