

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, March 28, 1929

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

Law Which Now Governs Schools

Salaries and Number of Teachers Regulated by Statute Enacted by Legislature. Most Important of Laws

An Act to Establish an Eight Months School Term, to Provide for the Support and to Equalize the Costs Thereof.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the appropriation made under title 5 (2) of section 1 in "An act to make appropriation for the maintenance of the State's institutions, the various departments, bureaus and agencies of the State government of the sum of five million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$5,250,000) for an equalizing fund for the year ending June 30, 1929, and of the sum of five million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$5,250,000) for an equalizing fund for the year ending June 30, 1931, shall be distributed among the various counties of the State as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. That the State Board of Equalization, established by chapter 256 of the Public Laws of 1927, shall be continued beyond the term provided for by section 2 of said chapter, and the successors to the members of said board shall, at the expiration of the terms of the present members, be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate in the same manner and for a like term as provided for the appointment of the original members, and in addition thereto the Governor or his representative, as Director of the Budget, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be ex officio members of said board. In the event of any vacancy on said board caused by death, resignation or otherwise, said vacancy shall be filled by appointment until the next succeeding session of the General Assembly, whereupon said vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment, to be confirmed by the Senate.

Sec. 3. That the duties of said board except insofar as the same may be changed by the provisions of this act, shall continue and remain the same as prescribed in chapter 256, Public Laws of 1927.

Sec. 4. That, in addition to the duties imposed upon the State Board of Equalization by chapter 256 of the Public Laws of 1927 it shall be the duty of the said board to investigate and compare the cost of operating the public schools in the several counties of the State, and to assemble such information and data, relative to cost of school supplies, equipment and current expense of operation, as will enable said board to ascertain what should be a proper standard of cost for operating the public schools of each of the several counties of the State; and the board shall transmit such information to the County Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners of the several counties of the State, to the end that in the preparation and adoption of the May budget as now required by law, the county authorities may have the benefit of such information for comparison with other counties with a view to state standardization of school cost. Said State Board of Equalization may, in addition thereto, perform the following duties:

(a) Examine into all budgets prepared by the several County Boards of Education and the items thereof and determine in the light of the most improved methods of school administration whether such items are essential, necessary or excessive and shall indicate thereupon its determination.

(b) Supervise and direct the methods used in the administration of transportation facilities for school children, including the purchase of trucks and buses as well as the upkeep thereof; and shall provide as nearly uniform as possible an amount to be set up in each school budget to repurchase and keep in proper condition all facilities of transportation, including the setting up of a standard and fixed schedule of charges for the repairs of buses and trucks, insofar as it is possible to do so, and the establishment of county garages, if the repairs and upkeep of transportation facilities can thereby be reduced.

(c) Make a careful survey and study of the cost of other school supplies and furnish the several county boards of education and the county superintendents of schools, and the boards of county commissioners the result of such survey

and study, in order that they may have the benefit thereof in determining and passing upon the school budget.

(d) To examine and approve or disapprove, in whole or in part, any voucher for the payment of equalizing funds to any county that refuses or fails to conduct its school administration upon a business-like, efficient and economic basis.

Sec. 5. Before any county shall participate in the equalizing fund in any year, the board of county commissioners shall levy an ad valorem tax a net sum equal to the amount which would be raised by a tax of thirty cents on each one hundred dollars valuation, as determined by the State Board of Equalization, as said county's part of the current expense necessary for the operation of the six months school term. This tax shall be levied and collected in the same way and manner as other county taxes are levied and collected and shall be turned over to the treasurer of the school fund of the county.

Sec. 6. The amount due any county from the equalizing fund shall be the amount by which the necessary cost of the six months school term, ascertained as provided in section 7 hereof, exceeds the amount produced by a levy of thirty cents on the valuation of said county, as determined by the State Board of Equalization, as provided by law, plus the amount of all funds required by law to be placed to the credit of the public schools of such county, derived from fines, forfeitures, penalties, dog tax and poll tax, actually collected during the preceding year.

Sec. 7. For the purpose of making the apportionment of the equalizing fund for any year, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall check the November budget for the last preceding year for each and every county, in accordance with the salaries actually paid, not in excess, however, of the State salary schedule, and in accordance with the number of teachers employed, not in excess, however, of the number allowed by law; provided, that the total number of teachers allowed any county shall not be in excess of one teacher for thirty-two pupils in average daily attendance in the elementary schools and one teacher for twenty-seven pupils in average daily attendance in the high schools during the preceding year; provided further, that if the board of education of any county ascertains that said county is unable to meet the requirements as set forth in this act for determination of the total number of teachers to be allowed, they may present to the State Board of Equalization on or before the 20th day of May a statement showing the organization of the several schools of the county, and after investigation of the facts, the State Board of Equalization may in its discretion, make allowance in the budget for one or more additional teachers and so certify to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall then determine therefrom what was the necessary cost of the salaries of teachers, principals, and superintendents, for the six months school term in each and every county for the preceding year. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall check the November budget for the last preceding year, and shall ascertain the amount allowed in the budget in each and every county for the transportation of pupils during the six months term, and shall further ascertain the number of pupils transported in each county and the amount expended in each county per pupil transported during said term. The necessary amount for the maintenance of the six months term in the support of which the State participates shall then be ascertained and allowed as follows:

(a) Cost of salaries as above determined.

(b) Ten per cent of the salary cost shall be added to cover current expenses other than salaries and transportation.

(c) In counties in which consolidation has necessitated transportation of pupils the salary cost shall also be increased by such sum as was actually expended the previous

year.

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year.

(Continued on page six)

POULTRY SALES BRINGING MUCH MONEY HERE

ONE TO TWO CARLOADS EACH WEEK MOVING OUT OF HARNETT—SALES HEAVIER EACH WEEK

If present indications are to be taken at their face value, the poultry industry in Harnett county bids fair to become one of the chief sources of revenue for farm folk and others who have been impressed by the handsome returns through the cooperative shipments sponsored by the Four County Poultry Association at Dunn and Lillington. Interest in the poultry industry has been stimulated greatly by the recent high prices paid at the shipping points, and the offerings are increasing in volume each week.

At Dunn last Friday there was 18,879 pounds of poultry sold for \$4,262.43. Another car will move from Dunn Friday of this week. At Lillington next Wednesday a car will be loaded.

Prof. J. O. Anthony, instructor in vocational agriculture at Lillington High School, reports that recruits to the poultry raising group are constantly being added. In almost every community or neighborhood where a poultry raiser sells his stock at the cooperative shipping point, receiving a handsome check in return, there is to be noticed an increased interest in the poultry business. With the interest spreading week by week and the industry expanding, a healthier financial status is expected among farmers generally.

While the poultry business is just bringing in only a few thousand dollars, which is small when compared to the large income from the staple crops, yet it must be remembered that the poultry business is yet in its infancy. Furthermore, it is not proposed to make the poultry business a source of revenue that will take the place of the staple crops, but more of a side-line that will bring in ready cash year round. Promoters of the industry, however, note with great satisfaction the fact that many farmers are paying more attention to poultry and other so-called side-lines. This indicates, they say, a determination on the part of farmers to get away from the one-crop idea.

FINE COW WAS ELECTROCUTED

Mr. Walter F. Byrd of Lillington lost a fine cow last Saturday afternoon when the severe rain and wind storm broke a high tension electric wire that when falling struck a wire fence and sent a volume of electricity shooting through the chain with which the cow was tied. The cow received the current which shocked her so severely that she died in a few moments.

Mr. Byrd's cow was tied in his pasture lot near his home. The chain with which the animal was tied was fastened to a post against which a wire fence was hooked. The electric wire was broken by the storm and fell across the wire fence, transmitting the current through the chain to the cow.

When Mr. Byrd's brother saw the cow in distress, he ran to her aid and took the chain from the halter. Had it not been for the fact that the activity of the cow, after the volts of electricity shot into her system, disconnected the circuit from the high tension wire, Mr. Byrd would most likely have been electrocuted also.

BOLL WEEVILS NOW SHOWING

Particularly warm weather Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday brought out many insects, according to farmers who are now paying close attention to preparations for the 1929 crops. But no insects are more noticeable, they say, than the much-despised boll weevil. These bugs are out in such large numbers that are to be picked up almost anywhere.

Mr. Walter Matthews told The News Monday that he was riding on a truck with some others and saw a boll weevil complacently resting on his coat sleeve. Mr. Hill Murchison exhibited to The News Tuesday a big weevil he had found on a bale of hay. "Tell the boys the weevils are out," these gentlemen admonished, "and they'll get some cotton, too."

TWO STILLS TAKEN BY DEPUTY SHERIFF HUFFINES

Deputy Sheriff D. A. Huffines of Barbecue brought in two liquor stills last Saturday. One of the stills was of 50 gallons capacity and was a complete copper outfit with cap and worm. Two hundred and fifty gallons of beer was poured out at this still site.

The other still was also of 50 gallons capacity and was of the galvanized type but with a copper worm. Two hundred gallons of beer was poured out.

Both of the stills were taken in Deputy Huffines' territory. No men were taken.

HOG RAISING ON COMMERCIAL SCALE GROWS

COOPERATIVE SHIPMENTS OF HOGS ENABLE FARMERS TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS STOCK AT GOOD PROFIT

Along with the increased volume of poultry shipments from Harnett county comes another side-line which is proving profitable to farmers. Shipments of hogs by carload lots are netting farmers good profits. Prof. Anthony told The News last week that one farmer sold 39 hogs for \$1,100. Since the first shipment of hogs went out this spring there has been inquiry from farmers in almost every section of the county as to the profits from these sales.

The hog shipments are conducted in the same way as the poultry shipments. The shipments are made cooperatively, and cash is paid at the car for all hogs sold.

At first it was noticed that farmers selling hogs in the cooperative shipments were merely jidding their pastures of surplus stock, but after the satisfactory returns were noted there was such stimulated interest in the hog-raising industry that increased herds are to be seen on almost all farms. A small farmer adds a few pigs to his herd and the larger farmer increases his herd in order to be able to have larger offerings for the shipments.

The shipments are so arranged and scheduled that hogs will be sold on a high market. Caution is exercised in this matter, and fear at first felt that the market might become overlanded has been abated since it is noted that each shipment brings better prices.

Those who have hogs to sell should see Prof. Anthony and arrange to make offerings in the next shipment.

CAPACITY DUTY FOR WATER LINES

Chief of Police M. B. McKinney, who is also superintendent of Lillington's water system, states that his water lines are now loaded to capacity and that he finds the use of water in Lillington is so great that if the pumps are stopped for only a few hours the supply runs short.

Last Saturday the heavy wind and rain, accompanied by sharp lightning, knocked one of the pumps off. It was not discovered until several hours later and by that time the supply of water had run low. Points high above the water lines were without water Saturday night.

Chief McKinney says that there is rarely a full head of water in the pipes now.

MR. AND MRS. S. M. RATHBONE WILL MOVE TO LOUISIANA

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Rathbone of Sanford were in town for a short while this week saying goodbyes to their many friends before leaving for Louisiana, where Mr. Rathbone has been transferred.

Mr. and Mrs. Rathbone were stationed in Lillington about two years ago and their hosts of friends in North Carolina regret to see them leave. Mr. Rathbone is a civil engineer and has been connected with the State Highway Commission.

MR. SENSABAUGH DIES
Friends will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Sensabaugh, son of Mrs. Mary Sensabaugh, former Lillington resident. Mr. Sensabaugh was a member of the United States Army and died about the first of March in Utah. He was buried in Knoxville, Tennessee, the home of the Sensabaughs.

SUPERIOR COURT BEGINS MONDAY TWO WEEKS TERM

JUDGE CLAYTON MOORE OF WILLIAMSTON TO PRESIDE OVER CIVIL TERM—DOCKET HEAVILY LOADED

Harnett Superior Court will convene next Monday for a two weeks term with Judge Clayton Moore of Williamston presiding. The term is for the trial of civil cases exclusively. Calendars heavily loaded with cases have been prepared and mailed to litigants by Clerk Chaffin. Names of jurors for the two weeks term have been published in The News.

This will be Judge Moore's first judicial visit to Harnett. He was named emergency judge a couple of years ago at the same time that Judge Nat Townsend was appointed. Both Judge Moore and Judge Townsend have exhibited remarkable ability upon the bench and it was with sincere regret that members of the bar and others learned last week that Judge Townsend had quit as a jurist to accept the position of Pardon Commissioner and Executive Counselor to Governor O. Max Gardner.

One hundred and twenty-two cases are scheduled on the calendar for the ten days of the term. No cases are scheduled for Saturdays. Forty-nine cases appear on the motion docket. These cases require only a motion before the judge for final adjudication and settlement.

There will be no sessions of the County Recorder's Court during the two weeks of Superior Court. Judge Dupree of the Recorder's Court has caused to be published a notice of special session of his court for Friday of this week to hear civil matters.

PUT MAIL ON TRUCKS SOON

Postmaster H. T. Atkins is expecting soon to receive mail from Raleigh and Fayetteville via truck lines. This service may be put on about May 1st. The postmaster is assured that as soon as the Post-office Department can make satisfactory contracts for carrying the "star route" the new service will be instituted.

C. F. Honeycutt, chief clerk of the Railway Mail Service, with headquarters at Greensboro, has assured Postmaster Atkins that the change will be made. He recently made inspection of the service furnished to points between Raleigh and Fayetteville by the Norfolk Southern Railway, which now carries the mail between these two points on mixed trains, hauling freight, so that the mails are considerably delayed.

The schedule by the trucks will be about like this: Leave Raleigh 6:30 a. m., arrive Lillington 8:00 a. m., arrive Fayetteville 9:00 a. m., leave Fayetteville 4:00 p. m., arrive Lillington 5:00 p. m., arrive Raleigh 6:30 p. m.

This will give Lillington all mail from Raleigh at 8:00 o'clock in the morning and from Fayetteville at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The regular service over the Atlantic & Western will remain the same.

TO REAPPOINT JUDGES AND HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS

Governor Gardner has announced that he will reappoint the six special judges whose terms expire July 1, and the three district highway commissioners whose terms expire April 1. The special judges will be appointed for a term of two years and the highway commissioners for a term of six years.

Judges Clayton Moore, Hoyle Slink, Cameron McRae, John H. Harwood, T. L. Johnson and Vernon Cowgert are the six judges whose terms expire this year and whom the governor will reappoint.

Commissioners W. A. McGirt, of Wilmington, C. R. Whately of Beaufort and John Sprunt Hill of Durham are the three highway commissioners who will receive reappointment.

EIGHT FINE HOGS
Mr. B. B. Holder of Upper Little River brought eight fine hogs here Tuesday for shipment in the cooperative carload that was moving out. The eight hogs were born last August and weighed on an average about 200 pounds. The price paid at the car was around 12 cents per pound.

TAX COLLECTOR ISSUING LEVIES ON PERSONALTY

Levies on personal property are the order of the day with Tax Collector John Green now that the time for paying taxes for 1928 is far spent. The collector is issuing notices of levy on personal property to all those who have not settled their 1928 taxes, and the levies are bringing results, he says.

The collector begins in May to advertise land of all delinquent taxpayers for sale. The land sale will be held on the first Monday in June.

GOVERNMENT GIVES ITS FINAL COTTON REPORT

1928 CROP WAS ABOUT 1,500,000 BALES MORE THAN PREVIOUS YEAR—DETERMINED BY FINAL GINNINGS

Washington, March 27.—The 1928 cotton crop has been placed by the census bureau at 14,450,007 equivalent 500 pound bales compared with 12,956,943 in 1927 and 17,977,374 in 1926.

The size of the crop was determined by the final ginnings canvass of the year.

The total crop comprised 14,289,313 running bales including 672,859 round bales counted as half bales, compared with 12,783,112 bales including 560,277 round bales in 1927.

The average gross weight of bale for the crop counting round as half bales excluding linters was 506.3 pounds for 1928 compared with 506.8 for 1927 and 506.3 for 1926.

The number of ginneries operated for the crop of 1928 was 14,968 compared with 14,863 for 1927. The total production in equivalent 500 pound bales by states was: Alabama 1,108,518, Arizona 149,458, Arkansas 1,237,946, California 172,141, Florida 19,203, Georgia 1,028,309, Louisiana 69,105, Mississippi 1,471,954, Missouri 145,072, New Mexico 83,624, North Carolina 834,205, Oklahoma 1,203,335, South Carolina 724,635, Tennessee 427,279, Texas 5,105,493, Virginia 43,462, all other states 5,437.

OVER 3 MILLION POUNDS CHICKS

Raleigh, March 27.—For the farmers of North Carolina, marketing experts of the State Department of Agriculture, cooperating with county agents working under the State College, have sold approximately 3 million pounds of live poultry in car lots since Christmas.

The average poundage per week has been between 250,000 and 300,000, and the average price has been 28 cents per pound. This means that the farmers have received about \$750,000 for live chickens alone this year.

The above facts were reported by F. W. Risher, marketing expert for the Agricultural Department, who pointed out the phenomenal growth of the poultry shipping industry in the State.

Poultry shipments made cooperatively last year totaled about 7,000,000 pounds. At the present rate, this year's shipments should, it is said, go to at least 10,000,000. At any rate, that is the present goal.

COUNTY AUDITOR WILL RENDER STATEMENT

Although the audit of the county's books, being compiled by R. L. Steele & Co., certified public accountants, will not be ready for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners Monday, County Accountant J. E. Dupree will render a statement of the county's financial condition as of March 31st, showing funds to the credit of the various departments, etc.

The County Accountant will issue no vouchers on the county's funds between the 31st and 31st in order to be able to balance the books and render his statement.

LOST 1,000 TO 1,200 BIDDIES IN SATURDAY'S STORM

Mr. E. L. Jones of Bunnlevel, who raises chickens on a commercial scale and reaps rich returns from sales, lost heavily in last Saturday's wind and rain storm.

Mr. Jones lost between 1,000 and 1,200 chickens of various ages from drowning and being beaten and driven by the heavy rain and wind. Mr. Jones' loss is estimated at between \$400 and \$500.

COUNTY ATTY. BRINGING SUITS ON TAX SALES

COUNTY WANTS DEEDS FOR ALL LAND IT BOUGHT UNDER TAX SALE FOR YEARS 1926 AND 1927

Based on its purchase under tax sale, Harnett county is bringing suit for deeds for all lands sold for taxes for the years 1926 and 1927. J. O. West, county attorney, is bringing the suits, about 75 in number, and they will be in the nature of foreclosure proceedings as under mortgage. It will be noted that taxes constitute a first lien on all property and it makes no difference what encumbrances may be upon the lands for which taxes are delinquent. Under present statute the county can foreclose for its tax lien and take deed.

Former County Attorney Rhode Williams of Dunn brought suits of a similar nature for 1925 taxes. He stated that a large number of the delinquents paid up when they saw that the county meant business. In all likelihood, Attorney West will get some money for the county in the same way. The county doesn't want the land. It wants the money. But in some cases the suits are necessary to get the money.

The suits are brought in Superior Court. In order to have the suit stopped the taxpayer will need to come in with not only the tax money but all cost and penalties plus an interest charge of 20 per cent. The county must be reimbursed for all costs. It costs quite a bit to redeem land in this way, but oftentimes it is done. It is said, too, that many landowners pay up after these suits are started when in fact they could easily have paid the taxes beforehand. What's the great idea? Perhaps they want a sheriff's deed, or maybe for some other cause peculiarly satisfactory to themselves.

HOLD NO COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

Harnett schools will hold no county commencement exercises this year. Definite decision in this matter was made by Superintendent B. P. Gentry, to whom the matter was referred by the Board of Education at its meeting on the first Monday in March, this week after conferring with the heads of the various schools in the county.

One reason for the abandonment of the commencement is that money in the county treasury for school purposes is running short. Superintendent Gentry told The News yesterday that on the first day of March, he had to his credit from the budget allowance only \$22,707.94 with which to operate the entire system for the remainder of the term which was practically two months. It costs about \$40,000 per month to operate the schools.

Another reason for not holding a commencement this year is that the principals of the larger schools did not regard it as necessary or expedient in view of the fact, as they view it, that there is little to be derived from the commencement. Superintendent Gentry says that very few small schools participate in the commencement exercises and that therefore he was guided principally by the wishes and opinions of heads of larger schools, coupled with the fact that money was getting scarce.

EAST CAROLINA EXPOSITION AND AUTO SHOW APRIL 8-15

The Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce will hold its exposition and automobile show in Farmville, April 8-15.

Thursday of that week will be the "Queens' Day," and winning caudrons will be awarded \$150 in cash.

TOWNSEND ACCEPTS JOB PARDON COMMISSIONER

Judge N. A. Townsend of Dunn has accepted the post of Pardon Commissioner and Executive Counselor to Governor Gardner.

G. Vernon Cowgert of Kingston has been appointed by Governor Gardner to succeed Mr. Townsend as emergency judge.

ATTEND QUARTERLY MEETING AT PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Monroe, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Tim McCoy, Miss Sude Sexton and Messrs. Walter Byrd and L. M. Chaffin attended quarterly meeting at Pleasant Plains church Sunday afternoon.

Chattels at The News Office.