

## RAILROAD PROGRAM FOR THREE COUNTY TERRITORY STARTED

Promoters of Reorganized and Extended Wellington & Powellsville Road Meet With Community Citizens

## COLERAIN AND AHOSKIE APPROVE GENERAL PLAN

Detailed Information Will Be Supplied After Sounding Out Public Sentiment

Financial backing and an undivided favorable sentiment among the people of Hertford, Bertie, and Northampton counties are two necessary elements to propogate a railroad through the Roanoke-Chowan territory, a project that is now in its incipient stage. To bring the railroad here, these things must be combined with the efforts of promoters, financial backers, and a re-organization of the Wellington & Powellsville Railroad.

Following a mass meeting of Windsor business persons and the appointment of a working committee to investigate the feasibility of whatever program of organization and construction is promulgated by the prime movers in the scheme to widen and extend the railroad, Messrs. Harry B. Spear, Norfolk consulting engineer, H. B. Calwell, Norfolk banker and representative of bonding companies, and Judge Francis D. Winston, of Windsor, met in Ahoskie last Friday morning with the directors and other members of the Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the proposed railroad.

Judge Winston briefly outlined the plan of extension, and told of the meeting in his town, while he also stressed the dependency of his town and community upon the continuance of present service which is seriously threatened on account of the financial status of the Wellington & Powellsville Railroad. His people, he believed, would enter heartily into the plan to widen and extend the present railroad; and Windsor was expecting to go the limit in fostering the movement.

Messrs. Spear and Calwell explained the suggested and contemplated development of the new road. The plan is briefly, to make the Ahoskie-Windsor branch a standard gauged road, extend it from Windsor to the Roanoke river to connect with light draft boats serving the large river farms, construction of a branch line from Powellsville to Colerain; and, also to extend the service beyond Ahoskie to Pendleton, via Murfreesboro, connecting with Seaboard Air Line Railroad at Pendleton.

This, they explained, would be accomplished by a reorganization of the present railroad company, township bond issues by the communities benefited, and the securing of larger amounts of money from bonding companies, all of which was to be put into the construction of the new road, and the purchase of rolling stock. The exact plan of organization was not presented, the purpose of the promoters being to feel out sentiment and ask for a friendly co-operation until more definite plans were presented.

The Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to lend its moral support to the project, and gave its approval of the plan to construct the road, reserving the right to consider any further plans without committing itself to approval before consideration.

Friday afternoon, Messrs. Spear, Calwell and Judge Winston met with the Colerain citizens, presenting a proposal similar to the one at Ahoskie. Mr. D. R. Britton presiding over the meeting, upon a unanimous motion, appointed a committee of seven persons to work with the Windsor committee and the Ahoskie Chamber of Commerce in furthering the plans for road construction. The Colerain

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## TWO TOWNS CONTRACT TO PURCHASE CURRENT

Norfolk Contractors Will Do The Work For Both Contracting Municipalities

Ahoskie has broken the ice in its program of electric power development. Within the last few days, Winton and Powellsville have signed contracts with the town council of Ahoskie whereby the latter will furnish electric current for the two adjoining municipalities.

The closing of these contracts, and assurance that transmission lines will soon be erected and the service turned on marks the beginning of a network of electric transmission lines that Ahoskie is expecting and hoping to see built from the plant here to surrounding towns and communities. The ice has broken already in some of the other towns, including Colerain, Murfreesboro, and Aulander, and probably upon the success of the plan in the first two towns that have blazed the way depends the action of other towns and communities.

Banks & Burke, contracting engineers of Norfolk, Va., who have negotiated the deals between Ahoskie and the two contracting towns, have secured contracts with both Powellsville and Winton to erect the transmission lines. Since early last fall, during the administration of the former Ahoskie council, a contract was made with the Norfolk engineers, giving them exclusive rights to sell surplus current generated by the Ahoskie light plant, in accordance with a contract drawn between themselves and the town of Ahoskie.

For several months field workers, and members of the firm at Norfolk have been conferring with the officials of the adjoining towns looking to the consumation of a contract. They have worked hard and consistently to cause mutually agreeable contracts to be entered into by both seller and buyers. They have held to the position all during their negotiations that once the initial contract is made and the service started, but little time will elapse before other towns will complete the circle.

Both contracts extend for a period of ten years, at a fixed rate for the first two years, and for the next eight years a rate 1 cent per kilowatt higher, provided Ahoskie is operating its service at a loss. Both sides are amply protected by terms of the contract, and all clauses are hedged about by every possible legal safeguard.

Winton and Powellsville will own and have complete control over transmission lines, up to the meters at the Ahoskie Water and Power Plant. Monthly statements will be rendered to each town from the meter readings at the light plant in Ahoskie.

The town of Winton had been without lights for three weeks until a day or two ago, on account of the burning out of the generator of their local plant which is of the oil type. The Ahoskie council has granted Winton the right to use its small generator until the transmission lines are ready for current, in order to provide service during construction.

Messrs. Banks & Burke will start work on erection of lines at once. Powellsville is waiting for a formal agreement from the Wellington & Powellsville Railroad Company to use their property as a right-of-way to the plant here before giving the word "go". A verbal promise had already been given by Mr. A. T. Baker, of the railroad company.

## MOVIES THIS FALL

According to Mr. Eric Garrett, proprietor of the Richard Theater, new moving picture machines will be installed within a few weeks, and pictures will be shown regularly at his theater here beginning about September 1. Mr. Garrett has just returned from a trip to Atlantic City, where he went soon after the fire destroyed his equipment here.

Have you decided on a vacation for this summer? If not decided now and attend the Farmers' and Farm Women's Convention at the State College, July 31 and August 1 and 2. Your neighbor will be there.

## COUNTY BOARDS IN CONTROVERSY OVER THE SCHOOL BUDGET

Joint Meeting Will Be Held Next Monday To Attempt Amicable Settlement Over The 1923-24 Budget

## COMMISSIONERS LEVY AN INSUFFICIENT TAX

Unless Agreement Is Reached, Superior Court Judge Will Give Final Decision

While the county board of education is for from adopting the policy of "Peace At Any Price," it unanimously voted last Monday to request a joint session with commissioners, Monday, July 23, for the purpose of making the last attempt at amicable settlement of the school budget for 1923-24. Chairman J. H. Mitchell and each individual member of his board has been mailed a notice, calling them into joint meeting on that date, to begin at half past ten o'clock in the morning.

Failure to reach agreement in joint session, the board of education will ask D. R. McGlothlin, clerk of superior court, to settle the differences; and, either side appealing from his decision, will then let the judge of superior court be the arbiter. That is the provision of the new school law. Should this process have to be gone through; Judge Jno. H. Kerr will say who is right, and what is the correct amount to be raised for the 1923-24 school budget in Hertford County. Unless the machinery is working faultlessly, there may be some delay in final settlement, that is, provided the dispute is carried to court.

This action of the board of education came as a result of the commissioners' refusal to even consider the 1923-24 budget at a special meeting held last Friday, for the levying of county and local taxes for 1923. Without making any further study of the budget, the commissioners voted a 52 cents levy for schools, the same rate fixed last year. They neither approved nor rejected the budget, and thereby failed to comply with the school law.

However, the school law does say that the budget shall be presumed to be approved by the board of county commissioners unless it is rejected formally and in open session within thirty days after it is duly presented to the board by the county superintendent. The commissioners have procrastinated until it is presumably too late for them to reject, as at least forty days elapsed between the time the budget was presented and the meeting last Friday, when the budget was indirectly rejected by the action of the commissioners refusing to make sufficient levy to raise amount stipulated to carry on the county schools for the term.

It was Friday, The Thirteenth, unlucky for schools, and probably unlucky for the commissioners when they discover the law to have barred them from doing other than approving and levying sufficient tax to take care of it. Jno. E. Vann and B. G. Williams were the only two members of the board of education present last Monday, but they were both positive in standing squarely behind the budget as already presented, and accepted the commissioners' refusal to even consider the budget as an affront and more or less personal thrust at the county school administration.

Next Monday's meeting is called as provided by the school law. There was a joint meeting held in the courthouse last May 28, at which time the budget was examined item by item and, according to the minutes of that meeting as recorded by Superintendent of Education, N. W. Britton, there was unanimous agreement upon all items of the budget. Some of the commissioners disagree as to result of that meeting, saying the board did not give its approval.

The new school law was carefully read, section by section, when the

## COURT DECISION FAVORS PEANUT GROWERS' SIDE

Judge Groner Holds That Association Is Not A Monopoly In Restraint Of Trade

Federal Judge Groner has removed the last obstacle in the way of the continuance of the suit being brought by the Peanut Grower's Association against twenty-odd members of the National Cleaners and Shellers Association, when he handed down a decision denying the objection of the defendants that the plaintiff constitutes a monopoly in restraint of trade, and as such is not entitled to standing in court.

Judge Groner earlier in the week had issued an order compelling the defendants to produce their papers and records in court on the day of the trial, which is set for September 17. The Growers are suing for \$3,625,000 damages claimed to have been suffered through alleged operations of the defendants.

In addition to the eight suits set for trial in the Nansemond Circuit Court on July 30, there are ten similar suits to be set on July 16 for trial in Southampton County Circuit Court. It is expected that these cases will be set for hearing July 25. These cases are for violation of the marketing agreement contract entered into by over 5,000 grower members of the Association and in Southampton County includes the following members: J. H. Stephenson, J. H. Hedgepeth, S. S. Bishop and W. T. Bowles, of Newsoms, Va.; P. D. Crumpler, Handsoms, Va.; J. Everett Johnson, Boykins, Va.; A. W. Turner, and H. G. and R. C. Council, Franklin, Va.; J. L. Cobb, and S. N. Cobb of Courtland, Va.

These suits are brought on the identical contract on which the Supreme Court of North Carolina recently handed down a decision upholding the contract and declaring the law under which the Peanut Growers' Association was operating, constitutional in North Carolina.

From the attorneys of the Peanut Growers' Association it was learned that on Thursday of this week depositions were taken in Norfolk by the plaintiff in a suit against John P. Fox, of Southampton County. R. H. Mann was the attorney of record, together with E. R. F. Wells, of Norfolk, and James Corbett, of Suffolk. The plaintiff was represented by F. D. Sanford, of the firm of Aaron Sapiro, Nathaniel Green, of Norfolk, E. Frank Story, of Courtland, and Charles E. Peters, of Norfolk, who is employed by the Peanut Association as attorney in all of its actions. The depositions for the plaintiff were not taken for the taking of depositions by the defendant.

Arrangements have been made by the attorneys of the association for the taking of depositions in the case of the association vs. Thomas H. Birdsong, of Suffolk, and others. These depositions will be taken for the plaintiff in Norfolk, July 26 and 27. The Birdsong interests will be represented by James Corbett, of Suffolk, and E. R. F. Wells, of Norfolk. The Peanut Association will be represented by the firm of Aaron Sapiro of New York, and James G. Martin and Brothler, of Norfolk. No date has been set for the taking of depositions in this case for the defendants. —Virginia-Pilot.

## IN SUFFOLK THIS WEEK

Mr. H. S. Basnight is spending this week in Suffolk, Va., looking after his storage warehouse there, in the absence of Mr. Pembroke Baker who is employed by him. Mr. Baker and his friend, Mr. Jno. O. Askew, Jr., of Harrellsville, are spending their summer vacation at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

education board met Monday, and the joint session was agreed upon as being the only lawful way to reach a final agreement, either amicably or through the courts.

As it now stands, all levies for county and local purposes have been made by the commissioners, and the total county levy is ten cents per hundred dollars higher than it was last year. This item will be credited to the road fund, as a sinking fund for payment of the half million dollars bond issue.

The rates for 1923 as follows:  
Per Hundred  
For Schools ..... 52 cents.  
For Roads ..... 35 cents.  
For County Administration, 15 cents.  
The rate for county administration is the maximum allowed by State statute.

## Masonic Picnic Will Be Staged Thursday, 26th

Baseball Games, Speaking By Dr. H. M. Poteat, Bathing, Boating, and Beach Amusements Will Combine To Make It Largest Day In The Annals Of Masonry Of This Territory. Proceeds, As Usual, Will Be Turned Over To Oxford Orphanage

All hands are at work and all faces are set for the big Masonic Day at Chowan Pleasure Beach, next Thursday, July 26. Upon that occasion, Masons and their families scattered throughout five counties, and hundreds of others from a distance, will gather on the banks of the Chowan for their annual July picnic. The "Masonic Picnic" is known far and wide as the biggest day of the year for thousands of persons in Hertford, Bertie, Northampton, Gates, Chowan, Martin, and Perquimans counties.

For year, the Masonic Picnic was held at Stoney Creek. In more recent years, the Masons and their picnic friends and cohorts have selected the Colerain beach as the most popular meeting place, and have adopted it as the annual camping grounds. The popularity of the beach, and the growing importance of it, together with the recent additions made to its physical equipment, will entice a crowd this year that will eclipse any public gathering in the Roanoke-Chowan territory held within recent years.

So many elements enter into the popularity of the Big Day that every person within traveling distance sees in it some one particular enticing feature. The one big and popular appeal exists by reason of the fact that the proceeds from all concession sales, dinner sales, baseball games and all other funds derived from whatsoever source are turned over in aggregate to the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford. It all goes to aid the homeless.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF WOMEN AT WOODLAND

Twenty-Ninth Session Of West Chowan Missionary Societies Meet July 25

The following program has been arranged for the annual meeting of the twenty-ninth annual session of the Woman's Missionary Union of the West Chowan Association. The meeting will convene with the Woodland Baptist Church.

Morning Session, 10 O'Clock  
Hymn  
Devotional service.....Mrs. G. N. Martin, Ashley Grove.  
Address of welcome.....Mrs. L. C. Copeland, Woodland.  
Response.....Mrs. W. A. Baker, Ahoskie.

Business  
Reports of officers  
Solo.....Miss Claude Stephenson, Severn.  
Address.....Mrs. W. N. Jones, Raleigh  
"Our W. M. U. Training School".....Miss Ella Pierce, Ahoskie.  
"The Need of the Y. W. A.".....Miss Sue Brett, Winton.

Announcements  
Adjournment  
Afternoon Session, 2 O'clock  
Hymn  
Devotional service.....Mrs. C. C. Hoggard, Ahoskie.

Minutes  
"Chowan College".....Miss Eunice McDowell, Chowan College.  
Address.....Miss Pearl Johnson, China.  
Duet.....Mrs. C. J. Vaughan and Mrs. J. E. Griffin, Woodland.  
"Holding Interest in the Junior Organizations".....Mrs. C. L. Henry, Colerain.

Report of Committees  
Minutes  
Adjournment  
Evening Session, 8:15 O'Clock  
Rev. Duncan, Presiding  
Hymn

Devotional Service.....Miss Pearl Johnson, China.  
Solo.....Mrs. I. T. Blanchard, Woodland.  
Sermon.....Dr. R. Kelly, White, Alabama.

Benediction

## ATTEND QUARTERLY MEETING

The following from Ahoskie attended the Methodist Quarterly meeting at Harrellsville Wednesday; Messrs. W. R. Johnson, V. D. Strickland, Dr. P. H. Mitchell, Dr. L. K. Walker, and Mr. S. J. Boyette; Mesdames H. S. Basnight, P. H. Mitchell, W. W. Lawrence, S. J. Boyette, C. H. Mitchell, Raleigh Baker, J. H. Robertson, and Misses Earle Lawrence, Louise Basnight and Nely Baker.

County agents employed by the State College and Department of Agriculture are holding their annual summer conferences during July. Group meetings are being held at Monroe, Beaufort and Newlands.

This year, the Masons in the five participating counties expect to turn over for the use of Oxford Orphanage a sum larger than any previous year. Besides selling every conceivable appetite and thirst satisfier 20% of the total sum taken in during the day by the Chowan-Colerain Ferry Company will be turned into the treasury for the orphanage fund. Many travelers will use the ferry on that day, coming from the counties beyond the Chowan river. And, the ferry company has already made extra preparations to handle the large crowd.

Then, there is the one big appealing attraction to young and old alike—Baseball. At least, one game between Edenton and possibly Weldon will be played during the day, and Hubert Askew, of Colerain, in charge of this feature, is confident he will be able to stage a double-header. The baseball games are already put down as the major attraction of the day, and all corners of this section will belch forth its hordes of persons who will watch two of eastern Carolina's best amateur baseball teams battle for supremacy.

Baseball, however, is not the only attraction. There will be bathing a plenty; boating will be available, and beach amusements of varied kinds will provide entertainment for all who are looking for it.

Picnic crowds often shun anything pertaining to speechifying and public orating for the lighter and more amusing features of the day. However, the announcement that Dr. Hubert McNeill Poteat, Grand Master of North Carolina Masons, will speak during the day precludes the probability of few hearers. Doctor Poteat, besides being an able member of the Wake Forest College faculty, a musician of unusual ability, and the highest officer in Masonry within the state, is something of a public speaker. He has the happy faculty of fitting into any and all occasions and he is known to be particularly strong for just such occasions as will be pulled off in Colerain next week.

Ahoskie and Colerain Masonic Lodges are looking out for all preliminary arrangements, and nothing is being overlooked in the efforts to make July 26th the red letter day in Masonic annals.

## MUCH BUILDING HERE

The new freight station addition will soon be ready for occupancy, foundation work has been completed on the brick bungalow of D. P. Boyette's, material is on the ground for the P. M. Joyner residence, and the home of J. E. Parker is about half completed. Work will also begin on the new frame building for the high school within a few days. These are some of the building projects under way here, and still others are soon to start.

Farmers of Davie County secured \$30 more for a carload of their wood by handling it cooperatively in a pool than they were offered locally, reports George Evans, County Agent.