

High Local Interest in Schools Formerly

Little Progress Is Being Shown in Farm Education

Probably the slowest moving of all undertakings is education itself. If it had not been so, the world would have been literate long ago. Present business methods were almost unknown in George Washington's days. Yet industry and the professions have made amazing strides, because of this. Unorganized industries includes farming only. Even farm and household labor are the only kind not organized. The lowest returns and compensation are found here.

Probably no other class of honest workers have as hazardous, unremunerative, and unappreciative, and difficult and varied problems as have farmers. Why? Is it lack of education? No and yes. Many farmers are college graduates and show progressive attitudes, yet entirely too many of these are suspicious, prejudiced and otherwise blind to essential facts and methods for safe planning and forecasting.

Just as trade journals, supply and demand statistics, cost data and related facts are necessary to industrial progress, just so they are to the wise farmer. Statistics do not appeal to farmers. Economic interpretations are nightmares. Crop "estimates and forecasts" are considered as aids to speculators only.

Of all the crops grown in North Carolina, cotton is the only speculative one. Tobacco and peanuts are not speculative but are so regarded by many. Even if they were, that still leaves some 30 crops which certainly do not interest the speculative trade at all. Even for cotton, the mere acreage report is of small speculative concern. It may have no definite clue to the final crop production which does affect the price.

It is a condition, an environment, isolation, raw deals, neglect to continue one's study and education. When one is physically tired out, study is difficult, even if there was a will to do. Pressure of work and lack of conveniences do not encourage study at other times. The strict need for sacrifices and pinching pennies by farmers, while others enjoy privileges and comforts denied themselves, doesn't set well with country people. The practice of buying at retail and selling at wholesale is wrong, but there is a reason for this situation.

Farmers can and should employ economics and business methods for combatting existing competition and production costs. This will require much reading and STUDY.

The nation's welfare depends on the sustained power of its land and on the ability of its farmers to produce its needed supplies and carry-overs of food and fiber crops, along with whatever additional quantities can be advantageously exported.

Experience has proved that the nation's welfare cannot be served unless the nation's farm products can be sold at prices that will yield a parity income to farmers, insure the improvement and conservation of the soil, and be fair to consumers.

Michigan Quads Have a Birthday



Four famous children, the Morley quads, are shown here on their sixth birthday, in their home in Lansing, Mich., with books received as birthday gifts, and dressed in their new birthday clothes.

Steady Decline in Farm Livestock Is Shown by Survey

The number of horses on farms in North Carolina reached a peak of approximately 200,000 during the period 1915-1919. The number had dropped to 68,000 on January 1, 1936, or a decrease of 66 per cent. This shift was brought about by the use of automobiles, trucks, tractors, and a shift to mules. The trend in number of mules has shown an increase except for a slight decrease during the depression. Since 1931 a definite shift from tractors to mules has resulted. The number reached an all-time high for the state at 298,000 on January 1, 1936. There has been a good demand for mules for the past two years. All cattle increased from 507,000 in 1930 to 671,000 on January 1, 1936, an increase of 32 per cent. Milk cows, two years old and over, increased from 285,000 to 385,000, an increase of 35 per cent during the same period. Although a gain of 35 per cent was reflected for the period 1930-1936, we need more milk cows on farms in North Carolina. The 1935 United States Census shows 33 per cent of the farms in the state without cows or heifers, two years old and over.

The number of sheep on farms on January 1, 1936, was 77,000, or only one-fifth of the number in the state in 1900. More sheep should be included in the farm plan to more completely use all the feed available.

When we realize that livestock are bringing approximate parity prices, while crops are generally considerably below the parity level, there should be encouragement for increasing livestock. The new soil conservation program should also encourage livestock production, since it calls for more hay, improved pasturage and feed crops.

While the new farm relief program may not greatly control production of cash crops, yet it certainly should encourage diversification and greater feed and food crops. This will be safer farming. The safest or balanced farming includes livestock.

Negro Migration At Peak During World War Days

Washington.—The migration of negroes from southern fields to northern industries has given 8 big northern cities a negro population more than half of which was born outside the state in which the city is located.

The migration reached its full force during the boom wage days of the World War and has kept up with less force since then. During those days, labor contractors swept through the south enlisting workers and sending them to northern industrial plants.

Some of those who went returned to the South later but most of them stayed to be followed by relatives.

A study of the Census Bureau today supplied figures showing the population make-up of 15 cities that have a negro population of more than 50,000. The 15 were New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, New Orleans, Detroit, Birmingham, Memphis, St. Louis, Atlanta, Cleveland, Houston, Pittsburg and Richmond.

Some of the figures disclosed by the study were:

More Virginia-born negroes live in New York than do in Norfolk.

Almost as many Mississippi negroes are in Chicago as are altogether in Vicksburg, Meridan, Greenville and Natchez.

More Georgia negroes are in Detroit than are in either Augusta or Macon.

About as many South Carolina negroes are in Philadelphia as are in Charleston.

Virginia gave more negroes than any other State to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Pittsburg.

Mississippi gave more than any other state to Chicago, Memphis, St. Louis and New Orleans.

Georgia negroes predominated in Detroit, Cleveland and Birmingham.

South Carolina negroes went principally to New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Detroit and Baltimore.

Louisiana negroes went mostly to Chicago and Houston.

FEWER ON FARMS

There has been a noticeable decrease in the number of people working on farms in Martin County during the past five years, census reports just recently released for the period 1930 to 1935 showing a decrease of more than 1,000 persons. Decreases were noted in nearly every one of the tobacco-growing counties, Wilson and Pitt reporting a decrease of around 4,000 each in the farm population during the period.

In 1930 the Martin County farm population numbered 16,596, and five years later it was only 15,531.

County Teachers Required to Favor War Back in 1918

The extent to which the American people were wrapped up with the war spirit back in 1918 is recorded in the minutes of the Martin County board of Education as of July that year. Patriotism had swept the people nearly off their feet. Hatred and the spirit to kill left the people unbalanced, and the pacifist was not to be tolerated.

Much has been said in recent months about school teachers being required to pledge their allegiance to the American flag, but as far back as 1918 the Martin County school authorities were requiring just that and more.

In July of that year the board passed a resolution which reads, "Our government is involved in a great war, and all of our resources and powers are taxed to the limit, requiring the united and patriotic cooperation of all our citizens; therefore, no teacher shall be allowed to teach in the schools of Martin County who is not in sympathy with the aims and purposes of our government."

The resolution was never challenged, and, as far as it is known, no effort was ever made to test the patriotism of any teacher in this county. Just prior to that time, however, liberty loan drives were carried into every section of the county through the children in the schools.

The Alabama movement was principally to Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Pittsburg.

Those from North Carolina settled largely in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington.

The Maryland flow was mostly to Washington, Philadelphia, and New York.

Arkansas sent them principally to Chicago and St. Louis.

Those from Tennessee chose Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland and Detroit.

Kentucky sent them to Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis.

More of the Pittsburg negroes are natives of Virginia, Georgia and Alabama than of Pennsylvania.

In Baltimore and Cleveland, one out of every five negroes was born in either Virginia or Georgia.

But, on the other side, less than 20 per cent of the negroes in New Orleans, Birmingham and Richmond were born outside Louisiana, Alabama and Virginia.

Patrons Paid Much Of Expense Out of Own Resources

That there was a greater cooperation on the part of the general public in advancing the educational facilities for the youth of the county 30 years or more ago than there is now is evidenced in the records of the Martin County Board of Education. Parents in years gone by were interested in having their children taught the fundamentals, and not merely in creating a gathering place for sports and play and to get them away from home for so many hours each day. It was a real sacrifice for the parents to forego the help of their children in the fields and around the home in those days. And while terms were cut short by agricultural conditions, the parents only stopped their children when it was absolutely necessary to keep them at home to help sustain life.

Patrons in the districts met about one-half the costs of the schools directly from their own resources. Some districts had better schools than others, but the drive for education was universal, and the census shows probably a fewer number of illiterates in 1905 among both white and colored children than there are today. As hard as it is to believe a complete census in July, 1905, showed there were only 130 white and 282 colored children in the county who could neither read nor write.

The interest patrons held in the educational program of this county 25 or 30 years ago is well demonstrated in the creation of Brooksville school in Poplar Point. In 1908 a schoolhouse was built there and equipped at a cost of \$700. The county board paid \$395 of the amount, and the late M. W. Ballard and J. A. Everett paid the rest from their own pockets. Nearly 100 pupils enrolled in the Brooksville school that year, the records show.

School Sanitary Conditions Bad As Late As 1919

According to records in the minutes of the Martin County Board of Education, sanitary conditions as near back as 1919 were in a bad way. Open toilets were the usual custom at that time, and the first attempt to remedy the situation was made in October, 1919, when the county school authorities placed an order for 12 sets of sanitary closets or about enough to equip one-fourth of the schools at that time.

The order for the sanitary toilets was acknowledged, but they were never received, and the sanitary condition, as bad as it was, remained unchanged until the school consolidation program started getting underway and new buildings were erected a few years later.

The improvements made in existing conditions in which the sanitation of that time furnishes an example, are probably responsible for the increased costs in schools today. Much complaining is heard about school costs, but there are few people who would surrender the improved order of things for the old, even if they knew costs would be lowered.