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Better Schools For the Country Districts

FARMERS IN NORTH CAROLINA CAN EASILY IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

SUPT. JOYNER EXPLAINS

As Much As One-Half the Cost of School Building and Site May Be Borrowed From State Loan Fund--State Loan Fund Now Amounts To \$317,000--Many School Districts In All Parts Of the State Have Taken Advantage Of It.

More than eight-tenths of the people of North Carolina live in the country. In any land, and especially in any Republic, the hope, the power, the prosperity, the safety, dwell in the many, not in the few. The strategic point, therefore, in civilization, society, government, morality, and religion in a State like ours is in the rural population. The strategic point in the preservation and improvement of the rural population is the school for the better education of the country children. The question, therefore, of most vital concern to our farmers, and, in fact, to all our people, is the improvement of the country school. As the towns and cities are largely dependent upon the country for support and for supplies of new, clean, fresh and vigorous blood, they are scarcely less vitally concerned in the preservation and improvement of the country children than the country people themselves. I beg, therefore, to suggest and explain some practical means within the reach of the farmers of any community for the improvement of their public schools.

1.--HOW TO BETTER THE BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT.

The money for a better school house and a better equipment may be secured through the co-operative efforts of the county, the community and the State. The County Board of Education is authorized by section 4116 of the public school law to set aside annually a certain per cent. of the school fund to be used for building and repairing school houses and for equipment. Out of this fund, not exceeding one-half the cost of the building can be paid; the remainder must be raised by the community by private subscription, or by local taxation, or must be taken out of the regular apportionment to the school district. In many counties the building fund is necessarily so small that the Boards of Education have been compelled, in order to make the fund go farther, to require the district to raise more than one-half the cost of the building.

THE STATE WILL LEND YOU HALF AT 4 PER CENT.

As much as one-half the cost of the building and site, or of the repairs and equipment, may be borrowed from the State Loan Fund for building and improving public school houses. Application for such a loan must be made by the committee of the district, through the County Board of Education, to the State Board of Education. Blanks for such applications will be furnished by the County Superintendent of Public Instruction or by the State Superintendent. The State Loan Fund now amounts to \$317,000. The loans are payable in ten annual install-

ments, and draws 4 per cent interest, payable annually. Thirty thousand or forty thousand dollars to this fund, plus the additions from the sale of swamp lands belonging to the State board of Education, is annually available for loans. Many school districts in all parts of the State have taken advantage of this loan fund to provide the money for securing better houses and equipment on easy terms. The annual installments and interest can be paid by private subscriptions, by local taxation, or out of the annual apportionment to the district from the County School fund. Pamphlets of information will be furnished upon application to the State Superintendent or the County Superintendent.

HERE'S A BOOK OF SCHOOL-HOUSE PLANS FOR YOU.

The law provides that the building of all new school-houses shall be under the control and direction of and by contract with the County Board of Education; and the Board is forbidden to invest any money in any new school-house that is not built in accordance with plans approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Contracts for buildings are required to be in writing, and the buildings must be inspected, received and approved by the County Superintendent of Public Instruction before full payment is made therefor. A pamphlet containing the plans approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for houses of from one to eight rooms in size, with full specifications and complete bills of material for each house, prepared by skillful architects, will be furnished upon application to the State Superintendent or the County Superintendent of Public Instruction. These plans are in accordance with the best established principles of modern school architecture; and the information contained in the pamphlet is sufficient to enable any carpenter of fair intelligence to build a house in accordance with any plan contained therein.

11.--HOW TO GET A SCHOOL LIBRARY.

Another means of improving the country school, easily available to any community, is the rural library. Provision is made by law for the establishment of 500 rural libraries and 500 supplementary libraries biennially.

SEE WHAT TEN DOLLARS WILL DO.

Any school district, incorporated towns having as many as 1,000 inhabitants excepted, may secure a rural library as follows: The patrons and friends of the school are required to raise \$10 and tender it to the County Treasurer. This may be raised by private donation, by school entertainments,

etc. Thereupon the County Board of Education is required to appropriate \$10 out of the General Fund of the county, and upon certificate of the County Superintendent to the State Superintendent that the school district has raised \$10 and the county has appropriated \$10, the State Superintendent is required to send \$10 from the State appropriation to the Treasurer of the county, making \$30 for the purchase of books. These books must be selected from a list approved by the State Superintendent and printed and distributed in pamphlet form. The list has been carefully prepared and contains represented masterpieces in all departments of good literature, classified according to subject matter and adaptation to children of different ages and degrees of advancement.

The County Board of Education is required, upon application of the County Superintendent, to furnish out of the General School Fund a neat book-case with lock and key. For convenience and economy, arrangements have been made with the Snow Lumber Company, of High Point, to furnish these cases at reasonable prices, the cases being constructed in accordance with a plan prepared by an architect under the direction of the State Superintendent. The plan and the prices will be found in the pamphlet containing the approved list of books. The library thus established must be conducted under rules and regulations prescribed by the State Superintendent, printed copies of which will be furnished upon application to the County Superintendent or the State Superintendent.

YOU CAN GET ONE AS EASILY AS THESE 1,500 DID.

About 1,500 of these libraries have been established in this way, containing about 135,000 volumes, costing about \$45,000. These libraries may be enlarged biennially by the addition of \$15 worth of books selected from the approved list \$5 of which must be raised by private donation, or otherwise, \$5 appropriated out of the General County School Fund, and \$5 contributed out of the State appropriation.

The value of such a library to any school, and, in fact, to the entire community, can scarcely be measured by any human standard. The libraries are kept in the school houses during the session, but arrangement may be made for using the books during vacation also. The books are read by old and young. They supplement the regular school work along all lines and are like a breath of fresh air in the school room. They go into hundreds of homes and aid in cultivating in young and old, in school and home, a taste for literature, and in forming the reading habit, and in providing, through the best books, the best association and communion with the greatest minds and souls of the ages. Five hundred of these libraries and five hundred supplementary libraries are available every two years. It is easy for every rural community in the State to secure one in the near future.

111.--HOW TO GET LOCAL TAXATION.

For the improvement of public schools, good teachers and enough of them to give thorough instruction to all the children, are necessary. For providing better buildings and equipment and more advanced courses of instruction, more money is, of course, necessary. These things cost money and cannot be had without money. The State and county have about reached the limit of taxation provided by law for schools. The rural community,

therefore, that desires better educational advantages than it now has must make up its mind to adopt the only means found available and adopted by the towns.

ONLY TWO WAYS OPEN.

There are but two means--(1) private subscription and (2) special local taxation. Private subscription is uncertain and unequal, depending upon the life and liberality of a few in each community. Local taxation is uniform, certain and permanent, based upon the principle of an equal distribution of the burden according to the property owned, and an equal distribution of the benefits according to the protection and the enhancement of value derived from the improvement of conditions.

ONE-FOURTH OF VOTERS MAY CALL ELECTION.

Under Section 4115 of the public school law, a special tax district may be formed by the County Board of Education within such boundaries as may be named therein upon a petition of one-fourth of the freeholders residing in such district, an election ordered after thirty days' notice, and upon a vote of the majority of the registered voters in favor of it, a special tax not to exceed thirty cents on the hundred dollars valuation of property and ninety cents on the poll annually levied, to supplement the funds for the public school in said district received annually from the State and county apportionment. Every cent of the fund thus raised by the special tax must be placed to the credit of the special school district, and the use of it placed under the control and direction of that committee.

THE ARGUMENT FOR LOCAL TAXATION.

By such a tax the school fund in most rural districts can be doubled, and in all largely increased, and enough money provided for better salaries for better teachers and more of them, for better buildings and equipment, for longer terms, and for more extensive courses of instruction. By such a tax, all the cities, all the larger towns, most of the villages, and not less than 350 distinctly rural communities, are today providing better school advantages for their children. This means of providing more money for better schools is in easy reach of any county, township or school district in North Carolina. Every cent of the money raised by local taxation for schools by any community remains in the community for the improvement of the community schools. Every cent of it is invested, through a better school, in the minds and souls and characters of the children of the community who are to become the men and women of the community. Every cent of this local tax that goes into a better school to give the children of all a better chance to be somebody and to do something in the world is invested in the best possible advertisement for the best class of immigration for the community. Every cent of money, therefore, invested by local taxation in a better school, by inviting a better class of immigration and preventing a disastrous drain of its best blood by other communities offering better school facilities, enhances the value of every cent of property in the community by increasing the demand for it by the best people. Let us have more local tax districts.

In next week's Progressive Farmer I hope to tell its readers how to get one of the rural high schools provided for by the recent Legislature.--J. Y. Joyner, State Superintendent Public Instruction, in Prog. Farmer.

Sandy Ridge Wins the Championship Of Stokes County

A FINE GAME OF BASEBALL WITH PINNACLE AT DANBURY ON JULY 4.

SCORE EIGHT TO FOUR

Several Hundred People See the Contest--Sandy Ridge's Fine Field Work--The Snow Creek Boys Know How to Handle the Ball--The Game to Be Played Over On August 3--A Good, Clean Game--Both Teams Made Up Of Gentlemen.

The baseball championship of Stokes county was last Thursday, July 4, transferred from Pinnacle to Sandy Ridge.

The game, which resulted in the score of 8 to 4 in favor of the Snow Creek boys, was the best ever played on the Danbury diamond, and was witnessed by several hundred people, many ladies being in the crowd.

The features of the game were the fine pitching of Michael for Pinnacle, and Webb for Sandy Ridge; a three base hit by Webb; splendid work in the right field by John Abe Shelton and Will Hutcherson.

There was little difference in the work of the two pitchers, both being fine. At the bat both sides were fairly matched, but in the field Sandy Ridge clearly out-classed the Yarkin boys. Sandy Ridge rarely fumbled with the ball, while the Pinnacle players several times showed nervousness.

The first inning was bad for Pinnacle, Sandy Ridge making two runs, which put a damper on the Pinnacle team from which it never recovered during the whole nine innings.

The Pinnacle boys claim that they were not at their best, three of their best players being absent. It is learned that they challenged the Sandy Ridge boys for another game here Saturday, August 3, which was accepted. It is certain that a big crowd will be here to witness the contest, it being on the date of the Old Soldiers' Reunion. The game will not be called until after the reunion exercises are over.

There is no question but that Thursday's game was good ball; and the crowd was well pleased.

The Sandy Ridge and Pinnacle boys are all gentlemen, and conducted themselves with the best manners on the field. They won many friends while here. There was an entire absence of that cursing and quarreling which characterizes low-born players on some teams. The vanquished team bore their defeat with the best of grace and good humor, and will try again to bring to their banner success and the title of "Champions of Stokes County."

The score was as follows:
Pinnacle . . . 0 0 2 0 0 1 1 0--4
Sandy Ridge 2 0 0 1 1 2 0 0 2--8

Two Former Stokes Boys To Engage In the Clothing Business.

Messrs. J. R. and Ollie Boyles, two former Stokes county boys, the latter of whom some years ago represented this county in the Legislature, will open a first-class clothing store in Winton-Salem on September 1st. Both of these young men are at present with the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. J. R. Boyles travels out of Charleston, S. C., while Ollie Boyles makes his headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

BIG DAY AT WALNUT COVE.

The Flag-Raising and Barbecue Attract Large Crowd--O. B. Eaton and G. H. Hasten Make Addresses--Winston Band Furnishes Music.

Walnut Cove, July 5.--Yesterday was one of the greatest days in our town's history, being the occasion of the flag-raising and barbecue given under the auspices of the Walnut Cove Council, Jr. O. U. A. M. An immense crowd was in attendance, coming from Winston-Salem, Madison, Germanton, Rural Hall, Belevs Creek, Pine Hall, King and this immediate section of country.

The exercises pertaining to the flag-raising and the presentation of a Bible to the Walnut Cove school were highly interesting and very much enjoyed. Mayor O. B. Eaton and Mr. G. H. Hasten, of Winston, delivered interesting addresses.

The barbecue, which was a most important feature of the occasion, was under the direction of Dr. Elias Fulp, and suffice it to say that nothing was left undone to make this part of the program a success.

Delightful music, furnished by the Winston Cornet Band, added greatly to the pleasure of the day.

Two games of baseball were played at Walnut Cove yesterday. The first contest was between Walnut Cove and Hill Top teams. The score was 17 to 13 in favor of the home team. Walnut Cove also defeated Walkertown, the score being 15 to 14. Both games were witnessed by large crowds.

GEO. CHARLES CUT BY A NEGRO.

Difficulty Caused By Negro Imposing On One Of Mr. Charles' Children--Negro In Jail Under \$500 Bond.

Mr. Geo. Charles, a prominent business man of Germanton, was seriously cut on the throat and shoulder by Ernest Miller, a Germanton negro, last Thursday.

The particulars as given the Reporter are that Miller pushed one of Mr. Charles' children off the Germanton depot platform and he and Mr. Charles became engaged in a fight with the result above stated. Some of the men present took charge of the negro until Sheriff Petree arrived. In the meantime a warrant was issued and he was tried before Justice of the Peace I. G. Ross, who bound him over to the Superior Court and in default of a \$100 bond the negro was brought here to jail Thursday night by Deputy Sheriff A. W. Davis, of Danbury. A phone message from Germanton Friday to Deputy Sheriff Davis stated that Mr. Charles' condition was more serious than it was thought at first and that for this reason Miller's bond had been increased from \$100 to \$500.