

# THE SMITHFIELD HERALD

Published Every Tuesday and Friday.

**BEATY & LASSITER**  
Editors and Proprietors,  
Smithfield, N. C.

## RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Cash in Advance.

One year,	\$1.50
Eight Months,	1.00
Six Months,	.75
Three Months,	.40

Entered at the Post Office at Smithfield, Johnston County, N. C., as Second-class Matter.



## DOING THINGS IN GASTON.

When it comes to finding live counties Gaston is one of the liveliest of them all. The County is having a big farmers institute this week at Dallas, the location of the farm life school, of which Mr. Sam J. Kirby, of Selma, is superintendent. The institute is to last all the week and is to be one of the big events of the year in Gaston County. In order to make it the best institute ever held in that section the very best help, of both men and women, has been secured. They came to Johnston when they wanted a man to run the farm life school and now they have come to Johnston for help in their big institute and secured our popular home demonstration agent, Miss Nell Pickens, who will be with them part of the time.

The Gaston County people know how to do things. They have nine well organized farmers pure-bred live stock associations, with as many pure-bred sires of the dairy type.

They have twelve well organized community fairs which will be held this fall to be followed by one of the best county fairs in the State.

They have live farm and home demonstration agents. They are among the progressive workers of the county who are helping to put Gaston in a conspicuous place on the map.

The Gaston County people are well organized and co-operate in all the live progressive movements which mean the building up of all the people—yes, all the people.

The Gaston way is a good way and other counties of the State might follow this way with pride and profit.

## BOARD ASKS FOR MORE MONEY

The conditions confronting the Johnston County Board of Education demand more money for the public schools another year. The teachers are going to demand more money for their work and they ought to have it. The great advance in prices of everything has made it imperative that teachers have more money.

The Board of Education was in session here yesterday and decided to make an appeal to the County Commissioners for a slight increase in the tax levy for the public schools. They only ask for 3 1-3 cents on the \$100 worth of property and 10 cents on the poll—provided this does not go over the constitutional limit of 66 2-3 cents on \$100 and \$2.00 on the poll.

This is a modest sum to call for and it is hardly believed that the County Commissioners will turn it down. Salaries of county officials have been increased and it seems that the Board ought to be willing to make a small increase in order that the teachers may have a slight increase in salaries. If the people are willing to stand for increasing the salaries of certain county officers, they surely will be willing to stand for the slight increase of taxes asked for by the Board of Education.

## RUNNING IN A RUT.

Running in a rut is a bad business. People run in ruts in the roads, they run in ruts in their conversation and in their habits. If you ask one what is a rut, he might not be able to give you a clear-cut answer, though he has been running in one for years and years. Here is what one man gave as an answer: "A rut is a long narrow grave with both ends kicked out." If one wants to keep out of a grave let him keep out of a rut.

## THE FARMER'S BOY.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation has made the interesting statement that out of three hundred employees holding the most responsible positions in the company two hundred and sixty-three were born on farms. Although a number of them were taken as children into towns, many more were reared in the country—a fact that gives new force to the repeated assertion that the American farm is the best training school for American boys, because it breeds in them two qualities supreme in citizenship: resourcefulness and independence.

We are all prone to lay stress on the technicalities of education. We prize the town because it gives kindergartens to babies, manual-training schools to boys and business colleges to young men. It gives free libraries, free doctoring and perhaps free dentistry. It gives encouragement for talents of every order, keen competition and a wide field of activity. Parents say that they cannot afford to lose those splendid advantages for their children. Immigrants say that in the town there is always a helping hand, and that in the country there is no one to depend upon except themselves. Depending upon ourselves may be the most salutary thing in the world, but it is not, and never will be, popular. It is losing favor every day in a country that owes its existence, its freedom, its best traditions, to the sturdy independence of its first settlers and to the spirit they transmitted to their sons.

The resourcefulness of the farmer's boy is forced upon him by fate. As has been often observed, the farmer cannot send for a carpenter in the next street to put up a shelf, or for a locksmith to mend a broken latch, or for a builder to patch a hole in the roof. He cannot stop on his way home from work to make half a dozen convenient purchases. His son learns in childhood to do things for himself, because there is no one ready and waiting to do them for him. He acquires dexterity, and something far more important than dexterity—the habit of depending in emergencies upon his own ingenuity and exertions. He is the master of his fate. It takes a good deal to daunt a lad who has had to meet the endless exactions of a farm.

Another quality as imperative for good citizenship as independence is readiness to serve. There is nothing in the wide world at once so ignoble and so enervating as the plainly expressed determination of many Americans to do as little as they possibly can for their country, in return for its protection and support. They are willing to hang out flags and sing The Star-Spangled Banner; but they leave it to other and better men to make sacrifices and brave dangers, while they sit snugly by. Now, the farmer's boy never expects to get something for nothing. The first lesson he learns in life is that the good old earth yields no harvests to slack hands, and by the light of that knowledge he comes to understand that citizenship means giving as well as receiving. There is bred in him a homely dignity that makes the beggar's role distasteful to his pride. If the "embattled farmers" of Concord and Lexington had been more mindful of their own security, the history of our country would read differently. Life was perhaps as dear to those plain men as it is to us to-day; but they thought it not too high a price to pay for the honor and freedom of their land.—Editorial in Youth's Companion.

Mr. R. A. Wellons made a business trip to Raleigh yesterday.

## GENERAL NEWS.

James E. Ferguson, governor of Texas, was indicted on nine charges of felony by the grand jury of Travis County Friday. The indictments were made public when Sheriff George S. Matthews notified the governor. Seven of the indictments charge misapplication of public funds, one diversion of public funds and one embezzlement.

Orders for 25,800,000 feet of lumber for constructing six national guard training camps were placed with mills Friday by the Southern Pine Emergency bureau. Each camp will require about 4,300,000 feet of lumber. Camps for which orders were placed were at Deming, N. M., Fort Worth, Houston, and Waco, Texas, Alexandria, La., and Hattiesburg, Miss.

About 7,000 tons of corn, comprising the cargo of one of the eighteen neutral grain-laden ships in port at Baltimore awaiting United States government license, was dumped overboard last Friday because it had spoiled. Of the eighteen vessels, which have 96,000 tons of grain in their holds, fifteen are Dutch and three Norwegian. Some of the ships are said to have had their cargoes under hatches for months.

Major General Pershing, commander of the American forces in France, will leave Paris by automobile early this week for his first visit to the permanent American training camp since troops arrived in France. He will spend two days at the camp. The first day he will visit Major General Sibert's quarters and on the second day will make a detailed inspection of the various units. General Pershing previously has visited the French and British fronts.

The second contingent of Young Men's Christian association secretaries who will work among American soldiers and sailors in Europe and camps will leave the United States soon, announced in New York Friday by the Y. M. C. A. war board. The men are from virtually every section of the country, and include regular association workers, trained business men and ministers. All are college graduates. The Y. M. C. A. already has more than 500 men in actual service abroad, and many more are in training for the duties that will be required of them in foreign fields.

Complete confidence in the ability of the United States to transport to France as many American troops as may be necessary despite the U-boat menace, characterizes the attitude of officials in closest touch with the transportation situation. Announcement Saturday that the navy department had taken over sixteen of the German merchant ships seized at the outbreak of the war, including the huge liner Vaterland, to refit them as transports, explained the feeling to some extent. A tremendous additional tonnage for this purpose will be made available when these ships are repaired and commissioned.

The men of the expeditionary forces have settled down into the routine of the new training very quickly, as their officers expected, says a Paris dispatch. They are up at five o'clock in the morning and reach the training ground not later than 7:45, drilling and digging without interruption until 11:30. After about half an hour for lunch and another hour for rest, they drill again from one until 4:30 o'clock. The men lunch in the field, having sandwiches and other cold rations prepared for them before they leave camp each morning. The French soldiers who are training the Americans rest from eleven to two o'clock.

The headquarters staff at Washington has received from the French government meteorological data of the department in which the American troops are training and also for the part of the line in which the troops may eventually be employed. These figures show January is the coldest month of the year, with a mean temperature of thirty-three degrees Fahrenheit, a maximum of forty-six and a minimum of five above zero. July is the hottest month, with an average maximum of ninety degrees and an average minimum of forty-five. Protect the men as far as possible from winter hardships. The dampness causes the cold to be felt keenly.

Creeds fade; faiths perish; empires rise and fall;  
And as the shining sun goes on his ways,  
Oblivion covers with a dusty pall  
The life of man, predestined to decay.  
Yet is there one thing that shall never die,  
The memory of the Dead for Faith and Liberty.  
—Ormistead Churchill Gordon.

## FIRST CALL GOES OUT TODAY.

Exemption Board No. 1 Will Ask for 298 to Present Themselves. Exemption Board No. 2 to Call 404. First Contingent to Be Before the Boards on Monday, August Sixth.

The two Johnston County Exemption Boards were in session yesterday getting ready to send out the first call for men to present themselves for examination.

District No. 1, with 1717 serial numbers has been asked for 149 men and the Board has been instructed to call twice that number, 298, before it for examination, the government realizing that an average of two men will be called in order to get one.

Exemption Board No. 2 has been asked for 202 men and instructed to call 404 before it. There are 2136 men of draft age in District No. 2.

Notices are sent out today to 98 men to meet Exemption Board No. 1 at Smithfield next Monday. The others will be called to present themselves on the following days.

The Exemption Board No. 1 is composed of C. M. Wilson, chairman; Dr. Thel Hooks, secretary, and John W. Sanders. This Board has jurisdiction over nine townships, as follows: Smithfield, Wilson's Mills, Pleasant Grove, Cleveland, Elevation, Banner, Meadow, Ingrams, and Bentonsville.

Exemption Board No. 2 is composed of N. E. Ward, chairman; H. L. Skinner, secretary, and Dr. G. D. Vick. This Board has jurisdiction over eight townships, as follows: Boon Hill, Pine Level, Beulah, Micro, Oneals, Wilders, Clayton and Selma. Exemption Board No. 2 is asking for 135 men to present themselves before the Board at Selma next Monday.

## Why Children Leave School.

Boston Transcript.

Of the many loose ends in public education in all countries none hangs much looser than that which leads to the premature separation of pupils from the schools. Why do children leave school? The problem is as old as education itself and seems not to be a great deal nearer solution today than it ever was. Compulsory education laws and a steadily advancing age limit have been of value in alleviating conditions, but the nation must find and remove the underlying cause before the trouble will be corrected. Children leave school because they don't like school. Painful as it is to admit it, that is the truth of the matter. Teachers know it and parents know it, the world at large has often suspected it and the Government, through an extensive investigation just completed, proves it. All children, of course, do not leave school for this reason. Some leave because economic necessity forces them to go to work, others because the condition of their health will not permit confinement within a classroom, and still others because they can't seem to learn. But with the majority it is a case of not liking the teacher or not liking their studies. This is not conjecture; the conclusions are forced by the confessions of the pupils themselves. They are dissatisfied with school-work and they don't care who knows it.

What are we going to do about it? The answer naturally is to make the school curriculum more attractive. But how? For ten years we have been vitalizing the curriculum by adding about every subject which has come into anyone's mind. Shop-work and sewing have been introduced for the special benefit of the "manual-minded," and pattern-making and household economics to placate parents with utilitarian ideas. But no measurable improvement is noticeable. Must we still further sugarcoat the course of study? School work is much easier today than it was a generation ago, but it is not yet easy enough, apparently, to attract the modern child, who seeks to substitute play for work and who wants to learn without studying.

But it would be wholly wrong to put the entire blame on the pupil. In a good many instances he is only thinking as he was brought up to think. "I didn't go to school after I was eight years old and see how successful I am" is the attitude of altogether too many parents—an attitude which they have a perfect right to take if they will not proclaim it to their progeny. When they do that it becomes a community menace. Pupils dislike school because they are not encouraged to like it and because they are not taught to appreciate its value to the man or woman of today and tomorrow. In the new education there will be a definite role for the home to play and it should not be a destructive one.

Hail to the land of our fathers!  
Hail to the land of the free!  
God bless it!  
As its flag we salute, let no voices be mute,  
To swell, from the sea to the sea,  
The song of the land that is free.  
—E. M. Harper.



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ANY ONE WISHING TO BUY THE fishing privilege of the famous Atkinson pond in Boon Hill township should see or correspond with S. N. Liles, Princeton, N. C. Can draw the water almost any time. This pond is noted for the large amount of fish in it.

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