

The past twenty years have been marked with a great many changes in our schools in Loudoun County.

Our county's total population has been almost stationary during this period but all during this time families, that is, the number of children in families have been growing smaller so that actually the school population of Loudoun has shown a steady decrease. School enrollment has decreased from 4598 to 4262 but school attendance has increased from 2966 to 3494. The figures show conclusively that the schools have a better holding power and that parents have come to place a higher value upon education.

Changes are slowly coming about in methods of instruction. The most notable change is a serious effort to abandon slavishness to text books and to cause the experiences which children have in the school room <sup>to be</sup> more nearly like life situations. In the high schools there is a sharp trend away from the classical or academic subjects such as Latin, Algebra, <sup>and</sup> Geometry toward vocational subjects that are designed to prepare young people for actual jobs. This trend is very significant and very important. Of course, the real idea of education is to help prepare people to live. A most important factor of living is making a living. Our schools have always tended to do the traditional things. They have tended to let college professors guide their destinies by writing text books and preparing courses of study designed to prepare young people for college work. But most public school pupils do not go to college. In fact only one-fifth of them ever finish high school in Loudoun County. Our traditional school program was intended for the select and

and favored few, a white collar group of aristocrats or potential aristocrats. The writer's conception is an educational program designed to aid equally as much, all of the children of all of the people according to their abilities and needs. Most of them need a tremendous amount of help in preparing to make a living. There is a mighty challenge here that we change our manner of education and correct a situation wherein four out of each five pupils fail to complete our offering.

In order to meet this challenge we must continue our consolidation program. In the past twenty years we have closed 35 one-room schools and 3 high school departments have been discontinued. There is evidence that this ~~consolidation~~ consolidation program will go on for several years at a moderate pace. Finally each elementary school would serve an average of about thirty square miles. Some of them serve twice that area now. With this organization perfected and a public mind conceiving the duty of the school to be to train every child to live more completely and especially to do the utmost to help them prepare for the business of making a living we shall expect to see a differentiated program designed to meet the needs of each child.

Those who will become scholars will be trained with that in mind. Those who will become technicians will be trained with that in mind. Talent in music and art will be discovered and developed. Those who have none of the attributes of the scholarly but who perhaps must live by physical labor will be trained to use the power aids or the skills in workmanship that man has developed through the ages.