

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Industrial Education

The State program in trade and industrial education shows great progress for the past year, according to the latest report of the State Supervisor.

Seven thousand, two hundred and sixty-five (7,265) students received instruction during the year in two hundred and twenty-five (225) classes. This is an increase of sixteen hundred and sixty-three (1,663) students and thirty-six (36) classes over the previous year. There were twenty-nine (29) day-unit classes; one hundred and thirty-five (135) evening classes; twenty-seven (27) foremanship training classes; eighteen (18) part-time general continuation classes, and fourteen (14) part-time trade extension classes; with fifty-eight (58) pupils in teacher-training courses.

The courses offered in trade and industrial education reached the following classes of persons:

1. Pupils in public schools who were unable to complete the regular courses of study, due to economic or other causes, and who desired to learn some trade.

2. Young men and women who had left the public schools, but who wished to continue their general education while working.

3. Working people who are ambitious and who desired to increase their efficiency and general intelligence in their chosen vocations.

4. Skilled mechanics and foremen in industries who aspired to become teachers of their trades.

5. Skilled mechanics in industries who aspired to become foremen, and foremen who desired to become better foremen.

6. Teachers in public schools and social workers who desired to increase their efficiency through gaining knowledge of vocational guidance, vocational placement, and follow-up methods.

The personnel of the trade classes and the foremanship training classes represented forty-six different trades or vocations distributed among seventeen different industries; namely, cotton, silk, and woolen, shipbuilding, furniture-making, building trades, machine and electrical trades, automobile industry, coal and plaster mining, chemical and extract industry, shoe manufacturing, bridge building, leather making, department stores, tobacco, meat packing, paper, commercial arts, and miscellaneous industries.

Vocational Agriculture in the Schools

During the year ending June 30, 1928, instruction in vocational agriculture was offered on a full time basis in 120 schools, and day-unit work was conducted at 51 additional points. Thirteen classes for over-age boys who had dropped out of school were organized and 128 young men enrolled for work in these part-time classes. The evening classes offered to adult farmers have increased in popularity and 121 such classes were conducted. The total enrollment of adults for this type of instruction was 1,972. The total enrollment in all types of instruction reached the figure 5,848, which was an increase of 1,272 over the previous session.

This year the supervised practice farm work of these students was even more extensive than last, as they are now farming 8,258 acres of land and caring for 5,955 head of livestock and 87,550 fowls.

It is quite interesting to note that adult evening class members grew 4,172 acres of crops, cared for 148,286 fowls, and 7,095 head of livestock. In conducting these farming enterprises the adult farmers carried out 4,760 applications of improved farming practices.

Home Economics Education

Total number enrolled in day-unit Smith-Hughes schools, white.....	381
Total number enrolled in day-unit Smith-Hughes schools, colored.....	118
Total number enrolled in evening classes, white	527
Total number enrolled in evening classes, colored	380
Total number enrolled in State-aided schools, white	1763
Total number enrolled in State-aided schools, colored	147
Grand Total	3316
Number schools under supervision....	82
Number of departments with cottage equipment	54
Number of departments with cottages	17
Number of departments in agricult- ure-home economics buildings....	23
Number of evening school centers....	5

Negro Education

Negro education in Virginia continued to develop in 1927-28. There were forty county training schools in operation in forty counties in the State. There were sixty-four rural supervisors at work in fifty-six counties. The number of local permits issued to teachers was reduced materially during the year.

All the training schools offered nine grades of work; some offered ten and some maintained eleven grades. Three have already become standard high schools and others will probably qualify for an accredited rating next session. All these schools have at least an eight months' session and some nine months. Twenty of these schools had the services of a vocational teacher who worked with the boys.

During the year twenty new Rosenwald buildings were put up and some additional rooms were added to other Rosenwald buildings.

Summer schools for teachers were in operation, as follows:

Virginia Normal and Industrial

Institute	12 weeks
Hampton Institute	12 weeks
Manassas Institute	6 weeks
Virginia Union University.....	6 weeks

Textbook Distribution

The responsibility for a satisfactory distribution of textbooks in the public schools is placed by law on the county and city school boards. Sixty of these local boards purchased textbooks at wholesale from the publishers and sold them direct to the pupils during the year ending June 30, 1928. Textbook agents were appointed by all other local school boards. These agents were placed under surety bonds to guarantee an adequate supply of books and to protect the local school board.

It is interesting to note that the plan of distributing books from the office of the school board is growing in popularity.

DABNEY S. LANCASTER,
Secretary, State Board of Education.

SCHOOLROOM HUMOR

ABSENT-MINDED, NO DOUBT

"Now," said the professor when he had finished his lecture on the functioning of the memory, "I want to ask each member of the class to make a note of every point he has remembered. Those of you who can't remember any of the points will please jot down those you have forgotten."—*Tid-Bits.*

VENERABLE PARENTS

Little Paul is a Lindbergh fan. He christened one of his toys "Spirit of St. Louis" and talked Lindbergh until his parents were surfeited with the subject and finally told him he was too excited over the popular aviator.

"Why shouldn't I be excited about him?" Paul inquired in an injured tone. "I'll bet you and mother were excited and talked about it just as much when Columbus discovered America."—*Boston Transcript.*