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NUMBER 14

COUNTY COMMENCEMENT.

Third Annual Will be Held in Lumberton Friday of This Week

LARGE CROWD EXPECTED

A Special Feature of the Day Will be the Parade of Brass Band Will Furnish Music—There Will be Interesting Contests

All aboard for Robeson's third annual county commencement, which will take place in Lumberton Friday of this week. Indications are that the town will be filled with school children and parents from all sections of the county. Already preliminary commencing have been held at Fairmont and Rowland. Today one is being held at Red Springs and Wednesday one will be held at St. Paul. The winners in the contests at the preliminaries will come to Lumberton Friday for the final contest. Attractive prizes will be given the winners in all contests here Friday. A special feature of the occasion here Friday will be the parade of school children. The East Lumberton band will furnish music for the occasion. Get ready to come to this grand occasion. Bring your family and enjoy the day. You will be welcome. Come along.

Marshals

Mr. J. B. Bowen, chief marshal for the county commencement, has issued notices of appointment to all the marshals who reside in the town and community. The matter of appointing marshals for the various school districts has been left to the committees of each school. It is earnestly hoped that each school will send as many mounted marshals as possible, as a large number of horsemen will be necessary to handle the parade and the large crowd.

Special Trains and Reduced Rates. The railroads will give reduced rates from all points in the county for the occasion and special trains will be operated over the Seaboard road from Maxton and also over the Raleigh & Charleston from Marietta. The exact schedule of the special train over the Seaboard has not been determined. The special train from Marietta will leave Marietta at 8 a. m. and returning will leave Lumberton at 6:20 p. m. The Virginia & Carolina Southern will give reduced rates for the occasion.

The following round trip rates will be given on the Virginia & Carolina Southern: McMillan's 75 cents, St. Paul 55 cents, Smith 50 cents, Rozier 45 cents.

Members of Graded and High School Faculty Re-elected

At a meeting of the board of trustees of the Lumberton graded and high school Thursday night Supt. R. E. Sentelle, who has been superintendent of the school since it was organized some ten years ago, was re-elected for the next school year at the same salary—\$1,500 the year—and teachers were re-elected as follows, some with salary increases: First grade—Miss Elizabeth Dexter, \$55; second—Miss Lillian Nance, \$50; third—Miss Penny Rowland, \$55; fourth—Miss Winifred Rowland, \$55; fifth—Miss Elizabeth Breese, \$50; sixth—Miss Lillian Barker, \$50; seventh—Miss Elizabeth Snead, \$55; eighth—Mr. Bert Cagle, \$55; eighth (high school)—Miss Mae Seabolt, \$50; eleventh—Mr. R. H. Taylor, principal of high school, \$90.

Misses Effie Newton and Elizabeth Belk are the present efficient teachers of the ninth and tenth grades, respectively. No elections have been made in these grades pending agreement between the teachers and the board as to salaries. At a recent meeting of the board Mr. L. C. Varner resigned as chairman and Mr. R. D. Caldwell was elected to succeed him. Mr. Varner's resignation was accepted reluctantly and only after he had refused to serve in that capacity longer.

Germany is Gathering to the Colors Every Available Man

Cohenagen Dispatch, April 1. Germany, according to information reaching here from Berlin, now is gathering to the colors every available man for a supreme military effort to bring the war to a victorious conclusion in this year's campaign—a goal which Field Marshal von Hindenburg and his advisers consider by no means impossible of attainment. Without altering formally the law of military service the German authorities have in practice extended the period of service beyond the forty-fifth year and are retaining with the colors and in many instances for fighting duty with active units in the front line, landstrum men who have passed this age.

Superior Court—County Boards Meet

The board of county commissioners, the board of education and the board of road trustees are holding regular monthly meetings here today. A two weeks' term of Superior court for the trial of civil cases also convened this morning at 10 o'clock with Judge Geo. W. Connor of Wilson presiding. Quite a crowd of people are in town today.

Petitions for Bond Election

Petitions have been presented to the board of county commissioners asking that they call an election to vote on the Clark road bond issue. It is expected that the board will order the election.

CONGRESS CONVENES TODAY

Meets to Determine Most Important Issues Before Representatives of the People Since Civil War—President Will Address Congress as Soon as House is Organized—War Legislation Considered a Foregone Conclusion

Washington Dispatch, April 1.

Congress, called in extraordinary session by President Wilson, will meet tomorrow to determine the most important issues before the legislative representatives of the people of the United States since the Civil War. It is considered a foregone conclusion that it either will declare war against Germany or declare that a state of war exists because of Germany's aggressions on the high seas.

President's Message Ready

President Wilson has completed the message he will deliver to Congress and is ready to address a joint session as soon as he gets word that both houses have been organized, and are ready for him.

Either before or directly after he addresses Congress the President is expected to confer with the leaders of both houses regarding the specific legislation desired by the administration.

The War and Navy Departments continued today their preliminary preparedness measures, and are ready with recommendations for further strengthening the army and navy to be submitted as soon as Congress decides whether the nation is actually to go to war with Germany.

Quick Organization Probable

Both houses meet at noon tomorrow. The Senate, already organized, will be ready to transact business when the gavel falls, but in view of the fact that any war resolution is expected to carry an appropriation it is expected that action will wait for the House. Democrats and Republicans of the House have cleared the way for immediate effort to organize and the belief was general tonight that the Democrats would re-assume control with Speaker Clark in the chair within a few hours after the session begins.

There is little doubt that a war resolution will be passed by large majorities in both houses. There are little groups of pacifists opposed to war except to resist invasion, who will vote and probably talk against any warlike move. There are other groups who have their own ideas about what the United States should do in the present situation but none is strong enough to prevent action or to seriously impede its progress.

Little Opposition Expected

In the House there probably will be no persistent opposition unless it comes from members who favor more far-reaching action than the President recommends. The Senate has its new cloture rule to limit debate if a small group there undertakes to delay action.

Aside from the war resolution and the appropriations which probably will accompany it, there is not much legislation now on the books that leaders believe is necessary to enact before next winter. The appropriation measures which failed at the last session, particularly the army bill, the amendment to the shipping act giving the government broad powers over merchant shipping, some changes in the Federal Reserve act and legislation to curb spying are among the things which probably will be deemed essential to prosecution of whatever course is determined upon. Additional revenue legislation and bond issues beyond the authorization in existence, to be carried in the war resolution, will depend on how active the United States becomes in the war.

Universal Training Bill

Efforts are certain to be made to put through a universal military training bill, even if President Wilson does not endorse it. There will be much opposition to it, particularly if the belief gains currency that such legislation would pave the way for the sending of an expeditionary force to the European battlefields.

There has been much talk of a bond issue to provide a loan or credit to France of from \$500,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000. Such a proposal would receive strong support, but there might be enough opposition to prevent immediate enactment of the necessary legislation.

Floods of Telegrams

Hundreds of telegrams poured into the Capitol today bearing on the question of war legislation. Many spoke against war and members in favor of quick decisive action attributed the flood of messages to an organized anti-war propaganda.

Among the measures which will be introduced as soon as the House meets will be the general staff bill for compulsory military training of men between 19 and 22 years of age which Representative Kahn of California, ranking Republican on the Military committee, will submit.

Mr. Kahn said today he believed there was an excellent prospect for its enactment. Compulsory training measures also probably will be introduced by Representative Caldwell of New York and others. Representative Montague of Virginia, will introduce alternative bills for a \$1,000,000,000 gift, or \$500,000,000 gift and \$500,000,000 loan to France in recognition of French support in Revolutionary days.

Working on War Resolution

Representative Floor of Virginia, ranking Democrat of the House foreign affairs committee, has been

CLARK ELECTED SPEAKER; WILSON MAY ADDRESS CONGRESS THIS AFTERNOON

A 'phone message to The Robesonian this afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Wilmington Dispatch states that Congress convened at noon today and Champ Clark was re-elected speaker.

It is expected that President Wilson may address both houses of Congress in joint session at 5 o'clock this afternoon. The Senate adjourned to that hour in the hope that the organization of the House might be completed and the Congress be ready to hear the President's address.

LOST HERE; WON AT GOLDSBORO

Wilmington Team Won Debate From One Lumberton Team Here While Other Lumberton Team Defeated Goldsboro—Banquet Given Visiting Debaters

In the triangular debates between the Lumberton, Wilmington and Goldsboro high schools Friday evening Lumberton's affirmative team lost to Wilmington's negative team here, while the negative team from the Lumberton high school won over the Goldsboro school at Goldsboro. Messrs. Forest McGill and Robert Proctor argued the affirmative side of the query, "Resolved, That the Federal Government should own and operate the railroads," at home and Miss Evelyn Sentelle and Mr. John Blount McLeod represented the negative side of the query at Goldsboro. Miss Lydia Penton and Mr. Owen Martin of the Wilmington school upheld the affirmative at Goldsboro, losing to Lumberton's negative team.

A large crowd heard the debate here, which was held in the high school auditorium. The judges here were Messrs. H. E. Stacy, E. M. Johnson and H. B. Jennings. The judges rendered their decision by ballot separately and the decision was two and one in favor of the Wilmington team. All the speakers produced strong argument in their speeches and were roundly applauded. Mr. R. M. Sanderson presided while Mr. R. W. Wishart, secretary of the local society, called the speakers to the floor. The first speaker on the affirmative was Mr. Forest McGill and the first on the negative was Miss Lydia Penton. Each speaker was allowed a short rejoinder.

The stage was beautifully decorated for the occasion with potted plants and United States flags were draped here there about the stage. At the back of the stage could be seen a large likeness of President Wilson above two U. S. flags.

Immediately after the debate Miss Penton and Mr. Martin were entertained at a banquet given them by the senior class of the high school at the Lorraine hotel. The banquet lasted from 10 to 11:30 o'clock and was much enjoyed by all present. Miss Lillian Allen, a member of the faculty of the Wilmington high school, accompanied Miss Penton and Mr. Martin to Lumberton. Miss Allen and Miss Penton spent the night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lawrence, Sixth street, Mrs. Lawrence having known the ladies before.

The Wilmington visitors said they were highly pleased with the manner in which they were entertained while here.

Miss Sentelle and Mr. McLeod were accompanied to Goldsboro by Prof. R. H. Taylor, principal of the Lumberton high school. Mr. McLeod returned home Saturday morning and Miss Sentelle and Prof. Taylor returned home Saturday night.

Wilmington's affirmative team won over Goldsboro's negative at Wilmington, which means that out of the three schools only Wilmington's team will go to Chapel Hill for the second preliminary before the final contest for the Aycock loving cup.

During the five years these debates have been held Lumberton has failed only twice in winning both debates and being represented at Chapel Hill in the final preliminary.

FARMERS MEETING CALLED OFF

On account of the busy season and the fact that the county commencement will be held in Lumberton this week, it has been decided to call off the farmers' meeting that was called for Wednesday of this week.

F. GROVER BRITT, Sec.-Treas. Robeson County Farmers' Union.

Saddletree School Finals April 13

Saddletree school commencement will take place April 13 with exercises by the pupils in the afternoon and a concert in the evening. Rev. J. J. Murray of St. Paul will deliver an address in the afternoon. Miss Effie G. Smith, principal, and Miss Annie Garner, assistant, were Lumberton visitors Saturday.

Mr. J. W. Jordan of Dunn, a member of the firm of Bell & Jordan, which firm conducts a jewelry store here, spent one day last week in Lumberton.

working for several days on a resolution declaring a state of war exists with Germany and is expected to call a meeting of that committee as soon as the organization steps are taken and the President has delivered his address. The Senate foreign relations committee, which would handle any war resolution, is expected to meet Monday afternoon.

LIVESTOCK MEET A SUCCESS

Livestock Exposition and Conference in Wilmington Last Week Was a Great Success—It Will be an Annual Event—Addresses by Many Prominent Men Including Gov. Bickett

The live stock conference and exposition held in Wilmington Wednesday and Thursday of last week was a great success and a tremendous impetus was given to stock raising in this section of the State. The exhibit was fine and the discussions and speeches were practical and helpful.

Gov. Bickett was the principal speaker the first day. Before a great audience of representative citizens from the State at large he declared that this nation practically already is in the great war and properly so, that the hour of destiny for civilization has struck, and that "the man who dallies is a dastard and he who doubts is damned." He declared it to be the patriotic duty of the hour for North Carolinians to produce what they can of food supplies this year. "The battle line waits on the bread line," he said, "biscuits settle more wars than bullets." The world conflict of today will not be decided by military genius or the valor of the men on the battle fields, but the side is going to win that can for the longest time feed and equip its armies he predicted.

The Governor said the Teutons may never come, but the boll weevil is already on the way, and it is colossal folly for a farmer in the cotton belt not to prepare for the advent of the pest, with broad acres of grasses and grains and foodstuffs. All important as is the livestock movement, the Governor declared that before we can have livestock or anything else live, we have got to have something to feed it with. In the very scheme of nature, vegetable precedes animal life.

Governor Bickett reiterated the declaration made in his inaugural address, that if he were Czar instead of Governor of North Carolina, he would issue a decree that five years after date any man who imported beef, bacon, meal, flour or hay into North Carolina should be hanged without jury trial. The man who makes plenty of home supplies, he declared, cannot make too much cotton, but the man who does not make his home supplies cannot fail to make too much cotton.

One of the main purposes of the new crop lien law, the Governor said, was to force the farmer to produce his own supplies, through having the merchant refuse to furnish those who would not raise their own food and feed stuffs. He repeated the statement that he had dedicated his life for four years to the rebuilding of the rural life in North Carolina and it should be his constant aim to focus the thought of the State upon this subject during the term of his administration.

Dr. Bradford Knapp, chief of the farmers' co-operative demonstration work in the South for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, made an earnest plea for immediate action on the part of all to increase and conserve the food supply and outlined what he called a "safe farming program" for 1917 that could be followed by the average farmer, as follows:

'Safe Farming Program'

- 1—A home garden for every family on the farm—the year round.
- 2—Enough corn on each farm to last the family and livestock a year and some to spare.
- 3—Produce small grains to supplement the corn supply.
- 4—Produce hay and forage enough to supply the stock a year.
- 5—Produce enough meat, eggs and milk to supply the family.
- 6—When the living has been amply provided for, produce cotton as the main money crop—not a living crop.
- 7—Plan to sell or exchange surplus foodstuffs and grain to buy the supplies for the family that cannot be produced on the farm, so as to make the cotton a surplus money crop.

Other speakers were: P. L. Sutherland of Jacksonville, Fla., prominent business man, extensive land owner and manager of the Florida tick eradication committee of the Southern Settlement and Development organization, which united with the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce in promoting this conference; Representative J. H. Small of the First N. C. district; Mai. W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture; Capt. T. B. Parker, director of farmers' institutes; Dr. E. D. Owen of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; Editor L. A. Niven of the Southern Farming, Atlanta; Clement C. Ucker, vice president of the Southern Settlement and Development organization; Dr. B. W. Kilreore, director of the North Carolina Experiment Station and Extension Work; L. I. Guion, secretary of the Federal Land Bank, Columbia, S. C.; Prof. Lyman Carrier and Dr. Geo. M. Rommel of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Col. Fred A. Olds, director of the N. C. Hall of History, and a number of others.

It was voted unanimously at the closing session Thursday to make this an annual event.

Long Branch School Closes Thursday The Long Branch public school will close Thursday of this week. The school will give a concert, beginning at 8 o'clock. The public is invited.

WINNERS IN VARIOUS CONTESTS

Those Who Won in Contests Held in Lumberton Saturday Preliminary to County Commencement

Contestants from many of the schools in the Lumberton district met here Saturday afternoon for the preliminary contests. The winners in the various contests were:

Reciters' contest—Lillian Blackwell of the Tabernacle school. Declaimers' contest—John B. McLeod of the Lumberton school. Elementary spelling contest—Mary Biggs of the Lumberton school. High school spelling contest—Worth M'White of the Ten Mile school.

One hundred yard dash—Clarence Powers of the Ten Mile school; time, 12 seconds.

Two hundred and twenty yard dash—Redden Britt of the Lumberton graded school; time, 30 seconds.

Four hundred and forty yard dash—Carl Greaves of the Lumberton high school; time, 62 seconds.

Standing high jump—L. K. Lamb of the Long Branch school. Lamb jumped 3 feet and 4 inches.

Running high jump—Robert Proctor, Carl Greaves and Stephen Epps, all of the Lumberton school, jumped 4 1-2 feet.

Running broad jump—Branley Phillips of the Lumberton school. Branley jumped 16 feet and 10 inches.

Shot put—Robert Proctor of the Lumberton school. Put 30 feet 4 and 1-2 inches.

Relay race—won by the Lumberton team composed of Robert Proctor, Carl Greaves, Forest McGill and Redden Britt.

BROAD RIDGE BREEZES

Through Planting Corn—School Closes—Coming to County Commencement April 6

Correspondence of The Robesonian, Broad Ridge (Lumberton, R. 4), March 31.

Farmers are all done planting corn and they are now preparing to plant cotton.

Broad Ridge school was out yesterday. The parents and children met at the school at 2 p. m. Several songs and recitations were rendered by the children. After the exercise, a speech by Mr. H. F. Bissell was enjoyed for a few minutes, then following were Messrs. J. W. Branch and C. G. Stephens. The children were sorry to leave the dear old school house and the good teachers.

We are preparing to meet the county commencement in Lumberton April 6. The teachers are coming back to practice the children with the yells and marches. Look out, old Lumbertonians, we are coming to holler "Broad Ridge" for all our lives. Two of the pupils from our school are expecting diplomas at the county commencement. They are Misses Annie Ammons and Mollie Britt. Miss Floyd had lots of exhibition papers on the walls for her friends to see. They were drawn by the school children and were pronounced fine by the lookers on. Among them was a map of the world.

Keep on, "Aunt Becky," with your war story.

Cut of Buie Twins of Robeson in Leslie's—Oldest Confederate Twins

In the last issue of Leslie's illustrated weekly of 'New York is published a cut of the Buie twin brothers, Messrs. Duncan Alexander and Daniel Calvin, of Buie, Robeson county, the oldest living twins of the Confederate armies. Beneath the cut is printed the following information being gleaned from an article in The Robesonian and sent to Leslie's with a picture of the Messrs. Buie, by Mr. R. M. Norman of Lumberton:

"Duncan Alexander Buie and Daniel Calvin Buie recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries, down in North Carolina. Their guests were those who remain of the bridal parties of 50 years ago. The twin brothers were born Nov. 12, 1833 and both were married in 1866. Both were in their third year in college when the War between the States broke out and both enlisted. They are the oldest living twins of the Confederate armies. The next oldest pair of Confederate veteran twins live only a few miles from the Buies."

He Wanted to Warm Up. You Know

Martin West, a 15-year-old colored boy, was before Recorder E. M. Britt Friday on the charge of trespass. The evidence was that Mr. E. B. Paul of the Saddletree section hired West to work for him. The negro boy was given a room in Mr. Paul's residence to sleep in. There was no chimney or heater in the room, so West made him a fire right down on the floor and went to sleep and left it burning. The fire burned a large hole through the floor and went out of its own accord. The negro testified that he made the fire to go to bed by. It looks much like a case of suicidal intent. Judgment was suspended upon payment of cost.

These be Unusual Sightings

Citizens coming to town Saturday from the Raft Swamp section reported unusual sightings on the road between their homes and Lumberton. There were three of these sightings, so they say. One was Squire John H. McNeill plowing, the second was Mr. Daniel McNeill doing the same stunt and the third was Rural Policeman Eli Phillips walking out in the county.

BRIEF ITEMS OF LOCAL NEWS

Miss Mary Tiddy, who is teaching at Oak Grove, spent the week-end here visiting Miss Eulalia McGill.

Lumberton is assuming a patriotic appearance. Flags are appearing on the fronts of private residences and business houses.

Miss Christine Gower, music teacher in the Lumberton graded school, left Saturday for her home at Clayton on account of the illness of her mother.

The April meeting of the Robeson chapter of the U. D. C. will be held in the directors' room of the Lumberton National Bank Thursday April 5th, at 4 p. m.

Messrs. White & Gough have bought the bankrupt stock of groceries belonging to Mr. M. N. Folger. They have moved the stock to their department store, Elm street.

Mr. D. A. Regan bought last week the stock of groceries belonging to Messrs. Bullock Bros. in the Carlyle building, Fourth street, and will conduct a grocery store in the same building.

License has been issued for the marriage of Alex. Calhoun and Helen Arnett; Boyd Walters and Fodie Smith; Harrison C. Barefoot and Irene Kinlaw; Jas. I. Simmons and Lesie Scott.

Randolph, 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Z. Stone of the Mt. Eliam section, fell Friday and broke his right leg just above the ankle. The child had climbed upon a pile of lumber and fell and some of the lumber fell on him.

Mr. Woodberry Lennon delivered the literary address at the closing exercises of the Abbottsburg high school Friday. Besides Mr. Lennon's address, which took place at 11:30 a. m., there were exercises by the school and also by the Junior order.

The weather for the past three days and today has been the kind to make early-planted cotton seed pop up. Mr. A. T. McLean, who planted about 100 acres in cotton ten days or two weeks ago, Saturday found some seed sprouting nicely.

Mr. Grover Page, who has been traveling this territory for the Gulf Refining Co. and making Lumberton his headquarters for several months, has been notified that he will be transferred to Florida about April 15. His new headquarters will be Jacksonville. Mr. Page has many friends here who will be sorry to see him go to his new field.

Mr. Boyd Walters and Miss Fodie Smith were married Saturday afternoon at 4:30 in the office of M. W. Floyd, register of deeds in the presence of a large gathering. Mr. M. G. McKenzie, justice of the peace, officiating. Later the same afternoon, at 6:15, at the same place, Justice McKenzie performed the ceremony for Miss Helen Arnett and Mr. Alex. Calhoun.

Three small colored boys stole an automobile which was left standing on Fifth street in front of the Pastime theatre Friday night and kept it off about one hour. The auto was later found on East Fifth street back of the court house. The automobile belonged to a man who does not live here and his home was not learned. The officers made an effort to capture the negroes, but failed. Their names are not known.

Dr. R. G. Rozier and family will move this week from Lumberton back to their country home about 10 miles north of town. Dr. Rozier will look after his farming interests. Dr. Jas. A. Martin will occupy the office in the rear of the McMillan building, Elm street, formerly occupied by Dr. Rozier. Dr. Martin and Dr. T. C. Johnson, who have been practicing under the name of Johnson & Martin, have dissolved partnership.

Commenting on the news item in a recent issue of The Robesonian to the effect that a South Carolinian who is more than 90 years old is the father of 22 living men and women, Mr. B. M. Stephens, who lives on R. 5 from Lumberton, says he and Mrs. Stephens have only been married 11 years and have 10 children. Six of these were born within three years and 2 months. Mrs. Stephens gave birth to twins once each year for three successive years.

Mr. and Mrs. S. McIntyre returned Friday night from New York, where they spent several days. Miss Mildred McIntyre, who has been taking a special course in music in New York, will arrive home tonight. She will be accompanied by Misses Lillian and Rebecca Stocks of Monroe, who have been taking the same course. Miss McIntyre has been taking. They will spend some time here visiting Miss McIntyre before going on to their home at Monroe.

On page 2 of this issue will be found a news item about Mr. Luther C. Bell, who has been advertising manager for the firm of R. D. Caldwell & Son for the past 5 months, leaving Lumberton. Since that was printed it has been learned that Mr. Bell will return to Lumberton tomorrow night and will perhaps remain over until Wednesday evening, when he will leave for Atlanta. Mr. Bell believes the artesian water in Lumberton is the best water in the world. He attributes his gain of some 25 pounds in flesh while here to the good water.