KENT PUBLIC SCHOOL COSTS

In view of the many complaints made in recent years of the increasing cost of the public schools in Kent County, Maryland, the writer thinks it timely to give the patrons of those schools and the tax-payers of the county some information regarding the causes of the increasing cost.

The principal factor that has helped to bring about the higher cost of public education both in and out of Kent county is the depreciation in the purchasing value of the dollar. Upon scanning the economic conditions of our country from nineteen hundred fourteen, we find that the value of this medium of exchange has fluctuated considerably. Prior to that date, it had been more or less stable for many years. Soon after the beginning of the World War, however it began to depreciate and continued to decrease until it reached the low water mark in nineteen hundred and twenty. In this year one dollar was worth less than one-half of its purchasing value in nineteen hundred fourteen. Several years later its value began to increase but even today one can purchase with it only sixty per cent as much as it would buy fourteen years ago.

This economic fact affected the cost of schools as well as other organizations.

Other factors that have contributed to the increasing cost of the public schools in Kent County, Maryland are a greater demand for high school education and the employment of better trained teachers in the elementary schools of the county.

For the school year ending July 31, 1923, the number of pupils belonging in the white high schools of the county was 267. The number for the current year ending July 31, 1928, is 469.5, an increase of 202.5 pupils over a period of five years. In the former of the two years mentioned it cost on an average of $132.16 per pupil to maintain and operate the white high schools of Kent County. Through consolidation of the high schools the per pupil cost was reduced to $98.62 last school year ending July 31, 1927. The cost for the current year will be slightly less. Based on the per pupil cost for last year the increase in the number of pupils belonging in the white schools has caused an increase of $19,970 in the cost of operating those schools over the cost for the year 1922 and 1923. In the colored high schools, within the past nve years, there has been a increase of 43.4 in the number of pupils belonging. This has caused an increase of $1,000 in the cost of the schools.

The elementary schools also have contributed to the higher cost thru the employment of better trained teachers. During the year 1922 and 1923, of the teachers employed in theseschools, 16 held the lowest grade of certificate, (3rd grade), 6 of which were provisional, 45 held second grade certificates (including 5 provisionals), only 28 held the highest or 1st grade certificates. The current year, all but 4 of the elementary school teachers hold 1st grade certificates. This improved condition over the past five years has added more than $7,500 to the school costs.

The total of the school appropriations made by the county for the year 1922 and 1923 was $94,500. By adding to this the three amounts given above we have $122,970 the amount needed from the county for the current fiscal year ending July 31, 1928, to maintain and operate the schools on as good a basis as in 1922 and 1923. The amount appropriated by the county commissioners for the current year was $114,000, the same as the appropriation for last school year. Is there any wonder that the Board of Education will have a deficit of $5,500 as of July 31, 1928, unless the county commissioners provide for the shortage before that time? And may it not be asked whether those who have so daring as to spread the rumor that the Board of Education has misappropriated funds have any ground on which to base such an accusation?

So long as the people of Kent County continue to increase their demands for high school education for their children the cost must surely rise until the maximum high school enrollment as compared with the total enrollment in both elementary and high schools has been reached. Present demands indicate that this condition will not come about for several years.

LOUIS C. ROBINSON,
County Superintendent of Schools.

"BEAU SABREUR" PROVES EXCELLENT PHOTODRAMA

Intrigue, love and adventures on the vast Sahara desert offer something spectacularly and refreshingly attractive in the line of motion picture entertainment at the Lyceum Theatre, where Paramount's new production, "Beau Sabreur," will be shown Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 21-22-23.

With a cast of sterling quality, unusual direction and more unusual photography, "Beau Sabreur," comes to this city as a companion of even greater magnitude, to "Beau Geste." Both were from the pen of Percival Christopher Wren, whose stories of the desert and the Foreign Legion have proved best sellers everywhere.

Gary Cooper plays the role of Major Henri de Beaujolais, the dashing and virile young Frenchman who vows he will never look at a woman—and then meets one. Cooper is ideal in the part, and gives a fine performance of the handsome soldier-sheikh of the burning sands. Cooper is also playing the lead in the picture now being filmed in Talbot County, and this is your chance to see him in his first big part. Evelyn Brent is the girl, Mary Vanbrugh, who becomes mixed up in a series of thrilling adventures with Cooper. Noah Beery, William Powell, Mitchell Lewis, Roscoe Karns, Joan Standing, Arnold Kent, Frank Reicher, Raoul Paoli and Oscar Smith, are other members of the strong cast.

John Waters is responsible for the direction, and C. Edgar Schoenbaum photographed the picture.

The battle scenes, in which a horde of Touaregs, the desert wolves, sweep down on a little oasis and meet up with several dynamite mines planted in the sands present some of the most amazing sequences ever put on a screen.

"Beau Sabreur" is a picture you'll like. It has everything that goes to make a great production. It has thrills galore, heart interest, a romance that is hard to equal, and a cleverly entwined thread of comedy.

SAYS RABBITS CAUSED LAND'S DISCOVERY

That rabbits were directly responsible for the discovery of America and, by virtue of this fact, should be entitled to national recognition along with the American Eagle, were interesting and unusual disclosures made last Saturday by Mrs. M. Emma Rolph, of Centreville, historian of Samuel Turbutt Wright Chapter, D. A. R., of Queen Anne's County.

The county chapter was entertained by the Cecil county members at the home of Mrs. E. T. B. Day, North East.

Mrs. Rolph, as historian, read an interesting paper in which she stated that rabbits caused Columbus to start on the voyage in which he discovered America. The question was asked: "Should the rabbit as well as the eagle be used on the emolem of America."

Mrs. Jennie Clough, publicity chairman, and Mrs. W. Irving Walker, Regent of the Chapter, gave out the information that their historian, Mrs. Rolph, had valuable documents disclosing the interesting statement that Columbus had been actuated to seek a new land free from the rabbit pest, rather than any ambition to find the country now known as America.

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