

SAY MOST N. C. SCHOOLS LACK ENOUGH SPACE

Fail To Provide For Libraries, Health Music, Drama

A six-to ten-year school building program has been mapped out by a committee of the State Education commission to meet North Carolina's school building needs.

The commission's Plant committee, headed by M. T. Lambeth, of Statesville, says the administration of the program should be a joint responsibility of state and local school governments.

The committee's report points out that most of the school buildings of the state were erected prior to the development of modern ideas of educational procedures, and they are lacking in adequate space for such things as libraries, lunchrooms, health clinics, recreational facilities, and rooms for music and dramatic arts, as well as for science and vocational courses.

"Is many of the less econom-

ically fortunate counties, the school housing situation is extremely deplorable", the report continues.

While inspecting school plants, the plant committee observed many which were poorly planned, cheaply constructed, obsolete, lacking in essential features, "in a poor state of repair, dark, dirty and unsafe."

"The State of North Carolina cannot afford to subject its future citizens to such unwholesome surroundings", the report said. "Inspection of sample school buildings has revealed a glaring neglect of adequate maintenance programs. This situation has, to some extent, resulted from wartime conditions. It is a false economy to neglect the preservation of plant investment. It is also evident that many of the schools have very inadequate custodial service. Efficient school operation and the health of children are definitely related to good house-keeping."

"Although many of the schools of the state are equipped with excellent sanitary facilities, there are many others in which the toilet facilities are obsolete and insanitary. In many of the schools there are no provisions for washing hands. It is rather meaningless to teach health and at the same time make no provisions for practicing the fundamental health habits."

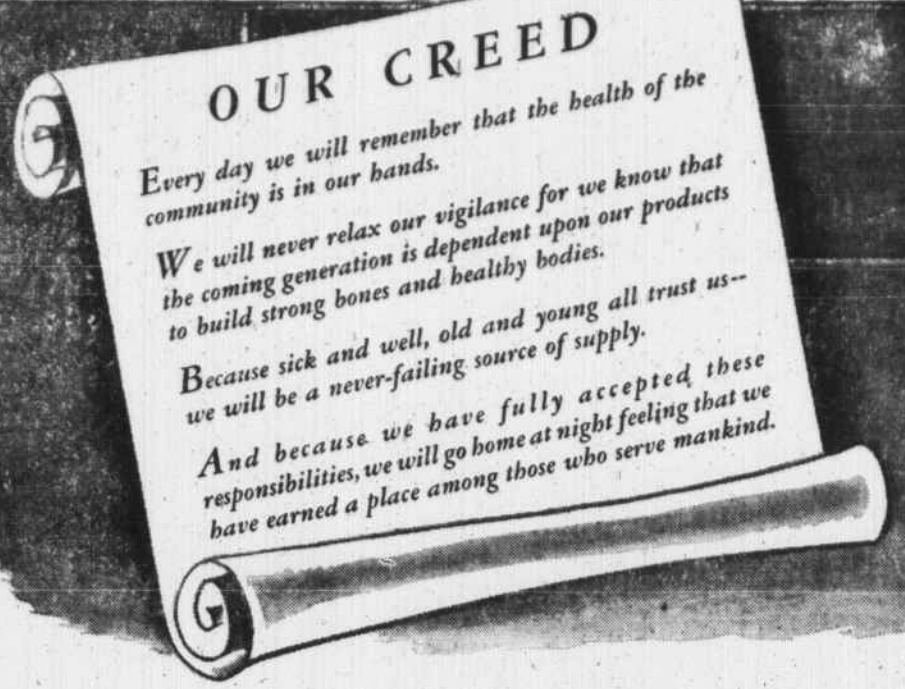
The report says that a large proportion of the school plants in the state are sub-standard. "Regardless of conditions, the existing plants are woefully inadequate", it says. "Even with the use of obsolete and inferior buildings, there is not sufficient space to accommodate the present enrollment."

Some of the basic elements which should be included in future school plants, the committee found, are larger classrooms, modern and more flexible furniture, better seeing conditions, and greater areas devoted to the library, music, dramatic arts, homemaking, industrial arts, and health and physical education.

PENSION ROLLS SHORTEN

The number of veterans on Veterans administration disability compensation and pension rolls has decreased steadily during the past year, according to the Veterans administration. The total dropped from a peak of 2,328,000 in May, 1947, to 2,289,000 on June 1, 1948.

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