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LUXURIES VERSUS EDUCATION

LUXURIES VS. EDUCATION

The American people spend more money in a year for tobacco than they do for education. They spend more for drug-store products than they do for tobacco. They spend a billion dollars a year for movies and theatre admissions. For trivial luxuries they spend nearly twice as much as the cost of the federal government. At least such is the case if the estimates prepared by the United States Treasury Department are reliable. The estimated expenditures for certain luxuries in 1924 are as follows:

Item	U. S.	N. C.
Tobacco.....	\$1,847,000,000	\$19,024,100
Soft drinks and ice cream.....	820,000,000	8,446,000
Theatres, movies, etc.	934,000,000	9,620,200
Candy.....	689,000,000	7,096,700
Chewing gum	87,000,000	896,100
Jewelry.....	453,000,000	4,665,900
Sporting goods, toys, etc.	431,000,000	4,439,300
Perfumes and cosmetics ...	261,000,000	2,688,300
Total.....	\$5,522,000,000	\$56,876,600

The figures for the states were independently estimated by distributing the national expenditures for these luxuries among the states according to such guides as value of intangible wealth, average annual income, taxes paid in connection with admissions to theatres, and taxes paid in connection with purchase of jewelry. The amounts given for each state should therefore be considered only as approximations. We are reproducing here only the estimated expenditures for tobacco and the total estimated expenditures for all these luxuries. A parallel column shows school expenditures for the same year in the several states.

Evidence of Ability

It will be noticed that North Carolina's expenditures for these several items is estimated at \$56,876,600, and for tobacco alone \$19,024,100. The total current expenses and outlays for schools in 1924 was \$30,980,022. Our tobacco bill was thus more than sixty percent as much as our educational bill and our total luxury bill was nearly twice as much as our entire school expenditures. Nor does this group of luxuries, so-called, include any of the more costly type of luxuries, such as automobiles, victrolas, radios, expensive furniture, elegant clothing, and travel-expense.

It is neither necessary nor desirable that the American people forego these luxuries. It is good that we have a standard of life high enough to permit such indulgences. On the other hand we cannot spend these huge sums for non-essentials and then plead poverty when it comes to paying taxes for schools or supporting other worth-while causes. We are spending in North Carolina fifty-six million dollars a year for knickknacks and we groan terribly when it becomes necessary to increase the state budget by a million or two dollars. We say we cannot afford an eight months' school term, yet our candy bill alone would more than pay for the increased term. Our tobacco bill each year exceeds the total cost of the state government. Our luxury bill would pay the entire state debt in two and one half years. If we would reduce our expenditures for these non-essentials by five percent and increase our taxes by that amount we could add \$2,800,000 a year to the equalizing fund.

It is unnecessary to make further comparisons. Enough has been said to reveal that we are not a poverty-stricken state. A state that can afford fifty-six million dollars a year for tobacco, movies, and certain drug-store products can afford to spend liberally for more substantial things. What we spend on tobacco alone is almost equal to the current cost of all the public schools in the state. What we can afford in North Carolina depends entirely upon how badly we want it.

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is the largest producer of tobacco and the seventh largest grower of cotton, but the rise as a producer of agricultural products is only a part of a more widespread progress. The real measure of the state's economic progress is to be found in its industrial growth, according to Elmore F. Higgins, vice-president, The Bank of America, New York.

In a study which appears in The Bank of America Review, Mr. Higgins finds that the manufacture of tobacco products, furniture, lumber, and particularly textiles, has been responsible for a general growth of trade and commercial activity throughout a large part of the state.

"Two years ago, North Carolina became the leading cotton spinning state. Massachusetts has still the largest number of spindles in its mills but in operation of spindles and in the consumption of raw cotton, North Carolina now ranks first.

"Second only to textile manufacture in importance to the state is the manufacture of tobacco products, and North Carolina farmers have found tobacco one of the most profitable crops to raise. Last year's crop, valued at \$103,000,000, represented nearly a third in value of the principal crops in the state, yet less than one-tenth of the cultivated area was given over to it.

"The future for the growing of tobacco and manufacture of its products is exceedingly bright. Not only is scientific study being applied to its cultivation but improvements are also being made in the methods of merchandising, evidenced by the growth of marketing centers and better warehousing facilities.

"The furniture industry also plays an important role in the industrial life of North Carolina. In 1925 the value of household furniture produced in the state amounted to \$48,149,403. Allied to this is the lumber industry which cuts over a billion board feet annually. Saw mills are scattered throughout the state and while for the most part of moderate size their total output is large.

"One of the biggest factors in the recent expansion of North Carolina's trade and industry has been the advent of good roads. The construction of hard-paved highways throughout the state has opened up its farming communities to the world, stimulated trade and accelerated the growth of industrial centers to such an extent that their importance is hard to overestimate. A recent survey of state indebtedness made by The Bank of America shows that North Carolina has issued bonds for highway construction aggregating \$85,299,600—an amount exceeded by only three states. While this expenditure has raised the bonded debt of the state to \$143,392,600, the second largest in the Union, its results are already evident and North Carolina promises to grow with its roads.

"Notable progress has also been made in adding to and improving educational facilities. And it shows that the progressive citizens of North Carolina are laying down solid foundations upon which to continue building for the future."

AGRICULTURE FIRST

Few of the farmers' organizations or their leaders have the vision to see that the current agrarian agitation is not an effort to save agriculture and the country so much as an effort to help industry and the city. These few know that the only solution of the farm problem is not to devise ways by which the farmer can get more money, but to free him from the bonds of artificial debt and desire which have made him want it at all. For the land is not only our ultimate natural resource so long as we have to raise food, but it is our ultimate human spiritual resource so long as we wish to raise men. The problem of its cultivation is primarily a problem of culture and only then a problem of economics. It is whether we shall cultivate soil and souls or dollars and desires, whether we shall have men or mere consumers on our farms.—Virgil Jordan, in Forum.

A VIRGIN PAGE

If a man's memory is not a virgin page for his own perceptions, but is written and crossed over with the thoughts of former persons, he is in constant doubt as to whether he is 'original', or is merely giving a fresh wording to old stuff; whereas, if he write from the heart, he is free from anxiety, for one man's heart can never see or feel like any other's.—Julian Hawthorne, in The Dearborn Independent.

SURFACED HIGHWAYS

North Carolina ranks twenty-eighth in size and fourteenth in population but only seven states rank ahead of us in the number of miles of surfaced highways maintained by the state. Furthermore, only eight states rank ahead of us in the number of miles of surfaced roads maintained by local governments, which happen to be counties in North Carolina. The United States Bureau of Public Roads reports that on January 1, 1926, North Carolina had 5,311 miles of state-constructed and state-maintained surfaced highways, and 14,705 miles of surfaced highways maintained by counties. This refers to a year and a half ago. The mileage of surfaced highways has been increased considerably during the last eighteen months, and due to the rapidity with which we are constructing state and local highways it is very probable that our rank is higher now than at that time.

AUTOMOBILE FACTS

According to the 1927 edition of Facts and Figures of the Automobile Industry, National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, North Carolina ranked eighteenth in number of motor vehicles with 385,047 January 1, 1927. This total involves an estimate for the last six months of the year as our registration begins on July 1.

In persons per motor car North Carolina ranks thirty-eighth. Ten Southern states rank below North Carolina.

The numerical increase in motor vehicles for the calendar year 1926 is reported as 41,760, with only fourteen states showing a larger numerical gain. The increase in motor vehicles for the year was 13.1 percent, and only twelve states showed larger gains. North Carolina's motor cars are increasing about ten times as fast as our population. It will not be long before we shall average a motor car to the family in North Carolina. Already there is one to approximately every six and one-half inhabitants.

DEATH FROM MOTOR CARS

Automobiles have killed since 1895 more than half as many persons as have been killed in the six major wars in which the United States has engaged in its history.

This was the startling statement of Otto Y. Schnering, safety expert of national reputation, in an address here. Total deaths from automobiles in 32 years have been 170,612, according to Mr. Schnering, whose figures are based on National Safety Council records. Total number of men killed in the six great wars of the United States were 323,702.

Mr. Schnering gave a tabulation of deaths in wars in this way:

American Revolution	2,000
War of 1812	1,877
Mexican War	19,315
Civil War	243,891
Spanish War	6,619
World War	50,000
Total	323,702

"No records exist of those killed in the Revolution and 2,000 is perhaps a fair estimate, as 238,200 soldiers were engaged in the struggle for independence. The figure for the Mexican War includes the killed and those who died from disease and accident. Statistics for the Civil War comprise deaths in both Northern and Southern armies.

"Deaths from automobiles are a matter of estimate from 1895 to 1910. After 1910 the record is exact. Four automobiles were in public use in 1895 and 22,001,393 in 1926. No deaths were caused by automobiles in 1895 or 1896, and only

five in 1897. The record of tragedies in 1926 was 20,000."

Mr. Schnering recently launched a national safety movement for the special purpose of preserving the lives of children. Five thousand children, he declared, are killed by motor cars annually in the United States.—News and Observer.

NORTH CAROLINA PEACHES

According to a survey made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, there are 2,190,894 peach trees in the commercial orchards of North Carolina. Of this number 1,843,228 trees are located in Moore, Montgomery, and Richmond counties. In 1926 these three counties shipped 1,806 cars out of a state total of 2,072. Candor in Montgomery county is the heaviest loading point, moving 650 cars.

In volume of carload peach shipments North Carolina, during the 1926 season, ranked sixth, being preceded in turn by New York, Arkansas, Illinois, Georgia, and California, and followed in order of importance by Tennessee, Washington, Colorado, and New Jersey. Georgia, shipping 18,000 carloads a year, is North Carolina's greatest competitor.

The destination of 1866 cars shipped from North Carolina during the peak of the season, July 12 to August 14 inclusive, was as follows: N. Y. 687; Pa. 447; Mass. 125; Md. 103; Va. 83; Ohio 76; Ct. 75; N. J. 74; D. C. 55; R. I. 53;

Mich. 25; N. C. 25; Me. 5; Ind. 5; Ky. 4; Del. 3; Ala. 2; N. H. 1; Vt. 1; Canada 1; Cuba 1.

MILK

"A bottle of milk and a bath" was the first request of Charles A. Lindbergh, after reaching the home of Ambassador Herrick in Paris upon the completion of his trans-Atlantic flight.

A. M. Loomis, Secretary of the American Dairy Federation says this is the finest tribute which has ever been paid to the American cow and that the slogan which Lindbergh innocently created will be worth millions to the dairy industry.

When Lindbergh made his simple request he unconsciously epitomized our American ideals—sobriety, health, cleanliness, character. He rejected wine and asked for a health-giving food, the food upon which he was reared and which is in part responsible for his superb physical manhood. Milk is nature's most perfect food, and American children grow strong and ruddy by drinking it. There are millions of children in France and other European countries who never get a taste of milk. And, alas, there are children in North Carolina, thousands of them, who are denied this nourishing food. The last agricultural census reveals that there are 100,000 farms in North Carolina without a single cow. Think of it—100,000 farm families, a half million farm inhabitants, among whom are a third of a million children, who hardly know the taste of milk!

EXPENDITURE FOR LUXURIES AND EDUCATION

The following table, based on estimates of the federal Treasury Department as reported by the National Education Association and on statistics of state school systems issued by the federal Bureau of Education, shows for 1924 the total expenditures for schools of all sorts, compared with expenditures for luxuries. Included under luxuries are only the following: Tobacco, soft drinks and ice cream, theatres and movies, candy, chewing gum, jewelry, sporting goods, perfumes and cosmetics. Automobiles and numerous other things which might be included in part or in whole do not enter into the calculations.

The third column shows the estimated expenditures by states for tobacco alone.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina.

State	Expenditures for schools	Expenditures for luxuries	Expenditures for tobacco
Alabama	\$14,386,394	\$46,354,800	\$15,514,800
Arizona	7,975,366	16,013,800	5,356,300
Arkansas	9,440,786	35,893,000	12,005,500
California	124,240,978	335,787,600	112,297,600
Colorado	22,960,826	49,692,000	16,623,000
Connecticut	24,996,771	87,247,600	29,182,600
Delaware	3,203,492	9,939,600	3,324,600
District of Columbia	6,668,393	43,071,600	14,406,600
Florida	12,398,902	39,208,200	13,113,700
Georgia	17,292,969	64,607,400	21,609,900
Idaho	8,972,918	17,670,400	5,910,400
Illinois	116,677,301	466,609,900	156,071,500
Indiana	51,169,383	133,632,400	44,697,400
Iowa	48,194,125	121,484,000	40,634,000
Kansas	35,286,038	71,786,000	24,011,000
Kentucky	17,195,004	61,294,200	20,501,700
Louisiana	19,432,339	58,876,800	19,024,100
Maine	10,129,601	31,475,400	10,527,900
Maryland	20,489,898	76,203,600	25,483,600
Massachusetts	70,107,400	270,026,800	90,318,300
Michigan	82,858,436	217,014,600	72,587,100
Minnesota	55,392,199	112,648,800	37,678,800
Mississippi	9,833,452	29,266,600	9,789,100
Missouri	45,989,850	162,346,800	64,301,800
Montana	10,760,093	24,296,800	8,126,800
Nebraska	26,772,818	64,055,200	21,425,200
Nevada	2,111,709	5,522,000	1,847,000
New Hampshire	5,832,089	19,879,200	6,649,200
New Jersey	78,968,680	181,673,800	60,766,300
New Mexico	4,757,151	9,387,400	3,139,900
New York	243,455,083	935,187,800	313,805,300
North Carolina	30,980,022	56,876,600	19,024,100
North Dakota	16,706,696	22,640,200	7,572,700
Ohio	123,976,218	331,320,000	110,820,000
Oklahoma	32,649,784	53,633,200	19,578,200
Oregon	16,392,026	51,354,600	17,177,100
Pennsylvania	149,909,733	495,323,400	165,675,900
Rhode Island	8,606,771	35,893,000	12,095,500
South Carolina	12,825,341	33,684,200	11,266,700
South Dakota	15,570,870	28,162,200	9,419,700
Tennessee	16,832,091	61,846,400	20,686,400
Texas	55,687,875	168,421,000	56,333,500
Utah	9,349,516	20,431,400	6,833,900
Vermont	4,026,555	12,709,600	4,243,100
Virginia	20,306,675	66,264,000	22,164,000
Washington	27,362,702	85,591,000	28,623,500
West Virginia	22,453,950	56,324,400	18,839,400
Wisconsin	44,331,449	125,901,600	42,111,600
Wyoming	5,835,164	11,596,200	3,878,700
Total	1,820,743,936	5,522,000,000	1,847,000,000