

OUR GREATEST GALA DAY

The First County Commencement Held March 19th.--Hon. John H. Small Delivered Splendid Address--Magnificent Parade Through The Streets--Athletic and Literary Contests Enjoyed--City Hall and Court House Packed--Decorations Enlivened Scene

3,000 PEOPLE WITNESS EXERCISES

Educational advancement is one of the marked features in the throbbing of the great life pulse of the people of North Carolina, and this is no more true of any section than it is of Martin County and those counties adjoining. Since that great apostle of the New Era, Charles Brantley Aycock, set in motion the tremendous wave of educational uplift, has there been a backward step, for progress, spelled with large letters, has been and is the slogan all along the line. Martin County under the management of Robert J. Peele, has been led into newer and broader paths of learning until it can lift its head with the proudest.

So it was the ripened season for some demonstration of the power and growth of the public schools of the county. And out of this ripeness came the first County Commencement, which was held Friday, March 19th, at Williamston, the County Seat. This Commencement had its inception in the heart and brain of Asa J. Manning, who last year upon the retirement of Supt. Peele, gave up other important duties to take up that larger and fuller work of training the boys and girls of Martin County for better citizenship.

Earnest preparations for the event had been urged by Supt. Manning, and how splendidly children, teachers and parents responded can be correctly estimated by the number here, the enthusiasm, the deportment and the pleasure found in every minute of the time. Williamston, though scarcely realizing the high honor of having within her gates so much of the citizenship of the county, clothed he self in gay colors (the Blue and White of the Graded School predominating,) unfurled a banner of WELCOME across the street, placarded the word in every business house and everywhere along the streets, flung Old Glory to the breeze, gracefully festooned bunting about the fronts of the business houses and banks and turned autos into swiftly moving kaleidoscopes. It was indeed Williamston's greatest gala day, and 3,000 people, representative of the county's interest in things worth while, spent the day in town.

The morning dawned bright and clear, and in the early hours the people began to come and when the train from Jamesville came into the station, it brought over 300. These went to the Graded School building, which was open wide and comfortably arranged for the reception of the visitors. For several hours there was an intermingling and pleasing formation of acquaintances among teachers, friends and children. Just before the arrival of the special train from Oak City, those pupils already assembled on the campus, were

formed into line and headed by Williamston Graded School pupils, each of which carried a flag, marched up Church to Haughton St., and down Haughton to the station to await the coming of the schools from Everetts, Robersonville, Parmele, Hassell, Oak City and adjoining places.

This train arrived at 11:00 and with 600 people, who quietly and quickly entered into the spirit of the day, the schools joining the parade, and marching down Main Street to the campus with Williamston leading and Robersonville bringing up the rear, thus putting the others between the two Graded Schools of the county. It was the most inspiring sight ever witnessed on the streets of the town--these bright-eyed children of sturdy Martin County stock, who are soon to help guide the destinies of the beloved Carolina, and to fill the niche in the plan laid out by the Great Builder. The double line reached from the depot to the campus, and on reaching there each school took a position as near as possible to the building where they stood as quietly as trained veterans during the exercises, which were opened with the singing of "America" led by Prof. J. T. Jerome, Principal of the Williamston school. Rev. W. R. Burrell offered prayer, after which Supt. A. J. Manning in a few chosen words, introduced Hon. John H. Small. In a speech of one-half hour, Mr. Small held the undivided attention of the vast assemblage. His theme was "Co-operation", and every word was the sounding note for better living in the home, in the community and in the State. Mr. Small is known to every man, woman and child in the county, and he is always welcome on whatever mission he may come.

At the close of the speech of Mr. Small, who was enthusiastically applauded, the different schools arranged themselves about the campus and enjoyed lunch, which had been brought by pupils and friends. There was an abundance of good things to delight the inner man, and many more could have been entertained.

At 2 o'clock, arrangements for the athletic contests were made, the first being the 100 yard dash. In this entered Fitzhugh Lee Robertson, Bennie Lilley, Albert Gurkin, Grimes, Taylor, John Mizell and Frank Sexton. This was won by Grimes, Robertson who was closing in on good speed, ran into a spectator who stepped out into the course, and severely injured his nose. Then came the contest in the running broad jump. Contestants; Bryant Taylor, Hermon Bowen, Turner Grimes, Leroy Everett, Charles Bullock, Hermon Taylor, John Mizell, Noah Rogers, Jack Edwards. Turner Grimes won by jumping 16 ft. 7 1/2 inches, Jack

Edwards being second with a jump of 16 ft. 6 inches. Those contesting for the standing broad jump were, Leroy Everett, Harcom Grimes, Chas. Bullock, Raymond Taylor, John Mizell, Jack Edwards. Harcom Grimes made 9 ft. 6 inches, and Jack Edwards 9 ft 5 inches. The high jump contest was omitted owing to the change in the weather.

Contestants for the declaimer's medal in the 7th grade and below, met at the City Hall at 3 o'clock. In a very few minutes the hall was packed to overflowing, and Supt. Manning announced that the declaimers in the High School contest would meet at the Court House. Upon this many left the hall and repaired there to find it already packed. The contestants at the City Hall numbered twenty-four. No feature at the Commencement gave more pleasure than did this, for each contestant showed careful training and the selections were exceptionally good. Supt. Underwood, of Pitt County and Prof. R. J. Peel decided the winners, Roscoe Downs, of Hamilton, and Alma D. Aubon, of Brown's School. They were given handsome gold medals. After the presentation of these, Supt. Asa J. Manning on behalf of the school children and friends of Martin County, presented to Prof. R. J. Peele a handsome gold watch in recognition of seven years of service. Each pupil was asked to contribute one penny towards the fund. This came as a surprise to Prof. Peel; and he was deeply moved, and expressed his warm appreciation.

There were ten contestants for the High School medals and each one exhibited a natural talent which had been cultivated with care. The selections admitted a fine display of elocutionary powers, and the immense audience dispensed applause without stint. Rev. W. R. Burrell, Rev. Warren Davis and Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Jr., acted as judges. The highest prize was won by Miss Daisy Manning and Turner Grimes, the former representing the Williamston School and the latter that of Robersonville. These two were presented gold medals fitly inscribed. With this contest the exercises of the day ended.

To those who carefully examined the exhibits in several rooms of the school building, it appeared that the pupils in the various schools were doing most excellent work. Prizes had been offered for the best exhibit, and the work was of a high order. Supt. Underwood with W. G. Privett of Beaufort County, went carefully over every exhibit, and awarded the prize to Whichard's School, stating that the exhibit of the Williamston grades was of such high order that it remained in a class by itself, and so the contest was made between the rural

schools. All the schools exhibiting did creditable work, and none need feel discouraged but receive a new impetus to go forward for better things in the future. Williamston showed a large number of exhibits in written work, and the prize would have fallen to the 3rd grade in Miss Penelope Biggs' room, if Supt. Underwood had considered the Graded Schools in the contests. The prize for the best drilled pupils was awarded to Hardison School, Mrs. Chas. Roberson, teacher. The schools presented especially attractive appearances in the parade, that of Lilley's Hall being very noticeable for the beautiful sashes worn across the shoulder with the general neatness of style. The personal appearance added to the quiet demeanor throughout the day, spoke eloquently for the training and character of the children of Martin County. At no time during the day was there the least jar or fret and no accident to mar the occasion.

Williamston was honored by the presence of the 3,000 people who walked through her wide-open gates, and enjoyed every minute of their stay. Though this was the first Commencement, it will go down in history as one of pleasure, profit and a general awakening to the fact that the schools of the county are the most important factors in all the land.

Gets Promoted

Mr. Luke Lamb, who has been special agent of the Department of Justice for the past year, has been promoted to the position of law clerk in the customs division of his department in New York City. The position pays \$2,000 and there are splendid opportunities for promotion. Mr. Lamb studied law at the University of North Carolina, and in a few months received the appointment from the Department. He is the youngest son of Col. Wilson G. Lamb, and friends in Williamston and in other parts of the State rejoice at his success.

High School Debates

Tonight Messrs. Coburn and Grimes, representing the Robersonville High School, will debate against Pearl Perry and Jack Edwards at the City Hall at 7:30. Subject: Ship Subsidies. At Robersonville Misses Daisy Manning and Leona Page will contest with two boys from the school there. The quartet winning will represent the county at Chapel Hill. There is much interest in this debate because it is state-wide. The public is cordially invited to-night.

Money To Loan

Applications received for loans from \$100.00 to \$10,000.00, on improved and unimproved town property and farm lands. 8 per cent straight. Interest payable annually or semi-annually. Time: one to ten years. Applicants for loans will please give description, location, and valuation of property offered as security for loan. State improvements and valuation of same. We want County representatives to receive applications for loans, appraise property, and serve as our exclusive representative. Attorney or real estate man preferred. Applicants for loans, and applicants for Agencies positively required to furnish at least two character reference and forward postage, five 2c stamps, for application blanks, full particulars, and prompt reply. Write Southern Office, Southeastern Mortgage Loan Association, Fourth National Bank Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.

LOCAL

Tomorrow is the birthday of Andrew Jackson.

Sunday is Palm Sunday.

The improved condition of the plank walk meets with the approval of those who perambulate that way.

Full moon on the 30th.

S. C. White Orpingtons, White Leghorns, and Barred Plymouth Rock eggs \$1.50 per 15. D. C. Matthews, Hamilton, N. C.

NOTICE--Whoever took a gray overcoat, half lined, with a pair of gray gloves from Biggs Drug Store on Friday, March 19th, will please return it to J. W. Biggs, City.

For Sale--Second hand barber chair and mirror cheap. A. G. Mason, Hamilton, N. C. 2t

Shad at \$1.35 each is high living, and it takes high finance to carry one home.

The pupils of the Episcopal Sunday School will have Easter services on the afternoon of April 4th. The public is cordially invited to attend.

There will be services at the Methodist, Baptist and Christian Churches on Sunday.

Supt. A. J. Manning and family are occupying the Biggs home near Skewarkee.

Friends and relatives here are pleased to know that Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Perry have moved to Williamston. They have purchased the Sherrod place in East Williamston, having sold their farm near Jamesville.

W. H. Crawford, the champion hog raiser, killed three big ones on Tuesday.

W. H. Jackson, who has been foreman in the office for more than a year, left for parts unknown on Sunday via Plymouth.

The debate between representatives of the school here and Robersonville will be held to-night at the Gaiety Theatre, at 7:30. After this, Trey O'Hearts will be shown to all those who go out to the box office and purchase tickets.

Those desiring repairing on shoes, may call on R. A. Glenn, who resides in East Williamston. Give him your work.

PERSONAL

Senator Harry Stubbs is attending the Carter-Abernethy trial at Raleigh.

J. A. Mizell was here from Robersonville last week.

Mrs. A. R. Dunning and little daughter have been in Robersonville this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Simpson went to Robersonville Tuesday.

John W. Hassell was in town Tuesday.

Mrs. S. M. Pollard, of Everetts, and Mrs. Will Askew, of Farmville, are the guests of Mrs. W. E. Warren.

Mrs. John D. Biggs has been in Plymouth this week with her sister, Mrs. James Elmore.

Mrs. Grover Godwin is in town visiting relatives.

Hon. A. R. Dunning left Sunday for Raleigh, where he will act on the Committee which is to hear the Carter-Abernethy case.

Miss Francis E. Knight, who is attending Converse College, Spartanburg, S. C., will arrive home Wednesday to spend the Easter holidays.

Mesdames F. U. Barnes and J. G. Staton went to Norfolk Monday.

S. W. Manning was in town from Jamesville Wednesday.

Duke Critcher came down from Robersonville Wednesday.

Twentieth Century Book Club

Mrs. Wheeler Martin was hostess to the Twentieth Century Book Club, Wednesday, March 17th.

The following program was rendered:

Sketch of Southey Mrs. A. D. Mizell.

Kubla Khan--Coleridge--Mrs. Martin, Jr.

Rime of the Ancient Mariner--Miss Annie Lamb.

Miss Fannie Biggs Martin delightfully rendered two vocal solos. These were followed by a vocal duet, which was sung by Miss Lamb and Mrs. Martin, Jr.

At the conclusion of the program delightful refreshments were served.

The meeting adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. A. D. Mizell.

BUY A SHARE NOW

The third series of the The Martin County Building and Loan Association will close with March. There will not be another one to open until the fall. Now is the time to see Wheeler Martin, Jr., and secure as many shares as can be carried. Below is an example for a borrower who wants 10 shares.

Buying and paying for a home costing \$1,000.00	
Entrance fee, paid once	\$ 2.50
332 payments of dues, each \$2.50	830.00
“ “ “ interest, each \$1.16	385.12
Total outlay	\$1,217.62
Less rent for 332 weeks, at \$10.00 per month	770.00
Net cost of a \$1,000.00 home	\$447.62
Value of home not counting enhancement	\$1,000.00
Less cost above rental	445.30
Clear gain	\$554.70