

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
NEWS LETTER

The news in this publication is released for the press on the date indicated below.

Published weekly by the University of North Carolina for its Bureau of Extension.

MAY 3, 1916

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. II, NO. 23

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, J. G. deR. Hamilton, L. R. Wilson, L. A. Williams, R. H. Thornton, G. M. McKie. Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

WELL SPENT MONEY

Cleveland, Ohio, maintains 86 school dispensaries and clinics, and employs 16 physicians, one oculist, and 27 trained nurses at a cost of \$36,000 a year to look after the health of her school children.

Parents are advised about the defects and diseases of their children, and the school nurses urge prompt treatment and cure in the homes.

The visiting nurse teaches applied practical hygiene to parents, pupils, families, and teachers. Her work prevents the loss of time on the part of pupils, and vastly reduces the number of exclusions for contagious diseases. She cures minor ailments in the school clinic, and furnishes efficient aid in emergencies. She demonstrates required treatments in the homes of the children, often discovering there the source of the trouble, which, if undiscovered, would render useless the work of the medical inspectors in school. The school nurse is the most efficient possible link between the school and the home. Her work is immensely important in direct results and far-reaching influences.

ORANGE COMMENCEMENT

On Wednesday May 3rd, we shall have a new kind of commencement exercises in Orange county. For nearly a century and a quarter there have been commencement exercises at the University, but never before a commencement of the Common Schools of the County.

The big parade through Hillsboro to Cameron Park, the formal award of certificates to seventh grade graduates, the school exhibits and the athletic contests for a long list of prizes will interest every school and almost every family in the county. The event will draw a great crowd, and it will be a great day in Orange.

Orange, by the way, belongs to a group of eighteen counties that are leading in North Carolina in township meetings of the teachers during the school year, in the employment of school supervisors, and in club work with the boys and girls.

A farm-life school, the medical inspection of schools and school children, sanitary homes, and out-houses for the schools are all in the mind of progressive people in the county. These things will all come along in good time.

We congratulate Superintendent Lockhart and Miss Cassidy. The year's work has been noteworthy. There are no better people in the world than the people of old Orange, and they plan even bigger things for the future.

COUNTRY-LIFE INSTITUTES

The plan of Country-Life Institutes under church leadership, suggested by Rev. T. S. Coble of Mocksville, in The University News Letter March 8th, has excited widespread comment in the press of the State. Responses have come from ministers of every denomination all the way from Cherokee to Albemarle.

Monday, May the Eighth

A preliminary conference date has been set: Monday, May 8th. Peabody Auditorium on the University campus, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

Ministers of every denomination and all other people interested in the country-life problems of North Carolina are invited into this conference. Its purpose is (1) to outline a practicable working program for the proposed Institutes, (2) to organize the subjects that fitly need attention, and (3) to indicate the available workers.

A Working Plan

Mr. Coble's idea is to draft a model plan of work and publish it widely, so that ministers can easily conduct such Institutes in the State wherever there is interested, active leadership.

Such a country-life program will be a feature of the University Summer School schedule, if there be any local demand for it. It is the purpose of the University to serve the state as far as possible, and to join in all worth-while, forward-looking movements.

ANOTHER TWO-SIDED DIFFICULTY

Quite of a sort with the problem of job-less men and man-less jobs referred to in last week's issue is the problem of landless men and manless land.

We have in North Carolina 22,000,000 idle acres that need to be developed by home-owning farmers. On the other hand, in 1910 our tenants and renters with their families in the town and country regions made a landless, homeless population of 1,158,000 souls.

How can we get these people settled down upon land of their own? How can these idle acres get into cultivation by home-owning farmers? How can landlords and landless people come into agreement?

These people need the land and this land needs the people. What are the difficulties in the way of bringing together the two ends of this problem?

Are Land Owners To Blame?

As a matter of fact, are landlords holding land out of use for speculation rises in value? Are they greedily aware of the fact that farm land in North Carolina increased in value \$201,000,000 during the last census period? Or that the increase in land values in the South Atlantic states last year was 19 per cent? Do they hold desirable farm land at prices beyond the reach of industrious, thrifty tenants? In many instances, Yes. In many other instances, No.

For instance, we found a landlord in Richmond county the other day who really wants to sell off 5000 acres of good farm land at a reasonable price, on comfortable terms of payment. He is not bothering himself to sell it, and nobody is bothering him to buy it. Such is the situation in a county in which two-fifths of the white farmers are tenants!

Sometime ago, we had a letter from a landowner in Alabama saying, "For six months or so I have been advertising for good white settlers upon a 7,000 acre tract, cut into farms of any size desired, at \$10 an acre, on almost any reasonable terms of payment; but so far only one white farmer has responded. I conclude that white farm tenants in this state do not want to own farms. If I offer this land to negro farmers it will go like hot cakes. Would you do it, if you were in my place?"

Hugh McRae and Company

And Mr. Hugh McRae in Wilmington, is offering in the lower Cape Fear region in what the Washington authorities have called The Great Winter Garden, good farms at reasonable rates, upon easy, possible terms to desirable farmers. These farms are cleared, ditched, drained, ploughed, limed, harrowed and dragged. They have on them comfortable, newly built cottage homes and barns. Everything is ready for occupancy, and the purchasers can pitch their crops without delay. In direct, practical, business ways he is trying to solve the problem of landless men and manless land in North Carolina.

By the way, Gerald Stanley Lee in Crawfords puts Mr. McRae into his chapter on Inspired Millionaires. Mr. McRae has set himself to solve a problem that calls for inspiration as well as millions.

I am looking, he says, for a plan under which no man can say that he desires a piece of land on which to make a living and cannot find it; and after he finds it I want a scheme of cropping and marketing worked out that will make him self-supporting if he is industrious and has average intelligence.

Are Tenants to Blame?

On the other hand, there are 63,000 landless white farmers in North Carolina. They are a third of all the white farmers in the state. They outnumber the negro tenants by nearly 20,000.

Do they really want farms of their very own? Are they settled into an incurable conviction that renting is a better business proposition than ownership? Do they set above home ownership their freedom to move about at sweet will and pleasure? Have they lost the fierce landlust of their Anglo-Saxon forbears? Are they satisfied to be strangers, pilgrims, and sojourners in the land without abiding interest in community welfare and

THE TORCH BEARERS

God send us men whose aim 't will be
Not to defend some ancient creed,
But to live out the laws a-right
In every thought and word and deed.

God send us men alert and quick
His lofty precepts to translate.
Until the laws of Right become
The laws and habits of the State.

God send us men of steadfast will,
Patient, courageous, strong and true.
With vision clear and mind equipped
His will to learn, His work to do.

God send us men with hearts ablaze,
All truth to love, all wrong to hate,
These are the patriots nations need,
These are the bulwarks of the State.

—The Survey

well-being, in churches, schools, and similar concerns of civilization? Do they realize that land values are steadily rising the world over, and that their chance of home ownership is day by day a dwindling, disappearing chance?

A Difficult Practical Problem

Or are the industrious, thrifty, intelligent tenants simply unaware of these chances at farm ownership in other counties or in distant sections of the state? If so, the first problem is to reach them and acquaint them with the opportunities that beckon. They are hard to reach; but at least a third of our white tenants are fine-spirited, worthy people, hard-working, upright, thrifty and aspiring, and they are well worth investing in. The next problem, as Mr. McRae clearly sees, concerns nearby market advantages that will justify a well balanced system of farming and reward it with prosperity. Here is a problem for city dwellers and city boards of trade.

Settling people safely into farm homes is a practical, not a sentimental, problem; but home and farm ownership is a fundamental condition of safe civilization in the Cape Fear region, in North Carolina and the whole United States, and the problem is well worth solving.

A HELPFUL HANDBOOK

The State Board of Education at Boise, Idaho, has recently issued a Handbook for Rural Teachers written by Miss Addie M. Ayer, Supervisor of Rural Training schools at the Lewiston State Normal School in that state.

The bulletin is designed as a help and guide for the rural teacher who is seeking to better conditions educationally and socially in the community in which she works.

It is a most practical piece of work and well worth careful study and adaptation to our North Carolina needs.

SMALL RETURNS PER WORKER

The table in this issue exhibits the states ranked according to farm wealth produced per farm worker. The figures are based on the 1910 census volumes on Occupations and Agriculture. The results were obtained by dividing the total crop and livestock wealth produced in each state, by the total number of persons, ten years old and over, engaged in agriculture; foresters and forest products omitted.

It must be understood, of course, that the total farm wealth produced in each state, as given in the census, represents at the very best only an approximation of actual values. The fact that crops are fed to livestock involves an unavoidable duplication of values. However, this is true in every state, and taking the figures as we find them, they afford a basis for significant comparisons.

Astonishing Variations

With these things said we may add (1) that the production of farm wealth in crops and livestock products per farm worker in the United States was \$723; (2) that the figures range from \$255 in Mississippi to \$1,680 in Iowa; and (3) that North Carolina with \$290 per farm worker ranks 45th. That is to say, 44 states made a better showing than North Carolina, and only 3 a poorer—Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

**UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
LETTER SERIES NO. 72**

THE BACKWARD SCHOOL

There are many schools in our state that are forging ahead with better results year by year, and there are also schools that may be truly called backward schools. The pupils lack enthusiasm, the parents lack interest, and the school lacks snap and vigor which mark the forward-moving school in the forward-moving community. There is the belief that this backwardness is due to bad management on the part of those in authority. This bad management comes to the front with all of its destructive force about this time of the school year.

The Teacher Quits

The teacher in Blank District will not return next year. She is a good teacher but there is something wrong with the district, and the committee is already looking around for another teacher. In fact, the committee seems to have contracted the habit of changing teachers every year. During the past six years this district has had four teachers.

The Cause

This school in Blank District is backward because it is pulled back every year by the committee when it gives up a good teacher and tries the experiment of a new one. This annual change of teachers is

destructive and ought to stop. If the new teacher succeeds, a better salary in another district will take her away; if she fails, she finds and accepts another school. And at any rate her present school will lose her next year, and in the fall a new teacher will take her place and the children will go into the hands of one who is new to the school and new to the community. From year to year there is a new teacher in the school and a new pilot at the helm. No wonder that these children do not make the progress which they should make and which they would make but for this senseless and continuous changing of teachers.

There Are Other Districts

A survey of school conditions was recently made in a county of the piedmont section of the state and among much valuable information which was secured there was the fact that three-fifths of the schools in the county had new teachers every year. What makes a change desirable and who permits it to be made? If a change of teachers is bad for the school and makes it a backward school, somebody ought to try to prevent it. Who is to blame and what are the forces at work that bring about the great number of changes every session? There is something here for school committees to think about.

It is significant (1) that all the Southern states fall below the average of the country at large, despite the fact that sweet potatoes, tobacco, and cotton produce larger values per acre than any other standard crops; and (2) that Oklahoma leads the South in the production of total farm wealth per worker and also in the per capita farm wealth of country populations.

Understocked in Farm Animals

The Southern states are understocked in farm animals. In North Carolina in the census year we were 37 per cent below the level of even lightly stocked farms.

In general, this condition, is due to the general lack of cash operating capital in our farm regions, to excessive tenancy farming, to interest in cotton and tobacco mainly, to the small average size of our farms, to the lack of diversified farming and to the unavoidable waste of human, horse, and machine power in raising hand-made, cash crops on small farms.

Inviting Poverty

Under such circumstances, we produce enormous crop totals, and large crop values per acre year by year. Nevertheless we produce small values per farm worker, and the per capita farm wealth we are able to retain and accumulate under this system is so small as to be startling.

For instance in the South our per capita country wealth in farm properties ranges from \$221 in Alabama to \$830 in Oklahoma; but in the West it ranges

from \$909 in Michigan to \$3386 in Iowa. Producing farm wealth that will not stick to the palm that sweats it out and that immediately takes the wings of the morning and flies away to the uttermost parts of the earth is a pitiful performance in any community or county, state or section. And it calls for radical changes in Southern agriculture.

Inviting Prosperity

A fundamental necessity in North Carolina and the South is farms sufficiently and properly stocked with domestic animals. We need (1) a larger quantity and a greater variety of farm animals, (2) larger farms and more work animals per farm, (3) more milk cows and other cattle, more pigs, more sheep, and more poultry; at least fifty per cent more than we now have in any Southern state.

Such an increase would mean (1) a conservation of soil fertility, (2) an agriculture better balanced, safer and more stable, (3) a greater diversity of crops, (4) a better distribution of labor throughout the year, (5) a steady farm income week by week instead of once a year, (6) perhaps a smaller total income but certainly larger profits and a greater chance to retain and accumulate wealth.

And larger wealth in our country regions would soon mean (1) more farms cultivated by owners and fewer by tenants, (2) farms gradually increasing in average size, (3) more home-raised supplies and decreasing dependence on the supply-stores, and (4) a better credit basis in the country regions.

PER CAPITA FARM WEALTH PRODUCTION

**Covering Crops, Livestock Sales, and Livetsock Products
1910 Census**

S. H. DeVAULT, University of North Carolina.

Average for the United States, \$723.

| Rank | State | Per Capita | Rank | State | Per Capita |
|------|---------------|------------|------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Iowa | \$1,680 | 25 | Pennsylvania | \$799 |
| 2 | Nebraska | 1,608 | 26 | Connecticut | 793 |
| 3 | North Dakota | 1,558 | 27 | Maine | 783 |
| 4 | South Dakota | 1,417 | 28 | New Jersey | 781 |
| 4 | Nevada | 1,417 | 29 | Michigan | 750 |
| 6 | Kansas | 1,413 | 30 | Rhode Island | 636 |
| 7 | Wyoming | 1,326 | 31 | Oklahoma | 611 |
| 8 | Illinois | 1,297 | 32 | Delaware | 597 |
| 9 | Montana | 1,150 | 33 | Arizona | 581 |
| 10 | Vermont | 1,104 | 34 | Maryland | 548 |
| 11 | California | 1,026 | 35 | Kentucky | 479 |
| 12 | Washington | 1,024 | 36 | Texas | 460 |
| 13 | Minnesota | 995 | 37 | West Virginia | 439 |
| 14 | Indiana | 990 | 38 | Virginia | 422 |
| 15 | Colorado | 985 | 39 | Tennessee | 412 |
| 16 | Idaho | 966 | 40 | New Mexico | 361 |
| 17 | Oregon | 958 | 41 | Florida | 357 |
| 18 | Missouri | 941 | 42 | Georgia | 355 |
| 19 | New York | 935 | 43 | Arkansas | 327 |
| 20 | Ohio | 923 | 44 | South Carolina | 302 |
| 21 | Wisconsin | 893 | 45 | North Carolina | 290 |
| 22 | New Hampshire | 823 | 46 | Louisiana | 265 |
| 23 | Massachusetts | 807 | 47 | Alabama | 257 |
| 24 | Utah | 805 | 48 | Mississippi | 255 |