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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

AUGUST 23, 1922

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. VIII, NO. 40

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

PUBLIC WELFARE INSTITUTES

SOCIAL SERVANTS MEET

The 1922 Special Summer Institutes for Public Welfare, the third to be held at Chapel Hill under the joint direction of the University and the State Department of Public Welfare, have just closed with marked success. While the past two summers have maintained an unusually high standard of interest, discussion and thought, the 1922 Institutes proved far the best yet held, both as to the number of those present and the quality of work done.

Institute Purposes

The several purposes of the Institutes are self-evident:

To bring together in helpful conference and fellowship as many workers in the field of public welfare and social work as may be practicable.

To study and discuss common problems and programs of public welfare.

To raise standards of work and to stabilize public welfare processes in North Carolina.

To give momentum to the North Carolina plan of Public Welfare, in its effort to increase human adequacy and to make democracy effective in the unequal places.

To provide special days for officials and workers in institutional aspects of public welfare—prisons, hospitals, training schools, children's homes, and the others.

To contribute something to the whole field of public welfare and social progress and education.

Interested Workers

While there are a great many public-spirited citizens who are interested in the Institutes, they are provided especially for groups and individuals who are actually working or preparing to work in the field of public welfare in this and other Southern states. Those who attended and participated include: County superintendents of public welfare and their assistants.

Administrative officers and staff members of Institutions working for special classes and special aspects of public welfare.

Other groups, such as juvenile court judges, probation officers and special agents in the field of public welfare.

The Commissioner of Public Welfare of North Carolina and staff members. Secretaries or commissioners of other State Departments of Public Welfare in the South.

Administrative officers of the State Department of Health, Education, Child Welfare Commission and others.

Specialists from the National field of public welfare, including child welfare, prison work, mental hygiene, institutional management and supervision, and others.

Groups of administrative officers and staff members of voluntary agencies and institutions working for the public good.

Special teachers, preachers, community workers, and citizens interested in technical aspects of social work and public welfare.

Plan of Work

The work of the Institutes was divided into two larger aspects. The first had to do with the intimate and specific administration and organization of North Carolina public welfare as found in the state department, in the state institutions, and especially in the county organizations. The first week of the conference was devoted to careful consideration of these numerous and varied problems, and the special features and strength of this week's work were found in the practical and intimate discussions of the county superintendents themselves. There were, however, most valuable contributions made by Hon. Burr Blackburn, Secretary of the State Board of Public Welfare of Georgia, Croft Williams, Secretary of the State Board of Public Welfare of South Carolina, Professor J. L. Gillin, University of Wisconsin, Mr. Joseph C. Logan, Assistant Director of the American Red Cross at Atlanta, and others of the University and State Department of Public Welfare as described later.

The second week was devoted primarily to the discussion of institutional problems and management. Valuable contributions were made by county

superintendents of public welfare, heads of North Carolina institutions, Dr. Hastings H. Hart, President of the American Prison Congress, Miss Grace Abbott, head of the Children's Bureau at Washington, and members of the State Department of Public Welfare and of the University faculty. Brief reports of these discussions follow in later paragraphs.

The proceedings of the Institutes will be published in a bulletin by the State Department of Public Welfare. A brief report of the conference will be of interest to a large group of readers.

Well Attended

Of the fifty-two counties having full-time superintendents, more than forty were represented at the Institutes including the following counties and representatives: Miss Fay Davenport of Gaston County, Mr. Horace Stewart of Duplin, Mr. W. W. Holland of Iredell, Mr. D. E. Robinson of Brunswick, W. E. Stanley of Durham, E. C. Snyder of Union, E. C. Byerly of Davidson, Miss Mary Robinson of Anson, J. A. Martin of Cumberland, Mrs. L. A. Edmunson of Avery, Mrs. W. B. Waddill of Vance, P. H. Fleming of Alamance, K. T. Futrell of Pitt, J. A. Overton of Lee, J. A. Beam of Person, F. T. Wooten of Columbus, Miss Georgia Henry of Edgecombe, Z. V. Moss of Stanly, W. M. Seaford of Davie, C. G. Robertson of Surry, D. W. Christenson of Sampson, R. D. Jenkins of Halifax, G. B. Hanrahan of Lenoir, Mrs. Anna Lewis of Pasquotank, Miss Mary M. Greenlee of McDowell, Mrs. L. J. Stevens of Craven, Miss Margaret Caroline Brietz and J. L. Rodwell of Forsyth, C. E. Hefner of Catawba, C. H. Anderson of Wake, S. E. Leonard of Wilson, Mrs. Blanche Carr Sterne of Guilford, E. C. Perry of Franklin, Miss Elizabeth Frye of Robeson, J. M. Tuttle of Caldwell, Miss Anita Waldhorst of New Hanover, J. E. Jackson and J. A. Morris of Granville, and Lucius Ranson of Mecklenburg.

From the State Department of Public Welfare besides Mrs. Clarence A. Johnson, Commissioner of Public Welfare, there were present Mr. Roy M. Brown, in charge of County Organization, Dr. Harry W. Crane, State Psycho-Pathologist, Miss Mary Shotwell and Miss Emeth Tuttle, in charge of Child Welfare, Mr. Wiley B. Sanders, Executive Secretary of the State Conference investigating juvenile delinquency and prison conditions.

The following institutions were represented: Mr. J. E. Boger, Jackson Training School, Dr. R. A. Newbold and Dr. C. B. McNairy, Caswell Training School, Mr. E. C. Lineberry, School for Blind at Raleigh, Mr. E. M. Goodwin, School for Deaf, Morganton, Dr. M. L. Kesler, Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville, Mr. Chas. D. Johnson, Christian Orphanage at Elon College, Rev. A. S. Barnes, Methodist Orphanage at Raleigh, Mr. Charles O. Baird, I. O. O. F. Home at Goldsboro, Mr. R. L. Brown, Masonic Orphanage at Oxford, and Mr. J. J. Phoenix, Children's Home Society.

Special representatives from outside the state included Professor J. L. Gillin, of the University of Wisconsin, Mr. Joseph C. Logan, Assistant Director of the American Red Cross at Atlanta, Mr. G. Croft Williams, Secretary of the State Board of Public Welfare of South Carolina, Mr. Burr Blackburn, Secretary of State Board of Public Welfare of Georgia, Dr. Hastings H. Hart, President of the American Prison Association, Miss Grace Abbott of the Children's Bureau at Washington.

From the University contributions were made by Dr. E. C. Branson, Dr. H. W. Odum, Dr. J. F. Steiner, Prof. H. D. Meyer, Dr. H. W. Crane.

Important Topics

The sessions were formally opened by Mrs. Clarence A. Johnson, Commissioner of Public Welfare, in a short but strong address on the Scope, Progress, and Difficulties of Public Welfare in North Carolina. She had just come from the National Conference of Social Work where she had presented a part of this discussion on the Duties of a Commissioner of Public Welfare. After discussing the principles involved and the North Carolina plan, she pointed

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA The Mill and the Child

Mr. Stuart W. Cramer, owner and creator of the industrial town of Cramerton and chairman of the National Committee of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association, was invited to deliver an address at the Blue Ridge Southern Industrial Conference, and he performed that mission on July 15. The speech he delivered before the conference should have wide circulation. It was information so suitable for absorption of our Congressmen that it would not be out of place in the pages of The Congressional Record.

Mr. Cramer makes proclamation of the attitude of ninety percent of the cotton mill owners of the South on the one question of constant agitation—child labor. He indicated that the Southern textile manufacturers are intensely interested in the labor problem and have in mind the working out of a civic code for industrial communities that shall appeal to the average man, whether he be stockholder, manager, worker or any other good citizen. This code is to be a minimum policy under which a standard will be achieved in practically all of the mills "which shall make it a pride to both employer and employee to proclaim to all the world that they are citizens in any cotton mill village."

The aim is also for extinction of what has been termed "the feudal villages of the mill barons," about which the demagogues rant so much. These, Mr. Cramer declared, "are a great handicap and something the mill owners would be glad to unload and get rid of."

Mr. Cramer came out in decided statement that the child "is the hope of future Southern industrialism." The health, training and opportunities brought to the children of today, "will determine very largely whether they will care to be the mill workers of tomorrow." Mr. Cramer, therefore, made stout contention that "any Southern mill man who fails to support child-welfare work and to observe the child labor restrictions that have gradually emerged from the chaos of experimentation, both legislative and industrial, whether compelled to do so by law or not, is a traitor to his industry and to his own selfish interests."

And that, succinctly, is truthful and faithful representation of the Southern cotton mill man's attitude toward child labor, as it is indication of the great end the Southern textile industry is striving for.—Charlotte Observer.

out with fine emphasis and excellent illustration the difficulties involved in the problem of educating the general public, of raising standards, of developing trained workers, of over-centralization and of developing community organization and spirit in the execution of a public welfare program. These problems are key problems in all the work of public welfare being so rapidly developed in this and other states.

Dr. E. C. Branson, Head of the Department of Rural Social-Economics, emphasized forcibly two important factors. The first was the danger which now faces the public everywhere in relation to all general public service supported by taxation. He raised the question as to whether or not public health, public welfare, public education, home and farm demonstration work, and other similar activities, in so far as their expansion in increasing efficiency may be concerned, are in danger, due to the increasing restlessness with regard to taxation and the tension brought about by a slow-down in rural pro-

perity. His second point was a challenge for better county government showing how this work of public service must be conditioned upon economy in the use of public funds. If county government could be improved, as suggested by him, there would be no difficulties of support for public welfare and other similar public service.

Dr. Howard W. Odum, Director of the School of Public Welfare of the University, emphasized three points. The first was the absolute necessity for public officials and the public alike to interpret public welfare in terms of government. It is necessary that county commissioners and taxpayers become vividly aware of the fact that public welfare is a standard part of local government which, carried to its fruition, will guarantee that democracy can be made effective in the unequal places. Like public education, public welfare is becoming one of the great fundamentals of American democratic local government. The second point emphasized the need of a closer correlation of voluntary agencies with public agencies. There are four general groups to be correlated: the state departments of public service, the state institutions of learning, the churches and voluntary agencies of social service, and the church and private institutions of learning. The third point emphasized was the need for the development and utilization of a stronger leadership including not only the raising of standards of training in professional social work, but the essential spirit of public service and faith in the work.

Professor J. F. Gillin in his address on Community and Democracy made an effective appeal for the proper balance between local government and centralized direction, calling for fullest participation in public service by all citizens, by public service agencies and voluntary groups. He interpreted wisely some of the important aspects of community development and urged the necessity for voluntary workers to utilize fully public officials and for public officials to call upon at all times those who work in private and voluntary agencies.

Special Problems

Previous to the formal opening Monday evening was devoted to a preliminary outline of special problems by the superintendents. The following list of subjects was submitted and some time during the conference were discussed:

1. General Relief
 - a. Administration of outdoor relief
 - b. Raising funds for general relief and for other purposes
 - c. Mothers' Aid
2. Relation of Public and Private Social Agencies
 - a. Division of labor
 - b. Social Workers' exchange
 - c. Budgets
3. Child Labor Laws
 - a. Regulation of farm labor during school hours
 - b. Age certificates
4. Juvenile Courts and Probation
 - a. Juvenile Court Records
 - b. Detention Homes
 - c. Truancy
 - d. Juvenile Court costs
 - e. Relation of county superintendent to juveniles in a military camp
 - f. Non-support
 - g. The colored delinquent
 - h. Vagrancy
5. Child Placing, temporary and permanent
 - a. Procedure of adoption through
 1. The Children's Home Society
 2. The Judge of the Juvenile Court
 3. Judge of the Recorder's Court
 - b. Parental surrender
 - c. Mixed parentage
6. Raising the age of consent
7. The unmarried mother
8. Aid for prisoners
9. Parole
10. Mental Hygiene work in the counties
11. Workmen's compensation
12. Appointment of superintendents of public welfare
13. Reporting to Grand Jury of county superintendents of public welfare
14. Records and record keeping

Round Tables

The afternoons were devoted to the discussion of these subjects.

The first and second afternoons were devoted largely to the discussion of

case-work and family visiting in relation to the placement of children. Miss Emeth Tuttle, of the State Department of Public Welfare, led the discussion and reported on the progress in the state and was followed by valuable discussion by superintendents. Other afternoons were devoted to the discussion of the problems enumerated and to the lectures on rehabilitation work. Among the most important discussions were those led by Mr. E. C. Carter, Secretary of the Welfare Commission of North Carolina. Tuesday evening a very valuable illustrated lecture was contributed by Dr. H. W. Crane, while Mrs. Bickett followed on Wednesday evening with a discussion of child welfare in relation to the mothers of the state. Wednesday morning Mr. Logan and Mr. Blackburn interpreted the principles of education, promotion, publicity, and public opinion in relation to public welfare work and newspaper work, followed by a discussion by superintendents. Thursday morning was devoted to a discussion of county homes in North Carolina led by Mr. G. Croft Williams of South Carolina. Friday morning was devoted to a discussion of the special features of public welfare in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina led by the commissioners from these states. Monday was devoted largely to a discussion of the raising of standards and training for social work through the certification of superintendents of public welfare, followed in the evening by a lecture by Dr. Hastings H. Hart. Tuesday was devoted to juvenile delinquency and discussions of abnormal individuals with discussions led by Dr. Hart, Dr. McNairy, Dr. Crane, Dr. Anderson, and Dr. Newbold and heads of North Carolina institutions. Wednesday was devoted to discussions of general child welfare and child-helping institutions with discussions led by Dr. Hart, Miss Abbott, Mr. C. O. Baird, and heads of North Carolina institutions. Thursday was devoted to Prison Conditions and legislation with an address by Dr. Hart, President of the American Prison Association, and report by Dr. J. F. Steiner, Chairman of the Committee of One Hundred, and discussions by heads of various institutions in this state.

Human Adequacy

The original program of the Institutes set forth as a sort of general motto and purpose "the promotion of human adequacy and of making democracy effective in the unequal places." The varied discussions indicate the problems involved, and the wide range of difficulty and effort.

All the visiting speakers and specialists emphasized the fact that other states were watching North Carolina and expressed gratification at the patient and careful way in which the North Carolina State Department of Public Welfare is developing its work. It was admitted everywhere that the county-unit system is the essential system if the work can be carried on successfully through trained workers and community organization which does justice to local initiative. This they seem to admit is found in the North Carolina system. The superintendents left with the plan in mind that each county and each worker might well set for the next year's program a three-fold objective: the first provides for more knowledge and better equipment and growth on the part of each superintendent; the second provides for a little more comprehensive and more effective application of knowledge and theory to practical problems than has yet been made; the third challenges each individual and each county to go a little further in pioneering and initiative than heretofore.

A WOMAN'S PROGRAM

Let the men see that we desire a better, safer, and cleaner world for our children and their children. We realize that only by doing our bit, by facing unclean things with cleanliness, by facing wrongs with right, by going fearlessly into all things that may be disagreeable, we will somehow make it a little better world.

If we want this new world, we can only get it by striving for it. The real struggle will be within ourselves, to put out of our consciousness, out of our hearts and thoughts all that makes for war, hate, envy, greed, pride, force, and material ambition.—Lady Astor.