

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

The news in this publication is released for the press on receipt.

JUNE 21, 1922

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. VIII, NO. 31

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, J. B. Baults, 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, 1915.

IMPORTED FOOD SUPPLIES

WHAT NEXT FOR CAROLINA?

A fifty dollar prize, given by Hon. J. W. Bailey to the writer of the best essay on What Next for North Carolina, open to members of the North Carolina Club or to students in Rural Social Economics in the Summer School or the regular term of the state University; the essay to set out what next the people of North Carolina should undertake collectively for the progress of the commonwealth; each essay to be submitted by November 15 in typewritten Mss., with a sealed envelope attached thereto containing the name of the writer; the award to be made at the close of the fall quarter of the regular term.

There is a wide range of subjects for consideration. Independence will be appreciated and of itself it will not count against the essayist. The award will be determined by the significance of the measure advocated, its fundamental relation to commonwealth development, and its feasibility, general conditions and the temper of the people of the state considered.

If, says Mr. Bailey, the prize proves a source of stimulation to the students, I shall be glad to give it each year so long as I live and provide for its maintenance after my death.

The distinct purpose of the prize is to arouse in students a deep interest in the Mother State, to appeal to interpretative insight, and to stir the faculties of constructive thinking about the future of the Commonwealth.

To know North Carolina today and to be a maker of North Carolina tomorrow, in Mr. Bailey's opinion, is a large—perhaps the very largest—result of college culture that is genuine.

Address inquiries to E. C. Branson, Chapel Hill, N. C.

A YOUNG MAN'S STATE

The Old North State is the young man's state. As we recently pointed out, this is so because she has just begun to specialize in making millionaires, because she manufactures 3,000 kinds of articles, because in the inexhaustible gamut of her climatic, industrial, and agricultural variety there are foundations for any sort of a career that a man may care to build.

But she is also the young man's state because the North Carolina spirit is the spirit of the young man. For a continuous, dramatic, and beautiful definition of this spirit, consult the University News Letter, not this week, not occasionally, but all the time, every week. The News Letter is Tarheelia's true gospel. It is a picture of the way Tarheels do things, of the way they think, of their ambitions and ideals. It dwells on North Carolina's astounding achievements, not in idle boasting, but because it finds in them charted routes to still bigger things. It tells of her defects, not for the pleasure of witty scolding, but because it desires to save the people from prolonging evils that can be done away with.

It is edited by E. C. Branson, the man who in compiling the North Carolina Year-Book, prefaced it with this quotation from James Russell Lowell: "Material success is good, but only as the necessary preliminary of better things." Through its every issue runs the note of optimism, the call of courage, the challenge to excel. It is eloquent with the conviction that North Carolina can beat the world, that North Carolinians, with their hands on the treasures of a limitless abundance, will make life lovelier every day by their devotion to principle, idealism, and spirituality. It is instinct with the spirit of youth; it makes the reader conscious of his invincible nobility.

Subscribe to the University News Letter. It goes to any North Carolinian free of charge. Read it! It is true gospel for Tarheelia, great guidance for you who have to do with Tarheel problems. It touches Tarheel life on its every facet and in its every phase. The city and the village, the life of community, family, and individual, profit to be had, losses to be avoided, the needs of mind and soul—upon them all it throws the helpful light of facts and figures that inform and convince. All this it does in a way to answer best every Tarheel's everyday question: "How can I make the most of myself, my community, and my state?" Strong stuff! Inspired saying

for the young man's state, the state in whose heavens fortune has hung a rainbow that pledges wealth to every worker, success to every seeker!—Asheville Citizen.

FARM OWNERS NEEDED

The University News Letter presents an interesting and informing article on the question of state-aid to farmers. W. E. White, of Cleveland county, and Miss Alma Cato, of Gaston county, says the News Letter, read papers before the North Carolina Club telling what other counties and some of the states in this country have done in this respect.

Since 1909, says Mr. White, Australia has been settling farmers and farm laborers on farms and in homes of their own, on long-term loans at low rates of interest. Small annual repayments carry the interest and cancel the debt in thirty-odd years.

In four states of the Union—California, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and South Dakota—direct state treasury loans are being made for the purchase and equipment of farms and country homes; and in eight states—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, Montana, and Oregon—treasury funds are being invested in farm mortgages.

With tenancy on the increase the need for action to help more farmers into land owning is rather evident. The plan might at least be attempted in this state on a small scale as an experiment.

The Federal land banks will loan money on land. That serves a useful purpose to be sure, but why should all the assistance be given to the man who already has land? Is it not just as important to aid the landless in acquiring land as it is to aid the owners of land to hold it and make it more productive?—News and Observer.

CHATHAM TO THE FRONT

Chatham has won out ahead of forty mid-state counties before the Farm Tenancy Commission appointed by the State Board of Agriculture. This commission consists of B. F. Brown of the State Bureau of Markets, Clarence Poe and C. C. Wright representing the Board, C. C. Taylor of the State College of Agriculture and Engineering, and E. C. Branson of the State University.

A thousand farms of owners and tenants will be studied by field workers in Chatham, Edgecombe, and Madison, around 350 in a typical township or two in each of the three counties. The surveys will begin in a few days. The expense is borne by the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture, the State A & E College and the University. They cost the counties nothing.

There are twenty-three million idle acres and 117 thousand landless, homeless farmers in North Carolina. In Chatham there are 332 thousand idle acres and 700 landless, homeless white farmers.

This state and this county need more home-owning farmers and our waste lands need to be brought into profitable use.

How to help men to own farms is what this Farm Ownership Commission is trying to find out; how successful farmers succeed; how hard working, long-headed tenants have become farm owners in the last 20 years, why the others have failed, and so on and on—these are some of the things that are to be studied and reported to the next legislature in January. Seventeen states have passed laws concerning state-aid to farmers. If this state considers such laws, our legislature will need to know what the facts are in representative counties.

Messrs. Gibbons, Dickey, and Branson laid the Chatham survey before the county commissioners and the board of education on Monday of last week and spent the rest of the day getting the advice of leading citizens, gathering up county maps and information, and in general getting ready for the field trips of the surveyors.

We are passing on this item of news to our readers so that they may understand what is proposed, what these field workers are doing in the county during the three summer months, and why they are asking so many questions as they move from home to home.

Released week beginning June 19 KNOW NORTH CAROLINA Tidewater Carolina

Joseph Hyde Pratt

The reclamation of swamps and overflowed lands in North Carolina has proved to be most successful in every respect and must be considered one of the big accomplishments of the state.

Of the two and one-half million acres of original swamp lands in eastern North Carolina, approximately 600,000 acres have been reclaimed. These reclaimed black lands are the most productive soil in the state. They are now an asset to the state, because they are highly productive and greatly increased in value. Where formerly these lands were on the tax books at an assessed valuation of \$25 to \$50 an acre they are now valued at \$50 to \$150 an acre. These black soil lands are favorably located to railway, highway, and waterway transportation facilities, and when settled and brought into the highest state of cultivation they will make eastern North Carolina the greatest agricultural region of the whole country. Two crops a year can be grown on most of the area, and as this fact becomes known, these lands will be in great demand.

New drainage districts are continually being surveyed and established, and more and more acres of these black soils are being made ready for cultivation. There is another million acres that should be reclaimed.

In the reclamation of the overflowed lands of the piedmont region of the state, 60,000 acres or more have been made productive and are adding each year their quota to the state's production of farm products. Their reclamation has also eliminated chills and fever, and malaria in those districts.

North Carolina has a very satisfactory drainage law that will enable any community to reclaim their swamp and overflowed land.—Joseph Hyde Pratt, secretary State Geological and Economic Survey.

They are trying to put Chatham to the front on the map—for that will be the result if our farmers are willing to give these men from the State University the information they are seeking from each farmer.

Nobody need hesitate to answer any question they ask. No blanks filled out by any body will be given to the public in the committee report. What is wanted is the averages for the county and we want the best possible averages for Chatham.

We know well enough that Chatham is the best county in mid-state Carolina, but it will be worth something to us for everybody else to know it.

Six other counties want this survey, and if our farmers do not want it they have only to turn a cold shoulder to Messrs. Dickey and Gibbons and they will promptly begin work in some other county. We needn't have it if we don't want it.

Do we want it? The editor thinks we do. What do other people think about it?

Please let this paper know at once.—Chatham Record.

IMPORTED FOOD BILLS

In fifty years the people of North Carolina have been able to accumulate 170 million dollars in bank-account savings in banks of all sorts, state and national.

In a single year—the year 1920—we sent 230 million dollars out of the state in cold cash for bread and butter, hog and hominy, hay and forage that we could have produced at home.

The bills for imported food and feed supplies range from five thousand dollars in Northampton to more than nine million dollars each in Guilford, Forsyth, and Mecklenburg. See the table elsewhere.

Only three counties are self-feeding—Camden, Alleghany, and Currituck.

If these three counties had roads, schools, and banking facilities adequate to their needs, and swift, easy transportation to the market centers, they would quickly be the wealthiest farm counties in this or any other state. They are now on the safe side of the deadline, and they will be wise to hold on to this advantage as they move into modern contacts with the outside business world.

In not one of the ninety-seven deficit counties of the state do the bank capital, surpluses, and undivided profits accumulated in fifty years equal the bill for imported farm and pantry supplies in a single year.

And let us say again that these food and feed deficits are minimum figures (1) because they cover only standard, staple farm and garden products, not extras, dainties and luxuries of diet, (2) because the values used in the figuring are farm values and not retail prices at the stores, else the deficit in each county would have been at least twice as large in 1920. Also that the method of figuring for each county follows the method used in reckoning the deficit for the state-at-large, as exhibited in detail in the University News Letter, Vol. VIII, No. 20.

An Important Matter

The home-production of food and feed is an important detail of state economy, because it is directly related to the critical matter of wealth-retention; and wealth-retention is far more important than wealth-production—at least to the producers. The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar is the main thing, the farmers considered. And at last it is a main matter for all the people of the state and the nation, because the farmers will not forever go on living 'at a poor dying rate.' And if they quit, and they are quitting in large numbers in every state every year, America will someday be asking, 'What shall we eat and wherewithal shall we be clothed, and how shall we command the wherewithal to pay for existence necessities?'

Now, the retention of farm wealth is a complicated problem. Many factors

are involved in it, but for southern farmers at present the most important factor is the production of cotton and tobacco on a bread-and-meat basis. If they cannot or will not learn this lesson, it is hardly worth while for them to learn any other.

For instance, in 1919, our cotton and tobacco crops turned loose in the state 320 million dollars in cash, which was 90 million dollars more than the state's bill for imported food and feed supplies. But these ninety million dollars shrank at once to forty millions when our fertilizer bills were paid. The cotton and tobacco money left in North Carolina—supposing that the cash-crop farmers had it—was just \$16 per farm family, or around \$3.00 per farm inhabitant—and this in the prosperous year 1919. It is safe to say, that it was a great deal less in 1921 or nothing at all; and when the cotton and tobacco balances are nothing at all or worse, then local merchants and country bankers are in dire distress along with the farmers.

The Lesson of History

For a half century we have tried to get rich raising cotton and tobacco and buying farm supplies with cotton and tobacco money, and we have tried it long enough to know that it cannot be done—that as a matter of fact it has not been done by any county of the state. We lead the South in the per-acre production of cotton and tobacco values and we stand ahead of thirty-eight states in the per-acre production of gross crop values, all crops counted. But in the per-worker production of crop wealth thirty-one states make a better showing and only seven states are poorer in the per capita accumulation of wealth in farm properties—farm lands and buildings, livestock, farm implements, and the like.

Near the top in farm-wealth production and near the bottom in farm-wealth retention—that's history in North Carolina.

When a farm people are worth less than \$684 per capita after two hundred and fifty years of history, it is high time they were doing some first-class thinking. And it's high time merchants and bankers were helping them to think the problem clear through to the end and to think straight.

No city can safely live unto itself alone. In sheer self-defence it must take generous thought of the countryside that supports it. That city is richest whose trade territory is richest.

IMPORTED FOOD AND FEED SUPPLIES

Bills for 1920

Based (1) on the 1920 census of quantities and values of bread and meat produced in each county, (2) on the consuming population of folks and farm animals, (3) on standard staple farm and garden products—not extras, dainties, and luxuries, and (4) on the per capita averages used in the University News Letter, Vol. 8, No. 20.

State bill for imported food and feed supplies \$229,000,000.

The self-feeding counties of the state are three—Currituck, Alleghany, and Camden; the rest are all deficit counties, or so they were in 1920.

W. T. Anderson, Jr., Wilson, and R. W. Proctor, Lumberton.

Department Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina.

Rank	Counties	Deficit	Rank	Counties	Deficit
1	Currituck—surplus....	\$298,849	51	Chatham.....	\$1,742,350
2	Alleghany—surplus....	107,472	52	Person.....	1,752,923
3	Camden—surplus.....	32,239	53	Madison.....	1,819,897
4	Northampton.....	\$ 5,381	54	Stokes.....	1,841,373
5	Alexander.....	69,109	55	Moore.....	1,862,120
6	Hertford.....	81,827	56	Bladen.....	1,946,359
7	Pamlico.....	143,981	57	Haywood.....	2,003,050
8	Tyrrell.....	159,397	58	Randolph.....	2,023,881
9	Chowan.....	236,223	59	Sampson.....	2,073,043
10	Clay.....	265,400	60	Burke.....	2,248,941
11	Caswell.....	290,754	61	Beaufort.....	2,376,516
12	Hyde.....	383,373	62	Harnett.....	2,530,450
13	Graham.....	432,555	63	Wilkes.....	2,576,559
14	Bertie.....	437,793	64	Franklin.....	2,577,584
15	Gates.....	471,447	65	Edgecombe.....	2,670,801
16	Washington.....	623,924	66	Union.....	2,711,884
17	Perquimans.....	662,054	67	Iredell.....	2,733,453
18	Polk.....	777,191	68	Catawba.....	2,778,886
19	McDowell.....	789,171	69	Davidson.....	2,829,509
20	Watauga.....	818,210	70	Columbus.....	2,873,328
21	Dare.....	825,452	71	Stanly.....	2,895,978
22	Transylvania.....	908,525	72	Granville.....	2,921,210
23	Davie.....	936,646	73	Richmond.....	2,990,367
24	Mitchell.....	942,135	74	Cleveland.....	2,990,634
25	Hoke.....	956,366	75	Anson.....	3,019,961
26	Pender.....	960,255	76	Lenoir.....	3,035,617
27	Avery.....	968,728	77	Rutherford.....	3,060,791
28	Martin.....	1,016,281	78	Vance.....	3,098,340
29	Jackson.....	1,065,524	79	Surry.....	3,109,144
30	Jones.....	1,073,009	80	Warren.....	3,222,212
31	Yadkin.....	1,107,170	81	Alamance.....	3,416,639
32	Yancey.....	1,120,571	82	Craven.....	3,552,123
33	Pasquotank.....	1,131,808	83	Wilson.....	3,691,703
34	Carteret.....	1,148,795	84	Rowan.....	3,772,829
35	Ashe.....	1,195,618	85	Cumberland.....	3,799,525
36	Greene.....	1,246,589	86	Johnston.....	3,854,591
37	Orange.....	1,293,937	87	Wayne.....	3,953,057
38	Montgomery.....	1,344,703	88	Nash.....	4,445,736
39	Cherokee.....	1,357,114	89	Pitt.....	4,448,095
40	Lee.....	1,374,380	90	Halifax.....	4,597,768
41	Swain.....	1,398,394	91	Robeson.....	4,857,828
42	Lincoln.....	1,408,166	92	Rockingham.....	5,117,162
43	Scotland.....	1,425,075	93	Durham.....	5,796,265
44	Henderson.....	1,523,822	94	New Hanover.....	5,823,409
45	Cabarrus.....	1,557,098	95	Gaston.....	6,529,856
46	Macon.....	1,558,981	96	Buncombe.....	6,688,580
47	Onslow.....	1,619,896	97	Wake.....	8,850,155
48	Brunswick.....	1,651,708	98	Guilford.....	9,255,165
49	Duplin.....	1,663,502	99	Forsyth.....	9,293,596
50	Caldwell.....	1,733,718	100	Mecklenburg.....	9,866,217

See table on page VIII, June 19, 1922