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CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS IN STATE

The movement towards consolidation in county schools in North Carolina has witnessed a decrease in the number of small schools scattered about the communities of the State. In the place of one, two and three-teacher schools, many large well equipped schoolhouses have been established. To measure the degree to which consolidation has taken place we consider the rate of elimination particular of the smaller types of schools as outlined in State School Facts.

The period beginning with the school year ending 1899-1900 and extending through the school year 1925-1926, has witnessed rapid strides in the elimination of one-teacher schools. In 1900-01, there were 5,411 white one-teacher rural schools, and 2,418 Negro one-teacher rural schools, making 7,829 one-teacher schools had been reduced to 1,322 white one-teacher rural schools, and 1,188 Negro one-teacher rural schools, or a total of 2,510 rural one-teacher schools. A study of the rate of elimination, particular to one-teacher rural schools, shows that such elimination has been more rapid among whites than among Negroes. The decrease for both races, however, has been most pronounced.

In 1915-16, there were 1,708 white two-teacher schools, whereas in 1925-26 there were only 1,247 white two-teacher schools. During this same period the number of two-teacher Negro schools increased from 338 to 708, making an increase of 370 schools. In 1915-16 there were 2,046 two-teacher schools and in 1925-26 there were only 1,953 two-teacher schools. An increase in the number of two-teacher schools for Negroes, may be explained in several ways. First, fewer large consolidated schools are being built for Negroes. In the second place, many of the one-teacher Negro schools are evolving into two-teacher schools.

The rate of elimination for the one-teacher and two-teacher schools has been cited to show the degree to which consolidation has taken place. Consolidation means the establishment of larger schools. Perhaps a more perfect indication of the extent to which consolidation has been achieved will be found in the data pertaining to more than three-teacher schools.

In 1916-17, there were 378 rural schools for whites having more than three teachers; in 1925-1926 there were 916 rural schools for whites having more than three teachers per school. During the same period the number of rural schools for Negroes having more than three teachers increased from 31 to 194 schools. In 1916-17 there were 409 rural schools—for the two races—having more than three teachers per school. During the school year 1925-26 there were 1,110 rural schools having faculties larger than three teachers. The figures given show in a very decided way, that the larger type of school is on the increase in this State. The increase mentioned covers both races. If consolidation leads to improved efficiency of instruction it follows that the educational opportunities afforded the children in this State have undergone much improvement during the past twenty-five years.

Each year the county superintendents furnish to the State Department of Public Instruction statistical reports giving

the number of consolidated schools per county. At the close of the school year 1925-1926, there were 814 rural consolidated schools in North Carolina. Of this number, 696 were for white children and 118 were for Negro children.

The extensive consolidation program, which has been achieved in North Carolina, has naturally enough led to an increase in the number of school buses and in the number of children transported.

In 1914-15 six vehicles were used to transport 247 pupils to and from consolidated schools. In 1919-20 the number of vehicles had increased to 150 and 7,936 children were being transported. By 1925-1926, North Carolina owned 2,317 trucks to transport over 87,000 children. During the 6-year period 1919-29 through 1925-26 the number of children transported increased from 7,936 to 87,983.

An inspection of the figures shows that North Carolina ranked third among the states in number of school buses, third among the states in number of children transported, second among the states, according to the number of miles of route, and third, according to the total cost for the school year 1925-26. The figures show that North Carolina in 1925-26 had 814 consolidated schools and 2,317 school buses. These 2,317 buses were covering 51,869 miles of route, and were transporting more than eighty-seven thousand children. In the year 1925-26 the total cost of transportation in North Carolina was \$1,302,720.00.

For whites, there were only nine counties in 1925-26 which did not have schools employing more than 7 teachers. Guilford County had 14 schools employing more than 7 teachers per white school; Cumberland County had 13 schools employing more than 7 teachers per white school, and Buncombe county had 11 schools employing more than 7 teachers per white school. In the one hundred counties there were 383 white schools and 112 Negro schools with more than 7 teachers per school. There were, in 1925-26, 696 consolidated schools for whites and 119 schools for Negroes. The 119 schools for Negroes were scattered over 42 counties.

Cabarrus county was not included in those counties which boasted of consolidated schools in the 1925-26 term. However, during the past year such schools were operated in the county for high school students and it is reported that other counties which did not have the system in the previous year, did have such schools for the school term which just closed several weeks ago.

PEONAGE IN GEORGIA.

Dr. King, who operates a big Georgia farm, has been freed by a jury which tried him on a peonage charge. The case of the State broke down when a negro who said he had seen five other negroes killed and buried on the farm, admitted that he was not telling the truth. However, there was enough evidence presented to show that a healthy condition does not exist on this particular farm. Dr. King, who formerly managed the farm, admitted on the witness stand that he whipped four laborers on the farm, but he denied that any one was kept there by force. That may be true, but we doubt if anybody in North Carolina could keep negroes on their farm if they whipped them every time they did something that was not just right. Under what law did Dr. King whip these negroes?

One stole a time book and would not tell its hiding place, Dr. King said, so he was whipped. Why have a court in Georgia if persons charged with larceny are to be handled by the man bringing the charges against them? This trial may do one thing at least—it may make operators of farms in Georgia more careful in the future. Now that public interest is being centered on one such plantation the lot of the laborers there and at other farms may be better for the time being, at least.

Sheriff Caldwell gives warning that operators of slot machines, punch boards and the like are to come under the watch of the law. Several such gambling devices have been seized and destroyed by the Sheriff within the past week and he has served notice on the public that further violations of the law will result in arrests. The law is plain enough on this subject and Sheriff Caldwell has power enough to do just what he says he will do. The Legislature several years ago put a ban on such devices and there is plenty of authority under which Sheriff Caldwell can arrest every person found violating the law. "A man retiring at 30 would die in three years. I don't ever wish to retire. It will only be when the doctors bring in the oxygen cylinder that I'll know it's time for me to quit. The trouble with most men is that they hurt their machinery too much. If they like a certain thing they overdo it. They get too much drink too much, sleep too much and tire too soon."—Thomas A. Edison, inventor.

WORK HOURS

Statesville Daily. When a bill to cut the working hours of women and children (children over 14) employed in industrial plants from 60 to 55 per week, was presented to the late deceased legislature, the house treated it as a joke and voted it down with jeers—a shameful performance. It was bad enough to vote the bill down, but to treat it as a joke put the legislators in a light in which they would hardly care to appear if they are capable of appreciating the situation. Before the sitting was concluded a bill was passed providing that children between the ages of 14 to 16 must not be permitted to work more than eight hours a day. That might have been evidence of repentance, or realization of the shame of the first performance. But there is a string even to this. The 8-hour period applies only to children that have not completed the fourth grade at school.

The two-year period—between 14 and 16—was little enough. It is hard on mature men to work ten hours a day, closely confined. That period is too long for women and children, even youths past 16. But if children between the ages 14 and 16 have completed the fourth grade at school they may be worked for a longer time than eight hours. It isn't physical strength but education that counts. Which is curious.

But there is another feature that helps. Heretofore children employed in industrial plants could be sent to work at 6 in the morning and also worked until 9 at night. Not that they could be worked straight along. But their hours could be arranged so that they could be sent to work that early, or they could be kept on the job until 9 p. m. Under the new law children may not begin work until 7 a. m.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE NOMINATION.

Charity and Children. All the political experts are now giving Mr. Coolidge free advice regarding the third-term issue. Hardly a day passes without some amateur sayer of the country rushing into print with the positive assertion that Mr. Coolidge will run or that he will not run. Not a week passes in which it is not proved in forty different ways that the Republican party cannot afford to renominate him, and in just as many ways that the party cannot afford not to renominate him. But in the midst of the clamor Coolidge is as silent as the tomb—this is, he is silent on this subject, although he talks incessantly about everything else. Yet all the conversation of other people on this topic is wasted breath. If Coolidge wishes to have the nomination, he will take it. A President—any President—will do that. The prestige of the office is so tremendous that no political party would dare repudiate a President who desired to be renominated; and in addition to prestige, the President has all the power of Federal patronage with which to whip delegates into line. If Mr. Coolidge decides not to be a candidate for renomination, then there will be a real fight in the Republican party; but if the President makes up his mind to run again, the rest of the boys might just as well pack up their traps and get out of the road, for they will not be able to put up enough resistance to make the President know he has been in a fight. It is a different story, of course, when it comes to the election; but in so far as the nomination is concerned, if the man in the White House chooses to do so he can merely stretch out his hand and pick it up.

THE REAL TEST.

Charity and Children. The colleges have turned loose another flood of graduates upon the world. The total in North Carolina, as has become usual, eclipses all previous records. But there is no longer any question of who is to do the world's work when everybody has a college degree. To be a college graduate no longer implies that one intends to become a doctor, a lawyer, or a preacher. College training these days is necessary for a young man to have an even start in the business world as well as in the professions. The fact that North Carolina colleges this year graduated more students than ever before simply means that the State is trying to keep up with the procession. If the number of our collegians remained static, we should not be holding our own, but losing ground; for the rest of the country is driving ahead. We hope that North Carolina is making a little better than the average speed, for we started far back in the race. It took a long time for us to come around to the doctrine that a well-trained brain is not an ornament nor a luxury, but a tool-box necessary to every man and woman who expects to do good work in the world. We have not quite assimilated the notion that books are—or ought to be—implements, but as education spreads further that, too, will come. And this spirit, not the development of our industry, nor the development of our agriculture, nor the development of our State road system or of any other material thing, is the real measure of the progress of North Carolina. Only as we become a thinking people do we become a really progressive people.

READY MONEY.

Gastonia Gazette. Several carloads of poultry have been shipped out of Gaston county within the past two or three weeks. This is something new for this county, but it will not be a novelty much longer, if the folks keep on raising chickens as they have started out.

Five carloads went out from Rowan county a few days ago at one shipment. Each car contained about 18,000 pounds of poultry or 4,500 chickens. This is one of the weekly shipments out of Salisbury by the Carolina Poultry and Egg company, of which Mr. B. H. Eller is manager.

In addition to poultry, a solid carload of eggs is shipped from Salisbury every week containing 13,800 dozen. The Salisbury Post quotes Mr. Eller as saying that he finds a ready market for all the poultry and eggs he can get and buys all he can get hold of, and pays cash for them. He says Rowan farmers will find a daily market at his place and that they are finding this out. During dollar day here last week a number of farmers came in with chickens and disposed of them at his place. He says the farmers will find poultry raising profitable and that Rowan is a splendid poultry raising section.

The northern people like the North Carolina poultry and he has telegraphic inquiries almost daily as to shipments. There is a fine opportunity for the raising of poultry here and farmers are gradually finding this out.

"Rejuvenation is a myth and the inevitability of old age must be fully realized, but prolongation of life, with reasonable retention of physical and mental vigor, may reasonably be expected to follow carefully lived life. The unobtainable state known as rejuvenation may be approached when right living is substituted for faulty habits. The changes wrought by substitution of wise for improper habits of sleep, diet and exercise afford a clue to the acquisition of uniformly good health and longevity."—Dr. Hugh C. Cumming, surgeon-general of the U. S.

It wouldn't be so far wrong to observe that peace in China has been slaughtered.—Dallas Journal.

Cute Little Murders BY WICKIE WAKESOLDT

A woman threw down her newspaper the other evening and declared despairingly, "Isn't it awful! All these murders! Do you suppose the world was always so bad as this?" So bad as this? Yes, dear lady, and worse and more of it.

Not so very long ago as time is figured, man or woman was not safe on the streets after dark without armed escort, and right husky escort, too. When dark came folks retired behind barred doors and shuttered windows. Throughout the night were heard the howls of brawling men, the roars of angry fighters, the screams of persons attacked, injured, or being killed. It was quite usual to find bodies of slain persons in the streets at morning.

According to the story books, valiant knights yanked their armor on over their persons and went to the rescue, particularly when the cry of a fair lady was heard. But in reality most of those doughty gentlemen snuggled down under the bedclothes and let those beset take care of themselves.

It wasn't so much farther back than that that barred doors and shuttered windows would not keep out the rabble and the assassin. Not only did there have to be walled fortresses, but the walls had to be high and surrounded by deep moats filled with water which could be crossed only by drawbridges.

During the last thousand years the world has progressed astoundingly from the standpoint of law and order, and a thousand years is a very little time compared with the number of centuries that the world has existed. Murder used to be the commonest thing in the world. Human life was the cheapest of things. If a man wanted another man's wife, he killed the man and took her; King David on one occasion employed that gentle custom. When a landed gentleman wanted more land, he swooped down on some other landed gentleman, slew him and his followers, took the ladies prisoners, and there he was.

We crab a good deal about the lawlessness of this country, and it is well we do so for there is still plenty of room for improvement; but compared with the way they did things even some hundreds of years ago, we live in a sphere of perfect orderliness. Compared with the way they slew folks only a dozen centuries ago, the killings we have now are mere cute little murders.

The world today, as individuals, has a higher regard for human life than ever before. The worst crime that one can commit today is to kill a fellow man as a private and social affair; but when it comes to murder by nations, the ancient boys were pikers as compared to us. Never was there a war that slew so many men as did a war about a decade ago, waged at the height of man's so-called Christian enlightenment.

TODAY'S EVENTS.

Saturday, June 11, 1927. In the ecclesiastical calendar today is the Festival of St. Barnabas. An International Music Exposition is to be opened today in the German city of Frankfurt.

President Coolidge is to speak today at the annual business meeting of the Government in Washington. The first of this summer's citizens' military training camps is to be opened today at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming.

The Rt. Rev. Alexander J. McGavick, Catholic bishop of La Crosse, today observed his fortieth anniversary in the priesthood.

The advance guard of Mystic Shriners will arrive in Atlantic City today for the imperial council session of their order, which is to hold forth in the famous coast resort during the coming week.

Captain Charles Lindbergh, the American transatlantic flier, is scheduled to reach Washington today, to be officially received by President Coolidge and is Cabinet and to receive the plaudits of the Nation.

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