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# Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, J. B. Bullitt, H. W. Odum. Entered as second-class matter November 14,1914, at the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1913.

# **FARM TENANCY IN 1920**

News Letter a table ranking the coun- counties rank in tenancy in proportion ties of North Carolina from low to high as they are producers of the cash crops, in farm tenantry, and opposite the col- cotton and tobacco, and as you move umn showing the percent of all farmers west and east from this area tenancy who are tenants is a column showing decreases whether tenants are a decreasing or an increasing ratio of all farmers. Cotton and tobacco are ideal tenant For instance, ten years ago 35.2 crops because they can be produced by percent of all the farmers in Cherokee county were tenants. Today only 21.3 admirably suited to the farm labor in percent of them are tenants; the this belt. In some of the counties more tenant ratio has dropped 13.9 percent. than half of the farmers are negroes, Again, ten years ago only 25.9 percent and many of the white tenants would of the farms in Forsyth county were be failures at any other type of farmcultivated by tenants, while in 1920 the ing. Both cotton and tobacco are ready tenant farmers were 40.5 percent of all cash crops and can be sold in the fall farmers, the tenant ratio having in- immediately after harvesting and all

#### Scotland Leads

farmers who are tenants.

nercent, or nearly four-fifths, of all her Greene with 78.2 percent are close competitors for this position, and if during the next ten years they continue to increase as they have during the last decfarmers who own the land they culti-

ant tarm area, leads in the percent of a contain tarming to out one of the cooperation is rooted in land farmers who own the land they cultivate. There are only two tenants in Coastal Plains counties have no peer in rooted in tenancy can hardly succeed the entire county.

### A Tenant State

Every decade finds not only more tenants in North Carolina but a larger percent of all the farms cultivated by ten-Twenty years ago 93,008 farms, tivated by tenants. In 1910 we had county desires to stabilize its popula- tenancy. So largely with the counties half of our country populations cultivate single county in the eastern half of Our steady increase in illiteracy among land that belongs to other people and North Carolina except Nash, and seven white men and women is due to our intenant farmers and their families number six hundred thousand souls. They er farm tenant ratio today than in 1910. make up the unstable, wandering ele And the ratio was higher in 1910 than ment of our population, for 52 percent in 1900. It will be higher in 1930 than of them, or 300,000 of our farm tenant today, and so on and on as long as these but farm tenancy is a church problem. population, find new homes each year. two crops are produced on the present A very small percent of farm tenants farmer moves five times upon an average. They are continually on the move, of the state have a higher farm tenant either from choice or necessity.

## Where Mainly

the Piedmont belt on the north that culthis state wherever cotton and tobacco are cultivated and it is not found to any large extent in any county that does not produce either of these two crops. Four-fifths of all our tenants are in cotton and tobacco counties. No Mountain county even approaches our state average of 43.5 percent. Of the 42 counties above the state average all but nine are located in the eastern half of the state and these nine are four tobacco counties along the Virginia border and five cotton counties along the South Carolina border. All counties between and west of these nine are counties where farm ownership is the rule and where each decade finds a larger percent of the farms cultivated by owners and tenancy a decreasing practice. The Mountain and Hill counties that produce Especially is this true of cotton and tofood and feed crops have never been bacco tenant farmers. They produce tenancy except where cotton and tobacco are claiming this area.

a tenant area. Scotland, for her area, produces more cotton than any county in the state and she ranks first in farm tenancy. Edgecombe, Pitt, Wilson, Greene, and Lenoir are combination cotton and tobacco counties and seventy-six percent of the farmers are tenants in this area that leads the world in to-

TENANCY, GAINS AND LOSSES bacco production and ranks high in cot-We are carrying in this issue of the ton cultivation. The Coastal Plains

#### Ideal Tenant Crops

reased 14.6 percent. All the counties farm accounts closed in one transaction. of the state range between these ex- Credit can be secured to run the farmer tremes in losses or gains in the ratio of even before the crops are planted through our crop-lien system. Both crops are non-perishable or practically Scotland county holds first place in so, and can be retained by the landlord tenancy in North Carolina with 79.6 or merchant for long periods, or until the market suits. Both crops are easicounties have no peer in tenancy ratio. have a stable membership.

### The Eastern Half Increases

If a state or county desires to in-

deeper and deeper into farm tenancy. gions. The western half is building its prosperity in food and feed farming, grains, been decreasing ever since the Civil for this fatal tendency? a revival of this important industry.

## Social Consequences

No farm tenant population has ever and can never be tenant counties. Ten- wealth in enormous quantities but the ancy seldom exists outside of cash crop great bulk of it slips through their fin- to the land they cultivate. areas. The Tidewater counties which gers from a score of causes, the main have no cash crop rank high in farm one being their inability to see the adownership and are not moving over into vantage of live-at-home farming, or in- First, a progressive land tax suited to ability to practice it because of our farm system. Aside from the economic It can be laid down as a law that in consequences, what are the social con-

#### HUMANISM

To look with wide and sympathetic vision over all human affairs, near and remote, recent and ancient; to enter freely and sympathetically into all worthy kinds of human experience, directly through participation and observation, and in directly through conversation and lecture and wide reading; to range with quickened mind through the rich and inspiring fields of science and art and philosophy and religion; to feel a oneness with one's race, and to be fired with its highest aspirations; to act with one's fellows vigorously, joyously and whole-heartedly in the cooperative provision of a full and rich life opportunity for every human being, -such as these are humanistic experiences. Those experiences in which man realizes his full humanity constitute the substance of humanism. - Bobbitt-The Curriculum.

farmers tenants, or four out of every ly transported from place to place and ing new fields. This spells disaster to armers tenants, of logic out of every have large value for their bulk. Neither schools, school attendance, school con-Edgecombe with 79.4 and crop can be eaten by man or beast, solidation, church membership, attendmaking it safe to trust the tenant with ance and support. It spells disaster to them. They are hand-made crops, progood roads development, public health ducing high per acre yields, giving the sanitation, law and order, community landlord maximum returns for the land organizations and enterprises for progcrease as they have during the last dee. Indicate that the two crops ress and prosperity, welfare and wellenancy and behind in the percent of are thoroughly protected by law and being. It spells disaster for cooperaperfectly protected by business meth- tive marketing associations. A landds. There are no crops on the face of less, homeless, wandering tenant popu-Dare county, although not an import- the earth that are so admirably adapted lation cannot become a cooperative ant farm area, leads in the percent of to tenant farming as our two big cash machine. Cooperation is rooted in land the production of these two crops, and with cooperative enterprises. A coopthe 20 combination cotton and tobacco erative enterprise, to succeed, must

### Tenancy And Illiteracy

Tenancy and illiteracy go hand in crease the ratio of farmers who own hand. The states of the Union bulk up or 41.4 percent of all farms, were cul-107,287 farms, or 42.3 percent cultivated tion and reap economic and social values of this state. Tenancy and illiteracy to be derived therefrom, it had better are twin-born social menaces. They tenant farmers and they are 43.5 per- not cultivate cash crops exclusively. are twins at birth and boon companions gent of all farmers. We have 24,451 We are not advocating the cessation of throughout life, as professor Branson more tenant farms today than 20 years cotton and tobacco production but are puts it. Neither can be cured without ago. Nearly half of all the farms of presenting the consequences that are curing the other, and as long as we ur state are tenant farms and nearly as inevitable as death itself. Every have the one we will have the other. have no roof of their own. All told, the Tidewater counties which produce prac- crease in farm tenancy in fifty counties

# A Church Problem

The churches may not consider it so, ever join any church and a very small ratio than ten years ago. Two of these, long enough to form church connections. Rockingham and Forsyth, are tobacco Non-church membership and tenancy counties, and one, Iredell, is a cotton go hand in hand. For instance Edgeare to be found mainly in the Coastal county. The only two exceptions to combe county ranks 100th in church Plains counties and in those counties of the cotton and tobacco law are Clay membership and 99th in farm tenancy. tivate tobacco, and on the south that cultivate cotton. Tenancy is found in this creation belt of North Carolina is the cotton. Tenancy is found in this creation belt of North Carolina is the cotton. western half of North Carolina is moving out of farm tenancy into farm owning out of farm tenancy into farm ownership. The eastern half is moving destroy the church in our country re-

## Remedies

North Carolina and the South are hay and forage, livestock and livestock drifting into farm tenancy. Every decindustries. The eastern half is staking ade marks a decrease in the ratio of its all in cash-crop farming and it is farmers who own the land they till. plainly a fatal practice. The per capita This is especially true in those 800 counproduction of food and feed crops was ties of the South that produce the bulk lower there in 1920 than in 1910 and has of our cotton. Are there any remedies War. The livestock business is on a there are many agencies that can be perilously low level, with little sign of used to aid farmers to move from tenancy over into home and farm ownership. It is perilous to our democracy to continue our present drift. It is imaccumulated a large per capita wealth. portant that all people who have the interests of our democracy at heart should aid in making it possible for a larger percent of our farmers to be tied

> There are three things that if put into practice would render immediate aid. tenants to get a chance to buy farms. Nearly all the leading agricultural areas outside the United States have such a

they now pay, they could accumulate wealth and in time buy farms as they have done in Denmark, where now 90 percent of the farmers own their land. Cooperative credit unions and cooperative marketing are our two big needs

the luncheon hour in the summer school cafeteria yesterday—our ten millions voted locally by eighty-odd towns for public school buildings, the \$1,600,000 in Guilford, the \$990,000 for a high school building in Winston-Salem, and

so on.

Fine, said my neighbor, a country high school principal in Santa Barbara country; sounds like California; fifteen millions voted for high school buildings alone in this state since January 1. We believe in high schools in California. I have only 34 pupils in my high school, but my country district gives me two buildings worth \$50,000 and five teachers with \$14,000 a year for salaries and running expenses.

Here are high school boys and girls housed in the country at about \$1,500 each, and taught at a cost of around \$400 a year per pupil. And they are

instruction all over the state, I am told. The million dollar high school building in Fresno is soon to be opened with a grand fete. I hope to be present to judge the high school fervor of these California people. save the enormously high interest rates | doing something like this for high school

#### Ontario Schools

tive marketing are our two big needs in the field of cooperative activity in the south.

The last, surest, and best method is to produce all the food and feed crops needed for consumption in the South and then produce the two best cash crops on the face of the earth, cotton and tobacco, of which we have a monopoly, and bank the wealth secured from the sale of these crops. This practice, if followed for ten years, would make southern farmers the richest on earth and would enable us to accumulate a surplus with which to buy farms and move from farm tenancy over into farm ownership.

Our leading tenant counties should begin to look for some sensible solutions to the tenant problem. If the practice of 60 years continues, eastern North Carolina will be a land of a few landlords and many tenants. History teaches us the peril of this condition.—S. H. H., Jr.

to the tenant problem. If the practice of 60 years continues, eastern North Carolina will be a land of a few landlords and many tenants. History teaches us the peril of this condition.—S. H. H., Jr.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

Concerning California schools, Mr. Branson writes:

I indiscreetly ventured into blowing a big horn for the Old North State, at the luncheon hour in the summer school cafeteria yesterday—our ten millions complaints. The citrus fruit growers have been hard hit by the transcontinental freight rates, but they are game and there is no balking on schools and

### FARM TENANCY IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1920 Percents Increase or Decrease, 1910-1920

Counties ranked from low to high according to the percent of farms operated tenants. The ten-year gain or loss is shown opposite this percent. Based Press Summaries of the 1920 Census.

State rate of tenantry 43.5 percent. Total increase in farms 16,038. Total ease in farm tenants 11,182.

ncrease in farm tenants 11,182.  Rural Social Science Department, University of North Carolina.								
2 1	County	Percent	Percent	Ranl	k County	Percent	Percent	
санк	Country	tenants	ten-year				ten-year	
		1	gain or loss				n or loss.	
1 . I	Dare	2.6	1.9		Sampson			
2 F	Averv	10.3		52	Polk	. 39.4	-2.9	
3 A	Alleghany	12.3	2.8		Iredell			
4 1	Mitchell	12.6			Montgomery			
5 7	Watauga	12.9		55	Forsyth	40.5	14.6	
6 A	Ashe	13.6	2.5	56	Onslow	. 40.6		
7 I	Henderson	14.1	7.2	57	Gaston,	42.1	-7.7	
8 I	Brunswick	14.5	3.0		Washington			
9. 1	New Hanover.	16.1	-7.0	59	Rutherford	. 43.5	-2.6	
9 I	Randolph	16.1	-4.8	60	Stokes	. 44.6	-3.2	
1 1	Jackson	17.8	-7.1		Chowan			
2 1	Wilkes	18.1	-7-0	62	Hyde	45.8	-6.0	
3 7	Fransylvania .	18.4	-4.9	63	Cumberland	. 46.0		
14	Alexander	18.8	-2.8		Duplin			
L4 1	Columbus	19.1	2,6	65	Cleveland	. 48.5	2.1	
LO V	Yadkin	20.3	-7.0		Person			
16	Carteret	20.4	-1.6	67	Martin	48.6	. 5.8	
17 (	Caldwell	20.5			Craven			
[8 (	Davidson	21 1	-0.9		Johnston			
19 ]	Cherokee	21.3	-13.9	70	Union			
20 (	Macon	23.0	-4.3	71	Pasquotank			
21 ]	Macon Swain	94.9	-6.2	72	Perquimans			
22	Swain Buncombe	94.3	-2.6	73	Cabarrus			
23	Pender	74.6	7.9	74	Vance			
24	Guilford	95.1	-2.2	75	Bertie.,			
25	Catawba	25.2	-2.2	76	Warren	54.8:	0.0	
26	Alamance	26.2	-2.1	77	Rockingham			
27	Bladen	26.3	7.9	78	Caswell			
28	Biaden Burke	26.3	1.8	79	Granville	55.1	2.5	
28	Yancey	27.2	-6.2	80	Durham			
30	Yancey Tyrrell	97.7	-1.2		Nash			
31	Surry	28.2	-2.7	82	Camden			
32	Moore	99 1	3.6		Wake			
33	Moore McDowell	90. /	-1.4		Northampton .	59.7	2.9	
34	McDowell Madison	99.1	-7.9		Robeson			
35	Stanly	29 0	-2.0		Hertford			
36	Beaufort	22.7	5.3		Mecklenburg.			
37	Lincoln	22.7	-7.8		Richmond			
	Rowan	99.7	4.1		Franklin			
37	Graham	24.9	7.1		Jones			
40	Haywood	24.2	-4.1		Hoke			
41	Haywood	25.0	-2,0		Wayne			
42	Orange	95.9	1.5		Halifax			
43	Clay Currituck	0E G	-0.6		Anson			
	Currituck	9E Q	-3.5		Lenoir			
45	Chatham	95.0	7.7		Pitt			
46	Gates	,	-0.9		Wilson			
47	Lee	97 9	-5.8		Greene			
	Davie	97.7	14.0		Edgecombe			
49-	Pamlico	20 0	3.2		Scotland			
50	Harnett	, , 35,0 .	0,4	111 -	t of Wetawas	Coldwoll		
73	Note: (1) Avery was formed in 1911 out of Watauga, Caldwell, and Mitch-							