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A NEW PLAN FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Commission-Manager Form of Government for Counties Explained at Length by Maj. A. J. McKinnon—Would Save County Thousands of Dollars It is Claimed—Others Took Issue With Major McKinnon and a Lively Debate Followed.

The first thing and one of the biggest things, on the programme for the big Fourth of July celebration held here Saturday, was the discussion of the manager-commission form of county government. At 11 a. m. a crowd that filled the court room had gathered at the court house. The meeting was called to order by Mayor A. E. White, who was asked to serve as temporary chairman, and who was later elected chairman. Mr. Grover Britt was elected secretary, with all other members of the press present as assistant secretaries.

The first speaker on this timely subject was Major A. J. McKinnon, father of the plan, of Maxton. Mr. McKinnon was introduced by Mayor White as a man who was not seeking an office, but one seeking to bring about something that would benefit his fellow-man.

When Mr. McKinnon rose one could tell that he was loaded with big shot, and before he had finished his discourse one could see that the load had centered the spot. In starting Mr. McKinnon said that he wished to thank the Robeson County Farmers' Union for the invitation to speak and for the efforts made to secure, such representative audience of Robeson county people. He said he was not present loaded with flowers to give in exchange for votes, but was present to explain a system of government that would mean a saving of at least one half of the money paid county officers under the present system. He said he knew the county office-holders would be opposed to his plan, and if they were to fall in line and fight for his plan he would think there was something wrong with it; that conditions never could become any better, but seemed to be growing worse all the while, under the present system; that the taxes of the people were being increased all the while, but the benefits from the tax paid were not increasing with the same rate of rapidity that the taxes were increasing; that we need not fear to try some other plan than the one now existing, as there was no chance of establishing a worse one, or one that would be more expensive. He mentioned several cities that had adopted the manager-commission form of government, and said they were all well pleased with it, and never had one gone back to the old system after once establishing it. He explained very plainly the form of government he was endorsing. His plan is to divide the county in 5 districts and let each district elect a commissioner, and then these commissioners would elect, or hire, a manager to look after the county's business and let this manager hire his clerks, the business to be divided into five departments, viz., department of law, department of public service, department of county welfare (which would include the school and the health work), department of public safety and department of record of finances. He said that this would assure that the people would receive one dollar's worth of service for every dollar spent. He said that the present salaries paid officers in the county amounted to more than \$32,000 per year, and declared it was too much to pay officers to manage our county affairs, and said further that the men who did the work in the county offices worked for from \$600 to \$900 per year. He defined his plan as business substituted for politics, and in closing his first speech said that, as many would say, he was expecting something, but that it was not an office for were any office offered him he could not accept it at all as business called him other ways, but that he expected a change that would benefit the tax payers.

Mr. H. E. Stacy of Lumberton was the first to speak in opposition to Mr. McKinnon's plan. Mr. Stacy declared that though the plan had worked in large cities it would never work in a county, as a county and a city was an altogether different thing, that it was taking the power out of the people's hands and placing it in the hands of a "boss," a thing a county like Robeson could never afford to do; that it would be laying aside liberty and independence for which our forefathers fought and died; that Rome had this kind of government and fell. After Mr. Stacy was through Mr. McKinnon made a rejoinder and made another speech equal to his first, after which Mr. Stacy came forth for the second time and brought forth some very strong points against Mr. McKinnon's argument, and a hot debate followed for quite a while. Others who spoke strongly in favor of Mr. McKinnon's plan were Mr. W. K. Culbreth and Mayor A. E. White, Mr.

UNION STATION; FINAL ORDER

After Many Moons Corporation Commission Says Railroads Really and Truly Please Must Maintain Union Station at Lumberton On Or Before September 15 Next—Maybe This is the Last.

It is a long lane that has no turning; there must be an end to every thing mundane, even to delays and backing and filing by the State Corporation Commission in the matter of an order for a union station.

So it is not so surprising that Friday of last week the Corporation Commission made what is said to be its final order in the Lumberton station appeal. Several others had been made but the Commission backed away from each order as fast as either road made a complaint. It is understood that this final-final order meets with the approval of everybody and will stand. Former orders are revoked and the following order is made in lieu thereof (Town Attorney H. E. Stacy has received a copy of the order):

That the present station of the Seaboard Air Line be established as a union station, the Raleigh & Charleston and Virginia & Carolina Southern to use the station jointly with the Seaboard; that the V. & C. S. extend its track to the station and do such grading and graveling on that side of the station as may be necessary to put same in good condition, at its own cost, and that it pay the Seaboard a monthly rental of \$20. The expense of the proper maintenance of the station, other than repairs to the building, shall be borne by the three railroads as follows: Seaboard, 55 per cent; V. & C. S., 25 per cent; Raleigh & Charleston, 20 per cent. The station grounds, other than the part to be graded and gravelled by the V. & C. S., shall be graded and gravelled to such extent as may be necessary to put same in good condition and avoid standing water by the Seaboard and R. & C., the expense to be divided as follows: Seaboard, 75 per cent; R. & C., 27 per cent.

This order shall be complied with on or before September 15, 1914.

JIMMIE PARKER, MIDGET.

An Interesting Visitor On the Fourth. One of the most interesting visitors who attended the Fourth of July celebration here Saturday was Jimmie Parker of Elizabethtown. Jimmie is 53 years old and is only about 40 inches high. He is a great talker and furnished much entertainment for many of the visitors. He said he was over one hundred miles from home (but was mistaken) for the first time ever, and it seemed from his doings that Lumberton was the first town he had ever been in. He thought it was a sight to see a town like Lumberton. The boys gave him the largest cigar that could be found, and kept him eating, drinking and smoking and talking all day.

County Democratic Executive Committee Meets.

The county Democratic executive committee met in the court house today at 11:30, but at 2 o'clock p. m., when they adjourned for dinner, nothing had been passed upon. Most of the time had been taken up in discussing whether or not to hold a primary or a convention. Sentiment seems to be in favor of a primary. The committee is in session again this afternoon. An account of the proceedings will be published in Thursday's Robesonian.

Recorder's Court.

J. M. Stewart and Walter Ivey were before Assistant Recorder E. M. Johnson this morning for being drunk Saturday, and a pistol was found on Stewart. Judgment was suspended on payment of cost in both cases for drunkenness, but Stewart was fined and cost for having the pistol.

Culbreth holding the chair while Mr. White had the floor. Senator G. B. McLeod made a speech against the McKinnon plan. It was a hot debate for more than two hours and good points were brought out on both sides, but it seemed that a number of points were made in favor of the commission plan which no one took occasion to wipe away.

The people listened with intense interest, and many of them expressed themselves as being in favor of the move, and most all seemed to think that something must be done for a change from the way things were now going on in Robeson.

Whether the manager-commission form of government is ever established in Robeson or not, Saturday was a day worth while, and the people heard discussion both for and against the plan that will be good for them. It was good to be here.

Major McKinnon's speech will be published in an early issue of the Robesonian.

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HISTORY OF WALTERS' CASE

Heard By Large Crowd Here Saturday—Told by Dale & Rawls of Columbia, Miss., Walters' Attorneys—How Money, Politics and Social Position Worked to Condemn An Innocent Robesonian In a Distant State—Fight Not Yet Ended.

As had been advertised, Messrs. Dale & Rawls of Columbia, Miss., attorneys who have represented W. C. Walters in the famous Walters-Dunbar kidnaping case since he was arrested during the year 1912, were here Saturday to give the facts in the case, in which a son of Robeson had been arrested, tried and sentenced to life imprisonment, for a crime which the masses of the people are sure he never committed. Mr. Rawls, the first to speak, was introduced by Mr. K. M. Barnes, who was raised in the same community that Walters was raised in.

Mr. Rawls gave a complete history of the case from the time the Dunbar child disappeared on the 23d day of August, 1912. He said that the Dunbar family with one other family, had planned a fishing trip and went to a chain of lakes more than seven miles long, which were filled with alligators and surrounded by forests in which were bears and other dangerous beasts; that the trip was planned without anything being said about it so no one could have had kidnaping planned for this occasion. Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Dunbar, a family that was above the average in wealth, social standing and education, were the parents of the child lost. The families arrived on the bank of the lakes on August 22d and it was when the party assembled for dinner on August 23d that Robert Dunbar was first missed, it having been only about an hour since he had been seen by some of the other children along. Just as soon as it was found that the boy was lost search was begun, but to no avail. Bloodhounds were secured and could not be persuaded to go any other way than to the bank of the lake and out on a log which went out over the lake. Mr. Dunbar gave out the statement that he was sure his child had been drowned, but Mrs. Dunbar still claimed that her Bobbie had been stolen, and a reward of \$6,000 was offered for the return of Bobbie Dunbar to his parents. Nothing was heard of the whereabouts of the Dunbar child until several months after, when W. C. Walters was taken sick and placed in a hospital in New Orleans, leaving Bruce Anderson, the child claimed and held by the Dunbars as their Bobbie, with a family in Mississippi. While Mr. Walters was in the hospital a brother of Mr. Dunbar and another gentleman called at the home at which Bruce Anderson was left to make investigation to see if he was Robert Dunbar, but declared it was not the Dunbar child. After Walters left the hospital people had so much to say to him and asked him so many questions about the child that he treated people a little impolitely, and very often refused to answer their questions, which caused the people to believe him guilty. The mother of Bobbie Dunbar went to the home and stayed with the child now claimed by them as their own, for more than two hours one night and said when she started away that if it was her Bobbie she couldn't tell it, but later she returned and claimed him. Mr. Rawls said he and Mr. Dale had checked Walters ten thousand times and never found him untrue. Just as soon as it was announced that Bobbie Dunbar had been found, 2,000 men formed a mob to wipe Walters off the face of the earth, but still he would not try to get away, saying that he had not done anything, and if they killed him they couldn't eat him; and never did make any effort to get away. After Walters was arrested and placed in jail the jail had to be guarded, and all who knew it was not Bobbie Dunbar were afraid to say so. Mr. Rawls seemed to think that the way it was managed it was more of a political scheme than anything else, and declared that he had no idea of getting a fair trial any of the time. He said that the people of this section of Louisiana were a strange people and that 99.2-3 per cent of them were Catholics, that 11 of the jurymen were Catholics and a Catholic judge heard the case. He declared that he fought the case with his pistol in his hand and that while he was speaking Mr. Dale guarded him and that while Mr. Dale was speaking he guarded him. He said it was the most sensational trial ever held in America, that the howling mob would meet visitors at the trains and ask them if they had any business there, and if they were there to testify for Walters, and if so to get farther, as that was a dangerous climate for them to stop in. He said that he had five-hundred witnesses that would swear Walters was in Mississippi on the date that the Dunbar child disappeared, and that after looking at Julia Anderson and

(Continued on page four.)

MEXICAN ELECTION.

Voting Light—Deemed Unlikely That Plan to Make Lascrain President Would Work Out.

Washington Dispatch, 5th. Washington awaited anxiously tonight for details of the election held today in Mexico to choose a successor to General Huerta. Up to a late hour little had been heard from the election except that it had been held and that the voting was light.

While an early report from Mexico City said it was believed General Huerta had been the favorite in voting for the presidency, the general belief here was that Huerta had not been a candidate and that it was the intention to choose Pedro Lascrain as President.

Reiterations were received today in private dispatches from Mexico City that Huerta, in a final effort to restore peace, intended to turn the Government over to Lascrain, who in turn would name some constitutionalist as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Then Lascrain, according to these reports, would resign, leaving the Constitutionalists to succeed to the presidency. (Huerta would be assigned to a foreign post by Lascrain before the latter's resignation.)

That this plan would work out was deemed unlikely in some sources here, although some Constitutionalists agents were inclined to credit the report that some such scheme would be tried. Luis Cabrera and Rafael Zubarán, General Carranza's chief representatives in Washington, have not abandoned hope that Constitutionalists agents will be authorized to meet Huerta's delegates to the mediation conference.

Rumor of Alliance Between Huerta and Zapata—Crisis Imminent.

It is rumored here that an alliance between provisional President Huerta and Emiliano Zapata, the revolutionary leader will be formed soon. Most Mexicans regard such a combination as inconceivable because of the long enmity Zapata has borne Huerta, who under Madero gave him the hardest fight he ever had. But the report brought here appears to leave little doubt that Huerta has entered into negotiations with the Morelos chief.

Both here and in the Capital the conviction exists that a crisis is imminent.

Mexicans prominent in the political, commercial, and social life of the Capital, have been joining in increasing strength the army of fugitives. Several foreigners other than British have taken the advice of Sir Lionel Carden, the British Minister, to get out of what he regards as dangerous territory.

INDIAN CUTS NEGRO.

Blow On Head With Piece of Iron Fails to Stop Bethel Chavis and He Carves Up Haynes Lennon, Who Struck Him—Neither Seriously Hurt.

Haynes Lennon, colored, and Bethel Chavis, Indian, engaged in a row Saturday afternoon about 6 o'clock at Mr. W. W. Carlyle's sales stables on Sixth street. Lennon threw a rock at Chavis and Chavis opened up his knife and advanced towards Lennon, when Lennon picked up a piece of iron and gave him a blow on the head, but the blow, although severe, didn't stop Chavis and he proceeded to carve Lennon up to some extent.

Three gashes were inflicted on the right leg, one on the right arm. Lennon was taken to the hospital, where he remained till yesterday afternoon, when he was placed in jail. Chavis was placed in jail Saturday afternoon. Their wounds are not very serious. They will be given a hearing in the recorder's court at an early date. Liquor was at the bottom of the trouble.

Superior Court Tomorrow.

A 2-weeks term of Superior Court for the trial of criminal cases will convene tomorrow morning. As stated in Thursday's Robesonian, Judge C. M. Cook of Louisburg, who will preside will not arrive in Lumberton until this evening.

Income Tax From North Carolina.

Washington Cor., 3d, Wilmington Star.

The statement made public tonight by the Treasury Department shows that Commissioner Osborne collected in income tax from corporations in and individuals in North Carolina \$147,339.68 in the fourth collection district from corporations and \$27,363.86 from individuals; and in the fifth district \$159,486.31 from corporations and \$19,202.69 from individuals.

—Mr. R. L. Gregory, who lives on route 6 from Lumberton, was the first to bring in a load of watermelons. He brought in 33 nice ones Friday and sold them out almost before he got into town.

GLORIOUS 4TH CELEBRATED

More Than 5,000 People Gathered in Lumberton to Enjoy the Day—Exhibition by Fire Department and Ball Game—Prizes Awarded.

Although it was a little late before the word was given out that Lumberton would have a great Fourth of July celebration, the celebration held here Saturday was one of the best attended, sanest and most enjoyed that has ever been held here. Early in the morning people began to arrive on carts, wagons, buggies, automobile, walking; and the trains were all loaded when they came in. By 11 a. m. more than five thousand people had gathered together for the purpose of celebrating the Glorious Fourth. The town had been very tastefully decorated for the occasion and everything had the Fourth of July spirit, the kind of spirit it takes to enjoy a rich programme like the one carried out here Saturday.

The first thing on the programme was the address by Major A. J. McKinnon, on the manager commission form of government, followed by a general discussion of the subject both for and against. An account of the speaking will be found elsewhere in today's paper, also an account of the next thing on the program, the addresses of Messrs. Dale & Rawls of Columbia, Miss., the attorneys who appeared for W. C. Walters in the famous Walters-Dunbar kidnaping case.

The exhibition by Lumberton's fire department was carried out in a way that reflected much credit to each member of the company. A large pile of old lumber and other junk had been piled up on the vacant lot near the Seaboard station and was set on fire. When the alarm was turned in it was only a bit of time before Lumberton's new fire truck came down Elm street at the rate of 48 miles per hour, and the hose wagon pulled by two large horses owned by the town, and driven by Chief of Police H. H. Redfern, was in close pursuit of the truck.

The following won prizes: Largest family, \$5—Hardy; tallest man, \$2.50, Eli Britt; heaviest woman, \$2.50, Mrs. Israel (weight 205); foot race, \$5, Ed Pope; bag race, \$2.50, Walter Scott; bicycle race, \$5—McNeill; largest stalk of corn, \$2.50, D. B. Humphrey; largest stalk of tobacco, \$2.50, Lee Britt; largest stalk cotton, \$2.50, Marvin Bullard.

Strangely enough, the judges failed to get the initials or given names of all the prize winners, which makes the report most incomplete and unsatisfactory.

In the afternoon at 4 o'clock a game of ball between the Lumberton and Fairmont teams was pulled off. The game was a hotly contested one and was witnessed by a large crowd. The score was 16 to 8 in favor of the Lumberton team. This was the third of a series of three games played with the Fairmont team, the Lumberton team winning each game. It had been advertised that the A. C. L. team from Wilmington would play the Lumberton boys, but they failed to comply with the expectation. However, the game was a live one and caused much enthusiasm.

As a whole Saturday was a good day for the large crowd that gathered here to celebrate, and no mishaps of any kind occurred to mar the success of the day. Everything went off just like clock work.

This was the second annual Fourth of July Celebration, and now is the time to begin to plan to make next Fourth of July a big day for Robeson county and Lumberton.

Much credit for the success of the celebration is due Mr. J. R. Prevatt, who worked hard preparing for the day and was general master of ceremonies during the days.

Some Stalk of Corn.

The stalk of corn belonging to Rev. D. B. Humphrey of Saddle Tree, which won the prize for being the largest stalk on exhibition here Saturday, was some stalk. It measured 6 long inches around and some of the blades were just a fraction over 6 inches broad. While it was not the tallest stalk on exhibition, it was by far the largest.

—Mrs. B. W. Page returned last Wednesday evening from Raleigh, where Tuesday evening she attended the marriage of Miss Ludie Marshall and Mr. William Wyatt.

—Invitations are being sent out to the marriage of Miss Ethel Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Q. T. Williams, on Wednesday evening, July 15, at 8:30 o'clock, to Mr. Junius A. Coley of St. Pauls. The wedding will take place in the First Baptist church.

Headache and Nervousness Cured.

"Chamberlain's Tablets are entitled to all the praise I can give them," writes Mrs. Richard Olp, Spencerport, N. Y. "They have cured me of headache and nervousness and restored me to my normal health." For sale by all dealers.

BRIEF LOCAL NEWS ITEMS.

—The Lumberton baseball team play Raeford, at Raeford, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

—Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. Barnes, at their home in East Lumberton on the 27th ult., a 12-pound boy.

—The regular monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday evening of this week at the court house.

—Mr. Woodberry Lennon of Lumberton delivered the Fourth of July address at a celebration at Bladenboro Saturday.

—Mr. W. P. Barker returned last week from a trip through North Robeson and Hoke county. He reports fine crops on all his route.

—Mr. T. L. Bissell of Broad Ridge brought some mighty nice cantaloupes to town for sale this morning. They brought a handsome price.

—A special meeting of K. of P. will be held in the castle hall tonight, beginning at 8:30. Degree work. All members are requested to be present.

—John, 7-months-old child of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Bissell, who live on route 1 from Orrum, died Saturday morning after being sick with cholera morbus for several days.

—Mr. D. R. Rhodes, who lives at Bloomingdale, is among the visitors in town today. Mr. Rhodes reports crops good in his section, but says something is stinging the cotton forms and causing them to fall off badly.

—Mr. Frank Gough left yesterday for Morehead City, where he goes to attend a meeting of the directors of the Atlantic North Carolina Ry. Co. Mr. Gough was appointed a director of this road, which is owned by the State, about a year ago.

—Mr. J. K. Wilkerson, who lives on route 3 from Lumberton, 5 miles from town, and who was among the visitors in town Saturday, says that, speaking of folk having ripe tomatoes he has plenty of milk and peaches every day. Yum-yum.

—Mr. W. H. McCallum of Rowland was a Lumberton visitor Saturday. This was Mr. McCallum's first visit to Lumberton in three or four years and he says he never saw such a change in his life—paved streets, new buildings and other signs of progress.

—Mr. W. J. DuBois took the members of his Sunday school class—Chestnut Street Methodist—on a picnic to the High Hills Thursday and the crowd got drenched to the skin when it came on to rain about noon, but they had a mighty good time, all the same.

—Mr. D. A. Calder and sons, Messrs. H. A. and A. B. and Master D. Mack, who live on rural route No. 1 from Rowland, were among the visitors in town Saturday. Mr. Calder makes the same report that others make from all over the county; that is, that the crop prospects are the best he has ever seen.

—Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Varner, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lawrence, ex-Judge T. A. McNeill, Messrs. A. W. McLean, T. L. Johnson, T. A. McNeill, Jr., W. S. Britt and W. Lennon, who attended the convention of the North Carolina Bar Association at Brightsville Beach last week, returned home the latter part of the week.

—Mr. Jno. S. McDonald, manager of the McDonald Drug Co., left yesterday for Bryson City, where he will spend two weeks visiting relatives. While he is away Mr. E. G. Robertson a registered pharmacist of Mount Airy, will have charge of the prescription department at the drug store of which Mr. McDonald is manager.

—Mr. C. B. Meares, who lives in North Lumberton, says that yesterday after he finished eating dinner and came out on the porch he found a coachwhip snake about 6 feet long lying up on the floor resting. A hoe was secured and the snake was given a whack which claimed about one foot of the rear end, but the other five feet went their way and have not been seen since.

—Master McMillan Fisher, one of the Robesonian's bright carrier boys, is laid up at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. L. R. Breec, East Fourth street, with a lame foot into which he had the misfortune of sticking a nail the other day. It is hoped that he will be able to get out in a day or so. McMillan's brother Master Breec is doing double duty delivering Robesonians while he is laid off.

—At the annual convention of the North Carolina Rural Letter Carriers' Association at Burlington Friday and Saturday, Mr. C. H. Howard of St. Paul responded to the address of welcome and was elected one of the six delegates to the National convention. Mr. Howard made a talk at the convention on "How our Association can help the Department in making the rural delivery service the greatest branch of the Postoffice Department."