

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
NEWS LETTER

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

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HOME AND FARM OWNERSHIP

THE NEW YEAR-BOOK

By the time this issue of the News Letter gets to our readers, the new Year-Book of the North Carolina Club at the University will be going into the mails.

The title it bears is Home and Farm Ownership. It treats this essential matter of civilization in the state, the nation, and in other countries of the world. It exhibits (1) farm tenancy conditions and the causes producing the landless estate of men, (2) the consequences of landlessness, (3) the remedies applied in California, Denmark, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Canada, and (4) it proposes a remedy for North Carolina. For the first time in America it gives this subject to the public in a well-ordered, single volume. It sets a background for competent discussion of the Giles bill that the General Assembly of North Carolina is now considering.

It is a volume of some 200 pages, in twenty-two chapters. It goes free of charge to any North Carolinian who writes for it in time. The price to other applicants is \$1.00 a copy post-paid.

The list of applicants is already large and the edition is small—only 2,000 in fact.

The particular purpose of the Club is to reach the readers, thinkers, and leaders in the public life of North Carolina. In any state, these are the leaven that soon or late leavens the whole lump of democracy.

The Giles Bill

If it could be read thoughtfully by our legislators, for instance, they would go hammer-and-tongs at the problem of landless men in North Carolina, and devise workable ways of curing this fundamental ill in our civilization. It can be cured, say in a half century if only we could begin now.

It took Denmark a half century to lay down the foundations of a prosperous home-owning farm civilization, and today man-for-man Denmark is the richest farm state in the world. And New Zealand a sparsely settled country remote from the market centers of the world is following suit, but she began forty years ago, under the leadership of a big-brained courageous premier who saw that a prosperous agriculture based on ownership farming is as necessary to general prosperity as piers are to a bridge.

It is so in North Carolina. A fat civilization cannot be safely built on a lean countryside and tenancy farming spells poverty in our country regions—inevitably so.

Some day the Giles Bill or some such bill to promote home and farm ownership will pass our legislature by an overwhelming vote; but our hope is that it will not be forty years too late.

The background of such a bill will be found in How Farm Tenants Live, and in Home and Farm Ownership—two bulletins that can now be had by North Carolinians free of charge by writing to the Extension Division of the State University.

THROWING OUT A LIFE LINE

That state-aid for farm tenants is not an untried project and that conditions among North Carolina tenants is one of the state's gravest social and economic problems, was the theme of a paper read by P. S. Randolph of Asheville at the last meeting of the North Carolina Club at the University of North Carolina. Experiments in Denmark over a long period and recently in California are examples that are encouraging North Carolina students and legislators to efforts which promise to save some thousands of men, women, and children from a life resembling serfdom.

Serfdom? Yes, that is the only word to fit the cropper on the big plantations of central and eastern North Carolina. This class owns not even the tools with which they work. The renter furnishes his own tools and livestock, and out of an income of 14 cents a day (besides food and shelter), in some cases he saves enough to begin payments on a small farm. But the cropper, on an income of 8 cents a day, is "the man whom God forgot," as the

University bulletin puts it.

With state assistance, renters will become farm-owners, and Mr. Randolph points out the advantages to North Carolina from increasing the number of families owning their own land and therefore having a lively interest in whatever affects the community. With pressure relieved from the renter group, conditions of life among the croppers may also be expected to improve.

Mr. Randolph's paper showed that California has taken an advanced position in dealing with the tenancy question. Land has been bought, improved, equipped with machinery, buildings, livestock, and then sold on easy terms, and the state has not only lost nothing but has profited by this reorganization of one division of its agricultural system.

Isn't it time for North Carolina to throw out a life line to her croppers and renters?—Asheville Citizen.

A FARMER DEMOCRACY

What ails America? We have the richest agricultural belt of the world, the most improved agricultural implements, the best transportation of any people, and the largest home market, yet through wasteful and absurd methods of distribution the farmer periodically is brought to sore straits financially.

The farm makes up the largest single unit of purchasing power in America. Upon the prosperity of the farmers depends to a decided degree the prosperity of the manufacturers. Economically they are bound by close ties yet the farm and the factory are far apart in sympathy and understanding.

No other element of the Nation is so lacking in organization as the farm. Manufacturing is highly organized. So practically is every branch of general business.

It is absurd to say the farm can not be stabilized and its distributive wastes eliminated.

Denmark has the best agricultural distribution system of the world. On land much of which an American farmer would have turned from as almost hopeless, it has developed a great dairy, fruit, poultry, cattle, sheep, hogs and gardening truck industry and through co-operative marketing which embraces everyone who raises anything, from an egg to a drove of steers, it not only feeds all Denmark but also London and a goodly part of the British Isles. Farm produce is collected with the regularity that a postman collects letters. The collector gives a receipt for the produce. What isn't required for Copenhagen and other cities of Denmark goes by express steamers to London. These vessels sail on schedule time.

Danish farmers go to school in winter to study agriculture. Danish mothers go to school, too. Danish girls, from royalty down, engaged to be married, go to school to take courses in housekeeping.

By real cooperative marketing Denmark has made itself one of the few sound prosperous nations of Europe. At the same time, although Denmark has a king, it is about the nearest approach to a real democracy presented today.—Richard Spillane, Commerce and Finance.

THE NORTH CAROLINA CLUB

How college students are thinking on such matters as capital and labor relations and taxation of corporation securities was shown at a meeting of the North Carolina Club of the University last night, when M. A. James, of Buncombe county, delivered a report on Capital, Labor, and the Public in North Carolina, and W. F. Somers, of Salisbury, on the subject of Taxation of Corporation Stocks in North Carolina. Their reports were based on the findings of their surveys.

Mr. James, in his discussion, gave a logical and common-sense interpretation of the causes of strikes and the underlying conditions that bring on labor friction, after which he suggested several remedial measures. Pointing out that there is no panacea that will cure all our industrial ills, he submitted the following plans which he said would at least diminish labor troubles:

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

Setting a Pace

With \$120,000,000 going into the building of highways through state, county, and Federal co-operation, North Carolina in proportion to its population and wealth is, we believe, taking the lead far and away over every other state in the Union.

This good old North State has been pushing forward regardless of bad times with an energy that sets a standard which few states in the Union have ever been able to surpass. Its work should be an inspiration to every other state. Moreover, there are other features connected with the progress and prosperity of North Carolina as evinced in its wonderful road building campaign which may well cause the nation to pause and study.

Probably no state in the Union is at the present time surpassing North Carolina in material and educational progress. It is doing marvelous things outside of its road building campaign. Its progress is not halted by the lack of foreign immigration. North Carolina finds full employment for its own people, and it asks no help from foreign immigration.

North Carolina is building schools and colleges and the university with an amazing activity. Its cotton mill development has been one of the marvels of the age. It ranks as one of the greatest furniture producing centers of the country. Indeed, it has a wide and ever increasing variety of industries, created, managed and financed mainly by local people and local money. In doing this work it lifts up a standard, and it challenges every other state in the Union to match the rate of its growth; and the whole of its growth is largely typified and measured by the tremendous and unprecedented road building campaign which that state is carrying on.

There is another feature in connection with North Carolina's wonderful progress which should command attention. It is one of the most law-abiding states in the Union, and always has been. No state in the Union, we think, surpasses North Carolina in that respect. Its law-abiding qualities are indicated in the fact that during the last year there was not a single lynching in North Carolina, though there were five each in Arkansas and Florida and to their everlasting disgrace eleven in Georgia, and nine in Mississippi, with Texas leading with eighteen.

Wherever the mob law which finds expression through lynching prevails there is a spirit of lawlessness which lessens the moral backbone of the people, breaks down every sense of moral responsibility, lynches the sovereignty of the state, and lessens its progress in material as well as in educational things.

All honor, then, to North Carolina which has done so marvelously well in material progress and which had not a single lynching in 1922 to blacken its fair name! May its example in this respect, as in highway building, school expansion, church construction and all other good things, be followed by all other states in the Union.—Manufacturers Record.

(1) A guarantee in the form of insurance against the dread of sickness, unemployment, and death in a poor house, (2) art in the factories, (3) the supplying of attractive homes for the employees, (4) broader social functions for the employees, and (5) education. He also stressed the possibilities of the economy dividend plan, whereby both the employer and employee are benefited by a saving in the cost of production by the avoiding of waste and neglect of the machinery and goods in process, which is a problem in all large scale enterprises.

Mr. Somers presented a clear case for the exemption of corporation stocks owned by individuals. Pointing out that the property which stocks represent is already taxed once, he contended that it would be a case of pure double taxation. Quoting the state constitution and citing recent North Carolina laws, he showed why the exemption of these securities from taxation carries out the letter and spirit of the law. This question has been the subject of much discussion in the state recently, and he pointed out the great economic significance and advantage to this state in leaving these securities tax-free as a matter of good policy as well as of justice.—The Charlotte Observer.

PUBLIC WELFARE WORK

Probably more than a few North Carolinians do not know that the state has a School of Public Welfare. Or, if they have heard it, they have only the vaguest notion of what the school teaches and of its relation to North Carolina's effort through legislation to strengthen Tarheel life at its weakest points. There are, in fact, still many citizens who look upon social welfare as something outside the jurisdiction of any government; many "view with alarm" any state effort to banish disease and poverty, lower the figures for infant mortality and give financial assistance to widowed mothers struggling to make their children strong physically and give them an education.

There should, therefore, be especial interest among North Carolinians in the January number of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, devoted to a review of "Public Welfare in the United States." It was a pioneer undertaking, although American interest in social science has grown tremendously in recent years. Casting about for a man competent to make the first survey in the whole field of public welfare work throughout the country, the editors of the Annals chose Dr. Howard W. Odum, Kenan Professor of Sociology and Director of the School of Public Welfare in the University of North Carolina. The January issue is edited by Dr. Odum; there are articles by some of the foremost sociologists in the United States; three of the contributors are North Carolinians—Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, State Superintendent of Public Welfare, J. A. Dickey, and Jesse F. Steiner.

Those fairly well informed on North Carolina's endeavor for "making democracy effective in the unequal places," as Dr. Odum expresses it, know that their state is among the dozen commonwealths that have reached advanced positions in the theory and application of social science. It is encouraging as well as gratifying to have this North Carolina achievement recognized by the American Academy.—Asheville Citizen.

MURDER IN AMERICA

According to figures obtained from the American Bar Association, in a year one out of every 12,000 persons is murdered in the United States; in England the ratio is only one out of every 412,000 persons.—The Outlook.

WOMEN'S CLUB BULLETINS

Not only the club women of North Carolina but many from other states in the south are receiving assistance from the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina in their club work, according to an article in a national publication just received here.

Most of the assistance given by the extension division is in the preparation of programs. Many state chairmen of literature of the General Federation of Women's Clubs write to the University

for assistance, and in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Dakota, South Dakota, South Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, Montana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, and Indiana a number of clubs are using these programs, it is stated.

The director of the extension division said that a limited number of study outlines is still available for North Carolina clubs. They are on the following subjects: "Our Heritage," "Modern Drama," "Contemporary Literature," "Southern Literature," "Problems in Citizenship," and "American Literature."

Programs now being prepared by University professors for Women's clubs are "North Carolina History," by R. D. W. Connor; "Drama of Today," by Douglass MacMillan; "Appreciation of Music," by Paul J. Weaver; "Town Studies" and "Parent-Teacher Handbook," by H. D. Meyer. Mrs. J. F. Royster has just completed a program entitled "Literature of Today."—Associated Press.

COUNTY AUDITS

Under the new state law the county affairs of Moore have recently been audited by an expert accountant, and the condition of everything is as straight as a string. This is what everybody familiar with the county affairs expected, for it is to the credit of the officials that the people have looked upon them always as reliable.

But from the audit comes something else. In the past the system of accounting in the state has not been definite. The different funds have not been kept as separate as they should, not subject to a single authority as is more desirable. Hence occasional confusion followed. That brought the audit law before the legislature, and from now on the county accounts will be regularly and systematically audited, and they will be at all times definite and clear.

We need in the state a more business-like system of county and town accounting and handling of public affairs, and it can only be brought about by a different system of county and town management. The present officers have too much on their hands, and it is impossible for them to do what should be done. Above all things we need a permanent county auditor and a frequent publication of the condition of county finances that the people may know where the county stands.—Moore County News.

A LIVE COLLEGE TOWN

The University of North Carolina and Chapel Hill, the town seat of the University, are engaged in a mutual effort to make the town in every respect more worthy of the University. Through a Town Club of men, men of the faculty and men of the town, and a very effective Community Club of women, working with other local organizations' millions of dollars have been spent in an extensive building and town development campaign: \$2,000,000 in six new buildings on the campus and in church buildings in the town within two years, 117 new residences in eighteen months, new paved roads, and a new public school.

The University News Letter says: "It becomes increasingly evident that Chapel Hill cannot plan and maintain all the ideals set forth without the financial cooperation of the University or State. How can a town in which more than half of the residents who use its streets pay no taxes hope to attain a maximum service? How can a town in which more than half the property is not taxed hope to render all necessary services with a reasonable tax rate? Add to these considerations the fact that the presence of the non-taxpaying elements increases the demand for more than average services, and we have a double obligation. It seems clear that a very definite town plan ought to be worked out, in order that the exact amount and method of cooperation may be determined at an early date."

The spirit here exhibited seems typical of a state that has in the last two years spent \$42,000,000 on education and \$120,000,000 on roads.—What the Colleges are Doing, Boston.