

CONSIDERING PLAN OF FOREST PLANTING IN

Assistant Forest Service of United States Makes Report—Cut-Over Lands to be Improved.

The Robesonian has just been furnished with a copy of the preliminary report of the Butters Lumber Company in Robeson county, North Carolina, made by Mr. Jay F. Bond, Forest Assistant, Forest Service of the United States Government. The material portions of the report are as follows:

Several thousand acres of cut-over land, owned by the Butters Lumber Company of Boardman, were examined by the Forest Service to determine the advisability of the forest planting. The examination was general and no attempt was made to locate accurately the lands upon which the planting is practicable, it was found, however, that several hundred acres of land required artificial reforestation if a satisfactory future stand is to be assured.

On the great bulk of the cut-over land natural reforestation should provide a satisfactory future stand. Fire and grazing, however, have absolutely prevented reproduction in almost every instance, and in some localities the damage has been so great as to make natural reproduction extremely doubtful. It is advised, therefore, that cattle and hogs be kept off the tract, and that all fires be prevented whenever possible. If this be done, the reproduction of loblolly and long leaf pines will re-stock the cut-over pine lands, which have not suffered so severely in the past. This latter class of lands should be planted to long leaf and loblolly pines, and a detailed planting plan should be prepared to determine the area of the feasible planting sites, and the proper distribution of the two species.

The Butters Lumber Company is willing and amply able to adopt such measures as will insure a future timber crop in the cut-over areas. The entire management of the property shows careful and sane administration, and the lack of protection given the cut-over lands has been the result of inadequate laws, and the existence of supposed grazing rights established by long usage. The officers of the company are fully awake to the great damage to young timber which has accompanied the raging of hogs and cattle, and mean to take effective measures to eliminate the danger. It is undoubted that the greater part of the fires are started to improve the range, and with the prevention of grazing, the danger from fire would be nominal.

The detailed planting plan, however, should be prepared at an early date, as it is imperative that the cut-over lands be satisfactorily stocked at once. It must be clearly understood that no planting would be advisable unless the land can be protected from trespass and fire. Without such protection the reforestation of these areas is impossible.

NEGRO KILLED IN FIGHT.

Wednesday night at Flora College, near Maxton, Geo. McEachern, colored, shot and killed Alex Alford, also colored.

It is understood that Alford and McEachern and about four other negroes were together at a colored woman's house when some trouble arose between Alford and the woman. Alford threw the woman out of the house and as a result of the mix-up McEachern shot Alford. Three shots were fired, but the one that struck and proved fatal, entered near the heart, producing instant death. This happened at about ten o'clock. McEachern made his escape and when last heard from was near John Station in Scotland County. Officers began pursuit of him yesterday.

Three others of the negro men and the negro woman were arrested.

Driving out Saloons.

Cleveland, O., May 28.—According to computations made by agents of the brewing companies about 600 saloons in Cleveland closed their doors today through inability to pay the \$1,000 tax provided under the recently enacted law. The time for the second semi-annual installment of the tax comes around it is believed that 600 more saloons will be compelled to stop doing business.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Melon Growers Association Has Important Meeting.

Maxton, May 31.—There was a stockholders meeting of the Robeson Melon Growers Association here last Friday night. The following officers and directors were elected: H. C. McNair, President; Thos. O. Evans, Secretary and Treasurer; H. C. McNair, A. J. McKinnon, L. W. McKinnon, G. H. Hall, W. S. Cobb, J. S. McRae, D. Z. McGowan and Martin McKinnon were elected Directors. The Baptizing of McKay McKinnon Jr. on Friday afternoon at the home of his parents was the occasion for a pleasant social gathering of young ladies. After the ceremony was over refreshments were served.

Mr. R. M. Williams and wife and Miss Emma Belle McRae and Messrs. F. L. Black and J. G. Baldwin, and T. A. McNeill Jr., of Lumberton, attended the annual "Hop" at the Hotel Townsend on Friday night, the 25th. inst.

An interesting character here Monday was Rev. Mr. Johnson, a Presbyterian Preacher of Texas, who is ninety eight years old. He was passing through her on a visit to relatives in the upper end of the County.

Messrs. J. D. Croom Jr., D. R. Barnes, H. Ramsaur, Gilbert Baldwin had a successful fishing expedition Tuesday morning at Red Banks.

Col. E. F. McRae returned home Saturday morning from Charlotte, where he had been attending the celebration.

Mr. A. M. McNair returned Saturday from New York City and other points, where he went on business.

Misses Mary Eliza Robeson and Annie Hill are the guests of Miss Camille McCaskill this week.

Mr. G. B. McCallum of Red Springs spent Sunday here.

Miss Kate Southerland was the guest of Miss Clarkie B. McNair last Saturday.

Mr. X. W. McDiarmid, representing the Wilmington Star, was here Tuesday.

Rev. L. A. McLaurin, of Raeford, was a visitor here Saturday. Mr. A. J. McKinnon is in Wilmington this week on business.

Lynching at Wadesboro.

Wadesboro, May 30.—Sunday night about 1 o'clock a mob took John V. Johnson, the white man who was charged with the murder of his brother-in-law, Guinn Johnson, both of Morven township, from the jail at this place and carried him about a quarter of a mile from town on the Morven road, where they hanged him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets.

The jailor was overpowered, two of the jail doors were broken down and when the sheriff hesitated in giving the keys to the mob, they crowded around the cell and threatened to shoot Johnson there.

At the last term of the criminal court here there was a mistrial made in this case. Eleven of the jurors stood for murder in the second degree and one for manslaughter, and this upsets posed to have angered the people and led up to the lynching.

J. V. Johnson was tried at the April term of Anson county criminal court for the murder of his brother-in-law, Guinn Johnson. The killing was committed on the 7th day of last December, due directly to the ill treatment of J. V. Johnson to his wife. For many months, as the testimony showed, there had been bad blood between J. V. and the members of his wife's family.

On the day of the shooting Guinn passed J. V.'s house on a wagon loaded with brick. J. V. went out to the road and asked Guinn what had happened, that they could not be friendly. Guinn stated that he thought it best for J. V. to have nothing to do with his wife's people. This led to cursing on the part of both men.

In a few minutes Guinn returned in his wagon followed by another wagon driven by a negro boy. The state's evidence showed that J. V. went out to the road and, without provocation, shot Guinn down, 35 shot taking effect in the breast. Death followed in a few seconds.

\$10,000 Fire at Fayetteville.

Fayetteville, May 29.—Last night fire destroyed much of the large Poe brickmaking plant boiler, cooking machinery, dry house and great shed, the office being saved. The loss is \$10,000, with \$2,000 insurance. The plant will be rebuilt at once. Workmen are to-day clearing off the ruins.

MR. CARTER ANSWERS THE CARD OF MR. TOWNSEND

To The Editor of The Robesonian.

While I do not deem it necessary so far as Mr. L. H. Townsend personally is concerned, to make any answer to the article signed by him, which recently appeared in The Robesonian, yet I deem it proper that the citizens of Robeson county, before they pass their judgment in the matter referred to in Mr. Townsend's communication, should have the true status of it placed before them. It may be said in the outset, so far as the Board of Commissioners of Robeson county are concerned, that they, at all times, endeavor to handle the chain gang as appears to them to be to the best interest of the county, regardless of criticism of their course in that respect. The chain gang has always been more or less of a burden on the tax payers of the county, and more especially so since the enactment of the present road law. Under the present road law, the Board has been advised that it could not allow the chain gang to be worked in a township and charge the costs of such work against the road fund of that township, but that the cost of the chain gang must be borne out of the general county fund, regardless of the township in which the work is done.

When it is considered that the total net amount of the county fund is only about \$21,000, and that out of this fund the costs of holding the criminal courts and such costs of the civil courts as are properly chargeable against the county, the bridges, jail, county home, and the outside poor, the expense of furnishing the stationery, books and other supplies to the several county offices and various other expenses which cannot be enumerated here, have to be paid, and that the fund is barely sufficient to meet the actual needs of the county for the purposes for which this tax is levied, and when it is further considered that it has been necessary to pay for a jail costing \$15,000 out of this fund, it is, to say the least, a somewhat difficult proposition to determine how the funds to support the chain gang, the average cost of which is from five to seven thousand dollars per year, with the present number, is to be taken from this fund without leaving a considerable deficit.

It will perhaps appear surprising to some of your readers to note that the bridges on all the larger streams in the county, including Lumber River, are paid for out of the general county fund. The Commissioners have been advised, under the present law, that the road fund cannot be charged with the cost of any of them. The Commissioners, for a while hired the chain gang at reasonable prices to the various townships, but when the townships were advised that the cost of the chain gang could not be properly chargeable against them under the present road law, they declined to pay for them, and such work as the chain gang has done upon the roads in the County since that time, including the construction of a road across Ashpole Swamp, between White House and Sterlings Township, has been paid for out of the general county fund. The commissioners have several times renewed the proposition stated above to several of the townships, and so far as Howellsville, Mr. Townsend's township is concerned, made the proposition to them that if the township would pay one-half cost of maintaining the chain gang, that they would be sent there, but they refused to do this, although we understand that at that time, the township had idle funds in the bank to its credit.

When Mr. Cottingham, general manager of the L. T. Cottingham Lumber Co., made the proposition to hire the chain gang at \$1.50 a day, for each member of the force, it appeared to me as a matter of economy from a business standpoint so far as the county was concerned, as a good proposition. I immediately took up the legal aspect of the question with our attorney and he advised us so far as the law was concerned that he saw no reason why we should not take such action. I further communicated

with Messrs. Hodgkin and McEachern by phone and they approved of the acceptance of the proposition. I could not reach Mr. Barnes and Mr. Oliver by phone, but notified Mr. Butt, who procured communication with Mr. Barnes and afterwards advised me that he approved of the contract. It was my understanding that Mr. Barnes would take up the matter with Mr. Oliver, and that we would be advised if Mr. Oliver disapproved. Nothing was heard from Mr. Oliver and I took it that it likewise met his approval. It is true, as stated by Mr. Townsend, that the Cottingham Lumber Company is a private corporation, but the hands are treated as convicts in every respect; suitable guards are maintained, and they are under the same restraint, and are in every way confined and treated as they were when they were worked on the county roads.

The net amount derived by the county from the first fifteen days which they worked, was \$337.00. This was the amount after paying all expenses, which, to say the least, makes a considerable difference when compared with an expense of keeping them, as heretofore, of from two to two hundred and fifty dollars for the same length of time, and no revenue whatever therefrom. When the expense, which he has paid to maintain the gang, is considered, this will make a difference to the county in a year of about \$10,000.

Here, I desire to refer to Mr. Townsend's reference to my connection with the Cottingham Lumber Company. Mr. L. T. Cottingham is the general manager of the Company, is in active charge of it, own all of the capital stock of \$25,000, except \$200, and of this latter amount I own one-half. I am neither directly nor indirectly connected with the management of the Company and I have held this stock at the earnest insistence of Mr. Cottingham for the reason that I was at one time more largely interested in the company, and when I sold it to Mr. Cottingham he desired me to retain the two shares and hold the office of president, so that its corporate existence as it then was might be maintained and that no legal necessity for any reorganization might exist. If this is sufficient to impugn my actions and impeach my character, so far as the affairs of the county are concerned, as Mr. Townsend seems to think that it is, I plead guilty.

Mr. Townsend asks if the Board is allowed to do these things, what will they do next? The Board will, in my opinion, do in the future as they have endeavored to do in the past, their duty without fear or favor, and will act as they see fit, for the best interest of the county and its tax payers.

I am not a lawyer, nor have I read law, as it will appear from Mr. Townsend's article that he has. Before we took the action indicated above, we consulted our attorney, in whom we have confidence, and upon whom we thought we had a right to rely. He advised us that we had the legal right to take the action which we did. If the present road law repeals the act passed, I think in 1899, which allowed the commissioners to hire out the chain gang, it is more sweeping in its provisions than many persons have thought and that our attorney advised us, and one of the attorneys who is now representing Mr. Townsend and his friends, about two months ago, appeared before us and took directly the contrary view to that which he and Mr. Townsend are contending for so strenuously at the present time. If our action is illegal, we should like to have some authority to this effect, and we do not think that Mr. Townsend is serious if he expects us to take his views of the law as such.

He says that Howellsville township "should be given" the benefit of the convict's labor. I take it that Howellsville is no more entitled to be given this labor than any other township. Mr. Townsend states that the road law was gotten up by the board of commissioners and they ought to have known that persons sentenced to the chain gang should be worked on the public road.

The road law was not gotten up by the commissioners, but by a committee appointed for that purpose. The commissioners know, of course, that it provides for working the chain gang on the public roads, but it is only recently that it has ever been advised by any one that this provision was mandatory and was a positive prohibition of the use of convicts in any other way whatsoever, and that it repealed every law and each section of the same heretofore passed, allowing commissioners of Robeson county to take any other action in any respect whatsoever in regard to them.

I have already adverted to the fact that the taxes for county purposes amount to net, about \$21,000, the road taxes now amount to about \$31,000 net. This amount, it would seem to me, should be sufficient to put the roads in good condition and in the townships where the funds have been properly expended, this has been done. It seems to me, further, that it is unreasonable to expect of the tax-payers that an encroachment of from five to seven thousand dollars should be made on the general county fund annually for the support of the chain gang when no portion of this can be charged against the road fund proper. In addition to this, the bridges, as stated above, and which really form a part of the public road system of the county, are paid for out of the county fund, and the cost of these is now nearly double what it was two years ago, and with all of these encroachments upon the county fund and with the tax of 25 per cent. levied for road purposes, it would seem that the commissioners have some show of reason for attempting to reduce the burden of the tax-payers. To be plain, it was necessary either to arrange for the chain gang as we did, or to increase the present rate of taxation for county purposes, and if Mr. Townsend is correct as to the law, and we have no authority to proceed as we have done, we shall yet be driven to do this.

I am glad to note that Mr. Townsend has given to the board at least one small crumb of comfort in that he states that he does not pretend to say that the board has acted corruptly in the matter. This, coming from him, is praise indeed.

J. W. CARTER, Chairman.
Maxton, N. C., May 29, 1906.

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Maxton, N. C., May 29, 1906.

PARKTON NEWS ITEMS.

Parkton, May 30.—Mrs. Ch. s. Livingston, of Scotland county, and Mrs. Katharine Gillis, of Galatia, are spending some time with their brother, Mr. J. C. D. McNatt.

Little Misses Sadie and Julia Thompson, of Lumberton, are visiting their aunt, Mrs. Taylor Fisher.

We are glad to state that Mrs. J. C. D. McNatt, who has been critically ill, is much better.

Mrs. Smith and children, of Sanford, returned home Thursday after spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Haywood.

Mr. and Mrs. Collier Cobb returned from Charlotte Friday, where they attended the graded school commencement, their niece, Miss Maud McKinnon, graduating with high honors; also taking in the numerous attractions of the 20th of May celebration.

The many friends of Dr. McNatt, of Maxton, are glad that he is able to come over and spend the day with his sister, Mrs. J. B. McCormick.

Mr. J. G. Hughes went to Lou-divi, Ga., Saturday returning Wednesday, accompanied by his wife and little daughter, Margaret. Mrs. Hughes had been away a month spending part of the time at Indian Springs, Ga.

Mr. Byrd Haywood, of Bladen county spent a few days at home last week.

Mr. Philip Hancock, of Norfolk, Va., is at his sister's, Mrs. J. C. D. McNatt's.

Capt. J. D. Malloy and daughter, Mrs. Smith, spent Friday in Fayetteville.

Several of our young folks attended commencement at the Presbyterian College, Red Springs, and report a fine time.

Mr. Gray Culbreth, of Fayetteville, is spending part of this week at home.

Mrs. Babson, from Telford, Tenn., is visiting her daughter, Mrs. A. McA. Blount.

Work is progressing nicely on Dr. N. A. Thompson's hospital. The frame is up and the entire building is expected to be completed by the first of August.

The building will have twenty rooms and an operating room.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

Eggs 15 cents
Cotton to-day, 11 cents

Mr. A. J. Cottingham, of Maxton, was in town Wednesday.

Mr. J. S. Johnson, of Marion, S. C., was in town Wednesday.

Col. J. C. Steele, of Charlotte, is spending several days in town.

Mr. J. W. Carter, of Maxton, was a visitor to Lumberton Monday.

Mr. J. W. Davis, of Maxton, was among recent visitors in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bullock, of Ashpole, were visitors in town Wednesday.

Mr. Geo. L. Peschau, of Brunswick county, was here to attend the convention.

Congressman G. B. Patterson, of Maxton, was in Lumberton Monday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stephens have begun house keeping in the house formerly occupied by Mr. H. B. Robinson.

Mr. R. B. Branch, editor of the Red Springs Citizen, attended the Democratic County Convention Thursday.

Mrs. Daniel Shaw, of Laurinburg, N. C., is visiting the family of Mr. G. M. Whitfield.

Mr. L. D. Rivers was called to Wadesboro Monday afternoon on account of the illness of his mother.

Daniel I. Marley has been appointed regular carrier, and G. R. Thagard substitute in the rural free delivery service at Lumberton Bridge.

Mrs. G. B. McLeod returned Tuesday morning from Baltimore, where she has been under treatment in a hospital there for some time.

Mr. D. E. Harlee, of the Central Hardware and Mantel Company, Greensboro, N. C., is in Lumberton on business for his company.

Mr. J. C. Harris, for several years engineer on the Carolina and Northern railway, between Lumberton and Marion, S. C., has resigned. He will move his family from Kingsdale to Lumberton to live.

Mr. H. C. Freeman has opened a shop on the west side of the river, near the iron bridge, and has equipped it with machinery for making tables, desks, safes, etc., and for upholstering furniture and for doing turn work.

The Seaboard Air Line railroad will run an excursion from Wadesboro to Wilmington and return Saturday, June 9th. The train will leave Wadesboro at 6 o'clock in the morning and returning will leave Wilmington at 8 o'clock in the evening. Separate cars will be attached for colored people.

Candidates for county offices are in the language of the street, "getting busy." Two announce themselves in this issue of The Robesonian—Mr. A. Nash for clerk of court, and Mr. J. A. Barker for sheriff. These are not the only ones who are in a receptive mood for these particular offices but they are first to announce it through the paper.

Valuable Horse Killed.

A horse owned by Mr. Archie Prevatt was shot on a bridge three miles from town Tuesday afternoon, after the horse had broken two legs in an attempt to cross the bridge. The horse, with a number of others, had been carried over to graze and had gotten upon the track when the west bound train came by. The horse ran on the trestle in an attempt to escape from the train. As soon as the animal reached the trestle his legs went through.

Children's Day Services.

Children's Day services will be held at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning. A special program of music, recitations and drills has been prepared and, while those in charge have not given the children the practice they desired, it promises to be quite an interesting service. A cordial invitation is extended to the public.

At the Methodist church Sunday night, there will be appropriate exercises by the children of the Sunday school. An interesting program, including recitations, music, etc., has been prepared.

REV. ANGUS JOHNSON IS

BACK AFTER MANY YEARS

Now Ninety-Eight Years Old

Preached for Three-quarters of Century

Red Springs, May 31.—Rev. Angus Johnson, of whom we have had occasion to write before, is back literally on his native heath. He was born about 97 years ago on the hills through which Big Rockfish runs so majestically. After preaching 71 years of the 97 he has lived and doing most of it in Texas, he has come back to the land of his nativity on a visit. He and his wife stepped off the cars with kindly help, for the weight of years is now heavy on him, Monday morning. The venerable mother of Messrs. Duncan and Frank McKay, Mrs. Frank Currie, Mrs. E. C. McNeill and Mrs. C. B. Cox is his first cousin. There is little here now he can recall. Great changes have taken place during the 65 years that have intervened since he was here and preached at Antich and elsewhere. The people are nearly all gone. Others fill the pews of the churches. The farms have changed. Woodlands have been converted into fields and more, larger and handsome dwellings appear everywhere. Railways course through the county and possibly not a face is to be met he will be able to recall while he remains.

That was an elegant repast, the dinner served the young ladies of the town and their visiting friends by the young gentlemen Monday p. m. We were not there, but we are told it was elaborate without being prolix and in all ways exquisite in style. "It was all just like the boys." The Hotel Townsend was a scene of beauty unsurpassed on any former occasion while the enjoyment was unalloyed and great. Certainly. Miss Mary Eliza Robeson is visiting friends in Maxton.

We had the pleasure of meeting our old friend, D. S. Poole, of Raeford, who reports that his paper is growing in patronage. Success to it.

Rev. Dr. C. G. Vardell is attending Davidson College commencement this week.

Rev. R. W. Jopling returned from the meeting of the General Assembly last Saturday.

Mr. Alex. McMillan has been appointed railroad agent at Shann.

Misses Lida Law and Phebe Shaw spent Thursday at Lumberton Bridge at the home of Mr. A. L. Shaw.

COUNTY CONVENTION.

To Elect Delegates to State and Other Conventions.

The Democratic Convention of Robeson county met here Thursday, morning at 11 o'clock. The convention was for the purpose of electing delegates to the State, Congressional and Judicial conventions. There was quite a large delegation from the several precincts and many other Democrats of the county are in attendance. A full report of the convention, with a list of the delegates elected will appear in The Robesonian Tuesday.

With our Advertisers.

The Freeman Printing Co., E. B. Freeman manager, will do your job printing satisfactorily. Commercial printing a specialty.

The Southern Life Insurance Co., of Fayetteville, has an interesting ad in this issue. It makes a creditable showing for what it has already done and for the future. The first death claim of the company was paid to a Robeson county lady—Mrs. Rebecca J. Smith. Her letter appears in the ad.

Edwin P. Slocumb and Co. publish a notice to trespassers. W. H. Humphrey gives notice of an action against E. P. Slocumb and Co.

Chas. M. Stieff offers special bargains in highgrade square pianos.

Mr. H. C. Freeman, proprietor of the Freeman's Wookworking Plant, is now ready for business and solicits your trade. He prepared to do good work in line. See his ad elsewhere in the paper.

Mr. A. Nash announces himself a candidate for Clerk of the Superior Court.

Hotel Townsend opens today. Mr. J. A. Barker will be candidate for sheriff.