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## LIFTING CAROLINA INTO EMINENCE

### THE PRINCIPAL THING

The gentlemen of the appropriations committee of the house listened last night to a plea for North Carolina more important than any other that has come to their ears. The men and women who stood before that committee were begging, not for material prosperity, nor for greater comfort, not for increase of luxuries, not in behalf of the flesh and blood of North Carolina, but in behalf of her spirit.

This legislature has wrought boldly and well for the commercial prosperity of the state. The passage of the highway bill was an achievement for the material good of the state worthy to be ranked with the most notable in its history. It means millions of dollars in the pockets of Tar Heels, a vast increase in the comforts, conveniences and luxuries of life for all the people. Can this legislature afford to be less bold and energetic in providing for the intellectual and spiritual development of North Carolina?

What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Riches are desirable only if their possessor has also the spiritual wealth that alone will enable him to control material wealth and use it for worthy ends. North Carolina might become rich beyond the dreams of avarice, but if she allowed her mind and heart to remain stunted and undeveloped, her last state would be worse than her first.

### North Carolina's Boast

It has been North Carolina's boast in the past—and who will deny that it was a true one?—that she has never bent her knee to the golden calf. Who are the most eminent men in North Carolina, even to this day? Her millionaires? Not unless they possess something more, and more difficult of attainment, than money. One of the finest things that can be said of this state is the fact that she possesses obscure millionaires. Money alone is not yet sufficiently powerful in this state unaided to lift a North Carolinian into eminence.

But will that proud boast still be justified if we devote our attention exclusively to the improvement of our material conditions? Not for long.

In the educational program that is being presented to the legislature a demand is being made upon our lawmakers to set North Carolina's creed before the world as a belief in mental as well as in material progress; a whole-hearted subscription to the ancient, eternal truth, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting, get understanding."—Greensboro News.

### STATE BOND ISSUES

The building programs of the ten state institutions of liberal learning and technical training call for \$14,544,000 during the next six years. This is the budget total of these institutions as submitted to the State Budget Commission—not twenty million dollars, as careless people are saying.

They forget that the twenty million dollars named covers five and a third millions for the nine state institutions of benevolence. The proposed bond issue concerns state benevolence as well as state education.

During the last six years the public school fund of the state has been almost exactly doubled; the increase has been from six million dollars in 1915 to twelve million dollars in 1920. And the public school properties of the state have risen in value from ten and a half millions to twenty-four millions in a single year. These grand totals, mind you, include high-school properties and high-school maintenance.

Over against 24 millions invested in public school properties at present, the state has invested only seven million dollars, in round numbers, in her ten schools of technical training and liberal culture. If the state has neglected anything it has been her schools of liberal learning and technical training. What they need in order to double their capacity within the next six years is fourteen and a half million dollars; not 20 million dollars, mind you, but fourteen and a half million.

### Timid People

Timid people are appalled at a state bond issue of fourteen million dollars for college expansion. And most or all of these people are mighty good people; they are merely staggered by the proposal to invest liberally in a great state enterprise.

But the time has come when we must all learn to think in big terms about vital causes in North Carolina—church causes, highways, public health, public welfare, college education, and so on. We are rich, but riches alone will never salt our civilization down unto salvation. And riches selfishly used will curse us incurably. Our salvation does not lie in wealth, much or little. The destiny of this state turns upon our willingness to convert our wealth into commonwealth culture and character.

Twenty million dollars is not much of a bond issue for two and a half million people in a state like North Carolina. It is only eight dollars per inhabitant, and it means a per capita tax of only forty-eight cents a year for thirty-six years—not for state colleges alone but for the benevolent institutions of the state as well. It is a mortal pity that the bare thought of it seems to throw into convulsions a lot of excellent people here and there.

### The Nerve of Los Angeles

What we need is the nerve, say, of Los Angeles. Ten years ago this little city of three hundred thousand deliberately saddled upon itself a bonded debt of thirty-three million dollars, or more than a hundred dollars per inhabitant, to install a water-supply system and to build a municipal harbor thirty miles away. And, by the way, to get the water they needed, they siphoned across canyons, tunneled through mountains, and digged through alkali deserts for two hundred and thirty miles. The city now has two hundred and sixty-five million gallons of snow water from the base of Mount Whitney daily, enough for a city of three million people. And her man-made harbor is the safest on the Pacific coast, says Admiral Rodman.

Does it pay to invest like this in community progress and prosperity? It has paid Los Angeles. In forty years the city has multiplied its population fifty-five times over. The manufacturing capital it has attracted is greater than that of our entire state. The bank deposits of this one city almost exactly equal the bank resources of the whole state of North Carolina.

Three hundred thousand people in Los Angeles marched right up to a twenty-six-million water bond issue without a scintilla of doubt about the wisdom of it. The two and a half million people of North Carolina are now face to face with a bond issue of twenty million dollars for state colleges and state institutions of benevolence.

Have we the nerve? Have we anything like the nerve of Los Angeles? Have we the courage to invest in education and benevolence with anything like the civic wisdom of a little Pacific coast town set in the edge of an alkali desert?

### Where Our Wealth Lies

North Carolina is a state of marvelous natural resources. The truth is, nature has done so much for us in North Carolina that we have done precious little for ourselves. We have been timid about investing in ourselves as a state, and we have trifled with amazing opportunities. Somehow we cannot seem to learn that our greatest resources are hid away in the souls of the youth of the state. The real wealth of North Carolina does not lie in the veins of ore in our hills; it lies in the veins and brains of our sons and daughters. And we must search for this wealth as for hidden treasure.

Twenty million dollars looks enormous to two and a half million people in North Carolina; but thirty-three millions looked like a trifle to three hundred thousand people in Los Angeles who were willing to stake their city against the world.

As for North Carolina, we'll stake her against the universe—that is to say, if she'll only give her boys and girls a fair chance and a square deal.

## EDUCATION AND RELIGION

Calvin Coolidge

I speak in behalf of higher education. There is need not only of patriotic ideals and a trained intelligence in our economic life, but also of a deep understanding of man and his relationship to the physical universe and to his fellow man. There has always been evil in the world. There are evil forces at work now. They are apparently organized and seek the disintegration of society. They can almost be recognized by their direct appeal to selfishness. They deny that the present relationship of men has any sound basis for its existence. They point out to men with untrained minds that it takes effort to maintain themselves and support government and claim that they ought to exist without effort on the accumulation of others. They deny that men have any obligations toward one another. The answer to this lies in a knowledge of past human experience and a realization of what man is.

The sources of the state of mind which supports civilization are education and religion. We hold by the modern standards of society. We believe in maintaining modern civilization for the protection and support of free government and the development of the economic welfare.

The great test of an institution is the ability to perpetuate itself. It seems fairly plain that these institutions can survive with the aid of higher education. Without it they have not the slightest chance.

We justify the greater and greater accumulation of capital because we believe that therefrom flows the support of all science, art, learning and the charities which minister to the humanities of life, all carrying their beneficent effects to the people as a whole.

Unless this is measurably true, our system of civilization ought to stand condemned.

## COUNTY FEES AND SALARIES

Various counties in North Carolina are discussing the fee and the salary systems of paying county officers. Some of the salary counties want to drop back to the fee system; some of the fee counties want to move up into the salary system of paying county officials.

At present almost exactly half the counties of the state are on the ancient fee system. They are usually remote rural counties, with small populations, that collect less than seventy-five thousand dollars a year all told for all purposes, state and county. This is true of all but ten of the fee counties, which undoubtedly ought to move up upon a salary basis; provided, of course, county salaries are sufficiently large to attract competent men—wherein most of the salary counties fail and fail so egregiously that we can well understand the dissatisfaction with the salary system here and there.

For instance, there are very few counties in the state that pay the sheriff a sufficiently large salary. As for the clerks of court, the pay they get for what they do is ridiculous in most counties. They ought to have more money at once.

On the other hand, when the total of tax receipts in a county is more than seventy-five thousand dollars a year, it is wise to pay county officials on a salary basis. The salaries ought to be liberal, and all salaried officials ought to be closely enough supervised to see that they are diligent in business, serving the county. And the public ought to be fully advised of their diligence or lack of diligence. It is information the taxpayers need when election days come round.

## COUNTRY HOME CONVENIENCES

LETTER SERIES No. 44  
FARM WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### Waste of Woman Power

The farm wife has been called the most important factor on the farm yet very little has been done to make her work easier and to save her health and strength. Each day is crowded with tasks that have to be done and most country homes are not equipped with labor and time-saving devices that take the drudgery out of woman's work, make their working hours shorter and leave some time for the rest and amusement that are rightfully theirs. The farm home today is operated "by hand" to almost as great an extent as when women did the cooking in ovens set directly on coals, sewed all garments with hand-needles and did the washing down by the spring with sawed-off half barrels as tubs. Progress seems almost to have passed the farm women by.

### A Striking Contrast

Long ago the assistance and value of mechanical power for the farm was realized and today the average farmer has mechanical help to carry on his plowing, his harvesting, and even his milking. These mechanical aids give him a producing capacity double that of his grandfather.

A recent survey shows that only half the farms having power-machinery for farm purposes had also the power-machinery for home uses. The average farmer's wife is still carrying on her part of

the farm work with almost the same tools and conveniences, or lack of them, that served her grandmother. When we consider that it is a simple matter to connect the engine used in the barn with the household equipment it seems singular that more homes do not have the advantages of machine power.

### The Farmer's Duty

It is not right that women should be compelled to accomplish their tasks by grace of human strength alone. As power on the farm is the greatest of time and labor-savers for the farmer so power in the home is the greatest blessing to the housewife. Comfortable and convenient homes are the right of every woman.

In every occupation it has been found that shortened working hours, improved working conditions and living surroundings are necessary for the success of the work. It is not right that the greatest profession—that of home making—should have to be carried on with such a great sacrifice of woman power.

It is up to the farmer to equip his home with water works, a lighting system, a first-class washing machine and all of the things which will not only increase the comforts of his home, but will lighten the burdens of his wife who keeps up his home. He owes this to his wife just as he owes to his country courage and obedience to the law.—A. N.

### The Salary Plan Fault

Under the salary system the county officials are required to collect the customary fees and commissions and to turn these over to the county treasurer to be placed in a fund out of which courthouse salaries are paid. The temptation is to neglect to collect these fees and commissions, since they do not go into the private pockets of office holders as under the fee plan; and the result in our salary counties is that the salary fund steadily dwindles until it is soon too small to pay the courthouse salaries. This has been true in every one of our salary counties, with only a few exceptions. Salaried officials fail to do their full duty, nobody knows in detail what their failures are, and the general public only knows that the last estate of the county is worse than the first. Or so it is in most salary counties.

Practically everywhere courthouse bookkeeping is on the old cash-book plan; there is no effective supervision of county office finances, no state-wide auditing of courthouse accounts, as easily there might be—as, for instance, after the plan of state-wide auditing of state banks by the bank examiners of the State Banking Commission.

### A State Auditing Bureau

What we ought to have is a state auditing bureau with competent field agents, auditing state department accounts, county accounts, municipal accounts, and institutional accounts. All agencies that handle public money in North Carolina ought to be under systematic oversight and auditing. And this state auditing bureau ought to devise simple forms for public accounting, balance sheets, and financial reports; so that one city can be contrasted with every other city in unit expenditures for public purposes, one county with every other county, one institution with every other institution.

At present there is no way of judging how well or ill any set of public officials is handling public moneys.

Such public accounting ought to be developed as a bureau in the office of the state auditor, and the state auditor ought to be everything that his official title implies.

We are discussing many things in this legislature, but a few abc things like these are fundamentally important, and these fundamental things ought not to be overlooked.

### Durham Can Do It

Hon. Baxter Durham, our state auditor, is fully and competently advised of the necessity and the manner of state-wide auditing systems. He can easily present to the legislature a satisfactory bill, and doubtless would do so if called upon, as he ought to be during the

present session of the legislature.

The above suggestions grow out of the Franklin county reports giving detailed figures of the salary fund in Franklin county. See The Franklin Times of February 4.

So far as we know, there are only five other counties of the state that give county taxpayers an exhibit of this sort—Forsyth, Guilford, Wake, New Hanover, and Robeson. There may be others; if so, we should like to know about them. People who are interested in county finance—and every intelligent voter ought to be so interested—would do well to look at the Franklin county report. What the voters of every county should know about the home county the Franklin taxpayers have a chance to know about Franklin.

We congratulate Messrs. A. J. Joyner and C. C. Hudson, the finance committee of the Franklin county commissioners.

### THE NERVE OF BALTIMORE

In the early forties there were two little villages on the shores of the Chesapeake. One was a little fishing village at Hampton Roads, with a fair chance to become the greatest city on the Atlantic seaboard this side of New York city. The other was a little flour-mill center on the banks of the Patapsco, far up the bay.

These little villages were Norfolk and Baltimore.

When Baltimore voted a tax of \$3.75 a hundred for town purposes, Norfolk said, "Baltimore is headed into bankruptcy. Baltimore is committing deliberate suicide. No town can pay a tax rate like that and survive."

And the result—well, the result is a little city of a hundred twelve thousand people on the one hand, and a big city of seven hundred thousand people on the other. Norfolk, with a low tax rate, had missed a God-given chance of being a great city. Baltimore, with a high tax rate, created a chance of her own.

Prosperity is always expensive. The least expensive civilization we know is that of Dahomey, where nobody pays any taxes and where nobody wears any clothes to speak of.

So reads the lesson. Here are questions that ought to be uppermost in the mind of intelligent people: Do great public necessities call for tax levies and bond issues? Are they a wise investment in community or commonwealth progress and prosperity? Is the ability of the people, in this or the next generation, equal to the tax burden? Will the funds be honestly and competently administered—will every dollar of taxes yield a full dollar's worth of public benefit?

All these questions are important but the most important is the last, now that we have begun to invest millions in state enterprises.