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WHOLE NO 2867

RECORDERS' COURTS BEGIN

Machinery of Five Courts in Robeson Set in Motion Today—Mr. J. A. Rowland, Recorder, and Mr. W. Lennon, Prosecuting Attorney, for Lumberton District, Took Oath this Morning.

Machinery for five recorders' courts for Robeson county were set in motion today. The courts for the five districts into which the county is divided for this purpose will hold their regular sittings at Lumberton, Red Springs, Rowland, Maxton and Fairmont. The act of the Legislature creating these courts was published in full in The Robesonian of April 31 last.

Mr. J. A. Rowland, recorder, and Mr. W. Lennon, prosecuting attorney, for the Lumberton district, both appointed by the Legislature to hold office until next primary, in 1914, took the oath of office this morning. Owing to the fact that Mr. Rowland has just gotten up from a long spell of sickness at the Thompson hospital the cases that were ready for his court this morning were disposed of in the mayor's court. Hereafter the mayors of the towns named will be relieved of police court trials.

Section 5 of the act establishing these courts provides:

"Each court shall hold daily sessions, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, at some convenient place in the township in which the courts are established. The first session of each of the said courts shall be on the first Monday in June, 1913, after the qualification of the recorder herein provided."

NEW ROAD LAW IN FORCE.

Effective June 1—Last Meeting of County Board of Road Commissioners Being Held Today.

Robeson county's new road law which divides the county for road-working purposes into township districts, giving each township control of its own funds, goes into effect today. This new road law, enacted by the Legislature at its recent session, was published in full in The Robesonian of March 27 last. It provides for three trustees for each township. Trustees for all but four of the townships were appointed by the commissioners, on the recommendation of the county's representatives in the Legislature, at their meeting last month and were published in The Robesonian of May 8. The few appointments that were not made last month will be made by the commissioners today.

The county road commissioners under the old law are holding their last meeting here today, winding up affairs in so far as it is possible to do so. The old board goes out owing some \$11,000, a debt against the road taxes of the present year for the townships to take care of pro rata. The Bank of Red Springs hold notes amounting to \$9,000, and a Maxton bank has notes amounting to \$2,000. This is less than the usual amount of the indebtedness of the road commissioners at this time of the year.

Mr. D. D. French Appointed Postmaster.

As stated elsewhere in this issue, in a dispatch from Washington, President Wilson has sent to the Senate the nomination of Mr. D. D. French to be postmaster at Lumberton and Mr. French is now just hanging on by his eyelids, so to speak, ready to drop into this berth as soon as his nomination is confirmed by the Senate—and confirmation will be made as soon as that august body gets to the batch of nominations "one of which Mr. French is whom." Mr. French was recommended by 90 per cent or more of the patrons of the office and his appointment will give general satisfaction. Mrs. Norment has given general satisfaction as postmistress, having served since the death of her husband, and pleasure at the appointment of Mr. French is naturally tinged with regret that in the nature of things it was not practicable to appoint her.

Wilmington Star, 1st: A little after 4 o'clock yesterday Mr. John D. Artley, rate clerk in the office of the auditor of freight receipts, Atlantic Coast Line, this city, lost his life in the surf at Wrightsville Beach while trying to save Dr. Ralph E. Knouse, pharmacist at the Marine Hospital, of this place. Death was due to heart failure.

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FAR-REACHING PROBE.

Investigation of Private Affairs and Business Connections of Members of Senate Begins—Overman Chairman of Investigating Committee.

Washington Dispatch, May 31st. The most searching investigation ever undertaken into the private affairs and business connections of members of the United States Senate will be the outgrowth of the "lobby investigation" which is to open Monday morning before a subcommittee of the Senate judiciary committee. While President Wilson's recent declaration that a powerful lobby is at work to influence action on the tariff bill forms the basis for the investigation, questions prepared tonight by the committee to be asked of each member of the Senate are such as to carry the investigation far outside of tariff matters.

Each Senator will be required to tell under oath whether he has any interest in any matter affected by a bill now before Congress, or that has been before the Senate during his term; and whether or not he has ever tried to influence any other Senator to vote for a measure in which he was interested. Subcommittee Chairman Overman expressed the opinion tonight that the questions would require a statement by each Senator as to any business interests he may have that would be affected by the tariff, currency or any other legislation.

Many members of the Senate are openly associated with manufacturing trading, livestock, field or farming corporations or interests and under the questions of the committee they probably will be required to give any such connections in detail, if the tariff would affect their business in any way. Senators Overman, Reed, Walsh, Cummins and Nelson were selected early today by the judiciary committee to conduct the investigation. This subcommittee has decided to summon all members of the Senate. Each will be put under oath and required to answer 11 formal questions and further questions that members may ask.

THERE IS YET HOPE

Of Adjusting Freight Rates—Third Conference With Freight Traffic Managers June 24.

Raleigh Times, May 31. That there is yet hope of reaching an agreement with the railroads whereby the inter-State freight rates may be adjusted in a manner satisfactory to North Carolina shippers was indicated today in a statement issued by Chief Clerk Maxwell, of the Corporation Commission. At any rate the proceedings have progressed far enough to justify the commission in having a third conference with the freight traffic managers of the North Carolina lines, and this has been set for June 24.

Chairman Travis, Commissioner Lee and Chief Clerk Maxwell returned to the city today from Old Point Comfort, Va., where Thursday and Friday was held the second conference with the railroad men. Chairman Travis met with the heads of the carriers in Washington several weeks ago, when a proposition was submitted by the commission. The carriers took this under consideration and put their experts to work on it. "Some progress was made" this week and it is hoped that the controversy can be settled without strife.

Roosevelt Wins Suit—Accepts Nominal Damages.

Marquette, Mich., Dispatch, May 31. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt today won his libel suit against George A. Newett, who charged the Colonel with drunkenness, and waived damages after the defendant had uttered a retraction. The jury awarded the nominal damages of six cents provided in such cases by the laws of Michigan. Each party to the suit will have to pay his own expenses.

Judge Flannigan instructed the jury to bring in a verdict for the plaintiff, which they did without leaving their seats. The Colonel left for Chicago and the East at 5:30 this afternoon, less than two hours after the conclusion of the case.

Speaking of his purpose in instituting suit he said: "I wished once for all during my lifetime to deal with those slanders so that never again will it be possible for any man in good faith to repeat them."

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FAVOR PEACE PLAN.

Eight Nations Have Responded Favorably to Secretary Bryan's Peace Plan—Progress of the Plan. Washington Dispatch, May 30.

Secretary Bryan signaled the day commemorative of the country's hero dead by announcing that eight nations have responded favorably to his peace plan asking that suggestions be transmitted in regard to details. The nations in the order in which they have accepted are Italy, Great Britain, France, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Peru and Russia.

Secretary Bryan said that no nation to whom his peace plan was submitted, had replied adversely, although some had asked more time for consideration.

To each of the governments expressing a willingness to enter into the agreement, a tentative statement has been submitted embodying details suggested by the President. The Secretary pointing out that this statement was submitted for consideration, with no intention of insistence upon any particular detail, declined to make public its contents. Mr. Bryan discussed the progress of his plan, in the following statement:

"It will be remembered that about a month ago a plan was, by the President's direction, submitted to all the governments having representative here, the plan being in substance as follows:

"First, that the United States is prepared to enter into an agreement with each and every country severally, providing for the investigation of all disputes of every character and nature by an international commission, the contracting parties agreeing not to declare war to begin hostilities until such investigation is made and report submitted.

"Second, the investigation to be conducted as a matter of course, upon the initiative of the commission, without the formality of a request from either party.

"Third, the report to be submitted within a given time, the time to be agreed upon.

"Fourth the parties to reserve the right to act independently on the subject matter in dispute, after the report is submitted.

"The composition of the commission was a matter of detail to be agreed upon by the contracting parties; the time, also, in which the report should be submitted was a matter of detail to be agreed upon by the contracting parties.

Eight nations have up to this time, responded favorably, some endorsing the principle and asking that suggestion be submitted in regard to permanent details, others replying that the proposition is received sympathetically and expressing a willingness to consider details. The nations, in the order in which they have accepted are: Italy, Great Britain, France, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Peru and Russia.

"To those expressing a willingness to confer in regard to the details, a tentative statement has been submitted, embodying details suggested by the President; this statement being submitted for consideration, however with no intention of insisting on any particular detail. The exact phraseology of the agreements may not be the same in all cases. If the principle is endorsed the government is willing to confer with open mind as to minor points."

Speaking of the reception his plan has received, Mr. Bryan observed that within the past two months three arbitration treaties have been renewed for a period of five years. The treaties renewed are with France, Italy and Spain and President Wilson has announced his willingness to renew similar conventions with Great Britain, Japan, Norway, Sweden and Portugal.

Annual Meeting Robeson Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

At the annual meeting of the Robeson Rural Letter Carriers' Association held in Lumberton Friday officers were re-elected as follows: A. S. Pitman, route No. 2, Lumberton, president; E. L. Odum, route No. 1, Pembroke, vice president; E. B. Hayes, route No. 2, Fairmont, secretary-treasurer. Delegates were also elected to the meeting of the State association which will be held in Wilmington, July 4. Fifteen or twenty carriers attended the meeting, a report of which in detail the secretary has promised to send The Robesonian.

WILL RUSH TARIFF BILL.

Predicted that Senate Will Vote On Bill by August 1—Leaders Are Confident.

Washington Dispatch, May 31.

"Make the Republicans work," is the slogan adopted by the Democratic leaders of the Senate in charge of the tariff legislation, who today predicted that the Senate would vote on the bill by August 1. Members of the finance committee declared that the bill would be out of sub-committees on June 9, and that the full committee's report should be ready for the caucus by the following week and that the revised measure would be reported to the Senate June 23.

Senator Smith of Georgia said that the Senate should vote on the bill in the latter part of July.

"We will keep the Republicans who want to discuss the bill working and we will keep at work ourselves from the very beginning," said the Senator. "We will meet in the Senate every day at 10 o'clock in the morning and keep at work until 6 o'clock at night. That will prevent the opposition from delaying the bill by playing with it. We will tire the Republicans out of playing."

It was made evident today that the fight among the Democrats on the wool and sugar schedules would be concluded in the caucus and that this would leave Senators Ransdell and Thornton of Louisiana and Senator Walsh to oppose the bill.

More positive than they have ever been before were the administration leaders today that the bill would come from committee and through party caucus with free wool and free sugar in three years unscathed. Amendments to these schedules will of course be offered on the floor of the Senate and the Democrats who will remain avowedly against the bill as it is reported will be expected to vote for them. Even then the leaders assert the bill can be passed as President Wilson approves it, though it will probably require the vote of Vice President Marshall unless Senator Poindexter, the only avowed Progressive in the Senate votes for the measure.

SHOWS UP HITCHCOCK.

Burleson Says Postoffice Department Never Did Become Self Supporting, as Asserted by His Predecessor.

Washington Dispatch, May 31.

Postmaster General Burleson today made public the report of a special investigation into fiscal affairs of the postal service, charging that during former Postmaster General Hitchcock's administration, the service did not become self-supporting, as was often asserted, but that in 1911 there actually was a deficit of more than \$750,000.

The report charges that an apparent surplus was attained by unjustifiable methods of bookkeeping and that the efficiency and morale of the postal service were "sacrificed to a ruthlessly-enforced policy of false economy," that a showing of self-maintenance might be made. The report attributes to that alleged condition complaints against the service.

Mr. Hitchcock, during his administration and in his reports, claimed that in the year 1909 a deficit of approximately \$17,500,000 had entirely been eliminated and that in the fiscal year 1911 a surplus of more than \$200,000 was attained.

The report of the "survey" made at the direction of Mr. Burleson says that at no time has there been a legitimate surplus in postal revenues since 1883 and that the Postoffice Department under Mr. Hitchcock's administration in 1911 actually was under a deficit of more than \$750,000.

Change of Superintendents at Lumberton Cotton Mills.

Mr. F. C. Hall of Taunton, Mass., has succeeded Mr. S. J. Webb as superintendent of the Lumberton cotton mills, Mr. Webb, who had served mill as superintendent for a number of years, having resigned to accept a similar position with a mill at Sylacauga, Ala. Mr. Webb left for Sylacauga Saturday and will be joined by his family later. Mr. Hall and wife arrived last week.

Alligators Galore.

Alligators are said to be plentiful in Lennon's mill pond 6 or 8 miles from town, and some of them are said to have moved to Lumber river. One 8 feet long and one 10 feet long were killed Friday, and some of the smaller ones were captured.

AEROPLANE FLIGHT FOR JULY 4

Flying Machine Will Almost Certainly be One of Attractions in Lumberton for July 4th Celebration—Arrangements Being Made for Biggest Celebration Ever Pulled Off in This Section.

Mr. Frank Gough, chairman of the program committee for the big Robeson county celebration of July Fourth in Lumberton, has received some attractive propositions from the biggest aeroplane company in the United States to give a flying machine exhibition on this day and it is very probable that a contract will be made within the next few days for a birdman for this big Robeson County Day.

Preparations are under way and a big celebration is assured. Besides the aeroplane flight there will be other attractions. A meeting of all committees appointed to prepare for this celebration was held Friday afternoon and work was started in earnest. Another meeting of all committees will be held in the commissioners' room at the court house Wednesday afternoon at 6:15 o'clock and it is expected that it will be possible to make some more definite announcements in Thursday's Robesonian.

MAXTON BOY DROWNED

Lost His Life While in Bathing in McRae Mill Pond Yesterday.

Maxton Special, 1st, to Charlotte Observer.

Marvin Maness, the 17-year-old son of Mr. B. T. Maness, a well-known contractor and builder of this place, lost his life by drowning this afternoon. In company with a number of other boys young Maness went to McRae's old millpond, one mile from town, to go in bathing. He got beyond his depth and drowned before assistance could reach him.

The body was recovered shortly after the accident. The funeral will be held from the home tomorrow morning.

Young Maness was a bright boy, universally liked and the unfortunate and tragic ending of so promising a life has cast a gloom over the entire town and calls for expressions of great sympathy to the bereaved family.

CONFESSED TO MURDER.

Negro Arrested in Maxton for Minor Offense Tells of Murder He Committed in Jacksonville, Fla.

Maxton Dispatch, May 31.

Arrested here today on a charge of larceny of merchandise from a Wadesboro store, a negro giving his name as Leo Davis, and his home as Cartersville, Georgia, broke down and confessed to having killed George Blaine, a sea captain at Jacksonville, Fla. Davis says there is a reward of \$400 offered for his arrest in that State. Jacksonville authorities have been notified of the arrest.

Tampa, Fla., May 31—The murder to which Davis confessed in Maxton was committed last fall. Captain Blaine, a retired sea captain, watchman at the Tampa Steam Ways, was found one morning with his head beaten to a pulp. Two weeks later, A. T. Gary, who succeeded Captain Blaine was killed in very much the same manner.

Guns and Cannon Balls for Court House Square—Secured by Mrs. A. W. McLean.

For some time Mrs. A. W. McLean has been corresponding with the Secretary of the Navy, Hon. Josephus Daniels, with a view to securing the loan of two cannons and a number of cannon balls, to be placed in the court house square in Lumberton. Mrs. McLean has been advised by Mr. Daniels that he will be glad to send two one-pounder Maxim Nordenfeldt Mark VI guns, and sixty nine-inch shells, upon the approval of the request by the mayor of the town of Lumberton and Senator Simmons. The application will be sent in due form at once.

Of course, arrangements will have to be made to pay the expenses of having the guns shipped from the Navy Yards, Washington, D. C. and Portsmouth, N. H., to Lumberton.

It is hoped the guns and cannon balls will arrive within a few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Proctor went Friday to Graham to visit at the home of Mrs. Proctor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Kernode. They will also attend commencement at Chapel Hill this week.

BRIEF LOCAL NEWS ITEMS.

—Miss Nancy Powell and Mr. Perry Taylor were married at St. Paul Saturday at the residence of the officiating minister, Rev. J. D. Clark.

—The old Methodist church, Chestnut and Seventh, is being torn down and moved down near the V. & C. S. station, where it will be used by Mr. L. H. Caldwell, who purchased it from Mr. N. P. Andrews, in building a warehouse.

—Miss Maud Mant, of Georgetown, S. C., has accepted a position as stenographer in Lumberton cotton mill office. She succeeds Mr. W. P. Ryan, who recently resigned to accept a position in the Atlantic Coast Line offices at Wilmington. Miss Mant arrived this morning.

—"The Lord and the Peasant," Edison, and "Too Much Wooing of Handsome Dan," a Western Vitagraph, will delight visitors at the Pastime theatre this evening. Mr. Bennie Harris, of Wilmington, who, beginning today, will be pianist at the Pastime, arrived this morning, and it is conceded that he is one of the best who has ever been heard in Lumberton.

—Mr. C. B. Redmond's right hand was painfully burned Friday afternoon in trying to extinguish flames which were trying to ruin his Parlor Grocery peanut roaster on Fourth street. A leak of gasoline caused the fire. The roaster—which has been in use 10 years and cost \$350—was damaged to some extent but was patched up and put on the job again Saturday.

—Fairmont Messenger, May 30: The First Baptist church of Fairmont will soon be ready for service. The finishing touches are being applied now and when finished Fairmont can boast of one of the best churches in Robeson county. Fairmont moves steadily forward. Pastor Bridges expects to preach his sermon on the third Sunday morning in the new structure.

—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. White returned Friday from Baltimore, Md., where Mrs. White had been undergoing treatment for three weeks. Mrs. White's condition is very much improved, her many friends will be delighted to learn, but it will be two weeks yet before she will be able to get out or receive visitors, the specialists by whom she was treated having ordered perfect quiet and rest for that length of time.

—Mr. D. R. Rhodes, of Barnesville, is among the business visitors in town this morning. He says that he has a hog at his home "what is a hog," and his hogship has outgrown the name of "pig" or "shote," even though it is young. He says the pig has not yet seen three summers and he thinks it will easily weigh 600 pounds on its feet. Mr. Rhodes thinks that by the time his "pig" has grown to be a hog it will weigh near 1,000 pounds on foot.

—Isabel Walters, Ruth Edmund, Mack Campbell and J. C. Batton, all colored, were before Mayor White this morning on charges of disorderly conduct. Isabel Walters was fined \$2.50 and costs, Ruth Edmund and Mack Campbell were fined \$5 each and costs. Batton had to answer two charges and was fined \$5 and costs in each case. Campbell failed to pay his fine and was placed in jail. These are probably the last cases Mayor White will try as the recorder's court is now in operation.

Handsome Gifts to Chestnut Street Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Brown have presented the Chestnut Street Methodist church a pulpit Bible, which is one of the handsomest to be found in any church. It is bound in full Morocco, has large, beautiful print, and its size is 11 by 14 inches. This was given in memory of the mothers of Mr. and Mrs. Brown and on the leather on the inside of the front cover is the following inscription: "In fond memory of Anne Throver Fitts and Lula Vines Brown."

Master Robt. Clinton Deese and little Miss Mary Julia Jones have presented to this church a handsome leather-bound hymnal for pulpit use. It has the names of the donors in gilt letters on the front cover.

Rev. J. W. Bradley, pastor of the church, expressed the appreciation felt by the congregation of the church for these gifts at the morning service yesterday, when they were used for the first time.

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