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THE CHURCH AND THE LANDLESS

THE CHURCH AND TENANCY

The country church must destroy tenancy and illiteracy or tenancy and illiteracy will destroy the country church, said Mr. L. G. Wilson, of Harnett county, to the North Carolina Club at its last meeting in Phillips Hall at the University.

The marked decline of the church in excessive white farm tenancy areas bears testimony to the fact that farm tenancy has a direct and vital relation to the church. Everywhere in the United States where white farm tenancy is excessive the church has been steadily dwindling in membership, power, and influence. As an evidence of this, Mr. Wilson cited the 700 abandoned country church buildings of one denomination in Missouri and the 1800 abandoned country churches of Illinois. The decay of the country church in the 800 cotton and tobacco counties of the South is a well known but little considered problem.

The country church, said Mr. Wilson, is in deadly peril (1) from the cityward drift of rural populations and the consequent loss of intelligent local leadership, and (2) from the inseparable social evils of tenancy, illiteracy, and poverty. I say inseparable because they exist together; wherever you find high ratios of white farm tenancy you find high ratios of white illiteracy and poverty along with low ratios of church membership. For eight years the department of rural social-economics at the University has been making detailed studies of these three conditions in the country regions of the state, and nothing is clearer than the fact that the church must destroy tenancy and illiteracy among the whites in country areas, or tenancy and illiteracy will destroy the country church. This does not apply so much to the negro churches, for the status of colored tenants does not appear to interfere with church membership or church attendance.

In North Carolina

In proof of this statement, Mr. Wilson continued: In twenty-one cotton and tobacco counties of North Carolina we have excessive farm tenancy, and excessive white illiteracy, along with very low ratios of church membership. Here are dead and dying white country churches, due to decreasing white population, to lack of interest and decreasing financial support, all of which are directly traceable to excessive farm tenancy. The state over, there are more than 800 country townships that are dwindling both in population and in church membership. In the twenty-one counties just spoken of we find more than one-fourth of all the non-church members of the entire state or 171,427 in all. These figures refer to people ten years old or older. The ratios of non-church membership for the counties as a whole range from 28 percent in Vance to 69 percent in Edgecombe. In eight of these counties more than half of all the people of responsible ages are outside the church—in one county, Edgecombe, nearly seven-tenths! Three-fifths of the farmers are tenants and seven-tenths of the population are outside the church—that's Edgecombe county, North Carolina, in the year of our Lord 1916.

Mr. Wilson gave facts and figures to show that the city churches are not gaining what the country churches lose by the cityward drift, for most of the church members leaving the country fail for various reasons to affiliate themselves with churches in the cities. For instance, the unaffiliated church members of Greensboro were one-sixth the total church membership of the city in 1915, in High Point one-fifth, and in Gastonia one-fourth.

Constructive Remedies

In discussing the possible ways of escape from this situation, Mr. Wilson suggested among other remedies (1) the consolidation of the weak, little country churches of each particular denomination. Consolidated country schools are the order of the new day. Consolidated country churches are just as necessary—five strong Baptist churches in the country regions of Orange county, for instance, instead of the eleven weak churches at present. Automobiles and better roads are making both kinds of consolidation possible. (2) Country

church homes, resident ministers, and liberal salaries for country preachers. (3) Every country Sunday school an illiteracy school with classes for such adults as need to learn reading and writing, with organized committees to go out into the byways and hedges to bring them in. He also suggested (4) sermons in every pulpit on the question of holding land out of productive purposes for speculative rises in value. The stewardship relation of man to land is an ethical and religious question, and said he, we are never likely to have a progressive land tax unless the church gets busy with this problem; and without such a law, town and country tenancy will steadily increase.

Mr. Wilson's paper on 'The Church and the Landless' is fifteen pages long and is accompanied with a full bibliography of this important subject. It makes a chapter in the next Year-Book of the Club.—J. G. Gullick.

COOPERATIVE MARKETING

The plan of cooperative marketing as an aid in overcoming farm tenancy, was explained by J. O. Bailey, of Wake county, at the last meeting of the North Carolina Club at the University. We are giving below some of the facts brought out at the meeting.

Cooperative marketing is not a new untried scheme. It has been successfully tried out in Denmark, where it has produced a country of prosperous, home-owning farmers, and in California where it has enabled the fruit-growers to market their crops more profitably than under the old plan of individual retailing. This system which the farmers of Denmark and the fruit-growers of California have been perfecting during the last 25 years is now offered to North Carolina farmers. And it is being adopted.

The plan as outlined by Mr. Bailey is as follows: The cooperative associations are divided into as many separate units as there are different crops to be marketed. Each crop, such as cotton and tobacco, has its own distinct organization. If a man grows both cotton and tobacco he may belong to both cooperative associations, but the organizations are as distinct as the Baptist and Methodist churches.

A typical example of such an association is the cotton association. Membership in the cotton association is limited to the original sellers of cotton; that is, only the actual growers may belong—both tenants and landlords who grow their own cotton and landlords who receive cotton in payment of rent. The landlord who does not raise cotton and who does not receive cotton in rent cannot belong, since he has no cotton to sell. The marketing association is a purely business organization, the sole aim and idea of which is to sell cotton.

The members join the association simply by signing a five-year contract to sell their cotton only through the association. The contract which they sign is legal and binding; it has gone through the courts many times and has been sustained.

The association is managed by a board of directors, who are experts in cotton selling. The association through its directors employs expert graders, warehousemen, and sellers. Thus the graders, warehousemen, and sellers will be experts employed by the growers, and not, as is the case now, men employed by the buyers.

There is no capital stock and the associations are run without profit. Whatever the crops sell for, after the actual selling expenses are paid, is divided among the members in proportion to the amount and quality of cotton sold for each member. These are some of the main features of a typical cooperative association; lack of space forbids further details.

The big, outstanding advantage of cooperative marketing is that farmers get more for their crops when they sell collectively in large quantities; they control the market and have a proper part in establishing their own price. In short, by doing business this way, the farmer gets a square deal; he does away with unnecessary middlemen and speculators; he gets the middleman's profit for himself.

This plan of marketing is already being adopted by North Carolina farm-

(Released week beginning March 27)

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA Adult Community Schools

Organized classes for the purpose of teaching the rudiments of an education and for teaching other things that pertain to good citizenship are called Community Schools.

United States census sheets for 1920 give the following facts:

1. The average illiteracy in North Carolina among native whites of voting age is 10.6 percent.

2. The average illiteracy in North Carolina among native whites from 10 to 20 years inclusive is 3.2 percent.

Various surveys in North Carolina show actual illiteracy figures to be on an average three times the number given by the United States census figures. The above facts show that native white illiteracy is fast disappearing among the younger generations. This is attributed to longer-term schools, better prepared teachers, and the enforcement of a compulsory attendance law. But the above facts also show that more than ten of every hundred white citizens of voting age are absolutely illiterate.

Consider the following facts:

1. A wise enforcement of the compulsory school law will speedily wipe out illiteracy among the younger generations.

2. A special class should be organized in every school for beginners from 14 to 21 years.

3. County and city school boards may appropriate funds for teaching adult illiterates of any age just as for teaching other public school classes.

4. The state provides a part of the texts for adult beginners and gives information concerning other needed texts.

5. A special training school is provided for teachers of these adult beginners.

This year we hope to have at least one carefully selected worker from each county and from each large town attend the training school in order that they may go back and be able to help organize the work and conduct it in an intelligent way. This will come to pass only as citizens realize the fact that North Carolina might well boast less of her native born citizenship and think more of what should be expected of such a citizenship.—Elizabeth Kelly, Supervisor of Community Schools for Adults.

ers. A large part of the 1922 crop of cotton and tobacco has already been released to the associations and as the success of the movement becomes more and more apparent it is expected that most of the remaining farmers will line up with the associations.

Mr. Bailey's report appears in full as chapter X of the Club Year-Book that will be given to the public in the early fall.—J. G. Gullick.

REAL COMMUNITY WORK

The whole county can draw a lesson from the work of the people of the community between Caja's mountain and North Catawba church. These people, hardly more than a dozen of them, have built a top-soil road that stands up in comparison with any of the roads built by the county. This is one of the most striking examples of real community work to be found anywhere. We believe this is the first instance where women have left their homes and kitchens and gone out with pick and shovel and plow to assist in the construction of a road. This has always been considered a man's work, and a real man's work, at that. Just to say that these people

have done a commendable work is not enough.

Every section of Caldwell county would do well to take notice of what these people have done. It is an example of what can be done by any other community in the county. Already there are some sections asking about this work. Those who are interested should go to North Catawba and see this road and talk with the men and women who have built it. It will be an inspiration to greater accomplishment.—Lenoir News-Topic.

OUR WATER RESOURCES

There has recently been issued by the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey Circular No. 2 on 'The Water Power Situation in North Carolina' by Professor Thorndike Saville of the University of North Carolina. In commenting upon this circular, Mr. W. V. M. Powelson, Consulting Engineer of 61 Broadway, New York, says: I have read Circular No. 2 from cover to cover. The circular is a most sensible presentation of economic facts, and I congratulate the Survey upon its grasp of the economics of water power development and its attitude towards that development. I am sure that the spirit of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, as indicated in Circular No. 2, to cooperate with people earnestly interested in bringing about the development of water powers, will do much to benefit the best interests of the people of the State of North Carolina. I congratulate you upon the issuance of Circular No. 2, and am looking forward to the time when I will have before me for study the results of the power census upon which the Survey is now engaged.

Major Warren E. Hall, Hydraulic Engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey, says in referring to this circular: Circular No. 2 of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey recently issued is undoubtedly the finest thing of its kind ever gotten out in the South. Will you supply this office with a dozen or more copies for distribution?

The North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, in cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey and the State Department of Labor and Printing, is carrying on a power census of the industries of the state. This census covers the total amount of power used, regardless of how developed, and when completed the shortage of power will be known, as well as the location of markets for new power.

The circular takes up in some detail the present status of developed power; the growth in use of power; source of water power; the economic use of power; and the position of North Carolina amongst the states in water power resources.

Copies of this circular can be obtained from the Director of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey, Chapel Hill, N. C.

A MAN'S JOB

A man's job is his best friend. It

clothes and feeds his wife and children, pays the rent and supplies them with the wherewithal to develop and become cultured. The least a man can do in return is to love his job. A man's job is grateful. It is like a little garden that thrives on love. It will one day flower into fruit worth while, for him and his to enjoy. If you ask any successful man the reason for his making good, he will tell you that first and foremost it is because he likes his work; indeed, he loves it. His whole heart and soul is wrapped up in it. His whole physical and mental energies are focused on it. He walks his work, he talks his work, he is entirely inseparable from his work, and that is the way every man worth his salt ought to be if he wants to make of his work what it should be and make of himself what he wants to be.—Arthur Capper, U. S. Senator from Kansas.

A HOME AND A GARDEN

The shadow of economic reaction lies across the path of every wage-earner. It clouds the future of every salary-earner.

Why not lift that shadow and get out into the sunshine?

Why not turn the tide so that you may float upstream instead of down?

A homecroft garden is the anchor within and it is within every man's reach.

Every family seeking health and happiness should think for itself and realize that it must solve its own problem, instead of thoughtlessly marching in lockstep with a multitude that does no thinking, and is merely drifting toward the point of least resistance.

The only safe course for any family is to break away from the unthinking mass; and, as a family anchorage, secure the ownership of a piece of land from which their own efforts will produce the food for the family, at a point near to the commerce of a city.—George H. Maxwell, quoted by Wm. E. Smythe, in City Homes on Country Lanes.

BICKETT'S EPITAPH

Could former Governor Thomas Walter Bickett have selected his epitaph, he would no doubt have agreed with Roland F. Beasley, who was his devoted friend for 40 years, that the following from one of his war speeches most fittingly expressed the highest aspiration of his mind and heart.

"The time shall come when a woman's little finger shall lift more than the mightiest fulcrum in the world, and the cry of a little child shall be heard farther than the loudest cannon's roar."

In this sentence he summed up his argument for a League of Nations. In the midst of bloody war, he looked beyond to the day when there should be peace in the world. He rightly held that the great conflict of world forces that came during his administration was a war to end war.—News and Observer.

BANK ACCOUNT SAVINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

Per Inhabitant, June 30, 1920

Total in all banks, State and National, divided by total population. Based on Report of the Comptroller of the Currency, 1920.

R. F. Marshburn, Duplin County

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	State	Per Inhabitant	Rank	State	Per Inhabitant
1	Vermont	\$371.54	25	Oregon	\$69.56
2	Massachusetts	369.00	26	Wyoming	68.72
3	Rhode Island	341.83	27	Missouri	65.88
4	New York	250.48	28	Connecticut	60.27
5	South Dakota	209.15	29	South Carolina	56.50
6	Minnesota	184.78	30	Maine	56.45
7	North Dakota	184.00	31	Virginia	55.39
8	Nevada	179.98	32	Louisiana	53.21
9	Michigan	168.39	33	Florida	46.03
10	Delaware	158.74	34	North Carolina	45.39
11	New Hampshire	155.80	35	Iowa	45.28
12	Pennsylvania	140.50	36	Georgia	40.72
13	Wisconsin	133.42	37	New Mexico	35.19
14	Ohio	132.82	38	Mississippi	34.35
15	Montana	132.81	39	Tennessee	34.28
16	New Jersey	130.04	40	Kentucky	33.36
17	Utah	95.09	41	Nebraska	29.03
18	Indiana	92.05	42	Illinois	21.63
19	Maryland	92.03	43	California	19.32
20	Oklahoma	91.45	44	Alabama	18.75
21	Washington	86.20	45	Arkansas	17.83
22	Colorado	73.40	46	Kansas	16.45
23	West Virginia	72.35	47	Texas	12.28
24	Idaho	71.93	48	Arizona	10.06