

VICIOUS SYSTEM OF TAXATION

University News Letter
Points Out Reason Why
North Carolina Farm
Lands are Untilled

The subject considered by the North Carolina Club at the University the other night was Our Twenty-two Million acres: Why Idle, the Consequences and the Remedies. The discussion was led by Mr. Lawton Blanton of Cleveland county. A brief report follows.

Seventy-one per cent of all the land in North Carolina is a wilderness of idle acres. Twenty-two million acres are in scrub pines, broomsedge, and like growths. Only nine million acres are under the plow and in pasture. Our waste area is more than double our cultivated area. There is enough idle land in the State for 250,000 new farm families, allowing 75 acres to each family and reserving 50,000 acres in each county for wood lot uses.

The per cent of waste land ranges from 34.19 per cent in Alamance to 98.4 per cent in Dare. There are more people engaged in farming in North Carolina than in both manufactures and transportation combined. And yet we have enough idle acres to increase our country population 100 per cent. This is the more important when we consider that North Carolina produced in crops alone in 1915 wealth amounting to \$218,000,000 or about one and a fourth times as much wealth as the banks of the State have accumulated in 250 years. And mind you our farms created this enormous wealth in a single year.

North Carolina needs more people—not more tenants but more home owning farmers. The population of the State is too sparse. Our rural population in the State at large is only 39 to the square mile. We have nine counties with fewer than 20 people and three counties with fewer than 15 to the square mile. In these twelve counties there are nearly 4,000,000 wilderness acres. The idle land in the lower Cape Fear region alone almost exactly equals the entire farm area of Belgium.

If our farm population were doubled our country wealth would be increased \$407,000,000. This increase is reckoned in our present small per capita rural wealth of \$322. Their productive power would add \$175,000,000 a year to our present total of crops and animal products. It would mean larger support for churches, schools, roads, and public health. Denser population would help to decrease illiteracy, social aloofness, and the raw individualism that now retard organization and cooperative country enterprises.

About three million acres are at present too stumpy, steep and rocky, wet and acid to cultivate. But for the most part our wilderness area is due to bad social and political conditions, such as illiteracy, sparseness of population, mixture of races, speculative interest in rising land values, and a vicious tax system.

Mr. Blanton next showed how, in obedience to the natural law of segregation, white people are selling out and leaving districts where negroes are an increasing majority, while at the same time negroes are seeking negro settlements. And further, according to Mr. Blanton, the land speculation is another great factor that is largely responsible for the vast area of waste land in North Carolina and throughout the entire South. The farm lands of North Carolina increased in value \$202,000,000 in the last census period, and land owners

STREET NAMED FOR GERMAN SHOEMAKER

The following communication received at The Advance office last week may be as interesting and enlightening to many Elizabeth City people as it was to this newspaper staff:

"Purse Street—not Purse—is the name of the street beginning at Main street (J. Q. A. Wood's and Ed Pappendick's corner) and running to Ehringhaus Street or Rum Road.

"Very few people in Elizabeth City know how to spell this street or its name. It was named for Thomas Purse, a German shoemaker, who lived on the lane which it was at, time, or many years ago. About one third of the street is now paved and some very nice homes adorn the thoroughfare. So do not spell it Purse any more, though that is a good thing if filled with coin and bank notes."

RECEIVES MESSAGE AT DEEP CREEK

Rev. J. T. Ragland of Manteo was in the city Friday having been called home from Deep Creek Va., by a message stating that his mother was at the point of death.

are holding their lands not to improve them but to reap this great profit in steadily rising land values.

A large part of the blame for this state of affairs should be laid at the door of our vicious system of taxation. The big land owner gets his land from \$2 to \$5 per acre despite the fact that he is expecting to get from \$50 to \$60 per acre for it. In one township in the State 85,000 acres appeared on the 1915 tax list at 57 cents per acre. Our rule is low tax values and high market prices.

On the other hand, the small farmer on his 50 acre plot works hard, improves his land and equips his farm. As a consequence his taxes increase and he is punished for his industry and thrift. He has been an active, productive citizen, adding value to his own property and all other property in the community.

And he is punished by our system of taxation, while the owner of the idle lands is rewarded. It is profoundly immoral to punish industry and reward idleness.

The consequences of such a condition in the State are far reaching. For instance, the tenants and renters in our town and country regions in 1910 numbered with their families 1,158,000 souls.

They are landless and homeless in a State that contains 22,000,000 unoccupied and unused acres. And they cannot buy farms and homes because their prices are too far beyond their means.

It is useless to advertise North Carolina abroad so long as the owners of idle land are allowed to build around the State a Chinese Wall of high prices for town and country real estate.

New Zealand's Way

Twenty years ago New Zealand solved the problem of home ownership, by a graduated land tax. Henry Demarest Lloyd's account of this experiment ought to be familiar to thoughtful people everywhere. A wise adaptation of New Zealand's law is demanded in America. In this land of the free 55,000,000 of our 92,000,000 people in 1910 were landless and homeless.

In North Carolina our homeless people numbered in the Census year 1,158,000. They were 52.5 per cent of our entire population; in the United States they were 60 per cent.

Home and farm ownership is a fundamental condition of safe civilization; and our present tax system promotes increasing homelessness both in our city and country regions.

HAS CONFIDENCE IN PATTERSON

Dr. B. C. Henning Knows
Ex-Governor of Tennessee
See Personally and Believes Him Sincere

Ex-Governor Malcolm R. Patterson of Tennessee and Dr. Madison Swadener of Indiana will speak Thursday evening at the Alkrama Theatre for National prohibition.

Governor Patterson and Dr. Swadener are working under the auspices of and are sent here by the Anti-Saloon League of America. Representatives of this organization were in the city recently and secured the cooperation of friends of Temperance who agreed to ad-



Ex-Governor Malcolm R. Patterson of Tennessee

vertise the rally. The choir of Christ Church has also agreed to take charge of the musical program for the occasion; but all the expenses are to be borne by the National Anti-Saloon League. There will be no admission fee and the public generally are invited to be present.

Special interest attaches to the address of Governor Patterson who is a sensational figure in the National prohibition movement. Many will be led to wish to hear him not only on account of his nationwide reputation as an orator, but also because they remember him as at one time numbered among the strongest foes of prohibition.

There are some in Elizabeth City, too, who have clear recollection of the fact that it was Governor Patterson who pardoned a man convicted by the Courts of Tennessee of the assassination of Ex-Senator Carmack, who through his newspaper at Nashville had attacked the liquor and corrupt politics interests in that State. The Advance reporter having but hazy recollection of the facts in the case, and remembering that Governor Patterson will be the guest, while in the city, of Dr. B. C. Henning, called on Dr. Henning and obtained the following statement:

"So far as the past is concerned unless you were present to learn all the details it is impossible to ascertain with accuracy the exact truth about anything.

"Ex-Governor Patterson was, prior to his conversion, the pronounced advocate of the sale of intoxicating liquors under legal regulations. There is no reason to believe that he was insincere in his position.

"His conversion came about, as is the case of every truly converted man, by repentance toward God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit. This brought transformation not only in his attitude to the liquor traffic but in all his relations to God and men.

"Whatever we may concede as

TEMPERANCE UNION HOLDS FRANCES WILLARD SERVICE

With representatives present from all the churches of the city services were held in the First Baptist Church Sunday afternoon by the local Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the officers presiding over the meeting.

Dr. Cunningham of the First Methodist Church was the speaker of the evening. He reviewed briefly the life of Frances Willard and spoke of her excellent educational work and her earnest efforts in the temperance movement. Dr. Cunningham also spoke of the progress of the temperance movement in all lines. Special music was arranged for the occasion, the features of which were a violin solo by Mr. Davis, a violin duet by Messrs Skinner and Davis and a quartette by Messrs Skinner, Burgess, Allen and Peal.

MRS. ANNIE H. FORBES DEAD

Currituck, Feb 28—Mrs. Annie H. Forbes died Tuesday night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. J. Forbes at Currituck and was found in her bed next morning dead.

Although eighty-three years of age Mrs. Forbes appeared to be well and in her usual good spirits Tuesday night, and her sudden death was a shock to the family and to her friends.

The funeral was conducted Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Forbes by Rev. Hester of Moyock and interment took place in their family burying ground at Grezory. Mrs. Forbes is survived by three daughters: Mrs. J. J. Forbes of Currituck, Mrs. Laura Leary of Grezory, and Mrs. N. Hathaway of Currituck; and by one son, W. L. Forbes of Camden.

THEATRE TRAIN TUESDAY

A special theatre train will leave Elizabeth City next Tuesday, March 7th, at 5:40, for the benefit of the people of the city and section who wish to attend the Norfolk theatres.

The round trip fare is one dollar and the train returning leaves Norfolk at 11:59 Tuesday night.

WEDDED AT ROANOKE

The announcement of the marriage of Lieutenant Andrew L. Pendleton to Miss Mary Minnie Layman at Roanoke, Va., this week will be of interest to friends in the city.

Lieutenant Pendleton is the son of Mrs. Rose Pendleton of this city, and is now stationed at Key West, Florida.

to one's past sound and unmistakable evidence of conversion and acceptance by the Almighty, leaves no other alternative for Christian people but to forgive.

"I know Governor Patterson per-



Dr. Madison Swadener of Indiana

sonally and have absolute confidence in his integrity and sincerity. So far as I know he has been uniformly consistent in any and all cost."

REPUBLICANS ELECT DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

In convention here Saturday the Republicans of the County elected the following delegates to the Republican Convention at Raleigh which begins on Wednesday: I. M. Meekins, C. R. Pugh, J. W. Markham; alternates G. G. Meads, W. C. Morse, J. Q. A. Wood.

J. W. Johnson, C. R. Pugh, B. T. James, with I. M. Meekins, C. P. White, and Victor Meads as alternates were elected delegates to the congressional convention and also to the senatorial convention if such is called.

Officers for the county were nominated as follows: S. S. Overman, sheriff; V. E. Meads, register of deeds; R. E. Chesson, auditor; W. N. Price, coroner; N. W. Dalley, trial justice; C. E. Kramer, P. M. Newby, B. T. James, Jno S. Morr's T. S. Ownley, Jerry Sawyer, Frank Jones, commissioners; W. G. Poole, legislator.

The following executive committee was elected: C. R. Pugh, chairman; J. C. Munden Secretary; E. W. McDougal, First Ward; J. W. Wilcox, Second ward; D. R. Scott, third ward; M. Sedgewick, fourth ward; J. M. Payne, H. C. White, Nixonton; J. F. Brothers, T. S. Ownley; Mt. Hermon; J. F. Jones, Newland; Jerry Sawyer, Providence.

MRS. CHAS BREWER ENTERTAINED

While the guest of Miss Lillie Grandy on Main street last week Mrs. Charles Brewer of Meredith College was the guest of honor of two attractive social affairs.

A five course daffodil luncheon given by Miss Grandy included the following guests: Mrs. G. W. Ward, and her guest, Mrs. Vodyrey of Pennsylvania; Mrs. J. H. White, Mrs. Noah Burfoot, and Mrs. Charles Brewer. The gold and white color scheme was effectively carried out with a profusion of daffodils, yellow candles, and in the courses of the luncheon.

Mrs. J. H. White gave a pleasant morning party in Mrs. Brewer's honor, which included the following guests: Mrs. Chas Brewer, Miss Lillie Grandy, Mrs. George W. Ward, Mrs. Vodyrey, Mrs. Selby Harney, Mrs. Walter Small, Mrs. W. O. Allen, formerly of Raleigh, Mrs. I. M. Meekins, Mrs. D. N. Jones and guest, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. C. H. Robinson. A dainty salad course was served.

Mrs. Brewer visited her old home at Shawboro while in this section and left this week to visit friends in Norfolk before returning to Raleigh.

FOR SALE White Orpington Eggs One dollar per setting of fifteen eggs. O. L. BUNDY, Okisko, N. C. 3tpd

CLASSES ENTERTAIN TO-NIGHT

The organized adult classes of Blackwell Memorial Sunday School will meet tonight in the annex for an evening of pleasant and profitable entertainment. The addresses of the evening will be made by Rev. D. P. Harris and Rev. N. N. Loftin.

The Sunday school orchestra will play a number of musical selections and there will be vocal solos by Misses Rena Ward, Margaret Dawson and Mr. Arthur E. Burgess, piano solos by Mrs. I. N. Loftin, a duet by Misses Margaret Dawson and Nannie Banks and a quartette by Messrs Skinner, Peal, Burgess and Newbold.

At the close of the evening's program refreshments will be served. The organized classes of the Sunday School number as many as two hundred and fifty members, or nearly a third of the entire school. A large gathering and a pleasant evening are anticipated.

Frank M. Harris left Monday for Wanchese on business.

WANTS WORKERS FROM YOUNG MEN

T. J. Markham Has Plan
to Open Y. M. C. A. at
Once and Issues Call for
Helpers

A plan for the organization of the Y. M. C. A. is on foot which seems to have more promise of immediate result than anything which has been proposed within the last five years.

This plan will not involve an immediate campaign for money but looks toward a vigorous campaign for members. It is believed that if as many as three hundred members can be secured the Y. M. C. A. can be opened this spring and that once opened the problem of the debt on the building can be met with much greater ease.

Attorney T. J. Markham has worked out the plan and he is asking the young men of the town who are ready to cooperate with him, to meet him at the Y. M. C. A. building tomorrow night. Quite a number of young men have been expressing recently their desire to see a Y. M. C. A. opened here and Mr. Markham wants to show them how they can go to work toward that end.

At the meeting tomorrow night Mr. Markham hopes to be able to see and enlist in a campaign for active work forty or fifty young men. These will be put to work toward arousing interest in the movement and it is hoped that a little later a big mass meeting of the young men of the town can be held at which it will be possible to definitely enroll very nearly the required number of members.

Mr. Markham has observed that a considerable number of young men are asking for a Y. M. C. A. He wants to meet tomorrow night every young man in the city who is willing to work for one.

BOX SUPPER AT PEARL STREET

On the evening of March seventh beginning at 7:30 o'clock a box supper will be served at Pearl Street Methodist church in the annex of the church. Mr. Flood's Sunday School class is in charge of the evening's entertainment, and preceeding the supper a short program will be rendered, consisting of songs and recitations. Ice cream and cake will also be served. The public is cordially invited.

BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION AT INDIANTOWN

Indiantown, February 25—Superintendent R. W. Isley visited the school here Wednesday and assisted in the organization of a Woman's Betterment Association. The following officers were elected: Miss Annie Smith, President; Mrs. William Berry, Vice President; Mrs. Mack Smith, treasurer; Mrs. Lewis Roberts, secretary. Comparatively few members were present at this first meeting, but it is believed that a much larger number will attend now that the organization has been effected. The next meeting will be held on the first Friday in March and the parents of the children in school here are especially urged to attend.

TO GIVE MASQUERADE PARTY

Miss Bessie Morgan's class will give a masquerade party in the basement of Blackwell Memorial Church next Thursday night at 7:30

A. B. Lipscomb of High Point was in the city Thursday.

G. H. Heath of Camden passed through the city today on his way to Morseville in Iredell County to work with a construction gang.