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Administering Our State Schools

By *George West Diehl, President, Concord State Normal.*

The public schools and the state educational institutions receive a vast amount of criticism which is positively harmful. The taxpayer is concerned in knowing how his money is expended and it is just that he be kept informed. He is satisfied when he sees the results measure up to his idea of efficiency. The critic, who creates the injurious spirit, is the one who speaks without fullest consideration of every aspect of the educational problem. The state of perfection is not yet reached and fault may be found, but let these factors be considered very seriously by the critic.

First, the State Board of Education is composed of West Virginian taxpayers, solid in their desire to accomplish the best for the public educational institutions, supporters of West Virginian ideals, and sane endorsers of every movement which will advance the educational status of our State.

Second, the State Board of Control does all in its power, as the administrations of the various educational institutions under its direction know, to receive full value for every dollar expended. These gentlemen are in sympathetic harmony with the desire of each institution to meet the needs of the hour, anticipating those of the future.

Third, the administrations of the various institutions of learning are zealous in their vigilance

over their funds as well as over the policies. The latter is often curtailed by the condition of the former. No phase of the State's work is carried on with as much care, thoroughness, and conscientious effort. The standards of education must be the very best, but the work must be kept on the most economical basis.

Fourth, educational progress requires time. It is impossible to carry through a reform in a week and it sometimes requires several years to rid the system of that which is undesirable. Patience is necessary. The educational survey now being made in West Virginia is one of the finest things that has ever been undertaken and it will be productive of much good.

In conclusion, it is hoped that every taxpayer have confidence in those administering the educational institutions. West Virginia has made remarkable progress in education and there is more territory to be mastered; this is being done. The modern methods of tried efficiency have taken the place of those which met the needs in the near past. Throwing aside the shackles of prejudice, suspicion, and partisanship, the liberated educational policies of any State will achieve wonderful success. Using a phrase from campus parlance, let's go, West Virginia.

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