

WISCONSIN COUNTY-WIDE UNIT PLAN

(Continued from page 1)

Provide education for everybody. What he called the charity school idea. Under this system a tax was levied on bank stocks, licenses, fees, etc., was used to pay the tuition of these poor children.

Carolina with reference to elementary schools, said Mr. Allen, it is still practiced with reference to the higher educational systems, such as the University, the North Carolina College for Women, the East Carolina Teachers College, and other state schools.

Education in North Carolina, said the Superintendent, has always been at public expense. The trouble has been a lack of funds. We have never had a charity school or a rate bill.

In North Carolina the struggle began in the days of reconstruction when the legislature of 1868 wrote into the constitution a provision for a four months school term in North Carolina but did not specifically provide for the separation of the races and the people refused to provide the funds.

Answering the question as to what is public education, Dr. Allen stated

it was something that is provided at public expense to which all are required to contribute in proportion to their means and in which all may participate in proportion to their needs. It is something that is free to all regardless of their station in life.

Here the speaker reviewed the method of raising funds for schools as now provided by law. He pointed out that the state appropriated a million and a quarter dollars for school purposes.

First, it should create a large equalizing fund to be used in paying the salaries of teachers, and which should be distributed for the eight months term like the funds are for the six months term.

Mr. Allen closed by saying that many may think that this plan was fantastic, idealistic and non-workable. It is the only basis on which we can build a great school system.

months is the least satisfactory minimum, he said. If local schools want to go ahead of this, let them by special levy, provide a nine or ten or twelve months term, said the speaker.

Second the counties should levy a county-wide tax for bonds or for a building fund so that modern school buildings could be built and placed where they ought to be.

The third thing that counties should do is to consolidate the schools on a county-wide basis, breaking down the Hindenburg lines in education or lines of special tuition.

What can we do, asked Mr. Allen, if the counties will adopt these three principles? First, we can go into the county and reorganize and consolidate our schools and do away with the one teacher schools.

Another thing that we can do with these three principles, if the county will adopt them, is enlarge the type of our high schools. With a high school of three or four teachers, we can't have a diversified course, such as is needed by the rural boys and girls.

What power has the state in the program? All the taxing power of the state should be placed behind it.

And third, it should create a stimulating fund to encourage the counties to extend their school terms. The purpose of this fund would be not to relieve the county of any taxes, but to encourage it to provide longer school terms.

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Miss Elizabeth Kelley presented charts, maps, data and argument in favor of the county unit plan. It will not work all over Cherokee at present, she said, but it will work in over half of the county.

First, they should levy a county wide tax sufficient to provide for an eight months school term on the same basis as the tax for the six months term is now levied. Eight

first grade is between six and seven, said Miss Kelley, yet 166 were eight years old, 106 nine years old, 23 twelve years old, 15 thirteen years old, 4 fifteen years old and one sixteen years old. By the time the fifth grade is reached three-fourths of the children have dropped out.

A map suggesting the plan of consolidation in the county was presented. In brief the plan provides for rural schools of at least eight teachers so that the school will be a standard elementary school.

The people were exhorted to think about this proposition and talk about it. Maps of the proposed schools and the present location of the schools, will shortly be distributed over the county for the benefit of the people.

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A tenant farmer of Union County at the age of fifty years bought his own farm last year paying \$4100 for it. The first thing he did was to find the county agent and get his help and advice in terracing and planning his work.

The South is famed for its water-melons. They are sweet, luscious and tasty. Every farm should have its patch, say extension workers of the State College of Agriculture.

Mrs. A. K. Weaver



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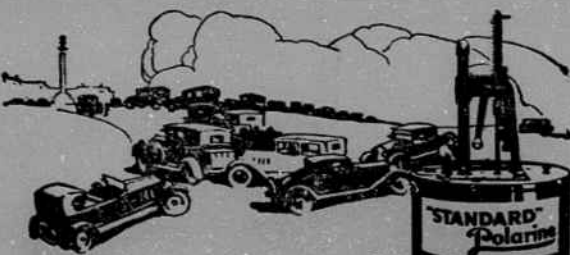
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