

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

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

DECEMBER 1, 1920

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. VII, NO. 4

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

COUNTRY DWELLERS IN CAROLINA

A STUDENT BODY CRUSADE

The students of the University of North Carolina have started a campaign to tell the people of the state the conditions under which they are forced to live because of overcrowded dormitories and inadequate eating facilities. The biggest and most serious-minded mass meeting of the year was held last week, and one thousand of them resolved that if living conditions, which were characterized by student speakers as unfit for men, were to be bettered, it would be by the efforts of the students themselves.

They gave a thundering vote of unanimous approval to a program of what they called "Giving the people of North Carolina the facts", as outlined by their student campus cabinet, and they prepared and voted again unanimously to send a message to the people stating their case.

"As part of the large company of your sons and daughters who today crowd the colleges of North Carolina, we wish to face facts with you", said this message, the adoption of which was moved by E. E. Rives, of Greensboro. "The main fact is that our public schools are turning out graduates in far larger numbers than the colleges of the state can take care of in any decent way. More than 3,000 will graduate from the high schools next spring. Even now students eat in shifts in Chapel Hill boarding houses and are packed three and four in a room in the dormitories. Our congestion here is but representative of the congestion in all the North Carolina Colleges.

"We present these facts to you with their simple story of the present urgent need of room in which to eat, sleep, and study. We hope that the churches will build more buildings at the denominational colleges and that the state will build more buildings at the state colleges.

"The main fact is not our present congestion, critical as that is in fact and significance. The larger concern is to make room for the boys and girls who even now are treasuring in their hearts the hope of going to college in North Carolina. With belief in her greatness we trust that North Carolina will not close the door in their faces.

"We send this message of hope to the people of North Carolina with content faith that the people, armed with the facts, will rise up to meet a big problem in a big way."

The student body has not been so stirred in many years as it has become over its present overcrowded condition, and last week's meeting, arising spontaneously from the students and backed by the leading men in college took on the character of a crusade.

W. R. Berryhill, of Charlotte, president of the senior class, John H. Kerr, Jr., of Warrenton, chairman of the campus cabinet, T. C. Taylor, editor of the Carolina Magazine, W. H. Bobbitt, of Charlotte, and B. C. Brown, of Onslow County, all prominent seniors, led the discussion.—Lenoir Chambers.

COUNTRYSIDE CAROLINA

The open-country dwellers of North Carolina, as disclosed by the 1920 census, number 1,826,582. These are the people who dwell for the most part in solitary farmsteads, outside incorporated cities, towns, and villages of any sort or size whatsoever, and fewer than eight families to the square mile the state over.

Our country population has not decreased in North Carolina during the last ten years. On the contrary, we have 157,000 more country people in 1920 than in 1910. Seventy-one of every 100 in Carolina live in the open country. But our 57 census-size cities grew so rapidly in population that we have relatively fewer people in the country now than we had ten years ago. The ratio has therefore dropped to 71 percent of the total population.

One of our counties, New Hanover, is certainly excessively urban. More than four-fifths of all the people of this county live in Wilmington alone. Here we have a social situation like that of three of the New England states, and along with it many of the same perplexing problems of life and livelihood.

In two of our counties, Forsyth and

Mecklenburg, barely more than a third of the people are country dwellers. Nearly two-thirds of the entire population of these two counties dwell in Winston-Salem and Charlotte; which is to say, the city populations outnumber the country populations two to one. It is not necessarily a dangerous ratio. A country population representing one-third of the total can produce sufficient existence necessities for nearby city consumers, provided the farm systems are well balanced and the farms large enough for the profitable use of labor-saving machinery, and provided further that the cities are wise enough to provide market arrangements, conveniences, and facilities for handling local farm products with fair prices and profits for the farmers. Otherwise, this ratio of city and countryside populations becomes menacing.

The populations are more safely balanced in eight counties, where farm and city populations are just half and half. These counties are Durham, Rowan, Pasquotank, Gaston, Craven, Buncombe, Carteret, and Guilford.

Excessive Ruralism

The state over, 71 people in every 100 in North Carolina live out in the open-country. These are the people who are producing existence necessities for city consumers and raw materials for manufacture in general.

The local consumers of these products in North Carolina number all told 730,000. They are the dwellers in our cities and small towns. The simple fact is, we have too many producers and too few consumers in North Carolina. We have more than 800,000 farmers in this state, cultivating barely more than 8,000,000 acres. In Iowa there are 300,000 farmers, but they cultivate 27,000,000 acres.

These facts indicate that for the state as a whole the cityward drift is a drift in the right direction and the net result a better balanced civilization. The country regions suffer, to be sure, when the alert and aspiring move away into the cities for better school and church advantages and better business opportunities. Loss of population means fewer people to the square mile in our country regions and fewer leaders in church and school communities. If decreasing farm labor in 64 counties of the state forces a change in farm systems from hand-labor to machine farming, and from single-crop to many-crop husbandry with an enormous increase in domestic animals, then our agriculture will be distinctly improved. But if these counties are not equal to a readjustment of this sort, then we shall have a tremendous increase of wilderness acres that already number twenty-two million in North Carolina.

And if our 414 little towns could become aggressive, stimulating centers of farm village life, then the countryside would make another great move upward.

Elsewhere in this issue we present a table by Mr. J. B. Douglass, of Winston-Salem, who ranks the counties of the state according to the ratio of open-country dwellers to total populations. His particular purpose in this study was to discover whether or not the 16 counties that actually lost population during the last ten years and the 48 counties that suffered retarded increases were excessively rural.

The conclusion is plainer than print. The more rural a county is the surer it is either to lose population or to gain in population so little as to depress and discourage life and enterprise. There are 70 counties in North Carolina in which three-fourths or more of all the people live out in the open country. In 53 of these counties four-fifths or more of all the people are open-country dwellers; in 11 of these counties nine-tenths or more; and in 3 of these counties, Yancey, Gates, and Currituck, the entire population is rural. In these three counties there is not a single incorporated town of any sort or size whatsoever.

Skipping the Small Towns

These are the counties out of which the country people have been moving most rapidly during the last ten years. And when country people move, they move as a rule not into the little nearby towns but into the larger cities, where

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

L. B. Kneipp

Good citizenship is the subordination of one's desires and inclinations to the common good, the faithful observance of just laws and ordinances, the acceptance of the duties and obligations of citizenship as well as its advantages and its protection, loyalty to one's family, one's city, one's state, and one's Nation.

Life is brisker and opportunities more numerous. So it is in North Carolina and so it is the United States over.

The population drift spells the doom of the little towns unless (1) they have the enterprise to establish industrial plants or (2) the public spirit to become the most beautiful and attractive residence places on the face of the globe.

Some of our small towns are wisely doing this, and Oxford is a conspicuous illustration. There may be others, we hope there are in North Carolina.

Meantime 93 or nearly a fourth of all our little towns actually decreased in population, while 40 others surrendered their charters of incorporation and faded from the map.

It is a solemn warning to men of property and influence in the little country towns of North Carolina.

BOOKS SHOULD BE AUDITED

There has been some discussion about auditing the books of our county and all accounting officers.

That this should be done is a matter of simple justice to our public servants as well as the taxpayers. It will be done some time and it appears that it should be done while those who have been in office for a long time can render some assistance. We feel no hesitancy in saying that for many years no county has had better officers, but this is no reason why there should not be an occasional audit of the public accounts.

There has been no complete audit in Northampton within the recollection of the oldest people now living.

For some time all our county officers have been on a salary basis and not one person in a thousand knows whether the county is losing or gaining by this change. The public should know the facts.—The Roanoke-Chowan Times.

THE FALL OF NATIONS

Discussing the Fall of Nations, George Woodruff calls attention to the fact that history is made up of the story of a succession of nations, each of which has gradually grown strong, has attained maturity, has caught a disease and died. The disease was overcrowded cities and rural decay.

If America is to remain the dominant nation of the world, it must be through a system of home-owning and not of tenantry. Some argue that industrial working people will not be content to live in the country. This would not be true if a properly organized system were established, offering an opportunity to such people to purchase homes to be sold on terms that they could meet. These people then become home-owners, and their offspring add to the citizenship and virility of the nation.

Engineers and architects should vie with one another in making plans for comfortable, attractive homes in suburban country areas, economically constructed and maintained, with streets, lights, a sewerage system and so on, in units to accommodate 25,000 to 50,000 people.

There are millions of idle acres within less than one hour's ride from the center of New York that could be made into one and two-acre homes under a ten-year payment plan. An acre home with a thrifty wife and healthy children will supply eggs and fresh vegetables for the family, with a winter surplus of potatoes, cabbage, carrots, etc., and with all the home comforts at a less construction cost per family than the same family can be accommodated in city tenement-houses.

Provide a way for the thrifty tenement element to get out of their present environment and to procure a home adjacent to New York and see how they will take to it.

A plan creating a five and a half percent bond would become popular when it is known that its purpose is to meet a national emergency, the underlying principle of which being to conserve the nation's future and to safeguard life and individual property of people both of moderate means and wealth.

Tenement-house building under present conditions is a dangerous makeshift.

Rural home building means a permanent, contented citizenship.—B. F. Yoakum, in a letter to the Housing Committee of the N. Y. State Senate, Manufacturers Record.

COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 37

JOHNNY MAZDA AND HIS RELATIVES

Most of the country folk who buy farm lighting sets do so with the object of enjoying the comforts and conveniences of a brightly lighted home. The late Mrs. Kerosene Lamp and Mr. Coal Oil Lantern were all right in their way but their youngest child, Mr. J. Mazda Lamp has received the benefits of a college education and it hasn't turned his head either. He's as simple and democratic as can be. And so companionable! There just can't be any gloom when he's around. We've spent a great many hours, pleasant and unpleasant, with the old folks. They were hard to get along with, sometimes, and really an awful bother, in fact, almost every day. But Johnny Mazda Lamp has a much better disposition. He is much more radiant, takes care of himself all the time, and his college education has so softened his temper that there is never any danger of his blowing up.

Johnny's Relatives

Yes, Johnny Mazda Lamp is all the rage. But he has some near relatives that are growing up, in fact, some of them have already grown up, and if you haven't already made their acquaintance you sure should. They are servants, every one of them, and such willing ones too. You don't have to beg them to work for you. You don't have to give them a day off every week. They do your washing, ironing, sweeping, sewing, churning—Gee! yes, and they'll carry every blessed bit of that water anywhere you want it in the house or

out to the barn, and they'll keep a fresh supply of it there all the time, night and day. When it comes to feeding them, it's a cinch. They eat only one kind of food, and precious little of that. That food is electricity, a perfect ration for the Convenience family.

Electric Servant Census

City folks in great numbers have learned to use the Convenience family but country folks are only just catching on to the comfort of their acquaintance. A while ago a study was made of the number of these servants in use in country homes. For every 100 country homes that had electric lights, the conveniences in use were as follows:

Electric Irons.....	62
Electric Washing Machines.....	40
Electric Vacuum Cleaners.....	38
Electric Water Systems.....	28
Electric Cream Separators.....	22
Electric Motors.....	13
Electric Fans.....	11
Electric Mangles.....	10
Electric Toasters.....	8
Electric Sewing Machines.....	6
Electric Coffee Percolators.....	4

Here is a list of home comforts and conveniences that well over fifty percent of the farmers of this country can afford to have. They range in price from about \$5 to \$250. The whole list can be bought almost for the price of a Ford. Those of you that don't have them in your homes probably think they are luxuries. Positively they're not! Ask the man (we should say the woman) who owns one!—P. H. D.

COUNTRYSIDE POPULATIONS IN CAROLINA

Counties ranked from low to high according to the ratios of open country dwellers to total populations; the open country meaning areas outside all incorporated towns and cities.

In 1920 they number 1,826,582 or 156,747 more than in 1910. The 10-year increase is 9.4 percent, against 54 percent increase of population in our 57 census-size cities.

U. S. average of countryside dwellers 88.8 percent; N. C. average 71.4 percent against 76.2 percent in 1910.

Based on the 1910 and 1920 Federal Censuses

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Rank	County	Percent Country	Rank	County	Percent Country
1	New Hanover	16.8	51	Anson	82.3
2	Forsyth	35.8	52	Pamlico	82.4
3	Mecklenburg	37.4	53	Granville	82.6
4	Durham	48.5	53	Moore	82.6
5	Rowan	48.9	55	Johnston	82.7
6	Pasquotank	49.4	56	Stanly	82.9
7	Gaston	50.5	57	Person	83.0
8	Craven	51.2	58	Duplin	83.1
9	Buncombe	53.0	59	Harnett	83.8
10	Carteret	53.6	60	Rutherford	84.3
11	Guilford	55.3	61	Tyrrell	84.7
12	Catawba	57.4	62	Franklin	86.0
13	Wake	58.1	63	Sampson	86.2
14	Lenoir	61.6	63	Jones	86.2
15	Wayne	63.6	65	Orange	86.9
16	Wilson	65.4	66	Northampton	87.7
17	Edgecombe	66.0	67	Beaufort	87.8
18	Iredell	66.2	68	Chatham	88.0
19	Davidson	67.3	69	Rockingham	88.2
20	Lee	67.7	70	Yadkin	88.4
21	Alamance	67.9	71	Jackson	88.5
22	Cumberland	68.1	71	Warren	88.5
23	Cabarrus	68.3	73	Onslow	88.9
24	Richmond	68.4	74	Davie	89.3
25	Caldwell	68.7	75	Hoke	89.4
26	Washington	70.4	76	Avery	89.6
27	Nash	71.5	77	Pender	89.7
28	Pitt	72.4	78	Mitchell	89.8
29	Cleveland	73.7	79	Macon	90.0
30	Chowan	74.0	80	Wilkes	90.2
31	Surry	75.2	81	Swain	90.7
31	Martin	75.2	82	Alexander	90.9
33	Lincoln	75.5	83	Madison	92.1
34	Montgomery	75.6	84	Dare	92.3
35	Transylvania	76.5	85	Greene	92.5
36	Haywood	77.0	86	Bladen	92.7
37	Halifax	77.3	87	Camden	92.9
37	Bertie	77.3	88	Brunswick	93.0
39	Columbus	77.8	89	Clay	94.4
40	Scotland	78.4	90	Watauga	94.7
41	Cherokee	78.9	91	Stokes	96.1
42	Robeson	79.5	92	Ashe	96.4
43	Henderson	79.6	93	Caswell	97.6
43	Union	79.6	93	Vance	97.6
45	Polk	79.8	95	Graham	97.7
46	Hertford	81.3	95	Hyde	97.7
47	McDowell	81.5	97	Alleghany	97.8
48	Randolph	82.0	98	Yancey	100.0
49	Perquimans	82.1	98	Gates	100.0
50	Burke	82.2	98	Currituck	100.0