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GRADED SCHOOL CLOSING.

Commencement Exercises Monday and Tuesday—Nine Members of Graduating Class—Graduating Exercises Far Above Average—Prizes Awarded—Notable Literary Address by Rev. Plato Durham on "An Undeveloped Resource of North Carolina"—Two Splendid Entertainments at Opera House.

Superintendent, teachers and pupils of the Lumberton graded school are to be congratulated on their commencement exercises for the year 1912. They were interesting and decidedly above the average. The entertainments at the opera house—Monday evening by the pupils of the primary grades, Tuesday evening by pupils of the higher grades—showed that there is considerable talent among the pupils and that that talent is being trained to express itself; the graduating exercises Tuesday would have done credit to any school; and the literary address by Rev. Plato T. Durham, presiding elder of Winston-Salem district of the Western North Carolina Conference, was a gem of high and noble thought and expression that held the rapt attention of a large audience.

To begin with the graduating exercises—for of course all centered about the graduating class—beginning at 10:30 o'clock Tuesday morning in the school auditorium the following exercises by the graduating class were held: "Tis Summer," chorus, by a large crowd of girls; salutatory, Miss Mildred Williams; class history, Miss Ida Mae Sessions; class poem, Miss Louise Townsend; class prophesy, Miss Ruth Britt; trophy bearer, Miss Gertrude McConnaughey; class will, Miss Georgia Whitfield; valedictory, Miss Lois Boone; "Farewell," song by class.

The graduating class consisted of eight girls and one boy, the members besides those mentioned above being Miss Margaret Britt and Mr. Chappel Wilson. The officers of the class were: Chappel Wilson, president; Gertrude McConnaughey, vice president; Mildred Williams, secretary; Margaret Britt, treasurer. The second number of the Lumberton High School Magazine, issued just before commencement, contains the pictures of the graduating class and all the exercises outlined above. It is quite an interesting number.

All who took part in the above-given programme acquitted themselves well and it was all enjoyed by the audience which comfortably filled the auditorium. The appreciation of the audience was keen for every flight of fancy and flash of wit, and a spirit of fun ran through it all that was delightful. Where every one's part was up to such a high standard, it would not be just to single out any one for particular mention, but the trophies distributed by Miss McConnaughey must be explained. They were supposed to be peculiarly appropriate and suggestive gifts; thus: a large lump of salt was presented the seventh grade, Miss Epes Fuller being asked to come forward and receive it, for freshness; to Miss Vashti White, for the eighth grade, a bottle of "Electric Bitters" to bring about the desired change in that grade from dullness to brightness; to the juniors, "the most conceited class," a picture of a peacock; to Supt. Sentelle, who is a mighty hunter, a dog and horn; to Miss McNair, teacher of mathematics, a mallet to help her pound a knowledge of Math. into the heads of the juniors—and so on, gifts too numerous to mention; all set forth in the magazine and each one bringing fresh laughter.

Prizes were presented by Mr. Woodberry Lennon as follows: From the music department, pupils of Miss Mary Weddell, two prizes, first prize to Miss Hilda Weinstein for highest number of honor marks, second to Miss Drina Hedgpeth for most improvement; Miss Ethel Williams' pupils, two prizes, first to Miss Carrie Mae Hedgpeth and second to Miss Viola Jenkins, both for faithful practice; and from Miss Mary Jeffries, fourth grade, to Miss Lucile Jackson for best work in spelling.

Following this Supt. Sentelle

delivered diplomas to the graduating class and at 11:30 o'clock the audience was dismissed to the First Baptist church, which had been tendered for the literary address and where it had been decided to hold this part of the exercises on account of the greater seating capacity and better acoustic properties of the church. Following a violin solo by Mr. Woodberry Lennon, Miss Ethel Williams at the organ, two songs, "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Ancient of Days" by the school and the audience, and prayer by Rev. R. E. Steele, pastor of the Presbyterian church, the speaker of the occasion, Rev. Plato T. Durham, was introduced by Mr. R. C. Lawrence in brief and appropriate words. He said that much was expected in this community of a man named Durham, for an honored preacher of that name lives here, and that the audience would not be disappointed, for the speaker was an orator and writer of note and belonged to a family that has done the State some service.

"An Undeveloped Resource of North Carolina."

Mr. Durham's address is hard to report. Challenging the attention of his audience with his first words, he held it undivided and rapt for the space of an hour that seemed, under the spell of his eloquence, but a moment. He lifted his audience clean out of itself, and within the sound of his voice there was none so dull but that felt the pulse of high purpose back of evoked by the serious message clothed in words so beautiful and simple and aptly spoken, withal, that they awakened something that ran like fire through one's veins. Nothing short of a verbatim report would do his address justice, and this halting and feeble effort does not profess to convey a tithe of what it meant to those who heard and understood his message.

His subject was "An Undeveloped Resource of North Carolina." When our fathers returned from the field of battle at the conclusion of the War between the States North Carolina's resources were undeveloped, her mineral wealth was untapped, her fields were uncultivated, she had no educational system—she was known for years thereafter as the Rip van Winkle of States; but now she is no longer under that reproach, her vast resources, which have been and are being developed, are known the world over, and thanks to that small company of men including McIver, Alderman and Aycock, whose hands unbarred the gates of the mind to her children, North Carolina is no longer known as an illiterate State. But there is still one department of our life which lies in undevelopment, one source of wealth untouched which shall open to us our fullest and final power—one page still on which North Carolina's name has not been written—the page of Literature. In no history of the literature of this country is the name of North Carolina written, though this classification he does not admit as just. There is John Henry Bonner, whose name deserves to be on that page; and he looks forward to the day when a name that is very dear to him, that of John Charles McNeill, who at one time made Lumberton his home and who was native to this section of the State, shall be written there.

That North Carolina, with all her wealth of resources, is silent, must ask at the hands of Massachusetts and Virginia and other States the things her own children must know, the speaker declared to be a great and lasting tragedy; and he declared that he will ask audiences all over the State, as he has asked, Why is North Carolina silent? with the hope that he may awaken among her sons some Milton or Carlyle or Tennyson.

Why is North Carolina silent? No man has been able to answer it to his satisfaction, he said. One answers that it is a question of inheritance, a gift that runs in the blood of a people. And that is true. The genius of the Hebrew people was prophecy, and in all their history no statue was carved, no picture painted; Germany, music; France, art. But who are we? We are of the

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NEW TOWN OFFICERS.

Retiring Mayor White and Old Board of Commissioners Turn Town Affairs Over to New Administration Headed by Mayor A. P. Caldwell—Election Vote Light—An Error in First Count of Primary Vote Corrected.

The retiring mayor and old board of town commissioners met yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the city hall to round up their affairs and turn the business of the town over to the new administration. The election returns were canvassed and all the candidates as declared by the primary on the 30th inst. were declared elected: mayor, A. P. Caldwell; commissioners—J. D. Proctor, D. P. Walters, C. B. Redmond; school trustees—R. D. Caldwell, Alf H. McLeod, Q. T. Williams, C. B. Townsend (re-elected); board of audit and finance—T. A. McNeill, Sr., Frank Gough, W. S. Britt (re-elected); Chief of Police H. H. Redfern presented his final report on the collection of taxes and same was received and filed for the approval of the board of audit and finance. Mayor White and Town Clerk and Treasurer Page made reports, which will be reported later. Mr. H. B. Jennings, one of the members of the board of commissioners who holds over another year, introduced a resolution commending Mayor White and the retiring members of the board—Geo. G. French, Jno. D. McMillan, J. L. Stephens—for their able and honorable administration.

The new mayor took hold and tried his first case this morning when Agnes Gilchrist, colored, appeared before him on a charge of disorderly conduct. The woman was fined \$10 and costs, all of which amounted to something over \$17. The new administration has not yet met and organized, therefore they have no attorney and in the case tried this morning Mr. Robert E. Lee appeared for the town.

The vote in the election Monday was light, only 119 votes being cast for mayor and the others on the ticket receiving one vote less, 118. In a re-count of the vote in the primary held on the 30th ult. it was found that the vote for mayor stood: Thompson, 160; Caldwell 169. The first count gave Caldwell a majority of two, which was an error on the part of the managers of the primary.

INTO NEW STORE.

Mr. A. Weinstein Moves Into His Handsome New Quarters—Messrs. H. C. Boylin and K. M. Biggs Will Occupy Store Vacated by Mr. Weinstein.

Mr. A. Weinstein completed yesterday the job of moving from the store on Elm street, at which place he has been in business for about 12 years, to his new store, corner of Fourth and Elm. He now has all of his clerk force busy arranging goods in the new place, where he is better able to display goods than ever before. Mr. Weinstein says he has a solid carload of drygoods on the road now which he expects to have opened up in his new place within the next day or so. The store vacated by Mr. Weinstein will be occupied by Messrs. K. M. Biggs and H. C. Boylin. Mr. Boylin will occupy the front of the store, 30 feet back, and Mr. Biggs will have the remainder, about 55 feet first floor, and all of the second floor. This store adjoins the one Mr. Biggs now occupies and he expects to have two large doors put through the wall, connecting the two stores, which will add greatly to the appearance and convenience of Mr. Biggs' store. The front of the first floor to be occupied by Mr. Boylin will be cut off by a partition and just as soon as this can be put in Mr. Boylin will move in. Mr. Boylin has a lease for the remainder of this year on the place he now occupies, between the stores occupied by Mr. John T. Biggs and Miss Josephine Breese, and says that he has not as yet made any disposition of it but expects to rent it.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Bethune, of Ten Mile, are in town today.

CLARKTON NEWS NOTES.

Excellent Commencement Exercises—A Marriage—Personal.

Clarkton, May 7—Messrs. S. Meares and D. G. McKee attended the Republican convention in E'town Saturday. — Mr. Jim Pait returned last Thursday afternoon from Sampson county, where he and Mr. Walter MacDuffie are engaged in a saw mill plant. — Mr. W. M. Monroe of Tar Heel spent the week-end here with his son. — Miss Grace Hester of Bladenboro spent the week-end in town the guest of Miss Ruby Clark. — Miss Jennie Evans of Fayetteville is the guest of Mrs. N. A. Currie. — Mrs. R. E. Lee of Lumberton attended the closing exercises of the Clarkton academy last week, returning home Saturday.

The commencement exercises of the Clarkton academy, which took place Thursday and Friday, were attended by a large crowd each time, especially Friday night the auditorium was crowded to its capacity and many were left outside. Thursday night the intermediate department, under the management of Miss Lila Cochran, gave their concert, which showed some good work on the part of the children and teachers. Friday morning the primary department gave some very pretty marches, drills, songs, etc., which showed the excellent training they had. At 11 o'clock Mr. O. L. Clark, in his usual clever way, introduced the speaker of the day, Mr. N. A. Sinclair of Fayetteville. Mr. Sinclair spoke on some practical points of education. It was to the point in every way, and showed that he knew what he was talking about.

After the speaking dinner was served on the grounds. Talk about a good dinner, but it was there, and plenty of it, too. Every one seemed to enjoy it and ate till they could eat no more. The concert that night by the advanced students was above reproach.

The faculty is to be commended on the year's work and the excellent program gotten up.

Miss Nancy C. Monroe of Tar Heel is spending some time with relatives and friends.

Last Thursday morning Mr. Lee, a well-known machinist, and a widow, Mrs. Sidney Hester, drove over to Whiteville, where they were married. They left the next day for Key West, Fla., to make their future home. We wish them much success.

Miss Margaret Cromartie of Elizabethtown attended commencement here last week.

Communion services will be held at the Presbyterian church here next Sunday morning. There will be preparatory services Friday and Saturday night and the regular services Sunday morning and evening.

Miss Katie Smith, of Blaney, S. C., is spending this week with her parents here. She is accompanied by Miss Gertrude Evans. — Mrs. S. Singletary, Jr., is spending this week with her mother at Orbit. — Messrs. T. L. and A. M. Wallace spent Monday in Elizabethtown. — The Elizabethtown school was largely represented at the commencement exercises here Friday night. — Miss Katie Monroe of Whiteville was in town Friday.

Dinglefoot.

DEALS IN REAL ESTATE.

Mr. R. C. Lawrence Purchases Lots on Chestnut Street—Plans for Large Things Perhaps on Foot.

Mr. R. C. Lawrence has purchased from Mr. W. I. Linkhaw two lots fronting Chestnut street, adjoining lots recently purchased from Mr. Linkhaw by Mr. Stephen McIntyre. The lots are 24 feet by 106, the two giving Mr. Lawrence a frontage of 48 feet on Chestnut street. The consideration was \$4,000. Mr. Lawrence says that all of his plans have not materialized yet and therefore he is not in position to say just what he expects to erect on this property, but it is expected that some large things are being contemplated. Messrs. McIntyre and Lawrence together now own five building lots on this block, giving them a frontage on Chestnut street of 120 feet extending from the corner of Fifth and Chestnut.

A REMEDY.

A Plan to Right the Wrongs Suffered Under Our Present System of County Government.

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

Much is being said now about reforms being needed in our county government. I think the whole county is a unit on that point, but I have not seen in public print a remedy or plan to right the wrongs. When we stop and think we must admit that our county officers are as a whole men that will compare favorably with the average men, therefore there must be something wrong with the system.

My own opinion is, there is too much politics and not enough business methods in the administration of our affairs; too many officers and too much of their time, that the county pays for, devoted to the voter, hoping to keep the job, and not enough to the duties of the office. In other words, if there were proper business methods in force in our county affairs, the same discipline and requirements as is required of the employees of a bank or some other well-regulated business, I think better service could be secured at half the cost. Let's study on these lines and make our county convention a mass meeting and all submit plans looking to legislation necessary to bring the much-needed reforms.

Anybody can knock. We all agree that improvement is needed. Who will furnish a remedy? Mine is to organize the county affairs like a bank, let the people be the stockholders, the stockholders elect the directors, the directors elect the president or head and he employ his assistants and demand service for the money he pays them.

It will take some special legislation to get such system in force, but if we can adopt a plan we can pledge our lawmakers to enact proper laws to execute it.

A. J. McKinnon.

Maxton, N. C., May 8, 1912.

COUNTY SCHOOL MATTERS.

Business Transacted at Regular Monthly Meeting of County Board of Education.

The county board of education was in regular session Monday for the transaction of routine business.

Mr. J. I. Stone, Jr. was appointed school committeeman in district No. 4, Britt's township, to succeed Mr. W. H. Bullard, who resigned.

An application for building a house in district No. 3, Lumberton township, was presented and the board agreed to appropriate towards building said house half the cost above \$400, formerly ordered by the board, provided the National Cotton Mill pay the other half of such excess and donate a suitable site, and provided further that the total cost of the building shall not exceed \$1,200.

The following bills were passed: Freeman Printing Co., printing, \$2; Eli Phillips, work in special tax election, \$2; M. M. Singletary, register and poll holder in special tax election, \$12; J. F. McDonald, register and poll holder in special election, \$12.

A number of rebates, all small, was allowed, all on account of errors in listing special school tax.

Sixth District Republicans Name Roosevelt Delegates.

The sixth district Republican congressional convention, held in Fayetteville yesterday, instructed its two delegates for Roosevelt. R. S. White of Bladen county and D. H. Senter of Harnett were elected delegates to the Chicago convention. Mr. Iredell Meares of Wilmington was elected chairman of the convention. A number of prominent Republicans from various sections of the State were present. Those who attended from Robeson were W. H. Kinlaw, S. L. Parker, W. J. Currie, W. R. Atkinson, J. C. Snoddy, H. McKay McNeill, N. T. Andrews, J. C. Brown.

Mr. Marcus Allen, of route 5 from Lumberton, is in town today.

LOCAL BRIEFS

—Middling cotton today, 11 cents.

—Rev. A. B. Crumpler, of Clinton, will preach at the Gospel tabernacle Sunday morning and evening.

—Miss Annie McArthur, of Lumber Bridge, has accepted a position as saleslady in Mr. W. J. Prevatt's store. She began work a few days ago.

—Coroner G. E. Rance—coroner since the oldest inhabitant knows when—will have to look to his laurels. Mr. Geo. A. Barnes is after the office, as will be seen from his announcement in this paper.

—The commencement of Philadelphia high school, Prof. R. L. McMillan principal, will begin tomorrow evening, and last through Tuesday of next week. Governor Kitchin will be the speaker on the last day, Tuesday.

—As a result of injuries to his right hand, sustained at the Lumberton cotton mills, Mr. B. B. Britt was taken Tuesday to the Thompson hospital, where his right arm was amputated just above the wrist. He is getting along nicely.

—At the past time theatre tomorrow, besides the special Memorial Day pictures, "The Passing of the Gray," and the regular picture service, life-size pictures will be shown of Gen. Robt. E. Lee, Presidents Lincoln and Taft. The pictures will be on from 10 o'clock in the morning. Veterans will be admitted free.

—Messrs. A. E. White, W. E. Jackson, Geo. M. Whitfield and L. C. Lowndes went this morning to Red Springs to attend the Methodist district conference being held there this week. The meeting began Tuesday and will close tomorrow. Rev. J. W. Bradley, pastor of Chestnut Street Methodist church, and Mr. W. H. Humphrey are already at Red Springs, having gone Tuesday.

—Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McLean returned this morning from Maxton, where Mrs. McLean for several days had been at the home of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Lina A. McLean, and Mr. McLean arrived at Maxton last evening from a business trip of two or three days spent in Baltimore, Md. Mr. McLean says that the condition of his brother, Mr. Hector McLean, who has been very ill for several months, continues about the same.

UP ST. PAUL WAY.

Rain Will Delay Crops—Wet in Georgia—A Quilting.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

St. Paul, R. F. D. 1, May 7—Planting corn is the order of the day around here. Crops will be late on account of so much rain in this section. Some of the land is standing under water.

Miss Maggie Alice Johnson spent last week at the home of her uncle Mr. E. J. Johnson, on route 1 from Richardson, and returned home Saturday accompanied by Mr. A. Z. Singletary and Miss Annie Louis. — Mr. E. O. Johnson and family spent the week-end at the home of Mrs. Johnson's mother, Mrs. McCoy Rozier, near Lumberton. — Miss Katie Broadwell, who had been visiting and teaching in Anson county the past winter, is home, to the delight of her many friends. — Mrs. N. T. Humphrey has gone to Sellers, S. C., to spend some time with her husband, who is working there.

Mr. James Johnson received news Friday from his son in Waycross, Ga., stating that it was so wet out there that the farmers could not do any work and they thought if it did not cease to rain it would be so there would not be any crops made this year.

Aunt Becky, we were glad to welcome you back to the columns of The Robesonian and wish you would write every week.

Mrs. W. J. Johnson is to have a quilting this week and "Hazel Eyes" is invited.

"Suffered day and night the torment of itching piles. Nothing helped me until I used Doan's Ointment. The result was lasting."—Hon. John R. Garrett, Mayor, Girard, Ala.