



Farmers' Union, Taxation, and the Six Months' School Term

Why is it "Statesmanship" to Use Inequitably-Levied Money for all Other Purposes But a Crime to Use it to Give a Decent Chance to the Children of the State?

Raleigh, N. C., February 8, 1913.

Whereas, The supreme need of our farming population in North Carolina is a six months' school term for all our country boys and girls so as to give them an even chance with boys and girls in other States instead of having as now the shortest rural school term in the Union. Therefore, be it resolved by the Joint Legislative Committees of the North Carolina Farmers' Union and the Wake County Farmers' Union in session assembled:

GIVE US MAJETTE-THORNE BILL OR PROVE SOMETHING BETTER.

1. That we recognize and endorse the bills introduced by Senator Thorne and Representative Majette, and prepared after conference with representatives of the State Department of Education, of the Farmers' Union, the North Carolina County Superintendents' Association and other civic and religious bodies, as the only practical plan yet proposed for realizing the six months' school term. To all men who profess to favor this reform therefore, we urge that they prove their faith either by supporting the present bill or by formulating some other plan and proving it more practicable.

REFORMED TAXATION FAVORED.

Resolved 2. That we are in favor of a just and equitable system of taxation for the purpose of securing this and other reforms, and we insist that adequate inheritance and income taxes be levied, and that provision be made for listing solvent credits, personal property, and for adequately assessing the vacant lots, large tracts, and urban and rural lots held for speculation which now so largely escape their due burden of taxation.

INEQUITABLY-LEVIED MONEY AS AN EXCUSE.

Resolved 3. That we favor an equalization of assessments among the counties, but we resent, repudiate, and warn our people against the specious and unwarranted attempt to use this excuse to dodge the supreme issue of giv-

ing our farm boys and girls their rights. If certain counties are paying an unfair share of the State taxes, then they are paying an unfair share to support the University and the State Colleges, to support the Corporation Commission, to support the Attorney-General and the Supreme Court, to pay the State officials, and for everything else that the State helps. And the farmers of North Carolina will never understand why it is statesmanship to spend inequitably levied money for these purposes but a crime to spend inequitably levied money to provide a decent chance in life for the children of the State. Moreover, the farmers will never understand why money could be found only yesterday for establishing eight new high-salaried State offices, with never a whisper of equitable levies, while last night both bankruptcy and the scandal of unequal assessments were the answers some members gave to the demand of the farmers and the cry of the children.

LEGISLATURE WILL NOT PROCLAIM ITSELF INCOMPETENT.

Resolved 4. That despite our disappointment in the activity of some, we believe in the wisdom, statesmanship, and patriotism of the great body of the members of the General Assembly, that they are not incompetent, and will not proclaim themselves incompetent to meet this supreme issue about which our people are stirred from Currituck to Cherokee, and where failure would be a disaster to the State.

Resolved 5. That a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of the General Assembly, and that we give adequate recognition to all who show themselves the friends of the farmers and the farm boys and girls in this supreme crisis.

Adopted in executive session in Raleigh, February 5, 1912.

H. Q. ALEXANDER, President.
E. C. FAIRES, Secretary.
W. B. GIBSON, Ch'm Ex. Com.
North Carolina Farmers' Union.
CLARENCE POE, Chairman,
Wake County Committee.