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NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

FEDERAL PENSIONS IN THE SOUTH

The Federal Pensions disbursed to soldiers, widows and dependents during the year ending July 1, 1915 was \$165,518,266. It is nearly seven million dollars less than the year before. So reads a recent report of the Federal Pension Commissioner.

The Number of Federal pensioners living in Southern states and the sums they received last year may be interesting to our readers.

States.	Pensions.	Amounts
Kentucky	19,491	\$4,313,894
Tennessee	15,477	3,425,758
Arkansas	8,040	1,779,647
Virginia	7,950	1,759,606
Louisiana	4,902	1,085,593
Florida		1,027,368
Mississippi	3,660	810,081
North Carolina	3,315	733,714
Alabama	2,949	652,706
Georgia	2,734	603,240
South Carolina	1,547	342,385

A SELF-SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

Bradford Knapp, Farm Demonstration Chief.

We have a good thing in the South, if we will only go to work and make agriculture self-supporting.

The plan of the Federal Department of Agriculture is to foster home gardens, to encourage thrift by teaching people to can fruit and vegetables for home use as they do in every thrifty community, to have farmers grow their own corn, oats, hay, peas, beans, potatoes, and some cane or sorghum for syrup, and to produce their own meat supply from a reasonable industry in poultry, hogs, and cattle.

Of course this would require some reduction of the cotton acreage, unless more acres were taken up; but under this plan we would establish a live-stock industry sufficient to utilize the waste land. On every farm there is waste land which could be made productive with live stock.

This is purely a business proposition, but one that has been sadly neglected in all our Southern territory.

The Bankers Can Do It

The Bankers have the power, in my judgment, to institute a safe, sound, self-supporting agriculture in the South if they will do it. The key to the whole situation lies in the hands of the bankers and credit merchants of the South.

If the bankers and credit merchants of the South still fail to lend their constructive backing to the establishment of self-supporting agriculture, and are still going to make their loans and finance the agriculture of the South as a one-crop agriculture, then we are going to have a one-crop agriculture until such time as human nature breaks and we have a revolution which will overthrow the present system.

The Farmer Not To Blame

Can you blame the farmer, especially the little farmer or tenant, if he does not follow the advice of agriculturists and does not diversify, when he well knows that when he goes to the small banker or supply merchant of the South the basis of his credit is fixed on the number of acres of the one cash-crop that he is going to produce?

I want to tell you now there is nothing more important, nothing more helpful, you can do than to help the Southern farmer find reasonable markets for locally grown produce other than the one cash-crop of the community.

Banks Support Livestock Farming

The only class of farming we support, says an Iowa banker, is diversified farming and in order to have diversified farming you must have live stock. The most of our loans are for live stock. I believe that this system of farming is the only successful one, because it means employment the whole year; while with a one-crop system farmers are employed for only a few months of the year and for the balance of the year are idle, and it does not seem to me that being idle would help any class.

DETHRONING KING COTTON

The highest ultimate prosperity to the South will come not from high prices of cotton, though high prices always bring temporary prosperity, but from the gradual lessening of the South's dependence on cotton and an increase of the South's attention to the raising of larger diversified crops and of live stock, for which this section is so splendidly equipped by nature.

May the day be hastened when cotton shall be dethroned as king in thought as in trade and in commerce, and when it shall be made a servant, blessing the South as a servant, where it cursed it as a king.

Then this section will look back and rejoice that through much tribulation it has reached the Promised Land of diversified agriculture; for with diversified agriculture in its broadest sense will come the widest diversity of economic thought, educational advancement and abounding wealth.

—Manufacturers' Record.

MENACING PROBLEMS IN RICHMOND

Some of the fundamental problems calling for solution in Richmond are as follows:

1. Illiteracy. Nearly one-tenth of the white voters and more than one-fifth of the mill operatives are illiterate.

2. Increasing farm tenancy and absentee landlordism. Fifty-seven per cent of the farms are cultivated by tenants, an increase of 5.4 per cent in ten years. Excessive tenancy means decreasing home-raised food and feed supplies, and increasing difficulty in solving country church and country school problems.

3. A distressingly low per cent of white school attendance, of children between 6 and 14 years of age, 61.8 per cent. Seventy-four counties made a better showing. The negro ratio was 64.5 per cent. These are 1910 census figures.

4. The money sent out of the county in 1910 for imported food and feed supplies, \$1,283,000. Sixty counties made a better showing. In three years it exceeds the wealth accumulated by the farmers of the county in 131 years.

5. The feeble wealth-retaining power of the farm population. Every two years the wealth the farmers produce nearly equals the wealth they have saved during the entire history of the county.

6. The small per capita country wealth, \$176; against \$560 in Alleghany, and \$994 in the United States. Ninety counties made a better showing in the census year. The per capita taxable wealth of the entire population was only \$282 in 1910.

7. Bringing into productive use 297,000 idle acres or nearly five-sixths of the county. Here is room for 3,000 new farm families, and treble the present farm population.

The well-being and future prosperity of Rockingham are dependent upon prosperity in the surrounding country-side—not upon mills and factories, banking and trade alone.

SCHOOL INSPECTION STARTS

The work of medical school inspection begins Monday, Nov. 15, in Alamance county. The State Board of Health, in co-operation with the County Board of Education, will have the work in charge, and Dr. T. M. Jordan, of Raleigh, will be the medical inspector. For three months Dr. Jordan will give his entire time to visiting the 57 white schools, examining and reporting the special defects of school children, and teaching health and health conditions to the school and the community.

On November 29, the same system of work starts in Northampton county. Dr. A. C. Bulla, of Asheboro, will be the physician in charge. Dr. Bulla has recently returned from Philadelphia where he took special training in the Philadelphia schools under Dr. Chas. S. Cornell. Several other counties have made application to the State Board of Health for this feature of health work. Their applications are now pending.

—State Board of Health.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO 53

THE DRILL LESSON

The drill lesson is an exercise which has for its purpose the formation of a specific habit. Usually several such lessons are required, and in some cases many. The successful drill lesson must conform to the psychology and principles underlying habit-formation. It must first, insure that every pupil understands exactly what is to be done, and that his attention is focused on just that thing. It must, second, provide for attentive repetition of the task until it can be done automatically. From these general laws there follow certain practical suggestions.

Drill Should Be Concentrated

Do not try to cover too much in the drill lesson. In spelling, from two to four or five new words a day are enough. Concentrate. Be satisfied to take up only a small bit of new drill material each day, whether in teaching the fundamentals of arithmetic, or Latin, or English composition. Focus the drill sharply.

Frequent Reviews

Hold frequent reviews. Remember that habits are formed by repetition, and that without repetition they rapidly die out. Reviews should be more frequent in the habit subjects than in subjects like history or geography or literature.

Short and Frequent Drills

Make your drill lessons short and frequent. Ten or fifteen minutes every day in the week devoted to drill on spelling or syntax is far better than the same

amount of time divided into one or two longer periods. Drill subjects should come five days in every week.

Attentive Drills

Do not be satisfied to go through the motions of a drill. Require constant attention from every member of the class. Watch for mistakes and correct them the first time they occur. A wrong habit once started grows continually harder to overcome.

Look For a Motive

In order to secure constant attention and interest, provide a motive for success. In spelling, for example, appeal to rivalry. Hold contests in which sections of the class are matched against each other, or class matched against class. In some subjects you may set a standard which the individual must reach, and excuse him from further drill in that subject when he reaches it. Vary your appeals. Do not expect all students to respond to the same incentive.

Be Thorough

Most important of all, never be satisfied with half-way results. Keep up your drill until the class has formed the habit. Test this by asking yourself whether it has become mechanical. So long as the class needs to think about how to perform the habit, it has not been learned. Habit subjects should be learned until the appointed tasks can be performed as mechanically as you can recite the alphabet. Then, even if you cover less ground, the final results will be better.

OPEN AIR SCHOOLS NEEDED

"Open air schools have come to be a real necessity," said a member of the State Educational Department yesterday. "Only recently," said he, "there have come to our attention a number of instances of real need for such a combination of health improvement and school work as the open air schools are especially designed and are able to give. These cases, for the most part, are children who are not up to normal in health and who yet insist on getting an education. They have bright minds and in a number of instances lead their classes as long as they are physically able, but in a few months they grow thin and pale, lose weight, become nervous and have to be kept at home."

Cripples Too

Then there are the cripples, those with curvature of the spine, with lame feet, or some other defect,—it seems that they too should be included. Sunshine and fresh air are so good for so many things that it seems such a pity not to let all the tots have it that need it. And you would be surprised," he declared, "how many that would be. In looking over a schoolroom of boys and girls, I've wanted to pick out as many as a dozen and give them such treatment—rest, study, play, nourishment, all in the fresh air and under the care of some good teacher-doctor,—and see how they grow; how rapidly they begin to take on glowing faces, increase in weight and mean-while do better school work than they have ever done before."

Sure to Come

In conclusion, this man with the fresh air ideals said rather hopefully:—"It is only a matter of time when we will have open air schools for our tubercular school children. We are up against that problem now, and it seems to me that there's no other way to solve it than to have a school where children suffering from tuberculosis can go, take the cure and in the meantime improve their minds. In reality it would be nothing short of a sanatorium with the school feature added, and that is just what they need and what we want and must have."—State Board of Health.

A SCHOOL PIG

Harmony High School, over in Iredell, R. H. Lankford, Principal, has a school pig. The porker was purchased by each pupil contributing 5 cents to the purchase fund and is fed the waste from dinner pails.

This comes mighty near making a silk purse from a sow's ear.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Last year 2,500 copies of the bulletin for Correspondence Division of University Extension were printed and distributed. By the middle of October of this year the total edition was exhausted and a new bulletin has been prepared.

This year's bulletin is now ready and will be sent free to any address upon application to the Bureau of Extension.

Already there have been distributed over 750 copies of this bulletin within and without the state. Have you received your copy?

GROWING BETTER

Last year the Hertford graded school under the direction of Principal L. B. Crawford held a successful field day.

This year on October 29th the plan was again carried out with even greater success than last year.

On November 5th Arbor Day exercises were held in the auditorium followed by a basket-ball game between the girls of the Hertford high school and the girls of the Elizabeth City high school.

We did not learn how the game came out, but we are sure such occasions will help mightily in making Hertford a better county in which to live.

NEW BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 12, The Teaching of County Geography, by Prof. M. C. S. Noble is ready for distribution.

Its purpose is clearly stated by Dean Noble,—to give methods and suggestions to those teachers who wish to teach their pupils the geography of their county.

Orange county is taken as a basis and upon its features is constructed an outline and resume which may be adapted for use in any county of the state.

Dean Noble has made a valuable contribution to the study of local resources and needs. Teacher, superintendents, pupils, and the citizens interested in local problems will find the pamphlet interesting and instructive.

Write to the Bureau of Extension for a free copy.

A MODERN SCHOOL

Notice has come to the University News Letter that Mr. J. D. McVean of Granville county is conducting a school for the purpose of teaching boys how to judge livestock.

Truly a modern type of school and worthy of extensive emulation.

The selfish unconcern of literates is as bad for a community as the apathetic unconcern of illiterates, or worse.