

The Laurinburg Exchange

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COUNTY COMMENCEMENT TO BE HERE APRIL SEVENTH

Superintendent Peele Making Strong Efforts to Hold Largest County Commencement Ever—Teachers' Association Will Meet at Spring Hill Saturday—Tentative Program for Commencement.

The committee on arrangements for County Commencement met in Superintendent Peele's office Saturday, February 5, and outlined a tentative program for Scotland's annual school classic. The commencement will be held in Laurinburg again this year and the date will be April the seventh. Various plans and features were submitted and discussed, but with a few minor changes the program that was used last year will be followed again.

In order to make County Commencement a success, each teacher must feel that he or she bears a part of the responsibility and should begin at once to prepare for it. The Scotland County Teachers' Association will meet at Spring Hill school house next Saturday, February 12, as guests of Prof. Carothers and his faculty. At this time it is thought that Superintendent Peele will make a strong appeal to each teacher to get active in preparing for commencement. At this meeting, also, more definite arrangements for commencement will be outlined. This should be the most important meeting of the association this year, and President O. C. Williamson is very desirous that each teacher in the county be present.

Although some changes may be made as to time of the events, a fairly accurate idea of the program for Commencement may be had from the outline below.

10:00 A. M.—Parade.
11:00 A. M.—Recitation Contest.
11:40 A. M.—Declamation Contest.
12:20—Spelling Contest.
12:40—Awarding of medals, diplomas, reading certificates.

1:00 P. M.—Dinner.
2:00 P. M.—Track Meet.
4:00 P. M.—Baseball game.

The track meet will include the following events: 100 yard dash; 200 yard dash; one-half mile run; standing high jump; running high jump; standing broad jump; running broad jump; and a four team relay race, covering a distance of one mile, for boys under 14 years of age. The committee on athletics has arranged for the standing broad jump; 60 yard dash; the running broad jump; and the running high jump.

The baseball game will be played between the team representing the Laurinburg graded school and that other team which has won the championship of the county, with such help as that school desires from other schools.

At next Saturday's teachers' meeting announcements will be made regarding two essay contests, reading certificates, and seventh grade examinations and diplomas.

The spelling contest is open to any student in the grammar grades. One eighth grade study will disqualify for this contest. Six gold medals will be offered, and for each contest suitable prizes will be given.

Aiming High.

A petition eight miles long was presented in the Senate last Thursday, praying the Congress to put an embargo on arms and ammunition. This would stop the war in three months, but it would also stop the streams of gold that is pouring into the pockets of the manufacturers of arms and ammunition. We wish with all our hearts that our law makers were big enough to listen to the people and stop their ears to the music of money. May be they will be. Let us hope for the best.—Charity and Children.

Companions.

Members of the Asheville fire department will contribute 40,000 cigarettes to the wounded soldiers in Belgian Field hospitals. Now isn't that a contribution worth talking about? We have not yet heard of any benevolent body contributing blind tiger houses.—Charity and Children.

The Rise of a Factory Boy.

Mr. Mark Morgan, a factory boy in his youth, with a widowed mother and eight children, was obliged to go to work without education. Gradually he worked his way up. Steadily his wisdom and energy lifted him to higher rounds on the ladder, and he died the other day in Scotland county at the age of 70 and left an estate valued at \$700,000.—Charity and Children.

EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE EUROPEAN WAR.

No European Country Has Been Benefited—Nor Has Human Liberty Been Advanced, But Unspeakable Suffering Has Been Going On.

The European war will have lasted eighteen months tomorrow. The blackest eighteen months known to the modern world!

What has been accomplished?

No European country has been benefited, nor has human liberty advanced at any point, nor has any great moral principle triumphed in any place or on any battlefield.

The net result has been 2,900,000 men in the very prime of life killed; more than 2,200,000 made prisoners; and more than 9,800,000 wounded and maimed, many crippled for life.

This measureless bloodshed and suffering, making millions of widows, and many more millions orphans, has been the heaviest toll of the war.

Next, the money loss—\$10,862,000,000 borrowed for war by Germany, Austria and Hungary; \$16,199,000,000 borrowed for war by France, England, Russia and Italy; a grand total of \$27,061,000,000 spent in making war.

Wastage of Money Stupendous.

The mind cannot grasp such stupendous figures, or such wastage. It means twenty-seven times the total national debt of the United States incurred in 189 years of history, including five wars.

It means a sum total to the entire savings, or increase in capital, of the entire world for ten years.

It means a debt of about \$800 for every family in all belligerent countries—more than the total income of a year of every European peasant family or unskilled laborer in Europe.

It means tax burdens for this generation and for generations yet unborn that will make the burdens of life greater than ever before for all.

In short, as an expert in foreign exchange wrote last week, bankruptcy is so menacing in all the warring countries that "if political economy does not soon make an end of the war the war will make an end of political economy."

What has been accomplished?

The allies have failed utterly to penetrate or even seriously weaken Germany.

Germany has failed utterly to strike a decisive blow at any of her four chief enemies.

The Franco-Prussian war was ended in 47 days, when the French army surrendered at Sedan and the Emperor Napoleon was made prisoner.

Nowhere a Decision.

Now, at the end of 647 days, there are two battle lines, 1,950 miles long, deadlocked at every point. Nowhere a decision. All the nations bleeding to death, none able to strike a decisive blow.

The Germans have shown a power of organization at home and a military power in the field that the combined armies of Britain, France, Russia and Italy cannot break.

England has the command of the sea. And in all history sea power has never yet been beaten.

Where does any possible hope lie, save in exhaustion, or the benevolent intervention of neutral powers to restore peace?

"Bulldog" England has lost many battles in 200 years, but has never acknowledged a defeat. Brave France has shown a gallantry, a unity, and above all, a steadiness and endurance in this war worthy of her noblest tradition. Both nations are unwilling even to discuss peace at the present moment, because, as long as Germany holds in her armed possession nearly four-tenths of industrial France, nearly all of Belgium, Serbia and Poland, and part of the richest industrial sections of Russia, she is in better position to negotiate for peace than England, France or Russia.—Kansas City Post.

The five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Crotte of Lexington, got hold of a loaded shot gun one day the past week, and with the usual result, shot and killed his eighteen months old brother.

THINGS PERTAINING TO LIFE

By Harry M. North.

HOW TRULL CAME TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.

HOW THEY STAND.

Pou and Britt Alges Ready to Go as Far as Wilson Desires.

Washington—Members of Congress from North Carolina recently were asked the following question:

"Do you favor the President's preparedness program? If not what kind of preparedness do you favor?"

The results show that two members, Mease, Pou and Britt stand ready to go as far as the President desires. Representative Small is for the President's programme with modifications.

Representatives Hood, Godwin, Webb and Stedman wish to see the results of the committee which are investigating our defense. They are not preparedness.

Representative Deoughton, while for preparedness, declared himself between the two extremes.

Representative Page is noncommittal.

Representative Kitchin, as stated in an interview of Monday, is for continuing under the regular program of increase, and is opposed to the plan of the President.

Senator Simmon said he believed the President meant for Congress to work out the proper plan, but it is not in favor of all the recommendations of the Department. He has not completed his study of the question.

Senator Overman does not think the country is in danger, but if it were he would be in favor of doing everything to become prepared. He favors what may seem necessary when full information is had on the condition of our defense arrangements.

Mr. Pou said he favors the President's program.

Makes Good Suggestion.

Rev. James Long, pastor of our church, made the very fine suggestion in a recent issue of the Recorder that our various associations so change the dates of their meetings as not to conflict with each other as they do now, sometimes as many as eight or ten meeting the same week. We wish the brethren would take this suggestion to heart.

Charity and Children.

Mrs. Covington Hostess.

The Saint Cecilia Music Club met with Mrs. Roland Covington Wednesday afternoon of last week. The minutes of the last meeting were read, after which the program for the afternoon was carried out, as follows: "Manzoni," sketch, Miss Julia Stewart; "Cavalleria Rusticana," story, Mrs. E. Covington; vocal solo, Miss Fatti James; choral rehearsal, the club. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

Miss Gregg Entertains.

The Elizabeth Browning Book Club and Mrs. Alex Gregg as their hostess at the last regular meeting. Current topics were given by Miss Lily McKinney and after the exchange of books progressive rock was played. Several set for the highest score, but Miss Olivia Russell won the prize, two hand-made handkerchiefs. The consolation, also a handkerchief, was won by Miss Alice Covington. Mrs. Gregg, directed by Madeline J. T. John, T. Everett and R. C. Everett, served a salad course with accessories, followed by coffee and stuffed dates. There were a number of special guests.

Honor Roll.

Following is the honor roll for the Rockdale school, Gibson:

First Grade—Elizabeth Adams, Louie Gibson, Clarence Bullard.

Third Grade—Willie Bullard, John Campbell.

Fourth Grade—Edith Gibson.

Sixth Grade—Ruth Rose Blue, Mrs. Poole.

Seventh Grade—Annie McNeill.

Buys Bankrupt Stock.

M. L. Guthrie, trustee in bankruptcy, sold the A. A. Williams stock in the store room on the main side of the public square, today. Mr. Henry, of Laurinburg, was the high bidder, and last bidder, in the sum of \$700. The sale has been completed, and the price of the bid paid to the trustee.

He said that the goods will be removed to Mr. Henry's store at Laurinburg.

COL. J. P. GIBSON CROSSES BORDER—HAS BIG TIME

Prominent South Carolinian Visits Laurinburg and Scotland County—Guest at "Chitlin Dinner", to Which County and Town Officials are Guests—Visits Friends in Spring Hill Township.

About once a year I visit the progressive city of Laurinburg and am always delighted to mingle with the clever and hospitable people of the good county of Scotland. I have only time this morning to outline, briefly, my visit this week, to tell of some of the people seen, things heard and impressions made. Thursday morning I left my home in Bennettsville, S. C. to Johns where I was met by my cousin, Mr. L. P. Smith, the faithful and efficient deputy sheriff, and soon was enjoying the comforts and hospitalities of his elegant home on Covington street.

Lamar Smith is a "chip off the old block" and is filled with natural hospitality and genuine generosity, his good wife is my niece and is one of the most artistic housekeepers I know, and her big heart overflows with the milk of human kindness, all of which renders visitors in her home joyous and happy.

Soon after I had arrived Thursday morning, I was informed by Lamar that he, with several of the county officials, had been invited to dine that day at the home of County Coroner, Mr. Jas. R. Jordan, six miles west of Laurinburg. The occasion had been designated as a "chitlin dinner" and soon a phone invitation was received from the host "to be sure and bring Preas Gibson with you," and of course I went.

I have known friend Jordan since his young unmarried manhood, when he first came to this section from Montgomery county, and he has always been a gentleman above reproach, honorable, upright and predominantly a good citizen. I am informed that he is the best coroner in North Carolina, and many people are of the opinion, that friend Jordan should have almost any office in the county.

The following gentlemen repaired to the Jordan home where a genuine feast awaited them: Deputy Sheriff Lamar P. Smith, Rural Policeman Frank R. Smith, Chief of Police F. M. Hubbard, policemen D. B. Brown and J. A. Medlin and prosecuting attorney George T. Goodwyn—and the writer. Mr. Editor, don't you think that this was a tough bunch to invade a generous home just at dinner time? The table was laden with many substantial and delicacies, and while chitlings, elegantly served, abounded in abundance, yet various other articles were in evidence in profusion. I regretted that W. H. Gibson was not present, as he is a professional chitling eater, but he had some "right hoppers" on the job, and it is needless for me to specialize. It was an elegant and most enjoyable occasion, the prosecuting attorney "faced me" at the table, and if he can dispense with county criminals as rapidly and successfully as he did those chitlings, his salary should be increased and he elected for life.

Friday morning in company with Capt. Smith I "hid away" to Spring Hill township, where the atmosphere is high, dry and pure, the birds sing more sweetly and the girls grow prettier than anywhere else—except down in Florida where I found my little Scotch lassie. Up in Spring Hill everybody is Scotch, even the old negroes declare that their ancestors originally came from Scotland. I spent the day and dined at the elegant and cultured home of my friend of other years, Mrs. R. N. Monroe. I knew her when she was a rosy cheeked, exuberant and frolicsome, pure, innocent little Scotch lassie—yes her lamented father and mother were my true, unfailing friends, and her noble big hearted husband—Bob Monroe—was as big hearted and noble as was possible for man to be. I have not enjoyed a visit more fully in twenty years, than the few brief hours while away in the cultured home of Mrs. Monroe. Time has been kind and gentle with her—bright, intelligent—possessing a masculine mind, blessed with intelligent children, she has a magnificent home, and her life and surroundings is an inspiration to the entire upper section of Scotland. It was also my pleasure to meet Mrs. Mary McMillen, Mrs. Monroe's sister, she is as lively and exhilarating as "days of yore." I met only one of Mrs. Monroe's children—Miss Marie, who is teaching above her home—she is a modest sweet girl, sensible and intelligent.

There is no death to those who live right. They sleep, to wake again where all is light. In that fair land to which our spirits go. We meet again, and all our friends shall know.

For the murder of his wife in Ireland county some years ago, Houston Overcash was statutorily sentenced to serve thirty years in the State prison. I stopped to shake hands with my