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COUNTRY LIFE LEGISLATION

INEFFICIENT LOCAL RULE

The report of the committee on Local Government made to the National Country-Life Conference in Baltimore the other day is being widely reprinted in the papers of the United States. We give it to our 15,000 readers in North Carolina in the paragraphs that follow, as it appears in *The Pantagraph*, of Bloomington, Ill.

1. Everybody in the United States lives under county government to be sure, but local government for 41 million dwellers in the open country means county government solely, and county government is the weakest link in American democracy. It is expensive, inefficient and wasteful, headless, unorganized and undirected, honest as a rule but unbusiness-like and incompetent, irresponsible and lawless. Which is to say, it follows local customs mainly, regardless of law. Such is the verdict of the two men who have given the greatest attention to this neglected field of political science during the last five years, and of the North Carolina Club of students and faculty members who have been studying this subject in direct ways during the last eighteen months at the University of North Carolina.

College Obligations

2. Among the country people themselves there is no demand for better local government or almost none; they are satisfied, or content themselves with grumbling about taxes and in fierce partisan politics. And the colleges and universities of the country have neglected this field of political science. Courses in municipal government and municipal affairs are abundantly offered; and so of state, federal, and international affairs. But, so far as we know, no courses are anywhere offered in county government and county affairs. The country people of America lack an adequate sense of civic and social responsibility, and the deficiency is rising into critical national importance. Intelligent, consecrated leadership and discipleship in our country regions in civic and social concerns are an urgent necessity, and the colleges of the country have here an important obligation to assume.

What Self-Rule Calls For

3. Intelligent, effective self-rule in the countryside calls (1) for prompt attention on a large scale to the civic, economic, and social problems of our country regions, by our colleges and universities—particularly by our church schools and seminaries; (2) by local study clubs, like *The Westchester Research Bureau*, New York State, the *Alameda County Tax Association*, California, and the *North Carolina Club*; and (3) for nation-wide publicity in the country weeklies and the agricultural press of the United States.

Items for Legislation

4. The legislation that seems to be fundamentally most urgent covers: (1) unified organization and responsible leadership in county government, under some form or other, (2) state manuals of instruction for county officials, (3) uniform county account keeping and reporting, (4) a state system of auditing county finances, as in Indiana and less effectively in a dozen or more other states, (5) the estuary plan of compensating county officials, where the aggregate taxes amount, say, to \$100,000 or so, and close attention to the county fee funds out of which these officers are paid, (6) legal sanction for county health departments and health officers, county welfare boards and superintendents, county agricultural boards and agents, all properly related to their various state boards, (7) effective cooperative credit union laws, as in North Carolina and less effectively in nearly a score of other states, (8) laws creating civic machinery for self-expression and self-rule in country communities, as an agency of intelligent democracy in the sparsely settled rural areas of America. We agree with Jefferson that town or township government is essential to the survival of our democracy.

Farm Designations

5. The sub-section of our committee, headed by Professor C. J. Galpin, also recommends: (1) that the population of

the 1920 census be so amended as to locate each person living on a farm as "on a farm in the country" or "on a farm within city limits"; and, furthermore, that these two classes of farm population be geographically tabulated with respect, as far as possible, to the various facts of the population schedule; (2) that the federal government—mainly the postal department—cooperate with state and local agencies to give every country dweller a definite geographical destination with reference to his trading center, upon some standardized plan—Plato's clock-face system or some other effective plan; and (3) that the rural social laws of each state be codified and a digest of the same be distributed by some federal agency for general inspection and study. E. C. Branson, University of North Carolina, chairman; C. J. Galpin, University of Wisconsin; L. L. Bernard, University of Minnesota; F. B. Clarke, Texas A. and M. College; G. H. Van Tungen, Iowa State College; J. D. Black, University of Minnesota; S. G. Rubinow, N. C. A. and E. College.—*The Pantagraph*, Bloomington, Ill.

FOUR MILLION SUFFERERS

Dr. J. Y. Joyner, our former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is calling for \$200,000 from North Carolina for four million Armenians and other war sufferers in the Near East, most of them being helpless women and children—400,000 of them orphans.

These victims of Turkish savagery must be kept alive until the coming harvest season and until they can be re-established in their former homes on a self-supporting basis. The 30 million dollars that America proposes to contribute to these purposes will do barely more than save these sorely stricken people from starvation meantime.

The Drive in Orange

Our quota in Orange is \$1400, and the drive begins Feb. 21.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Cheshire Webb are in charge of the campaign in north Orange. The quota of their townships is \$860, as follows:

Cedar Grove	\$230
Little River	100
Cheeks	160
Hillsboro	240
Eno	130

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Holmes head the campaign in South Orange. Their townships are rated for \$540, as follows:

Chapel Hill	\$380
Bingham	160

The average is only 9 cents per inhabitant, counting both races.

The preachers and Sunday school teachers of both races and all denominations are called upon to take a collection for this purpose on Sunday Feb. 22 or March 2.

The teachers, white and colored, are earnestly asked to secure at least 10 cents per pupil by March 7.

All are asked to report to Messrs. Webb and Holmes at the earliest possible moment, the subscription lists and the cash contributed.

We can give the money and not miss it.

We cannot give it without being better Christians for the gift.

COUNTRY LIFE

Let me live the years of my stay upon earth, 'way out in the country, close to nature and to nature's God.

I want to feel the touch of the seasons as they come and go, making up the years.

I want to feel the chill of Winter in my frame, not too severe, but enough to make the blood tingle.

I want to feel the gentle warmth of Spring, as with her touch of magic, she wakens new life in things dead.

I want to feel the heat of Summer, as the golden sunshine ripens the harvest and matures the fruit and flowers.

Lastly, I want to catch the cool breath of Autumn coming to fan away the heat and lethargy of summer.

I want to hear the cry of the whippoorwill as the twilight settles o'er the hill and hollow.

I want to be near where Bob White is

FARMHOUSE CHEERFUL

Apart from the esthetic value to be derived from it, beautifying the farm dwelling, modernizing its equipment, is good business. It is an investment that brings profitable returns. The farmer and his family need wholesome relaxation just as much as any persons constantly employed. The home should be the place to obtain it.

An attractive dwelling with an inviting approach acts as a magnet on the tired toiler. The sight of flowers and a well-kept lawn is a relief from the drab clods of the plowed field, the brightness of the blossoms a change from the sameness in the color of the growing crops. A cheery interior at once dispels care and bright rooms induce rest.

Every dollar judiciously spent for labor-saving devices and for sanitary conveniences in the farm home is an investment and labor-saving contrivances a necessity in these days of enlightenment. They save wear and tear on the human machine and prolong life.—*Federal News Letter*.

calling to his mate, when the fields of ripening wheat wave gently to the passing breeze.

I want to hear the tinkle of bells on the distant hillside, as the sun is going down and the katydids commence their night-long chatter.

Then when old Jack Frost passes by, with his touch of white, I want to wander down the old rail fence and on to where the muscadines hang in rich profusion; and there for a time feast and forget.

Yes, let me live out the years of my stay upon the earth in the fullness of the country, and then, dying, let me rest in the quiet church-yard near where father and mother sleep—where the sunbeams play in the summer, and the snow drifts high in winter.—Selected.

A CURSE TO THE SOUTH

I have no hesitation in saying that it would have been infinitely better for the South if it had never raised a bale of cotton. This, the most royal crop ever given by Providence to mankind, has been a curse to the South. It fastened slavery around the neck of the South, and out of this came a condition which resulted in the Civil War. It has caused the South to think in terms of cotton, to base its religious and educational activities on cotton and to raise cotton merely for the purpose of buying foodstuffs from other sections. At times it has looked as though we of the South have cotton bolls for brains and a cotton string for a backbone, because we have permitted the rest of the world to absolutely dominate the cotton trade and hold the South in slavery by low-priced cotton.

Holding a practical monopoly of this, the most important single agricultural product known to mankind, the cotton growers have lived in poverty almost unknown to any other agricultural region of civilized countries in modern times. Producing far less per acre in value of wheat and corn, the Western farmers have grown rich on their agricultural activities. The Southern farmers have been held in the chains of poverty.

Had the South never raised a bale of cotton it would have concentrated its attention upon foodstuffs and livestock and it would today be the center of the livestock industry of America, as it can yet be whenever its people will thoroughly make up their minds to center their agricultural activities on diversified agriculture and cattle and hog raising.

The recent decline in the price of cotton may yet prove a blessing to the South if it drives this section away from the worship of cotton, a fetish which will forever curse us as long as we bow before cotton, and if it causes this section to produce the things which in the end will increase the fertility of our soil, enrich our farmers, give higher wages to farm laborers and bring a well-rounded prosperity to the life of the whole section.

Cotton as a subject ruled absolutely by

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 159

A PUBLIC SCHOOL JOB

There is a very self-evident and worthwhile piece of work laid out for our public schools. That piece of work may be designated by the term—Americanization—and it is not one-half so bad as it looks or sounds.

Just what is meant by Americanization? Not what appears at first thought. The idea is not merely teaching English to the immigrant or giving him a course in United States history and civics. There is a much larger and more far-reaching significance to the term.

The Size of It

We have in the United States today hundreds of thousands of native born citizens, speaking our own tongue, protected by our government and casting votes for its laws and officers who need to be Americanized.

Is our American civilization only a matter of physical resources, factories, harbors, commercial enterprises, laws, statutes, constitutions, and the like, or is

it a great, universal and eternal ideal of freedom, justice, equality, service?

If it is this latter, and such it seems to be, then this ideal must be made a part of the very fiber and sinew of every individual in the nation. The glory of the ideal and the possibility of its realization here and now must be made real to the boys and girls in our schools.

Whose Concern?

The very magnitude of the problem shows not only how necessary it is to have local communities and state units of government concerned in its solution but to enlist as well the co-operation of our great National Government. The job is too big for us to handle in our local units and we must look to Federal co-operation to help us to do the job.

To Americanize our people means to teach them the spirit of Democracy and show them how to live it in the spirit. That means co-operative effort on the part of all our government units. It means education in a big way, with big ideals, for a big purpose. We cannot afford to be picayunish.

the south could be made to aid in bringing prosperity to this section; but cotton continued as a king dominating abject slaves will forever hold us in the slavery of poverty.—Richard H. Edmonds, Editor *Manufacturers Record*.

DEBATE CUP WINNERS

Preparations are being made in the high schools of the State for the seventh annual State-wide contest of the High School Debating Union. One hundred and seventy-five high schools have enrolled in the Union for a debate on the query: Resolved, That the Government of the United States should adopt a policy requiring one year of military training of all able-bodied males before they reach the age of 21.

For the use of the high school students participating in the debates the Bureau of Extension of the University has issued *Extension Series No. 31, "Compulsory Military Training"*. This 100 page handbook contains briefs, outlines, and carefully selected articles both on the affirmative and negative sides of the query.

The Wilson high school was successful in winning the Aycock Memorial Cup in last year's contest. Since the organization of the High School Debating Union in the school year of 1912-13, the Aycock Memorial Cup has been won by the following schools: 1913, Pleasant Garden; 1914, Winston-Salem; 1915, Wilson; 1916, Graham; 1917, Waynesville; 1918, Wilson.

The triangular debates will be held throughout the State on April 4th. The second preliminary will be held on April 25th, and the final contest for the Aycock Memorial Cup will be held at the University on May 1st and 2nd. Indications are that this year's contest of the High School Debating Union will be a successful and spirited one.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA

Based on the 1916 Census of Religious Bodies.

By E. EYBERS, Union of South Africa, a graduate student in the University of North Carolina.

Religious Bodies: White	Members	Religious Bodies: White	Members
1. Baptists—Southern	270,112	28. Churches of Christ	951
2. Methodists—M. E. South	199,763	29. Lutheran—Joint Synod	887
3. Presbyterian—Southern	57,856	30. Adventist—Seventh Day	704
4. Methodist Episcopal	26,384	31. Independent Churches	622
5. Baptist—Free Will	22,914	32. Universalist	601
6. Disciples of Christ	20,095	33. Jewish Families	572
7. Lutheran—Southern	19,450	34. Salvation Army	530
8. Protestant Episcopal	18,545	35. Lumber River Mission	434
9. Christians—Am. Ch. Con.	18,299	36. Friends—Orth. Conservative	402
10. Methodist Protestant	18,033	37. Christian and Missionary Al.	314
11. Presbyterian—Northern	12,062	38. Churches of God—Gen. Ag.	285
12. Baptist—Primitive	10,481	39. Presbyterian—U. P.	249
13. Friends—Orthodox	8,229	40. Meth.—Ref. Zion Un. Apos.	156
14. Reformed Church in U. S.	6,109	41. Adventist—Churches of God	153
15. Roman Catholic	4,989	42. All others	113
16. Moravian Church	4,528	43. Plymouth Brethren	54
17. Presbyterian—A. R.	4,248		
18. Baptist—Regular Baptists	3,714	Religious Bodies: Negro	Members
19. Congregational Churches	3,125	1. Baptist—National Con.	212,019
20. Mormon—Latter Day Saints	2,802	2. Methodist—A. M. E. Zion	74,365
21. Lutheran—Synod. Con. Am.	2,558	3. Methodist—A. M. E.	20,433
22. Adventist Bodies—Am. Chr.	1,960	4. Baptist—Free Will	10,773
23. Pentecostal Holiness	1,894	5. Methodist—Colored	3,274
24. Methodist—Wesleyan	1,477	6. Baptist—Colored Primitive	1,000
25. Apostolic Holiness	1,010	7. Ch. of God and Sts. of Christ	301
26. Unitarian	994		
27. Tunkers—German Baptists	964	Total, White and Colored	1,080,723