

# SOME OF THE RESULTS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WEEK

New Conception of Community Spirit Has Dawned Doing Away With the Individualistic View—Healthy School Spirit Developed—Celebration Will Be Permanent.

J. R. Winters in The Banker-Farmer, organ of Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers' Association.

When the citizens of Pikeville—a rural North Carolina village of 600 people, all told—forgot individual interests and by appointment for three



DR. E. H. K. GRAHAM.

days labored for the common weal they were a part of a movement as richly significant as the founding of an institution or the development of a chain of canals.

The minister, teacher, mayor and other public-spirited citizens of Pikeville who were seized with a passion for better things translated their desires into actual achievements. The citizenship of the community placed a correct interpretation on the axiom, "Art is the well-doing of what needs doing."

But photograph in the mind's eye, four thousand rural school districts, officially represented by twenty thousand people, pledged to the support of a common cause—and you catch in the large perspective the real significance of "Community Service Week" in North Carolina.

Why this State-wide gathering where men, women and children might assemble to speak, act, play and work for a greater commonwealth—to crystallize community spirit where the common good might be consulted and determined?

Other localities and States had observed "Read - Working - Days," clean-up campaigns, and other varied one-day civic programs in efforts to stimulate community spirit, but it remained for President Edward K. Graham of the University of North Carolina to suggest the epochal idea of a whole State devoting a week to the consideration of all matters of public welfare.

### The Governor a Convert.

The governor was a convert to the idea. In his proclamation, designating the observance of "Community Service Week", he caught the constructive temper of the original conception: "The realization of our patriotic ambition for North Carolina as a whole depends upon the achievements of the same ideal in the local community—the county, the town, the township, the school district, the little neighborhood grouped around church or schoolhouse."

The plans for development of the machinery for the practical introduction of this ideal as an adventure in self-government were engineered by Editor Clarence Poe of the Raleigh Progressive Farmer, a far-seeing writer and Southern statesman. The farmers' union—forty thousand strong—the State department of education, department of agriculture, and other organizations strong in leadership pledged their support to the project.

An executive committee assumed control of the movement. W. C. Crosby, a leader in farmers' union circles, was named secretary, with official headquarters in the State department of education. Local leadership—outspoken in teachers, ministers, mayors and local farmers' union—in four thousand school districts pledged a working cooperation. Forty counties were thoroughly organized—with the rural school district as a working unit. The personnel of the county and school district committees embraced the mayor of the county seat, county superintendent of schools, newspaper editors, president and secretary of farmers' unions, farm dem-

onstration agent, and every rural school teacher.

### The Machinery in Motion.

The machinery once formed into an active agency, a variety of things served as nucleus around which to crystallize civic consciousness. An illustrated 86-page pamphlet, brimful of suggestions, and helpful hints for the practical performance of things expedient to the advancement of every community in the State was issued from the department of education. Forty thousand copies were printed—twenty-two thousand were immediately distributed to town and township committees.

The initial move was to get a grasp of actual conditions in each community. Frank and candid comparisons of conditions in one community with those of other communities were compiled in the handbook. The needs and possibilities of the various sections were suggested by such questions as these:

Are our roads what they should be? Are our farmers co-operating as they should? How can we make our community healthier? What is our community doing to teach adults to read and write? How can we develop a richer social life and recreation facilities, a greater "get-together" spirit among our people?

The "Plain Truth About Your County: Where It Stands and How It Is Moving" is a section in the handbook sharply calling attention to the agencies and forces that are making or marring individual counties. Comparative tables, county by county, were compiled on these topics:

Power to produce farm wealth, white illiteracy, church membership, farm tenancy, road mileage, boys' corn club enrollment, girls' canning club enrollment, and corn and cotton yields under demonstration methods.

Supplementary to the guidebook, other inspiring literature contributed to stimulate the movement. The secretary mailed six thousand letters to members of farmers unions and a letter to every rural school teacher in the State.

### Survey of Rural Conditions.

The inauguration of a rural census or survey created a demand for blanks for the insertion of replies to fifty questions of intimate insight into home life. The survey was prosecuted by the educational forces of the rural communities. Here appended are replies to ten questions, gathered from thirteen counties scattered over the State, of unusual import:

| Questions.   | Percentage Basis. |    |
|--|-------------------|----|
|  | Yes               | No |
| No. 1. Do you use patent medicines? .....  | 57                | 43 |
| No. 2. Has the farm demonstration agent helped you this year? .....                                | 14                | 86 |
| No. 3. Are you a church member? .....  | 70                | 30 |
| No. 4. Have you helped your local bank by depositing your savings in it? .....                     | 48                | 52 |
| No. 5. Has your bank ever helped you by loaning you money? .....                                   | 43                | 57 |
| No. 6. Do all your children between six and sixteen attend school? ..                              | 82                | 18 |
| No. 7. Do you own your farm? .....   | 72                | 28 |
| No. 8. Do you take a farm paper? .....   | 66                | 34 |
| No. 9. Do the boys have Saturday afternoons off for baseball or other recreations? .....           | 46                | 54 |
| No. 10. Would you favor industrial, agricultural and some high school subjects in your schools? .. | 82                | 18 |

Rural communities all over the State caught the spirit of the new adventure in self-government—their patriotic impulse was quickened by the movement—and it was an inspiration to labor for the common good.

When an isolated school district in an eastern county closed their stores, shut-down their grist mill, saw mills, cotton gin, and banded-together to do service on the roads, county organization had become a real science and isolation had been pictured as the mother of stagnation! Thirty miles of improved highways was a bold testimonial to the efforts of this single township on "Public Roads, Grounds and Building Day."

### Only the Weather Unfavorable.

Other communities were similarly responsive to the call for actual service in community development. The unfavorable weather conditions prevailing during the week was the single influence to thwart the efforts of the three-day observance. One community reported: "Every man and woman of us on the job—stockholders, justices, patent medicine men, tax collectors, drummers, farmers, registers, and 'regulators of deeds.'" A community working schedule ran as follows: Repair front porch, saw wood with gasoline engine, put pump in working order, replace broken



DR. CLARENCE POE.

window panes, place shelves in hat-rooms, and repair woodhouse and window blinds.

Aside from the healthy school spirit developed, various rural schools took this advanced ground: Organized a night school, obtained a school demonstration acre, formation of a betterment association, boys' corn club organized, a school building completed, and the installation of a moving picture outfit in the school.

The epochal idea of a "Community Service Week" has been made a fixture in North Carolina—the permanence of the idea insures a more intelligent and interested citizenship. The endowment of a yearly fund and the retention of a permanent civic secretary safeguards its material well-being and future welfare.

The idea gives birth to a new conception of community spirit; doing away with the extreme individualistic view which proclaimed every man his own judge, jury and sheriff, and kept the active forces of society in isolation.

The newer conception is expressed in the version of the president of the University of North Carolina: "The road that leads by my own door is the road to the end of the world; and the wonderful thing is that for me it is the only road that leads to Farmer, organ of et .....tatatat the end of the world."

### JUDGE WHIPS WIFE BEATER.

Orders Defendant To Take Off His Coat, and Battle Is Staged in Court-room.

Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Dispatch to Philadelphia Inquirer. Justice of the Peace Henry Miller, of Swoyersville, gave John Kotch, aged 40, whom he called a wife beater, one of the soundest thrashings a man ever got, and when he had finished the job he sent the battered Kotch to the lockup, and will keep him there until he agrees not to beat his wife.

Mrs. Kotch came to Miller's office with her eyes blackened. She said her husband had beaten her. Miller sent a constable to round up Kotch, and when the accused husband was brought into Miller's court he claimed that the laws of the country permitted him to boss his wife by beating her.

Squire Miller ordered Kotch to get his coat off, and then followed one of the hardest battles that any justice has ever fought in defense of women. Kotch is big and powerful, but Miller battled gamely with him, and, after battering his nose until the blood flowed freely, and thumping his eyes until they were black, he ended the struggle with a blow on the jaw.

### TRAGIC DREAMS COME TRUE.

Woman in Vision Sees Brother With Revolver, Then Learns of His Suicide.

York, Pa., dispatch to Philadelphia Record.

A story of what seems to have been a premonition of the slaying of Mrs. George T. Miller here last Saturday night by her husband, who later killed himself when cornered by the police, is related by Mrs. Anna Miller of Baltimore, a sister of the slayer.

Mrs. Miller, who came to York today and claimed her brother's body, said that last Thursday night she had a dream which strangely worried her. In it she saw a man with a revolver in his hand, a policeman, and two children. After the tragedy she realized that the man she saw in her dream was her brother. The two children, she believes, were Miller's daughters, who were only saved from the same fate as their mother by B. F. Hibner, who crawled with them from a third-story window and along a narrow ledge to a neighbor's roof.

The policeman, she says, must have been Patrolman Ziegler, at whom Miller fired when the officer came upon him in the home of a brother after the shooting of the woman.

# COMPETITION IN TOBACCO TRADE

Cry That There Is None Is All Bosh, Declares Capt. J. R. Hutchings

To the Editor: I noticed a day or two ago an item in the Washington City News columns that Congressman Stedman and others of our national law makers had been called upon to look into the tobacco situation towards raising prices, and suggestions of legislating against tobacco firms. In my judgment we Democrats are inclined to legislate on business too much anyway.

I never cast any other vote in my life and feel that I have a small voice in our policies, being one of the family. The cry of no competition is all bosh.

This crop of tobacco has sold as well as any crop in ten years, except the 1913 crop, which was by far one of the best crops ever raised, and on account of a very strong foreign demand, it sold extremely high, and I can not believe any tobacco man either planter, warehouseman, or buyer ever expected to see such prices again with a normal crop and normal conditions.

Under present conditions tobacco has sold far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine, and has put more money in the country and given more relief than any other commodity.

I believe the spirit of the trade is to in every way possible give the farmer a square deal, and the tobacco planters of North Carolina today are in better condition than any other class, as well as the people in general of the tobacco sections.

There is considerable competition in the trade, the four companies formed from the old A. T. Co., Liggett & Myers, P. Lorrillard Co., R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., and "The New" American Tobacco Co., all go on the market and buy according to the demands of their factories. And bid against the other, and with 33 years as a tobacco auctioneer, I say they bid without any compromise of one against the other. Then we have the Imperial Tobacco, of England, one of the strongest firms in the tobacco world, large users and good bidders on the markets.

Then there is the Export Tobacco Co., one of the strongest bidders in the trade. This firm, with Jas. E. (Buck) Duke at its head is giving much attention, time and money in upbuilding the tobacco industry in foreign countries. The Japanese through their agents are large buyers of our tobacco.

Then with such large firms as J. P. Taylor Co., John E. Hughes & Co., Dobbrell Bros. Co., L. L. Strause, Hughes Martin Co., Dart Tobacco Co., and others I could name, are all large buyers, and are firms that travel the two hemispheres to get orders for tobacco and are strong bidders in the trade. So it is shown at a glance that when any one says that there is no competition in the trade, the facts do not bear it out. This is comparatively a mean crop of tobacco, with a large per cent of green and nondescript stuff that no manufacturer wants, as people have quit using that kind and lots of it is only suitable for sheep dip. And I have seen low grades even lower than now in the 70s, 80s and 90s and 1905. With the great European war going on it is a mystery how the market has been so well sustained.

The truth is that some of our politicians are always seeking an opportunity to jump on Buck Duke anyway and they don't know a cussed thing about the tobacco business, and it is time they were calling off and let the tobacco interest alone. I believe the general feeling in the entire tobacco belt of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina is to give the trade a rest and hands off.

JOHN R. HUTCHINGS,  
Wendell, N. C.

### FEW HIT BY INFANTRY.

Hard to Explain But It Is a Fact.

Paris, Feb. 10.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—The relatively small proportion of men hit by infantry fire has been explained by the fact that the blue sky draws the aim high. La Illustration maintains that this position is untenable because high fire is often more deadly than low by reason of the fact that it reaches the reserves who are often assembled in far more compact masses than the men on the firing lines.

In charging position an infantryman's rifle barrel forms an angle of about 12 degrees above the horizon. At from 16 to 60 degrees the Lebel rifle with the "D" bullet has a range of about 4,400 yards maximum. Supposing that a considerable part of the fire were drawn high by the blue sky there would be a zone of 150 yards just within the maximum that would be particularly dangerous for the reserves.