

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

NEWS LETTER

JUNE 20, 1928

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

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

VOL. XIV, No. 32

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.

TOWN AND COUNTRY

EQUALIZING FUND

This issue carries a table giving the apportionment of the State Equalizing Fund for schools for 1928-29 compared with the distribution of 1927-28. Although many of our readers will have seen these figures in the daily papers it seems worth while to publish them in this sheet also.

It will be noticed that only ninety counties participate in the equalizing fund. Of these, sixty receive increases this year and thirty suffer decreases. Johnston gets the largest increase and Randolph suffers the greatest decrease. Randolph's reduced apportionment is due, no doubt, to the unanticipated increase in property valuations which the county enjoyed last year. This in turn was the result of the location there of a corporation which pays taxes on several million dollars of "corporate excess." Graham and Rowan suffer the largest relative reductions.

Board's Statement

The following statement was issued by Leroy Martin, secretary to the board, in connection with the figures:

"The State Board of Equalization meeting May 28 for the purpose of determining the valuation of the various counties of the State (these values to be the basis upon which the \$3,250,000 State equalizing fund for schools is distributed) found that the school cost, as certified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, showed an increase of \$768,484.55 for the entire State over the previous year. Of this amount, \$532,701.57 represented the increase in the 90 participating counties over that of last year.

"The General Assembly of 1927 in providing the equalizing fund for the two-year period did not make provision for an increased fund for the second year. The increased budget could then be met only by an increase in valuation of \$133,000,000 above the determined valuation of last year for the 90 participating counties alone or by increasing the rate used in the calculation above the 40-cent rate provided in the law. After much consideration a decision was reached to increase the valuation to such extent that the application of a 40-cent rate would produce a sufficient amount when added to the equalizing fund to meet the increased budget.

"Each county of the State was then taken up and consideration given to the various factors that influence valuations. All district lines were disregarded and every effort made to regard the questions presenting themselves from a State viewpoint. Every county in the State has been visited by a representative of the Board and a vast amount of information concerning the relative ability of the several counties to support their schools has been assembled. Township maps showing the land values by townships of every county have been prepared; information as to the various types of land has been procured, and crop values ascertained, and these items, together with value of town property, corporate wealth, individual and corporate income tax paid, are a part of the data used.

"After four days of continuous work, in reality the culmination of a year's study, valuations for all the counties of the State amounting to a total of \$3,196,860,524 were fixed. This total value exceeds that placed on the counties by their own assessors by \$260,993,451, but the Board believes that the values thus fixed represent a basis for distribution that results in a fair and equitable participation by all the counties in accordance with their ability to meet that part of the school cost in which the State shares."

TOWN AND COUNTRY

"Town and Country" is the title of a book by Elva E. Miller, issued by the University of North Carolina Press at Chapel Hill. Various aspects of town life in America have been depicted. Sinclair Lewis and Sherwood Anderson have emphasized the mean, narrow, spiteful, gossipy, ugly, hypocritical side. On the other hand, William Allen White and Ed Howe have described the sweetness and wholesomeness of the life in small towns, and the freedom, neatness and cleverness of their inhabitants, as well as their

function in keeping the nation well balanced. Mr. Miller undertakes to view the town with a calm, critical and sympathetic eye. He has done so with modesty and understanding. It seems that he should have passed away before his book came out.

By the country town Mr. Miller means any community, large or small, that does most of its business with rural districts and derives its prosperity from the prosperity of country people. The true country town grows out of farming districts "as trees grow out of the soil" is his phrase. Wealth flows to towns and the best types of country people also—which is a great present-day problem.

Mr. Miller thinks that the problem of town and country is to be worked out by the men who control rural towns. They should not squeeze all possible out of farmers as is often done.

Instead they should co-operate with the farmer population. At present there is much prejudice on both sides. The country folks often look on town people as smart Alecks and parasites.

On the other hand, the townsmen often consider the farmers to be vulgar rubes. The average New Yorker looks on nine-tenths of Americans as rubes. The town groceryman objects to farmers ordering supplies from mail houses in great cities like Chicago. But the farmer says that the village grocer is high-priced and unattentive. Then there is rivalry between the cities and rural districts in politics. Again city people object to being taxed for good roads and schools in rural communities which can not support themselves. The small towns often side with the cities.

Miller says they should mediate between the two or ally themselves with the farmers.

To New York Main Street's culture is crude. Yet it is desirable to the farmer. The town has better preachers, physicians, health protection, and movies. The farmer often thinks that he is excluded, although the town people often make themselves at home in the country. Again the country is conservative and the towns are more radical. This statement may sound strange but it is true of business methods and social customs if not of politics.

Mr. Miller thinks that the little town should bridge the gap between itself and its country neighbors and perhaps between itself and the large cities. It must improve its appearance, become the right sort of town, and seek after cultural progress. It must not seek after bigness but after perfection. Then a finer spirit will arise.

A greater future is drawing near. City business men are showing the farmer how to make more money. Journalists are aiding in developing community planning. The drift to the cities will go on and the farmers are becoming a minority. Yet their products will thereby become more valuable as they are more needed. Past civilizations have decayed as a result of too much movement to the cities. We must prevent this in America. Mr. Miller thinks that our future lies in the small towns.—Asheville Citizen.

A LAWYER'S CODE

Mr. Justice Proskauer of the Supreme Court of New York State in a recent address on a new professional psychology as an essential for law reform proposed a credo for lawyers which is as follows:

"I will join with my adversary in waiving a jury trial wherever and whenever it can be done without the sacrifice of a fundamental right.

"I will join with my adversary in supporting a trial justice in fair comment upon the evidence, and reasonable direction to a jury on the facts.

"I will join with my adversary in fair concession of undisputed facts.

"I will not put an adversary to his proof in respect to facts whose existence my client admits.

"I will refrain from merely formal or technical objection to the admission of evidence.

"I will cooperate with the trial justice and my adversary to secure a speedy, prompt and complete presentation of the facts of the case.

INFLUENCE OF BEAUTY

If we could surround ourselves with forms of beauty, the evil things of life would disappear and our moral standards would be raised. Through our contact with the beautiful we see more of the truth and are brought into closer contact with the infinite. Our country has reached a point where this is no longer a visionary desire, but is becoming an actual reality. With general prosperity, with high wages, with reasonable hours of labor, have come both the means and the time to cultivate the artistic spirit.—President Coolidge.

"I will neither make nor oppose interlocutory motions, unless they are of real and practical importance.

"I will take no appeal unless I am satisfied that a substantial error has been committed and that a new trial should reasonably give a different result."

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York endorsed the spirit and purpose of this credo at a recent meeting and its action has inspired the New York Evening World to comment as follows: "Canons and credos have long found more or less ready acceptance among bar associations. They formulate the higher standards of the Bar and are fine things to point to at banquets and similar gatherings of the profession.

"The bar association of this city, however, can now claim credit for something more. They can point to the current daily proceedings at the New York County Court House in which ambulance-chasing lawyers are already squirming under the probe of Justice Wasservogel and Chief Counsel Kresel. This very real, practical and active move toward safeguarding the standards of the profession by direct action against unscrupulous members thereof was petitioned for by the New York bar associations themselves.

"Such direct action makes the canons and credos a hundred-fold more impressive."—Federal Council of Churches' Bulletin.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The News and Observer, of Raleigh, calls attention to the fact that a Seaboard Air Line officer has resigned to take charge of a big line of trucks to be operated in Georgia and Florida. It states that thousands of crates of strawberries are being hauled in trucks from Eastern North Carolina to Richmond, Baltimore and other Eastern markets. The Henderson (N. C.) Dispatch reports that half-a-dozen trucks passed through that town a few days ago en route to the North.

The handling of fruit of many kinds by trucks is developing at a rate scarcely realized. In Florida the regular truck service carries a vast amount of freight from Jacksonville to the lower part of the state, with return loads to Jacksonville. Indeed, some investigations have been made by automobile interests looking to the handling of a large part of the citrus fruit crop, taking it to concentration points—such as Jacksonville and other places—for final shipment by rail or water. The rates for freight on the trucks that are operating in Florida in competition with the railroads are said to be very much lower than the roads are offering. We have seen only the beginning of the development of passenger business by automobiles and freight business by motor trucks. We are witnessing the beginning of a great revolution in transportation.—Manufacturers Record.

COUNTRY AND CITY

A research institute is to be established at Columbia University, the purpose of which is to plan for the development of a rural civilization equal in every human aspect to the civilization of cities. Such an aim as this would have been almost impossible in the days before automobiles, when the rural people were more isolated. But in these times when the rural family can jump into its automobile and shortly be in the nearest town, attending church, entertainments, society meet-

ings, business organizations, social gatherings, etc., it becomes possible to make a very attractive rural civilization.

To realize this ideal, the country children and young people must have school opportunities as good as those of cities. Some will say that is impossible. However, by transporting children to consolidated schools, they are often getting opportunities equal to those provided by cities.

The country district school should give excellent opportunities when competent persons are hired as teachers. It may be able to give the personal attention to each pupil which the crowded city school is often unable to give.

The country people will not get so many fine entertainment opportunities. But the radio supplies that need. When libraries and reading rooms are established in all country towns, as they should be, then they have an opportunity which brings culture close to the people.

It will cost some money to provide the rural districts with all the benefits of city life. But people of wealth will live in the country more and more, and their taxes will help provide these advantages.—Pulaski (Va.) Southwest Times.

BEAUTIFUL HIGHWAYS

The province of New Brunswick, Canada, joins the long list of states and provinces on this continent that are banning advertising signs from the highways.

The action was hastened by a modern program for numbering and marking highways for motorists. It was found that the effectiveness of the traffic signs was often lost because of adjacent billboards or other signs which obscured the road marks or at least distracted the motorist's attention. For effectiveness and safety, it was imperative to sweep away all but the official road signs.

There was also the consideration of beauty. Canada is somewhat less tolerant than the United States of clutter and ugliness on the highways.

Soon, no doubt, this will be the rule everywhere. Cities and towns, unfortunately, will be cluttered up and uglified needlessly long after the rural sections have regained their original beauty.

Even in the country, however, the cleaning up of the highways often fails to accomplish its full purpose, because of the billboards permitted to deface the scenery on private property along the roadside. That is the next thing to get after. It is harder to handle, because people insist that they have a right to do what they like on their own property. Progress can be made, however, by making them see that ugliness always lowers property values, and beauty raises them.—Gastonia Gazette.

ELIMINATE ILLITERACY

If in seven years 5,000 of the 7,000 illiterates in Buncombe County could be rescued from the plight in which Mrs. Elizabeth Morrissey found them, it should be a baffling undertaking to bring all of the 200,000 illiterate men and women in North Carolina under the influence of such schools as have been established here through the leadership of Mrs. Morrissey. She has done the pioneer work that was called for and has shown what can be achieved.

It remains only to extend the same system to all parts of the state and the interest which the educational leaders at Raleigh this week displayed in the movement is most encouraging. Apart from the obligation which the state owes to the unfortunate who in their youth lacked the advantages that are now general, the elimination of illiteracy from North Carolina in the next five years—and we believe that it could be eliminated in that length of time, or perhaps much less—would be worth many times the cost of such an effort, in ridding the state of what is today one of its ugliest stigmas.—Asheville Citizen.

APPORTIONMENT OF EQUALIZING FUND

For 1928-29 as Compared with That of 1927-28

The following table shows what each of the ninety participating counties received last year from the State Equalizing Fund for schools and what each will receive this coming year.

All of the \$3,250,000 appropriated by the legislature will be distributed this year except \$100,000 which is reserved as an emergency fund. Sixty counties receive increases, most of which are small. The largest increase goes to Johnston county. Thirty counties suffer decreases, several of which are quite large. Randolph is cut from \$67,705.68 to \$14,397.84, this being the greatest absolute decrease suffered by any county. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that Randolph's valuation last year ran far ahead of the estimate of the State Board of Equalization. Graham and Rowan witness the greatest relative decreases.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

| County | 1928-'29 | 1927-'28 | County | 1928-'29 | 1927-'28 |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Alamance | \$51,525.35 | \$56,798.35 | Lee | 23,340.98 | 25,167.91 |
| Alexander | 39,525.26 | 37,349.11 | Lenoir | 12,143.14 | 19,658.69 |
| Alleghany | 16,637.00 | 16,575.07 | Lincoln | 40,661.72 | 40,730.28 |
| Anson | 43,895.87 | 42,710.58 | Macon | 44,495.29 | 40,143.63 |
| Ashe | 58,963.84 | 57,141.29 | Madison | 51,518.17 | 49,111.62 |
| Avery | 36,692.92 | 33,636.88 | Martin | 32,192.15 | 33,923.43 |
| Besuafort | 37,080.42 | 53,087.73 | McDowell | 11,760.08 | 10,510.68 |
| Bertie | 50,629.68 | 50,306.83 | Mitchell | 15,643.46 | 15,015.78 |
| Bladen | 43,940.00 | 44,704.40 | Montgomery | 36,926.03 | 41,663.29 |
| Brunswick | 29,828.41 | 28,740.70 | Moore | 26,868.97 | 25,998.86 |
| Burke | 23,853.76 | 22,289.71 | Nash | 67,557.22 | 73,994.72 |
| Caldwell | 40,629.30 | 37,645.02 | Northampton | 46,426.00 | 45,321.74 |
| Camden | 12,092.00 | 5,660.58 | Onslow | 35,113.74 | 32,559.86 |
| Carteret | 38,612.76 | 36,693.49 | Orange | 23,419.08 | 21,529.59 |
| Caswell | 27,654.40 | 24,409.22 | Pamlico | 33,300.59 | 35,275.73 |
| Catawba | 44,256.38 | 43,847.98 | Pasquotank | 3,969.52 | 4,038.51 |
| Chatham | 32,812.56 | 30,591.83 | Pender | 37,721.25 | 36,077.31 |
| Cherokee | 43,918.97 | 42,207.87 | Perquimans | 22,512.69 | 23,653.74 |
| Chowan | 11,204.50 | 10,232.86 | Person | 32,864.57 | 27,292.63 |
| Clay | 16,606.24 | 14,356.70 | Pitt | 11,787.15 | 5,178.06 |
| Cleveland | 47,735.47 | 47,201.93 | Polk | 30,895.19 | 29,320.85 |
| Columbus | 79,965.42 | 82,766.21 | Randolph | 44,397.84 | 67,705.68 |
| Craven | 13,488.95 | 8,561.53 | Richmond | 28,129.24 | 20,159.04 |
| Cumberland | 50,802.00 | 47,611.04 | Robeson | 72,007.85 | 82,859.51 |
| Currituck | 17,890.94 | 14,926.93 | Rockingham | 41,634.42 | 29,912.07 |
| Dare | 22,618.76 | 18,876.73 | Rowan | 1,790.95 | 13,254.76 |
| Davidson | 65,032.65 | 64,185.69 | Rutherford | 46,642.12 | 50,214.44 |
| Davie | 21,615.95 | 21,664.93 | Sampson | 82,331.67 | 85,100.04 |
| Duplin | 62,611.15 | 66,902.68 | Scotland | 10,591.37 | 10,416.63 |
| Edgecombe | 19,128.34 | 24,301.68 | Stanly | 29,157.76 | 19,508.59 |
| Franklin | 61,967.29 | 64,029.84 | Stokes | 52,819.88 | 52,234.80 |
| Gates | 26,124.24 | 23,212.73 | Surry | 57,095.66 | 55,782.96 |
| Graham | 838.55 | 9,173.57 | Swain | 18,494.88 | 10,840.17 |
| Granville | 23,834.09 | 22,737.74 | Transylvania | 17,143.78 | 20,775.47 |
| Greene | 23,872.01 | 21,854.25 | Tyrrell | 16,025.13 | 12,424.16 |
| Halifax | 16,250.03 | 4,620.66 | Union | 88,941.91 | 87,720.12 |
| Harnett | 67,914.86 | 72,238.87 | Vance | 7,775.07 | 3,666.62 |
| Haywood | 37,756.53 | 33,489.87 | Warren | 43,858.68 | 41,621.64 |
| Henderson | 22,085.14 | 25,944.71 | Washington | 19,267.90 | 20,251.06 |
| Hertford | 31,423.06 | 31,233.46 | Watauga | 38,757.25 | 36,366.18 |
| Hoke | 10,678.37 | 7,499.27 | Wayne | 18,217.21 | 11,75.98 |
| Hyde | 27,893.58 | 27,648.05 | Wilkes | 88,774.80 | 86,711.73 |
| Iredell | 34,383.07 | 37,139.81 | Yadkin | 49,059.72 | 48,677.72 |
| Jackson | 31,875.14 | 26,902.98 | Yancey | 37,281.58 | 35,224.00 |
| Johnston | 74,125.76 | 56,645.56 | Jones | 20,752.44 | 20,547.44 |
| </td | | | | | |