

Much interest has been aroused in Virginia by the introduction of a bill in the General Assembly by representatives from the Norfolk area which provides that \$5,000,000 of revenue now being derived from the automobile license taxes be appropriated to schools. The professional road people of the state are attempting to becloud the issue by making it appear to be a fight between the school and road advocates over money that is normally conceded to belong to roads. So far as we can learn the school administrators and teachers are having very little if any part in the proposal. The issue is clearly three-cornered. The questions are: Shall the State of Virginia continue unchecked and without delay its admirable program of highway improvement? Or shall some of this money, not all, be diverted to schools so that these bulwarks of democracy can in some measurable degree maintain their standards of 1929-30, and in addition shall the tax payers be afforded needed relief?

The transfer of this fund to schools would yield Loudoun County about \$43,000 on a per capita basis. This sum requires a tax of 30 cents on the \$100 of assessed valuation. It would enable the county board of supervisors to reduce the county school tax from 80 cents to 50 cents. If 3,000 property holders in Loudoun County have property assessed at \$5,000 each, it would save to each one of them \$15,000 next year. In Loudoun County the interest of the tax payer weighs mightily over against the possible delay in improvement of road projects. Likewise the interest of the children in many parts of Virginia weighs mightily over against the desire of the people for better roads.

Sound public policy at this time should dictate to unbiased thinkers a course like this.

Keep the schools up to their present standards and open for

terms equal to those of 1929-30. Lower salaries of teachers a reasonable amount and lower other school costs. Defer all school building construction except in case of absolute requirement of space. Keep the roads in their present state of repair but postpone all new construction, except such as may be required to secure the benefit of Federal appropriations. Pass along to the tax payers the millions of dollars thus saved.

The sacredness of the special road funds is no more vital to the future welfare of our democracy than the life destiny of our hundreds of thousands of Virginia youth not than the salvation of thousands of ^{property} ~~taxpayer~~ holders who face confiscation for taxes and debts.

However downcast or discouraged we might feel it will help us all if we can accept the philosophy that the great destiny of the human race is to perpetuate its own kind in a higher and better form. Through the public schools every citizen of our county is afforded opportunity to have a continuous part in this high calling. Their opportunities come in the form of the payment of the capitation and other taxes for the support of schools, in rendering direct and positive service through Community Leagues or Parent-Teachers' Associations, in the assumption of a friendly attitude toward the great cause of education which may manifest its outcomes on numerous occasions, and in many other ways.

Soon our school will be open again. Four and one-half thousand children, one hundred and fifty teachers, one supervisor of schools, fifteen janitors and seven school bus drivers will resume activities that have been suspended for three months.

As superintendent of schools it is my purpose to lay before our teaching staff three main objectives which are :

1. A substantial increase in the attendance.
2. A substantial increase in the number of pupils promoted.
3. A reasonable practice of economy on the part of everyone in school expenditures with the main objective a nine months' school term.

At least one-half of the 966 children who were as an average absent from school each day last year should have been present. The responsibility for the regular attendance of children is upon both teachers and parents. Children absent from school can no more expect to gain their full reward of training than can men absent from work expect to be paid. Some of the absences are due to poverty. I am hopeful that local leagues will take some interest in these cases and ~~under~~ render such aid as may enable the child-

ren where there is actual want to attend school.

An improvement in attendance will automatically increase the number promoted. That 1270 of Loudoun's children failed to complete their grades in 1931-32 is an appalling thought. There are many causes. Some of these are beyond our control. We ought, however, to take thought in the very beginning of the approaching school year and endeavor by every possible means to fire every child in school at once with the ambition to do the year's work acceptably. There must be no lowering of standards to gain in the number promoted. We need to have better attendance and better work done. We have undoubtedly gathered together the best equipped corps of teachers who ever took charge of the school system of Loudoun County. The challenge for the gains desired will be gladly and enthusiastically received by them. It is proper that we expect results.

A term of nine months is of great importance. It is a well known law among pedagogues that the amount of learning which is forgotten is in very direct proportion to the length of time the thing learned is not used. Hence, if there be less learning by reason of a shorter term and more forgetting by reason of disuse over a longer vacation period our loss becomes magnified.

There is a very wide-spread attitude among people that the government should cure the depression by huge expenditures of money. This applies to Federal, State and local units of government. The expenditures for governmental purposes should bear some relation to the financial condition of the taxpayers. Our income for schools is greatly reduced for this year. The amount of the income is even uncertain. However, the school board and superintendent must decide what expenditures should be made and by adopting a rather severe attitude of saying "no" to many of the demands which are being

made for added expenditures and with the help of teachers in a program of rigid economy, the expenditures for a nint months' school term can be brought within the present estimated revenue.

In additionx to these problems we shall expect to give some attention to the need of inculcating in the minds of our boys and girls the need for respect for and obedience to authority of parents, teacher, and government. Our efforts must be directed toward the elimination of the possibility of our public school products becoming the exponents of Communism or similar doctrines of government.

Likewise the times in which we live justify some added attention to the problem of selecting a voaction as well as to ordinary thrift in the daily practices of life.

The vast business of training the bodies, minds and souls of our youth is an undertaking of such magnitude that the fullest cooperation of all our people is needed. The schools play a very great part in moulding and shaping the lives of our children. School teachers are quite human and are subject to human frailties. They need all the help, encouragement and friendliness that parents will give and actually this kind of support to our schools cost the taxpayers nothing but is a huge gain to our children.

August 1, 1932.

The following is a list of text books which will be used in our schools next yearx and the prices. Those marked with a star are new books for this year in the particular grade listed. The high school texts are not always used int the particular grade listed. Whenever any school can secure a sufficient number of copies of the old text book for the class the new book will not be required to be used.

It is suggested that parents send old texts in good condition to school the first day and sell them whenever possible and that all instruct their children whether they wish them to secure second hand books.

The school board has contracts with Patterson's Pharmacy, Round Hill, Nichol's Hardware Store, Purcellville, and Purcell and Littlejohn, Leesburg to seel text books.

(Note for Mr. Corbell - A list of text books will be furnished as you are printing it)

August 1, 1932.