

NOT TO TRANSFER AHOSKIE FOREMAN

Report Of Expenditures By Road Board Made At Meeting Last Monday

WILL SEND CONVICTS TO EVERY TOWNSHIP

Upon the recommendation of commissioner J. R. Garrett of Ahoskie township, the Hertford County road board voted unanimously to rescind the order made at a special meeting held last week, which requested superintendent Hines to transfer the road foreman from Ahoskie township to some other point in the County. Mr. Garrett had previously made complaint against Mulder, the road foreman, and had asked for another man.

But, on last Monday, the Ahoskie man said he had been out on the road, had seen Mr. Mulder at work, and talked with him. The result of his investigations, he said, was to find that Mulder had only been foreman about two months, and that the large number of complaints which had been made against the working of roads in this township were not directed at Mulder, but at his predecessor. He thought Mr. Mulder was doing the best he could, and to "swap" foreman now would only work hardship on both Mulder and the man sent here to take his place.

It was thought Mr. Hines was planning to move his Maney's Neck man here. Commissioner Worrell of Maney's Neck did not want to see his man leave, and said he, too, might not be able to give satisfaction in Ahoskie, whereas he was giving perfect satisfaction in Maney's Neck. Acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Garrett, the board voted without dissent to rescind its former action.

The report of expenditures on roads since the creation of the county unit was read by secretary John Northcott. This report was ordered prepared by the board at its initial meeting in December. So far as was possible, the expenditures had been listed according to townships, showing the amount expended in each. Mr. Northcott explained that it was difficult to secure accurate figures for each township, and many of the expenditures could not be charged off to townships. The report was ordered adopted and published.

Reference was frequently made to townships, and there seemed to be a disposition among some of the members to charge every item possible to the separate townships. Commissioner Snipes said he could see no reason in keeping the township records so long as the board was working under a county system. It was suggested then, that Representative Lloyd J. Lawrence was drafting some kind of change for the county road law.

Secretary Northcott had a postal card from Mr. Lawrence requesting a copy of the report on expenditures—the report that was presented Monday. What his changes or amendment will be is not known here.

After approving the pay rolls and bills against the county road forces, the board voted to distribute the convicts, allocating a number to each township, and providing quarters for them. This step was taken to forestall any possible shortage in labor when good weather comes, and road building will begin in earnest.

PRUDEN QUILTS ENGINE

Mr. Charlie Pruden who for many years piloted the passenger engine of the Wellington & Powellville Railroad, from Ahoskie to Windsor and return, has been promoted to assistant general manager of the Branning Mill at Ahoskie. His duties now are to supervise, and assist in buying timber for the large mill here. "Sleepy" Newsome, who has had charge of the freight engine over this line, is now working as engineer on the passenger. Walter Parker has taken the freight engine, a job he held for many years.

REPAIRING CAFE

New wainscoting is taking the place of the old, dingy walls in the Manhattan Cafe. A coat of paint and other slight improvements are also being made to the cafe, which is located on the first floor of the Manhattan Hotel.

MR. LAWRENCE STARTED LEGISLATING IN A HURRY

Legislature Has Done But Little Governor Delivers Strong Message

Only about seventy bills had been introduced into the General Assembly up to Wednesday of this week, although it had been in session practically one week. However, with the speech of Governor Morison made to a joint session on Tuesday, the bill hopper is expected to get into working shape, and the members get down to real business of legislating.

As had been predicted, Governor Morison's one big recommendation and plea to the legislators was to authorize \$2,000,000 for a state-owned steamship line, and provide for the purchase or lease of port facilities. He spoke feelingly on the proposal and plead with his hearers to create a commission to help him work out the plan and make the money available for its effective culmination.

Other proposals included support to the educational institutions of the State, planting oysters off the coast of the State, constitutional limitations of State's power to contract debt to five per cent of assessed value of property, and establishment of sinking fund to retire outstanding bonds; establishment of State Banking Department; establishment of a State Commission of Commerce; additional \$15,000,000 bond issue for State highways.

About the only bill that has created any special interest and which is expected to arouse even greater interest is a bill directed against the Ku Klux Klan. Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate.

Hertford's representative, Hon. J. Lloyd I. Lawrence, got into the business of legislating early, and put three bills in the hopper on the very first day of the session. The three bills are entitled as follows: "To amend law relative to banks and banking," "to require motor vehicles to stop before crossing railroads," "to safeguard crossings by ferry."

Mr. Lawrence also introduced a resolution in the House calling upon the National Congress to submit a constitutional amendment providing that all amendments to the constitution be ratified by popular vote in the separate states rather than by the legislatures.

In the committee appointments which were made on Monday of this week, Mr. Lawrence was named chairman of the committee on Journal, and was also named on the following additional committee. On Courts and Judicial Districts.

Representative Sumner Burgwyn of Northampton County has again introduced his bill designed to reduce the personal property exemption from \$300 to \$100. Mr. Burgwyn fought for a similar bill when he was in the State Senate at the last session of the Assembly.

A bill has also been introduced in the legislature to abolish the death penalty.

POPE-GATLING

Miss Julia Gatling, daughter of Mr. Mark D. Gatling of Ahoskie, and Mr. Hampton Pope of near Enfield were quietly married at the home of Rev. J. T. Riddick, pastor of the Park Avenue Baptist church, Norfolk, Va., on last Saturday afternoon, January 6. Only a few very close friends of the contracting parties witnessed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Pope, after a short wedding trip, returned to Enfield, where the former is a prosperous planter.

Mrs. Pope is the accomplished daughter of Mr. Mark Gatling of this town, and before Christmas was teaching in the Belmont Graded School. She is a graduate of the East Carolina Teachers' College of Greenville.

POLLING ROADS

Continual rains, and inability to do any road building for several weeks have served to put the county roads in very bad condition. Not only are the county roads almost impassable, but the state highway from Ahoskie to Winton is in no better shape. Several bad places in the roads have been "polled" within the past two or three weeks, in order to allow the Fords to go. Other cars hover closely in the garages.

Ahoskie Township Is Largest Payer Of Taxes In The County

In the issue of December 29, 1922, the HERALD gave some facts about property valuation in Hertford County, paying particular attention to the aggregate value of real and personal property within the county and the amount of taxes derived therefrom, giving the amounts allocated to general county expenses, to roads, and to schools.

This week, a review of the listed property in Ahoskie Township will be undertaken. According to figures taken from the scrolls, Ahoskie Township is the wealthiest in the county. This situation is due to the large amount of town property in this township, a large majority of which is listed at a reasonably high rate.

There are 306 white people in the township who pay poll tax, and 244 colored persons who pay poll taxes. The 23,647 acres of land listed by white persons in the township is valued at \$917,759; colored persons own 5,340 acres, valued at \$191,544. Manufacturing property in the township is valued at \$10,000, and is owned exclusively by white persons. There are also 690 acres of timber rights owned by whites, which is valued at \$6,299. Of the 496 town lots in the township, 324 are owned by whites and are valued at \$786,735; and 172 owned by negroes, valued at \$140,608.

The aggregate value of real estate, including all of the items listed above is: Whites, \$1,720,793; colored, \$332,152.

Personal property listed in Ahoskie township is as follows:

Stocks of merchandise—\$10,696 by whites, \$135 by negroes; material being manufactured—\$27,749 by whites; household and kitchen furniture (less \$300 exemption provided by law)—\$27,159 by whites, \$1,140 by negroes; horses—198 owned by whites and valued at \$12,575, 121 owned by negroes and valued at \$7,400; mules—231 owned by whites and valued at \$17,520, 101 owned by negroes and valued at \$6,802; sheep—131 owned by whites, valued at \$491, goats—73 by whites valued at \$121, 23 by negroes at \$44; hogs—1602 by whites at \$4,385, 748 by negroes at \$1,962; milk cattle—188 owned by whites and valued at \$4,050, 89 by negroes and valued at \$1,521; other cattle—171 owned by whites with value of \$1,173, 58 by negroes at value of \$391; dogs—52 listed by whites at value of \$462, 17 by negroes at value of \$61; firearms and other personal property included in items 53-80—\$67,741 by whites, \$5,487 by negroes; stock as set out in Section 4, 1921 Act—\$710 by whites, \$25 by negroes; net solvent credits—by whites \$232,362, by negroes \$11,825.

The aggregate value of all personal property in the township is \$540,253, divided as follows: whites, \$503,460; colored, \$36,793. Total value of all real and personal property listed in the township is \$2,593,198, divided as follows: whites, \$2,224,253; colored, \$368,945.

As pointed out in the first article on taxation, the tax rate for county purposes is 92 cents on the \$100 valuation. Figuring the taxes on this basis, Ahoskie township taxpayers pay \$23,857 into the county treasury on real and personal property. Divided among schools, roads and general county expenses it is as follows: for schools, \$13,484.63; for roads, \$6,482.99; for county expenses, \$3,889.80.

These figures do not include the special tax paid for the Ahoskie school and other school districts within the township. Neither does it include corporation taxes paid, which amounts to several thousand dollars.

MAKING IMPROVEMENTS

A fresh coat of varnish has been added to the walls and furnishings of the Colonial Barber Shop this week. "Everything, clean and nifty, and sanitary," is the New Year resolution of the proprietors of this shop.

ANOTHER WIND STORM

Early Monday morning a severe wind, and thunder storm broke over Ahoskie and vicinity. Rain fell in torrents for a considerable length of time, and an electrical storm of the summer-time variety accompanied the rain and wind.

ENACT ORDINANCES

The Ahoskie town council met in special session last Friday night and spent about three hours in enacting new ordinances for the town. Only a few more now need to be added, and soon as the work is completed, the ordinances will be published in full and distributed about the town.

EXAMS AT SCHOOL

Many of the students of the local school are having a few days off this week on account of examinations which are now in progress. Only a limited number failed to secure exemptions from examinations, which accounts for their having holidays.

INFLUENZA IS HERE

There are several cases of genuine influenza in Ahoskie, some of the patients being confined to their beds. Among those who are suffering with it are W. T. Farbes, L. T. Sumner, Clarence Perry and Troy Newsome. There are many other milder cases of influenza prevalent hereabouts, according to statements of local physicians.

A fertile soil is the basis of good farming.

Some of the local sweet potato growers associations in the State have formed a State Federation with about 70,000 bushels of sweets for sale this year.

HERTFORD COUNTY RANKS HIGH IN LIVESTOCK VALUE

Only Twenty-Nine Counties In State Are Ahead Of Us In This Respect

Counties surrounding Hertford have made much better showing in the general health of its citizenry, but facts have just been unearthed which prove that this county can show the others up on the value of its livestock per farm. We may not pay much attention to our people's health and, late happenings, indicate no change of sentiment for better health conditions, but our people are strong on good horses, mules, cattle, and pigs.

Figures based on the 1920 Census of Agriculture, covering (1) the total value of livestock on farms in each county, (2) divided by the number of farms in each county, giving Hertford County farms an average value of \$430. There are only twenty-nine other counties in the State that have a higher value placed on its livestock, while there are seventy counties in which the value is lower.

Northampton County stands fifty-fourth in rank, and has an average value of \$394 for each farm; Bertie ranks seventy-third, with a value of \$365; and Gates ranks ninety-third, with a value of \$334. The average value per farm in the entire State is only \$413, or \$17 less per farm than the Hertford County average.

Fifty-nine per cent of the livestock values of the state is represented by horses and mules, and only 20 per cent by dairy cattle. In 1920, North Carolina had 56,000 fewer cattle than in 1910, but 112,862 more mules and horses. The decrease was mainly in beef cattle and calves since the 1910 census of livestock is of April and the 1920 census is of January.

According to S. H. Hobbs, Jr., Department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina, the high rank in some of the Eastern counties is due almost entirely to their large number mules and horses on cotton and tobacco farms, not to dairy and beef cattle as in the mountain and hill counties.

PLANS FOR HOTEL ARE MOVING FAST

Site Owned By R. J. Baker Estate Is Voted As Choice Of Majority Of Chamber Members

Still another step forward has been taken in the matter of building a modern hotel in Ahoskie. Last Thursday night at the first quarterly meeting of the chamber of commerce, an open discussion was had on the proposition of a site. Mr. Benton, architect of Wilson, was a special guest at the meeting, and entered into the discussion of sites, and plans for a hotel here.

Mr. Benton said he believed a hotel here would pay at least 6 to 8 per cent. He advised a building with not less than forty rooms, and possibly two or three stores on the lower floor, thereby providing other methods of securing revenue than from the rooms in the hotel.

On the matter of sites, a vote was taken on the following three lots: Basnight property, lying next to Stanley Leary's at \$7,000, all of which Mr. Basnight agreed to take in stock; site owned by J. R. Garrett, including his present store building, which was offered at \$22,500; and lot owned by R. J. Baker heirs, across street from Mitchell hotel. The Baker site was designated as the choice of a majority of the members voting.

At a special meeting of the chamber directors held Monday night of this week, H. S. Basnight was authorized to secure a 60-day option on the Baker property. If option can be secured, the business of drawing plans, securing a 50 per cent loan and raising balance of stock will be entered into immediately. The directors voted to accept Benton & Benton's proposition in furnishing the plans and securing contractors.

MANY KILLING HOGS

It is hog killing time in this vicinity, and producers of pork have been engaged in that business this week. The drop in temperature during the past few days has been a boon to those who had uneasy lest the warm weather prevent the successful packing of the 1923 supply of household meats.

RECORDER'S COURT CREATED BY BOARD

The HERALD Failed To Give Complete Report Of Monthly Meeting Last Week

The reporter on the HERALD made a complete fall down on the job of telling what the county commissioners did at their regular monthly meeting last week. Not that the report carried in this newspaper was inaccurate; it was all right so far as it went. But, there was one important item overlooked in reporting the meeting.

Not until the day after the paper was issued did this office know of the action taken by the board in creating a recorder's court for Hertford County. And, to add to the embarrassment of the newspaper, was an editorial that appeared in the same issue, and which was antagonistic to the possible creation of any such court.

Nevertheless, it is a fact, so recorded in the board's official minutes, that the commissioners did create such a court, under the provisions of Chapter 27, article 19, Consolidated Statutes of North Carolina. This statute confers upon county commissioners the power to establish a recorder's court, which shall be in session at least one day each week. The same statute confers upon the commissioners the power to appoint a recorder who shall serve as judge of the court; and also a recording clerk who may be the clerk of superior court or a deputy clerk, and a solicitor, who may be the county attorney or any other attorney the board may designate. They shall hold office until the next regular election.

The appointment of recorder was not made last week, although the appointment must be made within thirty days of the creation of court, according to the statute under which created. The salaries of the recorder, clerk, and prosecutor are to be set by the commissioners, and cannot be decreased or increased during their term of office.

Representative Lloyd J. Lawrence appeared before the board and presented the plan for recorder's court, stating that the majority of the voters answering his questionnaire referring to a recorder's court had said they wanted it. That is what the board based its action upon. There was no opposition offered by any of the commissioners.

* * * * * COMMISSIONER HART * * * * * FORGETS A PROMISE * * * * *

Don't fool yourselves, dear folks of Hertford County! There will be no asphalt, or hard-surfaced roads of any kind built in this county by the State Highway Commission. All promises heretofore made by First District Commissioner Hart about a hard road from Aulander to Winton, through Ahoskie, have gone up in smoke. He has fallen down flatly. And, that, too, is right on top of the fact that he has not yet made any visible motion of doing anything about building a bridge across Chown river at Winton—another grand and glorious undertaking of which there was much talk back when Hertford County was talking about issuing bonds for its county roads. The Associated Press has announced that a contract will be let by the State Highway Commission on the 1st day of February, for 16.8 miles of soil road from Aulander to Winton, the last piece of state controlled road in the county. According to this story coming out of Raleigh, Hertford County will not even get a sand clay, or gravel road. It is just a plain soil road, the like of which folks in this county cannot use during the winter months. Over in Bertie, Windsor to Aulander, the road will be graded only. The Chamber of Commerce of Ahoskie is planning to send a delegation before the Commission in an effort to secure a better road for this route.