

FARM PRODUCTS PER FARM

IV—A COUNTRY ESTATE IN WURTEMBERG

Schlossgut Engelberg where we are lodged for a month or so gives me a chance to study a score or more of nearby farm villages and hamlets, what the Germans call *dorfer* and *weiler*—such a chance as few American students of rural economy have ever had. But before my pen gets busy with the small, home-owning farmers huddled together in compact communities, I want to sketch the Castle Engelberg and farm life on an estate of 250 acres, which is a rarely large estate in this end of Germany.

A Medieval Castle

The castle sits on a projecting shoulder of the low mountain range that flanks the Rems valley on the south. It is some 600 feet above Winterbach, a typical farm village, sixteen miles east of Stuttgart on the railway to Nuremberg. The foundations of the castle are those of a nunnery a thousand years old. The nunnery with the monastery on a neighboring eminence was destroyed in the Thirty Years War. The ancient nunnery cellars are two and in places three stories deep. Altogether they have a floor space of nearly an acre. They are in good condition and are now used to house the root crops and fruits, the cider presses, the winery and distillery, and the cider, wines, and brandies of the farm season. The barrels of these cellars contain 60,000 gallons in an average year and 50,000 gallons are consumed by the work-people of the estate. They are fourteen in number and each must have his litre a day, which is about an American quart. In the mid-summer and harvest season, he must have his three or four litres. It is so nominated in the bond, and no cider or wine means no hired help on a farm estate in South Germany. The farm foreman is a giant from the neighboring Black Forest of the Swabian Alps. On yesterday he got away with four litres of most or strong hard cider. He has a voice like the Bull of Bashan and judging from the roar of it he enjoyed himself immensely. Trying to cool off, he said.

Counting the cellar floors below and the attic rooms above, the castle is six stories tall. It is a rectangular building of sandstone walls with heavy open-wood work above. The high-pitched roof is covered with weather-stained terra cotta tiles. Eighteen dormer windows are set into the roof and on one end of it is a picturesque canopy that shelters the bells and chimes of the mighty clock below. The date on the sun dial set against the castle wall is 1698. Which means that Engelberg was being rebuilt while the first settlers on Durant's Neck in North Carolina were spanking the first generation of Tar Heels.

Modern Conveniences

Water from a mountain spring is piped by gravity flow into the kitchen quarters, laundry rooms, and bath-rooms of the castle. The water supply is sufficiently abundant for all the farm buildings, the terrace fountains, and the little lake on the lowest level of the castle yard.

A telephone connects the castle with the outside world. Electricity lights all the buildings, and operates all the barn machinery. The three big barns within the walls of the old nunnery have a floor space of nearly an acre. It is all needed for the carriage and work horses, the big Switzer oxen and dairy cows, the grain, hay, and forage crops, wagons of every size and type, carriages, dog-carts, and sleighs, and farm machinery, more than I ever expected to see on a 250-acre farm in Europe.

The castle yard is parked on six terrace levels with shade trees and flowering shrubs, grass plots and flower-beds, and, after the German fashion, with fruit trees, grape vines and vegetables; with fountains, a tennis court, a summer house, and seats wherever the views of the valley below and the mountains beyond are loveliest.

Safe Farming

Like all the farms of every size in Germany, Engelberg is given first of

all to grain crops, hay and forage, fruits and vegetables, for every farm must feed the farm animals and the farm family, and then to the money-crop, which in Wurtemberg is wine and brandy, mostly wine. These are the abc's of a safe agriculture, which the farmers of Europe learned long centuries ago.

Well-kept Forests

The estate begins half way up the mountain slopes and runs back over the crest at various angles into the State Forest. The State Forests, I may say in passing, occupy thousands of miles of mountain land in South Germany, and these wooded areas are as carefully cultivated as the fields of the farmers themselves. Nothing looks neglected anywhere. From the terrace seats of the castle yard, we look out upon miles of forest, fields, and farms. What we see in every direction is a panorama of perfection. So it is at Engelberg, and so it was every inch of the way on our sixty-mile trip up the Neckar valley on yesterday to Tubingen, the ancient university town seated at the foot of the Swabian Alps.

Hohenstaufen Schloss

It was out of the Swabian Alps, the reader may remember, that the strong men came who ruled Germany for the last eight centuries—the Hohenstaufens and the Hohenzollerns. The ridge road a little way above the castle affords a clear view of the Hohenstaufen Schloss, a huge fortress on a solitary peak sixty miles south. It looks as indestructible as the everlasting hills. The ancestral stronghold of the Hohenzollerns presents the same appearance in the Swabian mountains near Tubingen. The castle dens remain, but the supermen they littered are vanished. Such is the useless lament that I have heard oftener than once in Germany.

A Cosmopolitan Farmer

Our hosts in the Castle Engelberg speak English and know America. The Baroness von Der Lippe has many friends and acquaintances among the Georgians we used to know. The Baron is a cosmopolitan at home in many lands, a lover of books and children, dogs and horses, a famous horseman, a crack steeplechase rider with quite a hundred trophies won in open-field contests in many countries, a veteran of three wars, with wounds and broken bones from head to toe, but nevertheless he stands trimly erect, lithe and alert—a gallant figure of radiant, indestructible youth and buoyancy. Bred to war, he is by nature a lover of fields and forests and farm animals. There is no mistaking his genuine interest in every detail of life and business on his farm estate. In the new social order in Germany, he is contentedly a farmer—a farmer of the sort that every country needs in multiplied millions—a farmer who is putting culture into agriculture and getting out of it a life of abundant satisfaction.—E. C. Branson, May 8, 1923.

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS

Measured in terms of total value of farm products North Carolina holds a respectable place among the states of the Union. In 1922 the total value of all farm crops and animal products produced in the state amounted to \$423,100,000 and we ranked fifteenth among the states of the Union. The total value of all crops was 361 million dollars and only four states were ahead of us in the production of crop wealth. But we must learn in North Carolina that agriculture is not wholly a matter of crops. In several states the value of animal products is more than the value of all crops grown. It is due to our unbelievably low rank in the production of animal products that North Carolina takes only fifteenth place in the total production of agricultural wealth. The prevailing opinion that we are the fifth agricultural state is far from the truth. In the total annual production of animal products North Carolina ranks twenty-first, or so in 1922.

GRAHAM MEMORIAL

According to an announcement recently made by the Graham Memorial Committee of the University of North Carolina, plans have been perfected for the completion of the campaign for funds for the building during the summer, and twenty representatives of the student body and alumni are now at work throughout the state in the interests of the movement.

Purpose of the Building

The purpose of the building is to provide a student activities center for the use of the student body and at the same time do honor to the memory of Edward Kidder Graham, President of the University from 1914 to 1918. Subscriptions are being sought for it in recognition of the fact that if men are to be trained for effective participation in modern community life they must have the proper setting for it—in this instance an adequate, well planned, student activities building.

The need of such a building cannot be overstated. The present Y, built in 1904 when the student body numbered 500, is hopelessly inadequate for the 2,250 students to be enrolled in September. It is as badly outgrown as the dormitories or the dining facilities were in 1920 when students slept in three-deck beds and ate in shifts. Furthermore, the student organizations have increased more rapidly than the student body, and have no place in which they can be carried on systematically and satisfactorily.

Location and Plans

The building, which will be of the late Georgian style of architecture, brick with limestone trimmings, will be located on the old Inn site. It will face west across the campus towards the Battle-Vance-Pettigrew dormitories, with north and south extensions facing respectively Franklin Street and the walkway between the Inn and Alumni building. The main entrance from the campus will be through a spacious portico, into a large social room, 40 by 80 feet, on the first floor, capable of being used for a variety of purposes such as class and alumni banquets, meetings of the larger clubs, group singing, and other general get-together activities. It will also give direct access to stairways leading up and down, coat rooms, administrative office, serving room, and ladies' reception room. The basement will contain toilets, a barber shop, storage space, a large cafeteria, and a well-equipped kitchen connected with the first and second floors with a system of dumb waiters. The floor above the social room will be divided into fifteen rooms of varying sizes, which can be connected with folding doors, and will be used exclusively for student activities. The north and south extensions will provide quarters for musical clubs, college publications, the student council, county clubs, the athletic association, and similar organizations.

Cost of Building

In 1918, when the building was first proposed, the student body numbered 1,000, building prices were lower, and the present building reorganization of the University was three years in the future. One hundred fifty thousand dollars was the objective set, of which \$123,000 was subscribed, and \$80,000 has been collected. To meet present requirements \$400,000 will be required and subscriptions are being asked for on that basis, construction of the central unit to be begun as soon as subscriptions and collections justify letting the contract.

In the more distant future, it will be possible to extend the building to the east. Ample space remains on the plot for the purpose and the architects have drawn the plans so that extension can be made in complete harmony with the plans of the building itself and the general scheme of campus development.

Totals Vs. Per Farm

There is a vast amount of difference between total values produced by the entire state and values produced per farm. The latter is far more important than the former. Due to the fact that only four states have more farms than we, our rank is fair in total agricultural wealth production—fifteenth. But when the states are compared on a per farm basis, which is the only fair comparison, then our boast becomes a whisper. The total value of all farm products, crops, and livestock, produced per farm in North Carolina in 1922 was \$1,587, and our rank was thirty-seventh among the states of the Union. This figure represents the total value of all products raised on the farm, not what was sold. It is the farm value of everything produced on the farm. The average farm produced \$1,338 worth of crops and \$249 worth of animal products.

The weak link in North Carolina agriculture is the lack of livestock of the meat and milk variety, not mules and horses, but dairy and beef cattle, hogs, poultry, sheep and the like.

In the total production of animal products we ranked twenty-first in 1922 with \$67,100,000. But the total production per farm was only \$249, and on this basis our rank was forty-third, with five southern states below us. We rank fifth in the number of farms, twenty-first in total value of animal products, and forty-third in value of such products per farm.

So it is clear that there is a vast amount of difference in whether North Carolina is ranked on a basis of totals or per farm, or any other comparable basis.

You cannot look at the farm homes and outhouses in this state and proclaim her the fifth agricultural state; nor if you have travelled in other states, North and West. No one doubts that we can acquire fifth rank. We have the resources but not the attainment.

Why Low

There are many major and minor reasons why we rank low in the production of agricultural wealth on a per unit basis. The biggest reason is the small average number of cultivated acres per farm, 30.4 acres. We rank forty-seventh in this respect. Even though our rank is high in per acre production, the number of acres cultivated per farm is too small to give a large per farm production. The number of cultivated acres per farm can be doubled, with a proper farm system, because only one-fourth of the state is cultivated, counting pastures.

The second most important reason is our small production of animal products. This fact must not be lost sight of. The rich farm areas of the world

are founded on livestock, not crops. As a livestock state we rank 43rd on a per farm basis, the only fair basis of comparison. When we were a rural state with relatively few city people we were forced to grow cash crops, for which there was a world-wide market. There was little local demand for animal products. Conditions have changed but the custom of growing crops exclusively has become too firmly ingrained to be changed over night. We must become an important livestock state or we will never become a great agricultural state.

In the third place farm tenancy is a very vital factor. Nearly half the farmers of the state are tenants. Tenant farmers operate small farms. The landlord is interested in per acre yields. By choice and by compulsion tenants in the cotton and tobacco belt as a rule grow cash crops. We will never become a livestock state as long as our agriculture is so largely steeped in tenancy. Nor will we ever become a great agricultural state while this condition continues.

Nearly one-third of our farms are operated by negroes. They are concentrated in the most productive counties. They are mainly crop farmers or croppers. The presence of such a large negro farm ratio considerably lowers the rank of North Carolina as an agricultural state. The same is true for the entire South. The minor reasons for our low rank on a per farm basis are largely incidental to the above four major reasons.

But the future is bright. The state is undergoing a remarkable change. Here and there throughout the state are signs of improvement. We now have a large urban population. The farmers are being provided with local markets for home-grown produce. Hundreds of farmers are buying improved cattle, hogs, poultry, and the like. They are putting in permanent pastures. They are organizing cooperative creameries, cheese factories, canneries, and curb markets. There is more of the spirit of cooperation between town and country people. The change is gradual but sure. We are unmistakably passing from a cash-crop stage into an era of diversity in production and cooperation in marketing and in farm finance.—S.H.H., Jr.

HELP PRESERVE HISTORY

The North Carolina collection in the University Library now includes about 7,000 volumes and 15,000 pamphlets, but the Library officials are hungry for more. They will discover something of interest in material which you may think properly belongs in the fire. The Library asks for assistance in securing this material for the history of the state yet to be written. If you have anything you can give, give it; if you have heard of books or other records which may not be in the collection, write the University Library and give it an opportunity to get them—Asheville Citizen.

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS

Per Farm in the U. S. in 1922

Based on data supplied by the U. S. Department of Agriculture; includes the total value of all crops, livestock, and livestock products produced in each state, divided by the number of farms.

Value of all farm products produced in North Carolina in 1922, \$423,000,000; value per farm \$1,587. Value of crops \$361,000,000; of livestock products \$67,100,000; rank 43rd in livestock products per farm.

United States average value of all farm products per farm \$2,219. Value of livestock products per farm \$829, or more than three times the average for North Carolina.

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Rank	State	Animal Prod. Per Farm	Farm Prod. Per Farm	Rank	State	Animal Prod. Per Farm	Farm Prod. Per Farm
1	Nevada	\$3,383	\$6,955	25	Missouri	\$1,239	\$2,347
2	California	1,261	5,012	26	Utah	989	2,346
3	Iowa	2,233	4,479	27	Indiana	1,142	2,303
4	Arizona	1,494	4,341	28	Texas	606	2,297
5	Nebraska	1,832	4,034	29	Delaware	700	2,229
6	North Dakota	732	3,803	30	Ohio	1,062	2,216
7	Wyoming	2,070	3,657	31	Maryland	764	2,108
8	South Dakota	1,109	3,572	32	Oklahoma	693	2,064
9	Illinois	1,523	2,287	33	Michigan	823	1,971
10	Kansas	1,521	3,368	34	New Mexico	992	1,632
11	Colorado	1,410	3,273	35	Florida	250	1,620
12	New Jersey	1,171	3,151	36	Maine	751	1,605
13	Oregon	1,231	3,097	37	North Carolina	249	1,587
14	Washington	872	3,034	38	Virginia	449	1,470
15	Wisconsin	1,447	2,946	39	New Hampshire	945	1,452
16	Idaho	1,083	2,878	40	Tennessee	521	1,427
17	Vermont	1,334	2,855	41	West Virginia	603	1,404
18	New York	1,328	2,837	42	Kentucky	472	1,327
19	Connecticut	1,051	2,749	43	Arkansas	258	1,306
20	Minnesota	1,054	2,735	44	Louisiana	164	1,239
21	Montana	1,063	2,666	45	Alabama	201	1,149
22	Massachusetts	1,209	2,662	46	South Carolina	172	1,062
23	Rhode Island	1,421	2,375	47	Mississippi	186	1,058
24	Pennsylvania	1,055	2,371	48	Georgia	210	930