# COLORED PEOPLE AROUSED

**PUBLIC INVESTIGATION OF THE RANDOLPH ST. PUBLIC SCHOOL COURSE**

**Acute Problems Discovered**

The Home and School League of Lexington on October 3rd, for the purpose of promoting interest on the part of teachers, patrons and citizens for the betterment of educational conditions has discovered some deplorable conditions.

These conditions have been evident for quite a time to a small minority who dared thus far to make an attack except in some individual instances.

Time and tide waits for no man, and, a closed mouth looses its virtue when a mere asking is to receive. The times are constantly changing conditions, men, states and nations, and why not change conditions in the Randolph St. Public School Course.

The Executive Committee in joint meeting with the School Board unfolded the following facts which have been verified:

(1). For a number of years the students have been required to spend ten years to do less work than is done in seven years elsewhere to complete the elementary school work. Two years are required to do the work of the first grade, and two years for the second grade, one year each for the third, fourth, fifth, sixth grade, and again two years for the seventh grade making a grand total of ten years. The second year of the seventh grade has been camouflaging the public and patrons as the year's work of the eighth grade, and pupils are graduated with certificates as such. The fact that the school is not an eighth grade school has been verified by authority. But it is further verified concretely that it is not eighth grade work because graduates leaving here for recognized academies and high schools fall short of the requirements by a half a term to a whole year's work of an elementary or preparatory school, except in those instances where pupils have been given private tutoring after leaving Randolph St. Public School.

The excuse or reason supporting the conditions was based on irregular attendance. This might seem to be a plausible excuse in remote and wretched communities, but Lexington is not and can't possibly be an exceptional place for worse; for irregularities is everywhere the case with the rural and urban schools, white and colored to a less or greater degree, and we can't conceive of this community being an exception except for better.

Let us take Brownsburg and Buena Vista as examples: Surely we would not attempt to compare these places even with any favor with the opportunities of intellectual development with the Lexington, the Athens of Dixie where the intellectual boy or girl is wiser than a Buena Vista student of the same years. The atmosphere of intellectualism must count for something. But rather—note, where we spend ten years to do seven grades of work plus a very little more these places are doing the work in seven years under much poorer environment. If this is not a paradox a fire should be made of all the rhetorics in this commonwealth.

One authority places the blame not to himself and no one blames him for not walking about the town with that kind of public disgrace and tommy-rot philosophy. This same authority attributes the running of this school to the head of the faculty who is entrusted with our affairs and if that is true it becomes more disgraceful when our shepherd would lead us on to retrogression when the world is going the other way. Now the case is at our door and our leader must bear the burden.

(2). We protested the amount of Industrial work that is done in the scohol—one period per week of 45 minutes, or a year of industrial work of 26 hours aproximately. It seems out of reason to us and an authority said: thus far it has been a question to his mind if the work could have been done in the time alloted to it. Instances have been cited by good authorities where children have work at home excessively and parents assisting to get certain work for a certain time or occasion. Now why should parents assist pupils in doing the work to receive credit when it is their work only in part.

An associate teacher reported in an interview on an occasion that two months of school work were practically suspended to prepare for an entertainment to raise money for industrial purpose, and concluded that the head of affairs was a bluff and the management a farce.

At the annual exhibit prominent white citizens were reported as saying: How can the colored children do the literary work required. We answer in this way. We have three more years to do it than the whites and other pupils elsewhere, making the bulk of industrial work here and our course of study ten years instead of seven. Why it would make the whites hide their faces in shame if we were doing that amount of industrial work and as much literary work in the same time. There would be no surprises, if we could do the required work in seven years and the industrial work as exhibited, to come across a Rene Maran at any time.

On the information of an authority we were told that the head of the school faculty ran the school. Thus acting on this information we sought a hearing with her. The reply came that: she would neither come to us nor have us come to her for a hearing. The purpose of this request was to ask for such information in regard to our work, as needed, since we feel that no one could give an account of conditions better than one who knows about the cause for them and is the manager of the school affairs. This we considered to be a sad occasion when the representatives of the patrons and citizens were not permitted by its exalted servant to meet and discuss their own problems.

Thus we fulfilled an engagement which was made by Mr. Harrington Wadell to meet the School Board.

The Executive Committee availed themselves of this oportunity to thank the School Board, Messrs. Wadell and Irby of the cordial reception granted the committee.

In our judgement they composed the most august genteel courteous, interested, and indulgent body of men ever witnessed. They are an inspiration to us to seek their aid in any line of work that come under their supervision. They assured us that they would probe down to the foundation of our grievances at the earliest possible date and alleviate the conditions as their judgement would honestly require.

We believe they are with us in the right to keep us right, and with us in the wrong to get us right again.

Signed,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE