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# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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## NORTH CAROLINA CLUB STUDIES

### IMPOSSIBLE

Our mails last week brought requests from 147 people who want to get on the regular mailing list of the University News Letter.

Our only chance is to slip these names into our mailing list in place of people who change their postoffice addresses from time to time without notifying us.

Our News Letter could easily go into the homes of 15,000 thoughtful people who want it and write for it. At present, our weekly edition is 9,000, and it cannot be larger for lack of funds to pay the expense of printing, paper, press work, and postage.

A large number of the requests last week came from farmers in Chatham county; but our circulation is already disproportionately large in Chatham county, other counties considered.

### ENCOURAGING

The University News Letter has too little space to advertise the University or the News Letter editors. But a recent letter from Mr. Bion H. Butler, a seasoned and brilliant member of the newspaper profession, is so encouraging to the raw recruits in our sanctum that we cannot refrain from publishing it—mainly because it heightens our purposes and adds value to the University in public esteem.

"Good Old Scouts: Your issue on the schools July 26 is worth to this state all the News Letter has cost from the day the first copy was printed.

"North Carolina has a population of sincere, hopeful men and women who want to do the right thing, and the lead you are giving them puts them on the right track. Don't ever get it into your heads that you are not doing a great work in life, for you are and the fruits will live long after any one of your bunch does.

"In my enthusiasm over your July 26 issue I am puffed up with pride over the entire University, in every department and in every individual connected with it."

For every word of this generous letter the board of editors is profoundly grateful.

### GET-TOGETHER INSTITUTES

The federation of country-life forces and agencies, in country-life institutes in the country regions is well under way in North Carolina. And in this particular kind of effort our state is setting a pace for the entire Union.

Our teachers, preachers, farmers, doctors, and bankers have for long years been meeting apart from one another. Each group has been indulging in partial views of the whole great, big subject of common weal and the Commonwealth. Each has missed a wholesome largeness of view. Each has been playing the game of Puss-in-the-Corner.

The programs of the Institutes to be held in Scotland, Union, and Sampson counties at an early date, under the direction of Prof. W. C. Crosby, Secretary of the State Bureau of Community Service, are statesmanlike and inspiring.

Doubtless the communities will actively involve in their programs the church and Sunday school workers and their problems. The translation of material gains into spiritual assets has to do with the righteousness that exalteth a nation.

The country church and Sunday school are still, or may be, the most important country-life institutions we have in the South.

The University News Letter heartily endorses every word of the recent editorial in the Western Sentinel. We reproduce it elsewhere.

### A MOVEMENT OF DECIDED BENEFIT

The movement for the holding of community service schools in various counties of the state seems to us to be a good one that should result in much benefit. The first of such schools is to be held for five days, beginning Saturday, in a township in Mecklenburg county, this to be followed next month in Sampson county. Still others will doubtless be held from time to time.

The idea of the Community Service school, as we understand it, is to bring

people in rural districts together with a view to discussing problems of particular interest and receiving information of a helpful nature in connection with such subjects as rural education, the social side of community life, marketing of farm products in most effective manner, as well as other topics. Speakers of statewide prominence attend these schools and participate in the helpful discussions. At the Charlotte gathering Attorney-General Bickett, Editor Clarence Poe and Dr. J. Y. Joyner will be among those taking part.

It seems to us that there is an excellent field in the various counties of this state for such community service work. It is a comparatively new movement in North Carolina but the enthusiasm with which it is being received suggests large possibilities. The work is under the direction of the State Bureau of Community Service, working in cooperation with the State Department of Education and Agriculture, State Board of Health, A. & M. College, State Normal, State Farmers' Union and other agencies.

Every county in North Carolina should have one or more Community Service schools. They cannot fail to be decidedly helpful to people living in rural communities who are desirous of improving conditions along various lines.—The Western Sentinel.

### THE PITY OF IT

A young man told us the other day that when he applied for a certain position as teacher in the schools he was asked to what church he belonged. He answered the question and was told that it was not exactly what was hoped but it might do. Then he was asked his politics. He answered the question and that settled it! He did not belong to the right party!

When shall we learn that education is a bigger thing than any particular creed or party. It is an insult to a young man to imply that he has not common sense enough to keep doctrines and party politics out of his class-room work. Who ever heard of Methodist Latin or Baptist Algebra, Republican Geometry or Democratic Science!

As a nation we do not allow church doctrines to be taught in our public schools and we likewise discountenance the teaching of partisan politics. Why, then, may we not exercise charity, common sense and broad-mindedness in employing the teachers? We pride ourselves on the bigness of the state, and justly so. Let's cultivate bigness of mind and soul to go with it.

### GASTON COUNTY'S PLAN

We are surely awakening to the very unbusiness-like policy in this state of closing down our educational plants for a part of the year. We hear it often condemned but less often do we find an attempt to do something about it.

Superintendent Hall of Gaston county has been trying out a plan this summer in the town of Belmont, Gaston county, which is typical of his progressive spirit in school matters.

### This Is It

With an enrollment of about 100 girls and boys under the direction of Mr. Ray Armstrong and Miss Laura Watts, respectively, the groups meet at the schoolhouse these vacation mornings and receive instruction by way of story telling and blackboard work. Much time is spent out of doors in plays and games in which is found a strong educational flavor. Nature study is carried on by a tramp group through the woods, which offers undreamed of chances to illustrate geography, arithmetic, and language.

The work is supported, largely, by the mill men who are powerful cooperative factors in the school work at Belmont. It is hoped that the folks themselves, the taxpayers, are not leaving too much support to private enterprise. If such a proceeding is worth while it is worthy of public approval, and the plan should become publicly supported as well as publicly managed, as it doubtlessly will after a period of experiment has proven its worth.

### ORGANIZING PEACE

The power to make money is the power to serve. The law of peace is simply the survival of the fittest to serve. The man who can have the brains to serve the most kinds of people in the most ways will thrash everybody in sight. Nobody can touch him. Nobody will let anybody touch him. The man who can discover and invent and expose mutual interests, who has a creative passion for making other interests play and work together, who can make all classes work as one class, who can make employers, workmen and consumers work as one man—the man who makes money by raising wages, who can get rich by lowering prices, becomes terrible and implacable in this world. He withers all who oppose him. Only a man who is more peaceful than he is can hope to compete with him.

Christ's statement is a very liberal one, the meek shall inherit the earth, if by meek we mean people who stop fighting people and listen, find out what they want, do it for them and become a part of them.

This habit, this business-like genius of mutual self-expression, this insatiable greediness for team-work, for living in others and through others and of having others live in us and through us—this passion of heaping up all men's lives upon our lives—this is the spirit that is making all men who have it to-day the masters of the fate of the world. It is the spirit that, before our eyes, is taking possession of America.—Gerald Stanley Lee in WE.

### INHERITANCE TAXES

Forty-two states levy a tax on inheritances. The revenues derived range from \$4,415 in Nevada and \$6,606 in Georgia to \$3,500,000 in California and \$8,263,000 in New York.

In North Carolina the revenue from inheritances in 1914 was \$19,899. Thirty-two states derived a larger revenue from this source. Six of these were southern states, as follows: Virginia \$42,000, Texas \$43,000, Oklahoma 44,000, Louisiana \$97,000, Tennessee \$210,000, and Kentucky \$270,000.

The law seems to amount to almost nothing in Oklahoma, Georgia, Nevada, and North Dakota. It does not yet amount to much in North Carolina.

In Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wyoming the inheritance tax revenues go into the county treasuries.

In California \$250,000 of the inheritance tax money went last year into the public school fund, \$175,000 into the pension fund for teachers, and the balance, \$3,075,000, into the general fund of the state treasury.

The first state to levy a tax on inheritances was Pennsylvania 290 years ago.

Only six states have no inheritance tax; South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Rhode Island.

These details of information are gleaned from a speech in Congress by Chas. F. Curry, Representative from California, who opposes Secretary McAdoo's proposal to levy a Federal tax on inheritances. He wants such revenues reserved for the state treasuries.

### HELPING THE FARMERS

Only 15 states have established official Marketing Departments, as follows: Alabama, California, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. Six of these are southern states.

### What North Carolina Is Doing

A recent bulletin issued by the Federal Department of Markets and Rural Organization says:

"The State marketing work is done by the Division of Markets and Rural Cooperation, West Raleigh. William R. Camp, Chief, Division of the Markets is in charge and is responsible to B. W.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 85

### SLAP-STICK COMEDY

As a rule, school annuals or yearbooks in colleges, universities and normal schools are a poor attempt at humor and wit resulting in slap-stick comedy, appreciated by a few, disquieting to many, seldom if ever really constructive, and rarely elevating.

Of course, such publications find a place in student life and likewise, of course, they become a part of student contributions to college literature. But are they really worth while when such productions become the only form of class publications?

### A New One

The Class of 1916 at the Mississippi Normal College at Hattiesburg has caught a vision of what a class book can be. Someone looked beyond the present and outside the small school circle, at the great wide world of life into which the class members were going and planned a contribution to the life of Mississippi.

The book is composed of brief articles dealing with health, hygiene and sanitation. The treatment is historical, theoretical, professional, practical, and social.

Kilgore, Director of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, West Raleigh. Work was begun in September, 1913, under authorization of a resolution of the Board of Agriculture, placing the division under a "joint committee." Chapters 115, 144, 175 of the public laws of 1915 legally established the division and provided an appropriation of \$11,000.

"The division cooperates with the Agricultural Experiment Station, and Extension Service of the State Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State Department of Agriculture, and the Office of Markets and Rural Organization, United States Department of Agriculture. The work includes investigations of the present methods of distributing farm products; the publication of lists of farm products for sale; of partial lists of receivers and dealers in farm products; of weekly price reports; of circulars, and quarterly market bulletins. Cooperative organizations are promoted and supervised, and the proper grading of cotton demonstrated."

### Cooperative Enterprise

In addition, Mr. William R. Camp, assisted by Mr. E. C. Culbreth, is head of the State Department of Cooperative Enterprise, Cooperative Credit Unions and the like.

North Carolina has the best cooperative laws in the United States, and leads the Union in Farm Credit Unions. Write to Mr. Camp or Mr. John Sprunt Hill of Durham for information on these subjects.

### REFLECTIONS ON THE FLOOD

Most of us would never do any thinking at all, if we were not startled out of a vegetative existence by massive and spectacular events.

The recent flood disasters in our mountains are an illustration in point. They are so appalling and so appealing as to arrest popular attention; but commonplace, cumulative causes have been for years setting the stage for this tragedy; and no warnings whatsoever have been sufficient to arouse general public interest and set in play policies for adequate prevention and protection.

But enormous losses have now overtaken railroad authorities, hydro-electric companies, and mill and factory owners. Capital is intelligent and sensitive. Investors have a keen sense of futurity, and dividends must be insured against calamity. The industrial development of our Hill Country is at stake, and flood devastation like this must never again occur in this region if it can be humanly prevented.

### Bad Farming and Bad Forestry

The commonplace causes are two: (1) bad forestry methods on part of our timber companies and (2) bad methods on part of our farmers. Together they have decreased the amount of slow and safe underground drainage that is promoted by wooded areas and year-around cover crops.

The lumber companies have savagely

Evidently each member of the class made a contribution and was proud of the doing.

There are cuts of student and faculty groups as well as individual members of the class. Student activities are illustrated and due prominence is given class officers, library and debating societies.

The book has an appeal. It stands for something. It is a contribution. It is a pleasing and suitable variation.

### Other Good Ones

The student year books of the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, and the East Carolina Training School at Greenville are well above the average, and well along towards high water mark throughout the country. At the East Tennessee Normal, too, there is found a student publication well worth more than a casual glance.

There is abundant proof that with a bit of guidance and advice, with a little care and thought, student year books might easily be made to contribute in a constructive way to man's social and aesthetic development.

stripped our mountain slopes bare of timber and left the slashes ready for forest fires from any chance spark. Our Hill Country farmers have failed to make this region what Nature intended it to be—a pasture land paradise, an area of ham and bacon, beef and mutton production, a dairy farming region filled with silos, cheese factories, creameries and condenseries, a livestock region protected by permanent pastures to the mountain tops, and by well-built terraces for crops that require clean culture.

### Inevitable Penalties

These are the causes that have decreased underground drainage in this region and increased the swift, destructive, overrun in seasons of heavy rainfall. As a result crops are destroyed and in certain areas the people face starvation. But also the hillside farms are gone and unprotected spaces set in clean-culture crops are bare to the rocks below. Bottom lands are covered with silt, sand and debris. Power sites are destroyed; mills, factories, and bridges have floated off like straws; improved public highways and railroad tracks have been torn up for hundreds of miles; industries have been crippled or annihilated; and a heavy burden laid upon the shoulders of taxpayers for years to come.

### Defensive Intelligence

Has not the time come to regulate our timber companies with reasonable statutes and adequate supervision, and to develop a well supported, effective forestry policy? If ten million dollars in bond issues will prevent a repetition of such a disaster it would be a wise investment.

And intelligent, self-interest will surely bring organized big business into cooperation with the mountain farmers, to establish a proper system of hillside farming, and to reward them with abundant market facilities and reasonable profits in the required new order of mountain agriculture?

Farm and home demonstration agents are needed in every mountain county; baby-beef clubs, pig and poultry clubs, ham and bacon factories, cheese factories, creameries and condenseries, stock breeding associations, county fairs, cattle shows, improved highways, cooperative market and credit unions, railroad facilities, conveniences, and advantageous rates.

### Hobson's Choice

All these forms of agriculture can flourish in our mountain regions; but not, unless the farmers can market their products at a fair price and profit. Which is to say, a proper hill country farm system waits upon the intelligent assistance of organized big business—railroad companies, power companies, timber concerns, banks, mill and factory owners.

If we do not revise our systems of forestry and farming in the mountain country, every dollar that big business has invested in this region is increasingly in peril year by year.