

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

NEWS LETTER

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OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

WRITES FROM EUROPE

In this issue of the News Letter appears the first of a series of brief articles by Prof. E. C. Branson, Kenan Professor of Rural Social Economics at the University, who is in Europe on a year's leave of absence studying at first-hand farm life conditions in several European countries, notably Germany, Denmark, Holland, France, and England. There will appear in each succeeding issue a short article from Prof. Branson giving his observations in these countries. Plans have been arranged for his letters to be published on the same date by the following papers: News and Observer, Charlotte Observer, Wilmington Dispatch, Twin-City Sentinel, Greensboro Daily News, and The Asheville Citizen. Each article will appear in the News Letter following date of release and the press is free to use all or any parts of this correspondence following its appearance in the above named papers.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

We dropped anchor at five o'clock yesterday afternoon at the mouth of the Elbe, and for ten tedious hours waited for the flood of the tide. The Saxonia draws twenty-eight feet of water and boats of this draft can get over the bar and into the river channel only at full tide. The largest boats must load their freight and passengers at Cuxhaven, and get them into Hamburg sixty miles by rail.

At three o'clock this morning the engines started again, and we began to creep at a snail's pace over the bar and along the narrow, tortuous channel to Hamburg, fifty miles up stream. Fifty miles is about the distance from Durham to Greensboro. In the open stretches of the river we made good time, but around the bends we went so slowly that we scarcely seemed to move. At the journey's end, it took six snorting little tugs, three fore and three aft, to edge our boat out of the river channel and safely into the slip at Hamburg.

Hamburg's Hard Task

I had forgotten, if I ever knew, what difficulties Hamburg has had to conquer in order to become the greatest export shipping center of continental Europe. Natural advantages alone considered, Wilmington has Hamburg beat a thousand miles, as the boys say. But for a thousand years or more Hamburg has been dredging and protecting her channel into the open sea, and excavating the slips and quays that now spread out like the fingers of a monster hand into thousands of acres of water surface.

Making a Seaport

It takes time and money—sometimes many years and many millions of money—to make a riverside town a seaport harbor, as for instance New Orleans on the Mississippi, Liverpool on the Mersey, or London on the Thames. Also it takes the pressure of business in exportable surpluses and the demand for imported goods in a populous back-country.

When these conditions developed in Southern California, Los Angeles bonded herself \$40 per inhabitant, built her own harbor twelve miles away on the sea front, erected her own warehouses and docking facilities, made them free to the shipping of all the world, laid down railways into the city freight yards, and then announced herself ready for ocean trade in competition with San Diego on the south and San Francisco on the north. The investment paid instantaneous dividends, both for private business and for municipal expansion. During the following ten years Los Angeles doubled her population and quadrupled her taxable wealth. Suddenly she is larger than San Francisco and many times larger than San Diego, with nothing more to fear from either.

When the rapidly developing prosperity of North Carolina creates similar business conditions and necessities, then the state must have her own accessible, well equipped port, first for coastwise shipping and then for trade and travel on the high seas—most likely at Wilmington. And the chances

are that Wilmington must herself take the initiative, even as New Orleans, and Los Angeles did. Manifest dividends invite capital and create courage everywhere.

Riverside Pictures

Since four o'clock this morning, I have been on deck looking into business and life on both sides of the Elbe—into the farm life on the level south side, and into the private estates, summer residences, hotel properties and manufacturing plants that lie along the fifty miles of river bluff on the north side. It is daybreak around four o'clock and at this early hour the river is alive with fishermen. A little later the ferry boats are crowded with workmen crossing to their daily tasks in the ship yards, machine shops, warehouses, and docks in South Hamburg. Evidently the struggle for existence begins early in the day in Germany. From Cuxhaven to Hamburg the landscape is beautiful as a picture—on the south the tile roofs and the church steeples of the farm villages in clumps of shade trees, the fields set in grass and grain crops down to the water's edge all the way along, no weeds and no uncultivated inch of soil anywhere in sight, small herds of Holstein cattle on almost every farm; on the north side the estates of the rich, attractive villas on the emineces, stone walls, driveways, boat houses, yachts and motor launches along the water front, trees and shrubbery in prim array, the grass clean-cut as though freshly shaved with a safety razor, here and there a summer hotel, and so on and on for the fifty miles to Hamburg.

Self-Respecting Workmen

Leaning over the taffrail before the gangway is in place to land us on the dock, I notice that the stevedores are none too portly but that they are better dressed than I am accustomed to see on the New York wharves, that their hats and shoes are in uniformly good condition, and what is more that every man's shoes are freshly polished. Shoes may be expensive in Germany but I did not see a ragged or neglected pair all day long in Hamburg. I asked where the slums were—the poverty-stricken areas like our Lower Eastside in New York City. The answer was, There are none, and only the bare suggestion of such an area across the river in South Hamburg.

I get the distinct impression that German workmen are a decent self-respecting lot. They look it both in dress and manner. I search the faces of the crowds in the streets for signs of truculence and I search in vain. Everybody is busy, no loafers or bums are on the benches of public squares, everybody is good-humored, and everybody is courteous. All day long we have had lessons in politeness. It is a lesson that America sadly needs to learn. Nobody is in a hurry, and nobody is gruff or rough. I am told that we will find it so all over Germany.

Hamburg is a beautiful city, and clean almost beyond belief. Even the docks and freight yards are swept and garnished like a Dutch Kitchen. And a busy city, unmistakably so—busy with the business of all Europe, for all Europe is Hamburg's back-yard for business.

Tomorrow morning we start on an all-day trip to Stuttgart, in Wurtemberg, South Germany. Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Baden are probably the most fertile and the most prosperous farm regions in all Germany. During the next six weeks I shall be busy in these three states studying the country-end of German civilization.

A National Calamity

Already I am sensing the unspeakable national calamity of a disordered currency, the swift changes in the value of the mark from day to day and almost from hour to hour, the vast volumes of money everywhere in evidence and its pitiful purchasing power. A mark which used to be about a quarter in our money will not today buy anything more than a single cambric needle. But the quintessence of the trouble lies in the fact that nobody knows what it will buy tomorrow. No matter what other troubles Germany

KNOW NORTH CAROLINA

Promoting Education

The State Government at Raleigh has apportioned the sum of \$1,163,939.52 among various counties in the state in the nature of an equalization fund, the purpose being to bring the more backward counties forward. There yet remains a fund of over \$50,000 which is to have distribution later. The incident gives token of educational advancement in rural North Carolina, the progress in system being further indicated in one item of \$20,000 for transportation of pupils to and from the school houses in motor busses. The consolidated school and the transportation service is giving the children of the rural districts about the same advantages as are enjoyed by children in the towns. Politics play no part in the distribution of this money. It is noted that some of the largest Republican counties in the state have been given the larger apportionment, as, for instance, the county of Wilkes, which draws over \$75,000. All counties, regardless of politics, share alike in the blessings of a home Democratic Government. — Charlotte Observer.

may have, this devil's dance of the mark is the worst.

Our forefathers in the South suffered the agonies of a depreciating currency in the days of the War Between the States. The common name of Confederate bills soon came to be "shin-plasters," and after Appomattox they ceased to have any use or value whatsoever. The instability of the mark is the essential problem of Germany today, and so far I have found no German who entertains any hope of better German money. When it ceases to have any value whatsoever then will come the crash in Germany.

And this is the outlook despite the unimpaired productive power of her fields and factories. It took Germany more than a hundred years to recover from the effects of The Thirty Years War. With her capital wealth consumed by the recent war, the most costly war in all history, it will take long centuries for her to recover the treasures accumulated in a thousand years of history. Fluid capital, honest money, redeemable at its face value in gold, and business credit at home and abroad—these are the priceless jewels Germany has lost, and he would be a stupid observer who could not look beyond the charming outward surface of things in this beautiful land into the bewildered, benumbed soul of a people who toil on in dumb despair.

A Suicidal War

And what is true of Germany is measurably true of every other country of Europe. The simple truth is that Europe has barely escaped suicide. The next war will mark the passing of Europe from the page of history. I can well believe that Lloyd George was right when he said, If this war is not the last then the next will be the end of Europe.—E. C. Branson, Hamburg, April 18.

TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE

The new bulletin of Agricultural Graphics for North Carolina and the United States, 1866 to 1922, by Miss Henrietta R. Smedes of the department of Rural Social-Economics at the State University, of which advance notice was given some time ago, will be coming from the press at an early date. It will be sent promptly on issue to all who have already asked for it, therefore requests already forwarded should not be duplicated. Others who desire copies should apply at once, as the edition is small.

It is the design of this bulletin to give adequate graphic treatment to some important phases of our agricultural situation, and to the extent that this effort is successful it should be not only of special value just now, in a time of agricultural and industrial

changes and adjustments, but also of enduring value as a historical record.

Agricultural Graphics is based on government statistics, which it presents in readily intelligible form. It consists of (1) a brief narrative of interpretation, (2) tables in detail, and (3) graphs for each crop and each class of farm animals included.

It will go free of charge to all North Carolinians who want it and ask for it. Application should be made to C. D. Snell, Director of the University Extension Division, Chapel Hill, N. C.

MEDICAL EXTENSION

What is termed the largest single extension teaching project in the United States was launched by the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina on June 18. Over 350 physicians began a twelve weeks' post graduate course given in eighteen cities distributed throughout North Carolina.

Three courses will be given in Internal Medicine this summer on three circuits of six towns each, beginning July 16. On another circuit composed of Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury, Concord, and Charlotte, a course will be given by Dr. B. T. Terry, of Vanderbilt Medical School, on the subject of General Pathology. The plan this summer calls for a lecture and a clinic a week in each of twenty-four cities, which will be attended by groups of physicians numbering from fifteen to thirty.

What is called the Mountain Circuit has as instructor Dr. Frank A. Chapman of Rush Medical College, Chicago. Meetings are being held in Waynesville, Asheville, Rutherfordton, Morganton, Hickory, and Statesville.

Dr. F. Denette Adams of Washington, D. C., is the instructor for the Sand Hill circuit. Meetings are being held in Raleigh, Sanford, Carthage, Hamlet, Lumberton, and Fayetteville.

Dr. C. Sidney Burwell of Johns Hopkins is in charge of the Tidewater circuit. The meeting places are New Bern, Washington, Williamston, Tarboro, Greenville, and Kinston.

This is the third summer of post graduate medical extension courses as given under the auspices of the Extension Division and Medical School of the State University. They are growing in popularity each year and already plans are being laid for a series of courses to be given during the summer of 1924.

IV—OUR ICE INDUSTRY

Science tells us that heat never goes

from a cold body to a hot one, but then it is possible to freeze water on a summer day when the temperature is ninety degrees in the shade. If you have ever spilled gasoline or ether on your hand, you will begin to realize how this is done. Such liquids in evaporating carry off with them so much heat that your hand is left decidedly cold. If such evaporation is permitted to take away the heat from water, the latter will eventually become frozen.

Ether and other low-boiling hydrocarbons are too expensive to be used in making ice, and so ammonia or sulfur dioxide is substituted for it. The ammonia, a gas under ordinary conditions, is not the aqua ammonia sold in drug stores, but it is the active ingredient of aqua ammonia. When ammonia gas is compressed into a liquid it heats up considerably, but this heated liquid is cooled with running water. Upon evaporating or upon releasing the pressure, the gas is as much colder than it was before it was compressed by the amount of heat taken out of the compressed gas by the water. Therefore water does its own freezing. The expanded ammonia is run through pipes which circulate through brine tanks. The water to be frozen is put in large cans and placed in the brine bath. By running sufficient water over the cooling pipes, enough heat is taken from the compressed gas so that when pressure is released it attains a temperature below the freezing point of water. After evaporation the ammonia gas goes back to the pumps which compress it all over again, making the process a continuous one. Sulfur dioxide is used in exactly the same way, producing ice which is advertised as ammonia free. Sometimes the gas pipes are run along the walls of a closely built room to effect a cold storage.

Growth in Business

The seasonal nature of ice manufacturing has been more than compensated by a general demand for the product. In thirty years the status of the industry has changed from a novelty to that of a standard necessity, satisfying the demands of nearly every home in the state. Between the years 1888 and 1900 seven ice plants started operation. In 1910 there were nine plants, in 1918, forty-one, and so the number has gradually increased until today there are fifty-five in operation, with a total capital stock of \$2,750,000, plant valuation of \$2,000,000, and an annual value of their products of \$2,500,000. Over a thousand men are employed in the process of making ice, receiving annually a limited payroll of \$610,000, due to the seasonal production of the commodity. So completely do these plants cover the state that there is hardly a country store in which the sign Ice Cold Drinks is not displayed.

Ice manufacturing represents a type of direct co-operation between producer and consumer seldom found in large business organizations. As such it is of immediate interest to everyone who is concerned with those industries which are devoted solely to the comfort and convenience of the people of the state.—Alfred Boyles, Division of Industrial Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of North Carolina.

FARM POPULATION RATIOS

In United States in 1920

Based on the 1920 Census of Agriculture, showing the ratio of the total population that lives on farms in each state.

The actual farm population of the United States was 31,614,269, or 29.9 percent of the total population. The states range from a farm population ratio of 2.5 percent in Rhode Island to 71 percent in Mississippi.

The actual farm population in North Carolina was 1,501,227, or 58.7 percent of the total population. Only four states had a larger farm population ratio: North Dakota, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Only four states had more farms and more farmers than North Carolina: Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Probably only Texas and Georgia have more farms in 1923. We rank fifth in farms, and fifth in crop production because we specialize on crops. A farm population of half a million in California produces more wealth than our farm population of a million and a half. California diversifies in production and cooperates in marketing.

S. H. Hobbs, Jr.

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Rank	State	Percent Total Pop. on Farms	Rank	State	Percent Total Pop. on Farms
1	Rhode Island	2.5	25	Wisconsin	35.0
2	Massachusetts	3.1	26	Vermont	35.5
3	New Jersey	4.6	27	Missouri	35.6
4	Connecticut	6.8	28	Minnesota	37.6
5	New York	7.7	29	Iowa	41.0
6	Pennsylvania	10.9	30	Montana	41.1
7	California	15.1	31	Kansas	41.7
8	Illinois	16.9	32	Louisiana	43.7
9	New Hampshire	17.2	33	New Mexico	44.8
10	Maryland	19.3	34	Nebraska	46.1
11	Ohio	19.8	35	Virginia	46.1
12	Nevada	20.9	36	Idaho	46.5
12	Washington	20.9	37	Texas	48.8
14	Delaware	23.0	38	Oklahoma	50.2
15	Michigan	23.1	39	Kentucky	54.0
16	Maine	25.7	40	Tennessee	54.4
17	Arizona	27.1	41	Alabama	56.9
18	Oregon	27.3	41	South Dakota	56.9
19	Colorado	28.3	43	Georgia	58.2
20	Florida	29.1	44	North Carolina	58.7
21	Indiana	31.0	45	North Dakota	61.0
22	Utah	31.2	46	South Carolina	63.8
23	West Virginia	32.7	47	Arkansas	65.5
24	Wyoming	34.6	48	Mississippi	71.0