

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL VI, NO. 48

The news in this publica-
tion is released for the press on
cept.

TOBER 20, 1920

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, J. B. Bullitt.

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

UNIVERSITY DAY, OCTOBER 12

ATHER OF THE UNIVERSITY
University Day was this year cele-
brated as Founder's Day and the ex-
ercises were devoted to a commemora-
tion of General William R. Davie, the
father of the University; so called be-
cause no other man did as much as he
to establish this institution. He wrote
the law creating it; his eloquence per-
suaded the legislature to pass the law
authorizing it in 1789; he was one of its
first trustees; he laid the corner-stone
of its first building in 1793 and he was
ways one of its warmest friends and
most loyal supporters.

The 126th anniversary of the Univer-
sity was marked by:

1. The presentation of a rare Chretien
portrait of General Davie given by Hon.
Alwyn Ball of Charleston, whose wife
was a great grand-daughter of General
Davie. The presentation address was
made by Rev. William Way of Charles-
ton.

2. An address of acceptance by Hon.
O. Carr of Wilmington in behalf of
the University.

3. An address by President H. W.
Chase, on Davie's Vision and Present
Day Demands.

These eloquent addresses were all re-
ported at the time in the press of the
state and will be given in full in the
November number of the University
Alumni Review.

OUR COLLEGE NECESSITIES

During the first two days of the open-
ing session this fall 1309 students were
registered at the University of North
Carolina; and every inch of room space
in the town and on the campus was en-
gaged long before the opening. The
total registration of the college term
will run beyond 1400, or right around
the full total of last year.

For two years the University has
been crowded to its very doors. And
the same thing is true of practically
every other one of the 71 colleges and
junior colleges of the state. The limits
of college education have been reached
in North Carolina, and the state has
stopped growing in this essential particu-
lar.

And this is the sorry situation in a
state that has 110 million dollars invest-
ed in motor cars, 121 millions in bank
account savings, and 163 millions in
liberty bonds and war stamps securities.
To say nothing of other forms of wealth
amounting to a grand total of three bil-
lion dollars and more.

The class-room, dormitory, and dining-
hall facilities of the colleges of the state
need to be doubled within the next year
and quadrupled within the next five
years.

The University Crisis

So much for the college situation in
North Carolina. Specific details will be
given to the public in the News Letter
just as soon as replies have been re-
ceived to the 71 inquiries that have
gone into the mails to the colleges of
North Carolina.

We know the situation in detail at
the University, and we are therefore
exhibiting these details as presented by
President Chase on University Day.

It is clear, said President Chase, that
the University with its present resour-
ces cannot do the job that North Caro-
lina is calling on it to do. The trustees,
in June, on the recommendation of the
visiting committee, agreed that the
University should double its capacity
at the earliest possible moment.

To do this five things are necessary.
The University must (1) double its dor-
mitory space, (2) quadruple its feeding
arrangements, (3) treble its teaching
and office space, (4) more than double
its faculty and office force, and (5) in-
crease its salaries in accordance with
the new standards now prevailing
throughout the country.

And the University must do all this
not gradually, but without loss of time.
Delay means that hundreds of North
Carolina boys will be denied a college
education.

And Why?

Because (1) its dormitories were built
to house 469 students—they are now
housing 738; (2) Swain Hall was built
to feed 450 students—it is now feeding
725; (3) the University has, outside its
professional and scientific buildings,

only 19 class-rooms for general college
use; and (4) the University faculty can
teach no more men than it is now teach-
ing.

Four-fifths of the new students at
the University from year to year come
from the public high schools of the
state. Unconditioned entrance to the
University means the completion of a
four-year high-school course. Five years
ago such high-school graduates in North
Carolina numbered 800; last spring they
numbered 3,000. Which is to say, the
number of such graduates has quadrupled
within five years, but the student
body at the University during the regu-
lar session has increased only 40 per-
cent during the same period. The rap-
idly swelling number of the high-school
graduates of the state has overtaxed
the college facilities of North Carolina
at the University and everywhere else
in the state.

Since 1890 the student body has risen
from 200 in number to 1406. Here is a
sixfold increase in 30 years. It has
nearly trebled in the last 15 years. It
has nearly doubled in the last 10 years.
But the high-school graduates have in-
creased more than 300 percent during
the last five years.

The Summer School

But the growth of the Summer School
has been far beyond that of the student
body during the regular term time. In
1910 the number of students in the Sum-
mer School was only 99, but in 1920 it
was 1200. Here is an increase of more
than 1100 percent in ten years. It is
easy to see what this means in terms
of the service which the University is
rendering in return to the public schools
of the state. Eighty percent of our
Summer-School students are teachers
in service. This year 481 of the Sum-
mer-School students were carrying work
for college and graduate credit. Con-
sider what this means in terms of the
increasing teaching power of these men
and women.

Adding the students taught this sum-
mer to those taught in the regular ses-
sion last year, the University has given
instruction during the year ending Sep-
tember 1 to 2,606 students. To 1,881 of
these it has given instruction of college
grade. And yet there are on file in the
office of the director of the Summer
School the names of some 200 teachers
who were turned away for lack of room
this summer; and, though no exact list
is available, almost as many more failed
to secure rooms in town. At a time
when the State is crying for trained
teachers, can it afford this loss?

The Regular Session

A year ago the University was facing
two possibilities: either the University
must restrict its student body to the
thousand or so students who could be
cared for without crowding or over-
straining, or it might attempt to pack
its buildings and overload its faculty so
as to care for all who desired and were
prepared to enter.

Without hesitation it chose the latter
course; and this choice was made be-
cause all the colleges of the state were
crowded.

This year it has attempted to pursue
the same policy, but it has failed to
care for all who desired to enter. How
far it has failed in this particular will
appear when the total denials of the
college authorities and the townspeople
are finally assembled. The hard fact is
that the University cannot continue to
care for its present student body with-
out relief. The strain on plant, on stu-
dents, and on faculty is far too great.

And yet the four-year high schools of
the state have only just now gotten
squarely on their feet. As a state-wide
system they are only twelve years old;
but these same schools last year enrolled
25,000 pupils, and four years from now
they will graduate at least 6,000. Which
means an entering class of nearly 1,000
at the University; the present fresh-
man class already numbers 418.

Unless the high schools suddenly stop
growing, this is the situation which the
University must face.

The Material Situation

These facts bring us face to face with
the task which confronts the Univer-
sity.

The University of North Carolina is
located in a small village of 1,500 peo-

A WORD OF WARNING

Benjamin H. Hill

No greater curse could be inflicted
upon any people than that of being
compelled to keep as their chief
laborers persons, who for any rea-
son, it is unwise and unsafe to edu-
cate.

We must have educated labor and
multiplied industries; we must have
schools of agriculture, of commerce,
of manufactures, mining, and tech-
nology and, in short, all of polytech-
nics; we must have them as sources
of power and respectability, and in
all of them our own sons must be
qualified to take the lead and point
the way. Polytechnic schools should
be an organic part of the Univer-
sity.

Education is the one thing for
which no people ever yet paid too
much. The more they pay the rich-
er they become. Nothing is so costly
as ignorance, and nothing so cheap
as knowledge.

If we do these things promptly,
vigorously, and liberally, it will soon
be that the sun in his cycles will not
let fall his rays on a greater or more
prosperous people. If we do not do
these things, we shall grow weaker
until we shall be despised as con-
temptible. The stranger will come in
and possess the heritage and build
up the land we neglect, and be rulers
of the children we leave behind us.—
Address of Senator Ben H. Hill, in
1871.

pie, including the faculty, the employ-
ees and their families. The housing
capacity of the village outside the cam-
pus is therefore small. The University
must be both an educational institution
and a public service corporation. It
furnishes light and power to itself and
to the town, operates its own filter and
power plant, has been forced to play an
active roll in housing its own faculty, is
now building a laundry plant from sheer
necessity—all this in addition to housing
in its own dormitories two-thirds of the
students and feeding three-fourths of
them. Even with its present numbers
these services constitute an almost in-
tolerable overload. All over the cam-
pus three and four students are in rooms
built for two. The University fed 832
students last year, but this was accom-
plished only by re-opening the abandoned
and ill-equipped College Inn. The town
of Chapel Hill housed 611 students and
fed 574. It can do little, if anything,
more. The normal capacity of our dor-
mitories, including the new building
under way, is 550, but last year we
housed on the campus 795 students—an
overload of 66 percent of the capacity
at that time. All of which means that
housing accommodations must be pro-
vided for over 1,500 to 2,000 students
within the next five years.

Private capital is becoming interested
in the student housing problem here,
and the business investment is so safe
that we may assume that perhaps 500
students can be accommodated in this
way during the next five years; which
leaves from 1,000 to 1,500 instead of
550, who must be housed on the campus
itself.

Taking 3,000 students as a minimum
estimate of the student body at the Uni-
versity in the next five years, we have:

Present dormitory capacity, normal	469
New dormitory building	81
Present town capacity	611
Estimated 5-year increase in town capacity	75
Possible increase through private investment	500
Number the University must provide for	1264
Total	3000

As for the feeding problem, the nor-
mal capacity of Swain Hall is only 450.
We are now using the College Inn, a
decayed structure that ought to be closed
at the earliest possible moment. The
prospect for an increase in facilities for
feeding students in private homes is not

good, because of local market, housing,
and servant problems. But assuming
that the town capacity increases from
574 to 750, the University must feed
2250 students or five times the capacity
of Swain Hall.

Teaching Space

The Law School is attempting to teach
150 students in the old library building,
in class rooms separated by board par-
titions that do not reach the ceiling,
without proper equipment and without
facilities for the care of its valuable li-
brary. The building cannot be made
over into a satisfactory class-room build-
ing; a new building is necessary.

The capacity of the Medical School is
limited to 80 students; but the students
in the University who are preparing to
study medicine are three times the num-
ber two years ago.

The Department of Geology has been
attempting to teach over 250 students
with laboratory and class-room supplies
adequate for less than 100.

The new School of Commerce, which
enrolled 150 students the first year of
its existence and is destined to become
one of the largest departments of the
institution, is literally doing its work
in holes and corners.

The Chemistry building has reached
the limits of its space, and the depart-
ment anticipates that it will be neces-
sary to limit the registration of students
for its courses this year.

The Library has practically exhausted
its resources, and additional rooms must
be provided.

There are no buildings providing any-
thing like adequate class-room or office
space for the departments of the Col-
lege of Liberal Arts, such as languages,
history, economics and other social sci-
ences.

The old college chapel can now ac-
commodate only the freshman class.

The older dormitory buildings are
without exception in need of a thorough
overhauling.

The Gymnasium was built for a col-
lege of 500 students.

The Alumni building is no longer ad-
equate or suitable for the administra-
tion offices of the University.

Outside the professional and scientific
buildings, only 19 class rooms are avail-
able for general use.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS

It is not generally known how largely
the present University plant is the result
of private benefactions. In the 125
years of its existence the state has
built only eight buildings at the Univer-
sity, out of the total of twenty-four. Not
a single building was erected by the
State at Chapel Hill until 1905, when
the Chemistry building was built. In-
cluding the \$500,000 for building and
permanent improvements appropriated in
1917, the State's total appropriations
for buildings at the University amount
to less than a million dollars—and for
this sum the State has a plant to show
worth nearly two million.

The appropriation of \$500,000 in 1917
for buildings and permanent improve-
ments marked a distant forward step.
But it must be remembered that it was
intended only to meet some of the most
pressing needs of the University, and
that rising costs have more than cut in
half its building and purchasing power.
As indicative of the greatly reduced
purchasing power of the funds, it will
be noted that the dormitory now under
construction will cost for the building
alone \$137,450. This same building
could have been built and equipped for
\$50,000 five years ago. The purposes
for which this money has been expended
are summarized as follows:

Phillips Hall, building and equipment	\$156,994.01
New Power Plant and extension of mains	59,915.51
Laundry—building and equipment	33,500.00
Steele Dormitory contract—building only	137,450.00
Land Purchase and Campus Extension	13,386.25
Building, Extension and Repairs	47,976.12
Permanent Departmental Equipment, furniture and fixtures	50,140.96
Total	\$499,398.85

Faculty Problems

That the University holds an enviable
position among her sister institutions

the country over is due primarily to the
strength of her faculty. The University
faces the double problem of maintain-
ing the strength of the faculty and of
largely increasing, probably within a
few years of doubling, its numbers. The
faculty at present numbers ninety mem-
bers; its growth in numbers has not
kept pace with that of the student body.
Just how the University faculty is re-
garded by other institutions may be
seen from the one fact that within the
last eighteen months nineteen of its
seventy-three members who rank above
the grade of instructor have had oppor-
tunities to go to other institutions at
increased salaries. In some cases men
have had two, and in one case as many
as three, such opportunities. Sixteen
of these men have remained, but faith
in the future alone will not hold them
indefinitely. No institution in the coun-
try could stand the loss of 25 percent of
its able men.

Some idea of the sacrifices which
many men are making to remain at the
University may be gathered from the
fact that the maximum salary of a full
professor—reached after a man has
served as a full professor for fifteen
years—is \$3,600, and that instructors
begin their teaching service at salaries
ranging from \$1,150 to \$1,650. Such
salaries are not only out of all propor-
tion to the long training and experience
required; they do not enable men to
live and rear their families in comfort
or security.

But wholly aside from all this is the
fact that the University must compete
in the open market in getting and keep-
ing men; loyal as men may be to an in-
stitution, they cannot disregard obliga-
tions to their families and due recom-
pense for their long training.

And University salaries are far below
the market, so far below that important
positions are unfilled, just because it is
at present impossible to fill them with
first-rate men, and delay in the hope of
better conditions seems better than
taking inferior men. In the meantime,
man after man is receiving calls else-
where, and only faith in the future has
prevented already a large number of
resignations.

To add to the seriousness of the situ-
ation, men for college positions have
never been so scarce. The graduate
schools, the great source of supply have
been depleted by the war and the eco-
nomic confusion, men of more mature
years have been eagerly snatched up
because of the increase in numbers of
students all over the country, and many
men who left teaching positions during
the war have not returned to them.

A professor in another Southern Uni-
versity recently remarked that his in-
stitution was scouring the country for
instructors at \$2,000 and no questions
asked. The University of North Caro-
lina is attempting to attract superior
young men as instructors at salaries av-
eraging \$500 less, and cannot even com-
pete financially for such young men
with the public high schools of its own
State.

To make the situation concrete, let
us consider salaries at some of the in-
stitutions with which we must compete.

In the South, we have lost men in
recent years to Texas, Virginia, and
Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt has for some
time been paying \$4,000; Texas has
placed its maximum for full professors
at \$5,000, and plans to go to \$6,000;
Virginia pays up to \$4,500, and will have
in another year a \$3,000,000 birthday
gift from its alumni with which to
make further increases.

Competition Calls

One of our good men, a full profes-
sor, received and refused this year, a
call to a middle western institution not
far away, which has just announced
\$6,000 as its maximum salary—announ-
ced it apologetically, with the state-
ment that it does not equal salaries paid
by competing institutions, and with the
further statement that the announce-
ment was made early in order that men
unwilling to accept the provisions of
the scale might have time for negotia-
tions elsewhere. Another man whom
we were attempting to interest in a full
professorship here has just gone to the
University of Iowa at \$6,500. With the
larger endowed institutions now pay-
ing salaries ranging from six to ten
thousand dollars, the University cannot
compete. But it must compete with
other good institutions in the South and
in adjacent territory, or it must be con-
tent to grow men into usefulness and
lose them when they could render max-
imum service—to be a training school
for its more fortunate neighbors. Ten
or even five years ago it was far easier
to replace lost men than today.

In short, the faculty situation, like
of the material situation, is nothing short
of critical.