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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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A NEW UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

COUNTRY HOME COMFORTS

Orangetownship, in Blackhawk county Iowa, has risen into nation-wide fame.

And no wonder. Look at the comforts, conveniences, and luxuries in the 142 homes of this country township. Run your eye down the record, and see if your own country neighborhood can match it.

- 142 farm homes in the township.
- 142 with newspapers and magazines.
- 125 with libraries—average volumes in owners homes 106, in tenant homes 95.
- 132 with telephones.
- 30 with pianos.
- 79 with automobiles.
- 76 with vacuum carpet sweepers.
- 76 with gas or oil stoves.
- 72 with furnace heat.
- 68 with power washers.
- 63 with gas or electric lights.
- 57 with running water piped in.
- 55 with refrigerators.
- 47 with bath rooms.
- 45 with open-air sleeping porches.
- 36 with gas or electric irons.
- 34 with indoor toilets.

These figures appear in a bulletin just issued by the Iowa Agricultural College at Ames.

A great record, topping anything the towns can show anywhere.

Here are labor saving devices, comforts, conveniences, and luxuries in country homes in lavish abundance.

Well equipped country homes, attractive, efficient, satisfying, and wholesome—country homes functioning on the highest possible levels—are a foundational necessity in America and in every other land and country. Such homes solve a full score of the difficult problems that confront this nation in the days at hand and ahead. If there is any more important matter for State Reconstruction Commissions to consider, we fail to think of it just now.

Carolina Can Have Them

There are a great many country communities in North Carolina that might easily rank with this Iowa township in home conveniences, comforts, and luxuries—a dozen or so in Catawba county alone, where a recent investigation shows that every other country home has an automobile.

We are buying motor cars at the rate of 20,000 a year in North Carolina, or some fifty a day including Sundays. If now our farmers set to work to equip their country homes at this rate, we shall have a brand new civilization on a higher level in a single generation.

And why not, pray?

Running water can be piped into country kitchens, bedrooms, and bathrooms by gravity flow wherever such a thing is possible, or lifted by a ram, for less money than a set of motor car tires will cost, at the present prices.

Or if the farmer wants electric lights and power as well as water for his home and barn, a small nearby water power can be developed, and it can be operated with less attention than his automobile demands and at less expense for a year than the cost of gas and oil in a single week of joy riding.

Or a gas engine plant can be installed for water, lights, and power at the cost of a Ford machine, or some such figure.

Along with the water supply in country homes comes the necessity for telephones in larger number, domestic sewage disposal systems, and greater attention to sanitation and health in our country regions.

The time has come when country homes and farms must be equipped with labor saving devices and conveniences of every sort. Decreasing farm labor demands it and the rising standards of living compel it. Else we may expect to see in the South the deserted farm regions and the country life decay of the North and East. Country homes must be efficient, satisfying and wholesome, or the cityward drift of country populations will soon rise into high tide in the South.

It is mainly a question for our farm wives. They can now have what they really want in North Carolina. The 250 millions we have laid away in war securities and bank account savings the last two years is convincing proof of it. The salvation of the country civilization of the South lies with the farm wife—in her eye to see what her children need and in her firm resolve to have for them what her home demands.

Ready to Help

The law of 1917 authorized the State Highway Commission to give the country people of the state expert advice in developing small nearby water powers for community and domestic uses, for water supply and sewage disposal systems, and light and power in homes and barns. The bill also covers country telephone systems. Upon request an expert will be sent to advise any farm community in these fundamental concerns of country home comforts and conveniences.

The University has placed its faculties and facilities at the service of the State Highway Commission to carry out the purposes of this act. To this end a new division of the University Extension Bureau has been formed under the name of Country Home Comforts and Conveniences. It consists of the departments of Rural Social Science, Electricity, Hydraulics and Sanitary Engineering.

Letters calling for assistance can be addressed to Hon. Frank Page, Chairman State Highway Commission, Raleigh, N. C., or Dr. L. R. Wilson, Director University Extension Bureau, Chapel Hill, N. Carolina.

A NEW EXTENSION LEAFLET

Sanitation in the South, by Thorndike Saville, associate professor of hydraulics and sanitary engineering in the University of North Carolina, is the title of a new Leaflet, vol. 11 No. 9, just given to the public by the Extension Bureau of the University.

It gives special attention to the country problems of sanitation and health, and carries a page devoted to selected bulletins on rural water supply, domestic sewage disposal systems, country home conveniences and comforts.

Professor Saville is a Harvard man and has recently had valuable field experience in sanitary engineering in the army.

He is this year offering in the University of North Carolina four courses in public health and sanitary engineering, as follows: (1) communicable diseases, causes and control, (2) sanitary science, origin and development, (3) flood control, drainage reclamation, and malaria control, and (4) water supply and purification, garbage and refuse disposal, sewerage and sewage disposal. So far as we know these are the first full courses in these subjects offered to southern students this side of John Hopkins and Harvard.

Professor Saville is an important member of the new division of the University Extension Bureau—"Country Home Comforts and Conveniences". He freely offers himself to the people of the state.

Farmers interested in better health conditions in their homes and communities can secure his services without charge by applying to Hon. Frank Page, Chairman State Highway Commission, Raleigh, N. C., or Dr. L. R. Wilson, director University Extension Bureau, Chapel Hill, N. C.

A SOCIAL SCIENCE SCHOOL

The last issue of the University News Letter says that what is lacking at the University is a great school of social science. Beyond a doubt that is a fact. In a way the university is growing into a great social science school, yet it is merely growing that way, apparently without that definite plan in view that would create a distinct school there with the idea of instruction in social science in mind.

Chapel Hill occupies a unique position with relation to the people it serves. It is doubtful if any other university is as closely in touch with all the people in their home and social life, and it is every day bringing out the themes that a course in social science would undoubtedly present. The state studies, and county studies, the Carolina club studies, and what can be called the state research work, constitute a comprehensive social science line of work. But it is not recognized and made a special feature, as it deserves to be.

Because the university is broadening into a more general acquaintance with the state and the people, it is finding a growing patronage, and what is better, it is doing a more saturating work. The sentiment that finds an outlet in the News Letter is exerting an influence in North Carolina that is one of the best educational forces in the state. Many a man and woman who have never seen Chapel Hill have been awakened to an interest in inquiry and research and led to think

SCHOOL AND FARM

It ought to dawn on some of us fairly soon that better education is not simply a matter of finer buildings and apparatus, more pay, more taxes, more organization. These things are all helpful, but there must be some active spring of life in the child to flow out through the growth channels which schooling can set.

The teacher builds on the solid foundation of new resources, better equipped homes, bigger cattle, more skilfully attended fields, more productive crops. To popularize gardens, to devise better ways of storing, moving, and selling food, to multiply public markets, to clear the entire path from the farm to the family supper table—all such improvements help, directly and mightily, to make a more effective education possible.

In this time of change we must take account of realities and make sure of our foundations. The foundation of the good school is the good farm.—Collier's Magazine.

and feel a concern in affairs of the day from the utterances that have gone out from the University through the News Letter and through other instruments that carry a similar message from the institution.

Chapel Hill would know what to do with a great school of social science, and North Carolina as a state would profit by the establishment there of such a department. The university can serve by carrying that idea to its conclusion.—News and Observer.

NEW COLUMBIA COURSE

The new course in Contemporary Civilization is getting under way in Columbia College. This course, like the psychological tests, is a direct result of the war. The aim of the course, it was said yesterday, is to inform the student of the more outstanding and influential factors of his physical and social environment. The chief features of the intellectual, economic, and political life of today are treated and considered in their dependence on the difference from the past. The great events of the last century in the history of the countries now more closely linked in international relations are reviewed, and the insistent problems, internal and international, which they are now facing, are given detailed consideration.

By thus giving the student, early in his college course, objective material on which to base his own judgments, it is thought he will be aided in an intelligent participation in the civilization of his own day.—New York Times.

WITNESS CHAPEL HILL

One would need the perspective of 25 years to discuss intelligently even the primary results of the conference of the state and county council on the University campus at Chapel Hill. It is pre-eminently a work of semination, the labor of seed-time, the harvest of which will not come to its full fruition for a generation at the earliest; and from which North Carolina may reasonably hope to profit indefinitely.

But it is well that the state should give heed at least to what they are trying to do at Chapel Hill, impossible though it be to forecast any measure of their success. It is well that the state should stop to consider this meeting for its own good, as much as for the good of the work. Already too many turbulent forces are loose, too many factors of destruction are working at the foundations of our social and political system, for the minds of men to remain tranquil unless they are occupied somewhat with the other half of the story, the inconspicuous, non-spectacular half, which tells of the things that will really endure. Not all the world is seeking revolution. The forces of evolution, conscious evolution, are rather silently, but none the less powerfully, at work, too. Witness Chapel Hill.

Remoulding the State

Down there county commissioners and county welfare authorities are gathered, taking council together for the upbuilding of the state. They have sprung no bolshevist ideas. They do not expect to

make North Carolina over in a day, or a year, by arraying class against class; they do not expect to make it over at all except by the slow processes of time. Yet they do expect to remould it nearer to the heart's desire by altering line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little, not by first shattering it to bits.

The state and county council is proceeding upon the assumption that most men and women are fundamentally decent, and desire to do the decent thing, whether their social station be high or low, whether they march in the ranks of capital or of labor, whether their worldly wealth be great or non-existent. It is rather an old-fashioned doctrine, and distinctly out of favor with those of our leaders who have fallen under the influence of the Russian school, but it has the merit of having worked in the past.

Take the addresses that the body heard Tuesday. The governor urged the hypothesis that if all men are called upon to tell the truth, most of them will tell the truth, even about taxation. The secretary of the state board of health proclaimed the belief of the people that "you cannot pass the buck to God" in matters of public health, and their demand that the state help to guard them in that matter. Dr. Brooks spoke on the assumption that the average citizen is perfectly willing to do justice to the public school teacher, white or black, if he is shown in what justice consists. Judge Feidelson praised our juvenile court law as the best ever enacted.

Liberty Under Law

All the items on this program, take note, are dealings with the future. The state council is acting on the assumption that North Carolina is going to be in business for a long time to come, and that North Carolinians, despite strikes and lockouts, riots and bolsheviks, are still interested in fundamental things—in honesty and justice in government, in intelligent combat against the ills the flesh is heir to, in restraint of vicious tendencies and in the development of every possibility for good in the state's children. Its meeting at this juncture is a salutary and comforting reminder that, behind the spectacular lunatic fringe, the great body of our people remains just what it has been all the time—a reasonably disciplined body, advancing slowly, but advancing, and with a firm, unshaken faith in the righteousness of liberty under law.—Greensboro News.

CHURCH STATESMANSHIP

Trinity Methodist Church, of Urbana, Illinois, is establishing a School of Religion on a site adjoining the church and just across the street from the campus of the University of Illinois. The plant is to cost somewhere between six hundred thousand and a million dollars and will be called the Wesley Foundation.

Its purpose is to train preachers whose secular studies will be pursued in the nearby University halls; but what is just as important it will give religious instruction to University students who care to elect it. The University is discussing credits toward graduation for the ethical and religious studies of Wesley Foundation, and also it has under consideration the adjusting and rearranging of its secular courses to meet the demands of Wesley Foundation theologs. And why not? The plan looks like a stroke of genius.

Among the six thousand students of the State University there are probably more Methodist boys and girls than in all five of the Methodist Colleges of Illinois combined, a condition that exists in 30 odd states of the union. But in Illinois, the Methodist church is looking after the children of its own bosom in the State University, some 2,500 or more; and they are doing it in big statesmanship-like ways.

We have no doubt the University authorities will be happy to effect similar working arrangements with every other denomination in Illinois.

Says Dean Davenport, of the University Agricultural College, in The Country Gentleman of September 6: "The Churches have long subscribed liberally for foreign missionary work, but they are beginning to see that the most fertile of all missionary fields is the campus of a great University which draws its students from the ends of the earth."

COUNTY FARM COUNCILS

The movement to organize the farmers of Tennessee for mutual benefit and better agriculture has been given special impetus in recent months by the creation of County Councils of Agriculture. More

than a dozen of these organizations have been formed in that State. Each council is designed to serve as a focal center for all activities affecting rural life and interests in its county. These organizations are being fostered by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the college of agriculture of the University of Tennessee, and other state agencies.

The council in Blount county has already held a successful get-together picnic, while cattle sales, cooperative buying, and the promotion of community betterment are other projects with which various councils are concerning themselves. It is anticipated that within the next year the movement will have spread to more than 30 counties. A state federation of these bodies is also a possibility.

The plan of organization of the councils is simple. No one draws a salary, the county agricultural agent acting in an advisory capacity for the unit. The membership fees are usually used to rent headquarters, which serves as a meeting place for farmers when they come to town.—Federal Agricultural Department News Service.

THE WHITE HAT FAIR

Nearly a thousand people attended Perquimans County's first community fair at White Hat, near Hertford, last week. The exhibit was highly creditable and the occasion will doubtless prove to be a great educational stimulus to a fine people in a fine community. Perquimans is now planning for four community fairs in 1920.—E. W. K.

MORE FEDERAL FUNDS

Of the \$3,051,919 granted by the federal government for the fiscal year 1919-1920 for agricultural, trade, home economics and industrial subjects, and teacher-training work under the vocational education law, the Southern States have been allotted \$691,576. The allotment made to North Carolina is \$67,452. The first quarterly payments for the fiscal year were made October first.—E. W. K.

MORE WHOLE-TIME NURSES

Whole-time nurses for Davidson and Forsyth counties now bring the list of county women superintendents up to seven.

These counties are Cumberland, Davidson, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Lenoir, Northampton, Wilson, and Pitt is to be the eighth soon. These nurses work under the direction of the county health superintendents and make special effort to attend women in pre-natal or post-natal cases.

In Davidson Miss Catharine Campbell is whole-time nurse and in Forsyth Miss Tula Moose. They work also under the direction of the state board of health which has found the whole-time health officer and the whole-time nurse a wonderful opportunity for public service.—Greensboro Daily News.

A BAD STATE OF AFFAIRS

Not long since The Southerner published some very ugly statements in regard to the people of Edgecombe county, one feature of which we wish to call attention to—that is the tenant system which is so generally in vogue here.

It was a great surprise to us to learn that according to these statistics more than half the white farmers of Edgecombe are tenants. This is an unfortunate condition of affairs, and is a serious bar to progress. There are too many large farms in the hands of a few owners.

In the West the average farmer is satisfied to own 160 acres of land on which he makes a better living than the average Southern farmer makes on 300 acres.

With a greater division of farm lands in this county into smaller estates, the prosperity of the farmers generally would be tenfold greater than under the present tenant system.

There would be better and more intensive cultivation with far greater yields of all farm products.

The curse of Ireland is the ownership of land by a few individuals, and it is the curse of any country that practices it. With the present high prices for farm products, tenant farmers ought to strive to save in order that they, too, may own land.

In this connection, the familiar lines from Goldsmith are eminently appropriate:

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay,
Princes and lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath hath made,
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.

Is the tenant system to curse and ruin our nation as it has Ireland and other nations?—The Southerner, Tarboro.