

LARGE CROWD ATTEND COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

Disagreeable Weather Kept Many Away Friday—Exercises Were Enjoyed by Hundreds—Schools Make Fine Showing—Afternoon Athletic Contests Pulled Off Except Base Ball.

Friday, Scotland County Commencement Day, dawned cloudy and offered nothing in the way of agreeable weather, but despite the uncomfortable look of the elements, a great throng of people came to Laurinburg for the occasion, and had the weather been as was hoped for, the attendance would without question have been a record breaker.

Early in the morning from every nook and corner of the county, people began to pour into town, and by the hour appointed for the program to begin, the town was filled with a happy and care-free people. The little tots were here, the boys and girls, the young folks and the old folks—what a pity the weather did not permit all that had planned to come to do so.

Promptly at the appointed hour, the parade of the children, representing every section, and where a great interest centered, began its movement from the graded school grounds. Each school was represented in the long line of children, and each carried banners on which appeared the name of the schools they represented.

Following the parade, which took in the principal sections of the city, the literary contests were in order. These were held in the graded school auditorium, which was packed to standing room capacity, and even then would not contain more than one-half of those who sought admission.

Just before the contests a delightful chorus was rendered by members of the Spring Hill School. Then came the declamation contest. Four schools, Snead's Grove, Spring Hill, Laurinburg and Mason's Cross were represented in this.

First on the program was Mr. William Dawkins, representing the Mason's Cross school, and the winner of the Judges' medal. Mr. Johnson Matthews represented the Spring Hill School, Mr. Harvey Evans, the Laurinburg School, Mr. Patterson Covington, the Snead's Grove School.

Following this was a playlet rendered by the Laurel Hill School, and which took the great crowd by storm. It was given by the little tots and was delightful.

Next came the recitation contest, which was contested for by four young ladies, these being Miss Grace Monroe, representing the Spring Hill school, Miss Mary Snead, representing the Snead's Grove School, Miss Eugenia Morrison, representing the Laurel Hill School, and the fortunate young lady who won the recitation medal given by the Thursday Afternoon Book Club, of Laurinburg, this young lady being Miss Martha Fairley, of the Laurinburg School.

The Rockdale school treated the large assembly to a most excellent musical selection. Then came the reading of the prize essays. The fortunate students in this contest were Miss Hortense McGregor, of the Rockdale school, who won the John Charles McNeill medal, and Miss Bertha Sanford, of the grammar grades, representing the Laurinburg school, who won the Laurinburg Exchange medal.

The spelling prize, which was contested for by all the schools, was won by Miss Edna Grubbs, of the Laurinburg school. In winning this Miss Grubbs not only received the M. L. John prize (a dictionary), but won for her school the silver loving cup.

An instrumental quartette was then rendered by Laurinburg Graded School students. Then came the delivery of the prizes; delivery of diplomas and then the dinner. The weather forbade an out-of-door dinner, as had been planned, and it was served in the school building. By this time the rains began to descend and it looked as if the afternoon part of the program would have to be omitted entirely, but the boys were not to be bluffed by a little rain and cold, and all of the athletic contests save the base ball game, were pulled off.

The winners of the different contests as given to us were as follows: 100-yard dash—McArthur, of Laurel Hill school.

50-yard dash—Shaw, of Spring Hill school.

25-yard dash—Cooper, of Laurinburg school.

Standing high jump (large boys)—McArthur and Cooper tied and a toss of the coin gave the decision to McArthur.

Running high jump (small boys)—McMillan, of Spring Hill.

Running high jump (large boys)—Stubbs, Spring Hill.

Standing broad jump (large boys)—McArthur, Laurel Hill.

Standing broad jump (small boys)—Shaw, Spring Hill.

Running broad jump (small boys)—We have been unable to find who was the winner in this contest.

Running broad jump (large boys)—Phillips, Spring Hill.

Relay Race—This was omitted on account of the rain and cold, but it was decided to give the prize to McArthur of Laurel Hill, in recognition of the fact that he had won the greatest number of the different contests.

PETITION DISMISSED.

Laurinburg & Southern Must Carry Out Contract.

Although admitting the apparent justice of the claim, the North Carolina Corporation Commission last week dismissed the petition of the Laurinburg & Southern Railroad vs. Seaboard Air Line. The case involved the kind of interlocking switch to be installed at the crossing of the Seaboard and the Laurinburg & Southern near Laurinburg. The plaintiff, which had been bound in contract to establish any kind of switch the Seaboard might suggest and having been ordered by the court to comply with this contract, must go to the court to have the contract annulled, said the Corporation Commission.

The plaintiff, at the time of securing consent of the Seaboard to cross its track near Laurinburg, entered into an agreement contracting to construct such interlocking switch or switches as the defendant company, through its chief engineer, might at any time thereafter designate. The switch finally requested by defendant company appeared to plaintiff to be unreasonable because of its expense. The Seaboard applied to Judge Pritchard, of the Federal Court, for a mandamus and a consent order was entered requiring the equipment as demanded. Negotiations then occurred without agreement having been reached and the defendant company applied to Judge Connor for a compliance with the order of Judge Pritchard. Subsequent to an order made in the premises by Judge Connor, the plaintiff instituted proceeding with the Corporation Commission.

If it were an original question as to an adequate interlocking plant, the commission in its order written by Chairman Travis declared it would not be puzzled, expressing the conviction that the "Cabin Door" switch which the plaintiff company offered as a substitute to the defendant's suggestion was entirely sufficient for the protection of the public. But the commission did not feel called upon to override the Federal Court's decree or nullify the contract.

Fine Lectures.

Prof. N. Gist Gee, of the China Missions, as announced in our last issue, delivered a series of most interesting lectures on Mission work in China. These were delivered each night at the Methodist church.

Prof. Gee was heard with great interest by the Laurinburg people, and on Sunday night he occupied the pulpit at the Presbyterian church.

TAKES OVER MILLING CO.

Hammond Co., With New Capitalization Takes Over McNeill Milling Company.

Last week a business deal of large proportions was consummated in Laurinburg. It was the purchase of the McNeill Milling Company by the Hammond Company.

In order to handle the proposition, the Hammond Company had their charter amended so that they could enter the milling industry, and increased the authorized capital of their company to \$100,000.

The McNeill Milling Company owned and operated Laurinburg's new flour and feed mill, which by the way, is one of the most up-to-date in the South.

In this addition to their business the Hammond Company becomes millers as well as wholesale grocers.

Running high jump (small boys)—McMillan, of Spring Hill.

Running high jump (large boys)—Stubbs, Spring Hill.

Standing broad jump (large boys)—McArthur, Laurel Hill.

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THINGS PERTAINING TO LIFE

By Harry M. North.

PALM SUNDAY—THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY.

April sixteenth will be celebrated this year at Palm Sunday. It commemorates the time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem publicly announcing himself as the Messiah, and the people cut palm branches and spread them in the road. Jesus had not up to this time proclaimed himself the Christ before the multitudes for He said his time was not yet come. There was danger on one hand that they would try to make Him an earthly king, and on the other they might seek to put Him to death before he had accomplished His work. But now when they saw Him riding upon the ass's colt all would know what claim He made for himself.

He came proclaiming a kingdom of truth rather than one of physical force. He put himself unarmed into the hands of the greatest world power of those times. He declared that His kingdom was not of this world or His servants would fight for it. Even yet the world has not been able to understand a spiritual kingdom.

On this day the multitudes were elated in the prospect of the kingdom of Israel being restored. Jesus did not allow himself to become intoxicated with the thought of worldly glory. He knew that in a few days the people would be disappointed at his action and turn against Him. They would soon put a reed in His hand and mock Him; at best those who were praising Him at this time would then be silent. Jesus alone knew what a week would bring forth, so He was not swept off his feet by the cheering. Out from the city He could see the hill upon which He was soon to suffer.

Jesus wept over the city, saying "If thou hadst known." He forgets His own sorrow in the thought of the desolation which shall come upon the city. Jerusalem had had her glorious day, and now her sun was to set in darkness. Who knows what might have been if Jerusalem had received Him as her Lord.

So Jesus gave the rulers the last chance to accept Him as the Messiah, but they grew more hostile to Him every hour and planned his ruin. That was the day on which the people selected the lamb to be killed for the Passover, and it was on this same day that the rulers decided in their hearts that they must put to death Jesus, the Lamb of God. Read, and learn by heart the following hymn which was written in memory of that time:

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes Hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father, on his sapphire throne,
Expects his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bew thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Steals Distributes.

Some careless person who happened to pass Mr. Joe Warwick's country home Monday night contributed to his own use a brand new Rex guano distributor and at this writing still has it in his possession.

Mr. Warwick had just purchased the distributor and used it one day. It was left in the old by the road side and Tuesday morning was missing.

The thief was tracked to the city limits but here the trail was lost and although he is still being hunted, no trace of him has been found.

Miss Covington Wins.

The many Laurinburg friends of Miss Gladys Covington are rejoicing with her over her success in the Charlotte Observer contest which closed Monday night.

Miss Covington was one of the winners of the Canadian trips that the Observer gave to successful contestants. She stood third in the State, and at the head of the list in this district.

MISS McINTOSH TO MARRY.

Miscellaneous Shower Given by Misses McNeill.

Misses Ellen, Flora May and Bessie McNeill entertained at a miscellaneous shower at their home on South Main street Saturday afternoon in honor of their guest, Miss Monte McIntosh, whose wedding to Mr. James Weatherpoon, of Sanford, takes place in Wilmington April 29th.

The house was decorated in spring flowers. The guests hammed cap toasts for the bride-to-be, and Miss Mary Patterson proved to be the most prominent in this respect.

The opening chords of the wedding march, skillfully rendered by Miss Grace Monroe, brought a look of expectancy to the faces of those assembled. A diminutive express man walked in with measured foot-steps, bearing two large packages containing a varied assortment of dainty gifts for the bride-to-be. Refreshments followed and was served in two courses.

The company realizing the lateness of the hour, bade farewell to the hostesses and good-bye and their good wishes to the bride-to-be. These were tinged by a shade of sadness that Miss McIntosh would make her home in a place other than Laurinburg, where during her stay of a year she has made so many good and staunch friends.

Miss McIntosh left for her home town, Wilmington, on Monday morning.

More Cantaloupes.

Scotland county, according to one familiar with the situation, will plant an increased acreage in cantaloupes this year, his estimate of the increase being twenty-five per cent.

For the county shipped some thirty thousand cantaloupes and watermelons, and while the increase in acreage does not necessarily mean a production proportionately larger, this being determined by seasons and conditions, it is certain that there will be the chance of Scotland shipping as many as were shipped last year, if not more.

The absence of potash in the fertilization may mean that the crop may not be so large, but the most experienced growers say that if the seasons are favorable, the fact that no potash is available will not make the serious difference that some seem to fear.

This is the season for planting and many are busily engaged in preparing to grow another bumper crop of the most luscious melons and cantaloupes that go to the market, for the Scotland product has that reputation everywhere.

Death of Mrs. Leake.

Mrs. W. H. Leake, mother of Mrs. R. L. Hammond and Miss Daisy Leake, of this city, died at the home of a brother at Henderson Thursday night.

Mrs. Leake left here the Saturday before her death to visit her Vance county brother, and early Wednesday morning the surprising announcement of her illness came to her daughters here. Mrs. Hammond and Miss Leake left Thursday morning and arrived at the bedside before the end came. Her death was caused from acute indigestion.

The body was carried to Kernersville where it was buried Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Leake came to Laurinburg last December, immediately following the death of her husband, to make her home here with her daughters, and although her stay in Laurinburg was short, she had attracted many sincere friends who are deeply grieved because of her sad and sudden passing.

Mr. R. L. Hammond accompanied by Mr. W. S. Dunbar, left here by automobile Friday afternoon to attend the funeral.

On the train between Warsaw, Duplin County, and Turkey, Sampson county, Miss Iona Murray and Mr. J. T. Boyette of Clinton were married a few days ago.

It is said that the late Tom Pence, secretary of the national Democratic committee, who died in Washington recently, left an estate of about \$25,000. He left no will and the property, it is said, will go to W. N. Jones of Raleigh, an uncle of Mr. Pence.

THIRD BOOZE FACTORY CAPTURED IN SCOTLAND

Smith Brothers Have the Distinction of Locating and Capturing Only Illicit Distilleries in Scotland County—Third Seizure Made to Their Belts Monday.

TWO NEGROES SHOT.

Trouble Caused About a Dog—One Victim in Hospital.

"You Gotta Quit Kicking My Dog Around" may be just a little string of poetry set to music, but it expresses a whole lot, and at any rate to Jim Russell, colored, it is "More Than Life to Me", for Jim came near sending out a couple of lives just because of this sentiment.

John Hackley and another negro, whose name can not be learned, were passing on the public highway leading out by the James place toward Wagram Monday morning. Upon reaching the home of Russell they stopped to get a drink of water, and while about the well quenching their thirst, Russell's dog came to investigate. In the scuffle that followed, so the reports say, the unknown negro kicked and otherwise abused the dog.

Russell did not approve of such inhospitality to his dog and ran to his house. When he reappeared, he carried a bad looking shot gun and forthwith began to use it with the result that Hackley is in the negro hospital suffering from painful wounds in his side and neck, Russell is under bond, and the unknown negro, although wounded, is supposed to be hitting the highway yet.

DEBATERS OFF.

Scotland's Representatives Off to Chapel Hill for Final Debate.

Scotland county yesterday sent to Chapel Hill two debating teams which will enter the final contest for the Aycock Memorial Cup.

Laurinburg's representatives are Misses Mary John and Mary Fields, Messrs. Edwin Gill and Edgar Whitaker. These were accompanied by Prof. S. W. Rabb and Mr. M. L. John.

The other school sending its teams is the Spring Hill school. The representatives of this school are Miss Grace Monroe, Messrs. Johnson Matthews, Clifton Smith and Daniel Stubbs. They were accompanied by Prof. Erwin Carothers.

The Gibson school, although entitled to send its teams, decided to not do so, and Scotland will be represented by the Laurinburg and Spring Hill schools.

The preliminary, or eliminating contest, will be held tonight and the final debate tomorrow night.

Special Services.

The series of special services spoken of in these columns began at the First Baptist church Sunday morning.

Dr. Lloyd T. Wilson, of Richmond, Va., who is assisting Rev. James Long in the meeting, arrived in the city Monday night and began his work immediately. Dr. Wilson is a man of great power and consecration, is a speaker of much ability and a great treat is in store for those who hear this gifted man of God.

Services are being held both morning and evening. The morning services begin at 10 o'clock and the evening service at 8 o'clock.

Gibson Items.

Miss Mary Ella McCall was a Gibson visitor last week.

Miss Feltzer, of Wadesboro, is visiting her brother, Mr. Tom Feltzer.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gibson, of Dillon, spent the week-end with Mr. Gibson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Gibson.

Mr. H. C. Smith has purchased a new Dodge car.

Mrs. Hill, of Camden, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Anna Croeland.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Morgan, of Laurinburg, spent Sunday with Mrs. Morgan's sister, Mrs. Christian Gibson.

Miss Ruth Bristow spent the week-end in McCall with her mother.

Mrs. C. L. Moody, of Nichols, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Gibson.

The commissioners of Catawba county have under consideration the question of appropriating \$600 for the purpose of compulsory vaccination of all school children of the county against smallpox and typhoid fever.

The Smith boys, as officers in Scotland county, are terrors to the violators of the law. They usually get what they go after and will go after anything under the sun.

Scotland county has been as free of moonshine liquor stills as any county in the State, but even good little Scotland can not show a perfect record.

Three plants of this kind are all that have ever been found in Scotland since it was formed sixteen years ago, and to Deputy Sheriff Lamar P. Smith, belongs the distinction of locating and capturing all of these. The first one was captured by Mr. Lamar Smith several years ago, and only about a month ago, he and his brother and Mr. J. E. Wright located and destroyed the second outfit. On Monday of this week on the banks of Crooked Creek about one and one-half miles west of Ohio the Smith brothers, this time with the addition of another brother, Mr. Henry Smith, of Congaree, S. C., who is here on a visit to them, located the third factory of this kind ever found on Scotland soil. It was rather an amateurish outfit, but would and had been pouring out the joy juice.

The hunt consumed all of Monday and about 5 o'clock in the afternoon away back in the fastness of the thick swamp they found a location that had been recently used for a still, and after a long and careful search found the outfit hid in the bushes nearby. The operators had evidently gotten wise to the hunt and had attempted to get the outfit moved away. In this they had partially succeeded and had gotten everything away except the still. This was confiscated and brought here Monday night.

Belk Store at Rockingham.

Belk Bros., of Charlotte, have closed a contract with Mr. Henry Fairly for his store room on the Bowers, where they will operate a general dry goods business under the firm name of Stephenson & Belk Bros. Mr. Joe Stephenson, who has been completed with the Belk Bros. store at Moricoc for the past 17 years, will be the manager. Belk Bros. have stores at the following places:

Charlotte, Salisbury, Greensboro, Gastonia, Monroe, Sanford, Wilmington, Raleigh, Statesville, Rockingham and Concord, and in South Carolina at Yorkville and Waxhaw.—Piedmont Dispatch.

Mrs. Fields Entertains.

Mrs. J. T. Fields entertained a party of young people Saturday afternoon in honor of her guests, Misses Hazel and Jetton, of Charlotte.

Progressive Rock was the game for amusement. In this Miss Hattie Wall Bryant excelled and received the prize, a beautiful box of candy. The guest prizes were boxes of fancy stationery.

Mrs. Fields served refreshments, which consisted of a salad course, cream and cake and coffee.

Snow fell in abundance at Hickory Saturday. Beginning at 12 o'clock the flakes descended for more than two hours. However, the ground being warm, it did not lie.

Fourteen members of a squad of Buncombe county convicts went on strike. Thirteen were finally induced to go to work but Norman Walker, 16 years old, was so stubborn that it took four men to put him in iron.

A bunch of University students have organized a Carter club. They will boost Judge Frank Carter for Attorney General.

Lovv Strickland of Zebulon, Wake county, 45 years old, committed suicide by shooting himself. His health is assigned as the cause.

W. B. Barger who recently came to Hickory from Iowa and took charge of the Times-Mercury, has leased the Concord Chronicle, a Republican paper.

Steal magnates of Pennsylvania, headed by Mr. John Logan, have found a vein of rich ore in Mangum township, Durham county, that is expected to turn out something valuable. They have purchased mineral rights on 400 acres.

The Governor has granted conditional pardons to John E. Williams of Harnett county and W. P. Queen of Haywood county, both serving terms for selling liquor.