

SAUNDERS SAYS HE IS NOT OUT FOR CONGRESS

But Old Dame Rumor Has Tried Her Best To Put The Bee in His Bonnet.—Thinks Only Professional Politician Can Win

Enthusiastic friends and admirers of W. O. Saunders have been trying to persuade him to be a candidate for Congress from the First Congressional District, for the past two years. Mr. Saunders has always turned a deaf ear to such suggestions and never permitted such a suggestion to enter the columns of his newspaper. But Dame Rumor has got the idea and it is traveling in seven league boots all over the district. Mr. Saunders has received many letters of inquiry concerning his rumored candidacy. Perhaps the following specimen communication and the characteristic Saunders reply will interest readers of this newspaper:

THE DAILY NEWS
Washington, N. C.

March 1, 1919.

Hon. W. O. Saunders,
General Assembly,
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Mr. Saunders:

I heard to-day, upon professionally good authority, that you intended to become a candidate for Congress on the Democratic ticket, opposing both Mr. Ward and Mr. Small in the race for office. I'd like to be the first to handle this story, with your permission. Could I ask you to write me with reference to the matter (for publication) stating whether you will be a candidate or not? In the event that you intend to become a candidate but feel that it is too early in the game to make any announcement, I would appreciate it if you would let me know in time so that our paper could handle it simultaneously with the others. Hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you in Washington before long, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
CARL GOERCH, Editor.

To the above letter Mr. Saunders replied as follows, under date of March 5:

Dear Mr. Goerch:—
Rumor is a gray old bird and she often assumes the role of "professionally good authority" and gets away with it. I am not a candidate for Congress.

This same old rumor has been trying to put the notion in my head for many weeks. I have an idea that it is too early for any but a professional politician to try to run for Congress in the First District. I am not a professional politician and the best office on earth could go to hell if I had to qualify as a politician.

Of course I am advised by my ego that I would stand some show. My political record is straight. That's some score, I am for woman's suffrage. Where does H. S. Ward get off? I am a working man's man and never took a fee from a corporation. Bang! I am young, vigorous, progressive and don't mind words. And yet when placed in a legislative office I have not run amuck, have kept all my cards on the table and, I believe, won the respect and confidence of the most conservative business men in my own community. The more I think about it, the more I am inclined to congratulate Dame Rumor for her splendid selection of congressional timber. But I am not a candidate as yet and you are at liberty to convey this information to your readers.

Appreciating your keen interest in live news, I am,
Sincerely,
W. O. SAUNDERS.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS WILL GET \$60 BONUS

Section 106 of the Revenue Act approved February 24, 1919, authorizes the payment of a bonus of \$60 to officers, soldiers, field clerks and nurses of the army upon honorable separation from active service by discharge, resignation or otherwise. This bonus is not payable to the heirs or representatives of deceased soldiers.

Those who are discharged hereafter will receive this bonus on the same roll or voucher upon which they are paid their final pay.

Those who have been discharged and have received their final pay without the \$60 bonus, should write a letter to the Zone Finance Officer, Lemon Building, Washington, D. C., stating their service since April 6, 1917, the date of discharge and their present address to which they desire their bonus checks to be sent and enclosing with this letter their discharge certificate or military order for discharge and both, if both were issued.

21 FIRMS SCRAMBLE TO BUY A CITY'S BONDS

One of the biggest bond sales ever conducted in this state was concluded by the City of Raleigh Monday of this week when it disposed of \$85,000.00 worth of municipal bonds at a premium of \$4.323. There were 21 bidders, representing bond buyers of many states. This information is of peculiar interest to Elizabeth City and Pasquotank counties, indicating as it does that there will be no difficulty in floating Pasquotank's half million road bond issue.

SAUNDERS ROAD BILL NOW A LAW

And a Road Commission That Will Give The People Faithful Service

The Saunders Act providing for a bond issue of half a million dollars for hard surfaced roads for Pasquotank County is now a law, having passed both branches of the General Assembly and ratified Friday, Feb. 28.

The Pasquotank Highway Commission which will have authority to issue these bonds and construct the proposed roads is now composed of W. J. Woodley J. J. Morris, J. Wesley Foreman, A. B. Houtz and O. F. Gilbert. It was Representative Saunders' idea to name Walter L. Cohoon on the commission and he did so; but when the bill got over to the Senate Senator Ferebee amended it and named Mr. Gilbert in place of Mr. Cohoon. Mr. Saunders accepted the amendment. Senator Ferebee was very positive he didn't want Cohoon. There were others who didn't want Cohoon on the Commission. The opposition came largely from the Mack Sawyer source.

There is an effort being made to stir up criticism of Representative Saunders for his appointments. To all of these criticisms Saunders has but one answer: He says; "Criticism was to have been expected; it is impossible to name any man or set of men in Pasquotank county who will meet with the approval of everybody in Pasquotank county. In naming the Highway Commission to carry on the road improvements in this county I had but one idea in mind; that idea was to get the work done promptly, efficiently and economically, with as little friction as possible. I named men of true business ability and integrity and men who have no pet ideas of how our roads should be built or where they should be run. I have named men who will not represent any particular section of Pasquotank county, but who will deal impartially with the roads problems of every section of the county. I have no doubt that hundreds of men in Pasquotank think they could have named a better group of men for the Highway Commission; but I know they wouldn't have done it. Our people are never satisfied with a Board of Commissioners that they elect themselves. I am convinced they would have made a mess of electing a Highway Commission with every politician in the county working or political ends. Knowing that I would be held responsible for the successful expenditure of our bond issue, I have assumed the responsibility of creating a commission of nonpartisan men which, I am assured, has the confidence and commendation of the best informed citizens of Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County."

Incidentally, The People of North Carolina May Some Day Demand More Than Husks of Democracy
Former Superior Court Judge Frank Carter, in his newspaper, Carter's Weekly, gives Democratic North Carolina about the same warning contained by Representative Saunders in a recent speech in the House on the child labor bill. Judge Carter said:—
"The cotton mills haven't got Mitch Shipman's goat—not yet; but they have as good a title to it as the House of Representatives can give. And it is a fairly safe conjecture that the Senate will confirm the action of the House in the demotion of the duly elected Commissioner of Labor."
If the cotton mills and their legislative champions are not careful they will make of Shipman what God didn't make of him, and set a precedent for a great man. The people have repeatedly designated him as their Commissioner of Labor, and what is a Commissioner of Labor for, if not to see to the enforcement of the most vital of labor laws—the law by which society assumes its obligation of justice and self-preservation in the protection of its most helpless member—the child wage worker?
If a Democratic Legislature—in the partisan sense at least—but the principle of the rule of the people stands small chance when it runs foul of the tastes of the cotton manufacturers in child labor inspection."
"There is a painful lack of sincerity in this whole business. The Legislature has no heart in child-labor legislation. If it dared to do anything for Shipman and junk all the bills; but since it doesn't dare, it seems in the way of legislating without conviction other than that which expresses itself in the dehorning of the people's Commissioner of Labor."
"The people may stand for this sort of thing awhile. As yet they exhibit little disposition to break away from the control of the governing classes, and their interest in the child-labor problem is only a watery exhalation of platitism. They may even hold the garments of the manufacturers while they stone Shipman to death in next year's primary—and again, they may not. It is too soon accurately to gauge all the political reactions of world war. Right here in North Carolina we may find an unexpected acceleration of the currents of popular thought. We may wake up some fine morning to discover that the North Carolina stomach has revolted against the husks of democracy as a steady diet. It would be not a little confusing to the manufacturing and political interests if the folks should ever take it into their own heads to demand the real thing in government of by and for the people."
"If that day ever comes—and, praise God, it must come—the elected official who has been kicked and cuffed around for no better reason than that he insisted on doing his duty by the poor children of the State, will have a new birth of popularity. It will not much matter then whether God cast him in a large mold or a small one—the people will make him great."

\$500,000 SOUNDS BIG BUT DOESN'T GO FAR

Representative Saunders shocked some of the Pasquotank county commissioners Monday when, in reply to a direct question, he told them that Pasquotank probably would get only 30 or 35 miles of permanent roads out of its proposed expenditure of \$500,000. Many persons who have given road building little thought think \$500,000 should go a long way. As a matter of fact it is only a starter; Pasquotank really needs \$2,000,000.00 for any extensive program of permanent road building. Good roads cost money—and they are worth every cent they cost.

HURT BY AUTOMOBILE

William Chesson was thrown from his bicycle and badly bruised when the mail truck driven by David Horton ran into him at the corner of Pearl and Road streets on Monday of this week. He was at once removed to his home and a physician called who after examining him stated that no bones were broken. The bicycle was a total wreck. A warrant was issued for Horton the driver of the truck and the case came up in police court Thursday morning and Horton was fined \$15.00 and costs, whereupon he took an appeal.

Mrs. Emma Broyles, a blind lady will give a musical entertainment at Mt. Hermon Schoolhouse, Wednesday night, March 12th.

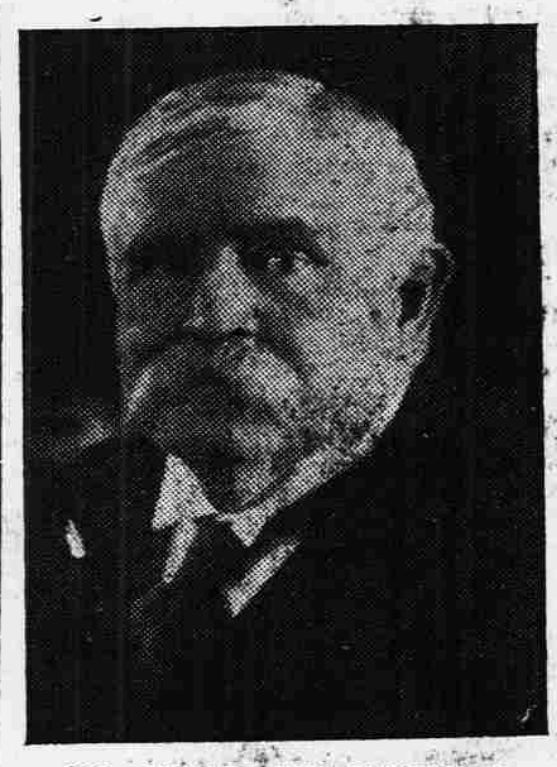
She will also show how the blind are taught to read and write.
Doors will be open at 7:30 P. M. Admission, adults 15c, children 10c.

INCOME TAX

Attention is called to ad. in this issue of Savings Bank & Trust Co. offering to furnish information in reference to Income Tax. Mr. Williams, the president of this institution, is making a study of the Income Tax law and is prepared to give valuable advice along this line.—adv

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
OPTOMETRIST
Over McCabe & Grice
Elizabeth City, N. C.

TO TURN HIS BUG LOOSE HERE AT ANNUAL DINNER



COL. BENNEHAN CAMERON
COL. BENNEHAN CAMERON is acknowledged the best informed good roads man in North Carolina... Col. Cameron's Bug is roads. He talks roads, thinks roads and build roads. When he gets to heaven the first thing he will want to inspect is the Celestial Highway System; if they have no highway system in heaven he'll organize one and put it thru. He was an organizer and director of the Quebec-Miami International Highway; organizer and vice president of the Southern National Highway; a director of the American Automobile Association; member of the North Carolina Highway Commission; chairman of the Roads Committee of the 1919 General Assembly. It occurred to Representative Saunders that Col. Cameron would make a distinct hit at the annual dinner of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce to be held some time this month. Col. Cameron says he'll come and give us a talk. He says he'd like to have an opportunity to congratulate us on our \$500,000 road building program anyway.

MANUFACTURERS MAKE A SMALL MAN GREAT

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JIM WILCOX INJURED

While trying to catch some pigeons from the roof of the Gaiety Theatre for his little nephew John Ferebee, Jim Wilcox was painfully but not seriously hurt last Wednesday afternoon. In some way his foot slipped causing him to lose his hold and he was thrown to the ground. In his fall he struck his chest against the limb of a tree nearby and sustained very painful injuries. One of his right ribs was torn from the breast plate causing him much pain and discomfort. He was rather badly bruised. Dr. C. B. Williams rendered immediate attention and says he will be able to be out again in a short while.

S. R. Siff left for the northern markets on Monday and on his return will have one of the most complete and attractive line of Women's ready-to-wear ever seen here.

AN UNUSUAL SERVICE

The country is full of good eye specialists and there are hundreds of good eye glass manufacturers, but it is worth something to Elizabeth City and vicinity to know that both can be found in this town. Dr. Hathaway is not only a reputable and skillful optometrist, but he grinds and fits glasses on his premises. This unusual service is seldom found except in much larger cities.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
OPTOMETRIST
Over McCabe & Grice
Elizabeth City, N. C.

THE TAX PAYER PAYS THE BILLS

Mack And The Gang Again Soak The Easy Going Citizens

Spite of the fact that they had assured by Senator Ferebee that he would kill the Saunders Ward Sub-division Bill when it got to the Senate, the Board of Aldermen sent a committee composed of E. F. Aydtlett and M. B. Simpson to Raleigh last week after the bill had been killed. And Monday night the Board voted to pay these gentlemen approximately \$40 for their expenses. The money for this unnecessary expense comes out of the pockets of the citizen tax payer, of course.

Representative Saunders was present at the Aldermen's meeting Monday night when the expense bill of Messrs. Aydtlett and Simpson was ordered paid. Mr. Saunders objected. He said: "I think the Aldermen should investigate that bill before passing upon it. Those gentlemen went to Raleigh to kill a bill that had already been killed, after having been advised that it was unnecessary for them to come. Senator Ferebee told me himself that he had advised the opponents of the bill that it would not be necessary for them to come to Raleigh, as he would fix that himself."

"Now I saw Mr. Aydtlett in Raleigh Wednesday I asked him if he was there to oppose my bill. He said, 'No, I'm here on an entirely different matter.' I learned later that Mr. Aydtlett was there on other business. As attorney for certain shooting clubs in Currituck county he went to Raleigh to look into a bill effecting duck hunting in Currituck Sound, which had been introduced by Representative Johnson. The Committee on Game had fixed Wednesday as the date on which to give Mr. Aydtlett a hearing on the Johnson Bill."

Mr. Aydtlett is the winner in the transaction as he probably got a fee and expense money from the owners as well as his expenses from the Board of Aldermen. No one blames Mr. Aydtlett. But what do the tax payers of Elizabeth City think of a Board of Aldermen who tax them for the cost of such cheap political enterprises?

Do the tax payers of Elizabeth City feel that they ought to bear the expense of committees sent out to turn political tricks in behalf of Mack Sawyer and his gang? But this is the way of the gang. They had previously wired Senator Ferebee to the effect that they were depending upon him to save them and had received Senator Ferebee's assurances. But what did that matter, since it didn't cost Old Man Mack and the Gang anything to donate \$40 to a pair of friendly lawyers? The tax payer pays the bills.

The Saunders bill which proposed to subdivide the wards of Elizabeth City and pen Mack Sawyer and his foremost henchmen in one subdivision, never stood a ghost of a show. It passed the House of Representatives all right, but it never did stand a show in the Senate. Senator Ferebee was on the job. The Gang paid him a nice compliment by sending a committee to handle him after he had assured them that he would kill the bill.

HOPES TO BE HOME TIME TO EAT WATERMELONS



JOHN H. SNOWDEN

WE are publishing the following letter from John H. Snowden, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Snowden, of Maple, Currituck county.

Toul, France,
A. P. O. 918—
Feb. 11, 1919.

Dear Mr. Saunders:—
As I have the time I will write to thank you for your paper you have been sending me. I should have written before, but as you know any old time he n't have time to write any old time he feels like it. I sure have enjoyed reading THE INDEPENDENT, as it gives me all the home news. I have only had about eight copies of it so far. We only get second class mail about once a month, and didn't get it that often when we were up on the front. Now we are way back, and get mail more often. I have been transferred out of my old division. I am now with 2nd Army Traffic Police. I had much rather be in Germany with the 82nd Division. I have been through some hard battles with those boys. It was on the battle line for over nine months with the 82nd Division. I was taken out of it about the first of October and have been in Toul, France ever since, doing Traffic duty.

I was on the Champaign front the fourteenth of July, we went from there to Chateau Thierry, the second battle of the Marne. From there we went up on the St. Meheil sector, and after that was over I was transferred from that division held a sector on the Lorraine near Baccarat, France. We were there for over four months, without being relieved. That didn't amount to much, though, as we didn't make much advance. Well, I guess I have told you about all the news that I know at this time. I only wish I could tell you when I was coming home, but I hope it will be some time in the good old summer time. I have written papa to plant a good garden, and plenty of watermelons, as I hope to be there to help eat them. With best regards to all the family,
Sincerely,

Pvt. JOHN H. SNOWDEN,
1st. Prov. M. P. Co.,
2nd Army, A. P. O. 918, A.E.F.

ELECTROCUTED IN MID-AIR

William Mason Meets Untimely Death

While at work on electric wires fifty feet above the ground, William Mason, a lineman in the employ of the Elizabeth City Power Company, was accidentally electrocuted Tuesday morning. Mason had been inspecting the wires on a pole in front of the R. E. Quinn Company when he was suddenly seen to drop his wrench and his body fell forward over the deadly wire which carried the high voltage into his body. The power plant was immediately notified to shut off the current but it took some time before Mason's lifeless body could be gotten down from the top of the pole where it was viewed by hundreds rushing to the scene of the accident. Physicians were hurriedly summoned and the city pulmotor was used in vain by them in an effort to save the victim's life.

Mason was a young man of about thirty-five years old and was a quiet, easy going sort. He had been in the employ of the Light Company only a short while. A widow and three small children survive him.

FEREBEE HIGHWAY BILL KILLED BY COMMITTEE

It Was A Good Measure, But Representatives Could Not Get Together—However, That Doesn't Mean Death Of Good Roads

Senator Ferebee's great northeastern North Carolina district highway bill which passed the State Senate last week like a streak of greased lightning, was killed in the Committee on Public Roads and Turnpikes in the House of Representatives, Wednesday afternoon. The committee unanimously adopted an unfavorable report on the bill.

Senator Ferebee's bill proposed to create a highway district composed of the counties of Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck. A bond issue would be levied against this district for the purpose of building a standard cement road from the Albemarle Sound to the Virginia State Line, via Edenton, Hertford, Elizabeth City, Shawboro, Snowdon and Moyock. The project would cost nearly a million dollars. But it was provided in the bill that one half the cost of the road should be built by state and federal aid. That left approximately \$500,000 for the five counties. But it was further provided that abutting property owners along the line of the survey should pay one-fourth the total cost of the road. That left approximately \$250,000 in bonds to be issued by the district.

Pasquotank's pro rata of this bond issue, based upon its taxable property valuation would have been about four ninths of the whole.

Representative Saunders of Pasquotank favored the project, believing it of inestimable importance to Pasquotank county and especially to Elizabeth City. But the people of Pasquotank were not so favorable. Senator Ferebee made the colossal mistake of not taking the people into his confidence. Satisfied in his own mind that he had a good thing, he somehow didn't see the need of enlisting any considerable support. Senator Ferebee's scheme, if properly managed, would have given northeastern North Carolina a much coveted road to Norfolk, Va. The roads of five counties would have been improved thereby. And Pasquotank would have gotten about seven miles of road and a \$40,000 free bridge across the Pasquotank river with a bond issue of about \$100,000. No one who understood the thing could well oppose it.

REPRESENTATIVES DISAGREE

But Representative McMullan of Chowan would not stand for Chowan to be embraced in the district because the road would cost Chowan more than it cost Perquimans and Perquimans would get three miles of road to Chowan's one.

With Chowan out of it, Representative Saunders of Pasquotank proposed to carry out the scheme by beginning the highway at Hertford. Representative Morgan, of Perquimans, would not consent to this. He thought the road should begin at the Chowan line. Saunders would not consent to this; since Chowan would not come in on the project, Mr. Saunders was opposed to increasing the cost to Pasquotank by building a road from Hertford to Edenton. That was going in the wrong direction for him, unless Edenton helped to pay the freight.

And so then and there the Ferebee Highway went to smash. Representative Johnson of Currituck was interested in the project only to the extent of following the lead of Pasquotank. Representative Burgess of Camden didn't seem to be interested at all. Representative Kessler of Rowan moved that the bill be reported unfavorably. He said it was evident that the counties were not in harmony on the project and the committee should not force the measure on them. Representative Halsey of Washington seconded the motion. The ayes had it.

GOOD ROADS ANYWAY

The fate of Senator Ferebee's excellent scheme should not, however deter the counties from realizing exactly what was set out to accomplish. The counties individually can do exactly what the district could have done. Chowan and Perquimans have, both, legislated bond issues at this session of the General Assembly and will improve their roads. Both are in line for Federal and State aid on any highway connecting the capitals of Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan. It remains for Currituck and Camden to get busy and do something for themselves.

In meantime Elizabeth City and Pasquotank county will get a good road to Norfolk, via South Mills; a route shorter by 10 miles than the Currituck route. Pasquotank will build a hard surfaced road to the Camden line near South Mills. South Mills has legislated bonds to pick up the work there and build a connecting link along the Dismal Swamp canal to the Virginia line. The Commissioners of Norfolk county, Virginia have voted to build a road from Portsmouth south to and along the Dismal Swamp canal to the South Mills road.

The assurance of this highway from Elizabeth City to Norfolk via South Mills has revived interest in the need of connecting Gates county with Pas-

quotank and the people of the Tidmore section of Pasquotank are now making a survey for a road that will open up Gates county, enabling the people of Gates to tap the Pasquotank and Virginia highway at a point near South Mills, and making Gates county a commercial asset to Elizabeth City.

COHOON OPENED FIRE
Walter L. Cohoon appeared before the Committee at the hearing on the Ferebee Bill Wednesday. He was opposed to it and was backed by the Pasquotank Highway Commission with a resolution from that body proposing that the matter be submitted to a vote of the people. Mr. Cohoon was given a respectful hearing, but his opposition was superfluous in view of the disagreement among the representatives of the different counties.

\$30,000 FOR STATE NORMAL

General Assembly Will Provide This Much For Additions to Local Plant

The State Normal and Industrial School for Negroes, at Elizabeth City, will get an appropriation of \$30,000 for buildings and improvements, from the present General Assembly. After thorough investigating the claims of this institution the joint Appropriation Committee of the House and Senate recommends this sum. Its recommendation will be accepted by the General Assembly without question. The sum does not include appropriation for maintenance which will be embodied in a separate act.

With \$30,000 to spend on its plant at Elizabeth City, the State Normal will make notable improvements. It is expected out of this sum to erect a boys' dormitory, install water, lights and sewerage, provide laundry facilities and make certain repairs to the present buildings. That is quite a lot to expect out of \$30,000; but those who have the interest of the school at heart believe it can be done.

The appropriation committee was opposed to allowing anything for the work of industrial training. The committee says the state needs more Negro teachers and the supply does not begin to meet the demand. The committee says it gets one of the highest types of Negro teachers from the school at Elizabeth City and that teachers sent out by this school are among the greatest uplift forces in the state. It is said by authorities that wherever these State Normal teachers go there is a marked improvement in the deportment of the colored people. Senator Holderness and Representative McColl, Chairman of the joint committee, were positive in their opinion that the state can get along very well without industrial training in this school if it keeps up its pedagogic standards.

HOSIERY MILLS HAVING THEIR TROUBLES NOW

Local Mills Have Plenty of High Price Yarn on Hand, but Hose Market Has Gone to Pot

Uneasy lies the head of the manufacturer of hosiery in Elizabeth City these days. There are five hosiery mills in Elizabeth City, employing about 400 workers and manufacturing several thousand pairs of hose daily. These mills had an unlimited market for their product while the war was on and at prices that persuaded them to buy yarns recklessly when cotton was soaring around 35 cents a pound last fall. And then the war stopped, the price of cotton went down, the market became unsettled and the demand for hosiery disappeared. The hosiery mills haven't yet figured out exactly where they stand; they are working away at the nothing that had happened and continuing to work up their high price yarns into hosiery for which they are finding no ready sale. The largest mills in the city, due to have declared a handsome dividend in January, has disappointed its stockholders for the first time in several years.

LOCAL TALENT GAVE EVENING OF PLEASURE

The vaudeville given under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. in the auditorium of the high school Tuesday evening was brim full of mirth and pleasure for all who were present. It was regretted that Colonel Meekins could not be present to render his "possum hunt." The proceeds were used to help get the "Y" out of debt.

Enlarge Your Sphere

You feel proud of your wife and children, don't you? and if you can do anything to make the home pleasanter and conditions easier for them, you do it willingly.

Why not enlarge the sphere of your affections a little and take the town you live in on the same footing as your family? Be proud of it, do everything you can for it. If public improvements are needed, urge them and vote for them.

We want to see Elizabeth City known as one of the finest and most progressive towns in the state. If every citizen will support its trade, forward its interests and show a pride in all its conditions, our ambition will soon be fulfilled.