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Wm T. Smith*

It has been the policy of the Loudoun County School Board for the past fifteen years or more to encourage patrons and taxpayers to give much thought to schools. Our yearly budgets have been made up and published in as clear a manner as possible, so that the public might know how we were spending their money and how much each official receives. In conferences with the public and in hearings at our board meetings we have consistently encouraged public interest and we hope we merit public confidence.

This year schools have been given greater prominence because since the management of the roads was taken over by the State, the largest amount of our tax money is spent on schools. We plan to spend about \$165,000 on county school operations this coming term which is a reduction of about \$55,000 from our actual total expenditures in 1929-30 including some new construction work and a reduction of nearly \$32,000 exclusive of new building costs.

When people think of schools now, at once they think of schools in relation to the present acute business depression.

The County School Board has gone over the items of its budget, paring down the expense wherever practical. We have tried to save money with the least possible loss to the schools.

All new construction has been suspended for the present. Fortunate indeed for our schools it is that we have, during the fairly prosperous years since the world war, had what might be called a building program. In this period we have replaced numerous outgrown school houses with buildings in which the health of the children should not be in danger and in which teachers can be expected to get results. We still have communities notably in Broad Run and Mercer districts in serious need of larger and better buildings. These communities should have relief as soon as the public can afford it.

The uncertainty of adequate funds prevents us from being

sure of a nine months schools term in 1932-33.

During the fall of 1932 it is to be hoped that patrons will express to the School Board and to our County Board of Supervisors a strong sentiment in favor of a nine months school term. "The wish is father to the deed".

We confidently expect cooperation from teachers and pupils in making school supplies go as far as possible and in a number of ways saving expense to school property.

The results coming from a better trained and better supervised teaching force over a period of years is most inspiring. We have always put character first in selecting our teachers but at times in the past training has been sadly lacking. If school funds should be so limited in the future as to necessitate a further reduction in salaries thus demoralizing the teaching profession a very serious loss to the schools will be the result.

At present we are placing ⁱⁿ our schools the best training that our teachers' colleges can furnish us and in the face of financial re-adjustments the number of inexperienced teachers has been reduced and the training and average length of experience of those employed for next year have increased. We ask the cooperation of the public, first in preserving the quality of our teaching force and second in maintaining a nine months' school term.

Wm J. Smith