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## FACTS ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA

### OUR COUNTY CHAIN GANGS

Only by calling the county chain gang "ours" may we appreciate fully that the problem is up to all North Carolinians. The system as operating in many counties of this state is antiquated and should be remedied or abolished.

That county convict road working fails economically and as a penal institution, except in a few counties that have a large number of prisoners, is shown by Jesse F. Steiner and Roy M. Brown in a recent study published by the University of North Carolina Press. Their findings comprise a vivid picture of the county chain gang system.

Based on data from 20 of the 48 counties that maintain chain gangs, and including 1,521 of the 2,500 prisoners in these groups October 1, 1926, the study may be regarded as sufficiently broad to represent conditions generally over the state. It deals with questions of sanitation, discipline, economic aspects and county versus state control of convict road work. While stressing the need of prisons where social correction rather than mere punishment will be the primary aim, the research workers indict strongly the existing practices in small counties.

In the chapter on "Health and Sanitation," cases revealing almost unbelievable lack of sanitation and medical care at some of the temporary camps are cited from reports of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. It is unfortunate that names of the delinquent counties are omitted and that few case histories are cited. "At least three-fourths of all the county prison camps occupy quarters of such a nature that it is exceedingly difficult if not impractical to maintain healthful living conditions for prisoners even under the best management, the investigators assert.

"Final recourse, in case bad conditions continue, is to the courts, a step that has not yet been taken, although many violations of the law are of long standing with no apparent effort by the county authorities to improve conditions." Under the law, it is pointed out, the State Health Board makes recommendations with which counties must comply regarding camp sanitation.

Inspecting 53 county camps in 1925, including the permanent, well kept camps as well as temporary ones, the following average percentage grades were recorded: Location of camp, 83; construction, equipment, ventilation, etc., 73; water supply, 71; clothing, 77; bedding, 64; sewage disposal, 49; vermin, 67, flies and mosquitoes, 54.

"Buncombe County's law provides that only prisoners sentenced for five years or under may be sent to the roads, and, further, that the Board of County Commissioners may in its discretion abolish the use of striped clothing as a garb for the use of prisoners in said county of Buncombe altogether." The same law, on the other hand, specifically provides for flogging as a means of discipline, though it attempts to guard against what it terms cruel and unmerciful beating."

"Doubtless many penal officials will not agree with the conclusions reached by those engaged in disinterested study of the chain gang problem. Many will cling to the theory that a prison is intended primarily to punish. If this volume helps to break down "the deterrent philosophy of punishment," it will have achieved sufficient good to justify its publication.—Asheville Citizen.

### PATCHWORK PALACES

Picture the poor ragpicker digging into a hillside to make a smooth site for his humble hut; watch him bring the blocks and lay the foundation, piece by piece. Slowly he erects the wall of ill-matched timber unevenly cut. Here a goods-box plank, bearing an address in ink, and there an old board, fits into the ungainly frame. Its roof presents even a greater hodge-podge if possible, of boards, other timbers and tin. A small hole in the wall but with no glass serves as a window.

Such a hovel, in outline, Henry W. Grady, Georgia editor and orator, used to describe fully in one of his lectures.

Grady watched the house bud in the spring, grow into full bloom as summer advanced, and ripen with the autumn. He called it a patchwork palace, for to the ragpicker it meant more than a castle to a king. Grady was a great home-lover; to him the important point was that the patchwork palace filled the rag-picker's desire for a home.

Desire to own homes is instinctive. Persons driven from their homes, and those who because of their social state stand no chance to obtain them, are regarded as some of the most pitiable charitable charges.

Jesus was stressing his utter lack of worldly goods when he told a would-be follower, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head."

Today, those who possess their abodes seem to ingratiate themselves in a community. They display a confidence in their neighbors which causes people near them to reciprocate. Home owners represent stability in a community; they are its greatest asset.

What is more, home owners gain for themselves something that is essential to everyone in a community—contentment, the happiness of a lowly ragpicker who rejoices under the eaves of his own patchwork palace.—Asheville Citizen.

### THE SOUTH OF TODAY

Inspiration for every Southerner is in the story of what the South has achieved in the last twenty-five years. It is a romance in dollar marks. In a concise summary, The Manufacturers Record tells the tale as follows:

"In 1900 the country had nearly twice the population of the South of today, but the total wealth of the country at that time was only 10 percent larger than the wealth of the South of today.

"The total value of the South's manufactured products is within 10 percent of the total for the United States in 1900. The South's cotton manufactured product is just a little less than three times the total of the country 25 years ago. Its furniture output exceeds by \$12,000,000 that of the United States at that time.

"Its mineral product exceeds by over \$670,000,000 the mineral output of the entire country in 1900.

"Its petroleum production is seven times as large as that of the United States in 1900.

"The value of its farm products in 1926 exceeded by \$500,000,000 the total for the country in 1900.

"The value of its exports was over \$278,000,000 in excess of the exports from the United States 26 years ago.

"Its individual bank deposits exceeded those of the entire country in 1900 by over \$50,000,000, and even its public school expenditures exceeded by \$150,000,000 the entire amount expended on public school work in 1900 when the country's population was nearly 76,000,000 as compared with 39,700,000 for the South of today."

No section of the same area anywhere on the globe has ever surpassed this record. In view of it, nobody can be seriously alarmed by a temporary slowing down of business in isolated parts of the South at any time. What has been accomplished is merely the running start the South has made toward realization of her destiny.

When we realize that North Carolina is the recognized leader and exemplar of Southern progress, we also perceive that this State can not even estimate by what she has done in the past the extent of her potential power and wealth. So long as the courage, vision and enterprise of our citizens are unimpaired, North Carolina's future will grow bigger and bigger.—Asheville Citizen.

### HOME CONVENIENCES

Farm Home Conveniences is the title of Farmers' Bulletin 927, United States Department of Agriculture. This bulletin ought to be in every farm home in the state. Also city and small town homes could get a number of good ideas for making home comforts and conveniences from this bulletin.

## EDUCATION SERIES

We are beginning in this issue a series of notes on public education. These notes are printed primarily to present to educational committees, legislators, and interested citizens, the essentials of a wise program of educational legislation, state-wide in scope, based upon the experiences of the various states during the last few decades.

Conditions affecting the kinds of school systems do not differ fundamentally; therefore, each state profits by the experience of others and through the adoption of what proves good the states are tending toward systems more similar than in the past. We have, therefore, what may be designated as a "trend in the school development" in the United States generally toward similarity in systems and practices. School legislation should be passed in the light of what has been proved effective in other states and with the knowledge before one of what has been tried and discarded and the reasons influencing success or failure. The United States Bureau of Education has made a thorough study of the state systems of education. The series which begins with this issue is a brief resume of what has been found desirable and acceptable.

Conservation of time and energy is obviously one of the problems of the housekeeper. Time and strength may be saved in two ways, first by taking thought as to the way one uses strength, and second by making use of labor-saving equipment. This may easily make the difference between a tired overworked housekeeper and one who has some time and energy left for reading and recreation after the day's work is done.

Home conveniences have already been installed in several thousand country homes under the direction of state and county demonstration agents. This phase of demonstration has not only effected a real saving in the work of the home, but it is helping the farm woman to get a greater amount of happiness out of her daily tasks.

The household conveniences described in this bulletin have been selected because they may be made at a moderate cost and by anybody who has a few simple tools and the ability to use them. Their use also yields a large return in comfort, economy, and sanitation. Full descriptions are offered for making a large number of practical and useful home conveniences.

Census reports and field studies show that North Carolina farm homes are the most deficient in home conveniences of almost any state. Labor conditions in our farm homes are hard, and largely unnecessarily so. The lot of the farm wife could be made much easier by the installation of more home conveniences.

### DO YOU KNOW

That libraries offer the least expensive and most generally used form of recreation?

That one good book in a free library can give pleasure and profit to scores of readers?

That you are robbing children of a part of their heritage if you fail to provide them with suitable books?

That it is as important to teach children what to read as it is to teach them how to read?

How necessary it is that a child's taste for reading should be developed and directed by providing the kind of books that will establish a desire for the best in literature?

That a "balanced ration" in reading is just as necessary as it is in stock feeding?

That it is more unwise to oblige children to forage for their intellectual food than it is to force livestock to depend upon forage for subsistence?

What the state can do to assist in establishing and maintaining free libraries?—New York Libraries.

## NOTES ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

### I. THE STATE AND THE SCHOOLS

Practice in the United States as well as constitutional or statutory provisions, charges the several state legislatures with the responsibility of providing a system of schools for all the children of the state adequate to their needs and efficient in fulfilling the educational ideals of the people of the state. Education with us is admittedly a state responsibility. It follows therefore, that it is the duty of the state legislature (1) to formulate a constructive policy for the education of all the children of the state; (2) to provide the administrative machinery for a school system adequate to carry out this policy; and (3) to make such changes from time to time as changing conditions and educational needs require.

It is well known that after-war conditions have brought about fundamental changes in ideals for a modern education system. Progressive states, therefore, are providing for such changes in administrative organization; in sources, amount, and distribution of funds; and in school and curriculum reorganization, as the needs of modern life require. The program of adjustment of the school system to the growing needs and expectations of the people involves many problems which

state legislatures must help solve. Among the most pressing of those which call for legislative action at this time are: (1) To secure more nearly equitable adjustment within the state of tax burdens and educational opportunities for all children. (2) To provide systems of school support which will enable the schools of the state more adequately to meet the expansion necessary in the provision of school facilities commensurate with the new ideals for school buildings, school organization, enriched curricula, and increased costs of instruction and general school administration. (3) To provide such administrative systems as will insure professional administration and efficient and economical management of the schools. The State, as such, is responsible for providing an administrative system which makes possible an elementary and secondary education for all children in the state. (4) To set up certain minimum standards which all schools and school systems must meet, and to provide for such sources of support as will enable all communities to maintain schools satisfying established standards.—U.S. Bureau of Education.

### KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

#### Important Facts about the State, 1900, 1910, and 1920

The following table from the 1927 edition of Blue Book of Southern Progress gives a number of important facts about North Carolina for the years 1900, 1910, and 1926. The reader is urged to note especially the progress the state has made in nearly all items.

Total area, 52,426 square miles; land 48,740 square miles; water 3,686 square miles. Rank 27th in size among the states, and 15th in population.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

	1900	1910	1926
Population	1,893,810	2,206,287	2,358,000
Property, true value	\$621,982,000	\$1,685,408,000	\$4,543,110,000 (4)
Assessed value property	\$306,579,715	\$613,000,000	\$2,802,000,000
<b>Manufactures:</b>			
Capital	\$68,283,005	\$217,185,588	
Products, value	\$85,274,082	\$216,656,055	\$1,050,434,000 (5)
<b>Mines and quarries:</b>			
Capital		\$5,985,112	\$2,250,434 (6)
Products, value	\$924,000	\$1,358,617	\$2,736,643 (6)
<b>Cotton manufacturing:</b>			
Capital	\$33,012,000	\$96,993,000	\$268,323,000 (6)
Products, value	\$28,373,000	\$72,680,000	\$316,068,931 (5)
Spindles, number active	1,134,909	3,163,199	5,943,203
Looms, number active	25,469	55,600	84,278
Cotton consumed, bales	404,535	754,483	1,411,710
<b>Cottonseed oil mills:</b>			
Capital		\$4,432,010	\$14,586,456 (6)
Products, value	\$2,676,871	\$8,504,477	\$18,832,000
<b>Furniture manufacturing:</b>			
Products, value	\$1,023,000	\$11,439,000 (2)	\$51,208,238 (5)
Lumber cut, feet	1,278,399,000	1,824,722,000	1,040,735,000 (5)
Mineral products, value	\$1,458,848	\$2,616,131	\$9,504,000 (6)
Iron ore mined, tons		65,278	15,000
All land in farms, acres	22,749,356	22,439,129	18,597,795 (5)
Improved land, acres	8,327,106	8,813,056	7,714,000 (5)
Number of farms	224,637	253,725	283,492 (5)
Value of all farm property	\$233,834,643	\$637,716,210	\$1,050,227,662 (5)
Value of farm land	\$141,955,840	\$343,164,945	\$689,719,172 (5)
Farm products, value	\$89,310,000	\$176,262,000	\$412,000,000
Farm crops, value	\$68,625,000	\$181,072,000	\$327,680,000
Farm crops, acres	5,609,000	5,736,000	7,594,000
<b>Cotton crop:</b>			
Acres	1,007,000	1,478,000	2,023,000
Bales, number	433,030	706,000	1,250,000
Value	\$15,697,000	\$49,710,000	\$71,875,000
<b>Tobacco crop, pounds:</b>			
Value	\$8,038,691	\$13,847,559	\$103,802,000
Acres	203,023	221,890	674,000
<b>Grain crop:</b>			
Corn, bushels	29,790,000	49,290,000	52,272,000
Value	\$16,980,000	\$37,460,000	\$45,999,000
Acres	2,483,000	2,650,000	2,376,000
Wheat, bushels	5,961,000	6,817,000	6,303,000
Value	\$4,888,000	\$7,499,000	\$9,013,000
Acres	621,000	598,000	447,000
Oats, bushels	5,046,000	4,022,000	6,820,000
Value	\$2,271,000	\$2,413,000	\$4,706,000
Acres	363,000	221,000	310,000
<b>Livestock:</b>			
Cattle, number	625,000	701,000	513,000
Sheep, number	302,000	214,000	77,000
Swine, number	1,300,000	1,228,000	849,000
Horses, number	159,000	166,000	114,000
Mules, number	136,000	175,000	279,000
<b>Banking:</b>			
Aggregate resources		\$112,213,762	\$505,891,000
Paid-in capital		\$16,376,506	\$37,231,000
Individual deposits	\$16,768,000	\$67,285,654	\$352,767,000
Railroad mileage	3,831	4,932	5,950
Motor vehicles, number		6,178 (2)	385,047
Highway expenditures	\$624,381 (1)	\$5,215,491 (3)	\$47,216,147
Public schools, expenditures	\$950,000	\$3,057,000	\$30,980,022 (7)

(1) 1904; (2) 1912; (3) 1914; (4) 1922; (5) 1925; (6) 1920; (7) 1924.