

THE ENTERPRISE

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A Proclamation By the Governor

Taxes are a great burden, and a source of constant irritation. The ingenuity of statesmen is being taxed to reduce and to equalize the tax burden, and yet the fire tax annually levied upon the State of North Carolina is practically equal to the entire taxes levied for the support of the State Government. We may equalize the governmental taxes, but they must be paid by some one. Two-thirds of the fire taxes are wholly unnecessary, and are due to lack of reasonable care.

Realizing this, the General Assembly of North Carolina has set aside the 9th day of October of each and every year as Fire Prevention Day, and made it the duty of the Governor to issue a Proclamation, urging the people to a proper observance of the day.

Now, Therefore, I, T. W. BICKETT, Governor of North Carolina, in accordance with this statute, do issue this my PROCLAMATION, and I do set aside and designate

TUESDAY THE 9th DAY OF OCTOBER 1917, AS FIRE PREVENTION DAY

and do urge all the people to a proper observance of this day in obedience to the law of North Carolina. I urge the public schools of the State and the municipal officers thereof to give proper and formal recognition of the day and its meaning, and request the citizens generally to give special attention on that day to the condition of their premises to the end that the waste and loss of property and life may be reduced in this State.

Done at our City of Raleigh, this the fifteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and in the one hundred and forty-second year of our American Independence.

T. W. BICKETT
Governor

(SEAL)

By the Governor
SANTFORD MARTIN,
Private Secretary.

Mr. Hines Goes To Edgemcombe

Mr. F. G. Hines, who was at one time superintendent of Williamston Township roads, but for the last four years has been at Robersonville, was appointed general superintendent of Edgemcombe roads by the Board of County Commissioners at their last meeting. There were several applications for the position, but Mr. Hines was unanimously elected. Mr. Hines will receive a larger salary in his new position.

In The Lead Again

Martin County is in the lead again, for the town of Everetts was ahead in contributions to the tobacco fund for the soldiers, leading the entire State. The fund was started by the News & Observer after the American Tobacco Co., had offered to give a dollar's worth of tobacco for 25 cents. In each package will be enclosed a return postal card with the address of the sender thereon, so that the soldier who gets each package will acknowledge the same. This is a fine way to show interest in the boys who are in France, and it will mean much to them. Get in the list of contributors by sending as many quarters to the Observer as you feel that you are able to give to that cause.

The Misses Aiken and Lyons, who are teaching at Everetts, spent the week-end here with relatives.

Society Formed at Hamilton

The "Athenian Literary Society" met in the school auditorium Friday night, Sept. 21, for the first time, eighteen members being present. The election of officers was the first thing in order for the new year. Bryant Taylor was chosen president, Elizabeth Davenport, secretary, Julius Purvis, chaplain, and Roy Rogers, janitor. Misses Joyce and Waldo were critics. Program committee, Misses Joyce, Waldo and Rogers.

The following program was rendered:

Recitation by Miss Elizabeth Davenport.

Debate: "That Nature is more attractive to the eye than art"

This was debated by four boys and four girls. The judges rendered the decision in favor of the negative. The society then adjourned to meet again in two weeks. Prof. John Rucker, school superintendent, is the organizer, and with his ability and strength behind it, the society will mean something good for the community as well as the school.

Bank Statements

A glance at the bank statements published in these columns last week, will show that the six totaled resources up to \$1,509,958.02; loans \$1,159,897.41 and deposits, \$931,326.60. The statement of the Bank of Jamesville did not appear and the two banks in Robersonville published in their home paper. The three local banks show their deposits amounting to \$793,303.10 and loans \$1,003,539.49; total resources, \$1,277,250.79.

Have You Selected The Best?

The time for the State Fair is rapidly approaching, and the question is asked often if Martin County will be represented there by the very best specimens of her agricultural products? Now is the time to get busy in the matter. Mr. J. L. Holliday has urged the people to show to the world what Martin County has and what it is doing in the line of progress. This is one of the best ways by which to advertise the splendid farm lands of the county. The president of the State Fair is a Martin County man; he will be gratified to see his native land represented at Raleigh. Are the farmers here so satisfied that they do not want others to know and learn about the county? Then there are the fairs in neighboring counties, which want exhibits from Martin--let's show to the world the good things which Martin County has in store for all those who will come in and make a dwelling place.

Little Child Hurt

Tuesday, the little child of Mr. and Mrs. George Coltrain fell from a wagon which was near a house, and was crushed between the wheel and the house. Dr. Saunders was called and the services of Dr. Dave Taylor were secured, as an operation was necessary, the skull having been cracked. The little sufferer was made as comfortable as possible and from last reports was doing very nicely.

Mrs. John D. Biggs has called a meeting on Monday for the purpose of organizing a committee of National Defense for the county. The hour is 2 p. m., at the Rest Rooms in the F. & M. Bank building.

Makes His Son Shoot Him

Will Hudgins, a negro, filled himself with "monkey rum" on Sunday and proceeded to clean up his household about 12 o'clock that night. He with his wife and children lived on the Staton farm near town, and on the night of the tragedy, he shot his wife through the leg, intending killing her, but she ran out of the house and escaped. He then proceeded to whip his twelve-year-old boy, and finally made all arrangements to kill himself; he realized that shooting his wife meant a term on the roads, and he preferred death instead. He tied a string to the trigger of his gun, and stretched himself on the bed, and placed the muzzle against his breast, and after threatening his little son, made him pull the string. A physician was called to the wife who had been shot, and attention was given her.

There was no inquest held over the body of the negro, as all evidence pointed to a well-planned suicide with the boy frightened into acting as murderer. No blame could be attached to the child, and so the matter rested. The tragedy is one of the most unusual which has ever happened in the county, and can be directly traced to booze, which is so vile as to make the tame wild, and the good a devil.

Opening Of School

The Graded School pupils registered Monday at the Court-house at different hours for the various grades. Prof. Bundy, Mrs. Harrell, Misses Biggs, Pridgen, Jobe, Manning, Hodges, Teague compose the Faculty. The smaller grades will not regularly enter into the work until next week, but the High School pupils are attending every day, the court room being used for them. Supt. Bundy is using every effort to arrange matters so that the children can be kept in touch with their work until the new building is completed.

Maryland And The Loafers

The State of Maryland has passed a law which compels all loafers in the state--rich and poor alike--to go to work for themselves, or go to jail and work for the state.

This is a revolution which should happen in every community in every state in the Union. At this season of the year when the farmers need so many laborers to harvest their crops, the law would work fine. Right around Williamston, and in many places in Martin County, there are to be found numerous loafers who eke out an existence by preying on some one else. This is true of both races. Often when a family desires the service of any one, it is impossible to hire for love or money. No amount of wages will tempt these loafers, who either gamble, steal or sell booze. The Maryland law is far-reaching in its efforts to treat all loafers a like, and, no doubt, much work will be done in that state; still many will, perhaps, go to jail, and be forced to work.

Maryland's law is: "Won't Works" Must Work.

The weather was so bad on Saturday that the Union at Smithwick Creek was not so largely attended. On Sunday the crowd was greater though the amount of water on the roads hindered travel. Saturday (tomorrow) the Association begins at Robersonville, and a large number of visitors is expected.

The Crusade Is On

It is good bye to barbecue and the Saturday lunch for the visitors and the town folks, too, for all the stands have been ordered removed, as the first step in a crusade against things that might mar the present prospects for improvement. The Board of Commissioners have started out in a most commendable way--a crusade which will make for a town beautiful, moral and sanitary.

Whether the appetizing odor of 'cue mixed with the sickening scent of "monkey rum," was too much for the olfactory nerves of the Board, who have set a high ideal, has not been disclosed; but at any rate, the supply bases for "monkey" and other concoctions, devilish in their effects upon those who are foolish enough to let it disgrace their alimentary canals, have been "spotted", and with the 'cue stands will be relegated to that place where there are no resurrections.

The crusade will be extended farther until the gambling dens in and around town will come under the Sunday closing law--for the Holy Sabbath is the chief day for this degrading practice. And not only one day in the week, but every day and night, 'tis said that Kings and Queens hold high carnival at various places about here, but the end is near, for the revolution will dethrone this royal family.

Then for a town with a clean reputation, and all praise will be given to the Board, who commenced their great work by enacting the best law in years--that of closing places of barter and traffic on Sunday. The fight is on; let it continue until Williamston will be rid of things mar and defame. And please do not forget to behead the weeds.

Were You There?

"If you were not, then you missed one of the best attractions of the season. For Rutenberg & Adler brought a typical New York scene to town Friday night last. Were many folks there? You bet; everybody, big and little, old and young crowded into the store when the doors opened at 8 o'clock. The show windows were artistic in conception and execution, and in them were displayed women's and men's dressy clothes. All through the store, one found counterparts of the fashionable centers of the Northern cities. While music filled the air, men, women and children feasted their eyes on the beautiful things, and formed a resolution that they would come back and possess some of the things offered--and they did. The store and stock would be creditable to a large city, and demonstrated the fact that Williamston is swinging upward in the mercantile world.

Heard Many Cases

The term of Court, which ended on Friday last was remarkable for the amount of work done during the two weeks. Of course, the criminal docket was cleared as usual, but the civil calendar often remains in a congested state. But this was not true at the last term, for twenty-two cases were heard, and many others compromised and a few continued. The docket was therefore practically cleared after faithful labor on the part of the attorneys before Judge Daniels, who can dispatch the business of his court, with ease. The case of Harrington vs Shields was settled out of court, and thus a hard-fought case is off the docket.

Stancill-Bridgman

Monday morning at Washington, Miss Cecilia Bridgman and Mr. Charles Stancill were quietly married at the home of the bride who is one of the splendid young women of that town, which is noted for its attractive women.

Mr. Stancill is the brother of Miss Miriam Stancill, who has been in Williamston for a number of months, and has a responsible position with the McKeel-Richardson Hdw., Co.

Meeting of Standing Committee

A called meeting of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of East Carolina was held here last week at the Rectory on Haughton Street. The members of the Committee are, Dr. R. B. Drane, of Edenton; Rev. Mr. Boogher, Fayetteville; Rev. C. H. Jordan, of Williamston; Mr. George H. Roberts, of New Bern; Mr. F. R. Rose, of Fayetteville. Dr. Drane is Chairman and C. H. Jordan is secretary. The Committee of each Diocese passes upon the ordination of ministers and the election of all bishops in the American Church, and is therefore the most important committee in the Protestant Episcopal Church. The visitors were entertained by Mrs. Rome Biggs, Jr., Misses Lamb and Mrs. C. H. Godwin.

Hamilton Items

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Edmondson spent the week-end with relatives.

Miss Thelma Taylor is spending the week with Miss Ruth Pippin.

Miss Marie Hyman has been the guest of Mrs. T. B. Slade, Jr. this week.

Claude Council arrived Monday from Wilmington to spend some time with his mother.

Mrs. T. B. Slade with friends spent Tuesday afternoon in Robersonville.

Mrs. J. P. Boyle, Mrs. M. W. Ballard, Mrs. Harry Waldo and little daughter spent Tuesday in Williamston.

Mrs. Lucy Council and daughter have returned from Durham.

Mrs. P. H. Davenport and Mrs. C. D. Perkins spent Thursday in Robersonville.

James Edwin Harrell has returned from a visit of two weeks to Philadelphia.

Mrs. F. E. Gladstone and Miss Fannie Gladstone left Friday to spend some time in Tarboro.

Dr. Servie Purvis is spending some time with his mother.

N. W. Myers and brother of Coltrain, are visiting B. F. Myers.

Prof. C. J. Whitley left Friday for Columbia, S. C., where he will go in training.

Miss Addie Lee Grimes, of Bethel, is the guest of Mrs. F. B. Haislip.

Dr. and Mrs. John Davis and daughter, of Bedford City, are visiting Mrs. R. W. Salsbury.

Mrs. Asa Johnson left Saturday to visit her sister in Suffolk.

Mr. and Mrs. John Davis and children of Tarboro, visited their daughter here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Peel, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Everett spent Friday in Williamston.

R. G. Harrison has purchased the Harrison residence lately occupied by Mr. A. D. Mizell, and will move there. Sheriff Page will move to the house where Mr. Harrison is now living.

The Fuel Situation

Perhaps, no other item of the household expense gives more concern at this season than that of fuel, whether it be coal or wood. In a land where wood is as plentiful as in this section, it should not be among the listed high-priced articles, but it is and will, no doubt, remain so. Even if people are willing to pay the price, the farmers are not anxious to haul it, for they claim that cutters are scarce. There is no doubt that Williamston is the highest priced wood market outside of a city. If the coming winter is extremely cold, people will come very near the suffering point unless better means for securing fuel are provided. The size of the town and the demand for wood, opens up a good place for a wood and coal yard, where a cutter could be installed. Coal is high and a great many people do not care to burn it, preferring wood and heaters. There should be some concerted action to secure plenty of fuel for the town ere the winter comes on.

The Time Is At Hand

Bishop Lawrence has denied in very simple and gallant words that Americans are wedded to ease or enthralled by money. Their strength and their wealth are at the service of the nation, and they stand prepared to spend for noble ends the accumulated riches of the country.

God will not sell safety. In so far as we are prepared to lay down our lives for justice and humanity, in so far as our welfare is secured.

The reduction of unnecessary consumption is perhaps a matter of taste. The discipline of action and endurance is a stern necessity.

The time for proving that we coined money in no base spirit, and that we hold it at no base value, is at hand.

For our own sake, no less than for the world's sake, this truth must stand the test. The angel who looked too long at Heaven's golden pavement was flung into Hell--Agnes Repplier in the Atlantic Monthly.

PERSONAL

Miss Miriam Stancill spent the week end near Washington.

Miss Mary Cook has returned from a visit to Robersonville.

Mrs. J. H. Page and children spent the week-end near Bethel.

Rev. C. H. Jordan spent Tuesday night in Jamesville.

Mrs. John L. Hassell and Mrs. James S. Rhodes have been in Norfolk this week.

Miss Hilda Crawford left Saturday for Bailey where she will teach again this year.

Mrs. A. D. Mizell, of Pink Hill attended the Union near here Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. George M. Underwood, of Norfolk, was a visitors in town Monday.

Elder Andrew J. Moore, of Whitakers, attended the Union at Smithwick Creek Sunday.

William Baker and Robert Adkins, of Robersonville, were in town Sunday.

Miss Bessie Wadsworth, who has been the guest of Mrs. J. G. Godard, left Tuesday for her home in Greenville.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Manning and Mr. and Mrs. Eason Lilley motored to Rocky Mount Wednesday to attend the fair.