

# Robeson County Schools Commencement in Lumberton April 9th.

## THE ROBESONIAN

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### ROBESON COUNTY SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

Greatest Educational Rally in History of Robeson County to be Held in Lumberton Friday of This Week—Parade, Spelling Contests, Delivery of Diplomas, Speaking, Athletic Contests, Two Bands—Pres. Poteat

Weather permitting, Lumberton and Robeson county at large are to witness their greatest educational rally in the form of a County Commencement, Friday, April 9th. The county superintendent and the various committees assigned to aid him in the work have had their hands full for the past two weeks and everything is now just about ready, there being a few details of course that cannot be completed until nearer the day.

The programme decided upon is found below and those who arranged it are to be credited for the nature and variety of the entertainment and instruction it will furnish for the big crowd which will be here on the 9th.

It would be unfair to call any single number on the programme a feature, without stating that each is a feature in itself. The parade, the spelling contests, the delivery of the diplomas, the speaking, the athletic contests and the bands—each event will claim its own following and most will be seen and heard by all.

The Grand Educational Parade will form at the graded school building at 11 o'clock in the following order: led by chief marshals, mounted; they will be followed by the Parkton Concert Band, immediately behind the band will come the county Board of Education and the School Committee of the county. This in itself will be a feature of the occasion, for while everybody ought to know it, few people ever stop to think that in Robeson county there are seventy-five white school districts, and that directing the affairs of these schools, there are some two hundred and fifty of Robeson's best men of citizenship. These are the men who have sacrificed their own time and interests and personal means to further the educational interests of the county to help assure the future of the children. Without any flare of trumpets, they have quietly gone ahead, co-operating with the county superintendent and the county Board of Education in their efforts to increase the efficiency of the schools and Robeson's splendid school system is the result of their united effort. This is the first chance the people have ever had to view these men in a body and no patriotic citizen should miss the opportunity.

Following the committee, will come the school children of Robeson, led by the children of the Lumberton Graded School. Every teacher in every school has been requested to be present and to spare no energy in training the children to march. There will be a place in the parade for every school child of Robeson county and it is hoped that every one will be in his place. The appearance of the parade will be enhanced by specially ordered banners and pennants which many of the schools have provided for the occasion. Immediately behind the school children will come the Robeson County Boys' Corn Club, one hundred strong. Each member of the club has been sent a personal letter and something novel in the way of regalia is to be expected in this portion of the parade. The parade will end as it began—with a band, the Bladenboro Band. For those who have never had the opportunity of hearing this band, let it be said that it is well trained, well equipped and will do its full share of honors for the occasion. The Parkton Band needs no introduction to a Robesonian.

The parade will end at the court house, where the spelling contests will be conducted by Rev. C. L. Greaves, pastor of the First Baptist church of Lumberton, and a cash prize will be awarded to the winner in each contest.

As was announced several weeks ago, examination questions were sent by Superintendent Poole to every school in the county. All children completing the seventh-grade work this year were to take the examination, their papers to be graded and sent to the superintendent's office, where diplomas were to be issued. Nearly two hundred successful applicants have been reported so far and more are expected. Each of these will be awarded a handsome diploma, fifteen by sixteen inches, certifying that the pupil has honorably completed the work prescribed for the first seven grades of the public schools of the county. Each diploma will bear the seal and signatures of the county Board of Education, the signatures of the county superintendent and the teacher of the school where the pupil attended. The diplomas will be delivered by County Superintendent J. R. Poole and Mr. Lucius McRae, chairman of the county Board of Education.

Dr. W. L. Poteat, president of Wake Forest College, will deliver the address of the occasion. He will be

introduced by Mr. T. L. Johnson. One of the leading features of the County Commencement will be the school exhibits, which will be on display at the court house. These will consist of all kinds of work done by the pupils in the various schools of the county, such as specimens of letter-writing, compositions, maps, analyses in arithmetic, drawings, paintings and other work done by the little folks. Each specimen will show the name of the child, his age and his grade in the school. Above each exhibit will be shown the name of the school from whence it came.

The athletic contests in the afternoon will claim the attention of old and young alike. One hundred, two hundred and twenty and four hundred and forty yard dashes, open to one contestant from each school, a cash prize of \$2.50 to the winner of each; jumping contests, \$2.50 to the winner in each; two potato races, same prizes; and a relay race.

This is by no means the first thing of its kind Robeson county has ever attempted, but it is by far on a bigger scale than anything ever before tried here. As a celebration of the educational progress of the county, it is the duty of every patriotic citizen to lend his encouragement and moral support by his presence.

PROGRAMME OF COUNTY COMMENCEMENT  
Lumberton April 9.  
11 A. M.  
Parade of school children from graded school building to station, thence to court house.  
Prayer—Rev. W. B. North.  
Selection—Band.  
Primary and High School Spelling Contests—conducted by Rev. C. L. Greaves.  
12 M.  
Address—Dr. W. L. Poteat, Pres. Wake Forest College, introduced by Mr. T. L. Johnson.  
Music.  
Presentation of Diplomas—by Supt. J. R. Poole and Mr. Lucius McRae, Chm. County Board Education.  
Recess.  
2:30 P. M.  
Athletic contests:  
100-yard dash.  
220-yard dash.  
440-yard dash.  
Running broad jump.  
Running high jump.  
Standing broad jump.  
Potato race (girls).  
Potato race (boys).  
Relay race.

Marshals for County Commencement.  
R. E. Sentelle, K. K. Bethune, chief marshals.  
Marshals appointed by chiefs: A. E. Spivey, Zeph Lytton, A. H. Hartley, L. McK. Parker, J. M. McCallum, Herbert Singleton, Jno. French, J. B. Reynolds, J. A. Barker, W. Prevatt, Geo. W. Thorndyke, A. V. G. Wishart, Colin H. Phillips, E. L. Hamilton, I. S. McManus, J. W. Currie, Guy Townsend, C. V. Brown, W. G. Pitman.  
Marshals appointed by schools: Lawrence Baie, Douglas Barnes, Phillip Smith, Foster Currie, Dennis Parrell, C. J. Biggs, S. H. Dunlap, H. F. Purvis, Sam Paul, Lindsay Norment, J. D. Andrews, Sebastian Pitman, D. H. McCall, R. T. Cobb, G. W. Williamson, Z. T. McMillan, C. M. Bryan.

Mr. Sentelle is superintendent of the Lumberton graded schools and will have to go to Chapel Hill Thursday with the Lumberton boys who will be in the debates there this week and Mr. B. J. Bowen, assistant to the county superintendent of public instruction, will take his place as chief marshal.  
Each marshal is requested to be present at the graded school building at 10:30, mounted and ready to proceed in directing that part of the parade that will be assigned to him.

BRING DINNER TO COUNTY COMMENCEMENT  
Every one attending the county commencement here Friday will be expected to make personal arrangement about lunch. It has been circulated in some parts of the county that there would be a picnic dinner here on that day but this is not true. It would be impracticable to attempt to spread a picnic dinner for the immense crowd expected here on the 9th.

Meeting of Executive Committee of Farmers' Union.  
The executive committee of the Robeson Division of the Farmers' Union is requested to meet in the court house in Lumberton Wednesday of this week. The committee is composed of Messrs. W. S. Johnson, W. A. Bullock, N. A. Townsend, E. K. Bass and W. K. Culbreth.

### LIGHT QUESTION DISCUSSED

President of Yadkin River Power Co. Addresses Mass Meeting of Citizens—Claims Many Advantages for Town in Accepting Proposition of His Company—Many Small Industries Would be Attracted to Town—Another Mass Meeting Tomorrow Night.

The mass meeting in the court house Thursday evening was attended by a good many of the citizens of the town. As stated in the Robesonian, this meeting was held for the purpose of securing information on what the Yadkin River Power Co. proposes to do if Lumberton sells its light plant to it. Col. Chas. E. Johnson, president, and Mr. C. N. Rackliffe, manager of the power department, of the Yadkin River Power Co., were both present and brought out many points on the subject that the people have been wanting information on.

Mayor A. E. White introduced Col. Johnson in a very impressive way. He said that he and the town board, when the proposition of the Yadkin River Power Co. was submitted to purchase the town's light plant for \$15,000, the town to give a 60-year franchise to do business in Lumberton and a 10-year contract for lighting the streets, decided that the best thing to do was to place before the voters of the town all the information possible in order to aid them in arriving at an intelligent opinion; that it was a business question, absolutely, into which politics should not enter, and for that reason Col. Johnson and Mr. Rackliffe had been invited to attend the meeting and explain the proposition.

Col. Johnson is a man whose face and manner inspires confidence. He spoke simply, in a straightforward manner. The Yadkin River Power Co. wants to come to Lumberton, said Col. Johnson, if they can have the co-operation of the people. If they come they expect to do all they can for the good of the town and be good citizens. They will bring all the enterprises they can here. If the people are willing for them to come here as citizens and will co-operate with them they want to come, otherwise they do not.

The Yadkin River Power Co. will pay the town \$15,000 for its plant as it now stands. Col. Johnson said that this was more than the plant was worth and more than they wanted to give, but as they had their lines extended here they were willing to do it. All the bulbs and electric fans will have to be changed. The Yadkin River Power Co. will bear this expense, which will be about \$2500. It will cost the company about \$17,000 in addition to the \$15,000 for the plant, to get ready to furnish electricity here. They must have a 10-year contract to secure the above expense. It would not pay them to come under a shorter-term contract.

They have a uniform rate; the rate here will be the same it is in Raleigh, Goldsboro or any other cities where they have contracts. Their minimum will be \$1 per month, where the minimum here now is \$1.50. This will mean a saving of \$1,000 per year by the citizens here, according to estimates made by experts of the power company.

They will also light the streets more efficiently than they are now being lighted, covering 31 per cent more territory than is now being covered, at about \$1,000 less than the present cost. The 31 per cent additional territory will be made possible by arranging the lights in a better way. This also includes the "white way" stands at present being operated and those that are being put up around the court house.

Some of the people here have been in doubt as to whether or not they would be without current any of the time while the Yadkin River Power Co. was installing its new plant. Col. Johnson says there will be no interruption in the service. The lights will be cut in in the day time and the town plant will be operated until the power company is ready to take over all lights.

It has been suggested that if the power plant here was removed to a site on the Seaboard railroad that it could be operated at about \$750 per year cheaper than it is now. A new plant on a new site would cost the town \$23,000 and the town would not have any more available current than it has now. If the town sells to the Yadkin River Power Co. it will have \$15,000 to retire bonds and if it moves to the railroad site it will incur an additional debt of about \$22,000.

All the towns and cities that they have entered in North Carolina, Col. Johnson said, have given them a 60-year franchise and a 10-year contract and it has given entire satisfaction. They do not want an exclusive franchise and would not have it if the town would give it. Col. Johnson said that there was a town in South Carolina that wanted to give them an exclusive franchise but they would not accept it. All they ask is permission to do business here for a period of 60 years.

Col. Johnson brought out many points as to what the Yadkin River

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### SPECIAL SCHOOL TAX VOTED

District No. 5, Howellsville Township, Votes Special Tax of 30 Cents on Property and 90 Cents on Poll—Special Tax Advocates Not Fazed by Bad Weather Saturday.

School district No. 5, Howellsville township—the Tabernacle school—voted Saturday a special tax of 30 cents on the hundred dollars worth of property and 90 cents on the poll. Fifty-six voters were registered and 30 votes were cast in favor of the special tax, 12 against. Mr. Isham Karlaw, who was registrar and who brought The Robesonian, this information this morning, is justly proud of the vote cast on a day of rough weather like Saturday. It shows that the people of that district are determined to have good schools and keep up with the procession. The election was held at the school building. This brings the number of special tax districts in the county to 63, and in the 63 districts there are about 90 schools.

### CLEAN-UP WEEK NO. 2.

Weather Interfered Last Week and Work Will be Continued This Week—Lend a Hand.

Owing to weather conditions last week, clean up week, not much work was done along the line of cleaning up. Mayor White says the work will be continued this week and extra wagons will be kept on the streets for the purpose of removing all rubbish and trash that may be piled up. He urges all citizens of the town to co-operate in this move and by so doing make Lumberton a healthier, cleaner and more attractive place in which to live.

Remember, this is clean-up week No. 2, and if you have not given your premises a thorough cleansing get busy and do so at once.

### CITIZENS MEETING

Mayor White Calls Meeting to be Held Tomorrow Night to Discuss Proposed Sale of Municipal Light Plant.

There will be a citizens' meeting held in the court house Tuesday night, April 6, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of general discussion of our electric light proposition. This is an important matter and every citizen, whether in favor of or opposed to a sale of the electric light plant, should come out and express himself on this question.

A. E. WHITE, Mayor.

### Quart-Limit Supply Stolen—Booze Shipped Back.

Ten Lumberton people were short their lone Easter quart yesterday because of the fact that the A. C. L. train was too late to make connection with the V. & C. S. at Hope Mills Saturday afternoon and the express for Lumberton had to lie over at Hope Mills Saturday night and during the night robbers broke into the express office and stole quite a bit of stuff, including the 10 quarts mentioned.

At the close of business at the express office Wednesday night there were five packages of whiskey, three 1-gallon and two half-gallon, that had not been called for. According to the new two-quarts-per-month law, which went into effect April 1, this could not be delivered, so it was returned to the shipper by the next express. Quite a bit of the "stuff" was received during the last few days before the law went into effect.

### Superior Court.

Quite a number of cases were cleared off the docket during the first week of the two-weeks' term of civil court which convened Monday of last week. However, most of them were disposed of without jury trial. Only two jury trials have been heard since the report of the proceedings published in Thursday's paper were written. These were: W. W. Goins vs. Indian Normal school, verdict for plaintiff; McKinnon Currie Co. vs. Fannie Caulk, verdict for defendant. It is expected that court will last through this week.

### Parkton Band Concert at St. Pauls April 8.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.  
Parkton, April 5—The concert that was to have been given at St. Pauls on last Thursday night by the Parkton concert band was postponed on account of snow and cold weather and will be given at that place Thursday night of this week, April 8th. Everybody should hear and see this concert.

Mr. J. P. McNeill is having some improvements made in the second and third floors of his large store building on Elm street. Windows have been cut giving out the stairway, one in the office of Dr. J. D. Regan on the second floor and one in the hall used by the Royal Arch Masons on the third floor. The third floor of this 110-foot building is admirably arranged to meet the needs of fraternal orders. There are several separate regalia rooms and in the rear is a large dining hall suitable for banqueting.

### LUMBERTON SCHOOL AT TOP

Only One Other School in State Has Won Remarkable Honor of Being Represented in Chapel Hill Debate Each of 3 Years—60 High Schools in Finals.

Chapel Hill Dispatch, 2d.  
Complete reports from the high school triangular debating teams show that 60 high schools from every part of the State will be eligible to come to Chapel Hill to compete in the final, April 9. The first year of the debating union saw 16 schools in the finals here, and last year 41. As there are 250 high schools in the union this year as against 150 last year, the increased number qualifying for the final is about normal.

The schools officially reported as having won both sides of the triangle and therefore eligible for the final are: Raleigh, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Henderson, Statesville, Lumberton, Holly Springs, Derita, Rich Square, Mason's Cross, Belmont, Lowell, Tarboro, Pinnacle, Lowe's Grove, Angier, Ruffin, Jamestown, Louisburg, Battleboro, Waynesville, Clinton, Reynolds, Atkinson, Rebo, Elise, Webster, Cool Spring, Gibson, Orrum, Unionville, Mt. Pleasant, Elkin, Mapleville, Bessemer, Hillsboro, Whiteville, Balk Creek, Taylorsville, Christ School, Atlantic, Polkton, Middlesex, Franklin, Yadkin College, Jefferson, I. O. O. F. Orphanage, Silvan, Falling Creek, Kittrell, Killiams Academy, Manteo.

This is the first year that the triangular composed of Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro is represented. For the first time the Durham-Wilmington-Goldsboro group has failed to be represented.

To Lumberton and Holly Springs go the remarkable honor of being the only two schools to be represented each of the three years. Both of these places triumphed over their opponents again and will come to Chapel Hill on their third pilgrimage. Winston-Salem, winner of the cup last year, has the sole distinction of returning identically the same team as last year. Manteo, last year represented by four young ladies, will again send two teams composed wholly of girls.

### LONG BRANCH LOCALS

Broad Ridge Commencement—Missionary Day—Cat Adopts Young Rabbits.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.  
Long Branch, (Lumberton R. 4), March 31—This morning a beautiful snow has fallen. It looks now like the farmers will have to replant corn after this. It is something unusual for it to snow this time of the year here.

The writer enjoyed the commencement exercises of the Broad Ridge school Friday of last week. The teachers are indeed worthy of all praise given them.

A large crowd attended the missionary day at Long Branch Sunday school Sunday. The collection amounted to \$6.53. I fear we don't realize as we should the necessity of spreading the Gospel to every nation. Mr. Gough's address was fine.

Mr. G. E. Thompson of Lumberton spent Sunday afternoon here.

Miss Jennie Ivey of Orrum spent a while Sunday afternoon with Misses Henrietta and Evelyn Ammons.

Yesterday while plowing Mr. W. M. Baxley plowed up some little rabbits and brought them to the house for the cat and threw them down in the yard and called the cat to eat them. The cat didn't seem to be very hungry and took them into the house and has cared for them ever since. The cat seems very foolish over them and in all probability they will be raised.

### Town Primary—Candidates.

Interest in the town primary to be held on the 27th inst, may be expected to wax warmer and warmer after the light plant question is settled on the 8th. There is no lack of interest now. Mayor White is in the race to succeed himself in the office which he has filled with signal ability and with credit to the town for a number of terms. Chief of Police H. H. Redfearn has formally announced through The Robesonian that he is a candidate to succeed himself in the office the duties of which he has discharged faithfully and well for the past 4 years. Mr. D. P. Walters formally announced his candidacy for this office today. This brings the number of candidates for this office of chief of police to 5. Messrs. P. P. Greene, Elmer A. McNeill, and W. J. Britt having previously announced their candidacy.

Messrs. L. T. Townsend, Geo. L. Thompson and S. H. Hamilton, whose terms expire as town commissioners, have stated that they would not be candidates for re-election. Mr. I. E. Bullard is the only candidate for this office who has come forward so far. Other candidates for this office, also for school trustees and members of board of audit and finance no doubt will be put forward by their friends soon.

Good middling cotton is quoted at 9 cents per pound on the local market today. Middling basis, 8 5-8 cents.

### BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

Regular communication of St. Alban's Lodge No. 114, A. F. & A. M., tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock. Work in third degree.

The closing exercises of Mt. Zion public school will be held tonight, after having been postponed twice on account of snow.

The Lumber Research Club will meet with Mrs. I. R. Varner Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock at her home on East Fifth street.

The three local banks will take a day off Friday on account of the county commencement. They are closed today on account of Easter.

Miss Mayce Glasgow of the Lumberton graded school faculty acted as one of the judges at Scotland county commencement at Laurinburg Friday.

A superb feature at the Star theatre Wednesday of last week was Julius Caesar in six reels of motion pictures. "Brewster's Millions" was an enjoyable feature at the Pastime Friday.

Mr. David H. Fuller, a student of the law school at Trinity College, arrived Thursday night of last week and will spend several days visiting home folks. Mr. Fuller will graduate this year.

A marriage of interest to many Robesonian readers will take place next month, on the 6th, when Mr. S. J. Kirby, principal of the farm-life school at Philadelphus will wed a Miss Cobb in Clinton.

License has been issued for the marriage of the following: J. K. Davis, Jr., and Bertie Davis; J. C. Jordan and Jessie Johnson; A. F. Jones and Annie May Outlaw; J. W. Jones and Claudie L. Beard.

The Robeson County Medical Society will hold a quarterly meeting here Wednesday of this week. Dr. A. J. Crowell, a leading physician of Charlotte, will address the society. All members are urged to be present.

A first Monday. The county commissioners and the board of education are holding their regular monthly meetings today. Superior Court is in session, and many people are in town from all parts of the county.

Mr. L. E. Blanchard, county farm demonstrator, left last night for Washington to attend a wedding in Government circles. He has letters of introduction to officials of the Agricultural Department upon whom he will call while in Washington.

Sarah Floyd, aged about 60 years, a highly respected colored woman, died at her home across the river from town yesterday at noon. She was stricken with paralysis just a week before and had not spoken, eaten or drunk anything since that time.

Mr. Joe Newman, manager of Cortee's 5, 10 and 25 cent store, is having the store decorated in colors representing the school colors of the various schools in the county, making preparation for the large crowd that is expected here Friday of this week.

Capt. and Mrs. A. B. Small gathered up this morning, at their home on the corner of Pine and First streets, harvest of two weeks from 30 industrious Rhode Island Red hens; between 20 and 25 dozen eggs. Capt. and Mrs. Small ought by all means to join the poultry association.

Mr. W. H. Lamb of Long Branch is among the visitors in town today. Mr. Lamb asked The Robesonian to say that the Long Branch Local of the Farmers' Union, which was recently re-organized, will meet Saturday night of this week at 7 o'clock. All old members can join by paying their dues for the year, which is only \$1.

It was stated in The Robesonian of the 25th ult., that Mr. James A. Carroll would go the following day to Fayetteville to make his home with his nephew Mr. Willie Carroll. The name should have been given Mr. Samuel Willard Carroll instead of "Willie." Mr. Jas. Carroll did not go to Fayetteville until a week ago today.

Mr. Stephen Lawson, who lives near Orrum, is one of Robeson's farmers who believes in raising plenty of hog and hominy at home. He brought a nice lot of hams to town one day last week and sat them down inside of Mr. C. M. Fuller's sales stable while he tried around to see what he would be offered for them. While Mr. Fuller and the others who work about the stables were gone to dinner somebody went and hid away with it.

Mr. A. L. Stone of the Long Branch section, rural route No. 4 from Lumberton, brought the editor this morning a present that is highly appreciated, some of the finest Nancy Hill sweet potatoes he has ever seen. They attracted the admiring comment of visitors to The Robesonian office this morning but they are not on exhibition in this office any more; they are going to help get out the next issue of this album of song and compendium of useful information.