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THE JOURNAL.

H. G. SUNN, Editor.
 E. HARPER, Business Manager.
 NEW BERNE, N. C., MARCH 16 1888.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
 No. 1.

FINANCES.
 Since the war the following disbursements have been made:

In 1871	\$177,497.94
In 1872	173,275.62
In 1873	196,675.07
In 1874	297,090.85
In 1875 No rep., about same as in 1874.	
In 1876	334,163.14
In 1877	319,813.00
In 1878	334,827.10
In 1879	352,040.85
In 1880	352,882.55
In 1881	409,653.88
In 1882	509,798.02
In 1883	683,430.98
In 1884	640,245.20
In 1885	630,553.82
In 1886	671,115.65
In 1887	653,037.83

The Constitution of 1868 required the proceeds of the sales of swamp lands and the receipts from fines, forfeitures, penalties and certain other funds to be invested as an irreducible fund, the interest of which alone was to be used for school purposes.

The Constitution as amended in 1876 while still requiring receipts from the same source to be used for school purposes, gave to the General Assembly the power to distribute all school funds to the counties for immediate use. In 1876 the General Assembly enacted that the irreducible fund should be retained but that it should not be increased except by the items mentioned in Art. 9, Sec. 4 of the Constitution from which nothing was received except from the sales of public lands, and but little from that source.

In 1881 the General Assembly directed that this fund should be distributed to the counties, and consequently in August 1881 a distribution of \$114,883.25 was made and in November 1883, another of \$74,448.75 was made. These amounts were used by the county school authorities during the years 1882, 1883 and 1884 and swelled the amount applied during those years to school purposes, as will appear by the figures given above.

The question is frequently asked why the counties now get no money from the State fund. The answer is that the legislation now on our statute books does not contemplate putting any money into the State Treasury for schools, except such as comes from tax on acts of incorporation by the General Assembly and from the sales of public lands. Receipts from these sources have as yet amounted to but very little. Our statutes leave all other school funds in the counties where collected to the end that they may be used as rapidly as possible. It has not been thought wise or proper for this poor generation to attempt to accumulate a permanent school fund.

During the years 1871 and 1872 there was a tax of 6 cents on the \$100 of property; after 1872 and until 1881 the tax on property was 8 cents on \$100 of property, and after 1881 it was 12 cents, at which figure it now stands.

In addition to this general property tax the Constitution applies at least three-fourths of all poll tax, both State and county to school purposes, which amount to an average of about one dollar and fifty cents (when the limit of \$2.00 is reached the exact amount is \$1.50) on each poll that is collected.

The statutes apply now, and have for years, the fines, forfeitures, and penalties imposed by the Superior Courts and by the justices of the peace, most of the receipts from liquor licenses (all except from the wholesale licenses), receipts from auctioneers, estrays, articles of imposition issued by county surveyors, court clerks, and tax on

and the funds are not put into the hands of the State Treasurer, but all are retained in the counties where they are raised.
 In counties where the State taxes levied in the revenue law and in the school law, and the county taxes levied by the commissioners including school taxes, do not amount to more than 66 cents on \$100 of property, and \$2.00 on polls, the commissioners are required to levy enough tax, in addition to the funds secured under the general State levies as above mentioned, to continue the schools four months per annum.

In most counties, however, after providing for county expenses, the commissioners find no margin left for application to schools. Prior to the Supreme Court decision in *Barksdale vs. commissioners of Sampson county*, 93 N. C. Reports, the commissioners were required to have four months terms whether or not they exceeded 66 cents tax on property and \$2.00 on polls. It will be noticed that the receipts for 1887 were \$23,283.98 less than they were in 1886, while the laws were just the same. The fall-off in receipts is to be attributed to the decision referred to and to the failure, I think, of an unusually large number of persons to pay their poll taxes.

Some commissioners are now so managing county matters as to apply all the poll tax to schools, while others find that for ordinary purposes they do not need the full margin of 34 1/6 cents now left them by the General Assembly, and so levy something for schools as section 2590 of the school law requires them to do. The county boards of education press their claims upon the boards of commissioners and not infrequently the commissioners are brought to greater economy in their administration of county matters to the end that the schools may be brought up to the four months that the Constitution requires as a minimum. I cannot too much commend such consideration on the part of the county commissioners, and can but cherish the hope that, to the end that our school system may be made more effective and more popular, all the commissioners will do everything in their power to increase the funds. Let them do this and go to the limitation. The money thus raised and applied, and indeed all school money under our system, STAYS AT HOME—IN THE COUNTY WHERE RAISED—and so does not impoverish either the county or the State. It is not the money we raise and KEEP AT HOME that impoverishes us, but the money we send abroad—a fact worth remembering and considering.
 S. M. FINGER,
 Supt. of Public Instruction.

FARMS AND FARMERS.

Short Talks With the Men Who Guide the Plow.

DEPTH FOR PLANTING SEEDS.

The proper depth for planting seeds is not determined by the greatest depth from which they will come up and reach the surface successfully. A plant may struggle and reach the surface so exhausted that it never recovers its vigor, and though it may not die, yet never attain perfect development. The conditions of life whilst under the ground, and after it has come up into the light and open air, are quite different. Under the ground it lives upon the food stored up for it in the seed, drawing nothing from the soil, perhaps, but water. The heat in the soil is the motive power which excites it into activity. When it gets up into the air an entirely new set of operation begins. Like everything else it tends to lose moisture by evaporation; the water which thus escapes is replaced by more absorbed from the soil, and with this absorbed water comes into it food from the soil. Its leaves bathed in the air, draw in carbonic acid from the atmosphere, and with the aid of sunlight build up, out of it and the elements of water, new tissues. It thus becomes an independent existence. Whilst under the ground it was dependent upon its mother's milk (the food laid up for it), now it can forage for itself. If planted too deep, the food laid up may be exhausted before it can surface; in that event it perishes; or it may fall a little short of this, and reach the surface with its parts imperfectly developed—its leaves small, its stalks slender; or still farther, it may reach the surface before its supply of seed food is exhausted, and proceeding to gather food from the atmosphere, receive no check and not become stunted in its growth.

Nature's mode of seeding is to drop the seeds on the surface, and trust to their being covered by rain, or alternate freezings and thawings, or by insects disturbing the soil, or other agencies of like nature. Whilst this is an uncertain mode, and calls for a large amount of seed, because so great a portion is liable to failure of covering, it indicates very clearly that nature's method is shallow covering, and

that the organization of plants is adapted to shallow covering. Just enough covering to secure the necessary moisture is the plain indication. Especially is this true early in the season when moisture near the surface is abundant, and heat (the motive power) is greater there than at lower depths. As the season advances moisture retires from the surface and heat penetrates deeper down, and seeds must be planted deeper, but the loose dry nature of the soil above them enables young plants to reach the surface more easily than when the soil is wet and cold. So much for theoretical considerations—practice, however, confirms them—careful experiments with planting seeds at different depths show that for the larger seed, like corn, wheat, oats, etc., one to two inches covering give the most vigorous plants and largest yield. Plant corn now as shallow as possible.—W. L. J., in Atlanta Constitution.

Analysis of Soils.

Some twenty-five or thirty years ago a few of the more prominent contributors to the agricultural press were urging the great importance of analysis of the soil of every farm, in order that the owner might determine for what kind of crops it was best adapted, also if it contained too much of any one substance or too little of another to insure the greatest fertility. The author of *Elements of Agriculture*, 1854, declared: "The farmer cannot be too strongly advised to procure an analysis of his soil, and for obvious reasons." The "obvious reasons," however, consisted mainly in paying a certain clique of self assumed chemists \$5 to \$10 for a half way analysis of a few ounces of soil. Hundreds of farmers believed there was something in the new theoretical agriculture, and paid their hard earned cash only to find out that the analysis of a few ounces of soil taken from one place on their farm was of really no practical use in determining the fertility or barrenness of that which had not been analyzed. If the soil of the entire farm to the depth of one or two feet could be thoroughly intermingled and then a ton or more of this analyzed, we might make a very close guess as to the amount of valuable constituents an acre contained, or was needed to make the soil fertile, or adapted to the growth of certain kinds of plants. But as the chemist only proposed to analyze a few ounces of soil, his work would be of little value to the practical farmer.—New York Sun.

THEIR BUSINESS BOOMING.

Probably no one thing has caused such a general revival of trade at R. N. Duffy's drug store as their giving away to their customers of so many free trial bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Their trade is simply enormous in this very valuable article from the fact that it always cures and never disappoints. Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and all throat and lung diseases quickly cured. You can test it before buying by getting a trial bottle free, large size \$1. Every bottle warranted. For sale, wholesale and retail, at R. N. Duffy's drug store.

FOR A LIFE TIME.

It is strange why people who recognize certain inherited disorders, let them run on under the vain delusion that they cannot be cured. Nine-tenths of "incurable" diseases can be cured. Read how one who had blood-poison from birth talks:

BLOOD TAINT FROM BIRTH.

HOONEVILLE, Ind., January 25, 1887.
 I shall ever praise the day that you gentlemen were born, and shall bless the day that your medicine was known to me. I had blood taint from birth, and so much so that all the doctors of my town said I would be crippled for life. I tried all the medicines I could get, but they did me no good. I could not stand in my class to recite my lessons, and eleven bottles of your blood cured me sound and well. You can use my name as you see fit. In my case there were knots on my shinbones as large as a hen's egg.
 YOURS,
 MIRTLE M. TANNER.

SUFFERED FROM PILES.

BALTIMORE, February 5, 1887.
 I had suffered with bleeding piles for two years, and take pleasure in stating that I have been entirely cured by the use of one bottle of Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.). I cheerfully make this statement for the benefit of the public.
 CHAS. REINHARDT,
 No. 2028 Fountain st., Baltimore, Md.

TRIED FIVE DOCTORS.

HAWKINSVILLE, Ga., Feb. 26, 1887.
 This is to certify that my wife has been in bad health for eight years. After trying five doctors and six or seven different patent medicines, six bottles of your B. B. B. has cured her.
 JAMES W. LANCASTER.

Send for our Book of Wonders, free to all. It treats of all blood diseases. Address
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 35 Black and Brown Cutaway and Sack Corkscrew Suits at \$15, worth \$18 and \$20.
 30 Suits of Middlesex Blue Flannel at \$10, warranted not to fade.
 We have some bargains left in Winter Underwear. An all wool medicated Scarlet Shirt at \$1.00, cost in New York \$1.25. They cannot be bought for less than \$1.50 next fall. Drawers to match.
 75c. white Shirts, unlaundried, at 60c., all sizes 14 to 16.
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