THE CHOWAN HERALD, EDENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1952

## **Public Schools Make Progress Since 1900**

ties; Longer Terms; Better Schools and More Money Expended

Editor's Note — The excerpts quoted from the State Superin-tendent's Report have been pre-sented in order to show some-thing of the situation with respect to public education at the beginto public education at the begin-ning of this century, fifty years ago The beginning of a good many aspects of our present day school system are seen back there under Mebane. The problems which he had were very great indeed. We have made advanceindeed. We have made advance-ment worthy of note; yet, as we all know, there are many other "battles" to be won before all the boys and girls of this State are provided with adequate opportuni-ties for growth and for the full-est in democratic living.

Within this short span of years—from for a life certificate, and if not com-1899-1900 to 1949-50—the public petent to pass this examination he schools of the State have made such shall not be eligible to this import-tremendous progress that if one didn't ant office." tremendous progress that if one didn't and office. remember or have the data, he would And the pay which a superintendent be inclined to disbelieve that they received! He must have thought it ri-were really so inadequate, so ineffi-cient. and so poorly operated on so North Carolina who does about \$60,000 cient. and so poorly operated on so little money.

The facts are available, however. The Biennial Report of the Superin-tendent of Public Instruction gives staweaknesses of the program then in operation, but he also made recommendations for correcting many of the apparent deficiencies.

Speaking of the training of teachers of requirements. In some counties the standard of requirement is exceedingly low, and perhaps in a county hearby the standard is good. We want the standard good in all counties."

## School Funds

School funds were not always ac-

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**SMALL PAYMENT** 

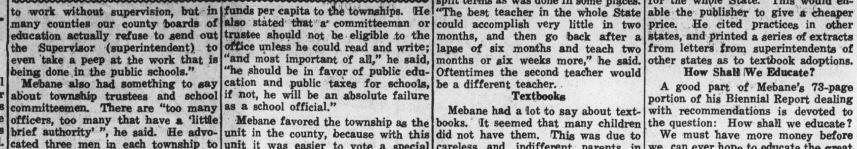
be published in the counties. School funds were often mixed with other funds, and "used or borrowed for this purpose or that purpose." "This loose management of the school fund has gone on for twenty years," he said. In order to remedy this situation Mebane pled for a separate treasurer

for the county board of education. As to county superintendents, the State Superintendent stated that "the State Superintendent stated that "the public schools have been in the gall-ing grasp of the court-house poli-ticians for twenty years in some of the counties." He recommended that "we elect the county superintendent by the teachers and educators of the county." He also said that "no man should be clirible to the office of county. should be eligible to the office of county superintendent unless he is a grad-Fifty years is not such a long per-iod of time in the life of a State. for a life certificate, and if not com-

worth of business a year will want a superintendent of his business to whom he pays only \$128? This is what Wake County did last year aftistical data concerning the public schools fifty years ago (1899-1900). State Superintendent Charles H. Me-bane not only pointed out some of the bane not only pointed out some of the bane not only pointed out some of the ter deducting the fees turned in for private examinations. What think ye, Gentlemen of the Legislature, of the metropolitan county of North Carolina paying its county superintendent \$1'28?"

"We want the best brain and the best talent to be had in this work of the county superintendent, and we he said: "We now have no uniformity must pay for it if we get it, and we may as well recognize this fact, and suit our foolishness about this public school work in its various departments."

Mebane thought also of the superintendent as a supervisor. "Men and women who fashion and mould the character of our future citizenship; counted for properly, according to men and women whose work, whether State Superintendent Mebane. He good or bad, will last when houses didn't like the item, "Paid for other and bridges are crumbled into dust; purposts," for which thousands and men and women whose work will last thousands of dollars have been spent. throughout eternity itself; yet we are He thought that these purposes should not only not willing for these laborers



More Children Attending Classes; Better Facili-

being done in the public schools." Mebane also had something to say about township trustees and school committeemen. There are "too many officers, too many that have a 'little brief authority' ", he said. He advo-cated three men in each township to have management and control of all the public schools, or abolish the town-ship trustees and have the county board of education apportion the

called "one of the most serious mis-takes." mainly the cause of this. He made a number of suggestions to remedy the number of suggestions to remedy the School Term Mebane was against the practice of tion by the State Board of Examiners



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