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ROBESON COUNTY OUT OF DEBT

For First Time in Many Years County Owes Nothing Except Bonds Which Sinking Fund Will Take Care of When Due—County in Fine Shape Financially—This Ought to Hold Wild Political Talkers for a Spell

For the first time in many years Robeson county is out of debt. County Auditor J. M. McCallum says that every note held against the county of Robeson has been paid.

Of course the \$75,000 in bonds issued during the years of 1907-1909 for the purpose of building a court house and jail have not been paid. They are not due until 1937 and 1939. However, up to this time the amount already collected for sinking fund to pay these bonds, would reduce them to less than \$55,000. The 3 cents levied for this purpose will easily pay off the bonds by the time of their maturity.

Mr. McCallum says when he was appointed county auditor during the month of June in the year 1913 the county owed \$28,000 for borrowed money for general county purposes and roads combined. This has all been paid and there is plenty of money in the county treasury now to pay all expenses of the county chain gangs until June 1, 1916. It has been the case for many years that several thousand dollars had to be borrowed to finance the county before that time of the year.

Mr. McCallum says under the present road system he does not know the

township road trustees at the present time as they are required to report only twice a year and they are allowed to borrow money themselves for road purposes. However, as a whole he is sure there is enough road money in the treasury to pay off all the indebtedness of the townships, were it appropriated for that purpose. The total amount of road fund on hand is \$6,569.07.

Some have been telling—for political purposes—that the county was \$100,000 in debt. This is not true, says Auditor McCallum. The only thing the county owes is the bonds, and they would not now amount to more than about \$50,000 if the sinking fund were applied to them.

This statement from Auditor McCallum, who is in position to know, ought to stop the political argument that the county is all tied up in debt and getting worse. The fact is, the county is in fine shape financially.

MEET IN LUMBERTON MARCH 25

Robeson County High School Teachers Association

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

There will be a meeting of the Robeson County High School Teachers' Association in the Lumberton graded school building at 11 a. m. Saturday, March 25. The morning session will be devoted to a discussion of "The Discipline of the School as a Whole", and the afternoon session to discussions of "Methods of Teaching the Different High School Subjects".

Following the program, there will be a business meeting of the association at which time officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

The members of the senior class of the Lumberton high school will serve dinner to all who attend. Each member of the association is urged to be present and to come prepared to both ask and answer questions on the topics to be considered.

Sec. of High School Association.

AIR RAID OVER ENGLAND

Nine Persons Killed and 31 Injured in Raid of German Seaplanes Over East Coast

London Dispatch, March 19. Nine persons were killed and 31 injured in a raid of four German seaplanes over the east coast of Kent today it was officially announced tonight. A British airman brought down one raider over the sea, the German observer being killed. The official statement on the raid states:

"As far as ascertained 48 bombs were dropped altogether. One bomb fell on the Canadian hospital at Ramsgate, causing damage but no casualties. No material damage was done. Several houses, the homes of artisans, and cottages were wrecked."

The Wicked Flee When No Man Pursues

Recently an order was passed by the board of town commissioners whereby all who fail to pay their light and water bills for the previous month be cut off after the 15th of the following month. Tuesday afternoon the water was cut off for the purpose of perfecting a job in connection with putting in the filter plant being installed by the town. Many who failed to read the notice in Monday's Robesonian to the effect that the water would be cut off and who had the idea that it was the 15th, while it was only the 14th, called on Town Clerk and Treasurer I. B. Townsend and proceeded to give him a "talking" for cutting them off the line. Those who read Monday's Robesonian closely were saved all that trouble. Better read The Robesonian and keep posted on what is going on.

VILLA FLEES TO OWN COUNTRY

He May Evade Capture Indefinitely—Mexican Scouts Who Know Hiding Places of Bandits May Be Employed to Capture Him

Washington Dispatch, March 19.

Villa, fleeing with his outlaw followers before the advance of the American expeditionary forces in Mexico, has reached his own country in the Guerrero district, where high officers of the army said tonight he may evade capture almost indefinitely. If the bandit chieftain makes a stand Washington is satisfied that the campaign will quickly end. But if he is desirous of military authorities agree he can reach a haven of safety in the nearby mountains in less than a day of riding.

The War Department is anxiously awaiting word that contact has been established with the bandits and in the absence of official information as to the whereabouts of the outlaws, press dispatches passed by the military censor with the expeditionary forces were accepted as reliable. Administration officials were deeply concerned over the report that Villa had raided American colonies, killing the residents.

In the Guerrero district and in the country adjacent to Babicora, Villa is at home and if hard pressed officials believe he might abandon his men, don the garb of a peon and flee so far into the south that it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to apprehend him.

To meet this situation, General Villa was learned tonight, has authority to employ trusted Mexican and other scouts who know the hiding places and the retreats to which the bandits are sure to take refuge if hard pressed. Upon them may fall the task of trailing Villa to earth.

Got Stuck in Big Swamp Near Smith's Bridge

Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Parker returned Thursday from Wilmington, where they spent several days. They made the trip in Dr. Parker's auto. Being they went by way of Boardman and Chadbourne and found the road that way fairly good. Returning, Dr. Parker took the advice of the wrong man and tried to come by way of Clarkton and Elizabethtown. After a terrible experience with bad roads they made their way to the Big swamp near Smith's bridge, the dividing line between Madison and Robeson. There they got stuck and couldn't come any nearer home. After a long worry and much burning of high-priced gasoline, Dr. Parker managed to back out and try another road. Dr. Parker, like many others, thinks that Smith's crossing needs attention.

Woman Killed and Many Persons Injured in Railway Wreck Near Greensboro

Greensboro Dispatch, March 19.

Southern passenger train No. 43 was wrecked at Jamestown, 10 miles south of this city, at a few minutes before 8 o'clock tonight. One woman was dead at midnight and other passengers of the train were reported in serious condition. A list of 13 persons who were of the worst hurt was available earlier. The other less injured were numerous. The passenger was crushed by derailed freight cars of regular freight train No. 74, which was speeding northward on a parallel track. The passenger was pulling away from the station, hardly having gained motion.

The dead: Mrs. M. S. Hiatt, of High Point, wife a rural mail carrier.

Tourists Find Canoe Trip Down Lumber River Fascinating

A party of four, three men and one woman, from the State of New York arrived here yesterday from Pine Bluff, Moore county. They made the trip down Lumber river in two large row boats. They said they intended stopping at Maxton, but they found the trip so much more interesting and the scenery so much more beautiful than they expected they came on to Lumberton. They shipped the boats back to Pine Bluff, where the party is spending the winter. The party left by rail.

Garden Seed Ready for Distribution

The garden seed Senator F. M. Simmons promised to send The Robesonian for free distribution among its subscribers have arrived. You can either call in person and get them or if you desire The Robesonian will mail them. Just make your wants known.

Democratic Rally April 14

At an informal gathering of a few prominent Democrats from various sections of the county just before The Robesonian went to press this afternoon it was decided to have a Democratic rally in Lumberton on April 14. Further notice of this meeting will be given in later issues.

Box Supper at Orrum Tuesday Night

There will be a box supper at the Orrum school house tomorrow night. After the box supper, either fruit or oysters will be served. The proceeds will be used for the benefit of the school. The public is invited.

Mr. A. R. McEachern of St. Paul is a Lumberton visitor today.

CHURCH NEWS NOTES

Illustrated Lecture at Methodist This Evening

Rev. I. W. Redlin, field secretary of the Epworth League of the North Carolina Conference, will give an illustrated lecture on African mission work at Chestnut Street Methodist church this evening at 8 o'clock. There will be no charge for admission and no doubt those who hear Mr. Redlin will be richly paid, as he is a most interesting and forceful speaker. The public is invited.

Fairmont Messenger, 17th: The people of the Baptist church are expecting their new pastor to be here next Sunday.

Rev. R. E. Sentele, superintendent of the Lumberton graded school, preached Saturday and yesterday at Great Marsh Baptist church, near St. Paul. This church and three others comprised in a group—St. Paul, Ten Mile and Tolarsville—are looking for a pastor to succeed Rev. J. A. Snow, who resigned to accept work in another field recently.

The mission study class of Chestnut Street Methodist church will meet at the parsonage tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Mrs. R. D. Caldwell left this morning for Winston-Salem to attend the State meeting of the Baptist Women's Missionary Union. Mrs. Lizzie G. Proctor and Miss Mattie Lee Pittman will leave tomorrow morning to attend the meeting. Mrs. Chas. L. Greaves and small daughter, Max, will go today for Sanford to visit relatives. Mrs. Greaves will go on to Winston-Salem to attend the meeting, which will open tomorrow and close Thursday.

Autos Collide—Damage Not Serious

An automobile collision occurred at the corner of Elm and Fourth streets late Friday afternoon, when a large Hudson Six, driven by Murphy Jacobs, colored, of Fairmont, collided with a Ford belonging to Mr. R. R. Flowers of Pages Mill, S. C. The Ford was being driven by Mr. Ishmael Flowers, son of the owner. The front axle of the Ford was badly bent and the front of the Hudson was slightly bent up. The fact that both autos were running at slow speed was the only thing that saved the occupants, no doubt. Mr. Flowers swore out a warrant for the negro and he was given a hearing before Recorder E. M. Britt immediately. The case was dismissed, as the evidence showed that one was in fault as much as the other. The Hudson car belonged to a Mr. Calhoun of Fairmont.

Directors Meeting of LaFayette Mutual

A meeting of the board of directors of the LaFayette Mutual Life Insurance Co. was held today in the office of the company here, the following directors being present: W. J. Beattie, Jr., of Hope Mills, E. A. Pope and Dr. Seay Highsmith of Fayetteville, A. J. McKinnon of Maxton, O. L. Clark of Clarkton, K. M. Barnes, Dr. W. L. Grantham and E. E. Page of Lumberton. The affairs of the company were found in excellent shape, good progress being made along all lines. As the president, W. J. Beattie, Jr., will be absent in the North for the next six or nine months, Mr. K. M. Barnes was elected active vice president to handle the president's duties during his absence.

Recorder's Court—60 Days for Stealing Rooster

James L. Bundy, a young white man who lived at St. Paul, was given a hearing before Recorder Butler one day last week on the charge of stealing a white rooster. He is now serving a sixty-day sentence on the roads for "taking" the rooster. Med Johnson was before Recorder E. M. Britt Saturday on the charge of cruelty to animals. Prayer for judgment was continued upon good behavior and payment of cost.

Frank Bethune was also given a hearing on the charge of being drunk and disorderly on the public highway. Prayer for judgment was continued on good behavior and payment of cost in his case.

Old Alexander Humphrey Homestead Burned

The old Alexander Humphrey homestead, near Saddle Tree church, was burned Tuesday of last week. No one was living in the house at the time it was burned. The building caught from some burning woods. The loss is estimated at \$600 with no insurance. The building was in the care of Mr. F. P. Humphrey. A number of treasured shade trees near the house were also ruined by the fire. One of the trees, a beautiful oak, was set out by the late Alexander Humphrey about 65 years ago and was held while being set by Mr. J. W. Humphrey, who now resides at Point, Texas.

Mej. A. J. McKinnon of Maxton is among the visitors in town today. Messrs. J. S. and D. J. Oliver of route 1 from Marietta are Lumberton visitors today.

Gen. F. A. Bond of Hatters' Lodge, near Lowe, is a Lumberton visitor today.

SCHOOLS CLOSING

Reenert School Closes Friday—Rev. C. L. Greaves Will Make Literary Address—Play and Concert and Other Exercises

Reenert public school, Prof. Chapell Wilson principal, will close Friday of this week, March 24th. Rev. C. L. Greaves, pastor of the First Baptist church of Lumberton, will deliver the literary address, which is a guarantee that that feature of the closing program will be a treat. After dinner, at 2 p. m., a recitation and declamation contest will take place, and at 7 p. m. the annual play and concert will be given.

Miss Gussie Britt is the assistant teacher of this school. The attendance this year has been excellent, including about all the children in the district, and the school has been good.

Broad Ridge School Friday Night

The Broad Ridge public school will close Friday of this week. The school will give a concert at night, which promises to be very entertaining. The teachers of the school are Prof. Elliott Graham, principal, Miss Nina Bryant assistant.

Beulah School Thursday—Box Supper

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Boardman, March 18—The Beulah school will close Thursday and there will be a box supper at the school house. Miss Mary Wetmore is teacher.

Closing Exercises of School at Antioch March 24

Lumberton, R. 5, March 17—The school at Antioch, near Allenton, will have the closing exercises by the primary grades next Friday morning at 10:30, and the exercise by the grammar grades at 7:30 p. m. There will be two prominent speakers at the morning exercises.

Exercises at Buck Horn School Closing March 24

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Parkton, March 16—Buck Horn school will close Friday, March 24th with a very interesting program by the children at 3:30 o'clock. At 8 o'clock two plays, "That Rascal Pat" and "Too Much of a Good Thing", and a dialogue, "Two Lunatics," by the larger pupils, will be given for the purpose of raising money to paint the school building. This program is fun from beginning to end and well worth the admission, twenty cents.

J. W. Brady, Formerly of Maxton, Murdered in Greensboro

J. W. Brady, manager of the Stag hotel at Greensboro, died Friday as the result of wounds inflicted with a razor in the hands of some unknown person when he was attacked and robbed on his way home from the hotel late Thursday night. Three negroes were arrested Friday and are being held pending investigations, one of them being a man employed about the hotel with whom Mr. Brady had an altercation Thursday.

The Maxton Scottish Chief Says that Mr. Brady was Assistant Agent for the Atlantic Coast Line at Maxton when a young man and married Miss Mollie Smith, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Smith of Maxton, who survives, together with three children. They have lived in Greensboro for many years.

Negroes Begin Road Sentences—Recorder Repents of Remitting Sentence

Bethel, Press and Thorne Couser, the three negroes who drew a quarter of a century on the roads for beating up Rural Policeman L. H. Townsend at St. Paul recently, mention of which has already appeared in The Robesonian, were carried to chain gang No. 1 Saturday to begin their terms. Will McKethan, who drew a six-month sentence, was taken to chain gang No. 2. Recorder Britt decided one time after the trial to turn McKethan loose, but later decided to let him serve his six months.

Santer Loose on Broad Ridge Again, By George!

Mr. A. H. Bissell of the Broad Ridge section was in town Saturday. Mr. Bissell says a certain animal that must be some relation to the Globe swamp monster, has recently been prowling around on the "Ridge". This "thing", which looks had and makes a worse-looking noise seems to play about a certain cemetery at night, says Mr. Bissell. It has caused some few boys of that section to break the speed limit, too. What it is and what it wants are two things the folks have not been able to learn.

Store Robbed at Proctorville

The store of Mr. W. R. Surles at Proctorville was robbed Monday night of last week. A number of pairs of shoes and overalls and some sardines and other edibles were seized. No arrests have been made. This was the second time the store had been robbed in a short time.

County Commencement IN LUMBERTON APRIL 7TH.

Mr. W. H. Bullard of Broad Ridge is a Lumberton visitor today.

ST. PAUL NEWS PACKAGE

Dr. Northrop Was a Man Who Will be Missed—Death of Mrs. Steve Hedgpeth—Personal Mention Correspondence of The Robesonian.

St. Paul, March 15—Our hearts were made sore to hear of the death of one of our most highly respected citizens and friends, Dr. T. L. Northrop, which occurred early Monday a. m., March 13th, about 4 o'clock in a sanatorium in Charlotte, where he was taken about 2 weeks ago for treatment. Dr. Northrop had been in bad health for some time. Everything possible was done for his relief, but God knew best and called him up on high. It seems strange to us now that one so useful should be taken away, but no doubt was needed for greater work in that "land of pure delight", where weakness and pain and death and sorrow are unknown. He leaves a wife who was Miss Bettie McGeachy, five children, also his mother, Mrs. Rich of Laurinburg. Mrs. Northrop and Mrs. Rich were with him when the end came, also several friends. The immense crowd that gathered at the grave showed to some extent the wide esteem in which he was held. The floral offerings were beautiful. "Just as gently as spring leaves come, or snowflakes whiten the sod, passed he out from our earthly home into the home of God." Drs. Luther and Frank McMillan of Red Springs attended the funeral here Tuesday a. m., also Drs. Stamps of Lumber Bridge and Currie of Parkton, besides lots of others from a distance.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, of our town are wearing a broad smile, a little daughter has come to stay with them.

Miss Jane McBryde is spending a few days with Mrs. Northrop. Miss Ethel Cobb, who is teaching at Rex, spent Tuesday a. m. here. Miss Josephine Evans of Wade came up Friday evening and spent the week-end with home folks, returning to her work Sunday evening.

Miss Maggie Wilkinson, and Mrs. "Beas" Wilkinson attended Dr. Northrop's funeral here Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fisher will return home today.

Mrs. Steve Hedgpeth died Monday a. m. sometime between 12 and 1 o'clock. The funeral took place Tuesday afternoon. We feel so sorry for the young husband in the loss of his beloved wife, and to make it sadder of all, she left a tiny babe, and 2 small children. Surely God's will is best, tho'. Mrs. Hedgpeth was a Miss Brisson before her marriage. We extend sympathy to the bereaved ones, in this sad hour.

The Misses Poole spent the week-end at Raeford with homefolks. Messrs. McGoogan and McArthur and also Misses Rhodes and Fisher spent a few hours in Raeford Friday evening.

Mr. Neill McEachern of the A. and M. College, Raleigh, came home to attend the funeral of his cousin Dr. T. L. Northrop. Mr. McEachern returned this a. m.

Rev. Daniel Pratt McEachern made a flying trip here on his way to his home, Louisville, Kentucky.

RAYNHAM NEWS NOTES

Hurrah for County Commencement!

School Will Close Last of April With Concert—Personal Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Raynham, March 17—Ploving seems to be the order round here these days.

Mr. Eddie Stephens of Evergreen, Columbus county, spent Thursday night with his uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Joel Ivey. He left here Friday to visit his brother Mr. J. F. Stephens of Lumberton before returning to his home.

Mrs. Gaston Prevatt and daughter Miss Quessie of Back Swamp spent Wednesday with Mrs. Prevatt's father Mr. Joel Stone.

Mrs. Walter Bridgers of Purvis spent Tuesday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Stone.

Mrs. J. D. Tolar spent Tuesday with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Joel Ivey.

Mr. C. M. Townsend was a Lumberton visitor Friday.

Misses Naomi and Alma Ivey and Bertha Hall spent last Sunday in Gaddysville section visiting the Misses Ivey's aunts.

Mrs. S. C. Stone spent last Sunday p. m. with Mrs. J. H. Britt.

Mrs. H. J. Stone spent last Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. H. K. Ivey.

Messrs. W. C. Britt and Early Burchett spent last Sunday in Raft Swamp section at the home of Messrs. Harvey and Luther Townsend.

Messrs. Theory Britt and Hubert Atkinson of Center were pleasant callers in this section last Sunday p. m.

Misses Mamie and Pearl Hall spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Neal Ray.

The school here will close the last of April with a concert. They are expecting to have a nice one, considering the small crowd. Later the date will be published. Look for the date and come.

Hurrah! Hurrah! for the 7th. We will be there for another grand day! (County Commencement.)

Mr. W. H. Bullard of Broad Ridge is a Lumberton visitor today.

Come to Lumberton APRIL 7TH. County Commencement

BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

Messrs. R. D. Caldwell & Son will have their millinery opening tomorrow and Wednesday.

License has been issued for the marriage of Isaac E. Hardee and Bessie Mae Harrelson; Walter Pittman and Ada Capps; Bernice Odum and Emma Johnson.

Messrs. White & Gough are moving the stock of shoes recently bought from Messrs. Townsend Prothers into their store, Elm and Fifth streets, today.

A meeting of Clyburnville Local of the Farmers' Union will be held in the court house Wednesday afternoon of this week at 2:30. All members are urged to attend this meeting. Also those who wish to join are invited.

Mr. J. F. Meares of R. 5, Lumberton, about 7 miles from town, was a Lumberton visitor Friday. Mr. Meares' wife has been a sufferer with rheumatism for the past 20 years and her condition has apparently gotten worse recently.

Mr. S. Gardner Worth will arrive tomorrow from Clinton, N. C., to be with his brother, Mr. W. Y. Worth, manager of the Arcade theatre. Mr. Worth will play the piano at the theatre, which will put on orchestra music tomorrow night.

Mr. R. S. Bond and family expect to move some time next month from Rowland to Lumberton. They will occupy the house on the corner of Chestnut and Third streets formerly occupied by the late Miss Fannie Peterson and willed by her to one of Mr. Bond's sons.

Jailer A. H. Prevatt was called out one night recently by a white man from the country. When Mr. Prevatt asked the man his troubles he said, "I want you to take your man-chaser and trail up a negro. I gave a certain negro \$1 to get me a pint of liquor and he never returned."

The other day a boy riding a bicycle on sidewalk ran against a 5-year-old girl. If children cannot walk on sidewalks without being subjected to danger of that kind, where may they walk? Skating, too, on sidewalks on some streets is getting to be a nuisance. It is a privilege which some of the larger skaters are abusing.

Mr. K. M. Barnes was confined at his home at Chestnut street from Thursday till this morning with grippe. He is able to be out today. Grippe has given Mr. Barnes' family quite a siege. Two of his children, Edna and John Rhodes, are still quite sick. The condition of others of the family who have been sick is improving.

Mrs. J. Q. Beckwith returned Thursday evening from Wilmington, where she attended on the 15th as a representative of the Lumberton Civic Association the reciprocity meeting of the ninth district of the Federation of Women's Clubs. The Robesonian hopes to publish an article by Mrs. Beckwith on this interesting meeting Thursday.

Mr. W. Y. Worth, one of the proprietors of the Arcade theatre, was the victim of a painful accident one day last week. While arranging some scenery at the theatre an iron bar became unfastened at one end and swinging down caught Mr. Worth on the right side of his head, giving him a severe blow. It came near knocking Mr. Worth out for a while and he has since had to wear his head bandaged.

Mr. A. H. Hinds, who has conducted a meat market in Lumberton for many years, has recently installed the latest sanitary refrigerator show cases in his market on Chestnut street. The refrigerator is right in the center of the cases and is covered over with white stone. This with some other changes makes the Hinds market look like a big city market. It is by far the most sanitary arrangement ever installed in Lumberton.

Mr. Frank A. Turner, who returned the middle of last month from Constantinople, where he had been since the beginning of the European war, has been a guest since Saturday night at the home of his uncle, Mr. J. A. Sharpe, East Fifth street. Mr. Turner had been in Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey for three years representing the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. and expects to return to Constantinople in May or June. His brother Mr. Sharpe Turner, who travels North Carolina for the American Tobacco Co., arrived yesterday and is also a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe. They will leave tonight for Wilmington.

Mr. G. A. Pittman of R. 4, Lumberton, is among the visitors in town today.

Mr. glasses were fitted by Dr. Parker, the only specialist in Lumberton licensed by State Board Examination for this important work. HIS SERVICE SATISFIES