

Chapel April 16, 1930

-- President Wright

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 16; verses

I have had ten copies of this book, "Education in North Carolina 1900 and Now" placed in the library. I hope you will take the time to read this pamphlet because of the facts it contains. It is not gotten up with a view of misrepresenting anything; it is not an advertisement; It is gotten up with an honest desire on the part of education forces in our state organization to give the truth, the plain, simple truth about education to our folks. I have selected a few things to call your attention to.

"In 1927-28 in all the schools of the state we promoted only 66.2% of the children. We therefore had to re-teach 33.8 % of all the children who attended our schools. On the basis of average daily attendance of 611,797 children, we had to reteach 206,786 of them. The per capita cost in that year was \$29.69. In 1928-29 we had to spend the stupendous sum of \$6,140,075 to reteach these children, many of whom, under ordinary circumstances, would have passed their grade the previous year and therefore would finish school at least a year earlier." This is one of the reasons for education being as high in our state as it is. Rather interesting.

There is a little table here that gives us the annual per capita cost and the number of children that were promoted and the number in one grade. It shows clearly that when the state of North Carolina invests more money in school it gets a better return for the money invested.

In 1923-24 N. C. spent \$24.07 per capita; 60.6% were promoted 49.1% accelerated; 1924-25 spent \$25.36, 61.2 promoted, 53.1 accelerated; 1925-26, \$26.54 and 62.5% were promoted and 54.8% accelerated; 1926-27 spent \$29.36 and 64.6 were promoted and 56.9 accelerated; 1927-28 spent \$29.60 and 66.2% were promoted and 57.9% accelerated. The state actually made a net

profit of \$81,405 by spending the additional money in 1927-28. This shows that it does not pay to spend less money for schools. As a business proposition it pays to put more money in schools until we reach a certain point. Of course there is a point beyond which it will not pay.

The salaries of teachers is always the largest single item in a school. The average annual salaries North Carolina paid its white teachers last year was a fraction less than \$75. a month for the year round, and everyone knows that teachers must live twelve months during the year. The average annual salaries of teachers in the United States as a whole is \$1281. The average in South Carolina was \$982. This difference in salaries was not because of a difference in training. Teachers in North Carolina give the state back the biggest returns in the United States for the amount of money invested in them.

Here is another problem dealing with the tax burden-- the total expenses in our state, and the amount of indebtedness and amount charged against the schools. I asked a number of people what they thought the total indebtedness of the state was and what part of that they thought was for schools. One of them said seventy-five per cent, another said fifty, and another forty. And these people were of more than average intelligence. This shows you what the people think about this tax burden they have. Shows what they think the schools cost. The tax commission appointed showed that: The total public debt of N.C, including state, county, district and city is \$539,258,392. Of this amount the state owes \$154,357,600, or 28.6%. Of the total schools are responsible for \$72,550,465 or 13.4%. The balance of \$312,350,327 or 58% was issued by local divisions of government for purposes other than schools. In other words, 58% of the indebtedness of the state is for things other than the schools, and that is very significant. This does not indicate that it is the schools in North Carolina that are burdening the taxpayers. The educational commission appointed by former Governor McLean made an exhaustive study of the tax situation in North Carolina and this investigation reveals that, contrary

to the general opinion the schools absorbed but 47.1% of the taxes collected while other sources took up the other. Ask nearly any person in North Carolina what he thinks the schools are costing and he will tell you more than half of our total expense, and in some counties this is true, but not in North Carolina as a whole---only 47.1. Speaking of North Carolina as a whole, the commission says "If an examination is made of where the particular increases have occurred, it will be found that all governmental functions and services have increased rapidly. Taxes levied for purposes other than schools have increased even more rapidly." The tax levy for the six months constitutional school term grew from \$9,835,389 in 1920 to \$18,100,904 in 1926, an increase of 84%. Countywide taxes for purposes other than schools increased from \$8,312,548 in 1920 to \$16,323,726 in 1926, and increase of 96.4%. In other words, the increase for other purposes was more than for schools. The total direct levy for schools increased from \$14,340,743 in 1920 to \$27,471,337 in taxes for purposes other than schools (including countywide, district and township, and city and town levies) increased from \$13,990,918 in 1920 to \$30,177,512 in 1926, an increase of \$16,186,594 or 115.7%.

The thing I want you to see is that when people say our taxes have increased on account of schools and the expense goes by leaps and bounds it has, but not in proportion to other things. School increase is 84% while the increase for other purposes is 115.7. School people have held expenses down better than anyone else.