

ALLEN SUMS FOR

ASKS MORE THAN EXPANDING STAT SYSTEM

Recommendation that of the state equalization purposes be at least 90 counties of the \$2,650,000 be appropriated by the 1925 General Assembly is included by Superintendent of Public Instruction A. T. Allen in his annual report to the General Assembly. Mr. Allen declared that the progress made during the last five years in education in North Carolina and declared that this progress should be continued through the next five-year period. He divided the appropriation requested into \$2,200,000 for teachers' salaries, \$200,000 for transportation and \$250,000 for a stimulating fund. The last \$250,000 would be used in carrying forward the work in the counties, of providing a minimum school term of eight months in the schools of the 90 counties.

Citing the progress made in the State during the last five years on educational lines, Mr. Allen stated that the value of school property increased from \$24,057,838 in 1920 to \$60,524,130 in 1924; total per capita expenditures for public school purposes increased from \$12,214 in 1920 to an estimated amount of \$17,000,000 in 1924; total per capita income moved from \$17.67 in 1920 to \$44.19 in 1924; total number of teachers employed increased from 16,854 to 22,000 and total public school enrollment increased from 691,349 in 1920 to 1,040,406 in 1924.

Some of the definite things that had occurred as a result of the widening scope of the educational program in the five year period, 1920-1924, inclusive, were given by Mr. Allen in his report. He declared that the number of high schools was shown by an increase in white enrollment from 294 to 67,707; the increase in high school graduates from 7,023; total number of five larger consolidated rural schools increased from an unestimated

Good Road Bonds Issued.

With bonded obligations of counties and municipalities amounting at \$184,625,473, and the state, at \$98,487,600, good roads indebtedness in North Carolina amounted to \$283,472,073.

Highway construction during the year the greater portion of the county bond money, totaling \$123,417,768, while the state highway system has made up the larger part of the bonded indebtedness by investments in water and sewerage systems and streets.

All but about 11 million of the state government has been authorized under legislative authorization the last four years for financing a "program of progress." The dates of all the various issues of bonds of all the counties and municipalities available, it is evident that the units of government have issued most of their bonds in four or five years.

Bonded indebtedness of the state and counties has increased in the 12 months \$14,000. The total reported to State Auditor E. B. Graham June 30, 1923, amounted to \$134,300,000. And new bonds issued during the year ending June 30, 1924, the date of the latest available report, bring the total to \$184,625,473.05.

County bond issues have been for the following purposes:

Schools, \$14,568,902.80; roads and bridges, \$58,417,768.09; county jails and other county purposes, \$29,468.50; railroads, \$966,217.00; funding bonds, \$5,380,000—total county bonds, \$87,062,358.14.

Municipal bond issues have been for these purposes:

Schools, \$15,613,850; lights, water, sewerage, streets and fire equipment, \$66,529,764.91; public improvements, \$8,000,000; railroads, \$209,200; funding bonds, \$7,200,000—total municipal bonds, \$97,552,814.91.

A check on municipal and county bond issues, incidentally, was made by the state until about three years ago, when the legislature passed an act directing the counties and municipalities to report all bond issues to the state auditor. Since that time the state auditor's office has kept a record of the issues, making available information on the financial condition of the various units of government.

Infant Deaths Increase.

The percentage of deaths among infants in North Carolina increased from 79.1 per thousand in 1922 to 81.5 per thousand in 1923, according to the annual report of the Bureau of Statistics of the Health Department.

In 1923 the total number of deaths in North Carolina was 1,000 while there were 549 maternal deaths or a ratio of 6.5 per one thousand births.

Washington county had the highest infant mortality rate.

JAN 1, 1925
FRAGMENTS