

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, January 3, 1929

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

COLLECTOR HAS TAKEN IN ABOUT HALF OF TAXES

NEW YEAR OPENS WITH QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS YET TO BE PAID BY CITIZENS OF HARNETT

With the opening of the new year, Tax Collector John Green after tabulating his collections since the first of October finds that he still has approximately half a million dollars yet to collect from citizens of Harnett county as taxes due in 1928. Practically all of the corporations have paid their taxes, states the collector, and the sum yet to be collected is due by citizens. There are some big taxpayers yet to be heard from, he says, and when they pay up what they owe the county, the goal of \$483,641.00 will have been nearly reached. The above figures represent the total tax lay in Harnett as per the auditor's statement. To this will be added some "after listed," but it is impossible to state just exactly what that amount will be. Some after listed taxes have already been placed on the books, but there will be some after listings all along till the tax collector makes his final report.

The sum total of taxes is divided between the white and colored races and corporations as follows: To be paid by white people, \$414,781.24; to be paid by colored people, \$19,756.84; to be paid by corporations, \$49,211.86.

With approximately \$250,000 yet to collect, Mr. Green is not disturbed by the fact that what is termed "the best collecting period" is gone. It is generally conceded that October, November and December are the best months for collecting taxes, but Mr. Green has found in former years that many large taxpayers have acquired the habit of waiting along with some smaller taxpayers till the last minute before settling. The collector is taking in a goodly sum each day now, and he expects that his January report will compare favorably with any other month of the tax collecting period.

The collector has made all the "plans" he intends to make for 1928 taxes, and now he is resorting to levying upon personal property. This method will bring in much more money than might be imagined by persons uninitiated in the game of collecting taxes, and incidentally bring it much quicker than mere soliciting. Levying upon personal property is the last resort in collecting taxes, however. The county is still badly in need of money with which to pay school teachers and incidental expenses of the county government. Short notes are still being sold to the bond buyers to get funds to defray running expenses.

LOCATE TOBACCO BEDS IN ISOLATED PLACE

Raleigh, Jan. 2.—The tobacco plant bed located in an isolated place on the farm where there are no tobacco scraps lying about and little rubbish from the barns or parkhouse, has the best chance of producing plants that are free from disease.

"Ordinarily, one would think it permissible to locate the tobacco beds anywhere the plants would thrive," says G. W. Pant, plant disease specialist at State College. "This might be all right were it not for the leaf spots and mosaic disease which appeared in startling amounts throughout the State last season. In several fields, fully eighty percent of the plants were affected with the mosaic trouble. The disease affects the entire leaf and usually requires both its size and quality. One of the significant things about this disease was that plants left growing in the beds until about July and August also showed the characteristic light and dark green mottling of the mosaic trouble."

In most instances of this kind, states Mr. Pant, the tobacco fields were fully one-half mile or more from the bed, indicating that the disease began in the plant bed and was carried to the field by infected plants. All the infected fields could be traced back to the plant beds.

Those plant beds which were worst infected were those located around farm buildings or farm lots. The disease will winter over in certain weeds which grow about the farm buildings and do not grow in the wooded areas. Then, too, there is no tobacco refuse generally to be found in the wooded areas. Mr. Pant therefore advised locating the plant bed this winter in an isolated place, provided the soil is fertile and well drained. To do this will lessen disease, especially if the seed are reclaimed and treated before they are planted.

CHRISTMAS MARKED BY QUIETUDE AND SUNSHINE

Christmas 1928 was noted mostly for the remarkably quiet period through which it came and went, and for the sunny days that gave everyone hereabouts good reason for feeling happy. There was not so much merry-making as usual, due principally to the large numbers of cases of sickness in the community. But those who were not confined to their homes made the most of the occasion.

Gatherings were principally confined to home circles. Warnings against spread of influenza through the congregating of people caused many plans for Yuletide parties to be broken up. Family Christmas trees and celebrations, home-comings and the exchanging of greetings and goodwill were carried through without ceremony.

It was a quiet Christmas in this community, but everyone was satisfied because it was a good Christmas—as all Christmases are.

HARNETT MEN STANDING GOOD FOR STATE JOBS

CHARLES ROSS AND ALLEN M. SHAW IN LINE FOR APPOINTMENTS—OTHER JOBS BEING SOUGHT

Raleigh, Jan. 2.—According to reports around the Capital, two Harnett men are standing mighty good chances for appointment to State jobs. These men are Charles Ross and Allen M. Shaw, both of Lillington. Mr. Ross is being prominently mentioned as successor to Frank Page—not as chairman of the State Highway Commission but as executive secretary when Mr. Page retires upon the convening of the General Assembly. The chairman will retire as an all-time official and may retain his title with capacity the same as other members of the commission. The idea is to create the office of all-time executive secretary, and Mr. Ross is being groomed for that position. He is now assistant attorney general assigned to the State Highway Commission and is well acquainted with the work of the commission as well as having a fine store of general information concerning every interest of the State. It is generally conceded that Mr. Ross will make an excellent official for the job cut out for him.

According to other reports coming here over the week-end, Allen M. Shaw of Lillington, former register of deeds of Harnett, and W. W. Rogers of Ahoskie crave the job of State Pardon Commissioner during the Gardner administration. Mr. Shaw managed Gardner's campaign in Harnett county in the three-cornered fight in 1920 when Cameron Morrison, O. Max Gardner and Robert N. Page engaged in the hottest fight for the gubernatorial nomination that the State has seen in years.

The list of unannounced but allegedly active candidates for the appointive jobs that O. Max Gardner will make when or shortly after he becomes Governor of North Carolina on January 11 are perceptibly over the week-end.

State Senator Rivers J. Johnson of Warsaw, according to reports brought here from down east over the week-end, is after the position now held by Major Wade H. Phillips, director of the State Department of Conservation and Development.

Senator Johnson, a close friend of Gardner, managed the latter's campaign in Duplin and surrounding counties and was instrumental, they say, in helping the Governor-elect roll up sizeable majorities.

So far as is known, Senator Johnson is the only man reported to be anxious to succeed. Major Phillips, who is generally accredited with having made a good record since he became director of the Department in 1925.

Other candidates for the position of Pardon Commissioner, which pays a salary of \$4,000 a year, are: Claude Wolz of Winston-Salem, H. L. Swain of Raleigh, Phil Sawyer of Elizabeth City, Louis H. Clement of Salisbury, J. S. Massenburgh of Hendersonville.

Interest flared up again over the week-end with regard to Gardner's possible selection as State's Prison superintendent. Chances of George Ross Pou, present superintendent, were said by his friends to be enhanced as the result of a statement attributed to Gardner in Sunday's papers. The Governor-elect was quoted as saying that he has never offered nor has he promised the position of prison superintendent to any one.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM SOOCHOW, CHINA

MISSIONARY WRITES HOME TO PARENTS OF MANY INTERESTING PHASES OF HIS WORK THERE

The following letter from Rev. and Mrs. Buren Johnson to Mr. Johnson's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Johnson of Lillington, will be of interest to hosts of friends of this splendid young couple, who with their three children have recently returned to their mission work in Soochow, China, after a year's furlough in the States:

Soochow, Nov. 11, 1928.

Dear Homefolks: I have been intending to write to you ever since we arrived in Soochow, but have been so busy that I couldn't find time to write a decent letter. We arrived in Shanghai on schedule time, October 20th, and came on to Soochow the next day. Several of our missionary friends and Chinese co-workers met us in Shanghai and all seemed so happy to see us back. When we reached Soochow we found more of our friends at the railway station to greet us. Mr. Bostick had our house cleaned up and everything put in order so we spent the first night in our own home. In fact the table in the dining room was already set ready for supper. The Bosticks, McMillans, Miss Lanneau and Miss Groves had already made plans and the members of our Soochow Station had supper together that night in our dining room. You can imagine what a grand time we had. The ladies had prepared a grand lot of fried chickens, vegetables, cake, pie, etc., etc. What a feast we did have together!

Loh Ma, our old cook, (she has worked for us more than five years) heard that we were coming back so she came about a week before we did and helped get the house in shape. She had our beds all made and everything ready for us. You can imagine how happy we were to find her here waiting for us, and she seemed just as happy to see us back.

Mr. Chen, the Chinese who was recently elected Principal of Yates Academy, came to Shanghai to welcome us. He is very happy to have us back to take up our work again in the school. In fact we have received a royal welcome from the Chinese. These few rays we have been here have been filled up with calls by our many Chinese friends and welcome meetings by different classes and organizations in the schools. Several of our friends have invited us to their homes for meals. I don't see how we could have had a more joyous reception and whole-hearted welcome. It makes our hearts rejoice to be here.

We got to Soochow on Saturday and I began teaching in the school the following Monday. Some of the teachers had been doing extra work in order to take care of my classes until I could get there. Kate will begin in the Wei Ling Girls' Academy tomorrow. She will teach one class in English. My schedule will be light for the remainder of this term but it will give me time to do some other work among the students.

The opportunities for personal work are limited. A good number of our students are Christians but there are many who are not. Pray that we may be used of the Lord to win these to Christ as their Savior.

We found most of our furniture here for which we are very thankful. There are a few little things missing but nothing of very great importance. Some thieves broke in soon after we left Soochow and stole a few little things but aside from that we have practically everything else. In the summer of 1927 some soldiers came one afternoon and said they wanted to use the missionary residences and that they would move in the next day. That night the teachers of Yates Academy together with the school servants moved all the furniture out of the missionary homes and put it in the different teachers' homes. They worked nearly all night long. The next morning when the soldiers came they looked at the houses and said, "These houses are empty—no furniture. We don't want them." So they went away and did not move in. But for this action on the part of our teachers I doubt if any of our furniture would have been here.

We found our house badly in need of repairs. Mr. Bostick had spent all the repair money given by the foreign Mission Board for our house for this year and still there was work that had to be done. Then too the fence around the yard wall rotten and broken down. I am having to spend about \$100 gold of my own money to get the place in a liveable

condition. The screens are also rusted out and torn but fortunately we don't have to replace them until next spring. The screening will take practically all the repair money for the next year but it will have to be for we could not live long and do well without protection from mosquitoes during the summer months. Harold and Eugenia are having quite a time. You remember they had forgotten practically all the Chinese they ever knew. It is right pathetic to watch them rattle off a great long spiel in English to some Chinese and suddenly realize that the person to whom they are speaking does not understand a thing they are saying. They have a hard time making their wants known. However they are beginning to learn a few words. It won't be long until they will be jabbering away in Chinese again.

One of the happy surprises I found when we got here was the plans for making wide streets through the city. From the founding of the city of Soochow by Kink Wu in 520 B. C. until 1928 the standard width of the main street was eight feet. Now they have a very carefully worked out plan which is already in operation for dividing the streets into four classes. The first class streets are to be thirty-two feet wide, second class twenty feet, third class twelve feet, and fourth class eight feet. There will be three first class streets running north and south straight through the city. One of these first class streets will pass by Yates Academy. The second, third and fourth class streets are laid out according to a well laid plan depending upon the importance of the street in question. I was simply amazed yesterday as Kate and I walked along the famous Dragon Street that runs from one side of the city to the other, Big Pakoda being at one end and the Confucian Temple at the other, to see how rapidly the work was progressing. It looked as though there had been a fire so many houses were being torn down and rebuilt in order to widen the street. I asked how it could be done so easily and was told that the city officials had approved the plans and would issue orders for a section of the street to be widened giving the people concerned so many days notice within which to tear down and rebuild their houses.

"But," I said, "What if the people are unwilling to do this?" I was told in that case the city would send workmen to tear the houses down and force the people to pay for the work. The city has a regular uniform rate it pays to each property holder for the land he has to give up. This of course is small but it shows consideration. It will take some four or five years to complete the entire plan because the lack of funds. This work is being done out of some special taxes and the money comes in comparatively slow when we think of the tremendous task to be done. However we are all looking forward to the time when Soochow will in many ways be approaching a modern city.

This widening of the streets of Soochow is just one indication of the many changes and the strides of progress already being made in China at this time. If the new government is able to carry through its program, and indications now are that it will be able, this great giant that has been sleeping these thousands of years is soon to awake and take its rightful place among the nations of the world. In view of the present situation and impending progress of the near future there comes an overwhelming challenge to Christians the world over to arise and help to make China a Christian nation in order that she may truly be strong and be imbued with that spirit which is so vital to peace and good will among the nations of the earth. May the individual Chinese come to know Christ in all His living power and may China become a nation whose strength and support is to be found in a Christian citizenship.

There is so much to tell I could keep on writing for hours but guess I will have to stop for this time. Kate and children join in sending love to all.

Sincerely,
Buren

CLARK-BERTON.

The hosts of friends here and elsewhere of Mr. Alton W. Clark of Pig Point, Virginia, will learn with surprise and sincere pleasure of his marriage December 16th to Miss Annie Elizabeth Berton.

The happy couple were here during the holidays, visiting relatives and friends in Harnett, Richmond and Scotland counties, returning to their home at Pig Point last Sunday.

Mr. Clark is a native of Harnett county and his wide circle of friends wish for him and his bride a life full of happiness.

Chattel Mortgage at The News.

CONTROL FLEA BEETLE BY BUILDING TRAP BEDS

(By C. H. Brannon, Extension Entomologist, N. C. State College.)

The flea beetle (or flea bug) is one of the worst insect pests of tobacco in North Carolina. It causes thousands of dollars damage to tobacco each season, therefore, it is to the advantage of every tobacco grower to give attention to the control of this destructive pest. If flea beetles were as big as ground hogs and growers could easily see them destroying large quantities of tobacco a great cry of alarm would be raised and the pest would be destroyed as an enemy of all tobacco growers.

Flea beetles are very small and the damage caused is not fully realized by growers until plant beds are practically destroyed or tobacco in the field is practically all eaten. The damage caused is tremendous. This pest not only feeds upon the leaves of tobacco but the very small worm which turns into a flea beetle feeds entirely on the roots of the tobacco plants. Therefore, the damage is twice as great as most growers realize. A tobacco plant has very little chance to produce quality leaf with a worm feeding on its roots and the adult beetle feeding upon its leaves.

Tobacco growers who intend to stay in the business must give attention to the control of this pest. Those who do not adopt approved methods of control will be unable to compete with growers who do control this pest. Tobacco insect pest control must be considered as a regular part of the crop program. Why should growers fail to protect their crop against insects when they have made an effort to sow good seed and use proper fertilizer and correct cultural methods.

CONTROL
We cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of controlling the flea beetle in the plant bed. Those beetles which do damage later on in the field come from beetles which feed early in the season on the plant bed. Therefore, plant bed control will help greatly in reducing the number of beetles which do damage later in the field.

The trap bed has given excellent results in this control and its method of construction is shown in the accompanying diagram. Boards should be used around the margin of the bed to support the cheese cloth (poles should not be used as they cannot be made tight.) Soil should be banked around the boards so that insects cannot crawl under them. These boards should be fitted closely at the corners.

Only new cheese cloth of a good grade should be used. The cheese cloth or "canvas" should have 25 strands to the inch. It is very important that growers obtain this grade. If the dealer does not have this grade, see your county agent or write for information as to where it can be obtained. An effort has been made to have dealers buy only the right grade of cheese cloth as the coarser grades will not keep out the small flea beetles.

The cheese cloth should be well sewn and fastened to the margin boards by wooden strips. Tacking or nailing the cloth to the boards without the strip will usually result in holes pulled in the cloth.

An area of several feet around the bed should be sown in tobacco as a trap. Use poles for the margin of the trap and cover loosely with oil cheese cloth so that the flea beetles can get to the trap. This loosely covered bed around the outside of the light bed is the trap. (It would pay every tobacco grower to make a tight bed whether he had flea beetles or not as the plants will be stronger, for the nearer the bed can be made like a hot bed without cutting out sunshine and air, the more vigorous the plants will be.)

The plants in the trap should be kept well covered with poison, (the number of applications depending on rains, etc.) As a poison use the "One-In-Six" mixture which is: 1 pound of Paris green mixed with 5 pounds of arsenate of lead. Use at the rate of 1-2 pound per 100 square yards as a dust. Cover the plants well.

If a liquid spray is preferred, use 1-2 to 2 pounds of the "One-In-Six" mixture (1 pound of Paris green with 5 pounds of Arsenate of lead) in 50 gallons of water. (1 1-2 to 2 table-spoonsfuls to 3 gallons of water. Cover plants well.)

Important: The "One-In-Six" mixture has been found to control the flea beetle better than any other poison or combination of poisons. Do not substitute calcium arsenate or any other material for the Paris green and arsenate of lead.

If flea beetles show up in large

numbers later in the fields, poison as follows: For newly set plants use 3 pounds per acre of the "One-In-Six" mixture.

For field control on tobacco half grown or larger, use 4 to 6 pounds per acre of the "one-in-six" mixture. This will control horn worms also, but will not control bud worms.

For further information see your county agent or write to Extension Entomologist, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

NEW YEAR WAS GREETED WITH MUCH SOUND

BELLS, HORNS, WHISTLES, YELLING AND LAUGHTER HELPED 1929 TO MAKE ITS DEBUT MONDAY NIGHT

The New Year met its welcome in Lillington at midnight Monday with the ringing of bells, blowing of horns, sounding of sirens, yells and laughter by a happy throng who sprang from various places of repose, congregated at public square and helped 1929 make its debut to the world. The merry-making was not so noisy as would probably have been the case had there not been so much sickness in the community. The spread of influenza has cast a damper over most of the holiday spirit hereabouts as it has in practically every part of the country.

Promptly at the stroke of twelve o'clock midnight Monday, the ringing of the courthouse bell by someone who was evidently in waiting for the momentous time when the old year was to give way to the new, was the signal for the outburst of celebrating. Automobiles began making the circle around the public square, their horns giving vent to all the noise with which they were capable. Yells welcomed the new year to come and begin making its time. Soon the bells in the steeples of the three churches began sending out their messages of welcome.

The celebration lasted for about half an hour, after which there was absolute quiet and the town was asleep again. Tuesday morning, the first of the new year, dawned with a smoky look as if rain was near. The temperature, however, was mild. It was a new year, all right and the refusal of the sun to shine didn't seem to matter much. The New Year had been given its welcome and everyone seemed content to wait for returns.

New Year's Day was observed as holiday by most people hereabouts. There was work to do in some places of business and it was not slacked. Those who found time hanging heavily took more rest.

LILLINGTON SCHOOL TO OPEN NEXT TUESDAY

Lillington school, which was to have resumed its session today following the Christmas vacation, has been ordered closed till next Tuesday by Superintendent B. P. Gentry of the county school system. This action was made necessary by the wide spread of influenza which has caused many absences from school during the past several weeks.

Lafayette is another school to remain closed for another week upon order of the superintendent. In that school the attendance has been poor for several weeks, and during the holidays the number of cases of influenza increased, it is said.

Practically all other schools in the county opened on appointed time this week.

It is reported that influenza is affecting attendance in all of the schools, however, and it is not altogether certain as to whether they will be resume normal courses of study for some weeks.

LAFAYETTE HIGHS TRIM GARNER IN CLOSE GAME

In a highly interesting basketball game during the holidays, Lafayette High School boys defeated the Garner High School basketball quint 22 to 20 on the Hugh Morson High school gymnasium court in Raleigh. The game was closely waged throughout, with the result hanging fire until the final whistle.

Johnson, with 14 points, led the winners while Rhodes caged ten points to top Garner's quint.

COTTON GINNED.

Editor The News:
There were 32,362 bales of cotton ginned in Harnett county from the crop of 1928 prior to December 15, 1928, as compared with 34,847 bales ginned to December 15, 1927.

C. L. WILSON,
Special Agent.

COURT TO FACE DOCKET WITH 96 CASES PLUS

JUDGE MIDYETTE TO CONVEY ONE WEEK TERM HERE ON MONDAY FOR TRIAL OF CRIMINAL CASES

Judge Garland E. Midyette, when he convenes Harnett Superior Court here Monday, will face a docket of 96 cases plus. In addition to the 96 cases scheduled on the calendar as fixed by the clerk, there will be a number of cases on appeal from the Recorder's Courts of Dunn and Lillington as well as from magistrates. These cases will be subject to the call of Solicitor Clawson Williams.

The calendar as published contains 45 cases set for trial on Monday, 15 on Tuesday, 14 on Wednesday, 10 on Thursday and 12 on Friday. A note at the end of the calendar reads:

"All appeals from the courts of the recorder and justices of the peace since the printing of this calendar stand for trial at the call of the solicitor, and the defendants are hereby notified to attend the first day of this court and remain until their cases are disposed of."

The term beginning Monday is for the trial of criminal cases exclusively. Beginning Monday, January 21st there will be another term of one week for the trial of criminal cases. This will be a special term and the judge to preside will be assigned by the Governor. Judge Midyette, who is scheduled to preside at all of the regular spring terms of Harnett Superior Court, will not be available for the special term, he having been scheduled at other points on the regular judicial calendar of the State.

Five murder cases are scheduled on the calendar for next week—two on Monday and three on Wednesday. Other cases on the calendar range in seriousness of offense from violating the prohibition law to issuing worthless checks. Almost all crimes inhibited by de calogue are numbered among the list prepared against the defendants by Clerk Chaffin.

Jerors for both the regular and special terms have been drawn and their names published in this News.

FOUR THINGS PREVENT HIGHER FARM PRODUCTS

Raleigh, Jan. 2.—The beginning of the New Year finds a universal interest in agriculture. In general, this industry has not shared in the nation-wide economic prosperity which the United States is experiencing and there are four main reasons why this is true.

"The first of these is a maladjustment in production," says Dr. G. W. Forster, agricultural economist at State College. "Farmers, for various reasons, have not been able to adjust their production to market demands in such a way as to obtain satisfactory returns. Then, too, our market system is cumbersome and inflexible to such an extent that it is practically useless in periods of economic distress. Third, the credit mechanism is not being engineered either by private or governmental agencies in a fashion that will be of most benefit to farmers. Fourth, railway rates and taxes are important factors. Railway rates are seldom adjusted to correspond to the price movement of farm produce and when the price of agricultural products are low, freight rates take an unusually large percent of the income. Tax rates either remain constant or are increased. There is no attempt to adjust taxes to the income producing power of the farmer."

Dr. Forster says that maladjustment is practically always the principal cause of distress in any industry. On the farm, it is brought about because farmers do not have adequate information upon which to base the choice of enterprises. As a result many choose the wrong enterprise or fail to obtain a balance among the varied things being produced on the farm. Sometimes land, labor, fertilizer is not used to best advantage and some men are encouraged to expand production by using the sub-marginal land that had been best remain in timber or be allowed to stand idle.

Dr. Forster sees the need of more economic surveys to be made over the State similar to the one which he helped to make for the State Tax commission recently.

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation, to those who remembered us with so many nice things on Christmas Eve night.

Thanking you again, and wishing for each of you a happy and successful New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Todd.