

therefore, inevitable that the old administration shall suggest plans and policies which may be tried out by the new administration. The yearly task of the Association should probably be that of selecting most urgent needs in the field of education and of giving such expression to these needs that intelligent and reliable information may reach not only the teachers and school officials, but also all citizens whose business is the school's business. After all, any plan or system of education bequeaths to the children of its day a lasting heritage, the effect of which is upon the school population and not upon those who design the plan or construct the system. Pursuant to this plan, the Association chose the elementary school as the need of outstanding importance in the whole school field, and accordingly gave much space during this meeting to programs dealing with various phases of its conditions and requirements. The selection of this general subject for the major work of the Association next year is, in my opinion, an opportunity for the greatest contribution which the Association can give to education. The State public school system consists of three main working groups: the elementary school, the high school and the college or higher education group. Interdependence of these groups is an absolute fact and the recognition of this fact must come before real co-operation and resultant educational progress will be anything but a theory.

Even a superficial study of the public school system as a whole makes patent the fact that the elementary school group has not kept pace with the high school group or with the higher education group. There is not a stronger proof of this fact than that offered by high schools and colleges themselves when each reports so great a percentage of freshmen as totally or partially unprepared and consequently unable to do the work required of them. This is also a proof, and perhaps an unconscious admission on the part of those who are stressing high school and college education, that the elementary school is the foundation upon which the whole structure must stand, and upon the quality of construction put into this foundation must depend the strength and safety of the entire building. A casual glance at this building at present shows a pleasing superstructure and it may be this which is largely responsible for the oft repeated and sometimes boastful statements with reference to the wonderful growth of North Carolina's school system. Whatever may have been the merits of past ideas and policies with reference to the relative importance of these three groups, the facts to be faced are these: more than 90 per cent of those in school are in the elementary grades; about 80 per cent are classed as rural. The average number of enrolled pupils for each elementary teacher is more than twice the number for each high school teacher and in turn, the average number of pupils for each high school teacher is nearly twice the number for each college professor or instructor. The average annual salary of teachers, length of school term, buildings and equipment, efficient organization, trained teachers and other things supposed to contribute to school efficiency are also relatively lacking in the elementary school. All of these things are needed in the high school and it is a splendid thing that the need there has largely been met; yet with teaching force, buildings and equipment and all other requirements up to standard, the high schools are still lacking in standard pupils and this will remain true so long as uniform and standard work is not possible in the elementary grades. The greatest need of the school of today seems to be that of providing instruction for children in the elementary school such as will enable them to inform themselves and consequently to think for themselves. This means, of course, that the child must first of all be taught how to read intelligently and how to use the means of expression. Children cannot do these things for themselves and yet upon the acquisition of these things must largely depend all later progress in school and college and all self-help through life. A system of schools that does not give its strongest support to the needs of helpless children can never hope to have all of its people literate nor any great number able to do creditable work in high schools and colleges. If the State is to fulfill its obligation of providing equal educational opportunity for all its citizens, it must function through the elementary school. This is the only division of the public school system which all the people of any school generation can attend or will attend for years to come. It is here the problem of illiteracy may find its only final solution and here may be solved a majority of the problems at present passed up into high schools and in turn passed on to colleges.

Teachers worthy of the name, with pupils made comfortable and provided with means for development—this is probably the answer and this means efficient organization with sufficient financial support. The present plan for county-wide organization of schools with at least an eight-month term, and for providing more teacher training institutions together with an adequate compulsory attendance law, properly enforced, seem to be going straight toward supplying present

needs. These things will also go far toward equalizing educational opportunity throughout the State. So far as the State's attitude toward the elementary school is concerned, it assumes little responsibility further than the requirement for a six-month term. The so-called equalizing fund is entirely inadequate for answering its original purpose and is more or less a source of irritation or aggravation because of conditions under which an equitable and just distribution of this fund may not be made. There is law sufficient to permit the establishment of a State school system that might use any or all of the taxing powers of the State to the end that location need no longer determine a child's educational opportunity. This cannot be done so long as each county is a financial unit for the support of its own schools. The wealthiest counties often have as their nearest neighbors counties that are least wealthy. Nothing but an imaginary boundary line separates neighboring families, one of which must pay a very high rate of tax for a very poor school because his county has very little taxing wealth, while his neighbor pays a comparatively low rate for a much better school, because his is a county with much taxing wealth. Yet every one knows the fact that from these families alike must come citizens upon whom must depend the State's welfare and no one knows which family has in it members with greatest potential power.

Surely there are brains enough among our lawmakers to evolve an equitable and just taxing system for schools in North Carolina to the end that the State may do something more than declare schools a necessity and at the same time make no adequate provision for maintaining schools. There surely is wealth enough in the State to support such a taxing system. Equal educational opportunity will remain nothing more than a magnificent and meaningless gesture so long as all the taxing powers of the State are not put back of educational opportunity for all the children of the State.

These things will be done just as soon as citizens are brought face to face with facts. North Carolina acts when she thinks and as she thinks. "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Nowhere is this truth more applicable than in North Carolina's educational life today. For this reason, it is again suggested that the Education Association bring before its people this coming year the needs of the elementary school as the most important and far-reaching educational problem in the whole school field. The Association must be conscious always of its entire field and should always stand ready to give needed support to all of its departments. The ten departments constituting the Education Association are more or less dependent one upon the other, and upon the progress of each must depend not only the welfare of the Education Association but of Education itself.

Look well, then, to the continued support and progress of high schools and colleges with their attendant needs, and be ever vigilant and active until the elementary school shall become such as to make possible a vision which I cherish—a vision of every citizen of North Carolina free from the bonds of illiteracy; citizens in such position as will enable them to stretch out and grasp some of the glory of life which is rightfully theirs.

Carson Chapel News.

We are having some nice warm sunshine at this writing. Miss Lassic Emory, who has been a Winston-Salem, N. C., for several months, returned home Saturday. Mrs. J. F. Cunningham was reported on the sick list the past week, but is better at this writing. Miss Glee Rogers of Louisa Chapel spent Sunday night with Miss Nellie Maude Greene. Mr. J. F. Cunningham and Mr. Geo. Wallace spent a few days last week on Nantahala feeding their hogs. They said the snow was twenty inches deep over there. Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Emory, gave the young folks of this section a singing Sunday night. A large crowd was there. Those singing were Miss Lassic Emory (organist), Messrs. Blaine and Cranston Greene, Harold Moore, Roy Rogers, Mrs. Van Frazier, Misses Nellie Maude Greene, Glee Rogers and others. We are hoping Mr. and Mrs. Emory will give us another singing soon, for our choir needs practice. We were very glad to see Miss Mary Gibson back at Sunday School Sunday. Mr. Blaine Greene traded his mules for a milk cow the other day. Guess he must be planning to run a dairy farm. B. N. G. L.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

For Register of Deeds.

To the Voters of Macon County: I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election to the office of Register of Deeds, subject to the action of the Democratic primary. ELMER JOHNSON.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. PERRIAN LONG

On February 27th, just as the sun set, Aunt Altha, as she was called by everybody, very quietly fell asleep. She had been a great sufferer for many years, but bore her suffering with great patience. I never knew her to complain. Everything was all right, and she always appreciated every kindness shown her. She had been a widow for about thirty-five years and had made her home with her nephew, Mr. John Nichols. She realized some time ago that the end was near, and often said she would be so glad to go where her suffering would be over. She grew worse only a few days before her death, and all was done for her that loving hands could do. While she had not been able to get out from home for several years, she will be greatly missed in the community as well as in the home.

To know Aunt Altha was to love her. She always had a kind word for everybody. I never knew her to speak evil of anybody. We feel sure that our loss is her eternal gain. She has gone to join loved ones who have already gone on. Her body was laid to rest at Mailen's Chapel cemetery on February 29th. Rev. Van B. Harrison conducting the funeral rites. A FRIEND.

Flats Locals.

Flats, N. C., March 16.—We are having some real rough weather now. Farmers are not doing anything about their crops. They are badly behind with their work. Feed seems to be a scarce article in Briartown and the rough weather will cause it to be more so. Mr. Bun Denny, of Lower Nantahala was in Briartown on business the week end. He reported Mr. Matthew Cole seriously ill with pneumonia fever.

Mr. Bass Morgan, of Lower Nantahala was visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morgan, the week end. Mr. Geo. Pendergrass, of White Oak Flats, was in Briartown on business last week.

Briartown has had some serious sickness for the past few weeks, and we feel so sorry for the grieved relatives of the departed friends whom God has called from this world, and as we cannot understand why our Heavenly Father has called those dear ones away, then let us bow ourselves in prayer to God and ask Him to help us to be submissive to His will, for we should feel thankful that He called those whom we feel sure were prepared to meet Him, and we should not allow ourselves to grieve any more than possible, but should prepare ourselves to meet them in heaven. C. N.

Shooting Creek News.

Mr. and Mrs. John Myers and little son Bill were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harley Huscusson Sunday afternoon. Messrs. Harley Huscusson and Lawrence Hogsed made a business trip to Murphy Monday. Misses Lena and Laura Myers were visiting Misses Annie May and Bertha Huscusson Monday. Mr. John Bingham passed through this section Sunday. Mrs. Tom McClure was visiting Mrs. Harley Huscusson one day the past week. Mr. Lawrence Hogsed was the guest of Mr. Harley Huscusson Saturday night. We sure are having a good Sunday School here now. Messrs. Wm. Ledford and Roy Parker passed through this section one day last week. Mr. John Myers made a business trip to wheat mill Saturday morning. Mrs. Tom McClure was visiting Mrs. Sam Hogsed one day last week. Miss Ruth McClure has returned home from Hayesville, where she has been going to school for some time. BUCKEYE.

Briartown News.

Mrs. J. E. Wishon was visiting Mrs. M. L. Owenby one day the past week. Mr. Everette White, of Murphy, N. C., was a visitor in Briartown Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Jeff Hampton, who has been working in Haywood County, spent the week end with his mother, Mrs. P. A. Hampton, of this section. Mr. Will Cope, of Gastonia, N. C., was visiting Mr. J. E. Wishon one day the past week. Mrs. J. W. Morgan spent the week end with her son, Mr. B. B. Morgan, of Nantahala. Misses Ollie and Myrtle Wike made a flying trip to Union Hill Sunday afternoon. Miss Hazel Cochran, of Gastonia, N. C., who was called home on account of the illness and death of her brother Harold, has gone back. Sorry to report that the Sunday School at Briartown church has died down during the bad weather. Hope they will soon get it started up again. PSHAW!

Brief History of Macon County, and Topography of Macon County, in pamphlet form, for sale at the Press office, 10c a copy.

Pine Grove News.

We have been having some very wintry weather for the past few days. Miss Madge Evans has returned from Raleigh, N. C., where she spent several weeks. Misses Frances and Vista Redding have gone to their father, who is living at Anderson, S. C. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tilson were visiting Mrs. A. F. Gregory Friday. Mr. Earnest Dills was visiting Mr. A. J. Evans Sunday afternoon. Mr. Jerry Holland is all smiles. It's a boy. We are glad that most of the cases of measles are getting better. Mr. John Keener spent Sunday with Mr. Charlie Henderson. Mr. Fillery Henderson has returned from Kansas City, Mo., where he has been working. Miss Beatrice Dills spent Thursday night with Mrs. A. F. Gregory. Messrs. Athen Moses and Alex Ammons, of Ellijay, have been working at a mica mine on Mr. R. Ford Holland's mountain place. Mr. L. C. Dills spent Saturday night with Mr. P. M. Bryson. Messrs. Tom and Dewey Russell and Canada Gregory have gone to Gastonia, N. C., where they expect to work a while. Mr. George Bryson was visiting Mr. T. C. Dills Sunday. Master Cleve Holland has been on the sick list, but is improving some now. "SLIM AND JIM."

North Skenah Items.

We are all glad to see that the weather is some warmer, and hope it will soon be pleasant. Mr. Napoleon Pendergrass, of Hickory Knoll, was in this section last Monday buying cattle. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Farmer, a fine girl. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sanders were visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. A. T. Sanders last Sunday. Messrs. Walter Ledford and Weaver Donaldson, of Prentiss, were visiting Mr. J. C. Sanders last Sunday evening. Messrs. Fred and George Kimzey, of Teresita, were in this section last Sunday. Mr. Ernest Griggs spent the week end with home folks. Mr. M. A. Sanders made a trip to Cartoogechay on business Tuesday. Dr. Fouts was in this community Sunday to see Mrs. Texie Dehart, who is sick. We wish her a speedy recovery. "PAPA'S DARLING."

Riverside News.

Miss Nita Childers was the guest of Misses, Elsie and Ellen Dowdle Sunday. Mrs. G. C. Dowdle is sick at this writing. Misses Emma Belle and Ida Bates were the guests of Miss Annie Mae Bates Sunday. Miss Mamie Gladwell was the guest of Miss Willie Mae Thomas Sunday. Rev. Jesse Stalcup preached at Coweta last Sunday. There was a large crowd out. We are sorry to report that Miss Ethel Williamson, who is staying at Rev. Van B. Harrison's, has a bad case of measles. Hope she will soon be out again. Mrs. H. E. Childers was visiting Mrs. Thomas last Sunday afternoon. We are glad to say that Miss Grace Dowdle is at home, after being confined with measles for some time at Rev. J. Q. Wallace's. Mr. Chas. H. McClure made a business trip to Clayton last week. MAMA'S DARLING.

What's That?

Lady (entering fur store): "I'd like to see some skunk, please." Saleslady: "Just a minute, and I'll call the floor walker."

JURY LIST FOR SUPERIOR COURT

The following names have been drawn as jurors for the Spring Term of Macon Superior Court, which begins April 21, 1924.

First Week.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| S. E. Fouts | M. A. Plemmons |
| H. L. Spurlin | Geo. A. Mashburn |
| C. S. Slagle | W. T. Wright |
| Edd Moffitt | J. H. Burnett |
| J. M. Holt | R. H. Bates |
| J. B. Elmore | J. Weimer Hasting |
| F. H. Higdon | W. E. Crawford |
| A. J. Newman | W. I. Conley |
| W. D. Barnard | H. C. Miller |
| Lon Campbell | Burt Oliver |
| J. R. Holbrooks | J. E. Wilson |
| J. C. Brown | J. H. Fulton |
| P. C. Hawkins | Myron Russell |
| E. M. Angel | J. C. Henderson |
| J. A. Lakey | E. N. Evans |
| C. H. Southards | H. L. Hawkins |
| O. L. Blaine | T. M. Southards |
| C. M. Wooten | J. M. Holbrooks |

Second Week.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| T. M. Moss | J. H. Ledbetter |
| J. M. Morrison | E. B. Conley |
| Lee Brown | Paul Newman |
| G. T. Stiles | C. V. Dryman |
| W. H. Green | D. W. Garland |
| Levi Crain | Joe H. Hurst |
| L. E. Spahr | J. H. Sellers |
| H. G. Cabe | John Norton |
| H. J. Baty | C. L. Blaine |

Buck Creek News.

We are having some snow and cold rain out here now, but are looking forward to spring days. It seems quite lonesome to look over town now, as quite a number of families have recently moved out, but we hope to see the cars filled as soon as they are moved further up the line. There has been quite a lot of sickness for the past week or two, but we are glad to know that they are all improving. Mr. and Mrs. Marion Sanders were visiting in town Sunday. We are sorry to report that two of Mr. Arthur Sanders sons have measles, but are glad to know they are getting better. Mr. Zeb Roane, of Buck Creek, has been suffering with a rising on his face. Hope he will soon recover. Mrs. Beulah Gregory was the guest of Mrs. Arthur Sanders last Sunday. We are glad to report the return of Mr. Arthur Mainey and family, as they are such fine neighbors. "CURLY HEAD."

Poultry Specialist Coming.

A poultry specialist is coming from Raleigh to work with County Agent Arrandale for more and better poultry in Macon County. He is to be here on April 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th, and the places and dates for the different meetings will be announced in a later issue of the Press and in the Farmers' Federation News.

Press Want Ads bring Results.

ANCONA Shepherd Strain

The Best in America. EGGS, \$1.50 PER 15.

Let Me Know Your Wants.

GEORGE L. NEWTON

NOTICE TO THE FOREST USERS!

BURNING THE WOODS—

Does not improve the grazing. Does not exterminate poisonous insects or animals.

Does injure the grazing by: Killing the better grasses. Decreasing the fertility of the soil. Increasing the damage from frost, sun, wind and rain.

Does injure timber. Does increase insect damage. Does kill the young trees.

Therefore, if Fires continue to occur it will be necessary to prohibit grazing on burnt areas in order to give the Range a chance to recuperate.

Co-operate with the Forest Officers in Preventing Fires.