

County Home Here is Being Made One of Best in State

Sum
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Newsom
Many Improvements Planned or Completed on Premises, Newsom Reports

Durham's county home is one of the best-equipped and best-maintained in the state, and constant attention is paid by county authorities and Supt. R. B. Nichols to continue its good rating.

Following is a summary, prepared by County Manager D. W. Newsom, of recent activities, present status, and future plans of the county home:

"A wire fence has been constructed around the new building for the insane, with two entrance gates and two overhanging strands of barbed wire on extension arms at a 45-degree angle to the vertical fence line. This enclosure provides separate divisions for white and Negro inmates and enables them to have the benefit of sunshine, fresh air and exercise.

"Additional shelving has been provided in the storage room for canned goods. Heretofore the county has canned only about 12,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables each year. This year we expect to can 25,000 quarts. This room will carry a wide variety of canned goods. During the height of the fruit and vegetable season the canning factory has been operating at full speed day and night, with two shifts of workers.

The county has 185 hogs, the largest number for several years. Heretofore the county has produced only 24,000 pounds of meat a year. We expect to cure 30,000 pounds this year which will give the home a full year's supply of meat.

"The old mule stables and feed

been provided for the dining rooms, and tempered pressed wood tops for the tables in the prisoners' dining room.

"This year the workhouse and county infirmary will be painted throughout, and 36 new double-deck cots, built on state specifications, have been purchased for the workhouse.

"New fences will be built to provide a series of new quarters for the hogs, and these runs will be planted so as to give the hogs a constant supply of green food. A quantity of cedar posts have recently been purchased for this purpose. Several new hog houses have been built for breeding purposes. Approximately 50 acres of pasture land have been seeded for grass and the herd of 21 milk cows and 20 calves and dry cows is being constantly increased and improved, as well as the breeding stock of hogs.

"Supt. R. B. Nichols is giving constant and careful supervision to all the work of the county home and farms, in close cooperation with the county manager, and his work is meeting with wide approval. Crop rotation, soil conservation and terracing of county lands are expected to put the county home farms in much better shape for the production of food and feedstuffs.

"These changes and improvements, together with the changes being made for the expansion of the health and welfare departments, will greatly improve the services rendered by the county."

barn, which has weathered the storms of half a century, will be torn down and a new, modern, two-story mule and feed barn will be erected. Work will be done with prison and WPA labor at a cost of approximately \$2,500. The new barn will be located south of the new dairy barn.

"The old well at the barn is now being cleaned and deepened. An electric pump will be installed over this well to supply water for cleaning the dairy barn and for the mules, cows, hogs and chickens. If the supply of water proves satisfactory, another pump will be installed later at another of the county home wells, to supply water for the county laundry. These wells are expected to greatly reduce the annual water bill of the county.

"Since the construction of the new building for the insane, it is now possible to remove the patients temporarily from the old building to the new quarters, while the old building is being overhauled. A new roof, new tile floors and a modern system of toilets will be provided for the old building, and the building painted throughout. This will put the old building in a thoroughly sanitary condition. This work is expected to cost approximately \$2,500.

"Metal railings will be installed on the east and west end porches of the main building at the county home to afford a large measure of protection to the aged and infirm in the use of these porches.

"The house for the storage of voting booths and ballot boxes has been enlarged so as to care for the election machinery of the county, in a more orderly fashion.

"A blacksmith shop will be provided and supplied with necessary blacksmith tools for the repair of farm implements and machinery and for shoeing the county mules.

"A new Frigidaire will be placed in the county home kitchen to replace the old one bought second-hand in 1925, which has become worn and expensive. The present kitchen range will probably last for another year, but another year it will probably be necessary to include in the budget an appropriation for a new range. Recently the kitchen has been provided with new sink and drainboard, new meat block, large metal kitchen table and additional porcelain top tables have