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PUBLIC SCHOOL COSTS COMPARED

SCHOOL COSTS COMPARED

School costs represent one of the biggest items of public expenditure this and every other state. Because school taxes bulk so large in the total tax bill there has developed an under-current of resentment against public school administration. Without stopping to analyze public school expenditure, taxpayers often make charges of waste and extravagance which are is some inefficiency, some extravagance, and occasionally some misappropriation of funds, but no week the control of the contr propriation of funds, but no more of this sort of thing than in other departments of government. In fact, there is probably no group of public servants class if anything like all defects are to that take their duties more seriously, or work harder to improve themselves administrators.

child eight, or ten, or twelve years of education. The burden is heavy on should, because there are so many large families that pay little or no school tax. North Carolina is a state of large families, a large percent of the heads of which pay little or no taxes of any sort. The maintenance of two separate school systems is an additional burden on the Southern states.

How North Carolina Ranks

If we compare school costs in North Carolina with those in other states, however, we find that they are not excessive. In fact, when compared on a per pupil basis we find them much lower than in a majority of the states. Elsewhere in this issue is a table showing the annual cost of public education corrent expense only) per pupil enrolled, and the daily cost per pupil attending school. It will be noticed that the range in annual' cost per pupil enrolled is from \$115.97 in Nevada to the range in Mississippi. In North Carofor the United States is \$64.59, or double the cost in North Carolina. If capital outlays, that is outlays for sites and buildings, are included North Carolina ranks fortieth instead of thirty-ninth. Apparently other states are keeping pace with our own in rained, they will know where to get school building construction.

Since the length of term varies in the several states, a more accurate quackery, to teach the public what basis of comparison is the daily cost constitutes good medicine, and, above per pupil attending public schools. In the accompanying table only current expense is figured. Even when ranked on this basis North Carolina's position public schools and so train them that remains thirty-ninth with a daily expenditure of thirty cents per pupil attending school. Nevada leads with an expenditure of seventy-nine cents per pupil per day and Georgia and Mississippi rank lowest, each with an expendi-ture of twenty cents. The average for the United States is forty-eight cents. If capital outlays are included the range fit her for this important work. is from ninety-seven cents in California to twenty-two cents in Mississippi, and North Carolina's expenditure cents per pupil. Our rank remains the

We must conclude from these figures that school costs in the South, includ- amiable futility of unintelligent gooding North Carolina, are low when com-pared with the other states. The explanation must lie in shorter school terms, lower salaries, larger classes, smaller fuel bills, less transportation social work that is marked more by its expense because of relative density of tears of sympathy than by its technique school population, and perhaps less complete equipment. Our school taxes may

of service.

Healthybe burdensome because of less taxable social work that operates in the bracwealth and income, but school costs ing air of facts. per pupil are not excessive. The cost of a languagest one test of healthy-minded-ness in the social worker. North Carolina during the last years, but it is still low compared with will go on the assumption that in a the cost in other states. If we were spending just twice as much on education as we are now spending, the cost per child enrolled would be equal to the present average of all the states.

NEED FOR COOPERATION

The importance of closer cooperation of the practising physician with the public school problem is the subject of an interesting article by Dr. C. Hudson in the September of the Health Bulletin. Dr. Hudson and yet the very efficiency of elaborate gives some interesting data on the permanent social agencies of certain No. of libraries extent of various diseases and defects sorts may become an alibi for slack- No. of volumes...... 240,521...

among school children, and the number of school children examined and treated last year by officers of the State Board of Health, including cooperating county health officers. The conclusions drawn by Dr. Hudson are as follows:

- 1. Only a small part of the 818,000 school children in North Carolina are given an annual examination by physi-
- 3. The examination of school chil-
- As most of the work of correctthe public school teachers and ing the diseased conditions found among school children will come back School taxes are high because it is an expensive proposition to give every take a more active interest in finding
 - (a) Assist in every way possible the local Congress of Parents and Teachers to examine all children entering school for the first year.
 - (b) He should co-operate with his brother physician to secure an annual examination of all school children in his neighborhood.
 - (c) He should give sympathetic assistance to the nurses and teachers in securing corrections of diseased condi-
 - (d) He should give practical instruction in hygiene to gatherings of boys and girls, parentsor teachers, whenever of permanence in his work, bending all and girls, parents or teachers, whenever

teeth. I have never heard a practicing dentist criticise a school dentist. will not permit a man to keep his or-They know that if the children ganization for the prevention of the revention of the revent are older and continue to have decayed horses and dogs and cats have gone teeth and diseased conditions which the service.

they will always have that faith in us as physicians which has always made the practice of medicine a glorious profession.

We need all the assistance which the teacher can give to the work and she should be required to take a course of training which will, at least, partially

THE SOCIAL WORKER

The first essential of social work is healthy-mindedness. If social work is to be more than an adventure in the will, it must both be born of healthy- letin. mindedness and give birth to healthy-

Sick-mindedness gives us romantic social work that is marked more by its the year, a gain of 50 percent over the

Healthy-mindedness gives us realistic

The healthy-minded social worker old. wholly healthy-minded civilization there would be no social workers because there would be no need of social work.

The goal of the healthy-minded social worker will be to work himself out of

The healthy-minded social worker will recognize the danger as well as the desirability of professionalizing

We are, I admit, caught in the horns of a dilemma here. Social work needs all the expertness it can command,

EIGHT-MONTHS SCHOOL

Governor McLean, in an article in the October issue of The North Carolina Teacher entitled A Six-Million Equalization Fund, says that the constructive work of the Educational Commission has paved way for the uniform eight-months school term, "which is just around the corner." Quoting him, he says, "I hope and believe that the corner may be turned and the longer term made an accomplished fact by the next General Assembly. It should not be done unless provision is made at the same time to distribute the financial burden fairly and equitably, in all the counties of the state, by increasing the equalizing fund to such an amount as will accomplish this result.

"State Superintendent Allen has estimated that an equalization fund of six million dollars for the first year of the next biennium and six and one-half millions for the second year, used for the support of the eight-months term, in the same way that the present equalizing fund used for the support of the sixmonths term, would be sufficient distribute the financial burden of an eight-months term fairly and equitably in all the counties of the

ness of social conscience and shoddiness of social policy on the part of families, schools, industries and governments,

The healthy-minded social worker this is possible.

(e) He should be very careful when examining a patient brought him by a dismantle his office and disband his

If we physicians hope to eliminate for work to do in order to keep or-

constantly reminds the nation that his very existence is an indictment of the normal processes of the social order.

The greatest day in the life of a social agency is not when it adds a new activity, but when it is able to discontinue an old activity because the social order has caught up with its ideals.-Glenn Frank, in The Asheville Citizen.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

The September issue of the North Carolina Library Bulletin contains several tables which reveal the upward trend in library service in the state.

The following is a partial review of the statistics as reported by the Bul

Of the tax-supported libraries report ing Charlotte reports the largest circulation, 411,646 books loaned during previous year. High Point with a book collection of 4,407 volumes shows the highest percent of volumes circulated; each book in the collection was loaned 12.9 times. Evidently all the books work all the time in High Point! This library

Black Mountain and Weldon whose libraries are supported by a special tax the only libraries in the state which attain the \$1.00 per capita expenditure, the standard set by the American Library Association as the minimum amount upon which a library can be expected to do anything like adequate library service. The average expenditure for the state is twenty three cents per capita.

A comparative statement for the taxsupported libraries for the years 1926-

27 and 1927-28 is interesting. 1926-27

irculation.....

county. The county library serves the people through branches, stations, de-posits in schools, and book trucks. Four-

Buncombe\$2,47	5
Burke 90	0
Chowan 10	0
Davidson5,00	0
Durham 5,41	7
Forsyth	0
Guilford4,09	1
Mecklenburg 4,80	0
New Hanover 60	0
Rowan 60	0
Stanly1,20	0
Vance1,00	0
Wake2,75	0
Warren 50	0

While these appropriations show an interest in library interest in library service they are pitifully small in nearly every case and so little money.

HISTORIC SHRINES

The Warren County Record reports the organization of a county historical ganization for the prevention of cruelty to animals, let us say, going after automobiles have taken the place of horses and dogs and cats have gone out of style in his town.

Healthy-minded social workers create organization because there is work to be done, but they never look around for work to do in order to keep organization going.

The healthy-minded social workers create constantly reminded social workers create constantly reminded social workers.

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The healthy-minded social workers create constantly reminded the place of history. Not only has Warren county and distinct the whole amount. Chairman A. C. Gentry stated today that as far as he knew the record above breaks all previous tax collections for the county of Person. Further that it could be extended to comparison with other counties and also top the records.

With the commissioners now in session they are busying themselves about making out the new tax books which will be turned over to the sheriff within a few days.—News and Observer.

.....1,535,532...1,968,979 What is reported to be the County appropriations.....\$23,470... \$24,758
Total income.......\$177,672... \$179,671

boards of County Commissioners have have provided this service in varying degrees for their citizens. Davidson county is the most recent county to adopt the county unit. Following are those counties with their respective. these counties with their respective appropriations. Durham and Guilford maintain motor book trucks for this service. Davidson will also have a truck, the gift of C. F. Finch of Thomasville. spots and breathe deeply of its pure and hallowed atmosphere. On Sunday afternoons let parents turn their cars off the traveled roads, follow a shady lane to some such shrine, and there relate to their children the stories of our honored dead.

Each county ought to have an historical association to discover and preserve old records, to locate and mark obscure graves, to record and dramatize local history, and, in a word, to awaken in the minds of youth a fuller knowledge and a richer appreciation of our own eventful past.

PERSON BREAKS RECORD

County commissioners in session today reported a record-breaking tax collection for the year 1927. When the books were turned over to Sheriff N. V. Brooks there was exactly \$183,503 listed for collection. Sheriff Brooks turned in his report, which showed that he had fallen short \$200 of collecting

THE COST OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, 1925-26 Current Cost Per Pupil, by States

In the following table, based on State School Facts, Vol. IV, No. 24, the states are ranked according to the daily current cost of public education per pupil attending school for the year 1925-26. The parallel column gives the total annual current expenditures per pupil enrolled. Capital outlays and debt service expenditures are not included.

It cost 79 cents daily per pupil attending school to run public schools in Nevada and 20 cents per pupil in Mississippi. The daily cost in North Carolina was 30 cents per pupil in attendance and our rank was 39th. The average cost for all the states was 48 cents.

In total annual cost per pupil enrolled North Carolina also ranked 39th, the amount being \$32.10, or slightly less than one-half the average for all the states which was \$64.59.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

	Annual Da cost cos	t				Daily cost
	per per				per	per
Rar			Ranl	k State	pupil	pupil
		end-			attend-	attend-
	ing ing				ing	ing
1	Nevada\$115.97\$	79	25	Nebraska\$	72.57	\$.48
2	Wyoming106.45	74	26	Delaware	72.73	47
3	Arizona 87.99		27	Wisconsin	71.47	46
4	California 94.27		28	Vermont		
5	Colorado 89.59		29	Rhode Island		
5	Iowa 91.68		30	Utah		
5	Montana 94.94		31	Florida		
8	New Jersey 95.05		31	New Mexico		
9	New York 97.97			Oklahoma		
10	Michigan 87.88			Missouri		
10	South Dakota 82.07			Maine		
12	Ohio 82.34		35	Maryland		
12	Washington 79.19			Texas		
14	Idaho 71.19		38	Louisiana	39.36	35
14	Minnesota 77.28		39	North Carolina	32.10	30
14	New Hampshire 82.09			Virginia		
14	North Dakota 75.18			Kentucky		
14	Oregon 81.275			South Carolina		
19	Connecticut 77.985			Tennessee		
19	Illinois 79.91 5			Alabama		
19	Massachusetts 81.235			Arkansas		
22	Indiana 79.945			West Virginia		
22	Kansas 72.915			Georgia		
24	Pennsylvania 74.394	9 4	47	Mississippi	20.38	20