

THE FAUQUIER FORUM

School Superintendents

To The Editor of the Fauquier Democrat.

Sir:—I was glad to see in the *Democrat* of May 19th that some protest is being made against the ruling that division school superintendents of the State must possess a master's degree. I do not know what the law is upon which Judge Gunn based his decision, but it is on the principle that I wish to comment.

It is my impression that a school superintendent is pre-eminently an administrative officer. While there is nothing in the possession of a master's degree that hinders one from possessing administrative capacity, neither does the degree confer such capacity. Virginia has had in the past too many great teachers, administrators, statesmen and engineers whose professional education was won in the school of experience, to be ignorant of the fact that a man's value is not necessarily measured by his advantages.

Furthermore, the mere pos-

session of an academic degree does not today necessarily carry with it the intellectual culture that it meant in the past. This writer, during a thirty years experience in teaching medicine, has had a very considerable opportunity of observing the output of modern colleges and universities. The result has been to impress a conviction that there are not a few possessors of both bachelors' and masters' degrees, who fall far short of the scholarship and culture that one would expect. The existing practice of rating educational attainment in terms of hour work units attended by the student seems in what amounts to merely serving a sentence of four to six years in some college, and being automatically discharged with a degree.

Again one meets in life with many whose time in college has been curtailed by necessity, who far surpass these academicians in both the quantity and quality of their culture.

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Memorandum for Loudoun News

On request of Mr. John Johnson.

The petition of J. H. Purcell to Judge J. R. H. Alexander of the Loudoun County Circuit Court for an injunction to restrain the County School Board from appointing a Division Superintendent of schools on March 2 was dismissed by Judge Alexander on February 27, ^{on} the same day and subsequent thereto J. H. Purcell served notice on the Clerk of the County School Board that he would on March 1 apply to Justice Browning of the Supreme Court of Appeals in Richmond for an injunction to restrain the School Board from appointing a superintendent of schools on March 2. On account of the brevity of the notice council for the School Board agreed that action would be postponed until a later date and until a hearing could be held before the full Supreme Court of Appeals and after the School Board ^{could have} had the opportunity to make definite arrangement for council. At the meeting on March 2 the Board arranged for two members of the local Bar to ^{appear} report before the Supreme Court of Appeals in any action taken by Mr. Purcell to prevent the transaction of the school business which the Board is authorized by law to transact.

The members of the School Board come to the meeting on March 2 and only two of them knew that they could not act in appointing a Division Superintendent. They decided to hold the matter over until a later date but that ~~the~~ other school business--appointing school principals and teachers and other matters--would receive their consideration at the time planned.

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The School Board had set March 1 as the dead line for the filing of applications with the Chairman for the position of Division Superintendent of schools. The only application received was that of the present incumbent.