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STATE BILLS FOR IMPORTED FOOD

WHY FARMERS ARE POOR

Two hundred and thirty million dollars in round numbers is the amount of hard earned cash sent out of North Carolina in 1920 for bread and meat, grain, hay, and forage, and other foods and feeds for man and beast. This total covers standard, staple farm and garden supplies—not extras, dainties and luxuries of diet. And furthermore, the calculation was based on farm values, not retail prices.

In other words, North Carolina was only fifty-two percent self-feeding in 1920. Nearly half or forty-eight percent of our bread and meat was imported from the North and West.

These ratios considered, thirty-four states made a better showing, and five of these were Southern states—Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, Texas, and Arkansas, in the order named. See the table elsewhere in this issue. These five states also stood well above North Carolina in accumulated farm wealth per country dweller. See the University News Letter, Vol. VIII, No. 25.

ABC'S of Farm Finance

The first business of a farm is to feed the farmer, the farmer's family, and the farm animals, says Dr. T. N. Carver of Harvard University. The production of cotton and tobacco or any other cash crop on a home-raised bread-and-meat basis, is the only way for the farmer to retain the wealth he produces. In every county there are farmers who always have corn and wheat in their bins, hay and forage in their barns, meat in their smokehouses, and canned fruits in their pantries. These are invariably the farmers who are safely ahead of the game. They accumulate wealth. They are good credit risks, as every banker will tell you.

As for the rest, they are stolidly convinced that it is good sense and good business to raise cotton or tobacco and to buy farm supplies with cash crop money. As a matter of fact it is good sense and good business—for the supply merchants and the warehousemen but not for the farmers. Our farmers produce vast wealth under this plan, but somebody else gets it. It is a policy that enriches the country towns and the metropolitan trade centers, but it impoverishes the country people.

Farm Cooperation

Our farmers can never hope to be self-directing citizens of the commonwealth until they are self-financing; and they can never be self-financing until they are self-feeding. The success of farm cooperative enterprise depends at last upon accumulated farm collateral and the credit it commands. The cooperative marketing of cotton and tobacco in average years in the South calls for something like one and a half billion dollars of cash or credit, and the enterprise is in peril if it must be financed on the outside by organized big business or bolstered by state or federal favors. The only safe basis is accumulated collateral on the farms. Farming as a business must stand on its own bottom of accumulated capital.

The following tables tell the story in 1920:

Bread-and-Meat Farmers		
States	Percent Self-feeding	Per Cap. Wealth
Iowa	195	\$8,113
Nebraska	188	6,826
Kansas	177	3,836
N. Dakota	169	4,074
S. Dakota	162	7,260
Wisconsin	122	2,400
Minnesota	122	3,916
Indiana	118	2,640
California	111	3,724

Cotton-Tobacco Farmers		
States	Percent Self-feeding	Per Cap. Wealth
Oklahoma	104	\$1,387
Tennessee	78	785
Virginia	78	790
Kentucky	75	954
Texas	69	1,596
Arkansas	58	731
N. Carolina	52	684
Mississippi	45	701
Alabama	44	419

Quicksilver Dollars

There is an unmistakable relation between home-raised farm supplies and accumulated farm wealth. The bread-and-meat farmers of the Middle West

pile up wealth, while the cotton and tobacco farmers of the South stay poor. The towns that handle cotton and tobacco get rich; but the cotton and tobacco farmers get left.

The sad fact is that cotton and tobacco money is not silver but quicksilver. It slips through the fingers of the farmers, and enriches the dealers and the manufacturers. Cotton and tobacco money talks, but what it says to the farmer is, Good-by.

We must always produce cotton and tobacco. They are our best money crops and are likely to remain so for long years to come, but we will be wise to base their production on staple food and feed crops.

The boll weevil is a hard schoolmaster, but the lesson he teaches is lastingly learned, by farmers, merchants, and bankers alike.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT HINTS

Looking (1) to the business-like administration of county affairs; (2) to uniformity in county account-keeping and reporting, (3) with a maximum of local control and a minimum of state intervention—this minimum confined to authoritative but friendly guidance, auditing, and county record keeping at the capitol, for purposes of comparison the state over.

1. Unified County Government with responsible executive headship. We already have county commission government; the problem is to enlarge and define the scope of it and to create effective executive machinery. Mr. B. A. Patton suggested full-time commissioners, one or more, on adequate salary; Major A. J. McKinnon, a county-commission manager and definite departmental responsibility by Board members; and Dr. E. C. Brooks, a competent auditor appointed by the county Commissioners, and serving as the executive of the Board.

2. Uniform County Account-Keeping and Reporting; authorized by state law, under the state auditor, with no increase of county officials.—Lindsay C. Warren's suggestion.

3. A Compulsory Annual Audit in every county in North Carolina.—L. C. Warren's suggestion. This law is already on the statute books. The law assumes the right to protect by audits the private moneys of depositors in state banks. Why not extend this plan to the protection of the public moneys of taxpayers in the hands of public officials?

4. County Budgets rigidly adhered to, except in cases of the greatest emergency; the budget to include the school budget and to be published before the levying of county tax rates.—L. C. Warren's suggestion.

5. The State to hold regional institutes of instruction for county officials.—E. C. Brooks's suggestion.

6. County Commissioners to have the right to remove any county officer who neglects his books or refuses to keep them properly and to report promptly as directed.—E. C. Brooks's suggestion.

7. Efficiency surveys of county affairs in five or more typical counties of the state, of a sort with Maxey's surveys of county affairs in Delaware.—E. C. Branson's suggestion. What everybody knows in a vague general way about the deficiencies of county government in this and other states nobody knows in any accurate, comprehensive, authoritative way; and until the people of the state do know exactly how thirty million dollars of county money is spent, dissatisfaction will be rife but real reforms will be feeble for lack of supporting public sentiment.—Report of E. C. Branson, to the State Association of County Commissioners at the University of North Carolina, August 18, 1922.

THE COUNTY BOARDS

After three full sessions at the University, the fifteenth annual meeting of the State Association of County Commissioners adjourned until August 1923 when they will meet in Asheville. The features of the day's program were Dr. E. C. Brooks's forceful address tonight on County Government and Public Education, and Dr. E. C. Branson's talk this morning on Improved County Government. The main points of these

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA A Texas Verdict

Dealing with round numbers North Carolina is about one-fifth the size of Texas and has about half the population.

It is a very old state, having been the seat of an established civilization two hundred years ago. Texas is a new state.

North Carolina was ravaged and desolated by the war of 1861-5, from her Atlantic shore to her mountain peaks, from her northernmost to her southernmost lines, and she suffered from the processes of reconstruction to a far greater extent than did Texas.

The people of Texas have never felt or seen such desolation as swept North Carolina, nor have her people ever suffered such hardship and suffering as was the fate of the people of the Old North State, yet the taxable values of North Carolina two years ago were practically the same as were those of Texas, and now are not materially less.

There is more rich land in the Valley of the Brazos between Waco and the Gulf of Mexico than there is in the whole state of North Carolina, yet prosperity is evident everywhere in North Carolina. The state levies no tax at all on general property, but her four and a half per cent bonds find eager takers in the New York market.

A few extracts from recent appropriation bills of the legislature of North Carolina will show that her legislators think and legislate on liberal lines.

On March 8, 1921, they authorized a bond issue of \$6,745,000 for the enlargement and improvement of the State's educational and charitable institutions, of which \$1,490,000 was applied to the enlargement and improvement of the State University.

On the same day an act was passed making appropriations for State institutions, and under that bill further provision was made for the University. It was given \$446,000 for 1921 and \$480,000 for 1922, thus the total appropriations for that institute for two years were \$2,415,000, and appropriations for a score or more of other educational institutions were made on an equally as liberal basis.

The sum of \$225,000 for each year was appropriated for maintenance of the State Board of Health, and separate appropriations were made for the State Sanatorium and the State Laboratory of Hygiene.

North Carolina is spending \$50,000 in the construction of durable permanent highways, and the counties of the state an equal amount. One highway has been carried to a height of 6711 feet.

It may be asked how it is possible to meet such expenditures? The answer is, the people of North Carolina live at home. The traveler is rarely out of sight of a cotton factory or some other kind of factory—one county has nearly, if not quite, a hundred cotton factories. The state spins more cotton than she grows.

Nearly every running stream in the state is harnessed to produce electric power, which is carried to manufacturing, in some instances 200 miles.

Texas can do what North Carolina does when she re-assesses all the property in the state as North Carolina does, and esteems the value of State institutions as North Carolina people do.

Think of it, with one-fifth the area of Texas and one half her population North Carolina is leading Texas in the march of progress, and in the sphere of enlightened legislation.—Houston Chronicle.

speeches were later adopted in the resolutions.

The officers elected for next year are: President, C. P. Aycock, of Beaufort County; vice-presidents, F. P. Spruill, of Nash, and C. W. Morgan, of Perquimans; secretary-treasurer, W. E. Johnson, of Buncombe.

Besides the talks of Dr. Brooks and Dr. Branson there were many others before the body. Lieutenant Governor Cooper supported the principles that were brought forward by Dr. E. C. Branson. Mr. Clark of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey talked on forests and water-power. Mrs. C. A. Johnson, State Commissioner of Public Welfare, made an appeal for welfare interest on the part of the commissioners. Her talk was enthusiastically received. R. M. Brown, of the Welfare Department, presented the subject of county homes and suggested district homes rather than poorly supported county institutions for the helpless. Following Dr. Brooks during the last session, Mr. William Hoyt, bond attorney of New York, who wrote the municipal finance act of North Carolina law, recommended a similar law for county bond sales.

County Reforms

Points brought up by the principal speakers were discussed with interest by the commissioners. The following resolutions were adopted:

- Resolved that we endorse the efforts and commend the work of the State Department of Public Welfare of our state.
- Resolved, that it would be to the best interests of all counties and of the state at large to repeal all legislation allowing any exemption on property whatsoever from taxation.
- We endorse the suggestion of Mr. L. C. Warren as to making county and school budgets and having same published before making tax levy; also that county school expenditures be published monthly in some county newspaper. We also adopt his suggestion of uniform county account keeping and reporting under supervision of the state auditor with no increase of county officials.
- We heartily recommend to the consideration of this body the suggestions of Dr. Brooks as to the right of county commissioners to remove county officials for neglecting or refusing to make reports promptly when called for.

5. We recommend that the next General Assembly of this state be urged to make adequate facilities for caring for the feeble-minded and insane who are now being confined in the various county homes and jails.

6. We recommend that this convention unanimously endorse the co-operative marketing association.

7. Resolved, that this association should endeavor to secure the passage of a suitably drawn general law to authorize and regulate the issuance of county bonds in this state, and that a committee of three be appointed for that purpose.

Before adjourning, the association gave a rising vote of thanks to Dr. Branson, Dr. Odum, and Dr. Chase for their reception in Chapel Hill, and another rising vote to the retiring officers of the association for their efforts to make the convention a success.—News and Observer.

A REAL NEGRO PROBLEM

Among the most crying needs for the rural South is a Grenfell—or a hundred such—to minister to the Negro physically. To make the imperative nature of this need clear, I may say that in the vast plantation regions not one negro in a hundred ever receives medical attention at childbirth; and thousands of negro babies are reared without ever having received such attention as modern science can give. Many survive, but many perish.

Devoted physicians are sorely needed. Many men now in general practice do indeed give the negro almost boundless help; but the need is still great.

I have long wondered why those who give money to negro education do not specify that some of it is to be devoted to the training of negroes who shall be medical missionaries to their race; or why all our medical missionaries feel it incumbent to go to Korea and to China and to the ends of the earth.

Great free dispensaries in the South would be of immediate and inestimable assistance to a race which is in dire need of such help, far more in need of it than in need of either lower or higher education. If there is a real Negro Problem, it seems to be the problem of giving him medical assistance as a race.—The Black Hearthstone, by Archibald Rutledge, a South Carolina writer, in The Outlook.

IMPORTED FOOD AND FEED SUPPLIES

In the United States in 1920

Based (1) on the 1920 census of values of bread and meat produced in each state, reckoned on farm values, not retail prices, (2) on standard, staple farm, orchard, and garden products—not on extras, dainties, and luxuries of diet, (3) on the consuming population of folks and farm animals, and (4) on the consumption averages used in the University News Letter table Vol. VIII, No. 20.

In 1920 North Carolina sent out of the state 232 million dollars for bread and meat our farmers could have raised at home. They produced 52 percent of what was needed for man and beast and the state bought 48 percent or nearly half of her food and feed supplies from the farmers of the North and West. Thirty-four states made a better showing.

The Southern states that made a better record than North Carolina were Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, Texas, and Arkansas; and all of them stood above us in the accumulation of farm wealth per country inhabitant. See University News Letter, Vol. VIII, No. 25.

Miss Henrietta R. Smedes

Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina

Surplus or Deficit			Surplus or Deficit					
Rank	State	Percent	Extent Self-feeding	Surplus or Deficit	Rank	State	Percent	
1	Iowa	195	\$698,306,000		23	Virginia	78	
2	Nebraska	188	362,328,000		25	Delaware	76	
3	Kansas	177	382,445,000		26	Kentucky	75	
4	N. Dakota	169	149,527,000		27	Montana	74	
5	S. Dakota	162	156,362,000		28	Utah	72	
6	Idaho	139	46,987,000		29	Texas	69	
7	Wisconsin	122	135,814,000		30	N. Mexico	68	
8	Minnesota	122	130,389,000		31	Arkansas	58	
9	Indiana	118	116,696,000		32	W. Virginia	56	
10	Missouri	116	124,166,000		32	Maryland	56	
11	California	111	74,612,000		32	N. Hampshire	56	
12	Vermont	111	9,134,000		35	N. Carolina	52	
13	Washington	110	27,271,000		47	Florida	47	
14	Colorado	109	22,130,000		37	Mississippi	45	
14	Oregon	109	15,107,000		38	Alabama	44	
16	Oklahoma	104	20,566,000		38	S. Carolina	44	
					38	Arizona	44	
					41	Pennsylvania	43	
					42	Georgia	43	
17	Maine	99	1,478,000		43	N. York	40	
18	Illinois	98	27,230,000		43	Louisiana	39	
19	Nevada	91	2,263,000		45	N. Jersey	25	
20	Wyoming	83	11,724,000		45	Connecticut	25	
21	Ohio	81	207,234,000		47	Massachusetts	15	
21	Michigan	81	132,457,000		48	R. Island	12	
23	Tennessee	78	110,130,000					