

THEN AND NOW

A Nebraskan Writes Enthusiastically About North Carolina's Forward Strides.

T. T. McDuffy, Omaha, Neb., writes as follows to the Charlotte Observer:

I have just read your interesting editorial in the January 22 issue of The Observer, commenting on Professor Branson's astonishing revelations, showing the noteworthy progress of North Carolina within a few years, illuminated by comparison, or rather with contrasts, dating back to 20 years ago—along economical, educational, manufacturing, agriculture and other lines.

I admire your spirit of pride in your men of enterprise, when you say, "Not natural resources, but men make a state." I would vary and broaden the thought by saying, when "Men and natural resources are combined," as they have been in North Carolina—then you have a united power capable of producing such results as you mention in your splendid article. Without either, any state must become chronically paralyzed and stand still, instead of moving in the march of progress.

There is no state in this Union that has been so signally blessed with natural resources, or so favored by Providence also in natural advantages—climatically, topographically, geographically, and geologically, as your state has been. They are all factors, combined with the magnificent courage, determination and will power, and devotion of her sons to their state—to put her in the front line of the progressive march among all the most forward states of this country. The natural resources of your state are the lights that nature has placed on the hill tops to attract attention of those who are in search—like the children of Israel—of a better, if not the promised land. And many have found it. Their efforts and capital combined have supplemented those of your people to the manor born, and made your state not only the pride of your own people, but the wonder of all others.

Your editorial, and the amazing figures and facts presented by Professor Branson, seem a revelation to people everywhere. To a non-resident, but not a stranger to North Carolina, the change they show, seems like a Rip Van Winkle sleep with its mystifying wake-up. I have a distinct recollection of the days immediately succeeding the "times that tried men's souls," during the unpleasantness between the north and the south, when the only axe-handle and pick-handle factory in Greensboro was a small affair, operated by hand labor. Now there are three immense establishments there—or more when I last visited Greensboro—in which almost everything that can be made from the second-growth hickory with which that part of your state abounds, is converted into something of commercial value. Col. McMahon, of Wisconsin, an ex-United States officer in the war just terminated, was the pioneer. He saw its hickory among the wonderful resources of your state, and was not slow in taking advantage of it. I remember distinctly when there was no manufacturing enterprise of any kind at High Point. Now there are, I think, 12 furniture factories there. Michigan men, soon after the close of the war, saw another of North Carolina's wonderful natural resources, in her magnificent walnut trees, and were not slow to avail themselves of the opportunity to invest money, with an absolute certainty of satisfactory returns—doing the state good as well as themselves. I marvel when I think of then and now—when your state holds such a commanding place in so many ways; when her educational appropriations have increased from \$1,000,000 to \$20,000,000 in 20 years, when her hard-surfaced roads have cost and are costing, in recent years, millions annually; when her manufactured articles for the year 1922 have exceeded \$832,000,000, and other state products in like marvelous proportions; when she ranks fifth in crop values among the states of the Union—an al-

most unbelievable exhibition for the good old agricultural state that once was credited only with the production of tar, pitch and turpentine; and then, to top the climax of her marvelous development and progress, to find from Professor Branson's showing, that she paid for the year 1922 internal revenue tax to the United States government amounting to nearly \$122,500,000, to say nothing about state taxes, being surpassed in that figure by only seven other states, which were giants in development when she was scarcely known commercially. Surely North Carolina is cashing in on her assets.

COUNTY AGENTS AT WORK.

Some Instances of Activities Reported to State Agent to Help Out the Farmer.

Every week of the year, that overworked, sometimes harassed, individual known as the county agent of the Agricultural Extension Service performs some useful duty for the farmers in his county, says C. Hudson, State Agent for the Farm Demonstration Division. The farm agent has many varied duties and is subject to every conceivable demand for his time and knowledge. As an example, Mr. Hudson gives just a few of the activities reported by agents last week. Some of these he believes will be of interest to the farmers of the State as they show some of the ways in which the agent may make himself useful.

Zeno Moore of Edgecombe county states that his exhibiting fine specimens of home-grown Burr and Sweet Clover on the streets attracted much attention and made a strong impression on farmers who came to town to buy hay.

U. A. Miller of Alexander county states that farmers are getting the spirit of co-operation slowly but surely. He has assisted seven communities in pooling their fertilizer requirements and buying 10 car loads together at a saving of from 50 cents to \$1.20 on each bag. He has had an unusual demand for terrace building demonstrations during the present season. He has held three meetings to promote garden work among negroes.

O. O. Dukes of Robeson has just shipped out 2 car loads of hogs. He expects to have another car ready for shipment in August. Farmers are still planting pastures both for cattle and swine.

L. W. Anderson of Perquimans County writes that a movement is on to rid the County of ticks this year. A crew of men is now at work in building vats in each township. He made a talk to the negro teachers of the County on garden work last week. The teachers promised to promote the matter in their respective communities.

N. K. Rowell of Chowan has just bought 140 bushels of Cleveland Big-boll Cotton Seed for planting in the County. During the Rat Extermination Campaign in which he assisted the work was carried on in 11 schools of the County. Fourteen hundred and thirty-four rats were reported killed, one school—that at Wards—destroying 450. The pupil leading in the work was Willie May Overton, who reported 185.

T. B. Brandon, the new Agent in Greene County, in co-operation with Dr. C. C. Hunt has just closed a 2-weeks campaign on Hog Cholera Control. During this time they treated 639 hogs for 65 farmers. At the end of that period the farmers gave a big barbecue. One community that specializes in a high-bred big-boll variety of cotton has just pooled and sold co-operatively 3,339 bushels of seed at \$1.50 per bushel.

R. B. Reeves, the new Agent in Pitt County, assisted in selling a car load of hogs at Greenville and in shipping another car load to Richmond where good prices were obtained.

L. L. McLendon of Duplin County has had a splendid demonstration of the value of Pure-bred Livestock. Two scrub pigs fed in competition with pure-breds shows that while the profit on the pure-breds was not very large, the scrubs did not pay for their feed.

If You Are Doing Business With Mail Order Concerns

If you are sending your cash out of town—doing business with mail order concerns—keep mum about the growth, the industries, the advantages or beauty of the town. You have no boast coming. It is a good town not because of you, but in spite of you.

If you are not a Home Trader You are a Traitor to the Best Interests of the Town

This community is made up of individuals. Its prosperity depends on individual effort. If you send your money away for goods that can be purchased here, you injure the town—and yourself.

When you buy from a mail order concern, your money is gone for good. Not one red cent of it ever comes back. None of it pays for taxes. None of it pays store rent, clerk hire, or does a blessed one of the dozens of things accomplished by home-spent money.

Suppose everyone in this town sent away for their merchandise. The town would go to rack and ruin. You wouldn't be able to give property away. There would be little employment for labor. Schools—churches—everything of a public nature would be stripped to poorhouse poverty. There's no reason why anyone should deal with mail order concerns. Your home town merchant carries the best grades of merchandise on the market. They are goods of recognized merit. They are sold at practically one price the world over. You know you are getting full value in quality. The biggest manufacturers in the country insure that with their trademarks. Your purchases are protected. There is no buying dissatisfaction—long waits—long distance return costs—or delivery charges.

Your dealer appreciates your patronage. He puts forth every effort to hold your trade. He becomes intimately acquainted with your likes and dislikes—consequently can serve you in the most satisfactory manner. And to top off all of these important advantages—your local merchant can save you money.

By all means talk up your town—but first win the right to speak by spending your money at home. It is the solid worth of home-spent money—not words that establishes the public wealth and welfare of the community.

Donate to the good of the town by trading IN town—and get the greatest value for your dollars.

Live-At-Home.

The "Live-at-home" program fostered by the Extension Service of the State College and Department of Agriculture has made a good start. Nearly 200,000 blank forms have been mailed out to school teachers in the state from Director Kilgore's office and these forms were distributed through school children in rural schools or at meetings held at the different school houses in the state. These forms, accompanied by a letter from Director Kilgore, call attention to the necessity for living at home this year and give a list of ten things which should be done on the farm this year to make the owner independent of having to buy food and feedstuffs. Governor Cameron Morrison has backed the program and State Superintendent of Education E. C. Brooks has given it his hearty approval and support. Many of the blanks have been signed by farmers and their wives and have been returned to the extension office. A pass mark of 70, that is, if seven of the ten things are faithfully performed during the year, will entitle a farmer to a certificate of honor signed by the Governor, the Director of Extension, and the Superintendent of Education.

Here are the ten things the farmers are asked to try to do:

1. To raise enough corn and hay to carry me through 1924.
2. To raise enough meat to supply my family this year.
3. To have a 12-months-in-the-year garden.
4. To provide milk and butter for my family the whole year through.
5. To keep an average of at least 30 hens on my farm the year through.
6. To improve my orchard this year by setting out some apple, peach, pear, cherry or pecan trees, and to plant some small fruits and berries.
7. To work for richer lands by planting velvet beans, soybeans, or cowpeas in at least half of my corn; and clover, rye, oats, or vetch, with or after half my other crops.
8. To enroll one or more of my children in club work—pig

club, corn club, poultry club, home economics clubs, etc.

8. To add some home conveniences such as running water, electric lights, washing machine, oil stove, hitchen cabinet and other things that will lessen the burden of housekeeping.

10. To beautify my homestead by painting my house or making baseplanting of shrubs about the house to furnish a proper setting; and to plant flowering trees such as Crepe Myrtle, Mimosa, Dogwood tree; or planting a lawn, etc.

Southwest Alamance.

School at Oakdale Closed—Fruit Killed—Little Corn and Cotton Planted—Play to be Given—Road Work Slow.

Cor. of The Gleaner.

Three-fourths of the men in our community are attending Graham court this week.

Rev. I. P. Frazier of Liberty and his assistants closed a successful year's school work at Oakdale with appropriate exercises.

Fruit is about all killed.

Farmers are very busy with their spring work. Not much corn and cotton has been planted yet.

The "Owl's Nest" Club boys are preparing a play to be given for the benefit of Oakdale school. Guess it will be something good.

The "sprout" boys say business is fairly good up to this time.

Road work in Alamance county is progressing very slowly. In fact we are almost in despair.

Tariff and Profiteering Raise Sugar 54 Per Cent.

Sugar sold at retail during March, 1923, at an average of 10.2 cents a pound. In the same month in 1922 the average price was 6.6 cents a pound. The increase due to the duty of 2.20 cents a pound and the profiteering which Republican tariff occasioned amounted to more than 54 per cent.

The postage stamps of the new Irish free state were designed by Miss Millicent Girling, a 21-year-old girl who recently completed her studies at the Dublin school of art.

TOBACCO GROWERS ELECT DIRECTORS.

America's Largest Cooperative Association Steadily Increases Membership—Directors' Meeting May 15.

Election returns reaching Raleigh headquarters of the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association from a majority of the counties of the Carolinas and Virginia, indicate that the election of delegates which took place May 5th was most successfully carried out. One delegate for each million pounds of tobacco, signed up in contracts of the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, has now been elected to represent its membership which extends to 127 counties of the three States, and includes 89,000 farmers.

The delegates elected by the organized tobacco growers last Saturday will meet at twenty-two district meetings May 12 to name the twenty-two directors of America's largest cooperative marketing association for the coming year.

The annual meeting of the stockholders and directors of the association will take place Tuesday, May 15, in Raleigh, at which time the present board of directors will hold their last meeting. The new board will meet on June 5 for the first time.

A steady increase of membership has taken place since the decision by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, which upheld the contract of the tobacco marketing association. Over 450 new members joined the tobacco association in April and since the Supreme Court decision last month the association has averaged well over a hundred new contracts a week. Many contracts were signed last week throughout the Old Belt of North Carolina and Virginia immediately following the payment of close to \$2,000,000 to cooperative members who had delivered tobacco to the association since Jan. 1.

With its rapidly growing membership, the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association has increased its local organizations of member growers in 91 counties of three states to over six hundred. These local associations are assisting headquarters to keep in contact with the entire membership. They are also aiding with information as to the size of the 1923 crop, and have assisted in the collection of over \$60,000 in damages from contract breakers. Letters with news of the association are mailed each week from Raleigh headquarters to every local of the association in the Carolinas and Virginia.

Mr. Hull Shows Tariff as Basic Cause of Sugar Profiteering.

In a statement issued by Cordell Hull, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, on the report of the Tariff Commission to President Harding, Chairman Hull made it clear and emphasized the point that the tariff is the underlying cause of the present high price of sugar, without which the orgy of speculation and profiteering would not be possible. He called attention to the fact that the Tariff Commission did not dare deny that the tariff at least increases the price of sugar in the amount of 1.76 cents a pound, and that the tariff of 2.20 cents on other foreign sugar is prohibitive.

"What happened, therefore," says Chairman Hull, "was that American and Cuban owners of sugar, seeing much of the domestic beet crop marketed, and knowing that Java and other distant sugar producing countries could not and would not undertake to pay freight and 2.20 cents tariff and bring sugar to America to compete with American and Cuban sugar, proceeded during January and up to this date to boost sugar prices with the knowledge that there would be no world competition."

The statement of the Tariff Commission that a reduction of the tariff on sugar would not necessarily reduce the price, Chairman Hull calls not even good nonsense.

In a later statement Chairman Hull suggested that the sugar barons and other beneficiaries of

the profiteering tariff should be prohibited by law from making campaign contributions to political parties. By abolishing this debauching and corrupting practice, he believes a repetition of this national sugar scandal could be prevented in the future.

NORTH STATE LEADING

Virginia Bows Politely To North Carolina.

News and Observer.

The story is told of a man who, being asked where he came from, replied, "From the vale of humiliation, North Carolina, which lies between those two mountains of conceit, Virginia and South Carolina." There was rivalry enough between North Carolina and each of her two neighbors to afford a basis for the epigram. They still contend over which of them did more for the South in the Civil War. North Carolina has condensed her claims into a sentence: "First at Manassas, furthest at Gettysburg, last at Appomattox." It is somewhat surprising, therefore, to read in a newspaper published in Virginia this tribute to North Carolina: "The simple fact is that North Carolina is so far ahead of Virginia in almost everything except shrines of Colonial, Revolutionary, and Civil War history that the two states are, as our friendly enemies the English put it, not in the same street."

What is the reason for this disparity? Answering its own question, the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch explains that North Carolina has got away from the old tradition that still holds Virginia in its grasp, the tradition that the well-to-do must not be "punished" by the imposition of taxes for the advancement of the masses. Hence the outcry against a bond issue for good roads, for instance. The late Walter H. Page once said that it was a misfortune for North Carolina that the quarrel with George III happened to turn on the question of taxation—it instilled so great a dread of all taxes. But North Carolina has succeeded in overcoming her dread of taxes to such an extent as to make Virginians "ashamed, when we are conscious of it, of North Carolina's infinitely superior roads, of her considerably superior schools, of her three times as great contribution to her state university." This is doing pretty well for a state which only a few years ago was near the bottom of the list in education.

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BOARD EDUCATION PASSES RESOLUTIONS

Expressing Appreciation of Services of J. L. Scott and Mrs. J. Archie Long, Former Members of Board.

At meeting April 2nd, the Board of Education passed the following resolutions:

On motion by Dr. Harper seconded by Mr. Holt the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Mr. J. L. Scott has served as chairman of the Alamance County Board of Education for twelve years with rare efficiency and with fairness to all, having in mind under every circumstance the best interest of the schools of the county; and, whereas, under his leadership, the schools of the county have constantly grown and improved, therefore be it resolved:

That the County Board of Education in session April 2, 1923, Expresses its grateful appreciation to Mr. Scott for his long, faithful, and efficient service and orders its secretary to forward a copy of this resolution to him and to release the same to the press.

R. G. McPHERSON, chm'n.
M. C. TERRELL, sec'y.

On motion by Dr. Harper seconded by Mr. Holt the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Whereas, Mrs. J. A. Long has for two years been a faithful and conscientious member of the County Board of Education, therefore, be it resolved:

That the County Board of Education in session April 2nd, 1923, hereby express its grateful appreciation of her services.

R. G. McPHERSON, chm'n.
M. C. TERRELL, sec'y.

"COTTON BURBANK" DIES IN TEXAS.

Surname Mebane—Born in Tenn.—but Came of the Family of That Name Around Mebane—Added "Fifth Lock" to Cotton.

The News-Scimitar of Memphis, May 2 publishes the following item of interest, not merely to a lot of people in Alamance, but to the world, concerning an achievement which comparatively few know anything about, but has been worth millions to millions:

Alexander D. Mebane, known as "the cotton Burbank," who died in Lockhart, Tex., Tuesday, was a native of Fayette county, Tenn. He was born and reared one mile south of Dancyville, just across the Haywood county line. He was a cousin of Jesse Currie, of the Currie-McCraw company, Memphis wholesale grocers, and other members of the well-known Currie family of this city.

Mr. Mebane added fifth lock to the ordinary four locks in a boll of cotton and brought countless wealth to the South in the development of the seed. "Mebane cotton" is known throughout the world wherever cotton is grown.

His family originally came from Mebane, N. C., which place takes its name from the family. He originated the cotton about 30 years ago. Given the name of "Triumph" by the United States department of agriculture, the variety was said by the late Dr. Seaman A. Knapp to be the greatest discovery in cotton achieved in the staple's history.

Mr. Mebane went to Texas in the early 70s. The new strain which he produced by pollenization was practiced successfully when Luther Burbank was practically unknown.

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GRAHAM, N. C.
Associated with John J. Henderson,
Office over National Bank of Alamance

THOMAS D. COOPER,
Attorney and Counsellor-at-Law,
BURLINGTON, N. C.
Associated with W. S. Coulter,
Nos. 7 and 8 First National Bank Bldg.

S. C. SPOON, Jr., M. D.
Graham, N. C.
Office over Ferrell Drug Co.
Hours: 2 to 3 and 7 to 9 p. m., and
by appointment.
Phone 97

GRAHAM HARDEN, M. D.
Burlington, N. C.
Office Hours: 9 to 11 a. m.
and by appointment
Office Over Acme Drug Co.
Telephones: Office 416—Residence 264

JOHN J. HENDERSON
Attorney-at-Law
GRAHAM, N. C.
Office over National Bank of Alamance

J. S. COOK,
Attorney-at-Law
GRAHAM, N. C.
Office Patterson Building
Second Floor.

DR. WILL S. LONG, JR.
DENTIST
Graham, N. C. North Carolina
OFFICE IN PARIS BUILDING