

Operating Cost County Homes

How Vance County Has Shown
the Way—County Home Is
Converted into Hospital—
Poor Boarded in Private
Homes—Money Saved.

The cost of maintaining the inmates in the county homes of the state varies widely. Probably the type of care given these poor people varies more widely than the cost. A large expenditure per inmate does not necessarily mean superior care. As a matter of fact some of the counties that are known to give their county home inmates excellent care show a low maintenance cost. The county home system is both the least supervised and most inefficient public business in the state.

There are eighty-eight counties that maintain county poor houses. Sixty-five of these gave adequate reports for the year 1929 to the State Department of Public Welfare. These sixty-five counties cared for 1,674 inmates at a cost of \$440,182, not counting interest on the \$2,784,714 invested in the county home plants of these counties. The per capita cost without considering the investment was \$162.95 per year, and if the investment is credited with five per cent, the annual cost averaged \$246.12 per year. The cost varied from \$61.66 per inmate per month in Clay county to \$6.49 in Hyde county. The state average cost per county home inmate was almost exactly one dollar per day.

VANCE SHOWS THE WAY

The county home method of caring for the poor is very expensive. The State Department of Public Welfare says, "The poor could be maintained far more comfortably for less money, if the expenditure of funds were carefully supervised by someone trained in the administration of poor relief."

For instance, Mrs. W. B. Waddell, Superintendent of Public Welfare in Vance county, has taken eighteen inmates from the county home and placed them in private homes where they are much happier. They are well cared for under Mrs. Waddell's supervision, and yet they are each costing Vance county only \$1.93 per month! The county home has been converted into a county hospital, subsidized by the Duke Endowment. Only five of the former inmates remain, all of these being in need of hospital care. A great saving has been effected in this county. Constructive health work is being done which in the future will reduce the number of people who become county charges.

The hospital home which has replaced the Vance poor house serves the whole community. In 1928, a total of 3,315 days of care were given to 166 inpatients. This means that 166 indigent sick persons were provided for in the county institution. Out-patients who made 275 visits to the hospital for various sorts of treatments numbered 192. In addition, the five bedridden aged poor were taken care of.

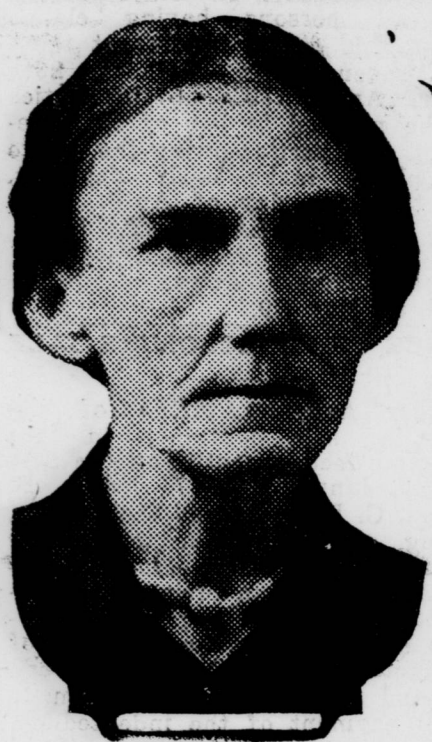
"In a number of counties the size of Vance, \$7,000 or more is spent merely for the maintenance of a county home. Yet the grand total cost of operating the institution in 1928 was only \$7,220.03. The sources of this operation income are interesting: \$4,800 was appropriated by the county, \$700 by social and civic agencies, \$150 by the town of Henderson, and \$2,508 by the Duke Endowment. In addition to a cash balance left over from the year before the hospital had a surplus of nearly two thousand dollars when the year closed."

The State Department of Public Welfare is advocating the abolition of the county home. "The old man and woman in need of help will be happier in the home of kinsman or friends. A vast amount of money could be saved if carefully supervised relief given to the aged were to replace our present system of county homes." Such a system would necessitate very close supervision on the part of local welfare officers.

If the county home system is to be retained, it is manifestly absurd for every county to attempt to provide for every county to attempt to provide a separate home. One-half of the county homes have twenty or fewer inmates. The small counties should take advantage of the law which authorizes two or more counties to build and maintain county-group homes for the poor. A few counties are paying sister counties to care for their inmates, but so far no two or more counties have been able to agree on the county-group home idea, for the obvious reason that each county wants the home located within its borders.

Beyond a doubt the majority of paupers could be better cared for by relatives, under state supervision. For those inmates who need medical care, it appears that well-placed hospital homes similar to the one in Vance county offer the proper solution. The Vance county idea strikes us as being a sensible and economical solution of a problem of caring for the county poor. It is possible under our laws for two or more counties to join in the erection of county hospitals. The charity patients would get a subsidy from the Duke Endowment. Wide-awake counties will look into this matter.—S. H. H., Jr.

Only Weighed 85 Lbs., Gains 15 Pounds



MRS. REBECCA WALKER

"I only weighed 85 pounds when I started taking Sargon. Six bottles of this wonderful medicine increased my weight fifteen pounds, and I don't feel like the same woman."

"I suffered so with stomach trouble that I even thought I would be better off dead. I was so weak I could hardly get about."

"Sargon Soft Mass Pills entirely rid me of constipation. I believe this wonderful treatment saved my life."—Mrs. Rebecca Walker, Elwood, Kans.

Many who wisely put Sargon to the test express amazement at the speed and thoroughness with which it goes to the very source of their ailments.

C. R. Pilkington, Pittsboro; Wiggins Drug Stores, Inc., Siler City, Agents.—Adv.

A FIELD FOR CANDY

One important industrial opportunity that is being neglected by North Carolina is the manufacture of candy. Only 4.41 per cent of the candy consumed in North Carolina is made in the state. We import more than 95 per cent of all the candy we consume yearly. There are only a few states that rank below ours in the percent of candy consumed that is imported, and we import much more candy than any of the states that rank below us in per cent imported. In other words, we offer a large market for outside candy manufacturers.

North Carolina consumes nearly twenty-one million pounds of candy annually, or approximately seven pounds per person. During the last few years this state has led all the states in increase in candy consumption. From 1925 to 1928 we led all the states in increase in pounds of candy consumed, 43.24 per cent; we led in increased value of candy consumed, 54.89 per cent; and we led in increased per capita consumption, 37.08 per cent. These data cover sales by identical concerns to North Carolina, by years.

The factory value of candy consumed in North Carolina yearly is around five and a half million dollars; the retail cost being approximately ten million dollars. This does not include salted nuts, mints, tablets, etc., but only strict candy. The figures cover only recorded sales, and are, therefore, minimum. We send out of the state each year many millions of dollars for candy, much or most of which might be made in the state.

It is an interesting fact that this state has led all the states in increased candy consumption. It is far more significant that we manufacture less than five per cent of the candy sold in the state. The large population of North Carolina offers a local market for a possible new industry in the state. Indeed no other state with so vast a local market does so little to supply the demands. We need a large number of high-grade diversified industries, and here appears one important opportunity.

Germans Save by Going Hatless

The Berliners don't take me for an American as I go around all through the city because I adopt their custom and go without a hat. (As a matter of fact I had lost my hat on an airplane trip.) Americans as a rule sport costly hats. But it is a great convenience not to have to bother with a hat. In Europe the custom is strictly to check hats as well as wraps before going into any place of entertainment—and the check-room attendants of course always have to have tips. Then there are always delays—which are a nuisance.

I have saved enough by going hatless on this trip to pay for a good hat. Hats are an expensive luxury—and that's the way the thrifty Germans look at it. Some of the German men take a hat along with them, in case of need, and carry it by hanging it to the vest by a little snapper. Or carry it in their hand as they walk.

A large percentage of the German men are bald, and this is accentuated by the custom of cropping their heads close, in soldier fashion. They stay out in the sun all they can and many of these round heads look like fine old pieces of polished bronze.—The Pathfinder.

Longfellow said that man must be either a hammer or an anvil, but he overlooked the fellow who is simply bellows.—The Pathfinder

A handful of rice is wealth to a starving man.—Japanese proverb.

Four Republican, Three Democratic, Senate Candidates

Last minute announcement and filing of Irvin B. Tucker of Whiteville as a Republican candidate for the United States senate was the big surprise among political developments last week. There are now four qualified candidates for the Republican nomination: H. Grady Dorsett of Wake Forest; George E. Butler, of Clinton; George M. Pritchard of Asheville, and Irvin B. Tucker of Whiteville. There are three bona fide candidates for the Democratic nomination: Furnifold M. Simmons, present senator, of New Bern; Josiah William Bailey of Raleigh, and Thomas L. Estep of Alleghany county.

Of the Democratic candidates Senator Simmons is running on his record, and his supporters are paragoning his 30 years service and his adherence to his personal convictions in 1928 even to the extent of failing to support the nominees of the Democratic party. Mr. Bailey is running on a platform of service to the party and the state of almost equal length with that of Senator Simmons, a record of consistent party regularity, and support of education and prohibition even before Simmons was won to these causes. Mr. Estep is running on a

frankly out and out wet platform. It is conceded by everybody that the race is between Simmons and Bailey; both sides are claiming victory. At this time it appears that Mr. Bailey has the lead. His policy of silence is worrying his opponents. For the first time in his record Senator Simmons has been placed on the defensive and his managers are seeking to revive the church and liquor alignments of 1928. Mr. Bailey declines to discuss these issues, merely reiterating that he is running as a regular Democrat.

The Republican senatorial candidates are all well known over the state. Mr. Dorsett is a retired Baptist preacher and he was the first to file notice of his candidacy, thus forcing the Republican party into the primary for the first time since it was legalized 12 or 14 years ago. Mr. Butler is a younger brother of former Senator Marion Butler, is a successful lawyer and has been district governor of Rotary. Mr. Pritchard is a son of former Senator and Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, is at present congressman from the 10th district, and won fame a year or more ago when he refused to accept an office next to the Negro congressman from Chicago. Mr. Tucker has been for eight years district attorney for the eastern federal district, and his record as a prosecutor is clean. He is an extreme dry and his prosecu-

tion of liquor cases has been entirely free from any charge of corruption or politics. The Republican race is going to be very interesting, and at this time it appears to be anybody's plum.

The only state office to be voted on the primary will be for one corporation commissioner. Judge Geo. P. Pell is a candidate for re-nomination and is being opposed by James H. Holoway of Raleigh in the Democratic primary. Other state officers have no Democratic opposition and Republican candidates will be certified and will not appear on primary ballots.

THE SILENCE OF BAILEY

(Charlotte News)

Mr. Bailey seems to be worrying his opponents to no small degree by his prolonged and exaggerated silence. They would like to have him talk. His position on certain matters, his attitude toward prohibition, what he thinks of Chairman Raskob, why he said what he did say in favor of Senator Simmons in other years, how he can extricate himself from alleged political predicaments that former utterances of one sort or another in the long ago,—these things the Simmons forces would like for him to become blatant about, but he sayeth not a word.

We are not fighting the fight of

Mr. Bailey, but for the good of the party and to make sure that the State does not commit itself this fall to a Republican senator, we have a mind to suggest that this continued silence on the part of Mr. Bailey is commendable and that more of it from the other side would be helpful, also.

What the Simmons and the Bailey forces think about each other, respectively, if not respectfully, should be kept from public proclamation.

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