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WEALTH AND COMMONWEALTH

CAROLINA IN THE MAKING

For five years the North Carolina club of the University of North Carolina has been projecting the North Carolina of the future. Public affairs in this state will eventually conform to these projections. This will not be because the formulae and conclusions have been worked out by the university, nor because the men who go out from the university will take control of the state, but because the work of this club is indicative of the trend of the thought of the young men of today under the guidance of the educational leadership of today.

There is also a rapidly increasing consideration of public matters on the part of woman collegians. Without prejudice to the weight and influence of the men and women who do not attend college, we may fairly expect state and community leadership to be in the hands of the men and women from the colleges.

It has always been a fairly dependable rule, and there is no reason why it should be less so in the future. The ratio of college trained men to the whole population is growing larger. With the improvement of the public schools, there are more and more men and women in their faculties who have been thoroughly educated.

The thought of the ablest and soundest thinkers of the state is getting nearer and nearer to the mass of the people, and that means a gradual subsidence of the inertia, the unsound thinking, the response to unsound leadership, which to large extent govern in public matters. Indeed, education is a progressive force, or it is nothing.

The Carolina Club

When, therefore, we study a piece of work from the North Carolina club, we are contemplating a cross-section of the fabric of the thinking of that group of men, from all the colleges of the state, which is presently to be shaping policies and determining methods and measures. Allowance must be made for the tendency of youth to radical doctrine, which tendency, some assert, it must also be considered that there is the guiding influence of mature minds.

During the last few years many phases of state affairs, county affairs, community concerns, have been studied by this organization in the most thorough manner. The laboratory method has been applied, the facts have been patiently dug out, the results have been fully analyzed. All this work has been preserved in a body of literature which has come to be the heart of most of the problems of North Carolinians, as to their government and many allied activities. It is a light to guide the feet of the people, and it is inconceivable that the people will continue to walk in darkness when there is a pathway in the clear light.

Carolina Tomorrow

It is to be concluded, then, that the North Carolina of tomorrow will have a simplified state government; a systematized administration, where power will be lodged in a few hands, and responsibility, full and definite, will accompany it.

The office of the governor will be greatly magnified, for one thing. The people will look to him for the whole administrative result; he will choose his own instruments and agents, they will be answerable to him, and he will be answerable to the people.

These things will not and cannot come to pass any too soon. Already the governmental concerns of the state have grown to be so immense, so vitally important to the welfare and the interests of the whole people, that the necessity for business methods, for co-ordination, for constructive and economical ability of the highest order, begins to be startlingly apparent.—Greensboro News.

STATE REFORMS

The oldest politician who ever walked into the capitol at Raleigh would not have recognized the state government as it was reconstructed here by the North Carolina club of the University of North Carolina.

Meeting to discuss state civic reforms, the club heard recommendations by a special committee which would rip to pieces the existing form of state govern-

ment and substitute in its stead a brand new scheme of administrative consolidation based largely on Governor Lowden's reforms in Illinois.

Under the scheme, recommended for the committee by W. D. Harris, of Raeford, the governor would have largely increased power and all the state departments, boards, commissions, and institutional governing bodies would be regrouped under 10 main state departments, not counting the secretary of state's department.

The 10 main departments would be (1) Finance, under which would come the state auditor acting as comptroller, preparing a budget and supervising uniform county accounting and auditing; the state treasurer; the tax commissioner, who would also have charge of the automobile license business now carried by the secretary of state; (2) Public works and buildings, including the state highway commission, public buildings and grounds, the fisheries commission, and the geological and economic survey; (3) Education; (4) Public health; (5) Labor and printing; (6) Commerce, including the corporation commission, the present department of insurance, and the commissioner of banking; (7) Charities and public welfare, including state board of public charities and public welfare; a state prison board having the pardoning power; and the commissioner of public welfare; (8) The attorney general; (9) The adjutant general; (10) Agriculture.

The heads of these departments should all be appointed by the governor, the committee recommended, except where the state constitution provided otherwise.

Without stopping to catch its breath here, the committee favored the principle of the short ballot, urged the adoption of the Australian ballot, demanded a budget, insisted on a uniform system of accounting for counties, departments, and institutions, and called for a state constitutional convention to revise the entire constitution.

"North Carolina still endures the curse of the carpetbaggers' constitution," said M. M. Jerigan, of Dunn, chairman of the committee. "We don't ask for change merely for the sake of change, but for the sake of progress and of enlightened government."

There was no especial need for a state constabulary, the committee thought, nor was it convinced that a state purchasing agency was a practical benefit.—Lenoir Chambers.

WEALTH AND COMMONWEALTH

After two and a half centuries North Carolina is getting busy with her problems of social well-being. Within the last four years we have enacted 35 public welfare laws, covering a wide range of social concerns. We have made greater progress in legislation of this sort than any other state in the South. In a particular or two we lead the Union, for instance in our state-wide system of mandatory county juvenile courts and welfare boards, and in our free dental clinics for school children.

Nor have we stopped with mere legislation. We have been erecting public welfare machinery, state and county, and our newly created public welfare officials already number more than 600. They are county welfare superintendents, county welfare board members, juvenile court judges, juvenile court attaches, county public health boards, county school supervisors, town and county public health officers and public health nurses, child labor inspectors, and so on and on.

Social Needs in Carolina

Already they are discovering multi-form social needs of urgent sort. We need to keep wayward boys and girls out of our jails. We need to take the children, the epileptics, and the insane out of our county homes. We need juvenile detention homes in every county. We need greatly increased facilities for the 7, 500 feebleminded children of the state. The Jackson Training School needs to be greatly enlarged. We need at least three more reform schools for wayward boys and girls, one for negro children, and two more for white children. We need to plan for the Tiny Tims of the state far beyond the capacity of the Babbing-

THE COMMON GOOD

Edward K. Graham

Where shall we begin this necessary task of realizing our dream of commonwealth that will be satisfied with nothing less than the common wealth of all? Where, but here and now? Nothing can act but where it is. Our greatest lesson is to learn that these streets and stores and fields—the earth and the sky in all of their daily manifestations—are but 'folds across the face of God'; that 'Thy will' for which we daily pray will be done here and now or nowhere; and that agriculture, business, freedom, education, and religion are but instruments in our hands for finding the common God in the common good and making His will prevail.

ton Home in Gaston county. We need county or county group hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics, and they need to be built, equipped, and staffed for service within the next few years. We need 100—not 23—county health departments. We need public health nurses—at least one to start with in each county, and more as rapidly as they can be found and salaried. We need to develop our child-placing agencies. Our jails and chain-gang camps need to be emptied of convicted misdemeanants, and a state farm established for them upon the Indiana plan. We need organized community life in our country regions. We need wholesome social recreation everywhere, and these needs call for community organizers and Red Cross home service secretaries. We need to inventory our social necessities comprehensively and accurately and to set ourselves definitely to the tasks of prevention as well as palliation.

We need trained social workers in North Carolina. We need them in multiplied hundreds. They need to have a comprehensive grasp of social subjects, and competent skill in handling social situations. We need public health courses in schools of every grade and sort, and such instruction ought to be mandatory in all schools receiving state aid. We need a great social science school at the University, and a great summer term devoted to public welfare instruction for our public welfare workers.

You may be interested to know that the University is already erecting such a school and is this summer offering full college-term courses in public welfare and public welfare subjects.

A Billionaire State

So much for a hasty sketch of our social needs and the lines along which social progress in North Carolina needs to move forward. Our sons and daughters have prophesied, our young men have seen visions, and our old men have dreamed dreams of more abundant commonwealth life, and now it is pertinent to inquire whether or not North Carolina is rich enough to support these various welfare enterprises and activities.

As a matter of fact, is our wealth equal to the necessities of social well-being in North Carolina?

The answer is yes, and it is the only answer. North Carolina is not a poverty-stricken state, as we have long been accustomed to think, but a billionaire state, as we have suddenly discovered almost overnight—a billionaire state not merely in the wealth we have accumulated but a billionaire state in the wealth we annually create.

Look at the volume of primary wealth produced in North Carolina in 1919:

Crop wealth.....	\$683,000,000
Livestock and livestock products, estimated.....	100,000,000
Cotton seed.....	30,000,000
Firewood cut.....	25,000,000
Mines and quarries.....	6,000,000
Fisheries.....	3,000,000
Manufactured products, added values, estimated.....	400,000,000
Lumber and planing mill products.....	150,000,000
Total.....	\$1,397,000,000

This total is conservatively figured out of the reports of the federal Census of Manufactures, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Bureau of Crop Estimates,

COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

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MAN POWER VS. ELECTRICITY

We saw a table in The Progressive Farmer the other day giving the amount of wages paid for common farm labor in several states, among them North Carolina. These wages ranged from \$25.50 to \$87.12 per month, and the average amount paid in North Carolina was given as \$32.40 with board and \$45.00 without board. Man power is therefore costing the North Carolina farmer about one dollar and a half a day.

A comparison of this man power with electric power, such as can be obtained from a farm lighting set, is interesting if not in fact startling.

It is usually estimated that a man can work at the rate of about one-tenth of a horse power. At this rate, and allowing for rests, he can do about one and a half million foot-pounds in one day. Scientifically speaking therefore, it costs the North Carolina farmer one dollar and a half for one and a half million foot-pounds of work.

Now the ordinary farm lighting set is designed to deliver electric power at the rate of about three-quarters of a kilowatt, and, what is more important, it can

do this hour after hour without having to stop to rest. This means, therefore that one of these plants can deliver about twenty million foot-pounds of work in a day as against the one and a half million of man-power. But that is not all. Allowing for interest and depreciation, and taking the fuel consumption as shown by an actual test run on one of these plants, this twenty million foot-pounds of electric power would cost the farmer only a trifle over one dollar.

To be sure some of these twenty million foot-pounds of work are wasted in the electric motors that are used in order to apply the electric power to the job to be done. But after allowing for this the fact remains that man-power is from sixteen to twenty times as expensive as electric power! Of course the ordinary farm lighting set is not large enough for a great many of the jobs about the farm, but the comparison holds good just the same, in fact for the bigger jobs, if the farmer is fortunate in having a good water power site near at hand he can develop his electric power from this source oftentimes cheaper than he can get it from a farm lighting set.—P. H. D.

and we dare to say that it understates rather than overstates the amazing total of primary wealth created in North Carolina in a single year—the year 1919.

Which is to say, in one year in North Carolina we create a greater volume of wealth than we have been willing to put on our tax books in 250 years—more by a half billion dollars. In 1912 the Census Bureau estimated the true wealth of North Carolina at two billion dollars. Our tax revaluation officials are today discovering that the total true wealth of North Carolina approaches five billion dollars.

Oh yes, we are rich in North Carolina, as riches are counted in this and other southern states. For instance, we have 166 million dollars invested in liberty bonds and war stamps; and the interest money that comes into North Carolina year by year out of the federal treasury is nearly equal to the total cost of our state government at present. We have 100 million dollars in bank account savings in banks of all sorts; which is nearly a five-fold increase in four years. Within the last ten years we have invested 100 million dollars in automobiles, and we are now buying motor cars at the rate of \$100,000 a day including Sundays. Our wealth in automobiles is three times the amount we have been willing to invest in church properties in two and a half centuries. It is nearly four times the value of all school properties of every sort in North Carolina.

In 1919 we were rich enough to pay 101 million dollars in federal taxes alone—and this in a single year. Fewer than 4000 corporations paid more taxes into the federal treasury in 1917 than all the taxes paid by all the taxpayers in North Carolina for municipal, county, and state purposes combined. A bare handful of our people in 1917—just twenty-three thousand of our two and a half million people—paid more money into our federal treasury as taxes on personal incomes and excess profits alone than all the taxpayers of the state paid into our state treasury in taxes on real and personal property.

Figures may be tiresome but these figures are immensely significant. They embody facts that bring us to understand for the first time in our history that North Carolina is a rich state. No competently informed person can ever again call us a poverty-stricken people. The simple fact is that we are rich—rich enough to do anything that we really want to do, rich enough to realize any dream of social progress that any mortal has yet dared to dream in North Carolina. We have the wealth. The question is, have we the willingness to convert our wealth into welfare and well-being?

If 23 thousand people and 4000 corporations in North Carolina are able to pay 23 million dollars into the federal treasury in income and excess profits taxes alone, how much could the rest of our two and a half million people pay into our state treasury for schools and roads and public health purposes—that is to say, if only we were minded to do it, if only we really believed in education, health, and highways?

The Common Wealth

Our problem in North Carolina is the conversion of wealth into wealth

into Commonwealth, and Commonwealth into common wealth. Private wealth ought to be rightly related to community welfare and well-being. Everywhere it ought to be the free and willing servant of the common good. And it must be so, else we shall witness progress and poverty, magnificence and misery side by side among men till the end of time.

Social progress is related to material prosperity. It is easy, of course, to have material wealth without social progress, but it is not easy to have social progress without material wealth. It is so difficult indeed that it is well nigh impossible. It has always been so. Not one of our new born social enterprises can survive in an atmosphere of small-scale thinking and two penny philosophies, no matter how great our wealth. On the other hand big-scale thinking is of little avail in a poverty stricken area.

The great spiritual awakenings of history have always been preceded by waves of great prosperity. Out of the material well-being of the masses in England in the 15th century sprang Lollardy, out of the trade prosperity of England sprang Puritanism, out of the improved wages of English toilers sprang Methodism. An abundance of corn, oil, and wine was the prelude to Joel's vision of the Great Day, says George Adam Smith.

Wealth and wickedness are not necessarily one. Money is not the root of all evil, it is the love of money that Paul denounces as the radical source of human ills. And poverty does not always mean piety; far oftener it means dirt, disease and death, misery, sin and crime.

However, it is needless to multiply words about matters of common knowledge. But like Lovers Mary "We know these things all the time and forget them every minute."

A Vital Question

Almost the most vital question in North Carolina today is, what shall we do with our amazing stores of sudden new wealth? Shall we be ennobled by it or grossened and coarsened by it? Shall we wear our riches as a crown of wisdom, in Solomon's fine phrase, or as a badge of selfish folly and shame? Shall we swallow down our riches, as Zophar says, only to vomit them up again? Shall we trick ourselves out in harlequin liveries, and let the souls of the children of North Carolina go naked and ashamed?

The development of a commonwealth or a community depends upon the willingness of its people to convert their wealth into welfare and well-being. We have the wealth, wealth at last in overflowing measure. What we need is willingness. Wealth is an everlasting reproach to the people unless it can be used to make 'this dirty little spot in space that men call earth' a clearer place for children to be born into, 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 souls to look back upon.

In Solomon's day and now, There is that maketh himself rich, and yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor and yet hath great riches. There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Our main business in North Carolina is not the making of gold, but the making of men that are finer than gold, and the making of women that are like the King's daughters, all glorious within.

But it is a vain and unavailing task if out of the abundance of our riches we withhold more than is meet. Surely men will not decay while wealth accumulates in North Carolina.—E. C. Branson, The State Social Work Conference, Goldsboro, March 26, 1920.