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CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

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## OUR DEPENDENT COUNTIES

### THE COUNTRY WEEKLY

I am the Country Weekly. I am the friend of the family, the messenger of tidings from other friends; I take to the home in the evening light of the mother's vine-clad porch or the glow of the father's lamp. I help to make this evening hour; I read the great and the small, the varied days and weeks that go to make up life. I am for and of the home; I follow the humble beginnings; whether they go to greatness or to the gutter, I take to them the thrill of old stories with wholesome messages. I speak the language of the common man; my words are fitted to his understanding. My congregation is larger than that of any church in my town; my readers are more than those in the school-room and old alike find in me stimulation, instruction, entertainment, inspiration, solace, comfort. I am the chronicler of birth, and love and death—the great facts of men's existence. I bring together buyer and seller, to the benefit of both; I am part of the market-place of the world. Into the home I carry word of the goods which feed and shelter, and which minister to comfort, ease, health and happiness. I am the word of the week, the history of the year, the record of my community in the archives of state and nation. I am the exponent of the lives of my readers. I am the Country Weekly.—Adams.

### SPARTA AND CHAPEL HILL

Yesterday at the Community Club a tribute was paid to Chapel Hill. Miss Oaks, the public health nurse, she said, had she seen more lovely flowers, more majestic trees, more charming vistas, greener grass, brighter plumed birds, kindlier folk, happier little children. But, she continued, the time comes when a community must face disagreeable things, when it must look away from its front street to its back streets and its alleys, when it must take stock of its whole situation or perish civically forever. And then she went on and these were the things she told the thirty-five members gathered to hear the annual club reports before disbanding for the summer:

In Orange county, out of every seven babies that are born one baby dies. That counting live babies only. If the still-born were counted the ratio would be far more deadly than it is. In very many instances the dead baby might have lived if it had been properly fed. And if the others only knew how to feed those babies properly of course they would be saved. To answer these and many other questions is the special province of the public health nurse. Hers is the work of prevention and of instruction chiefly.

In ancient Sparta when a baby was born malformed or sickly it was exposed on a mountain top and left to die at the mercy of the elements or the wild beasts. In modern America when babies are born they are too often exposed to the unsanitary feeding of untaught young mothers, to the deadly fangs of the disease-carrying house fly, or to the dangers of the open sewers where mosquitoes breed, or to the noxious influences of the pig sty or the cow stall in the back street, or to the infection brought in on the washing that has been done in impure well water carried into disease-laden tubs.

### Back Street Dangers

The baby of the front street lies in a sanitary bassinet. His bath is drawn out of clean pipes into a porcelain tub. His food is measured and weighed. His clothes are changed and washed with meticulous frequency.

The baby of the back street lies on a bed that is slept in by many un bathed bodies. His food is any old thing that happens to be on the table. His water is drawn from one of the seven wells that are the sole supply of 200 families. His little face and body may be covered with the sores of an eruptive disease. The washings of nine front street families lie on the bed and all around the room. His big sister may be nurse to the front street baby. His mother may be cook in the front street house.

The baby of the back street may send to the baby of the front street every germ he bears—and he does send them. That is his retaliation for the lack of plentiful fresh clean water, for lack of safely covered drains, for lack of clean and decent living conditions of every sort and kind.

Almost as many front street babies die as back street babies, and they will continue to die, one out of every seven born, until every Chapel Hill in our land decides once and for all that there is a better method and a more humane method than either that of ancient hard-hearted Sparta, or modern hit-or-miss America—a method of clean and wholesome living conditions for everybody, black and white, front street and back street and negro slums, constantly, persistently and permanently.—E. N.

### A MARKET CENTER

The unit of neighborhood in America is the public-school district, and that is the logical basis for marketing organization. The public-school building is located within convenient reach of children of the neighborhood, and therefore of all the people as well.

This building belongs to all the people, not to a group. Whether all the children go to school in it or not, the fact remains that the building is built with public funds, to which all contribute. Every citizen shares with all the other citizens in the community of its ownership.

Every one of these buildings in America is capable of being used as the headquarters of the people of the neighborhood. They stand ready to hand to be used as stations of collection and distribution in the great movement to bring the consumers and producers together, through the agency of the Post Office Department, operated for public service.—M. Clyde Kelly.

### DEPENDENT COUNTIES

Thirty-three dependent counties in North Carolina!

Counties that get more money out of the state treasury in Confederate pension and public school money than they pay into it for state support!

Counties that contributed not a single cent in 1918 to support the legislative, judicial and executive departments of the state—not a cent to the state institutions of technical training and liberal arts—not a cent to the state departments of education, health, highways and public welfare, to the schools for the deaf, the feeble-minded, the crippled, and the wayward children of the state, or to any other state purpose whatsoever!

Counties that not only left these burdens to fall on their sister counties but were themselves an additional burden upon the state treasury! All told, to the tune of \$143,000 in 1918, in amounts ranging from \$124 in Transylvania to \$10,000 in Catawba, nearly \$11,000 in Wilkes, and nearly \$13,000 in Ashe!

There were only 12 such counties in 1915, but three years later there were 33. These 33 dependent counties appear at the far end of the table in another column of this issue.

They lie in three groups, (1) twenty-four in the mountains and immediate foot-hill country, Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Haywood, and Henderson excepted, (2) five in the Albemarle and Pamlico region, and (3) four in the lower Cape Fear.

It fairly takes one's breath away to find Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga, and Catawba in this list of dependent counties. In 1910 they ranked among the first twenty counties of the state in per capita country wealth!

Or such counties as Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, McDowell, and Rutherford—prosperous counties all.

And even more surprising, Lincoln and Gaston!

And Gaston—the county that far and away leads the South in textile development—think, if you can, of Gaston in the list of dependent counties in North Carolina! But so she appears in Mr. Poindexter's table.

### Why Dependent

A county falls into dependency in North Carolina in one or more of all of five ways:

First, when it is really poverty-stricken. Which is true or relatively true of three of these 33 rearward counties. However, three other counties with little wealth,—Graham, Cherokee, and Swain—have a prideful place among the supporting, contributing counties of the state; while Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Catawba, and Gaston—rich counties all—receive state bounties ranging from \$3,983 to \$12,964 a year.

### THE GREAT PROBLEM

H. G. Wells

The great problem of mankind is indeed nothing other than a magnification of the little problem of myself, is a problem in escape from grooves, from preoccupations and suspicions, precautions and ancient angers, a problem of escape from those spiritual beasts that prowl and claw, to a new generosity and a new breadth of view.

For all of us, as for each of us, salvation is that. We have to get away from ourselves to a greater thing, to a giant's desire and an unending life, ours and yet not our own.

Second, when properties are listed for taxes at little or nothing as compared with the values in other counties. Thus in Cleveland county real estate is worth \$13.30 an acre on the tax list of 1918; but only \$4.33 in McDowell, \$7.92 in Rutherford, \$7.35 in Polk, and \$9.50 in Catawba. Cleveland helps to support the state, while all her neighbors received state bounties ranging from \$1,305 in Polk to \$10,466 in Catawba. And what is true of farm taxables applies to mill properties. Think of Orange county with her three mills contributing a surplus of nearly \$6,000 to state support, and Gaston with her 94 mills drawing a state bounty of more than \$6,000! It seems almost unbelievable. Cabarrus and Stanly are also in conspicuous contrast with Gaston.

Third, when a county lags behind in willingness to levy local taxes for better schools. In this event, under the old order of things, even a rich county like Ashe falls into dependency. Only seven of her hundred white school districts levied a local school tax in 1917-18; the total school fund thus raised was only \$1,875 and the amount drawn out of the state treasury to bring up her school term to an average of four months was nearly \$11,500. This county, for an instance. There are others—Wilkes, Watauga, Yadkin, Yancey, and a dozen more.

Fourth, when birth rates are phenomenally high, families large, and school children multitudinous. The birth rate of the state in 1917 was 31.8 per 1000 of population, and we lead the Union in birth rate, baby carriages, and cradles. But in Yancey the birth rate ran up to 44.4, which is probably the highest in the civilized world, while in Graham it ran down to 20.7. In 1918 Graham drew from the state per capita education fund \$443 and Yancey \$1,395. Graham was a supporting county contributing a surplus of \$2,167 to the state treasury while Yancey was a dependent county drawing \$9,397 out of the state treasury.

Fifth, when Confederate pensioners are numerous. Thus in 1915 Confederate pensioners—old soldiers and their widows—were 64 per 10,000 of population average the state over. In 25 of the 33 dependent counties, the rates ran from 71 per 10,000 inhabitants in Caldwell to 166 in Clay. Twenty-one of these counties with Confederate pensioners beyond the state average were mountain and foot-hill counties. In proportion to population the state pensioners in Madison, Macon, Burke, Alleghany, Jackson, McDowell, Catawba, and Ashe were from six to ten times as many as in Bertie, Pasquotank, and Perquimans.

On the face of the figures, the difference between the patriotism of the Hill country and the Tidewater in the sixties is startling.

Any one of these causes will edge a county toward dependency; two or more of them in combination throw the county upon the charity of the state; all of them together mean large state bounties. And the results are amazing.

Mr. Poindexter's table is a vital contribution to the pressing urgency of tax reforms and courthouse efficiencies in North Carolina. It is a timely side light on the re-valuation of taxable properties and the equalization of tax burdens.

### Supporting Counties

On the other hand, 67 counties of North Carolina in 1918 put into the state treasury \$857,776 more than they drew out in Confederate pensions and public school funds, in amounts ranging from \$237 in Haywood to \$66,590 in Durham

## COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 13

### ELECTRIC MOTORS FOR FARM WORK—I

Below is a table showing the size of electric motor required to run different farm machines. The first column gives the horsepower of the smallest size motor that can be used, the second the size generally used, and the last column shows the largest motor required. In coming issues we shall discuss the most important of these machines giving approximately what they cost and what they will do.

#### Big Jobs

Machine	Electric Motor Horsepower		
	Smallest	Most Used	Largest
Feed Grinders (large)	10	15	30
Ensilage Cutters	10	15	25
Shredders and Huskers	10	15	20
Threshers, 19 in. Cyl.	12	15	18
Threshers, 32 in. Cyl.	30	40	50
Power Shellers	10	15	15
Concrete Mixers	2	5	10
Hay Hoists	3	5	15
Cord Wood Saws	3	5	10
Hay Balers	7	1-2	25

Refrigeration 1-2 3 25

#### Medium Sized Jobs

Dairy Machines			
Cream Separators	1-10	1-8	1-4
Butter Churns	1-8	1-4	3
Milking Machines	3	5	5
Bottle Washers	1-8	1-2	3-4
Vacuum System	2	3	3
Shop Machines			
Grindstones	1-8	1-4	1-4
Emery Wheels	1-4	1-4	1
Lathes	1-4	1-2	1-2
Forge Blowers	1-15	1-10	1-8
General Farm Power			
Feed Grinders (small)	3	5	10
Corn Shellers, one hole	3-4	1	1-1-2
Groomers (vacuum sys.)	1	2	3
Root Cutters	1	2	5
Wood Splitters	1	2	4
Clover Cutters	1-4	1-2	1-2
Water Pumps	1-2	3	5

The meaning of the figures in this table will be explained in coming issues. Save the table for future use.—P. H. D.

county. It went, of course, to support the state government, legislative, judicial, and executive, and the state institutions of learning and benevolence—and also to pay \$143,000 of bounties into the treasuries of 33 weak or unwilling counties, most of them not poverty-stricken in purse, but poverty-stricken in spirit.

It is a surprise to find Durham, Mecklenburg, and Buncombe standing ahead of Forsyth in state support.

And Wake ahead of Guilford.

And Halifax ahead of Wilson and Pitt.

And 25 counties standing ahead of Robeson.

And little old Orange standing ahead of 60 counties in the support of the state

and her institutions.

And so on and on.

Thoughtful people in every county will be interested in seeing where the home county stands in the column of state support or dependency.

We dare to say that the people in these 33 dependent counties will be surprised. They did not deliberately contrive to get into the list of bounty counties. They never consciously maneuvered to get into a position that must be galling to county pride. But finding themselves there, they will undoubtedly gird up their loins and pull out of dependency, if it is humanly possible—as it certainly is, three counties alone excepted.

## SURPLUS AND DEFICIT COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA 1918

### A Revaluation Study

Based on report of the State Auditor, 1918, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1917-18.

Counties ranked from high to low according to the difference between the total taxes paid into the state treasury by each county and the total received from the state treasury by each county for public schools and confederate pensions.

The deficit counties in 1918 numbered 33; they were only 12 in 1915.

W. N. Poindexter, Forsyth County,  
University of North Carolina, 1919-20

Surplus Counties—67 in All		Deficit Counties—33 in All	
1. Durham	\$66,590	51. Henderson	\$2,941
2. Mecklenburg	62,151	52. Randolph	2,710
3. Buncombe	62,140	53. Graham	2,167
4. Forsyth	60,037	54. Lee	1,891
5. New Hanover	54,131	55. Tyrrell	1,817
6. Wake	42,571	56. Washington	1,519
7. Guilford	38,016	57. Caswell	1,480
8. Edgecombe	27,262	58. Jones	1,405
9. Halifax	26,895	59. Swain	1,217
10. Wayne	24,065	60. Montgomery	911
11. Wilson	23,595	61. Camden	884
12. Nash	23,028	62. Cherokee	874
13. Pitt	20,606	63. Sampson	447
14. Craven	19,646	64. Davidson	376
15. Pasquotank	14,664	65. Davie	345
16. Lenoir	14,589	66. Chatham	281
17. Rockingham	12,683	67. Haywood	237
18. Vance	11,687	Deficit Counties—33 in All	
19. Beaufort	11,460	68. Transylvania	— 124
20. Rowan	11,262	69. Gates	— 443
21. Martin	10,473	70. Columbus	— 452
22. Northampton	10,402	71. Brunswick	— 966
23. Johnston	10,196	72. Currituck	— 999
24. Franklin	10,144	73. Pender	—1,051
25. Greene	9,828	74. Lincoln	—1,226
26. Robeson	9,766	75. Polk	—1,305
27. Warren	9,492	76. Clay	—1,339
28. Moore	9,419	77. Surry	—1,707
29. Bertie	9,132	78. Bladen	—1,754
30. Richmond	8,761	79. Pamlico	—2,371
31. Iredell	8,565	80. Dare	—2,377
32. Hertford	8,244	81. Rutherford	—2,544
33. Alamance	7,603	82. Caldwell	—2,626
34. Carteret	7,482	83. Madison	—2,932
35. Scotland	7,471	84. Hyde	—3,471
36. Cumberland	7,053	85. Macon	—3,930
37. Cabarrus	6,546	86. Watauga	—3,983
38. Anson	6,290	87. Burke	—5,213
39. Perquimans	6,193	88. Alleghany	—5,689
40. Granville	5,973	89. Yadkin	—5,825
41. Orange	5,889	90. Avery	—5,931
42. Chowan	5,537	91. Mitchell	—6,041
43. Onslow	4,921	92. Stokes	—6,106
44. Union	4,569	93. Gaston	—6,334
45. Stanly	4,554	94. Jackson	—6,774
46. Duplin	3,550	95. McDowell	—7,719
47. Hoke	3,403	96. Alexander	—8,547
48. Cleveland	3,278	97. Yancey	—9,397
49. Harnett	3,166	98. Catawba	—10,466
50. Person	3,113	99. Wilkes	—10,679
		100. Ashe	—12,964