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APPROPRIATION FOR THE WEAK SCHOOLS.

PLEA OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION McMAHAN.

Schools to be Aided that Do Not Comply With Certain Regulations in Regard to Efficiency.

[News and Courier]

Superintendent of Education McMahon, in his forthcoming report, will deal with the question of education in all of its phases as far as this State is affected, but one of the chief points of interest in his report will be as to the betterment of the public schools, particularly the country schools. He favors a direct appropriation for the aid of such schools under certain conditions, and as to where the money will come from he says the State can raise it as easily as it could money for the Exposition and some other things.

Claiming that it is admitted that the State is not doing what it ought to or what it can, Mr. McMahon presents some facts of general interest. He takes certain counties and shows the average cost per pupil as follows:

	1902—	White.	Negro.
Richland.....	\$10 42	\$1 95	
Fairfield.....	9 92	1 02	
Chester.....	8 59	1 29	
Lamberth.....	7 88	1 45	
Yorkley.....	6 88	1 25	
York.....	4 39	1 90	
Yorkfield.....	3 43	1 44	
York.....	2 85	1 87	
York.....	3 04	1 73	
Saluda.....	3 41	1 92	
Williamsburg.....	5 23	1 72	

All efforts to secure a State appropriation for the public schools have thus far failed. The only form in which such a bill has passed the lower house has been to provide

an additional county tax. Some of the representatives of richer counties are unwilling that their counties should pay toward the support of the schools of other counties. The idea seems to prevail that counties are distinct and separate in interest and responsibility. The old South Carolina doctrine is lost sight of, that the State is the sovereign. A more legitimate argument against such an appropriation is the just fear that it will be misapplied.

Under present conditions there are serious obstacles to the policy of State aid to weak schools. This policy has been partially entered upon in the Act of 1899 to distribute State dispensary profits first to bring up deficient schools to a minimum three months' term, or \$75 fund. With deficiencies of the preceding year as a basis dispensary money has been for four years annually appropriated to bring up the schools to this minimum session, yet the foregoing statistics show that the law has failed to accomplish its purpose. The law does not require its trustees to apply the money to the schools that need it.

In my report of 1899 I called attention to the need of safeguards against the unnecessary multiplying of schools to be thus aided.

The constitutional provision that each county board should lay off its county into convenient school districts of not less than nine nor more than forty nine square miles has been carried out in very few counties. Its spirit and purpose, though not its letter, was that each district should support but one school for the white and one for the negroes, each to be centrally located. In some counties the districts are still townships, so large that they must support several schools, some of which the trustees are interested in and shamefully favored while some are entirely too small.

For a three months' school a \$75 teacher can hardly be employed. Necessarily the trustees have little choice of teachers. The acquiescence of the county board is sometimes evidenced by the employment of teachers without certificates of qualification and unable to pass the examinations. But in some counties there is an ample supply of teachers holding the county cer-

tificate. Altogether, the trustees of short term schools are in the habit of employing very poor teachers for whom it should not be the policy of the State to furnish longer sessions. Aid from the State should be granted not merely upon a showing of poverty, but upon the guarantee of proper location of the school and the employment of a thoroughly capable teacher. Better far to aid a few schools in this way than to aid many less effectively.

A Legislative appropriation to the schools should be based upon a general law with safeguards along these lines. The teacher whose salary is supplemented should be required to have a certificate of qualification from the State board of education (issued upon examination or upon the diploma of an approved college.) The school should be in a district supporting but one school for each race, or the school should not be less than four miles from every other school open to its children should be not less than five miles, or specially justified by swamps or other peculiar conditions (reported by the county board and approved by the State board.) The county board should furnish a list of its schools fulfilling the conditions in teacher, location, enrollment and financial inability, the latter fact being certified a.s.o. by the county treasurer on March 15, after the collection of taxes has been completed and the funds of the district for the current scholastic year are ascertained—and, in the case of the needy districts, exhausted. The names of the teachers and the amounts to be paid them should be certified to the State Treasurer by the State Superintendent of Education on behalf of the State board of education.

The State aid should be sufficient to pay the salaries to \$35 a month for six months.

At the beginning of this policy not many schools would be able to avail themselves of the proffered assistance. Under the strong inducement to conform to the conditions, trustees would be stirred from present indifference and errors. There would be a readjustment in the location of schools which would greatly strengthen others. In the end a comparatively small number would need the Legislative bounty. The country school problem would be largely solved.

Of course, these results could be much better realized with better county management of schools. State aid to weak schools would be for many reasons unwise without strong management and expert supervision in each county.

"HARDENING" OF CHILDREN.

And Some of the Ill Results that are Apt to Follow.

[New York Medical Record]

Hecker is outspoken in his objections to the methods pursued in the so-called "hardening" of children by the means of cold douches or baths. As a rule, children thus treated are more susceptible to nasal catarrhs, throat affections, bronchitis and pulmonary inflammations than those who have not been subjected to the "hardening" process. Furthermore such measures frequently give rise to pronounced anemia and various disorders of the nervous system. Children so "hardened" are especially prone to acute and chronic intestinal disorders.

While in healthy children a properly conducted "hardening" process is often of advantage, it must be remembered that there are no hard and fast rules and that every case must be treated according to the individual indications. The fundamental principles of a proper "hardening" system are as follows: (1) Gradual acclimation to the air of the room; (2) gradual acclimation to outdoor air; (3) gradual acclimation to cold water; (4) suitable clothing—varied according to the weather and time of year. Great care should be observed in acclimating the child to cold water, and the effects of the same should be carefully watched, the endeavor being at once suspended on the first appearance of any unfavorable symptoms.

On no account should any of the "hardening" measures be commenced until the nursing period is passed and in all cases the process should be one of gradual advancement.

VOTE OF THE NEGROES.

IT IS NECESSARY TO REPUBLICANS IN SEVERAL STATES.

Shaking their Allegiance—Possibilities of the "Lily White" Movement.

[Washington Post.]

At the North, as well as at the South, the black people still cling to the Republican party with singular tenacity. They vote the Republican ticket for local, State and national candidates, always almost unanimously. This is practically undisputed.

The recent concerted effort of the Democrats to shake the negro faith in Republican infallibility causes a good deal of speculation as to what effect the total elimination of the negro vote would have upon election results, especially in the Republican strongholds of the North. Upon insufficient or misleading information several writers have recently declared that but for the negro vote the Republicans would always be in a minority in Congress and would have lost the Presidency at every election since 1872.

THE NEGRO VOTE.

In the following table are included all the Republican States at the North having any considerable negro population, and also certain border States now held by the Republicans, or which are considered sometimes doubtful, in which there is a heavy negro vote. Indian Territory and Oklahoma are set down because there is some probability that they will be admitted as States before the close of this Congress. The total negro population of each State, by the census of 1900, is stated, and all colored males 21 years of age and over, or voters, as shown by the same census. None but persons of negro descent are included:

	Negro Population. 1900.	Negro Vote. 1900.
Massachusetts.....	31,974	10,456
Rhode Island.....	9,022	2,765
Connecticut.....	15,226	4,576
New York.....	99,232	31,425
New Jersey.....	69,844	21,474
Pennsylvania.....	156,845	51,658
Delaware.....	30,697	8,374
Maryland.....	235,064	60,406
Ohio.....	95,901	31,235
Indiana.....	57,505	18,186
Illinois.....	85,078	29,762
Michigan.....	15,816	5,193
Iowa.....	12,693	4,441
Missouri.....	161,234	46,418
Kansas.....	52,003	14,695
Nebraska.....	95,269	2,238
Oklahoma.....	18,831	4,827
Indian Territory.....	36,863	9,146
Colorado.....	8,846	3,215
California.....	11,045	3,711
Kentucky.....	234,706	74,728
West Virginia.....	43,499	14,756

NO EFFECT ON PRESIDENCY.

Whatever changes might have resulted from a total elimination of the negro vote prior to 1896, it is quite obvious that its elimination would have had no effect upon the result of the last two Presidential elections. Nor is it likely it would have had any perceptible effect upon the political complexion of the House or Senate, though there is a possibility that it might have lost the 58th House to the Republicans.

It is quite clear that if the blacks of the North in mass should abandon their present allies and go over to the Democrats, the long, uninterrupted Republican domination in several States would at once cease, and it would become very precarious in as many more. Such sweeping political reaction is not anticipated by either party. But there is supposed to be some unrest among the blacks, and a general assumption among Republican leaders that the fight over the "Lily White" appointments at the South is being carefully managed by the Democratic leaders more with a view to shake the allegiance of the Northern blacks than to vindicate white supremacy at the South.

It is apparent that Republican successes in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Kentucky have been wholly dependent upon the black vote. On the contrary, that party could have dropped the negro vote entirely in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Michigan and still carried every one of them at the last two Presidential elections. And in nearly all of them it would have been successful had

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the negroes gone over to Mr. Bryan in a body.

Following reconstruction, in many of the close contests up to the time the wave of McKinleyism struck the country, it is true that the loss of the negro vote would have lost the Republicans the election many times in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and, with them, Congress and the Presidency.

In those days Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Kentucky were reliable components of the solid South, and Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Indiana were always doubtful, even with the negro vote solid for the Republican candidates.

IN BORDER STATES

The foregoing exhibit, therefore, presents in concise and clear form the important part the negroes of the North and border States play in Republican politics. Their loyalty to that party has been one of the most extraordinary features of the country's history since the civil war. It is only recently that the Democratic leaders have perceived their voting value in the debatable country.

Such Republican States as Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas and some of the mountain and coast States are excluded from consideration, because their negro vote is too infinitesimal to have much effect on elections.

There have been contests within fifteen years in Michigan and Ohio, however, so close that even their small negro contingent might have changed the result by going over to the opposition.

The secession from the Republicans of the black vote in New York would have disastrously defeated Roosevelt for governor in 1898 and also Odell at the late election. But a complete reversal of the black vote in Pennsylvania this year from Pennypacker to Pattison would not have saved the Democratic candidate for governor. Of the old free States, Pennsylvania has the greatest negro voting population.

One curious fact is to be noted in the above tabulation. The ratio of negro voters to population in all the far Northern States is only about one to three, whereas in the border and Southern States it is one to four and sometimes five. This shows that the negroes do not move their families North to any great extent. The young men go North to seek their fortune or to take service in the families of the rich.

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