

## SCHOOL SITUATION TO BE UNTANGLED

Mass Meeting Will be Called One Night Next Week At Richard Theater

### RESTRICT ATTENDANCE OR ENLARGE PLANT

Improvements and additions must be made to the Ahooskie High School, students from without the special tax district that supports the school will have to be barred from attending school here, or public education here must suffer. The present buildings will not take care of the children who wish to attend school here; that has been thoroughly shown this year and is expected to become a more complex question each succeeding year.

For the last two or three years the trustees have been more or less non-plussed over the apparent inadequacy of the two buildings, and crowded condition of the school rooms. Partitions have been made in the auditorium and its capacity greatly diminished and other rooms have been crowded to the limit. Every inch of space that could be converted into a fit place for desks has been utilized, and with it all the pupils are crowded too thickly for good work in the school room.

That is the condition existing this year, and it will be worse next year. With this prospect ahead of them and knowing full well that the school plant can not meet the needs, the trustees of the school have decided to call a mass meeting of the citizens and parents in the district to discuss ways and means of remedying the situation. At this meeting, which will be held one night next week, the trustees want to have frank and open expressions on what the people think to be the best way to meet the situation. It will be an open meeting, and called especially for the purpose of securing an expression from the people.

The exact date of the mass meeting has not yet been determined, but as soon as the date is fixed, printed hand bills will announce the fact, and all will be given sufficient notice. It will be held in the Majestic Theater, probably.

Since the Ahooskie school exists by special charter, it can limit attendance to those living within the district. However, until the present time the trustees have not barred any from attending as there are many families without the district who live nearer this school than other public schools. A few have been denied admission, but only after they failed to measure up to the time requirements for admission.

On the other hand, it now seems that the district boundaries are too narrow. In some places, it does not reach to the boundaries of the nearest public school. One plan advanced is to extend the boundaries, include more properties for taxation purposes and allow these children to attend without tuition and under the same terms as those whose parents reside in the present district and pay taxes for the support.

Not even all Ahooskie town property is included in the district, two leading manufacturing enterprises being without the boundaries. If the limits are extended, it would enable the district to take care of an expenditure by bonds or otherwise for the construction of additional facilities without any extra burden upon those who have helped to build and maintain the school here.

These are the only two apparent plans by which the school situation can be cleared up. Attendance must be restricted, or the boundaries extended and a bond issue floated for further additions, say those in touch with the working of the school here. The mass meeting next week is expected to amicably settle upon some plan. It is none too early to make some decision, for, if new additions are to be made, work should begin in the early spring.

A ton of pork from one litter of pigs can be produced at seven months of age if the pigs are raised under sanitary surroundings and fed properly, say livestock workers of the agriculture extension service.

## TWO ADJOINING TOWNS READY TO BUY CURRENT

Powellville And Colerain Expected to Use Electric Power From Ahooskie

Plans for furnishing electric current to towns in Hertford and Bertie counties have reached that stage where at least two contracts may be signed within a week, to be followed by immediate work on the construction of poles and line. A committee has been appointed at Powellville with full authority to sign the contract as presented by the town of Ahooskie.

Harry B. Spear, consulting engineers, are presenting the contract and figuring on the work of construction. They have worked out a plan by which Powellville can easily pay for its transmission lines within three years after installation, from the profits accruing from the savings in light bills. The people of that town are very enthusiastic over the proposition, and expect to be getting power from the Ahooskie plant some time in April.

Still further down the line, at Colerain, the citizens of that town and the consulting engineers have about reached an agreement, and the contract with Ahooskie may soon be closed. Mr. Spear says his force can install the lines complete, ready for turning on current, within six weeks after the contract is signed.

Already sufficient kilowatts have been signed up by Colerain persons to justify the expenditure for the transmission line, and the specifications under which Colerain is working would guarantee the payment of the sum for construction within five years after the current was turned on. The contract with Ahooskie covers a period of ten years.

A. T. Baker, president of the Branning Manufacturing Company, has agreed to give the Powellville people a right-of-way entirely free of charge. The poles will be erected alongside the Wellington & Powellville Railroad from Ahooskie to Powellville. Mr. Baker voluntarily made this offer when he learned of the contract about to be signed.

Murfreesboro and Winton are both interested in the plan for distribution of electric current from Ahooskie, and meeting have already been held for the purpose of discussing the matter. Bad roads have hindered the negotiations during the last few weeks, however, it will now be only a short time before actual work will begin on some of the lines, and when all of the towns have been presented with the very equitable plan of operation, they are expected to become an integral part of the network of transmission lines, extending from the efficient lighting plant of Ahooskie.

## 1922 COTTON CROP SHOWS AN INCREASE

Preliminary reports on 1922 cotton production in Hertford County places the number bales at 9,560, or an increase of 24 per cent over the 1921 crop. The report, which covers every county in the State says "The 1922 cotton crop as reported shows a considerable increase above the crop expected last summer."

Although this county produced more pounds of lint cotton to the acre than the average county in the State, it does not compare at all favorably with one of its sister counties, Northampton. This county's average is the same as that of Bertie, and more than Gates. The figures are: Hertford 280 pounds; Bertie, 280; Northampton, 330; Gates, 240; state average 264. There were 16,230 acres of cotton planted to cotton in this county last year.

Northampton County ranks third in the State in yield of lint cotton per acre last year. Johnston is the banner county with 341 pounds to the acre; Northampton produced 330 pounds. Harnett County takes second place with 338 pounds.

### ATTENDS FUNERAL

Mrs. P. S. Vann and Mrs. Anna Turnley of Chowan College, spent last Sunday night in the home of Mrs. Dora Curtis. They left on the early morning train for Lynchburg, Va., where they attended the funeral of their brother, Fred Alley. Mr. P. S. Vann accompanied them here Sunday and returned to Murfreesboro Monday morning.

Good music helps to make a good home.

## COMPROMISE MADE ON SHIPPING BILL

Commission Appointed to Study Plans and Present to General Assembly

### HOUSE CHANGES ITS VOTE ON K. K. K. BILL

Governor Morrison's dream of port facilities and state owned shipping lines received a setback when it came for a vote in the Senate last week. The substitute bill providing for a commission to investigate and report to the legislature, and also carrying with it a \$25,000 appropriation for the investigation work was passed by the Senate and accepted by the Governor. On Tuesday of this week the House passed the Senate substitute on its first reading.

Several of the more important bills carrying with them appropriations for state institutions await the report of an auditing firm, employed to audit the books of the State. There is prospect of the legislature adjourning for a short time, until the auditors can submit their report. No definite action has been taken, but it may become necessary for a recess before the important appropriation bills can be considered.

The substitute bill prohibiting the secrecy of names in fraternal organizations and requiring members to wear no masks, known as the Milliken Anti-Ku Klux Bill passed the House Tuesday night, by vote of 70 to 42. Representative Martin of Plymouth made a strong speech attacking the bill. Lloyd J. Lawrence, Hertford Representative, voted against the bill.

Other important bills set for special order this week are: bill making State laws conform with Volstead Act; bill providing for the reclamation of the "Lost Provinces" of the West by construction of railroad; Giles Farm Loan Bill. All are set for action today, Thursday.

Although practically 700 bills have been offered in both branches of the legislature but little more than 100 have become law through ratification. Many, however, have been passed this week, most of which include local regulations. The only state-wide measure of any importance to pass both houses and be ratified was the act increasing the trustees of State College from 16 to 60, and provide for their appointment by the legislature. Limiting the number of sales of mortgage property is also provided in a bill passed this week.

Among some of the new bills affecting the state as a whole and of more or less importance are: to create North Carolina Shipping Commission; to allow state to take over North Carolina Agricultural Fair; to allow druggists only to sell medicines for general diseases; to require manufacturers of proprietary medicines to have their product approved before allowing general merchandise stores to offer them for sale; and to abolish the privy examination of women in contracts and instruments of conveyances.

While the legislature has been dragging along on minor bills, the investigating committee delved into the controversy between Edwards & Broughton and the State Department of Printing has completed its job after several days examination of witnesses on each side. The investigation of the State Sanatorium will get under way this week. Several more or less serious charges have been made against Dr. L. B. McBrayer, head of the institution and he is said to court an investigation. Another investigation may soon start into the affairs of the North Carolina Geological Survey.

Representative Lawrence's bill for better government has passed the House and is now awaiting action in the Senate. No other bills affecting Hertford County or any sub-division have been offered during the week.

### LEAVES FOR NORFOLK

Miss Lena Moore Rawles left Wednesday for Norfolk. She will enter training at the Sarah Leigh Hospital for training as a nurse. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Rawles.

Hog cholera seems to come in ten-year periods, say extension workers of the State College and Department of Agriculture. The period is now here in North Carolina and the herds must be watched after.

## PLENTY OF TALK BUT FEW VOTES

Plenty of talk and little or no voting has followed the announcement that Ahooskie would send a 'Queen' to the Eastern Carolina Exposition in Wilson next month. Only three votes had been cast up to Wednesday night of this week, although interest in the contest has been widely distributed in the town and community. Most of the voters are waiting to see "who they are voting for" before they are willing to risk their judgment.

The trio casting ballots accompanied them with "I know she'll win." That is the way plenty of others are feeling about their favorites, but they are apparently waiting until nearer the close of the contest when a sort of whirlwind finish will put their candidate over.

The lady who wins will not only get the free trip to Wilson, but on Thursday night of the exposition she will be a member of the honor guests who will occupy the stage of the big auditorium. Each contestant will be introduced to the vast audience, and ballots will be distributed for a vote on the Queen of Queens in Eastern Carolina. Other towns have already entered the contest.

Only those votes mailed and brought to the HERALD office and accompanied by the name of the voter will be counted in the contest. There is a coupon in each issue of the paper for those wishing to vote, and there is no restriction on who shall vote, men, women, and children being allowed to name their choice.

Early voting will help this office in keeping a record, and publication of the vote will stimulate interest. In order to get plenty action in the contest, get your vote in before next Wednesday, and watch for the standing of the contestants.

Votes cast include: 2 for Miss Nancy Howard, and 1 for Mrs. James S. Vinson (Mr. Vinson did not cast the vote.)

## WASTE LAND PASTURES IN EASTERN CAROLINA

Wilmington, February 14.—The many acres of waste or rough land in eastern Carolina that are not now giving the owners any cash returns may be put into pastures that will yield revenue in the form of grazing during eight months in the year according to E. W. Gaither, district agent for the agricultural extension service and with headquarters here. Mr. Gaither states that it is these acres which should be made the basis for the coming livestock industry of this section.

To prepare this pasture, he says, "The grass and weeds should be burned off in February and from three to six pounds of carpet grass, two to five pounds of Dallas Grass and ten to twenty pounds of lespedeza seed per acre scattered on this burned over land, between February 15th, and April 1st. No further preparation of the soil or covering of the seed is needed. Then as soon as the native grass begins to show green turn enough cattle on the seeded lands to keep the young native grass eaten close and a good pasture will result. During the first year the lespedeza will make good grazing from the first or middle of June until frost. The carpet grass and Dallas grass will not make a great showing the first year but will cover the ground during the second to third year and will last indefinitely. These two grasses will crowd out practically all other grasses and weeds within three years."

Mr. Gaither states that all three of these pasture crops will reseed themselves from year to year and the two grasses will remain green for the greater part of the winter in most of the Eastern part of the state.

In case the pasture land is needed for cultivation, there will be a very little trouble in getting rid of the grasses.

The mixture advocated by Mr. Gaither will do better on good land than on poor, but it has the advantage of doing well on all kinds of land, from poor, light sandy soil to heavy, wet, bottom land and yields better returns than any other mixture used in this section up to this time.

## ROAD BOARD SEEKS A JOINT SESSION WITH COMMISSIONERS TO ARRANGE FOR LARGER FUND TO GRAVEL MORE ROADS

Will Ask Commissioners For Money With Which to Gravel Main Throughfares in The County

### WILL SPEND MONEY TO PURCHASE GRAVEL

Orders Harrellsville - Cofield Road Graveled and "Parks" All Mack Trucks

### WHAT THE ROAD BOARD DID

Voted to gravel the Harrellsville-Cofield road, at an estimated cost of \$9,000 or \$10,000.

Dispensed with next regular meeting and asked for a joint session with the county commissioners on March 5, at one o'clock. The purpose of the meeting to arrange for more funds from the bond sale during the spring and summer months of 1923.

Ordered discontinuance of Mack trucks.

Approved pay rolls against the graveling of the road administration.

Approximately \$10,000 will be expended for graveling the Harrellsville-Cofield road, and work will begin just as soon as the gravel can be loaded and freighted to Cofield. Superintendent Hines says he is ready to begin work when the gravel arrives, and will complete the job within short order.

This was one of the steps taken by the road commissioners in regular session at Winton Monday. Another action that may start something in road building (for permanency) was the motion unanimously carried by five members present, to dispense with the meeting scheduled for February 26, and instead meet in joint session with the county commissioners on the first Monday in March, for the avowed purpose of securing some method by which more than the regular \$10,000 monthly allotment can accrue to the road administration during the spring and summer months of 1923.

The central theme of every board member was permanent roads at the least cost out of the remainder of the half-million dollar bond issue; and all were agreed that the county must expend some money for gravel that will hold, rather than using any kind that comes to hand. Harrellsville and Ahooskie townships neither have any approved gravel nor are they within reasonable hauling distance of the sand pits in Murfreesboro township, a portion of St. Johns Township can be supplied by the Murfreesboro pits, and so can Winton, while Murfreesboro and Maney's Neck are both well supplied with the surface gravel.

Gravel for use in Harrellsville, Ahooskie, and part of Winton township will be shipped in over the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and will probably be secured from Gumberry gravel pits, the same source from which Ahooskie township secured gravel to surface the Frazier's Cross Roads section. There are about six and a half miles of road to be gravelled from Cofield to Harrellsville, and it will be paved on a road that has not been opened for regular traffic since the road force completed the drainage and road bed. This will be the only road in the county to receive a complete gravel surface from the proceeds of the bond issue. The short section leading out of Ahooskie was surfaced from the surplus funds in the township treasury when the road administration was placed under county unit.

But the road board is determined that this will not be the last, nor will it be the only one gravelled during this year. Next in importance, thinks the board, is the Murfreesboro-Cofield road. However, definite action was not taken since the State is holding out some slight hopes that it may take it over as a part of the State Highway system. Since neither of these townships, Harrellsville and Maney's Neck, can hope to get any part of the state highway, giving them no outlet to the county seat and in the case of Harrellsville no highway for mail carrier or hauling freight, the board was of the opinion that these two roads should receive the first surfacing process.

Other roads mentioned as needing

surfacing and making permanent were the Ahooskie-St. Johns section connecting with the state highway, the Ahooskie-Murfreesboro highway, and a highway from Ahooskie to Harrellsville, creating a connecting link for Bertie county as well as the Harrellsville section. This road is used extensively during the marketing season, and is among the most traveled within the county. It is very important to tobacco growers of the county, and to farmers living along the Harrellsville road.

Although there was some debate on ordering the Cofield - Harrellsville road gravelled, the commissioners exhibited a "give and take" attitude, and showed signs of more harmony and unity than at any time since the new members took office.

It now seems that old board of county commissioners will hear more about its action in selling all the road bonds. Not that the business of making the sale is going to receive any knocks, but the terms under which sold will come in for some criticism when the road board meets with the commissioners March 5th. Not that the road board is going there to criticize, but when they make a plea for more funds with which to build roads, the action of the former board is going to prove a barrier and an obstacle.

What will culminate from the meeting and whether the additional funds will be granted probably depends largely upon the terms the commissioners can make for anticipating the monthly payments and discounting them, in order to get money when it is needed. It is little expected that any of the commissioners will be opposed to the idea of graveling the roads, and spending enough money on them to assure permanency on the main thoroughfares in as short time as possible. The one question that may be knotty is making equitable terms with bond purchasers.

There is at least bright prospects of Hertford County receiving some lasting benefits from the bond issue, if the program of the board can be carried through.

In an effort to reduce the overhead expenses of the road forces during the winter months, Superintendent Hines was ordered to discontinue the use of the expensive Mack trucks, and use in their stead mules. The Superintendent said he had already put them up for winter quarters, and like some of the commissioners, he believed mules and wagons were cheaper and more effective than the trucks.

Besides attending to other minor matters, and approving payrolls and bills, the board took no other important action last Monday.

### HUGH G. HORTON MAKING GOOD, APPOINTED MAYOR

Attorney Hugh G. Horton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Horton of Ahooskie, has been appointed mayor of Wilmamston. He is practicing law there, being junior partner of the firm of Dunning, Moore & Horton. A few months ago the HERALD told of how young Horton had successfully passed the bar examination, and predicted success for him in his profession.

The Williamston Enterprise published at Attorney Horton's adopted town has this to say about this Hertford County product:

"Mr. Horton has not lived in Williamston but a few years, but he was selected by the city fathers to fill the important office of mayor after much consideration because of his strict adherence to the principles of right and his unusual ability.

"Mr. Horton finished law at the summer school at Wake Forest College last summer and entered the firm of Dunning and Moore, where he is steadily gaining the esteem and confidence of the people."

### SLEET PLAYS HAVOC WITH TELEPHONE WIRES

The heavy sleet of last week put several lines out of commission and service to several of the nearby towns was out of question for a few days. On Monday of this week the phone wires were down for several hundred yards between Winton and Murfreesboro. Road forces and bridge builders on that highway have kept the lines out of commission much of the time during the fall.