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COMMENCEMENT AT PARKTON.

Excellent and Entertaining Exercises at Close of Parkton Graded School—Some Notable Speakers and Speeches.

Reported for The Robesonian.

In attempting to give an account of the most excellent and entertaining exercises had on this occasion, we feel a deep sense of our inability to do the occasion anything like justice.

Owing to the sickness of the principal, Prof. J. H. Forbis, no printed programme was gotten out, to we have to depend largely upon a treacherous memory and a few imperfect dots taken on the grounds. We did not arrive on the grounds until 12 o'clock, m., Tuesday, but the exercises of the primary department were held Monday night, and from the account of those present, were of a very high and interesting order. After music by the Parkton concert band, little Miss Henrietta McMillan made a decided hit by singing "Cinderella in Flower Land". We speak of this only because we heard it so much spoken of and highly commended. Many other songs, recitations and music deserve special mention, but as our memory is in fault we fear to attempt such distinction.

Tuesday morning the exercises were confined to debate between six young men, the question for discussion being, "Resolved, That the Philippine Islands should be Retained by the United States". The speakers for the affirmative were B. A. McDonald, H. B. Culberth and G. P. Stanly; negative, O. L. Johnson, Jr., J. F. Williamson and J. P. Watts. According to Dr. Stephens and President Cobb of the Farmers' Union, this discussion was of more than ordinary interest; in fact they pronounced it the very best they had ever heard. The discussion was so very close it was hard to decide who the winners were, but, after some deliberation, was decided in favor of the negative. After the discussion recess for dinner was announced, and here was where your correspondent came in in full force. Dinner in the homes, dinner on the ground, in fact dinner all over town. We were entertained at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Collier Cobb, and if all present were as handsomely taken care of as this scribe there will be a big crowd at the next commencement at Parkton.

The evening exercises were again opened by the concert band, after which W. S. Cobb, president of the Farmers' Union for Robeson county, introduced Dr. Stephens, of the A. & M. College, of Raleigh. The doctor took for his subject "Scientific Education". We took some notes as he waded into this deep and all-important subject that is today being so extensively talked about, and is being to some extent practiced by our farmers, but our notes are so imperfect we feel we would be doing Dr. Stephens an injustice to attempt to give anything like a synopsis; but we want to say that we have never heard a more succinct, clear, clean, learned address on the subject, or any other subject. The doctor has a clear, smooth, pleasant face, and speaks with great ease and effect; and we were thinking as the address was being delivered how much our people were indebted to President Cobb for securing such able and well-qualified men to discuss this subject of so much importance to the farmers of the county, and this continuous presentation at all our important school commencements must bring forth practical fruit in days to come.

B. F. Dixon, our able, well-known and eloquent State Auditor, was the next speaker. He took for the basis of his address "Blood, Environment and Education." He paid a glowing tribute to the blooded ancestors of this part of the State—"Nothing the matter with our blood." The environment of eighty per cent of the population of this county is excelled nowhere on God's green earth. The farmers toiling under: God's big sun, nearer Heaven than any other people. He made a powerful plea for domestic and a rural education.

RED SPRINGS REVIEWS.

May Day Exercises—Graduating Recital.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Red Springs, May 4—Tuesday was quite a gala day for Red Springs; the town was swarming with visitors walking, riding in buggies and in automobiles. All these visitors came to attend the May Day exercises at the college which were held on the campus at five o'clock. At the appointed hour five little boys, dressed in blue, came marching out the front door of the college, each blowing a trumpet heralding the approach of the queen; next followed sixteen maids, dressed in Greek style, with flowing white robes and each carrying a Grecian lyre; then the maid of honor, Miss Mary Bullock, beautifully dressed in green and white, came and took her place at the foot of the throne. The crown bearer was a cunning little boy in a black velvet suit carrying the crown on a satin pillow. Next came the queen, Miss Mabel Croom, a fair creature indeed in her regal robes of white and gold. She carried a beautiful American Beauty rose, with a long stem as a scepter, and the crown was made of the same flowers. After the coronation the usual May Day games were played, the prettiest of these being the May pole dance. This was gracefully done by the sixteen attendants of the queen. The twining of the different colored ribbons around the pole was very affective. The exercises were well carried out, and all who were present enjoyed the afternoon very much. Miss Croom made a beautiful queen and besides her beauty she is a sweet and lovely girl, very popular with her fellow students.

Last Monday night in the auditorium a large audience was delighted by the graduating recital of Miss Margaret Bruce Williams. Miss Williams is quite an artist and master on the violin. She manages the instrument perfectly and plays with great feeling and depth of tone. Her notes are full and rich and are given with precision. Miss Williams is the first violin student graduated from the conservatory, and she bestows much credit on her teacher, Miss Lillian Farquhar. Miss Williams played many exceedingly difficult compositions from Chopin, Grieg and others. She was assisted by Mr. Charles Vardell, Jr. Mr. Vardell, as all who have heard him can testify, is a skilled young pianist. He delighted his hearers with several beautiful solos, rendered without a fault.

Jurors For May Term of Court.

At the meeting of the county commissioners Monday the following were drawn to serve as jurors for the one-week's civil term of Robeson Superior Court which convenes Monday, May 23: Jno. P. Floyd, W. H. Ellis, J. C. Gibson, Jno. Gray, Marshall Bodiford, Joe McNeill, R. L. Tolar, E. J. Graham, Marcus Smith, S. M. Oliver, C. C. Lewis, Simeon McLean, J. H. McQueen, Rory McNair, T. W. Maxwell, A. E. Mercer, H. P. Lovett, J. R. Boahn.

The doctor was eloquent and even pathetic in his description of the old home on the farm, where old bob white instilled by day and the whip-poor-will by night.

The exercises of this splendid school came to a close Tuesday night by the senior pupils of the school. We regret deeply we could not attend these last exercises, for we know they were bulging forth with interest.

We neglected to say Maj. A. J. McKinnon, Ex-Sheriff G. B. McLeod and this writer were called upon for expressions at the close of Dr. Dixon's address. The two former responded in happy vein, rather at the expense of the latter, and much fun and laughter was produced, in which a vote was taken by the ladies in the audience as to the finest-looking man of the three. In this the writer would like a deer in a walk. We would have been utterly cast down had it not been for the ladies to our rescue.

ROWLAND NEWS ITEMS.

Civic League Organized—In Social Realms—Personal Mention.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Rowland, May 4—Mr. E. L. Wooten spent Sunday at his home in Maxton.—Rev. W. S. Ballard and daughter, Miss Phila, visited relatives and friends in Lumberton last week.—Mr. W. D. Reynolds, of Gibson, was a visitor here Sunday.—Mrs. M. L. Wright, of Laurinburg, is spending a few days at the home of her brother, Rev. F. B. McCall.—Rev. Will Arwood, of West Virginia, is visiting friends in town.—Mr. Ernest Barker was called to his home near Lumberton last week on account of the illness of his brother, Mr. Prentice Barker.—Miss Susie McMurry, of Fairmont, was a town visitor Sunday.—Mr. S. J. Fore, of Maxton, spent Sunday with friends in Rowland.—Messrs. Taylor Marrow, James Blue, Eugene Bond and J. McR. Bracy went to Red Springs Tuesday to attend the May Day exercises at the S. P. C.—Miss Zoe Weaver left last week for New York, whence she was to sail yesterday for Europe. She expects to spend some time abroad studying music.—Rev. and Mrs. F. B. McCall left Tuesday morning for Faison where they will visit their daughter, Mrs. B. F. McColman.—Messrs. Alex. McKenzie, James McKay, A. D. McKenzie, and Blackwell spent Sunday in Columbia, S. C.

Messrs. A. D. McKenzie and J. H. McArn have recently purchased new automobiles.

The Stitch-in-Time Club gave a reception at the home of Mrs. C. D. Smith last Friday night.

The K. of P. lodge gave a banquet at the Flowers' hotel last Thursday night.

Last Sunday night Rev. R. L. Davis delivered a sermon in the school auditorium in which he discussed the liquor evil. He had a large audience and no doubt accomplished great good in behalf of temperance and righteousness. Quite a large sum was raised for the support of the Anti-Saloon League work.

Tuesday afternoon the ladies of Rowland met and organized a civil league. The object of the league is to add to the attractiveness and cleanliness of our town. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. W. F. Bristowe; vice president, Mrs. C. D. Smith; secretary, Mrs. C. T. Marrow; treasurer, Miss Kate McKenzie.

The members of the H. G. L. Book Club spent a pleasant evening with Miss Sallie Graham last Tuesday. An interesting programme was rendered, consisting of several selections from Tennyson, and both vocal and instrumental music. After the business meeting was over and the programme was carried out, delicious refreshments were served. On parting each one declared Miss Graham to be a charming hostess.

Newly-Elected Town Officers Installed—Mayor Rowland "Caned."

The regular monthly meeting of the town commissioners was held Tuesday evening and the oath of office was administered to Mayor J. A. Rowland, who was re-elected last Monday by an overwhelming majority for a third term, and to the commissioners who were elected for a term of two years. Messrs. G. G. French and Jno. D. McMillan were re-elected. Mr. J. L. Stephens, elected to succeed Mr. I. H. Caldwell, who refused to serve longer, being the only new member of the board. A meeting of the board will be held next Tuesday evening for the purpose of electing police officers, etc.

As a token of appreciation for his services and as some slight expression of the esteem in which he is held, the board presented Mayor Rowland a beautiful and serviceable gold-headed cane. The presentation speech was made by Town Attorney E. M. Britt, Mayor Rowland responding in a few well-chosen words.

Mr. W. D. Stone, of rural route No. 2 from Fairmont, is a Lumberton visitor today.

FAIRMONT NEWS LETTER.

Town Election—A Candidate for County Commissioner—President Alexander to deliver Educational Address.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Fairmont, May 3—The editor is to be much congratulated on his good luck in securing such a lovely young bride. May they live long and be happy.

Miss McLean, of Mt. Moriah, is visiting her brother, J. D. McLean.—Miss Susie McMurry spent last Sunday with friends in Rowland.

F. C. Jones went to Fayetteville last Friday, returning at night with a Ford Auto, he purchased there.

Rev. C. W. Smith and A. S. Thompson returned last Saturday from Rockingham district conference.

Mrs. Pennie McMillan is spending the week with her daughter, Mrs. Faulk, of McDonald.

Mrs. J. D. McLean returned last Saturday from Maxton and, as Mrs. J. W. Carter is better, hopes to remain at home.

Dr. Alexander, president of the State Farmers' Union, will make an educational address at the close of school May 20th. A. J. McKinnon, of Maxton, is expected to speak also. We hope to give the entire programme next week.

J. M. Ashley has been bringing to market some very fine strawberries, as has also Mrs. Jack Bray; but the recent cold has injured them very much.

The town election passed off quietly last Tuesday, there being only one ticket out composed of the following: Mayor, E. Fisher; aldermen, A. L. Jones, B. L. Page, E. V. McDaniel, A. J. Floyd.

We understand that A. J. Floyd will be a candidate for county commissioner. As Fairmont has never been represented in the county offices we trust he may receive strong support.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe Return—A Quiet Church Wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe, who were married in Baltimore last Wednesday, April 27, arrived in Lumberton Tuesday after a few days stay in Washington and will be guests for a few days at the home of Miss Josephine Breece, on Fifth street. They will begin housekeeping within a few days in a house belonging to Miss Breece, next to her residence. The following account of their marriage is taken from the Baltimore American of last Thursday:

Mr. John Allen Sharpe and Miss Daisy A. Courtney were quietly married at the First Methodist Episcopal church, St. Paul and twenty-first streets, by Rev. Dr. H. Frank Rall, the pastor, at 4:30 o'clock, Wednesday afternoon. The bride who is the daughter of Mrs. Anna P. Courtney, of this city, and the late Wm. T. Courtney, wore a handsome traveling suit of old blue cloth with a hat to match, and carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley. She was attended by her sister, Mrs. Adam Shoop Tarr, as matron of honor. The groom was attended by Mr. A. S. Tarr. Immediately following the ceremony the couple left for Washington. After their honeymoon Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe will take up their residence in Lumberton, N. C. where they will be at home to their friends after May 10. Mr. Sharpe is the publisher and editor of The Robesonian, a publication of Lumberton, N. C.

The bride is well known in Lumberton, having spent several seasons with Miss Breece, and her many friends here.

Damage to Cotton.

A dispatch of the 3d from McDonald, this county, to the Wilmington Star states that in and around McDonald hundreds of acres of cotton are being plowed up as a result of the recent cold spell, that 50 per cent of the acreage in that section will be re-seeded. Other crops, it is stated, were not damaged, and fruit was not hurt at all.

IN SOCIAL REALMS.

A Jolly Crowd of Folk Give Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe a Kitchen Shower.

A crowd between 50 and 75 strong, composed of all ages, made things lively at the home of Miss Josephine Breece, corner of Walnut and Fifth streets, last evening from about 9 to 11 o'clock with a kitchen shower for Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe. Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe were taken by surprise. They had no idea such a thing was coming to pass until the crowd began to rush in at the door, making all sorts of noises beating tin pans, ringing bells and blowing whistles.

The crowd assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Thomas, which is just across the street from the home of Miss Breece. The bride and groom received almost everything that one could expect to have need of in a kitchen—dish pans, bread rollers, potato mashers, ice cream freezers—infact almost everything imaginable; but of the things received there were two that created special amusement. These two were gotten up by Miss Josephine Breece and they were presented by Mr. Woodberry Lennon with a few happy remarks. The first was a darning set for the bride to which there was a card attached with the following verse:

Of comets and stars and things that shine

And things that are awful shocking,
There's nothing that shines and leaves its rays

Like a hole in a gentleman's stocking.

The second was a nice white kitchen cap and apron for the groom, with which he received the following receipt for making biscuit:

Two parts of flour to one of lard,
A little salt and water;
Mix them with the weeding hoe
And beat with meal and mortar;
Cut 'em with your little axe
An' put 'em in the pan,
Cook until they're good and hard
An' eat 'em like a man.

Another thing that created much fun was a kitchen towel, given to the groom by Mrs. A. E. White, on which she worked in large red letters his initials.

Punch was served and from start to finish the occasion was one of more than a little fun, and the success and profit to the bride and groom is largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Fred J. Thomas and Miss Josephine Breece.

Mr. W. K. Bethune Entertains in Honor of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe.

Reported for The Robesonian.

On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Mollie Norment, on Elm street, Mr. W. K. Bethune entertained most hospitably at dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe, who arrived in Lumberton that morning. The invited guests were Col. and Mrs. N. A. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. White and Miss Josephine Breece.

At 9:15 the same evening a large number of friends assembled to greet Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe in response to the following invitation:

Walton K. Bethune
Will be pleased to have the honor of your presence at the home of Mrs. Mollie R. Norment

Tuesday evening, May third, from nine fifteen to twelve o'clock, with greetings for

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sharpe.

Sventy-five received invitations and almost all were present to enjoy this most generous hospitality. The guests were met at the door by Mr. Bethune, who extended to all a most cordial welcome. In the parlor Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe received the many congratulations and best wishes of their numerous friends.

Soon after all had arrived delightful refreshments of cream and cake were served in a charming way by Misses Ruth and Mary Rozier Norment and Hilda Weinstein.

With many expressions of bride and groom of their welcome to Lumberton, the guests reluctantly departed at a late hour, avowing Mr. Bethune's most gracious host.

Mr. J. F. Pice, of rural route No. 3 from Fairmont, is among the visitors in town today.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

—A subscriber at Marietta advises that Mrs. Kate Hill, of that place, served Irish potatoes at dinner last Saturday, April 30, which is considered pretty early for the new crop.

—Miss Docia Willis and Mr. W. J. Olphin, both of Robeson county, were married Sunday afternoon last at St. Paul at the residence of the officiating magistrate, Mr. J. D. Clark.

—A ball team from the Lumberton Cotton Mills and the first nine of the town players had a game across the river Saturday afternoon in which the town boys won by a score of 27 to 11.

—Col. N. A. McLean will deliver the annual address before the graduating class at the Presbyterian College in Charlotte on Tuesday evening of next week. The young ladies and others who are fortunate enough to attend may expect a treat.

—Mr. Jonn F. McEachern, of Savannah, Ga., spent Tuesday in town, a guest at the home of ex-Judge and Mrs. T. A. McNeill. Mr. McEachern is a native-born Robesonian, but this is his first visit to the county in 30 years. He likes his adopted State, in which he has made a business success.

—The annual commencement exercises of Winterville high school, Prof. F. C. Nyel, principal, will be held on the 18th, 19th and 20th inst. On the 18th at 8 p. m. the annual sermon will be preached by Rev. R. A. McFarland, of Scotland Neck; on the 19th at 8 p. m. the graduating exercises will be held; on the 20th at 10:30 a. m. the literary address will be delivered by State Attorney General T. W. Bickett, and at 2:30 p. m. on the same day there will be a debate by the Vance literary society, subject, "Resolved, That the United States should subsidize their merchant marine."

Memorial Day Exercises—Programme.

Memorial Day exercises will be held next Tuesday, 10th, in the opera house, beginning at 11 o'clock a. m. Mr. M. G. McKenzie will be master of ceremonies. The following programme has been arranged by the Robeson Chapter, Daughters of Confederacy: Music; opening prayer by Rev. C. H. Durham, pastor of First Baptist church; sketch of the life of Col. Alfred Rowland, by Commander J. A. McAllister; music; bestowal of crosses of honor by ex-Judge T. A. McNeill on Veterans W. J. Burchett, James Dent, Lewis Grimley, Anderson Kinlaw, Artemas McKay, Murdock McRimmom, F. A. Prevatt; music; benediction by Rev. Wesley Thompson, chaplain of Camp Pope.

After the exercises luncheon will be served to the veterans by the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Meeting of Farmers' Union—Congressman Godwin Delivers Address.

Many farmers from all over the country are in town today to attend the county meeting of the Farmers' Union. Congressman H. L. Godwin delivered an address this morning at 11 o'clock before a crowd of Union members and others which filled the court room. The meeting of the Farmers' Union began at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, too late for a report in this issue. A full report of the meeting of the Union and of Congressman Godwin's address will be given in Monday's Robesonian. Mr. Godwin arrived last night from Washington and will go this evening to Chadbourne.

Meeting of Civic Association Tomorrow Evening.

A meeting of the Civic Association will be held tomorrow evening at 8:15 o'clock in the reading room of the Industrial & Commercial Club. Everybody who is interested in the welfare of the town and who can possibly do so is invited and urged to attend this meeting and join the association. Matters in which every citizen of the town is interested will be brought before the meeting.