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THE COST OF STATE GOVERNMENT

STATE GOVERNMENT COST

According to data just released by the federal Department of Commerce, North Carolina has the forty-second most expensive state government in the United States, on a per inhabitant expenditure basis. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, it cost \$16,679,744 to maintain and operate the general departments of our state government. The per inhabitant cost was \$6.09, and forty-one states ranked ahead of North Carolina. The table which appears elsewhere gives the per inhabitant expenditures for maintenance and operation of the general departments of the respective state governments as reported by the federal Department of Commerce, which annually assembles and tabulates the financial statistics of state governments.

What It Covers

The table covers all current state government cost payments, or what it cost to operate the general departments of the state government during the fiscal year. It does not cover outlay expenditures for permanent improvements. Such payments are made from the proceeds of bond sales which are retired over a period of years. The following items are covered, and states are comparable as all states carry on these general activities: (1) General government, executive, legislative, judicial; (2) protection to person and property; (3) development and conservation of natural resources; (4) conservation of health and sanitation; (5) highways (supervising department and maintenance only, about four million dollars); (6) charities, hospitals, and corrections; (7) education; (8) recreation; and (9) miscellaneous, mainly pensions to Confederate soldiers for North Carolina. The cost of operating and maintaining the general departments of our state government, exclusive of highway maintenance, was about twelve and a half million dollars. In our state the highway department operates separately from the general fund, but since highway maintenance is an activity of every state government, the amount spent on maintaining our state highways is included in the table which appears elsewhere. This is necessary and proper in order to make the states strictly comparable.

Interest on bonded debt is not included in the cost of operating the general departments of state government, because, due to the variety of purposes for which bonds are issued, and methods of financing them, states are not comparable. For instance in North Carolina about three-fourths of our state debt has been incurred to construct highways, which are self-financing, and to lend money to counties for building schoolhouses. The interest is paid by owners of automobiles, and by the counties which have borrowed from the state to erect schoolhouses. Actually only about a fourth of the state debt has to be taken care of from the general fund of the state.

Nevada First

The general departments of the state government of Nevada cost \$28.75 per inhabitant for the year 1925. Georgia had the least expensive state government, her expenditure per inhabitant for the year 1925 being only \$4.67. North Carolina has expanded her state government activities a great deal during the last decade, and the state has been praised a great deal because of our state government policies. But state government in North Carolina is still fairly inexpensive, compared with other states. It is only about one-fifth as expensive as in Nevada. The average state government expenditure is fifty percent above North Carolina's. The per inhabitant cost of state government is less in only six states, all southern except one. State government is only \$1.42 per inhabitant more expensive in North Carolina than in Georgia, which ranks last of all the states. State government is more expensive in Arkansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, West Virginia and other southern states. Virginia's state government is a third more expensive than North Carolina's. Louisiana spends about fifty percent more per inhabitant on state government. All of which is very gratifying to us. We are probably getting as much for our

HIGHWAYS AND CULTURE

A country without highways in a few years would belong to the Dark Ages. The greatest single forward movement being taken by the race of men today is the means of inter-communication. The greatest single thing for advancement of learning, intelligence, and of civilization is the opportunity that is afforded for the people of a country and of various countries to mingle with each other.—Senator James A. Reed, Missouri.

that confronts the public is: What percentage of the population of the state has made the acquaintance of the night shirt or pajamas? What percentage actually know what you are talking about when you speak of night shirts?

The Uplift goes on to say further: "Men high in the professions have been known to entertain no respect for a night shirt. Go to a political convention, where the hotels pack their guests in a room as if they were sardines, and observe. At the convention which nominated Chas. B. Aycock for governor, now sainted, the Yarrow Hotel crowded eleven cots into one room, each held a man and all save one manifested his contempt for any special night habiliments. In that party was a gentleman, now a judge on the Superior Court Bench; two were prominent lawyers, afterwards became congressmen; one was a doctor, who occupied a high place in the medical world; one was the editor of a conspicuous daily in the state; one was a banker; one was a school teacher and county superintendent; one was a college professor, who, yet living, has not espoused the doctrine of evolution; one was a merchant; and one a big farmer—none save one of the occupants of that room put on any airs: they slept in their drawers and gauze, if you wish to have a correct account. But we have progressed and have learned a few things, under the agencies that seek to lead us out of old fogyism. The edict has gone forth that prisoners must be introduced to night shirts. It is well to strive for cleanliness, even with prisoners on the chain-gang, but with a few more rules and restrictions, it will be economy to abolish all working prisons and substitute soup-kitchens, sleeping porches, flower gardens and silk pajamas—go to the limit."—The Uplift.

COUNTY TB. HOSPITALS

Only ten of the one hundred counties in North Carolina make special housing provisions for their tuberculous. Four of these have provisions only at county homes. Cumberland county has a preventorium that takes only children and inactive cases alone of children. Guilford and Mecklenburg are the only counties that have modern, well-equipped county sanatoria. These sanatoria solve the tuberculous problem in Guilford and Mecklenburg as nothing else would.

Every one of the larger counties in North Carolina should have a sanatorium of its own for the treatment of tuberculous. For the smaller counties three or more should combine and erect a joint sanatorium for their tuberculous. The last Legislature passed a law permitting counties to combine for the erection of joint county sanatoria. The county sanatorium may be combined with a general hospital. Counties that already have hospitals may add tuberculous divisions.

In North Carolina the county is the unit. So it should be the unit in the fight against tuberculous. Functioning properly the county unit is: 1. A sanatorium. 2. A clinic for diagnosis. 3. A health department. 4. A public nursing service. 5. A county tuberculous association. The sanatorium is placed first because it is the center from which the fight against tuberculous emanates.

To be a successful and efficient institution the county sanatorium must be a modern, well-equipped building. It must be the kind of an institution we would not hesitate to go to ourselves or to send our dearest ones to. The sale of county bonds will provide the funds for the erection of these county sanatoria. A special tax large enough to pay the interest on the bonds will take care of the maintenance. In this way the cost and upkeep of the in-

stitution will be paid for by all and freed from the odium usually attached to a pauper or charity institution.—Press item, N. C. Sanatorium.

EVERY CHURCH A PASTOR

Seventeen Protestant denominations in Ohio, banded together as the Ohio council of churches, have as their goal adequate church equipment, with the services of a resident pastor for every inhabitant of the state.

Combined in the campaign of evangelism are the following denominations: Brethren, Christian, Church of God, Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Evangelical church, Evangelical synod, Friends, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Moravian, Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, Reformed in U. S., Salvation Army, United Brethren, and United Presbyterian. The council is governed by an assembly made up of denominational delegates. Its work is financed in part by denominational appropriations, but more largely by gifts of individual contributing members. Its program reflects the judgment of the denominational delegates as to the activities in which the churches should cooperate.

Concerning adequate church establishment, the principles of comity declare: "Every community with a population of 500 or more should have one competent, full-time, well-paid, resident pastor, and the efforts of both community and the denominational officials should be directed toward bringing this

about at the earliest moment.

"In small communities of less than 1,000 population one well-equipped Protestant church with adequate residential pastoral leadership shall be considered sufficient to meet the needs. If additional workers are needed, the pastor might better have assistants for specialized departments."

Where over church conditions exist the principles urge that the churches merge, or if such a plan is believed unworkable, that a federated church be established. In the federated church, the affiliations with national and international denominations are maintained by individuals but worship and activities in the community are carried on together.

In a survey, the council found many situations of over-churching and under-churching, of duplication of effort, and of abandonment of churches where they were needed. There are 1,100 abandoned churches in the state, with representatives of nearly all denominations among them.

To supplement its work, the state council is seeking to establish strong county councils and has succeeded in half of Ohio's 88 counties. The council undertakes to investigate and conduct educational programs on public questions of moral significances.

There is an annual pastors' convention which was attended in 1926 by 600 ministers from 22 denominations. In the summer, an annual school for town and county pastors is conducted here in cooperation with Ohio State University. —Greensboro Daily News.

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA, 1925

The following table, based on Financial Statistics of State Governments for 1925, Federal Department of Commerce, itemizes the facts concerning the cost of state government in North Carolina and Virginia. North Carolina is more populous and wealthier, yet state government in Virginia is more expensive. The difference in debt is due to the difference in policy employed in building highways and extending loans to counties for erecting schoolhouses.

Items	North Carolina	Virginia
Population	2,812,000	2,486,000
Assessed valuation	\$2,711,784,000	\$2,029,822,000
Maintenance and operation of general departments of state government	\$16,679,744	\$19,675,760
Per capita cost	\$6.09	\$8.07
Apportionment for education	\$1,842,788	\$5,630,056
Interest on debt	\$1,421,994	\$744,020
Outlays for permanent improvements	\$26,296,950	\$12,540,871
Highways	\$25,212,675	\$14,104,072
Total revenue receipts	\$28,416,461	\$30,261,961
Per capita	\$10.37	\$12.42
State debt	\$91,646,408	\$26,211,181
State tax on property	None	\$7,328,742
Increase in special and property taxes 1917-1924, percent	92.6	127.1
Per capita, special and property taxes	\$1.92	\$4.32

COST OF STATE GOVERNMENTS Per Inhabitant for the Year 1925

In the following table, based on Financial Statistics of State Governments, Federal Department of Commerce, the states are ranked according to the per inhabitant cost of maintaining and operating the general departments of state government for the fiscal year ending 1925. The table covers all current expenditures, that is, what it cost to operate the government during the fiscal year. Outlay payments for permanent improvements are not included, but interest on all debt is included.

The state government of Nevada cost \$28.75 per inhabitant. State government in Georgia cost only \$4.67 per inhabitant.

It cost \$16,679,744 to run the state government of North Carolina for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925. The per inhabitant cost was \$6.09 and North Carolina ranked 42nd on this basis, only \$1.42 per inhabitant above the state which ranked lowest, and \$3.11 per inhabitant below the average for all the states, which was \$9.20 per inhabitant.

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Rank	States	Per inhab. cost state government	Rank	State	Per inhab. cost state government
1	Nevada	\$28.75	25	Idaho	\$9.12
2	Wyoming	22.72	26	Louisiana	9.00
3	Delaware	17.29	27	Rhode Island	8.72
4	Utah	15.48	28	Virginia	8.07
5	New York	14.96	29	Pennsylvania	8.04
6	California	14.86	30	Montana	7.96
7	Connecticut	14.02	31	Iowa	7.68
8	Vermont	14.01	32	Oklahoma	7.38
9	Oregon	13.02	33	Indiana	7.29
10	Maine	12.93	34	Illinois	6.94
11	North Dakota	12.91	35	Kansas	6.91
12	Washington	12.66	35	West Virginia	6.91
13	Minnesota	12.37	37	Missouri	6.80
14	New Hampshire	12.13	38	South Carolina	6.68
15	North Carolina	11.98	39	Kentucky	6.66
16	New Jersey	11.46	40	Nebraska	6.24
17	South Dakota	11.17	41	Arkansas	6.10
18	Texas	10.88	42	North Carolina	6.09
19	Maryland	10.69	43	Florida	5.79
20	Michigan	10.63	44	Mississippi	5.78
21	Colorado	10.52	45	Alabama	5.50
22	New Mexico	10.22	46	Tennessee	5.39
23	Wisconsin	9.47	47	Ohio	5.16
24	Massachusetts	9.30	48	Georgia	4.67

ARE WE NIGHT-SHIRTLESS?

Here is rich opportunity for a survey, says The Uplift. The question