

The Laurens Advertiser.

VOLUME XXXIV.

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1919.

NUMBER 36

MINNESOTA'S RURAL SCHOOLS SURPASS SOUTH CAROLINA'S

Lueco Gunter Makes Report on His Findings Among One-Teacher Schools in Western State--Only the Rich Attend High Schools.

The Minnesota one-teacher schools surpass those of South Carolina in teaching equipment, in the preparation of the teachers and in better class-room work that these schools, having usually eight grades gave the bulk of education gained by the rural population in Minnesota, only the wealthy sending their children to high schools, is the testimony of Lueco Gunter, state supervisor of rural schools, who recently made a trip to Minnesota to inspect schools, and who has prepared a statement dealing with his findings in the rural schools of the far-western state. Mr. Gunter says that the idea of consolidated high school is growing rapidly in Minnesota, the people realizing that this is necessary in order to give the children of the country the same educational opportunities as the children of the towns.

In making his inspection of the country schools in Minnesota, Mr. Gunter says he was interested in the type of work done in the consolidated schools. Only a portion of one day, therefore, was given to a study of the one-teacher school problem. Two one-teacher schools were visited in Jackson county. The Rural School Commissioner of Minnesota said that in equipment and teaching conditions these two schools were typical of the one-teacher schools in a section of the State that is mainly agricultural.

In Jackson county, he said, the one-teacher schools are usually two to three miles apart. In that open prairie country a visitor at one school house can frequently see the school house in the adjoining district. A few modern one-teacher buildings costing \$4,000 and more, are being erected. But such a school usually blocks a consolidation movement in the surrounding territory; and for that reason the State authorities do not energetically promote campaigns for new one-teacher school buildings. In Jackson county very few of the one-teacher houses are of the type visited.

These houses were built twenty or twenty-five years ago, mostly of hardwood material. They replaced the log cabin school houses and are today usually in a good state of preservation. They are of the traditional "car-box" type, with the door at one end, the chimney at the other, and windows in each side. "We are familiar with this type in South Carolina," says the supervisor.

Mr. Gunter's statement continues: "It is in the teaching equipment, the preparation of the teacher, and the consequent better class-room work that the Minnesota one-teacher schools surpass ours. Every one-teacher school in Minnesota must have a jacket stove, thus providing for ventilation independently of the windows. These schools must have a sanitary drinking fountain, one hundred square feet of slate blackboard, a suspended globe, a complete set of wall maps and desks adjusted to the size of the pupils. The one hundred twenty-one teacher-training courses in high schools of the State send into the one-teacher schools each year from 1200 to 1300 teachers with at least one year of normal training. The character of the teaching in the two one-teacher schools visited showed splendid results from such training.

These one-teacher schools usually have an enrollment of from fifteen to twenty-five pupils. The instruction is confined to the eight elementary grades. Only the children of the most well-to-do farmers have any high school instruction. The children whose parents can afford the expense of board in town and attend the town high school. The people of Minnesota realize that the one-teacher school can not attempt advanced work without doing injury to the elementary. It is for this reason that consolidation is making so great progress, that all the children in the country may have as good school opportunities as the children in the towns enjoy.

The plan in promoting consolidation

in Minnesota is, therefore, to organize in the consolidated district a sufficient number of one-teacher school districts to provide a high school with modern methods of instruction as well as a well taught elementary school. On his trip of inspection the Rural School Supervisor visited six of these consolidated schools, a half day being spent at each.

"One of the best of these schools is Lewiston. Lewiston is a town with about 600 inhabitants. When the consolidation was made four country districts came into the consolidated district with the town. The consolidated school is now about thirteen years old. There are in the school ten teachers; four are in the elementary grades and the others are in the high school or are special teachers. There are 136 pupils in the eight elementary grades and 75 in the high school. It is observed, therefore, that the enrollment in the high school classes is about the same as the enrollment in the elementary grades, which makes the school one that is remarkable for its holding power. Under the old one-teacher school conditions very few of these high school pupils would have had high school advantages. About half the pupils enrolled at Lewiston are hauled in the four transportation wagons, and the greatest distance that any pupil travels is five miles. In the elementary grades the pupils are thoroughly taught; and in the high school in addition to English, history and mathematics, subjects found in every high school, science is well taught with laboratory equipment, and special teachers are provided for domestic science, sewing, manual training and agriculture. A splendid equipment for the successful teaching of agriculture was found. It was strange to a South Carolina visitor to learn that no Latin was taught in this school. The school building at Lewiston was erected when the consolidation was made. While it affords good class-room and laboratory accommodations, it is not now large enough to supply every demand of the school and community as a community center. Plans are now under way for the enlargement of the building.

"For the support of this school the State supplies out of the State school fund and the State-mill tax \$6 for every pupil that attends school forty days. In addition the State pays the transportation costs up to a maximum of \$2,000, for the teaching of agriculture \$1,000 and \$500 for the consolidation. The district special levy for ordinary support is fourteen mills on an assessment of approximately \$700,000. The special district tax at Lewiston was the lowest of any school visited on this tour. All of which shows that while the people recognize the great benefits that come to their children from consolidation they are paying handsomely for these benefits. Nowhere, however, was there an indication that they are paying grudgingly.

"The most expensive school plant visited was at Okabena. This building cost \$65,000. Okabena is just a

FAMILY CARES

This Information May Be of Value to Many a Mother in Laurens.

When there is added to the many cares inseparable from the rearing of children that affliction of weakness of the kidneys and auxiliary organs, the mother's lot is far from a happy one. This condition has often been corrected by the use of Doan's Kidney Pills. When relief comes the mother's burden will be lighter and her home happier. Mrs. J. H. Gilbert, 223 Holmes St., Laurens, says: "About three years ago my little girl was troubled with weak kidneys. This caused me a lot of annoyance for she seemed to have no control over her kidneys whatever. Her back pained and she didn't seem to be as active as before. She was tired all the time and I didn't know just what was the trouble. I finally heard of Doan's Kidney Pills and began giving them to her. Doan's soon entirely rid her of the trouble."

60 at all dealers, Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

small village, hardly more than a railroad station. It is not of sufficient size to have a telegraph office. The building was erected by a bond issue. It accommodates an enrollment of 147 pupils and six teachers. In addition to the expense of carrying these bonds, the people have voted a special district tax of twenty-one mills for school support. Houses of the kind at Okabena are erected for the consolidated schools in the open country. Such a one was visited at Petersburg ten miles from the railroad station. In addition to the school buildings the people at Petersburg have erected a \$7,000 modern home

greatly to the cost of the Minnesota school houses. Nearly all these buildings are designed to combine a gymnasium and auditorium. The gymnasiums have correct proportions which provide for basket ball and other forms of indoor play. These rooms are found on the ground floor. Moveable chairs make it possible to use the gymnasium as an assembly room and for general community purposes. This is a plan of a construction that might well be imitated in our section.

"The character of the instruction in all the schools visited would impress itself on a South Carolina visi-

tor for the teachers, which might itself be a good subject for a newspaper article.

"In general plan these buildings are not superior to our good country school buildings. The permanent character of the construction and the heating and ventilating systems add to them. All the teachers had definite and clear knowledge of the subject matter and gave evidence of having formulated definite plans for the teaching. The result was that the class-room work was clear-cut and impressive. This is a result of the Minnesota plan of teacher-training in high schools and normal schools."

LEMON JUICE IS FRECKLE REMOVER

Girls! Make this crepe beauty lotion to clear and whiten your skin. Squeeze the juice of two lemons into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white, shake well, and you have a quarter pint of the best freckle and tan lotion and complexion beautifier, at very, very small cost. Your grocer has the lemons and any drug store or toilet counter will supply three ounces or orchard white for a few cents. Massage this sweetly fragrant lotion into the face, neck, arms and hands each day and see how freckles and blemishes disappear and how clear, soft and white the skin becomes. Yes! It is harmless.

Spring's Inspiration!

Miss Spring is emerging from the lap of Winter and beginning to array herself in her matchless new clothes. The woods and hills resound with the season's glad songs. And we are ready with all of Spring's prettiest wearing apparel for "Milady" to array herself in; apparel which will match the gorgeousness of Miss Spring herself.

Showing the Newest Spring Hats

You will enjoy making a selection from the scores of pretty hats which we are now displaying. Hosts of dainty, simple models in straw, satin and other materials, and also elaborate models in bewildering novelty, combined in every becoming type of shaping, trimming and coloring. Come in early and make your selection. Complete range of styles for girls and children also, and remember Switzer's low cash price.

Chiffon Taffeta

36-inch Chiffon Taffeta, a light, crisp quality that will not cut and is dyed with chemically pure dyes. Among the colors are "blue-devil," ivy, teal duck black, crane, Peck blue, navy and black\$2.00

Georgette Crepes

40-inch Georgette Crepes in a complete line of all the fashionable street and evening shades\$2.00

Waists

Beautiful line Waists, Georgette, Crepe-de-Chine \$5.75, \$6.98 and\$7.98

Silk and Wool Skirts

Beautiful line of Spring Skirts, newest spring styles, at \$6.00, \$7.50, \$10.00 up to \$22.50

Dresses

Just received beautiful line of Dresses, Taffeta, Silk, Georgette, Crepe-de-Chine \$12.50, \$17.50, 18.75, to \$35.00

Capes and Coats

Beautiful line newest Spring styles \$17.50, \$18.75, \$25.00

Big Special in Hosiery this Week

No. 800 Full Mercerized Infant's Cotton Socks, fancy tops, worth 35c, our price29c

Ladies' high grade Hose, black and white, only25c

Like spring blossoms, new Waists arrive in Voiles and Organdy, tailored, lace and embroidered. Two big specials \$1.00 and \$2.00

No. 671 Ipswich Fibre Silk Hose, worth 89c, black, white and grey, only75c

No. 670, Fibre Silk Thread Hose, black, white, brown and grey, worth \$1.00, big special for89c

No. 681, Thread Silk Hose, worth \$1.50, black only, special at\$1.25

Ladies' Vests

Ladies' Jersey Ribbed Vests, sizes 36, 38, 40 and 44, worth 35c, our price25c

No. 411, one lot of 10 dozen fine Ribbed Vests, sizes 36 and 38, only20c

Women's Kimonos

Silk Crepe, Japanese Silk and Wash Satin, a large variety of pretty colors and styles—belted, empire and loose models, worth \$8.50 and \$10.00, our price only \$6.00 and\$7.50

Don't miss this bargain.

Suits

Beautiful line Suits, box back, straight line, newest Spring styles. Come in and look them over. \$25.00, \$32.50 and\$37.50

SWITZER COMPANY

LAURENS, S. C.