

WEATHER STOPS ROAD BUILDING

Contractors Lose Heavily on Mecklenburg Bridges.

Mt. Holly Bridge to Be Finished in Two Weeks—County Highway Program Discussed.

Within a short time after weather conditions permit the work of laying bitulithic pavement the main arteries of travel through Mecklenburg county will be resumed and will be completed probably by summer, according to A. M. McDonald, chairman of the board of county commissioners, who reviewed yesterday the progress in carrying out the commissioners' road program.

During the discussion, Mr. McDonald admitted that the county had profited greatly at the expense of the contractors in the building of several big bridges. The contractors lost \$15,000 on the Sloan's ferry bridge and not less than \$20,000 was lost by the firm building the Rozzell's ferry bridge, because the contracts were made prior to the time when costs

of such work increased as a result of war conditions.

Mecklenburg county now has about 350 miles of macadamized or otherwise surfaced roads, said Mr. McDonald. When originally built, the macadamized roads "were ideal" for slow moving traffic, but the advent of automobile and motor truck soon greatly damaged these highways, and a heavy up-keep cost has resulted.

The Dowd road, which is an important link in four great highway systems on the southwestern side of the county, has been surfaced with bitulithic to one mile beyond Camp Greene. This surfacing will be completed to the Gaston county line next spring, and rock for the work will be crushed during the winter months. Work will be resumed when the weather becomes warm enough to permit working with the asphalt binder.

This part of the Dowd road is a link in the National highway, the New York to Atlanta highway, the Bankhead highway and the Wilmington-Charlotte-Asheville highway. The road from Charlotte to the Cabarrus county line, on the other end, is part of all but the latter named road system, and Mr. McDonald said only seven-eighths of a mile remains unsurfaced. Inability to get the necessary supplies of rock, which is bought from the farmers, forced a temporary suspension of the work. An eight-mile stretch, extending from the city to Sugar Creek church, has been surfaced with asphalt, said Mr. McDonald.

Another important roadway, from Charlotte to Monroe, which extends by the site of the proposed great radio station near Monroe, is being repaired now, a gang of convicts having been

sent there a short time ago. Rock is being crushed for surfacing this road and Mr. McDonald said the commissioners planned to have this stretch surfaced with asphalt to the Union county line by next summer.

Some of these roads have 16-foot surfaces, others 12 and others 14. The surfacing of the Dowd and Tuckasee roads from the city to Camp Greene was 18 feet wide, and on the Dowd road beyond the camp is 14 feet wide. When the surfacing is four inches thick, two gallons of asphalt to the square yard is required.

The Mt. Holly bridge over the Catawba river should be completed in not more than two weeks, said Mr. McDonald. This is a steel bridge, and the floor planks are now being placed. The Rozzell's ferry bridge was completed about three months ago and the Beatty's ford bridge will be completed probably by February 1. The Sloan's ferry bridge has been rebuilt. Each of these long bridges went down in the floods of 1916. Each had been built by authority of a special act of the legislature. Mr. McDonald explained, and rebuilding could not be undertaken until such authority was again given by legislative action. In the interim, the Mecklenburg county commissioners awarded the contracts and awaited the legislature's action. In 60 days after the authority was given the work was undertaken, said Mr. McDonald. The commissioners' chairman said their action in awarding the contracts when they did was the county many thousands of dollars as a total of not less than \$35,000 had been lost by contractors building the Sloan's ferry and Rozzell's ferry bridges.

Thirty-two steel bridges have been built in Mecklenburg, has been rebuilt, McDonald four years ago assumed the office he now holds, it was explained. This number includes two big bridges, one over Stony creek and another over Big Mallard creek, both on the Salisbury road.

OFFICIALS TAKE ACTIVE CHARGE

Will Name Committees to Raise Monument to "Our Boys."

Observer's Plan to Let Everybody Subscribe Will Be Carried Out by Committees.

Mayer McNinch, representing the city, and Chairman McDonald, representing the county, have taken active charge of the arrangements for the erection of a monument to "our boys" who died in the service, and will, within the next few days, announce the various committees to have charge of the raising of funds and other details, as proposed by The Charlotte Observer.

Mayor McNinch will name the representatives from the city on the various committees, and Chairman McDonald will name the representatives from the county, the committees being composed of city and county people.

Just what plan of campaign for the raising of funds will be adopted has not yet been outlined. Aside from the subscriptions received through The Observer, no subscriptions have as yet been received.

Mayor McNinch stated yesterday that the committees would probably call on the press to aid in the movement, and to keep the people informed as to its progress. He stated that it was very essential that anything that is to be done, should be done at once, and that no better means of appealing to the people than the press had ever been found.

Some prominent citizens will be named as treasurer of the fund, and when the treasurer is named, the funds already collected by The Observer will be turned over to him, and whatever plan is decided upon will find warm support from this paper.

Sentiment in favor of the monument has been growing ever since the idea was first advanced by The Charlotte Observer, and it is generally believed that all that is necessary to secure a memorial to "our boys" is to let the people know where and to whom they may subscribe their money.

The Observer's plan to allow subscriptions of as small amounts as 25 cents, in order that all may have a part in the work, is to be adopted, as there are hundreds of patriotic citizens, anxious to aid in such a movement, and yet are unable to afford more than a small contribution.

The names of the committees will be announced within the next few days, and the actual work of raising funds will be taken up.

board's rolls and the questionnaires would be sent out today and Monday.

Physical examinations of all September 12 registrants of from 18 to 30 years, inclusive, have been completed, he said. A "relatively large number" of these ages failed to report for examination when ordered up and these will be listed as delinquents unless they come up for examination before such lists are compiled, the secretary added.



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NAVY WANTS BRIDGE BUILDERS WITHOUT DELAY

The local board for Charlotte yesterday issued a call for volunteers for service in the navy as bridge builders, in accordance with instructions from draft headquarters at Raleigh. These men are wanted for immediate service in France, said Secretary Lyles. He explained that the Charlotte board had no bridge builders listed except in the deferred classes, and these could not be drafted but would be inducted if they volunteered. Five men are wanted from North Carolina under this call, and the Charlotte board has been given the privilege of supplying all five, he said. Those volunteering must report today to the Charlotte board.

SLIGHT INCREASE IN "FLU" CASES REPORTED

Though 18 new cases of Spanish influenza were reported yesterday at the office of the city health officer, Dr. C. C. Hudson, it was explained that the "flare up" which has occurred "because of the tremendous amount of mixing since the quarantine was lifted" so far has been much less than was expected. The reopening of the public schools of Charlotte has not yet resulted in any "perceptible increase" among the children, said Dr. Hudson. "There have been a few more new cases this week than last, but with few exceptions the disease was contracted by adults," he said.

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SENDING QUESTIONNAIRES TO 18-YEAR-OLD CITY BOYS

Instructions to begin and complete as quickly as possible the mailing of questionnaires to registrants for selective service who were 18 years of age September 12 were received yesterday by the local board for Charlotte. Secretary Lyles said about 500 boys of this age were listed on the

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