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FARM LAND TAX VALUES IN N. C.

CROWDED COLLEGES

A sign of general well-being is the vitality displayed by our colleges and universities. Never were they so prosperous as at the present moment—at least in the number of students. Mr. Julius H. Barnes, Chairman of the Institute for Public Service, has recently published a report which shows that the attendance for 1919 was 248,000; and, looking into the future, he believes that this will reach 471,000 in 1930 and 831,000 in 1950.

Mr. Barnes bases this estimate on a thorough investigation of 210 colleges; an investigation which embraces all types, irrespective of size, whether they are supported publicly or privately, or whether they are technical or cultural in scope.

This rapid growth means that the universities must bear ever-increasing financial burdens. The lack of money has always limited the facilities which any college could offer its pupils; and now the student bodies of many are doubling. In a few years, it may be expected, the college man and the college woman will consequently be accepted as a matter of course, like the high school graduate of today.—World's Work.

NORMAL SCHOOL LOSSES

The public schools of the United States are short 110,000 teachers. So reports the Federal Bureau of Education.

The colleges of liberal arts and technical science are filled to overflowing with students, but not the teacher training schools of the country as a whole.

On the contrary 78 state normal schools report to the New York Institute for Public Service that they have 1496 students fewer in 1920 than in 1914.

The loss in 50 of these schools during this period is 4723 students. On the other hand 28 state normal schools have more students than ever—3127 more, and among these are the State College for Women at Greensboro and the East Carolina Training School at Farmville.

Sixty-five of the 116 normal schools, public and private, report a total loss of 5709 students since 1914 in the country at large.

Somehow the aspiration to teach is disappearing. And great teaching personalities like Mark Hopkins and Sawney Webb and Robert Bingham are gone or going, never again to reappear, it seems.

Teaching as a career has faded out of the vision of choice spirits—has been starved out, we might have said.

And the noblest of all professions has become the sorriest of all trades in these modern times.

SHAMEFUL SALARIES

In 1918 the average salary of all the teachers, elementary and secondary, rural and urban, in North Carolina, was \$284. In this respect North Carolina falls below all the States and stands at the foot of the column, being \$7.00 below Mississippi and \$31.00 below South Carolina. The average salary of teachers for the United States was \$635—more than two and one-half times as much as for North Carolina. In 27 States the average salary was more than twice as much as in North Carolina. In 8 States it was more than three times as much, and in one, California, only \$24 less than four times as much.

Since in North Carolina the salaries of high school teachers, of all teachers in the city schools, and of many rural teachers in the better counties of the State are far above the average, the salaries of many other teachers and particularly of the teachers in the one-teacher country schools, where for many reasons the best teachers are needed, are lower still—pitifully and shamefully low.

Odorous Comparisons

Thousands of these teachers are paid less than it costs to feed prisoners in the county jails. And the prisoners have free lodging, fuel, light, water, medical attendance, and laundry, and they have the ministry of the churches without cost to them. If these thousands of teachers were by collusion to

commit some crime over night and get in jail for a year, the taxes of the counties in which they teach would have to be increased by many thousands of dollars to pay their board, to say nothing of other expenses connected with their imprisonment. The pay even of the best half of the teachers is small compared with the pay of mail carriers, stenographers, porters on Pullman cars and messenger boys. Their pay is only a small fraction of the income of lawyers, physicians, engineers, and others doing work requiring something like the ability and preparation that ought to be required of those who are responsible for the education of North Carolina boys and girls for citizenship, for making a living, and for contributing to the commonwealth.

Millions for Uncle Sam

For longer terms, for more high schools, for better pay of teachers, as well as for better support of the schools in which teachers are or should be prepared, North Carolina needs to raise much more money than it now does—two, three, or four times as much. Can the people afford it? Even though money spent for education is sure to prove a good investment, paying larger dividends than may be expected from money invested in any other way, have the people the money to invest now?

It seems quite probable that in all the 250 years of the history of North Carolina, as colony and State, the people have expended for education in schools of all grades and kinds, public and private, several million dollars less than the amount of taxes paid to the Treasury of the United States in a single year.—P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

A WHALE OF A STATE

A week in Texas is time enough to sense the vast distances and reaches and immensities of that great state. Texas audiences will stand up a full six inches taller than similar groups anywhere east of the Mississippi, and weigh twenty pounds heavier per person, upon an average. The size of Texas men and women makes an Easterner fairly gasp. They are as big in brain as they are in body. You find your lung capacity immensely increased, and a sudden necessity for unreefing your vest and letting out your surcingle in Texas. It is a state of boundless horizons, mental and physical.

Quite as we expected, we found the colleges and universities of Texas full to overflowing, and turning students away by thousands. But also quite as we expected, we found the heads of educational institutions, church and state, talking to their constituencies not about paltry thousands, but in terms of millions of dollars. Texas is big enough and rich enough to expect such talk, and she is big enough and rich enough to respond in sort.

The University of Texas

For instance, the working income of the University of Texas is already one and a third million dollars a year. Which is more than four times the working income of the University of North Carolina.

And the bottom has dropped out of the cotton market, nevertheless President Vinson is asking for three millions a year for university maintenance.

And as for campus expansion necessary to take care of ten thousand students within the next five years, he is asking for a building and equipment fund of seven and a half million dollars. And nobody challenges his nerve. Such things seem to be commonplace in The Lone Star State.

The colleges and universities of Texas, church and state, are all bent upon increased campus areas, increased buildings, increased equipments, increased salaries, and increased field activities.

They are asking their constituencies not for thousands but for millions and tens of millions of dollars.

And what the colleges of the state need they are sure to get. Not an editor nor a taxpayer in the state is registering any protest, so far as we could discover. They seem never to have heard the word picayune in Texas.

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

Canadian Courier

I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born;
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn.
You'd hardly know the old place now
For dad is up to date
And the farm is scientific
From the back lot to the gate.
The house and barn are lighted
With bright acetylene,
The engine in the laundry
Is run with gasoline.
We have silos, we have autos,
We have dynamos and things;
A telephone and gossip,
And a phonograph that sings.
The hired man has left us,
We miss his homely face;
A lot of college graduates
Are working in his place.
There's an engineer and fireman,
A chauffeur and a vet,
'Lectrician and mechanic—
Oh, the farm's run right, you bet.
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn
Now brightens up a bathroom
That cost a car of corn.
The milkmaid is pneumatic
And she's sanitary, too;
But dad gets fifteen cents a quart
For milk that once brought two.

FARM-LAND TAX-VALUES

The average tax-value of farm land in North Carolina in 1919 was \$9.06 an acre; in 1920 the revaluation average was \$38.94 an acre, or more than four-fold.

It is a tremendous increase, but the average tax-value of our farm land is still far below the average current market price in North Carolina—\$36 below, and when we say this we have in mind the per acre value of farm land in North Carolina and in the other states of the Union as exhibited in last week's issue of the News Letter.

And it is fairly easy to see why the revaluation farm-land averages in North Carolina are a long step upward. For instance, in 1919 the market price of our farm land was \$47 an acre. At that time Buncombe and New Hanover, which led the state, listed their farm lands at \$21 and \$22 an acre, in the order named; and yet these two counties were listing their farm lands at less than half the state average of market prices. Indeed the average tax-value of Carolina farm lands was less than one-fifth of the state average of market values in 1919. An even dozen of our counties listed their farm lands at less than one-eighth of the state average of farm-land values; 26 more at less than one-sixth; 23 counties more at less than one-fifth, and so on and on. The chances are that no other form of property in North Carolina was being listed in 1919 at a smaller ratio of its true value.

The revaluation figures of 1920 lifted the tax-value of farm land from an average of \$9 an acre to an average of \$39 an acre. Which is to say, the present tax-value is \$8 less than the 1919 market value and \$36 less than the market value of this year, upon an average.

Not Inflated Values

Clearly, farm land has not been listed under the new law on the basis of inflated values. The State Tax Commission has had a weather-eye for squalls and has lowered sails accordingly. The plain fact is that town properties of all sorts, corporation properties, and country properties, are all taxed this year at barely more than 50 percent of inflated war-time valuations. Mill spindleage, for instance, has been listed for taxes at almost exactly half of what it was selling for in the early spring in the syndicating market.

The purpose of the law was to list town and country, private and corporate properties, at one hundred percent of normal values—not one hundred percent of inflated values, and to place properties of all sorts on a fair average level of valuation. The result is a marvel of achievement, and in our opinion it is not likely to be repudiated by the people of North Carolina. Doubtless there are minor changes that ought to be made as a matter of fairplay, but the work as a whole deserves to stand unshaken. The state has passed a great milestone and cannot afford to turn back.

The values of farm land in North Carolina in 1920 range from \$7.95 an acre in Dare to \$113.17 in Wilson county.

COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 39

THE TASK OF THE DIVISION

In reflecting on the results of the year's work, a brief summary of which we gave last week, we naturally turn back to the motive behind the legislative act under which we have been working. The act, originally passed in 1917, originated, we believe, in the mind of Governor Bickett, whose purpose it was to provide competent engineering services for the large contingent of our people who, on the one hand, could not well afford to pay for such professional advice and assistance, and in whom, on the other hand, the engineering profession unfortunately has not shown any real live interest. This latter aspect of the matter will be appreciated when it is recalled that for two years the Commission was unable to find an engineer with an instinct for social service who at the same time could afford to accept the salary the Commission was able to offer out of the appropriation at its disposal.

In offering to cooperate with the Highway Commission in carrying out the purpose of this act, the University has been impelled by just this idea of social service, believing that it would be in a better position to fit the rising generation "for an Honorable Discharge of the Social Duties of Life" as mentioned in the Act of Incorporation of the University, if it should itself rise to the

call which had apparently gone out unheard. It is in this same spirit that the members of the staff have thrown themselves outside of their regular University duties without any extra compensation.

Just how well we have succeeded is for others to say. We thoroughly believe the idea is a big one and we look forward to the coming year in the confident hope that we shall be able to reach out to an ever widening circle of country people to whom we may bring the comforts and conveniences which engineering science has placed at their disposal.

In the period of economic readjustment through which we are now passing those factors which lie closest to the fundamental basis of our economic and social life are the ones which merit our closest attention. The brains and brawn of the engineering profession have in the past been devoted almost wholly to solving the complex problems of city life. Today the problems of country life are eating at the heart of our economic structure. The task is to make life in the country more wholesome and happy by removing the last vestige of unnecessary drudgery. To accomplish the task is a problem of education as well as of engineering, and the achievement will go far toward solving the problem of increased world production.—P. H. D.

Only 42 counties are above the state average of \$38.94. In 13 of these counties the average is beyond \$60 an acre. They are all choice tobacco or cotton counties, and most of them produce both these valuable crops; or they are what we call our big-city counties, where farm-land values are affected by convenient market facilities.

Fifty-seven counties are below the

state average and 14 of them are more than 50 percent below the average of \$38.94.

The table elsewhere in this issue gives the per-acre tax-values for both 1919 and 1920, in order to show the ratio of valuation increase in every county of the state. These increases range from 25 percent in New Hanover to 800 percent in Wilson. The average increase for the state at large was 329 percent.

FARM-LAND TAX-VALUES IN CAROLINA

Per Acre, by Counties, in 1920 and 1919

Based on Report of the State Tax Commission on Revaluation, Aug. 10, 1920. Rural Social Science Department, University of North Carolina

Average market value in 1920, \$75 per acre, as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture; average tax value in 1920, \$38.94; in 1919 it was \$9.06; increase 329 percent.

Rank	County	1920	1919	Rank	County	1920	1919
1	Wilson	\$113.17	\$12.82	51	Currutuck	\$36.30	\$10.20
2	Pitt.	87.54	11.64	52	Stokes	36.02	8.60
3	Lenoir	86.52	9.92	53	Cumberland	35.82	9.21
4	Greene	83.87	12.21	54	Carteret	34.19	7.11
5	Wayne	81.37	11.07	55	Northampton	33.99	11.64
6	Scotland	81.30	11.52	56	Perquimans	33.89	9.44
7	Edgecombe	80.44	13.60	57	Gates	33.20	9.31
8	Robeson	76.23	11.14	58	Pasquotank	33.04	11.31
9	Nash	77.82	11.50	59	Caswell	32.54	6.42
10	Mecklenburg	67.31	12.85	60	Orange	32.19	7.78
11	Gaston	67.29	13.16	61	Anson	31.93	8.11
12	Johnston	65.38	10.57	62	Haywood	31.87	9.45
13	Beaufort	61.31	9.00	63	Watauga	31.09	7.85
14	Cleveland	59.11	13.75	64	Caldwell	30.17	7.97
15	Forsyth	58.86	12.45	65	Avery	29.51	9.37
16	Rockingham	57.79	9.08	66	Alexander	29.30	8.12
17	Vance	56.39	13.00	67	Mitchell	29.11	5.57
18	Guilford	52.98	16.90	68	Richmond	28.63	6.39
19	Durham	52.19	19.99	69	Hyde	28.14	5.58
20	Duplin	50.45	8.20	70	New Hanover	28.05	22.59
21	Franklin	48.73	10.16	71	Sampson	28.00	7.26
22	Catawba	48.50	9.58	72	Randolph	27.27	7.61
23	Craven	47.94	6.65	73	Madison	27.16	8.02
24	Rowan	46.00	11.11	74	Washington	26.88	7.90
25	Wake	45.73	10.73	75	Jones	25.75	5.72
26	Ashe	45.33	7.80	76	Polk	24.61	7.86
27	Hoke	45.05	9.48	77	Camden	24.04	7.42
28	Buncombe	45.00	21.32	78	Bertie	24.00	6.74
29	Cabarrus	44.88	10.64	79	Transylvania	23.59	7.68
30	Martin	44.72	11.13	80	Chatham	23.09	7.04
31	Davie	44.00	9.52	81	Henderson	23.00	10.86
32	Hertford	43.36	10.36	82	Burke	22.65	8.23
33	Davidson	43.09	10.08	83	Pamlico	21.09	6.51
34	Stanly	43.04	7.84	84	Onslow	20.69	8.32
35	Iredell	42.63	10.32	85	Moore	19.93	7.65
36	Yadkin	42.32	9.43	86	Bladen	19.24	5.28
37	Harnett	41.62	8.65	87	Jackson	19.01	5.33
38	Lee	41.15	9.42	88	Macon	18.18	5.71
39	Chowan	39.92	11.60	89	Montgomery	17.60	6.11
40	Union	39.77	7.65	90	Swain	17.49	6.56
41	Person	39.65	7.67	91	Tyrrell	17.21	5.05
42	Rutherford	39.33	8.23	92	Wilkes	17.05	6.40
43	Lincoln	38.80	11.82	93	Pender	16.17	5.83
44	Surry	38.72	11.65	94	Clay	12.33	5.86
45	Halifax	38.22	10.75	95	McDowell	11.67	—
46	Granville	38.20	8.88	96	Brunswick	10.90	5.05
47	Alamance	37.92	10.81	97	Graham	10.76	5.55
48	Yancey	37.88	6.53	98	Cherokee	10.03	7.42
49	Warren	36.89	10.49	99	Dare	7.95	2.37
50	Alleghany	36.62	6.68	100	†Columbus	—	7.48

†Columbus valuation for 1920 lacking.