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## A CITIZENS' BANQUET.

### Linking of Bladen and Lumberton by New Railroad Celebrated—A Feast of Reason and Flow of Soul.

At the Waverly hotel Thursday evening a banquet was held that was in the nature of a celebration of the linking together of Bladen and Robeson counties by means of the Virginia & Carolina Southern Railroad, which will be completed to Elizabethtown in the near future. It was one of the most enjoyable events of the kind ever pulled off in Lumberton. Mine Host Bichery rose to the occasion in great style, doing the honors to a T, and there was a feast of reason and a flow of soul. Covers were laid for 84 people and all would have been taken but for the fact that some Bladen county folks who were expected were conspicuous by their absence, much to the regret of all, for some of the speakers had loaded up on remarks which they wanted those invited from Bladen to hear; but even so, all the speeches were full of life and light and no time was wasted in vain regrets.

Col. N. A. McLean was toastmaster and he presided with inimitable grace and ease, but before he took charge of the ceremonies Mr. R. D. Caldwell, president of the Lumberton Industrial & Commercial Club, under the auspices of which the banquet was given, bade the guests welcome in the name of the club and told of the organization and purposes of the club. The first toast—"What Lumberton Offers to the Citizens of Bladen County"—was responded to by Mr. Stephen McIntyre, who dwelt eloquently upon the mother county of Bladen, telling of deeds of heroism back in the days of the revolutionary war—those absent Bladen folks would have felt real stuck up if they had heard Mr. McIntyre tell about what manner of people they are—and told a wonderful story about what Lumberton's princely merchants offer to the citizens of Bladen.

Mr. R. D. Caldwell was next called upon and addressed himself to "What efforts should be made to induce the citizens of Bladen county to patronize the business institutions of Lumberton and what advantages can be offered them." He called attention to the transportation facilities soon to be offered Bladen and expressed the hope that schedules would be arranged on the new road for conveniently bringing Bladen people to Lumberton, which offers as good advantages as any town within their reach.

"Kingsdale Lumber Company and its Possibilities"—Mr. W. E. Jackson, superintendent and general manager of the plant. Mr. Jackson started out by saying that he and others who are interested in the company would like to know what its possibilities are, and then, coming down to serious talk, he made an excellent talk about the magnificent plant—second to none in the State—which his company has built here and about what it will mean to Lumberton in the distribution of about \$100,000 a year in wages and in other ways.

Railroad men, three of them, were on the program, and each one of them made a good talk. "The Virginia & Carolina Southern Ry. and its Relations to Lumberton and Elizabethtown" was the subject assigned Mr. J. P. Russell, of Lumberton, superintendent of the road. Mr. Russell likened the V. & C. S. to a daughter and said that she offered to and asked of Lumberton all that filial duty and love can do and give. He talked interestingly of the excellent service, both passenger and freight, told something of the advantages that will be offered Bladen when the road is completed to Elizabethtown.

"Raleigh & Charleston Ry. and what it would like to do for Lumberton"—Mr. L. A. Boyd, of Marion, S. C., general manager of the road. Mr. Boyd had his remarks committed to writing and The Robesonian hopes to publish his speech in full at an early date. It was chock full

of interesting matter. He said among other things that the management of the road is considering the advisability of putting on passenger service that will enable people to come to Lumberton in the morning and spend the day.

Mr. R. I. Cheatham, of Portsmouth Va., assistant general freight agent of the Seaboard, was called upon to tell about the "Seaboard Air Line Railway's interests in the future development of Lumberton." Mr. Cheatham played gracefully upon Russell's assertion that Lumberton is a mother to his road, asserting that Lumberton, not yet having by any means attained her growth, is still but a girl in her teens, albeit she is no longer a town, but a city, and he expects, he said, to tell of the wonderful growth of the town and to visit her often. He touched upon one of the greatest needs of most Southern towns when he said that if the town wanted immigrants of the right sort he would be glad to see to it that facts about the town were placed in the hands of people who are seeking homes, the industrial department of his road receiving thousands of inquiries for desirable places to locate.

"Lumberton, the chief town of the great county of Robeson," was the theme of Mr. E. M. Britt. Mr. Britt told in glowing terms of the growth of the town from the old plantation which was its start—told of its merchants, its banks, its manufacturing enterprises, et cetera, until it made one feel that it is good to live and move and have one's being in a city so blessed.

Mr. R. C. Lawrence responded to the toast, "Predictions based on possibilities." A large field, and Mr. Lawrence was more than equal to the demand. After a few humorous predictions that brought great laughter and applause, he came down to serious talk and made a ringing speech advocating moving the bodies in the old cemetery near the Seaboard depot and using that for some public purpose.

Col. N. A. McLean, the toastmaster, who had all along, in introducing the various toasts, enlivened the occasion with wit and humor, was down at the last with "Lady punch," as he pointed out—for the "Climax." And he climaxed after the most approved style. Jesting and humor aside after the first few remarks, he approved Mr. Lawrence's suggestions about the cemetery and called attention to the further fact that Lumberton must have a public building, a city hall.

And then—why, that was the climax—only feeble justice has been done it here—and there was nothing more, only the crowd made an attempt to sing "Auld Lang Syne," printed on the back of the menu card, and if the truth must be told the way that song was murdered—the writer helped do it—it would have sounded to one on the outside like the banqueters had had something stronger than lady punch. But they hadn't; the punch was perfectly ladylike.

Mr. Geo. G. French was called upon to dismiss the crowd, which he did by inviting them to buy brick.

## Test of Water Power.

At 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon on Elm street, in the business part of town, a test will be made of the power available in case of fire. Superintendent McGuire, of the water and light plant, claims that if the water is turned on at six hydrants at the same time there is not enough power to throw water more than 15 feet. The matter will be thoroughly tested tomorrow afternoon and if Mr. McGuire's contention proves correct a serious situation will be disclosed.

The fire whistle will sound the alarm for this demonstration. Remember the time and don't be alarmed when the whistle blows.

Will and Henry Hartis, who had been on trial for 8 days for the killing of Robt. Simpson last November, Will Hartis being charged with the shooting, were declared not guilty by a Mecklenburg county jury Thursday

## MISSIONARY UNION.

### One of Best Sessions Ever Held Closed Thursday Evening.

The twentieth annual session of the Woman's Missionary Union of Fayetteville Presbytery, held here last week in the Presbyterian church, beginning Tuesday afternoon and closing Thursday evening, as stated by Mrs. Robert N. Page, of Biscoe, president of the Union, was in many respects the best meeting ever held during the life of the Union. The meeting was well attended and in spite of the heavy rains Tuesday and Wednesday all whose good fortune it was to attend seemed to enjoy the occasion to the fullest.

In addition to the account of the meeting given in Thursday's issue of The Robesonian, Miss Isabel Arnold, of Nashville, Tenn., delivered an address Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock and the sessions of the union were closed Thursday evening with an address on missions by Rev. S. H. Chester, of Nashville, Tenn., who is secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

This is the second time the Union has met in Lumberton, the first meeting being held here ago. It is to be hoped that the ladies of this organization will not be so long next time in paying their respects to Lumberton. The Union meets next year in Red Springs.

## MAXTON NEWS.

### Meeting at Methodist Church—Personal

Correspondence of The Robesonian.  
Maxton, June 17—Miss Leila Barnes returned yesterday from Dunn, where she had been visiting for several weeks—Misses Sarah Shaw and Essie Bethea, of Kingston, visited Miss Clarkie Bell McNair last week.

Mesdames J. P. Wiggins, R. M. Williams and McP. McL. Alford attended the Missionary Union in Lumberton Wednesday. Misses Emma Belle McRae and Mattie Williams McLean also went down on the same day and gave a musical selection during the evening services.

Mrs. S. B. McLean and child returned Wednesday from Wrightsville Beach—Miss Sallie McLean, of Laurinburg, is visiting relatives this week—Mrs. Charles Purcell, of Raeford, is visiting Mrs. Lina McLean for a few days.

There is quite an interesting meeting going on in the Methodist church this week. Rev. H. M. Eure, of Carthage, is conducting it, and large crowds attend each service.

Mrs. W. G. Graham and children have returned from Shelby, her old home, where she has been spending some time. They have moved into the Mrs. Ann C. McLean cottage on east Sanders street.

### North Carolina Has Plenty of Counties.

Charlotte Chronicle.

There is now a movement on foot to cut up Cumberland into two counties, but it is evident that the promoters of the movement are going to have rough sledding. While Cumberland could easily spare enough land for a new county, there is a sentiment against a division of the family. The attempt to form a new county out of Robeson, which is the Texas of North Carolina, has been abandoned. It is well. North Carolina has proportionately more counties than almost any other State. At any rate she has a plenty.

### Death of Mrs. Joseph Barnes.

Mrs. Joseph Barnes died yesterday morning at 4 o'clock at her home near Back Swamp, after an illness of about two weeks. She was about 25 years old and was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evander Pitman, of Back Swamp. She is survived by her husband and two children.

Quite a number went from here this morning to attend the funeral services, which were conducted at 10 o'clock at Back Swamp church.

## JAS. E. MCGIRT.

### A Young Negro Who Has Won Recognition For Literary Ability Revisits His Birthplace Near Lumberton.

James E. McGirt, of Philadelphia, is a young negro, a native of Robeson county, who has given evidence of considerable literary ability and has won flattering recognition, came to Lumberton Saturday and will spend a few days in the county. He is not unknown to Robesonian readers, who will recall that some time ago an exceedingly complimentary reference in the Wilmington Star to him and his work was reproduced in this paper. He was born in the "Meadows", three miles east of Lumberton, where his parents lived until he was seven years of age, moving 27 years ago to Greensboro. "For Your Sweet Sake" and other verses make up a volume of verse of which he is the author and in which decided talent is shown. McGirt is spending some time in the South now, studying conditions and gathering material for a series of articles.

## IN RACE TO FINISH.

### Mr. McKinnon Denies Report That He Has Withdrawn From Race For Congress.

Editor Robesonian:  
It has come to my ears that there is a report in circulation that I have withdrawn from the race. I desire to say that this report is absolutely without any foundation whatever. I am in the race, working day and night, and expect to continue in it until the contest is ended, and ask my friends to work harder than they have ever worked in order to offset the injustice that has been done me by Mr. McLeod.

Yours very truly,  
A. J. McKinnon,  
Maxton, N. C., June 18, '10

### Dr. Rankin Will Not Speak at Court House This Evening—Address Postponed.

Dr. W. S. Rankin, secretary of the State Board of Health, will not be able to speak at the court house this evening, as announced and expected. A called meeting of the Board of Health detains him in Raleigh and it was necessary for him to postpone his engagement here. Dr. Rankin wired Saturday to Mrs. Lizzie Proctor, who is at the head of the Civic Association committee on public health, which committee was instrumental in getting Dr. Rankin to promise to visit Lumberton, that the duties of his office would prevent his coming today, but he will come at some future date.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Rankin has been compelled to postpone his visit to Lumberton and some time in the very near future it is hoped that he will be able to address a Lumberton audience on the all-important subject on which he knows how to preach so well.

### Passenger Service on Laurinburg and Southern.

The Laurinburg Exchange says that the Laurinburg & Southern has just received two new passenger cars and has begun passenger service. There will be one passenger train a day from Laurinburg to John's Station and from Laurinburg to Wagram. Passenger service has already been installed between Wagram and Raeford, so connection can now be made at Wagram for Raeford and points on the Aberdeen & Rockfish, connecting with the Seaboard at Aberdeen, and with the coast Line and Virginia & Carolina Southern at Hope Mills. The Exchange says that a little later it is hoped that a train will be operated between Laurinburg and Sumter, S. C., giving direct connection with trains for Charleston.

Theodore Roosevelt landed at New York Saturday after an absence of nearly 15 months and the welcome given him is said to have been the greatest ovation ever given a private citizen in this country, if not in the world.

## IRISH POTATOES.

### A Few Suggestions to Truckers and Home Gardeners.

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

Please allow me space in your valuable paper to offer a few suggestions to truckers and home gardeners. Dig your Irish potatoes. After twenty years experience as a trucker I find that Irish potatoes, if left to remain in the ground during wet seasons (such as we now have) will rot, or at least the fine flavor will be lost. This applies to matured crops. Dig the potatoes and remove them to some cool dark place. Do not let the sun shine on them any more than you can help, as it will cause them to green-up. If you can do no better, spread them in some out-house on the farm. Most all farmers have empty houses at this season of the year. If your potatoes are in land that has a good water shed they may not rot, but they are not so good as when taken up and stored away. The earlier varieties, such as Red Bliss, Irish Cobbler, Pride of the South, White Bliss, Early Rose, Earliest, etc., should be matured and ready to be taken up at this date. Irish potatoes have a better flavor after being housed a while than when taken out of the ground. Do not bulk them; be sure to spread them.

Our farmers should plant more Irish potatoes than they do, they are better than sweet potatoes and are easier kept during winter months. There is always a demand for Irish potatoes during the winter and generally the price is better. A good crop of corn can be made after Irish potatoes; in fact, several crops follow them with excellent results. Every farmer should have a late potato patch, enough at least to supply his table during the winter months.

W. O. W.,  
Lumberton, N. C., June 16, '10.

### Federal Grand Jury Returns Indictment Against Conspirators in Cotton Pool.

New York Dispatch, 17th.

The government came out in the open today in its attempt to prove that manipulating the cotton market is against the law. James A. Patten, of Chicago, and seven lesser figures in the speculative field have been indicted, charged with conspiracy in restraint of trade under the Sherman anti-trust law. Five counts are embraced in the indictment, which is in blank- et form and contains 10,000 words. The first count charges that the defendants unlawfully did conspire with certain corporations not herein indicted to "demand arbitrary, excessive and monopolistic prices for cotton."

Describing the inside workings of the alleged conspiracy the indictment says that the conspirators were to become members of and engage in an unlawful combination in the form of an agreement under which they were severally to purchase for shipment from the South to New York all cotton not directly absorbed by the demands of foreign and domestic manufacture in the ordinary course of business; in other words, as much as they could purchase from day to day without seriously enhancing the price, but nevertheless to such an extent that they would long before the end of the crop year, have so much cotton in their possession in the city of New York that they could "by reason of the abnormal and artificial conditions thus purchased in said trade and commerce, severally demand arbitrary, excessive and monopolistic prices."

Among the firms mentioned as conspirators, though not included in the indictments, are the following of North Carolina: Cannon Mfg. Co., Concord; Henrietta Mills, Caroleen; Mecklenburg Mfg. Co., Charlotte.

Washington, June 18.—Two of the most important administration measures, namely the railroad and statehood bills, were acted upon finally by Congress today and will become laws as soon as they receive President Taft's signature.

## LOCAL BRIEFS.

—Considerable improvement has been made within the last few days at the artesian well near the power house.

—Ruth Neill, 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Bullock, who has been right sick for several days, was some better this morning.

—Mr. Frank A. McLeod, who underwent an operation about ten days ago at the Memorial hospital in Richmond, Va., came home Saturday very much improved.

—Mrs. W. J. Prevatt comes to the front with mighty early okra. She had okra, raised at her home on Fourth street, between Chestnut and Pine, on the 10th inst.

—Messrs M. G. McKenzie and C. B. Skipper attended Saturday a picnic at Oakdale church, near Marietta, and they say that the occasion was a most pleasant one.

—About 50 young people went "hay-ride" style Friday evening to the country home, near town, of Miss Bonnie Barker, where they were delightfully entertained.

—Whiteville News Reporter, 16th: Mr. R. M. Norment, Jr., of Lumberton, was in Whiteville Wednesday in the interest of the corporation department of the U. S. census. He made a fine impression on all he met.

—Rev. W. O. Johnson, who lives near St. Paul and who is a student at the Louisville Theological Seminary, will preach at Ten Mile Baptist church, in Howellsville township, next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

—Material is being placed on the grounds for the magnificent stone, steel and plate-glass front Messrs. White & Gough are going to place in their store building on Elm street, but the work will not begin until all the material is on hand.

—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Holloway, who have been boarding with Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Johnson, on North Elm street, will begin housekeeping Thursday in the house on the same street recently vacated by Dr. and Mrs. T. D. Kitchin.

—A. R. Chavis, who lives on rural route No. 6 from Lumberton, about 3 miles from town, was in town Saturday with perhaps the very largest turnip ever seen here. It was of the Flat Dutch variety, measured about 8 inches across by about 4 inches deep, and weighed 5½ pounds.

—Messdames M. S. Morrison and Geo. G. French, Misses Jessie and Annie Neill Fuller, Josie McNeill and Messrs. Jno. Fuller and Jesse Stansel left this morning for Jackson Springs, where they expect to spend about two weeks. Others are expected to join the party from Red Springs.

—Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Biggs will finish moving tomorrow into their new house on North Elm street from a house on Fifth street which they have been renting from Mr. J. D. McMillan. Mr. Biggs' new house has been completed except inside painting and is a conveniently-arranged and attractive residence.

—Prof. Walter F. McCanness, principal of the Philadelphia high school and who is now working as financial agent of Carolina College at Maxton under President E. McWhorter, made an interesting talk on the Laymen's Movement at the Methodist church last evening. Mr. A. W. Peace, cashier of the Bank of Lumberton, and Prof. McCanness conducted a service along the same lines at Barker's yesterday morning.

—Wadesboro special, 17th. to Charlotte Observer: Mr. W. O. Benne, Jr., of Wadesboro, has been appointed manager of the Maxton branch of the Elba Manufacturing Company of Charlotte. The Elba people do not belong to the trust and the mill at Maxton, which is just being completed, is said to be the largest independent cotton oil mill in the Carolinas. The mill is constructed according to the most approved method and is one of the most up-to-date plants in the entire South. Mr. Bennett will take charge of the plant July 1.