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MILLIONS FOR STATE ENTERPRISES

BREAKING THE RECORD

Fifty millions for a state system of public highways, nearly six millions more voted to our state hospitals and state colleges of liberal learning and technical training for new buildings and equipments, five millions more as a state-aid loan fund for consolidated public schools in country areas. Such is the record of the General Assembly of North Carolina in 1921.

More than sixty million dollars is the grand total of state bonds authorized for building expansion in roads, learning, and benevolence.

And moreover, the annual state appropriation for our state colleges was moved up from \$700,000 in 1919-20 to \$1,430,000 in 1921-22; which means that the annual support funds for these eleven state institutions have been more than doubled in a single year.

There is nothing like this record of legislation in all the history of the state heretofore. It is a record written in a year of business depression and distress. It is a record of courage on part of a legislature that dared to take stock of our status as a state and to stake North Carolina against the world.

And these millions invested in vital state causes evidence a fundamental change in the spirit of the people of North Carolina.

It clearly proves that the people of this state can have whatever they want at the hands of the legislature. If they want roads most of all, they can have roads, and have them in the measure of their asking. If they want college education, they can have college education in the measure of their asking. Or public health, or public welfare, or asylums and schools for the afflicted children of the state, or anything else this state needs in order to be a good place to live in.

The will of the people to bring things to pass is the main matter in all progress.

Investing sixty millions in herself is a new venture for North Carolina. It lays heavy burdens upon responsible officials during the next few years. But if the state derives manifest benefit from these investments, if they pay dollar for dollar or many dollars for every dollar expended, the voting constituencies of this state will be more and more willing, as the years go by, to stake North Carolina against the universe.

But if anybody falls down in administering these funds wisely and with proper despatch, then the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee proposes to go after him with a tomahawk.

There must be no failures. The state must derive immediate and manifest values from these investments. Because we have barely more than entered upon the new day in North Carolina.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Realizing the need of expanding correspondence work, the University of North Carolina has reorganized the Home Study Division of the Bureau of Extension and placed Mr. Chester D. Snell, the new Assistant Director of the Bureau, in charge. Correspondence courses are now offered to all people in the State who wish to study and earn credits toward an A. B. degree.

All correspondence courses offered by the University count toward the A. B. degree and are equivalent to courses given during the regular session. Arrangements, however, may be made to take work without obtaining credit.

Any Home Study course for which the University gives credit will be credited by the State Board of Examiners and Institute Conductors towards state teachers' certificates. Teachers, principals, and superintendents; therefore, are afforded an opportunity of increasing their efficiency by studying during their spare time. The Home Study Division is particularly anxious to serve former students of the University and other colleges in the state who have been forced to give up study before receiving the bachelor's degree.

To those who desire to study for a degree or teachers' certificate, or merely for cultural purposes, courses are offered in the following subjects: Economics, Education, English, History, Latin, and Mathematics. Courses should be begun before March 1st. Any information desired will be given upon addressing the Home Study Division of the Bureau of Extension, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C.

HOW A STATE SUFFERS

One of the most serious defects of a legislator's position is beyond his control, and results from the vicious theory that the members of legislative bodies must in all cases be actual residents of the districts they represent. This is one of those numerous points where a people who pride themselves upon their practical sense have bound themselves rigidly to an unwholesome theory. No legislative body so far as I know outside of America, and American dependencies like the Philippines where the same unfortunate notion has been engrafted, thus destroys the freedom of the legislator. The effect is not only to render it impossible for the people freely to choose the best and most representative individuals to be found in the state, but binds the political career of a man in a legislature to the prejudices of a majority of his immediate constituents.

A member of the legislature who finds himself conscientiously at variance with the wishes of the majority of the people who have elected him, has three courses open; he may yield his own judgment and conscience to theirs, abandon political life, or change his home. The first alternative is the one almost invariably chosen with the result that a member subordinates what he may know to be the interests of the state to the local interests of the district that chooses him. He sacrifices the esteem and confidence of the people of the state as a whole in order that he may retain the political support of the voters of his own district.

This situation with all the unfortunate results that have grown out of it, lies at the root of the lack of public confidence in legislatures, and at the bottom of the general confidence felt in a state governor. For he alone of all the men in the state can afford to ignore the petty interests of certain localities and can fairly claim to put the interests of the state as a whole above those of any locality. — David P. Barrows, California Law Review.

STATE LOANS FOR HOMES

The proposed home ownership amendment to the State constitution as recommended by former Governor Hobby was adopted today by a decisive vote in the Texas House of Representatives.

The amendment provides that the legislature shall hereafter have power to give or lend the credit of the State for the purchase and improvement of rural and urban homes.

This measure was sponsored by Governor Hobby before he retired from office. It was defeated in an election two years ago but at the last general election was placed on the ballot and recommended for submission to the legislature.

SOCIAL WORK CREED

The North Carolina State Conference for Social Service, at its ninth annual meeting at Raleigh, January 25th to 27th, 1921, subscribes to the following specific articles.

Not since the 19th Century's contribution of public education to the public good has there appeared to us so great a potential for social progress as the present promise of the principles and technique of public welfare and social service, interpreted as the organization and method for making effective the tenets of democracy. The present difficulties, obstacles and criticisms of current methods and ideals of public welfare recall the very similar difficulties, obstacles, criticisms, and even ridicule heaped upon the beginnings of public education in this country not many decades ago. We view, therefore, all such

THE GOVERNOR ON HEALTH

We must throw around the home and life of our people an enlightened world's knowledge of preventive medicine, and make ceaseless war upon sickness, suffering and death in this State. Our great department of health must be generously nourished and equipped for this humane service. Disease cannot be successfully prevented by individual effort alone. Modern statesmanship demands that every practical effort shall be made through organized health boards and expert officers to protect the health of the people. Our health department has accomplished wonders with the means furnished. I believe I express the deep desire of our enlightened people when I urge increased strength for this great department of our government.

difficulties as the normal modes of progress in an upstanding democracy, and as a clear challenge for us to make good, as have past generations, the obligations of the hour.

Social Legislation

We recognize with substantial satisfaction the increasing power and appeal which the fundamentals of public welfare are creating in the minds of men everywhere; and the very happy alignment of the forces of public service and voluntary social agencies into a working program of effective statesmanship. This conference, formerly a small group of specialists in limited fields, expresses today, with unanimity, its indebtedness to the larger contributions and participation of governmental and public service representatives. Surely, this is a logical and substantial evidence of North Carolina's active participation in after-war reconstruction of genuine proportions.

We reaffirm our allegiance to and support of the social legislation enacted by the North Carolina general assemblies of 1917 and 1919. These laws have given the State of North Carolina a foremost place among the states of the Union in respect to the principles that all citizens shall assist in bearing the burdens of the unfortunate members of society, and that all communities shall share alike the state's constructive development.

Public Welfare

We also pledge our allegiance to and our belief in the desire of the people to support the progressive social legislation which is being proposed to the general assembly of 1921—the programs for good roads; for the development and promotion of the great common school system; for making the institutions of higher learning adequate to meet the state's reasonable demands; for equipping and developing the eleemosynary institutions; the general proposals for providing constructive recreation to the people, for the state censorship of moving pictures and the supervision of other commercialized forms of recreation; and other similar constructive measures to be offered. This program, when enacted, will be but a reasonable expectation in consideration of North Carolina's past intentions, and her present spiritual and material resources.

We give our unqualified endorsement to the work and plan of the State Department of Public Charities and Welfare. We believe that this Department should continue in ministrations to the delinquent, dependent and defective members of our population, its supervision of institutional services for these groups, and its general promotion of public welfare and its cooperation with other departments of service. We believe, in addition, that it should be given increased appropriations and powers in order to make effective the complete and balanced program of public welfare to which the people of this State are committed.

A State Council

We believe the North Carolina conference for Social Service to be the logical body for initiating plans for a

COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 45
FARM LIGHTING PLANTS—I

LIGHTING THE HOME

For the man who must make his own light and who wants a better light than that of kerosene lamps, there are only two real alternatives, electricity or acetylene.

Due to the rapid strides in the development of both these systems in the last few years and to the growing desire of our farmers to make home life more attractive and happier, we find a great number of both types of lighting plants installed throughout the state.

As the average man is faced with the problem of which to buy, it is interesting to draw a brief comparison between the two. With this idea in view we will discuss some of the main points to be considered in the selection of a plant.

Getting His Money's Worth

An acetylene generator is comparatively inexpensive to construct and the acetylene plant complete with pipes and fixtures is considerably less expensive, in any size, than the electric plant that would be installed for the same amount of lighting.

If all lighting installations were made simply on the basis of first cost, there would be no electric plants installed. On the other hand if this is the determining factor and nothing else then there would be no acetylene plants sold either, for kerosene lamps can be bought at a cost insignificant even in comparison with the cheapest acetylene plant.

The fact is, of course, that the man who is considering the purchase of a plant is not trying to avoid paying out

money provided he sees that he is getting his money's worth.

What It Costs

Just what the difference in the first cost will amount to depends so much upon the size of the plant, the number and distribution of the lights, etc., that no definite statement can be made. However, if we take the average medium sized house, usually with one or more outbuildings, barn, stable, garage and tool house then we can get a pretty clear idea. Here a one-kilowatt electric plant or an acetylene generator large enough to hold about 100 lbs. of carbide would suit the condition. The cost of these two plants would be about \$600 for the electric and about \$350 for the acetylene, or a \$250 difference in favor of the acetylene.

Running Expense

The next question which might arise in the mind of a prospective purchaser would be the cost of operation. This of course depends largely on local conditions, but where the two plants are operating under the same conditions and both giving the same amount of light, the electric plant at the present cost of fuel and carbide is probably somewhat cheaper to run. This is based on the assumption that gasoline costing 30 cents a gallon is used as a fuel for the engine of the electric plant, and that carbide at \$3.75 per 100 lbs. is used for making acetylene.

Next week we will tell you about the amount of attention required to keep the plant going. — W. C. W.

State Council of Social Agencies. We recognize this as an opportune time for bringing about a closer affiliation in contact, fellowship, information, and work, of the four great classes of state social agencies—namely, the state departments of public service, the churches and voluntary agencies, and the private and denominational institutions of higher learning. We authorize the Executive Committee of this Conference to proceed with the study of and planning for such a council at an early date.

We express our appreciation of the courtesies and hospitality of the people of Raleigh in their service and assistance during this Conference. We wish especially to express our appreciation of the hospitality of the Raleigh Woman's Club whose services in providing meeting places in their Club rooms and in other ways, are an expression of the ideals and purposes typified by this conference. — Howard W. Odum, chairman, Mrs. C. C. Hook, E. C. Lindeman, Mrs. B. F. Griffin.

RELATIVE CROP VALUES

The United States Department of Agriculture, in its January Crop Reporter, is quietly pointing out certain facts that should come as soothing balm to those timorous folk whose troubled spirits have a pessimistic outlook on the problems of the day. An unobtrusive little table sums up the crop situation, and the showing is not only satisfactory in the main for the country at large, but particularly so for our own state.

The fact is, not only has the outturn of crops been good, but, in spite of the disastrous slump in prices of cotton and tobacco, the combined values of all crops last year came well above the average for the war period 1914-1918. As everyone knows, during that particular five years the whole country strained every nerve to produce crops sufficient to feed the world, and these efforts were notably successful. Nevertheless, if we compare the combined value of the output of all crops in 1920, and in 1919, with the average value for all crops in 1914-18, the result is surprisingly encouraging. For the United States the value of the total crop outturn in 1920 is two percent above the 1914-1918 average; and in 1919 it was fifty-eight percent above the 1914-18 average; while in North Carolina the value of our 1920 crop outturn is

twenty-five percent above our 1914-18 average and the 1919 value was ninety-nine percent above that average. Cotton and tobacco prices notwithstanding, the fact remains that we produced last year crops worth twenty-five percent more than our crops were worth when humanity, patriotism, and self-interest combined to spur us to unceasing agricultural effort.

How Carolina Ranks

Let us see how we stand as compared with other southern states. Representing the average value of all crops for 1914-1918 as 100 in each state, we have the following:

	1920	1919
North Carolina	125	199
Oklahoma	117	226
Florida	115	138
Texas	113	196
Tennessee	110	155
Virginia	109	153
South Carolina	106	190
Kentucky	104	188
Arkansas	101	165
Alabama	100	165
Missouri	98	158
Mississippi	91	171
Louisiana	88	146
Georgia	81	151

It is plain to see that in 1919 we practically doubled the average value of the preceding five years, that in 1920 our crops brought us twenty-five percent more than the five-year average return, and, further, that in no other southern state was the 1920 showing in relative crop values as good as in North Carolina. When all the states are considered, only nine states made a better showing in relative crop values for 1920.

Does this look as if we had a right to plead bankruptcy? With these figures before us, should we hesitate in our march toward an era of enlightened well-being, even though progress requires us to unite in contributing of our resources to further the cause?

The relative figures in Texas are lower than ours in both 1919 and 1920, yet the Texas program for university-building calls for seven and a half million dollars. And Louisiana bravely votes a five-million university building fund, even though for 1920 her crop values are only 88 percent of the 1914-18 average.

We venture to say that our courage is not below the average while our resources stand so well above.

Here are facts that are worth pondering. — H. R. S.