

THE RAFTSWAMP PICNIC.

Between 1,500 and 1,800 People Gather at Raft Swamp to Hear Speeches and Enjoy Picnic— Good Speaking and Bountiful Dinner.

Thursday morning, in company with Prof. J. R. Poole, I drove to Raft Swamp to attend the Rafters' picnic. The day was an ideal one, not too much sunshine and no rain. The attendance was estimated at from 1,500 to 1,800. But they were there old men and women, young men and maidens, boys and girls.

Prof. Poole and I arrived just in time, as the vast crowd had just begun to satisfy the inner man. And, of course, we did our part well, as many there can testify. I shall not attempt to tell you of the bountiful supply of good things there were to eat. There were three tables laden with good things, and underneath them were watermelons, peaches and apples, all the products of the farm.

After I was through eating and had surveyed the crowd and saw all these beautiful young ladies, I thought like another Scotchman in this country who attended his first commencement at one of our leading female colleges. He said, as he looked at the great number of girls, he thought every man in Robeson county ought to have been there who was not married (but I was not so he).

After dinner the crowd assembled in the grove, where all necessary arrangements had been made to listen to the speeches. The president, Mr. J. A. McAllister, of Lumberton, in a few appropriate words, explained the object of the meeting and the exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. I. P. Hedgpeeth. Mr. McAllister then introduced his first speaker, Mr. R. W. Livermore, of Red Springs, who spoke as his subject, "The Cotton Growers Work. Mr. Livermore emphasized the fact that he who arms must leave politics behind. He also spoke of the magnitude of the New Orleans convention where the association was organized. He said it was second only to the memorable convention held in Philadelphia in 1776. The farmers were urged to be self-sustaining, not to find their smoke-houses in Chicago and their corn-cribs on the Western plains. Mr. Livermore's address was certainly a strong and practical plea to the farmers for self-protection.

The next speaker was Mr. C. Moore, president of the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Association. He began by saying that he hope of the country was in the ladies for the men had given away all they had made for the last forty years. He spoke of the necessity of reducing the acreage and said the farmer who did not reduce it, this year would be looking for a mow to reap the grass. Mr. Moore said that he believed that farmers could meet once a month and discuss the issues before them, and plans for their own protection. "Why," said he, "if it isn't for cotton we, as a nation, could be broke in less than sixty years. The Cotton Growers' Association has added \$500,000,000 to the wealth of the United States in two years and the watchword of the association should be 'Stick together and abide by the rules of the association as the Spinners and Wall street are organized against them, and that any man who would sell his cotton ten cents for future delivery could be beat to death by his life, but no selling this fall to be governed by association. Mr. Moore's address seemed to be received into good and honest hearts and no doubt will be productive of great good.

This was a great gathering of people from all sections of this

and other counties; all interested in a common cause, and we look back on the day we can only feel as did Peter of old, "Lord it was good to be there." Now Mr. Editor I'm through. Some one asked me to let you know about it. This I've tried to do for we were all there. Preachers, lawyers, teachers, farmers, merchants and bankers, and I think I saw one or two insurance men and candidates for office. Wish they would have another and I could go. FRED BROWN.

Farmer's Institute.

To The Robesonian. The attention of farmers and cotton growers is called to the Institute for farmers to be held at Maxton Thursday. At the same time an Institute for the ladies will be held in the graded school building.

The cotton association of the county will meet according to adjournment at Maxton on the same day. It is understood that the Maxton people have made great preparation for this occasion and those who can attend are assured a very pleasant time.

Saturday Institutes will be held in Lumberton, in the court house for the farmers and in the assembly hall of Robeson Institute for the ladies. Those who cannot attend the Institute in Maxton are urged to attend those in Lumberton, or better still to attend both.

It is greatly desired that not only farmers and other business men should attend, but their wives, daughters and other ladies also. Special efforts will be made to make them both profitable and pleasant to all and as they are provided by the State we ought to get all the good we can out of them. That they are useful, instructive and beneficent is too well known to require discussion. J. A. McALLISTER.

Alfordville News.

Quite a number from here went on the excursion to the Beach last week. Misses Vieta Alford and Margaret McGirt are visiting friends at Carolina, S. C. Mr. Dougald Buie visited Mr. Brown McCallum Sunday. Miss Kittie John, of Lumber Bridge, visited friends in this community last week. Miss Mary Bullock expects to leave tomorrow for a visit to St. Pauls and Lumber Bridge. Mrs. David Alford, of Latta, S. C., is spending some time with relatives here. Rev. Dougald Monroe fulfilled his regular appointment at Midway the third Sunday. Miss Katie Buie, from Red Springs, is visiting relatives here. An enjoyable social was given by Miss Annie McLean Friday evening, in honor of her guest, Miss Jessie Stables.

Misses Blanche McRae and Fannie Wallace of Chattanooga, Tenn., are the guests of Miss Mary Edna McCallum. Sorry to report Mrs. Evander Bullock on the sick list. Misses Mary and Naomi McLean will leave this week for a visit to relatives in Pender county. The friends of Rev. W. T. Walker, former pastor of Ashpole church, were glad to have him among them recently. Miss Fode Alford, we are sorry to report, is ill. Messrs. Alex Alford and Rufus McCallum attended court in Lumberton. Messrs. A. J. McKinnon and L. T. Cottingham, of Maxton, were in this community Saturday. Miss Mamie Covington, of South Carolina, is here on a visit to relatives. Mr. Peter McCormick, our clever mail carrier, has received his automobile. Alfordville, N. C., July 23rd.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

E. W. Everett to S. H. Cotton, a piece of land in Robeson county; consideration, \$25. L. Shaw and wife to L. A. McGeachy, land in St. Paul township; consideration, \$75. H. F. Taylor and wife to Susan P. McNeill, lands in Wishart township; consideration, \$500. H. J. Wessel to Beaufort County Lumber Co., lands in Britt township; consideration, \$800. East Carolina Land and Investment Co. to Johnson Branch, a lot in Elrod; consideration, \$124. B. S. Sutton and wife to Bob R. Sutton, a tract of land; consideration, \$50. Clinton Kinlaw and wife to Joseph M. Wilson, lands in Howellsville township; consideration, \$250. J. E. McNair and wife to F. M. and J. L. Townsend, timber on certain lands; \$1 and other considerations. W. F. Bullock and wife to F. M. and J. L. Townsend, timber on certain lands; \$1 and other considerations. E. S. Smith and wife to F. M. and J. L. Townsend, timber on certain lands; \$1 and other considerations. Robt. Lewis to Arch. W. Prevatt, lands in Lumberton township; consideration, \$50. R. R. Barnes and wife to Beaufort County Lumber Co., timber on lands in Britt township; consideration, \$10. Memory Ganus and wife to D. M. Ganus and wife, lands in Britt township; consideration, \$150. H. S. Floyd and wife to Mary D. Russell, land in White House township; consideration, \$50. A. J. Britt and wife to Beaufort County Lumber Co., timber on lands in Wishart township; consideration, \$300. Wm. Phillips and wife to Beaufort County Lumber Co., timber on lands in Wishart township; consideration, \$1,150. Emeline Britt to Frank Britt, lands in Britt township; consideration, \$100. B. S. Sutton and wife to Beaufort County Lumber Co., timber on lands in Britt township; consideration, \$1,000. Charlotte Pitman to Butters Lumber Co., lands in Wishart township; \$1 and other considerations. R. M. Norment et al to Carolina Lumber Co., timber on certain lands; consideration, \$3,000. Wesley Thompson and wife to South Eastern Lumberton Co., timber on certain lands; consideration, \$1,000. Ann. Eliza and Mary F. Higley to Stephen McIntyre, lands in town of Lumberton; consideration, \$300. W. N. Speight and wife to H. F. Taylor, lands in Wishart township, consideration, \$227.50. A. W. Jenkins to Kingsdale Lumber Co., timber on certain land in Britt township; \$1 and other consideration. Neill McDonald et al, Annie L. to Dora B. Cashwell, interest in certain land; consideration, \$100. N. R. Phillips to Gaston Britt, land in Wishart township; consideration, \$20. R. W. Britt and wife to Beaufort County Lumber Co., timber on land in Britt township; consideration, \$150. J. L. Townsend and wife to F. M. Davis, lands in Thompson township; consideration, \$100. John James and wife to Duncan J. Black, lands in Red Springs township; consideration, \$150.

ASHPOLE NEWS. Messrs. J. D. McLean and N. A. Carter attended the congressional convention at Fayetteville. Mr. Charles Rankin, of Raynham, was down Thursday. Messrs. Edwards and Bunyan Stephens left for Jackson Springs Thursday. Dr. J. P. Brown went to the convention at Fayetteville and from there to Jackson Springs for a week's rest. Miss Hattie McPhaul visited Mrs. J. A. McAllister, of Lumberton, part of the week. The new principal of the school, Prof. Royal, was in town part of the week and pleasantly conducted prayer meeting at the Methodist church Wednesday night in the absence of the pastor. The observed of all observers is the red racing automobile of F. C. Jones. It is a beauty and greatly admired. Ashpole, N. C., July 27th.

WILL HAVE UNION DEPOT. Corporation Commission Made Order Saturday Requiring Seaboard and Raleigh and Charleston Roads to Build Union Station. The following order was made by the State Corporation Commission Saturday: "The Raleigh and Charleston Railroad have no depot at Lumberton, and they now use the depot facilities of the Seaboard Air Line Railway by contract, and pay therefor \$10.00 per month. "The Seaboard Air Line Railway have a passenger depot which is dilapidated, and is entirely inadequate for the purpose for which it was erected. "There is now a population of about 3,500 inhabitants within a radius of about one mile and a half of this depot, and on account of manufacturing enterprises, and for other reasons, this population is increasing rapidly. "The Raleigh and Charleston Railroad have only owned and operated their road for a short time, and, therefore, could only report passenger revenue for a period of five months. The number of passengers during this period was 1,920, and the revenue therefrom was \$1,166. "The Seaboard Air Line Railway, for twelve months ending May 31, 1906, and 18,029 passengers out of Lumberton; the number of passengers into Lumberton for this period could not be furnished on account of loss of records of Seaboard Air Line Railway by fire. The average number of passengers out of Lumberton per day for each month varied from thirty-four to sixty-six. The Seaboard Air Line Railway received revenue, for twelve months ending with December 31, 1905, from freights received, \$21,890.96; from freights forwarded, \$85,072.24; and from passengers for the same period, \$13,807.59—making a total of \$120,769. "In the judgment of the Corporation Commission, it is practicable and the necessities of the case require that the Seaboard Air Line Railway and the Raleigh and Charleston Railroad have one common or union passenger depot for the security, accommodation, and convenience of the traveling public. "It is ordered that the said railroad companies unite in the joint undertaking and expense of erecting, constructing, and maintaining such union passenger depot commensurate with the business and revenues of the said railroad companies. "And it is further ordered that said railroad companies report plan and specifications of said union passenger depot and agreements as to terms, regulations, provisions and conditions to this Commission within thirty days from the date hereof. "FRANKLIN McNEILL, Chairman."

ICE CREAM FESTIVAL. Ladies' Aid Society of Presbyterian Church of Maxton Give One. Friday evening the Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian church here held an ice cream festival and good-things-to-eat fete in the pavilion at the public square. The proceeds were for the benefit of the building fund for the new church and amounted to a substantial addition to the already considerable savings. Softly lighted and prettily decorated, the stirring crowd, animated by the pleasurable effects from cool drinks, frozen confections, rich viands, etc., an engaging panorama was presented and when seen from the dark distance of the street, a fairy scene of "life, love and laughter" was the impression. The industry and ingenuity of women bestowed upon a good cause is proverbial but that of the Maxton ladies is phenomenal and the elegant new church soon to be completed will be lasting memorials to their service and devotion. Maxton, N. C., July 28th.

LOCAL BRIEFS. Mr. Allman Flowers has resigned his position with Mr. J. P. McNeill. Mr. Claude Roberts has accepted a position as salesman with Mr. K. M. Biggs. Marion and Lumberton will play ball this evening, not Lumberton Athletes but a few sizes larger. Dr. T. A. Norment would like to communicate with the managers of all the ball teams in the county. Two things the farmers are asked to remember especially the farmers institutes here Saturday and at Maxton August 2nd. A team from Kingsdale and the Lumberton Athletes played ball here Saturday afternoon. Lumberton scored 10 to Kingsdale's 5. The authorities are having the weeds and grass cut from some of the sidewalks which adds much to the better appearance of the town. Steven Edison, the two-year old son of Mr. Steven Freeman, died Saturday morning at his home in Lumberton. The remains were interred yesterday at Hog Swamp. Mrs. Emma Pitman Warwick, wife of Mr. Geo. Warwick, died Sunday at her home in Wishart township. She was about 35 years old and had been in ill health for several months. For lack of space and because we have already used considerable space in this issue in a report of the congressional convention we will offer no comment on the convention until our Thursday's issue. The Fayetteville Observer says that the Republican congressional convention will be held at Wrightsville Beach August 26th and that Cumberland has the only candidate so far announced—Mr. Warren Carver. Rev. Mr. Ostrom will visit the Presbyterian congregation here Wednesday in the interest of the forward movement in foreign missions. He will conduct the services at the church Wednesday evening. Mr. Jno. Martin, for several years a popular engineer on the Seaboard, spent Thursday and Friday in town. Over a year ago he bought a farm in Rutherford county and gave up railroading. He also owns a farm in this county. Mr. Frank Thomas, of Charlotte, died Saturday morning in the Stokes Stokes Sanitarium at Salisbury, after several weeks' illness. Deceased was a brother of Mr. Fred Thomas, of Lumberton, who went to Salisbury Wednesday. Mr. Thomas returned to Lumberton last night. The county commissioners have recently been hiring out the county convicts. Judge Council the past week sentenced sixteen men to work on the roads according to the public road law of 1905. Under the circumstances, just what the county commissioners will do about it, we don't know. Judge Cooke Not to Resign. The Nashville Graphic, of last week, stated that there was a rumor current that Judge Charles M. Cooke would resign, on account of bad health and other personal matters. We asked Judge Cooke about the report and he stated that it was unfounded. He is enjoying excellent health; and, while his recent sore bereavement tried his soul, his fixed and steady christian faith has sustained him through it all. The people of the State will rejoice that Judge Cooke will not withdraw from that public service for which his common sense, wisdom, and learning so eminently fit him. For \$1.50 you get The Robesonian twice a week for a whole year.

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY. The grand jury completed its work the past week and made the following report: "We have found in the cases brought before us 55 true bills and 10 not true and made 7 presentments. We visited the jail and found that the prisoners are well cared for but recommend that the cells from the old jail be removed and placed in the new jail. This will give more room and comfort to prisoners. We have also visited the county home by committee and found it in a very good condition but recommend that the county commissioners increase the amount allowed for maintenance of each inmate in county home to amount at least equal that paid to maintain prisoner in jail. We further recommend that houses at county home be painted and repaired. We also visited the several county offices and find them in very good condition and as well kept as the building will permit." "Geo. L. Thompson, Foreman."

THE MONUMENT FUND. Mrs. R. D. Caldwell, Mrs. Lonnie Townsend and Miss Pennie Rowland, appointed committee for Confederate monument, made a vigorous house to house canvass of the township and in two days' work raised over \$100 for the monument. The hearts of these ladies were in their mission. If the other townships will make similar reports the veteran remnant of 61-65 will soon see their promised shaft standing in fine proportions to remind all posterity of their fallen comrades and of Southern valor and devotion. Let us now push this work. T. A. McNEILL, Committeeman for Lumberton Township.

DUE TO NEGLIGENCE OF AGENTS. The Corporation Commission Finds That Wreck was due to Failure of Agents to Obey Rules. Basing its announcement on findings as a preventative in further railroad wrecks, the North Carolina corporation commission this afternoon rendered a decision of the wreck of Seaboard Air-Line Railway near Hamlet. This is an endorsement of the block system and recommends such installation. The commission ordered that a report of its findings be mailed to President Walters, of the railroad company. The report sets forth those who were examined as persons having knowledge of the facts concerning the wreck. There is also set forth in this report these several facts: "This wreck was caused by the failure of agents of the railroad company to observe and obey the rules and regulations of the company governing the movement of trains. It would serve no useful purpose for the corporation commission to find which agents are guilty of negligence in this matter, as such finding would not be binding or conclusive upon any one and might be prejudicial in other investigations. The purpose of our investigations, as all understand it, is that the corporation commission might take such measures within its powers as to prevent the recurrence of such accidents. We are satisfied that the wreck would not have occurred had the block system been in operation on the portion of the road where it occurred. The operator at Rockingham and the operator at Hamlet, only six miles apart, permitted trains to leave these places at about the same instant of time, meeting each other, and neither knew that this had been done until the trains were beyond their control. This could not have happened under the block system. Eight passengers and freight trains, besides the special trains, daily go over the Seaboard Air-Line's sidetrack between Hamlet and Monroe. We have no power to order the block system of signals to be put in operation on this section of the road, but we do most earnestly recommend that the Seaboard Air-Line Railway install the block system service between Hamlet and Monroe as soon as practicable."

POST OFFICE SALARIES. The annual adjustment of the salaries of postmasters in the United States shows that sixty-nine out of the eighty-seven Presidential postoffices in North Carolina have experienced growth of business sufficient to warrant increases in the salaries of postmaster. This ratio of increase is indicative of the rapid development of the business interests of the State, and is only surpassed by one State in the Union. The aggregate increase in the salaries of the Tar Heel postmasters is \$8,300, which shows a relative gain of 7½ per cent. Only one State makes a better showing. That State is South Carolina, which shows an increase of 80 per cent. Washington Correspondent News and Observer.

SHORT LIFE AND A MERRY ONE. Of the great scholar and writer, George Buchanan, the four hundredth anniversary of whose birth was recently celebrated, it is related that he was told by his doctors that if he abstained from wine he might live five or six years, and that if he continued to drink he could hold out three weeks at longest. "Get you gone," he exclaimed, "with your prescriptions and your course of diet, and know that I would rather live three weeks and be drunk every day than six years without drinking wine." He was as good as his word. Having discharged his physicians like a desperate man, he ordered a hoghead of grape wine to be set at his bed's head, resolved to see the bottom of it before he died, and he carried himself so valiantly that he emptied it to the lees."