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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

MAY 17, 1922

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. VIII, NO. 26

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, 1912.

HOLDING DOWN FARM WEALTH

TENANCY AND THE CHURCH

The Church and Landless Men was discussed by L. G. Wilson at a February meeting of the North Carolina Club at the University of North Carolina. A report of the study appeared in the March 29 issue of the News Letter.

The response of the reading public within and beyond the state was immediate and overwhelming. Ministers of all denominations are calling on us for the paper in full text.

We are therefore putting it into bulletin form for free distribution by the University Extension Division, but as usual the edition will be small and copies will be sent only to the people who write for it.

The contents are as follows: (1) The Church and Landless Men, by L. G. Wilson, (2) The Fifty Religious Bodies of the State, by E. C. Branson, (3) Church Wealth in North Carolina, by E. C. Branson, and (4) Church and Non-Church Membership by Counties in North Carolina, by Rev. A. W. Crawford, with interpretations by E. C. Branson.

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A LIBERAL EDUCATION

English, history, biology, political and social science—these four subjects, in the opinion of President H. W. Chase, of the University of North Carolina, should be regarded as the fundamental requirements of a liberal education.

Culture, if it be true and genuine, he said, must give understanding and appreciation, not primarily of life as it went on somewhere under quite different conditions, but of life as you and I experience it. We may know all that made a cultured Greek, and yet not be a cultured American. Every great culture has been close to life as it was actually experienced and lived.

Culture is real when it is close to life. Why, then, should liberal education shrink from life? Is today less noble than yesterday? Has ever any generation faced a life that it needed more to understand and interpret? Why should we not take life in the 20th century in America, in the South, Virginia, North Carolina, as the great dominant motive of liberal education today?—President H. W. Chase, University of North Carolina, Phi Beta Kappa address, Lynchburg, Va.

PROVOKING COMPARISONS

How rich in farm properties are the farmers of North Carolina?

The answer is \$684 per country inhabitant, against \$1,836 in the United States, \$8,113 in Iowa, \$7,261 in South Dakota, and so on. See the table in our last week's issue.

Why do we stand above forty states in crop totals and per-acre yields, and below them in the farm wealth saved and accumulated?

Our farmers produce enormous crop wealth, but somehow they do not retain it—Why? What is wrong?

What is the richest farm county in North Carolina, per country inhabitant? It falls below the average for the United States by more than \$300 per person—Why?

How does your home county rank? See the county table in another column. Why is its rank high or low, the state average considered?

Here are important questions for the farmers, but they are just as important for the merchants and bankers and manufacturers, the teachers and preachers and social servants of every sort in North Carolina.

Next week's issue will rank our counties on the basis of per capita white taxables, as these appear on the 1921 tax lists.

The tables of the News Letter are worth putting side by side. They afford startling comparisons—at least for people who have headpieces to think with.

AID TO HOME OWNERSHIP

Far in the lead in the ratio of debt-free homes—only Nevada makes a better showing; far in the lead in paying off home mortgages during the flush times of the war period, with a better

record in this particular than forty-five other states of the Union; with two-thirds of our white farmers and one-third of our negro farmers owning their own farms, but with two-thirds or more of our city dwellers living in rented houses and nearly ten thousand town families in excess of available dwellings of any sort, even a box-car or a hutch in the slums—such is the background against which Mr. J. P. Trotter set his discussion of Building and Loan Associations at a recent meeting of the North Carolina Club at the University.

With one hundred thousand families in rented houses in our towns and cities, ten thousand of whom have no chance even to rent a dwelling of any sort, there is evident need for an immense increase of building and loan assets, said Mr. Trotter.

North Carolina has done well in developing building and loan business since D. A. Tompkins fathered the idea in this state in the early nineties of the last century. Undoubtedly it was his influence that put Charlotte ahead in North Carolina in building and loan activities. With nearly five million dollars of assets, her building and loan associations lead the cities of the state, followed by Wilmington with two and a half millions, and Winston-Salem with one and a quarter millions.

But the housing shortage of these cities according to the 1920 census is 1,079 in Charlotte, 835 in Wilmington and 1,353 in Winston-Salem.

Instead of 30 million dollars of B-and-L assets, the shortage of ten thousand dwellings in our 55 census-size cities calls for 75 million dollars—and the need is urgent.

High Point started a great campaign to wipe out the housing shortage last December, but we have been unable to learn the results to date.

Greensboro is conducting a campaign to sell fifty thousand shares of building and loan stock, and Greensboro has a way of succeeding in great enterprises. Durham began briskly to campaign for a hundred new dwellings or about one-seventh of the number needed.

Salisbury and Fayetteville and Raleigh are all talking about the housing shortage. We hope soon to report final results in all the cities of the state.

Tax-free stock earning five and a third percent interest ought to attract investment capital that is hunting for safety; and money borrowed at three and a third percent ought to attract thrifty people who want to borrow building capital.

The investment feature of B-and-L stock needs to be campaigned in every North Carolina town just as in Greensboro.

A combination of investors, savers, and borrowers in building and loan organizations would easily put North Carolina at the top of the column as a home-owning state.

Our position is already conspicuous; it could easily be first.

Mr. Trotter's paper will appear in full in the North Carolina Club Year-Book in the early fall.

RAMSHACKLE DEMOCRACY

The Comptroller of the State of New York has power to send examiners to any county to investigate and report upon its financial methods. The law was a dead letter until Mr. Glynn, afterwards Governor, became comptroller and secured an appropriation for the salaries of a few examiners. They had no difficulty in finding wanton use of the taxpayer's money in nearly every county, not with criminal intent, to be sure, but in a spirit of simple recklessness. They found irregularities in every county. They have now covered fifty-seven of them, and the head of the staff says: "In not a single county examined has there been found compliance with every provision of law."

The typical county jail is a horror, a school for crime and unnatural sexual vices, where men who are innocent, or at least not vicious, cannot possibly remain without becoming contaminated or callous to things that at the beginning of their incarceration they find revolting. At Utica a recent scandal brought the sheriff's office into the courts, where it was learned that the jail had witnessed scenes of open de-

Released for week beginning May 15

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA Respect for the Law

Angus W. McLean

We hear a great deal today about our much-vaunted civilization. Are we civilized enough? No people, says Ramsey Muir the eminent British essayist, can be called fully civilized until there is widely diffused among its members the sense of their obligation not merely to obey the law, but to obey it willingly and to cooperate in enforcing and maintaining it.

Not all laws are obeyed as they should be. Some are taken seriously, others receive passing interest, while a few are entirely ignored. Any law to be effective must be enforced not by uniformed police officers but by the will and moral sanction of the community. Law, like representative government, is forceful only when the people resolve to make it so. That principle is patent to every one.

But any violator of any law who goes unpunished or receives nominal punishment for his offence—whether he be an influential bootlegger or an inoffensive beggar—is a serious menace to a community. Every such case weakens respect for authority and emasculates other laws.

If we have bad laws in North Carolina, we should abolish them in order to protect the good ones; and while our citizens are as upright and as law-abiding as any State, we should keep everlastingly before us our civic duty not only to obey the laws ourselves but to see to it that they are enforced. That is a whole-some principle of any highly-ordered civilization.

bauchery with women prisoners, officers of the jail, and friends of the latter from outside.

The sheriff is commonly compensated by fees. This still survives even in New York county, where the fees net the sheriff \$60,000 a year in addition to the comfortable salary of \$12,000. Efforts are made from time to time to amend the law and steer these fees into the treasury, but there is no assurance that the plan would work. Hudson County, New Jersey, tried that, and, instead of deriving a nice revenue from the sheriff's office, the county acquired an annual deficit, for patronage multiplied and thrift declined when the fruits of economy were no longer the sheriff's private perquisites.

Ideally Bad

In its form of organization the typical county is ideally bad. It is almost completely disjoined. Each officer is independent of all the rest, standing on his own separate pedestal of popular election with a full right to tell all the other county officers to go to glory. It is like an automobile with a separate motor at every wheel, each going its own gait.

Nominally the board of supervision is at the head of the county because it holds the purse-strings; but the power of the purse is only partial, inasmuch as a multitude of laws fastens various charges upon the county and sets the salaries of a great many of its subordinate officers. Practically the board's only power consists of an ability to hamper the other elective officials by making restricted appropriations. It has no real power to supervise them or to compel them to expend the appropriations with care and discretion.

Even if they had the power, the board of supervisors is not properly organized or equipped to handle such a task. The running of a county is a complex administrative problem, requiring incessant and active supervision; but the supervisors meet only at stated intervals, quarterly or monthly, for instance, and are in no position to keep continuous oversight of affairs. Frequently the board is too large to be

anything but a debating society, anyway.

Any form of organization which attempts to be a common denominator for varying types of counties ought to be primitively simple, a mere skeleton, and a model so far as it goes. But the framework of county government as laid down in the written law is no skeleton. A diagram of it looks like a ball of yarn after the cat has got through with it.

The Way Out

A satisfactory solution of county problems can be worked out only by a steady process of evolution, under conditions that give scope for experiment, freedom from needless constitutional restrictions. The counties must be free to advance individually and not in perpetual lockstep. Let the more progressive counties feel their way cautiously forward, to be followed by the others when the value of a given step is clearly proved by experience.

The path of progress will surely be in the general direction of unification and simplification.

Some of the elective officers must be transferred to the appointive list, and those who remain elective must be built up in power, influence, and conspicuousness until they command the discriminating attention of the electorate.

The ballot must not continue to be too long to remember, but must be shortened sufficiently to come within the complete oversight of the voters.

The county must be given a definite head. The limbs and the body must be joined together and put under the easy control of a brain. Responsibility must be clearly located. Not otherwise can the people of a county secure an organism that will be an effective and obedient servant.

Political science—there is such a thing, but no true American will respect it—teaches that no technical office should be elective; that none, in fact, should be elective except truly representative officers where the function is to interpret public opinion. Members of the legislature, congressmen, aldermen, and county supervisors (or whatever you call them in your state) should be amateurs, spokesmen for the people, samples of the ignorance as well as of the enlightenment of the voters, and from them all the others, the experts, should take their orders.

That is the pathway towards efficiency and economy.—Richard S. Childs, in Ramshackle County Government.

THE DISTRICT SCHOOL

The South is primarily a rural region and the rural school is its primary educational problem. It is persistent and difficult to solve because it is the product of the outworn district system. Small in size and population, feeble in resources of economic wealth, often in men and women of real leadership, the district school has served its usefulness. To new ideas and methods of reform it is sluggish and inert. It is provincial and selfish and extremely individualistic.

The district system of educational control constitutes the most unfortunate educational practice the south has ever known. It has done more than any one thing to keep the schools backward, the people illiberal and selfish, and to warp the correct conception of democratic ideals. It produces and perpetuates not the social and co-operative but the individualistic and suspicious mind.

No substantial and safe progress in education in rural communities can be made so long as the district system of school support and control is allowed to continue.—Edgar W. Knight.

FARM WEALTH IN CAROLINA COUNTIES

Per Country Dweller in 1919 and 1909

Based (1) on the 1920 and the 1910 censuses, (2) referring to wealth in farm properties—farm lands and buildings, farm implements and machinery, and livestock, and (3) to dwellers in the open country outside all incorporated towns and cities.

Total value of farm properties in North Carolina in 1919 as reported by the farmers themselves to the census takers \$1,250,166,995; average per country inhabitant \$684, against \$322 in 1909. In the United States the average was \$1,836, in South Dakota \$7,261, in Iowa \$8,113.

Per capita tax wealth by counties will be exhibited next week.

S. H. Hobbs, Jr.

Rural Social Science Department, University of North Carolina,

Rank	County	1919 Per Rural Inhabitant	1909 Per Rural Inhabitant	Rank	County	1919 Per Rural Inhabitant	1909 Per Rural Inhabitant
1	Wayne	\$1,497	\$381	51	Caswell	\$625	\$246
2	Pitt	1,432	341	52	Currituck	600	329
3	Greene	1,391	388	53	Orange	595	218
4	Lenoir	1,290	386	54	Davie	588	286
5	Wilson	1,286	377	55	Vance	587	249
6	Scotland	1,190	466	56	Clay	584	288
7	Nash	1,123	286	57	Randolph	577	265
8	Edgecombe	1,088	363	58	Haywood	568	291
9	Alleghany	1,008	560	59	Chatham	567	248
10	Johnston	1,004	330	60	Buncombe	565	439
11	Sampson	997	329	61	Gates	564	302
12	Alamance	972	249	62	Onslow	550	197
13	Jones	966	251	63	Columbus	548	213
14	Martin	920	244	64	Alexander	543	294
15	Robeson	889	355	65	Perquimans	540	221
16	Rowan	862	273	66	Henderson	536	370
17	Hertford	853	322	66	Polk	536	305
18	Beaufort	838	267	68	Anson	520	257
19	Duplin	821	274	69	Guilford	512	299
20	Cleveland	812	385	70	Caldwell	509	290
21	Hoke	810	—	70	Warren	509	218
22	Craven	798	281	72	Gaston	498	275
23	Wake	788	272	73	Cabarrus	495	348
24	Iredell	785	377	74	Pender	493	229
25	Yadkin	783	314	74	Moore	493	166
26	Pasquotank	762	351	76	Richmond	486	176
27	Franklin	768	227	77	Tyrrell	484	215
28	Person	733	237	78	Rutherford	474	293
29	Harnett	730	225	79	Bladen	473	211
30	Mecklenburg	726	456	80	Montgomery	449	180
31	Bertie	710	245	81	Madison	444	234
32	Ashe	707	425	82	Yancey	429	318
33	Watauga	705	363	83	Carteret	408	108
34	Halifax	702	205	84	Stanly	400	231
35	Pamlico	697	263	85	Transylvania	391	301
36	Davidson	688	449	86	Rockingham	382	191
37	Granville	679	266	87	Wilkes	377	222
38	Catawba	663	349	88	Mitchell	371	231
39	Camden	650	303	89	Jackson	369	217
39	Union	650	300	90	Macon	367	224
41	Hyde	647	300	91	Burke	364	260
42	Lee	645	195	92	Avery	351	—
43	Stokes	644	279	93	Durham	339	210
44	Northampton	642	258	94	Graham	293	175
44	Surry	642	251	95	Cherokee	278	154
46	Chowan	638	287	96	New Hanover	268	181
47	Cumberland	636	313	97	Brunswick	259	151
48	Forsyth	634	333	98	McDowell	258	204
49	Washington	628	185	99	Swain	222	149
50	Lincoln	627	291	100	Dare	89	47