

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

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

FEBRUARY 28, 1923

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. IX, NO. 15

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

HELPING MEN TO OWN FARMS

TENANCY IN THE SOUTH

We are giving to our readers, in this and several subsequent issues, the results of a recent field study of farm tenant homes in a mid-state North Carolina county—for two reasons.

First. Because the reading public in general and students of farm problems in particular the country over know very little about farm tenancy in the South, and almost nothing about its social implications. In the North and West tenancy farming is a capitalistic enterprise on part of men with money; in the South it is a social estate on part of moneyless men. Elsewhere the discussions of this problem have so far been centered on its economic aspects; in the South we are face to face with its social consequences. In the West, it is IWW-ism that challenges attention, in the South it is villeinage that begins to approach the sixteenth-century type. The social and civic phases of landlessness must begin to receive attention both North and South. North Carolina is following the lead of California, and a bill for State Aid to Landless Men of worthy sort is now before the state legislature. Students who want it can have it by writing to the Secretary of State at Raleigh for Substitute Senate Bill, No. 18, 1923.

Second. Because the common current notion of the North and West is that farm tenancy in the cotton-tobacco belt is mainly a black man's problem; on the contrary it is mainly a white man's problem. White farm tenants in North Carolina outnumber black farm tenants by some ten thousand, and in the South as a whole, by some one hundred and fifty thousand. And in the cash-crop areas of the South a full third of our tenants, black and white, are croppers and croppers are a type of farmers unknown outside the South—indeed so little known that the term itself got into the Census dictionary three-quarters of a century late.

In order to arouse the readers, thinkers, and leaders of North Carolina, the studies we are reproducing were concentrated upon white farm tenants and their lot in life. The field schedules of negro farm tenant homes in the North Carolina area surveyed will be tabulated, summarized, interpreted, and passed on to the public if any general demand is evidenced.—The Journal of Social Forces.

THE FORGOTTEN MAN

We confess to a certain sort of interest in what is being found by the archaeologists in the tomb of Tut-an-khamen, who was king of Egypt 3,300 years ago. But the discoveries there are not a tithe as important as discovering a way to put the Forgotten Man on his feet in North Carolina.—News and Observer.

FOR LAND OWNERSHIP

We come now to a consideration of the business of enriching North Carolina with better white farm tenants. Quoting the University of North Carolina bulletin, How Farm Tenants Live, by Mr. Dickey and Mr. Branson, we pointed out yesterday how the prosperity of the whole state is menaced by the lamentable fact that her average farm renter has a cash daily income of 12 cents for each member of his family while the cropper's average is 8 cents. Obviously, the only remedy for that incredible poverty is ownership of land by the men who work the land. That can be brought about.

This bulletin estimates that today 2,800 renters and croppers deserve to be helped to farm ownership and will by their industry repay the public for such aid; that they can be settled on forty-acre farms of their own for \$1,000 each, or \$2,800,000 all told; and that this can be done without one cent of expense to the state if the project is financed not by state bonds but by debenture bonds issued by an authorized state agency and underwritten by the state.

Having been put on the farms and confronted by the necessity of paying back the money for their lands, these men must be helped to carry the burden of farming under those circum-

stances. What we need for this is more banks that capitalize character and lend money on personal security notes; less taxation on small home-owners and farmers; more co-operative credit, buying and selling organizations; encouragement of enterprise by putting lower taxes on real estate improvements; higher taxes on land left lying idle and unimproved; and a general education of tenants in the advantages of diversified farming. These are the high lights of the plan outlined by the bulletin to encourage poverty-stricken North Carolina tenants to buy farms of their own.

All this cannot be done in a day. It requires legislative and constitutional changes. It calls for propaganda. The schools must teach and inspire the children of tenants to look for opportunity to own land. But consider the beneficial result. It will mean a better, richer, and more cultured North Carolina. It will mean that North Carolina can always feed from her own fields the multitudes of her city workers. And that will insure to North Carolina the outstanding and lasting distinction of being the first state to achieve leadership in manufacturing without losing supremacy in agriculture. Unprecedented statecraft!—Asheville Citizen.

CHURCHES AND TENANCY

The country regions furnish three-fourths of the college professors and five-sixths of all the preachers of America, says Ashenhurst; but in North Carolina they are born and bred in the homes of farm owners, not in the homes of farm tenants. There may be exceptions, but they could not be brought to light by the research questionnaires of Rev. J. M. Arnette, a Baptist minister applying for a doctorate degree from the University of North Carolina. His conclusion is that the farm tenant homes of this state give no preachers to the churches of his faith, or so few as to be negligible in the total count of Baptist clergymen!

We definitely know that farm tenancy raises the ratios of white illiteracy and lowers the ratios of white church membership with fatal certainty in the South. Does it also blow out the light in the souls of our white tenants? If so, farm tenancy ought to probe to the quick of the intelligence and Christian conscience of church authorities and church members, for the sixty-three thousand white tenant households of North Carolina contain nearly one-fifth of the entire white population of the state.—Quoted from a bulletin of the University of North Carolina, pp 29-30.

In order to explore this matter further we are today mailing out two thousand questionnaire post cards to all the clergymen in four of the religious bodies of the state. They call for answers to the following questions:

1. Were you born and reared in the country?
2. Are you the son of a farm owner?
3. Or of a farm tenant?
4. Are you now serving country churches?
5. How many churches in your care?
6. Do you live in the country?
7. If not, where?
8. How do you travel to your country churches?

The answers will be summarized in an early issue of the News Letter.

THE RURAL CHURCH

Prof. Walter Burr, of the Kansas Agricultural College, is pessimistic about the future of the small church in rural communities. He fears that what the auto has begun the radio will complete, and points out that within the last five years 200 rural church organizations have been abandoned in Kansas.

The automobile has taken the worshippers away from the neighborhood church and carried them to the more pretentious churches of the neighboring cities, he says. Now that the radio has made it possible to sit comfortably at home and hear some of the best sermons being preached, he fears that more people will be won away from the little institutions which have been such a big factor in keeping American standards of life so high, for both the incon-

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

A Drama of Triumph

Three years ago North Carolina thought in millions; now she works in billions. What she did in 1922 proclaims her an empire among the states, an amazement to the world!

In 1922 she created one and one-third billion dollars' worth of brand new wealth. That was more than three times what she created in 1915; it was 915 million dollars more.

In 1922 she produced so much new wealth that it averaged \$600 for every man, woman and child, black and white, within her boundaries, or, to put it in another way, \$2,600 for every family in the state, the record that led the South.

She is paying back her agricultural loan from the War Finance Corporation faster than any other state in the Union.

In 1922 she led all states except Pennsylvania in highway building, and all except Massachusetts in the textile business.

Only seven other states paid more than she did into the Federal Treasury in taxes on profits, incomes, and inheritances.

She ranked among the twelve foremost states in public health work, and was one of the leading eight in total wealth production.

She stood fifth in the Union in agricultural crop wealth.

Her mills and factories ran all the year on full time; new mills are being built all over the state; and the new spindles which will be set going in her territory in 1923 already number 550,000, more than two-thirds of the new spindles of the entire rejuvenated South. Her mastery of the world's cotton business is near at hand.

In 1922 her bank resources were \$417,000,000; she spent \$27,000,000 for new motor cars; she bought 75,000,000 gallons of gasoline.

These figures, announced by the University News Letter, are cold mathematics of North Carolina's progress in a year, figures into which she has written America's outstanding drama of triumph! Magnificent drama! You can feel the rush of it, hear the thunder of it, see the shattering of old records in it. And for its crowning thrill you have her corresponding advance in expenditures for charities and corrections, liberal learning and technical training—which means that this empire will see to it that her own sons and daughters shall have empire over her, develop her, and build her so that they will draw outside genius to labor with theirs in her service.

To be a North Carolinian! Inestimable advantage! Irresistible inspiration among the world's most amazing opportunities!—Asheville Citizen.

venience of travel and the necessity of contributing something for the upkeep of the church are avoided.

But his fears are groundless. In the community around Vass the rural church is far from being down and out, and we can't believe that in this respect this particular community is any different from thousands upon thousands of other communities in these United States. The rural church still remains the major American institution. Dwellers therein seldom go to the theatres, and to the courts even less frequently. But they go to church as a rule almost every Sunday in the year. The radio is something too new to permit of sound predictions as to its future.—The Pilot.

CHURCHES AND FARMS

That the rural clergy might well become agricultural experts, and assume leadership in the promotion of better farming, was the message of Reverend E. V. O'Hara, of Eugene, Oregon, to the farmers of Wisconsin at their annual merchandizing meeting.

"The church is called to rural leadership," he declares, "not merely from the legitimate viewpoint of self-interest, but also because of peculiar fitness in helping to solve the rural problem. The rural pastor should have an intelligent interest in this work, and in the daily lives of the people," he declares. "The pastor might at least be expected to read farm journals, to attend agricultural meetings, and to promote agricultural education among his parishioners. He should be in touch with the local farmers' organizations which aid country life."—Press Bulletins, Wisconsin Agricultural Colleges.

THE UNIVERSITY BY MAIL

Closing of registration for correspondence-study students on April first was announced today by officials of the extension division at the University of North Carolina. It was thought necessary to set a date beyond which no registrations will be received, so that all courses started might be completed before July twenty-eighth, when the first session of the University Summer School ends.

According to the records of the bureau of correspondence instruction the year just passed was the best ever experienced from the viewpoint of the number of students enrolled. There were 245 registrations as compared with 111 for the previous year. At present there are 288 active students living in 79 counties of the state.

NEW COUNTY BULLETINS

"Nowhere else in America are college students taking accurate stock of their home counties and passing the information on to the home folks," said S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the Department of Rural Social Economics of the University, in speaking of the seven social and economic research bulletins on as many counties, which will be published by University county clubs this spring.

"Elsewhere people know about their state and county in several ways; but in these small books you will find accurate information about your county and state, how your county ranks with other counties in North Carolina, what you have and what you need to have, and suggestions for making a greater and better county," said Mr. Hobbs. A county bulletin by the Johnston county club, edited by G. Y. Ragsdale and W. M. Sanders, Jr., is just off the press. It is a thorough, clear, and comprehensive piece of research work with many valuable criticisms and suggestions.

Henderson county will publish a bulletin edited by Oscar Bell, L. V. Huggins, H. S. Capps, E. L. Justus, and Cameron Shipp.

Scott Thomas and LeGrand Everett are editing the Richmond booklet.

Forsyth announces that her bulletin will also go to press this spring. Buncombe, Vance, and Caldwell have their copy prepared, but may not publish this year.

These booklets are thoughtfully and carefully prepared and involve a great deal of tiresome research work—so much so, in fact, that credit for a course in economics is allowed the editors. Though they mercilessly drag out faults, they have always found the best remedies for them, and they are in no sense hypercritical. The advantages of a county are perhaps nowhere else so proudly displayed as in these bulletins.

The county club bulletins will be distributed free in all the homes of the various counties, and will be given a limited state distribution by the Department of Economics. Thinking people with an eye to the future will receive them with welcome. They will enable many to see their counties in a new and enlightened perspective.—The Tar Heel.

A FIVE MILLION SALE

Orders have been placed during the Southern Furniture Exposition at High Point, N. C., for approximately \$5,000,000

worth of furniture, according to an estimate made today by a prominent furniture manufacturer who has made a close study of conditions at the show since it got under way a week ago last Monday.

Several manufacturers are reported to have sold as many as 200 carloads of furniture during the exposition. Another exhibitor is said to have received orders for 150 carloads of his products, while numerous orders for 50, 75, and 100 carloads were placed during the great winter exposition, it is said.

Of course it would be impossible to obtain any official figures concerning the amount of money involved in the sales made during the exposition, the manufacturers being rather reluctant to give out figures for publication, but it is a known fact that they have transacted more business at the present show than has been transacted at any previous exposition since completion of the mammoth 10-story building here.

More than 700 buyers have attended the exposition since it opened and practically all of them have made purchases before leaving the city. Some of the largest furniture retail establishments in the United States have sent buyers here to purchase furniture, and they have bought it in large quantities.

Fifty-one buyers arrived here today to attend the exposition, and that is something unusual, the attendance during the last few days of previous expositions having been small. Tomorrow, the last day of the show, also is expected to witness a large attendance, and no doubt much furniture will be purchased before the doors of the exposition building are closed.—Mocksville Enterprise.

ANOTHER LIVE BANK

Two young bulls, four heifers, and one cow come as foundation animals into Orange county. Odell Blackwood, Clarence Oldham, Brady Lloyd, Floyd Gooch, Herbert Hogan, Robert Pendergraft, Elmer Lloyd, and R. C. Lloyd are the owners. H. D. Barnes and J. D. Webb also own registered bulls.

The Bank of Chapel Hill as a business proposition and as a booster to our boys has pronounced itself in favor of the better livestock slogan of the agricultural boys in the high school and will furnish the capital for the purchase of pure-bred livestock. Mr. Hogan of the bank has a number of times sought to assist agricultural progress in our county and is very much interested in our attempt to improve the cash dividend from live stock by improving its quality.

One hundred registered, well bred Jerseys, placed in Chapel Hill and Bingham townships would cost about \$6000. They would make an indelible impression upon the improvement of the live stock. In the course of ten years any farmer in these two townships could dispose of four calves at \$50 each every year. Also the profit from the cows will be beyond our fondest dream. We could have sold several car lots of pure-bred heifers this fall.

Rather than plunge into the purebred business knowing very little about it, our first aim will be to place a well bred registered Jersey bull in every community in Chapel Hill and Bingham townships. The farmers can by this means improve the quality of the calves in the future and several generations will give us very profitable cows.—R. P. Harris, agriculturist of the Chapel Hill High School.

A JOHNSTON COUNTY BOOK

Johnston County: Economic and Social, is the title of a ninety-page bulletin by W. M. Sanders, Jr., and G. Y. Ragsdale, two members of the Johnston County Club at the University of North Carolina. It has just come from the press and is being distributed by the local advertisers to their customers. The chapters are, (1) Historical Background, (2) Natural Resources, Industries, and Opportunities, (3) Facts About the Folks, (4) Wealth and Taxation, (5) Six-Year Gains in White Schools, 1914-15 to 1920-21, (6) Home-Raised Food and the Local Market Problem, (7) Things to be Proud of in Johnston, (8) Our Problems and Their Solution, (9) Iron Ore in Johnston County.

We undertake to say that no single piece of work done by these young men in their University career has contributed more to fit them for leadership in their home county and their home state. It is a most excellent piece of work and it has yielded to them a value that can be called real University culture.