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# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

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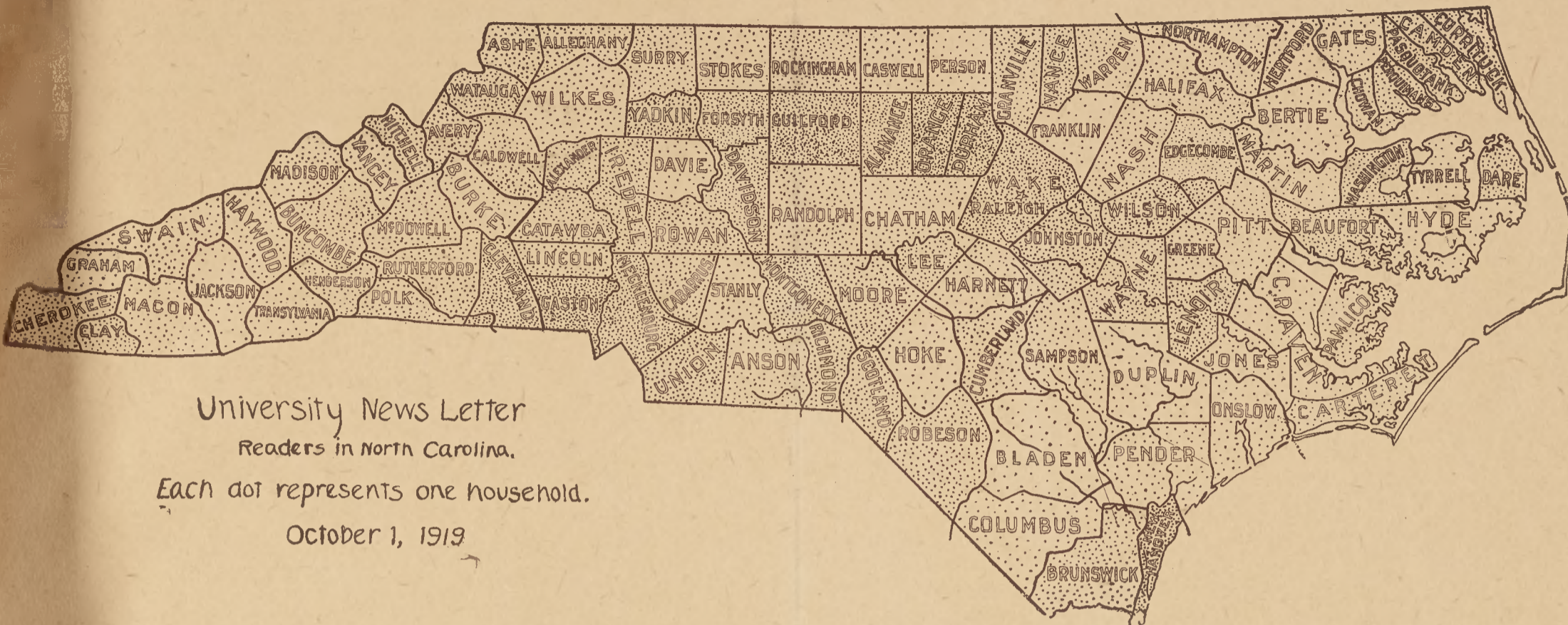
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## TWENTY THOUSAND HOUSEHOLDS

### FIVE THOUSAND NEW NAMES

The University News Letter will be five years old on November 12. On that date it begins a sixth volume of 50 weekly issues. Its mailing list has been around 15,000 names during the last year, mainly in the home state to be sure, but it goes also to North Carolinians in every other state in the Union.

It goes free of charge to anybody who wants it in North Carolina, but it goes to nobody who does not directly apply for it. It is our way of making sure that we do not waste a copy.

The University has at last arranged to add 5,000 new names to the mailing list, and just as soon as a folding machine can be attached to our press and the new addresses stenciled and filed in proper order, the News Letter will be going into 20,000 homes in North Carolina, in every county, and in almost every community of the state. More than 1,000 applications have already been received. It looks as though the full five thousand wanted will be received in the next ten days. Whoever wants it will need to write for it promptly.

### Our Particular Purpose

Our particular purpose just now is to reach the people in North Carolina who are interested in country-home conveniences and comforts—in electric lights and power, in water-supply and sewage disposal systems, in labor-saving devices and profit-producing machinery, in attractive, well arranged homes with beautiful surroundings, in books, magazines and music, in anything and everything that will enable the country homes of Carolina to function on the highest possible level in culture, health, and happiness.

The News Letter is now featuring this joint purpose of the State Highway Commission and the University Extension Bureau under the law of 1917. Their volunteer social allies must be the alert, active-minded farmwives, and the doctors, teachers, and preachers of the countryside—these in very particular.

Attractive, efficient homes and farms will do more than any other one thing to establish and maintain a sane, safe balance between town and country civilizations in North Carolina; and there is no more important matter than this in any state or country.

Back-to-the-farm is pure nonsense. The cityward drift of modern times is like the tides of the sea. The moving of country people into industrial and commercial centers cannot be stopped, and when they move out they rarely ever move back.

It is possible, however, to make our country regions attractive and satisfying to the country-minded people who by nature love country life and therefore choose to remain on the land. But lacking conveniences and comforts, they flee the country—farmers, doctors, teachers, and preachers alike. They would like to live in the countryside but country life in many farm regions is unendurable and impossible. For instance, in 400 square miles of Orange there are only two ministers living out in the country with the

flocks they shepherd, and there is not a single doctor left in the country regions of the county.

### It Is Hobson's Choice

And so it is in most of the country counties of this and every other state. The problem is foundational. This particular field of service invites the attention and active interest of every social and civic minded citizen of the state, town and country.

The choice is between a prosperous, attractive, wholesome countryside on the one hand, and on the other country-life decay, as in the industrial areas of the North and East. There are 700 abandoned country churches in Ohio alone, and 1800 in the corn-belt counties of Illinois—the area cursed with farm tenancy. It is the ill that grows on our cotton and tobacco areas in the South like creeping paralysis.

### THE STATE COMMISSION

Governor Bickett has requested his recently appointed State Reconstruction Commission to hold its first meeting in the Senate Chamber in Raleigh on Oct. 28. He has asked each of the twenty-five members, representing as they do every class of our citizenship, to prepare and bring with them to the initial meeting written suggestions relative to the work the Commission should undertake to do.

In the meantime, on the Governor's request, Dr. E. C. Branson, a member of the faculty of the University of North Carolina, has prepared a tentative working program for the Commission's consideration, as follows:

In the first place, Dr. Branson, who is himself a member of the Commission, would have that body consider the reasons for its own existence. These are, he says: (1) the quickening effects of the world war, which fundamentally are (a) the accelerated cityward drift of country populations, decreasing labor in our farm regions, and labor unrest in our industrial centers, (b) the enormous increase in prices received by producers of primary and secondary wealth, and the tragic high cost of living, in city centers in particular, (c) inflated currency, inflated credit, real and pseudo prosperity, the widespread mania of extravagance, the necessity for increased production, increased thrift, and for a noble use of our wealth, (d) the sudden expansion of the mental horizon of the masses, and their manifest willingness to consider the large concerns of democracy—taxation, education, health, highways, and civic reforms, along with the final values of life, (e) the rising tide of race antagonism; and (2) the economic, social, and civic adjustments necessary in the days at hand and ahead, due to these foundational disturbances.

In the second place, the Commission, thinks Dr. Branson, should arrange to take stock of our resources, agencies and institutions—their values and deficiencies, opportunities and possibilities, in order to determine definite base lines of progress for the future; to prepare a compact body of wisely determined principles, policies

and plans for safe commonwealth development—all in view of the fact that the development of a state is an organic process and not a mechanical program; to present to the State what is ideally desirable but also what is reasonably possible, the characteristic genius of our people considered. In short, to supplant aimless drift with reasoned progress, to the end that North Carolina can speedily be a cleaner place for children to be born in, a safer place for boys and girls to grow up in, a happier place for men and women to live in, and a more joyous place for departing saints to look back upon.

### Program of Work

Touching on the machinery of the Commission, and going more into detail with reference to the work ahead of it Mr. Branson would have the chairman appoint and instruct appropriate committees, (a) to consider particular phases of life and business in North Carolina, (b) to hold separate committee sessions, (c) to call into consultation at such meetings the thinkers and leaders of the State, and (d) to report definite committee findings to the Commission by December 1, the full and final report of the Commission as a whole to be given to the State by Feb. 1.

These committees, if they follow Dr. Branson's suggestions, in all their deliberations will wisely keep in mind the fact that North Carolina is dominantly a rural State, that ten years ago it was being urbanized more rapidly than thirty-six other States in the Union, and even more rapidly during the war period, and that, therefore, every problem each committee considers has a threefold aspect—agricultural, industrial and urban.

The following committees seem to Dr. Branson to box the compass of fundamental State concerns: (1) Education, (2) Public Health, (3) Transportation and Communication, (4) Home and Farm Ownership, (5) Economic and Social Organization, (6) Race Relations, (7) Public Welfare, (8) Civic Reforms, State and local, and (9) a Collaboration Committee whose duty it is to receive the reports of other committees and to organize them into compact form for the final consideration of the Commission as a whole.

Finally, Dr. Branson would have a session of the Commission in full in early December to hear the findings in brief of the sub-committees, and to pass them on, after discussions, to the Collaboration Committee with instructions to render its report to the Commission in January.

This program, of course, is intended to be only suggestive. The Commission at its meeting the last of the month may tear it all to pieces. But it certainly gives food for reflection, not only to the gentlemen who compose the State Reconstruction Commission, two members of which are citizens of Winston-Salem, but to every man and woman who thinks at all seriously on any of the subjects which this Commission must consider.—Winston-Salem Journal

### Commission Members

The personnel of the State Reconstruction Commission is as follows: C. F. Tomlinson, High Point; Julius Cone, Greensboro; Chas. C. Page, Raleigh; W. H. Newell, Rocky Mount; W. L. Po-teat, Wake Forest; C. F. Harvey, Kinston; C. B. Armstrong, Gastonia; E. C.

Branson, Chapel Hill; Archibald Johnson, Thomasville; J. Bryan Grimes, Raleigh; J. O. Carr, Wilmington; H. R. Starbuck, Winston-Salem; Clarence Clark, Clarkton; Cyrus Thompson, Jacksonville; J. F. Diggs, Rockingham; R. W. Christian, Fayetteville; James H. Poul, Raleigh; A. L. Brooks, Greensboro; Gilbert T. Stephenson, Winston-Salem; Fred L. Seeley, Asheville; B. F. Eagles, Macclesfield; E. C. Duncan, Raleigh; W. C. Ruffin, Mayodan; E. S. Parker, Graham; W. N. Everett, Rockingham.

### A CAMPUS COMMISSION

Student life on an American college campus is so intense, the working schedule so crowded, the interest in marks so overwhelming, and the leisure time of students so pre-occupied with athletics and social events that college men in this country do not easily or often climb up and peep over the rim of the campus bowl into the affairs of the big wide world where in a year or two they will rise or fall according to their competent acquaintance with life in the large, and their power of mastery over themselves and the situations that confront them.

### The Carolina Club

Nevertheless, at the University of North Carolina a little group of some fifty students and faculty members has for five years met on fortnightly Monday nights to study intensively the economic, social, and civic problems of the home state. Their club year-books bear the following titles: (1) The Resources, Opportunities, and Possibilities of North Carolina, (2) Wealth and Welfare in North Carolina, and (3) County Government and County Affairs in North Carolina. It is a unique body of state literature. There is nothing else like it in any state of the Union.

This North Carolina Club, as it is called, has just organized for the new college year, with officers as follows:

President, J. V. Baggett; Secretary, Miss Ernestine Noa.

Steering Committee: E. C. Branson, Chairman; D. D. Carroll, C. L. Raper, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., A. M. Coates, and W. E. Price.

Publicity Committee: Lenoir Chambers, Chairman; C. A. Hibbard, Miss Ernestine Noa, W. H. Andrews, Jr., and G. D. Crawford.

Membership Committee: G. D. Crawford, Chairman; S. H. Hobbs, Jr., W. H. Andrews, Jr., J. V. Baggett, F. P. Graham, Mrs. M. H. Stacy, Miss Ernestine Noa, and Barber Towler.

### The Club Program

This year the North Carolina Club will be conducting investigations, assembling and digesting information, and considering policies and plans for sane progress in North Carolina, *pari passu* with the State Reconstruction Commission. The Club because of its unique purposes is asking for an unofficial relationship with the State Commission. It craves permission to sit in with the elders of the state in their deliberations and to learn of them at first hand about the insistent demands of commonwealth development.

Its 1919-20 year-book will bear the title of The Carolina Club Program of State Reconstruction. It will doubtless evidence the imperfections of youth, but it will at

least express the judgments of a thoughtful group of young students about what is and what safely ought to be and may be in North Carolina.

It declares a purpose and petitions for a relationship with the leaders of the state that will undoubtedly be an epoch-making experience for the members of the North Carolina Club. What richer chapter of liberal culture is ever likely to fall to these young men?

### BETTER PAY IN ILLINOIS

North Carolina could well profit by the example of Illinois which has come to the rescue of its many poorly paid county school superintendents with a state-wide law providing for a more expert type of county school superintendent and for paying such school officers a salary commensurate with the dignity and importance of the position.

No county superintendent in Illinois now receives less than \$1900 and that salary is paid only in those counties that have a population less than 12,000. The salaries then range from \$2,100 to \$9,000, the latter sum being paid to the superintendent of Cook county.—E. W. K.

### LOCAL DISTRICT TRUSTEES

Evidence of enterprise in county school work is seen in the effort of superintendents to organize the local district committeemen into a working body. Numerous meetings of these officers have recently been held in various counties in North Carolina, in Rowan, Perquimans, Craven, Durham, say—in connection with the initial teachers' meetings for the year. Such meetings could be held with profit at stated times during the school year. Important subjects can be discussed fully and frankly with a view to a better understanding between teacher and district trustees. It's a forward looking move when the interests of the children make sufficient appeal to call the committeemen into conference occasionally. Many of the difficulties of the committeemen and teachers are common to both and both can profit by discussion and free exchange of views.

Monthly meetings of all district committeemen could profitably become a part of the county's regular educational program. Such meetings have both inspirational and practical values.—E. W. K.

### GUILFORD SCHOOL FAIRS

Pleasant Garden in Guilford county is one of the intelligent and progressive communities of the State. Interest in the school there is wide and deep and the school influences are felt in practically all phases of the community life. The community has been successful in securing in recent years intelligent leadership in school work and the result is a most wholesome community spirit. Out of an enrollment of 310, the high school students number 140. What school can beat that?

Last week a very creditable school fair was held at Pleasant Garden school and was attended by hundreds of people from the community and other sections of the county. A large number of people came from Greensboro to see the exhibits and to take part in the exercises. Two other school fairs in the county were held the same week, one at Whitsett and another at Bessemer. Each of these communities voted unanimously to make its fair an annual occasion.—E. W. K.