

BETTER PAY FOR TEACHERS IN JOHNSTON COUNTY

The cost of living has rapidly increased in the past few years. It has increased twenty-five per cent within the last year.

From a business viewpoint better paid teachers is an investment. It will mean more efficient teachers, better schools, and better communities.

This proposition will be submitted to the people on April the 30th. There are ninety-eight white schools in the county, two hundred and twenty-eight white teachers, and about twelve thousand white school children.

Perhaps the following questions and their answers may help you in arriving at a conclusion: Question. Are Johnston County teachers paid a living wage?

Question. What is the average salary of the teachers in this County? Answer. Monthly salary is \$38.25.

Question. Do you want Johnston County teachers to go as poorly paid as they are now? Answer. Of course you do not.

Question. Can a teacher live on the salary paid her in this county and retain her respectability? Answer. No.

Question. Should we expect our teachers to go to great expense to educate themselves to teach and then demand that they work for less money than the unskilled laborer in our county? Answer. No.

Question. What is a fair salary for a teacher? Answer. A teacher should be paid enough to live on decently and then enough to lay up a little mite for a rainy day.

Question. How much should a teacher's salary be raised to be in proportion to the increase in the cost of living? Answer. Government investigation shows that the cost of living increased twenty-five per cent in the last year; therefore, a teacher's salary should be increased at least twenty-five per cent.

Question. Is the proposed increase in teachers' salaries as great as the actual increase in the market price of farm products? Answer. No, it is about half as great.

Question. Will we be able to get teachers for the coming year if we fail to provide better salaries? Answer. No.

Question. Why is there such a scarcity of teachers at present salaries? Answer. Because commercial and civil service positions pay larger salaries per month than teaching positions; and also because these positions carry a salary for the entire year, while the teaching positions last only a few months.

Question. Can the schools run next year on the same amount of money they have had this year? Answer. No, they cannot. They will either have to shorten their terms, or in most cases be discontinued altogether.

Question. What is this election on April 30th for anyway? Answer. To raise Johnston's tax rate to keep the schools open.

Question. How does our tax rate for school purposes compare with that of other progressive counties? Answer. It is very low.

Question. Why have a COUNTY-WIDE special tax for schools? Answer. A COUNTY-WIDE tax is fairer and more just than the ordinary special tax, since it would be paid by all the county for the benefit of all the county.

Question. Will the country district get as much as it pays in if this proposed tax is passed? Answer. It will get more. A large part of the tax will be derived from the railroads and other corporations situated in the towns, and all of this special levy will be equally apportioned as the county fund is now.

Question. Why have increased taxes for schools now? Why not wait until the war is over? Answer. Because war conditions have put the schools in desperate straits and at the same time the conditions which will follow the war demand imperatively that the schools be kept open and strengthened.

Question. What have England and France done for their schools since the beginning of the war? Answer. France has doubled her taxes for schools, and England has greatly increased hers.

Question. What does President Wilson say of schools and the war? Answer. He says the schools should not only be continued but in every way improved and made more efficient in order to train citizens to meet the severe conditions which are going to follow after the war.

Question. If a school has a special tax and has money enough to pay its teachers a respectable salary, how will the county-wide special tax affect such a school? Answer. The committeemen can ask the county commissioners to cut down their special levy as much as the county levy adds on. The tax on such a school would not then be any more than it is now.

Question. If any township carries a special tax election will it be valid in that township even though it fail in the county? Answer. Yes.

Question. What is the best paying investment a citizen of the community can make? Answer. The tax he pays for school purposes.

Question. Why is this the best investment he can make? Answer. Because a good school is the greatest inheritance his child can receive, if he has a child; and if he has not a child, because wherever in North Carolina the schools have been made more efficient the selling price of property has advanced in proportion.

Question. Board, clothes, and all other expenses, such as books, professional magazines, and summer school attendance are higher than ever before, and will there not be an advance in all necessary expenses for living next year? Answer. The wages of every other class of salaried people has been increased to meet the demands of living expenses. Why not raise the teachers' wages too?

This is a letter from one of the rural teachers in reply to the question, "Do you expect to teach next year?" I do not intend to teach next year unless teachers' salaries are raised. Board and expenses were so much this year I did not make enough to pay them."

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IF YOU WANT TO SELL YOUR farm it will pay you to figure with us. Abell & Gray, Smithfield, N. C.

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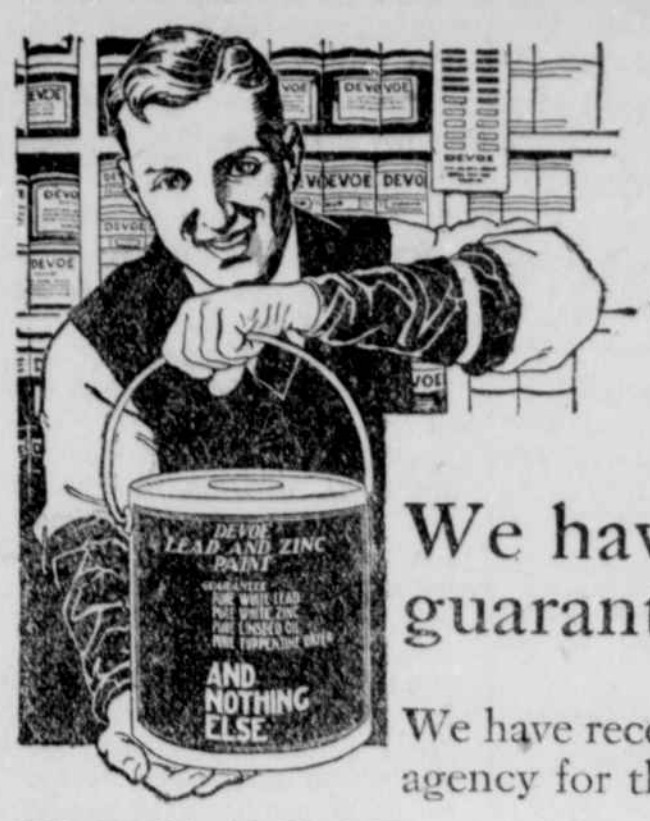
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