

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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

The news in this publica-
tion is released for the press on
receipt.

MAY 22, 1918

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. IV, NO. 26

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Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

THE HUNGER OF NEXT WINTER

A GRAVE EMERGENCY

The problem of food production is rapidly passing to the stage of crisis. Only a month remains as the outside limit for seeding land in even the most northerly areas. The American people seem capable of appreciating this problem only under the menace of actual famine. They do not understand that the hunger of next winter must be averted now. It is assumed that if the war continues our Allies must have food. If the fighting in France this summer is inconclusive, the fact that food will win the war will have a ghastly demonstration.

Victory will not merely fall to the side that has reserves of men left, but to the side that has an extra ration. No army or people can resist the demoralization that is entailed by extreme hunger. There is every reason to believe that the Central Powers will be in worse straits than the Allies; but there is every prospect that next winter will be a period of undreamed-of privation. Evidence is accumulating that wheat production in this country will fall far below the level of last season. The situation is one of grave emergency calling for drastic measures.

It is obvious that we are incapable within a limited period of so reconstituting the basis of our agricultural industry as to give the farmer that which has been denied him for a generation—a real chance to exist. But what we can do is to take as war measures the urgent steps in connection with seed, machinery, labor, farm credit, storage, transportation, and the packing industry, which will make less menacing the imminent food shortage of next winter.—The Public.

GO TO WORK

Prof. J. M. Johnson of West Raleigh representing the Federal Agricultural Department is now busy registering the people who are ready to help our farmers during the present crop year.

What he is doing is tremendously important. It is more than ever true that food will win the war. The army that has an extra ration is the army that will win, is the word that comes from across the seas. And it looks as though we are not going to have the food our Allies will need as the struggle drags its fearful length along; and the lack of labor on the farms of America is the reason.

Speaking of the dwindling food stocks of the world, and the threatening bread-and-meat shortage this winter Mark Swain of the Vigilantes says:

The Legislature of North Dakota has passed a bill conscripting men for labor on the farms. If this bill is made a law—within six months, forty-seven states will fall into line behind South Dakota, and trail her to the safe haven of food security.

This iconoclastic legislature has riddled the objection of the Philistines to a labor draft—by the United States government—which is summed up in the sentence, "you can't draft men to enrich private individuals." They have been broad enough to see that it isn't a question of making money for the farmer, but of getting enough for us all to eat.

And the objectors, it would seem, prefer us all to go hungry, rather than that we should meet the problem in an unconventional way. Their attitude is much like that of the circumlocution office of Dickens, only instead of "How not to do it," they shriek "It can't be done."

North Dakota Leads

North Dakota has blazed the trail. Other States will follow. President Wilson has called on the boys from 16 to 21 to do farm work. New Jersey has an idler's law, so has Maryland.

And it is not too late yet, to help the situation some, perhaps a great deal. It depends on each one of us, each and every one.

If you're able to work, and it is possible for you to leave your usual avocation for a few months, get in touch with the nearest agricultural bureau and connect with a farm. You're only one man—but every little bit helps. Persuade every friend you have to do the same

thing. You won't have any trouble landing—any farmer will be glad to have you.

If you can't go yourself, send men. Find idle men and send them. Give your chauffeur six months leave on half pay, if he'll try it, and drive your car yourself. If you live in a small town, corral the citizens thereof into a big holiday a week, then everybody go out and help the farmers on that day. In the old times, when a man wanted to build a house, he called on all his neighbors—they all came and helped him, ended the day with a barbecue, and he had his house. Something like that might help out.

But more—if you want to do your bit—give up your vacation at the mountains or the seashore and take it on a farm. Sentence yourself to two weeks or more at hard labor. It won't hurt you—it will do you good. The first day those soft muscles will send out an S. O. S. for first aid, but by the end of the week you'll feel like a real husky.

We've all got to do this. It's the only thing that's going to help us. Whether or not we have enough to eat next winter will depend on the way we meet this emergency—as soft handed, lounge-lizards—or as regular men.

CHEAP FOODS

Coffee, prunes, and rice are cheap foods in these days of sky-high prices. At least, they ought to be—market conditions considered.

If anybody is paying more for these table supplies than they paid in 1914, then somebody is profiteering. When coffee of the same grade differs 18 cents a pound in two towns not 30 miles apart, the local retailers fall under suspicion.

As for rice, there is no shortage in America, in spite of the fact that Europe has recently bargained for a million bags. The surplus in sight in the United States is 150 million pounds; which is considered an ample supply for home consumption. The retail price ought to drop accordingly.

EAT POTATOES SAVE WHEAT

Mr. Hoover, National Food Administrator, is urging Irish potatoes upon the housewives of the country.

Because our Allies need our wheat, our wheat ration is already cut down half and soon must be cut out altogether. We must learn to depend on potatoes for bread—along with corn meal and rice.

And potatoes are cheap because last year's crop was the largest ever produced in the United States. It ran 150 million bushels beyond the crop of 1916, and 92 million bushels beyond the annual average of the preceding six years.

The potato stock on hand in the United States on April 1st was over 50 million bushels, which is far beyond what is customary at that time of the year.

Old potatoes ought to retail around 25 cents a peck or \$1.00 a bushel. If consumers are paying more than this at the local grocery stores, the matter is worth investigating.

The Mountain Growers' Exchange at Waynesville, N. C. is shipping a number one grade of old potatoes in 150 lb. sacks at \$2.85 per sack delivered; which is less than \$1.10 per bushel.

The jobbing price of old potatoes ranges from 60 to 70 cents per bushel in the northern markets. The new crop is already going to the jobbers and early potatoes are selling at from \$3.00 to \$4.50 a barrel of 11 pecks at Hastings, one of the early shipping centers of Florida.

A LIFE-AND-DEATH MATTER

The war will be won by the nation with the extra sack of wheat.

That is the registered judgment of Roland E. Prothero who heads the English Board of Agriculture.

And if the American farmer does not find the last sack of wheat with which the war is to be won—says he—beyond all dispute the German farmer will.

The wheat field of Europe is the battlefield of today. The French crop fell off more than half last year and will fall even lower this year. The wheat situa-

WHAT YOUR \$50 WILL DO

It will protect 1,000 soldiers from smallpox and 666 from typhoid. It will assure the safety of 139 wounded soldiers from lockjaw, the germs of which swarm in Belgian soil.

It will render painless 400 operations, supply two miles of bandages—enough to bandage 555 wounds.

It will care for 160 injuries in the way of first-aid packets.

It will furnish adhesive plaster and surgical gauze enough to benefit thousands of wounded soldiers.

Every purchaser of War Savings Stamps—in any amount from \$5 to \$50—performs a distinct personal service to his country and to our boys fighting in France.—Federal Official Bulletin.

tion in Italy is equally alarming. The Canadian farmer has gone to war in such large numbers that the Canadian wheat supply is below the mark. The Argentine crop is always late and uncertain.

The wheat areas of Russia and Rumania are now Germany's, not ours.

That's Why

That's why farming has been taken over by the government in England and Wales, and a million and a half new acres brought under the plow this year.

That's why English farm lands are plowed and cultivated with government tractor machinery, enriched with government fertilizers, sown with government seeds, and farmed with drafted labor day and night.

That's why the women of England are in the fields busy with farming, just as they are in the shipyards, the munition plants, and the aero factories. They must work in order that their men may fight—and they are doing it by the millions.

That's why our own farmers must have all the labor and labor saving machinery they need this year; even if the able bodied loafers must be drafted and worked if necessary at the point of the bayonet.

That's why every farm must feed itself this year and send surplus food abroad, no matter what else it produces.

That's why we must go upon a wheatless diet in America without a day's delay.

It's a life and death matter—that's why.

SHELBY'S GREAT RECORD

There are 576 children in the Shelby Graded School and 404 of them belong to the War Savings Society.

Their grand total of sales and purchases to May 6 is \$32,458.

The average of purchases by the pupils themselves is now \$18.89 apiece.

The mark they have set is every pupil in the school in the W. S. S. by May 31, and average purchases amounting to \$20 apiece.

A great record! The explanation? A live school superintendent!

It looks as though the Shelby School leads the state.

If there is a better school record we want to know about it.

That reminds us to ask about the record of the school in your town, and about your school superintendent.

As Captain Cattle used to say, "Is he a live 'un or a dead 'un?"

SUMMER MILITARY CAMP

The University of North Carolina will conduct a Summer Military Camp at Bingham Heights, Asheville, N. C., for a term of six weeks, beginning June 14th. The training will consist of close and extended order drill, musketry practice, bayonet practice, hikes, and military engineering. There is no other place in the country where outdoor training of this nature can be given under such ideal conditions.

Accommodations at the Bingham Military School are limited to 150 boys. Over half this number (with ages ranging from 16 to 20 years) have been accepted. Those who wish to attend this Camp are urged to send in their applications at once to T. F. Hickerson, Chapel Hill, N. C.

The Camp will be directed by Captain J. Stuart Allen of the Canadian Light Infantry (in service two years on the West-

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 147

DISLOYAL TEACHERS

A prominent citizen in this state said to us the other day that the teachers are not paying much attention right now to the matter of certification, summer schools or institutes. He went on to say that their attitude is explained by the idea that owing to the scarcity of teachers next fall school committees will not investigate too carefully a candidate's professional qualifications and standing.

Then too there will be plenty of places, so they argue, which will have to run their schools but will have no teachers and will be compelled to put in some one whether that some one holds a certificate or not. At any rate, they say, it will be easy to get a teaching permit and that is all that is necessary, so why worry about summer schools or institutes.

Slacker Teachers

Such so-called teachers are a disgrace to the profession and slackers in the nation's cause. They are comparable with the profiteers in business and the sort of citizens who would, if they dared, lend aid and comfort to the enemy. While our boys are over there giving their lives in an effort to make this world a decent place to live in, these teacher-slackers are failing to do their part helping to make decent men and women to live in this world. How can they feel that they are even respectable citizens? How can they talk about doing their bit? They are traitors and disloyal citizens who would take advantage of a national crisis to increase their personal gain. They are worse traitors than Benedict Arnold and more contemptible citizens than the craven hearted deserter from the ranks of the army.

Is It True?

We cannot believe that there is any very large number of such teachers. The

teaching profession is not made up of men and women of such small calibre. Perhaps there are a few—even that is hard to believe—but they are a woeful minority or we do not know the teachers of this state.

We believe in the loyalty of our teachers and shall continue to believe in it until definite proof is given us to the contrary. Teachers will have to accept relatively low wages and live on short rations, but they have been accustomed to living close all their lives long and they will now rally to the needs of state and Nation without being driven to their places like dumb beasts before an autocratic despot. All reports as to summer school applications and daily correspondence with teachers from all over the state give us confidence that our brothers and sisters in the great family of teachers are exerting every last ounce of energy to preserve decency and humanity to the world.

A Personal Appeal

If there is one teacher anywhere in this state who has had even the suggestion of such a thought or plan we beg of him not to harbor it for an instant. The nation's need is too great, the opportunity for us to live by the law of our best selves is worth too much for us to forget the call which little children have upon us and to brand ourselves with the mark of Cain. We are our brother's keeper and to neglect any step which helps us to be a better keeper is to merit the full punishment meted out to fratricides. We must not fail our government in these harassing times and above all we cannot fail our own best selves in any such way as this possibility would imply. Let's adopt the Boy Scout slogan, at least for this once and—BE PREPARED!

THE GALLANT 1917

The class of 1917 at the University of North Carolina will play a gallant part in the world war.

Called from its ordinary campus duties, 65 of its members volunteered in May for officers training camps or other forms of the service, with the result that on commencement day its ranks were badly depleted. One year from the date of the call to camp, out of the total 155 receiving degrees in 1917, forty were commissioned officers, 32 non-commissioned officers and privates, 30 teachers, 11 chemists or engaged in business essential to the war, 17 students (principally in medicine,) with one United States consul, one minister, two lawyers, and twenty supposed to be in service of whom the University has no record. Every member of the class heard from has given a good account of himself, and is doing his bit to spoil the Kaiser's plans.

So far the records show that, since the call to the colors a year ago, the University has sent 1053 men into the service of their country.

TICKLING THE KAISER

The Germans laugh us to scorn, because, in their opinion, we do not really believe in education in America. They say that democracies are fatally cursed with ignorance and futility; that we talk about education a good deal, and the politicians shout themselves hoarse about public schools but that, on a show-down, the people led by these same politicians, vote as a rule against local school taxes.

As a matter of fact, do we really believe in education? A half dozen counties in North Carolina come before the bar of judgment in this matter this month. Lenoir county among others is considering a 30-cent county-wide school tax.

The Kinston Free Press in a recent issue shows in detail what burden a 30-cent school tax lays on an acre of land, at the present average tax value.

Three cents is the school tax on one acre of land in Lenoir. A pint of corn or a single egg will pay it. Or one and two-thirds ounces of pork or cotton.

A 5-cent sack of snoking tobacco will pay it on one and two-thirds acres.

A 6-cent cigar will pay the school tax on two acres; a gallon of gasoline, on 9 acres; and a 50-pound shoat, on 400 acres.

If Lenoir votes down a 30-cent school tax, it will tickle the Kaiser immensely—if he ever hears of it.

ern Front) and Professor T. F. Hickerson of the Civil Engineering Department of the University, assisted by Messrs. Bingham McKee and William Blount, Captains in the University Battalion.

THE 1918 COMMENCEMENT

The commencement exercises of the University of North Carolina are to be held June 2, 3, 4 and 5, according to information from President Graham's office given out today. The program for the exercises has been arranged, but the speakers have not yet been announced. The commencement exercises proper will be held in Memorial Hall Wednesday, June fifth.

The following is the program as given out at the president's office:

Sunday, June 2

11:00 a. m.—Baccalaureate sermon.
8:00 p. m.—Sermon before the Young Men's Christian Association.

Monday, June 3

9:30 a. m.—Seniors form in front of Memorial Hall and march to chapel for prayer.

10:30 a. m.—Senior class day exercises in Gerrard Hall. Orations by members of the graduating class in the contest for the Willie P. Mangum medal.

5:30 p. m.—Closing exercises of the senior class.

7:30 p. m.—Annual joint banquet of the Dialectic and Philanthropic literary societies in the dining hall.

9:30 p. m.—Anniversary meeting of the societies in their respective halls.

Tuesday, June 4

10:30 a. m.—Alumni address. Class reunions of the classes of 1858, 1868, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913 and 1917.

12:20 p. m.—Business meeting of the Alumni Association.

1:30 p. m.—Alumni luncheon in Swain hall.

8:00 p. m.—Annual meeting of board of trustees in chemistry hall.

8:30 p. m.—Annual debate between representatives of the Dialectic and Philanthropic literary societies.

10:00 p. m.—Reception in the library by the president and faculty.

Wednesday, June 5

10:45 a. m.—Academic procession forms in front of the alumni building.

11:00 a. m.—Commencement exercises in Memorial Hall. Commencement address. Announcements by the president. Degrees conferred. Presentation of Bibles. Benediction.