

### N. C. County Home System Is Termed Inefficient Business

Annually Costs Counties Half Million For Maintenance—Three Millions In Property.

The most inefficiently conducted public business in the state is the county home system. And in spite of the tremendous cost of the county home to the taxpayer, public opinion has not been able to force the county home method in an inexpensive way to care for the lonely aged pauper.

This business annually costs the counties of the state half a million dollars. Around three millions are invested in county home property. From all this money we get appallingly meagre results.

In order to be absolutely accurate the figures here presented are only those actually turned in by the county homes; therefore only 65 are represented.

These sixty-five counties have \$7,784,713.52 invested in county home plants. In addition the counties spent \$440,182.25 for maintaining the homes!

Yet their inmates last year numbered only 1,674!

There were 65 superintendents employed to look after the 1,674 aged and infirm. Their salaries ranged from \$37.50 a month to \$166.66, usually such meagre amounts that in order to make a living the man cultivated a farm, usually the county home property.

County home populations ranged from one to 118 inmates. Thirty-six homes have twenty or fewer inmates. The value of the county home property now being used to care for only one inmate in one county is \$10,000. The county commissioners have realized the wastefulness of

this system and are now making an effort to dispose of the property.

The average per capita cost without considering the investment in property is \$262.95 per year, or \$21.91 per month. There are very few men and women in county homes in this state who could not be taken care of by some relative for this amount or less. If we add the interest on the investment at five per cent, we find that each inmate of the county homes of the present system is costing the taxpayers \$346.12 per year. The poor could be maintained comfortably for a much smaller amount. If the expenditure of poor funds were properly supervised.

The amount of money now spent for every old man and woman who is a charge of the county should be the best of care. But it doesn't. The poor could be maintained far more comfortably for less money, if the expenditure of funds were carefully supervised by someone trained in the administration of poor relief. The public is not getting its money's worth, and doesn't know it.

For instance, Mrs. W. B. Waddill, superintendent of Public Welfare in Vance county, has taken eighteen inmates from the county home and placed them in private homes where they are much happier. They are well cared for under Mrs. Waddill's supervision, and yet they are each costing Vance county only \$4.83 per month! The county home has been converted into a county hospital subsidized by the Duke Endowment. Only five of the former inmates remain, all of these being in need of hospital care. A great saving has been effected in this county. Constructive health work is being done which in the future will reduce the number of people who become county charges.

The hospital home which has replaced the Vance poor house serves the whole community. In 1928, a total of 3,315 days of care were given to 166 in-patients. This means that 166 indigent sick persons were provided for in the county institution. Out-patients who made 375 visits to the hospital for various sorts of treatments numbered 102. In addition, the five bedridden aged poor were taken care of.

In a number of counties the size of Vance, \$7,000 or more is spent merely for the maintenance of a county home. Yet the grand total cost of operating the institution in 1928 was only \$7,220.63. The sources of this operating income are interesting: \$4,800 was appropriated by the county, \$700 by social and civic agencies, \$150 by the town of Henderson, and \$2,508 by the Duke Endowment. In addition to a cash balance left over from the year before the hospital had a surplus of nearly two thousand dollars when the year closed.

One of the handicaps in the administration of poor relief is that frequently in those counties having a trained social worker the welfare officer is given no jurisdiction over the applications for admission to the county home. Often the county commissioners pass upon the cases and do not call upon the superintendent of public welfare for an investigation or report.

Investigation will often show that a poor old man or woman could be better cared for in the home of a relative with a little assistance from the county. Often it will be found that there are relatives who are able to give their indigent kin a home. If they are reminded of their responsibility. One case was accidentally discovered by an agent of the state board that proves this point.

A blind woman of about sixty is now a miserable inmate in a county home in Eastern North Carolina. In the neighboring town her brother is a successful salesman, whose family consists of only a son and daughter. The girl is a college graduate, now earning \$100 a month as a school teacher.

Bigger and better buildings will make for greater comfort for the aged, but the old man and woman in need of help will be happier in the home of kinsman or friends. And vast amounts of money could be saved if carefully supervised relief giving to the aged were to replace our present system of county homes. However, the necessity for close supervision of this form of relief cannot be too much emphasized.

In Santa Monica, Calif., swimming about in the surf, Albert Fuchs managed to catch with his hands and lug ashore a ten-pound, live silver bass.

To fully equip a modern dental office an expenditure of about \$6,000 is necessary, according to a dental society's estimate.

**Works Hard, Dances, Gains 3 Lbs. a Week**  
"I work hard, dance and have gained 3 pounds a week since taking Vinol. My nervousness is almost all gone."—Mrs. F. Lang.  
Vinol is a delicious compound of cod liver peptone, iron, etc. Nervous, easily tired, anemic people are surprised how Vinol gives new pep, sound sleep and a BIG appetite. The very first bottle often adds several pounds weight to thin children or adults. Tastes delicious. Quinny Drug Store.

### "Much Safer in the Air"



Miss Loraine Jelfren, Boston aviatrix, was injured in an auto crash in Brookline, Mass. She declared, when interviewed at the Deaconess Hospital, that it was "much safer in the air."

### Yard Improvement Campaign

(By MRS. IRMA WALLACE, Home Agent.)

In order that every one interested may have a chance to join this campaign we have asked the press to come to our aid, and print the blanks for membership.

Remember that this is open to any individual in Cleveland county, and is not restricted to club members. If you plan to improve your yard, which we hope you do, you are the one to sign. The campaign will run for two years, and we hope that every citizen will line up with this work, and help to make our county the most prominent for beauty, as well as the best in cotton production.

The late E. E. Miller, former Editor of The Southern Agriculturist, made this statement, "Beauty is as essential as bread," and he further stated that, "The greater, lovelier and better South of which we dream will come into being slowly, or speedily according to our realization of this love for beauty."

#### MEMBERSHIP BLANK

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sign and send to either Mrs. Irma P. Wallace, Home Agent; or R. W. Shoffner, Farm Agent, Shelby, N. C.

### Woman Is Slated For Customs Post

Washington, Feb. 18.—According to treasury officials, Mrs. Henry J. Faison will be appointed collector of the port at Wilmington, N. C., within the next few days. Mrs. Faison has the support of the republican state committee, and Representative Jonas has transmitted to the department some additional increments.

### COUPLE WILL CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Forest City.—Mr. and Mrs. George Washington Long, of the Westminster section, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Tuesday, February 18, with a reception at their home. Mr. and Mrs. Long both are well known and have hosts of friends. A large number of friends and relatives attended the event.

## A new Octagon Premium

... only 100 coupons (see below)

Pink Glass Water Set

There are six glasses and a pitcher all of the same exquisite design. The glass is blown glass, very thin, very clear, of the fashionable pink color. The whole set is unusually graceful in shape. All you have to do to get this lovely water set is to ask your grocer for "Octagon" every time you buy laundry soap, soap powder, scouring cleanser, toilet soap for the wash basin, floating soap for the bath, and chips for your washer. Then save the coupons you get. You need 100 coupons to get this premium, at least 10 of which must be from Octagon Soap Products shown below.

BUY FOR QUALITY SAVE FOR PREMIUMS

Present coupons to agent below on or before April 30, 1930

## Cleveland Furniture Co.

Shelby, N. C.

### Famous Biltmore Mansion Will Be Opened To Public March 15th

(Special to The Star.) Asheville, Feb. 18.—The priceless art treasures and the renowned flower gardens of Biltmore House, the famous mansion which graces the 12,000 acre Vanderbilt estate at Asheville, will be opened to public view on March 15, according to an announcement made by Mr. and Mrs. John Francis Amherst Cecil, owners of the great country home and its surrounding demesne.

Visitors to Asheville this year will be allowed for the first time in history to enter the mansion and gardens, and see the rare artistic furnishings with which Biltmore House is decorated. Since the structure was completed in 1895, visitors who have traversed the miles of drives on the estate, have been allowed only to view the house from a distance.

Permission to enter the house and its surrounding gardens was granted by the owners to Asheville's many tourist guests, after years of persuasion on the part of Asheville people. The estate and the famous mansion are expected to be a mecca for thousands of lovers of the artistic, during the coming spring and summer seasons.

With the opening of Biltmore house, the public will see for the first time, treasures which have an incalculable value. Flemish tapestries, Gobelin tapestries which graced royalty's headquarters at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, the robes of Cardinal Richelieu, the chessmen of Napoleon, portraits by famous artists are among beautiful objects to be revealed.

The famous gardens, which are not surpassed in beauty by any other gardens of the world, will be a pleasure spot to be visited by lovers of floral display. The house and its gardens and furnishings are said to represent the investment of many millions of dollars by the late Geo. W. Vanderbilt, founder of the famous estate.

Because he believed there was "good in the prisoner," Constable H. F. Derham of Blackpool, Eng., paid for the defense of James Yates, whom he had arrested as a burglar.

Because her husband insists on wearing feminine attire, Mrs. Edna Leighton, of Baltimore, has been granted a divorce. He wore women's silk underwear, hose and petticoats and dresses.

### Easy! Quick! Glycerin Mix For Constipation

Simple glycerin, buckthorn bark, saline, etc., as mixed in Adierka, relieves constipation in TWO hours! Most medicines act on only lower bowel, but Adierka acts on BOTH upper and lower bowel, removing poisons you never thought were in your system. Just ONE spoonful relieves GAS, sour stomach and sick headache. Let Adierka give stomach and bowels a REAL cleaning and see how good you feel! Paul Webb & Son, Druggists. adv.

### If Feed Is Short, Sow Spring Oats

Oats provide one of the best grain feeds for workstock in hot weather, and the farmer with two or three mules to feed and no grain to supply them except what is bought, should plant a few acres early this spring. Spring-sown oats yield well in a favorable season.

"A hungry mule will eat oats in the bundle with relish," says G. M. Garren, cereal agronomist at State college. "A better ration can be prepared, however, by getting out the old feed cutter and cutting the oat bundles, mixing this with some wheat bran, shorts or middlings. Some work is involved but a fine feed for work animals is secured. Any moderately fertile, well-drained

land is suitable for the crop. Prepare it well by breaking six or seven inches deep; harrow and then use about 400 pounds of an 8-4-4 fertilizer before planting. Later if the young crop needs more fertilizer, top-dress with about 75 pounds an acre of nitrate of soda."

Mr. Garren advocates the Fulghum or Burt varieties for spring sowing. Two and one-half bushels of seed an acre is suggested and the earlier the seed are planted after danger of freezing is over, the better crop will be produced. The young oat plantlet is easily killed just as it peeps from the ground.

Chatham county farmers have ordered 10,000 pounds of lespedeza seed for planting this spring. Many farmers saved their own seed last fall and will sow these on small grain.

## TO FARMERS FOR SALE

200 Bushels "WILSON BIG BOLL" Cotton Seed at 90 Cents per bushel. Raised last year ten bales cotton weighing over 500 lbs. per bale, on 8 acres of land, used 400 lbs. finished guano, 100 lbs. Soda per acre. Two weeks earlier than the "Cleveland Big Boll," for we planted both kinds. I paid \$2.00 per bushel for the "Wilson Big Boll" last spring.

Samples of this seed can be seen at my office.

## A. C. MILLER.

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Brilliant performance—in every phase of motoring. Restful riding comfort and ease

of control over every type of road. Continued economy that becomes more apparent as time goes on. Thoroughgoing dependability over the months and the miles.

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If you wish to learn more about the qualities of either of these two fine cars, inquire among your friends who drive them. Then come and see Oldsmobile and Viking yourself. Drive them and know what they can do. Prove to your personal satisfaction that each is a great car—a real value—at its price.

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Shelby, N. C.