

HERTFORD COUNTY HERALD

THE LARGEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

VOL. 8

AHOSKIE, N. C., JULY 20, 1917.

NO. 27

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THE FACTS REGARDING THE TRUSTEES OF AHOSKIE GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT

To the patrons of the Ahoskie Graded-School District:

There having been an effort on the part of some citizens to create a false impression relative to the trustees of the Ahoskie Graded school District, we the undersigned trustees, deem it our duty that the true facts be known, as we have nothing to conceal. We are responsible to the patrons of the school district and for that reason are giving out this statement.

Under the act of the Legislature, Private Laws of 1909, Chap. 220, creating the School, it is provided that:

"Whenever the term of office of any class shall expire their successors shall be elected by the qualified voters of the Ahoskie Graded-school District, at an election to be held in conjunction with and on the same date and under the same rules and regulations governing elections for Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Ahoskie, in said district. All vacancies in said board of trustees, caused by resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the remaining members on the board, by a majority vote thereof, until the next general election."

Sec. 13 provides, "That said board of trustees at their first regular meeting and annually thereafter, on the first Tuesday in June of each year, shall elect a treasurer from among their number."

Pursuant to law, a notice was given, that three members of the board would be nominated to be voted for at the regular town election, to fill the vacancies which would occur on the board of trustees of the Ahoskie Graded-school District. This notice was given calling a convention of the town of Ahoskie which would nominate a mayor and a board of aldermen. At the convention, after the municipal work had been finished the chairman announced that all qualified voters in the graded-school district present would have a right to participate in and were recognized as members of the convention for the purpose of naming three trustees to be voted for as above provided. J. A. Williams, M. D. Gatling and Mrs. C. C. Hoggard were nominated without a dissenting vote.

Later the Attorney General advised that a lady was not eligible to be elected and hold the office of trustee of a graded school. Accordingly a notice was given by the Mayor to the voters of the Ahoskie Graded-school District, calling them together for the purpose of nominating some eligible person for trustee in the place of Mrs. Hoggard; at which convention W. L. Curtis was nominated.

At the regular election W. L. Curtis, W. W. Rogers and Dr. P. H. Mitchell were elected trustees, whose terms of office would begin on the first Tuesday in June.

At a meeting of the board of trustees held on the 21st day of May, 1917 the board took judicial notice of the fact that A. E. Garrett's election and acceptance of the office of sheriff of Hertford County, vacated his office of trustee and the board elected A. B. Cowan to fill the vacancy.

L. T. Sumner, who holds the office of post master at Ahoskie, which rendered him ineligible to hold the office of trustee, tendered his resignation to the board which was accepted at a meeting of the board held on May 25th, 1917; and J. R. Garrett elected to fill the vacancy.

At the meeting held on May 29th, 1917, J. A. Williams tendered his resignation as chairman of the board of trustees which was accepted and Dr. C. G. Powell was elected chairman of the board.

At the regular annual meeting held the first Tuesday in June, it being the 5th day of June 1917, chairman Dr. C. G. Powell stated that the terms of office of J. A. Williams, B. E. Copeland, and M. D. Gatling as trustees of the Ahoskie

Graded-school District, had expired. Dr. Paul H. Mitchell and W. W. Rogers, newly elected members of the board of trustees were present and recognized as members, they having previously taken the oath of office. W. L. Curtis, who had been elected to a term of two years refused to qualify, which caused a vacancy and J. A. Williams was elected to fill same, and entered at once upon his duties.

At a meeting held June 14th, A. B. Cowan resigned from the board which resignation was accepted and M. D. Gatling was elected by the board to fill the vacancy.

The board as now constituted and duly organized consists of Dr. C. G. Powell, Chairman; J. A. Williams, treasurer; M. D. Gatling, secretary; J. R. Garrett, W. W. Rogers and Dr. P. H. Mitchell.

For some cause unknown to the undersigned members of the board, W. W. Rogers and Dr. P. H. Mitchell have refused to sit with the board but instead have attempted to set up for themselves with others a so-called board without legal authority. The regular board has given notice to them of their meetings, but they have still refused to meet and assist the board in its official duties. In order that some sort of sentiment might be attempted to be built for themselves with their coadjutors, they have asked the county board of education to recognize them and after obtaining this request, they went before the county commissioners and asked recognition, when in law and fact neither board has anything whatever to do with who shall constitute the board of trustees of our graded school. The action of both boards was nothing more or less than an attempt to interfere and intermeddle with a matter about which they had no concern. If there is anything illegal or anybody's rights have been infringed, the courts are the proper tribunals in which to have these matters adjusted. The Hertford County Herald, last week, had a very timely editorial on the Graded-School question, and in commenting on the action of the Boards of Education and County Commissioners, rung down the changes; when it said,

"The personnel of the latter board makes the action of the Commissioners more to be regretted. It is the thinnest sort of veil through which the dull brain can pierce." Who was it that took his horse and buggy and rode over this school district and persuaded his friends to support his candidate? Who was it that sent out automobiles over the district on the day of election and brought voters in and carried them back, for their votes? Who was it that circulated false reports in order to defeat the two regular candidates, nominated in the convention? Who asked the County Board of Education to recognize certain men as trustees of the Ahoskie Graded-school District? Who was behind the movement to have the Board of County Commissioners recognize certain men as trustees of the Ahoskie Graded school District? Who had summons issued and served on three members of the Ahoskie Graded-school District Board? Who is on the prosecution bonds of each?

The undersigned members of the board have been doing all they can to give the Ahoskie Graded-school children the very best service that can be given. We have employed a highly recommended educator for principal and a corps of efficient teachers for the different grades. And while we are doing all we can for the school, summons has been served on three of us. What the purpose of the summons we know not. This took place a few weeks ago but up to the issuing of this statement, no complaint has been filed from which information could be gained as to what the purport of

WAR TAX UNJUST

No measure of tax legislation ever proposed even as a war measure—has aroused as much comment throughout the State as the War Tax Bill of the Senate Finance Committee recently reported and now about to be enacted into law. This bill if ratified by Congress will impose a tax on the business of corporations, partnerships and individuals, which, in the event they are doing a better business this year than in 1911, 1912 and 1913 will take away from them anywhere from 35 to 50 per cent of their net profits this year, and the distressing feature about the bill is that it will not touch the big corporations of the North and East with their watered stock, inflated values, etc. but in the South and especially in North Carolina, where capital is limited and resources small, the burden will fall exceedingly heavy.

The business interests of the State are aroused and a mass meeting of all concerned has been called for Raleigh July 27 at which time the discriminatory features of the proposed law will be discussed. It is expected that all the Chambers of Commerce in the State will be represented at this meeting. This bill will touch the farmers of the State as well as merchants and business men generally. If the farmers are enjoying greater prosperity now with cotton 25 cents than in 1911-12-13 when cotton was 10 cents and under, then they will be included in the operation of this bill and will have to pay this tax. This is a time when considerable figuring should be in progress throughout the State in or that everybody might know just how the bill effect him.

The different actions are for. They have had ample time to file their complaints that the public may know the facts in the case—we want the public to know the facts. The public has a right to know the facts. We here and now announce to the public that we are willing to waive all time and if the complaints are filed we will at once file our answers and agree for the court to pass on the matters at coming term. We are ready to meet the issue.

Realizing that the public is looking to us to do our duty and to serve the children and patrons of the school it has been ordered by the board that suit be brought for money that is due the district and it has accordingly been brought and the complaint filed the same day the summons issued. We are not running any bluffs, we are doing business. Will the other side answer and let the court at once pass upon the matter? We agree for it to be done at the coming term of court. We raise no issues that we are not willing and anxious to meet.

There has been an element who have sought to rule or ruin the Ahoskie Graded-school since its creation by the Legislature of 1909.

In 1909 it was agreed and entered in writing that the people should express their preference by vote for the right upon which the building was to be erected, and a majority named the Hayes site, which was a high and dry place and very desirable and which could have been purchased for \$800, but in utter disregard of the expressed choice of the people, the present chairman of the board of education, who was at that time member of the Ahoskie school board, contracted and purchased from himself two acres of land for \$1000 for the building site.

We had about come to the conclusion that that old spirit of antagonism around our good and prosperous town had gone, never more to raise its head, but not so, occasionally it lifts its head and whenever it does it is recognized, but we are thankful that its fangs have been extracted and only the hiss is left.

We give the public and especially the patrons of the Ahoskie Graded-school District the facts in order that no false impressions may be made on fair minded people.
C. G. Powell, Chairman,
M. D. Gatling, Secretary,
J. A. Williams, Treasurer,
(Adv.) J. R. Garrett,

WINTON WAVELETTES

The Sunday School Convention of the West Chohan Association will meet with the Winton Baptist Church Friday and Saturday, July 27 and 28. A good program has been arranged by the Committee and a large crowd is expected to attend this meeting.

The Societies of the Winton Baptist Church will be represented at the Associational Meeting at Severn on July 25, by the following delegates: W. M. S., Mesdames S. P. Taylor, Willie Daniel, alternate Mrs. J. N. Clark; Y. W. A., Misses Louise Vann and Ruby Banks; Sunbeams, Mrs. S. N. Watson, Mrs. John E. Vann, Assistant Superintendent, will have charge of the meeting.

Through respect to the memory of the late W. P. Taylor, all business connected with the estate was closed Friday, July 13, the second anniversary of Mr. Taylor's death.

Miss Mary Bridger will give a reception Tuesday evening, July 17, in honor of her house guests, Misses Leon Hines, Elma Hood and Hilda Turrentine, and Riley Hines and Kilby Turrentine, of Kinston.

The faculty of the Winton High School lacks one teacher being complete, the 6th and 7th grade teacher; but we are not uneasy about not getting a teacher. If there is no other way, we shall call on our progressive neighbor, Ahoskie, for one, for she seems to have a double supply.

Miss Pearl Wilson, Mr. R. C. Bridger's popular and efficient stenographer, who has been visiting her mother in West Virginia, will return to Winton this week.

Mrs. I. V. Turner is spending a month at Panacea Springs.

Fisher Mitchell, who enlisted with the Infantry in April, now stationed near Atlanta, spent the past week with home folks. He went to Sanatorium Saturday to see his mother who is taking treatment at the Sanatorium.

Mr. W. A. Wilson, of Louisburg, spent the week end in town.

Rev. S. N. Watson and Laura May Watson are spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Freeman at Virginia Beach.

Ernest Banks returned Monday from a visit to Drum Hill.

Annie May Pearce is visiting friends in Franklin, Va.

Mrs. W. R. Matthews and brother, Mr. Lonnie Ellis, of McRae, Ga. were called to West Virginia Sun on account of the critical illness of their father, Mr. Ben Ellis.

Mrs. Crawford Easterling, of Bennettsville, S. C., is visiting her mother, Mrs. T. B. Story.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Taylor Saturday, July 14, a son.

DIRECTORS MEETING

We the board of Directors of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Northampton, Hertford and Bertie Counties at their regular annual meeting beg leave to present the following as our report upon the affairs of the Association during the past year. We have carefully examined the books and accounts of the secretary-treasurer and find them in good order and carefully kept. The balances in banks tally with his report, and show that the Association is in fine condition. We recommend that the assessment be 40c on the one hundred dollars worth of property insured.

We recommend that the present President and secretary-treasurer be re-elected to their respective offices, and that their salaries be increased fifty dollars each.

We appoint Ahoskie as the place of the annual meeting of the members of the Association, and Tuesday the 14th day of August 1917 as the date of meeting.

T. C. Peele,
J. W. Boone,
D. N. Stephenson,
Thos. S. Norfleet,
Board of Directors,

TAXPAYERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WANTS

Mr. J. N. Vann says Taxpayers Have Asked That The Sheriff's Office Be Put on Salary Basis.

Mr. Editor:

I have read for the second time in different issues of the Herald your appeal to the tax-payers to "come out in the open" and express themselves on the subject of the salary system for the office of Sheriff of our County.

I am inclined to think that the Editor has either been asleep, or he is fishing for some outside assistance to aid him in compiling reading matter for his subscribers. I presume the latter is correct in view of the fact that the taxpayers have expressed themselves on the subject. If I remember correctly the salary system for County officers was agitated by some of our most progressive citizens and business men Mr. B. F. Williams (an Ex-county commissioner) contributed an article to the Herald on the subject, and later Mr. J. R. Garrett expressed his views in your columns.

The subject of salaried officers caused so much comment and wide approval that the Chairman of the Board of Election thought enough of the suggestion to call a mass meeting of the tax-payers of the County last August, a season when everybody could be present, and state his view if he so wished.

A good many accepted the invitation and were present in Winton at the time appointed and heard the matter discussed pro and con as to the wisdom of adopting the salary system for the county offices. The drift of sentiment favored a resolution drawn by Mr. D. C. Barnes which suggested a salary of \$1200.00 a year for the Sheriff's office and some back to handle the County fund without cost of commission, which was adopted by a majority vote over the protest of two lawyers of renown and influence.

This resolution, as the writer understood it, was instructions to our Representative to frame a law applicable only to Hertford County and have passed at the last session of the Legislature. Mr. Winborne had the bill passed in a way, but wisely or unwisely shifted the responsibility of making the law effective on the County Board of Commissioners.

There is nothing more for the taxpayers to ask, as I see it. We can wait and see how far and how well the Commissioners are going to carry out the request of the taxpayers.

Our adjoining counties think well of the change, as they have substituted the fee system for the salary system, and appear to think enough of the change as to continue it.

J. N. Vann.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

CHOWAN CHURCH, WINTON, N. C.
JULY 27-28, 1917.

FRIDAY, JULY 27

11:00 A. M.—Introductory sermon, T. C. Keaton; Alternate, K. D. Stukenbrok.

12:00 A. M.—Organization.

2:00 to 2:15 P. M.—Prayer and Praise service, N. W. Britton.

2:15 to 2:45—Developing missionary spirit in the Sunday School; the necessity, means, result, M. P. Davis.

2:45 to 3:15 P. M.—What should be the vital aim of each Sunday School lesson? (1). Individual need of a Savior. (2). Christ as only Savior, T. C. Keaton.

3:15 to 3:45 P. M.—Greetings from Sunday Schools.

4:00 to 4:15 P. M.—Business meeting.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

10:00 to 10:15 A. M.—Prayer and Praise Service, N. W. Britton.

SUNDAY, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DAY

Special Exercises at Ahoskie Baptist Church Were Full of Interest—Hon. C. W. Mitchell Speaks

Sunday, July 15, was Christian Education Day in the Ahoskie Baptist Sunday School. A specially arranged program was carried out by the younger members of the Sunday School, and a special collection taken at the conclusion of the day's program for the cause of Christian Education.

The regular class hour was in no way interfered with by the special program, which was given after the regular ten o'clock hour.

Hon. Cingman W. Mitchell, the gifted orator and constructive statesman of Aulander, drove over from his home town and occupied the major portion of the hour devoted to Christian Education. His address on this subject was plainly practical and exhorting personal, probably to some of those vitally connected with educational affairs in Ahoskie.

Brother Mitchell made a running start towards gaining the rapt attention of his audience by his allusions to the trustee business here. He said in part: "over in my town we have to beg and coax men into becoming school trustees; while in Ahoskie these offices have more than they can accommodate." He, then, in an earnest appeal, admonished the people of Ahoskie to cease their bickerings and get down to business. He advised thus, "go to work and make your school second to no high school in Eastern North Carolina." Who in Ahoskie does not join him in this appeal?

That portion of his address devoted to Christian Education was so plainly spoken and full of interest that the attention of his hearers, once gained, was never lost during the whole fifty minute address.

He mildly scored the last Legislature for issuing a vast amount of bonds at the closing hours of the session, but in the same breath let it be known that he was always in favor of aiding to the limit the States educational institutions. Yet, he would not see the denominational schools and colleges suffer for lack of support. And, a large part of his address was a direct appeal for the proper maintenance of the Baptist institutions.

He took the view that the life of this State was in a large measure dependent upon denominational schools for leaders in the truth, and thought that too many secular colleges had been germanized.

observation and experience, E. F. Sullivan.

Can we have them?
How to conduct them,
What should they accomplish?

W. R. Haight, for the town church, C. W. Scarborough, for the country church.

11:30 to 12:00—Preparing the lesson. By whom and when, W. D. Barbee.

12:00 to 12:30 P. M.—Home Department, Cradle Roll, C. L. Dowell.

12:30 to 2:00 P. M.—Dinner.

2:00 to 2:15 P. M.—Prayer and Praise, N. W. Britton.

2:15 to 2:30 P. M.—Miscellaneous business.

2:30 to 3:00 P. M.—Our Superintendents and other officers.

(1) Relations to church and Sunday School.

(2) Obligation to self improvement, J. Blalock.

3:00 to 3:30 P. M.—Sunday School Institutes and other means for improvement of Sunday School workers, J. W. Downey.

3:30 to 4:00 P. M.—Special Days in Sunday Schools and their purposes:

(1) Promotion Day, John F. Cale.

(2) Decision Day, E. F. Sullivan.

(3) Orphan's Day, H. H. Hummick.

(4) Missionary Day, R. B. Lineberry.

Article No. 3 of Constitution of the West Chohan Baptist Sunday School Convention, as amended by Convention in session 1916, makes all Pastors and Superintendents regular delegates, also allows each Church School 3 delegates and each Branch School 1 delegate. No Branch School will be recognized unless reported through the church of which it is a Branch.