

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF HARNETT COUNTY PRIMARILY, AND OF THE STATE GENERALLY.

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"If it Concerns Harnett, It's in THE NEWS"

What Will New County Bosses Do? Question Interesting to Voters

"What will be the policy of the newly nominated County Boards? Is a question that is puzzling the minds of more than one individual in Harnett county since the voters demonstrated in unmistakable terms that they desired a complete change of management in county affairs. With only one exception, the membership of the two Boards has been changed, and this, taken in consideration with the fact that the old management was not ready to relinquish their hold, is held to be prima facie evidence that something in the way of a change, if not a complete all-round change, had been contemplated for some time previous to the primary. But just what change, and how it will be made, and how complete it will be, are matters that one citizen asks of another for information upon, only to be told that "I don't know, but they promised us a change."

True, there are those who profess to know exactly what the new County Fathers have in mind, as well as that which the Education Board is pondering over; but so far as can be definitely learned, no member of either Board has committed himself upon any matter affecting the county's interest—unless, of course, there be some newly named member who has actually promised his constituency that he would bring about a revolution in county government. That any man named to govern Harnett county should make any promise of that kind, however, is extremely doubtful; but the well-known fact is that there is general expectation throughout the county that the new regime when it takes the reins on December 1st will institute radical changes in the methods of conducting the county's affairs.

Predictions are rife. Some are going so far as to say that the Education Board will undertake to operate Harnett county's central supervision of schools with only one person to do the work of three. It is stated on reliable authority that at least one member of the new Education Board conducted his campaign upon the slogan that he would see to it that the present superintendent of education gets fired first shot out of the box. The superintendent's term runs till April, 1925, and he doesn't seem to be worrying where his dinner on April 2nd is coming from. The office force of the Board of Education has been the bone of contention for several years when matters of school management and cost arise. Although the force has never been large, and consequently the matter of office salaries is negligible, yet there are those who seem to be literally, millions of dollars being taken out of the taxpayers' pockets and paid out in salaries in the Education office.

It is a well-known fact that the Board of Education itself has not raised the cost of operating the county schools, nor has the office force done so; but the enlarged expenditure has been voted by the people themselves in the way of enlarged schools and special tax levies to pay for the same. Because the Educational authorities have sympathized with the districts which wanted the improved facilities, however, the headquarters staff is looked upon as being guilty of imposing burdens. That this is true may be proven by a simple analysis of the present status of the county's school system and its method of operation. But, so far as that goes, there is deep-seated conviction, it seems, in the minds of some of the people that there is entirely too much of this business called "schooling" anyway, and that oftentimes there are children in school who should be in the fields hard at work. There has been complaint at times that "school business" has become so dominant that mules are allowed to stand idle in the stables while a mere child was trying to cram into his brain a little information.

And so for the school system. As to the County Fathers, and the executive end of the county business, there are guesses as to who will be the county attorney, if any; whether the county farm agent and the home demonstration agent will find their work dispensed with; whether the pauper list will be revised and the county home made to function as such institutions are intended;

whether the minutes of each session will read releases from taxes to sundry and various persons who have the wherewith to employ attorneys to present their claims for leniency; and whether a whole lot of other things will take place that will stamp Harnett as an ultra-conservative as against a progressive county.

It is stated that there will at least be one innovation in county government, which will be that the Commissioners will employ an attorney for consultation only, and that the attorney will be called into session with the Board only upon occasion where there arises a legal point. In this respect the sessions of the new Board will differ from sessions heretofore held when an attorney was held constantly with the Board during all its deliberations. Another "money-saving" plan that is said to be under advisement by certain members of the new Board is the appointing of a purchasing agent for the county who shall have authority to buy everything that is needed for and on account of the county, and that nothing shall be contracted for except at the instance and upon the approval of all its deliberations. Still another plan, one which is not as yet completely formulated, is that there will be instituted some method for collecting taxes whereby more of the taxes will be gathered in and the delinquent list shortened materially.

Discussion of these things may seem, in the eyes of some, to be premature in the public prints; but they are matters which the people are discussing and certainly those who are discussing them will not object to seeing their opinions aired a little bit.

The appointment of a County Auditor is one of the prerogatives given to the Board of County Commissioners commencing with the new term. Heretofore the Auditor has been elected by the people, but the Legislature of 1923 took away from the people the right to elect this official and gave the appointment to the County Board. Just who will be the appointee is a matter that adds one more item to the list of questions that must wait for December 1st to be answered.

There is scarcely any doubt that the Legislature of 1925 will separate the office of Sheriff and Tax Collector. When this is done, however, it cannot take effect during the present term. December 1, 1926, is the earliest time that such separation could take place. When it is done, there will be sharp competition in the primary for the place, because the office of Tax Collector will carry with it as much or more salary as the office of Sheriff.

CHILDREN'S CRUSADE IN BEHALF OF NEAR EAST

"Children's Crusade in North Carolina," a campaign to secure clothing and milk for people of the Near East, is now on. Tags are in the hands of Rev. J. P. Menius and bundles will be collected by the Boy Scouts on Monday, June 30th.

It is felt that everyone will heartily join in this movement inasmuch as it is for the benefit of a people who are among the most unfortunate in the whole world; and, too, the mere fact that there are tiny children listed among the suffering is sufficient to bring to the rescue the efforts of all civilization.

People of Lillington have never been known to turn a deaf ear to appeals of this sort. There is no misgiving on the part of those who have the campaign in charge, because they hold such great confidence in the people here to respond in cases of this kind.

Have your bundles ready for the Boy Scouts when they call next Monday.

COMMUNION SERVICES AT SUMMERSVILLE

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at Summersville next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. It is hoped that all the members will be present. The public is also welcomed.

J. F. Menius, Pastor.

Agricultural Liens for sale at The News office.

Dawn-to-Dusk Coast-to-Coast Flier



Photo shows the daring, experienced aviator Lt. E. L. Maughan, Pilot, U. S. A., standing alongside the propeller of the Curtiss Pursuit Dawn-to-Dusk Coast-to-Coast ship. The trip is to demonstrate the capability of the aircraft fleet. The distance from New York to San Francisco is 2,900 miles.

National News Letter

By David Loth
Special to The News
New York, June 25.—Not since 1912 has there been so keen a race for the Democratic Presidential nomination as is now being run here. And as in 1912 the outcome is certain and the competition fierce for the victor again has an excellent chance to win in November.

But it is anybody's race. So far there have been two outstanding favorites, and both are weakening in the stretch. William G. McAdoo with his Doherty connection and record for practicing before Government departments has lost prestige which six months ago made his nomination seem assured. The delegates no longer want him, and if they can find a more suitable candidate will rapidly desert the former Secretary of the Treasury.

Gov. Smith of New York has the next strongest support at the start. But despite the might of New York's ninety votes and the Tammany organization, in the country generally he is quite properly regarded as a wet. He is also a Catholic, and there is a superstition about Catholics.

So the dark horses are running hard. John W. Davis, Senator Ralston, Senator Robinson, Gov. Charles Bryan, the Commoner's brother, and Senator Walsh of Montana are often mentioned.

And from among the rich field, the Democrats are extremely likely to fall into grave errors. In all politics there is a far too strong a tendency to support a candidate and a principle, not because of sincere belief that the candidate or principle is the best available, but because it is the most expedient.

Ears to the Ground.
All over this convention city, wherever politics is discussed, such phrases as this are heard: "I'm for McAdoo, but I'm afraid of his oil record." "I like Smith, but if he were nominated he'd lose the Klux Klan belt." "Walsh is the best, but he's a Catholic too."

Only very occasionally is there any of the spirit of that early prohibition leader, who when asked why he insisted on supporting a candidate who didn't have a chance retorted: "I'd rather vote for a man I want and not get him than vote for a man I don't want and get him."

If the men who sincerely believe in McAdoo, Smith, Walsh, Robinson or the others would stick to their opinions and not worry about what other leaders are going to think, they would inevitably select a better candidate, a man who would make a better fight and a better President, than if theyicker and compromise on a man who is so colorless he has no enemies—and no friends.

A Man to Watch.
But because things are as they are, Thomas J. Walsh will be a man to watch. He has, it is true, only an outside chance to win the nomination. He has made no campaign, perhaps because he knows he has little prospect of winning.

But if the Democrats wish to put up a man who will compare to best advantage with President Coolidge, they can do no better than the Montana Senator. He played the leading role in the administration scandals, though he was aided materially by

members of the Republican party, especially Senator LaFollette. Yet all through it he has preserved a sane attitude. He has not sought to make more political capital out of government corruption than the mere exposure of that corruption brings.

But more important than that, he is a man on whom the McAdoo and Smith forces, the biggest at the start, could agree. He is identified with neither camp and as Permanent Chairman of the Convention he will be always on view. Besides there is a precedent. The only permanent chairman ever nominated for President by the Democrats was Seymour and that was in 1868, the last time a convention was held in New York.

Mussolini Slips

For a year and a half a strong man has ruled Italy. But he was not, as we say, very bright. No man of intelligence with his strength uses it the way Mussolini has used his. Any man of intelligence knows that terrorism leads to reaction often doubly crushing to the terrorists.

The reaction has started in Italy. The immediate cause was the brutal murder of a Socialist Deputy Matteotti. It was the culmination of a long series of beatings, burnings, mistreatment and general rioting on the part of his "Black Shirt" rowdy followers. Mussolini rode into power eighteen months ago on the shoulders of a mob of young hoodlums who had been partly disciplined.

Not many of these young hoodlums are millionaires and there is talk of widespread bribery. Matteotti is not the first critic to be quietly murdered, but none were actual Members of Parliament, although the Fascist made no bones about tramping the home of former Premier Nitti and devastating it.

In the revolutive plot the part high Fascist officials played in the murder plot, the type of men who compose the Government has been brought out. And the general indignation has given courage to those of Mussolini's enemies who threaten to desert him under cover. These enemies are now coming out into the open and speaking their minds. It will take a strong hand to put them back in what the Fascist thinks is their place. But they cannot be kept there.

Mussolini has the strength to oppress, but he has not the intelligence to govern.

New French Regime.
Edouard Herriot, new premier of France has celebrated his assumption of office by giving a heart to heart talk with Prime Minister MacDonald of England. These two men are in greater accord than the heads of their countries have been for some time. MacDonald is a Socialist; Herriot is very close to one.

Herriot represents the moderate population of France, the masses that want peace and hope for prosperity. As such he is inclined toward the British view that Germany must be treated in a reasonable manner. At their conference in London over the week end they tried to devise means by which all the nations of Europe could live quietly where geographical conditions and political fortunes have placed them.

Germany herself is the great obstacle now. She has been able for

Spears Notified By State Board of Second Primary

Mr. Marshall T. Spears, chairman of the County Board of Elections, has been notified by the chairman of the State Board of Elections, that there is to be a second primary for the purpose of making a final decision on the State ticket. The second primary will take place on Saturday, July 5th. No new registration will be necessary; that is, it will not be compulsory for the registrars to again open their books. Anyone becoming of voting age since the 7th of June may register and vote on July 5th.

The cause of the second primary arises from the fact that M. L. Shipman and F. D. Grist have locked horns in a contest for the office of Commissioner of Labor and Printing. Mr. Shipman received the highest number of votes and Mr. Grist followed second. There were two other candidates in the race. Mr. Grist's friends are insisting that they have a right to vote again and the Lenoir man is feeling confident that he will emerge from the second race a winner. Ex-service men are said to be standing solidly behind Mr. Grist, he being one of the boys who fought in France and bearing the marks of the conflict in the form of a bullet wound that came very near ending his earthly existence.

Mr. Spears is notifying the various registrars and poll-holders that the second State primary is to be held, and requesting that they have everything in readiness to accommodate all those who find time to vote on July 5th. It is a foregone conclusion that the vote throughout the state will be light. Not so very much interest is taken in run-overs; and, besides, people in the rural sections are much too busy to pay attention to matters of politics at this season of the year.

LONG BRANCH SCHOOL VOTES \$30,000 BONDS FOR BUILDING

Result of the special bond election in Long Branch school district in Avera's township last Tuesday showed that not a single ballot was cast against the issue. Voting was against the entire registration, meaning that a majority of the voters should favor the bonds to make the election valid. The total registration was 104. Of the \$30,000 authorized, the county will pay half and the district will pay the other half. This was the location of one of the proposed permanent schools in the county-wide plan suggested some months ago.

The new Long Branch school is to be of the modern type of rural elementary school. It will have eight classrooms and an auditorium. The construction will be of brick and it will be modern with all the conveniences. The old frame structure will be converted into a teacherage. Architect J. M. Kennedy of Raleigh and Superintendent B. F. Gentry went to Long Branch yesterday to confer with the people there in order to go over the detail of the building. People of the districts are consulted in such cases before the actual construction begins on a school house so that they may have a voice in the arrangement.

MASONS AT MANCHESTER HOLD ANNUAL ELECTION

Manchester, June 25.—At a regular communication of Evergreen Lodge No. 303 A. F. & A. M. Johnsonville, N. C. held Thursday evening June 19th, 1924 the following elective officers were elected for the ensuing Masonic year.

W. C. Marks, re-elected Master, H. O. Wooten, S.W., Edward Bruce JW, J. L. Marks re-elected Treasurer, R. J. Gurganous, re-elected Secretary.

The appointive officers will be appointed by the Master at time of installation of officers.

Tom Tarheel says that since the curb market has started in town his wife hasn't asked him for any money; in fact, she has made him one or two small loans.

so long to point to France's unreasonable attitude that she cannot adjust herself to the change. Perhaps she will see the wisdom of yielding to the reparations settlement outlined by the committee of experts. Meanwhile her nationalists are creating as much noise and ill feeling as the French Nationalists did under Poincaré.

Gov. H. L. Fuqua



Henry L. Fuqua of Baton Rouge, who has been inaugurated governor of Louisiana, succeeding John M. Parker.

A.M. Shaw Retires From Second Primary

Mr. Allen M. Shaw who ran next to Miss Mamie Sexton in the contest for nomination for the office of Register of Deeds in the primary on June 7th, and who is entitled to the privilege of calling for a run-over with Miss Sexton to decide who shall be named for this place on the November ballot, has withdrawn from the race, thus eliminating further conflict and rendering unnecessary the holding of a second primary in Harnett county for the naming of county officers. There will be a second primary, held on July 5th, but there will be no county officers voted for on that date.

The race for the office of Register of Deeds was featured as a five cornered affair. In the contest were: Miss Mamie Sexton and Mr. A. M. Shaw, both of Lillington, H. A. Parker of Dunn, S. H. Harrington and L. E. Stancil of Duke. Miss Sexton and Mr. Shaw were the highest candidates on the list after the ballots were counted, the lady having about 200 votes the better of the contest.

This race being the only one on the ticket that was not decided in the June 7th primary, Mr. Shaw has felt all along that it would be the proper thing for him to withdraw, but his friends have insisted that he was entitled to a run-over. Some of his well-wishers even went so far as to say that they were entitled to another vote to decide the contest but Mr. Shaw has not changed his mind about it, and several days ago he notified Mr. Marshall T. Spears, chairman of the County Board of Elections, that he would not call for a second primary. This action on the part of Mr. Shaw was known to The News before last week's paper was printed, but in deference to the wishes of Mr. Shaw's friends the information was withheld. They wanted him to run-over and desired that all available time be given for a last-minute decision.

Democrats throughout the county are giving unstinted praise to Mr. Shaw for his magnanimous spirit he has manifested. "People who heretofore were not hated among his political supporters are now according him the most favorable comment. There are those, too, who pretended to know that "there was no coming down for Allen Shaw," but who now proclaim him as "a bigger man than he was chalked up."

For numerous reasons, there will be universal gratification over the fact that there will be no further contest between candidates for nomination on the Democratic ticket this year. "A busy time for the farmers, and those who are not busy find the weather too hot to get that way."

WOMAN'S CLUB TO GIVE PLAY IN SCHOOL HOUSE

Under auspices of the Lillington Woman's Club an entertainment will be given in the school auditorium on the evening of July 8th. The attraction will be a "Tom Thum Wedding."

To properly stage this play will require forty girls and twenty boys, between the ages of three to nine years. The costumes will all be furnished, as well as the trainer for rehearsals, by C. A. Rose of Kansas City, who has had considerable experience in staging this attraction.

The mothers of the town and community are requested to cooperate with the ladies of the Woman's Club in furnishing the children for the characters.

Well-borers at Bunlevel Find Huge Timbers 44 Feet Down

Citizens of Bunlevel are wondering whether their town is located upon higher ground than would have been the case had it been established hundreds of years ago. Cause for the speculation comes about by reason of the fact that when a drill went down forty-four feet the other day in search for water on the site of the new Bunlevel school, a huge pine log was encountered. Just how big the timber was cannot be told, for when the pine shavings came up the borers pulled up their drill and sank it in another place. But there was pine timber there also. Only fourteen feet down into the bosom of Mother Earth the drill struck another log. Boring through, the well-drillers finally reached a now of water at 152 feet. The well gives eight gallons per minute.

Just how the large timbers happened to be at a depth of 44 feet is a mystery unless one is inclined to place credence in the theory that at one time all of this fine country now known as Harnett county was part and parcel of the ocean bed. "They tell us," as the story goes, that in years gone by, probably a million annums, it makes little difference about how long ago, there was water, oceans of it, covering this territory. When the transformation took place is another mystery, but it doesn't matter so much about the date, either, just so it happened, but if the story is to be believed, the old ocean took a notion to retreat and take in less territory. Whether water got scarcer or moved onto other ground, does not appear of record. It so happens that now there is land upon top of land.

The foregoing is not clear to the lay mind, of course, and it is not intended to be, because the average person is not going to believe it anyway. But somehow or other, there came a landslide or upheaval after the water had receded—several hundred years afterwards. The growth that had formed where the waters were became covered with more earth and another growth followed. And so that is how come there is timber beneath the present strata upon which folks live. Some people advance the theory that the re-covering of the old earth took place when Noah and his ark struck dry land after the flood. That would be a long time for big pine timbers to lay in the ground and rest in preserved state.

A few miles out from Lillington on the Ross farm there is to be found huge hickory trees that have been submerged for years till they have become petrified. It is said that the resin in pine trees will not allow them to petrify, but will preserve them for ages.

The school at Bunlevel, which is to be constructed of brick, is to be modern in every respect. There will be eight classrooms and an auditorium, electricity, water and sewerage. The cost complete will be about \$35,000.

Olivia's new school building is to be almost exactly like the one at Bunlevel. It will cost approximately the same and have all the conveniences.

The big school being erected between Kipling and Chalybeate, to be known as the Lafayette school, being located on the highway, is rapidly going up. The contractors have the structure above the first floor level. This building will cost about \$65,000 when completed and will have all the modern conveniences.

A CORRECTION.

A couple of weeks ago The News, through oversight, fell into error and gave away one of the finest citizens of Harnett county. It came about this way: In mentioning the name of Mr. J. A. Ragland of Spinnelton, The News stated that he was a citizen of Lee county. The News did not want Lee to have Mr. Ragland, of course, and there was no intention of doing away with him when the statement was made; but, like all other good newspapers, The News sometimes commits grave error. It is not like Mr. Ragland to hold anything against this paper. He has been a mighty good friend of ours for years and we feel that he will overlook the error. The News is indebted to Mr. R. B. O'Quinn for pointing out the mistake. Mr. Ragland is one of the most prosperous merchants of the upper section of Harnett.