

A DECADE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1909-1910.

The following extracts regarding educational progress during the past decade have been tabulated from the official reports of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and are re-printed from Bulletin No. 18, recently issued from the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

(1) The annual expenditure for elementary rural schools has been increased from \$1,501,157.34 to \$2,126,695.50, more than doubled.

(2) The average term of the rural white schools has been increased from 76 to 93 days, nearly one school month.

(3) The value of rural school-houses and grounds has been increased from \$1,146,000 to \$3,094,416, nearly trebled.

(4) Three thousand four hundred and fifty-six new school-houses have been built since 1902, more than one a day for every day in every year.

(5) Expenditures for salaries of white rural school teachers have been increased from \$621,927.97 to \$1,126,059.83, nearly doubled.

(6) The average monthly salary of white rural teachers has been increased from \$25.39 to \$34.47, and the average annual salary from \$98.77 to \$159.79, an increase of more than 60 per cent in the annual salary.

(7) The enrollment in the white schools has been increased from 293,868 to 360,121, an increase of 22 per cent. The total white school population of the State has increased less than 11 per cent.

(8) The average daily attendance in the white schools has been increased from 166,500 to 235,872, an increase of more than 41 per cent.

(9) The number of rural white school teachers has been increased from 5,570 to 7,047, an increase of 1,477.

(10) The expenditures for salaries of County Superintendents have been increased from \$23,596.85 to \$78,071.75; the average annual salary of the County Superintendent has been increased from \$243.27 to \$796.65.

(11) The number of special local tax districts has been increased from 18 to 1,167. In 1910 about \$300,000 was raised by local taxation for the rural schools. Nearly \$900,000 was raised by local taxation for the rural and city schools.

(12) Since 1905 the number of rural schools having more than one teacher has been increased from 851 to 1,355. No report of this previous to 1905.

(13) The number of rural libraries has been increased from 472 to 2,772. In addition, 914 supplementary libraries have been established. These libraries contain 265,752 volumes of well-selected books, costing \$96,870.

(14) Since 1907, when the rural high school law was passed, 202 rural public high schools have been established in 93 counties, in which were enrolled in 1911 nearly 7,000 country boys and girls.

Proportionate Development of All Parts of a Complete Educational System.

If our people are wise and just they must construct a complete educational system—elementary, secondary, vocational, collegiate—developing it symmetrically, proportionately and contemporaneously in all parts according to their ability. This we have been trying to do. If perchance some mistakes have been made in the proportionate development let us correct the mistakes by increasing where the need is greatest, not by destroying or weakening

one necessary part to build up another. The educational task of the future is the proportionate development of all the parts of a complete educational system. The State has already laid the foundations and prepared the frame-work of every part of this system. It is able to continue the proportionate development of all its parts.

To put all of the money into the elementary schools, that cover only seven grades of work, and none into the other necessary parts of a complete educational system would be about as wise as to force all the blood of the body into the feet and lower limbs and leave none for the head and other parts of the body. For best results in the growth and development of a man's body, all the parts thereof must grow and develop proportionately at the same time. The following Scriptural quotation is peculiarly applicable to my conception of a complete and adequate school system:

"For the body is not one member, but many.

"If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

"And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

"And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

"If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing; if the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased Him.

"And if they were all one member, where were the body?

"And now they are many members, yet but one body.

"And the eye can not say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you."

This is the Lord's way of growing men, and the same method is illustrated in all the works of creation. Men are wisest when they follow Divine precept and example. Let us not have a system of education that will be all feet of all head, or with feet disproportionate to the head and body. Either would be as great a monstrosity as a man all feet or all head. Let all the parts be developed proportionately and symmetrically in a complete and effective unit, each helping the other and all helping the whole. The man or men upon whom rests the responsibility of the development of an effective educational system must see things clearly, see them whole and see them in their proper proportions.

A Six-Months' Elementary Rural School Term the Next Supreme Necessity.

I believe that a six months' term in the elementary schools is a necessity now, to maintain the proportion and symmetry of the parts of the whole and to do equal justice to all. The State is, in my opinion, able to provide this without decreasing in efficiency the other important and necessary parts of the system. This then is the next prime necessity in the development of our system, and towards its accomplishment all friends of education should labor unremittingly, unitedly and uncompromisingly.

I believe that the reports for 1912, when compiled, taking into consideration the increase of \$350,000 in the elementary school fund, resulting from the increase of two cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of property in the regular school tax by the act of 1911, will bring the

average school term of the State to about five months. The number of counties needing aid from the second hundred thousand dollars for a four-months' school term this year has been decreased by the increased school tax and the increased assessment of property from 66 to 51 counties. In the other forty-nine counties the length of the rural school term has been largely increased. It is likely, therefore, that we may be easily in sight of a minimum school term of six months at the next meeting of the General Assembly without an unreasonable increase in the State appropriation or tax for the elementary schools.

The three following methods of increasing the elementary school term to a minimum of six months are suggested for careful consideration:

(1) The distribution of the entire public school fund from the State Treasury as a State fund, equalizing the school term in every county, and a sufficient increase in that tax to provide a six-months' term in every district of every county.

(2) A continuation of the present plan of retaining in each county the school taxes paid by that county, and a sufficient increase in the special State appropriation for public schools to bring the minimum term in each school district of the weak counties to six instead of four months. This would, of course, necessitate an increase in the State revenues by taxation or otherwise sufficient to meet this increased expenditure.

(3) A special State school tax on all property and polls similar to the pension tax in addition to the twenty-cent school tax levied by each county to provide a permanent equalizing State school fund apportioned from the State Treasury, to bring the school term in every school district to at least six months. This would provide a permanent fund, constantly increasing with the increasing wealth and the increasing school population of the State, and would also provide the permanent machinery for raising the money. It would not, therefore, be affected in any way by the biennial scramble for increased appropriations by public institutions of all sorts out of a treasury usually depleted.

The first plan would increase the school fund by increasing the school tax and distributing the whole from the State Treasury as a State tax to equalize school terms in all counties to six months; the second would increase the State tax to increase the State revenue sufficiently to provide a special appropriation to lengthen the school term in all the weak counties to six months; the third would provide a special equalizing elementary State school fund by levying on all property and polls an annual specific special tax similar to the special tax for pensions. Which is the wiser plan must be determined by the law-makers after careful consideration and calculation. By one plan or the other we can and must bring the term to a minimum of six months as soon as possible without crippling the other important interests of the State. Longer terms could still be provided by local taxation as heretofore. J. Y. JOYNER, Supt. Public Instruction.

Nat McLean, the negro who was shot by Gus Holmes in a street fight last Saturday night, died Monday at the Highsmith Hospital at Fayetteville. Holmes is in jail.

A charter has been issued to the Franklinton Lumber and Power Company of Franklinton. The authorized capital is \$15,000, with \$8,000 subscribed for by T. H. Whitaker.

STATE NEWS.

A check for \$25,000 was received by Salem Female College from Andrew Carnegie, a few days ago.

Mr. Block Harrison, a well known and fearless Burke County officer, was found dead in bed a few mornings ago.

Wilmington was successful after a ten days' campaign, in raising \$75,000, the amount needed for the Y. M. C. A. in that city.

The Republican Executive Committee of Guilford County have issued calls for the County Convention to be held in Greensboro, April 6.

There is to be built in the near future a hoisery mill at Henderson, by Mr. R. P. Freeze, treasurer of the Fidelity Hosiery Mill, at Newton.

Gilbert McDouglad and Theo Lucas engaged in a quarrel in Fayetteville a few days ago, when Lucas shot and killed McDouglad. Lucas escaped.

A negro, John Holleman, of Kinston, brutally stabbed his wife to death a few days ago, near Pink Hill, where the woman had gone to visit her sister.

The thirteen-year-old son of Mr. W. W. Gales, of Glendale Springs, Va., formerly of Salisbury, was drowned a few days ago, in a stream near his home.

Lippard & Barriers' grocery store on Church Street, Concord, was entered and robbed one night last week. An entrance was effected by way of a window. A few articles were missing.

Reports are that Frank Melcher, who was wanted in Gaston County, for the murder of a negro, John Ross, in February, 1911, was captured near Rutherfordton one day last week.

Capt. W. H. Powell, a prominent citizen of Tarboro, died suddenly at his home in that city a few days ago, at the age of fifty years. He was president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Charles Ficker, a native of Hendersonville, was found dead in bed in a club in Greenville, S. C., a few days ago, with a bullet hole in his right temple, and a pistol lying on the floor near-by.

Sam Whitfield, a negro employe in the saw-mill of the Kinston Manufacturing Company, was caught in the machinery a few days ago and received injuries from which he died in a short time.

A storm at Carthage Thursday blew down many houses, blew up trees, and in one instance blew a stable together with a cow which was in same, away. Strange to say, it did not kill the cow.

Mr. St. Clair Pugh, one of the most widely known merchants and fishermen of Eastern North Carolina, died at his home in Wanchese, Dare County, on the 14th instant. He was fifty-five years old.

Mr. Zero Huffman, a well-known citizen of Hilderbrand, near Hickory, was found dead, hanging to a standard of his wagon, on his way home from Morganton, a few days ago. Heart trouble is supposed to be the cause of his death.