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APPROVING PRESS OPINIONS

STATE AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Beginning September 15, with Governor T. W. Bickett presiding, the University of North Carolina will hold a State and County Council in which representatives of the State Departments of Education and Health and of the Highway, Tax, and Public Welfare Commissions, together with representatives of county commissioners and of corresponding county officers will participate. The purpose of the conference is to unify the work of State and county officers and boards and particularly to discuss important legislation passed by the recent General Assembly in reference to schools, health, public welfare, highway construction and taxation.

The conference will last for a period of six days, during which a regular daily program of conferences will be carried on. President H. W. Chase will officially welcome the visitors and Governor Bickett will make the opening address of the conference on Monday night. Representatives of the State and county officers will occupy the morning and afternoon hours and on the five nights of the conference distinguished speakers from other states will address the conference.

In order to take care of the large numbers expected, the University will utilize its dormitories and dining room and is prepared to entertain all who may come at the rate of \$1.25 per day.

The local committee in charge of arrangements is composed of Professors E. C. Branson, L. R. Wilson, C. T. Woolen, and E. W. Knight. The program is being prepared by Governor Bickett, Professor Branson, Superintendent E. C. Brooks, Dr. W. S. Rankin, Highway Commissioner Frank Page, Welfare Commissioner R. F. Beasley, Tax Commissioner A. J. Maxwell, and Hon. W. C. Jones, President of the State Association of County Commissioners.—The Raleigh Times.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

With letters going out from Governor Bickett to the County Commissioners, from E. C. Brooks, Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the educational forces, from R. F. Beasley, Commissioner of Public Welfare, to the County Welfare Officers, and from Dr. W. S. Rankin of the State Board of Health, Frank Page Chairman of the Road Commission, A. J. Maxwell of the Tax Commission, to their respective clientele, urging their attendance upon the State and County Council to be held at the University of North Carolina, beginning September 15th and lasting for six days, with Governor Bickett presiding, the Conference is beginning to assume a State-wide significance and importance.

The State Association of County Commissioners in session at Wrightsville Beach last week gave its hearty approval and support to this Conference of North Carolina officials and public spirited citizens upon these questions of absorbing interest and concern to the entire State, and designated official delegates to attend as its representatives. More than a thousand official guests have been invited, but the entire conference will be open to anyone desiring to attend. Requests for reservation of quarters are already being received by the University authorities and prospects for a large attendance are exceedingly bright.

The program is being rapidly completed and will be ready for announcement in a few days. The Conference will take the form of daily successive conferences directed by the State Departments of Education and Health, and the Highway, Tax, and Public Welfare Commissions, together with representatives of the County Commissioners and other county officers.

The purpose of the Conference is to unify the work of the State and County Officers and boards and particularly to discuss important legislation passed by the recent General Assembly in reference to schools, health, public welfare, highway construction and taxation. On the five nights of the Conference distinguished speakers from other States will address the gathering.—Laurinburg Exchange.

FAR REACHING INFLUENCE

There is to be inaugurated in North Carolina this year an annual conference of state and county officials which should be most far reaching in its influence.

From September 15 to 20 inclusive the council will meet at Chapel Hill to confer and discuss recently enacted public welfare laws. Welfare officers, including juvenile court judges, probation and parole officers, county welfare board members and superintendents, school attendance officers, factory inspectors, county health officers, public health nurses, highway officials, county commissioners, tax assessors, and county school boards, will meet in a five day session. Governor Bickett will preside and welfare workers and leaders state and national will be on hand to direct the thought of the assembly.

It requires no particular gift of prophecy to foretell the good that can come from such a conference. It means that men who are charged with the responsibility of interpreting and applying the splendid welfare laws of the State, will get a common viewpoint, as a consequence of which there will be unanimity and cooperation throughout the State in executing laws that so intimately touch the warp and woof of the home county. It means that men who have accepted positions of trust without the highest conception of their obligations, if there be such, will get a new vision of what is expected of them and of what is possible if they but do their duty.

Dr. E. C. Branson, professor of Rural Economics and Sociology at the University, writes that the thirty-five public welfare laws of the last two legislatures have put North Carolina far ahead in the South on paper. The conference will bring those charged with the enforcement of righteous laws into more sympathetic touch with these laws and with each other. These officers will be schooled in their duties as few if any other officers have been.

Again Dr. Branson says: It is a new kind of summer school. There is nothing else like it in any state.

The Free Press hopes that Lenoir county will avail itself fully of the conference and that each of its official bodies above enumerated will be well represented.—Kinston Free Press.

BIG ENOUGH TO BOOST

A Public Welfare Summer School, for the newly created public welfare officers and for former officials with new public welfare duties, will be held at the University, Chapel Hill, September 15-20.

Professor E. C. Branson, of the State University, writing of the institute says:

It is a Public Welfare Summer School for newly created public welfare officers and for former officials with new public welfare duties. They are juvenile court judges, probation and parole officers, county welfare board members and superintendents, school attendance officers and factory inspectors, county health officers and public health nurses, highway officials, county commissioners, tax assessors, and county school boards. All told about 1,000 people are suddenly plunged into new duties, and they need to bunch up to thresh out their problems with the help of the state department chiefs.

The thirty-five public welfare laws of our last two Legislatures have put North Carolina far ahead in the South, on paper. The State and County Council is a move to put our State far ahead in fact.

It means county officers competently schooled, a heightened sense of civic and social responsibility in our local democracies, and a sympathetic federation of state and county welfare officers and agencies.

It is a new kind of summer school. There is nothing else like it in any state. It puts North Carolina in the lead.

The summer school for public welfare servants can follow the summer school for teachers every year. Like the teachers they can live together in the dormitories and mess hall of the University for \$1.25 a day, or something like that; and living together they can get together

PUBLIC WELFARE

The meaning of public welfare needs an immense enlargement in the public mind.

The stupidest man among us must be brought to see that it concerns the curse of illiteracy and near-illiteracy, commercial amusements and wholesome community recreation, preventable disease and postponable death, feeble-mindedness and its causes, insanity, poverty and its manifold relationships, orphan children in poor homes whose fathers are dead and orphan children in unsafe homes whose fathers and mothers are alive, the placing-out of children and their guardianship, wayward children, children maimed and lame in body and brain, the families of convicts in prison, returned convicts, prisoners on parole, men wanting jobs and jobs wanting men; that it concerns jail and chain-gang conditions, poor house and pauper conditions, juvenile courts and the oversight of juvenile probationers, fallen men and fallen women alike, and the whole subject of social hygiene; that it concerns the conditions, causes, consequences, and cure of social ills of every sort; that it sweeps the whole immense field of social science, theoretic and applied.

To build a meaning of this adequate and needful sort in the public mind, to stir the consciences and wills of men and women into activity, and to erect suitable institutions in North Carolina, county by county, is an exceedingly difficult but an exceedingly necessary task.—E. C. Branson, address before the N. C. Social Service Conference.

in solving our problem of county democracy.

This thing is important enough to boost in big ways.—Gastonia Gazette.

STATE SERVANTS AT SCHOOL

A new sort of Summer school is to be instituted at the State University during the month of September. It is a training school for the many county welfare officers who have come into existence by virtue of laws passed by the last Legislature.

The pupils of this school will be composed of welfare workers, juvenile court judges, probation and parole officers, school attendance officials, members and superintendents of county welfare boards, factory inspectors, county health officers and public health nurses, highway officials, county commissioners, tax assessors and county school boards. It is expected that 1,000 people, who have suddenly plunged into these new duties, will be bunched together, and will be helped to thresh out their problems with the help of State department chiefs.

North Carolina is now operating as many as 35 new public welfare laws, and it would seem that this gives occasion for concentrated study, and this school will bear distinction as the newest thing of the sort in the Nation, no other State having started anything like it.

The institution is to be known as the State and County Council. We do not know who was responsible for the notion, or whether attendance is compulsory—but it ought to be.

If the spirit of the laws is to be carried out, the many officials operating under the welfare regulations have heavy social and civic responsibilities resting upon them. It is no more important that the public school teachers should be required to attend Summer schools than that these people who have the affiliated endeavors in charge should likewise be required to take a course in enlightened study. The welfare workers should undergo the same process of educational training that is exacted of the public school teachers. If the attendance at the institute should develop a disposition to shirk, we would

suggest that a 36th law be added to the welfare statutes of the State at the next Legislature, chapter 36 providing compulsory attendance for Summer School Welfare Servants, as they are referred to in the University literature.—Charlotte Observer.

HEALTH WORK IN CAROLINA

North Carolina ranks ahead of 36 states of the Union in public health work. So reads the report of Dr. Charles V. Chapin in 1914 to the American Medical Association. This high rank is the cumulative result of the faithful, effective work of Drs. Thomas P. Wood, Richard H. Lewis, and W. S. Rankin, who in the order named have been the secretaries of our State Board of Health from 1877 to date.

Nevertheless 15.68 percent of our drafted men were rejected by the local examining boards as physically unfit for service in the World War. Twenty-nine states made a better showing. Of the men we sent to the camps, 8.74 percent were rejected for physical unfitness, and 32 states made a better showing. These are the figures of Provost Marshal General Crowder. All told, around a third of the North Carolinians called into service—men in the prime of life—were pronounced unfit to fight. Two Southern states, Kentucky and Arkansas, eight Central Western states, and two Rocky Mountain states ranked ahead of us.—The War with Germany, Colonel Leonard P. Ayres, Army Branch of War Statistics.

The Task in Carolina

All of which means that there is a vast deal of work still to be done in the field of public health in North Carolina. Every one of our 500 thousand homes, white and black, must be reached with the gospel of preventable disease and postponable death. The Public Health Bulletin of the State Health Board—and it is one of the best half dozen publications of this sort in the United States—goes into 50 thousand homes. Its circulation ought to be increased tenfold. Supporting public intelligence in the vital matters of personal and public hygiene, sanitation and sanitary engineering must be created in every county. We have public health departments and laboratories in 9 counties—more than in any other Southern state; but we must have them in 100 counties. We must have public health nurses in adequate numbers in both our town and country regions. We have a hundred or so organized under Dr. L. B. McBrayer, Superintendent of our State Sanatorium, but we must have more, many times more. Our hospital facilities must be immensely increased. Six thousand beds in 80 private, semi-public and public hospitals for two and a half million people in North Carolina is tragic. There are fewer than 300 beds in four private negro hospitals for 830 thousand negroes. The treatment of tuberculosis is necessarily a local problem. We have at present only one county Tb. hospital—in Forsyth. We must have one in every county, or one for each co-operating county group. Public health physicians and public health nurses must be trained, or we shall limp along lamely for many years to come, and we must get ready for such training on a large scale in North Carolina. Every institution of technical and liberal learning in the state needs to ally itself in proper ways with our State Board of Health, and to reinforce at every point the magnificent work it is doing.

The University Serves

The University is trying to do its bit and its best in public health service to the state. Almost every issue of the University News Letter these five years has carried a public health item or two. For two years the North Carolina Club at the University has given special attention to public health and sanitation.—N. C. Club Yearbook, 1916-1917, and the University News Letter, May 21, 1919. The University Library is mailing out package loan libraries of books, bulletins, and magazine articles on 31 health subjects, free except for postage, around six cents each way.—The University News Letter, June 25, 1919. The University is offering four courses in Public Health Instruction and Sanitary Engineering, as follows: (1) communicable diseases, causes

and control, (2) sanitary science, origin and development, (3) flood control, drainage reclamation, and malaria prevention, (4) water supply and purification, garbage and refuse disposal, sewerage and sewage systems, and so on. These courses are given by Professor Thorndike Saville of Harvard, who has had valuable sanitary engineering experience in the Army.

The University is also planning new courses in Hygiene and Physical Education calling for two additional faculty members in 1919-1920.

The country end of all these problems has a large place in our thinking, and properly so because 79 percent of our people dwell in the open country, outside towns and villages of any sort or size whatsoever. Rural sanitation and health are just about four-fifths of the whole problem in North Carolina.

Rural Sanitation

Farmers who are concerned about comforts, conveniences, and health conditions in country homes will do well to write Professor Saville about domestic systems of lighting, running water for kitchens, bathrooms, inside toilet seats, sewage disposal, and the like.

The selective draft revealed the amazing fact that the country is not, as we had long thought, the safest place in the world to rear children in. The health and physical vigor of city-born boys was shown to be far better than that of boys born and reared in the country.

Our North Carolina country people need to give far greater attention than heretofore to health conditions in the countryside. The University is offering itself freely to city and country homes alike, and it will like to be used in behalf of better health conditions everywhere in the state.

Public education and public health are two after-the-war tasks of foundational importance in North Carolina.

In the appendix to the new University Extension bulletin on Sanitation in the South will be found a brief list of choice pamphlets concerning country health, country home conveniences and comforts, running water and sewage disposal in country homes, and so on. They can be had free of charge by sending a postcard request to the addresses indicated.—E. C. B.

THE LEAGUE AGAINST WAR

A League to Prevent War was the subject of Hon. W. G. McAdoo's address at the great Methodist Centenary Celebration in Columbus, Ohio, in early July.

It is the simplest, clearest explanation and exposition we have seen of the treaty now before Congress. It is valuable material for speakers on this critical issue; for teachers, preachers, and lawyers, say, who ought to be reaching a thousand audiences in North Carolina on this subject during these critical days.

We have a few pamphlet copies of it for free distribution upon application.

INITIATIVE AT HENDERSON

The awakening of public conscience and the desire to supplant vice, by wholesome recreation, have resulted in an effort to establish a Community Center—a common-to-all gathering place, for social intercourse, healthful amusement, and for educational activities.

It is proposed to buy the old Baptist church and grounds, and to use them for the uplift and joy of the community. We look to the time when the community center will be equipped with a library, reading room, a gymnasium, shower baths and swimming pool, and all sorts of equipments for wholesome, tonic recreation. We ask the support and cooperation of every person who wishes a cleaner and better town—a righteous, happy and intelligent community.

Let us have the best, the most thorough, and the most sane effort to make our town what it should be. Do not say, It can't be done. For that is the argument of indolence. Say rather, Is it worth while, and am I willing to help?

It can be done if we will pull together, and if we will have both grace and grit to persevere.

Let us test the efficacy of the advice, Overcome evil with good.—Henderson Dispatch.