

# The Mount Airy News

ESTABLISHED 1886

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER 29th, 1925.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## Danes Put Tar Heels to Shame In Way of Handling Schools

Dr. Knight Finds Denmark Puzzled Over What It Describes as Our "Educational Waste." Europe Laughs at Us, With Our Boasted Democracy, and Our Complacent Indifference to Our Blot of Illiteracy.

By DR. EDGAR W. KNIGHT  
(Professor of rural education in the University of North Carolina.)

Copenhagen, Oct. 24.—It has already been indicated that enlightenment is the chief objective of the Danish schools. They encourage inquiry. No apology is offered, therefore, for the choice of Denmark as the initial field for study. Few countries in Europe have provided such facilities as Denmark for continuation study beyond what we in the United States call the elementary school. Our country, especially the South, where so few of the school population complete a standard secondary school course, can learn something at this point from the Danes and their folk high schools, if there is the slightest truth in what has been written about these institutions. And already it appears that there is much truth in the published statements about them.

Now enlightenment is a strong word. But the Danes know its full meaning. They know its strength also. Illiteracy is practically unknown in this country, a fact which stands out in great contrast with our own state of North Carolina which has so much of that dawning light. As this is written there comes to mind an impressive section of our own state constitution. Section 27 of the declaration of rights reads:

"The people have the right to the privilege of education and it is the duty of the state to guard and maintain that right."

Illiteracy Unknown in Denmark.

That declaration is at least a half century old and its principle is much older in North Carolina. But the old state still has an incredibly large army of native born who can neither read nor write their names. The Danes cannot understand this ugly fact.

But they know it. They smile as they place this declaration side by side with official reports published last summer which showed that North Carolina (whose recent phenomena development in so many directions has been published even in Europe) still has within her borders more than 100,000 native-born illiterates, a shorter school term than Tennessee, or Virginia, or South Carolina, those "two mountains of conceit" which used to make North Carolina a valley of humiliation, according to the books. And the Danes are also aware that it was not so very long ago that the late Governor Aycock thanked God for South Carolina because it kept his state from being at the bottom of the educational list.

Laugh at Our Complacency.

The extent of literacy in Denmark, a constitutional monarchy, puts Democratic North Carolina to shame not only in this respect but in the matter of length of school term, the careful preparation of penning our teachers, and general interest in education and other enlightening and cultural agencies. Denmark's compulsory school attendance legislation is nearly a century and a quarter old. Such legislation in the United States is only 75 years old, and in the South it is only 25. In at least one southern state, Mississippi, it is only seven years old; and in our own state of North Carolina this kind of law is just 18 years old—the age, by the way, when a slip of a home grown and untrained girl may legally take charge of a school in that state!

North Carolina's complacent indifference to or dignified acquiescence in the blot of illiteracy on our civilization is a reproach which cannot escape. Europe, especially Denmark, laughs at us—with our boasted democracy and self-government and our vain quotations from the founders of the nation—and even contemporary leaders. They remind the visitor of Jefferson's injunction "to illuminate, as far as practicable, the minds of the people at large," and of Washington, with his "Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness." Attention is even called to the promising educational provision of the Northwest Ordinance, held up to us in mockery

and derision at its ripe old age of a century and a half.

Europe does not understand the great difference between our Democratic theories and our un-Democratic practices. Some Americans don't understand it. Illiteracy such as North Carolina has is an anomaly in a state devoted to the Democratic theory of government which depends for its strength, so we are taught, upon the diffusion of information and knowledge among the masses of the people. The chief trouble seems to be that the information is diffuse—or perhaps our democracy is only skin deep.

Other facts depress, even irritate, the North Carolinian in Scandinavia. North Carolina spends only half as much on each of her 800,000 school children as the United States as a whole spends, he is reminded that an English-speaking Dane, a statistical wizard who gets his information from official reports. The fact was admitted; because it had been read last summer in an official statement from the state department of education in Raleigh.

That statement made the contrast very striking in at least one case. It was noted that North Carolina with 900,000 school children and about 19,000 teachers spends only about \$22,000,000 for their education. Iowa with 700,000 children and 27,000 teachers spends \$63,000,000 for their education. And Iowa is one of the newer states as compared with North Carolina, one of the original 13. The thoughtful Dane smiles at this kind of information and asks for an explanation. How many county superintendents, or city superintendents, or professors of education in North Carolina can accommodate the inquiring Dane with an answer? What's the answer of the state superintendent of schools? Certainly the question should be answered.

Puzzled Over Wastefulness.

From Washington there had recently come the story that more than one-third of the approximately 230,000 children who enter the first grades of the North Carolina schools each year fail to reach the second grade the next year? "Why?" asked the statistical wizard. "Why this waste?" he asked. Will some of the 100 county superintendents, or of the city superintendents, or will the state superintendent send the answer which has been promised this curious Dane, who really does not understand why such a thing should be allowed in any country?

School Director A. Fossing, in what we in North Carolina would call the town hall, was interested in these embarrassing facts, though he asked them with gracious courtesy. Such educational waste is entirely unknown in Scandinavia. Its existence in an American state, about which the Danes have recently been hearing so much, literally bewilders them. It should shame us in North Carolina, and command the serious attention of those interested in the much heralded program of economy.

The visitor is impressed at once with such educational contrasts when he begins a study here. Well trained and somewhat mature teachers contrast vividly with our poorly trained and immature ones. We probably have in the United States the lowest standards for teachers to be found anywhere in the civilized world, and North Carolina certainly has not yet advanced beyond that standard, if indeed it has even yet quite reached it. A teaching body in Denmark which views teaching as a profession contrasts with too many teachers in North Carolina (and the United States as a whole, for that matter) who view education as a stepping stone to something else. A minimum school term of more than 200 days in Denmark shames the North Carolina legal term of a meager 120 days a year. A real compulsory school law in Denmark appears strikingly when set up against the make-believe law of North Carolina. Almost perfect attendance in the Danish schools makes our own North Carolina attendance percentage of some 73, one of the lowest in the entire United States, seem tragic for its wastefulness.

## ENGLAND IS AGAIN GROWING TOBACCO

Growth of Weed in Isles Has Had Queer History—Embargo on Its Growth Lifted in 1910.

London, Oct. 18.—While England is not seriously competing with the United States as a tobacco-growing country, some interesting facts have developed from the harvest which has just ended in England's tobacco-growing centre, Hampshire. A single grower, A. J. Brandon of Church Crookham, Hampshire, reports a crop of 8,000 pounds of disposable dried leaf of a quality which demonstrates that cultivation in this country has passed well beyond the experimental stage.

For 250 years—to be exact, from 1660 to 1910—tobacco growing was prohibited in England by act of Parliament, the embargo being placed on what had become a flourishing industry in thirty-one counties by 1650, in order to enable the American colonies to buy British goods from the proceeds of their tobacco crops. Tobacco and potatoes were introduced from "the Americas" about the same time, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and curiously enough it was early decided that potato growing was unsuited to the climate, while tobacco could be successfully raised. It was so raised until colonial policy dictated that Englishmen must buy their tobacco from the American colonies instead of growing it themselves.

Lloyd George Lifts Embargo

In 1910 Lloyd George, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, as part of his Liberal free trade campaign raised the embargo, and in 1911, in response to representations made by would-be tobacco growers—there was a trust tobacco "war" on at the time—the Liberal Government granted a rebate of one-third of the prevailing tobacco duty to English growers. Cultivation was taken up in various districts, and by 1913 some 140 acres were under cultivation. In that year, however, Liberal objections to tariffs and rebates resulted in the withdrawal of the rebate and a grant from the Development Commission was substituted. But this checked tobacco cultivation instead of increasing it, and during the war the industry fell away, as it was regarded as by no means an "essential" wartime trade for the employment of England's diminishing man power.

Since the war there has been a revival, although tobacco is only grown in two counties, Hampshire and Norfolk, Mr. Brandon in the first-named county being the leading grower. The preferential rates granted by the Baldwin Government to empire grown tobacco apply to the English crop and provided some little stimulus, but it is pointed out that colonial tobacco can still be grown at lower cost, owing to prevailing wage scales in England.

Brandon, however, is campaigning for definite Government recognition of the tobacco-growing industry, and he contends that a measure of effective protection for a period of years would see the industry once more firmly established in this country. He points to the good results which have come from the policy adopted toward sugar-beet cultivation, and suggests that Government assistance to tobacco growing would give a good deal of fresh employment without entailing in the course of ten years any appreciable loss of revenue to the Exchequer.

English Leaf Well Liked

At Church Crookham, Brandon has had ten acres under cultivation this year, and he expects to increase his acreage next season. The greater part of the Hampshire crop is now used, without any addition of foreign-grown tobacco, for brands of cigarette and pipe tobacco, which are quite popular with those who know them. Manufacturers who purchase the dried leaf have reported overwhelming inquiries for this English tobacco, and they agree that there is a stable market for supplies.

Other agriculturists who have hitherto devoted their acreage to hops are contemplating trying tobacco, and it is possible that, given sufficient Government encouragement, England may once more become a serious tobacco growing country—important enough to supply some of her own need if not to cut into America's export trade to other parts of the world.

A strong effort is being made to popularize empire grown tobacco here, mostly South African, at present, and with the post-war price of the "comforting weed" more than

## CLAIMS JEWS ARE HATED IN STOKES COUNTY

That Given As Reason For Asking Samet Jury From Another County.

Danbury, Oct. 23.—A Ku Klux Klan parade in King last Friday and demonstrations held in that town since the time of the disastrous fire on August 27, last, said to have been prompted by hatred and ill feeling against Max Samet, his son, Jake, and the former's brother, Morris Samet, are some of the things that militated in favor of the defense when they appeared before Judge Walter E. Brock in superior court here Wednesday night and were successful when they asked that a jury from outside of the county be chosen to try the three defendants in order that they may be given a "fair and impartial" trial.

The case is one that has been widely discussed in Stokes county and defense counsel said the Samets believed they could not obtain impartial justice before a jury of Stokes county men. It was pointed out that there is not a Jew in the confines of Stokes county at the present time and this was cited as a reason to believe that the atmosphere in this county is not what might be termed "healthy" for Jews, or even other foreigners. The Samets, who did business at King for a short time, were the only members of their race in the county at that time, affidavits stated, and other affidavits tended to show that Gentile merchants in King were extremely unfriendly to the Jews who were then running a large store there.

In the affidavits heard by Judge Brock was the first indication that the defense counsel will likely try to prove that the store was burned by men who were interested in running the Samets out of business and that the Samets, neither the father nor the son nor brother, had anything to do with it at all. Feeling which was represented as being extremely hostile to the Samets was the principal plea of attorneys.

Judge Brock said he didn't see how anybody could mistake Attorney J. H. Folger, of Mount Airy, for a Jew, but Mr. Folger made affidavit to the fact that certain King residents had that idea in mind and that upon a certain occasion there, when he was in conversation with a Mr. Pulliam in front of a drug store, he was told later by a friend that he had been in danger of severe assault if not death itself until his identity was learned. Mr. Pulliam testified upon the witness stand that Dr. G. E. Stone interrupted his conversation with Mr. Folger to inquire who the latter was, and that another man, Early Moser, who passed up and down the sidewalk in front of Mr. Folger several times while they were in conversation, told Mr. Pulliam that he (Moser) was trying to "catch the eye" of Mr. Pulliam to tell him that Mr. Folger came there with Max Samet. Mr. Folger's affidavit set forth his own suspicions of the two men who passed back and forth, and the Mount Airy lawyer swore that he thought they were trying to catch portions of the conversation he was having with Mr. Pulliam. Upon a later occasion, Mr. Folger's affidavit declared, he and Max Samet, passing through King en route from Greensboro, stopped at a filling station and that a crowd quickly gathered there and that it was very evident that they harbored ill feeling toward Samet.

Want 6-Months' Term Submitted to People.

Charlotte, Oct. 24.—Resolutions were adopted here today at the closing session of the annual convention of the South Piedmont district of the North Carolina Teacher's Association calling upon the 1927 Legislature to submit an amendment to the constitution providing for an eight months minimum school term to a referendum of the people. The present minimum term is six months.

In the Atlantic Ocean only two places are known to exceed 24,000 feet in depth, the deepest spot being 27,972 feet, north of West Indies. In the Pacific, however, a spot 32,636 feet deep has been found off the southwest coast of Spain. Nowhere else has a depth greater than 30,000 feet been found.

double the pre-war figure any slightly cheaper tobacco will find a market in England. At any rate, England is never again likely to place an embargo on tobacco growing for the benefit of the "American colonies."

## Should State Soften Death Penalty For Condemned?

Physician Proposes That All Men Executed Should Be Rendered Insensible to Pain—Says Death Should Come in Midst of Peaceful Slumber.

News and Observer

Should the death penalty be made more humane in North Carolina by the use of anaesthetics?

Dr. J. E. McCracken, of Waynesville, proposes that those condemned to electrocution be first made insensible to pain.

"Wouldn't that be a great relief to an innocent old mother to know that, although the State of North Carolina demanded the life of her boy, it took that life in the most humane manner possible, while he reposed in peaceful sleep?"

"I have been greatly interested in the numerous recent articles in the public press concerning capital punishment. Also those concerning prison reform," says Dr. McCracken.

"It is not my purpose, in this article, to discuss the merits or demerits of capital punishment, nor to condone or condemn the practice, however, I believe that in a few years it will be a thing of the past, so far as North Carolina is concerned.

"But since the laws of our State inflict the death penalty on those found guilty of capital offenses, I am writing this to make a plea for a more humane method of legal execution.

"It is not the object of the State to inflict bodily pain upon a condemned prisoner that he might atone for the life he has taken, or for the crime he has committed. If this were the case, burning at the stake would be the ideal execution. The idea is to rid society of such criminals, and by so doing hold up an example to the would-be perpetrator of crime. We often shudder when we think of the brutal custom of beheading, as practiced in some of the European countries, and, on first thought, it does seem most brutal and blood-thirsty, but, brutal as it may seem, it is far more humane than the methods of execution practiced in this country, viz. hanging and electrocution. When a man's head is suddenly chopped off, death is instantaneous, because the centre of perception is severed from the body. There is no consciousness of knowledge of pain.

"When a man is hanged, we do not know how long he might remain conscious. The neck is not always broken when the trap is sprung, in which case death finally results from strangulation, which may take several minutes. And even if the neck be broken, we know that men with broken necks, have lived and remained conscious for days, and even years. Death by strangulation on the gallows must be one of intense human suffering and indescribable agony.

"Electrocution may be a little more humane. But every time I read of an electrocution at our State Capital, I am made to shudder. We read of the prisoner being brought to the death chamber and placed in the chair. He is strapped hand and foot until he can not move. The electrodes are applied. The switch is turned. We read of the rigors and contractions of the muscles of the poor condemned body, of the odor of burning human flesh. The switch is turned off, the heart is still beating. The current is turned on again, and sometimes again, and in from three to five minutes the victim dead. I say victim, because he is a victim of one of the most barbarous customs ever practiced by a civilized country.

"Now I do not know, neither does any one else know, just how long a man might remain conscious after such a current of electricity is sent into his body. Expert opinion may say that consciousness is lost the instant the current strikes the body, but that is only opinion.

"I am convinced that the pain and agony suffered, when the current is first turned on, is indescribable, not to mention the dread of the ordeal that haunts the convict from the time sentence is passed, until he knows no more.

"When a surgeon goes to amputate a leg, does he bind his patient on a table, until he cannot move hand or foot, and proceed to carve on him while in full possession of all his faculties?

"Would I undertake to remove a man's eyeball without first giving him something to render him uncon-

scious of pain? Should I undertake such a thing I would be branded a barbarian, and justly so.

"Then when the State of North Carolina goes to send a current of electricity through the whole being of a man, that might mean the most intense suffering conceivable, why shouldn't he first be rendered unconscious by a pleasant and effective general anaesthetic?

"Ethylene gas is one of our newer general anaesthetics. Its action is quick and not unpleasant. In my opinion the ideal execution—since we must kill—would be as follows: One hour before time for execution, give a hypodermic injection of morphine and scopolamine—twilight sleep. This abolishes nervousness and worry. When the time for the electrocution arrives place the subject on a hospital operating table, with electrodes attached; give Ethylene gas to complete surgical anaesthesia, and then turn on the current.

"Practically every criminal executed has innocent loved ones. Wouldn't it be a great relief to an innocent old mother to know that, although the State of North Carolina demanded the life of her boy, it took that life in the most humane manner possible, while he reposed in peaceful sleep?"

## TRAINLOAD OF WATER SENT TO ASHEBORO

High Point Will Provide 100,000 Gallons Daily Till Drouth Is Over

High Point, Oct. 24.—The first train load of water for Asheboro to relieve that town's water shortage caused by the prolonged drought was sent today.

Nine tank cars were placed on a side track here yesterday. Last night they were filled with water from local hydrants. Other cars are expected here tomorrow, and the plan is to operate a train of 15 cars to Asheboro daily until the water shortage is relieved.

Asheboro's supply of water is low, hardly half enough water being available to meet the needs. Between 250,000 and 300,000 gallons of water is consumed each day at Asheboro. To have a sufficient quantity even for conservative use, 100,000 gallons must be supplied daily from other than local sources. High Point is prepared to give this supply of 100,000 gallons.

Railroad officials are co-operating in the movement to give Asheboro relief. Arrangements have been made to operate a special train from here to Asheboro each day.

Mayor McCrary said there had been practically no rain on Asheboro's water shed in five months, and the situation is the worst in the town's history.

## Rev. A. L. Ormond to Sue For Damages For Killing of Son

Nashville, Oct. 23.—It has been authoritatively given out here, according to the Nashville Graphic, that Rev. A. L. Ormond, Methodist minister of this place, will bring suit for damages against W. B. Cole for the killing of his son, W. W. Ormond. The suit will be brought in Wake county and will be brought by the local minister in his capacity as administrator of his son whom Cole shot to death early in August, being later acquitted by a Union county jury.

Just when the summons will be issued against Cole has not been determined, but it is quite probable that this will be done immediately upon Cole's return from a distant state where, it is stated, Cole has gone to recuperate. Should he continue to prolong his stay outside the State, it is probable service will be made upon him before his return.

There has been no intimation of the amount of damages that will be asked by Rev. Mr. Ormond, and this question will probably be determined when there is a conference of the attorneys who are to represent him in the contest against Cole. During the past week Mr. Ormond has been busily engaged perfecting his array of legal counsel, who are to press the suit against the slayer of young Ormond.