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## CRIME IN NORTH CAROLINA

### CRIME AND THE COURTS

The table on crime published elsewhere was prepared by two graduate students in connection with a comprehensive statistical survey of court records of crime in North Carolina. The main source of information in this study consists of the reports turned in by the clerks of the superior court of the several counties. These reports give the name of every person indicted and prosecuted during a term of the superior court together with the offense for which he was prosecuted and how his case was disposed of. The clerk is also expected to give the age, race, sex, and occupation of each defendant, although this is not strictly complied with nor enforced. Therefore such information is incomplete and unreliable.

### Limitations

Statistics of crime are notoriously misleading, especially in the hands of one not used to their pitfalls. Therefore, in studying the accompanying table, please bear in mind the following limitations:

1. The figures represent superior court convictions only. The proportion of offenses tried in the lower courts varies greatly by counties.

2. The figures are for one year only. Cases continued to a later session of court are not included. In the same way in some counties a large share of cases may be carried from one year to the next. Data will be more reliable only when such a table covers convictions over a period of years.

3. A sudden shift from lax to vigorous enforcement of law in a given year makes the crime rate high for that year, and vice versa. Again records should cover a period of years in order to be strictly comparable.

4. New statutes are often vigorously opposed in certain regions and in certain circles. For example, in some of the tidewater counties the majority of the indictments were for failure to comply with the tick eradication law, which does not meet with the approval of some citizens.

### Some Conclusions

With these statistical pitfalls in mind we may yet draw some very interesting conclusions. The people of the central western part of the state seem fully as prone to commit crimes as those of the central eastern, even though the proportion of negroes is much smaller in the west.

Counties with large urban and industrial populations are more criminal than rural counties. So the tidewater counties as a group make by far the best showing. Counties in which the population is shifting, or where new people are moving in, seem more criminally inclined. This shows that crime is partly a result of the failure of some people to fit into their new surroundings and find a recognized place in the community. Fast-growing communities would do well to find a recognized place in the community for the newcomers, to give them the feeling that they belong to the community. Newcomers will then feel more responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

Other studies are to follow in succeeding weeks. Among them will be one showing the extent of superior court dealings with bootlegging. Another will show the proportion of white to negro crime.

### MOONSHINING IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is a great industrial state, and not the least of her industries is moonshining. Our rank among the states in illicit manufacture of whiskey compares favorably with our rank in textiles, tobacco, and furniture. Unfortunately we have no official data on the volume of output or value of the finished product, but judging from the 1925 report of the federal Commissioner of Revenue one gets the impression that North Carolina is second to none in moonshining, our population considered.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, federal prohibition agents seized 17 stills in North Carolina, 839 distilleries, 686 still worms, and 18,340 fer-

menters. In number of stills seized only two states ranked ahead of North Carolina, namely Georgia and Illinois, both with a larger population. On a population basis North Carolina ranks first in stills seized. (Operations of state and local officers are not included in these statements.) In only three states were more distilleries seized, namely Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee, all neighboring states. These same states ranked ahead of ours in still worms seized. However, in fermenters seized North Carolina was surpassed only by Georgia.

The federal agents seized more than a million and a half gallons of malt liquor in North Carolina (rank third), more than three hundred thousand gallons of mash, and 219 automobiles valued at \$70,521.

The appraised value of property seized and destroyed by federal agents was \$768,861. In only one state, Georgia, did federal agents destroy a larger amount of property. However, there were nineteen states in which the value of property seized and not destroyed was greater than in North Carolina!

It is interesting to note that North Carolina is the center of the greatest activity in moonshining in the United States, doing a goodly share of the business herself, and being surrounded by states all of which rank right at the top in stills and distilleries seized—Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and South Carolina, the last named doing a large amount of moonshining her size and population considered.

Either these five are the great moonshining states of the Union, or federal prohibition agents are more active in these states, or possibly both. And of these five, population considered, North Carolina leads.

### RESORT RESOURCES

More money is being spent in resort development in the southern Appalachian mountains just now than in any other district in America with the exception of Florida. This section embraces western North Carolina, for many years a favorite resort for easterners; eastern Tennessee particularly between Knoxville and Chattanooga; and northern Georgia, which has had added to its natural advantages a series of most attractive lakes both for power production and for recreation.

At the present time there are at least twenty corporations which are actively at work in developing thousands of acres each, spending millions of dollars in the beautifying of immediate sections, making them accessible to the general public and building hotels, cottages and amusement housing for the thousands who frequent the section during the spring, summer, and fall.

Two booster associations in the Ozark regions west of the Mississippi are engaged in bringing the charms of this rugged and picturesque country to the attention of the world at large. These are the Ozark Playgrounds association, and the Eastern Oklahoma Playgrounds association. The building of modern highways up to and through this district is aiding materially in bringing this to the public attention and a very greatly increased tourist traffic is expected during 1926.

### The Sandhills

Not the least known of the South's playgrounds is the sandhill section of the Carolinas and Georgia, extending particularly from Pinehurst to Augusta. While this section is not in the throes of an immediate expansion, having been long developed and well known, much activity is current all along the belt, being particularly active in the Augusta region, where real estate has been more active during the past fall than for a number of years.—Miller Survey.

### COOPERATIVE MARKETING

There are now more than 12,000 active farmers' business organizations in the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture estimates on the basis of a recent survey. This number is more than twice that in 1915, when the first nation-wide survey of cooperative associations was made by the department.

The associations include those selling

### STUDYING COURT RECORDS

The University of North Carolina, through its Institute for Research in Social Science, and at the suggestion of the Governor of the State, is making a detailed study of superior court convictions for the one hundred counties covering a period of three years. This is the first attempt ever made in the United States to make a state-wide analysis of court records and to compile comparable statistical tables from such records. These studies will be of immense significance, (1) in revealing such facts as are now available from inadequate and incomplete records, and (2) through collaboration and scientific study to construct a record sheet which when filled out by the clerks of court will afford a body of statistics on crime that can be readily tabulated and of scientific and constructive value.

We should like to point out that the form now provided for clerks of court to fill out is inadequate and of little scientific or practical value, that the form, crude as it is, is incompletely filled out by many superior court clerks, and that such data as are available have never been adequately tabulated.

A scientific and practical court record sheet should be devised which would reveal data that could be the basis for constructive thinking and legislation. The state should require such record sheets to be filled out by the responsible officials, and finally the Attorney General's office should be staffed and charged with the responsibility of assembling and thoroughly tabulating such data each year, making such recommendations as seem advisable after careful study.

farm products, buying farm supplies, operating creameries, cheese factories, canning plants, grain elevators, stockyards, warehouses, or rendering some one or more of the essential services connected with the conduct of farmers' enterprises. The figures do not include farmers' cooperative banks, credit associations, nor insurance companies.

Fifty-four of the associations listed are federations with local units, 49 are sales agencies operating in central markets, 35 are bargaining associations, and 98 are large-scale organizations of the centralized type. Of the total number of associations listed by the department, 3,325 are primarily engaged in marketing grain, 2,197 handle dairy products, 1,770 ship livestock, 1,250 market fruits and vegetables; 121 perform various functions in the marketing of cotton, 91 in marketing wool, 71 in marketing poultry or poultry products, and 24 in marketing tobacco.

More than 70 percent of all the associations are in the twelve North Central States. Approximately 6 percent are in the three Pacific Coast States, and less than 3 percent in the six New England States. The largest number of associations reporting from any one state is 1,383 from Minnesota. Iowa is credited with 1,094 associations, Wisconsin 1,092, and Illinois 822. Missouri has 537 associations; Nebraska, 488; Kansas, 466; California 350, and New York 286.

The grain marketing associations are largely in the twelve North Central States, as are also the greater number of the livestock shipping associations. The organizations engaged in marketing dairy products are scattered through the country with a fair percentage of the total number in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

### THE GOOD CITIZEN'S CODE

George H. Hilty, of Palatka, Florida, in a recent speech to the business men of his town, laid down a code of ethics for the guidance of every man desirous of serving his community. As described

by The Manufacturers Record, it includes:

"On the part of each one the realization that he is a citizen of a fine city, in a fine county and a fine state; that his ambition for his community will be to bring about the greatest possible success, having always in mind the highest ideals of justice, tolerance and morality; to support every worthy cause morally and financially so far as he is able to do so; to cooperate with city and county officials and help them as far as in his power lies; to think constructively, to talk constructively, to play his part as a good citizen in developing a larger, better and greater city and county; to lead, if called upon, or to follow the leader if that is his place; to boost, praise and speak kindly of his community, its industry and business, its recreation facilities and advantages, its finance and commerce, its climate and soil, its city and county officials, and to learn more about his city and county in order to convey to others the many blessings, advantages, and opportunities with which the community in which he lives has been favored."

### STUDYING TAXES

Missouri business men have formed an organization "to show the tax wastage and to formulate a plan whereby the present methods of administration may be improved so the taxpayers may receive a larger return."

They propose to examine the whole state administrative system and also that of the counties. Such an effort should be welcomed by every public official, as well as by the people.

Several states have formed such or-

ganizations and the rest should follow, for it is only by organized effort that state, county, and city taxes will ever be reduced.

The reason that so many people kick against taxes is because they don't know anything about that subject. In the first place, they don't know enough to frame and regulate proper tax laws. Then when somebody else attends to that job for them, they don't know enough to understand what it's all about, and to hide their ignorance they complain.

There should be an intelligent study of city, county, and state tax systems. Only by that can there come a fair distribution of the tax burdens. Some day, some man is going to present a proper tax law for the state, and thereby get his name written in the hall of fame. It takes courage, but there's hope that the courageous person will come along some of these days, kick the politicians out and write an equitable tax law.—Durham Herald.

### CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAYS

Our state highway system now includes 4,448 miles of completed road, on which there has been expended in four years a total of \$82,200,953. During the year 1925 there was new road construction of 1,554 miles at a cost, with bridges, of \$27,327,066. There is at present under construction an additional mileage of 816, to cost \$14,669,572, and this will be greatly increased during the year 1926 by the expenditure of from 10 to 12 million dollars loaned by various counties to the Highway Commission.—Governor McLean.

### SUPERIOR COURT CONVICTIONS

#### In North Carolina from July, 1923, to July, 1924

In the following table the counties are ranked according to the number of persons convicted by the superior court of the county from July, 1923, to July, 1924, per one thousand inhabitants. The second column shows the percent of those convicted serving prison terms or paying fines. Judgment was suspended in the remaining cases, most of which were light offenses or first offenses.

Washington county makes the best record for the year studied with .60 convictions per 1,000 inhabitants. Mitchell ranks last with 9.43 convictions per 1,000 inhabitants, and with only 23 percent of those convicted serving time or paying fine.

Based on superior court records and the U. S. census estimate of population for 1923.

Ethel Crew, Northampton county, and F. S. Wilder, New Hampshire

Rank	County	Convictions per 1,000 inhabitants	Percent serving time or paying fine	Rank	County	Convictions per 1,000 inhabitants	Percent serving time or paying fine
1	Washington	.60	71	51	Pender	3.18	66
2	Currituck	.69	80	52	Greene	3.19	50
3	Jackson	.74	60	53	Macon	3.20	60
4	Graham	.81	75	54	Vance	3.20	68
5	Harnett	.92	89	55	Hertford	3.25	55
6	Brunswick	1.07	62	56	Caldwell	3.27	72
7	Beaufort	1.09	94	57	Swain	3.30	74
8	Martin	1.10	71	58	Onslow	3.35	56
9	Iredell	1.12	66	59	Cherokee	3.39	66
10	Stanly	*1.16	57	60	Bertie	3.45	51
11	Nash	1.21	72	61	Haywood	3.48	79
12	Hyde	1.31	82	62	Duplin	3.49	66
13	Davie	1.39	74	63	Wilkes	3.52	68
14	Johnston	1.43	45	64	Surry	3.53	76
15	Chowan	1.50	94	65	New Hanover	3.59	87
16	Cleveland	1.58	74	66	Moore	3.62	69
17	Warren	1.59	77	67	Stokes	3.67	70
18	Rowan	1.66	73	68	Lenoir	3.87	76
19	Craven	1.72	67	69	Catawba	4.01	74
20	Dare	*1.73	22	70	Caswell	4.17	79
21	Bladen	1.77	44	71	Carteret	4.20	43
22	Scotland	1.85	86	72	Halifax	4.22	61
23	Gates	1.89	75	73	Duplin	4.26	68
24	Union	1.92	52	74	Pamlico	4.36	59
25	Yancey	1.92	68	75	Wilson	4.76	81
26	Pitt.	2.00	69	76	Watauga	4.78	89
27	Hoke	2.03	64	77	Buncombe	4.94	70
28	Robeson	2.13	63	78	Chatham	4.95	63
29	Wayne	2.23	80	79	Anson	5.01	67
30	Clay	2.24	45	80	Randolph	5.07	71
31	Rutherford	2.28	73	81	Durham	5.14	68
32	Alleghany	2.29	71	82	Forsyth	5.30	78
33	Northampton	2.34	65	83	Person	5.32	81
34	Columbus	2.39	75	84	Transylvania	5.37	81
35	Rockingham	2.39	86	85	McDowell	5.41	82
36	Franklin	2.41	36	86	Mecklenburg	5.82	71
37	Camden	2.42	23	87	Henderson	5.85	85
38	Edgecombe	2.46	82	88	Alamance	5.94	61
39	Avery	2.46	69	89	Wake	5.96	79
40	Cumberland	2.51	63	90	Tyrrell	5.98	41
41	Jones	2.51	54	91	Montgomery	6.08	60
42	Pasquotank	2.66	75	92	Alexander	6.19	57
43	Polk	2.70	60	93	Orange	6.62	59
44	Yadkin	2.75	52	94	Gaston	7.03	63
45	Granville	2.85	56	95	Burke	7.13	52
46	Cabarrus	2.91	58	96	Lincoln	7.77	79
47	Davidson	2.92	72	97	Perquimans	7.97	71
48	Ashe	2.95	61	98	Richmond	8.59	76
49	Guilford	3.08	90	99	Lee	8.85	64
50	Sampson	3.16	64	100	Mitchell	9.43	23

\*Data for Stanly incomplete.

Conviction rate probably higher.