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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN N. C.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

In view of the fact that it is commencement time in North Carolina, the accompanying table showing how the counties ranked in 1923 in white high school graduates should be of special interest. One of the outstanding developments in the growth of public education within recent years in North Carolina has been the rapid increase in number of high school students and high school graduates. While great progress is being made we are still far below the average rate of white high school graduates per unit of white population for all the states.

For the year 1923 Northampton county led all the counties of the state in the number of white high school graduates per 10,000 white people, her rate being 93.7. Or to put it on another basis, it took 22 white families upon an average to supply one high school graduate, in the county that ranks highest in the state. In this connection it is interesting to note that Northampton stands fourth in rank in college attendance in the state. Gates, a nearby county, with no incorporated town in the county, ranks second in high school graduates, with 64.3 per 10,000 white people.

The Northeast

A most interesting situation is discovered in connection with the nine counties which form the northeastern corner of the state. Of these nine remote rural counties all rank above the state average in high school graduates, except Pasquotank which is near the average, and the only county with a large town.

This same area ranks high in college attendance, nearly all the counties ranking either above or near the state average of 41 college students in our state colleges per 10,000 white population. To our mind there are two reasons for this commendable rank. In the first place it is an area of relatively high farm ownership with diversified agriculture and a fair cash income. The other reason, in our opinion, is Chowan College at Murfreesboro. For years this small woman's college has been training future mothers, and the result is seen in the keen desire on the part of the mothers to provide the best educational advantages for their sons and daughters.

The Sand Hills

Again it is interesting to note the status of the Sand-Hill area, for many decades looked upon as a poor section of the state. Of the eight counties which make up the bulk of that part of the state known as the Sand Hills, every single county ranks above the state average of 33.7 high school graduates per 10,000 white population, and every single county ranks above the state average of 41 college students per 10,000 white population attending North Carolina colleges of A and B grade.

Again we believe there are two main reasons for this commendable position. In the first place the Sand Hills are settled largely by the Scotch and everyone knows that above all things the Scotch people want an education, and will starve for it if necessary. Our second explanation is Flora McDonald, the Scotch woman's college which for decades has been training Scotch mothers. The effect is seen in the firm desire of these mothers to provide the best educational facilities for their sons and daughters. It does not just happen that a solid group of counties in any area ranks high or low in high school graduates and in college students. There is always a reason, deeper than chance or even wealth.

Two other groups of counties rank high: the counties in the central section of the state which contain most of the colleges of the state, with a few adjacent counties, and four contiguous counties in the west: Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania, with large numbers of northern settlers and with some good private, as well as public, high schools.

Where Graduates are Few

The counties that rank low in high school graduates, as well as in college students, are all the counties west of Granville along the Virginia border,

and all the mountain counties except the four mentioned above, which rank well in high school graduates alone. Other counties which rank low in high school graduates are to be found scattered over the entire state, some rich and some poor, some urban and some with only small country towns. In this list come Forsyth, Gaston, Lincoln, Rowan, Cabarrus and other great industrial and largely urban counties; Johnston, Sampson, Pitt, Edgecombe and other great agricultural counties; and some very poor counties like Dare and Tyrrell.

It seems that there is little or no relationship between county wealth and high school graduate rates. Some of the richest counties rank lowest, while some of the poorest counties turn out many graduates, and send many sons and daughters to college. The nature of the population, desire for education, local leadership and discipline are some of the real factors that count.

Recent Progress

The high schools of the state have made remarkable progress within recent years. Perhaps more progress has been made here than in any other part of our school system. Not only has the quality of high school work been greatly improved, but the increase in high school students and in high school graduates has been unbelievably rapid.

In 1912 the enrollment in all high schools in the state totaled 14,401, while the fourth-year high school students numbered 818. In 1916 the students enrolled in all high schools numbered 16,783, while the fourth-year students numbered only 1,313. At the present time there are about 45,000 students enrolled in the high schools of the state, and last year the white graduates alone numbered 6,317. The graduates this year will probably be far in excess of the 1923 graduating class.

We Cannot Boast

But even with our remarkable progress within recent years we have far to go before we can begin to boast of our high schools. We do not lead, we do not rank high, we do not even approach the average of the United States in high school attendance, or graduates, or in the quality of high schools, referring mainly to teachers.

It is authoritatively stated that of the entire school population of the United States, 10 percent are enrolled in high schools. Of the children of school ages in North Carolina only 5 percent are enrolled in high schools. On the basis of white high school graduates per 10,000 white people we rank far below the average of the United States, and so far below the rate of such western states as Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Colorado and others as to make our rate of 33.7 graduates per 10,000 white population look rather small. Several southern states rank above ours in this respect.

A study of the table carried elsewhere will reveal the rank of the counties in North Carolina in white high school graduates in 1923. The counties rank from Northampton which leads to Graham which graduated no one, and has only one student in college this year. Five counties still have no standard high school. Their students must go elsewhere to seek a standard high school education, or they must do without.

The rate of high school graduates for 1923 for the entire state was only 33.7 per 10,000 white people. This means that upon an average it took 63 white families to supply one high school graduate. Plain common sense tells us that the rate is ridiculously low. Too many students drop out before the race is run. And many are the boys and girls in North Carolina who yearn for at least a high school education but who are denied the opportunity to get it. Especially is this true of country children who live long distances from high schools and who are unable to leave home to attend school. A standard high school should be within the reach of every boy and girl in North Carolina who desires a high school education.—S. H. H., Jr.

THE IDEAL FARM

In the final analysis the ideal farm—the truly successful farm—is the one which yields to the farmer and his family a living—full, adequate, complete—liberal in material rewards, but not lacking in the social, aesthetic, and ethical values which make for character, contentment, and genuine happiness. The soil has the capacity to produce these returns if the hand which turns it but knows how to sow the seed. The key which will unlock the wealth of the fields and bring forth the treasures material and spiritual is the intelligence of the farmer.—New Jersey College of Agriculture.

VIRGINIA AND CAROLINA

More than \$1,000,000 will be expended by the University of Virginia during the fiscal year of 1924-25, according to announcements made today by President Edwin A. Alderman in connection with the April meeting of the board of directors.

A budget carrying total appropriations of \$1,127,643 was adopted by the board. This amount includes \$56,000 for capital outlay as well as provision to expand the teaching staff of the university by the employment of seven faculty members of professional rank and a superintendent of the university hospital.—Greensboro News.

The University of Virginia will have a current operating fund for the year 1924-25 of \$1,071,646. If our University is to continue to expand in service to the people of the state its present operating fund must be increased by at least \$250,000. The annual maintenance fund at present is \$715,000, or \$356,646 less than that of the University of Virginia.

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE

In the year 1700 Thomas Bray, a missionary from England, established at Bath a small library for use of the clergy of the colony of North Carolina. From this small beginning in 1700 until the year 1897 our state library development represents a slow and fairly uniform growth.

The modern library movement had its beginning in the year 1897 when the city of Durham opened the first free, tax-supported library in North Carolina. It began with only a small wooden building and a few thousand books; but today it has a new \$45,000 building, a reported book collection of 10,890 volumes, with a circulation last year of 79,469 volumes, and has broadened its service so as to include not only the city but the schools and general public of Durham county as well.

Following this lead taken by Durham, public libraries were started in Raleigh in 1900, Greensboro in 1902, Charlotte 1903, Winston 1906, and so on until at the close of last year there were a total of 68 public libraries in the state. Sixty-two of these libraries reported a collection of 231,262 volumes, or about one book to every twelve people. On this basis North Carolina ranks forty-seventh in library facilities. There are more motor cars in the state than there are books in our public libraries.

In the June issue of the North Carolina Library Bulletin for last year appeared reports from these libraries which show incomes that range from \$17.63 to \$11,387.60, and a total income of \$103,036.00, or approximately one-fifth the one dollar per capita which the American Library Association has set as the standard.

What A Survey Shows

North Carolina, with its 2,690,000 inhabitants, is mainly an agricultural state. It includes only 27 cities which have a population of 5,000 or more. Seventy-one percent of its people live in the open country. A recent survey of farm conditions on 1,000 farms in North Carolina shows the percent of farm homes that have no books other than Bibles to be: for the operator land-lords 25 percent, for the owner operators 19.5 percent, tenants 33.2 percent, and croppers 62.1 percent. Of these 1000 farm homes in three typical areas of the state, 37.6 percent had no books other than the Bible.

The survey also showed that of the 1000 farm families interviewed only 20.3

percent take daily papers, 20 percent take weekly papers, 10.2 percent take church papers, 26.8 percent take farm papers, 1.5 percent take children's papers, 19 percent take magazines, while 47.5 percent take no paper or magazine of any kind.

In our state last year there were only 54 counties which had within their borders a library of some kind, 46 counties had no public library of any kind, and only 11 counties had a public library of more than 5,000 volumes. Thus it is seen that the great majority of the people of North Carolina have no access to public libraries, and can be served only by traveling libraries provided by the North Carolina Library Commission.

The above data indicate the low position which North Carolina holds so far as her books and libraries are concerned. If the 1,820,000 farm population, of which 43.5 percent is of the tenant class, is ever to acquire reading facilities, it seems that such must come to them through some form of loan system. It seems then that the county traveling library must be employed in order to reach the entire rural population. Since the county is our main unit of organization, it seems that the county library is best adapted to North Carolina needs and is the only one which can readily conform with our state situation. Hence whenever we think of the library millenium in North Carolina it seems that we must visualize a county system consisting of a strong tax-supported, free public library in each of her 100 counties, with branch stations at various points in the different localities.

In Other States

The results of this system where it

has been tried in other states are entirely satisfactory. If there are extreme rural sections where book stations cannot conveniently be established, a book truck is operated and makes regular trips over the country carrying needed books into the very homes of the most isolated farmer.

The Washington county library, with its center at Hagerstown, Maryland, is a good example of a county library system which ought to work well in the counties of North Carolina. Everything there, as in this state, is run on a county basis. The county is the main unit of government. The county library has been found to fit in perfectly in that state. The people report that they would not do without their county library and their book wagon. A similar system is operated in the state of California, where it has been a marked success. In California, by July, 1918, 42 of the 58 counties had established county libraries under the state library law; 38 of the 42 received an annual maintenance fund of \$539,458, contained 945,856 volumes, maintained 2,890 branches, served 1,549 school districts, and were directed by trained certified librarians under central state supervision.

It is some such system as this that we propose as the nearest solution for North Carolina's reading problem. It is the most feasible plan in this day of easy communication. Of course it cannot be hoped that this system would usher in the millennium, but it seems to be a great step in the right direction. It would inevitably lead to greater literary progress and eventually solve our book problem.—E. D. Apple, before the North Carolina Club.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN NORTH CAROLINA Per 10,000 White Population in 1923

The following table, based on information furnished by the State Supervisor of High Schools, shows the number of white high school graduates from both public and private high schools per 10,000 white population for the year 1923. The accompanying column shows the total number of white high school graduates.

Northampton county ranks first with 93.7 white high school graduates per 10,000 white population. An adjoining county, Gates, ranks second. Graham which is one of five counties with no standard high school comes last with no high school graduates.

State total white high school graduates from both public and private high schools in 1923 was 6,317. The state average rate was 33.7 graduates per 10,000 white inhabitants, or one graduate for every 63 white families in the state.

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Rank	County	No. High School Graduates 1923	No. Per 10,000 White Population	Rank	County	No. High School Graduates 1923	No. Per 10,000 White Population
1	Northampton	88	93.7	51	Orange	41	31.9
2	Gates	37	64.3	52	Madison	62	31.5
3	Craven	85	69.4	53	Columbus	66	31.3
4	Henderson	100	68.8	54	Forsyth	181	31.1
5	Transylvania	55	58.0	55	Union	87	30.9
6	Alamance	151	57.3	56	Washington	18	30.7
7	Warren	43	64.3	57	Pasquotank	30	30.3
8	Polk	42	64.2	57	Rowan	111	30.3
9	Davidson	173	51.6	59	Halifax	57	30.2
9	Randolph	142	51.6	60	Pitt	72	29.7
11	Iredell	159	51.2	61	Hyde	15	29.2
12	Buncombe	296	50.9	62	New Hanover	72	28.9
13	Granville	73	50.1	63	Franklin	44	28.5
14	Camden	16	49.6	64	Carteret	38	28.2
15	Nash	123	49.5	65	Lenoir	49	27.8
16	Durham	144	47.4	66	McDowell	43	27.5
17	Robeson	121	46.2	67	Martin	31	26.7
18	Pender	34	46.0	67	Alleghany	19	26.7
19	Jones	26	45.9	69	Cumberland	58	26.3
20	Guilford	306	45.6	70	Gaston	121	26.2
21	Vance	60	45.5	71	Rockingham	92	25.8
22	Bladen	54	44.8	71	Yancey	40	25.8
22	Pamlico	26	44.8	73	Ashe	53	25.0
24	Perquimans	25	44.7	73	Harnett	55	25.0
25	Mecklenburg	248	43.9	75	Rutherford	67	24.0
26	Anson	61	43.4	76	Chatham	36	22.2
27	Beaufort	82	43.3	77	Cabarrus	61	20.8
28	Richmond	70	43.2	78	Tyrrell	7	20.6
29	Moore	68	43.0	79	Caldwell	36	19.6
30	Montgomery	47	42.2	80	Sampson	48	19.2
31	Hoke	22	41.6	81	Johnston	73	18.5
32	Wayne	105	41.2	82	Person	20	18.0
33	Chowan	22	41.1	83	Surry	54	17.5
34	Curruck	19	40.7	84	Stanly	43	16.5
35	Lee	40	40.0	85	Avery	17	16.4
36	Scotland	23	38.3	86	Caswell	13	16.1
37	Wake	183	38.0	87	Yadkin	25	16.0
37	Watauga	52	38.0	88	Brunswick	15	15.9
39	Wilson	85	37.9	89	Wilkes	48	15.6
40	Bertie	39	37.3	90	Alexander	17	14.7
41	Cleveland	106	36.5	91	Swain	19	14.6
42	Hertford	23	35.5	92	Stokes	25	14.0
43	Burke	74	35.0	93	Cherokee	21	13.7
44	Catawba	111	34.6	94	Davie	15	13.4
45	Clay	16	33.7	95	Dare	6	12.5
46	Lincoln	52	33.1	96	Onslow	14	10.6
47	Duplin	62	32.3	97	Greene	7	8.1
48	Edgecombe	53	32.2	98	Mitchell	9	7.3
48	Haywood	76	32.2	99	Macon	6	5.0
50	Jackson	40	32.1	100	Graham	0	0.0