

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

MARCH 30, 1921

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. VII, NO. 19

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.

NEW EXTENSION BULLETINS

BETTER SCHOOLHOUSES

The University Bureau of Extension has issued a booklet edited by Dr. L. A. Williams, and entitled "The Construction of School Houses." Dr. Williams says in his introduction that his purpose in writing this handbook on school house construction, is because of the vast amount of money that is to be spent during the coming months in this State in constructing new school buildings, and further because the officials who have the construction of these houses in hand do not have a book to consult from which they are able to obtain the fundamental and correct features about school house construction.

The class in administrative problems in the University Summer School of 1920 devoted its time to considering the problem of school buildings, and this bulletin is the result of the investigation made by several members of the class.

The bulletin, says Dr. Williams, is intended to be a practical aid to officials in their efforts to render the tax-payers full value for their money invested in school building, and to prevent the waste of money building unfit houses. All the practical features of a building are taken up, and the handbook is full of good sound advice on all those of building. Dr. Williams says in closing his introduction, "Our hope is that it may help to prevent waste of public funds during those months before us when we shall be constructing new temples of democracy."—The Tar Heel.

COUNTRY TELEPHONES

Requests for copies of the recent leaflet written by John H. Lear, entitled "The Construction of Rural Telephone Lines," have been pouring into the Bureau of Country Home Comforts and Conveniences from all parts of the country. Some have arrived from telephone companies as far West as California.

Not only are the requests for the leaflet but there are many requests to know just how this work is being carried on by the University Extension Bureau and the State Highway Commission.

The requests are principally from small telephone companies but the large ones want them too. The Southern Bell Telephone Company, for instance, wrote a very complimentary letter in which they stated that they would like to have every man in their employ read this leaflet.

Owing to the large number of requests which have been received in the few weeks since the bulletin was issued the University will probably receive letters from all over the world in the course of a few weeks more and may have the arduous duty of translating it into foreign languages including Czecho-Slovakian.—The Tar Heel.

THE DEBATE BULLETIN

According to an announcement by Mr. E. R. Rankin in a booklet called "Collective Bargaining," and issued by the Bureau of Extension, the query to be debated in the State-wide high school debates this winter and spring will be: Resolved, That the policy of collective bargaining through trade unions should prevail in American industry. It is understood that this query affirms that, in the main lines of American industry, viz., mining, manufacturing, building, and transportation, it should be the policy of employers to recognize trade unions and to make collective bargains with their employees through accredited trade union representatives.

Every secondary and high school in North Carolina offering regularly organized courses of study above the seventh grade, and not extending in their scope beyond a standard four-year high school course is eligible to become a member of the High School Debating Union and to participate in this State-wide debate. Every school that enters will be grouped with two others in a triangle, each school putting out two teams, one on the affirmative and the other on the negative. Every school which wins both of its debates will be entitled to send its team to Chapel Hill to contest for the State championship

and the Aycock Memorial Cup. About 225 schools have already entered their names for participation in the debates this year. The triangles have already been arranged also, and the debates will soon be gotten under way.—The Tar Heel.

SOCIAL WORK IN GASTON

Miss Beulah Martin, of the rural social science department of the State University, recently visited Gastonia and Gaston county to make a study of the standards of living in the mill communities of this section. Her findings are an interesting revelation.

Four years ago the only visible welfare work done in the mill villages was in the maintenance of a public nurse for the entire county and a small library in one of the villages. Today there are numbers of community houses, dormitories, recreation houses and grounds, nurseries for children whose mothers work in the mills, and numbers of community nurses and social workers in the manufacturing districts. In many places dormitories have been built with modern conveniences for the unmarried employes of the mills. Better churches have been built and modern school buildings erected. Boy Scout troops have been organized and there are among the women and girls parent-teachers' and little mothers' clubs.

The greatest welfare agency is the community house where the people gather for recreation and social purposes, for reading and other forms of instruction, and where the children are cared for in a systematic and sanitary way.

Other bright aspects of mill life in Gaston county pointed out are the facts that at one mill forty per cent of the operatives own their own homes and that at another 49 per cent of the stock in the mill is owned by employes of the mill.

This is the liberal and forward-looking policy that mill owners and corporations are following in Gaston county.—Gastonia Daily Gazette.

COTTON PROFITEERING

Our farmers are getting around 12 cents for cotton these days. Or so the prices are quoted in the market reports, but as a matter of fact they are getting a good deal less than that in remote country places. We happen to know of one shipment of low grade cotton at thirty-six dollars a bale.

And why? Because nobody wants it at any price, the buyers say; the carry-over is excessive, the mills on this side are overstocked, and the demand overseas has ceased. Such are the current reasons handed out to our cotton farmers since the slump in cotton prices late last August.

Now the fact is, export demands for raw cotton were hardly less in 1920 than in 1919. The shipments abroad for the year ending with last December were barely 400 thousand bales less than the year before. See the Jan. 27 report of the Federal Department of Commerce.

There is economic chaos abroad, but it is dead certain that our exporters are shipping no raw cotton except for gold or on gilt-edge security.

And while they were shipping a little less they were getting a good deal more for it—upon an average of 36 cents a pound in 1920 against 33 cents in 1919!

There you are. Exporters getting 36 cents a pound from foreign consumers and paying domestic producers 12 cents or less!

If cotton and tobacco farmers cannot or will not bunch up in business-like ways to protect the prices they fairly ought to have, they are wooden-headed beyond words.

But will they? The farmers of one Carolina county have recently surrendered more than a half million dollars to blue-sky artists selling worthless oil stock, fertilizer factory stock and the like; or so a local banker reported last week.

If they only would invest a half million dollars in public education, cooperative enterprise, and common sense, the county would lead the state in a jiffy in progress and prosperity.

HOMELESSNESS

It has been said that a man will fight for his home, but it is hard to induce a man to fight willingly for his landlord or his boarding house.

And Billy Sunday has said, A man living in a rented house and singing Home, Sweet Home is merely kidding himself and serenading his landlord.

A noted sociologist has said, If every family had a home, with lawn and flowers and trees in front and a garden in the rear, crime would disappear in two generations.

Dark, crowded, unsatisfactory housing conditions are among the most prolific sources and causes of disease, insanity, immorality and crime, both in town and country areas. Homelessness constitutes a most serious menace to society.—K. V. Haymaker.

NO BOLSHEVISM IN FRANCE

Why is it that one never hears of Bolshevism in France, not even the faintest fear of its rooting and spreading there?

The answer appears partly in the fact that eighty-eight per cent of that country's cultivatable land is owned and tilled by three million, two hundred thousand peasant owners; partly in the fact that industrial securities and stocks are distributed on a similarly wide scale, more than two million, three hundred thousand persons, for instance, being owners of bonds or shares in the nation's railroads; and partly in the fact that of the national debt of France, totaling two hundred and thirty-seven billion francs, two hundred and three billion are held by the French rank and file.

These and a host of kindred figures, recently compiled by students of economics, bear eloquent witness to the thrift-making qualities of patriotism as well as the patriot-making qualities of thrift. It was not by strokes of mere good fortune that these millions of French peasants, workingmen and small tradesmen acquired so substantial and splendid a part in their country's wealth. It was by steady, full-sinewed labor, by foresight and frugality, by the exercise of those individual and social virtues which Bolshevism despises.

The ordinary man's opportunities in France have been no richer or more frequent than elsewhere, and by no means so abundant as among Americans. Twice within little more than four decades the French people have been called upon to pour out their treasure and blood for national defense. Have they whimpered and despaired? Have they turned pessimists or radicals? The heavier their burdens, the braver their hearts have been, and the more loyal!

That is why France has prospered; that is why she is free. Here is the national greatness that rests upon faithful labor and willing sacrifice. No lesser foundation ever has or ever will resist the tides of time.—The Atlanta Journal.

BELIEVES IN GOOD ROADS

With all its horrors, the war broadened our vision in a great many ways. Before the war if any Legislature had dared to propose a fifty million bond issue for any purpose it would have been hooted out of power.

We have learned to talk and think in terms of millions whereas in former days thousands was our limit. And the new and broader vision that has come to us is state wide.

At the recent hearing before the committee in charge of the road bill there were 53 representatives of that section of our state lying west of Asheville. In our remotest mountain regions as well as throughout the level lands along the ocean shore there is a pressing and vigorous sentiment in favor of hard surface roads. A great propaganda has been going on in the state in favor of permanent and expensive highways, and it has borne fruit. This demand for great roads does not come alone from the owners of automobiles; it is felt and expressed by owners of carts

COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 46

FARM LIGHTING PLANTS—II

MAKING THE LIGHT

It is a difficult matter to get a definite idea about the amount of attention required for the operation of an electric or acetylene plant if you attempt to get this from a salesman. Electric plant salesman says, "Give our engine gasoline and oil and the batteries water about once a month." The acetylene man says, "There is nothing to do but put in carbide and water and dispose of the waste." Which of these operations is easier might be said to be a matter of choice with the individual; but let us see what is necessary.

Electric Lighting

In both cases it is a question of charging—for the electric plant the batteries, and for the acetylene the generator.

Charging with the electric plant consists in running a small gasoline engine, under average conditions, for a period of about eight hours once a week. The engine is usually arranged to start at the pressure of a button and runs without attention until the batteries are fully charged when it stops automatically. Of course the operator must see that the engine has gas and oil before attempting to start it. The gasoline engine is the only part of the electric plant which is apt to give trouble. It is a characteristic of all gasoline engines but with a little intelligent care occasionally very little trouble is experienced.

and wagons.

The facility of getting about and of easy transportation for our products is the crying need of the times. Good roads will mean good churches, good schools, good neighborhoods. They will do more than anything else to suppress blind tigers and general disorderliness. They will promote everything that is good and become a prime factor in suppressing everything that is evil. Our people have seen the point and understand; hence their willingness, aye their eagerness, to shoulder the great load the Legislature is about to lay on our backs.

The people understand the principle that it is some times the highest economy to spend money wisely and judiciously, and with a lavish hand. We are amazed to find the sentiment so strong and so general in favor of this prodigious expenditure of the public funds for any object whatsoever.

And we have no doubt that the passage of this bill, which now seems a certainty, will mark a new era in the material and moral progress of the state.—Charity and Children.

THE N. C. CLUB

North Carolina cities are steadily drifting away from the aldermanic form of city government in the direction of the commission form, the city manager form, or a combination of the two, according to a report made tonight to the North Carolina Club at the University of North Carolina by P. A. Reavis, Jr., of Louisville.

As to the proper choice among these three kinds of government, Mr. Reavis thought Tar Heel cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants would find the combination of the commission form and the city manager form best suited for their needs and he laid special stress on the amended charter to be submitted to the people of Greensboro March 1. For cities under 10,000 in population he favored the city manager plan.

"The large cities usually have many industries and an element of labor which must be taken into consideration in recommending governmental reform," he said. "Organized labor everywhere sanctions the commission-manager plan of government because it eliminates the usual political harangues.

"The commission-manager plan is more dependable in a large city where there is usually more legislative and routine matters than can be handled by a single individual, but all cities of less than 10,000 population, no matter whether they are industrial or not,

Most people who have run an automobile are afraid of the storage battery feature of the electric plant. However, this is a point which gives needless concern as the operating conditions are entirely different. It is sufficient to say that the automobile battery is of small capacity and does heavy duty, while the lighting plant battery is of large size and has comparatively light work. About once a month it is necessary to fill the lighting plant batteries with distilled water.

Acetylene Lighting

Turning to the acetylene plant we find that charging is necessary, under average conditions, about once a month. This is first of all a daylight job as it is extremely dangerous to bring an exposed flame anywhere near an acetylene generator due to the explosive nature of the gas. Before charging, the waste of residuum must first be removed. This consists of 200 pounds or more of a milky solution of a disagreeable and prevailing odor which is rather mean to handle by hand. The operation of charging is made much more convenient by having water piped to the generator and by having a drain to carry off the waste. When the waste has been disposed of then a quantity of carbide and water is put in the generator. The operator can then forget about the generator for a whole month, at the end of which it will be necessary to repeat the operation.—W. C. W.

will find it more efficient to use the city-manager plan. It eliminates the expense of the mayor and the aldermen, who are usually paid for their services."

Elizabeth City, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Hickory, High Point, Morganton, Morehead City, Tarboro, and Thomasville were cited as city-manager cities in North Carolina. Kinston, said Mr. Reavis, is threshing the plan out before its aldermanic council, with the expectation of putting the question to the people at a near date, Durham is considering the matter at its aldermanic meetings, and Greensboro submits its amended charter to the people March 1.

In discussion at the club meeting it developed that nearly all larger cities in North Carolina had abandoned the aldermanic plan, "No single movement in the whole domain of municipal affairs has had such rapid and widespread growth as the commission form of government in American cities," said Mr. Reavis.—Lenoir Chambers.

THE PITT COUNTY BULLETIN

Pitt County: Economic and Social, is the title of a Bulletin which has been gotten out by the Pitt County Club with the help of Professors E. C. Branson and S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the Rural Social Science Department. It is now at Prof. Branson's office ready for distribution.

The Bulletin contains about eighty pages, and as the name implies is an Economic and Social Survey of the County.

It is the ninth publication of the kind to be printed here by the County Clubs. S. O. Worthington is Editor-in-Chief, and he was aided in his compilation by M. B. Prescott, J. V. Perkins, J. H. Spain, J. S. Moore, S. J. Husketh, and I. M. Little.

There are eleven chapters in the bulletin, covering the Historical Background of the County, Natural Resources, Industries and Opportunities, Facts about the Folks, Wealth and Taxation, Farm Conditions and Practices, the three Leading Towns: Greenville, Farmville, Ayden, Home Raised Food and The Local Market Problem, the Rural Schools, Things to be proud of, and County Problems and their Solutions.

The Department of Rural Social Science can quote prices on Bulletins of this kind to all County Clubs interested in getting them out. Work of this kind deserves high commendation, and the County Clubs would be a real power if they would undertake more often enterprises of this or a similar nature.—The Tar Heel.