

The news in this publication is released for the press on receipt.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

MARCH 7, 1928

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

VOL. XIV, No. 17

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., P. W. Wager, L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, H. W. Odum. Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

## DISTRIBUTION OF N. C. DOCTORS

### COUNTRY DOCTORS

There has been some concern in this and other states over the dearth of country doctors. Many communities that have long had a doctor in their midst have found that no young doctor is willing to take the place of an older physician who has retired. This is true despite the fact that the automobile and good roads have made the lot of a country doctor much easier than it used to be. So keenly have some communities felt this loss that they have offered a subsidy to any good doctor that would locate in their midst. No aspect of country life—isolation, toil, monotony—is so depressing as the knowledge that there can be no prompt medical attention in case of serious illness or accident.

No doubt it is true that there are fewer doctors living in the open country and in small villages than there once were. Many farms may be further in miles from a doctor than they were, but it is doubtful if they are further away in time. Twenty miles can be negotiated as quickly today as four miles a generation ago. Doctors prefer to congregate in the towns and cities, partly because of more desirable living conditions for themselves and their families, partly because of specialization within the medical profession, and partly because of their legitimate desire to be near a hospital. Yet, with doctors at each county seat, or major town, few farmsteads are more than an hour's distance from a doctor. Most country regions are probably as well served as they ever have been. The exceptions are those counties which do not have doctors even at the county seat, or have doctors who will not engage in country practice.

### Distribution in North Carolina

The table which appears elsewhere in this issue shows the distribution of doctors in North Carolina, by counties. It will be noticed that the urban counties have far more physicians in proportion to population than the average rural county. Buncombe county, for instance, has 114 doctors, or one for every 679 persons. New Hanover, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Wake, and Durham all have a relatively large number of physicians.

The state average is one physician for 1,401 people; and sixty-four counties have less than this ratio. In fifteen counties the ratio is less than one physician for each 2,500 people. Gates and Graham counties have only two doctors each, and Tyrrell, with a population of nearly 5,000, has not a single doctor. At least such are the facts if the list of doctors furnished by the State Board of Health is correct. It has been several months since this list was revised and probably there are some inaccuracies in it now.

On the whole, North Carolina doctors seem to be well distributed. In only a few counties does there appear to be a serious shortage. Of course there may be a dearth of young doctors in some instances, and hence the prospect of a shortage later on. The urban counties are credited with a disproportionate share of the total number of doctors, but it must be remembered that the patients of the urban doctors are not limited to city people. Country people are making more and more use of city hospitals and city physicians, particularly the specialists.

The distribution of doctors in the state may not be a perfectly balanced one. Certain areas may lack adequate medical service; certainly there are areas which are without adequate hospital facilities. But with a network of good roads covering the state, the situation is not so serious as would be the case otherwise. Dr. Rankin maintains that a better distribution of hospitals will result in a better distribution of doctors, for the hospital has become an essential element of modern medical science and doctors locate near hospitals. It is therefore encouraging to note the appearance of good general hospitals in many of the smaller towns of the state.—Paul W. Wager.

### ORANGE CITIZENS MEET

The adoption of the budget as a feature of county administration promises to prove a means of popular

control as well as one of fiscal control. In the past, the taxpayers have found it difficult to follow the financial transactions of the county and to ascertain whether expenditures were in excess of income. The announcement of a bond issue to fund accumulated deficits has often been their first intimation of a deficiency. Now for the first time it is possible for the citizens of a county to follow expenditures month by month and check against the budget. In at least two counties—Buncombe and Orange—the citizens have organized for just this purpose. An announcement of the Buncombe organization appears elsewhere in this issue.

In Orange county a group of interested citizens began meeting in November to study and discuss county affairs. In January the group adopted the name Orange County Civic Association and opened its membership to all citizens. It meets once a month at either Chapel Hill or Hillsboro for about one hour. A few days before each meeting the secretary goes to the courthouse and gets the latest information relative to tax collections, indebtedness, status of the budget, and other matters of current interest. Mimeographed sheets containing this information are handed to each member as he comes in to the meeting. This not only saves time but provides a basis for discussion at the meeting. One or more of the county commissioners have been present at the last two meetings to further enlighten the members. At the next meeting it is hoped to have every county official present.

The association exists for no other purpose than to become acquainted with and keep correctly informed about county finances and county affairs. Its membership includes bankers, manufacturers, farmers, university professors and other representative men of the county. They are not tax-kickers, but men who want to see an efficient administration of county affairs and who are determined to exercise their right and duty as citizens and taxpayers to secure the same. The county officials do not resent the formation of the organization, but, to the contrary, are glad to see the citizens taking a positive interest in county affairs. Dr. E. C. Branson of the University is chairman of the group.

### PINE NEEDLE BASKETS

Clay county, Alabama, noted during the war for its graphite mines, is now attracting attention because of its pine straw baskets, made by the farm women and girls of the county. They began the manufacture of fancy baskets in 1926, using the "needle" of the pine tree. Just before Christmas of that year they had a large number on hand and requested Mrs. J. E. S. Rudd, home demonstration agent, to assist in finding a market. She shipped several hundred baskets to Birmingham, where she rented a sample room in the leading hotel, sold them out and returned with the money in time to distribute it before Christmas.

This experience greatly pleased the county people and at the same time showed that they would have to standardize and make better baskets to establish the industry. This they have done; and they have been able to sell their baskets to leading florists, department stores, and other dealers in the cities of the North and East.

During the year one or two sales-ladies have been on the road all the time selling pine needle baskets made in Clay county. Sales the first ten months netted the producers more than \$10,000 and Mrs. Rudd thinks this can be doubled during 1928. To further the industry, an association, backed by the business men of Ashland, Alabama, has been organized and they are working to make Clay county famous for its pine needle baskets.—Manufacturers Record.

### THE BENSON CREAMERY

No other creamery in the state has attracted so much attention recently as the one at Benson, a small town in Johnston county, that started opera-

### PAYING THE PIPER

If I know what is in my own heart, I am more concerned with the spiritual progress of North Carolina, than I am with any mere matter of material progress. I realize, however, that we cannot develop our services of government, involving as they do the necessity for larger sums of money to carry them on, unless we husband our material resources.

If we are to have the money, with which to pay for various things which contribute to educational and cultural advancement of our people, our business enterprises must be handled upon a businesslike basis, that waste and extravagance may be prevented. We cannot continue to collect large sums in taxes from the people and issue bonds in large amounts for permanent improvements needed to make our people happy and more contented, unless we keep our credit structure and the general business reputation of our state and local governments above suspicion of waste and mismanagement.—Governor Angus McLean.

tions a year or more ago, and now this creamery can not pretend to supply the demand for its butter. From one of our exchanges we find that:

"The vision of a great dairy industry in the cotton section of Eastern North Carolina came to a few men and they organized the Benson Creamery. The skeptics said it could not be made a success. The record so far is disproving the contention of the pessimistic, according to information gathered by the State Department of Agriculture.

"In 1926 the Benson creamery made 300 to 400 pounds of butter each week. At the present time it is making 1,200 to 1,500 pounds per week. The butter produced is of very high quality, grading over 90 percent in August. The demand for the butter has outrun the increased production.

"At the present time, the creamery is planning to put on a truck to deliver the butter to nearby towns and also to collect cream on the return trip to the creamery. This will increase the efficiency of the creamery and reach more farmers.

"Bankers of the counties of Johnston, Sampson, and Harnett see the value of farmers having an income besides that of cotton and tobacco, so they have provided funds for the purchase of cattle.—Taboro Daily Southerner.

### MASTER FARMERS

The following letter was written to the Progressive Farmer and reprinted in its columns. It reveals the wisdom of featuring our master farmers in the press of the state:

"We should like to tell you the faith and ambition your stories of your 'Master Farmers' have given the folks. My wife let one whole meal burn up and forgot to churn for two days her mind was so taken up with what folks can do if the will power is not lacking. We see by studying the success of these men they aim at something worth while and 'keep on keeping on.'

"The best point we have gotten from their success is: they are men of improvement. They are content only with improved homes, improved lands, stock, home surroundings and home furnishings. Another outstanding feature we want to keep in mind is, they educate their children. It does not seem to be the quantity of land but the quality that counts most. They are men who were not satisfied with their present conditions but have planned for the future.

"We also appreciate the respect and credit given the wives of these men and it took both man and wife to make home a success and a big family of children is no drawback but a big inducement to success.

"We appreciate the big effort our favorite farm paper has undertaken and our hats are off to these progressive farmers and the fine influence they have given others.—F. V. Harris, Rutherford County, N. C."

### TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE

The Citizens' and Taxpayers' League of Buncombe County has been organized by a group of 35 business and professional men with the avowed intention of taking an active interest in public affairs.

The purposes of the League, as outlined by its members, are:

1. To secure to the citizens of Buncombe County and the City of Asheville the most economical and efficient administration of their public affairs that can be obtained.
2. To promote interest in public affairs among the citizens and to procure the selection of efficient, progressive and economical administrations in county and city.
3. To procure and maintain honest, efficient, progressive and economical administrations in county and city.
4. To investigate from time to time and report on the financial conditions of both county and city.
5. To gather and disseminate information and data in regard to the administration, financial status and government of city and county for the information of all taxpayers.
6. To inform and advise all taxpayers and citizens of the condition of all matters of public interest to them.—Asheville Citizen.

### A FORWARD STEP

The agricultural authorities in North Carolina have made for several years a determined effort to reduce the cotton acreage and substitute for it food and feed crops. Dean Schaub has recently analyzed the situation for 1927 as compared with 1926.

According to Dean Schaub there was a decrease in cotton of 202,000 acres. Of this acreage 110,000 acres were planted to hay crops, 3,000 to potatoes, and 2,000 to sweet potatoes. However, an increase of 600,000 acres devoted to feed crops is required before the livestock can be adequately fed from feed produced within the state. But a good start was made for one year.

Unfortunately the tobacco crop was increased 68,900 acres and the peanut crop 39,000. The acreage of these crops was already too large.

The farmers can not go wrong in increasing the acreage planted to food and feed crops for some time to come. Farms should be as nearly self-sustaining as feasible. Farmers living on such farms are better off both in times of high and low prices than those who have to buy the most of their supplies. No farmer in the South can make much of a living if his corn crib is in Illinois, his smoke house in Indiana, and his wheat bin in Kansas.—Southern Planter.

### DISTRIBUTION OF DOCTORS IN NORTH CAROLINA

#### Number of Doctors and Inhabitants per Doctor in Each County

The following table shows the number of doctors in each county in 1927 and the number of inhabitants per doctor. The counties are ranked according to the latter factor. The table is based on information supplied by the State Board of Health, and 1927 population estimates.

There are 2,067 doctors in the state, or one for every 1,401 inhabitants. Buncombe leads the counties both in the aggregate number of doctors and in ratio of doctors to total population. The county has 114 doctors, or one for every 679 people.

Tyrrell has no doctors, or at least none appears on the mailing list of the State Board of Health. Gates and Graham have only two doctors each, and Dare only three.

Sixty-four counties have less than their proportionate share of the doctors and thirty-six have more than their quota.

Paul W. Wager  
Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	County	Num-ber of doctors	Inhabi-tants per doctor	Rank	County	Num-ber of doctors	Inhabi-tants per doctor
1	Buncombe	114	679	51	Cabarrus	26	1,557
2	New Hanover	69	818	52	Halifax	31	1,573
3	Mecklenburg	110	839	53	Montgomery	9	1,623
4	Guilford	109	884	54	Bertie	15	1,646
5	Wake	95	896	55	Washington	7	1,670
6	Durham	46	918	56	Lee	9	1,675
7	Pasquotank	20	920	57	Pitt	32	1,677
8	Henderson	21	943	58	Person	12	1,684
9	Cherokee	17	946	59	Hertford	10	1,693
10	Edgecombe	44	977	60	Iredell	24	1,694
11	Alamance	35	1,026	61	Forsyth	64	1,742
12	Alleghany	7	1,058	61	Johnston	32	1,742
13	Avery	10	1,085	63	Way	3	1,753
14	Haywood	23	1,096	64	Watauga	8	1,769
15	Scotland	14	1,126	65	Dare	3	1,773
16	Moore	22	1,134	66	Union	22	1,777
17	Beaufort	27	1,153	67	Robeson	33	1,846
18	Wilson	38	1,173	68	Hoke	7	1,866
19	Rowan	42	1,177	68	Columbus	17	1,866
20	Wayne	42	1,200	70	Perquimans	6	1,867
21	Currituck	6	1,211	71	Granville	15	1,876
22	Cumberland	32	1,221	72	McDowell	10	1,956
23	Rutherford	27	1,251	72	Jackson	7	1,966
24	Orange	16	1,266	74	Northampton	12	1,984
25	Lenoir	28	1,276	75	Carteret	8	2,082
26	Lincoln	14	1,314	76	Martin	11	2,121
27	Mitchell	9	1,315	77	Yadkin	8	2,187
28	Ashe	17	1,323	78	Sampson	19	2,162
29	Camden	4	1,345	79	Anson	14	2,184
30	Craven	23	1,383	80	Macon	6	2,234
31	Randolph	23	1,384	81	Chatham	11	2,243
32	Catawba	28	1,390	82	Harnett	15	2,254
33	Nash	34	1,391	83	Pamlico	4	2,265
34	Transylvania	8	1,396	84	Wilkes	14	2,460
35	Hyde	6	1,398	85	Graham	2	2,482
36	Polk	7	1,400	86	Onslow	6	2,521
37	Swain	11	1,431	87	Yancey	7	2,532
38	Cleveland	26	1,467	88	Alexander	6	2,533
39	Gaston	44	1,476	89	Durham	13	2,632
40	Franklin	19	1,482	90	Bladen	8	2,638
41	Stokes	14	1,492	91	Stanly	13	2,669
42	Richmond	20	1,497	92	Davidson	15	2,671
43	Caldwell	14	1,499	93	Jones	4	2,716
44	Surry	23	1,503	94	Caswell	6	2,739
45	Chowan	7	1,521	95	Warren	8	2,823
46	Davie	9	1,524	96	Brunswick	5	3,041
47	Rockingham	30	1,542	97	Pender	4	3,697
48	Madison	13	1,545	98	Greene	5	3,781
49	Burke	16	1,546	99	Gates	2	5,300
50	Vance	17	1,551	100	Tyrrell	0	—