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Editorial Board: E. C. Branson, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., L. R. Wilson, E. W. Knight, D. D. Carroll, J. B. Bullitt, H. W. Odum.

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CITIZENSHIP ESSENTIALS

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A man or a woman can hardly be a good citizen, said Professor Branson to the North Carolina Club last night, without having or developing four essentials, namely, (1) generous interest in community affairs, (2) competent acquaintance with public problems, and (3) civic courage in behalf of peace, security and progress. And he added (4) that an almost indispensable condition of good citizenship lies in home and farm ownership.

Generosity

1. A man must have a generous, active interest in community concerns, in order to be a good citizen. A good citizen cannot be an ego-centric personality, busy with his own affairs and indifferent to the problems of community and commonwealth well-being and welfare. The world is too full, said he, of tick-and-flea citizens. That is to say, people who have the same interest in the community in which they live that ticks and fleas have in the animals on which they live. The worthwhile citizen is almost certain to be generously interested in better public schools, better public highways, better public health, better conditions of law and order, and better opportunities for the disadvantaged classes. And he is sure to believe, as an active principle of life, that whatever is best for the community or the county or the commonwealth is also best for him.

Competency

2. A good citizen is competently acquainted with the public concerns of his city or county or state. He firmly believes that it is his duty to be intelligently schooled in the issues and measures and means that make his home town or his home state a better place to live in. If he isn't on the right side of these questions in his home community, said the speaker, he can hardly be trusted to be on the right side when he gets into the legislature or comes to be the Governor of his state. Competent schooling in the affairs of his home community is a necessary beginning for competent citizenship in the large affairs of the state. Professor Branson insisted that acquaintance with the tax puzzles and problems of North Carolina was a basic concern of good citizenship. He insisted that public-school teachers and professors in state-aided colleges and universities were pensioners upon the public purse and that they were in duty bound to be competently schooled in the practical problems of taxation. Active interest in this fundamental question, said he, is particularly necessary in the field of municipal and county administration. Some of these local governments are rapidly approaching the point of bankruptcy. Twenty-six counties of the state have already exceeded their legal limits of indebtedness and are almost hopelessly involved in bankruptcy within a very short period of time. He spoke of Clay, where the bonded indebtedness is already more than 18 percent of the total taxables of the county.

Courage

3. But civic courage is also necessary for good citizenship—the courage to give one's time and money and effort to the community and the commonwealth without stint and without reward. The good citizen needs the courage that Benjamin H. Hill displayed in his Bush Arbor speech in Atlanta in 1870 during the Reconstruction days, and that Melvin Carter of Buncombe illustrated in the House of Representatives in Raleigh with the bayonets of Kirk's militia at his throat, in the carpet-bag, scalawag, negro-legislature of those dark days. The lack of courageous citizenship, said the speaker, not only in North Carolina, but in the Nation, has created an era of intimidation and lawless rule by secret bands. Legal machinery fails in the main because private citizens are unwilling to swear out warrants, and testify the truth in grand jury sessions and in court trials, and to stand firm in petit jury rooms. We blame the officers of the law. The blame rests for the most part in timid over-awed citizenship.

Home Ownership

4. The ownership of homes and farms is the fourth condition of good citizenship; mainly because the ownership of land means stable, responsible citizenship. The prideful owner of a home has a chance to be identified with his community and to feel a sense of responsibility for community affairs. The homeowner is apt to be a self-respecting citizen, a better father, husband, neighbor and friend. He has a better chance to develop courage in attacking the moral contaminations that threaten the integrity of his home and the good name of his community. Even the home-owning negro is apt to be a decent, law abiding citizen. Democracy is in peril, said he, when its foundations are laid down in the landlessness and homelessness of 1,650,000 people in North Carolina. A serious menace lies in restless, roving, irresponsible citizenship, in the nation as well as in the state.

THE FORGOTTEN COMMUNITY

It was only yesterday that we rode in wagons, plowed with oxen, harvested with cradles, threshed with flails, and read our Bible by candlelight. It was only yesterday that the best communities went to poor schools, with short terms, poor buildings, poor equipment, and poorly trained teachers.

There are whole communities and whole counties in North Carolina living in their yesterdays educationally, and unless there is some concerted educational impact that will put all of the wealth of the State behind the education of all of the children of the State, these communities and counties will remain in their yesterdays for generations to come.

We have spent millions of dollars building hard-surfaced roads into the "lost provinces" in order to connect them up with the rest of the state and give them an outlet to civilization. Yet we have thousands of children marooned in a Sahara of ignorance. The politician, the demagogue, and the money-grabber say we are too poor to carry them succor.

There is a military highway leading from Paris to Verdun. During the terrible siege in the winter of 1916 it became noised abroad through France that this highway was in danger. Women, children, and men too old to fight, stole out with picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows, under shot and shell, and built into that road the last tottering ounce of their energy in order that the battle might be won.

These forgotten communities in North Carolina are fighting a battle with ignorance and poverty just as real as the battle of Verdun. The Constitution says that we shall build a highway of intelligence to their door by providing a "uniform system of public schools" throughout the state. We are sacrificing the possibilities of childhood upon an altar of imaginary poverty. Remove from the task all sentiment, blot out the question of justice, forget the example of the Good Samaritan, and the law of self-preservation as a state and the principle of enlightened self-interest will still compel us to build an educational highway to the door.

The backbone of the state has been its country folk. Wealth accumulates and men decay in the cities and we are dependent upon our peasantry to furnish the stamina and produce the courage and genius necessary to fill the gaps in our civilization. If we would continue to grow in wealth we must continue to grow in intelligence. North Carolina's greatest undeveloped resource is not her water power, it is not her timber, it is not her manufacturing possibilities. Her greatest source of undeveloped wealth is the mind and soul of the fellow who hasn't had a chance.

Our highway system, our manufacturing plants, our power lines, and our fertile fields serve only as a thermometer to register the intensity of our intelligence. No people of intelligence and vision ever remained poor. Education is the ability to take the raw products of nature and market them in a form that will make the world happier and better. It is the ability to see orchards of luscious peaches in a barren sandhill, to see a fortune in a water-fall, to see an angel in a block of stone, or a marching army in the rock-ribbed cliffs on the mountainside. "Where there is no vision the people perish."—M. L. Wright, in the North Carolina Teacher.

PLANNING THE STATE

We cannot ever again permit the future growth of the State to be accidental. It must be planned to serve the interests of every man, woman and child and to give opportunity for a fuller and finer life, and not for the benefit of privileged groups. The planning of communities and the planning of the State is probably the greatest undertaking we have before us.—Governor Alfred E. Smith.

THE RADIO

As an entertainment and educational device, the radio is far surpassing motion picture theatres, dance halls or any other form of public amusement.

A new horizon has been opened up by radio to millions of families living in the country, the town or the big city, a new means of culture.

The world, in its larger centers is offering programs of good entertainment and instruction to people in their homes both day and night, the new marvel drawing families together.

Young and old, instead of wandering idly in search of diversion, can hear an orchestra, a band, a pipe organ, a religious service or a good play in their own home, be it in a city, on a farm, or miles away in mountains or desert.

There are lectures for the serious-minded all the way from literature to electricity and specialists give the latest ideas in dress, dancing, gardening or various fields of scientific progress.

As broadcasting stations are enlarged to give better service over wider areas, radio will give still greater service to the nation.—Hickory Record.

OLLAPODRIDA

In front of one of the grocery stores which supply Charlotte householders with the choicest of green goods that the domestic market can supply or that can be imported from the fields and gardens of Europe, The Observer last week saw a Mecklenburg farmer bending back and giving voice to a laugh which came all the way from his boots. The thing that aroused his merriment was a box of ordinary Irish potatoes, each potato wrapped in tissue paper—and each potato selling for 10 cents. The invoice came from a farm in Idaho, the enterprising farmers out that way having come across the notion that potatoes might be made to go the same way as apples and oranges and other products of farm and orchard which are selected and attractively prepared for the market. Potatoes of uniform size are picked out for the wrappers, and last week hundreds of Irish potatoes "grown in Idaho," were sold to the people in this state famed for the high quality of potatoes its farmers grow. That is a vast improvement on the slip-shod system prevailing of sending the finest potatoes in the world to the markets, unwashed and loosely jumbled. The farmer who learns that there is an art in marketing, is the farmer who is headed to make money on even the commonest of the products of his land. The grocer and the paper man got into an argument with the farmer, whose funny bone had been touched by the paper-wrapped white potato. He was shown several articles imported for this country, including Brussels sprouts and celery and lettuce, all of which could be grown in the mountain sections in profitable competition with anything that can be brought in from the foreign markets, and before the farmer started off for home he had come to the conclusion that the individual 10-cents Irish potato was not such a funny thing, after all. He had some of last season's digging left over at home, and he was going to pick out some of the best, wash and clean them, wrap them in paper and bring them on. The farmers are finding out that after all there is nothing like an exchange of ideas.—Charlotte Observer.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

North Carolina may not be a materialistic state, as many have recently charged, but it would be easy to prove that she stands better in wealth than she does in culture. Much is heard of our farms and factories, our highways and school buildings. Far less (of a favorable sort) is heard of social conditions on farms and in factories; of the quality of our school teachers, the length of term and other conditions that really determine the value of the school.

A publication issued recently by the American Library Association shows that in public libraries North Carolina ranks perilously near the bottom in all respects. In per inhabitant annual expenditure on public libraries we rank forty-seventh, the amount being only four cents or less than the cost of the familiar dope. Only Mississippi saves us from last position.

In the percent the library expenditure is of the total public school expenditure we rank last among the states. We spend nearly three hundred times as much on schools as we spend on public libraries. The average state spends about fifty times as much on schools as on public libraries. This does not mean that we spend too much on schools, but that we spend far too little on libraries. We need books for the people beyond school age, as well as books for the children.

In books circulated by public libraries North Carolina ranks fortieth on a per inhabitant basis. Which shows that we make good use of our meagre facilities. The study further shows that approximately seven out of every ten people in the state are without the services of public libraries—mainly because North Carolina is excessively rural, and so far only town and city folk have been provided with, or have provided themselves with, public libraries.

THE RURAL MAIL CARRIER

The following is taken from the University of Virginia News Letter.

In an address before the convention of the National Letter Carriers' Association, Postmaster-General New truthfully described the rural free delivery postal service as "one of the indispensable features of American social and economic life."

That is a fact worth repeating many times over. This generation and posterity should know that the rural mail service is a vital social factor which has virtually revolutionized rural life. For decades the "rural free delivery" was the one line of communication with the outside world available to rural sections.

Postal service is more essential to the isolated rural dweller than to the urbanite. The farmer cannot depend upon the news reaching him by word of mouth accurately and expeditiously. The rural mail carrier is the farmer's messenger who brings to him his magazines and newspapers, keeps him in touch with distant friends and relatives and does his shopping and runs his errands in town or the far city.

Not even the radio has taken the place of rural mail service. The radio is for one-way traffic only and fails to bring that warm, personal touch that the rural mail carrier conveys. The radio entertains and instructs the farmer, while the mail carrier does that in addition to more useful services.

In the far-reaching, yet little world of rural folk there is no stronger bond of common knowledge than the kindly, accommodating mail carrier, who, day after day in all sorts of weather, plays his own vital part in rural life.—Covington Virginian.

RANKS HIGH IN FURNITURE

For a good many years North Carolina has been recognized as one of the important furniture states. According to data recently released by the federal Department of Commerce, North Carolina is surpassed in factory value of furniture output annually by only six states. The output of our one hundred and twenty-seven furniture establishments for the year 1925 was more than fifty-one million dollars, which is not far behind what the state's cotton crop of last year will sell for. Furniture is the state's third most important industry, the other two being textiles and tobacco.

The Southern Furniture Manufacturers' Association, with headquarters at High Point, N. C., reports that according to the federal census data, North Carolina leads the United States in the production of wooden bedroom furniture, making 17 3-4 percent of the total of the country.

The total value of bedroom furniture produced in this state during 1925 was 34 percent larger than that of Michigan which was second in value to this state. The amount of wooden bedroom furniture produced in North Carolina in 1925 was $26,677,975 as compared with $19,856,572 for Michigan in second place. A grand total of valuations of this class of furniture for the whole country for the year 1925 was $149,979,152.

In value of wood dining-room furniture, North Carolina came fourth among the states with a production of $12,221,601, led only by Pennsylvania, Michigan, and New York. Pennsylvania, which is credited with leading this class of furniture production, turned out an output aggregating $13,582,156.

North Carolina holds third place, according to the census, in the production of kitchen furniture, in which Indiana holds the lead by a large margin.

Indications of the growth of the furniture industry in this state are demonstrated by an increase of 24 percent of the 1925 production over that of the previous census in 1923, while the proportionate increase in the country at large for the same period was only 9.9 percent.

Valuation of the entire furniture output in the United States in 1925 was $868,145,913 as compared with $776,494,839 for the previous census year. Of this, the South's contribution for last year was about $135,000,000, of which North Carolina was the chief producer.

THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY

Establishments and Value of Porducts 1925

The table below ranks the states according to the value of furniture manufactured in 1925, as reported by the federal Department of Commerce. North Carolina ranks seventh in factory value of output, $51,208,238; ninth in number of establishments, 127; fifth in number of wage earners, 13,567; eighth in total wages paid, $10,752,977; and fifth in cost of materials, $24,944,903.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	State	Number of establishments	Value of product	Rank	State	Number of establishments	Value of product
1	New York	596	$155,826,177	19	Iowa	37	$7,573,600
2	Illinois	355	109,230,867	20	Oregon	42	6,618,614
3	Michigan	181	99,130,108	21	Arkansas	12	5,664,235
4	Indiana	216	80,687,630	22	Washington	48	5,117,032
5	Wisconsin	106	53,915,692	23	West Virginia	10	4,177,114
6	Pennsylvania	273	52,607,048	24	Texas	24	3,848,036
7	North Carolina	127	51,208,238	25	Connecticut	29	3,668,720
8	Ohio	185	47,586,668	26	Vermont	11	3,627,340
9	California	259	36,726,511	27	Louisiana	18	3,275,918
10	Massachusetts	191	33,638,635	28	New Hampshire	15	2,654,205
11	Virginia	38	18,792,297	29	Kansas	15	1,505,743
12	Missouri	88	16,921,437	30	Nebraska	8	1,190,048
13	New Jersey	63	12,871,448	31	Maine	10	1,111,748
14	Tennessee	43	9,532,520	32	Alabama	10	1,073,724
15	Kentucky	35	9,040,975	33	Colorado	8	827,183
16	Maryland	55	8,778,453	34	Florida	13	763,058
17	Minnesota	53	8,485,100	35	Rhode Island	7	510,649
18	Georgia	36	7,969,154	36	Oklahoma	5	274,987
				37	All other*	8	1,349,942

*Idaho, Mississippi, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Utah. Separate figures for these states cannot be given without disclosing the operations of individual establishments. Seven states report no furniture industry.