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**NEWS LETTER**

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**WHITE FARMER RATIOS**

**STATE AID TO FARMERS**

Several members of the Farm Loan Commission appointed by the General Assembly of 1923 will probably go to Oklahoma and North and South Dakota to study state-aid projects now on foot in those states and one member of the commission will make extensive investigations in Europe, it was decided at the initial meeting of the commission in Raleigh on March 16.

The commission organized by the election of Senator D. F. Giles, of McDowell, as chairman, and representative R. M. Cox, of Forsyth, as secretary. R. C. Chappell, of Raleigh, was appointed clerk to the committee. Dr. E. C. Branson was appointed publicity director, but will be in Europe for the next year and during that time the publicity will be handled by Dr. C. C. Taylor. The full commission is composed of Senator D. F. Giles, of McDowell, and Charles U. Harris, of Wake; Representatives W. H. S. Burgwyn, of Northampton; R. M. Cox, of Forsyth; and T. L. Gwynn, of Haywood; Dr. E. C. Branson, of the University of North Carolina; and Dr. C. C. Taylor, of State College. Prof. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the University, is serving in Dr. Branson's place during his absence abroad.

The commission was appointed after defeat of the Giles bill, which provided for a bond issue of \$2,500,000 for farm aid. The original bill called for aid of the individual tenant, but a substitute was later offered embodying a plan of farm colonies and a committee from the General Assembly was sent to Wilmington to inspect the Castle Hayne development, constructed by Hugh MacRae.

The amount of the bond issue proposed in the Giles bill was successively reduced to \$1,500,000 before defeat of the measure and Senator Giles stated yesterday that in his opinion the commission will recommend an even smaller sum, to be divided into four or five settlements, with a combination of the plan for aid to the individual tenant farmer.

**Investigation Plan**

The commission yesterday adopted a comprehensive plan of investigation which was divided into four divisions, the study of land settlement in foreign countries, in the United States, land settlement policies of the several states, and land development in North Carolina. The report to be made to the General Assembly will contain an analysis of conditions of tenants and croppers in North Carolina and recommendations for state-aid to tenants and croppers.

The study of conditions in other countries will be made by Dr. Branson who will leave next Saturday for a year's stay in Holland, Denmark, and South Germany, where he will study land settlements in those countries, the reasons for undertaking the same, their practical operation and the extent to which the various governments have participated.

The study of the various federal land projects in this country from the time of the disposal of the public domain down to and including the present system of federal farm loans will be made by Dr. Taylor.

Group settlement projects in California and other states will be studied by correspondence but members of the committee plan to visit in person the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Oklahoma, where plans similar to that embodied in the original Giles bill are now in operation. If assurance can be obtained from the various states that the investigations can be made under favorable conditions the members of the commission will probably visit the three western states in June of this year.

Present conditions in North Carolina, and public and private attempts to solve the problem of the tenant and the cropper, will be studied by the full committee, while the Agricultural Extension service will be asked to gather figures on the number of applications that will probably be made by tenants in the state.

**STATE AGRICULTURALLY**

From other states comes the news that this state is making rapid and enviable strides in every way. In road building we are known afar. Educationally the Tar Heel State has passed several others in the past decade. In our industrial and commercial activity we may take pride.

Agriculturally North Carolina ranks fifth in total crop values (\$342,637,000), and twenty-third in livestock (\$87,000,000). In the total of \$430,000,000, representing approximately last year's agricultural production, this state ranks twelfth. Of course cotton and tobacco are largely responsible for the large crop value, and the economic shortage of our much needed livestock pulls our rank down considerably. Half of the other states have more improved land than has North Carolina.

**The Farmer's Handicap**

Because farmers are not organized, unlike other prospering industries, their products were the first to decline and the last to rise in value. This was not altogether the fault of the purchasers, but rather the lack of standardization in quality and packages and of proper distribution of the farm products.

The farmer by virtue of his isolation, physically exhausting work, lack of finances and a suspicious nature, has become an individualistic problem. He neither mixes nor tries to learn of the other fellow's problems, nor does he want others to meddle with his affairs. This results in his knowing little about the prevailing markets or of the benefits of organized efforts. He listens more readily to the weaknesses, abuses and failures of farmers' endeavors than he does to the benefits to be gained by organized production and by standardized marketing.

**The Economic Problem**

Is the farmer a business man? Yes he is, but he doesn't conduct his affairs according to proven modern business methods. He can and should do this. On January 30th at Greensboro, and at Salisbury on the 31st, the Crop Reporters' Association held local meetings, at which organized business authorities led round table discussions. It was admitted that no business would succeed if conducted as farmers do their work. They declared that it is necessary for them to study the statistics of production, marketing, and stocks on hand of their raw and finished products, in order that they may buy, produce, and sell profitably. It is necessary also that they know the cost of their operations in order to determine the profit or loss from their work.

It is because they have produced at a margin of profit found by stabilized previous methods, that they can be assured of the safety of future production. Farmers must accomplish this result by employing modern business and economic methods. Cooperation, combination and business methods are necessary.

It is true that the past three years have netted the farmer less than nothing. He only lived at the expense of his family, buildings, equipment, capital, and standard of living.—Farm Forecaster.

**FARMERS' HOME MARKETS**

Down in Georgia the farmers are studying the possibilities of the home market as a means of relief from high transportation rates to the big markets of the country. It may be a long time before freight rates can be equitably adjusted, but the farmer cannot wait indefinitely for profitable production. Therefore the farmers of Clayton county, Georgia, Buncombe county, North Carolina, and of every other American county, are thinking along the lines suggested by The Clayton County News as follows:

"Neither the foreign situation nor the high freight rates that now prevail need concern him greatly; if he will adjust himself to the needs of the consuming population the high transportation costs may serve him as a protective tariff. No one can come into this market without paying the prevailing

**KNOW NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Virginia Salutes Us**

The story is told of a man who, being asked where he came from, replied, "From the vale of humiliation, North Carolina, which lies between those two mountains of conceit, Virginia and South Carolina." There was rivalry enough between North Carolina and each of her two neighbors to afford a basis for the epigram. They still contend over which of them did more for the South in the Civil War. North Carolina has condensed her claims into a sentence: "First at Manassas, furthest at Gettysburg, last at Appomattox." It is somewhat surprising, therefore, to read in a newspaper published in Virginia this tribute to North Carolina: "The simple fact is that North Carolina is so far ahead of Virginia in almost everything except shrines of Colonial, Revolutionary, and Civil War history that the two states are, as our friendly enemies the English put it, not in the same street."

What is the reason for this disparity? Answering its own question, the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch explains that North Carolina has got away from the old tradition that still holds Virginia in its grasp, the tradition that the well-to-do must not be "punished" by the imposition of taxes for the advancement of the masses. Hence the outcry against a bond issue for good roads, for instance. The late Walter H. Page once said that it was a misfortune for North Carolina that the quarrel with George III happened to turn on the question of taxation — it instilled so great a dread of all taxes. But North Carolina has succeeded in overcoming her dread of taxes to such an extent as to make Virginians "ashamed, when we are conscious of it, of North Carolina's infinitely superior roads, of her considerably superior schools, of her three times as great contribution to her state university." This is doing pretty well for a state which only a few years ago was near the bottom of the list in education.—News and Observer.

freight rates. All of our produce can reach the consumer over good roads with motor trucks. The automobile is one of the few things which may be bought cheaper now than in pre-war days. On the other hand the cost of rail labor and of fuel is much higher than in pre-war days. The grower of potatoes last year found the national market overcrowded, yet the grower of early potatoes received \$4.00 a bushel." Through their co-operative associations the farmers are learning that they can teach the home market dealers to look to them for supplies that have been coming from other states. The surplus for long-distance shipment and the cash crop of cotton or tobacco need not be neglected, but good roads and motor trucks offer a solution for a problem that has long puzzled the man of the farm.

The Buncombe County Farmers' Federation has laid the foundations of an agricultural prosperity that should in a few years astonish the most sanguine promoters of the Federations. Here climate and soil encourage diversification of products; the tourist industry and the growth of Western North Carolina's industrial population are creating a steady demand for food commodities that can be grown here as cheaply as elsewhere.

There are still doubters who say that there never has been any money in Western North Carolina agriculture and never will be. But that conclusion is based on a system of farming that is disappearing. The farm of tomorrow in this section will be a well managed

business proposition, supplying its managers and employes with most of their food and feed and pooling its surplus grain, potatoes, dairy products, livestock and poultry for large-scale marketing. What the Federations are doing in Buncombe and adjoining counties is unquestionably one of the most important developments made in twenty years for the improvement of agriculture, and therefore for the betterment of every other interest in this part of the state.—Asheville Citizen.

**LIVE-AT-HOME**

The "Live-at-home" program fostered by the Extension Service of the State College and Department of Agriculture has made a good start. Nearly 200,000 blank forms have been mailed out to school teachers in the state from Director Kilgore's office and these forms were distributed through school children in rural schools or at meetings held at the different school houses in the state. These forms, accompanied by a letter from Director Kilgore, call attention to the necessity for living at home this year and give a list of ten things which should be done on the farm this year to make the owner independent of having to buy food and feedstuffs. Governor Cameron Morrison has backed the program and State Superintendent of Education E. C. Brooks has given it his hearty approval and support. Many of the blanks have been signed by farmers and their wives and have been returned to the extension office. A pass mark of 70, that is, if seven of the ten things

are faithfully performed during the year, will entitle a farmer to a certificate of honor signed by the Governor, the Director of Extension, and the Superintendent of Education.

Here are the ten things the farmers are asked to try to do:

1. To raise enough corn and hay to carry me through 1924.
2. To raise enough meat to supply my family this year.
3. To have a 12-months-in-the-year garden.
4. To provide milk and butter for my family the whole year through.
5. To keep an average of at least 30 hens on my farm the year through.
6. To improve my orchard this year by setting out some apple, peach, pear, cherry or pecan trees, and to plant some small fruits and berries.
7. To work for richer lands by planting velvet beans, soybeans, or cowpeas in at least half of my corn; and clover, rye, oats, or vetch, with or after half my other crops.
8. To enroll one or more of my children in club work—pig club, corn club, poultry club, home economics clubs, etc.
9. To add some home convenience such as running water, electric lights, washing machine, oil stove, kitchen cabinet and other things that will lessen the burden of housekeeping.
10. To beautify my homestead by painting my house or making base-planting of shrubs about the house to furnish a proper setting; and to plant flowering trees such as Crepe Myrtle, Mimosa, Dogwood tree; or planting a lawn, etc.

**WHITE FARM OPERATORS**  
**In North Carolina in 1920**

Based on the 1920 Census of Agriculture, covering (1) the total number of farms operated by native white farmers, (2) divided by the total number of farms.

In Madison county 99.9 percent of all farms are operated by native white farmers. In Halifax, a former slave county, only 29.3 percent of the farms are occupied by whites; of the remainder almost all are operated by negroes. State average, 72.4 percent of all farmers are native white.

The bulk of the negro population is concentrated east of Raleigh, in the cotton and tobacco growing counties. The further west one goes the whiter the population becomes. The east is gaining in negro-farmer ratio, while nearly every county west of Wake is gaining in white-farmer ratio. The negroes are concentrating in the cash-crop, farm-tenant area in North Carolina.

W. L. Whedbee, Pitt County  
 Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	Counties	Percent White	Rank	Counties	Percent White
1	Madison	99.9	51	Onslow	73.7
1	Mitchell	99.9	51	Gaston	73.7
3	Haywood	99.5	51	Lee	73.7
4	Yancey	99.4	54	Pamlico	72.0
5	Dare	98.8	55	Orange	71.7
6	Watauga	98.6	56	Currituck	70.7
7	Macon	98.1	57	Chatham	69.6
7	Avery	98.1	58	Beaufort	69.5
9	Transylvania	97.7	59	Durham	69.1
10	Clay	97.5	60	Duplin	68.7
11	Ashe	97.3	61	Sampson	68.5
12	Buncombe	96.8	62	Hyde	67.4
13	Graham	96.3	63	Camden	66.6
14	Caldwell	96.2	64	Washington	65.9
14	Alleghany	96.2	65	Cherokee	65.2
16	Henderson	95.9	66	Chowan	62.4
17	Wilkes	95.0	67	Mecklenburg	61.9
18	Yadkin	94.5	68	Bladen	61.8
19	Surry	94.6	69	Wake	61.3
20	Alexander	94.1	70	Cumberland	60.5
21	Davidson	93.3	71	Martin	60.4
22	McDowell	93.0	72	Wayne	60.3
23	Stanly	92.3	73	Person	59.8
24	Catawba	92.2	74	Wilson	59.5
24	Randolph	92.2	75	New Hanover	59.4
26	Jackson	92.1	76	Nash	58.8
27	Carteret	91.8	77	Perquimans	58.7
28	Stokes	91.6	78	Franklin	58.4
29	Forsyth	90.9	79	Pasquotank	58.1
30	Lincoln	90.4	80	Gates	58.0
31	Burke	90.3	81	Jones	57.8
32	Swain	88.0	82	Pender	56.3
33	Davie	87.1	83	Caswell	55.9
34	Polk	86.4	84	Lenoir	55.7
35	Rowan	85.6	85	Granville	55.2
36	Rutherford	84.8	86	Craven	54.9
37	Cleveland	84.1	87	Greene	50.5
38	Guilford	83.0	88	Vance	49.9
38	Iredell	83.0	89	Pitt	49.3
40	Johnston	80.9	90	Anson	45.6
41	Moore	78.1	91	Richmond	44.8
42	Tyrrell	77.9	92	Robeson	44.1
43	Montgomery	77.4	93	Northampton	43.2
43	Cabarrus	77.4	94	Bertie	42.8
45	Union	77.3	95	Hertford	41.6
46	Brunswick	76.8	96	Hoke	41.4
47	Columbus	76.7	97	Edgecombe	38.2
48	Rockingham	76.1	98	Scotland	33.0
49	Alamance	75.2	99	Warren	32.5
50	Harnett	75.1	100	Halifax	29.3