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WHOLE NO. 2624

DEMONSTRATION WORK.

Mr. E. S. Millsaps, District Agent For the Farmers' Demonstration Work, Makes an Interesting Talk in Lumberton—The Value of the Work—How Farmers Should Study Their Business, Raise Home Supplies and Build Up the Land.

Mr. E. S. Millsaps, of Statesville, district agent of the farmers' co-operative demonstration work in the State, made an interesting talk on this work before a small audience in the commissioners' room at the courthouse Friday about noon. It is to be regretted that the talk was not heard by a large crowd, for it was interesting and packed as full of helpful suggestions as an egg is full of meat.

Mr. Millsaps, who is a practical farmer, talked in an informal way of the work that is being done by the work he represents and the problems that confront the farmer. He said that some farmers do not take kindly to the farmers co-operative demonstration work because a local man is picked up for the work in each county and there is an inclination to think that they know as much about farming as the man in charge of the work. This he showed to be a mistaken idea because the local man is always trained in the special work to be done and, besides, his work consists largely in influencing men to agree to adopt plans laid down by the United States Department of Agriculture, under the direction of Dr. S. A. Knapp, who is a practical farmer and is thoroughly familiar with the best farming methods all over the world. Then, too, they always select a practical man for the work, not a mere theorist, but a man who knows "the feel of the plow" as it goes into the ground.

There is nothing mysterious about the demonstration work, the speaker declared. This farming business is the biggest thing in the world and the time is coming when farmers will know more of the theory upon which the greatest success of their work depends. Every farmer should have a definite aim, an ideal to which to work, and should get out of the habit of doing the same old thing in the same old way. Illustrating the value of working with some definite aim, he told of a farmer who told him that he had been trying for years to make 40 bushels of corn to the acre on a certain tract of land, and when asked if he had succeeded he said no, but he had made 39½ bushels; and the speaker contrasted that with the slipshod lack of method which is satisfied to get any sort of yield by working in an aimless way. Many farmers, he said, are merely working to make a little money in order to be able to move to town, the tendency to move to town being strikingly shown by the recent census returns. With only this aim they do not want to spend much money to build up their farms.

Improving the soil, Mr. Millsaps declared, is the foundation of all successful agriculture, and this cannot be done by using one-horse plows and by planting the same crops year after year on the same land. Some are trying to build up the land by using fertilizers, and it takes over half the entire cotton crop of Robeson county to pay for the fertilizers used. We will never see the time when the use of fertilizers is not necessary, but the land must be built up by rotating crops. The enormous sum of \$88,000,000 is wasted yearly in this country for commercial fertilizers, and the Southern farmers waste the greater part of this amount. There is no use putting fertilizers in wet land; land must be dried out before the fertilizer will do any good. Drainage and stumping the land are two of the greatest things needed; also deeper plowing; and the very biggest thing the South needs is humus in the land; a good speech could be made by repeating that one word, humus, over and over, if by so doing

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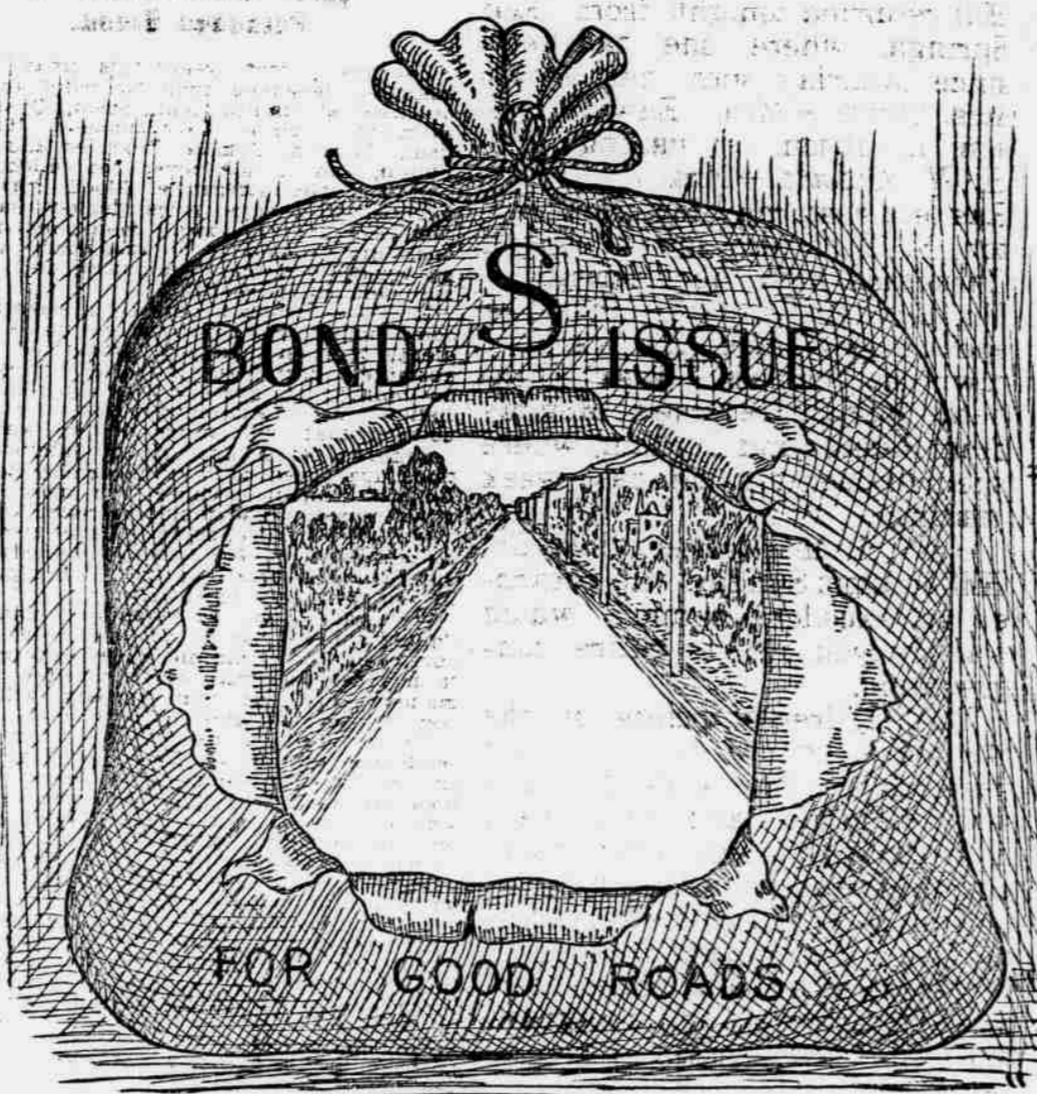
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LOCAL BRIEFS.

The regular weekly meeting of St. Albans Lodge No. 114, A. F. and A. M., will be held tomorrow evening. There will be some degree work and a full attendance is desired.

Mrs. Jacob Wessel, who has been very sick for some time at the home of her son, Mr. Henry Wessel, about one mile from town up the river, is at the point of death and is not expected to live through the day.

Licenses have been issued for the marriage of Jessie Anderson and J. C. Reardon; Dorcia Carter and Lee Adcox; Celia Britt and Eman Britt; Lizzie Britt and Leonard Kinlaw; Ida Lamb and Braxton C. Freeman.

Mrs. Irvin Jenkins returned yesterday from Charlotte, where she spent several days with her brother, Rev. Dr. P. R. Law, editor of The Presbyterian Standard, who has been sick for some time. Dr. Law's condition is improving.

There was a fruit supper Friday evening at Back Swamp, given by the young men of the community, and on Saturday evening the local camp of the W. O. W. gave an oyster supper. Many attended and greatly enjoyed both occasions.

Christmas seals in beautiful designs, with the American flag, holly wreaths and bolls of cotton on them, are on sale at the McAllister Hdw. Co.'s store for the Robeson chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. The proceeds will be given to the Arlington monument fund.

Fairmont Messenger, 15th: Miss Viola Jenkins, the leading contestant in The Robesonian's popularity contest, was here Tuesday and received a number of renewals to that excellent paper which makes its welcome semi-weekly visits to hundreds of homes in Fairmont and vicinity.

Messrs. Caldwell & Carlyle are offering a new service that will be appreciated by their patrons, that is, "to handle for you your entire magazine order for the coming year, at publishers' inside prices, and with no payment in advance by you." This service is limited to the 31st of this month.

Prof. Victor A. Roark, principal of the school at Barker's, was among the visitors in town Saturday and he says that great times are expected at his school Wednesday night, when a number of his pupils will give a dramatization of the book "Handy Andy." The play will last one hour and a half and the Parkton band will be there.

The school at Pembroke will close Thursday of this week, the 22nd, for the Christmas holidays. The closing exercises will consist of recitations, vocal and instrumental music and tableaux. At the same time the ladies of the community will furnish a box supper, the proceeds of which will be used for improving the equipment of the school. Prof. Chas. Stuart is the teacher.

Manager S. H. Hamilton, of the local Western Union Telegraph office, is showing attractive blanks for holiday greetings that make one want to send a Christmas message to one's self just for the pleasure of having it delivered on such a fetching blank. It has a holly wreath border and "Holiday Greetings" at the top, and all one has to do is to write the message and pay the price.

There is a great crush of business at the postoffice, as usual during the Christmas season, and those who have packages to mail are requested to get them to the office by 4 o'clock p. m. in order that they may receive prompt attention. It takes about four times as long to handle packages, money orders and registered mail as it does to dispose of letters, and those who have mail of this kind to send off will be conferring a favor upon themselves as well as upon the postoffice clerks by going to the office early in the day and not later than 4 o'clock.

AN EXCITING RUNAWAY.

Much Excitement But no Damage—The Driver Does Some Tall Running on His Own Account.

There was much excitement for a few minutes on Elm street Saturday morning about 10 o'clock when two large horses, hitched to a wagon, came dashing down the street. The horses belong to Mr. A. K. Morrison, and Joe McGeachy, colored, was hauling corn with them from Mrs. Sue Rowland's place, about a mile west of town. The horses dashed off while McGeachy was loading the wagon and they were stopped at the Seaboard station, where they came near getting tangled up with several vehicles. The morning train was due and quite a crowd was at the depot, most of them running into the waiting room. There is a row of posts at the end of the street at the station to keep vehicles from going too close to the trains, but these posts were no hindrance for the horses. They went over the posts, crossed the Seaboard track, and just missed the rear coach of the Raleigh & Charleston train, which was waiting for the Seaboard train; then they turned, recrossed the Seaboard track, and were stopped. For a great wonder, after so much running, no damage was done. It is said that a few minutes after the horses were stopped, McGeachy, the driver, came down the street exceeding the town's limit for speed and that he was almost as hard to stop as the horses.

The Presbyterian Church Calls a Pastor—Other Church Notes.

At a meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian church yesterday morning after the preaching service it was decided to call Rev. W. R. Minter, of Lincolnton, to the church here. Mr. Minter has been pastor of the Presbyterian church at Lincolnton for a number of years and was last year given a trip abroad by that church. Ex-Judge T. A. McNeill and Messrs. J. A. McAllister and A. W. McLean were appointed a committee to extend the formal call.

Rev. W. L. Curtis, evangelist for the Fayetteville Presbytery, preached at the Presbyterian church yesterday morning and at Baker's chapel yesterday afternoon.

At the Methodist church yesterday morning a church conference was held instead of the regular preaching service. Mr. W. H. Humphrey called attention to some things that should be done and Mr. A. W. Peace discussed the best methods of bringing about the results desired. The following committees were appointed: on publicity, to look out for items of interest to the church; to look after church directory, etc., and to gather information with a view to getting

THE FINAL SUMMONS.

Mrs. Ann Eliza Higley Passed Away This Morning—Funeral Tomorrow Afternoon.

Mrs. Ann Eliza Higley, widow of the late G. P. Higley, died this morning at 10 minutes after 8 o'clock at her home on Sixth street. She was 79 years old and the 28th of next June would have made her 80 years. Mrs. Higley had been an invalid for 8 or 9 years and her death had been expected most any time for a week or more.

The deceased is survived by two sons, Messrs. T. N. and G. Plinn Higley of Lumberton, and four daughters, Mrs. J. H. Barnes of Brunswick, Ga., Mrs. N. A. Brown of Red Springs, and Misses Fannie and Belle Higley, both of whom lived with the deceased. Mrs. Barnes arrived here Friday night on account of the serious illness of her mother and Mrs. Brown came Saturday.

The funeral service will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence and will be conducted by Rev. C. H. Durham. The interment will be made in the old cemetery on Fifth street. Mrs. Higley, before marriage, was a Norment, being the oldest daughter of Mr. T. A. Norment; and Mr. O. C. Norment of Lumberton is the only member of the family left.

Mrs. Higley was married 60 years ago today—the license was issued Dec. 19, 1850. Her husband died about 15 years ago.

Death of Mr. Fred Phillips, of Suffolk, Va., at Fairmont.

Mr. Fred Phillips, about 21 years old, of Suffolk, Va., died Saturday morning at 11 o'clock at Fairmont, after being sick 8 weeks with typhoid fever. The deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Phillips, his father being superintendent of the Beaufort County Lumber Co. and a nephew of Mr. L. E. Whaley of Lumberton. The remains were brought to Lumberton yesterday and left here yesterday evening over the Seaboard with the bereaved family for Suffolk, where interment will be made.

Appointments For East Robeson Circuit.

Rev. W. A. Jenkins, pastor in charge of the east Robeson circuit, asks The Robesonian to announce that there will be preaching at Regan's church the fourth Sunday in this month at 11 a. m., at Barker's church the same Sunday at 8 p. m., and at Smith's church the first Sunday in January at 11 a. m. Mr. Jenkins' appointments for the circuit will be as they were last year.

up a history of Methodism in the county; vigilance committee, to look after members who do not attend regularly and strangers; and a committee on charity and the sick.

CHRISTMAS FIXINGS.

Stores Dressed in Holiday Style and Christmas is in the Air.

Christmas is on and that is the way things look up and down Elm street in the business portion of Lumberton. The enterprising firm of White & Gough has things fixed up over its way in a manner that causes the passer-by to stop and look. Messrs. White & Gough have a beautiful plate-glass front to their immense store, and a display-window extending across the entire front, divided into three parts by the two main entrances. This front has been fixed up with Christmas decorations after a style that would do credit to a city many times the size of Lumberton. In one of the windows are two real live squirrels jumping about among the branches of a holly tree that has been placed in the window and decorated in a manner that makes it good to look at; and in the center window is a real live Santa Claus that is attracting the attention of children by the hundred. It all looks just like Christmas, and there is no doubt about it.

And while it is Christmas everybody that knows—and they are many—would naturally expect to find the McMillan drug store fixed up just right; and it is. Mr. John McMillan is always doing something to take the passer-by's eye, and he never fails. His show window looks like a real circus. In it are a moving train and toys of most every description.

The Lumberton Drug Co. has an attractive window, and the Pope drug store also is fixed up in front after a manner that demands one's attention. Boylin's jewelry store has a good front, and L. H. Caldwell, Caldwell & Carlyle, Townsend Bros., John T. Biggs Co. and Crump & Floyd all have their store fronts arranged after a style that is entirely in keeping with the season.

A Christmas Dinner For County Home Inmates—Remember The Poor.

Miss Lizzie Caldwell—as she has been doing for several years—will fix up a Christmas dinner for the inmates at the county home. She expects to fix the dinner Saturday and any of the ladies of the town who wish to contribute to this feast for the unfortunate are requested to send same to Miss Caldwell's home on Water street Saturday morning. Mr. M. G. McKenzie, the big-hearted secretary and treasurer of the town board of charities, says that he is ready to receive at this court house anything that anyone wishes to give to help make the Christmas season a pleasant time for the poor and needy. Mr. McKenzie says that groceries, clothing, fruit or anything of the kind will be appreciated. He will see that the goods are properly distributed.

At the Opera House—Paul Gilmore Wednesday Night.

Paul Gilmore, who delighted a Lumberton audience last year in "The Mummy and The Humming Bird," will appear at the opera house Wednesday evening in "The Bachelor." Mr. Gilmore played in Raleigh Friday night and the following is taken from an appreciative write-up in Saturday's News and Observer under the caption "Mr. Paul Gilmore Won Over Critics."

"Mr. Paul Gilmore appeared in 'The Bachelor' at the Academy of Music last night. It is probable that the actor and his company played under great disadvantages due to the advance unfavorable criticism that had come from another city and the small audience Raleigh gives at Christmas time. Mr. Gilmore did more than satisfy his friends. He won over his critics, and as evidence of their appreciation of his work the audience gave Mr. Gilmore five separate curtain calls and demanded a speech. However it appeared elsewhere, he thoroughly pleased the Raleigh audience last night."

The Orpheans, the 3rd attraction of the lyceum course for which many Lumberton people purchased season tickets, will fill their engagement at the opera house tomorrow night. This is a male quartet and comes highly recommended.

The 4 Pickerts Stock Co. of 16 people will be seen at the opera house Friday and Saturday nights of this week. The Pickerts are too well known here for comment. Everybody will want to see them.

A Big Land Deal in Bladen.

Wilson Oispatch, 16th.

Mr. N. F. Eure, of this city, has recently purchased the Black Lake property in southeastern Bladen county, consisting of forty to fifty thousand acres of very desirable timber and other land. The lake itself, from which this property takes its name, covers an area of five thousand acres and is noted for its fine fishing. Associated with Mr. Eure in this deal are Mr. W. K. Owen, millionaire banker of Baltimore, and Prof. Hawley Smith, president of the Baltimore Dental College, both of reputation as national sportsmen. It is intended to establish a hunting preserve of about thirty-five thousand acres for use of Northern sportsmen, the remainder to be operated by Mr. Eure as timber land.

Nineteen arrests were made Friday in towns in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in the government crusade against persons accused of using the mails to defraud. The arrests were made by postal inspectors and all the defendants were given hearings before United States commissioners and held in jail for trial, or for further hearings, on charges of using the mails to defraud.