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## NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

### A SIGNIFICANT EVENT

The Country-Life Institute at the University, July 5-9, is coming into session just as this issue of the University News Letter goes to press.

It is significant (1) because it is the first Country-Life Conference under ministerial leadership, (2) because it is a sympathetic federation of the various country-life forces and agencies in North Carolina, and (3) because it indicates what any community in the state can do, wherever there is alert leadership and Christian fellowship.

The Bulletin on Country-Life Institutes, issued by the University Extension Bureau, is full of details and directions for the holding of such Institutes all over North Carolina. Watauga county has already applied for 30 copies. This Bulletin will be freely sent to the communities that are interested.

Letters of inquiry and application have already come from fifty-three counties and five states. The press of the state has given generous space both to the Country-Life Institute and the Country-Life Institute Bulletin; and this is particularly true of the country weeklies.

### SWAIN COUNTY: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

So runs the title of the 120 page manuscript prepared by Prof. Harry F. Latshaw, principal of the high school at Almond. This important work was done by the author in the workshop of The North Carolina Club at the University, under the stimulus of the Know-Your-Home-County ideal of the Club.

The chapter devoted to the Historical Background takes an inspiring backward look at Swain Day-Before Yesterday. The other chapters take a competent Round-About and Forward look at Swain To-day and To-morrow—at the Swain That is and Is to be.

These chapters consider (1) Resources—Mineral, Timber, and Water-Power, (2) Industries and Opportunities, (3) Facts About the Folks, (4) About Wealth and Taxation, (5) Farm Conditions and Farm Practices, (6) Food and Feed Production and the Local Market Problem, and (7) Where Swain Leads, Where She Lags, and The Way Out.

He compares Swain in 121 important particulars with every other county in the state, and these comparisons are highly instructive and stimulating.

### A Home-County Text-Book

The County Board of Education can well afford to put this work into bulletin form and place it without charge in every home in the county. The teachers and high school pupils, the ministers, farmers, and bankers and other business people ought to study it as a little Home-County text book. It would cost perhaps \$150; but ten pages of advertising by the merchants would cover this expense.

Fifty-two counties of North Carolina have now been explored in this way by devoted students at the University; but Mr. Latshaw's work sets a high water mark for all future efforts of this sort.

We congratulate Mr. Latshaw and Swain county.

### THE FOURTH ON THE HILL

More than a thousand teachers took part in celebrating the Fourth at the University, under the direction of Prof. A. Vermont of Smithfield.

The forenoon was devoted to patriotic exercises: an impressive procession, a flag raising, national songs, and an address by Dean M. C. S. Noble. The banners flying in the march were carried by teachers representing Salem Academy and College, established 1772, the University of North Carolina 1789, Louisburg 1802, Guilford 1837, Greensboro College for Women 1848, Chowan 1848, Littleton 1849, Oxford 1850, Lenoir 1890, State Normal and Industrial College 1891, Flora McDonald 1891, Meredith College 1899, and by smaller groups representing a host of other colleges in this and other states.

The afternoon exercises consisted of the Pageants under the Davie Poplar. These were given in costumes as follows: Boyhood of Sir Walter Raleigh, by Meredith College representatives.

Raleigh's First Expedition, by Trinity

and Louisburg College.

Baptism of Virginia Dare, by St. Mary's School and Salem Academy and College.

Durant's Land Purchase from Kilcannon, by Wake Forest College.

The Plantation Gentlemen at Home, by the University of North Carolina and the State Normal and Industrial College. Marriage of Hugh Waddell and Mary Haynes, by Greensboro College for Women and Littleton College.

Battle of Moore's Creek, by Flora McDonald College.

A Brave Carolinian and a Generous Britisher, or an episode in the life of Cornwallis, by Davidson College and Peace Institute.

An Old Quarrel with Virginia, by Elon and Oxford.

North Carolina's Adopted Daughter, by Lenoir College.

A Brave Rebel, by Chowan, Catawba, and Elizabeth colleges.

The bewitching grace of Miss Curtis Henderson, the little daughter of Dr. Archibald Henderson, is one of the charming memories of the Pageants.

In the evening la Vega's comedy of El Indiano was given in the open air before the old Law Building.

The Fourth at the University Summer School is always instructive, inspiring, and charming. It is a large chapter in real culture.

### WHERE WEALTH HAS WINGS

The wealth-creating power of Mississippi is enormous; but her wealth-retaining power is feeble.

For instance in the census year the farms of the state produced crops and animal products worth \$173,000,000.

Which is to say, every two years and a half the farmers of Mississippi create as great wealth as they have been able to accumulate and retain in farm properties in a hundred years. Every two years the crop wealth produced in Jefferson Davis county exceeds the total farm wealth of the county. And this is nearly true of Lincoln and Panola.

In a single year the farms of the state produce wealth amounting to more than twice the capital invested in all manufacturing enterprises, and nearly twice as great as the total bank resources of the state. And mind you, the farms do this in a single year!

The production of crop values per average acre in 1909 was \$22.59. Mississippi stood ahead of 40 states of the Union in this particular, and she outranked every one of the rich prairie states of the Middle West. Nevertheless, the per capita country wealth in farm properties in this region ranges from \$1,153 in Indiana to \$3,386 in Iowa, against \$300 in Mississippi.

Hunting down the causes for the feeble wealth-retaining power of Mississippi challenges the patriotic concern of bankers and traders, teachers and preachers. Her meagre wealth cripples, hinders, and retards everything, every business, and everybody in the state.

Life has to do with material things as well as culture and wisdom, as Edgar Lee Masters reminds us.

### A SPENDTHRIFT SYSTEM

The food and feed needed by man and beast in Mississippi in the census year was around \$196,000,000. This total is figured upon the 1910 census reports and the per capita annual averages of food consumed, as announced by the Federal Agricultural Department from time to time.

But the food and feed crops produced in Mississippi amounted to only \$67,000,000. Which is to say, \$129,000,000 went out of the State in ready cash in 1910 to pay for bread and meat, grain, hay and forage. The cotton crop failed to pay the bill for imported food and forage by \$25,000,000.

When a king's ransom of this sort slips through the fingers of Mississippi from year to year, the accumulation of wealth is bound to be slow and the totals saved will be small. How could it be otherwise?

In the main, the farm system of Mississippi is a one-crop, farm-tenancy, crop-lien, supply-merchant, time-credit sys-

### MARK TWAIN'S LOYALTY

My kind of loyalty is loyalty to one's country, not to its institutions or its office holders.

The country is the real thing, the substantial thing, the eternal thing; it is the thing to watch over, and care for, and be loyal to. Institutions are extraneous; they are mere clothing, and clothing can wear out, become ragged, cease to be comfortable, cease to protect the body from winter, disease, and death.

To be loyal to rags, to shout for rags, to worship rags, to die for rags—that is a loyalty of unreason; it is pure animal; it belongs to monarchy; let monarchy keep it.

The citizen who thinks he sees that the commonwealth's political clothes are worn out and yet holds his peace and does not agitate for a new suit, is disloyal. He is a traitor.—King Arthur's Court.

tem. And it is a spendthrift system.

Enormous farm wealth can be created under this system, but only a pin's fee can be retained. Nobody can hold down any reasonable share of the farm wealth created in this way. The merchants and bankers skin the cream of it to some little extent; but small landlords and tenants are usually helpless. The farmers of Mississippi are not, thriftless and improvident beyond most people; the farm system itself is at fault.

### A NEW ERA

Under boll weevil conditions and the war time price of cotton, the farmers of Mississippi entered upon a new era in 1915; or let us hope so.

Between 1909 and 1915 the cotton crop fell from twelve hundred thousand to nine hundred and fifty-four thousand bales; a decrease of 23 per cent. But set against a decrease of 15 million dollars in cotton production during this period is a gain in corn, oats, wheat, hay and forage amounting to \$38,000,000. Moreover, the six-year increase in livestock was more than \$8,000,000, as follows: 325,000 swine, 63,000 horses and mules, 18,000 dairy cows and 13,000 sheep.

All told the farmers of Mississippi were forty-five million dollars better off in food and forage crops, work-stock and meat animals. A marvelous record!

These wonderful increases show what Mississippi can do under the pinch of hard necessity. The six-year increase in the corn crop was 42,000,000 bushels, a gain of 148 per cent. Her hay and forage crop rose from 279,000 to 400,000 tons. She multiplied her oats crop two and a third times over, and her wheat crop twenty fold. There is still too little oats, wheat and hay; but Mississippi can easily produce a sufficiency of all these crops if economic conditions permit or economic pressure compels her to do so.

In 1915, her bill for imported bread and meat, hay and forage, was \$45,000,000 less than in the census year, but it was still some \$80,000,000 too large.

The richest farm state in the South is Mississippi, by long odds; that is to say, the richest in agricultural resources, opportunities, and possibilities, but not the richest in accumulated wealth. There is agricultural profusion but not agricultural prosperity in Mississippi.

### ENJOYING POOR HEALTH

Until very recently nobody knew anything of definite sort about the conditions of health and disease in the country regions. The disclosures of the last two years are disquieting or ought to be to the country people.

The State Health Board has just finished a health survey of five country townships and two villages of the same in Albany county, New York.

The results are astounding. The investigators found that one person in every nine reached by the investigation was sick or had been sick during the year.

It was also found that 79 per cent or nearly four-fifths of this illness could have been prevented by intelligence and care, or that it could have been cured by prompt treatment.

Sixty-eight per cent of all the cases

## UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 81

### PREPAREDNESS

There seems to be a general interest this summer among teachers, principals, and superintendents in our schools. The causes seem to be the necessity for our schools to have the most efficient service possible, and the desire of the school men and women to advance in the profession.

It has come about that school officers are demanding more and more the services of experts in school work. Teachers are coming to realize this fact and as never before are taking extra work through correspondence and through summer sessions, and are preparing themselves as experts.

### How It Works

As a result they are demanding larger dividends on their investment; i. e. they are demanding larger salaries and positions more appropriate to their qualifications. The communities able and willing to pay for expert services and first class teaching are getting what they call

for and those communities that are still thinking of the education of their children in terms of dollars and cents are having to take what is left.

You cannot measure the value of expert and trained services by a monetary standard. If you demand good teaching you must pay more than if you are content with ordinary teaching, but at that you never pay the complete worth of expert teaching.

For value received poor and ordinary teaching is costly at any price. Expert teaching is always worth more than it costs. You may pay the bill of a good teacher but you can never pay what you owe a good teacher.

Communities must begin now and plan whether they need and desire just and only someone to hear classes, or whether they need and desire someone who will lead their boys and girls out into a fuller, richer, happier, nobler life and service.

Is your community "paying \$35 a month", or is it "desiring teachers of worth and willing to pay for them?"

make proper health conditions for his family, and to insure spiritual nourishment according to his own taste.

### Self Help the Best Help

A dollar spent in helping him work out his own plans—his own ideals which will expand and enlarge as he works at the job—counts. But he wants to feel that he is doing the thing himself. Our mountains will be developed in proportion as the responsibility for development of this Land of Promise is placed on their shoulders. Growth that is not mushroom is rarely rapid.

They plead to be encouraged by money, by sympathy, by suggestions and a helping hand from their better favored kindred, to work out their own salvation. They are our brethren, a little behind the procession perhaps, but they are beginning to look over the mountain tops, and at the same time, unlike the "fool whose eyes are in the ends of the earth", to see the possibilities of their valleys.

### WIDE-AWAKE

The Derby Memorial School in Richmond County is wide awake to the possibilities of the public school in a country community.

The pupils are getting out a school paper known as the Drowning Creek Current. It is a lively and interesting sheet. The articles show the variety of interests presented to the children and demonstrate admirably how the viewpoint and horizon of the country child may be broadened.

### Weaving

As Mr. Derby says, It illustrates how well the school has woven itself into the life of the community and how the children are thinking about community matters.

The children in the school are taught the by-laws and theory of the Credit Union and can write intelligently about farm finance.

### Debates

The debates are on such questions as cooperative enterprises in the United States, relative value of beef cattle and dairy cattle, decrease in cotton production, school bonds, military training in schools. Every one straight to a point right at hand, every one a real question growing out of needs at hand. We like the idea and commend it for adaptation.

### COMMUNITY CENTER SONGS

We have long been searching for songs to sing at community meetings, which would sound the note of cooperation. We have found them!

The U. S. Bureau of Education at Washington, D. C., will send you copies of five community center songs, free of charge, if you will write and ask for them.

### The Titles

These songs have been written especially for community meetings. They are: It's A Short Way to the Schoolhouse, (sung to the tune of Tipperary), Neighborhood (sung to the tune of Die Wacht am Rhein), The Fellowship of Folks (sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne), Heart and Hand, and This Good Common Ground. Write and get them!