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TOWN AND COUNTRY TENANCY

WHY JOHN SMITH, TENANT?

The fundamental causes of home and farm tenancy, under the handicap of which, fifty-seven million town and country dwellers in the United States are now laboring, were exhibited Monday evening at a meeting of the North Carolina Club of the University, in a report by C. R. Edney, of Mars Hill, who has been making a special study of this particular phase of the general subject.

This report came as a sequel to the various studies made last fall by the Club on the extent of tenancy, in which it was found that the large and steadily increasing masses of landless, homeless people in the state and the nation create a problem that calls for solution, the safety of civilization considered. The remainder of the year will be devoted (1) to the effects of tenancy, and (2) to the proposed methods of stimulating and aiding home and farm ownership.

After introductory remarks showing the evil effects of tenancy and the importance of solving the problem, Mr. Edney outlined the four main causes of tenancy, as follows:

1. Heredity—mainly the poverty, illiteracy, insanitary living, ill health, and hopelessness into which the tenant masses are born.

2. Personal deficiencies—mainly a lack of the home-owning virtues, namely industry, thrift, sagacity, sobriety, and integrity.

3. Enveloping social-economic conditions that make it more and more difficult to buy and pay for farms and city homes—say, (1) under the crop-lien, time-price, supply-merchant system of farm tenancy areas, or (2) under the rack-renting that prevails in town and city centers.

4. Civic conditions—mainly in (1) the laws of western civilization defining private property ownership, and in (2) the prevailing system of taxing land values.

Any plan or scheme or law aimed at promoting home and farm ownership must take all these causes into consideration. All of them are human nature causes, individual and social; that is to say, they inhere in the very nature of human nature.

Speaking of these causes, Mr. Edney said in part:

"Heredity goes a long way toward explaining John Smith, Tenant. The average tenant is not only afflicted by one or more of the above mentioned personal causes, but he is usually a victim of the conditions bequeathed him by his progenitors. In other words, heredity is a factor in determining whether a man will be homeless, landless, poverty-stricken, unambitious, and hopeless, or a sturdy, robust, property-owning citizen.

"A second explanation of town and country tenancy lies in a common lack of the home-owning virtues. These are industry, thrift, sagacity, sobriety, and integrity. Not one alone but all these are necessary to the firm possession of landed property."

Social Poverty

"The social-economic causes that create tenancy in country areas are sparsity of population, life in solitary farmsteads, a few to the square mile, barren social life, poor roads, poor schools, few churches, the absence of farm communities, of community spirit, and of cooperative farm enterprise. Under social conditions of this sort a large number of country people become discontented and move out, to take a chance as tenants in more progressive farm communities, or to become wage-earners in factory centers, or to swell the population of cities. It is obvious that under such conditions tenancy would be more profitable in many respects in a good community than farm ownership in a dead or dying country area—as, for instance, in thirty-four counties and three hundred and two country townships in North Carolina.

"And furthermore, 'once a tenant, always a tenant' is becoming more and more true, because of the share-rent, crop-lien, supply-merchant, time-price system under which the farm ten-

ants of the South live and by which they are destroyed."

While the purpose of Mr. Edney's study was merely to outline the causes of tenancy, he does not stop without suggesting the remedies which have already been tried out in other countries, namely, a progressive land tax, a transfer tax, a death tax that fairly divide the unearned increment with the community, and the state-aid laws promoting home and farm ownership on the colony plan, as in Australia, and California.

Mr. Edney's paper appears in full as a chapter in the Club Year-Book, 1921-22.—J. G. Gullick, Jr.

LIBERAL CULTURE

No man, in my judgment, is liberally trained unless his intellectual habits and his cultural possessions are vitalized and in some way related to the various spiritual, economic, and social activities of mankind.—Edwin A. Alderman, President of University of Virginia, in The World's Work.

WELFARE OFFICIALS MEET

An important new organization is that of the Southern Executive Officers of State Departments of Public Welfare. This organization has just been effected in Atlanta, with Mrs. Clarence A. Johnson, Commissioner of Public Welfare in North Carolina, and Mr. Roy M. Brown, Field Agent, present and taking a prominent part.

Of additional importance to North Carolinians was the request of this association that the University of North Carolina publish through its School of Public Welfare a bulletin giving the brief history and organization of departments in the Southern states. The story will be prepared by officials in each state, compiled by Mr. Burr Blackburn of Georgia and published by the University of North Carolina for service in the Southern states, the departments of which will take sufficient copies to finance the venture. Mr. G. Groff Williams, Secretary of the South Carolina State Board of Public Welfare, was elected President of this association.

THE CAROLINA HANDBOOK

The distribution of the Handbook of North Carolina Social Laws and Agencies which was prepared two years ago by the American Red Cross has been taken over by the School of Public Welfare of the University of North Carolina.

The University will keep this Handbook revised up to date including new amendments which are the results of each succeeding legislature. Copies may be had by social workers, educators and others interested by writing to the School of Public Welfare, Chapel Hill, N. C.

THE RURAL PLAYGROUND

The University Extension Division has just issued a new bulletin on The Rural Playground, prepared by Professor Harold D. Meyer of the School of Public Welfare. The purposes of this bulletin are: "To create more enthusiasm and a more constructive interest in play; to give those interested practical suggestions and facts to further such interest in others; to start the play movement by giving a few general games and pointing the way to obtain further material of real worth; to create a finer citizenship through one of the best agencies of proper training, namely, Play; to extend the full services of the Extension Department and the School of Public Welfare in the development of the play movement in North Carolina."

The bulletin includes some discussions of play as a social force, emphasizing the physical, mental, moral, social, and preventive values. It gives a score or more of general suggestions about the methods and ideals of play; discusses the playground and equipment; and lists fifty or more games which may be utilized in any country school. One of the most valuable parts of the bulletin is

(Released for week beginning January 30.)

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA Morrison's Program

Make the state's charitable institutions adequate for the treatment and care of the state's unfortunates.

Increase the strength and power of the department of health for caring for the physical welfare of the people.

Increase the common and high schools and equip them better for educating the children of the state.

Prepare the higher institutions of learning for properly receiving the ever-increasing number of graduates turned out by the high schools.

Establish a state highway system and make the main highway of the state dependable every day in the year, the state forcing the construction of highways, eliminating the piece-meal system and going forward with as much rapidity and vigor as "strength and sound business will permit."

He who defiles the law, either by stealth or overgrown power, will be made to suffer for his selfish contempt of decency and right.

These are the high spots, so to speak, in the governor's inaugural address in January 1921, touching upon the more significant progressive measures that he advocated and for which he has successfully fought every day he has been in office.—Greensboro News.

the list of reading references, with brief descriptions of the services they offer.

Professor Meyer is available for communities that wish to undertake organized play. Further information and bulletins may be received free of cost by addressing the University Extension Division.

THE ALTAR OF IGNORANCE

Fifty per cent of the loss and suffering caused by insanity is preventable. The statement comes from the National Committee on Mental Hygiene. Think what it means! It means that the population of the insane asylums of North Carolina could be cut in half. It means that thousands of our citizens have been, and are being, sacrificed under the most exquisite torture known to man, to popular ignorance. It means that out of every two persons lying behind the walls of imprisonment for insanity one could be leading a useful life, rearing a family, adding to the wealth and progress of the community. Mothers and fathers, young men and young women, are offered up in crowds on the altar of ignorance to a life worse than death. And fifty percent of these tragedies need never happen!

They will cease to be enacted when the public is educated into as much knowledge of nervous mental diseases as it now has of ordinary physical ailments. We are still putting on campaigns in every state in the Union to teach people the incipient stages of tuberculosis and other diseases so that these destroyers of health may be recognized and treated in time to stamp them out without much trouble. There should be at once a similar campaign, nation-wide, on the subject of preventable and curable nervous mental diseases.

We carry about with us today too much of the middle-ages superstition about mental sickness. We are inclined to regard all forms of it as incurable. We are afraid of it, and ashamed of it. We feel that way about it because we are ignorant of it. Let us all understand that mental disease can be treated like other diseases, let us learn the first manifestations of it in ourselves and in others, and we shall enter upon a more enlightened era.

Physicians, the general practitioners, are studying this branch of their science now more than ever. They must pass on their information to the laity. This is a thing in which the laity's help and

cooperation are absolutely necessary. Such cooperation will cut by one-half the number of those doomed to asylum lives.—James Hay, Jr., Asheville Citizen.

OUSTING THE DAWDLERS

Who ought to go to college? Before the war the answer was all-sufficient: Anyone who can pass the entrance examinations. But this democratic formula is no longer adequate to the needs of the committee on admission, with several applications in hand for every vacancy.

The colleges hold a strategic position in this regard that they never before enjoyed. And college presidents are taking advantage of the situation to clear their halls of triflers.

There is no room in Wesleyan for any man whose presence is not justified by clear purpose and faithful effort. No one is entitled to a college education who does not earn the right from day to day by strenuous and enthusiastic life; the college is for the ablest and the best, says President Shanklin of Wesleyan University.

There is no reason why a boy who comes to college should expect any easier time than a boy who goes to work in a factory or in an office. A college is a workshop, and if it is going to maintain its place in the esteem of a nation that has supported it with unstinted generosity we must see that the gospel of honest work is not only taught in the colleges but practiced by all of us who have anything to do with it, says President Richmond of Union College.

It is entirely possible to exclude the loafer and the man who is foul-minded, or foul-mouthed, the dull, the sleepy, and the aimless. This year is the time to eliminate all such and keep only those who are of high character and clean minds, says President Faunce of Brown University.

School sins are too well known to need discussion. The list includes lack of earnestness, lack of purpose and aim, small appetite for book learning or hard work, and scholarly ambition that rises no higher than "a gentleman's grade". For the most part, men have not acquired these as faults in college. The boy that enters a college that is fairly free of such blasting ideas will seldom develop these delinquencies unless personally infected before he enters, says Professor Allen of Lafayette College.—What the Colleges are Doing, Ginn and Co.

FOCH AND LEE

It is hardly to be wondered at that the greatest soldier of the twentieth century should take occasion to pay his tribute of admiration and affection to the memory of one of the really great commanders of modern times, a soldier whose military genius was equaled only by the purity of his

purpose and the splendor of his character.

Soldier-like, Marshal Foch employs few words in answering the anonymous "American Patriot" who had telegraphed him at a Virginia town that Robert E. Lee was "a traitor".

If General Robert E. Lee was a traitor, said the marshal of France, Napoleon Bonaparte was a coward. If General Lee was a traitor, I wish France had more of them. He was one of the greatest military leaders the world has ever known.

In winning the World War, Ferdinand Foch leaned heavily upon the shoulder of Robert E. Lee. It was "the sword of Lee" that flashed on every battlefield in France from the first Battle of the Marne to Armistice Day.

Lee's strategy, revived and employed first by Joffre and later by Foch, held the Hun along the French front, swift to attack, wary to retreat only to attack again, until at length the Hindenburg Line was pierced and the enemies of civilization sued for peace.

In this estimate of Lee, Marshal Foch takes his stand beside Viscount Wolsey of England, who declared that Lee was the greatest soldier given to the world since the days of Marlborough.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

THE DRIFT FROM THE FARM

It is rather shocking to be told, and to have the statement strongly supported, that 9,000,000 bales of cotton, raised on American plantations in a given year, will actually be worth more to the producers than 13,000,000 bales would have been. Equally shocking is the statement that 700,000,000 bushels of wheat, raised by American farmers, would bring them more money than a billion bushels. Yet these are not exaggerated statements. In a world where there are tens of millions who need food and clothing which they can not get, such a condition is sure to indict the social system which makes it possible.

In the main the remedy lies in distribution and marketing. Every proper encouragement should be given to the cooperative marketing programs.

There is the appeal for this experiment. Why not try? No one challenges the right of the farmer to a larger share of the consumer's pay for his product, no one disputes that we cannot live without the farmer.

The base of the pyramid of civilization which rests upon the soil is shrinking through the drift of population from farm to city. For a generation we have been expressing more or less concern about this tendency. Economists have warned and statesmen have deplored. We thought for a time that modern conveniences and the more intimate contact would halt the movement, but it has gone steadily on. Perhaps only grim necessity will correct it, but we ought to find a less drastic remedy.—President Harding, Message to Congress.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURES, 1919-20

States ranked according to per capita school expenditures. Figures for Arizona and South Carolina relate to the year 1918-19; those for Texas and Washington, to the year 1917-18.

In the United States in 1917-18, total public school expenditures were \$644,595,145, a per capita expenditure of \$6.10.

Based on public school statistics published in the American Book Company's School Calendar for 1922.

Department of Rural Social Science, University of North Carolina.			Rank State Per capita Total		
Rank	State	Per capita	Rank	State	Total
1	North Dakota	\$20.57	25	Washington	\$8.87 \$12,035,339
2	Utah	18.26	26	Oklahoma	8.73 17,715,234
3	Wyoming	17.90	27	Vermont	8.58 3,023,686
4	Montana	17.75	28	Missouri	8.24 28,048,051
5	Iowa	16.31	29	Maine	7.91 6,078,262
6	Idaho	14.37	30	Delaware	7.80 1,738,549
7	Oregon	14.32	31	Pennsylvania	7.43 64,828,088
8	Nevada	14.26	32	Rhode Island	6.90 4,172,349
9	South Dakota	13.63	33	New Mexico	6.56 2,362,630
9	Nebraska	13.63	34	West Virginia	6.25 9,147,489
11	Kansas	12.72	35	New Hampshire	6.09 2,639,834
12	Indiana	12.19	36	Florida	5.91 5,721,127
13	Minnesota	11.84	37	Maryland	5.65 8,196,441
14	Wisconsin	11.50	38	Louisiana	4.94 8,851,151
15	California	11.15	39	Tennessee	4.61 10,785,268
16	Colorado	10.45	40	Texas	4.50 20,962,695
17	Ohio	10.19	41	Alabama	4.48 10,530,500
18	Michigan	10.13	42	Virginia	4.47 10,323,600
19	Connecticut	9.81	43	Kentucky	3.99 9,650,418
20	New Jersey	9.78	44	Arkansas	3.85 6,750,000
21	Massachusetts	9.50	45	North Carolina	3.74 9,568,743
22	New York	9.01	46	Mississippi	3.53 6,314,555
23	Arizona	8.98	47	Georgia	3.46 10,025,954
24	Illinois	8.93	48	South Carolina	2.60 4,370,065