

## STATISTICS SHOW FEW BEGINNERS COMPLETE TWELFTH GRADE IN STATE

Of Each 1,000 White Pupils Who Entered First Grade In 1940-41, Only 313 Completed High School In 1951-52; 1,000 to 111 Is Ratio For Negro Pupils For Same Years

Not quite a third of white pupils and slightly more than a tenth of Negro pupils who entered the first grade in 1940-41 "made" a grade a year and completed the twelve-year course of study provided by the public schools of the State.

The number of pupils not promoted plus the number who dropped out of school entirely after they had enrolled were included in the 687 white and the 889 Negro pupils who failed to complete their public school education by the end of the 12-year period following their entrance in the first grade. Part of the nonpromotions remain in school, repeating work failed, and in the end complete the twelve-year course of study by taking 13, 14 or perhaps 15 years. This fact would tend to have inflated the survival figures. Since this tendency is common to each year, however, it is believed to balance out in the end. The main reason for the seemingly high mortality from grade one to completion of high school appears to be due entirely to drop-outs, many of which started out by being nonpromotions, or failure to do the work required in order to be promoted to the next succeeding year.

There is, however, a bright side to the picture which the record for the 1940-41 entrance class appears otherwise. First grade children entering since that year appear to be making progressively better progress through the grades. This is true for first grade enrollments back to 1929-30. In other words, the record indicates that survivals, or those who remain in school for longer periods of time and thus reach higher grades in the school system, are becoming increasingly greater. This is true for both white and Negro children, although the record in the case of Negro survivals is about a third that of white pupils. Even this situation is improving as

this ratio was five to one in 1924-25.

First grade survivals for white pupils have increased from 628 in 1923-24 to 958 in 1950-51. In other words, 372 out of each 1,000 first grade white children failed to reach the second grade in 1924-25, whereas only 42 failed in this respect in 1950-51. Or, on a percentage basis, take the third grade: 60.5 per cent of the original first grade children who entered in 1923-24 reached the third grade in 1925-26. Contrast this with 92.7 per cent of the first grade white children who entered school in 1949-50.

In the case of Negro pupils the improvement in survival rates is also evident, and for each grade as in case of white pupils.

More white children were enrolled in the public schools during the year 1951-52 than any other year, the total being 641,081. Peak enrollment for the Negro schools during this period was during 1933-34 when there were 280,741 pupils enrolled.

There is a tendency toward equalization of enrollment in the grades, with a greater percentage going to the high schools than heretofore. Expectations would be that the ratio between elementary and high enrollments should approach 66 2/3 to 33 1/3, or two to one, but because of necessary drop-outs and increased birth rates they do not quite reach this ratio. This is to say, therefore, that there is still a desirability that this trend will continue.

### Vets Question Box

Q—Will I have to pay income tax on disability compensation payments I receive from the VA?

A—No. VA benefit payments are not taxable. In fact, they need not even be reported as income, for tax purposes.

## More Land Added To Seashore Park

A 755-acre tract of land at the southernmost tip of Hatteras Island will be transferred in the spring to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Cape Hatteras Seashore Recreation Area on the North Carolina Outer Bank Islands.

The property, formerly owned by the Gooseville Gun Club, includes one of the finest surf fishing areas on the entire Atlantic seaboard. Already within the Seashore park are the surf fishing grounds just south of Hatteras lighthouse and at Or-gon Inlet.

Sound and oceanfront acreage is included in the former gun club property, which has been maintained as a fishing and hunting preserve for 23 years and is an area frequented by migratory ducks and geese.

Since all of Ocracoke Island and 2,000 additional acres on Hatteras and Bodie Islands on Pamlico and Roanoke Sounds are already open for waterfowl hunting in compliance with state and federal regulations, no plans have been announced for opening the Gooseville Gun Club area for shooting.

Of the total 28,500 acres which will eventually comprise the Seashore Recreation area, some 19,000 have now been acquired, including former Cape

Hatteras State Park lands surrounding Hatteras Light, and Pea Island Game Refuge.

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

Every Sunday (except first Sunday of every month, when first Mass is in Palace Theatre, Windsor, at 8 A. M.), the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated at 8 and 11 A. M., each including sermon, Holy Communion, followed by Rosary in honor of Mary, Help of Christians, and for the Conversion of all non-Catholics, Sunday School, with Confessions for half hour before Services in St. Ann's Catholic Church, Edenton, stated Father Francis J. McCourt, pastor, who in-

cludes everybody to all services and to the Information Forum held in the rectory library every Wednesday 7:30 P. M., to 8:30, followed by choir practice to 9:15 in church. Week-days including every first Friday and first Saturday of the month at 7 A. M., Mass, Communion, Rosary.

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