

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

VOL. XLIX

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1923

NO. 17

COMMENCEMENT WEEK

IN CAPITAL CITY.

Four Baccalaureate Sermons on Sunday by Distinguished Speakers—Other Raleigh News of Interest.

(By Maxwell Gorman.)

Raleigh, May 29.—In the appointment of Hon. Heriot Clarkson of Charlotte to succeed the late Justice Platt D. Walker of Charlotte of the State Supreme Court, Gov. Morrison has again manifested fine judgment in selecting men for high office, a number of whom he has been called upon to name during the last two years.

Justice Clarkson, added to his native ability, is one of the best equipped legal minds in the State; no other man available could outrank him in qualification backed by long and valuable experience, and therefore his appointment was generally anticipated by those familiar with the friendly relations existing between Governor Morrison and Mr. Clarkson.

The appointment is not only satisfactory to the people, but a valuable asset to the cause of justice in the courts of North Carolina. Justice Clarkson will arrive in Raleigh this week, but may not remove his family to this city till later.

N. Y. Senator Copeland at Raleigh.

This is the week of school and college "commencements" in Raleigh, from the Raleigh High School, with its graduating class numbering 75 (despite inadequate school building and other serious hindrances) to the State A. and E. College, and including three colleges for young women—St. Mary's, Meredith, and Peace Institute. Four baccalaureate sermons were delivered here Sunday by notables in educational life in other states, and every day till Friday night will be taken up with commencement and graduation work and formalities.

The most distinguished man taking part in these ceremonies is the new Democratic U. S. Senator from New York, Doctor Royall S. Copeland, who speaks at A. and E. State College Tuesday, delivering the annual address.

Dr. Dwight Hillis, of Brooklyn, delivered the address to the Meredith graduates Tuesday morning, while Dr. Archibald Henderson of N. C. State University delivered the address to St. Mary's graduates. Between 2,000 and 3,000 students from all over the State attend colleges in Raleigh, and the home-going for the holiday season even slackens up business here appreciably, especially in West Raleigh, home of the A. and E. State College.

Mistaken Identity in the Courts.

Remarkable as are the features of the Rawls-Reid bigamy case that has agitated Warren county to its foundations for a week past, and as sparse as the reports of the Supreme Court in mention of any similar litigation, the case is not without something of a parallel in the courts of North Carolina. Mistaken identity has been claimed and established before and the accused man freed.

Six or eight years ago Raleigh was the beginning of a series of prosecutions against a notorious pickpocket that finally culminated in Asheville with a verdict in favor of the accused. Then the finger prints and a substantial alibi intervened in his behalf instead of his teeth, which saved J. B. Rawls—or J. B. Reid, to those of that persuasion—from the punishment of the court in Warren-ton.

In a general roundup of pickpockets instituted by the then Chief of Police Barbour, E. T. McNeelis, Boston Nick, Gory Smith and a man named Seelis were charged with a series of pocket riflings. They retained W. B. Jones, and he finally secured the acquittal of all four of them. But McNeelis and Boston Nick were wanted in Durham, and

they were taken there and acquitted.

But McNeelis' troubles were not over. He had been identified as the man who had perpetrated numerous burglaries in Asheville, although he was identified as a man named Crawford. With his wide knowledge of the etics of criminals, Mr. Jones began work on the theory that it was a case of mistaken identity. A pickpocket would scorn to blow a safe, as a safecracker would decry anything so unsportsmanlike as picking a man's pocket.

The pickpocket was arraigned and twenty-five people identified him as Crawford. An accomplice to the burglary went on the stand and swore that McNeelis was the man who cracked the express office safe, although he went by the name of Crawford. But McNeelis claimed that he was not Crawford and that he never blew a safe or committed that sort of theft in his life. He scorned it.

Mr. Jones had been to New York in the interest of his client, and had succeeded in establishing an air-tight alibi. There he found that the police had been baffled by the same sort of circumstances—two criminals, the one a pickpocket and the other a second-story man—who looked exactly alike. They had not marks that might distinguish them except their finger prints.

It happened that two nights before the safe robbery in Asheville that a residence had been robbed of \$10,000 worth of diamonds in Charlotte. In their investigation the police found the finger prints of the burglar, and they immediately preferred charges against the man being tried in Asheville. A finger print expert came down and identified the marks as those of Crawford. They didn't fit McNeelis, and he was acquitted after an hour's deliberation by the jury.

Nothing has been heard of either McNeelis or Crawford since then. Evidently they left these parts, but there is an element in Asheville that still believes that McNeelis is Crawford. Men who had gambled with Crawford, although he failed to recognize any one of them, when they swore that they knew him intimately. Even the man who helped Crawford crack the safe believes that McNeelis was the man.

But the case lacked the dramatic interest that attaches to the Rawls-Reid case in Warren. There was no wife and there were no tearful children in court claiming the recognition of a man, who sat within a few feet of them for a week and gave no sign of recognition. Lawyers throughout the State have become tremendously interested in the situation, and many of them are refreshing their minds on the laws of identification.

Rawls has gone back to Rockingham to work at the three cotton mills he is building there for a big contracting firm in Charlotte, and the woman who claims that he is her husband and the father of her two children is back at work in Littleton, still supporting them as she has done since October 30, 1915, when J. Bynum Reid, her husband, ran away with another woman.

Autos Furnish Bulk of Crossing Victims.

Automobiles figured in 81 percent of the accidents which occurred at crossings of public highways with tracks of the Southern Railway System during 1922.

Out of 474 crossing accidents, 384 were in connection with automobiles. Sixty-seven occupants of automobiles were killed and 194 injured out of a total of 86 persons killed and 274 injured in such accidents.

There were 64 accidents involving other vehicles and street cars in which four persons were killed and 60 injured, and 26 accidents to pedestrians, of whom 15 were killed and 12 injured.

These figures are contained in a statement issued by the Safety Department of the Southern, calling attention to the alarming increase of crossing accidents since the automobile has come into general use, indicating that drivers of motor cars do not take the same precautions at crossings that are taken by drivers of other vehicles and by pedestrians.

EASTERN CAROLINA, AMERICA'S WINTER GARDEN

Vast Landed Estates of Many Thousands of Acres—Fertile Lands Without Tenants Where Fortunes are Made on Few Acres.

SOME OF THE THINGS THE TENANCY COMMISSION SAW

The last Legislature appointed a Commission to make a survey of the agricultural possibilities of Eastern Carolina. It is not supposed they saw everything, but they saw enough to convince them of the greatness of the Tidewater section. The following account prepared by S. H. Hobbs, Jr., for the Chapel Hill News Letter reads like fiction:

The Farm Tenancy Commission appointed during the last session of the Legislature has just returned from a thousand-mile incursion into the Tidewater country. The Commission covered thoroughly practically every county from the South Carolina border to the eastern edge of Hyde county, thence northwest through Beaufort, Martin, Northampton, Halifax, and other counties. The main objects before the Commission were to look into the possibilities of the Tidewater country for agricultural expansion, to look into the merits of the group settlement idea versus individual settlement, and to gather information on the financial policies of successful enterprises. Consultations were held with farm tenants, small farm owners, big landlords, lumber companies owning hundreds of thousands of acres of cut-over lands, chambers of commerce, and others. The following are merely a few of the impressions gathered.

The Tidewater country is a vast area eighty-five percent undeveloped, with the greatest agricultural possibilities of any similar area in America.

It is the most sparsely settled area possessing equal agricultural advantages in America.

It can become the Winter Garden of America because of warm moist climate, suitable soils, early maturity of truck crops, and nearness to northern markets.

It can become a great livestock area because it produces grasses as abundantly as any area in the United States. Cattle can be grazed ten months in the year and no winter housing of cattle is needed. But in several places where we ate there was no butter on the table; and where we had butter, it was a northern product. The cattle tick and lack of market for surpluses are the present drawbacks, together with a population that knows little about livestock.

Big Landlords

It is the one area in North Carolina where big landlords reign supreme. A man with only five or ten thousand acres is a piker. Thirty thousand acres demands some local respect. One hundred thousand acres is doing right well. Landlords with three to ten thousand acres under cultivation were run across here and there.

The biggest landlord of them all told the writer that the concentration of land in the hands of a few people was the biggest curse of the Tidewater country. Many people are land poor. Every cent of capital is tied up in land, with no money left to develop it. The land is often heavily mortgaged and a clear title cannot be given to would-be purchasers.

Great fortunes have been lost in big drainage projects because no provision has been made to get actual settlers on the land. Several individuals and corporations offered to give the state ten thousand acres of drained land if the state would show them how to get men on the land. In one project three million dollars have been spent in drainage and there is not a farmer on the land.

The Small Farmer

The most frequent cause of failure on the part of individual settlers is that they buy big farms, invest all their capital in undeveloped land, and have nothing left

to develop the farm. Where farmers have come in and purchased small farms and reserved a part of their capital, they have almost invariably succeeded. In fact about the only successes the Commission found consisted of small farmers, both native and foreign.

For instance, at Castle Hayne there are thirty farmers owning from twenty to thirty acres each and last year they sold two hundred thousand dollars' worth of products. Twenty years ago this same body of land produced a total yield of five hundred dollars' worth of crops. One of these farmers owns twenty acres. His gross sales last year amounted to \$12,000. His net income was \$3,000. He built a handsome home out of his year's crops, lost \$2,700 in a local bank which failed, and still had cash on hand.

Another is a nurseryman. He owns a few acres, is actually using still fewer, has been on his place five years and is worth \$75,000. On one acre he had 80,000 plants which will in six years sell for seven dollars each. Each plant increases in value one dollar a year. It beats cotton and tobacco hands down.

Tar Heels Succeed.

These people are not all foreigners. The most successful settlement of them all is made up of native Tar Heels. The Commission is not interested in bringing foreign-born people into North Carolina. It is interested in placing native Tar Heel farmers on farms under such conditions that they will gradually come into the ownership of the land. An intensive survey is being made of farmers who have failed and of farmers who have succeeded, so that the causes of failures can be eliminated and the reasons for successes can be utilized.

The land and other natural resources of this state are nothing short of marvelous. We have in North Carolina 23 million idle acres. Nearly half the farmers of North Carolina are tenants. The Tenancy Commission is trying to

discover measures whereby some of this vast tenant population can be placed on a part of this vast area of land that is now idle, under the most ideal social and economic conditions, so that after a few years they will own their farms and homes and will be better citizens of the community and of the state. The native Tar Heel, if given a chance, will make good.

SHORT CROP TOBACCO IS THE PROSPECT NOW

Due to Shortage of Plants and Many Laborers Leaving Farms.

May be 50,000,000 Pounds Less Than Last Year—Over 90,000 Farmers Members Co-op Association.

A very considerable decrease in the production of tobacco in the Old Belt of Virginia and North Carolina seems certain for 1923, according to crop reports sent in from 782 local units of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association to its Raleigh headquarters last week.

A very heavy cut in the tobacco crop of Virginia for 1923 is indicated by the fact that the figures from the signed statements of hundreds of local association secretaries show that 7 percent of the total Virginia acreage is already abandoned. The Virginia crop is already cut 25,000,000 pounds short of the 1920 total and unless plant and weather conditions improve materially it may be short 50,000,000 pounds in weight compared with 1922.

The Old Belt of North Carolina, according to the locals of the tobacco cooperative, reports decrease in acreage of 3.6 percent over last year. From Raleigh west and north farmers report the most serious plant conditions they have ever known. Eastern North Carolina and the South Carolina Belt report a slight increase in acreage but uncertain weather conditions. The unprecedented shortage in farm labor and the continuous migration of negro tenants to the north will probably further decrease the production of tobacco in these counties for the coming year.

More than 90,000 tobacco farmers are now members of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association, according to a count of contracts made last week at Raleigh headquarters and the association continues to hold its position as the largest of the American commodity cooperatives. Several new customers are buying the dried tobaccos of the association, which are finding a steady market at association prices.

GOVERNMENT INSURANCE.

Information for Service Men as to Different Kinds of Insurance—Another Opportunity for Reinstating Lapsed Policies.

The Government granted insurance to the enlisted forces at low term peace time rates, with the privilege of carrying it at these rates to March 4, 1926, or converting it into a permanent policy.

Men in good health can reinstate any amount not less than \$1,000 and in multiples of \$500, up to the full amount of the original contract, by only the payment of two premiums on the amount reinstated, or can reinstate and convert by paying only one premium on Term Insurance and one on the Converted Policy.

There are six converted policies, i. e., Ordinary Life, 20 Payment Life, 30 Payment Life and 20 Year Endowment, 30 Year Endowment maturing at 62 years.

The low premium rates of the Ordinary Life Policy make it possible for every man to have insurance protection. Premiums on this plan are paid over the entire life of the insured or until he becomes totally and permanently disabled. For a man who wants insurance for protection alone this is unquestionably the best, as the insured secures the maximum amount of protection for the minimum cost.

The 20 and 30 Payment Life Policy.

Premiums on these plans are paid for a period of 20 years and 30 years, respectively, then the policy becomes paid-up and participating to maturity. Premiums on the Limited Payment Plans are so computed that they are payable during the insured's income-producing period. The period between the ages of 25 and 65 are usually considered the period men make money, therefore, it is the logical time to provide protection against the time when he cannot work and probably will have no income.

Endowment Policies

The endowment policies are essentially a means of saving with a protective feature. Premiums on these policies are so computed that by a comparatively small annual outlay the insured can build up a substantial sum, which is payable directly to him at the end of the endowment period of either 20 years, 30 years or when he becomes 62 years old.

All of these policies have a disability clause without any restriction as to time or cause from which the disability may occur. All have cash, loan, paid up and extended insurance values and participate in dividends after they have been in force one year.

The cash value is the amount for which the policy may be surrendered, but a policy once surrendered cannot be reinstated.

The loan value is 94 percent of the cash value and does not affect the protection of the policy. A loan may be repaid at any time in one sum or in amounts of \$500 or multiple thereof, at an annual interest of not more than 6 percent.

Paid-up insurance is the amount of insurance the cash value of the policy will buy at a net level term premium rate based on the insured's nearest attained age. Paid-up insurance can be obtained on application and full surrender of the original policy.

Extended insurance is the length of time for which the cash value will pay premiums at a net level term rate on the face value of the original policy.

Premiums on Government Life Insurance are based on the insured's nearest attained age and do not change during the life time of the policy.

The policy can be paid in a lump sum at maturity.

Information can be obtained from Dr. I. T. Mann, High Point, N. C., or the U. S. Veterans' Bureau, 202 Mint Building, Charlotte, N. C., or the U. S. Veterans' Bureau, 407 Allen Building, Raleigh, N. C.

M. BRYSON,
District Manager, U. S.
Veterans' Bureau.

Salt serves as a spice or condiment which whets the appetite and increases the palatability of feed for all livestock.

HOW TO SAVE THE GARDEN CROP.

Some Timely Suggestions About Spraying.

Timely spraying will help to make a success of the home garden if carried out with the proper care, and a reduced grocery bill as the result of this kind of crop insurance, are two thoughts suggested by G. W. Fant, extension plant disease worker for the State College and State Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Fant says that there is much loss from disease in the garden which is often mistaken for bad weather or poor soil conditions. A good many growers have found it profitable to spray tomatoes to reduce the amount of blight and fruit rot. If the vines die early and the trouble looks suspicious of wilt, send stem specimens to the Division of Plant Diseases, State College, Raleigh, for examination.

This wilt disease lives in the soil from year to year. It may be eliminated through the use of wilt-resistant varieties, he states.

"Spray Irish potatoes with poisoned Bordeaux mixture. Experience has shown that this is the best all around practice.

"Is pretty much of a disappointment to have a nice crop of grapes go bad from grape fruit rot. Unless spray is applied, there will likely be lots of it this year.

"The spraying of watermelons and muskmelons prevents the early dying of vines, and eliminates the melon spots known as anthracnose.

"If celery is grown, spraying while plants are in the plant bed and later in the field will control foliage blight and give rise to strong succulent stalks.

"Home-made Bordeaux mixture, plus arsenate of lead for chewing insects, is the cheapest and most effective spray for garden crops," says Mr. Fant.

What most of us had rather be doing instead of what we are doing during Spring is anything else.

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