

THE ROBESONIAN

Established 1870.

Country, God and Truth.

Single Copies Five Cent

VOL XLII NO. 89.

LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1912.

WHOLE NO. 2720

REDUCE COTTON ACREAGE.

Resolutions Passed at Mass Meeting in Lumberton Friday—Farmers Asked to Reduce Cotton Acreage and Not Plant More Than 60 Per Cent. of Land to Cotton—Merchants Will Organize Under Agreement not to Sell Supplies, Except for Cash, to Farmers Who Will not Agree to Plant 40 Per Cent. of Land in Crops Other Than Cotton—Merchants and Business Men Will Meet in Lumberton January 8 to Form Association Which, it is Hoped, Will Have Far-reaching Effect.

"We, the farmers of Robeson county, in session on this the 29th day of December, 1911, in the presence of Almighty God and under the Farmers' Educational Co-operative Union of America flag, do resolve to reduce the acreage of our cotton crop one-tenth in the year 1912 from the year 1911, in all not to plant more than 60 per cent of the acreage of 1912 in cotton. We are assured and convinced that a ten-million bale crop is worth more to the South than a 14 million bale crop and can be raised at \$200,000,000 less expense."

At the mass meeting held in Lumberton Friday the above pledge, which is being circulated by the Farmers' Union, was adopted and a vigorous canvass will be made for signers among all farmers of the county, whether they are Union men or not. After that resolution was passed it was decided that there should be an organization of merchants to co-operate in the effort to reduce acreage and Mr. J. W. Carter of Maxton, chairman of the board of county commissioners, Mr. R. D. Caldwell of Lumberton and Major A. J. McKinnon of Maxton were appointed a committee to draw up a plan of organization for the merchants and business men. Maj. McKinnon made the motion for this organization and suggested that it be called the "Cotton States Merchants and Business Men's Association," its purpose to be "to aid the producers in securing better prices for their cotton and other farm products, to encourage systematic business methods both in the store and on the farm, that will tend to aid every worthy enterprise in the cotton-producing States. All merchants and business interests of the cotton States shall be eligible. It shall have presidents and other governing officers and part of the by-laws shall be:

"Each member must agree not to sell farm supplies to any person, firm or corporation engaged in farming, except for cash, who will not agree to plant at least 40 per cent. of his entire farming land in other crop or crops than cotton until the average price of middling cotton shall have remained at 12½ cents or higher for two successive seasons."

Briefly stated, the above is the action taken at the mass meeting held in Lumberton Friday, in response to a call issued by a committee composed of farmers and business men and published in all the county papers, to try to formulate some plan to better financial conditions. This call was issued after a slimly-attended meeting held here on the 15th inst in response to the request of the Governors of several cotton growing States, and Friday's meeting was called as an adjourned meeting. The meeting was not as largely attended as was expected. There were only about 100 people present, but these were not discouraged and showed a determination to do their part toward reducing cotton acreage and raising home supplies. And one notable feature of the meeting was the emphasis placed upon the importance of co-operation, the realization of the fact that the prosperity of one class is inseparably bound up in the prosperity of every other class, and that if anything is to be accomplished there must be co-operation between all classes.

The meeting was called to order about noon by Mr. W. K. Culbreth, business agent of the Robeson county Farmers' Union,

and was opened with prayer by Mr. R. D. Caldwell. Maj. A. J. McKinnon was called on by the chair to state the object of the meeting, and in doing so Mr. McKinnon laid particular stress upon the need for concerted action on the part of farmers and merchants. The Farmers' Union has undertaken to get pledges from all farmers not to plant more than 60 per cent of their tenable land to cotton, and merchants should get together and agree not to sell farm supplies except upon the conditions set forth in the resolution given above as a part of the by-laws of a Cotton States Merchants' and Business Men's Association. He pointed out that it would be easier to organize time merchants than farmers, because there are not so many of them, and that such an organization would go a long way toward solving the problem. He felt that if every man in the South could realize the significance of the fact that the coming year is faced with a surplus of about 3,000,000 bales of cotton there would be no trouble about reducing the acreage.

Remarks were made by Mr. Culbreth, Mr. W. J. Johnson of St. Pauls, president of the Robeson Farmers' Union, Mr. R. D. Caldwell, Dr. T. A. Norment, Mr. J. W. Carter, Mr. W. P. Barker, Mr. A. E. White, Mr. McKay Byrd, Rev. Ira E. Wishart. All were agreed that cotton acreage must be reduced and more home supplies must be raised, the only question being how best to accomplish these desired ends. Maj. McKinnon offered a resolution which was practically the same as the one being used by the Farmers' Union but later withdrew his resolution and asked that the one printed above be adopted, which was done.

Maj. McKinnon then offered his resolution for the formation of a business men's association. All were agreed that such an organization could do as much good as any agreement farmers might make, perhaps more. Mr. A. W. McLean was called on for some expression on the advisability of forming such an organization and while he hesitated to say anything at first, declaring that he would not presume to advise farmers, he struck a responsive cord when he declared that if he could control the time merchants of the South he could solve the question of how much cotton should be produced, and also when he said that it could be done by abolishing the lien law, which is more responsible for labor conditions than anything else.

The committee, named above, to organize the Cotton States Merchants and Business Men's Association met Friday afternoon and decided to call a meeting of all the merchants of the county to be held in Lumberton Monday of next week. At this meeting it is hoped to form an association that will solve the problem so far as the merchants and business men of Robeson county can help, and that will, it is hoped, spread all over the South. If time merchants bind themselves together in an agreement not to furnish supplies to a man who will not sign the agreement the farmers are asked to sign to reduce cotton acreage there will be a material reduction in cotton acreage in the South in this year of Grace 1912.

It is hoped that the plans set on foot at this meeting, even though it was not well attended, will have far-reaching effect.

Christmas Tree at Presbyterian Church.

As mentioned in Thursday's Robesonian, the Christmas exercises which were to have been at the Presbyterian church Tuesday evening were postponed until Friday evening, at which time a beautiful tree was on display and there was special music and recitations by many of the little ones. It was a most enjoyable time for the little ones of the Presbyterian Sunday school, and that was joy enough for Superintendent McKenzie, who finds his chief delight in pleasure for the children. Santa Claus was there.

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FAIRMONT NEWS LETTER.

Marriage of Miss Maggie Pittman and Mr. Patrick Floyd—A New Store and Business Changes—New Brick Block to be Finished Soon—Christmas Doings and Personal.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Fairmont, Dec. 28—The holidays passed off quietly and pleasantly except for the inclement weather, which has been a great hindrance to the young people's enjoyment. I hear that there was the least drunkenness known since our town was built, so we feel encouraged.

Quite a number of North Fairmont citizens took advantage of the holidays to visit their former homes. All our school boys and girls came home for the holidays and it does our hearts good to see their smiling faces. All seem well and happy and well pleased with their respective schools.

W. F. Mitchell, for several years head salesman for A. J. Floyd, enters business for himself January 1st in his own building on Main street, next door to the post office. Mr. Mitchell has been very popular as a salesman and we predict fine success for his venture.

The enterprising firm of L. T. Grantham & Bro., having to give up the building they were in, are temporarily occupying the J. W. Asley store on the corner of Main and Iona streets.

Mr. Carl McLean, one of our most popular young men, has accepted a position as traveling salesman for Einstein Bros. of Wilmington and left last Tuesday to enter upon his new work. His host of friends wish him great success.

D. W. Galloway and family spent the holiday season with relatives and friends in Nashville and Smithfield.—Mrs. Mattie Brown of Raleigh arrived last week to be with her mother, Mrs. Mary Ivey, who, we regret to know, is quite ill.—Miss Fannie Belle Taylor returned last week from a pleasant visit to Bingham, S. C., bringing with her her sister and children, who are welcome guests of "home-folks."

The ladies of the Baptist church conducted a very successful bazaar last week in spite of bad weather.

Misses Maggie Pittman and Mary Pope of Lumberton were brightening things in general with their smiles part of last week. They came to attend the Floyd-Pittman marriage and take in any other enjoyment which might come their way.—Mr. and Mrs. Redmond Byrd and children are in from their Georgia home to cheer up the old folks.—Mr. and Mrs. Haydn Grantham of New York came last week to visit their father, W. B. Grantham, who we regret to report still very ill. Mr. Grantham is one of our best men and we hope for him a speedy recovery.—Dr. L. E. Ricks has been wrestling with a severe case of jaundice but we are glad to hear he has conquered.

The children of the Methodist Sunday school enjoyed a pretty little tree Christmas night. Before the distribution of presents the children gave us some sweet little recitations and songs and showed plainly the efficiency of their patient and loving trainer, Miss Maggie Floyd.

A large number of friends and relatives gathered at the Baptist church last Tuesday afternoon to witness the beautiful marriage ceremony of Miss Maggie Pittman and Mr. Patrick Floyd, two of our most popular young people. The church was handsomely decorated. The girls all looked lovely and the men the best they could, and all passed off with greatest ease, amid the good wishes of hosts of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd will spend their honeymoon in Florida, after which they will go to housekeeping on Church street.

Mr. and Mrs. D. McBraddy of Latta S. C., came over Tuesday to visit O. N. Braddy and family.—Mr. Carl Oliver of New Orleans and Miss Lizzie Oliver of Winston-Salem were welcome guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Rose Pittman, last week for a short while.

The bad weather has delayed some the work on the handsome

Jones brick block, but it will be finished before long and will indeed be an improvement. Among other things it will provide an opera house and we hope to be able to see some really good plays.

The members of the Methodist church are very much pleased to greet their new pastor, Rev. S. T. Moyle, and his charming family. The sermons preached so far by the new pastor are far above the average and are pleasing large congregations. We hope they may be pleased to be among us.

The Pittman Drug Co. reports a fine holiday trade in spite of six-cent cotton and we believe all the other merchants shared in the same. Mr. Wiley Taylor takes a position with this firm for the coming year and no doubt his smiling genial face will prove a magnet to the young ladies.

Miss Lorena Lewis is spending the holiday season with relatives at Waycross, Ga.

The Baptist Union meeting will be held with Raft Swamp church tomorrow and several expect to attend from here, among them Rev. D. P. Bridges, who is on the program and who will doubtless fill well his part, as he always gives us something good.

SMOTHERED TO DEATH.

Mr. Dozier McLean Smothered to Death Under Two-and-a-half Feet of Cotton Seed at Oil Mill.

A most distressing accident happened at the oil mill of the Robeson Mfg. Co., 1 mile west of town, Friday morning at 2 o'clock when Mr. Dozier McLean, about 20 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe McLean, was smothered to death under a pile of cotton seed. He had been working at a seed screener and lay down under a pile of warm seed and fell asleep, when the seed caved in on top of him. As soon as the cave-in was noticed all the hands in the mill went frantically to work to uncover the unfortunate young man, but about 30 minutes elapsed before he was reached. A remarkable thing about it is that not more than 2 feet or 2½ feet of seed were on top of the body when found. It was a long pile and those who were working to rescue him did not know just where to begin. The remains were interred at Orrum Saturday.

Rev. C. H. Durham Declines Call to Statesville.

Rev. C. H. Durham, pastor of the First Baptist church, announced to his congregation yesterday morning that he had decided to decline the call recently extended him to become pastor of the Baptist church of Statesville and would remain in Lumberton. This is excellent news over which the entire town rejoices, for Mr. Durham is a man whom Lumberton could not spare, and his congregation put the need of his services to him in such a way that he could not deny their strong plea to him to remain here.

Mr. Durham was invited to preach in Statesville yesterday and intended to do so but was prevented from going on account of a serious accident to a sister of Mrs. Oetie D. Thomas, Mrs. Victoria Wiseman, at Henrietta, last Thursday. Mrs. Wiseman sustained in a fall injuries which it was at first feared would prove fatal, and it was thought that Mrs. Thomas, who makes her home with Mr. Durham, would be called to Henrietta, but the injuries have proved not so serious as was at first thought.

Rev. C. J. Thompson, financial agent of Meredith College, Raleigh, preached at the First Baptist church, of which he was formerly pastor, last night.

—Dr. R. M. Norment is making some changes in the appearance and convenience of his home on Sixth street. Two extra rooms are being added and other changes are being made.

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is a reliable family medicine. Give it to your children, and take it yourself when you feel a cold coming on. It checks and cures coughs and colds and prevents bronchitis and pneumonia. J. D. McMillan & Son.

AN ARMED PRISONER.

A Negro Arrested on Charge of Robbing Drug Store at Rowland Rides With His Captors a Piece, Then Slides out of the Buggy. Opens Fire and Vanishes.

In Thursday's Robesonian it was stated that the Ward pharmacy at Rowland was broken into Wednesday night. Mr. Ernest Barker, manager of the store, says that whoever entered the store was evidently after money and knew how to work cash registers, for he, or they, opened both his cash registers, but he had taken practically all the money out and the amount taken was less than \$1. If anything else except a pipe and some cigarettes was taken it has not been missed. Mr. Barker phoned to Fayetteville for a bloodhound, which was taken over by Deputy Sheriff Hall of that place and Deputy Hall and Mr. Barker followed the dog to the house of one Dock Southerland, who has been janitor at the store for the past 6 months. Southerland had failed to show up at the store Thursday and had left on a bicycle. Messrs. Barker and Hall told the negro he would have to go to Rowland with them and the three of them started to Rowland, the negro in the foot of the buggy. The men of the dominant race neglected to search cuffy, though, and when he, the dusky individual, got ready to depart he slid out of the buggy, pulled his pistol and started for parts unknown. Messrs. Barker and Hall got out of the buggy and began firing at the negro, firing four or five times, and the negro fired at them twice; but nobody was hit and the negro continued on his way rejoicing. Messrs. Barker and Hall went back to Rowland and got Policeman J. H. Carper of that place and went back to hunt the negro, but he made good his escape. Another negro, who roomed with Southerland, was arrested but no evidence could be produced against him and he was turned loose.

Mr. Barker says that is all there was to it. It was reported here that one of the balls from the negro's gun grazed Mr. Barker's temple, but that seems to be a mistake, as was another account of this affair that has been published.

—Mr. Asbury Rice, of the Long Branch section, brought to town this morning 5 pounds of beeswax that was taken from a gum that had not been robbed before in 26 years.

—The Robeson Rural Letter Carriers' Association is holding its annual meeting in Lumberton today. The county and road commissioners and board of education are holding their regular monthly meetings.

—A Mr. E. L. Whitney is here to organize a brass band. The first rehearsal will be held tonight. Lumberton has plenty of talent and a good band will be gotten up if the boys elect to put it across, as they seem to have decided to do.

—Mr. A. T. McLean and family moved Saturday to the Waverly hotel from his home, Water and Eight streets, which he sold recently to Mr. W. L. Thompson, of Back Swamp. Mr. Thompson and family are expected to move in this week. Mr. McLean and family will be at the hotel until Mr. McLean's home, which is being erected on Chestnut street, is completed.

—Mrs. R. Chaffin and two grandchildren, little Misses Margaret and Dorothy Finlayson, and her sister Miss Nannie McQueen, who has been living with Mrs. Chaffin at Mayesville, S. C., arrived Friday and are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Freeman, Water street. They will move as soon as their furniture arrives into the house on Fourteenth street which will be vacated this week by the family of Sheriff E. C. McNeill, who will move to Rowland. Mrs. Chaffin and Mrs. McQueen are aunts of Mesdames E. B. Freeman and C. B. Skipper.

Any skin itching is a temper-tester. The more you scratch the worse it itches. Doan's Ointment cures piles, eczema—any skin itching. At all drug stores.

LOCAL BRIEFS

—Mrs. W. R. Tyner, of Lowe, who underwent an operation at the Thompson hospital about a week ago for appendicitis, is getting along nicely.

—A band of Salvation Army folks arrived here Friday from Marion, S. C., and will be here for a week or more. They are stopping at the Lumberton hotel.

—Mr. J. I. Newberry and family moved to Lumberton a few days ago from rural route 5 from town. They are living in the eastern part of town. Mr. Newberry is a carpenter.

—Mr. Arch. McNeill, who lives at Rennert, was in town Saturday and reported to The Robesonian that he killed the other day a hog 2 years and 3 months old that weighed 544 pounds dressed.

—Mr. Casper Smith, who for several months had held a position as pharmacist in the Pope drug store, resigned Saturday and has accepted a similar position at King's Mountain, for which place he will leave this afternoon.

—E. B. Faulk writes from Fairmont that a man who lives near Fairmont said the other day that he has a cow that gives 4 gallons of milk a day and they get from this milk 8 pounds of butter a week, and that his cow brings him in \$450 a year. Smart cow.

—The Pope Drug Co. and Townsend Bros. have gotten out two of the prettiest calendars ever. They are both beauties and will make an ornament in any home. The Robesonian has some modest but pretty little calendars that it will give out to its friends while they last.

—It is reported that Charlie Covington and Alex Camp both colored, had a little "fracas" last evening just outside the town limits on the Elizabeth road. It is reported that Covington shot at Camp with a pistol and that the ball struck Camp's head but glanced off and no damage was done. No charges or arrests have been made.

—Mr. R. C. Lawrence returned Friday from Richmond, Va., where he went last Tuesday with Mrs. Lawrence to have their little daughter Mary, 2 years old, examined by specialists. Mrs. Lawrence and little Mary, who, the physicians say, is suffering with some spinal trouble brought on by diphtheria, will stay at the Virginia hospital in Richmond perhaps for some time. It is hoped that the trouble will not prove serious.

—Announcements reading as follows have been received here:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Reynard announce the marriage of their daughter Edna

to Mr. Clarence Stewart Clark Saturday, December the thirtieth Nineteen hundred and eleven Baltimore

The bride was head trimmer in Miss Josephine Breece's millinery store one season, 2 years ago, and is well known here. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Clark of Clarkton.

—Mrs. L. R. Breece, who has been living in Pembroke for the past two years at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Breece, returned Friday to Lumberton and has moved into her residence on the corner of Walnut and Fourth streets. Two of her grandsons, Masters Breece and McMillan Fisher, formerly of Baxley, Ga., are with her and will enter school here. Mrs. Breece's husband, Capt. Breece, has business that will keep him in Pembroke the major part of the time. He spent yesterday here.

—Mrs. M. Beverly was the victim Friday morning, at her home on Second street, of a rather singular attack which affected her right arm and tongue like paralysis for 2 or 3 minutes and left her feeling numb for an hour or so, after which she felt entirely well. Her physician thinks the attack was not paralysis but was due to imperfect blood circulation. Mrs. Beverly left Saturday morning, as she had intended doing Friday morning, but for this attack, with her children for Lake City, S. C., to visit at the home of a sister.