

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

Published Weekly by the
University of North Carolina
for the University Extension
Division.

NOVEMBER 12, 1924

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

VOL. XI, NO. 2

Editorial Board: H. C. Branson, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., L. R. Wilson, M. W. Knight, D. D. Carrell, J. B. Bullitt, H. W. Odam. Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

NORTH CAROLINA EXPORTS

THE NORTH CAROLINA CLUB

The N. C. Club met last Monday evening for its first regular meeting of the year. The nominating committee, appointed at the organization meeting two weeks ago, presented its candidates and the following officers were elected: Reid Kitchen, president; G. K. Cavanaugh, vice-president, and E. T. Thompson, of the rural social economics department, secretary.

Miss Ruth Hunter, presenting the paper of the evening, discussed "Non-Voting Democracies." In introducing the subject Miss Hunter called attention to the coming November elections, in which will probably be cast the largest number of ballots in the history of our country.

She stated that democracy is the wrong word to describe the present form of government in the United States, in that it is not a government of the people, by the people and for the people, but is a "polityocracy," or a government of the few, by the few and for the few. A democracy according to her, is a commonwealth in which the people as a whole legislate and choose executive and judicial officers either directly or through representatives. This is not done in the United States because of the existing conditions which are discussed fully later on.

A great many people think that democracy as a form of government is not an assured success. They think, and not without some cause, that there is no use voting, as a single vote will make no difference either way.

Miss Hunter then traced the history of the popular ballot and representative government showing the difficult path by which the ballot has put political power within the reach of every citizen of the country. However, she stated that in the final analysis a man's vote must be measured by the worth of the man. Here referring to an article in the October number of *World's Work*, she stated that a country without a competent people, politically, may have a democratic constitution but it will not be a democracy, for in the end the government does lean on the character of the people.

Why They Do Not Vote

For an intelligent use of the ballot it is necessary that the voter realize that there is some responsibility placed upon him and by casting his vote he is exercising a power given him by right of the franchise, and that by voting as he thinks right, he is strengthening the government and increasing his self-respect and the respect that others entertain for him.

In speaking of the causes of this condition in our government Miss Hunter placed them under the following heads: (1) indifference; (2) illiteracy and ignorance of politics; (3) racial complications; (4) dissimilar interests of the urban and rural populations; (5) the long ballot; (6) transient population; (7) costs and inconvenience of voting.

As conditions caused by this politico-crat system, which would not exist otherwise, she gives (1) the long ballot and the impossibility of being able to know, even politically, more than one-tenth to one-fourth of the candidates for the major offices; (2) professional advisers; (3) the decentralization of government carried to the extreme; (4) power of extra-legal forces, the political machines with their bosses.

Southern States Lowest

In summarizing the extent that democracy is in practice in our government, statistics were given that showed: that in the United States as a whole, in 1920, only 49 percent of the qualified voters cast ballots—that is, 26 million voted out of a total of 53 million qualified voters; that in Ohio one million registered voters did not go to the polls; that in Massachusetts, in 1922, the governor was elected by one-sixth of the total electorate; that in 1923 only 26 percent of the women and 49 percent of the men of Philadelphia voted. Delaware ranks highest in percentage with 75 percent of the electorate voting. South Carolina is last with only 8.5 percent, while North Carolina is 37th with 44.6 percent. The other southern states

ranked from 10 percent to 64 percent. The reasons given for this indifference in the South are: (1) Party control; (2) racial differences; (3) great extent of land tenancy; and (4) illiteracy—two-thirds of the white illiteracy of the country being in the South, not mentioning the extent in the negro race.

Some Remedies

The following remedies were suggested and discussed by the speaker and members of the club: (1) Shortening the ballot in order to give the voters a chance to know more of the candidates so they may vote more intelligently; (2) political and social instruction in the schools, especially in the secondary schools. Political study groups among the grown-ups directed by the superintendents of schools. (3) Adopting the preferential ballot so that if the voter's first choice is thrown out his vote will be transferred to his second choice or maybe to his third choice.—J. D. Cox.

N. C. CLUB PROGRAM 1924-25

The North Carolina Club at the University was organized in November 1914 by Professor E. C. Branson, head of the Department of Rural Social Economics. The Club is made up of student and faculty members who are interested in studying the economic and social problems of the home state. The Club meets once every two weeks throughout the college year. At each meeting a paper is presented, followed by a general discussion by the Club members. At the end of the year the papers are carefully edited and published in the North Carolina Club Year-Book.

The 1923-1924 Year Book, "What Next in North Carolina," is now being edited and will go to press shortly. A copy will be mailed free to all North Carolinians who write for it in time. A small charge is made to those living outside the state.

The Year-Books which have been published are as follows:

- North Carolina: Resources, Advantages, and Opportunities, 1915-16.
- Wealth and Welfare in North Carolina, 1916-17.
- County Government and County Affairs in North Carolina, 1917-18. (Out of print.)
- State Reconstruction Studies, 1919-20.
- North Carolina: Industrial and Urban, 1920-21. (Out of print.)
- Home and Farm Ownership in North Carolina, 1921-22.
- What Next in North Carolina, 1922-23. (Copies available)
- What Next in North Carolina, 1923-24. (To go to press shortly)

The 1924-25 Program

The North Carolina Club for the year 1924-25, with more than one hundred members, has the largest membership in its history. The indications are that the Club is entering its most successful year. The following is the Club program for the year 1924-25. At the end of the year the papers will appear in the Club Year-Book under the title of "What Next in North Carolina." To the student who presents the best paper goes a prize of fifty dollars, given annually by Hon. J. W. Bailey who is keenly interested in the work the Club is doing.

1. Non-Voting Democracies.—Miss E. R. Hunter.
2. A State System of Port Terminals and Water Transportation in North Carolina and other States.—W. T. Couch.
3. Freight Rate Discriminations Against North Carolina.—E. G. Webb; G. K. Cavanaugh.
4. Trunk Line Freight and Passenger Traffic with the Upper Middle West.—R. B. Eustler.
5. Spiritual Awakening in North Carolina.—Miss Norma Connell; S. H. Williams.
6. Necessity for a Business-Like Administration of State Finances.—F. S. Griffin.
7. Necessity for a Business-Like Administration of County Finances.—P. W. Wager.
8. Does North Carolina Read?—Orlando Stone.
9. Tax Problems of North Carolina.

DID MR. STOKES KNOW?

W. E. D. Stokes, millionaire railroad president, motored from Asheville, N.C., to the Shenandoah valley. By the time he reached Harrisonburg he was thoroughly sick of Virginia roads, and was loaded for bear with facts and figures relating to the advantages of a modern highway system. These facts and figures he catapulted at the public through the medium of the Daily News-Record.

"I find North Carolina booming with business," he wrote in the Daily News-Record, "and everyone apparently making lots of money. Factories, warehouses and dwellings are going up everywhere and people are flocking into North Carolina: lands, lots and dwellings are doubling in value almost yearly.

"... The explanation to my mind, for this marvelous prosperity in North Carolina may be attributed to the energy and foresightedness of its governors and legislators, who, seeing the serious situation their state was in, aroused her citizens to united teamwork for the general welfare, and have borrowed millions by the sale of state bonds, in order to provide state improvements, which have brought investors by the thousands into the state, who have opened up the country, erected factories, supplied water and electric power, and have built wonderful cement roads everywhere.

The judicious use of these borrowed millions has brought such prosperity to North Carolina that their bonds are now selling at a premium and are rapidly being paid off. Let Virginia do the same. Borrow money now while money is cheap, and expend it judiciously, and you will see here such prosperity as you never dreamed of. The people of Virginia must trust their interests to expert financial men, who have spent years in gaining experience and information on these subjects.

"... Such a condition as we see here in the roads of Virginia would not be tolerated in North Carolina. The Asheville chamber of commerce would meet and the governors and legislators of North Carolina would listen and act; so why does not your state of Virginia issue at once \$20,000,000 of bonds, complete her state roads and fill the pockets of her citizens with cash? Harrisonburg would be benefited millions yearly by the completion of these highways south. Let the chamber of commerce of Harrisonburg consider this, and if they think my suggestion good, act."

—C. G. Grady.

10. Tax Equalization, The Authorities Charged with it, and What They Are Doing with it.—A. M. Scarborough.

11. The Basis of Taxing Farm Land Values.—B. B. Wright; J. D. Cox.

12. Local Responsibility for Social Problems.—Miss Elizabeth Branson; C. C. Poindexter.

13. Should North Carolina Extend State-Aid to Landless Farmers?—Reid Kitchen; J. J. Rhyne.

NORTH CAROLINA EXPORTS

The Federal Department of Commerce has just released data which shows the value of exports from the United States, by states, for the first six months of 1924. According to the information compiled by the Federal Government, North Carolina ranks thirteenth as an export state, the value of the exports for the six-month period ending June 30, 1924 being \$35,432,428. If we assume that they were average months, the United States exports originating in North Carolina will total seventy-one million dollars for the year 1924. The table shows the rank of the thirteen states, in order of importance,

Rank	State	Value of Exports
1	New York	\$375,772,132
2	Texas	232,762,901
3	Pennsylvania	148,033,538
4	New Jersey	114,867,442
5	California	108,789,950
6	Louisiana	104,796,452
7	Illinois	104,112,055
8	Michigan	96,689,549

9	Virginia	70,734,197
10	Ohio	68,816,104
11	Massachusetts	68,986,095
12	Washington	51,269,044
13	North Carolina	35,432,428

The Department of Commerce is attempting to compile data showing the value of exports, by states in which the products originated, and not the exports by state from whose ports the goods are actually shipped. Thus goods originating in North Carolina, but exported through Norfolk and other ports are credited to North Carolina, provided the Shipper's Export Declaration shows that the goods are from North Carolina. If products such as leaf tobacco, cigarettes, and so on are assembled by agents in Virginia and elsewhere and then exported, the identity of the state of origin is likely to be lost and the goods credited to the state from whose ports the goods are finally exported, and not to the state of origin. Exports originating in North Carolina and shipped through Wilmington, are properly credited to North Carolina. Exports originating in North Carolina, but assembled in Virginia and reshipped through Norfolk, as leaf tobacco, cigarettes, lumber, etc., may be improperly credited to Virginia. This is what actually happens to millions of dollars worth of exports originating in North Carolina, but whose identity of origin is lost before being exported from ports in other states.

An extract from a letter from the Department of Commerce explains how this may happen, and from it one may see that exports credited to North Carolina are below the value of exports actually originating within the state. To quote, "I have to advise you that the source from which this information was compiled is the Shipper's Export Declaration, which would show, as you will observe from the attached form, the state of origin of each and every export shipment."

"The Bureau has no means of determining other than by this statement as to where the shipment originates, but it is quite possible that large quantities of tobacco and other products as well as purchased in North Carolina, and after processing, are shipped to some rail road terminal or sea-port storage awaiting export shipment. Moreover, it is probable that North Carolina products might change hands a number of times before leaving North Carolina, and their identity as North Carolina products would be lost. Consequently when such shipments are made it is probable that they are listed on the Shipper's Export Declaration as originating in Virginia or some other State instead of North Carolina."

Virginia Ranks Ninth

According to the data released for Virginia, that state ranks ninth in the value of exports, with \$70,734,197 for the first six months of 1924, the two largest items exported being leaf tobacco and cigarettes. Since North Carolina leads the nation in the production of bright leaf tobacco, the type most largely exported, and manufactures about half of the cigarettes made in the United States, (five times as many as are made in Virginia), it is likely that Virginia is credited with large quantities of tobacco and cigarettes, and with many other products, originating in North Carolina but assembled and exported from Virginia, because of her superior port facilities. Due to our rank as a cotton state, second to fifth in ordinary years; to our rank as a tobacco state, first to second, and to our rank in the manufacture of tobacco products in which we stand head and shoulders above any other state, manufacturing 42.2 percent of all tobacco products manufactured in the United States, it may be that exports originating in North Carolina are more valuable than exports originating in Virginia, for Virginia gets her rank as an export state from the export of products of which North Carolina leads in their production. Because of our inferior port facilities, products destined for the export trade are assembled in nearby states, with superior port facilities, and in the shuffle their identity is lost to North Carolina. Industrially and agriculturally North Carolina ranks far ahead of Virginia, but Virginia has a good port.

But even with millions of dollars worth of our exports improperly credited to other states our rank as an export

state in exports known to have originated within the state is thirteenth. Our rank would be much higher if the state had reasonably adequate public port facilities from which our products could be exported, as have Virginia, Louisiana, and other Southern States, not to mention the vast public port terminal facilities in the Northern and Pacific Coast states.—S. H. Hobbs, Jr.

NEED MILK COWS

Perhaps the weakest spot in the agricultural life of North Carolina is the lack of dairy cattle. At the present time possibly there are only two states in the Union with more farms than North Carolina, yet there are twenty-five states that have more milk cows. Only one state in the Union has fewer milk cows per farm than North Carolina. There are only 365 thousand cattle classed as milk cows on the 270 thousand farms of the state. There are about 100 thousand farms in the state without a milk cow.

In the South only Georgia and Texas have more farms than North Carolina, yet Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas all rank far ahead of North Carolina in the total number of milk cows, there being more than a half million milk cows in each of the above named southern states, except Virginia with 430 thousand, and Tennessee with 495 thousand.

It is difficult to understand why North Carolina should rank so far behind other southern states in this respect. Farm tenancy and negro farmer ratios are higher in most southern states than in North Carolina. The chief answer may lie in the fact that the boll weevil which hit the states to the south of us some time ago has brought about a large increase in dairy cattle, as a part of the change toward diversified agriculture. If so the boll weevil may be a blessing in disguise.

TIN VS. HUMANITY

Early in the summer when Salisbury was proposing a school bond issue of \$300,000 the Salisbury Evening Post in fighting for a favorable vote on the bond proposal made the following effective comments that are well worth the consideration of other towns:

There are 1144 Ford cars in Salisbury.

There are 3793 children enrolled in the city schools.

It cost \$287.50 a year to operate a Ford car.

It costs \$45.50 to educate a child in the city schools.

It costs \$272.88 to educate six children in the city schools.

The year's cost of a Ford car will educate six children in the schools of Salisbury.

One Ford Vs. Six Children.

Is this a Ford town or a Child town?

Privilege licenses on these Fords amount paid for the privilege of operating them, not cost of upkeep and depreciation, is \$15,444 a year.

The interest on the \$300,000 school bonds will be \$15,000 a year.

Is this a Ford town or a Child town?

EDUCATION PAYS

Education and money-saving by farmers are shown to be related in a study conducted by the Department of Agriculture. The best money savers were found to have the most schooling.

Owner farmers, generally speaking, had attained a higher grade in school than tenants, and tenants had attained a higher grade than croppers. School advantages of the wives of members of the various groups studied paralleled those of their husbands. It was also found that the children over 21 years of owner farmers had attained a higher grade in school than the children of corresponding groups of tenants. A similar advantage on the side of the children of tenant farmers appeared when they were compared with children of croppers.

The relationship between education and money-saving is one that frequently spans two or more generations, as when a father's large money-saving ability means that his children receive not only better schooling, but larger financial backing and endowment.—California Cultivator.