

**THE SMITHFIELD HERALD**

Published Every Tuesday and Friday.

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**LEGISLATURE HAS ADJOURNED.**

The Legislature of 1917 adjourned Wednesday, after doing an immense amount of work. The usual closing scenes were enacted, such as giving testimonials of respect to the Speaker and the President of the Senate, etc. All were happy over the prospects of getting a chance to quit the legislative halls for their more congenial homes and occupations. The Legislature was a hard-worked one and passed more real constructive legislation than perhaps any of its predecessors in a decade. Some of the people will praise it very highly for some of the big things it did, while others will condemn it for the same things. Whatever its critics and friends may say, it will pass into history, marking a new era in North Carolina's institutions. Governor Bickett ought to feel proud over the part of his program which has been enacted into law. While he did not get everything he asked for, he got enough to make him feel that after all, the law-makers were willing to listen to the State's leader. The General Assembly of 1917 may be called a progressive and constructive one, and the future historian will compliment it for the big things it has done.

**BICKETT GOOD TO JOHNSTON.**

Governor Bickett has been good to Johnston County in the matter of directorships. He has made the following appointments from this county:

Mr. W. M. Sanders, on the Board of Directors for the State penitentiary.

Mr. B. B. Adams, on the Consolidated Board of Directors of the Insane Asylums.

Mr. C. W. Horne, a member of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

Miss Elizabeth Kelly, member of Board Trustees Caswell Training School.

A movement is on foot to get the County Commissioners to call an election on the question of a bond issue of \$600,000 for road building in Johnston County. Petitions are being circulated asking the Commissioners to call the election at a special meeting to be held here tomorrow to consider this question. The Commissioners are asked to call the election under the provisions of the act passed by the recent Legislature. Should the election be called and carried for bonds Johnston County will get from the State money to build roads until the \$600,000 is exhausted at 5 per cent interest payable semi-annually. At the end of 41 years the 5 per cent interest paid to the State will be sufficient to pay off the bonds in full, without having to provide a sinking fund to retire the bonds.

The Postmaster General, Hon. Albert Sidney Bursell, formerly of Texas, has stirred up another "hornet's nest" among the politicians by announcing that after April 1, the appointments of all postmasters of the first, second and third class would be subject to competitive examinations. Nominations will be sent to the Senate as in the past, but the President will be guided by the results of the examinations. Majority Leader Kitchin and other House leaders are stirred up over the ruling of Mr. Bursell, but he has given them to understand that it is too late to protest.

**ACID PHOSPHATE AND STABLE MANURE.**

It is important to furnish, as far as possible, a balanced ration for the land. It is next to impossible to get potash, but we can give the land the proportions of acid phosphate and ammonia. Some farmers have not done this, but have used too much ammonia and not enough acid phosphate. Where stable manure is used liberally acid phosphate at the rate of four hundred pounds per acre can be used to good advantage. The stable manure should be used either in the drill or broadcast and the acid phosphate should be sown the same way on the manure.—J. M. B.

**County Officers' Salaries Increased.**

The Legislature which has just adjourned, passed an act permitting the County Commissioners of Johnston County to increase the pay of the County Officers whenever, in their judgment, it was necessary.

Under the salary bill passed for Johnston County by the Legislature of 1913 the Register of Deeds was allowed the sum of \$3,250.00. The County Commissioners have increased this sum to \$3,850 per year, an increase of \$600 per year. The old act permitted an extra \$300 for help in the busy season if it was made necessary in order to keep the work of the office up to date. The recent act repealed that clause in the law limiting the extra amount to \$300 per year.

The Commissioners have also granted an increase of \$600 to the Sheriff's office. The salary bill provides the sum of \$4,100.00 annually to pay the Sheriff and his deputies. The increase granted makes the sum of \$4,700.00 available in the conduct of the Sheriff's office.

The Act creating the Auditor's office fixed the salary of that office at \$1,500 a year. This office has asked for an increase of \$600 annually, but so far the increase has not been granted.

**Death of a Clayton Merchant.**

In the death of Mr. David W. Barbour which occurred at his home in Clayton, Wednesday afternoon about three o'clock, Johnston County has lost one of her leading citizens. He was a member of the firm of J. G. Barbour & Sons and was one of the oldest and best merchants of the county and was extensively known. More than a quarter of a century ago he, with his father and his brother, Mr. Julian Barbour, began business at Clayton. They have run a large and successful business. He is the last one of the original firm to pass away. Many years ago they started up a large farming business and for many years have held a place among the very best farmers of the county. Mr. Barbour was not only a good merchant, but was successful at everything he attempted to do. He had many friends who will regret to learn of his death. He had been in failing health for some months, but his friends had hoped for his recovery as he was not considered an old man.

**Prices Still Going Up.**

Mr. W. H. Byrd, who does a brokerage business, says that almost daily he gets instructions to advance prices on food stuffs. He informs us that the best lard is now worth twenty-three cents per pound wholesale.

Virginia meal is now \$2.59 per sack to merchants.

Pork, dressed but not salted, is nineteen cents per pound in Chicago, the place from which so much of it is shipped out.

Irish potatoes are from \$9.00 to \$10.00 per bag of 2½ bushels at the wholesale houses.

Red Dog Shipstuff is \$53.80 per ton.

A report from Texas says there are sixty thousand farms in that State which have not as many as one hog on them. Is it any wonder that prices go up when so many people are raising nothing to eat? If things continue going in the same direction it looks like somebody might, after awhile, suffer for food.

**A New Bank For Wilson.**

The Planters Bank will be opened for business at Wilson next Saturday, March 10th. This will be the fourth bank for that town. A well arranged building on Goldsboro Street will be used. The capital stock of fifty thousand dollars has been paid in by the more than seventy stockholders. Mr. W. E. Smith, of Selma, will be the president of this new bank. He has had considerable experience as a business man and in banking and is well qualified for the place. He will continue to live at Selma and serve as the president of the First National Bank of Selma. Mr. Smith likes banking and thinks he can serve his county better by being connected with two banks.

The town of Henderson has launched a three-days' campaign for the re-organization of the local Board of Trade. It was launched at a business men's banquet Tuesday night. Every town that wishes to be numbered among the live towns should have an active Board of Trade or a Chamber of Commerce.

We think we are spending some money in North Carolina for education, but we have "another think coming." The Kansas Legislature which recently adjourned appropriated \$4,236,000 for higher education alone in that State, or about twice as much as is paid for all purposes in North Carolina.—Concord Times.

Fuquay Springs school district has voted a \$15,000 bond issue for a school building by a ten to one vote.

**To the Voters of Johnston County.**

Since my notice of the 5th, I find we cannot vote on bonds only on the second Tuesday in April and the second Tuesday in October of each year. The proposition from the State of North Carolina is to lend us money to build our roads at 5 per cent interest for forty-one years. At the end of forty-one years make the county a present of what we borrow. We will be a foolish people if we fail to accept the State's offer. Petitions have been mailed to every township in Johnston County. If the county don't want to accept this great offer, Selma will be on hand asking for what we need in Selma township. I hope every township will be represented Saturday morning, March 10th, at Smithfield, with names sufficient to call election for the whole county. Should we call the election and vote the bonds we can get the money July 1st.

M. C. WINSTON.

Selma, N. C.

**Reading the Great Poems.**

One of the common mistakes of youth lies in the constant temptation to think lightly of the past by assuming that the present generation has a monopoly of wisdom. The struggle for up-to-dateness may lead to shallowness of thought and giddiness of conduct. In order to make real progress, we all must have standards by which to measure our action and our thought; otherwise, we may be only moving in a circle without knowing it. It is my purpose to talk about great classic poetry, in which some of the best emotions and thoughts of the world have been preserved, and to mention a few poems which the cultivated boy or girl cannot afford to ignore.

Poetry makes a more direct appeal to the imagination than any other kind of literature, and young people have fresher imaginations than middle-aged or old people, and they can really enter into the feeling and seeing side of poetry better, though they may not get into the deeper thought of some of it as well as people of maturer years. The childhood and youth of the world are reflected in great poetry more vividly than in any other form of literature. If you want to understand the real spirit of a past age, read the poetry of that age.

If you wish to know, for instance, the daily life in field and village, especially at festival seasons, in and around an old oriental town, read slowly the Book of Ruth and let your imagination have full play in the atmosphere of that exquisite piece of poetical prose. Poetry is the crystallized expression of the vital experiences of an age or of the human heart. You don't have to understand every word of a piece of poetry in order to like it; sometimes the mere sound of the word—as in Poe's poems or in Tennyson's songs—is like delightful music. When you were babies your mothers used to talk to you or sing to you in words you could not understand, but they pleased you mightily. Some poetry is good because it sounds good; other poetry is good because it makes you see pictures; still other poetry is good because it helps you to have nobler feelings. And there is some wonderful poetry in the world which sounds good and makes you see pictures and stimulates to better feelings and makes you think great thoughts—poetry that opens the heart and mind at the same time. This is what the few supreme poets of the world do; and that is the reason you hear so much in literature and from cultivated people about the great classic poets like Homer and Vergil and Dante and Shakespeare and Milton and Tennyson.

There are three kinds of poetry which have always made a strong appeal to the world: Narrative Poetry, or that which tells the story of heroic deeds, sometimes called Epic when the deeds are very important in a nation's or a person's history; Lyric Poetry, which sings in rhythmic words some powerful emotion or emotions—patriotic, religious, personal; and Dramatic Poetry, which speaks out the actions or thoughts of two or more persons as somehow related to each other in a story called the plot. The oldest poetry in the world is the lyric and the epic, which of course may have dramatic elements in them. The epic or narrative appeals to your feelings by giving you a series of pictures; the lyric appeals more directly to your feelings by pleasing sounds and fancies; and the dramatic shows you how one character affects another character, causing you to discriminate, now hearing one person speak and then another, and judging these characters relatively by their words and actions. Of all three kinds the dramatic is the most complex, and the lyric the most spontaneous.

Boys and girls like narrative poetry best, because it is apt to go straight on telling a story without many tedious stretches of description or analysis; and so every boy or girl ought to begin with narrative poetry, such as Homer's Iliad or Odyssey, or Scott's Marmion or Lady of the Lake, or Lochinvar, or Longfellow's Paul Revere's Ride. But I am more concerned that you should read the great narrative poems like Homer's, for the shorter ones will probably come your way in school-collections anyhow. Boys usually prefer Homer's Iliad, because it deals with battles and single combats; while the travels of Ulysses, in the Odyssey, are more like a modern novel and possibly make a stronger appeal to girls, though the shipwrecks of Ulysses make a pretty good pirate story for boys who like the sea—and what boy does not want to be a sailor or a fighter on land or sea?

Get Lang, Leaf and Myers' translation of the Iliad (Macmillan Co., New York) in slightly abridged form in "The Pocket Classic Series," in good simple prose; or Bryant's translation of the Iliad in blank verse (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston), and you will have the best recent renderings of this delightful old classic. The same firms will supply you with translations of the Odyssey, one by Butcher and Lang and the other by Palmer (which, by the way, I sat up reading nearly all night some years ago).

Young people should read Vergil's story of Aeneas's escape from burning Troy, and his troubled journey to Italy. Cranch's translation (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) is a spirited rendering in blank verse. In the middle ages religious people thought very highly of Vergil, and Dante made him his adviser and guide in the great spiritual pilgrimage as told in The Divine Comedy, a part of which young people should read for the awe-inspiring pictures and soul-experiences. Our earliest English epic should be known directly to boys and girls—Beowulf, so full of thrilling struggles and picturesque legends of the war-like doings of our Teutonic ancestors. Our young people should read Child's excellent little translation of this old poem (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.). The first few books of Paradise Lost, at least, should be known to every young person. We seem a little afraid of Milton's austerity today, but the youthful mind is readily impressed with those sublimely colored pictures in the first few books of his great poem; and if they are once seen by the inner eye, they solemnize the human spirit.

Of two great poems not strictly epic, I want to say a word or two by way of commending them to every boy and girl. One is Spenser's Faerie Queene, and the other is Tennyson's Idylls of the King. Spenser's great allegory is a many-colored fairy-tale to every imaginative youth, some what long-drawn out to us moderns, but one of the world's wonder books when sympathetically introduced to children, and full of wholesome lessons. Of all later poetical classics, I suppose Tennyson's Idylls of the King (the glorious King Arthur) makes the widest appeal. Gareth and Lynette, Lancelot and Elaine, The Holy Grail, The Last Tournament, Guinevere, The Passing of Arthur, are six supremely beautiful masterpieces which every boy and girl should know.

The best collection of lyric poems in our literature; a copy of which every young person would do well to keep near at hand, is Palgrave's Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics. This little volume may be carried in the pocket. It is a mine of golden nuggets for any boy or girl who would enrich himself or herself.

In dramatic poetry our young people should know well some of the great plays of Shakespeare, such comedies as Midsummer Night's Dream, Merchant of Venice, As you Like It, The Tempest; such tragedies as Julius Caesar, Othello, Macbeth, Hamlet, King Lear; for to know them well is to know better the warp and woof of human life and something of the "burden and the mystery of all this unintelligible world."

I have mentioned a few of the indispensable books for a cultivated young man or young woman. But let our young people not forget that there are no finer lyric poems in the world than the Psalms, and that the Book of Job is the deepest sacred drama in all poetry.

Just two suggestions, finally: Cultivate the habit of reading poetry aloud. It is kin to music, and should be heard to be fully enjoyed. Memorize every day some choice poetry, even if it be only a few lines. As the years go on, such a possession will help to enrich your life.—J. C. Micalf, in Kind Words.

In a unanimous opinion, the United States Supreme Court has decided on restoration to her English owners of the liner Appam and cargo, brought into Hampton Roads more than a year ago by a prize crew from the German raider Moeve. Ship and cargo, valued at between three and four million dollars, must be delivered within 30 days, as the court's order is final.

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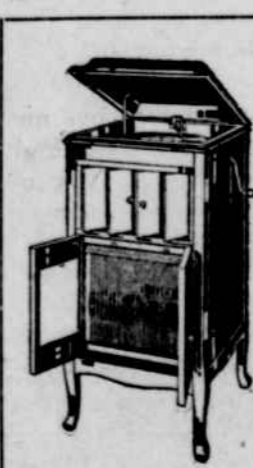
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