

Q. "I notice in the report of the Education Commission that it is unanimously in favor of an eight months school term, but that a majority of the commission do not favor the eight months amendment at the present time. What do you think of this?"

He sat still and smoked for a minute, then with a smile said, "Let me tell you a true story."

"Professor Holt, of Oak Ridge Institute, was drumming for students in a community in Southern Virginia. A Mr. Barker, a patron of Oak Ridge Institute, and a good friend of the school, was accompanying Professor Holt. Mr. Barker took Professor Holt to the home of a prosperous farmer who had a boy ready to go to school. The farmer was amply able to pay for the boy's year at Oak Ridge Institute. Professor Holt talked about the necessity of giving the boy an education, and showed the advantages of Oak Ridge Institute. He made it so strong that it looked as if there was nothing to do, but enroll the boy. But the farmer said, 'I can't do it this year. I will send him next year.' Again Professor Holt, in a way characteristic of him when he goes drumming for his school, made it clear that the boy ought to be sent to school this year, instead of next year. But the farmer replied, 'I will send him next year.' This went on for a considerable time and all Professor Holt ever got was, 'I will send him next year.'

"Finally Barker and Holt got in the buggy (because this was before the days of Fords and automobiles) and drove out of the outside yard, down the lane to the big road, and about one hundred yards down the main highway, Mr. Barker reached over with his whip and cut his horse a good hard lick and exploded, - 'Damn a next year man!'"

Q. "Do you think the state would be able to sustain the tax burden incurred by an eight months school term by the time the machinery could be put into effect if this legislature should vote to submit it to the people?"

A. "North Carolina is able to do whatever she wants to do for her children now."

Q. "Are there any advantages to be had by waiting?"

A. "None whatever. Every advantage, as I see it, is on the other side. We are going to be forced to pay an education tax or a criminal tax, and the criminal tax will be as great or greater than the education tax. I prefer to pay my taxes to make good citizens instead of to protect good citizens from criminals."

Q. "Would the amendment carry if it was put to the people?"

A. " If the people were allowed to vote on the question of whether they want an eight months school term, they would vote in favor of the school term. If attached to that is some particular legislation to provide for the funds, they would then vote, not on the merits of the issue, but on the proposed legislation for taxation."