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HOLDING DOWN FARM WEALTH

TEXAS AND CAROLINA

How Countryside Texas looks to a North Carolinian is the burden of a bulletin just issued by the school of theology of the Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas.

It gives in full the address of E. C. Branson, department of rural social economics, University of North Carolina, to the Texas Social Work Conference at San Antonio, a little while ago.

The Social Problems of Countryside Texas concern (1) sparsity of population, the solitary nature of farming as an occupation, the overweening individualism of farmers, and the consequences, (2) the cityward drift in Texas, (3) the social ills of tenancy and illiteracy, (4) the importance of a safely balanced town-and-country civilization, and (5) social ideals and constructive measures—the title and outline of the address.

We are familiar with all these problems in North Carolina, but the people of this and other Southern states have not yet thought them through. What they mean to Texas, North Carolina, and the rest of the South in the days at hand and ahead must be earnestly considered by both the church and the state. They cannot safely be neglected by either.

Copies of this address can be had by ministers and students in general by applying to Rev. J. M. Ormond, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. Write for the February 1922 number of Service.

Or if there be any widespread interest on the part of the clergymen of the state, this address will be reprinted in the University News Letter in early June.

PER CAPITA FARM WEALTH

Six hundred and eighty-four dollars of accumulated wealth in farm properties per country dweller in North Carolina in 1919, according to the last census.

The grand total of farm wealth in lands, buildings, machinery, and livestock was one and a quarter billion dollars, but the average per country inhabitant was less than \$700.

After two and a half centuries, that's what the farmers of the state have been able to save out of their enormous crop totals and per-acre yields year by year.

Six hundred and eighty-four dollars looks like a pittance when compared with a per capita country wealth of \$8,113 in Iowa, \$7,261 in South Dakota, and \$6,826 in Nebraska.

Forty states make a better showing in this particular, and among them are twelve southern states—Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida.

In all the Union only seven states rank below North Carolina in the accumulated farm wealth per country inhabitant. See the table elsewhere in this issue.

A Startling Paradox

5th in total gross crop values—that was our rank in 1921.

9th in the per-acre production of gross crop values in 1921.

And—
1st every year in the South in the per-acre production of cotton and tobacco values.

But—
32nd in the per-worker production of crop wealth in the census year 1921.

And only—
41st in the per capita accumulation of wealth in farm properties the same year.

We created 503 million dollars' worth of crop wealth in 1919, but 1250 million dollars is all that our accumulated farm wealth amounts to in 250 years of history. That is to say, in two crop years our farmers create nearly as much wealth as they have been able or willing to save in the entire history of the state. And in five crop years the wealth they create almost exactly equals all the wealth of every sort that appeared on the tax books in 1921—country taxables and town taxables, real and personal, tangible and invisible all put together.

Holding Down Farm Wealth

The simple truth is North Carolina is great in farm-wealth production, in gross and per-acre totals, but weak as water in farm-wealth retention. So, not because the farmers are wasteful and extravagant, but because our farm system is fundamentally defective.

Holding down a reasonable proportion of the farm wealth we create year by year is the biggest economic problem this state faces today.

And the solution of it concerns merchants and bankers hardly less than it concerns the farmers themselves, and the church hardly less than it concerns the state.

Church activities and state enterprises—public schools, public health, public roads, benevolent institutions, and the like—are all in jeopardy unless we can have an increase in farm and factory wealth along with an increase in willingness to devote our wealth to the common good.

And as for tax reforms, he reckons in vain who leaves the farmer out of account. The possibilities of progress in taxation are limited by the wealth and the intelligence of the eighteen hundred thousand people who live out in the open-country of North Carolina—for, be it remembered, they are seventeenth of all the voters of the state.

Agriculture is the mired wheel in state economy. Nothing is plainer than this fact. But in the main, the job of lifting it out is the farmer's job and essentially it is an economic and social problem, with the state standing by to remove obstacles and to sanction just and proper effort in the farm regions.

The Way Out

No more important chapter in state economy has ever been given to the public in this state than that of Mr. J. A. Capps on The Retention of Farm Wealth, in the N. C. Club Year-Book of 1916-17. We had many a letter from the bankers and merchants of the state about that chapter, but not one from any farmer. The farmers of North Carolina need to spell out this puzzle with the intelligence that the Danish farmers put into it. Man for man, they are the richest farmers on the globe. They have been aided by legislation, to be sure, but without intelligent skill on part of the farmers in the distribution of farm commodities it would have amounted to nothing. The people who get rich on farm products in Denmark are the Danish farmers. They handle their own wares from farm to table; but in the end, of course, the merchants and bankers are prosperous because the farmers are prosperous.

If the farmers are interested in farm wealth-retention, they can have this Club Year-Book. A few copies are still on hand, and they will be mailed out without charge as long as the supply lasts.

Perhaps the following table will set them to thinking.

	Per-Acre Crops	Per Worker Crops	Per Capita Wealth
Kan....	\$ 9.99	\$2,526	\$3,836
Neb....	9.09	2,778	6,826
N. Dak.	7.50	2,517	4,074
N. C....	38.82	1,053	684

NINE CENTS FOR CULTURE

Anne Pierce, librarian of the Charlotte, North Carolina, public library, has learned how to make books work. With a total number of ten thousand volumes in the library, of which four thousand are reference books, 66,264 were in circulation last year, a turnover which comes very near being a record. The actual weight of reading matter the people of Charlotte toted back and forth during that time was some sixty-six tons. Some of it, you may think, was pretty light-weight stuff; as a matter of fact, however, the increase in the circulation of non-fiction exceeded very materially that of fiction. On the other hand, although Charlotte people state that their city ranks second in the world in the proportion of its church-going folks, the residents do not give proof of this in the number of books on religious subjects which they draw from the library. Such books gather dust on the shelves. Only some six hundred calls were made for them during the year.

Released week beginning May 8 KNOW NORTH CAROLINA What North Carolina Needs

Josephus Daniels

1. First and foremost a revival of old-fashioned religion—the old-fashioned religion both of faith and of works. Faith, of course, is fundamental, but the religion of works is also a necessity if the world is to be reached. Works is the only argument that has any weight with the world.

2. Revival of old-fashioned economy. This is necessary on part of the individual, for we can never be a prosperous state until we are a collection of thrifty individuals. Old-fashioned economy on the part of every subdivision of government from the voting precinct to the State itself is also an urgent need. Units of government like individuals must live within their income. They must avoid as they would the plague the bonding of current indebtedness.

3. A change in the banking laws by which drastic limitations could be placed on the loaning by banks of the money in those banks to officers of the same. Nearly all banks that fail, fail from within.

4. Striking from the constitution the provision declaring that salaries of judges shall not be reduced during their term of office or adding a provision that the prohibition as to reduction of salary does not regard the collection of tax such as is imposed on all citizens of like ability to pay as a reduction of salary. It is of the utmost importance to the maintenance of respect for law and its administration that there be no privileged class.

5. A more diligent enforcement of the law forbidding usury. It is broadly charged that some individuals and some banks are charging by indirection if not openly more than six per cent interest on money.

6. Strengthening the primary law and making it proof against trickery and fraud.

7. The more vigorous enforcement of law in North Carolina, the establishment of an aggressive leadership in law enforcement, and the devotion by the Attorney General of all his time to the duties of his office. He should be given power and authority, with the necessary assistance, to direct the concurrent enforcement of the prohibition law.

8. Adhering to, enlarging and strengthening, on part of the farming interests, of the policy of co-operative marketing and co-operative production. This is the most promising means of placing the farmer on a better economic basis.

9. The effecting of such changes in the relations between tenant, landlord, and supply-merchant, as will make it possible for the tenant farmer as well as the land owner to practice diversification of crops.

10. The advocacy by all persons of influence of the policy of 'living at home and boarding at the same place', both as a wise economic system generally and as the wisest measure against the threatened invasion of the boll weevil.

Miss Pierce has done all this on the beggarly budget of five thousand dollars a year. With this she has bought the best books, such as Queen Victoria, the Outline of History, The Education of Henry Adams—books that cost real money, has employed a full-time staff of three people in addition to herself and has purchased a wide range of magazines. Meanwhile the city is spending less than nine cents per capita

each year on the biggest educational force next to the schools—less than the price of a single admission to a movie.—The Survey.

HOW FARM TENANCY HURTS

When the average person is asked what the chief hindrances to educational progress are and what renders the school less effective, the answer is likely to be short school terms, unsuitable school buildings, poor teaching, and the like. Where these conditions exist the answer is appropriate, but a careful study of conditions and causes as they exist will reveal the fact that irregular attendance at school is one if not the chief cause of retardation and discouragement.

From what source comes the bulk of this irregularity? A recent issue of the State Normal Bulletin states the following:

"The greatest defect of the rural school is not in the barrenness of the subject taught, nor that the subject matter does not fit the surrounding conditions or that the methods employed are so antiquated. These are defects and should be remedied. But the rural schools suffer on account of the moving, shifting population more than from any other cause. Tenants move on an average every two years. In forty-five counties in Georgia, seven out of ten farms are cultivated by tenants. These people usually move about the middle of the school term, so that in some communities the teachers teach almost a new school after the Christmas holidays."

These people carry their children from one community to another so often that they fail to become permanently allied with the social forces of the vicinity and do not feel that they owe a loyalty to law and order as they would were they permanently located. The educational ideals of this class of people unfortunately do not take very strong form. The church, the school, and the community organization do not find very strong support from them. Their feeling toward the support of the community school is not as strong as if they were permanently located. Hence the irregularity in the attendance of their children at school is noticeable. This irregularity on their part, in many instances the larger part of the school enrollment, not only injures themselves but injures the advancement of the whole school.

Until we shall have a more stable population and a stronger arm of the law to compel conformity to the compulsory attendance law, the schools will continue to be hampered with non-attendance and irregular attendance. The schools will continue to be more or less ineffective, and our schools will continue to fail in the attainment of highest results.—G. D. Godard, State School Supervisor, Ga., in School and Home.

A PRAYER FOR LANDLORDS

We heartily pray Thee to send Thy Holy Spirit into the hearts of them that

FARM WEALTH PER COUNTRY DWELLER

Based (1) on the 1920 census, (2) covering the year 1919, (3) referring to wealth in farm properties—farm lands and buildings, farm implements and machinery, and livestock, and (4) to dwellers in the open country outside all incorporated towns and cities.

Average for United States in 1919 was \$1,836; for North Carolina \$684; Iowa \$8,113; South Dakota \$7,261.

Table ranking the counties of North Carolina in next week's issue.

Miss H. R. Smedes Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina					
Rank	State	Per Rural Inhabitant	Rank	State	Per Rural Inhabitant
1	Iowa	\$8,113.3	25	Oklahoma	\$1,387.4
2	South Dakota	7,260.6	26	New York	1,317.6
3	Nebraska	6,826.4	27	New Mexico	1,225.9
4	Illinois	4,757.3	28	Vermont	1,170.7
5	North Dakota	4,074.2	29	Arizona	1,159.2
6	Minnesota	3,915.6	30	Delaware	1,136.8
7	Kansas	3,835.6	31	Kentucky	953.6
8	California	3,723.5	32	Maryland	908.9
9	Wyoming	3,683.5	33	Virginia	790.1
10	Montana	3,209.7	34	Tennessee	784.7
11	Idaho	3,042.4	35	South Carolina	767.7
12	Colorado	2,900.3	36	New Hampshire	733.5
13	Oregon	2,789.6	37	Arkansas	730.6
14	Indiana	2,639.8	38	Georgia	725.0
15	Missouri	2,515.7	39	Mississippi	701.8
16	Utah	2,482.7	40	Florida	688.4
17	Wisconsin	2,399.9	41	North Carolina	683.9
18	Washington	2,213.7	42	Pennsylvania	682.9
19	Rhode Island	2,210.5	43	Maine	602.0
20	Nevada	2,118.6	44	New Jersey	585.9
21	Ohio	1,923.4	45	Louisiana	566.4
22	Texas	1,595.5	46	Connecticut	523.4
23	Michigan	1,546.5	47	West Virginia	516.8
24	Massachusetts	1,486.7	48	Alabama	418.6