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## BORN IN NORTH CAROLINA

### XVI—DENMARK AND TARHEELIA

It is not possible to look at the kempt little Kingdom of Denmark without having North Carolina in the tail of one's eye, or not if you are a native of the Old North State. Comparisons may be odious, but intelligence begins in a sense of difference, and not to know 'a hawk from a heron' is Shakespeare's phrase for hopeless stupidity. But also, intelligence ends in a perception of likenesses—of unities amid diversities, is the way Horace Williams puts it, I think. Shakespeare and Horace Williams are prime authorities. Anyway they pair well in a preface.

#### Commercialized Fishing

And my preface ought also to say that there's nothing rotten in Denmark, or nothing that I have yet discovered, not even the fish, which the Danish housewife buys alive in the market tanks and cooks with the flesh still quivering. A fish served in this way is a dainty dish to set before a king. No fish of any size has any chance to go stale in Denmark. The small fry, even the midget eels, are pickled or smoke-cured or preserved in oil sardine fashion for smorrebrod uses. The surplus catch of large fish is salt-cured, sun-dried, or canned for an export trade that amounts to \$10,000,000 a year. The fine arts of curing sea foods of every sort and size are details of commercialized fishing that Eastern North Carolina needs to learn. For lack of such arts as the Danes practice, our fishermen are wasting millions year by year. And meantime they are importing boneless fish cured and packed in Gloucester, Massachusetts. I found stacks of boxes of such fish on the boat to Manteo—to Manteo of all places on earth! Increasing production in our fish and oyster areas, passing restrictive laws, and pestering fishermen with fines are one end of this Tidewater problem, but teaching them the arts of preserving their catches without waste and packaging their products attractively for trade in a wide territory, is another. It is a field worth exploring by the State Fish Commission, and Denmark is the best country I know in which to spy out the details of sea foods reduced to a commercial basis. It is worth, in my opinion, \$10,000,000 a year to our fishermen and to the state—worth not less to North Carolina than it is to Denmark.

#### Denmark and the Tidewater

It is entirely proper to ask what in general are the conditions in Denmark, how they differ from the conditions we have at home and what this little country has that we might also have in North Carolina—in our own fashion, to be sure, for North Carolina has a way of her own, and properly enough she will have nothing in any other way. Denmark is a little country. The Danes are a little people. The little landers, that is the small home-owning farmers, hold Denmark in the hollow of their hands, are the expression I hear oftener than any others from the natives who explain their homeland to me. And they are an unavoidable foreword to any sensible thing said about Denmark.

In number the Danes and the Tar Heels are almost exactly the same, or were before the Great War gave back to Denmark 280,000 of the people she lost to Germany in 1864. At present they outnumber us by a few hundred thousands. The advantage is quite temporary, for North Carolina leads the world in cradles and baby carriages.

In land area the advantage is all ours, for North Carolina is more than three times the size of Denmark, if her colonial possessions be left out of the count. Put down on our map, Denmark would just about cover Tidewater Carolina. To the eye they are very much alike. Both are low-lying areas, the one being alluvial and the other a region of glacial drift with irregular, softly rounded hills and valleys. But nowhere does Denmark have the natural advantages of our tidewater country—the rich soils, the long growing seasons, the abundant rainfall equably distributed throughout the year, and the extensive forest areas that have

not even yet been destroyed by two centuries of savage cutting.

Both offer obstacles to a flourishing civilization—in Denmark, naturally poor soils, coastal sand bars on the west and north quite like the eastern shore of North Carolina, sand dunes and sand wastes, marshes, peat bogs, moorlands, and heaths that reach far into the heart of the mainland, a lack of merchantable timber everywhere, for Denmark was stripped bare of original forest growths many centuries ago, and as if to doom Denmark to agricultural levels forever, nature gave her no basic mineral deposits; in Tidewater Carolina sand bars and sand-filled inlets, swamps, malaria, cattle-tick fever and sparse population that found life made easy by rich soils and waters teeming with fish and oysters.

#### Conquering Difficulties

But for fifty years Denmark has been conquering her difficulties. In Tidewater Carolina we have barely begun to move forward during the last quarter century, and what the Washington authorities call the Great Winter Garden of the South is still largely undeveloped. The state over, only twenty-seven of every hundred acres are in use for agricultural purposes. In the Tidewater the ratio runs around ten acres, and even less in the Pamlico and Lower Cape Fear country. In Denmark seventy-six of every one hundred acres are improved farm land.

Governor Morrison has blue-printed the development of the Tidewater and doubtless we shall some day begin to realize its rich possibilities. But there ought to be no great delay, for it takes a half century or more to work such a miracle as West Denmark has wrought—millions of money as well. Fifty-seven years ago, some 5,000 home-owning farmers hungry for land organized the Danish Heath Society and began upon their own initiative and at their own expense to reclaim their almost worthless possessions. During this interval they have converted more than one and a quarter million acres of waste land into meadows, grain fields and forests. The economic urge was strong, because dairy farming had come to be profitable and they needed more land on which to make more money on dairy cows, beef cattle, and pigs. Gradually the state came to their aid with direct appropriations, railway lines, cheap freights, and a harbor at Esberg. The point is that these heath farmers lifted themselves well over the fence by tugging at their own boot straps, and I dare say that the Tidewater land owners will have to solve their problems in something like the same way.

#### Some Incentives We Lack

And there is this further thing to say. Population presses on land in this little country; not so in North Carolina and least of all in the Tidewater country. In Denmark land is scarce and high, in North Carolina it is abundant and cheap—cheaper than land of its quality and value anywhere else in the United States. Pack the population of North Carolina into one-third the space they now occupy and sheer necessity would mother many self-helping enterprises that we know little about at present either in the Tidewater or the Lost Colonies.

Moreover economic and social necessity provokes constructive reaction in the owners of farms and homes, and almost never in landless, homeless people. Was it not the landed estate of the realm that wrung the Magna Charta out of King John at Runnymede? Denmark is a capital illustration of Adam Smith's saying, that given ownership a people can be trusted to turn a barren waste into a paradise. At any rate it ought to be fairly clear that land ownership by the few and land-orphage for the many is no safe basis on which to build commonwealth progress and prosperity. Denmark has built her civilization on well-nigh universal home ownership, and during the last seventy-five years it has become more and more certain that she has built wiser than she knew. One million three hundred and forty thousand and people, town and country, are landless in North Carolina. They are

### VIRTUES OF COOPERATION

The virtues of cooperation are the virtues of an enduring democracy. And more, they are spiritual virtues, every one of them, for without them there can be no membership-in-one-body, which was Saint Paul's ideal. —E. C. B.

more than half of our entire population. Their number steadily increases, and it bodes ill for the state in the years ahead.

### More Home-Owners Essential

Size and population figured together, Denmark averages 200 people to the square mile, against fifty-two in North Carolina—against fewer than twenty-five per square mile in eleven of the Tidewater counties, both races included. There are too few people in these counties to support good schools and good churches and to pay taxes for good roads and other necessary agencies of common well-being. The burden falls too heavily on a small number of property-owning, tax-paying citizens. What the state needs is a larger population of home-owners, fewer tenants—town and country, and more country community life, as a basis for cooperative farm enterprises. The contrast between Denmark and North Carolina in these particulars has literally kept my brain in a blaze these last weeks.

### Likenesses and Contrasts

The farm populations also offer contrasts. In North Carolina the farmers and their families number 1,500,000 souls or fifty-eight percent of the total population, and they cultivate a little more than eight million acres. In Denmark 1,200,000 farm people cultivate a little more than eight million acres. The average is around twenty-seven acres per family in both territories. In other words both the Danes and the Tar Heels are small-scale farmers. In Denmark the explanation lies in the scarcity of land; in North Carolina and the South it lies in the scarcity of farm capital, and the intensive cultivation of cotton and tobacco fields with landless, illiterate labor.

The Danes are food farmers, they feed themselves and their farm animals first, and then they produce a surplus of meat and milk products amounting to 250 million dollars a year in export trade. They live in clover, no matter whether they get high prices or low for their products. The last two years, market prices and exchange rates have been against the Danish farmers, but there are no signs of distress in the farm homes and no political upheavals in the country regions.

### Looking Facts in the Face

In contrast, the Tar Heels are cotton and tobacco farmers. They are food farmers incidentally, even accidentally, at least in our fifty-one cash crop counties. As a result the state imports right around two hundred million dollars' worth of food and feed stuffs every year. For many years our cotton and tobacco money has barely more than paid the bill for imported food supplies. We are near the top of the column in farm wealth production, and near the bottom in farm wealth retention. If only we could produce cotton and tobacco on a home-raised bread-and-meat basis, North Carolina in ten years would be the richest farm area on earth. But we are never likely to farm in this fashion as a common practice until farm tenancy and country illiteracy come to an end. These twin-born social ills are stubbornly in the way of a self-feeding farm system as every farm owner in the cotton-tobacco belt knows full well. And moreover in one way or another they imperil every effort at cooperative farm enterprise, as our farmers have doubtless learned during the last twelve months. Danish tenants are only ten in the hundred farmers and the illiterates are only two per thousand. Our tenants are forty-five in the hundred farmers and our country illiterates are one hundred and eighty per thousand. The contrast is humiliating but it is no part of wisdom to blink anything of consequence in building a state.

### Sad Sequences of Slavery

These fateful social ills in North Carolina and the South are the sequences

of slavery. We long delayed doing something for Walter Page's forgotten man, for instance, because we were afraid of doing something for our brother-in-black, as Bishop Haygood called him. And even today, prison reform is set against the same dark background of massmindedness in every Southern state. If slavery were a sin, God knows the South has paid and is still paying heavy penalties for it.

### Rock Bases for Democracy

To say it in a word, economic and social reforms make rapid headway in Denmark (1) because the Danes are a homogeneous people with no alien race astride their backs, (2) because they are a home-owning people with the smallest illiteracy ratio in the world, and are therefore able to organize on a common basis for the common good, and (3) because they are keen enough to see that the under-dog must always be the man who lacks the cooperative virtues of intelligence, faith in his fellows, willing subordination to self-chosen authority, a sense of moral obligation, group loyalty, and unbreakable courage. The virtues of cooperation are the virtues of an enduring democracy. And more, they are spiritual virtues, every one of them, for without them there can be no membership-in-one-body, which was Saint Paul's ideal.

'If ye cannot work together on earth neither shall ye dwell together in Heaven! The same being Timothy 10:16, or so said Spoopendyke.—E. C. Branson, Elsinore, Denmark, August 6, 1923.

## BORN IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina has always been a population exporting state. You can find a Tar Heel in almost any locality in the United States. A native of the state traveling through other states is usually surprised at the number of people he runs across who were born in North Carolina, but who are now living out of the state. One gets the idea that we must have lost a considerable number of natives to other states. And so we have. The people born in North Carolina but now living in other states number 443,844, and they range all the way from seventy-five in Vermont to 113,151 in Virginia. As far away as California you will find 5,742 native Tar Heels. In Washington there are 5,729, in Arkansas 11,128, in Texas 14,966, in New York 17,803, in Pennsylvania 20,877, in Missouri 5,476, in West Virginia 13,636, in Florida 17,358, in Tennessee 27,744, in South Carolina 50,040, and in Virginia 113,151, or so in 1920.

### To All But Five

North Carolina has suffered a net loss of population to all the states of the Union except five, and the net gain from four of these is insignificant. South Carolina is the only state that has suffered a large net loss to North Carolina. See the table carried elsewhere. In 1920 there were living in South Carolina 50,040 people born in North Carolina, while we had within our borders 62,323 people born in South

Carolina, a net gain in our favor of 12,283. Our net loss to Virginia was the largest amounting to 75,918 people. In 1920 North Carolina was the adopted home of 37,233 people of Virginia birth, while Virginia had 113,151 inhabitants born in this state.

In 1920 there were living in other states but born in North Carolina nearly a half million people, 443,844 to be exact. If all the people born in North Carolina had remained at home we would have had a population of slightly more than three million, instead of 2,559,123 as reported by the census. At that time there were living in this state 167,496 people born in other states. Thus our net loss to other states was 285,848 people and only six states have sustained a greater net loss, four of these being southern states. Our net loss consisted of 172,291 native whites, and 113,716 native negroes. We had a slight net gain of other classes. The census shows that relatively the negroes are more migratory than the whites.

### We Are First

North Carolina leads the Union in births and baby carriages. Otherwise we could not increase in population faster than the average for the United States, and at the same time suffer a net loss to all the states except five. The birth rate of this state has held attention for many years. In 1921 it was 39 percent higher than the average for the United States.

North Carolina ranks first in the United States in the percent of her white people who are of native birth. Of her entire white population 93.4 percent were born within the state's borders and 99.3 percent were born in the South.

North Carolina ranks first in the percent of her people born in the United States. Only 7,272 people in 1920 were of foreign birth or four-tenths of one percent of her total population. Of her entire population 99.6 percent were born in the United States.

### The Tide Has Turned

The 1930 census will prove to us the effect of good roads, schools, and the like on retaining our present, and attracting new, population. Formerly our roads were poor, and our schools poorer. Our industry and agriculture were far less developed than today. For these and many other reasons, hundreds of thousands of people have left the state through choice or necessity. But those days are gone forever, we hope. Today North Carolina offers industrial and agricultural advantages and opportunities that cannot be matched elsewhere in the South, or surpassed in the United States. The state is prosperous, and prospering, as is shown by a recent announcement of bank dividends for 1922, by the Federal income tax returns for the same year, and by the purchase of 64,896 new automobiles during the last twelve months.

The state is full of opportunities for almost every calling. Unsurpassed opportunities of every sort together with our net work of splendid highways, and the educational facilities the state has set her hands to build and maintain will not only retain our native born people from now on, but will attract thousands of good people and millions of investment capital from other states. The tide has changed. The sensitive mind notes it. We will no longer be a population exporting, but instead a population importing and wealth attracting state.—S. H. H., Jr.

## BORN IN NORTH CAROLINA But Living in Other States in 1920

The following table, based on the 1920 census, shows the number of people born in North Carolina but living in other states in 1920. The states are ranked according to net gains made, and net losses sustained by North Carolina due to inter-state migration, and considers only migrants who were living when the census was made.

Born in North Carolina but residing in other states 443,844 people. Born in other states but living in North Carolina 157,996. Net loss sustained by North Carolina 285,848. Only five states have sustained a net population loss to North Carolina.

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Rank	States	Born in N.C. Living in	Net loss to N.C.	Rank	States	Born in N.C. Living in	Net gain from N.C.
1	S. Carolina	50,040	12,283	24	Kansas	3,145	2,432
2	Vermont	75	199	25	Michigan	3,312	2,517
3	Maine	150	198	26	Massachusetts	3,832	2,733
4	N. Hampshire	104	115	27	Kentucky	5,685	3,427
5	Wisconsin	361	5	28	Alabama	6,660	3,868
				29	Illinois	5,463	4,161
				30	Mississippi	5,639	4,310
6	Nevada	133	123	31	Missouri	5,476	4,644
7	Rhode Island	512	169	32	Indiana	6,273	5,104
8	S. Dakota	320	234	33	California	6,742	5,492
9	Minnesota	579	400	34	Washington	5,729	5,544
10	N. Dakota	464	402	35	Oklahoma	7,667	7,434
11	Delaware	676	403	36	Dis. of Col.	8,025	7,505
12	Nebraska	1,195	521	37	Maryland	10,252	8,187
13	Utah	573	522	38	Ohio	11,598	9,505
14	Wyoming	585	546	39	N. Jersey	10,451	9,507
15	Arizona	940	873	40	Arkansas	11,128	10,515
16	New Mexico	997	953	41	W. Virginia	13,636	11,901
17	Montana	1,515	1,450	42	Texas	14,966	13,804
18	Connecticut	2,037	1,593	43	New York	17,803	13,938
19	Iowa	2,122	1,743	44	Florida	17,358	15,484
20	Idaho	2,028	1,943	45	Tennessee	27,744	16,675
21	Oregon	2,382	2,308	46	Pennsylvania	20,877	17,105
22	Colorado	2,518	2,331	47	Georgia	29,118	17,945
23	Louisiana	2,907	2,394	48	Virginia	113,151	75,918