

# Negro Farm Life School Eliminated by Budget Cut

## Slash of \$16,000 in County School Budget Also Makes Discontinuance of Important Repair Projects Necessary, Barbour Says

Abandonment of the plan to establish a farm life school for Negroes and discontinuance of repair projects already begun were announced today by Luther H. Barbour, superintendent of the Durham county schools, as the result of the slash of approximately \$16,000 in the county school budget for the new year.

The announcement was the first flare up against the action of the county commissioners in slashing the budget for 1934-35 in setting a tax rate of 50 cents.

Efforts have been made for the past five or six years to secure from the state the services of a farm life teacher as the first step towards establishing a farm life school for Negroes in Durham county, according to Superintendent Barbour, but it was not until recently that they were successful. The instructor selected to head up the department was scheduled to arrive here today in preparation for taking over his duties but school officials said that he would have to be sent back jobless because the provision made in the county budget for the construction and equipping of a farm life school has been eliminated.

Under the plan, a two-room structure was to be built at the Mill Grove school and equipped with sufficient tools and farming implements to make the opening of the farm life school possible. Approximately \$2,000 would be required for the project. The school would serve about 175 high school students residing in the northwestern section of the county.

The state would pay five-eighths of the salary paid the farm life teacher and the remainder would come from the county. Without proper building and equipment the state will not approve the salary expenditure, however, it was pointed out.

Lowes Grove and Oak Grove schools, badly in need of better heating facilities, must continue to operate with the old furnace equipment that is practically past repairing. The boiler at Lowes Grove has been in use for 11 years, the school superintendent stated, and it was second hand when purchased. New units were to be installed under the school budget as tentatively approved following its presentation by the board of education to the county commissioners.

Painters were recalled today from Lowes Grove from their task of painting new woodwork required in preparing the building for occupancy again next fall. Lack of funds will make it necessary for the woodwork to remain unpainted.

Superintendent Barbour, in discussing the situation confronting the county school system as a result of the slash in the budget, stated that the county schools were made to bear the major part of the cut. He pointed to the uncertainty in the collection of fines and forfeitures which the schools depend upon by way of showing that the increase in this item made by the county commissioners does not even up the loss in other phases of the school budget. While in response to requests by the commissioners for information, he admitted he stated to the board that certain items could be eliminated, he was positive that he didn't leave the impression that the money was not necessary in carrying forward the school program.