

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

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

DECEMBER 13, 1922

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. IX, NO. 6

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, 1913

THE LITTLE FARMS OF CAROLINA

BUNCOMBE, THE CHAMPION

Buncombe county's farm display took first prize at the state fair this year. Buncombe took second place last year. The same county took first place in 1920. This is a worthy record and one deserving commendation. Why does Buncombe lead other North Carolina counties? The general impression is that Buncombe farm lands, on the whole, are not as adaptable to good farming as the more tillable areas of the Piedmont and Eastern Carolina. We think of mountains and hill slopes when we think of Buncombe. What is the secret, then?

It is diversified farming, says the Asheville Citizen. Neither tobacco nor cotton is grown in Buncombe.

Combined with diversified farming is the intelligent co-operation with the farm demonstrators, and the use of improved farm machinery. Dairying has also been given a big impetus in Buncombe county. In explanation of this superiority, The Citizen goes on to say:

"The fact that she grows neither tobacco nor cotton emphasizes all the more her richness. Her orchards are famous beyond the confines of America. Not even Maine surpasses her as a potato grower. She has given surprising impetus in the last few years to the dairying business and to the pure-bred cattle, hog, and sheep business. Her per-acre production of other crops puts her in the front rank with the leading counties of a state that leads every agricultural state in the Union in per-acre crop production.

"But all of this is not entirely explained by her fertility of soil. Some of it is due to the Buncombe farmer's enterprising agricultural methods. He is using labor-saving machinery more than he ever did. He is employing the latest scientific information available for farming. He learns from farm demonstrators. Also he is inspired by the co-operative spirit and methods introduced by the Farmers' Federation. In brief, Buncombe county is showing the state how to reap big profits and the great blessings that come from intelligent diversified farming."—Gastonia Gazette.

TAXES IN NEW JERSEY

Some people in North Carolina who think they are being heavily taxed, giving no thoughts to the benefits derived from that taxation, ought to move about a bit and make observations. Certainly they would find comfort in the tax figures from New Jersey, where the aggregate of taxes levied for the year 1922 amount to the comfortable sum of \$169,944,939.

Making analysis of the New Jersey situation, Mr. McCready Sykes, writing in Commerce and Finance, says that this is \$17,000,000 more than was ever before paid for similar purposes in that state. It includes the taxes levied by local assessors, county tax boards, and state boards. Local or municipal taxes account for \$95,609,276. State school taxes are \$9,775,031; state road taxes in one year amount to nearly \$4,000,000; county purposes call for more than \$24,000,000.

New Jersey has a population of 3,155,900, so that her state, county, and local taxes alone amount to the staggering sum of \$51 per capita. On the statistical average of five persons to the family these figures seem incredible. It seems impossible that the average family should be paying over \$250 per year in these local taxes alone, exclusive of all income taxes and federal taxes of every kind. New Jersey suffers an additional burden from the fact that a large part of her people make their living in New York and are compelled to pay income taxes there.

The average rate of taxation in New Jersey, as Sykes has it, is \$3.561 per \$100.

Compare that with the comparatively low rate in North Carolina, setting the North Carolina rate against the benefits secured, and be happy.—Charlotte Observer.

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

A Georgia Verdict

The wonderful prosperity of North Carolina is on every lip. Florida challenges the admiration of the public but not in the same way that North Carolina does. The great boom in the Old North State dates from the time that the people voted a \$50,000,000 bond issue for good roads. Immediately after the election the Highway Department set to work to build 1,000 miles of improved roadway during the year 1922. Last week the Department closed contracts for the construction of 100 miles of hard surface roads and 79 miles of graveled roads which nearly completes the undertaking.

North Carolina has closed contracts for building 1,600 miles of highways within the past twelve months and during the past three years she has contracted for a total of 2,500 miles. Some time ago, Mr. James B. Duke, the wealthiest man in the state and its leading citizen, said that \$25,000,000 could be expended to advantage in the mountain region alone. Spending such vast sums of money not only makes for the improvement of transportation facilities, but makes money plentiful—so many road hands getting good wages.

North Carolina and Georgia are working with the same object in view. When the road program is completed, every county seat in the state will be connected by a good road. It was a huge undertaking in North Carolina, but the fact that government aid matched the bond issue dollar for dollar made it easy. The enhancement values will more than pay the cost before the bonds come due. Besides, you issue bonds for one dollar and get two to spend. As a prosperity producer, it is a world beater.—Athens, Ga., Herald.

Carolina has a more restricted field. North Carolina has a history particularly rich in legend as well as in actual achievement. The mountaineers in the western part of the state are among the most delightful and historically interesting survivals in this country. Practically every mountain has its story and the wilds of Scotland itself are no more full of feuds and adventure and romance. The association of Sir Walter Raleigh with this state and the lost colony, the Croatan Indians and the Mecklenburg Declaration, the stirring scenes of the Revolutionary War, to say nothing of the excitement of the Civil War and of the reconstruction period that followed, certainly contain material enough to keep many playwrights busy for a considerable time.

These are the traditions and the historical incidents to which the new course in playwrighting at the North Carolina University is now devoting its energies. Even though the successful playwrights who have been developed at Harvard may not materialize at Chapel Hill—though there is no good reason why they should not—the work is well worth while. It is educational in the highest sense and university extension work of the finest kind. More and more modern universities are realizing the new conception—that it is their business to be part of the community in which they exist; to preserve the best traditions of the state and to familiarize its people with all good thoughts and actions. Certainly no more attractive way can be found of doing this than that which the University of North Carolina has now discovered. The fact that the plays are not only written by the students but staged and acted by them gives the University an undergraduate activity of an especially wholesome and elevating kind.—World's Work, Dec. 1922.

A YANKEE TRIBUTE

Southern men were unsurpassed among the nations of the earth in courage, spirit, hospitality, and generosity to their equals. They were apt to command and apt to succeed. They were able politicians. With the love and habit of truth, which becomes brave men in all common concerns, they were subtle and skilful diplomatists when diplomacy was needed to accomplish any political end.

My long conflict with their leaders has impressed me with an ever increasing admiration of the great and high qualities of our Southern people. Their love of home; their chivalrous respect for women; their courage; their delicate sense of honor; their constancy, which can abide by an opinion or a purpose or an interest of their state's, through adversity and through prosperity, through the years and through the generations, are things by which the people of the more mercurial North may take a lesson. And there is another thing—covetousness, corruption, the low temptation of money has not yet found any place in our Southern

politics.—George Frisbie Hoar, senator from Massachusetts, 1877-1904.

THE CIVIC MIND

If people learn to love their country, if their vision is raised beyond the petty circle of their personal and family interests to appreciate the true width and splendors of national life as a thing which not only embraces all of us who are now living here and grouped in a great body seeking common ends, but reaches back into the immemorial past and forward into the mysterious future, it elevates the conception of citizenship, it fills the sheath of empty words with a keen-edged sword, it helps men to rise above mere party views and to feel their exercise of voting power to be a solemn trust. It is common to talk of ignorance as the chief peril of a democracy. It has, however, another foe not less pernicious—this is indolence. Indifference to public affairs shows itself not merely in a neglect to study them and fit one's self to give a judicious vote, but in the apathy which does not care to give a vote when the time comes.—James Bryce.

CULTIVATED ACRES PER FARM

In North Carolina in 1920

Based on the 1920 Census of Agriculture covering (1) all improved land in each county, (2) divided by the number of farms.

Cultivated land includes all land regularly tilled or mowed, land in pasture which has been cleared or tilled, land lying fallow, land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries, and land occupied by farm buildings.

The average for the United States was 78 cultivated acres per farm; for North Carolina it was 30.4 and only Massachusetts had smaller farms.

Farms in North Carolina are small partly due to the physical features of the land in our rougher areas and to the relatively dense farm population, but mainly (1) to excessive farm tenancy with the landlord interested in per acre yields and consequently in small tenant farms, (2) to maximum attention to cotton and tobacco our two best cash crops, which require a maximum of human labor per acre, and little machinery, (3) to small total grain, hay, and forage yields, which require larger areas and more machinery, (4) to small livestock values per farm, which require broad acres in pasture, grain, and forage, and (5) to a minimum acreage in fruit and garden spaces.

Our cultivated acreage per farm should be larger. Farm profits lie mainly in per worker yields. Only 25.8 percent of the land area of the state is improved. But our farms are smaller every decade. The cultivated acreage per farm in 1910 averaged 34.7 acres; in 1920 it was 30.4 acres. In 1920 we had 16,038 more farms but 615,000 fewer acres under cultivation.

Other tables in farm economics to follow as already announced.

S. H. Hobbs, Jr.

Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	Counties	Cultivated Acres per Farm	Rank	Counties	Cultivated Acres per Farm
1	Alleghany	65.1	51	Yadkin	29.8
2	Currituck	51.4	52	Cumberland	29.7
3	Ashe	46.4	53	Vance	29.6
4	Richmond	43.2	54	Tyrrell	28.9
5	Cabarrus	42.0	55	Mitchell	28.7
6	Rowan	41.8	56	Stokes	28.7
7	Watauga	41.7	57	Lenoir	28.6
8	Scotland	41.4	58	Avery	28.0
9	Lincoln	40.6	59	Montgomery	27.9
10	Camden	40.4	60	Bladen	27.8
11	Haywood	39.4	60	Wayne	27.8
12	Iredell	39.1	62	Yancey	27.7
13	Catawba	39.0	63	Surry	27.4
14	Davie	38.3	64	Harnett	26.9
15	Caswell	37.7	64	Henderson	26.9
16	Pasquotank	37.5	64	Jackson	26.9
17	Alamance	37.3	64	Macon	26.9
17	Gaston	37.3	68	Famlico	26.7
19	Guilford	36.3	69	Burke	26.6
20	Madison	36.2	69	Moore	26.6
21	Edgecombe	36.1	71	Bertie	26.1
22	Hoke	35.2	72	Rutherford	25.8
23	Buncombe	35.0	72	Sampson	25.8
24	Mecklenburg	34.9	74	Warren	25.6
25	Stanly	34.8	75	Johnston	25.3
26	Jones	34.3	77	Lee	25.3
27	Randolph	34.2	77	Franklin	25.0
28	Davidson	34.1	78	Onslow	24.9
29	Person	33.5	79	Wake	24.8
30	Forsyth	33.1	80	Beaufort	24.6
30	Perquimans	33.1	80	Greene	24.6
32	Chowan	33.0	80	Pitt	24.6
32	Cleveland	33.0	83	Nash	24.3
34	Halifax	32.6	83	Transylvania	24.3
35	Union	32.5	85	Durham	24.0
36	Hyde	32.3	86	Graham	23.4
37	Granville	32.1	87	Pender	23.3
38	Alexander	31.9	88	Polk	23.1
38	Washington	31.9	89	Craven	23.0
38	Robeson	31.9	89	McDowell	23.0
41	Hertford	31.8	91	Wilson	22.2
42	Martin	31.6	92	Swain	22.1
43	Orange	31.4	92	Wilkes	22.1
44	Caldwell	31.1	94	Columbus	22.0
45	Gates	31.0	95	Cherokee	21.9
46	Clay	30.8	96	Duplin	21.0
47	Rockingham	30.6	97	Cartersville	20.2
48	Anson	30.3	97	Brunswick	20.2
48	Chatham	30.3	99	New Hanover	19.0
50	Northampton	29.9	100	Dare	14.6