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Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, J. B. Bullitt, H. W. Odum.

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## COST OF EDUCATION IN CAROLINA

### XXII—CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE IN DENMARK

On my way to the Askov Folk High School in south Jutland I stopped overnight in Vijen, the nearest railway station. It is a little town about the size of Carrboro, but as usual in Denmark it is a country market town kept alive by a cooperative farm enterprise, a creamery in this particular instance. There are other small industries but they are not conspicuous or important. The population is composed of farmers whose active daily business is farming, and of small shop keepers whose trade is farm trade largely related to collecting the farmers' eggs for the cooperative egg-export societies. Its main street and almost its only street is a straggling country road to the depot and station.

#### An Art Atmosphere's Results

On my way out of town next morning, I happened to glance down a side street and lo, a great fountain playing twelve streams of water day and night in a tiny park set with shrubs and flowers! It was more surprising and, its history considered, far more wonderful than the great Munich fountain through which half a river runs, or the great fountain at Versailles which the state can afford to display in action only once a month.

I got the story while waiting for my train. It is the design in stone and iron of a young artist born and reared in Vijen, a town had whose artists' instincts have had little more to feed on than the drawing lessons in the town school, the art prints and bric-a-brac in the shop windows, the Danish art magazines, art stores and art schools, the open-air statuary, the Glyptotek and the Thorwaldsen Museum in Copenhagen. His first masterpiece was founded and erected at the expense of his native town with an appropriation by the town council supplemented by small amounts contributed by almost everybody in Vijen.

And this thing happens in a country town of 1500 inhabitants, in a little state about the size of Tidewater Carolina! It happens in Denmark because a youngster with a bent for art is steeped from his earliest years in a stimulating art atmosphere—in his own home, in the homes of his playmates, in his school surroundings and activities, in the bookshop windows of his native town, in the postcard racks everywhere, in the art galleries, art exhibitions, art journals, and art-filled public squares, parks and gardens of the Danish capital.

Denmark does not lead the world in any field of fine arts. Aside from Thorwaldsen in sculpture, Saxo in chronicle literature, Hans Christian Andersen in fairy tales, Bishop Grundtvig in folklore and folkschool philosophy, Holberg and Oelenschlaeger in playwriting, Nexo in novel writing and George Brandes in literary criticism, the outside world knows little of Danish art and literature. It is a brief list, but what a great list it is for a state with only three and a third million inhabitants. Denmark has never given birth to a musical composer of the first rank, or an instrumentalist, a singer, a painter, or an architect of world-wide reputation; but she is ready to do it at any moment, for the Danes are born into a world of quickening art suggestions. This peasant democracy is not a Bazar wilderness, to borrow an epithet of Mencken's. On the contrary Danish life is deeply rooted in a soil rich in art suggestions, traditions, achievements, interests, and impulses.

#### Distinctive Danish Music

Denmark is not distinguished in music creation, but in music appreciation by the masses, which is something far more important, she is quite the equal of any country I know. The voice I hear from time to time in the courtyard of the Helmerhus Pensionat is the voice of a wandering minstrel. He is not a Caruso, but he has a rich mellow baritone note that renders Danish music so enjoyable that I must lay aside my work, hang out the window, and empty my pockets of small change. Nearly always he gives us a ballad or two of Jeppe Aakoe's set to music by some native composer. Aakoe, by the way,

is Denmark's Bobbie Burns. The songs in the court below sound a new quality of musical beauty—something as distinctly Danish as the songs of Scotland are distinctly Scottish.

The ballad music of Denmark fills four thick volumes, as I discovered in the home of a young farmer near Kalunborg. He and his wife gave me an unforgettable evening with their music from these volumes. There is music everywhere in Denmark—in the homes, in the village chorus clubs and orchestras, in the ten or more orchestras and the great concert hall of the Tivoli gardens, and in the Sunday afternoon parades of the boy bands of Copenhagen. Twice I have had to stop outside in passing private homes to listen to the rare music within, once in the rain in the humble quarters of Frederikshavn and again in Amagerbro. And it is always good music I hear, never jazz music or never but once, and never the jingles of the Sunday schools at home. I was in doubt about the church music of Denmark until I heard it sung by a full choir at an ordination service in King Knud's cathedral in Odense. The point I make is that Danish music is Danish, distinctly so—not great perhaps but Danish, as racial in its characteristics as Russian music is.

These people never developed the value of Scandinavian architecture. The primitive forms are impressive but crude as I see them preserved in the ancient castles and country churches, and the modern buildings in the cities are commonplace adaptations. But they have developed a distinctive national music and a popular love of the best music of all the races. Music lovers over here tell me that America's love contribution to music is the tone quality and the movement of our negro songs, and they set no great value on either. I cannot argue the matter. I am a Philistine in the world of music. Like General Gordon I know only two tunes, one is Dixie and the other isn't.

#### A Mine of Folk Lore

But what a time Koch and his playmakers would have in a country like Denmark with its Valdemar rune stones, its myths and sagas, its ancient burial mounds, its racial life running back to the period of Homer's Iliad, its fantastic twilight history, its gruesome stories of early feudal times, its warrior bishop Absalon who rivals Wolsey and Richelieu in literary suggestiveness, the crude Christianity of earlier days, the robust rise of peasants into a new type of democracy—all perfectly preserved from the stone age till now in the Danish National Museum, the great castles and cathedrals, the chronicles of Saxo Grammaticus, the saga translations of Bishop Grundtvig, and the pages of Pontoppidan, Martin Nexo, and Harald Faber.

As it is, Koch and his group of folk play writers at the University of North Carolina must search with diligence for the scant remains of ballads brought from other lands in the long-ago days and treasured by our contemporary ancestors in the North Carolina Highlands, or they must hunt for such playmaking materials as lie in the Nag's Head, wreckers, Blackbeard, Flora MacDonald, the Lowrie Gang, the moonshiners, the plantation life of earlier days, the heroism of Tar Heel Confederates, the unconsidered lot of the farmer croppers at the present time. And so on and on. The sources of suggestion for native folk playmaking are abundant in North Carolina—the cropper homes in particular. Peggy was a clever play but it did not begin to sound the deeps of comedy and tragedy in such homes.

#### Folk Museums a N. C. Need

What Dr. Koch and his playmakers are doing for North Carolina is priceless, in my opinion, but his materials must come out of a civilization that locally spans less than two and a half centuries. It takes time to develop a collective personality and endless toil to photograph the mass mind of a developing people. And herein lies the value of our State Historical Commission and State Historical Museum, of

## TEN YEARS OF GROWTH

The progress that North Carolina has made in ten years in public education is shown in part by the following statistics. In 1911-12 the total school fund amounted to \$4,488,762, while in 1921-22 it amounted to \$30,709,530. Total school expenditures, including borrowed money repaid, increased from \$4,078,120 to \$27,110,040. The amount spent on teaching and supervision increased from \$2,527,616 to \$13,767,400, while the average annual salary paid white teachers increased from \$219.45 to \$720.78. In 1911-12 the state spent on new buildings and supplies \$916,263 as against a total of \$6,118,887 in 1921-22. In 1912 the total value of all public school property in the state was only \$7,380,616, while ten years later it amounted to \$35,268,970.

The growth of North Carolina in the field of public education is even more marvelous than her phenomenal rise as an agricultural and industrial state. Imperfect as our schools are they are incomparably better than a decade or two ago.

Caroliniana in the State University Library, of the Sprunt Memorial volumes and their editors, of the labors of Boyd and Brown at Trinity, of Hill in Raleigh, Sondley at Asheville, and other like-minded lovers of their home state. Already we have ceased to be pitifully dependent on the University of Wisconsin in writing North Carolina history and biography. And some day we shall not have to go to Albany, New York, to study the interiors of our colonial homes—some day when we decide to establish such museums as the Danish Folk Museum in Copenhagen, and such open-air museums as I find at Lingby and Store Magleby on Amager island.

#### Literature and Learning

The Danes have a literature of their own because they have a background of racial integrity as old as the glacial pebbles and cobble stones they pave their streets with, because their history is rich with inexhaustible treasures of suggestion, because the revival of learning stirred Denmark as early as it stirred England and produced a Vedel at Ribe in the time of the Caxtons in London, because it created a popular love of learning far beyond anything England has ever achieved, because the Danes broke away from medieval education years ahead of any other country in Europe, because they have fondly treasured the memorials of their history and translated their significance into songs, stories and stage plays that are Danish to the core, and finally because book shops, art shops, and sheet music shops are everywhere. There are no more of these in Germany than I find in Denmark, in the country towns as well as in Copenhagen. Think of eight book shops in a little Danish town of seven thousand people. Or of eleven such shops on the four sides of a single square in Copenhagen. As for public libraries, they are without number. A Danish town of any size without a library is almost unthinkable. And there are more volumes in the Royal Danish Library in Copenhagen than we have in the public and institutional libraries of North Carolina all put together.

#### A Good Time Coming

I comfort myself by saying that it takes time to build a civilization and to create native fine arts and a native literature—thousands of years, not just a few hundred. Give North Carolina time and with the urge she now feels—an urge that no man can ever destroy, in my opinion—she will be just as great in her place on the planet as any other

civilization in history. Why not?

Some good day North Carolina will have her rich patrons of art and literature—men of a sort with Maecenas, the Fuggers in Augsburg, and the Jacobsens in Copenhagen, men who love literature and the fine arts as Sprunt and Hill and Ricks love history. Then we shall have a great art school, a great music school, and a great university press at Chapel Hill. We are rich in many things but we are poor in the fine arts. Life is bare and hard and uninspiring for too many people in North Carolina. It ought to be different and it will be different when the wealth of our rich men and women is lavished upon native cultural art as the wealth of the Jacobsens was in Denmark. Their Glyptotek alone—and it is only one of their many gifts to the state that made them rich—gives them immortality for a few million kroner. Their names will last as long as the art it treasures, just as Maecenas lives on and on with Horace. Most men when they die are dead, fatally dead, dead as a door nail, as Dickens said Mr Marley was. But not so the Jacobsens in Copenhagen, and it will not be so in North Carolina, some good day.

#### A Satisfying Way of Life

All of which, I fear, may seem leagues away from rural social-economics. Nevertheless it is rural social-economics, the very cream of it indeed. If culture is not or cannot be causally or consequentially related to agriculture in North Carolina, then the state has no need for a rural economist at the state college or the state university. Culture and agriculture are one in Denmark, because farming in this democratic commonwealth is a satisfying way

of life as well as a profitable form of business. If it cannot be so in North Carolina and the nation, then the years ahead are full of menace.—E. C. Branson, Strassburg, Sept. 18, 1923.

## THE UNIVERSITY HONORED

The University of North Carolina has been signally honored in being elected vice president of the Association of American Universities.

The election was at a business meeting of the association just held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the officers being institutional. Harvard university was chosen president and the University of Michigan secretary for five years.

Dr. Edwin Greenlaw, dean of the graduate school, represented the university at the meeting. More than fifty presidents and deans of leading universities were present. The university was elected to membership in the association last year.

Dr. Greenlaw, who has returned with the news of the election, said today that he heard many commendatory things said about the University of North Carolina at the meeting. The delegates consider its growth phenomenal, he said.

Among the delegates present were Presidents Campbell of the University of California; Lowell, of Harvard; Jessup, of Iowa; Goodnow, of Johns Hopkins; Scott, of Northwestern; Wilbur, of Stanford; and Alderman, of Virginia.—Charlotte Observer.

## SCHOOL EXPENDITURES PER INHABITANT

### In North Carolina for the School Year 1921-22

Based on the 1920 Census of population and the biennial report of the state Superintendent of Public Instruction for the year 1921-22, showing the total expenditures per inhabitant for all purposes in each county.

Durham county led with a total school expenditure of \$24.18 per inhabitant, while Watauga was last with only \$3.70. State average \$10.59 per inhabitant. The student of state affairs is left to make his own comparisons and draw his own conclusions.

State total school expenditures—\$27,110,040.

J. H. Zollicoffer, Vance County

Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina.

Rank	County	Total Expenditures per Inhabitant	Rank	County	Total Expenditures per Inhabitant
1	Durham	24.18	51	Moore	9.02
2	Gaston	23.84	52	Anson	8.93
3	Wilson	22.18	53	Davidson	8.89
4	Washington	16.18	54	Cumberland	8.86
5	Buncombe	16.47	55	Stanly	8.68
6	Wayne	15.69	56	Graham	8.20
7	Iredell	15.37	57	Lee	8.14
8	Transylvania	15.24	58	Burke	8.07
9	Lincoln	14.78	59	Pender	7.98
10	Orange	14.36	60	Bladen	7.83
11	Pamlico	13.83	61	Edgecombe	7.81
12	Avery	13.33	62	Lenoir	7.78
13	Halifax	13.04	63	Swain	7.75
14	Mecklenburg	13.04	64	Randolph	7.60
15	Guilford	12.94	65	Gates	7.48
16	Pasquotank	12.89	66	Jones	7.24
17	Forsyth	12.85	67	Alexander	7.21
18	Polk	12.84	68	Perquimans	7.18
19	Granville	12.77	69	Caldwell	7.17
20	Craven	12.75	70	Dare	7.09
21	Johnston	12.72	70	Franklin	7.09
22	Wake	12.64	72	Cherokee	7.02
23	Alamance	12.44	73	Harnett	6.96
24	Rutherford	11.99	74	Wilkes	6.91
24	Warren	11.99	75	Sampson	6.83
26	Currituck	11.86	76	Northampton	6.69
27	Nash	11.81	77	Greene	6.68
28	Richmond	11.67	78	Duplin	6.62
29	Vance	11.63	79	Surry	6.59
30	Chowan	11.60	80	Madison	6.57
31	Tyrrell	11.41	81	Cabarrus	6.42
32	Carteret	11.30	82	Robeson	6.41
33	Pitt	11.20	83	Macon	6.32
34	Scotland	11.13	84	Davie	6.28
35	Henderson	11.00	85	Cleveland	6.07
36	Onslow	10.79	86	Chatham	6.03
37	Beaufort	10.75	87	Alleghany	5.78
38	Union	10.49	88	Caswell	5.77
39	New Hanover	10.27	89	Haywood	5.76
40	Camden	10.11	90	Clay	5.75
41	Hyde	10.08	91	Hertford	5.56
42	Rowan	10.03	92	Mitchell	5.54
43	Columbus	9.94	93	Hoke	5.36
44	Jackson	9.87	94	Yadkin	5.24
45	McDowell	9.69	95	Person	5.18
46	Bertie	9.44	96	Stokes	5.09
47	Rockingham	9.27	97	Yancey	4.65
48	Montgomery	9.24	98	Ashe	4.32
49	Catawba	9.12	99	Brunswick	3.98
50	Martin	9.05	100	Watauga	3.70