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"LOOK FORWARD AND NOT BACK."

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To Superintendents of Schools, Teachers, and School Children:

On account of the disturbance of the world's markets and the consequent depression in the price of cotton by the deplorable European war, the farmers of the State and the South are seriously threatened with the loss of millions of dollars and with demoralization of business in all lines by the forced sale, under financial distress, of the South's chief money crop, cotton, at price less than the cost of its production and less than its intrinsic value. To avoid this threatened disaster to the agricultural and other business interests of the State, a cooperative movement, participated in by patriotic citizens in all parts of the State, and of the South, of all classes, vocations and professions, has been started to help the farmers protect themselves and all the rest of us by helping them to store and hold their cotton, by aiding in providing the money to take distress-cotton off the market until normal conditions can be restored.

No class of citizens are more patriotic or more ready to respond according to their ability to any call of public service in any hour of public need than are the teachers and other educational workers of this State. In times of need schools should always be the rallying places for civic service, teachers should always be among the trust leaders thereof, and for their training and blessing, the children should always be enlisted therein.

As Superintendent of Public Instruction, therefore, I confidently call upon teachers superintendents of schools and all other educational workers for their active aid and loyal support of the "Buy-a Bale-of-Cotton Movement" for mutual protection against threatened disaster in this hour of common need.

I beg to suggest and to recommend the following plan for helping:

1. BUY-A-BALE CLUB FOR TEACHERS: Let every teacher and every superintendent of schools that can possibly afford it, buy a bale of cotton at 10 cents a pound and hold it. Let the county and city superintendents present the matter to their teachers in their teachers' meeting and country teachers' associations, and form teachers' clubs of two or more to buy a bale of cotton at 10 cents a pound and store it. When cotton reaches 10 cents it should be purchased at half cent above the market price and held.

2. BUY-A-BALE CLUBS FOR CHILDREN: A fine lesson can be taught in thrift and economy, as well as in public service, by having the children of each school, or the children of each teacher in each school, to invest their own money in their own bale of cotton at 10 cent a pound, or a half cent above the market price is 10 cents or over, to be held, and, when sold, the proceeds thereof to be returned to the children themselves according to the amount invested by each child. Where this plan is adopted a certified list of names of the children investing, with the amount invested by each in the bale of cotton purchased, should be deposited immediately

after the purchase, with the bank in which the deposit of the proceeds of the sale of the cotton is to be made. When the cotton is sold the fund arising from the sale should be deposited in the bank to the credit of the teacher of the school district, in trust, for the investing children, as each child's interest shall appear from the certified list in the banker's hands. The fund being to the credit of the teacher of the district instead of any individual teacher, in trust for the individual child, will be subject to the check of the teacher, as trustee, for each child according to his interest, irrespective of any charges in individual teachers. At the proper time each child can, in this way, determine what disposition he desires to have made of his part, and can be encouraged to use his part of the proceeds to start for himself a separate saving account.

3. BUY A BALE DAY: Let the county superintendent set apart the earliest possible day after the opening of the public schools of his county as "BUY-A-BALE-OF-COTTON DAY" in every public school; call a meeting of all the people at the public school house at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon on that day for the purpose of raising the money to buy a bale of cotton at 10 cents a pound and hold it for the school. Let him give notice of this meeting through the county press, instruct the teachers in charge of each school to give notice through the children to the parents of the school and to enlist the children in the campaign for raising the money to buy at least one bale of cotton, urging them to contribute, and to get their parents to come to the meeting and contribute. Let the superintendent enlist also, the active cooperation of the school committeemen, the Woman's Betterment Associations, the Women's Clubs, the Farmers' Union, and other organizations in the county and in the various school districts. With the funds raised let this bale of cotton be purchased through the school committee or through some other committee designated by the meeting. Wherever possible it should be a bale of cotton raised in the school district, and where it can't be done, it should be purchased at 10 cents a pound, or half cent above the market if market price is 10 cents, through the organized channels for purchasing distress cotton and holding it or where a distress-bale is forced on market in the community it should be purchased by the committee at the market price and stored and held. It should be stored either in the nearest storage warehouse, or, in rural districts with no convenient storing warehouses near, some member of the school committee or some other reliable farmer in the district would probably be willing to store it, giving a receipt for it. When sold the funds might be placed in the hands of the county treasurer to the credit of the school and paid out upon the voucher of the school committee for such purposes of school improvement as should be recommended by the teacher, the committee, the school betterment association, or other organization for school improvement in the school district. In this way a

two-fold service could be rendered by one act—a needed service to the farmers and to all the business interests of the South, and a valuable service to the community school.

4. Let superintendents, teachers, and other school officials cooperate with all others in their community for the encouragement and advancement of the "Buy-a-Bale-of-Cotton" movement, and of all other proper means for the protection of the farmers and their interests in this crisis. Let them permit and encourage the use of the school building for community meetings in the interest of such movements.

Very truly yours,
J. Y. JOYNER
State Superintendent Public Instruction.

Some Facts About Gates County, N. C., as Gathered by W. E. McClenny, Cashier of the Farmers Bank of Sunbury, Sunbury, N. C.

In 1788 the North Carolina Convention was commissioned to fix the seat of the State government, which had been migratory since the earliest days of the colony, and it was finally decided to fix it at Raleigh. Another thing to happen about this time or in 1789 was the ratification of the United States Constitution on November 2nd. When this was done the germ was planted for the war between the States.

The Dismal Swamp Canal Co., was incorporated in 1790, and when it was finally opened a connection was made with it from the eastern part of the county and much traffic went through that waterway. The leaders in the original canal scheme appear to have been Joseph and Benjamin Jones.

In 1789 the University of North Carolina was created by an Act of the General Assembly, and it went into effect in 1795, and from that date it has had many of Gates county's young men as students.

In 1792 the Christian Church in North Carolina began to be organized, but it was many years before there was one in Gates, although the first church built in Raleigh was by that denomination.

In the General Assembly of 1798-1799 General Joseph Riddick of Gates county, by his opposition prevented the North Carolina Legislature from endorsing the "Resolutions of 1798" by Virginia.

In the year 1800 the Kehukee Baptist Association was divided and the Virginia churches were constituted the Portsmouth Baptist Association. As Gates was on the border the members of this denomination still kept more or less in touch with the Virginia churches.

From 1811 to 1815 Dr. James B. Baker of Gates was an able man in the North Carolina General Assembly. He was the son of General Lawrence Baker of the Revolutionary War.

In the war with Great Britain in 1812 Brigadier General Joseph F. Dickenson's command was raised in the Albemarle region, Gates county contributing her quota, and after the battle of Craney Island, near Norfolk, Va.,

the British having been repulsed, the troops were disbanded and sent home.

For some years there does not seem to have been much of importance taking place in this section. However in February or March of 1825 a distinguished visitor passed through a part of the county. He was General Gilbert Mortier, Marquis de LaFayette who was accompanied by his son. A committee from Murfreesboro proceeded to Somerton, Va. to meet the party and escort them to their town. On this trip the great Frenchman who half a century before had left his young wife and the splendors of the French court in Paris to come to America to shed his blood in behalf of the struggling colonies of America, and he had on this trip visited Mount Vernon and uncovered his head at Washington's tomb, and had visited Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, and many other places and notable personages. It is seen from this that the county for a short time had the Nation's guests as hers.

By 1831 there were a great many slaves in the county and in this year occurred the Nat Turner insurrection in Southampton county in Virginia, one of the adjoining counties. It seems that the slaves in Gates remained quiet. At the time of the insurrection there was a great camp meeting being held at Pugh's Spring, a little to the west of Sunbury.

By 1838 Dr. Rufus K. Speed of Gates was a prominent member of the North Carolina Legislature, and by 1842 Whitmel J. Stallings of Gates was a prominent man in the State Councils, and possessed much influence in all the historic region once known as the "Albemarle County." From 1845 to 1850 the Rev. Quinton H. Trotman was one of the most prominent ministers of the Baptist denomination. One writer says that he was a born leader of men, and was urged several times to run for the United States Congress, but declined that he might preach the gospel of peace. By 1851 Wm J. Baker of the county had made a noted reputation as a lawyer, and in 1856 Dr. Richard Dilard was the Senator from Gates.

By 1860 Judge M. L. Eure was fast becoming the most prominent, the most popular and honored citizen of Gates since the days of General Joseph Riddick. He was that year serving his first year in the legislature.

During the years we have just surveyed a great many things happened which affected the people of Gates. About 1830 the first railroad in this section was built, the Portsmouth and Roanoke, from Portsmouth, Virginia, to Weidon, North Carolina. While the first attempt was not successful, and the road bed finally grew up in pines about six or eight inches in diameter, yet it broke the ice and the road was better constructed in the early fifties, and has been one of the great routes of travel for the people of the county in going to Raleigh ever since. It is reported that the first cars used on this, the first railroad, were built at Buckland, Gates county, and carried over the county roads to Suffolk and put on the line. Another thing that happened was the beginning of the public school system of the State about 1855. This was Gen-

eral Jackson's last year as president, and the Indians had been removed across the Mississippi, and \$37,500,000.00 arising from the sale of public lands and accumulated in the United States Treasury were distributed among the States. North Carolina received \$1,500,000.00 of this amount, and it became the common School Fund. This sum was invested, and the interest arising from the same, together with a considerable amount realized by maintenance of public schools, thus bringing the rudiments of education within the reach of the vast host too poor to have otherwise obtained such advantages. The cultivation of cotton had increased. The different denominations had planted churches in the county, but we think it best to take up these one by one as it will better show their growth or decline. The people of the county were engaged in agriculture, fishing and lumbering to a limited extent. No manufacturing was being done nearer than the Factory Hill on the Virginia line in Nansemond county. There was some shipping on the Chowan river, and vessels came and went to foreign ports. No railroad had penetrated the county, and no financial institutions had grown up.

By 1851 the population of Gates had grown to 4156 whites; 3871 slaves; 391 free negroes; or a representative population of 8877. The products of the county that year were given as 192,315 bushels of corn; 10,329 bushels of oats; 2951 bushels of wheat; 1270 bushels of rye; 86,591 pounds of cottons; 3905 pounds of wool; 841 barrels of fish; 663 barrels of turpentine, and \$19,143.00 dollars annual value of timber sold. The above figures are given to show that there has been some progress made since the days of slavery. Up to this time everything seemed to be moving smoothly, and the future was full of hope, yet in a short time the men of military age were to be called by the bugle from their peaceful occupations to the State colors, and were to go through the hardships of four years of bloody strife. The part Gates county took in this war will be taken up later.

Dr. Raper Endorses Taxation Amendment.

Chapel Hill, Oct. 7th.—In an analysis of the taxation section of the proposed constitutional amendment, Dr. C. L. Raper, head of the department of economics of the State University, unreservedly declares that the constitutional right to make classes of taxable and rates is an absolute necessity before we can have the most effective and just system of taxation possible. He accredits constitutional requirement of a uniform rate upon all kinds of property as responsible for the inefficiency and injustice in the State's taxation system. Dr. Raper argues that it is impossible to place moneys, credits and securities on the tax books when they are taxed at the same rate as the most tangible forms of property-land and machinery, for instance. The economist recites the case of Kentucky, where the State received more revenue for the year 1913

from its dogs than it did from the bonds, moneys and stocks of the state. Emphasizing the importance of classification of taxable property, he says: "The North Carolina Legislature should have the power to do as Pennsylvania has done for more than thirty years to make a special class of moneys, credits and securities, with a specially low rate. Pennsylvania has made a reputation for the facts that she taxes nearly two billion dollars of such intangible forms of property, while many another State taxes only a few thousand."

Organizing in Behalf of The Constitutional Amendments

A state organization has been formed to carry on a campaign of information in behalf of the proposed Constitutional Amendments to be voted on by the people of North Carolina next month. These Amendments were proposed by the Commission composed of representatives of both political parties and submitted to the people by the Legislature of the State representing all political parties. Consequently, both political parties are represented on the committees of patriotic citizens who have interested themselves active in the adoption of the Amendments.

Officers Farmers Union Endorse Constitutional Amendments

Especially Do They Call Attention to the Value of the Tax Amendment, That It Sets Free Our People to Work Our Necessary Reforms in Taxation.

We, the undersigned officials of the North Carolina State Farmers Union, without committing the organization, and recognizing fully the non-partisan character of the proposed Constitutional Amendments, do hereby state to the people of North Carolina that we have examined the aforesaid amendments, and it is our conviction that their adoption will make for progress in this State and for the advancement of our farming interests and all other worthy interests in the State.

We remain the people especially that the taxation amendment does not pledge the people to any plan, but simply sets free our people to work our necessary reforms in taxation, while leaving in force the present restrictions on rate.

H. Q. Alexander, Pres.
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J. Z. Green, Organizer-Lecturer.
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