

JOHNSON TELLS ABOUT CHINA

The Naval Officer Talks To Kiwanians of the Orient

Leslie Johnson, of the navy, was the speaker at the Kiwanis dinner Wednesday at Aberdeen. Lieutenant Johnson is an interesting talker and in his subject which was China he had room to entertain his audience. He gave a picture different from what most folks have imagined, and which whittled down to fine points is that China, while a republic for years, is a military government made up of its 18 different provinces, each under a different military governor as well as a different civil governor, but with the military being wholly in the ascendency. In consequence China is an incoherent group of different armed military camps, and the general who is the governor of each province in fact is as nearly an autocratic and unlimited boss as military rule can make possible.

China has a civilization much different from ours, but we have a contact with the nation, chiefly in defending missionaries and Standard Oil industry there, but with both doing a considerable business they have to be looked after. So the navy is stationed in China with some antiquated vessels and in a certain authority of arms, and once in a while it becomes necessary to show force. Lieutenant Johnson spoke of the close consideration between British and American sailors which went so far on one occasion that the British vessel in his neighborhood undertook the defense of some Americans when the American vessel was absent, and did so well that a couple of executions of Chinese followed for shooting Americans. He is much pleased with relations that exist between Britain and this country and the solid type of British character with which he has come in contact in his years in the service. His story of China was amusing as well as instructive, and shows that China has a long and serious road to travel before it becomes a republic in fact instead of merely in name.

Clyde Bass told some amusing stories about some of his friends and acquaintances, and offered some suggestions about the field that is open for the Kiwanis club, and W. R. Clark, presented by Frank Buchan, did some of the most remarkable work in a number of bass solos that the club has heard in a thousand years.

The question of telephone service was discussed by a number of those present, and the public affairs committee was asked to look into the situation and see if it can be broadened to meet the needs of a growing community in a way that will better meet the demands that are steadily being made on it.

M. C. McDonald addressed the Kiwanis club at the Wednesday dinner, saying:

I got a letter the other day addressed to Hon. M. C. McDonald. This gives you some idea of the honor of the position I hold as county commissioner.

At the beginning of the term you have to swear you will faithfully perform the duties required of you, see that the other officers give required bonds, etc., then the routine work begins, a full day first Monday in each month. One man wants his land tax reduced because he sold his timber, another because his barn was burned, another because it was assessed too high. A few men think because they are offering their land for sale cheaper than listed, we should buy the land for the county.

A long time friend came to see me one first Monday, and was told I was at Carthage. "Oh Yes," he says, "He is gone to admit folks to the county home today, I hope he will reserve a place for me, if I will need it."

Many of the improvements in the county government were made before I was elected commissioner. Most of the good things for the county were suggested by others. We are always glad to get advice. But if we take all we get, we will make a bushel of blunders. While we invited the extension department of the University of North Carolina to have a man look over our county government, we will take only such of his advice as we think is to the best interest of the county. The commissioners are largely dependent on the ability and integrity of the officers and employees for good county government. I do

not believe the former affairs of the county were so poorly administered as Mr. Green pictured, neither do I believe all his recommendations would be wise.

I know statistics and comparisons are odious, but I will burden you with a few. Moore county for 1925 assessed close approximations, \$402,000, collected to date, \$380,000. for schools two-third, or \$250,000, for roads, \$58,000, administration of county government, \$40,000, the rest to retire maturing bonds, pay interest and create sinking funds.

Seven years ago, Moore county paid for schools \$75,000. The school funds are disbursed by the Board of Education, and County Commissioners have nothing to do with that, except, if funds are not sufficient, the chairman of commissioners must sign on dotted line.

When your present board was organized we decided the present highway board could not be improved on by us. We have appointed the following in place of resignations: Edwin McKeithan, replaced by G. C. Seymour; Leonard Tufts, replaced by T. J. Fletcher; George H. Maurice, replaced by K. W. Leach.

We have lessened the county's expenses against former administrations by eliminating county demonstration and home demonstration work. We are paying half salary of our Red Cross nurse. Moore County Health and Welfare association and Red Cross pay the other half and expenses. These matters are subject to discussion.

We employed J. D. McLean, tax collector, for eight months, at \$250.00 per month, he to pay all his own expenses. We require him to deposit funds in bank each day and County Treasurer must receive all funds once each week. Tax collector is under a good and sufficient bond. This also is a considerable saving to the county. Under the present arrangement the Bank of Pinehurst pays for an ample bond, keeps books for the county, and pays 2 per cent on daily balances, and is a double check on disbursements, so your board, the Board of Education, the Highway Commission or any other citizen of the county interested, can see what funds are paid out at any time. I have never heard of a county getting any interest from a treasurer before. To show you that Moore county is in a healthy financial condition, we had half a dozen or more offers to loan the county money, either long or short terms, at rates ranging from \$4.39 percent to 5 percent. The county owes \$497,500.00 in bonds and a floating debt of \$100,000.00, more or less, besides the various local school debts, of perhaps \$600,000.00. We are paying 6 percent for a considerable part of the bonds. Fortunately we think the necessity for the chairman to sign notes is gradually decreasing.

In my opinion, the Highway Commission is functioning very well. It was relably reported that Deep river section could not get children to school regularly last winter on account of bad roads. I understand this is being remedied by highway forces, and I hope the time is not far distant when the double road Pinehurst to Southern Pines can be oiled.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to those who voted for me and to those who did not vote for me. If elected again, I will do my level best for everybody in the county as commissioner, in future, as in the past.

Moore County Highway Commission C. F. Leavitt, Chairman, Carthage township, Carthage; C. J. McDonald, superintendent, Carthage township, Carthage; G. H. Maurice, engineer, Eagle Springs; A. J. Jones, Deep River township, Glendon; O. T. Parks, Ritters township, Hallison; J. M. Brown, Sheffields township, Hemp; K. W. Leach, Bensalem township, Star, route; T. J. Fletcher, Mineral Springs township, West End; C. G. Seymour, Sandhills township, Aberdeen; A. Cameron, McNeills, Vass; H. P. McPherson, Greenwood, Cameron.

Special Sunday Dinner at Hotel Vass... See Menu elsewhere in this issue.

DEATH OF HAYWOOD SMITH OF CARTHAGE ROUTE THREE

(Continued from Page 1)

A. J. Groves, of West End, the funeral was conducted by Rev. S. E. Hannon, a devoted friend, and Rev. McLeod, Pastor of the Presbyterian church at Pinehurst. Besides his wife, who before her

marriage was Miss Janie Monroe, of Eagle Springs, and two little girls, Mary and Bonnie, he leaves to mourn his loss a mother, Mrs. W. P. Smith; three brothers, Frank, Colon, and Noah Smith; also three sisters, Mrs. Lawrence Weatherspoon, Mrs. Horace Bosworth, and Miss Laura Smith. The influence of his noble life will ever live in the hearts of those who knew him. We think of him as not being dead, but only borne beyond the shadows to await our coming.

S. E. HANNON.

HAVING ENGAGED in other business requiring my entire time, I will not be in position to supply Tobacco Flues this season.

W. H. KEITH.

DR. S. RAPPORT OF DURHAM

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