

Rural School Outlook; North Carolina Better

Conditions are improving for the country school boy and girl in North Carolina, and a more encouraging outlook is seen for the new year, according to a research bulletin of the National Educational Association that is just off the press.

The trend is upward despite discouraging reports from other southern states, the increase of the term being five per cent for the current session.

A better showing might have been revealed, had all the teachers in the 100 counties, or the officials thereof, made reports on conditions. Only 24 per cent of the counties have been heard from, and much of the data as to the state is estimated.

Taking past reports as a basis, it is estimated that as to salaries, 13,138 teachers in the state are receiving less than \$750 a year, while 3,688 are being paid below \$450. The average number of pupils to a teacher is 40. During the current year's work, 13 schools have been closed, and 650 children have been affected being for the most part transferred to other schools.

General retrenchment has been practiced all along the line, and in this respect colleges and universities have also adopted a policy to keep going on the smallest sums possible, and at the same time maintain their high standards.

DOG CAUSES FIRE

Oklahoma City—Corky, Julius Merson's fox terrier, thought he knew what to do when the ignited a piece of paper which he had been playing before a fire. He ran with the burning paper into a clothes closet and dropped it. Damages were \$50.

Best Bird Winner



NEW YORK: . . . C. N. Meyers of Hanover, Pa., bred and raised the best Plymouth Rock cockerel shown at the National New York Poultry Show. He is shown above by Marie Felique, as experts crowded around to proclaim the cockerel the best of its species ever shown in the U. S. He won "best bird" ribbon.

Babson Lauds Gold Policy

Tampa, Fla.—President Roosevelt's gold plans will stabilize the dollar and encourage trade, in the view of Roger Babson, noted economist, of Boston and Babson Park, Fla.

"President Roosevelt has done a very clever thing," Babson said regarding the President's intention to take over all gold monetary stocks and revalue the dollar at 60 cents, "although Senator Glass may be justified in questioning its honesty."

"With a large amount of gold in the Treasury, the government will be able to issue several millions of additional currency, secured by gold on a sound basis."

"With gold bid up by the RFC to nearly double its statutory price, the President claims the government needs only half as much to secure the outstanding currency."

"The Democratic platform took a position for sound currency, and Mr. Roosevelt backed this platform."

"However, this move will stabilize the dollar, encourage trade and facilitate borrowing and lending abroad."

"The dollar value has been bobbing up and down. When people didn't know the value of the dollar they hastened to buy or sell, thus greatly retarding foreign trade."

Black-Draught Clears Up Sluggish, Dull Feeling

"I have used Theodor's Black-Draught for constipation for a long time, and find it gives relief for this trouble," writes Mrs. Frank Champion, of Wynne, Ark. "I think it is good for spells caused from gas on the stomach. If I get up in the morning feeling dull and sluggish, a dose of Black-Draught taken three times a day will cause the feeling to pass away, and in a day or two I feel like a new person. After many years of use we would not exchange Black-Draught for any medicine."

P. S.—If you have CHILDREN, give them the new, pleasant-tasting SYRUP of Theodor's Black-Draught.

"So you want a position as stenographer, young lady? What are your qualifications?"
 "Well—my father is a bad shot."
 "Austere Aunt—'Young man, don't argue with me. Why, I knew you when you were but a wicked gleam in your father's eye.'"
 "Are you musical?"
 "No!"
 "Well quit fiddling around my knee."



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best. You can pay more or you can pay less, but you cannot buy better fertilizer for growing cotton.

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 by C. A. Abelle Jr. President
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Another Wonderful Flight!

ON BOARD THE BYRD FLAGSHIP JACOB RUPPERT: (via Mackay Radio) Jan. 4: And now, after three months in the engine room of this great steel oil burning ship, I am starting on the second and most important phase of my training as an Antarctic explorer and aviator. I have been assigned at last to the aviation department! Now I am working directly under that great flyer, Harold June, of Darien, Stamford and Bridgeport, Conn., the Expedition's chief aviator and the other members of the flying unit. They are Paul Swan, of Washington, D. C.; H. Fr. Gjertsen, a fine and skillful crowd and I'm proud to be one of them. With Admiral Byrd we're going to make aviation history.

It is an unparalleled opportunity for me to train with all types of aeronautical equipment—biplane, monoplane, autogiro—single and twin engines from 120 to 525 h.p.—very latest instruments, radio and other equipment—every kind of landing gear including pontoons, wheels and skis. All the planes, ready for quick use, are in the holds except the big Condor which is on the after deck on a special cradle with its wings extending out over the water on each side. The peculiarly hazardous position of this machine has several times affected the course of our vessel, especially in the gales we have met. Commodore Gjertsen must frequently maneuver the ship so the Condor won't be ripped overboard by the wind.

Yesterday (Jan. 4 with you—Jan. 3 with us) Admiral Byrd, with June at the controls, a. . . Bowlin, Pelter and Peterson, made another grand flight in the Condor. Mark it on your club maps—along the 117th Meridian from 116.35 west 69.75 south 150 miles to 72.30 south and back. Use a blue pencil for this flight and keep your map very carefully. A little later we're going to announce a contest for the most accurate maps kept by club members. Instead of finding land, as he thought he might, Admiral Byrd reported that nothing but sea ice was visible and the Eastern coast of the supposed Antarctic continent is still undiscovered. In fact, the flight allowed the Admiral to say that approximately 200,000 square miles of unknown territory, which explorers have thought might be part of the Antarctic land, can officially be put down on future maps as "Pacific Ocean."

Seems to me that if this Expedition accomplishes nothing else, this one exploration flight, coupled with the one on Dec. 22, has established a high value for this trip. But don't worry! We're going to do a lot of other big things.

It's getting a bit fed up with icebergs and their terrifying collisions and fights with each other. Admiral Byrd flew over one we could see from the ship—25 miles long and four miles wide. Imagine!

When I left Harvard I thought I was through with school forever. Not so. Together with the rest of the crowd on board I have been

busy on a post-graduate course. All across the Pacific we had three lectures weekly on such things as Physics, Transportation and Dogs, Biology, Scott Expedition, Photography, Geology and Geophysics, Shackleton Expeditions, Camping and Trail Parties, Meteorology, Cooking, Clothing and a dozen other subjects, with our own experts doing the lecturing. Needless to say, all our minds are crammed with knowledge we didn't have before and now that we are in the great ice pack, we are finding daily use for it. The Expedition is proving a wonderful education. Every day I stumble over some bit of equipment that puzzles me so I find the man in charge and ask him all about it—Mukluks (skin boots), Parkas (hooded coats), sleeping bags, portable radio transmitting and receiving sets for use out on the trail. It is difficult to grasp what a tremendous undertaking this is until one actually sees the myriad of details involved—and still each department functions as smoothly and casually as if two year Antarctic Expeditions were ordinary occurrences. The supply officer is going in and out of holds and store rooms all day long checking and segregating thousands of boxes crates and packages intended for Little America. Everything intended for the ice is marked "Barrier" and in my sleep I can hear the supply officer yelling "Drop that, it's for the barrier!"

Now we're constructing dog sledges. It's interesting. Not one piece of metal goes into their assembly, not a nut or bolt or nail. They are made of eleven pieces of very tough and resilient wood, tongued and grooved. We are lashing them together with thin strips of rawhide, permitting them to yield to shocks and stresses without breaking the wood. Capt. Innes Taylor, in charge of the dogs, told me today that an ordinary team consists of nine dogs and that the average load is around a thousand pounds, sometimes greatly exceeded for short distances.

The dogs are being measured and fitted with harness and seem to be looking forward to the comparative freedom of the ice. Poor dumb smelly brutes! every time a dog is fitted to his harness he goes into a canine ecstasy of barking, yelping and wriggling. The harness consists of a collar, like a miniature horse collar, a set of traces and a snaffle ring for attaching the dog to the lead line. The dog drivers say the dogs must be watched carefully because they sometimes get so hungry they eat the harness.

A radio from New York tells me the maps we are sending to members so they can mark them and thus keep track of our flights, tractor trips and other explorations are ready and are being sent to members without cost. They tell me the club membership is now well up in the thousands so if you haven't joined now is the time to send me a self-addressed stamped envelope at the Little America Aviation and Exploration Club, Hotel Lexington, 48th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y., and get your membership card and map, without any obligation of any sort. This club is a favorite hobby of Admiral Byrd's, to encourage American aviation, and he hopes to have at least 100,000 members before we get back.

(Next Week:—Off for Little America!)

Will Allot Cotton For Parity Payments

Cotton growers should thoroughly acquaint themselves with the individual farm allotment for farms brought under the 1934-35 cotton contract, for it will play an important part in determining adjustment payments from the government, according to County Agent W. G. Yeager.

The allotment for each farm is 40 percent of the average annual production during the 1928-32 base period. The exact poundage is figured by multiplying the average annual acreage of the period by the average yield per acre and then taking 40 percent of the result.

For an example, a grower with a five-year average of 40 acres in cotton with an average yield of 200 pounds to the acre would have an average production of 8,000 pounds. Forty percent of this would be 3,200 pounds, which would be his individual domestic allotment.

The domestic allotment has been set at 40 percent of the average annual yield because in past years 40 per cent of the national crop was consumed in the United States. The other 60 percent was exported or held over. This 40 percent represents the amount of cotton from which the government can count on collecting the processing tax to furnish funds for rental and parity payments.

Dean I. O. Schaub, State College, has pointed out that to allow one grower a larger allotment than his past production warrants would result in the allotments of other growers being cut below their just figure, since the total individual domestic allotments cannot amount to more than the domestic allotment for the State. The State's domestic allotment has been figured on its average past production just as are the allotments for individual farms.

The cotton contracts guarantee a parity payment of not less than one cent a pound on the farmers' domestic allotment. This means a payment of at least \$6 a bale on 40 percent of the average production of cotton during the base period. This payment is in addition to the rental payments and the increased prices the farmers will get when they market their crop, it was pointed out.

SENT FOR WOOD, MAN STAYS AWAY 20 YEARS

Loudon, Tenn.—"Here's that wood," Robert Byrd greeted his mother, after a two-decade absence. Robert had gone to Texas instead of the woodpile when his mother, Mrs. John Byrd, sent him for wood 20 years ago. She hadn't heard from him until he came home when he heard she was ill and remembered to bring in an armful of wood with him.

BEEN SMOKING 91 YEARS

Fort Wayne, Ind.—James Treece who just celebrated his hundredth birthday, attributes his long life to hard work, plenty of exercise, and smoking. A constant pipe smoker, he says he began smoking at the age of nine.

PATROLMEN ARREST 557

Raleigh—State highway patrolmen in December traveled 90,486 miles, arrested 557 motorists for violating traffic laws, warned 6,924 law violators and collected \$73,083.25 of the state treasury.

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