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COST OF TRANSPORTING PUPILS

COST OF TRANSPORTATION

Elsewhere appears a table in which the counties are ranked according to the average annual cost per pupil of transporting white children to consolidated schools during the school year 1926-27. The table merely presents the facts as reported by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. We do not pretend to know why the counties differ so greatly in the per pupil cost of transporting children to school. In fact no one seems to know. The office of the State Superintendent says: "Before any conclusive reason can be assigned to this situation a further and more detailed study should be made of the transportation facilities in each county."

We are presenting the facts chiefly in order to call attention to the need for research in this field of school expenditure. The counties of the state are now spending more than a million and a half dollars per year in transporting children to school. The counties do not seem to follow any particular pattern. Some trucks are driven by paid drivers, others are not. Some counties use large trucks, others use small ones. Some counties tend to use one make of trucks, some another, and some many different makes. Some counties have provided facilities for repairing trucks, others have not. Some counties buy gasoline and oil wholesale, others from filling stations, and so on and on. We need to know what the county practices are, and what practices are efficient and economical and what are wasteful. Thus the need for thoroughgoing investigation into the whole matter of bus transportation of school children.

Some Facts of Interest

A few facts revealed by the table are worth noting. On the basis of the data Lincoln county transported her children at a lower cost per pupil transported than did any other county, the amount being \$5.84 per pupil per year. New Hanover reported a per pupil cost of \$57.25. There are undoubtedly several good explanations for these great differences. What they are we do not know. It is worth finding out.

During the school year 1926-27 the white pupils transported to school daily numbered 111,030 at a total current cost of \$1,573,449, or a per pupil cost of \$14.15 for the school year. Only one state transported more children to school than did North Carolina. Forsyth county led the state in the number of pupils transported daily, with 3,476, followed closely by Guilford, Buncombe, and Davidson. There were 44 counties each of which transported more than 1,000 white pupils to school daily. Only one county reported no children transported to school.

There were 2,850 motor vehicles employed in transporting white children to consolidated schools, and only one state, Indiana, ranked ahead of North Carolina in this respect.

In terms of number of vehicles used Johnston ranks first with 92, Granville second with 82, Guilford third with 81, Rutherford fourth with 76, and Wilson fifth with 73.

A study of the table shows that there is little or no correlation between the number of pupils transported and the cost of transportation. The cost varies, and varies greatly. Some possible explanations may lie in size of buses, miles of route covered per bus, number of pupils transported per bus, county systems of maintenance and operation, average days buses were operated, different methods of cost accounting, or possibly in other factors. These are only possible explanations. The facts need to be investigated.

NORTH CAROLINA EXPORTS

A recent issue of Conservation and Industry, published by the State Department of Conservation and Development, carries some data on North Carolina's exports.

Merchandise exported from North Carolina for 1927 amounted to \$60,459,126, with raw cotton valued at \$22,303,204 ranking first in order of value among all commodities sent from the state to foreign markets during the year.

Following next in order of value to raw cotton in exports for the year were leaf tobacco amounting to \$20,168,592; cotton cloth, \$3,714,713; cotton yarn, thread and cordage, \$3,554,401; cotton hosiery, \$2,008,266; tobacco manufactures, \$1,565,945; cotton-mill waste, \$1,562,261; and vegetable food products and beverages, \$1,516,431.

Among the diversified commodities exported from North Carolina during 1927 were animals and animal products (edible and inedible), inedible vegetable products, boards, planks and scantlings, wood and manufactures, non-metallic mineral products, metals and manufactures of metal machinery, vehicles and parts, and chemicals and related products.

Exports of merchandise for the preceding year, 1926, showed a total valuation of \$62,553,232, indicating a slight decrease for 1927. From the entire United States for the calendar year 1927, exports were valued at \$4,758,721,078, compared with \$4,713,553,066, an increase \$45,168,012.

In discussing the local origin of exports, the Bulletin of the National Industrial Conference Board says:

"If the question be asked what contribution each of the states makes to the merchandise exports of the United States, an absolutely accurate answer cannot be given. Exports do not necessarily originate at the point of production. The interest of any state in the export trade of the United States depends not only upon its production of export goods, but upon its importance as a trading center.

"The commercial statistics of some countries give exports by ports but make no attempt to ascertain the origin of the goods exported. This is in part a reminiscence of older days when trade centers gathered goods from all parts of the world and stored them before exporting them—when, in other words, the shipping transaction originated entirely in the seaport town, and was not bound up in any way with the receipt of goods before shipment. The use of the through bill of lading has in considerable measure changed this situation. Export goods are by this means traceable either directly to their sources of production or at least to the primary assembling points for them. It seems probable that especially for bulky articles, the staples which make up a very considerable part of our export trade, the bills of lading furnish a tolerably accurate view of the origin of exported articles."

This means that the export figures are not strictly accurate for all the states. And most likely North Carolina is one state that does not get full credit for her actual exports. A large part of the exports actually originating in North Carolina are credited to other states since they are usually loaded on ships at Norfolk, Baltimore, New York and other deep sea ports. When the goods leave this state their identity often is lost. How else can one explain why Virginia is credited with exporting nearly two and a half times as much commerce as North Carolina? North Carolina stands ahead of Virginia both as an agricultural and as an industrial state. Our leading industrial and agricultural products are exported in enormous quantities. North Carolina will not get due credit as an exporting state as long as our products embark from ports outside the state, unless new ways are found to credit the state properly with all exports originating within her borders.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES

There has been a steady growth in the high school libraries in North Carolina, particularly during the last four or five years. The table printed in connection with this discussion giving figures for 1926-27 shows that there were 148,088 volumes in urban or city schools; 312,899 volumes in rural schools; and 119,818 in private schools, making a total of 580,805 volumes.

There were 81,021 pupils enrolled in white public high schools in 1926-27 and the total number of volumes in the libraries attended by these pupils were 460,987, which is about five volumes per pupil.

The enrollment in urban or city schools was 80,961 and these schools had 148,088 library books, which means that

GOOD BOOKS

Guide us into realms of joy
Give the spirit joyous expression
Inspire high ideals
Build character
Inspire honor and chivalry
Teach reverence and patriotism
Hold time's treasures untold
Instill a love of right and truth
Are good heart friends
Are comrades in joy and sorrow
Enrich the lives of boys and girls
Teach good manners and taste.
—State School Facts.

they had on an average five books per student, the same number found in rural schools. The books were for the most part well selected and were suitable, therefore, for high school students.

The enrollment in white private high schools was 4,072 and there were 119,818 volumes in the libraries in these schools. There were on an average 30 books per student in these schools. It should be said in this connection that many of the books were out of date and not very valuable as library books. In some instances also where high schools were run in connection with colleges, mainly junior colleges, the number of books given included all books in the school library.

The outstanding needs of libraries in our schools are as follows:

1. A trained librarian for at least part-time service.
2. Additional well-selected books until there shall be an average of ten books per student in every school.
3. Adequate library equipment making possible the most effective use of the books provided. In many instances the room is too small, and in many instances the lighting is poor. There should be a room of at least standard class-room size set apart as a library and this room should, of course, be provided with the necessary library furnishings to make satisfactory work possible.
4. An annual appropriation of \$1.00 per pupil for the purchase of new books, magazines and periodicals. This is necessary in order to add fresh material and keep the library up-to-date.—J. Henry Highsmith.

GUILFORD'S BOOK-TRUCK

The Greensboro Public Library, the first in the state to open its doors to the rural folk, has just completed the first eight months of service with the county book-truck.

During the first years of county service small deposit stations were maintained with some degree of success but contact between the library and the individual was lacking and it was a dream of long standing to provide means by which each person could be served directly by a librarian and select his own books with the same privileges open to those living in town. This plan was made possible last October when the County Board of Education agreed to turn over the full amount of the dog tax for such use.

A Dodge truck was selected and the body especially designed to suit the work was built in Greensboro. With glass-covered shelves on each side of the truck and desk formed by letting down the back, this "Parnassus on wheels" carries its wares all over Guilford County. Above the shelving one may read the words: Greensboro Public Library—Free Reading for Guilford County.

Twenty-six schools are visited besides various other stops. The truck travels five days a week and has two schedules so that the children know the day and hour to expect its arrival. The books are arranged on the shelves so that the children may know just where to look for those best suited to their age and pleasure. In this way individual service is stressed which cannot be accomplished by deposit stations. Any requests are received and filled on the next trip. The first month closed with a circulation of 3,804, which has steadily increased until the eight months' total amounts to 33,198, with 3,500 borrowers. Lists of books have been received from the county supervisor that will be of service to the teachers as well as the children.—Miss Nellie M. Rowe.

THE OLD NORTH STATE

North Carolina is getting much desirable publicity these days. Vermont, using Frank Page's speech as a basis, is busily advertising the state throughout the country. Now comes Fenner and Béane, cotton merchants, with connections everywhere. That firm is sending out the following letter to their clients and newspapers:

Half a century ago North Carolina, by admission of its own leaders, was, with a single exception, the least literate state in the Union.

Now, some \$35,000,000 a year are spent on public school education, and about 100,000 rural pupils are transported to and from school, mostly by motor bus.

More important, the people of North Carolina give as their first reason why their state is a good place in which to live, the great strides they have made and are making in education.

Their next argument is the existence of a wonderful system of fine highways.

Their third is developed hydroelectric power. Their fourth—the effect of a cause—is the rapid strides industry is making in their state.

North Carolina is bountifully endowed by nature. It has three distinct belts: the coastal plain, the piedmont plateau, and the mountain district. Vegetation ranges from tropical to northern. Agriculture runs the entire gamut. Cotton and tobacco are important, but the people of the state have discovered that industry is more profitable, and \$50,000,000-banks have made their appearance in some cities.

Trade centers advertise their highway connections, their railroads, the completeness of their facilities. They

brag about their housing conditions and their schools, the material progress they have made, and their plans for greater works for human comfort and economic ease.

A far cry from the days of the Lonesome Pine and the family feud!

North Carolina welcomes and does not oppose the drift of cotton production to the West. It has found something far better than the one-crop system.

North Carolina is an outstanding demonstration of the progress being made by the New South. It has begun to think right, and its larger future is assured.—Durham Herald.

LIBRARY GIFT

Tangible expression of appreciation of the service given the county schools by Miss Anne Pierce, librarian, and the various members of the staff of the Charlotte public library is evidenced by an unsolicited gift of \$1,200 to the library by the county board of education, announcement of which was made yesterday by Miss Pierce.

The \$1,200 item was included in the board's school budget for the year, it was explained, and the money is given Miss Pierce with the instruction that it be used in library work in any way she sees fit. The board in appropriating the money expressed its appreciation of the great service the library rendered the schools during the last year especially.—Charlotte Observer.

COST OF TRANSPORTING PUPILS TO SCHOOL, 1926-27 Average Annual Cost per White Pupil Transported

In the following table, based on State School Facts, Vol. IV, No. 21, issued by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the counties are ranked according to the average annual cost per white pupil of transporting children to consolidated schools during the year 1926-27. The parallel column shows the number of white pupils transported to school daily.

Lincoln county reports the lowest average annual cost per pupil, the amount being \$5.84. New Hanover reports an average per pupil cost of \$57.25 for the year.

The state total of white pupils transported daily was 111,030, at a total cost of \$1,573,449, or an average annual cost per pupil of \$14.15.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	County	Pupils Trans-ported daily	Aver- age annual cost per pupil	Rank	County	Pupils trans-ported daily	Aver- age annual cost
1	Lincoln	1,566	\$5.84	51	Person	1,027	\$14.90
2	Davidson	3,040	5.85	52	Buncombe	3,125	15.14
3	Mitchell	620	6.89	53	Vance	1,390	15.88
4	Sampson	2,543	7.29	54	Rutherford	2,289	16.13
5	Cabarrus	886	7.41	55	Wilkes	560	16.22
6	Lee	978	7.74	56	Northampton	905	16.41
7	Cleveland	1,605	7.78	57	Pender	1,345	16.51
8	Stanly	2,802	7.80	58	Nash	1,340	16.69
9	Forsyth	3,478	8.00	59	Wayne	2,422	16.77
10	Richmond	1,258	8.53	60	Scotland	639	16.80
11	Yadkin	275	8.88	61	Orange	1,035	17.08
12	Gates	795	9.19	62	Swin	217	17.09
13	Pasquotank	1,203	9.32	63	Henderson	813	17.56
14	Alexander	438	9.39	64	Granville	2,175	17.68
15	Union	902	9.59	65	Cbatham	762	17.59
16	Madison	1,042	9.80	66	Haywood	460	17.65
17	Iredell	1,903	10.01	67	Perquimans	308	17.85
18	Randolph	1,104	10.04	68	Jones	773	17.90
19	Guilford	3,273	10.13	69	Craven	1,284	18.03
20	Johnston	2,778	10.21	70	Anson	1,146	18.10
21	Yancey	300	10.24	71	Harnett	1,457	18.14
22	Davie	918	10.56	72	Moore	1,293	18.14
23	Montgomery	1,759	10.60	73	Durham	1,277	19.22
24	Caldwell	525	10.71	74	Burke	654	19.31
25	Hoke	664	10.79	75	Edgecombe	1,954	19.47
26	Caswell	1,046	10.94	76	Carteret	586	19.64
27	Ashe	387	10.96	77	Alamance	665	19.69
28	Mecklenburg	2,639	11.00	78	Brunswick	193	19.97
29	Lenoir	1,661	11.25	79	Rowan	600	20.68
30	Chowan	117	11.43	80	Pamlico	451	20.97
31	Greene	975	11.82	81	Bladen	1,252	21.16
32	Avery	600	11.86	82	Warren	970	21.26
33	Catawba	2,264	12.04	83	Pitt	1,365	21.47
34	Camden	450	12.16	84	Macon	196	22.16
35	Stokes	969	12.31	85	Wake	2,010	22.45
36	Onslow	895	12.59	86	Cumberland	1,800	22.63
37	Gaston	1,605	12.64	87	Beaufort	666	22.84
38	Martin	652	13.01	88	Jackson	519	22.96
39	McDowell	900	13.16	89	Ilyde	402	23.69
40	Robeson	2,184	13.36	90	Hertford	638	24.11
41	Columbus	2,069	13.39	91	Franklin	843	26.37
42	Watauga	301	13.44	92	Halifax	933	26.69
43	Bertie	980	13.49	93	Currituck	810	26.69
44	Surry	1,049	13.63	94	Dare	123	28.83
45	Polk	676	13.64	95	Cherokee	48	33.01
46	Wilson	2,572	13.92	96	Transylvania	206	34.76
47	Clay	125	13.99	97	Tyrrell	110	35.96
48	Rockingham	1,653	14.17	98	Washington	180	36.78
49	Duplin	1,560	14.41	99	New Hanover	241	57.25
50	Graham	290	14.73	100	Alleghany		