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NORTH CAROLINA RICH AND ABLE

MILLIONS FOR UNCLE SAM

A state that is rich enough to pay one hundred and sixty-three million dollars into the federal treasury in a single year is rich beyond debate—rich even in all conscience to stand in the front rank in educational advantages of every sort. No other state in the South even begins to be a close rival of North Carolina in taxpaying power, and only seven states of the entire Union stand ahead of her.

It is true that one hundred and eight million dollars of this total consisted of stamp taxes on tobacco factory products and that this burden falls upon tobacco users the world around. But a state is rich that has in it a business big enough to buy tobacco stamps at the rate of three hundred and twenty thousand dollars a day throughout the working year—or thirty-two thousand dollars every hour of a ten-hour day.

And it is true that forty-four millions of this amount are taxes on corporation incomes and excess profits, and that this burden is laid not on the people of North Carolina alone but on final consumers in every country on the globe. But a state is rich that has in it four thousand corporations that can pay into the federal treasury more taxes than the entire population pays into city, county, and state treasuries combined—more by fourteen million dollars last year.

And a state is rich that has in it twenty-two thousand people whose net taxable incomes are ninety million dollars—who enjoy this huge income total after all exemptions, reductions, and allowances are written off, and who are able to pay into the federal treasury five and a half million dollars in personal income taxes alone.

And a state is rich that can afford to pay another five million dollars of federal taxes on railway tickets, Pullman car berths, telephone, telegraph, and express charges, legal papers, business transactions, inheritances, theatre and moving picture tickets, carpets and luxurious clothing, patent medicines, toilet articles, and so on and on.

If twenty-two thousand people and four thousand corporations in North Carolina can pay fifty million dollars in a single year into Uncle Sam's treasury on incomes and excess profits alone, how much could the rest of us pay into our state treasury for education, health, and highways—that is to say, if only we were minded to do it, if only we really believed in education, health, and highways?

Millions for Luxuries

But there is another way of realizing the amazing wealth of North Carolina, and it perfectly indicates the taxpaying power of our people; it perfectly proves that the people of North Carolina do not lack wealth—that perchance our only lack at present lies in unwillingness to convert our wealth into commonwealth advantages.

Last year the people of North Carolina spent one hundred and fifty-seven million dollars (1) for manufactured tobacco products, (2) for candy, (3) for automobiles and automobile parts, (4) for carpets and luxurious clothing—clothing so expensive as to require a sales tax. On these four articles of luxury and comfort—these four alone—we spent four hundred and thirty thousand dollars a day, Sundays included. What we spent upon our colleges was a little less than seven thousand dollars a day. A little less than fifteen thousand dollars a day is what we spent to support our churches and religious causes. And a little more than fifteen thousand dollars a day is what we spent to support the state and her civic enterprises.

What the people of this state spent last year for manufactured tobacco alone was fifty million dollars, or one hundred and forty thousand dollars a day. One day of tobacco money would keep St. Mary's, or Peace, or Meredith going more than one whole year, and East Carolina Training School for more than two whole years.

We spent forty-seven million dollars last year for automobiles and automobile parts, at the rate of one hundred

and thirty thousand dollars a day, including Sundays. What we spent on automobiles and automobile parts in a single day would keep Wake Forest going nearly two whole years.

We spent last year thirty-five million dollars for carpets and luxurious clothing, at the rate of ninety-six thousand dollars a day. What we spent on carpets and super-fine clothing in a single day would keep Davidson going a whole year. And a single day of automobile and tobacco money would keep the A. and E. College going a whole year.

The people of North Carolina spent twenty-five million dollars last year for candy, at the rate of seventy thousand dollars a day. What we spent in a single day for candy and luxurious clothing would keep Trinity going for one whole year. And what we spent for candy, automobiles, and tobacco in a single day would keep the University going for a whole year.

These figures are not guesses. They are based on a recent report by the Secretary of the Treasury, who has intimate acquaintance with the federal tax returns.

Who, with any competent knowledge of the facts, can honestly say that the people of North Carolina are poor—that they are poverty-stricken in tax-paying power?

It is plainer than print that we have money in lavish abundance to spend upon anything we really want.

If we do not spend money abundantly on public schools it simply means that we do not in our heart of hearts believe in public schools.

If we do not spend money abundantly on public health and highways, it simply means that in our heart of hearts we do not believe in public health and highways.

If we do not spend money abundantly upon college education, it simply means that in our heart of hearts we do not believe in college education.

The Way Out

There is, of course, only one way out of this galling college poverty—namely, a bond issue of twenty million dollars, or something like that total.

Not only in North Carolina but in most other states the people are shy of bond issues for state purposes. Not so of bond issues for county and municipal purposes. We have everywhere learned that we cannot build adequate county roads or creditable school buildings without local bond issues. But a bond issue for state purposes appears to most people to be a very different sort of proposition. It is not different, it is essentially the same. The bother about a state bond issue lies in the bogey uses to which it can be put by politicians to frighten the folks or by the folks to frighten politicians.

But tactically wise or unwise it is the only solution of our present state-wide problems. We might therefore just as well look a bond issue straight in the face and reduce it to simple terms.

The bonded indebtedness of North Carolina at present is right around ten million dollars. The bonded indebtedness of ten other states is greater, ranging from ten and a half millions in Louisiana and thirteen and a half millions in West Virginia, to four hundred and thirty-four millions in Ohio.

Our per capita burden of bonded state debt is less than four dollars per inhabitant. An additional twenty millions of bonds would bring this per capita indebtedness up to twelve dollars per inhabitant. And twelve dollars, mind you, will barely pay for a single Ford tire.

But considering the proposed issue of new bonds aside and apart from the present bonded indebtedness of the state, let us figure out a twenty million, thirty six-year, five-percent bond issue for the colleges and eleemosynary institutions of the state. Reduced to its simplest terms it means forty-eight cents a year per inhabitant. That is to say, forty-eight cents a year per inhabitant not only pays the annual interest on twenty millions of bonds but settles the debt in thirty-six years upon an amortization plan.

It is a forty-eight-cent proposition. Does this look like a heavy per capita

PARTY SUPREMACY

The highway of civilization is strewn thick with the wrecks of parties, but it is yet to be recorded that any party was ever wrecked on a program of progress in education.

Parties come and go, politicians may rise and fall, says Henry Watterson, but the education of the youth of the country goes on forever.

Party supremacy in North Carolina is and forever ought to be related to statesmanship in education.

That party will last longest that dares most for the youth of the state.—E. C. Branson.

annual tax? If so, it is pertinent to remark that the people of Arizona bear a per capita annual tax of eighty cents for their state university alone, and the people of Nebraska a per capita annual tax of fifty-three cents for their state university alone. But in North Carolina, forty-eight cents a year per inhabitant would double the capacity not of the University alone but of every state institution of learning and benevolence as well.

What Arizona and Nebraska are doing for their state universities alone surely the rich state of North Carolina is able to do with less money for all her state colleges and eleemosynary institutions.

The question of a twenty million bond issue for state institutions of learning and benevolence is the simple question of whether or not the people of the state are willing to assume an additional bonded indebtedness amounting to eight dollars per inhabitant and an additional tax averaging forty-eight cents a year per person.

Reduced to abc terms, the question is, Do the people of North Carolina consider that adequate college education and adequate care of her afflicted children is worth forty-eight cents a year per inhabitant?

Have we yet to learn, in Senator Ben Hill's words, that education is the one thing for which no people ever yet paid too much; that the more they pay the richer they become; that nothing is so costly as ignorance and nothing so cheap as knowledge?

We ought to be able to learn this fundamental lesson as easily as Louisiana has done. The bottom has dropped out of sugar prices and her sugar planters are in just as sorry plight as our cotton and tobacco farmers. Nevertheless her legislature voted five million dollars the other day as a two-year building fund for her University. The money is already available and architects, engineers, and contractors are now as busy as bees at Baton Rouge.

What Will Carolina Do?

In Ohio the building program of the University is three million dollars. In Minnesota it is three and a quarter millions. In Wisconsin it is four millions. In Louisiana it is five millions. In Michigan it is nearly nine millions. In Texas the amount proposed is seven and a half millions.

And the results are university properties worth six and a quarter million dollars in Louisiana, ten and a half million dollars in Texas, eleven million dollars in Ohio, thirteen million dollars in Wisconsin, fifteen million dollars in Minnesota, and seventeen million dollars in Michigan. Beside these handsome university properties, our two million dollar university plant dwindles into insignificance.

What, then, can be the building program of the University of North Carolina during the next five years? and what can it be for the other state institutions?

The answer lies with the people of the state and their elected representatives at the capital—not in the lap of the gods but on the knees of the legislature.

The wool growers are in distress in Ohio, and the wheat farmers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the motor car makers in Michigan, and the cotton farmers in Texas, and the sugar planters in Louisiana, but they have millions

for their state universities nevertheless.

Is it waste or wisdom? stupidity or statesmanship? The people of these states are not in doubt about the answer. Are we in doubt about it in North Carolina?

Whatever the answer may be, it can no longer turn upon the poverty of the people of this state—not when we are rich enough to pay 163 million dollars into the federal treasury in a single year—not when we are rich enough to spend 157 millions a year on tobacco products, motor cars, luxurious clothing, and sweetmeats alone!

People who spend fifty millions a year on tobacco and twelve millions on public schools, forty-seven millions on motor cars and six millions on churches, thirty-five millions on fine apparel and seven millions on the state, twenty-five millions on confections and two and a half millions on colleges, may be poverty-stricken in spirit, but they are not poverty-stricken in purse. And if we will not mend these shameful ratios somewhat, we stand convicted of wanton self-indulgence and graceless unconcern about the vital things of a noble civilization.

Our leaders need not hesitate to lead. The highway of civilization is strewn thick with the wrecks of parties, but it is yet to be recorded that any party was ever wrecked on a program of progress in education. "Parties come and go, politicians may rise and fall", said Henry Watterson, "but the education of the youth of the country goes on forever."

Party supremacy in North Carolina is and forever ought to be related to statesmanship in education. That party will live longest that dares most for the youth of the state.

The time has come for the people of North Carolina to heed the solemn words of Solomon: "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."—E. C. Branson, address before the Wilmington Mass Meeting for College Support.

THE STATE CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE, RALEIGH, JANUARY 25-7

The Conference meeting this year is set for January 25-7, Raleigh.

The special group conferences begin on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 25, at 2:30 o'clock. They appeal to Rural Community workers of all sorts, Mill Village Community workers, Public Welfare superintendents and board members, Travelers' Aid secretaries, executives of Associated Charities, Juvenile Court officials, Red Cross secretaries, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. officials, Rural School supervisors, Community Organization and Recreation agents, teachers in Community Schools for Adults, Home and Farm Extension agents, Public Health officials, the officers and board members of Child-Caring institutions, the heads of Eleemosynary institutions in general, public and private, church and state—to nearly 3,500 officials in North Carolina who are charged with various public welfare duties, and to many more thousands of social-minded citizens whose hands and hearts and bank accounts are generously devoted to the relief of man's estate in the earth. These are all invited to be present at some one or another of these group conferences.

And also they are invited into the general sessions, which begin Tuesday evening, Jan. 25. These general sessions will be devoted, in the order named, to a consideration of (1) The New Day in North Carolina, (2) Wholesome Recreation, (3) The Correlation of Social Agencies, (4) The Juvenile Court, and (5) The Needs of Our State Institutions of Benevolence.

Upon request the program in detail will be sent by Mrs. Clara S. Lingle, Secretary, Davidson, N. C.

A MANIFEST DUTY

The University of North Carolina is trying heroically to make bricks without straw. It is endeavoring to instruct

young men—who live in fearfully overcrowded dormitories—with frightfully overcrowded professors in woefully overtaxed class-rooms. And be it recorded as a testimonial to the faithfulness of the faculty of the institution, it is succeeding admirably well.

But the limit of a capacity already strained to the last point of efficiency has been reached. Confronted with the choice of turning its back upon aspiring young men or of overtaxing its facilities, it has elected the alternative. No one has been denied entrance whose credentials were acceptable. Seven hundred and fifty students are living in dormitories erected to house 460. Seven hundred and twenty-five young men are eating in a mess-hall that the optimistic architect assured would feed 450.

The University has doubled its enrollment in ten years and trebled it in twenty and it now stands on the threshold of its greatest era of expansion. The public schools of North Carolina are graduating each year a whole regiment of young men whose ambitions incline them toward a college training. Naturally they look to their state to provide them the chance of securing this college education.

Unless relief is immediately secured the University must restrict its opportunities to a few while the many are forced to seek elsewhere for the privilege of being educated. The educational leaders of North Carolina have spent many years in the effort to make the young men of the state appreciate the worth of college training. The youth of the state now clamor for the chance to secure this education. It would indeed be a sad commentary upon the progressiveness of our state if our University crowded beyond its capacity should be forced to say to many of these young men: "You must do without your college education because we haven't the buildings and the teachers." These young men skipped by their state university could not look elsewhere, for all of our colleges and universities are filled to their capacities.

The General Assembly must act with promptness and with generosity. A parsimonious attitude toward the University at this critical time would be little short of criminal. To delay until the legislature of 1923 would not afford the relief. It requires time to erect buildings. The need exists now and the State of North Carolina is too wealthy to indulge in a policy of procrastination.—The Asheville Citizen.

RICH AS CROESUS

Directly and indirectly \$172,000,000 was collected for the Federal Treasury in North Carolina last year. That exceeds by \$50,000,000 the total amount the state has spent for education in its entire history.

Democracy will certainly not be safe for the world unless we give the people the habit of thinking intelligently, to the end that they will be ruled by truth instead of by prejudice or emotion.—P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

A MORE VITAL CULTURE

What the country needs most in the youth of the next generation is a broader horizon of thought through a larger knowledge of the social sciences. The youth themselves are ripe for it—their minds have been laid open for it by the stirring events of the last six years. It should be part of our educational purpose to make sure that the coming generation knows the world and its needs better than did their fathers.

It is not difficult to assess the difference between the demand the world now makes upon the schools and colleges, and the demand it formerly made. It can be expressed in one word—practicality. I mean nothing cheap or sordid by that word practicality. There is such a thing as being practical spiritually—as desiring that the power acquired through education shall not stop at self-adornment but shall pass on to the building of a better social order.

And that is the idea stirring in the heart of the youth of today. The old loyalty to liberal culture, the pursuit of learning as a decoration for life and an endowment for leisure—these will not and ought not to die out in a nation such as ours. But the temper of the time calls for an educational programme more vital and powerful in its moulding influence upon the social whole.—Edwin A. Alderman, President University of Virginia.