

The news in this publication is released for the press on receipt.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA NEWS LETTER

Published Weekly by the University of North Carolina for its University Extension Division.

AUGUST 24, 1921

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

VOL. VII, NO. 40

Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, J. B. Bullitt, H. W. Odum. Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1914, at the Postoffice at Chapel Hill, N. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The prospect for continued increasingly effective work in the North Carolina Department of Public Welfare is very gratifying to North Carolinians everywhere. The election of Mrs. Clarence Johnson as State Commissioner has met with unusual cordiality and has elicited unusual offers of cooperation. A few of the editorial comments will indicate the tone of commendation and support in evidence throughout the state.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON

In electing a successor of R. F. Beasley as North Carolina commissioner of public welfare, the board of public welfare had before it strong recommendation of Mrs. Clarence Johnson from Governor Morrison, the state department of education, the state health department, and the North Carolina federation of women's clubs.

It had before it the facts, facts of its own knowledge, that Mrs. Johnson has the necessary training and experience, acquired in the department's work; that of several men in the state known to possess the necessary qualifications, none was available. Otherwise, a man no doubt would have been appointed.

It is an appointment made by the board on its deliberate judgment on the sole ground of ability, as demonstrated. It cannot be guaranteed that any appointment to public office will be a success; but it is such considerations that ought always to govern in selections. The thanks and appreciations of the people of the state are therefore due the board.

The selection of Dr. Howard W. Odum, head of the school of public welfare at the University, as consulting expert of the board, is regarded as no less satisfactory, and for the same reason—the board has had full opportunity to judge his work.

All concerned have every reason to believe that this great welfare agency has been entrusted to the proper hands, and that its administration will be an abounding success.—Greensboro News.

SHOULD HELP MRS. JOHNSON

The selection of Mrs. Clarence Johnson as head of the State Welfare Work has been warmly and universally commended. Mr. Beasley organized this field of improvement along high lines and Mrs. Johnson comes to it with experience as an associate worker with Mr. Beasley. She will do her part to extend and improve the organization and inspire healthy interest. But it is a department that depends for the best results upon the largest cooperation of the men and women in the state. Charity and Children, with a word of appreciation of Mr. Beasley's work and high commendation of Mrs. Johnson, wisely calls upon the people to rally to the service in order that the full blessings may be felt. That paper says:

It takes time and patience and unflagging energy and persistence to put a state-wide movement like this on its feet; but it can be done, and there is every prospect that it will serve the state in a great way. In the meantime, it deserves the moral support and sympathy of every good citizen. We must all get behind Mrs. Johnson and her co-workers, and push with all our might and main. There will be a few croakers here and there to hinder the movement, but there are thousands more of us than of them, and if we all do our bit in the way of talking it up, the Welfare Work of North Carolina will soon stand alongside that of any state in the Union.—Raleigh News and Observer.

STATE AGENCIES THAT RANK WITH THE BEST

Dr. Hart, of the Russell Sage Foundation, tells Commissioner of Public Welfare Johnson that for North Carolina to fail in her public welfare work would be a national calamity, on account of the influence we have had on the development of such work in other states. It is a tremendous compliment, an amazing compliment. The most difficult and perplexing social service work in the world has admittedly been social service in the country; but North Carolina, 71 per cent rural, if she cannot be said to have solved the problem, has attacked it

with such vigor and such initial success as to inspire and encourage all the other rural states. No wonder Mrs. Johnson treasures Dr. Hart's remark and passes it on to the state.

Always bearing in mind the wide diversity that exists between the problems, as well as the resources, of rural and urban states, and the impossibility of comparing the agencies of a predominantly urban state with one predominantly rural, North Carolinians may nevertheless take pride in having two state agencies that are the best of their class in the Union. We refer to the state board of health and the department of public welfare. It does not follow that North Carolinians are better served in those respects, for in such a state as New York, for example, the work done by various municipal boards quite overshadows that done by the state agencies. But down here we must necessarily depend upon the state, for we have no cities comparable with those of the urban states. And we may certainly take pride in the fact that, in our class, our agencies are unquestionably the best.

Furthermore, we have another department that is rapidly fighting its way to the front. That is the state department of education. It still has a long way to go before it can be classed as among the best in the Union, even among the rural states, first, because other states have been engaged in the development of public education for generations, whereas both public health and public welfare are comparatively recent developments of governmental policy; and, second, because education is, and has always been, expensive, and North Carolina's wealth is of recent acquisition. In public health and public welfare we started almost abreast of the other states; but in public education most of them had, and maintain to this day, a long lead.

Nevertheless that lead is being overcome—not as fast as it will be during the next ten years, but for all that, it is being steadily overcome. We have a superintendent of public instruction gifted with energy, determination and—rarest of all—a perfectly desperate courage, politically. Brooks has boldly attacked the problem of certification of teachers, and, regardless of the yells of the incompetent and the timorous, has brought some sort of order out of chaos. He has likewise put through a standardization of teachers' salaries that grows more amazing in retrospect. Appearances indicate that if he is given half-way decent support he will yet raise the teaching profession in this state to a level comparable with the trade of a brickmason, say, or a plumber. Therefore, while the North Carolina department of education is as yet far from being among the best-developed in the Union, we do not believe that many will surpass it in its present rate of progress; so it is only a question of maintaining that rate.

After all, is not the matter for greatest pride less the fact that North Carolina excels, than the fact that she excels in these particulars? It would be a "talking point" if we had the strongest department of banking, or the best-organized state police, or the most active state board of trade; but it seems to us a greater thing to excel in what may be termed the modern humanities. Public health, the care of the underprivileged child, public education—these things appertain to the production of men. And the production of men is far more to be desired than the production of wealth, as the object of a state's policy.—Greensboro News.

PROFITS AND SERVICE

When a half dozen managers of industry publicly profess their faith in the necessity of more reliance on moral ideals, and democracy in industry, there must be hope for the proper settlement

TOWN-COUNTY CONFERENCE

Chapel Hill, Sept. 19, 20, 21, 1921

The University, the National Municipal League, the North Carolina Municipal Association, the North Carolina Commercial Secretaries, and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners all interested.

Interest in the special conference on town and county administration announced last week is increasing. There will be many special features to be announced shortly, but the following will serve as a supplement to last week's announcement:

The Conference will be divided into five general sections: Government; Finance; Social and Economic Problems; Town and Country Planning; The County. Dr. Branson will be in charge of the county section; Dean Carroll in charge of the section on Finance; and other chairmen will be appointed for the other sections.

The majority of the speakers will be from North Carolina; the special list is withheld until all names have been added. It may be said, however, that Governor Morrison is being asked to open the Conference with an address on the meaning of active citizenship in North Carolina at this time.

Specialists of National standing will speak on finance, government, town planning, county administration, and other topics. There will be exhibits of town plans and town work. Special problems of the town will interest women voters who will be represented at the conference.

Delegates will be provided for in the University dormitories. Arrangements will be made for both men and women to attend and to look over the new plans and work of the University as well. The middle of September is a good time to visit Chapel Hill.

The growing interest in the social problems and government of small towns and counties, together with the financial tension of towns in this and other states, will make this conference most timely. It is believed that very definite contributions can be made to the working welfare of our towns and counties.

Those who are interested primarily in the National Municipal League will write to Mr. H. W. Dodds, 261 Broadway, New York; those interested primarily in the North Carolina Municipal Association will write to Mayor Roberts of Asheville; those who are interested in the county commissioners and their work will write to Mr. W. C. Jones at High Point; those who are interested primarily in commercial secretaries and their part will write to Secretary Roberts of Greensboro; and those who wish to consider the special problems of general civic interests may write to Mrs. Sidney Cooper, Henderson. For general inquiries as to details at the University, inquiries may be sent to Dr. Howard W. Odum at Chapel Hill.

of this generation's economic problems. On Saturday at Blue Ridge John Leitch's address on industrial democracy was followed by declarations from Southern cotton mill men that surely foreshadow the coming of a new era in the relations between the forces that produce the country's wealth.

"The end of business is not profit, but is human welfare", said R. E. Geer of Greenville. "If profit is placed above service, your business is placed on a plane on which it will never succeed."

This is not to say that business can be run without profit; Mr. Geer knows too much about the practical side of the question to make such a declaration. But has he not laid down the only proposition on which the workers and the owners can ever come together on permanent basis of cooperation? The end of business is not profit, either in the form of wages or of returns to capital; it is service. When that lesson is learned industry will have started on a new period.—Asheville Citizen.

The democratic problem in education is not primarily a problem of training children; it is the problem of making a community in which children cannot help growing up to be democratic, intelligent, disciplined to freedom, reverent of the goods of life, and eager to share in the task of the age.—Joseph K. Hart.

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WELFARE Chapel Hill, July 11-22, 1921

GENERAL REPORT

(Continued from preceding issue.)

To the present time in the matter of record keeping the State Department has proposed standard forms for family case work, juvenile court work, various inspection cards, and a day sheet, with others to be prepared as needed by the County Superintendents and by the State Department. In the matter of reports, the State Department has prepared, with care, a standard monthly report blank which is provided to each County Superintendent with the request for its prompt transmittal. Details for making records and reports more helpful were discussed in a number of round-table conferences, and all superintendents are urged to call upon the State Department for further information, instruction, or visits from the field representative.

Among the most interesting discussions of the institutes were those relating to county homes, or other means of providing for the county's indigent poor and various other dependents and defectives. Perhaps the most important question raised was that by Secretary Williams, of South Carolina, that district hospitals would come nearer meeting the actual needs than almshouses. These he maintained could be provided at approximately the same cost and would render a much more specific service. The Superintendents thought well of the suggestion to study the inmates of the county homes with reference to their needs for medical treatment, and to take up for further discussion the question of district cooperation. A second point of emphasis in the discussion of county homes was the suggestion that each County Superintendent attempt to fix for his county a minimum standard, or norm, of service. This should include common-sense judgments conforming to normal standards of health and happiness.

The Superintendents agreed that the problems of outdoor relief, or the pauper list, with its varied intricacies, constitute one of the most difficult and unsolved aspects of all the work. Some counties are spending thousands of dollars a year to render services harmful and not helpful. No board of county commissioners and no group of county voters will approve of such waste of moneys and energies. The county superintendents will find in this field one of the best opportunities to carry on the best standard of public welfare. The general agreement was that more special attention should be given to this problem and that complete records of all cases be kept. Following this they should seek the cooperation of other community agencies. Of special value will be the program of social service of the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

The county superintendents recognize the inadequacy of all their work with juvenile delinquency until more detention and boarding homes can be provided. They recognize a similar need in the matter of state institutions for delinquent youth. They, therefore, urge upon themselves and their co-workers every effort to remedy these deficiencies.

The importance of educational means to interpret and make more popular the juvenile court law was recognized. Superintendents are urged to report special instances where it has rendered unusual service, and special difficulties involved.

County Superintendents are urged to make special studies of the economic value to the county and people of all public welfare work done. This includes the actual direct cost to the state for poor relief and other costs direct or indirect due to ignorance, crime, vice, thriftlessness, or sickness.

County Superintendents recognize the importance and value of cooperating with other agencies in the community and of receiving in return similar assistance. They recommend appropriate participation in community councils or other central clearing groups.

The Superintendents express their belief that the Association of North Carolina County Superintendents of Public Welfare should constitute a valuable medium for mutual benefits and for

the promotion of public welfare in the state. They, therefore, urge a cordial support of this association in its attempt to work out a better organization.

Cordial cooperation with the State Department of Public Welfare is urged. The committee on resolutions, composed of L. H. Ranson, S. E. Leonard, and C. E. Heffner, reported the following resolutions which were unanimously accepted:

Whereas Mrs. Clarence A. Johnson has been recently appointed Commissioner of Public Welfare of the State, be it resolved as follows:

1. We record with pleasure our appreciation of the opportunity to cooperate with the new Commissioner of Public Welfare in the promotion of public welfare and cheerfully assure Mrs. Johnson of our support in the successful execution of the North Carolina plan.

2. We rejoice in the fine spirit of enthusiasm and commendation with which Mrs. Johnson's election has been received throughout the state and concur in the general opinion that the State Department of Public Welfare is now entering upon an unusually auspicious era of good work.

3. We have learned with pleasure of the progressive steps recently taken in many counties in stabilizing and promoting their county programs of public welfare and in the election and re-election of superintendents. We join them in best wishes and in confidence that they will continue to develop the human wealth of North Carolina.

Whereas, the University and School of Public Welfare have been of great assistance to the welfare superintendents in their special conference July 12th to 25th, be it resolved as follows:

1. That the Superintendents of Public Welfare offer their thanks for and their appreciation of the splendid assistance and cooperation rendered by the University and School.

2. That we approve the action of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare in appointing Dr. Odum Consulting Expert to the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

3. That the conference approves and commends the establishment by the University of the School of Public Welfare for the purpose of promoting and standardizing welfare work in the state.

Special Problems and Methods

In the discussions of special problems and methods of work, whether in child welfare, poor relief, compulsory attendance, or whatever aspects of the work, the superintendents and representatives present set themselves to the task of the highest standards of work commensurate with facilities and opportunities. Furthermore, they agreed that their continued growth and development in attaining better methods of work, and more knowledge of problems, constituted an outlook at once offering pleasurable and profitable experience.

In the matter of institutional care of children, however, some specific conclusions should be mentioned. They agreed that it is important to have follow-up investigations of children placed out, as well as intake investigations of children to be received. They urged the importance of cooperation with churches, with private and voluntary and state agencies and institutions. They emphasized the importance of increasing North Carolina facilities for child placing, of careful and proper classification of children, of the importance of finding all dependents, delinquents, and defectives; the importance of a psychiatrist to help work out common problems, and the importance of vocational education and guidance. These and other problems constitute the basis for present achievements and future planning.

The Commissioner of Public Welfare was able to announce an arrangement with the University whereby an eminent psychologist and psychiatrist will be secured, beginning in October of this year. His program will be announced, and a cordial invitation is extended to all officials and others interested in public welfare to utilize this opportunity for cooperation with the State Department.

Perhaps the spirit of the whole conference was epitomized in Dr. E. C. Brooks's interpretation of the spirit of work to be done by the County Superintendents in relation, for instance, to the compulsory attendance law. How much greater is the work of developing the spirit of the law; of developing the spirit of cooperation in the individual; of developing the community spirit; of developing and leading the individual and the family into the realm of wanting to do the right things, rather than merely to enforce the law! How much more promising to conserve the public good, through the cooperation of the home and family, the school and education, the state and government, work and industry, and the community than the mere task of compelling a minimum legal enforcement or of remedying a few broken lives which should have been saved long since by constructive public welfare!