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The Farmville Enterprise

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VOLUME THIRTY-TWO | FARMVILLE, PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1941 | NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

State Fire Marshall, Sherwood Brockwell Addresses Mass Meeting

Prominent Firemen From Other Sections Present; Citizens Unanimously Endorse Movement For New Equipment and Improvements

A Mass Meeting was held at the City Hall Tuesday evening, November 25, that the citizens of Farmville might be informed and have an opportunity to express their opinion on certain improvements proposed for the Town, namely:

The entertainment of petitions for paving sections of the following streets: Horne Avenue, Waverly, Church, Greene, Walnut, Barrett, Fields, Turnage and Pine Streets; the purchase of additional fire fighting equipment and fire barn which is deemed necessary for the protection of property, the City's only fire truck being twenty-three years old.

Each of the above projects was discussed at length and it was unanimously voted that the City Fathers proceed immediately with the necessary course to carry them through.

Mayor George W. Davis presided at the meeting, first extending a welcome to the citizens who had come out to participate in the meeting, and to distinguished visitors. Mayor Davis then called on City Clerk, Richard A. Joyner, who is also President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, to recognize the visitors of the evening and to introduce the speaker. The following visitors were recognized:

W. E. Holland, Fire Chief of Fort Bragg; Private Rosso, Fort Bragg Fire Department; W. R. Butts, Chief Fire Department, Raleigh; J. S. Gray, Fire Chief, Kinston; Chief of Police Canady, Kinston; M. C. Lassiter, Fire Chief, Snow Hill, George Gardner, Fire Chief, Greenville; A. L. Lancaster, Fire Chief, Wilson; T. R. Bissette of the Fire Department, Wilson.

Lieutenant Kenlon Brockwell, who is the youngest Fire Marshall in the Army, and who is Post Fire Marshall of the largest Fire Department in the World, this being located at Fort Bragg, was called on by Mr. Joyner to make a few remarks prior to the introduction of his father, Mr. Sherwood Brockwell, the speaker of the evening. Lieut. Brockwell said that he came to be with us last evening that he might listen and learn and not be heard, though he passed on to us some interesting data within a few minutes time, informing us that there were 70,000 lives to be protected from fire at Fort Bragg, thus necessitating having proper equipment. There are ten fire stations at Fort Bragg; 14 trucks; and, 140 firemen. He says their slogan is "Put out the fire before it starts by inspection, if possible, and as quickly as possible after it starts." He added that they have not lost a single building by fire at Fort Bragg during the past nine months. All fire trucks in the army are being painted olive drab to eliminate chances of detection from the sky we were told.

Mr. Sherwood Brockwell, State Fire Marshall for the past 27 years, and recently appointed State Coordinator of Defense, was introduced by Mr. Joyner to bring to us a timely address on the National Fire Defense Program as it effects our community. Mr. Brockwell began by telling us that the first Mass Meeting that he ever addressed was in Farmville in 1916; incidentally, during the second year of the last war. He immediately informed us that "I will not be the Sherwood Brockwell of North Carolina tonight who invariably spends the first five minutes of an address of this kind relating humorous incidents." He says that we are now facing the most critical period in the history of Fire and Police Service in America. Mr. Brockwell has recently returned from a three weeks training period at Edgewood Arsenal. He says, "I have reason from past experience to know something about ordinary firefighting, but in three weeks I learned things that I thought no fireman in this great service would ever be called on to know."

Mr. Brockwell let the theme of his timely address revolve around the outcome of the football game played between Duke University and State College this past week, the score being as you know, Duke 55—State 6. He said, "Mass and speed are as of great importance today with football teams as when I played football for State years ago; likewise, mass and speed are of great importance in war," he added. "War today is no longer confined to certain fronts. War today conserves Civilian forces as well as military forces. War if and when it comes, will be above all, a war of Civilian morale; it will be carried to the last man, woman and child. So far as the Civilian population is concerned, it will be the most terrible war in history. It will be a war of nerves. It will be a war of attrition. It will be a war of endurance. It will be a war of morale. It will be a war in which the Civilian population will be subjected to the most ruthless and terrifying attacks from the air. It will be a war in which every man, woman and child will be called on to withstand the most severe shocks and strains to which any people can be subjected and still survive as a free people