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INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES

INCOME BY STATES

Elsewhere appears a table which serves excellently to show the relative position of the states relative to income. The states are ranked according to gross value of all farm products per farm dweller, mainly because three-fifths of North Carolina's population is agricultural. The rank of any state in gross current income per farm dweller or in gross current income per non-farm dweller may readily be obtained from the two additional columns included in the table.

Explanation

The table is based on Income in the Various States, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The data are for the year 1919. Similar data are available for the years 1920 and 1921, but it is felt that the year 1919 is the more representative of the three years.

By gross value of farm products per farm dweller is meant the total value of all farm products produced in the state divided by the farm population.

Gross current income per farm dweller means roughly the income received from farm products which entered the channels of commerce per farm dweller. For instance, corn may be consumed on the farm by mules and horses, say, and belongs to gross value produced, while receipts from sale of corn, or of cotton and tobacco, belong to gross current income.

Gross current income per non-farm dweller represents roughly the amount that the non-farmer groups have to spend or to save currently; in other words, the amount disbursed to them during the year in the form of actual money, commodities, or services on which a pecuniary value is ordinarily placed. Current income of non-farmers must not be confused with the value of industrial output, etc. It refers to wages of employees, salaries of professional classes, earnings from businesses, and so on and on.

How we Rank

In gross value of all farm products per farm dweller North Carolina ranked 39th in 1919, the amount being \$406. The rank may seem a bit low at first glance, mainly because we have so often been told of North Carolina's high rank in the total value of crops. Total and per unit values may be very different matters. Considering that our cultivated farms are the smallest in the United States, that we specialize on crops, and have only a small output of livestock values, and practically no agricultural industrial output, our rank is really very gratifying. We rank ahead of nine other Southern states.

In gross current income per farm dweller, that is roughly in the value of farm products which entered into commerce, North Carolina ranked 39th, the value being \$275. We ranked ahead of the same nine Southern states that fell below us in the gross value of farm products per farm dweller.

Non-Farm Group

In gross current income per non-farm dweller North Carolina ranked 46th, the amount being \$500. The states ranking below us were Alabama and Florida. However, it will be seen from studying the current non-farmer income column that in a good many states the current income was not much higher than in North Carolina. Fourteen states fall within the five hundred to six hundred dollar class.

Secondly, that the range in current income for non-farmers is not nearly so great as for farmers, the variation being from \$463 in Florida to \$928 in New York. The states vary in gross value of farm products per farm dweller from \$1,907 in Nevada to \$295 in Alabama. In current income per farm dweller the states vary from \$1,064 in Nevada to \$200 in Alabama.

Thirdly, that although the gross current income per non-farm dweller is only \$500 in North Carolina, the amount is nearly twice the gross current income of farmers, and nearly one hundred dollars above the gross value of all farm products per farm dweller.

All in all the table presents an excellent comparison of states relative to income. The facts have changed since 1919, but the relative position of North

Carolina probably remains about the same, possibly with some improvement. —S. H. H., Jr.

VALUE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Further evidence of North Carolina's low rank in the production of milk and butter is found in a recent publication of The National Bureau of Economic Research, based on the U. S. Census of 1920. The gross value of all milk and butter produced in the state in 1919 was \$18,999,000. This sum includes not only milk and butter sold, but the value of all milk and butter consumed on the farm.

North Carolina ranks second in number of farms but thirtieth in the value of milk and butter produced. We have about four and one-half percent of the nation's farms, but we produce only one percent of the milk and butter produced in the United States.

The total value of all milk and butter produced in the state in 1919 was less than the value of crops alone in one county.

In milk and butter production per farm North Carolina ranks last among the states.

The National Bureau of Economic Research says, "Of all the branches of agricultural enterprise, dairying is the most important stabilizing factor in the total income of farmers. The continuous demand for practically the entire farm supply and the perishable nature of the original product prevents the accumulation of large stocks and, hence, also the disastrous effects that usually accompany such accumulations. The prices of dairy products are, consequently, unusually uniform from year to year, and although phenomenal profits cannot, under such circumstances, be made, the farmer does not run the risk of sustaining great losses, as in the case of other agricultural products."

Only this week the writer was unable to get a glass of milk in the leading hotel located in the city that claims to be the state's leading tobacco market. That is the main reason.

RURAL CHURCH PROGRAM

At a recent meeting of the North Carolina Club Mr. F. S. Wilder, a graduate student, presented a paper on A Community Program for the Rural Church. The following is a brief of his paper.

From the community standpoint the church is an institution which ministers to a human need, man's desire to find his relation to the universe in which he lives and its meaning for him. The better it meets the human wants that it developed to fulfill, the more right it has to the support of those interested in the welfare of their neighbors. But if the church fails to help men live a better life in this world, the community may as well sidetrack it as a waiting room for people who are weary of this world's life and ready to leave it.

A Community Affair

Throughout history organized religion has generally been a community affair, and worship has meant the gathering of the community. The only exception to this has been Protestant Christianity, in which creed and church polity have been made paramount at the expense of community life. Creeds may be parroted, but real religious belief can never be universalized in a detailed creed, since it varies with individual experience. Therefore, the church, to again become a community affair, must place unity of purpose and the spirit of loving service above creed. Needless to say, the rural churches of North Carolina along with most rural churches do not measure up to this ideal of community service. Yet any rural church with a vision of its possibilities and the obligations of its position can make itself a community church in fact, and do a great deal to make Carolina country life the best on earth.

In many parts of the country denominational cooperation is doing much to prevent needless competition among rural churches. In one community having two churches, perhaps a Methodist and a Baptist, the church members will agree to go to the Methodist church; at the same time in another community similarly situated all will join the Baptist church, thus making it possible for

OUR FERTILIZER BILL

We wonder how many people are aware of the enormous sum of money this state spends each year on commercial fertilizer? Or how North Carolina ranks as a consumer of what commonly goes by the name of guano? The 1920 Census reports that the state's fertilizer bill for the year 1919 was \$48,797,000. This sum was exceeded by only one state, South Carolina, which put under her crops, mainly cotton, \$52,547,000 worth of fertilizer in 1919. The National Bureau of Economic Research, basing its findings on the American Fertilizer Handbook and the U. S. Census of Agriculture, reports that North Carolina's fertilizer bill for 1920 was \$64,179,000, while South Carolina's was \$65,958,000. In 1921 North Carolina ranked first in the value of fertilizer used, and probably has continued to hold first place since 1921.

The three states of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia consumed nearly half of all fertilizer used in the United States both in 1919 and in 1920, and approximately two-fifths of the total for 1921. North Carolina in 1919 bought 15 percent, or more than one-seventh, of all fertilizer sold in the United States. Ordinarily it takes considerably more than half of the gross receipts from our tobacco crop to pay our annual fertilizer bill. Our fertilizer bill in 1920 did not fall far short of the value of our tobacco crop in 1925. The 1920 fertilizer bill was approximately as much as the value of all school property in the state in 1925.

each to have a resident minister. Then only can a preacher become a true minister to the spiritual needs of the community. Such consolidation has taken place in scores of rural churches in America during the last few years.

An Example

A pastor of a church in the open country furnishes an example of how the church can bring religion into the everyday life of the community and make community life a fact instead of a mere possibility. At the beginning of his pastorate the church was dilapidated, and only old folks and a few children attended. The pastor began by getting the young people to sing and to play musical instruments for a church orchestra. They furnished music at church, at bedtimes of shut-ins and various sorts of social occasions. A young people's discussion group met twice a week, once on Sunday to study the Bible, and once on a week-day evening for a debate, a mission education program, a social, or a current events talk. All this has made the farmers more neighborly and cooperative, and Christian fellowship dominant in the community.

A surveyor once asked a southern country woman, "But what do you do for recreation?" "Why, we go to church," she replied. What an opportunity to draw the young people to the church by furnishing them wholesome recreation. The church should minister to the need for play as well as the need for work, worship, and friendship. Yet how often has the church admonished young people for seeking the best recreation they knew without giving them a chance to enjoy a better sort. The really important need of the rural churches is to get a vision of their opportunities.

The rural community of the future may be expected to center about the consolidated school and the consolidated church. They should be located together. The school ministers to the physical and mental needs, the church to the spiritual. Officially, the church will promote such things as the Sunday School, the Young People's society, and daily vacation Bible schools. Unofficially, it will foster Boy Scouts, playgrounds, picnics, community dramatics, a community library, and the like.

The test of the church is its ability to minister to human needs in a way that enriches daily living and builds faith and character. It cannot do that in the individual without dealing with all phases and group interests of his life. It can best do that by a united front in the community. What is keeping denominations apart? An old farmer near

ESTIMATED NATIONAL WEALTH OF THE U. S. Based on Bureau of the Census Reports

(000,000 omitted, except in per capita figures)

	1880	1900	1912	1922
Taxable real property and improvements.....	\$20,078	\$46,325	\$96,923	\$155,909
Tax-exempt real property and improvements	2,000	6,213	12,314	20,506
Agriculture and mining.....	3,187	5,838	13,662	14,608
Manufacturing.....	6,160	8,628	20,785	44,206
Railroads.....	5,536	9,036	16,149	19,951
Public Utilities.....	419	3,495	10,265	15,414
Personal and miscellaneous.....	6,262	8,982	16,202	50,210
Grand Total.....	43,642	88,517	186,300	320,804
Per capita.....	870	1,165	1,950	2,918
Annual Increase, percent.....	4.51	3.61	9.22	7.24
U. S. Labor Bureau Price Index.....	94	81	100	156
Grand total at 1913 prices.....	\$46,400	\$109,400	\$186,300	\$206,000
Per capita at 1913 prices.....	925	1,440	1,950	1,885
Annual Increase at 1913 prices, percent.....	9.32	3.59	6.16	1.06

Chapel Hill, when asked that question, replied, "I reckon we would have joined together long ago, but for the preachers." That is not the whole story, but it shows that one part of our problem is to find leaders with vision. Without them, rural life in North Carolina will remain poor and barren. Yet it has the possibilities of the finest type of life on earth, if Christians will cooperate to make it so.

WHAT MOTOR CARS COST

The Bureau of Industrial Technology says that it costs upon an average more than seven hundred dollars a year to own and operate a motor car. In other words the depreciation on the investment, plus the actual operating cost,

averages slightly more than seven hundred dollars per car per year. North Carolina now has more than 340,000 motor cars. Accepting the \$700 annual cost figure as correct, our motor car bill is approximately 238 million dollars annually. This is an enormous sum of money. Most of it is cash that leaves the state. An idea of the size of our motor car bill may be gained by recalling that it amounted to the total value of the state's cotton, tobacco, and corn crops combined for the year 1925. In other words it takes an amount equal to the gross value of our three greatest crops to pay our motor car bill. We may not be a rich state, but we want motor cars and we seem to be rich enough to get what we want.

INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1919

In the following table the states are ranked according to the gross value of all farm products per farm dweller for the year 1919. The second column shows the gross current income per farm dweller (income from farm products which entered into commercial channels). The third column shows the gross current income per non-farm dweller for 1919. The third column covers the current income of all people other than farmers, as factory workers, and factory owners, clerical workers, professional classes, etc. It refers to income, and not to value of output.

In gross value of all farm products per farm dweller North Carolina ranked 39th with a value of \$406; in gross current income per farm dweller our rank was 39th with a value of \$275; in gross current income per non-farm dweller our rank was 46th, the amount being \$500.

Based on Income in the Various States, by National Bureau of Economic Research. (Similar data are available for the years 1920 and 1921. The year 1919 was chosen because, for comparative purposes, undoubtedly it is the most representative.)

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

	Gross value of all farm products per farm dweller 1919	Gross current income per farm dweller 1919	Gross current income per non-farm dweller 1919
1 Nevada.....	\$1,907.....	\$1,064.....	\$820
2 Wyoming.....	1,475.....	958.....	811
3 Iowa.....	1,455.....	559.....	657
4 South Dakota.....	1,422.....	669.....	708
5 California.....	1,417.....	916.....	825
6 Nebraska.....	1,271.....	483.....	694
7 Illinois.....	1,150.....	544.....	822
8 Colorado.....	1,055.....	609.....	704
9 North Dakota.....	1,042.....	510.....	629
10 Kansas.....	1,032.....	487.....	663
11 Oregon.....	1,010.....	630.....	756
12 New Jersey.....	990.....	565.....	735
13 Rhode Island.....	989.....	521.....	737
14 Washington.....	984.....	614.....	745
15 New York.....	977.....	537.....	928
16 Massachusetts.....	960.....	510.....	794
17 Idaho.....	950.....	587.....	638
18 Minnesota.....	878.....	406.....	670
19 Connecticut.....	876.....	464.....	725
20 Wisconsin.....	869.....	463.....	610
21 Indiana.....	840.....	371.....	628
22 Montana.....	817.....	427.....	759
23 Arizona.....	816.....	533.....	761
24 Vermont.....	792.....	339.....	602
25 Ohio.....	770.....	379.....	738
26 Pennsylvania.....	720.....	368.....	698
27 Maine.....	702.....	392.....	592
28 Missouri.....	700.....	324.....	670
29 Michigan.....	683.....	363.....	766
30 Utah.....	682.....	449.....	577
31 New Hampshire.....	660.....	296.....	636
32 Delaware.....	634.....	348.....	861
33 New Mexico.....	590.....	375.....	532
34 Oklahoma.....	589.....	354.....	680
35 Maryland.....	574.....	312.....	740
36 Texas.....	552.....	360.....	666
37 South Carolina.....	456.....	298.....	555
38 Florida.....	412.....	277.....	463
39 North Carolina.....	406.....	275.....	500
40 Georgia.....	386.....	256.....	552
41 Virginia.....	374.....	214.....	574
42 Kentucky.....	368.....	213.....	574
43 Arkansas.....	357.....	243.....	562
44 West Virginia.....	354.....	207.....	564
45 Tennessee.....	346.....	192.....	531
46 Louisiana.....	342.....	240.....	547
47 Mississippi.....	339.....	241.....	541
48 Alabama.....	295.....	200.....	483