

A good many people are asking the superintendent of schools how the regular school work of a nine months' term is going to be adjusted to an eight months' term. He says it would not be adjustment but mal-adjustment. People who have been used to electric lights don't fit very well into the use of coal oil lamps, automobile riders are a little provoked at the slowness of the old farm horse hitched to the buggy. After so many years of a nine months' term the shorter one would be a travesty.

There are a few people who tell us that as much work can be done by the teachers and children in eight months as formerly done in nine. The same reasoning would abolish the schools altogether because as much can be done in seven as in eight and so on. And, of course, no more would be forgotten in twelve months than in three months, so why have schools, anyway?

A great many costs of a modern school system go on regardless of the length of term whether nine or eight months. In reducing the term we save no money on fuel, furniture, insurance, debt and interest payments, maintenance of buildings, certain supplies, and many other items.

The settlement of the school accounts reveals the predicted fact that the school board begins the new year without a balance and sufficient funds for only an eight months' term. About \$12,000 will be needed for the ninth month for pay of teachers, janitors, and bus drivers and upkeep of county owned school busses.

The prospect for an eight months' term next year seems not to have deterred teachers from attending summer school. More of our corps are in school than for many years. They earnestly desire to qualify for intelligent use of the new curriculum which is designed to prepare our youth to meet the demands ~~xx~~ of our changing social order.

In Loudoun's schools last year nine teachers had had no previous experience and fifteen others with experience taught their first session in the county. In 1925-26 thirty-one teachers had no taught before and twelve others with experience came to the county for their first service here.

The competitive purchase of coal directly from miners or brokers on the basis of a standard minimum analysis as compared with purchase formerly from retailers at current retail prices has saved approximately \$1,700 per year for the past four years for the county schools.

The Federal Government has run wild with expenditures, the road system of Virginia continues to receive increased revenues from the combined State and Local sources, the cost of general county government in Loudoun County has increased in the past few years, the county schools (including district funds) have available about \$64,000 less ~~than~~ for this year than the average for 1928 to 1930. Apparently economy can be practiced only where our children are concerned.

The salary bill for school teachers was \$141,533.66 in Loudoun in 1929-30 and \$105,719.75 in 1934-35. It will be \$95,503 next year if the term is eight months.

Donald Womeldorff, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Womeldorff of Lovettsville attended school eleven years and graduated this year without losing a single day.

School teachers received \$693 each in Virginia in 1933-34!
Do Virginia's people really think much of their children? Will \$693 per year attract into any calling the best minds?

Does education pay? All reported investigations show that those who have received an education, high school or more have a higher earning power than those with less educational training.

Ten years ago Loudoun County had 37 white and 21 colored one-room schools. Next year there are expected to be 18 white and 17 colored one-room schools.

During the past school year 143 teachers taught 4273 children in Loudoun's schools with an average attendance of 3487. Five years before 163 teachers taught 4258 children with an average attendance of 3393.

In 1929-30 the county school fund received from local taxes paid in Loudoun County \$141,453.01 and five years later this was \$84,306.49, a reduction of \$57,146.52.

In the four year period from June 30, 1931 to June 30, 1935 the total school debt in Loudoun County has been reduced \$71,632.64 from \$20,869.30 to \$148,636.66.

In 1939-40 it cost \$77.00 for the instruction of each high school child in Loudoun's public schools. Five years later it cost \$43.63. The ~~maximimum~~ explanation is: fewer teachers taught more pupils in fewer high schools at lower salaries.