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COUNTY COMMENCEMENT ENJOYED BY LARGE NUMBER.

Although the Day Begun With Snow Necessitating the Change of Program a Great Success Was Had.

Although Wednesday, the day set apart for the occasion of the County Commencement of Franklin county for 1915, was ushered in with the presence of a beautiful snow storm with the houses and in many places the ground covered in a beautiful white carpet, the day brought forth a most enjoyable and enthusiastic occasion. The lateness of the arrival of the school children and the condition of the weather necessitated a complete change in the programme, but a most encouraging and interesting one was soon devised. The line of march which was had from the Graded school to the Farmers Warehouse containing fully one thousand and two hundred children was an incident that would make the heart of a friend to education swell with pride.

The exercises were held in the Farmers Warehouse, and the Basketball games, which constituted the athletics for the day were held in the Farmers Union Warehouse. The main field day events being postponed to Monday afternoon, April 19th at which time the contests for the different prizes in this department will be decided and the prizes awarded. In the basketball games Ingleside won over Mapleville in a score of 23 to 4 and Franklin won over Louisburg in a score of 15 to 10.

In order to get a complete list of all the winners in the several contests and other necessary information we will not attempt to give a full detailed account of the day's events until our next issue. However with all things considered the day its spirit and the large number present should be an incentive to Supt. Best, as it was a compliment to his work, such as is seldom exhibited.

Prinz Eitel Still at Newport News.

Newport News, Va., Mar. 30.—Enforcement of neutrality of the United States in the port of Norfolk and Newport News was the subject of a protracted conference at the Norfolk Navy Yard late today following the arrival in Hampton Roads of the battleship Alabama, which took a commanding position in the channel to the sea and remained there tonight taking on ammunition and supplies.

Participating in the conference were Rear Admiral Beatty, commander of the Norfolk Navy Yard, Rear Admiral Helm, commander of the reserve Atlantic fleet which arrived on the Alabama, and Norman R. Hamilton, collector of customs for the port of Norfolk and Newport News. While the conference at the navy yard was in progress, Captain Max Thierichens, commander of the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, still in dock here, was closeted with deputy customs officials in the Newport News office.

At the conclusion of the conference at the Norfolk Navy Yard government officials refused to discuss it. Primarily, it was learned, the Alabama came to Hampton Roads to guard the neutrality interests of the United States between a German man-of-war within an American port and a fleet of warships of the European allies which is hovering off the Virginia capes. That the situation thus presented demanded the presence of a warship of the United States was generally admitted.

Merchant Ship Coal Cruisers.

Reports that allied warships which have been in the capes since the German commerce raider arrived here had ventured within the three mile limit and that merchant ships had furnished them with supplies had been circulated here for several days before the sending of the Alabama. As to the merchant ships it was said that they had taken deck loads of coal after filling their bunkers and taking on other cargo. In the case of one steamer particularly which was called to the attention of the authorities, Collector of Customs Hamilton last night said that investigation disclosed she had brought coal from abroad which she delivered to a British warship and that she did not get it in the United States.

"I have investigated thoroughly one case in which a merchant ship was reported to have taken coal to a foreign warship off the capes," said Collector Hamilton. "I found that the ship brought coal from abroad to the British warships. Later she took on a heavy cargo of grain here and because of lack of room, took on a deck load of coal as bunker coal."

Henry B. Holmes, agent of British shipping interests here, declared that he had absolute knowledge that no merchant ship had taken fuel or supplies to any of the warships. Taking deck loads of coal, Mr. Holmes said, was necessary on account of extra heavy cargoes carried for foreign ports.

Speculation Still Rife.

Commander Thierichens would not talk about his visit to the customs officials. He returned late in the afternoon to the Eitel Friedrich, which still is moored to her dock in the shipyards. In official quarters the opinion still prevails that the German raider will force the United States government to intern her, but there are many here who have associated with officers and men of the ship who say that she will put to sea and take a chance on escaping the

blockade of the allies when served with notice to depart.

Cannot Delay Departure.

Allied merchant ships continue to depart from this port almost daily. One which cleared today was the Belgian steamer Iris. In this connection officials pointed out that the successive departure of merchant ships of any belligerents could not indefinitely postpone departure of the Prinz Eitel after being served with notice that time for repairing in American waters had expired. They pointed to a clause in the neutrality proclamation issued by President Wilson August 6th last, which after stating that a belligerent warship cannot leave a neutral port for twenty-four hours after departure of the merchant ship of an enemy, says: "No ship of war or privateer of a belligerent shall be detained in any port, harbor, roadstead or waters of the United States more than 24 hours by reason of the necessary departures from such ports, harbor, roadstead or waters of the United States other than one vessel of an opposing belligerent."

Mrs. Frank N. Egerton Dead.

A great gloom has been cast over Louisburg and community on account of the death of Mrs. Pattie Davis Egerton, wife of Mr. Frank N. Egerton, president of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank, which occurred Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, in the sixty-second year of her age, after an illness of seventeen days of pneumonia followed by auto-toxaemia.

Mrs. Egerton was a devoted member of the Methodist church, and was the President of the Home Mission Society for a number of years. She was a member of one of the finest families in the State and was a sister of the beloved Matthew S. Davis. She was at her best in her home and with her family, which was her altar and her idol. Mrs. Egerton was a woman loved by all for her true worth. She was a friend in time of need and a neighbor whose many kindly offices will be greatly missed.

Her husband, four daughters, Mrs. B. G. Hicks, Mrs. Wingate Underhill, Mrs. G. S. Baker, Miss Kathleen Egerton, student at the Conservatory of Music, Durham, five sons, Messrs. C. E. Egerton, of Rockingham, Frank N. Egerton, Jr., teacher at Princeton University, Graham B. Egerton, student at the University of North Carolina, Elliot and Weldon, of this place, and one brother, Mr. William E. Davis, of Warren county, survive her. All of them were at her bedside during her last illness.

The funeral was held from the Methodist church Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock and was conducted by her pastor Rev. A. D. Wilcox, who paid a most worthy and fitting tribute to a life so useful and that will be so sorely missed not only by the immediate family. During the services appropriate selections of music were rendered by the choir, many of which were her favorite songs. From the church the remains were taken to Oak Lawn Cemetery, where they were tenderly laid to rest in the presence of a large number of sorrowing friends and relatives.

The pall bearers were her nephews and were Messrs. Weldon Davis, Arcola, Edward Davis, Creek, Charlie Egerton, Warrenton, Walter Egerton, Laurel, M. S. Davis and Courtney Egerton of Louisburg. The floral tribute was one of the most profuse and beautiful ever seen here and represented the love and friendship of friends innumerable.

U. S. Submarine F-4 Not Raised Yet.

Honolulu, March 30.—Efforts to locate and raise the missing submarine F-4, which disappeared Thursday with twenty-one men, met with further difficulties early today. Lines from the dredger California, reported to have caught on some mass on the floor of the harbor entrance, gave way. According to the report from the California, the lines were cut cleanly, as if sawed off by scraping against some hard mass.

The tug Navajo has been fast on some object in approximately the same location and officers continued today to express confidence in the theory that the mass to which the Navajo's lines are attached is the F-4. Great difficulty is expected in raising the submarine and naval officers have called a conference with civilian engineers and diving experts to formulate working plans.

The present equipment of cable lines is said to be inadequate. The breaking of the two lines today is cited as evidence that the weight to be lifted cannot be borne by the cables in use. The broken lines are said to have been tested with 84 tons weight. Although naval authorities have not so announced, it is understood that the advice of the Washington authorities has been requested.

Splendid Services.

Rev. A. D. Wilcox, pastor of the Methodist church is preaching some splendid and forceful sermons in the series of meetings now going on at his church and good sized congregations are enjoying the services at each session. Mr. Stentz, the director of the singing is making many admirers for the excellent music he is rendering and his services are adding much to the value and strength of the meeting. The services will continue on until Sunday, when announcements will be made for the future of the meeting.

AUTOMOBILE TURNS TURTLE.

And Catches Six Occupants Underneath—No Serious Damage.

A most miraculous escape from what came near being a most serious automobile accident occurred near the cemetery on Wednesday afternoon about six o'clock, when the Ford automobile being driven by its owner, Mr. John Young Beasley decided to turn turtle. It seems that Mr. Beasley, who had with him in his car Miss Edna Beasley, Joe Ben Beasley, Cranford Beasley Jones Beasley and Mr. Paul Edwards, were on their way home after attending the County Commencement. When passing the cemetery Mr. Beasley attempted to pass a Mr. Frazier who was driving a horse to a buggy and Mr. Beasley thought had turned out for him to pass, but it so happened that as the car neared the buggy Mr. Frazier turned to the other side of the road and Mr. Beasley making a cross turn to keep from striking the buggy ran too close to a ditch on the opposite side and the car skidded, the roads being slick from wet weather, causing the car to go into the ditch and turn completely over and catching all the occupants underneath. It seems that nothing about the car was broken save the wind shield, and the occupants, besides receiving a severe scare only sustained a few bruises and sprains, which are not considered serious. Mr. W. L. Beasley a brother to the one driving the car, and who was following close behind in his automobile was the first to the scene to assist the party. The car was righted and driven home without further trouble.

Villa Attack Endangers Brownsville.

Washington, D. C., March 30.—While Villa forces are delaying their attack on Matamoros, pending the arrival of artillery, the stage is being set for another battle at Lampazos, about seventy miles southwest of Nuevo Laredo.

Border advices to the State and War Departments said the Villa forces bound to attack the Carranza garrison at Nuevo Laredo were expected to reach Lampazos today "where a battle probably will be fought." Earlier messages said Carranza troops were being assembled at Nuevo Laredo. The garrison will number 1,200 in all and presumably a part of the forces will be sent out along the National Railway to meet the Villa troops at Lampazos if the battle is not already in progress. Should more troops be necessary on the American side at Laredo, Tex. in the event of an attack on Nuevo Laredo, a regiment of infantry is in readiness at Texas City.

Unchanged at Brownsville.

The situation at Matamoros and at Brownsville, across the border, was unchanged today. The Villa troops, repulsed Saturday in their first attack, were encamped five miles from the city, the State Department was advised, expecting to renew the assault on arrival of their artillery. Latest estimates of the losses Saturday said 300 Villa troops were killed and an equal number wounded, while the Carranza garrison had ten killed and 88 wounded.

On the American side a dozen guns from the third field artillery are ready for any emergency. Secretary Garrison said the instructions sent to Gen. Funston were similar to those given when bullets and shells fell on the American side during fighting at Naco. The Secretary refused to say, however, whether orders had been given to return the fire if the same thing happened at Brownsville.

Base Ball For Louisburg.

The boys of Louisburg held quite an enthusiastic meeting in the office of Mr. A. O. Dickens Tuesday for the purpose of organizing a base ball team for Louisburg. Quite a number of interest was taken in the meeting and they elected the following officers: Mr. Sam Ruffin, Manager and field Captain and Mr. A. O. Dickens Secretary and Treasurer. After defeating Franklinton last week they will play the strong team from Youngsville this afternoon and it is expected to be a good game as Youngsville has always had a good ball team and from the line-up Louisburg has for this afternoon, they ought to put up a stiff game. With the aid of the people of Louisburg we should have some good base ball this season. The team is made up of home boys only. The line-up of the Louisburg team for this afternoon is as follows:

William Allen, pitcher; Fred Weaver, catcher; Ernie Thomas, 1st base; George Walker, 2nd base; Ormond Hale, short stop; "Billiken" Hale, 3rd base; Finley Beasley, right field; Sam Ruffin, center field; "Reddy" Paul, left field, and Sebastian Macon and Charles Aycock, substitutes.

Fire Near Ingleside.

Friends of Mr. J. O. Beasley sympathize with him in the loss he sustained at an early hour Wednesday morning when his strip room was destroyed by fire. One of the hands made a fire in the stove, preparing to do some work inside, and the fire caught from the stove. The ordering house adjoining, was also destroyed. There was no tobacco in the house at the time of the fire. All other material stored in the place was saved. The house was perhaps one of the best in the county. The walls were double with a packing of saw dust between, and the material used in the building was of the best, old field heart pine. The loss is estimated at about \$200.

BREAKS INTO DEPOT.

Takes Sixteen Pints of Booze, Suit Clothes and About \$12 In Cash.

On Thursday night of last week, some unknown person or persons broke into the Seaboard Air Line depot here and donated to his or their use sixteen pints of booze, a suit of clothes, about twelve dollars in cash and a suit case. From an investigation it was learned that the burglars entered through the door on the north side of the express or main office room by the means of an axe, knocking the door open. Upon entering he proceeded to find some booze and after opening a number of packages came across one containing sixteen pints. This being easy to pack he took same and also a one gallon package from a cartoon containing two gallons. The money was secured from the private cash drawer of Capt Joyner and the suit of clothes was a C. O. D. express package. They also took a split case belonging to the flagman on the Louisburg train, the contents of which together with the gallon package of booze was left up the railroad near the old water tank.

The same night some one broke into the store of Mr. J. R. Jones at Katesville and got \$4.00 in money and a few other things. It is believed they were the same ones who robbed the depot. As yet no one has been arrested.

Youngsville Items.

As you have not heard from our city in some time, will send you a few of the many things going on here. We say city for we will soon have electric lights and already have the telephone exchanges, these go a long way towards a city. We are expecting to add many other improvements soon. Every line of business has improved very much in the last 30 days. Our people are about to stop going to war and are trying to do business. The farmers have already moved very much fertilizer, not as much as last year at this time, yet we think the tenant will be as large. Our farmers are going to make more something to eat and not so much cotton and other money crops.

Mr. C. C. Cheatham has just returned from a business trip to Richmond. Mr. J. L. Brown has begun to remodel his home on Main street, when completed he will have a nice residence.

Mr. H. A. Williams is building him a nice cottage on Church street, and hopes to have it completed in 30 days. Hon. J. W. Watson has about completed his large and up-to-date sale and feed stable on Cross street, and will have 30 or more horses to be sold at his stables on next Saturday, April 3rd. These will be sold at public auction. If you want a horse or mule cheap, be on hand.

Mr. W. R. Winston has moved to Raleigh. It is rumored that we are to have a large steam plant for redrying tobacco here, for next tobacco season. Some of our citizens are expecting to put on a large up-to-date moving picture show in town. This will give amusement to a large number of town folks as well as people from the country.

Mr. J. R. Pearce is opening up his millinery this week. He is carrying a full line of spring hats.

Mrs. J. A. Winston has gone to Birmingham Ala., to live with her daughter Mrs. Harris.

Youngsville boasts of having the best Bank building in the county. Come and see for yourself.

Town politics is very quiet here. We do not hear of any opposition to the Mayor and Commissioners.

Messrs. B. G. Mitchell and J. R. Pearce are due to make speeches at Pearce to-day, Friday.

Dr. J. W. Vernon of Morganton was in town Tuesday shaking hands with his old friends. We are always glad to see the Dr.

Many of our people have had sore arms from vaccination lately, but I believe most of them are about well. Many of our people attended the Carolina-Wake Forest game last Monday and report a fine game.

High School Debate.

Louisburg and Bunn High schools crossed swords in a lively debate in the graded school auditorium on Friday night, March 26th.

A large crowd attended the debate in spite of bad weather and a number of other attractions in our town on this same evening.

The contestants, Misses Aycock and Cyrus of Louisburg school and Messrs. Bunn and Moses of the Bunn school, the secretary Mr. Harris Hunter and the society's president Mr. G. Fuller Cooke came on the stage amid loud applause and from then to the close was not a dull or uninteresting moment.

The query for the evening was "Resolve that the United States should adopt the policy of subsidizing its merchant marine on foreign waters." Mr. Fuller Cooke very gracefully welcomed this interested crowd of visitors, and introduced the speakers in a very pleasant manner.

Miss Lillie Mae Aycock upholding the affirmative was first called to the stage and it was with much reluctance her enthusiastic audience allowed her to go to her seat after one of the best speeches ever made by a high school girl.

Miss Aycock gave an exposition of subsidy, its use and motive and

reasoned that it was the only thing that could give us an efficient merchant marine claiming that the policy was both reasonable and practical.

Mr. John Bunn was then called upon to uphold the negative, and so successfully did he refute charges, argue against the policy and showed up its weaknesses that every one felt the affirmative had lost out. Then Miss Beulah Cyrus came upon the scene and no doubt was longer sustained, with her ready wit though mastery of the subject, and pleasing personality she swerved the audience around to her way of thinking in a manner worthy of "Old Salt" of the political arena.

Then Mr. C. B. Moses of the negative arose, and surely when he sat down, no one in the audience had the slightest doubt that the subsidy policy would bring destruction, and complete abolition to American Commerce were it adopted.

It was, and still is a mystery to the minds of the audience how it was ever possible for the judges to decide who were the winners, but decide they did, and announced their decision in a wild acclamation of approval.

These decisions were in honor of the affirmative and pronounced Mr. C. B. Moses as best speaker.

The Debating Society entertained at the close of this brightly enjoyable debate, the debaters and members of the debating society were hurried into autos and hurried away to the home of Miss Mattie Allen, who entertained them during the evening in her characteristically charming manner.

On entering the guests were provided with a partner, and presented with a little card bearing the words, "Merchant Marine."

A certain number of minutes was given in which to make words from the letters contained in the words Merchant Marine. At the close of this time Miss Pearl Kemp and Mr. Maury Cralle, were found to be the winners, and a large box of candy was presented to them. Mr. Will Collier was presented with the "Consolation" a stick of red candy tied in the debaters colors.

Much fun and merriment was caused by this contest and at the close delicious refreshments were served.

All through the evening pleasure reached a delightful finale in the delightful mode of entertainment and voted Miss Allen a charming hostess.

Mr. Thomas J. Beasley Dead.

Mr. Thomas J. Beasley, brother of our townsmen, Mr. W. F. Beasley, died at his home about four miles south of Louisburg on Saturday morning just after 2 o'clock, in his 48th year. Mr. Beasley leaves a wife and six children, besides a brother, Mr. W. F. Beasley, and a sister, Mrs. Adkin May, of Wendell, who has the sympathy of the entire community. Mr. Beasley had just returned to Franklin county after spending several years in Wake. The funeral services were conducted from the home on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. Walter M. Gilmore, of the Louisburg Baptist church, and the remains were laid to rest in the beautiful little church cemetery at Prospect, the pall bearers being Messrs. W. H. Allen, J. A. Turner, S. A. Newell, B. T. Holden, J. J. Lancaster, J. W. Hollingsworth. Quite a large number of friends and relatives were in attendance at both the funeral and interment and the floral tribute was beautiful.

Honor Roll.

Honor Roll for the Fourth and Fifth B Grades for week ending March 27th, Miss Eliza Moore teacher.

Fourth Grade—Eleanor Perry, Ellis Jarham, Effie Taylor, Harris Turner, Paul Griffin.

Fifth Grade—George Ford, Louise Jones, Catherine Bobbitt, Elizabeth Ferguson, Armon Wilcox, Henry Ruffin.

Honor Roll for Third grade—Miss Mamie Jones teacher, Emma Lawrence Joyner, Annie W. Bodie, Emma Page Wilder, Bessie Clay, Speed Williams, Gertrude Boone, Bettie Reavis, Ethel Lovingsood, Ada Gattis, Bettie Hill, Gordon Uzell.

Honor Roll for Fifth grade A and Sixth grade, Miss Louisa Jarman teacher.

Sixth—Lurline Allen, Gerald Allen, Elsie Bailey, Otto Gunther, Mamie Hayes, Noma Hollingsworth, Early Incoe, Lulle Incoe, Garnet Myers, Gus Reavis, Annie Williams Waddell, Clyde White.

Fifth—Lucy Allen, Margaret Cooke, Kenneth Collier, Davis Egerton, George Houck, Clara Hudson, Ruth Gattis, William Moorman, Katherine Pleasants.

R. M. McKinney Camp to Meet.

We are requested to state that a meeting of the Col. R. M. McKinney Camp has been called by Com. H. C. Kearney to meet in the courthouse in the town of Louisburg on the 9th day of April, 1915, to pay their annual dues for the year 1915. A full attendance of the members is desired as some important business will be attended to that day. Arrangements will be made for the attendance of all who wish upon the reunion at Richmond.

Egg Hunt and Box Party.

There will be an egg hunt, and a box party at Wesley's Chapel on Easter Monday, April 5th, beginning promptly at 12 o'clock. Everybody cordially invited, and let all who will bring a box. Proceeds to go for benefit of the church.

PITT ELECTS HEALTH OFFICER.

Dr. M. T. Edgerton Becomes Whole-Time County Health Officer.

The county board of health of Pitt county has just elected Dr. M. T. Edgerton whole-time county health officer. He is expected to begin his work immediately. This makes ten counties in the State with men giving their entire time to health work.

Dr. Edgerton hails from Fremont, N. C., and is a graduate of the University of Georgia and of John Hopkins. He was elected from quite a number of strong applicants for the position. For several months the county board of health had deliberated over the matter of securing the right man for the place. In making their choice in this matter, the local board asked for recommendations and advice from the State Board of Health. The State Board unhesitatingly recommended Doctor Edgerton because of his superior training, experience and personality, which should preeminently fit him as a health officer.

Several other counties are considering the matter of a health officer, but by all odds the greatest difficulty in the way in most cases is to secure the right man. Just because an applicant is an M. D. does not necessarily guarantee that he will make a health officer.

Ingleside Items.

Doubtless because our efficient rural route man is a good talker some one has asked if he is not a pessimist. He was informed that Mr. Allen was sometimes called a "pessimist" on account of his special fondness for that whirmit in season, but he is far from being a pessimist. It is needless to say that the propounder of the above question is not as well acquainted with him as the writer is.

Mrs. Pattie Manning, of New York, and Mrs. J. J. Banks, of Norfolk, sisters of Mrs. Geo. Manning, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Manning here.

Mr. W. L. Beasley made the woods as well as the walkin' ring with dynamite last week while blowing up the big stumps in his tobacco fields.

Mr. Willie Macon has been sick the past week at the home of his brother, Mr. Geo. Macon, near Epsom. We are glad to hear that he is improving.

We have been requested to remind Prof. F. Bobo Scruggs that there is a speed limit in this "town", so that he may beware the next time he drives the old gray mule, with a record of 20:15 through the streets. On his last drive the highest speed was reached when the Professor sifted sand upon the mule's tail instead of welding the brush.

We are still reading in the papers about the scare of the people of Louisburg during the recent dark storm, when "people could not be recognized, work was suspended, children cried, chickens went to roost, lights were turned on, etc.," but have seen no account of the rain water being dark at other places as it was here. It had the appearance of having been mixed with soot. This was noticed by many people out here. The colored water could be seen in slop buckets, chicken troughs, and in the gutters along the roadside. As far as the dark water is concerned this is no joke but a fact.

Hundreds of children throughout the county were sorely disappointed on account of the disagreeable weather which prevented their attendance upon the county commencement exercises at Louisburg Wednesday. It was expected that 140 would go up from Ingleside Academy.

Boost Your Neighbors.

Here's a little rule which help you and help your neighbors: In speaking about anybody put the good word last. Don't say "Neighbor Jones is public-spirited, I'll admit, but he is mighty light tempered." Say "Neighbor Jones is rather hightempered of course, but he is a man who is helping the neighborhood forward." Don't say, "Tom Brown is a hard working fellow and good-hearted, I reckon, but he has been mighty low-down, wild and drinking." Instead say "Tom Brown got pretty low once, wild and drinking, but now he's a hard-working, good-hearted citizen." In other words, wind up with the emphasis on the good trait rather than the bad one.

Or better still, when you hear somebody's name mentioned and it's on the tip of your tongue to refer to some blunder or falling you know about, just try choking it down a few times, leaving it unsaid, and see if you don't feel better inside. Then next time go a little further and try speaking of some good deed he has done instead of mentioning the time he made a mistake (even though you yourself have never made any mistakes), and see if you don't feel happier still.

If the farmers in any neighborhood will begin to boost one another's worthy deeds, they will soon find themselves living in a better neighborhood than ever before—and the fine part about it is that by adopting this method, they will be helping themselves living in a better neighborhood without having to move from where they are!—The Progressive Farmer.

Banks to Close.

We are requested to state that the Banks in Louisburg will be closed on Monday, April 5th—it being Easter Monday to observe the Easter holiday. If you have business with these institutions bear this in mind.