

THE ROBESONIAN

ESTABLISHED 1870.

Country, God and Truth.

SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS

VOL. XXXVIII, No. 53.

LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1907.

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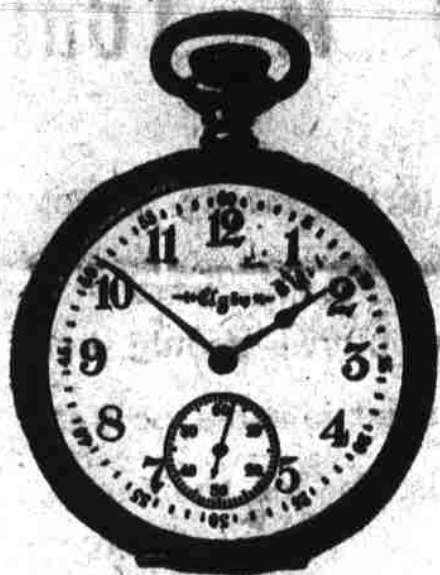
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SADDLE TREE PICNIC.

Account of Saddle Tree Rally and Mention of Crop of Babies Brings Interesting Letter From Former Robesonian in Far-Away Texas—Some Interesting Statistics—The Twins Dr. Carlyle Mentioned Were Kicking up Their Heels Because Glad of the Promised Educational Blessings of That Red Letter Day—Race Suicide and Schools.

Your report of the educational rally at Saddle Tree was interesting in more ways than one, and the inspiration of the occasion will, doubtless, reach farther than the confines of Robeson.

Your statement that "The memory of the oldest inhabitant does not run back to a time when there was ever such a crop of babies" is more significant of the real prosperity of the county than its 40,000 bales of cotton, its \$700,000 of cotton factories or its 200 miles of railways, and Prof. Carlyle's twins lying in the wagon kicking up their heels—doubtless in glad anticipation of the promised educational blessings of that red letter day—but emphasize the many-sided obligations of the tax-payers of that school district. Many inhabitants not among the oldest, remember that it was not a rare thing in Robeson 50 years ago to see 16 or 18 children in one family—in fact within four miles of the writer's native heath one family had 22—but this is not what I set out to say.

Within the last month, I had occasion to search the report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education for 1904-5, for material to be used on an occasion like the one at Saddle Tree. I was not looking for race suicide statistics, but while on the search, I read in the morning paper a dispatch from Plainfield, Indiana, announcing that a wedding had taken place there, the first in 13 months.

Remembering that President Roosevelt had sounded the alarm of race suicide in that latitude several years ago, I concluded to find out, if possible, how the schools were being affected by race suicide in that part of the county and found ample proof of President Roosevelt's foreboding, and strong circumstantial evidence that Robeson in particular, and North Carolina in general, still holds the fort on the baby record.

I shall not give many figures, for the reason that the average reader doesn't like to be honored with statistics.

In order that these statistics may be better appreciated it is proper to state that from 1900 to 1905, no less than 500,000 immigrants landed on our shores from foreign countries, and of these not less than 460,000 were within the school age. Practically speaking, none of these located in the Southern States, so that the schools of the North from Massachusetts, all the way to Oregon and California, absorbed these 460,000 foreign-born children.

Here are the facts as to increase in school pupils: From 1900 to 1905, the number of pu-

pils enrolled in the public schools of North Carolina increased 73,659. In Ohio there was not only no increase, but an actual decrease of 3,012; in Indiana, a decrease of 14,686; in Iowa, a decrease of 25,886; in Nebraska, 9,512; and Kansas 7,997. This large increase in North Carolina was not due to any sudden fitting up of the North Carolina Schools, for in 1900 21.14 per cent of all the State's population, was in the public schools, as against 20.32 per cent, in the United States, generally.

It is optional with the North Carolina parent whether he will send his child to school or not, and if he sends to school he must, at his own expense, supply his child with books, and if he doesn't wish his child to walk to school he must at his own expense provide conveyance, but in the States of the north, attendance is compulsory—not only that, but such inducements as free books, free conveyances, etc., are offered. In North Carolina nobody under 6 or over 21 gets any benefit from the free school fund. In a number of States in the north the schools are open to people of all ages, free. The city of Boston not only admits people of all ages, but pays out \$15,000 a year for maids or nurses to carry the little tots to the Kindergarten schools, look after them while there and carry them back home safely.

Compare those conditions with that of Robeson county twins attending educational rallies, lying in wagons and kicking up their heels, jollifying over the prospect of a new school building and better school facilities. They were evidently having a good time thinking about something, and as the young always live in anticipation of better things to come, they might have been looking forward to the time when they could mount the rostrum and shout the famous words of Edmund Everett, "we must educate, or we must perish," with special emphasis on the we must.

F.

Austin, Tex., Aug. 20, 1907.

The premium list of the forty-seventh annual State fair at Raleigh October 14th to 19th is issued. E. L. Daughtridge is president of the North Carolina Agricultural Society which holds these fairs. The board of Agriculture this year allows \$750 for special premiums for field and garden crops and 14 special crops have been selected, all staple ones; in each case the first premium is \$25, the second \$15, and the third \$5. There will also be a set of valuable premiums for truck crops. One of the features of the fair will be the speech by William Jennings Bryan Thursday, October 17th.

Two fires at Pittsburg, Pa., on the 22d, caused by the explosion of gasoline in clothes pressing establishments, caused damage estimated at \$250,000.

Raymond Lane, 1 year old, fell head foremost into a full can of milk in his father's dairy at Washington, Pa., the other day and was drowned.

Personal News Items From Proctorville.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Misses Alice and Ruth Humphrey have returned home from Fayetteville, where they spent some time with their uncle, Mr. W. A. Humphrey.

We are sorry to report Mr. J. H. Jenkins on the sick list this week.

Miss Blanche Flowers, of Barnesville, and Miss Clara Yates, of Fair Bluff, are visiting at the home of Mr. Haynes Barnes.

Miss Lula Black of Fayetteville, is spending some time with relatives near here.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hardin have been visiting relatives near Barnesville this week.

Miss Maggie Johnston is spending some time with relatives in this section.

A number of the young people expect to enter school at Orrum Monday, September 2nd.

Mr. Haynes Barnes and little son, Tiffany, went to Fair Bluff on business yesterday.

Quite a number of the young folks enjoyed a social entertainment given at the home of Mr. J. H. Graham Tuesday night.

Miss Alice Penny, of Wilmington, is spending some time with relatives in this section.

Messrs. Geo. and Ippie Graham spent part of last week at Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach.

Mr. Luther Nye went to Wilmington on business Monday.

Misses Gertrude and Meekie Graham leave to-day for Rowland, where they will spend some time with friends.

Mrs. J. J. Stone visited relatives here Sunday.

Proctorville, N. C. Aug. 28, '07.

An attempt was made on the 22d to blow up a passenger train with dynamite between Cripple Creek and Colorado Springs, Col. Every window in the last car was broken.

On the night of the 22d Dr. S. E. Thompson, proprietor of the Thompson Dental Parlors at Durham, attempted suicide by drinking laudanum. Drink and financial troubles are said to be the cause.

The superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Co. at Jackson, Miss., appealed to Gov. Vardaman on the 22d to furnish protection for the officers of the Western Union at Holly Springs, Grenada and Greenwood, stating that operators had been forced to quit at the two offices first named, and that citizens of Greenwood are offering threats and indignities to the managers.

When her father caught her by the ear and pulled her out of a buggy, where she was seated by her sweetheart, Norma Glass, of Evansville, Ind., aged eighteen years, seized the whip in the buggy and lashed the old man until he cried for mercy. Mrs. Glass ran to the scene, where a crowd had collected, and after grabbing the whip away from the daughter renewed the attack upon her husband and ran him away. He objected to his daughter's suitor.

A dispatch of the 22d from St. Louis, Mo., is to the effect that Pernal B. Mason, of Thomasville, N. C., was so impressed by the compliments passed on his cleverness by two affable strangers on a Chicago & Alton train that he was persuaded he could guess where the ace was in a game of monte which they started. Their assertions that he was the brightest fellow on earth and that no one could fool him, kept him in the game until he had lost \$40.

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