

## RECORDS SHOW FEWER DROP-OUTS AND MORE PROMOTIONS IN SCHOOLS OF STATE

The percentage of drop-outs in North Carolina's public schools has been less within recent years than has been the case in other years. At the same time the percentage of pupils annually promoted has been greater than preceding years.

Enrollment is greater now than ever before—71,563 more in 1951-52 than in 1930-31. The increase from year to year, however, has not been consistent. In fact, the record shows an increase from 1930-31 to 1933-34, then a decrease to 1937-38, followed by an increase in 1938-39, and then followed by decreases each year to 1944-45, when there were 812,826 children enrolled in the State's public schools. Since 1944-45 enrollment has climbed steadily to the present figure 914,269, an increase of 101,443 within seven years.

Membership trends during this period were almost identical to enrollment trends. During the entire period there was an increase of 94,432. However, during this period, there was, in case of enrollment, a low point in 1944-45 when membership numbered 759,507. In 1951-52 there were 868,769 children in membership, that is on the roll on the last day of school. This shows an increase within seven years of 109,262, a figure greater than the increase in enrollment during the same period.

Stated simply, there were fewer drop-outs, pupils who left school for various reasons. Drop-outs have not been constant for the years indicated. For the past four years, however, there were decidedly fewer drop-outs. There were approximately 5 per cent drop-outs during these years as compared with 6, 7, and 8 per cent during preceding years. The number of drop-outs during these four years was less than 50,000, whereas for preceding years drop-outs totaled from 50,801 to 76,372 annually.

The trend in number and percentage of promotions has been upward—from 592,806 in 1930-31 to 808,521 in 1951-52, or percentage-wise from 70 per cent to 88.4 per cent.

Non-promotions, complementarily, tend to decrease during this period. There were 181,534 pupils, 21.6 per cent of the enrollment, who were not promoted at the close of the 1930-31 school term. In 1951-52 there were 121,286 fewer non-promotions, a total of 60,248, or 6.6 per cent of the enrollment.

### Poultrymen Can Boos Profit By Cutting Cost.

The smart businessman is constantly seeking new methods of efficiency in order to cut costs and thereby increase his margin of profit. The same is true, of the North Carolina poultryman.

R. S. Dearstyne, head of the department of poultry science, N. C. State College, says that while Tar Heel poultrymen have made great strides in putting efficiency into the poultry business, there are still a number of opportunities. Among the more prominent are these:

1. Reducing the number of culls in flocks. It is estimated that cull chickens in North Carolina consume \$400,000 worth of feed each month (nearly \$5,000,000 annually). Dearstyne thinks many poultrymen, especially

the small flock owner, take this matter too lightly. It is a situation that the individual flock owner can handle if he will.

2. Reducing feed wastage. Between overfilled feed hoppers, improperly constructed hoppers, rats and mice, and improper storage of feed, the value of feed lost in North Carolina amounts to about \$2,500,000 each year, says Dearstyne. This again is a problem of the individual poultryman. If he will attack this problem vigorously and follow through on a "feed conservation" program, the profits of the industry should be increased greatly.

3. Reducing the poultry mortality rate. Mortality in chicken and turkey flocks cost North Carolina farmers about \$5,000,000 each year. While medicants can be used with success in some instances, this procedure is not the final answer, says Dearstyne. The annual loss caused by mortality could be cut 50 per cent by adopting and following through with a sound disease-prevention program.

### CHRIST'S FINAL HOURS TOLD IN PICTURES

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### Good Feathering Will Bring Higher Prices

Mr. Poultryman, are your broilers going to "feather out well?"

The question is put by R. S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry science department at N. C. State College and dean of the Tar Heel poultry industry. It is an important question, especially at this time of the year.

Dearstyne says, "Not only must the broiler be well-finished, it must also be completely feathered to bring a top market price." When broilers fail to feather well the inevitable question occurs: "Why?" Too often, says Dearstyne, the blame is placed on the diet. This is seldom the reason.

The ability to feather fully is primarily an inherited characteristic and traces back to the breeding program in the flock from which the hatching the broiler is very important as managerial errors may retard feather growth. The producer should avoid over crowding of houses, overheating, chilling, and severe fluctuation of brooder temperature. It should also be borne in mind that some humidity is required for normal feathering. Other factors such as disease and certainly outbreaks of cannibalism may depress normal feathering.

Producers should purchase chicks from sources where complete feathering is an established factor, say,

Dearstyne. Cheap chicks sold at less cost than the price of hatching eggs are not usually a good source of rapid feathering birds. North Carolina hatcheries have furnished good broiler chicks in the past. Price and quantity being equal, it is well to buy as near at home as practical, advises the poultry expert.

### EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production on North Carolina farms during February 1954 is placed at 124 million eggs. The average number of layers for the month is estimated at 8,773,000—1 per cent above the number on farms during February, 1953. The average rate of

lay during February, 1954, was somewhat higher than a year earlier. This long with the increase in layers resulted in a net increase of approximately 1 per cent in total egg production.

Wise sayings and garrulous talk may fall to the ground, rather than on the ear or heart of the hearer; but a tender sentiment felt, or a kind word spoken, at the right moment, is never wasted. Mary Baker Eddy.

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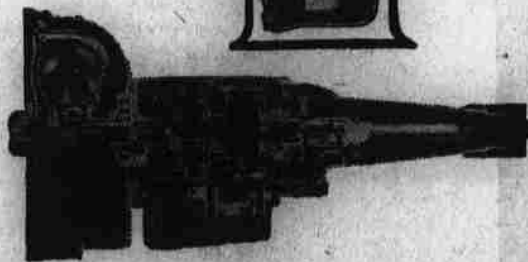
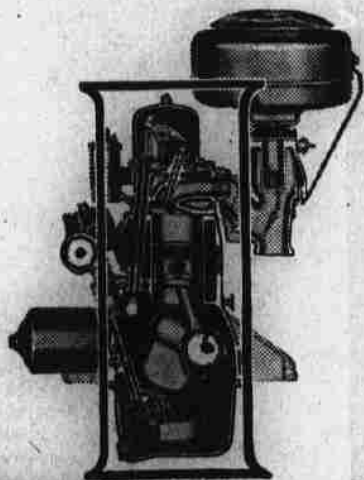
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