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WHOLE NO. 2759

ROAD LAW DISCUSSED.

Meeting of Citizens Held Here Yesterday — Consensus of Opinion That There Should be Some Change — Resolution Adopted to Have Road Law Drafted by Road Expert—The Tax Refund and Other Matters.

A bunch of citizens from various parts of the county spent the entire afternoon in the court house here yesterday kicking the county road law around.

In the call for the county executive committee to meet here yesterday to select registrars and poll-holders for the congressional primary, an invitation was extended to each township executive committee of five and all other citizens interested to meet at the same time and discuss the road law and any other subjects about which there might be dissatisfaction. A considerable sprinkling of citizens from various parts of the county—every township was represented except Wishart's—was present, but it is probable that many who otherwise might have come had the idea that the meeting concerned only the county and township executive committees. After the primary boards had been selected the executive committee adjourned and all citizens were asked to assemble in mass meeting in the court house at 2:30 p. m. to discuss the road law and the offices of county superintendent of health and auditor, about which some dissatisfaction has been expressed. Maj. Geo. Hall of Red Springs was elected chairman of the meeting, Dr. N. A. Thompson of Lumberton, secretary, members of the press present being asked to act as temporary secretaries. Mr. Percy Wilson, editor of the Fairmont Messenger, was the only out-of-town editor present.

The road law was taken up by townships and the consensus of opinion was that some change is needed, but nobody was prepared to say just what. All but two or three of the townships were heard from and with the exception of two or three all reported bad roads and dissatisfaction. Some suggested that it would be better to go back to the law of two years ago—which, it was recalled by some of the speakers, was also cussed at the time. Some thought that the Mecklenburg plan, each township to spend its own money, with a provision for free labor, was the thing. This met with most approval, perhaps. Most of the speakers were in favor of each township controlling and spending its own money, though two or three speakers contended that the present law is the best the county has had, because it does away with the objection that under the township system some weaker townships have not much money to spend, while others have a larger amount—does away with that by grouping weaker townships with stronger in districts. Attention was called by some of the speakers to the fact that the bad roads about which there is so much complaint are not altogether attributable to the road law, for the winter was a bad one on roads. There was no disposition on the part of any one to criticize the road commissioners. All seemed agreed that they have been doing the best they could with a rather unwieldy law.

Mr. A. E. White made perhaps the most practical suggestion. He contended that neither he nor any of the others there knew anything about drafting a road law and that the thing to do would be to employ a road expert, let him thoroughly acquaint himself with conditions in the county, and then draft a law to meet the needs. Mr. G. B. McLeod offered a resolution embodying Mr. White's suggestion, as follows: That each township elect 3 freeholders who shall meet at the court house, select a committee to take up the matter of road building with the best road expert they can employ, and have him draft a law which shall be submitted for adoption or rejection to a mass meeting of citizens of the county. Mr. White offered to amend this by allowing the chair to appoint a committee, but the amendment

was not seconded and the resolution was passed.

So much time was taken up with the road law that little time was left for discussion of the offices of superintendent of health and auditor. Dr. Bascom Croom of Maxton, president of the Robeson Medical Society, stated that the medical society is responsible for this office, that diseases and deaths that might be prevented cost Robeson \$1,000,000 a year, \$20 per capita, and for the county superintendent of health, who ought to save the county at least \$100,000 a year in preventable sickness, to say nothing of the uncalculable value of lives that may be saved, each man is asked to pay only 3 1/2 cents per year. The act creating this office and setting forth its duties was made a part of the minutes and it was asked that it be published. The auditor's office was disposed of in the same way, that is, by making a part of the minutes, to be published, a report that had been prepared for this occasion by Auditor Parmele giving information concerning that office.

Mr. E. J. Britt, county attorney, made an explanation for the county commissioners in regard to the poll tax of \$2.85. He contended that the law made it mandatory on the commissioners to levy this tax upon the written request of the road board and that when it was tested by Mr. Frank Gough and found unconstitutional the order of the judge applied only to Lumberton, and the commissioners, wanting to treat all alike, passed an order to refund the 85 cents excess to every man in the county. Mr. Gough contended that it was the intention of his suit to include every man in the county and that if the order of the court did not apply to every man it was a mere technicality; and he emphasized the statement that the fact remains that a tax levy which the commissioners knew to be unconstitutional was levied and that it was not refunded until he brought suit.

A fuller account of this meeting, setting forth the complaints made from each township, will be published in Monday's paper. It must be held over for lack of space in this issue. Also the statements of Messrs. Britt and Gough will be given a little more fully.

Suspected Negroes Not Ones Wanted.

It was mentioned in Monday's Robesonian that Sheriff McNeill had received a telegram from Mt. Tabor asking that some one be sent to identify a negro jailed there and supposed to be one of the negroes implicated in the murder of Mr. J. G. Tolar at McDonald last September. It was thought that the negro arrested was John Crawford; and shortly after receiving this information the sheriff had a message that John Wesley, another negro supposed to have been implicated in the murder, had been arrested in Conway, S. C. The sheriff sent men to identify and it developed that they were not the negroes wanted.

Robeson County Man Pardoned.

Robt. Roper, who was convicted at the July term, 1910, of Robeson court for the crime of assault and sentenced to two years on the roads, was granted a conditional pardon by Gov. Kitchin yesterday on account of his health. In the reasons given for his pardon it is stated that he has served over 22 months of his sentence and the county physician has certified that his health is so broken that in all probability he would not live to complete his sentence, and that further confinement would hasten his death.

Congressman Heflin of Alabama Speaks Here Tomorrow Evening Under Wood.

Congressman J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama will speak in the court house here tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock in the interest of Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama, candidate for the Democratic nomination for President. The Lumberton brass band will furnish music for the occasion. Congressman Heflin is said to be an excellent speaker and he will doubtless be given a good crowd

PRIMARY BOARD NAMED.

Registrars and Poll Holders for Congressional Primary Named at Meeting of County Democratic Executive Committee Yesterday.

At a meeting of the county executive committee held here yesterday the following registrars and poll-holders were selected to serve at the congressional primary to be held June 18 (the first named in each precinct is registrar, the two last-named being poll-holders):

Alfordsville, N. J. McRimmon, J. B. Bullock, Jim Kitchin; Back Swamp, W. N. Townsend, J. G. Prevatt, J. F. Singletary; Britts, A. L. Stone, S. G. Williamson, W. H. Lamb; Burnt Swamp, Ira G. Prevatt, R. A. Melvin, J. B. Humphrey; Howellsville, N. A. Kinlaw, H. L. Andrews, N. C. Graham; Lumber Bridge, D. Z. McGougan, J. L. Shaw, A. D. Conoly; Smith's, D. I. Stewart, D. Leach, P. H. McArthur; Maxton, A. McL. Morrison, D. M. McRae, J. S. McRae; Fairmont, A. E. Floyd, A. F. Floyd, R. G. Gaine; St. Paul, Marcus Smith, L. H. Townsend, Walter Johnson; Red Springs, N. A. Brown, G. A. McKay, C. E. Zedaker; Pembroke, A. A. Inagard, J. O. Buie, O. R. Sampson; Saddle Tree, Ebenezer Biggs, Frank Humphrey, M. C. Prevatt; Parkton, Collier Cobb, Neill McNeill; C. L. Beard; Thompson No. 1, W. D. McCallum, Arch Baker, D. W. Bullock; Thompson No. 2, H. S. McLean, F. M. Townsend, J. A. McMillan; Wishart's, J. C. Stansel, A. E. Israel, J. Ed. Tyson; Rennert, A. C. McGougan, B. Tolar, D. F. Webster; Lumberton, W. Lennon, M. W. Floyd, A. H. McLeod; Orrum, W. N. Nye, J. K. Atkinson, E. C. Nye; Raft Swamp, W. C. Townsend, H. F. Townsend, Joe Townsend; Sterling's, K. M. Barnes, D. R. Hardin, J. G. Lewis; White House, D. M. Rogers, Oscar Page, A. W. Harrington.

Chairman Geo. B. McLeod presided at this meeting, which was attended by many more citizens than the executive committee; for Mr. McLeod, in calling this meeting, had requested that not only the chairman, but all members, of each township executive committee, and all other citizens interested, attend for the purpose of discussing the road law and other matters of public interest. Every township was represented except Wishart's. The rules governing the congressional primary provide that the 3 electors for each township be appointed from lists filed by the candidates. Mr. McLeod read a letter from Mr. N. A. Sinclair, one of the candidates for Congress, in which he appointed Mr. R. A. McLean to name his electors. Congressman Godwin was in town yesterday but was not present at the meeting.

In his remarks at the outset Chairman McLeod referred to the desirability of having full and free and friendly discussion of any matters about which there is dissatisfaction and referred to a communication in The Robesonian of the 13th inst in which Mr. Frank Gough of Lumberton said "the boss" must be driven out, and he said he wanted to introduce Mr. Gough to the boss—the people of Robeson county. Just before the meeting closed Mr. Gough offered a word of explanation, saying that he had not referred to the executive committee, that things would be in better shape if the executive committee had been consulted more about what was done. The business of selecting electors occupied the committee some two hours, and about 1 p. m. the committee adjourned and a mass meeting of citizens was called to be held at 2:30 p. m. to discuss the road law, and the offices of county superintendent of health and auditor. This meeting is reported elsewhere in this paper.

Members of the press were asked to act as assistant secretaries Mr. J. A. McDougald being secretary. The out-of-town editors present were Messrs. D. Scott Pool, of the Robeson Messenger, St. Paul, and Percy Wilson, of the Fairmont Messenger.

A bronze statue of Charles Duncan McIver, first president of the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, was unveiled in Raleigh yesterday in the presence of a large crowd.

ALL FOR ROOSEVELT.

State Republican Convention Elects Delegates for Rough Rider—bitter attacks on Taft—No Change in Chairmanship

Raleigh Dispatch, 15th.
In a State convention marked by bitter attacks upon President Taft, North Carolina's four delegates at large and four alternates to the Chicago Republican convention were instructed today to vote for Theodore Roosevelt, "first, last and all the time", so long as his name is before the convention.

A declaration in favor of Roosevelt by Isaac Meekins, one of the uninstructed district delegates from the first district, makes certain for Roosevelt 23 of the State's 24 votes in the Chicago convention. Wheeler Martin, the other uninstructed delegate from the first district, was not bound by the State convention's action.

The delegates at large are Dr. Cyrus Thompson, Jacksonville; Thomas E. Owen, Clinton; Richmond Pearson, Asheville; Zeb V. Walser, Lexington.

The alternates: Thomas S. Cheek, Camden county; H. C. Caviness, Wilkes; S. O. McGuire, Surry; George Pritchard, Marshall.

A resolution presented by Richmond Pearson, former minister to Persia, and a Roosevelt leader in the State, adopted amid great enthusiasm in the convention, declared President Taft withdrew 10 North Carolina post-office appointments from the Senate March 17th for the apparent purpose of awarding them to the factional leader who shall deliver the largest number of delegates for Mr. Taft.

"President Taft has underestimated the pride and self-respect of the Republicans of North Carolina," the resolution continued, "in supposing that we would participate in a political auction whose object is to make merchandise of men. We unhesitatingly repudiate, resent and rebuke the whole proceeding and all parties thereto."

The only Taft man to address the convention was Walter Henry, who said he would support Roosevelt if nominated. His opening remark that he "stood here, 300 pounds for William Howard Taft," sent the convention in an uproar. Attacks upon President Taft by other speakers were cheered by the convention, as were all references to Col. Roosevelt.

There was no test of strength upon the subject of Presidential endorsement, the Taft forces yielding to the Roosevelt leaders at the start. Zeb V. Walser, head of the Roosevelt State committee, was made temporary and permanent chairman of the convention. Following the instruction of the delegates at large, the Roosevelt forces attempted to make a "clean sweep" of the existing State organization.

Richmond Pearson was endorsed for National committeeman, defeating Marion Butler, former United States Senator. E. C. Duncan, the incumbent, was not re-nominated.

An attempt to depose John M. Morehead, a Taft leader, from the chairmanship of the State committee, was defeated after a prolonged fight. The convention decided not to take up the subject at present.

Disposition of Postoffice Case Against B. F. Stephens.

Wilmington Star, 16th.
The case against B. F. Stephens, a young white man of Lumberton, charged with violation of the postal laws, was the most important to receive attention at the morning session. The young man, who was formerly a clerk in the Lumberton postoffice, was indicted on two counts, one misappropriating funds and the other altering the records and making false records. Through his attorney, Thos. L. Johnson, Esq., the defendant entered a plea of submission to the second count in the bill of indictment. The plea was accepted by the district attorney and prayer for judgment was continued upon condition that the defendant make good the shortage, about \$300, and pay the costs. He is given until the next term of court to fix up the matter.

RURAL CARRIERS' CONVENTION.

Annual Convention of Rural Letter Carriers' Association to be Held in Lumberton May 30.

The annual convention of the Rural Letter Carriers' and Postmasters' Association of Robeson county will be held in Lumberton May 30. The following programme has been arranged:

Address of welcome by R. O. Edmond, assistant postmaster of Lumberton.

Response by F. B. Dunn, of Lumber Bridge.

First subject: Is our organization worth anything to us as carriers and postmasters? If so, what means can we use to get all to enlist? To be discussed by carriers of Red Springs and Fairmont.

Next subject: Does it pay carriers to be obliging and accommodating to their patrons where it does not conflict with the postal regulations? or do no more than the law demands? Discussed by carriers of Lumberton and Maxton.

Election of officers for the ensuing year. Election of delegates to State convention.

It is earnestly requested that every postmaster and carrier attend this convention.

P. M. & R. L. C. of St. Paul, Com.

Mr. J. W. Carter Not a Candidate for Re-election.

In a communication to the editor of The Robesonian, received this morning and too long to be published in full today's paper, Mr. J. W. Carter of Maxton, who has been a member of the board of county commissioners for the past twelve years, during eight years of that time chairman of the board, states that "it is my purpose not to be a candidate under any circumstances but to retire at the end of the present term." It is regretted that Mr. Carter's communication was not received in time for publication today. It will be published in full in Monday's paper.

A Boy Scouts' Rally This Evening.

The Lumberton troupe of Boy Scouts will hold a rally at the court house this evening at 8 o'clock. Rev. A. D. McClure, D. D., of Wilmington, will deliver an address on "Lumberton's Most Valuable Asset—The Boy". Other features will be drill and flag salute, first aid and signals by the Boy Scouts, music by Lumberton's brass band, songs and instrumental solos and short talks by some local speakers. No admission fee will be charged and all who are interested in boys and young men are urged to be present.

Scottish Society of America Meets in Red Springs May 22d.

The Scottish Society of America will hold its annual meeting at Red Springs on Wednesday, May 22nd. The annual address will be delivered by Dr. Hill, of Mississippi, at 11 o'clock a. m. Every member of the Society, as well as all others, is invited.

Road Bond Issue Defeated in Cumberland County.

At an election held in Cumberland county Tuesday a proposition to vote a bond issue of \$200,000 for roads was defeated by the small margin of 108 votes.

—Middling cotton today, 11 cents.

—Congressman H. L. Godwin spent a few hours in town yesterday, presumably looking after his political fences.

—Mr. J. P. Stansel, formerly of Lumberton, now of Wilmington, has been employed to audit the books of the town. He began work on this job Tuesday.

—Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lawrence and their children and Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Biggs left yesterday morning for Wake Forest, where they will attend the college commencement. Today at 11 o'clock a life-size portrait of the late Prof. J. B. Carlyle is to be presented to the college and Mr. Lawrence is to make the presentation speech.

LOCAL BRIEFS

—It being a legal holiday the banks will be closed Monday.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Martha Tyner and Alex C. Johnson.

—The First National Bank of Lumberton has been designated as the depository for the postal savings from the Fairmont and St. Paul postoffices.

—Mr. Rory McNair, who lives on route 5 from Maxton, in this issue of The Robesonian announces himself a candidate for the office of county commissioner.

—The Robeson Tobacco Co. of Fairmont has been chartered with authorized capital of \$20,000, with \$4,250 subscribed by J. P. Brown, A. J. Floyd, B. W. Pitman, R. L. Pitman and others.

—The Seaboard authorities had a carload of crushed rock and sand unloaded in front of the local station this morning, and it certainly adds much to the pleasantness of things underfoot in damp weather in those parts.

—Miss Ruth Norment entertained last evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McLeod in honor of Miss Annie Burton Stainback. A number of games were played and in general it was a pleasant time for a large crowd of the young folks.

—Miss Irene McLeod, who graduated this year at Elizabeth College, Charlotte, came home last evening. She was accompanied home by her mother, Mrs. Geo. B. McLeod, who since Sunday had been in Charlotte to witness the commencement exercises of Elizabeth College.

—There will be an ice cream supper Saturday evening at the Jennings cotton mill village, northwest Lumberton, for the benefit of the Sunday school recently organized there, the proceeds to be used in the purchase of an organ. It is expected that there will be a voting contest also. The public is invited.

—The Carolina Lumber Co., which for some time has been operating a saw mill at the old Humphrey Williams mill site on the river just across the Seaboard Railroad, has installed a planing mill. The planer was fitted up last week and the company is now sawing and planing lumber.

—Mr. Joe S. Thompson has purchased from Mr. H. O. Edens his interest in the livery stables on Fourth street, formerly owned by them jointly, and is now sole owner. Mr. Edens will continue at the stables as manager this week, after which Mr. Thompson may decide to take active charge of the business himself.

—Miss Irene McLeod, daughter of ex-Sheriff and Mrs. Geo. B. McLeod of Lumberton, was a graduate in expression at Elizabeth College this year and was among those mentioned as receiving "first distinction" in that course, her grade being next to the highest in that department—96.50, the highest being only 96.75.

—Mr. R. C. Moore, who for some time had held a position at Aycock, Fla., came home Sunday. Mr. Moore says that the rainfall in Florida has been very heavy this spring and he came to the conclusion that the "Old North State" affords better health for man; hence his return. He says that they are having lots of chills and fever in those parts.

—For the benefit of Lumberton's new brass band it was expected that there would be an ice-cream party or festival at the court house tomorrow evening, but it had to be postponed on account of a political speech that is to be made in the court house at that time, for which the band has agreed to furnish music. The date of the ice-cream festival has been changed to Friday night of next week, and to this it is hoped that the entire population of the town will turn out as an expression of appreciation of the efforts the boys are making to give Lumberton a brass band that will be the superior of any band in the State.