

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.

JULY 11, 1923

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. IX, NO. 34

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

BANK CAPITAL IN THE U. S.

II—NEWS FROM ABROAD

We are quartered in Stuttgart for ten days or so, the capital of Wurtemberg, a German state that lies along the Swiss border, as Polk and Rutherford counties in North Carolina lie along the foothills of the Blue Ridge. We are directly south of Hamburg and fourteen hours distant from it by fast train. Our route skirted the occupied area all the way along, and we came as the crow flies.

Riding on the Rail

The German trains are fewer of late but there are no signs of disordered service. We left Hamburg on the minute, changed cars twice on the minute, no train late by so much as a minute at any junction point, and we arrived in Stuttgart on the minute. It may not be so every day everywhere in Germany, but in these notes I am recording exactly what falls under my eye from day to day.

We found that travel in a second-class car in Germany is less luxurious than Pullman car service at home, but distinctly better than first-class day coaches on any road I know the United States over. Our compartment companions were Germans and two Hungarians of manifest wealth and culture. Nearly all of them spoke English of a sort, enough to be pleasantly chatty and helpful when we needed to change trains. One was a German steel manufacturer in the occupied territory, a gentleman of perhaps seventy, gentle and genial in face and manner—a most charming personality. He sat quietly reading in his corner until he discovered our perplexity about trains at the next junction point, then he told us that he too was bound for Stuttgart, most graciously took charge of us, changed cars with us and escorted us to our hotel.

German Courtesies

We have had nothing but courtesies in Germany from everybody everywhere. If the Germans harbor a grudge against America we have not yet discovered it. True, they think that all Americans are rich. Have they not the Dollar, they say—Edel valuta, they call it, perhaps in contrast with their own fallen mark. But neither in hotels nor stores do they charge us excessive prices. But then, Stuttgart is not a center of tourist travel and it is not infected with the tricks of tourist trade.

The effusive greetings and responses, the hat-tipping and the bowing among acquaintances on the streets and in the hotels are impressive and engaging. It is merely the immemorial custom of these people among themselves, and we merely share these courtesies with all the Stuttgartners of high estate and low. But there is no discoverable trace of servility or snobbery. There is no flunkeyism in hotels, streets, or stores, and no attempt in word or manner to hold us up for tips.

Tips and Hotel Charges

Along with the natives we are taxed thirty percent on hotel rooms, fifteen percent for service, and ten percent on food checks, but beyond these charges no gratuities are expected, and none are offered by general custom, except for special personal services. No tipping is not only the law but the habit of Stuttgart. There are exceptions, of course, but they are fairly rare in Wurtemberg. Our bill for twelve days in the Marquardt hotel, the best hotel in South Germany, was \$31.00 for the three of us; \$37.50 was the room charge alone for one for ten days in the St. James hotel in New York. Some difference that.

A Busy People

The day-trip south from Hamburg gave us a car-window look at Western Germany bordering the area occupied by the French. The way along the road is thickly set with towns and cities. Almost without exception they are manufacturing centers, and apparently none are idle. But whether the town be large or small, industrial or not, the soil is cultivated right up to the factory walls. Almost every square inch shows vegetables, fruits, or flow-

ers. Always the crops of the open fields reach the railroad right-of-way, sometimes even the right-of-way is itself under cultivation, and occasionally the spaces between the tracks in the station yards. It is no exaggeration to say that a single wheelbarrow would contain all the weeds we saw in our fourteen-hour trip. The grain fields, orchards, and vineyards are as trim and trim as Collier Cobb's front yard. In the late evening hours after the long work day, the factory workers with their wives and children are busy gardening. Not all of them, to be sure, but enough of them to indicate the ingrained habits of toil in Germany. The signs of tireless industry are on every hand. Nobody is idle, everybody works. Nobody is in a hurry but soldiering on a job is apparently a lost art among these wage-earners. What we look upon all day long is a moving spectacle of unrelenting, unrelenting toil. Existence necessities must be satisfied, no matter what capers the mark may cut.

Farm Villages

I note from the car window that farm villages—what the Germans call dorfer—are set thick in the landscape a mile or two apart in all directions. They are groups of substantial farm buildings with terra cotta tile roofs. The gleaming red of the house-tops gives them the fresh appearance of new construction, although they may be four or five centuries old, as many of them are. They look at a distance like little towns of from fifty to five hundred homes. Commonly they are off the railroads. They are self-sustaining and nearly self-sufficing little farm communities. Everybody in these little villages is a farmer, and the village farms of from ten to twenty acres lie in small patches in various directions in the immediate vicinity. In the early morning and evening hours the men, women, and children can be seen tramping out to their fields and back again—long processions of farm workers, as I see them from the car window.

Country-Life Contrasts

I shall be making special studies of these farm communities during the next six weeks. In South and Central Germany there are 1,200,000 of these small home-owning farmers, dwelling in compact social groups, not in solitary farmsteads a few to the square mile in vast open spaces as in North Carolina, in the United States everywhere, and in the Western World in general. It is lonesomeness alone that accounts for much of the cityward drift of country people in America. It is the social life of home-owning farmers in farm villages that will save the country life of Europe from falling into the decay that threatens America. The country civilization of North Carolina and the Nation is slated for destruction in the next generation or two unless farm life in communities or colonies can begin a rapid development.

Helpful Friends

During the next month or so we shall be guests of Baron von Der Lippe, in the Schlossgut Engelburg, which crowns an eminence overlooking the little farm village of Winterbach; twenty miles east of Stuttgart. A companion guest is the charming wife of Professor Herman Staab, a distinguished member of the faculty of Romance Languages at the University of North Carolina. Their names are an open sesame to everything in Wurtemberg, Baden, and South Germany in general.

Prospective Studies

It is not the industries and commerce of the large cities, the public buildings and parks, the monuments and art treasures, with which I shall be occupied during this student year in Europe. They are most impressive and most significant. But before I get out into countryside Germany, I shall be drawing a thumbnail sketch of city life in Germany as I have seen it in Stuttgart during the last ten days. With this brief account of an important business center of 400,000 inhabitants—perhaps in my next letter—I shall be giving my attention in the main to the fields and farms of Southern Germany, for here

INDIFFERENCE

The besetting sin of the average American citizen today is indifference. He is to such a large extent absorbed in his own work of making a living and promoting the interests of his own firm, that he ceases to realize his greater and graver responsibilities to the Nation as a whole. Many people are indifferent to the National aspects of business, and to the elimination of those dangerous barnacles which attach themselves to business. If every citizen were to take a direct and vital interest in his government—National, State, or Municipal; participate in the selection of his representatives; keep close watch on legislation; know the actions of his representatives; and exercise his privilege of criticizing or commending these representatives, we would have a very much better government.—Seymour L. Cromwell.

is the source of primary wealth upon which these people must rely in the struggle to regain their place and rank in the business world—the source of raw materials for existence necessities and for manufactured commodities of all sorts.

What will Germany do with the sources of raw materials that are left to her at home? It is a fundamental question, for final economic values lie in material commodities and exportable surpluses, not in marks, bonds, stocks, notes and mortgages, but in lands, buildings, factories, machinery, and consumers' goods stored in warehouses, stores, and cellars. For instance, the man who turned Confederate money into cotton in the South during the War Between the States was leagues ahead of the man who turned his cotton into Confederate money.

As things now are, who steals a German purse steals trash, and even less than trash in the days ahead, or I miss my guess.—E. C. Branson, Stuttgart, April 26.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

A recent addition to the statistical file of the chamber of commerce in Durham is the binding and indexing of the University of North Carolina News Letter. The News Letter is one of the most valuable newspaper sheets in the state. It appears weekly and contains, on a single sheet for ready reference, statistics of practically every nature pertaining to the state of North Carolina. It is published for the good of the Old North State. It has as its goal the education of North Carolinians as to the value and resources of the state in which they live. Much of the success already achieved can be measured by the state's steady progress.

The chamber of commerce has taken these weekly sheets and put them in a binder. An index has been so prepared that almost any question that might arise concerning state statistics can be readily referred to, and the reference will be authentic.

Durham county ranks seventeenth in the number of people per automobile in the state. There are 3,751 automobiles, or one car to every 11.8 inhabitants. Guilford county leads with one car to every 7.9 inhabitants and Graham county is last with one to every 169.4.

Divorce statistics show that, with the exception of South Carolina, where no divorces are granted, and the District of Columbia, the state of North Carolina leads the Union. There is one divorce in North Carolina to every 39.14 marriages. In Florida there is one divorce to every 8.73 marriages and in Nevada the ratio is one to about one and a half.

In the ratio of white farm operators Durham county ranks 59th in the state with 69.1 percent. Madison county leads with 99.9 percent white and Halifax is last with 29.3.

North Carolina ranks way down in the Union in native-born white illiterates ten years old and over. Its percent is 8.2. Louisiana and New Mexico are the only two states with a worse

showing in 1920.

In livestock values per farm North Carolina ranks 47th in the United States. Durham county ranks 90th in the state.

In personal property per inhabitant Durham county leads the state, with a value of \$1,480 per person. Forsyth is second with \$745 and Macon is last with \$33.

There are countless other statistical references that are open to the public. There are interesting sidelights and statistics on road advertising, Americanism, county audits, bonded indebtedness, boll weevil, industries, churches, markets, co-education, farm tenancy and ownership, highway construction, labor, murders, negro migration, public welfare, bank savings, taxes, and many other items concerning which the public should have full information if they intend to "Know Their State."—Durham Herald.

V—FERTILIZER INDUSTRY

The farmers of North Carolina, who yearly fertilize their cotton, corn, wheat, and tobacco fields, have very little idea of the magnitude of the industry in the state which furnishes them their crop foods. Do they know what a tremendous amount of money is invested in fertilizer manufacture and what sums of money the industry represents in the state?

The entire fertilizer manufacturing industry of North Carolina entails an investment of approximately \$79,750,000; an estimated plant valuation of \$39,700,000; and a yearly production value of \$31,850,000. Eighteen hundred and fifty men obtain employment in this industry on an annual payroll of \$1,900,000.

The fertilizer industry in North Carolina was started by the Navassa Guano Company at Wilmington and Selma in 1869; the next operations started at New Bern in 1890 when two more fertilizer plants were erected. Then started an expansion and extension of the industry throughout the state as follows: in 1900 there were fifteen plants; in 1910, nineteen; in 1918, twenty-seven; while an increase to fifty-seven resulted by the end of 1922.

The largest single corporation in the fertilizer business in North Carolina is the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, which in 1893 established nine plants with a capital of \$48,000,000. These plants are located at Charlotte, Durham, New Bern, Raleigh, Salisbury, Wadesboro, Wilmington, Washington, and Winston-Salem.

The fertilizer manufacturing industry is divided into superphosphate, fish scrap, and mixed fertilizer production. There are, fourteen superphosphate plants scattered throughout the state

making acid phosphate by mixing proper proportions of sulfuric acid with ground "Tennessee Rock" or "Florida Pebble" phosphate rock. Because of the handling of gases, acids, and chemicals, the control and operation of such plants is placed in the hands of men trained especially in the fundamentals and applications of chemistry and engineering. The fish scrap industry centers around Beaufort and Wilmington, there being ten such factories. This type of fertilizer is produced by drying the wet fish pulp from which the fish oil has been cooked and expressed, or, if the season does not permit, the wet scrap is treated with sulfuric acid for the production of acid scrap. The mixed fertilizer plants produce fertilizer according to definitely described formulas for the trade, using cottonseed meal, linters, guano, superphosphate, and other fertilizer foods purchased on the market.—G. H. Leonard, Division of Industrial Chemistry, University of North Carolina.

THE FARM PROGRAM

Two thousand two hundred North Carolina farmers have signed a pledge to adhere strictly to certain fundamental things in successful farming in 1923.

Ten provisions are enumerated and these ten provisions make a mighty fine schedule for almost any farmer anywhere to follow. They are:

1. Raise enough corn and hay to carry me through 1924.
2. Raise enough meat to supply my family this year.
3. Have a twelve-months-in-the-year garden.
4. Provide milk and butter for family the whole year.
5. Keep an average of thirty hens on the farm.
6. Improve orchard by setting out trees and berries.
7. Plant legumes and other soil-enriching crops.
8. Enroll at least one child in club work.
9. Add some home convenience.
10. Beautify the homestead.

This is a good program. It was drawn up by a man who knows farming and who thinks. There is probably no community in the south where the same program if carried out would not prove profitable. If the 2,200 North Carolina farmers who have signed the agreement will live up to it they will be far ahead of their less far-sighted neighbors in a few years.—Gastonia Gazette.

BANK CAPITAL PER INHABITANT

In the United States, December 4, 1922.

Based on Report of the Comptroller of the Currency of December 4, 1922, covering (1) the total capital and surplus in all banks, national, state, private, and loan and trust companies, (2) divided by the total population of each state. United States average \$50.91; North Carolina average \$20.60 per inhabitant.

C. E. Williams, Johnston County

Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	State	Bank Capital Per Inhab.	Rank	State	Bank Capital Per Inhab.
1	New York	\$120.5	25	Utah	\$37.7
2	Pennsylvania	76.0	26	Virginia	37.2
3	Massachusetts	68.8	27	Colorado	37.0
4	California	66.4	28	Oregon	36.7
5	Delaware	64.4	29	Indiana	36.6
6	Illinois	67.4	30	Maine	34.9
7	Rhode Island	66.8	31	Texas	34.3
8	Nevada	55.9	32	West Virginia	34.0
9	Connecticut	54.5	33	Wisconsin	30.9
10	Maryland	63.5	34	Washington	29.0
11	Vermont	52.5	35	Idaho	28.6
12	Iowa	51.9	36	Louisiana	26.6
13	Missouri	51.4	37	Kentucky	26.1
14	Wyoming	49.8	38	Georgia	25.9
15	Nebraska	45.7	39	Arizona	25.7
16	Ohio	46.6	40	Florida	25.5
16	Montana	45.6	41	Tennessee	25.3
18	Minnesota	45.3	42	South Carolina	24.7
19	New Hampshire	44.8	43	New Mexico	23.7
20	South Dakota	40.7	44	Oklahoma	23.6
21	New Jersey	40.0	45	North Carolina	20.6
22	Kansas	39.5	46	Arkansas	18.4
23	North Dakota	39.0	47	Alabama	16.1
24	Michigan	37.9	48	Mississippi	14.3