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NEWS LETTER

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CAROLINA INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN

THE NEW YEAR-BOOK

North Carolina: Industrial and Urban is the title of the new Year-Book of the North Carolina Club at the State University. It is a bulletin of 185 pages and nineteen chapters. It gives to the reading public the 1920-21 studies of urban-industrial development of the home state.

North Carolina is moving rapidly out of a home-made, homespun civilization into a machine-made city civilization. As a rule a transition period is faintly sensed and little considered at the time by the people whose social structures are undergoing radical changes. It has always been so in every land and country. The interpretation of a renaissance period follows along a century or two later. Then college research students dig it out of library dust heaps, subject it to analyses, and win doctorate degrees galore.

The North Carolina Club is different. It sets itself to studies of history-in-the-making in the home state, in order to be makers as well as students of history. It cherishes the ideal of competent acquaintance with life and livelihood in the world that lies just beyond campus walls. It believes that an acre in Tarheelia is worth a whole province in Utopia or a whole empire in Iran—to paraphrase a picturesque sentence of Macaulay's.

The titles of former year-books perfectly indicate the ideals of the Club: (1) The Resources, Advantages and Opportunities of North Carolina—now out of print, (2) Wealth and Welfare in North Carolina, (3) County Government and County Affairs in North Carolina, (4) State Reconstruction Studies, (5) Carolina Industrial and Urban, and (6) Home and Farm Ownership in North Carolina—the studies that are being pursued during the present college year.

These bulletins on present-day business, life, and government in North Carolina can be had by addressing the Extension Division of the University, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Social-Civic Problems

The nineteen chapters of the new Year-Book are as follows:

1. The North Carolina Club, E. C. Branson, University faculty.
2. Industrial Carolina in 1920, E. C. Branson.
3. Wealth and Livelihood in Carolina, E. C. Branson.
4. Urban Carolina in 1920, E. C. Branson.
5. The Cityward Drift in Carolina, C. J. Williams, Cabarrus county.
6. The Small Town in North Carolina, L. D. Martin, Virginia.
7. Small Town Development in North Carolina, H. B. Cooper, Vance county.
8. The Developing Industries of North Carolina, M. M. Jernigan, Sampson county.
9. Social Effort in the Mill and Factory Centers of Carolina, Bryan W. Sipe, Gaston county.
10. Community Work in Gaston County Mill Towns, Beulah Martin, Georgia.
11. Carolina Chambers of Commerce, Roy M. Brown, Watauga county.
12. City Problems in North Carolina, T. R. Buchanan, Virginia.
13. City Planning in North Carolina, N. P. Hayes, Warren county.
14. Forms of City Government in Carolina, P. A. Reavis, Jr., Franklin county.
15. Municipal Finance and Financial Methods in North Carolina, J. G. Gullick, Gaston county.
16. Municipal Accounting in North Carolina, Phillip Hettleman, Wayne county.
17. Municipal Utilities and Franchise Policies in North Carolina, W. E. Wolf, Indiana.
18. Community Life and Organization in North Carolina, C. E. Cowan, Bertie county.
19. Public Service in North Carolina, Howard W. Odum, University faculty.

FARM-WORKER CROP VALUES

The crop values produced in North Carolina in the census year averaged $1,053 per farm worker, against $1,347 in the United States.

In Iowa and Nebraska the per-worker crop average was more than $2,700; in seven states it was more than twice the average of North Carolina. All told it was larger in thirty-one states.

We are great in gross crop values. In this particular we are among the first five states of the Union.

We are great in per-acre crop values. In this particular we are among the first ten states of the Union.

But in the per-worker production of crop values we drop toward the bottom of the column. Only sixteen states make a poorer showing.

Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas produce around a fourth of the per-acre values turned out in North Carolina, but they produce two and a half times our per-worker crop values. They stand at the bottom of the per-acre column and at the top of the per-worker column.

Small-Scale Farming

The Middle West is a region of medium and large-scale farmers; in the cotton-and-tobacco belt we are small-scale farmers as a rule. We cultivate an average of seventeen acres per farm-worker in North Carolina, while in Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas they cultivate from 123 to 205 acres per farm-worker.

In Nebraska 187 thousand farm workers cultivate 23 million acres, while in North Carolina 478 thousand farm-workers cultivate only 8 million acres. Which means that in Nebraska about a third as many farm-workers cultivate nearly three times as much land as in North Carolina. They produce small values per acre, only $9.09 against $38.82 in North Carolina; but they produce large values per-worker, $2,778 against $1,053 in North Carolina.

They do it by the abundant use of horse and machine power. They have a chance to use labor-saving, profit-producing machinery because the farms are large enough to justify it, and also because grain, hay, and forage farming can be a matter of machine-farming from plowing time to harvest season. They widen the margin of profits by reducing expensive human labor to a minimum.

In the cotton and tobacco belt, the market value of the crops is well-nigh consumed by the human labor that produces it, and consumed long before these non-food crops reach the market. Reducing labor cost is difficult (1) because the average farm is only 30 cultivated acres in North Carolina, (2) because from two-fifths to nearly four-fifths of our cotton and tobacco farmers, black and white, are tenants, and tenants as a rule cannot be trusted with expensive labor-saving farm machinery, and (3) because cotton and tobacco are largely hand-made crops. The cropping, cultivation, and harvesting cannot yet be profitably done with machinery.

And so little by little we have drifted into small-scale farming in the South since the Civil War, largely because labor is relatively abundant and cash operating capital is meager.

A Hazardous Enterprise

Small-scale farming can be profitable (1) if it is farming by farmers who own the land they till, (2) if farm practices are reinforced by agricultural science and intelligent skill, (3) if farmers own and use labor-saving machinery in common, (4) if they buy farm supplies, market farm products, and finance farm activities cooperatively, and (5) if farm products of every sort can be readily marketed for cash in nearby towns and cities.

Lacking any one of these conditions, small-scale farming is a perilous way of life.

The simple fact is we have too many tenant farmers, too little respect for scientific agriculture, too little appreciation of balanced farm systems, too little livestock, too little skill in farm practices, too little cooperative enterprise, too few cities and cities too small as yet to afford ready cash markets for home-raised food and feed products. And finally there is a general neglect by our cities of local public market arrangements, conveniences, and facilities for handling any home-raised farm products but cotton and tobacco.

Small-scale farming under these conditions produces (1) enormous bulk totals of value, to the joy of bankers, transporters, and jobbers, and (2) large per-acre values to the joy of landlords who enjoy rent-revenues, but it is farming with a minimum of net profits to the farmers who produce crop wealth by the sweat of their own backs. So it is even in prosperous years. In bad crop seasons or bad market seasons, there is widespread distress for farmers, merchants, and bankers alike. Year in and out, small-scale crop farming under southern conditions means a steadily lowered standard of living on the farms—just as certainly in the end in the southern states of America as in Belgium, where under a tenant system the largest per-acre crop yields in the world are produced from year to year, and where the condition of the farmer is nearly the worst in Europe—or so it was the year the World War began.

Childish Thinking

Less land better farmed is almost the only economic doctrine we hear preached in the South by the average man. But alone it does not solve the problem of small-scale farming. What we need is more land better farmed by home-owning farmers, with more labor-saving, profit-producing machinery; more food and feed farming to support farm families and farm animals; more cotton and tobacco farming on a bread-and-meat basis; more and larger cities with better public marketing facilities, offering fair ready cash prices for surplus food and feed products.

Large gross crop values do not necessarily mean large net profits to farmers.

Large per-acre yields do not necessarily mean large net profits to farmers. The doctrine of diminishing returns concerns net profits, not gross crop totals and per-acre yields alone.

But large per-worker yields enormously multiply the farmer's chance at net profits.

It is childish to brag about crop totals and per-acre yields alone. We ought to get ready to brag about per-worker yields, net profits, and accumulating wealth in farm regions.

Per-worker crop yields by counties will be published in an early issue of the News Letter.

(Released week beginning April 24)

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA
Beating the Boll Weevil

The cotton boll weevil has reached our state and is each year advancing northward in it. Our cotton growers, if they are to continue in the growth of cotton profitably, especially in much of the Coastal Plain section, must all soon adopt methods that will effectively control or reduce to the minimum the ravages of this pest. The methods of the past will have to give way to more effective ones. The following are some of the precautions and methods which will have to be used in reducing the severity of attack by this pest and in making cotton growing most productive and profitable under boll weevil infestation:

1. Be calm, use generally good farming methods. Meet his attack with courage if you wish to win out.
2. Plant cotton only on uplands. One will run a big risk to plant bottom lands or lands near wooded areas, particularly so in extreme eastern and southeastern parts of the state.
3. Use at least 600 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, containing a larger proportion of phosphoric acid than is ordinarily used, avoiding the use of fertilizers too rich in nitrogen.
4. Break lands well for cotton early in the fall or winter. Plant as early in the spring as ground is warm. Cultivate well and frequently to keep plants growing vigorously from start.
5. Plant smaller acreage and keep fields free from rubbish, grass, weeds, and bushes.
6. Pick up and destroy all first squares that have been punctured. In planting use a plenty of well matured seed.
7. Secure and maintain a moderately thick stand, not exceeding 8 to 12 inches between hills. This will cause the plants to make smaller growth and to mature quicker. Have rows about 4 feet apart.
8. Grow sufficient food and feed crops to meet the needs of farm.
9. Avoid excessive rank growth of cotton plants.
10. Field select seed, and use for planting, early fruiting and early opening varieties of cotton like Cleveland Big Boll, Express, or Edgecombe-Cook.
11. After gathering cotton, destroy cotton stalks, weeds, etc., by plowing in five or six inches deep in the fall before frost, then put the land in suitable cover crops.
12. Establish a good crop rotation in which suitable leguminous crops with the main money crops are used.

—C. B. Williams, Dean of Agriculture, N. C. State College of Agriculture and Engineering.

WALLACE'S TRUISMS

I advance some general statements, says Secretary Wallace of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which I think may be accepted as truisms. It is to the general interest:

First: That the production of such agricultural products as can be grown successfully in this country should be large enough, one year with another, to meet home needs. In short, that agriculturally the nation should be self-sustaining.

Second: That so far as possible production should be by land owners or those who are in the way of becoming land owners, and that our system of renting land should be such as to enable the tenants to practice diversification of crops and store and market surplus grain and forage crops in the form of livestock. Only when such conditions obtain can we expect that regard for the maintenance of the fertility of the soil which is our greatest national material asset, and upon which the continued life of the nation depends.

Third: That inasmuch as almost one-half of all our people live on the land, and the surplus population from the country goes to make up a very important part of our urban life, standards of living on the farm should be maintained and improved rather than lowered.

Fourth: That the farms should yield a fair rate of return on the money invested in land and equipment, and a wage to those who work them, which is fairly comparable, everything considered, with the wage return in the cities and industrial centers. Otherwise there will be an increasing drift of the better class of farmers to the cities, and in the course of time the land will be worked by people of the peasant type.

Fifth: That inasmuch as profits from the rapid advance in the value of land, which heretofore have been very much larger than the profits from yearly farm operations, are fast disappearing, conditions should be such that in the future our farmers can reasonably count on an adequate return from their farm operations.

Sixth: That hazards, risks, and conditions over which the farmer has no control, but which profoundly influence his returns, one year with another—such, for example, as changes in the price level, which throw agricultural prices out of their normal relationship to other prices; weather conditions, and insect pests, which greatly affect crop yields—should, so far as possible, be carried by the community at large rather than by the individual farmer.

Seventh: That every proper means should be used to establish agriculture upon a basis which will yield adequate returns for productive effort, rather than put a premium on speculative enterprise.

AT WASHINGTON AND LEE

A visitor can at any time count scores of text books, scratch-pads, etc., piled at the campus entrance, under the trees, or on the doorsteps of the college buildings, awaiting the return of their owners. Very few college doors on the campus are ever locked. In Newcomb Hall, swarming with students at all times and open all night, are the administrative offices of the University. The President's and Dean's offices and the filing-room between them, with all their valuable cases, private letters, and irreplaceable records, the various stenographers' offices, and the mailing-room of the Washington and Lee Bulletin remain unlocked day and night the whole year, even when their occupants are out of town, while the Registrar's office is only locked at rare intervals. Yet nothing is ever disturbed in any one of them.

The numerous departmental libraries and reading-rooms are all examples of the honor-system in daily routine operation. The large and valuable law library will be taken as an illustration of them all. Tucker Hall, the law building, is the home, club, and study-hall of the large law-school, numbering ordinarily over 150 men from every section of the country. It is open day and night, lighted till midnight, and always full of students. Its main library opens on each side into a large study-hall, and every student enters it at will, takes out whatever books he may select, carries them for study anywhere in the building, and uses them as long as he wishes. This goes on day and night the whole session, the only guardian of these thousands of costly volumes being the atmosphere and habits of the honor-system.

Only a few days ago a student was requested to leave for "appropriating" an article for which his fellow-student had paid thirty-five cents.—President Henry Louis Smith.

CROP VALUES PER FARM WORKER IN 1919

Based (1) on the gross value of all farm crops, and (2) on the number of farm workers (farm owners operating farms, tenants, and hired laborers), as per the 1920 census.

North Carolina ranked 5th in total crop values in 1921, and in per-acre crop values we ranked 9th. In per-worker crop values we occupied the 32nd place in 1919.

Average per worker crop values for the United States in 1919, $1,347; in North Carolina, $1,053; in Iowa, $2,722, and in Nebraska, $2,778.

Miss Henrietta R. Smedes
Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	State	Crop values per worker 1919	Rank	State	Crop values per worker 1919
1	Nebraska	$2,778	25	Delaware	1,303
2	Iowa	2,722	26	Maine	1,296
3	South Dakota	2,652	27	Connecticut	1,180
4	Kansas	2,526	28	Arizona	1,174
5	North Dakota	2,517	29	Wyoming	1,162
6	Illinois	2,279	30	Maryland	1,145
7	California	2,159	31	Vermont	1,084
8	Colorado	1,808	32	North Carolina	1,053
9	Oklahoma	1,746	33	South Carolina	1,039
10	Idaho	1,736	34	Virginia	971
11	Washington	1,728	35	Massachusetts	930
12	Indiana	1,691	36	Kentucky	885
13	Ohio	1,683	37	Georgia	881
14	Minnesota	1,645	38	Arkansas	836
15	Nevada	1,628	39	Montana	823
16	Wisconsin	1,446	40	Tennessee	795
17	Pennsylvania	1,445	41	New Hampshire	773
18	Oregon	1,435	42	West Virginia	769
19	New Jersey	1,430	43	New Mexico	738
20	Missouri	1,409	44	Louisiana	709
21	Michigan	1,392	45	Mississippi	664
22	Texas	1,350	46	Florida	648
23	Utah	1,342	47	Rhode Island	639
24	New York	1,324	48	Alabama	603