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LOOKING BACKWARD FIFTY YEARS

FIFTY YEARS OF FARMING

Agricultural Graphics: North Carolina and the United States, 1866 to 1922, is the title of a new bulletin by Miss Henrietta R. Smedes in the department of Rural Social-Economics at the University of North Carolina.

Miss Smedes was for many years in the bureau of crop reporting at the federal capital, and for three years has been librarian in the seminar library of rural social-economics at the University, and laboratory assistant in agricultural research.

This bulletin will be issued in a small edition because it is a study for the readers, thinkers, and leaders of the state. It will go free of charge to any North Carolinian who writes for it or applies for it in person. The price to other applicants will be one dollar per copy, postpaid.

Miss Smedes's study covers total and per acre quantities and values of the standard staple crops of the state and of the United States, and the numbers and average values of the workstock and meat and milk animals, year by year back to 1866.

The bulletin consists of (1) a brief narrative of interpretation, (2) tables in detail, and (3) graphs for each crop and each class of farm animals.

These tables and graphs show in detail the varying changes, the gains and losses in agriculture in North Carolina, for fifty-seven years. They establish a base line for measuring the gains and losses in our agriculture for all the future years. They answer the question of whether or not ours is a safely balanced agriculture; whether or not the state is increasingly in peril for lack of a well-balanced agriculture. The approaching boll weevil makes this subject a matter of critical importance in North Carolina.

Some day some fully competent student of history will do for North Carolina and other Southern states what F. J. Turner did for the Middle West; namely, interpret North Carolina and the South in terms of the foundational factors of economics and sociology. The forces, influences, and agencies making history in this state and the South are life and livelihood, and life and livelihood are creative of social and civic structures. They cannot be ignored by any man who writes history. The narrative of mere events may make a man an antiquarian, or a chronicler, or an analyst, but it does not make him a historian in any adequate sense.

We venture the prediction that Miss Smedes's bulletin will be fingered many times in the future by historians of the modern type.—E. C. B.

THE CHURCH AND THE FARM

On February 5, we sent out double postcards to all the preachers of four of the fifty-two organized religious bodies of North Carolina, 2016 cards in all. On March 8, the cards filled out and returned to us numbered 1081.

The tabulations show the following results, so far:

1. Eight hundred and eighty or 85 percent of the preachers who responded were born and reared in the country. The city-born preachers were only 151 or 15 percent. John R. Mott is fully persuaded that town and city churches cannot be depended on to furnish the ministers and the missionaries The Kingdom needs.

2. Seven hundred and ninety-six or 77 percent of the preachers were the sons of farm owners. Only 80 of the 1031 preachers were the sons of tenant farmers. The white tenants of North Carolina are almost exactly one-third of all the white farmers of the state. If the country church were effective in full and equal measure, the white farm tenant homes of the state would have furnished 398 preachers. Instead they have furnished only 80. Manifestly whatever menaces the country church menaces the supply of ordained ministers, and whatever increases farm tenancy decreases the ministerial supply.

3. Six hundred and thirty-one or nearly three-fifths of the preachers live out in the open country; 400 or two-fifths live in towns or cities; 566 or more than half of the preachers serve

country churches; 418 or three-fourths of these travel to their country churches in automobiles, 82 go in buggies, 56 go on horseback, and 56 on foot. We have been accustomed to think that the day of circuit riders in sulkies and buggies, on horseback or afoot like Lorenzo Dow, was long since gone in North Carolina. Not so. More than a third of the country churches of these 1031 preachers are still reached in the primitive fashion of earlier times. The automobile has come into use by nearly two-thirds of the preachers serving country churches in North Carolina.

With 85 percent of the preachers country-born, 77 percent of them born in farm-owner homes, and only eight percent born in tenant homes, the church authorities have a problem to consider in functioning the country church and safeguarding the ministerial supply.

The Northern Methodist church is considering it—forty years too late, because in the decline or decay of country life in the North, East, and Middle West the country church has suffered beyond repair—or so it seems.

With 1058 abandoned country church buildings in Ohio, 1800 in Illinois, 900 of one denomination in Missouri, and something like these numbers in other states in the Great Industrial Area, a campaign of country church recuperation is in order. Eleven million dollars a year is what the Northern Methodists are spending for this purpose.

The South has a chance to begin forty years ahead of time. We have a chance to grasp opportunity by the forelock, not by the fetlock as in the North and East.

When all the 2016 cards are in, a new summary and report will be made for our readers.

And if there be any general interest in this questionnaire survey, cards will be sent out to the preachers of all the organized religious bodies of the state, in addition to the four denominations that we could reach with the \$60 placed in our hands for this study. We need for the full survey around \$150, and perhaps it can be found.

A SEVERE INDICTMENT

The Charlotte News suggests that when we come to the conclusion that things are not going just as they should, and when everything seems dead wrong, we might consider the following statistics as a reason:

We spend every year \$2,100,000,000 for tobacco; \$1,000,000,000 for movies; \$2,000,000,000 for candy; \$1,950,000,000 for perfumes, cosmetics, etc.; \$500,000,000 for jewelry; \$350,000,000 for furs; \$300,000,000 for soft drinks; \$50,000,000 for chewing gum; \$3,000,000,000 for joy rides, pleasure resorts and the like. For luxuries we spend \$22,700,000,000. Against this we spend over \$1,000,000,000 for education; \$650,000,000 for graded schools; \$150,000,000 for colleges and professional schools; \$100,000,000 for public high schools; \$20,500,000 for normal schools and \$25,000,000 for all church schools and colleges.

And these statistics cause The News to remark further that where one's treasure is there one's heart is also. The above statistics would indicate, therefore, that we have little heart, proportionately at least, for those things that would bring about the conditions we desire, the social locations, the political adjustments, the moral stamina, the religious steadfastness and all those more permanent attainments that we know in the innermost depths of consciousness, are alone worth while.

The figures represent a tremendous indictment against the people of this country in the mere matter of their stewardship, a frustration of the purposes for which wealth was intended that is enough to make us blush not only but to be appalled by the one-sidedness of our heart interests.—Concord Times.

TARBORO LEADS

The big thing that Tarboro has done in this decade is to set an example in pure milk by municipal leadership that

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA An Alabama Verdict

What is the process by which North Carolina is enriching itself so rapidly that its recent history is attracting widespread comment? The Houston Post answers that question by saying:

A bale of cotton leaves us, and we distribute among producer, ginner, country merchant, tax collectors, railroads, factors and compressors about \$130.

"It comes back to us in products for which we pay from \$500 to \$5,000. We lose the difference between the \$130 and the sum we pay for finished products to others who do the work that could be done right here at home by people who have nothing to do."

Commenting upon the example of North Carolina, the Birmingham News says:

"This state offers to cotton mills the most attraction of any of the Southern states in the way of natural resources. Cotton must now be hauled long distances to supply Carolina mills; they use far more than the state can grow. Alabama cotton is going to Carolina to have that value between \$130 and \$5,000 added—and left in Carolina as profit.

"We have a great surplus of cotton and will have for many years. It can be delivered at mill platforms with no freight on it, and the grower can be beneficiary of a bettered price thereby. We have abundant and well distributed cheap hydropower. We have a fine class of native citizenry to work in these mills. One of the main reasons Eastern mills want to come south is to get away from the foreign element as operatives. They are bolshevistic, turbulent, excitable, and seem to prefer trouble to peaceful work."

No Southern state is naturally more inviting to cotton mill industry than Alabama. No other Southern state has the waterpower resources of Alabama.—Montgomery Advertiser.

has attracted attention not only in this State but abroad as well. Some years ago—three I think—far-seeing men of practical judgment established a municipal pasteurizing plant, and in improved health and every other way it has demonstrated its worth. No milk is sold in Tarboro except by the municipal pasteurizing plant. It buys the milk, pasteurizes it and it is taken to consumers by city delivery. The cows from which the milk is produced are regularly inspected and tuberculosis, once a great enemy, is now practically unknown in this county.

I recall talking about this movement with George Holderness some years ago, and he was enthusiastic about the new municipal undertaking. It has justified all he claimed for it then. Paul Jones, Senator, journalist, and farmer, tells me that the city is going to double the plant, standardized and stabilized, and that the Ladies' Home Journal and other publications in this and other countries have shown interest in this municipal plant. It is a far cry from the time when a city government consisted of a policeman and a guardhouse to the time when a city government concerns itself with the purity of the milk consumed by its children.

Health is the most profound concern of government in this day, and Tarboro has set the pace. "Before the municipal pasteurizing of milk," says Senator Jones, "we had frequent cases of colitis and typhoid. Now they are practically unknown where the city milk is used."—News and Observer.

I AM YOUR TOWN

Make me what you will—I shall reflect you as clearly as a mirror throws

back a candle beam.

If I am pleasing to the eye of the stranger within my gates; if I am such a sight as, having seen me, he will remember me all his days as a thing of beauty, the credit is yours.

Ambition and opportunity call some of my sons and daughters to high tasks and mighty privileges, to my greater honor and to my good repute in far places, but it is not chiefly these who are my strength. My strength is in those who remain, who are content with what I can offer them, and with what they can offer me. It was the greatest of all Romans who said: "Better be first in a little Iberian village than be second in Rome."

I am more than wood and brick and stone, more even than flesh and blood—I am the composite soul of all who call me Home.

I am your town.—Selected.

REFORMING THE PRIMARY

At the last regular meeting of the North Carolina Club papers were read by W. Barnette and L. H. Moore on Reforms of the Primary in North Carolina, and on Home and Farm Ownership.

Mr. Barnette's paper dealt with the evils of the present primary system and its reform. The present primary law is unsatisfactory and was much criticized, but not with the idea of returning to the convention system. It is very regrettable that North Carolina is one of the few communities in the world that tolerate a crooked ballot. There are ample opportunities for fraud and vote buying in our primary; mainly because there is no secrecy about the casting of the ballot. It is easy enough for a candidate, or some of his supporters, to mark a considerable number of ballots and give them to indifferent voters. Republicans can vote in the Democratic primary as well as the Democrats. There is no law to punish offenders in the primary and until this is changed, corruption will continue.

The remedy for the corrupt practices of the primary is the Short Ballot. The principle of the Short Ballot is: first, that only those offices should be elective which are important enough to attract and deserve public examination; and second, that very few offices should be filled at one time, so as to permit adequate public examination of the candidates, and make it possible for individuals to prepare their own ballots without the help of a professional politician.

The greatest evil the Short Ballot would abolish is the blind voting that exists everywhere in North Carolina; very few voters care how they vote except for the most important offices. No state has wholly adopted the Short Ballot, but most of them have shortened their ballot to some extent. To shorten the ballot small offices are either made appointive or are raised in importance so as to arouse interest in them. The leading men of America are in favor of establishing the Short Ballot.

There should also be some provision to insure secret voting, such as the Australian Ballot. To this there should be added some form of Corrupt Practices Act, to combat crooks. The primary should not be held so early in the year, because it makes the last lap of the race too long and involves too much expense. And lastly, there should be a law limiting a lawful expenditure for the candidates and committees.

If North Carolina is to keep pace with the other states of the Union she must remedy the defects of the present primary system.

Helping the Tenant

Mr. Moore's paper dealt with the evils and remedies of tenancy. The tenancy problem is much greater than formerly and has become a real menace. Almost two-thirds of all the farm tenants of the nation are in the southern states, and of this number the majority is found in the cotton and tobacco growing sections. Farm tenancy is not only a negro problem but it has become more and more a white man's problem until now there are more white tenants than negro.

Tenancy is detrimental to any state or country. Farms are exploited and robbed of their productiveness, and

farm equipment is demolished by tenants. As a result of the continual moving of the tenant the church and school suffer, but the children of the tenants suffer more. Illiteracy and non-church connection go hand in hand with tenancy. The evils growing out of tenancy are, industrial instability, irresponsible citizenship, and poverty. Tenants are ideal subjects for the spreading of Bolshevistic ideas, while home owners are responsible citizens. The negroes are settling and buying farms faster than the whites, and the standards of living are lowered because of the inferior mental qualities of the negro.

These evils of tenancy must be stopped and the most practical and most easily operated plans for relieving the situation are: state aid to farm ownership; a progressive land tax; an improved system of rural credits, a written contract between landlord and renter; the adoption of a crop lien reading in terms of food and feed crops as well as money crops; and the establishment of co-operative marketing associations—which should be joined by tenants.—W. S. Berryhill.

STATE MINDEDNESS

North Carolina is developing what The Spartanburg Herald calls "a sense of state, a pride of state." One unmistakable evidence that this evolution is going on is the decreasing volume of petty local business brought before our General Assembly. In contrast with this, The Herald says of South Carolina, "we have a convention of the representatives of 46 counties. Nine-tenths of the thought in Columbia is upon county affairs."

What this "sense of state" is accomplishing in its larger manifestations, The Columbia State has been telling its readers through special correspondence from Raleigh during the sessions of the General Assembly. Tarheel's 100 counties are learning not only to work together for big state objectives, but the rich and powerful counties accept it as right and just that they should, for the general welfare, help bear the burdens of the weaker counties. The following from The State describes the Tarheel political psychology which the progressive South Carolina newspapers are trying to teach to their readers:

"The outstanding and the first thing that I observe in North Carolina is that the ancient notion that the rich district has nothing to do with the poor district is utterly vanished, and I am sure that the representatives from Forsyth, Mecklenburg, or Guilford counties, in which are situated Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Greensboro, would be ashamed to suggest that their constituents should not be taxed for a road through one of the piney woods counties of the East or mountain counties of the West. The big achievement in North Carolina has been the gaining of a commonwealth feeling, and the state highway system is both a symbol and the realization of it. In South Carolina we are much more behind this commonwealth in this respect than we are behind it in wealth, resources, and population."

So long as North Carolina pursues such a policy in making life more filled with better opportunities for the average man we shall go forward and arouse among sister states the aspiration to follow our example. Does this mean that North Carolinians are discarding the robust individualism, the devotion to local self-government, for which they have always been noted? By no means. But it does signify to all who are interested in the building of great states that self-reliance and antipathy for absolutist government, either in a state or a national capital, are not incompatible with common effort for the attainment of those things that affect the lives of all the people of a commonwealth.—Asheville Citizen.