

North Carolina is making a marvelous advancement in the line of education at the present time. From a historical standpoint she has had a vast amount to overcome, much more than nearly any other state in the union. Her condition at the close of the Civil War was such that it was absolutely necessary to look after the material side of life before the educational side could be considered.

It was about 1877 during the period that Governor Jarvis was governor of North Carolina, and Mr. Scarborough was State Superintendent of Public Instruction, that a beginning was made in the line of educational advancement. Conditions, however, were very much against rapid development and it has taken many years to accomplish very much in this direction.

It was only in 1900 North Carolina had the lowest per capita for schools and the lowest productive power per capita of any State in the union with the exception of one. It was the poorest State in dollars and cents, and the most illiterate with one exception. It was in the year 1900 that Governor Aycock made a whirlwind educational campaign throughout the state, and in conjunction with your present State Superintendent Joyner, began that marvelous educational career that is attracting the notice of educational circles throughout the country at the present time.

The per capita expenditure for education increased from sixteen cents in 1870 to fifty-one in 1900. This expenditure more than doubled in the six years following 1900. Some one writing in The Educational Review in Boston, in 1907, made a statement that the educators in North Carolina are using educational methods and educational practices at the present time that are better than those used in the North. Since 1900 under

the efficient direction and supervision of State Superintendent Joyner and his corps of associates, education in North Carolina has advanced in a surprising manner. System and organization have become a necessary part of the school system. It is Superintendent Joyner's idea that all phases and plans of the educational system should be thoroughly correlated^{one} with another for the purpose of attaining efficient results, and this idea has been and is being carried out at the present time.

Public high schools are springing into existence rapidly in every part of the State. Rural libraries are increasing every month. Boys' Corn Clubs are being organized, and the boys are not only learning how to take care of the future farms, but they are also teaching their parents how to make the ground much more productive than it has ever been before. The Good Roads Movement is in full swing in North Carolina. In 1911 the south spent forty-four million dollars in the making of good roads. With the exception of Texas, North Carolina was far in the lead, spending more than four and one-half million dollars for that purpose. The people of North Carolina, in Rural Districts, are beginning to realize Benjamin Franklin's adage, that "God helps them who help themselves", and instead of relying altogether upon the State Educational Fund, they are rapidly beginning to vote for local tax. The statistics compiled by State Superintendent Joyner show that in these local tax districts the educational facilities are not only much greater and better, but that almost invariably the school terms are appreciably longer. One of the most startling things to an outsider is the fact that since 1902 North Carolina has built on an average of one school house every day in the year, including Sunday. This is a record that will be difficult to duplicate any where else. School houses are not only being built rapidly, but through the influence of the Woman's Association for the Betterment of Public Schools in your

State there is coming to be a much better and a much more cultural environment about every school house than you have ever had before. The women of North Carolina deserve great credit for their part in the upbuilding of the school system of the State.

Your Child Labor Law is a most excellent one. Your Compulsory Attendance Law, although at the present time not as effective as it ought to be, is still an excellent beginning in the right direction, and in my judgment, it will be only a comparatively short time until you will have a state's Compulsory Attendance Law requiring the attendance of all children during the full school terms, with truant officers to see that the law is carried into effect.

The County Farm Life Schools which began their career a year or two ago, are one of the best assets that the State could possibly have, both from an educational and from a material standpoint. These schools will not only educate the growing boys and girls, but their purpose is also to give aid and assistance to farmers and their wives.

A good beginning has been made in the direction in the consolidation of schools and the transformation of school pupils, but this should be vigorously followed up in the near future, and a large number of one teacher schools that are not now hardly worth their existence should be consolidated and better facilities offered that consolidation inevitably brings. While the required rural school term in North Carolina at the present time is gradually being lengthened it will be only a short time until this will creep up to six, seven, and even eight months.

Since 1904 there has been a very marked improvement in the grading and classifying of rural public schools. To an outsider it is exceedingly interesting to see the interest and enthusiasm that is being taken in the subject of education by superintendents, teachers and educators. They are using the laboratory method of doing things; are

studying problems from a scientific and practical standpoint. The slogan of the present time seems to be "Not only know what you ought to do, but know how to do it." Although an increasing number of county superintendents are now being employed the year through, yet, the number should be increased rapidly until every county superintendent in the state is giving his full time to the educational interest of his county, and his being paid a good, living salary for his work. Nothing would improve the conditions both educationally and materially more rapidly than a realization of the conditions suggested.

Taking it as a whole, I do not know of any state where a more rapid progress is being made in all lines of education, and where the people are waking up to their needs more than is evident in North Carolina. It will be interesting to watch her career in the near future.