

# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

Published weekly by the  
University of North Carolina  
for its Bureau of Extension.

The news in this publica-  
tion is released for the press on  
receipt.

NOVEMBER 10, 1920

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL VII, NO. 1

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, J. B. Bullitt.

Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912

## OUR PER CAPITA TAXABLES IN 1920

### A REVALUATION EXHIBIT

Twelve hundred thirty-five dollars is what we are worth per inhabitant on the tax books of North Carolina in 1920, counting men, women, and children of both races. See Mr. L. deR. MacMillan's table elsewhere in this issue. It looks like a whale of a sum. But a comparison or two reduces it to proper proportions.

For instance, our per capita true wealth in North Carolina in 1912 was \$394, according to the Census Bureau Bulletin on National Wealth. The revaluation figures of 1920 show us to be only \$441 beyond our average of eight years ago. Evidently a 55 percent increase in taxables lags far behind the one, two, and three hundred percent increases in the War-time values of town and country real estate and commodities of all sorts.

Two years before the World War began, 46 states stood ahead of us in per capita wealth, and Mississippi alone saved us from footing the column. At that time 38 states of the Union were worth \$1235 or more per inhabitant, and among these richer states 5 were Southern—Louisiana, Florida, New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona in the order named.

The simple fact is that we are just now getting our properties on the tax books at something like their true value when sold for money in the ordinary manner of sale, as the law has long required; not at their inflated values which are right around five billion dollars all told, but at the reasonable value of three billion dollars in round numbers. The revaluation total in the state-at-large or in any county does not surprise any really well informed taxpayer.

### The Exhibit by Counties

Our per capita taxables range from \$580 in Macon the poorest county in the state to \$2907 in Durham our richest county. Durham has long maintained this distinguished place in per capita taxables in North Carolina.

Only 29 counties are above the state average of \$1235. Sixteen are mill and factory counties or contain cities of 10,000 inhabitants or more. Twelve are our richest farm counties, and one—Graham—is a mountain county that has suddenly risen into wealth because of its lumber industries and hydro-electric power sites and plants, all of which are owned by alien corporations, one of them being a British lumber company. For the first time these properties are paying taxes to North Carolina upon something like their proper physical value. These are the counties that are bearing the heaviest tax burdens under the new order of things.

Twenty-four counties are just below the state average with per capita taxables ranging from \$1000 to \$1235. Here again 15 of the counties are urban-industrial, with brisk, prosperous little cities and numerous mills and factories. And one or two mills in a county not only means an increase of population, but a tremendous gain in per capita wealth. Orange is a capital instance. Her five textile concerns have resulted in the first substantial gains in population in thirty years, and the doubling of her total taxable wealth within the last five years is due mainly to these two co-operating causes.

The 46 counties with less than \$1000 of per capita taxables in 1920 lie outside our great industrial area, in the mountain and the tidewater country, or so with only five exceptions—Union, Caldwell, Cumberland, Randolph and Burke. The rest are all agricultural counties, and their per capita taxables range from a half to a fourth of the average for such counties as Forsyth, Scotland, Graham, and Durham—the rich counties at the head of the list.

### Some Surprises

Graham, a little county set in the clefts of the Great Smoky mountains—think of Graham standing two places above Forsyth, three places above Mecklenburg, six places above Guilford, and seven places above Gaston, the richest manufacturing counties in the state.

And Forsyth, which far and away leads the state in manufacture, is out-ranked in per capita taxables by Scot-

land, Graham, and Durham in the order named.

Gaston leads the state and the nation with her 100 cotton mills, but she stands ninth not first in per capita taxables. Wayne, Lenoir, and Pitt, three fertile farm counties, stand right alongside Gaston in this particular.

New Hanover, which leads the state in banking capital and export trade, falls to the 16th place in taxable wealth per inhabitant.

Robeson, which leads the state in cotton, corn and pork production, stands 18 places below Scotland, 11 places below Wayne, and only three places above Johnston. These three counties are her three closest rivals in agriculture.

Hoke and Nash rank right alongside Greene whose soil is far more fertile. And Greene stands three places above Richmond, four places above Rowan, five places above Halifax, eleven places above Wake, manufacturing counties all. It speaks well for Greene, Hoke, and Nash, but it sadly discounts the other counties in this comparison.

Wake stands 38th from the top of the column, just below Jones and just above Moore—one a country county in the Tidewater and the other a county in the Sandhills. And by the way, the Sandhill counties all stand among the first fifty counties of the state in per capita taxables. They outrank many far more fertile counties.

The Cape Fear counties are interesting. New Hanover leads of course, but Harnett comes next and she leads Duplin, Sampson, Pender, Cumberland, Columbus, Bladen, and Brunswick in the order named.

### Fifty Laggard Counties

On the whole, the fifty counties that make the lower half of the table are rural counties, with per capita taxables ranging from \$1037 in Orange to \$572 in Wilkes, \$565 in Dare, and \$560 in Macon. They have almost no cities of census size and few manufacturing industries or none at all. Their share of the burden of state taxes will range from a fifth to a half of the state average, and from a half to three-fourths of the taxes of the people in our three richest counties—that is to say, if the state ever again levies a general property tax. Under our new tax amendments to the constitution it may never again be necessary to levy a general property tax for state purposes, but we have a notion that it will be found wise to fix a small rate for state support, so as to permit our taxpayers in general to develop a robust sense of responsible proprietorship in commonwealth concerns.

It is a distinct surprise to find such counties as Carteret, Granville, Union, Caldwell, Cumberland, Randolph, and Burke at this end of the 1920 tax list. These are all manufacturing counties, each with a thriving little city or several prosperous industrial establishments. They are distinctly out of place among purely agricultural counties in a tax list.

The table elsewhere in this issue ranks the counties of the state in the order of per capita taxables in 1920, and gives the 1919 figures for comparison. In next week's issue the counties will be ranked from high to low according to the ratios of increase in 1920 over 1919.

### A STUDENT DEMOCRACY

The student body, the sine qua non of the University, is back with half a thousand new men academic and professional. As per usual the student body is facing the year with confidence. The momentum of its tradition through a century and its typical self-mastery last year under new, difficult and congested conditions, bespeak its resolved conquest of all obstacles, whether of making two beds grow where only one has grown before, or licking Virginia in football, winning the State championship in baseball and track, putting the infant Tar Baby on the trains and at the news-stands in terms of the largest circulation of any student publication in the southern states, having the Tar Heel quoted by the press from one end of the State to the other, making Ger-

### TRULY TRAINED

Edward K. Graham

No student is truly trained unless he has learned to do pleasantly, and promptly, and with clear-cut accuracy every task he has obligated himself to do; unless he puts into his work his own personal curiosities and opens his faculties to a lively and original interest in his work that leads him to test for himself what he is told; unless he gets from his contact with the master spirits of the race those qualities of taste and behavior and standards of judgment that constitute a true gentleman; unless he realizes that he does not live to himself alone, but is a part of an organic community life that is the source of most of the privileges he enjoys.

To become a true University man does not mean the abandonment of any legitimate sort of happiness whatever, nor the loss of any freedom. The adventure of discovering and liberating one's mind, far from being a dull and dreary performance, is the most thrilling of all youthful adventures. There is no question of self-punishment or external discipline, but only the freedom of becoming one's own master, instead of a slave to the tyranny of one's low and cheap desires.

To come into this insight is to see this organized discovery of the mind that we call education, not as learning, but as a love of knowledge; not as a matter of being industrious, but of loving industry; not as a matter of giving us a good start toward a middle-age success, but to enable us to keep growing, and so lay hold on the eternal spring of life.

rard Hall platform, by student initiative, the jumping off place and keynote sounding board in the four-cornered gubernatorial campaign, winning debates with Washington and Lee, and Johns Hopkins, and sustaining an all-round record-breaking year in spirit and campus morale. The year was an illustration of a restored Carolina spirit that had reached over the rent and shadow of war and reestablished its old rootage and carried forward her great tradition.

### No Bolshevism

While a spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction swept over the colleges north, south and west, the student body of the University kept its head and went on its way rejoicing to meet the difficult problems of congestion and readjustment. The news of numerous student strikes as aftermaths of the war and as by-products of bolshevism, came to a non-infected student body intent not upon kicking against but upon assimilating its troubles and mastering its problems. When the issue of the right of the athletic management to impose a charge for the Virginia game on the home grounds was agitated, the student body, instead of going on a strike against taxation without representation, met in lively assembly and voluntarily voted the additional tax upon themselves. When a Carolina baseball player interfered (clumsily or otherwise) with the throw of the A. and E. catcher, the student body under the leadership of a half dozen students met in mass meeting and expressed unreserved regret to their sister college and offered to cancel an overwhelming victory for a substitute game. This voluntary student action sent a responding thrill of sportsmanship over the A. and E. student body and they individually and variously carried the news to the State this summer, "They do things white at Carolina."

### Orderly Self-Direction

The student body took over chapel and conducted it on practically a voluntary basis. For two quarters the substance of faculty talks and the liveliness of the student affairs transacted through the brief chapel clearing house held a full attendance and elicited vital interest. The registrar conducted the attendance records on the voluntary basis. Though the interest and attendance dropped in

## COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 34

### FARM LIGHTING SET STORAGE BATTERIES—II

We told you last week that there is a vast difference between an automobile battery and the battery of a farm lighting set. That difference, in a word, is just this. The automobile battery sacrifices strength and ruggedness in favor of light weight and compactness. In farm lighting set batteries neither light weight nor compactness is at all necessary. It is therefore possible to build them with thick plates strong enough to withstand the tremendous strains that they have to undergo during the regular process of charging and discharging. The automobile battery, therefore, is a thin-plate battery, the farm lighting set battery a thick-plate battery, and this difference is so vital that it is important to understand it thoroughly.

Some time ago a prominent battery manufacturer sent out to his service stations a service-letter advising these stations to get ready to handle repairs and replacements on farm lighting batteries. This letter called the attention of the stations to a certain plant which had a battery that did not fit the generator. As these batteries might be expected to last only two years or less, they were advised to get ready to replace them when the time came. This was all very well, but the trouble is that the letter is now being circulated by a competitor of the electric plant as

an argument for their stupid claim that the electric plant will not survive.

### Deliberately Misleading

We have before us a copy of this circular. It is a fair example of the misinformation that is being broadcast as scientific fact by untrained people who we prefer to believe are themselves misinformed. Here is a sample. They say, "Do you get a better battery on your farm electric plant than the best engineers in the world can devise for automobiles? You do not?"

This statement made right after they have reminded you that you know from your own experience that an automobile battery will last just about one year, is either deliberately misleading or else the men who made it ought to go back behind the ribbon counter where they belong.

The automobile battery is necessarily made with very thin, weak plates, which accounts for its short life. On the other hand most of the farm lighting set batteries on the market now are made with thick, heavy and strong plates that can successfully resist the tendency to warp or buckle as the battery undergoes successive charges and discharges.

Moral: Don't judge farm lighting batteries by the automobile battery. One is a truck-horse, the other a race-horse. We'll tell you next week just how long a battery ought to last, and why.—P. H. D.

the spring, the students are committed to the student-conducted chapel as a successful experiment for improvement and development. To call the roll of the constructive enterprises and achievements of the Campus Cabinet, the Student Honor Council, and the class of 1920, is to mark the year 1919-20 with the high lights of an outstanding year

for its post-war readjustment and its restoration and advancement of student government. The campus community set apart in their Orange County woods has been adjudged the most completely self-governing and self-functioning student democracy in the American college world.—The University Alumni Review.

## REVALUATION AND THE YEAR BEFORE

Per Capita Taxables in 1919 and 1920

Based on (1) The Report of the State Tax Commission, Aug. 10, 1920, and on (2) the 1920 Census of Population.

L. deR. MacMillan, Wilmington, N. C.

Department of Rural Social Science, University of North Carolina.

State average 1920 Per Capita Taxables \$1235; in 1919 they were \$436, an average increase of 183 percent.

Rank	Counties	Per Capita 1920	Per Capita 1919	Rank	Counties	Per Capita 1920	Per Capita 1919
1	Durham	\$2907	\$954	51	Orange	\$1037	\$467
2	Graham	2085	561	52	Carteret	1032	361
3	Scotland	2022	496	53	Swain	1002	479
4	Forsyth	1912	530	54	Chowan	996	404
5	Mecklenburg	1797	576	55	Anson	980	361
6	Rockingham	1773	415	56	Mitchell	977	221
7	Wilson	1737	473	57	Granville	952	449
8	Guilford	1613	505	57	Jackson	952	387
9	Gaston	1611	460	59	Sampson	940	303
10	Wayne	1601	479	60	Pender	937	415
11	Lenoir	1592	402	61	Tyrrell	931	385
12	Pitt	1468	421	62	Alleghany	929	264
13	Cabarrus	1466	439	63	Union	927	365
14	Stanly	1449	365	63	Surry	927	405
15	Craven	1447	456	65	Warren	923	398
16	New Hanover	1391	579	66	Caldwell	922	321
17	Buncombe	1344	543	67	Cumberland	921	401
18	Davidson	1334	406	67	Person	921	314
19	Beaufort	1324	388	69	Transylvania	918	414
20	Vance	1322	542	70	Columbus	915	402
21	Robeson	1306	402	70	Hertford	915	406
22	Edgecombe	1289	468	72	Franklin	911	378
23	McDowell	1286	396	73	Randolph	895	356
24	Johnston	1281	454	74	Camden	891	364
25	Hoke	1255	401	75	Northampton	877	465
26	Greene	1250	365	76	Bladen	869	366
27	Nash	1248	441	77	Bertie	867	354
28	Cleveland	1247	416	78	Pamlico	861	287
29	Richmond	1245	424	79	Watauga	856	281
30	Rowan	1227	451	80	Gates	847	413
31	Halifax	1226	522	81	Caswell	845	284
32	Martin	1219	527	82	Ashe	844	240
33	Catawba	1210	347	82	Burke	844	321
34	Iredell	1190	457	84	Currutuck	836	336
34	Pasquotank	1190	431	85	Alexander	819	322
36	Alamance	1179	437	86	Henderson	817	376
37	Jones	1173	397	86	Chatham	817	373
38	Wake	1159	485	88	Perquimans	806	374
39	Moore	1153	476	89	Stokes	799	326
40	Harnett	1124	419	90	Brunswick	768	369
41	Montgomery	1119	417	91	Yadkin	763	254
42	Duplin	1115	378	92	Madison	724	357
43	Rutherford	1095	308	93	Yancey	717	188
44	Davie	1094	429	94	Hyde	713	325
45	Haywood	1092	385	95	Clay	615	266
46	Lincoln	1078	445	96	Avery	608	256
47	Lee	1070	468	97	Cherokee	600	407
48	Onslow	1055	509	98	Wilkes	572	240
49	Polk	1054	306	99	Dare	565	182
50	Washington	1043	417	100	Macon	560	277