

RED CROSS CHAPTER ORGANIZED

Despite Stormy Weather Meeting at Court House Friday Evening Was Well Attended—Mr. Bailey Failed to Come.

Despite blustery winds and clouds that promised the downpour of rain that came while the meeting was in progress, a goodly number of people gathered at the court house Friday evening to organize a Red Cross chapter. Mr. J. W. Bailey of Raleigh, who was confidently expected to make the speech of the evening and on whose account the meeting had been postponed for two or three weeks, found upon reaching Selma Friday that the Atlantic Coast Line train was so late that he could not reach here in time, and there was disappointment on that account, but Mr. A. W. McLean, who presided, splendidly made up for the absence of Mr. Bailey in an earnest appeal for the Red Cross, and several others responded to the invitation to speak by making appropriate remarks. Officers for the chapter were elected as follows: president, Mr. A. E. White; vice president, Mrs. R. D. Caldwell; secretary, Mrs. N. A. Thompson; treasurer, Mr. Junius J. Goodwin; executive committee—the above-named officers, members ex officio, and Mesdames H. M. McAllister and E. L. Holloway, Messrs. A. W. McLean, W. H. Humphrey, Stephen McIntyre, J. A. Sharpe.

The executive committee will meet at an early date and complete the list of persons to be named as members of the various committees, except the executive committee, which is complete, and transact any other business that may come before it. In calling the meeting to order Mr. A. W. McLean, who launched the movement for the organization of the chapter and to whose splendid efforts the success of the meeting was a tribute, stated that he had been authorized by the official in charge of Southern headquarters of the Red Cross at Atlanta to organize a chapter with Lumberton as headquarters and taking in Marietta, Barnesville, Proctorville, Orrum, Lowe and their vicinities. He read the formal authorization in which he was named as temporary chairman and Mr. J. J. Goodwin was named as temporary secretary; and Mr. McLean paid a deserved tribute to Mr. Goodwin's faithful and tireless work in securing members and working up interest.

A wild storm was raging outside and after these preliminaries and explanation of the absence of Mr. Bailey, Mr. McLean had barely launched into a brief speech about the Red Cross when the lights went out and the house was left in total darkness. The darkness did not bother Mr. McLean or the audience, but it put the reporter's pencil out of service. A light was finally secured, sufficient to distinguish the speaker, but taking notes of Mr. McLean's speech and the remarks of others was practically out of the question.

Mr. McLean told something of the great work of the Red Cross, which is the only relief organization that is officially recognized by the government, and said that in Washington some time ago he had been embarrassed when he had to admit in reply to a question, that Lumberton had no chapter. He told of how Red Cross nurses are always to be found as ministering angels where there is suffering and distress, and brought home to all the need of supporting this great organization with their means and their labor, even from a selfish standpoint, for young men who have been familiar figures on the streets of Lumberton and elsewhere in the county have gone or will go "over there" and it may come to pass that a Red Cross nurse shall smooth the dying pillow of even some of them.

Following the regular plan of organization, Mr. McLean appointed a committee to nominate officers and executive committee. The committee was composed of Messrs. R. D. Caldwell, W. I. Linkhaw, H. E. Stacy, R. H. Crichton and J. J. Goodwin. The report of the committee was adopted in the selection of the officers and executive committee named above.

While this committee was deliberating, Mr. McLean called on several in the audience for speeches. Rev. H. A. Grantham, Mr. T. L. Johnson, Rev. I. P. Hedgpeth, Rev. R. A. Hedgpeth, Mayor Jas. D. Proctor, and Rev. Dr. C. L. Greaves responded in the order named, each making remarks appropriate to the occasion. After the committee returned Mr. R. D. Caldwell spoke in most complimentary terms of the work of the National Special Aid society, which disbanded recently to merge into the Red Cross, and made a motion, which was unanimously adopted, that the meeting go on record as publicly expressing its appreciation of the work of these ladies. Upon taking the chair after his election as president Mr. A. E. White also paid tribute to the work of the ladies of the National Aid.

Lumberton Red Cross chapter starts out with a membership of 386. It is hoped that the membership will be increased to several times that number. The dues for subscribing members are \$2, if you want the Red Cross magazine, but you can join for \$1 a year without the magazine.

Wake County Negro Jailed on Charge of Criminal Assault. At Raleigh Friday night a negro entered the home of Mr. W. L. Priuce, shot Mr. Priuce in the head with a pistol and assaulted Mrs. Priuce. Saturday Leroy Smith was arrested, identified by Mrs. Priuce as her assailant, and placed in jail.

HEAR GOVERNOR BICKETT

Men and women from each section of Robeson county are invited to come to Lumberton Saturday, January 19th, to hear the WAR ADDRESS to be delivered by Governor Bickett. It is especially urged that all ministers, teachers, Confederate veterans and representative citizens from each section be present.

I also request and urge that all places of business in Lumberton be closed on that day from 10:30 a. m. until the close of the address.

Let us see to it that the Governor delivers his message to the heart and thought of the county and let us show our patriotism by halting our business affairs while the address is being delivered.

I hope and trust that all our citizens and all thinking people will avail themselves of the opportunity and will hear and heed the message of our distinguished executive.

JAMES D. PROCTOR, Mayor.

FIERCE WIND STORM

This Section Visited by Worst in Years Friday Night But Little Damage Was Done—Town in Darkness for Several Hours.

One of the worst wind storms that has visited this section in years blew partially all night Friday night. While no serious damage was reported in town, a chimney at the home of Mr. C. V. Brown, North Elm street, was blown off down to the roof, a number of trees were blown down, telephone lines were blown down and the town was in darkness for several hours.

During the first part of the night the wind was accompanied by a downpour of rain and it thundered and lightened like summer time. As a result of a pipe becoming clogged at Mr. A. Weinstein's store, water backed into the store and damaged his goods around \$200.

The light first went off at 8:45 as a result of air dampness which caused the machinery at Bluet Falls to sweat and burned the bushings out of the transformers. Mr. Geo. L. McNeill, superintendent of the local light and water plant, fired up down at the local plant, but found that his machinery also had sweated and he did not start the motor, fearing that he would have the same trouble that occurred at the Bluet Falls plant. Mr. McNeill also cut off the water for the purpose of preserving what was in the tank to be used in case of a fire.

After the trouble at Bluet Falls had been remedied the line fell across the railroad near the Lumberton cotton mills and this cut off the current for several hours. The lights came on at 10 a. m.

Slight damage was reported from various sections of the country. The Holiness Tabernacle, colored in the Meadows, a few miles north-east of town, was blown off the blocks and a new house not quite completed, belonging to Mr. Cashwell Dean, near Center church, was blown down. A number of fodder stacks were blown down in the country and the fodder scattered and injured by the rain.

In Back Swamp Township. In Back Swamp township the kitchen in joining the house of Timothy Hunt, Indian, was blown off the blocks, moved about 3 yards, and torn up considerably. At the home of Jim Strickland, Indian, who lives on Mr. Will Carlyle's place, a shelter was blown down and a one-horse wagon and a buggy torn up. Timothy Hunt, who reported the damage at his and Strickland's homes, said he had heard of several stalls being blown down at other places in the township.

GOV. BICKETT WILL SPEAK IN LUMBERTON SATURDAY

Only Address on the War He Will Deliver in Robeson—Hear the Governor and Honor the Veterans.

Indications are that a large crowd will gather in Lumberton Saturday of this week to hear Gov. T. W. Bickett speak. As has been stated in The Robesonian, Gov. Bickett accepted an invitation extended him by Camp Willis H. Pope, Confederate veterans, to speak Saturday, the date for the annual meeting of the camp.

The Governor will speak on the war—the only address he will deliver in the county on this absorbing subject—and the people generally will be anxious to hear him. He is easily one of the best orators in the State and a treat is in store for those who hear him.

By coming to Lumberton Saturday you will not only be taking advantage of the opportunity of hearing an able address by the Chief Executive of the State, but will be paying tribute to the remaining few heroes of the sixties.

Mayor Jas. D. Proctor has asked the business men of the town to close their places of business from 10:30 a. m. until after the address.

Charged With Bigamy.

Ed C. McShaw, a young white man, was arrested here Saturday afternoon on a warrant issued at Wilmington charging him with bigamy. It is alleged that McShaw has two wives, one living in Wilmington, and another near Audubon. Wilmington officials were notified of his arrest, and a deputy sheriff came after him yesterday morning, returning with McShaw to Wilmington yesterday.

Mr. M. J. Merritt, who underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Thompson hospital the day after Christmas, was able to return home yesterday.

REPORT ON RED CROSSWORK

Appropriations Total About \$75,000,000—Membership Has Grown From 500,000 to \$22,000,000.

Appropriations aggregating approximately \$75,000,000 had been authorized by the Red Cross war council since its creation May 10, last, up to December 28, the council reported Thursday night in a statement giving the condition of its finances. Of this sum \$30,000,000 actually had been expended while collections from the hundred million dollar war fund subscriptions have amounted to about \$97,000,000. Officials estimate that at least another \$6,000,000 will be collected from war fund subscriptions, and some \$3,000,000 of this fund retained by certain chapters on account of the 25 per cent which each chapter was to receive for local war relief work will bring the total of the fund to about \$106,000,000 less about \$13,000,000 additional for war relief fund of local chapters and an estimated sum of \$1,200,000 to be paid to chapters out of the fund yet to be collected, leaving available for expenditures out of the war fund about \$88,000,000.

The total amount appropriated for Red Cross work in France is about \$37,000,000.

The Red Cross membership has increased from less than 500,000 last May to an estimated total of 22,000,000, while in the same period the number of chapters has increased from some 555 to about 15,000. In addition to these chapters the Red Cross is working through operating commissions in France, England, Italy, Serbia, Russia and Roumania.

U. D. C. PREPARING FOR GOVERNOR AND VETERANS

Dinner Will be Served at Court House.

Correspondence of The Robesonian. The Robeson chapter of U. D. C. join the veterans of Camp Willis Pope and the citizens of the town in preparation for the hospitable entertainment and gracious welcome to our distinguished guests, Governor Bickett, and Confederate veterans on Lee-Jackson day, Saturday, Jan. 19th.

The president urges that the entire membership of the chapter attend the exercises, all dinner committees being at the court house at 10 o'clock that the tables may be laid and preparator, as far as possible, completed before the hour for the Governor's address. The ladies contributing dinner will please send the contributions to the court house by 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

Where it is inconvenient to send the dinner, transportation will be provided.

Cold Wave Broken—Coldest in Parts of Country Since 1899.

The coldest weather experienced in the United States since 1899 extended Saturday night from the Rocky mountains to the Atlantic coast and from the lakes to the gulf, according to a Washington dispatch. Zero temperatures were registered almost as far south as Birmingham, Ala., while in North Dakota the thermometer went to 32 degrees below zero, and it was only 12 degrees higher in many parts of the Middle West. Higher temperatures were reported from all parts of the country yesterday and the weather bureau at Washington announced last night that the cold wave is broken.

The thermometer at the local weather station, at the home of Mr. B. M. Davis, yesterday morning was 10 degrees above the low record for the winter so far. It registered yesterday morning 14 above zero and this morning 15 above. On December 29 the record here was 4 above zero and on January 3 and 4 the thermometer registered 5 degrees above.

Fire Company Called Out This Morning.

The fire company was called out this morning at 9:30 as the result of a blaze at a residence belonging to Mrs. J. M. Jones in the northern part of town and occupied by a Mr. Page. The fire was extinguished before the fire company reached the scene and but little damage was done. The fire started under a brick hearth which was floored with lumber, there being only a small amount of dirt between the brick and the wood floor.

Fire Chief J. P. Townsend says it is a dangerous thing to build a chimney with a "false hearth", as he terms one made like the one where the fire originated.

Mr. J. P. Wiggins of Maxton is a Lumberton visitor today.

NO RELIEF FOR 60 DAYS

There is Still Large Deficiency of Coal and Shortage Will be Felt Most Seriously This Month and Next—No Favors Will be Shown in Distribution.

A Washington dispatch of the 10th stated that A. H. Smith, assistant in charge of transportation on Eastern lines, had informed Director-General McAdoo that the railroad situation had improved under government regulation sufficiently to guarantee that there would be no further famine this winter. A Washington dispatch of the 11th, however, states that even some plants making munitions and other war materials may have to curtail fuel consumption during the next 60 days, this warning being given by Fuel Administrator Garfield in a statement Friday night assuring the public that every effort would be made to distribute the available supply of coal where most needed and that no partiality would be shown any section. Part of the 38,000,000 tons shortage of the past year had been made up, Dr. Garfield said, but there still is a large deficiency and it will be felt chiefly this month and next. There can be no possible relief for at least 60 days and within that time the situation may grow much worse than it is now, according to Dr. Garfield.

"Every one must conserve and curtail the use of coal," he declared. "While war plants and public utilities must be favored among industries, it is likely that they, too, will feel the pinch. It is distressing to be obliged to witness the hardships the people are undergoing. Demands are flooding the fuel administration from municipalities, but no locality can be shown preference and coal will be distributed equitably with no favors shown. The present situation is due almost wholly to railroad congestion."

SEVERE PENALTIES FOR HOARDING FOOD

Merchants Are Warned Not to Sell Customers Larger Quantities of Foodstuffs Than Their Reasonable Requirements.

Mr. H. E. Stacy, food administrator for Robeson county, says he has been informed that a large number of people are trying to purchase large quantities of flour and other food stuffs, larger quantities than their reasonable requirements. The food-control law describes hoarding as any quantity of food stuffs above "reasonable requirements for a reasonable length of time," and a fine of \$5,000 or 2 years imprisonment, or both, are punishments prescribed for violations, together with confiscation of the goods hoarded. Naturally the goods confiscated will not be paid for.

Mr. Stacy suggests that from 30 to 40 days' supply of staple food commodities might well be regarded as a reasonable amount. He asks the co-operation of merchants and asks The Robesonian to warn them that any merchant who sells excessive amounts of food stuffs with knowledge that they are in excess of the requirements of the purchaser for a reasonable length of time is aiding and abetting the violator of the law and makes himself liable.

Building Operations and Issue of Securities May be Regulated.

Regulation of the issue of practically all private securities soon will be proposed by the government. Legislation is being drafted by administration officials in conference with members of Congress authorizing the treasury to license each individual security issue, and to refuse approval to enterprises regarded as not essential to the conduct of the war.

A preliminary step, now being considered at the White House, is issuance of a proclamation calling on Governors and Legislatures of all States, and county, city or other local officials to cease making expenditures for public improvements not absolutely necessary and to refuse building or other permits, so far as possible, to private construction not contributing directly to prosecution of the war.

The result of the government's undertaking would be far-reaching. Not only bonds, stocks and other securities of big corporations would be affected, but building operations on a small scale probably would feel the effect of the tightening of capital. The government would have a tight grip on the securities market with power to indicate into which ventures capital should be placed and from which it should be withheld until the war's end.

Residence of Mr. D. H. Britt, Near Back Swamp Church, Burned.

Fire destroyed the residence of Mr. D. H. Britt, near Back Swamp church, yesterday about 9 a. m. Practically all the furniture was also lost. When the fire was discovered it had gained such headway that efforts to extinguish it were fruitless and it took heroic work to save the barns and stalls near by. The fire started in the kitchen. It has not been learned whether or not there was any insurance.

Mill Declares Quarterly Dividend of 7 1/2 Per Cent.

The directors of the National Cotton Mill Co. held their annual quarterly meeting in the office of the company Thursday. A quarterly dividend of 7 1/2 per cent was declared.

GLENNWOOD GLEANINGS

School Reopens With Renewed Interest—Giving Pupils Medical Examination—Social and Personal.

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Glennwood (Pembroke, R. 1), Jan. 12.—On account of the severe weather the Glennwood school did not reopen until January 7th. The school is progressing nicely and all of the pupils, with the teachers, are interested in their work for the New Year. Annie and Barney Wiggins, Worth Culbreth and Edison Lewis are among the pupils who have entered school for the spring term.

Mr. Edwin White, who has been working for the past few months in Switzer, W. Va., is spending a while at the home of his father, Mr. R. M. White.

Mrs. M. H. McNeill has returned from a visit to friends at Fairmont. Mr. and Mrs. Will McNeill have received a letter from their son, Calton, stating he has enlisted in the army and is at present stationed near San Francisco.

Miss Blanch White, who is in school at Rowland, is expected home Saturday to spend the week-end. Mr. Sandy McNeill has been visiting his brother Mr. John D. McNeill who lives near Maxton.

Mrs. Augusta Wiggins and family have recently moved into this community and are located near Moss Neck church.

Mr. Thomas Culbreth has resigned his position with the Breece Co. at Pembroke and has gone to Badin, where he has accepted a position. James and Lois McNeill, sons of Mr. and Mrs. John D. McNeill, have been visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. McNeill.

Several of the young people of the community attended a party given at the Cook hotel in Pembroke last Wednesday evening. Miss Vonnice Smith will entertain a few of her friends on Monday evening at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Smith.

Miss Glennie Graham and Mr. J. M. Hall, teachers of the Glennwood school, have been giving the medical examination to the pupils for the past few days. It is interesting to note that only a small per cent of the pupils are found to have defects. Miss Ella Duncan has returned to Red Springs to resume her studies in the graded school.

NITRATE OF SODA

Farmers Should Make Up Their Orders Collectively and Determine How Much is Wanted in Every Locality.

Everybody is interested now in nitrate of soda, especially farmers, and The Robesonian is publishing all the information it can get on its probable distribution. Mr. A. T. McCallum of Red Springs wrote Maj. Graham, State Commissioner of Agriculture, concerning the purchase and distribution of nitrate of soda from Chile by the Federal Department of Agriculture for the use of farmers. Mr. C. R. Hudson, chief of farm demonstration work of the State Department of Agriculture, to whom the letter was referred by Maj. Graham, wrote Mr. McCallum under date of January 7 that "while arrangements have definitely been made to make a purchase of 100,000 tons, and while part of it may be on the way here now, yet we have no information as to details about handling it. As soon as we have something definite as to details we will write you."

"In the meantime," Mr. Hudson writes, "I would suggest that wherever farmers want to buy this salt that they come together and make up their orders collectively, so that at the proper time they can furnish information as to just how much is wanted in any locality so that shipments may be made accordingly. My understanding is that shipments will not be made to any individual, except to those buying it in very large quantities."

Army Officer Murdered 4 Men, Robbed Bank and Committed Suicide.

At Camp Funston, Kansas, Friday night an army captain robbed the camp bank, murdered 4 men with a hatchet, and seriously wounded a fifth man. When the sole survivor of the attack regained consciousness Saturday and told of the crime, Capt. Lewis B. Whistler committed suicide by shooting himself through the head with an army rifle. One of the men murdered was C. Fuller Winters, president of the Federal Reserve bank of Kansas City, an intimate friend of Whistler. With Whistler's body was found a note, written to a woman, reading as follows: "I have been thinking of committing suicide for a long time but have never had a good reason. Yesterday I went out and made myself a good reason."

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS

Yielding to German insistence, Russia has withdrawn her demand for the transfer of the negotiations with the central powers to Stockholm and is proceeding with separate peace discussions at Brest-Litovsk.

Winter has settled down in earnest over all the important war fronts and beyond artillery actions which are being carried out over very limited sections there has been little fighting either in the west or east.

Cotton 30 Cents Today.

Middling cotton is selling on the local market today for 30 cents the pound.

BRIEF ITEMS LOCAL NEWS

—A 19-year-old horse belonging to Dr. H. T. Pope died Saturday night of colic.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Edward P. Fisher and Ethel Byrd.

—The Y. W. A. meets Tuesday night at the First Baptist church. A large attendance is desired.

—Mr. Williamson Beasley of Apex has accepted a position as salesman in the Pope drug store.

—Mr. J. G. Bundy and family moved last week from R. 2 from Red Springs to near Pope's Crossing.

—The condition of Mrs. J. C. Maxwell, who underwent an operation at the Rex hospital, Raleigh, Wednesday last week, is reported as favorable.

—Mrs. Lillie Langdon left this morning for Wilmington, where she will undergo an operation at the James Walker Memorial hospital for adenoids and tonsils.

—Rev. P. T. Britt of Bolivia passed through town Friday en route to Oakdale and White Pond, near Marietta, to fill his appointments. He is pastor of these churches.

—Mr. Maston Britt of R. 1 from Abottsburg was a Lumberton visitor Saturday. Mr. Britt recently sold his farm near Long Branch church and bought in Columbus county.

—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McGeorge of the State of Michigan arrived here Saturday and will spend some time at the Lorraine hotel. Mr. McGeorge came to Robeson on a hunting expedition.

—The appearance of the writing room at the Lorraine hotel has been greatly improved by the addition of new rugs and druggets and a fresh coat of paint to the floor. Mr. Jno. S. Holman, manager of the hotel, has also placed a supply of ferns and palms in the room.

—Mr. M. A. Odum passed through town yesterday en route to Littleton, where he has accepted a position as bookkeeper for the Littleton Feed & Grocery Co. Mr. Odum had been working at Wagram for some time. He was accompanied by Mrs. Odum, who stopped at St. Paul to visit relatives.

—If you notice that a street light is not burning when it should be, notify Mr. Geo. L. McNeill, superintendent of the light and power plant, and he will have the matter attended to. Mr. McNeill says often it is some time before he discovers that something is wrong with a light in the outskirts of the town.

—As a result of the feed line from the plant of the Yadkin River Power Co. to the Lumberton and Dresden cotton mills being blown down near the mills during the storm Friday night, neither of the mills has been operated since. A force of hands has been working on the line since the storm and it is thought work can be resumed tonight.

—Both the graded and high schools will open for the spring term tomorrow at 8:45 a. m. As was stated in Thursday's Robesonian, the opening was postponed from Tuesday of last week for various reasons. Supt. R. E. Sentelle says the work will be conducted in the same manner as before Christmas and all pupils are asked to take lunch with them in the morning.

—Mr. C. H. Phillips recently had a letter from his brother, Lieut. J. M. Phillips, who is in the British army, stating that he had been attached to the aerial board stationed at London. Lieut. Phillips had one of his knees hurt while fighting in the trenches several months ago and will return to the front when he has finally recovered from the injury. He formerly lived in Robeson and is well known here.

—Mr. T. L. Johnson, chairman of the army exemption board in Robeson county No. 1, and Dr. W. A. McPhaul, county health officer and a member of the exemption board, left last evening for Raleigh to attend a meeting of the local exemption boards for the State today. The meeting was called by Gov. Bickett. Mr. Johnson will go from Raleigh to Philadelphia, Pa., where he will spend a few days on business.

—Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Britt, who were married at Barnesville on the 27th ult., returned Thursday night from a bridal trip to Florida. They visited Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Tampa, St. Petersburg and other points in Florida. They took several automobile trips through the country in South Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Britt will board at the Lorraine hotel till spring, when they will begin housekeeping in Mr. Britt's residence, Second and Walnut streets.

—Mr. Ira Wilkins killed two wild geese in a cornfield near his home at Bellamy Saturday. The wing of one of them, and that the smallest, measured two and a half feet. There were 7 geese in the drove. These were the first geese he ever killed. Mr. Wilkins said, and he gave one of them to Mr. T. A. McNeill, Jr., of Lumberton, who arrived on the scene shortly after the slaughter. Mr. Wilkins and his small son were Lumberton visitors Saturday afternoon.

—Mr. Jas. L. Williamson returned last night from Sanford, where he spent some time in charge of a motion picture theatre owned by Mr. H. H. Anderson of Lumberton, and today goes back on the job as chief operator at the Pastime theatre here, which is good news to movie patrons, for Mr. Williamson has no superior in handling the films. The Pastime has installed a new \$400 simplex motor-driven machine and great improvement in the service may be expected. A great French war picture will be put on as a special feature Saturday of this week.