ADVERTISERS WILL FIND OUR COLUMNS A LATCHKEY TO 1500 HOMES OF MARTIN COUNTY

THE ENTERPRISE

WATCH THE LABEL ON YOUR PAPER. IT CARRIES THE DATE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES

VOLUME XXV—NUMBER 11 | Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, March 21, 1924. | ESTABLISHED 1898

GRANDJURYMAN'S VISIT TO MARTIN'S HOME FOR POOR

Conditions Are Not At All Pleasing Says Mr. Green.

On Monday, March 17th I was on the grand jury of the Superior Court of Martin county at which time I had the pleasure of hearing the best charge I ever heard. It was made by Judge W. M. Bond. After the charge I with a party of others was selected to inspect the County Home for the poor where to my great surprise and sorrow I found it in a most unsanitary and indecent condition. I found 12 or 15 old shacks of beds with old ragged, common straw mattresses with old pieces of boards for springs and not a pair of springs did I find. I found five or six old pieces of chairs for the poor old souls to sit in, the remainder of the chairs were made of fire wood and old bexes. The quarters in which they live reminded me of a common set of cow stalls, built one or two in a place and built of common mill slabs without windows.

If there is anything in the world that I most highly respect, it is these poor, old and helpless people, who have spent their days toiling for this younger generation, and today, most of those in the County Home have relatives who are able to take care of them in comfortable homes, but who instead disregard them and leave them to go to the County Home in their old and feeble condition.

Now, as to the condition of the Home, I again say that it is a shame and a disgrace to the county. With the thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars we are spending for good roads and good schools and various other things it certainly looks as if we could spend enough to build a comfortable home for those poor, old, and helpless souls who have done what they could and who are standing one foot in the grave and the other in the most indecent and most uncomfortable county home in Eastern North Carolina.

I think it is the duty of our county commissioners to get busy now and build an uptodate county home with steam heat, lights, etc. And until something is done we cannot afford to boost Martin county any more, unless we do it in the presence of those we know will never see our present County Home.

In regards to the keeper of the home, I wish to say that he is in no way responsible as he does what he has to do with but the blame rests on somebody's shoulders.

Don't understand me to say that I am not for good roads and schools but let's have them and a good county home and take those who are not able to do for themselves and make them comfortable. If I had to send my dog to the county home I would want to move to another county before filling an application as long as the conditions exist as they do at our own county home.

Everybody may turn their backs on you but dear old mothers and grand mothers will always stand by you. So let's stand by these dear old ladies, who are mothers and grand-mothers and build them a comfortable home.

Messrs. County Commissioners, I appeal to you to get busy and do something.

(Signed) JNO. W. GREEN.

SERVICES AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday school 9:30 a. m.
Morning worship 11:00 a. m.
Evening service 7:30 p. m.

Interest and attendance has been steadily increasing. Prayer-meeting services on Wednesday at 7:30 have been very encouraging. Next Sunday is orphanage day in the Sunday school. Let's rally to this worthy cause.

The every-member canvass for the new years work will be conducted next Sunday. The entire membership is urged to be present at the morning hour.

"A hearse is a poor vehicle in which to go to Church, Why wait for it?" Come Sunday.

R. L. SHIRLEY, Pastor.

Mr. Sylvester Peel announces himself for the office of Register of Deeds of Martin county.

Mr. Peel has served as County Surveyor for many years, and has, perhaps, helped more boys and girls in school than any man in our county.

He farms, surveys occasionally and teaches in the fall. He is a very retiring and modest man, never displaying himself in any grand stand gestures, yet he is one of the best qualified men in the county educationally and is as honest as the days are

McLEAN POINTS WAY TO TAX REDUCTION

ROBESON CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR MAKES CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR REDUCING STATE'S EXPENSES AND EQUALIZING TAX BURDENS.

Development of Agricultural Industry, Equitable Freight Rates, Fairness To Labor and Farm Training In Rural Schools Advocated By Gubernatorial Aspirant.

Further development of the agricultural industry, reduction of taxes on land and personal property, economy in government, lower freight rates, and continual improvement in the system of public education are among the policies advocated by A. W. McLean of Lumberton, candidate for Governor of North Carolina, in a declaration given out Monday in connection with the announcement of his candidacy.

Mr. McLean pointed out that he will stand upon the platform adopted by the state convention to be held April 17 but declares his personal views in respect to some of the matters of state concern in which the people of North Carolina are all vitally interested at the present time.

Makes Concrete Proposal.

Mr. McLean concretely offers a means of reducing taxes: (1) strick economy in the administration of the state government; (2) conversion of the Budget Commission into a supervisory department of finance for the purpose of co-ordinating the fiscal affairs of the state.

Admitting a lack of uniformity in the valuation of lands for taxation, he porposes to equalize the burden upon all taxpayers alike. He says that often intangible property excapes taxation, thereby increasing the taxes upon intangible property. Speaking of freight rates he says:

"North Carolina should have the benefit of fair, just and equitable freight rates and any discrimination against the people in this respect should be removed at any cost, he declares."

In advocating the development of the agricultural industry, looking toward increasing prosperity and contentment among farmers, Mr. McLean says that means should be fostered whereby worthy tenants may become land owners and that agricultural training should be stressed in the rural schools. As another method of aiding the cotton farmers he advocated the establishment of a state research laboratory for experimentation in boll weevil control.

Complete Statement.

Mr. McLean's complete statement follows:

To the Democratic Voters of North Carolina.

I submit the following statement with respect to my candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Governor of North Carolina:

I shall seek the nomination in the primary on June 7th at the hands of the Democratic voters, and if nominated I will stand on the platform of the Party as adopted by the Convention to be held on April 17th. I shall not attempt in advance of the Convention to adopt a platform of my own. I deem it proper, however, that I should at this time declare my personal views with respect to some of the matters of State policy in which our people are interested.

Let me say at the outset, in all sincerity, that I feel a very unaffected sense of responsibility in aspiring to the office I seek, believing as I do that it is the highest position of honor, trust and service within the gift of the people. Moreover, the office is one in which the people have a most vital interest, and they have the right to expect that any man who aspires to it shall give a pledge of unselfish and faithful service.

Subordinate Personal Interest.

I, therefore, solemnly declare that if I am nominated and elected I shall subordinate every personal interest and laying all other things aside, strive earnestly and whole-heartedly for the upbuilding of our beloved Commonwealth in all of its material, moral and spiritual values. If I did not believe I could render some constructive service at this time, when governmental activities have so broadened as to intimately touch the life of every citizen, I would not care to undertake the arduous dyties of the office.

I have long had a desire to serve the people of my native State in a constructive capacity, and I feel that the Governor's office offers an unusual opportunity for such serivce.

The Democratic party has been in continuous control of the State for twenty-three years. During all that period its record of useful and progressive achievement has been unparalleled in the history of government. We must remember, however, that progress in government, as in all other human activities, is the result of constant striving for better things, and that perfect accomplishment is always in the future.

State Enters New Era.

North Carolina has entered upon a new era, and it is with pardonable pride that we view her present position among the states. The program of constructive achievement entered upon a few years ago has necessitated not only great expansion in the machinery of government but also has largely increased our governmental activities to meet the new and constantly increasing demands for a greater measure of service to the people.

A mental review of what is usually termed the State will disclose a great business as well as a great civic organization. In its business aspects the State may be likened to a great enterprise with several hundreds of millions of dollars invested for the benefit of its owners, the people of the State. Among its assets is a great highway system threading every county in the State.

Every intelligent citizen must realize that with the constantly widening scope of governmental activities new methods must be applied if the business of the State with its many departments, bureaus, commissions, institutions and other branches is to be managed wisely and efficiently and at the same time for the common good. In my judgment, a safe and sane, yet thoroughly progressive business administration of the State's affairs is the paramount need at the present time. It is my ambition to give the State such an administration.

Cannot Mention All.

It is manifestly impossible to refer here to every matter of public concern. I may, however, mention the following policies which, if elected Governor, I shall endeavor to support with all the power and influence at my command.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

1. Continued improvement in our system of public education, keeping in mind as the ultimate goal that equal opportunity shall be given to every child to enjoy the best educational advantages, both academic and vocational, that the State can afford.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. The development of our agricultural industry, so as to produce prosperity and contentment among our farmers is at this moment our most pressing problem. Among the things which may contribute to the solution of this problem are:. (a) fostering means whereby worthy tenants may become land owners; (b) establishing a research laboratory in the cotton sections of the State for experimental work in boll weevil control; (c) providing a more comprehensive system of agricultural training in the rural schools and making these schools the centers of activity for rural betterment.

TAXES AND GOVERNMENT EXPENSES.

3. Taxes on both land and personal property are too high in many of the counties and municipalities of the State. There is admittedly a lack of uniformity in the valuation of lands for taxation, and this imposes an unequal and often too heavey a burden upon individual taxpayers. Often intangible property excapes taxation, thereby increasing the taxes upon tangible property. In many cases, lands are valued too high for purposes of taxation. A close study of the whole situation should be made in an effort to devise some plan whereby these heavy burdens existing in some of the counties may be relieved and the defects and inequalities eliminated. The present system whereby land and personal property are assessed for taxation, and taxed by the local authorities for local purposes only, is the declared policy of the Democratic party and has been approved by our people.

I believe that at the present time it is also necessary that strict economy be practiced in the administration of the State as well as in county and municipal affairs.

The time has come when a careful and comprehensive survey should be made of all governmental expenses, both State and local, to the end that they may be cut

(Continued on page Four)

FIRST FASHION SHOW CREDIT TO TOWN

Staged By Margolis Brothers And Brooks

The first fashion show to be staged in Williamston was put on at the indoor circus on Wednesday evening of this week by Margolis Brothers and Brooks.

It was a credit to the town of Williamston, there being many in the audience who had attended shows in much larger towns and the models and their costumes were above the average. The beautiful women and handsome men of Williamston were never seen to better advantage than they were Wednesday evening. With a better stage setting they would have been a credit to any city.

Several of the most attractive younger boys of the town were costumed in Jack Tar Togs and Cortley Jr. suits. The Society Brand Clothes were worn by some of the best looking of Williamston's youths. And the lovely chicken dresses were worn by beautiful women and girls and they made very striking models.

The dancing of little Miss Gwen Watts and the singing of Miss Mary Clyde Leggett added much to the attractiveness of the show which was enjoyed from the beginning to the last act when Miss Elizabeth Hassell in an attractive Chinese pajama suit bade them good night.

DIAMOND RINGS TO BE GIVEN AT EXPOSXITION

Kinson, N. C., March 20.—Two handsome diamond rings are on display here, to be awarded to the young women decided at the coming sectional exposition to be the prettiest girls in Eastern Carolina and Lenoir county respectively. The contests will be separate. Many communities will send their choicest beauties to the Exposition, to be held the week of April 7. The throngs in attendance on Thursday night of exposition will be asked to decide which of the beyis the most pulchritudinous. This feature was a tremendous success at last year's Exposiion. Newell G. Bartlett, Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce executive who is managing the Exposition, sponsored by the latter body, believes it will bring thousands of champions of the various cities and towns' favorite daughters here for the competitions next month.

The beauty show will be just one feature of many at the Exposition. It will prove popular because the rural community has equal chances with the city in winning a big distinction by means of it.

The rings were chosen by four experts on a recent afternoon. They are of the very latest designs. Out of a large assortment of stones the experts selected one. The Newborn Jewelry Company, supplying the gems, ordered another to match it, because the Exposition agents were so exacting.

PROGRAM FOR MARTIN AND BERTIE COUNTY GROUP MEETING WOMAN'S MISS. SOCIETY

At The Williamston M. E. Church. March 27, 1924.

10 A. M., opening devotional—Rev. E. D. Dodd.

Address of Welcome—Mrs. W. C. Liverman

Response—Mrs. Moses Gillam.

Solo, Whispering Hope—Miss Myrtle Wynn.

The Work of Our Council—Mrs. Harvey Boney.

Our District—Miss Anna D. Graham.

Solo—Miss Benjamin.

Report From Presidents of Auxiliaries.

Announcements.

Intermission for Lunch.

1:30 P. M., Devotional—Rev. M. F. Hodges.

Benevolence Memorial—Mrs. Harvey Boney.

Minutes of Meeting.

Place of next Meeting.

Hymn.

Benediction.

Fire Company Called Out At Noon Today

What caused rather much excitement and caused the volunteer fire company to put on its hustling clothes proved to be a small fire in New Town The fire company was called at 1:30 and responded quickly getting there in time to use the fire extinguishers instead of the hose. The house is occupied by colored people and belongs to Mr. Marshall Wilson. There was very little damage.

DIVORCE GRANTED IN LITTLE CASE

JURY GIVEN CASE AT 10:10 YESTERDAY MORNING AND RENDERED ITS VERDICT AFTER DELIBERATING FOR ONLY FORTY MINUTES

The General Opinion Prevailed That Jury Would Have Little Or No Trouble in Reaching a Verdict in The Case

Thursday morning when court opened Judge Bond began his charge and for thirty minutes reviewed the testimony and explained the law as applied to each phase of the testimony.

The charge was unusually clear, concise and to the point.

The evidence as heard in the Superior Court continued from our last issue, follows:

H. H. Pope, Western Union telegraph operator at Robersonville said that he knew Mrs. Little and he also knew Miss Ferrell who spent some time at the Little home and that he had a record of the messages in question sent with him but upon objection they were not disclosed.

Next came Dawson Williams a farmer living a mile or two from Robersonville and he said in his testimony that he saw Mrs. Little and a man whom he did not know and who he knew was not her husband drive Mr. Little's car up a woods path and get out and go in the woods between sunset and dark and that he first told Mr. R. T. Taylor of the incident.

R. T. Taylor when called said he knew Dawson Williams and that said Williams told him he saw Mrs. Little and a man drive up a path and get out and go into the woods.

Dora Taylor, colored, testified she was a cook in the Little home in 1921 and that some tobacco men, Mr. Rob Clark, Dr. Manning and others rented there Clark occupied room near her case and next to bath room. Mrs. Little went up stairs when Clark was in his room and she told her to watch for her and see if Mr. Little came and this happened about twice.

J. M. Highsmith testified that he had known W. J. Little all his life and knew his character and it was good.

Depositions were introduced, all of which stated that the witnesses J. C. Burks and wife of Knoxville, Tenn. were people of excellent character. These depositions were made by John F. Menday, wholesale merchant, R. C. Ford, J. H. Bright, broker, J. J. Taylor, sheriff of Knox county, Ira M. Deavor, mgr. of insurance company E. H. Hart, gen. agent State Mutual Insurance company, Frank L. West, county assessor, C. B. Cowan, produce broker, B. H. Acuff, Lee C. Mundy, city councilman, and Charles Hines, post office clerk.

The plaintiff then rested its case.

The defendant made a motion for non-suit, which was denied by Judge Bond and court adjourned for the day.

Wednesday's Testimony

The defendant, Mrs. Little, put her attorney Mr. H. M. Stubbs on the witness sand, who stated that he went to Knoxville Tenn. and went to 701 W. Main Ave., the home of W. C. Burkes and wife, Nellie Burks and that he told them he was attorney for Mrs. Little and that Mrs. Burks stated positively to him in the presence of her husband that E. W. Foster and Mrs. Little did not stay in room together.

The next witness for the defense was Mrs. Little, the defendant herself. Mrs. Little was neatly dressed in a blue suit and appeared calm and composed, but showed some signs of a break down in health, being much thinner than she was a year ago. She still retained her cold beauty. She testified that she was formerly Marie Anderson, lived for 9 months in 1918 in Robersonville and that while there Mr W. J. Little paid court to her. She then went with her father and mother to Trilby, Fla., where her father worked for the A. C. L. R. R. Mr. Little visited her at Trilby. They went to Tampa where Mr. Little registered as man and wife, which she did not know until they reached the room and they spent the night in the same room. This was in January. She further stated that Mr. W. J. Little and she were married in Rocky Mount where she was then living, on the 4th day of March 1920. None of Mr. Little's people attended the marriage but all of her people were present excepting her father, and that she went then to Robersonville where Mr. Little is a merchant and farmer.

Upon inquiry by her counsel she stated that she had no improper relations with Robert Clark, did not tell the colored woman to watch for Mr. Little and she added that she heard Williams testify, and say he saw her drive down a woods path and get out with a man and she answered the assertion by oenying it wholly, stating, "I did not do so." She further stated that she lived with Mr. Little 3 years and first left in January 1923 after having a fuss over Mayo Little, his son, that she went to the home of her parents at Rocky Mount and Mr. Little said if she would leave he would furnish her $100.00 a month and a car to drive, that she stayed 10 days and her father fussed and said it would be a family disgrace, causing her to telephone Mr. Little and he said come home, he was lonesome, and that she left again March 28 after he Mr. Little, ordered her out and said if she did not leave he would close the house and live at the hotel.

She said she then left home, went to Knoxville, Tenn. and visited Miss . a good friend of hers. She said she knew Mr. E. W. Foster, he was a friend of her fathers and had known him long before her marriage.

She denied any knowledge of any telephone calls, or messages and stated she did not call Mrs. Burks or telephone but she went to her home.

She said she had never seen the detectives, who had tstified and had never spent a night with Foster at the home of Mrs. Burks nor any other place.

The cross examination of Mrs. Little was made by Mr. Dunning and while much sensation was looked for by the morbid crowd, it was noted for the smoothness displayed by both the attorney and the witness and was generally a strict denial of everything that had been said against her.

She admitted and reiterated her former statement that Mr. Little had registered them as man and wife at Bay View hotel Tampa, Fla. and that they occupied the same room and bed from 10 to 5 o'clock, this was January 1919, which was the only time and place such an occurance happened. Mr. Little had been courting, she added, me 14 months then. I made no attempt to get copy of register. I was not advised to do so, and thought my word as good as his.

The man now called Burks is not the same man I saw there. I stayed at the Burks' home 2 weeks and had my trunk.

I worked in a laundry as checking clerk. I visited my friend Peggy Grotts who afterward got a room for me. I never got depositions from Tenn. because Mr. Stubbs said it was not necessary.

E. W. Foster was in Chattanooga when I reached Knoxville. I never saw him but one time when in Knoxville, that was one occasion when he came for his laundry.

I did not ride in Ford car with Foster.

I did not go to post office with a man. I got a letter from W. J. Little containing a check but not a word written.

Mr. Little told me to get out on account of Mayo and Ethel. There was no other reason for his turning me away. We were friendly, he carried me to Parmele and kissed me goodbye.

I lived with him 3 years, he treated me all right but his people were always nagging. He has a good 9 room house, I had an automobile, plenty of good clothes, but I had to take roomers to get them.

I bought very few clothes before leaving and used my money. Mr. Little carried me to Raleigh about February and I bought $200.00 worth of wearing apparel as I could not get suitable clothes in Robersonville as they carried mostly such as are bought by country people.

I did not leave on account of Chattanooga man. I would have been with him now if his people had left us alone. I wanted him to move away but he could not on account of his business interests.

Did not go to Parmele and send telegrams to Foster with Miss Ferrell, did not know Miss Ferrell got telegrams. Telegrams were presented and she stated she had never seen them before.

Mrs. E. F. Anderson, the mother of Mrs. Little was the last defendant witness and she stated that Mr. Little had taken her daughter to Wilson, left her and she had to send her other son-in-law for her. Mrs. Anderson stated that she did not go to Robersonville often to see her daughter as she did not feel at ease, and was much embarrassed at an act of Mr. Little at the breakfast table one morning which was the only row she heard between Mr. and Mrs. Little for which there was no excuse that she could see.

Here the defense closed and the plaintiff recalled Mrs. Burks, Mr. Burks and J. E. O'Connell all of whom repeated the statements formerly made by them.

Mr. W. J. Little was then put on and he state positively that he never registered at any hotel as man and wife with Miss Anderson, that they did go to Tampa, left Mr. Anderson's in the morning and returned the evening of the same day.

Mr. I. M. Little said he never talked to his father about his own marriage until a month after Mrs. Little left and did not marry until the next December.

H. H. Pope, Western Union agent at Robersonville stated that Mrs. Little got telegrams for Miss Ferrell from Foster on various occasions in January, February and March 1922.

T. K. Weir, Western Union operator at Parmele said Mrs. Little and Miss Ferrell had sent messages to Foster from his office.

The Plaintiff then put on T. Jones Taylor, Eli Rogers, H. C. Norman, R. L. Heggie, G. H. Cox, H. H. Pope, Dr. M. P. Manning, W. T. Hurst, C. M. Hurst, D. R. Everett, Dr. J E Ward, W H Holliday, J G. Barnhill, W. H. Mizell all of them testifying that the reputation of Mrs. Little is bad.

After the closing of the testimony the attorneys Stubbs and Stubbs and Coburn spoke for the defendant and Dunning and Moore for the plaintiff. The speeches were not as harsh as might have been, and though the conditions and circumstances were most unfortunate for the parties at interest and the people of the entire county, yet the order of trial was worthy of commendation.

The verdict of the jury granted an absolute divorce to the plaintiff on statutory grounds without alimony.

LOUIS LEE ARRESTED WITH 3 GALLONS OF RUM

Lee Placed In Town Jail Until Bond Was Furnished

Wednesday night, Chief of Police J. O. Manning, while making his round became suspicious of the movements of a man in a car and upon examining him found he had three gallons of liquor. The chief arrested the man, Louis Lee, colored and took the three gallons of liquor, the car and Lee. Lee was placed in the lock-up where he remained until Thursday when he gave bond.

It seems that Lee claimed the liquor but disowned the car. It is thought he was simply the wholesale merchant in the case and that he was going to dispose of his particular lot around town by small measurements.

His goods were never sold.

CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF REG. OF DEEDS

TO THE DEMOCRATIC VOTERS OF MARTIN COUNTY:

After serious consideration and the endorsement and the solicitations of my many friends throughout the county, I announce myself a candidate, and solicit your support, for the office of Register of Deeds of Martin County, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary to be held on June the 7th, 1924.

If nominated and elected your support will be rewarded by earnest effort to render efficient and faithful service as I always have done to all trust confided to me heretofore.

Respectfully submitted, this March 20th, 1924.

SYLVESTER PEEL

TEACHER TO MEET

The teachers of the county will hold their regular monthly meeting here Saturday in the graded school building. A good attendance is expected.

Mr. T. L. House of Robersonville was a business visitor here yesterday.

Miss Louise Robertson arrived Wednesday from Washington City to visit her parents for a few weeks.