

The County School System Possibly Best in the State

A System of Organization and Consolidation of Districts Worked Out Over a Period of Years and Upon a Thoroughly Practicable Basis.

(By L. M. PEELE, County Superintendent of Schools)

There are 284 square miles of territory in Scotland county, practically one-third of which is undeveloped. There are eighteen hundred and sixty white children in the county. With the exception of four one-teacher schools, these children are served by six standard schools. The property valuation for the county this year is \$17,008,285. This property pays a uniform tax of forty six cents on the hundred dollars for running all the schools for six months. All of the schools except two small districts in Stewartville township has a special tax for supplementing the state six-month school term. So the minimum term for all the white schools in the county now running is eight months, since one of these non-local tax districts patronizes the Laurinburg graded school while the other goes to Maxton.

Of these six schools, Laurinburg and Gibson are special chartered schools, the organizations and policies of which are controlled by local boards instead of the county board of education. These two schools are standard high schools meeting all the requirements of the state board of education for a four-year high school. High school work is done in two other schools of the county, Spring Hill and Laurel Hill. The Spring Hill high school is what is known as a certified high school, with an average attendance of over thirty pupils and two whole-time high school teachers. The Laurel Hill school is a junior high school, doing work only through the ninth grade and having only one whole-time high school teacher. The other two schools, Sneed Grove and Caledonia, are standard grammar schools, each having four teachers and a graduate from a standard college as principal.

With the exception of the four one-teacher schools, which schools cannot be displaced because of the peculiar conditions of our county, no school requires a teacher to handle over two grades. A system of public tracks and private conveyances, supported by county taxes, puts standard high school work within the reach of every boy and girl in the county. The county organization as it now exists was not arranged at any big county meeting, but has practically grown up, the needs and conditions of the different communities adjusting themselves along a common sense line. As the horizon of a community interest and needs receded to embrace neighboring communities, the people have naturally built their school houses in the populational center using trucks to transport the children from the more sparsely settled parts of the community. It is natural therefore that the leading high school of the county is in Laurinburg, the county seat. It is also just as natural that the next largest high school is in Gibson, the second town of importance in the county. Spring Hill high school is located in Wagram, the only town in the township. Laurel Hill township, without a town or village within her borders, prefers to spend her high school tax money in transporting her pupils to Laurinburg graded schools. The community life of lower Stewartville, centering around Johns Station, the people built their grammar school for that end of the township at Johns and transported their high school children to Laurinburg.

For these six schools to adequately serve the needs of the county seven-truck teams must be kept in operation. The running and replacement expense of these trucks will cost, approximately \$17,000 a year, or one-fifth of the school budget.

The county's building program will

be complete by September 1. Laurinburg, Gibson, Wagram and Johns have adequate buildings for the next long time under normal population growth. The Laurel Hill Depot building is now under construction and the contract for the Laurel Hill township school building will be let soon. These buildings have been and are being constructed at a cost of between three thousand and thirty-five hundred dollars per class room unit. The money for constructing four of these buildings was obtained at four and one-half per cent interest.

No organization or institution can hope to live and permanently thrive if it is based on enthusiasm alone. The bed rock foundation of our school system is economic. Therefore a school community not sufficiently large to embrace enough property for running a standard school cannot hope to do uniform work year after year. Our people are wise therefore in their organization, in that every school community is backed by over a million dollars worth of property. Below appears a list of the schools, their property valuation, and an approximate value of their buildings:

School	Prop. Val.	Build. Val.
Laurinburg	\$4,282,643	\$200,000
Gibson	2,859,226	75,000
Spring Hill	1,849,542	34,000
Laurel Hill	1,293,653	50,000
Johns	1,886,684	35,000
L. Hill Tship	2,826,487	25,000
Total	\$17,008,285	\$417,000

CAROLINA CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

Mathieth Contracting Concern; Has Major Projects in This Section; Headquarters in Hamlet

This part of Old North State has no more efficient or active developing agency than the widely known Carolina Construction Co., which has just been reorganized and is incorporated under the laws of the state.

This progressive, up-to-date concern specializes in general contracting and building in wood, brick, concrete, stone or steel construction. No job is too large to be handled by the Carolina Construction Co., Inc.

This concern has back of it a long list of leading structures of recent years in this section. They are now constructing the post office building in Laurinburg and has constructed many state buildings.

The company is possessed of the latest and best in the equipment line. A specialty is made of furnishing estimates, and the motto of the company is "Firms with Us and Save a Figure or Two."

R. H. Halyburton is president and general manager; C. W. Owens is secretary-treasurer, and James Diekey is general superintendent of the company. The offices are located on Main street, opposite the post office. The readers of this paper may rest assured that when R. H. Halyburton

takes a contract it is going to be carried out to the letter, done on contract time and be a job both owner and the construction company will be proud of. He is a live-wire in his business, popular throughout the community, a consistent booster for a bigger, busier city and never backward to lend a hand.

C. W. Owens, an engineer of broad experience in the construction world, is broad gauged and public spirited. Supt. James Diekey knows the construction game at every angle and is a man who gets results and is practical in his ideas and plans.

MRS. C. E. ODOM

One of First Two Stores in State Conducted by Women. Business Established in 1893

Thirty-one years ago there was only one mercantile establishment in the state of North Carolina owned and conducted by women. The second such establishment was opened in Laurinburg in 1893, by Mrs. C. E. Odom, and has been in continuous and successful operation since that date. It is the oldest business in Laurinburg. Its success has not been of the mushroom variety, but has been of gradual growth, each year marking a decided advance toward the foremost position in the local business world that is now occupied by the business of Mrs. Odom.

While the beginning of the business was on a small scale, the present building, two stories in height and containing nearly 3500 square feet of floor space, with a one-story addition providing 1,000 additional square feet, is owned by the firm, and is well stocked with carefully selected and carefully purchased merchandise of the type that appeals to the average woman. The long experience of those in charge of this establishment has enabled them to buy their goods advantageously, thus making possible price concessions to the public which add materially to the popularity of the business. Favorable prices are the rule at Mrs. Odom's.

The lines carried include dry goods, notions, millinery, shoes, hosiery, and ladies' ready-to-wear garments. The last mentioned line is the department of the business in which Mrs. Odom specializes, and a full line of both ladies' and children's ready-to-wear may always be found here. The goods are selected with that rare judgment which means so much in the matter of buying women's merchandise, and is to a large extent the secret of the successful operation of a women's wear store.

Mrs. Odom is active in the conduct of the business. She is a citizen of pronounced public spirit, being an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Baptist church. Associated with her in the business are D. C. Odom, who is not active, and Charles W. Odom, who serves in the capacity of manager. The former is active in the affairs of the Methodist church, while the latter is a Baptist. Both are members of the Chamber of Commerce, and are keenly interested in the progress and development of Laurinburg and Scotland county.

Scotland Supply Company

Incorporated 1905

H. W. McLaurin, President

E. P. Jones, Vice President

Dealers In

Merchandise of Every Description

Buyers of COTTON and COTTON SEED

Johns,

North Carolina

Established 1886

Incorporated 1910

J. T. John Company

General Merchandise and Farm Implements

COTTON and COTTON SEED

Agency

Chevrolet Automobiles

Sales -:- Parts -:- Service

Johns,

North Carolina

Carolina Construction Company

General Contractors

Now building the Laurinburg Post Office

Hamlet,

North Carolina

"All that the Name Implies"

Purity Steam Bakery

Delicious Pies, Cakes, Bread and Rolls, Made in a Sanitary Manner

"Buy From Your Grocer or Our Retail Store on Railroad Street"

Headquarters for Quality Meats and Groceries

"The Best Only"

McLaurin & Shaw

Laurinburg,

North Carolina