

FUTURE OF GRADED SCHOOLS AT STAKE

Critical Situation Confronts Management of Lumberton Graded Schools.

MAS MEETING TONIGHT

A Clear and Frank Statement of the Situation—More Funds Must Be Secured by Taxation or Schools Must Be Closed or Work Greatly Curtailed—Friends of Schools Must Register and Vote.

To the Citizens of the Town of Lumberton:

A critical situation confronts the management of your graded schools, and we feel that it is our duty, as your representatives, to lay the facts before you so that the existing situation may be fully understood, and that the necessary steps may be taken to provide the needs of our community with a system of graded school commensurate with their growing needs.

Established in 1907. The present graded school system was established in 1907 with seven teachers and an enrollment of something over 300. Competent teachers could then be had at \$40 per month, and operating expenses were low. It was then felt that a property tax of 30 cents on the \$100 valuation would provide sufficient funds, and hence the act fixed this as the limit of taxation. Since then, notwithstanding the enrollment has practically doubled, and although operating expenses have necessarily more than doubled, there has been no increase whatever in the tax rate.

Limit of Borrowing Has Been Reached—Almost in the very beginning experience demonstrated that the tax of 30 cents was not sufficient. The tax rate should have been raised then and there. But this was not done, and the result was that a debt began to accumulate which has now amounted to several thousand dollars. The limit of borrowing has now been reached and the banks refuse to extend further credit. Nor can they be blamed for so doing.

Only One Way to Get More Funds.—Not only is it true that a debt has been incurred but it is also a fact that for the past several years the schools were able to continue only because of assistance furnished by the town government from general town funds. The board of town commissioners, understanding and appreciating the fact that the school tax was utterly inadequate, came to the assistance of the school board and outation from the general town fund, appropriated ten cents on the \$100 valuation which amount was increased last year to 20 cents. At the beginning of the present fiscal year, however, your board was notified by the town authorities that the condition of the town treasury was such that it would be impossible for the town to continue to extend financial aid to the schools, and that the school board would have to take the necessary steps to secure additional funds from increased taxation, or else run the schools as long as the fund in hand permitted and then close. We are therefore confronted with the imperative necessity of securing additional funds, or else shutting up the schools or very materially shortening the school term. There is but one way to raise additional funds and that is through increased taxation.

Every Friend of the School Should Register.—This being the practical situation, the Legislature passed an act authorizing an election to be held on April 7th upon the question of increasing the graded school tax. There is a new registration for this election and only those who register for this election can vote on April 7th. The registration books are only open on Saturdays and but two Saturdays remain between now and the election. As you cannot vote unless registered, we urge every friend of the schools to register. You should also register after you register, because if you register and then fail to vote, you in reality vote against the tax, because the act provides that the tax cannot be levied unless there is a majority of the registered vote in favor thereof. If the increased tax is carried, then it is the duty of the town commissioners to levy such tax for school purposes as may be determined by the school trustees up to 75 cents on the \$100 valuation. This does not mean that 75 cents must be levied; that is the maximum. The board is of opinion that for next year a tax of 50 cents will provide for sufficient funds.

Schools Conducted Economically.—We have conducted your schools just as economically as possible, and if there has been waste or extravagance we are not conscious of it. Every voucher that has been issued is in existence; the books have been audited by an expert accountant; and any desired facts or figures can be obtained on application to the town clerk and treasurer. We have been so crippled for funds that today the schools are by no means what they should be or what they would be if we had available funds. The grades

115TH M. G. WILL PARADE IN WILMINGTON SATURDAY

Carolínians Who Helped Lick the Hun Will Be Entertained in Wilmington—Other Troops Arrive Today.

A special of March 26 from Newport News, Va., to the Wilmington Star, says:

"The 115th machine gun battalion hell cats of the 'Old Hickory' division who gambled with death and won, will leave here at 8 o'clock Friday morning for Wilmington, N. C., where they will parade before their people before going to Camp Jackson to be mustered out of the service. This announcement was made tonight from headquarters of the outfit."

The soldiers will be entertained in homes of Wilmington Friday night and Saturday and there will be a great celebration of their home-coming Saturday in that city, including a parade.

Goldsboro is planning to give the soldiers a great welcome during their stay of about an hour there Friday en route to Wilmington.

Three troop transports from France, the Mercury, the Koenigstein, the Nederlanden and the Pocahontas, are due to reach Charleston today. They are bringing units of the 30th (Old Hickory) division to be entrained for the camps, principally Camp Jackson, Columbia.

The following Robesonians belong to the 115th machine gun battalion which will parade in Wilmington Saturday:

Corporal Halbert Thompson and Private Herman L. Lewis, Fairmont; Private Charlie Britt, Lumberton; Corporal Chas. McGoogan, Red Springs; Private Ellis A. Scarborough, Kingsdale.

ANOTHER STILL CAPTURED.

Found in the Big Swamp—An Up-to-Date Plant—Moonshiners Vamose.

Another whiskey-making plant was captured by Rural Policeman F. A. Wishart and Deputy Sheriff A. H. Prevatt Tuesday. The still was found in the Big Swamp, near Lennon's bridge, not far from the Columbus county line. This was the most up-to-date plant the officers have captured in several moons. The still was made of a gasoline tank with a copper hood and worm and was a 60-gallon capacity outfit. Twelve barrels of beer—about 750 gallons—were found about the still. This was poured out. After the officers had torn down the still they saw two men coming towards them. When the men discovered the officers they hurried across the line into Columbus county. One of the men had a rifle and the other had some jugs.

Deputy Prevatt says the plant was up-to-date in every respect. A pump had been erected for furnishing water for operation and several loads of lightwood had been hauled to the still. The officers were led to the still by an unsigned letter addressed to Sheriff R. E. Lewis.

are so crowded that several teachers have to teach two sections; and every teacher has to instruct more pupils than can properly be handled by any one person. There is a crying need for more teachers and for additional equipment and departments. Yet we have no hopes of being able to make the improvements we would like to make. All we can hope even with the increased tax, is to pay actual operating expenses upon the basis of the present equipment and present departments, simply paying as we go and incurring no additional debt.

Mass Meeting Tonight.—We have called a mass meeting to consider the entire school question and this meeting will be held at the court house on Thursday night, March 27, at 8 o'clock p. m. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a large and representative attendance at this meeting. Ladies are not only cordially invited to attend, but are requested to attend, as we know they have the best interest of the schools at heart. At this meeting facts and figures will be given and full explanations will be made as to the necessity for the proposed tax. We can but feel that opposition to the increased tax is due largely to ignorance of actual existing facts, and that when the matter is so explained as to be understood, that our people will cheerfully provide the necessary funds. We know that our people have an earnest desire for an excellent system of schools; and it would be a public calamity for us to have to close the schools or so materially shorten the school term as to cripple the work that is being done.

Future of Town's Schools is at Stake.—We cannot too earnestly state that the future of our graded schools depends in large measure upon the meeting Thursday night. We can only operate through the funds provided by taxation. If sufficient funds are not provided the work will be so seriously crippled as to threaten the foundation of our school system. This will be the result of failure to vote the increased tax. It is a condition, and not a theory, which confronts us.

Very truly yours,
Q. T. WILLIAMS,
JOHN H. WISHART,
GEORGE L. THOMPSON,
C. V. BROWN,
L. E. WHALEY,
W. A. McPHAIL,
R. C. LAWRENCE,
Board of Graded School Trustees.
W. H. CALE, Superintendent
Lumberton, N. C., March 26, 1919.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF LIEUT. R. A. McLEAN

Remains Brought to Lumberton for Interment Tuesday—Passed Away at Alexandria, Va., Monday.

The funeral of Lieut. R. A. McLean was conducted Tuesday at 4 p. m. from the residence of his step-mother, Mrs. N. A. McLean, North Elm street, the services being conducted by Rev. Dr. G. E. Moorehouse, pastor of the Presbyterian church. The remains were interred in the East Fifth street cemetery, beside those of his father, the late Col. N. A. McLean. A large crowd, including many out of town, attended the services both at the house and at the grave, and the floral offerings were beautiful.

The pallbearers were: active—Messrs. Arch. Morrison, Jno. French, J. D. McAllister, F. P. Gray, J. D. McMillan, R. H. Crichlow; honorary—Messrs. T. A. McNeill, Jr., J. D. Proctor, L. E. Blanchard, H. E. Stacy, Drs. T. C. Johnson and Jno. Knox.

Deceased passed away in his bed some time between 6:30 and 8 o'clock Monday morning. News of his death reached Lumberton after 4 o'clock Monday afternoon and was mentioned in some of the last papers printed by The Robesonian Monday. The paper having gone to press before the news reached here, Lieut. McLean had been suffering for some time with sciatica and had made arrangements at his boarding house to get hot water every morning early. He was heard to go after hot water about 5 o'clock Monday morning. When some one went to wake him at 6:30, as instructed, he was heard through the door to be breathing as though sleeping very soundly, and he was not disturbed. At 9 o'clock he was found dead in his bed and physicians pronounced that he had been dead then at least an hour. Death was due to heart failure following an attack of influenza.

Richard Angus McLean, son of the late Col. N. A. and Sarah Elizabeth McLean, was born in Lumberton December 10, 1885, and was therefore in his 34th year. He attended Davidson college and graduated in law at the university of North Carolina. He practiced law in Lumberton for several years and was prosecuting attorney for the Lumberton district recorder's court for some time.

In 1917 Mr. McLean volunteered for military service and entered the second officers' training camp at Fort Oglethorpe. He was commissioned second lieutenant and sent to Camp Pike, Ark., later being transferred to Camp Dix, N. J. He sailed with his company, 336th machine gun battalion, for France in August 1918. After being in France about 2 months he was discharged from the service on account of physical disability and returned immediately to America, locating in Alexandria, Va., where he was employed by a shipbuilding concern.

Deceased is survived by three sisters—Messdames A. T. McLean and H. B. Jennings and Miss Agnes McLean—two brothers—Douglas, who is in the navy, and Murphy—and two half-sisters—little Misses Eugenia and Alice.

The remains were accompanied to Lumberton by Mr. L. E. Blanchard, formerly of Lumberton, now of Washington. Hon. A. W. McLean also would have accompanied the remains home but was detained in Washington by his duties as a member of the War Finance board. A number of railroad presidents from all over the country were in Washington for consultation with the board and as one member was absent Mr. McLean's absence would have broken a quorum and held up the work of the board for 2 days.

Among the out-of-town people here to attend the funeral were: Mrs. A. J. McKinnon and son, Lieut. H. A. McKinnon; Solicitor S. B. McLean and daughter, Miss Bessie McLean; Mr. H. C. McNair and daughter, Miss Sue McNair; Misses Margaret and Agnes Townsend, Mr. W. B. Harker, all of Maxton; Mr. J. L. Townsend of Maxquin, Va., and Messrs. L. S. and Earl Townsend of McDonald.

THREW BURNING CHILD INTO WELL; SAVED LIFE

Child Badly Burned When Man Struck Match to Examine Gasoline Can—Heroic Measure to Extinguish Flames.

The experience of being thrown into a well of water probably saved the life of Clinton, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Townsend of the Raft Swamp section. Some men were changing some gasoline from one auto to another Sunday night. One man struck a match to see how much gas they had in the can, when the gas became ignited. The can exploded and threw burning gasoline upon the child. Mr. Bonnie Townsend, who was near by, took the child and threw him into a well. The child's father then jumped into the well and rescued the child.

The burning gasoline had ignited the child's clothing and he would have burned to death had he not been thrown into the well. While he was badly burned about the face and arms, it is thought he will recover.

TOWN PRIMARY APRIL 29TH, SUPERIOR COURT NEXT WEEK.

Regular Town Election Will be Held First Monday in May—Supt. McNeill Resigns—To Extend Electric Line on Whiteville Road—Request to Oil St.

At a meeting of the mayor and town commissioners last night it was ordered that a primary for the nomination of town officers be held Tuesday, April 29. The regular town election will be held on the first Monday in May. The following were appointed: Primary managers—Wade Wishart, J. J. Goodwin, Troy M'White, D. B. McNeill, D. W. Biggs; registrar—D. R. Shaw; judges of election—Ben G. Floyd, J. Robt. Prevatt, C. P. McAllister.

The resignation of Mr. Geo. L. McNeill, superintendent of the light and the first Monday in May. Mr. McNeill will open an electrical supply business here as soon as his successor is employed.

Mr. H. B. Jennings appeared before the board and requested consideration of the advisability of oiling Elm street north of the portion that is paved. The clerk and treasurer was instructed to investigate the cost.

A compromise was ordered with Mr. T. L. Johnson in so far as the suit of Perthnia Evans vs. the town affects a lot purchased from her by him, by the payment of \$25 to Mr. Johnson. This is a suit brought for damage to property by the opening of a street through it.

It was ordered that the electric line be extended down the Whiteville road in order to connect the houses of prospective customers.

It was ordered that poll tax of O. J. Williams, deceased, paid by his widow, be refunded.

BELLAMY BRIEFS.

Death of Mrs. Etta Martin—Farmers Making Use of Good Weather. Personal.

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Bellamy, March 26.—The death angel visited the home of Mrs. R. Mercer Sunday at 2 a. m. and called for his own, the sister, Mrs. Etta Martin. She had been an invalid for about two years, but bore her sufferings bravely. She is survived by her mother, two brothers, four sisters, and a host of friends and relatives. The funeral services were conducted at the home by Rev. L. E. Dailey Sunday at 4 p. m. Interment was made in the family cemetery among a large crowd of sorrowing friends and relatives. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the bereaved ones.

Messrs. Singletary and Edwards have moved their saw-mill to Allenton.

Mr. Walter Pitman went to Camp Jackson, S. C., yesterday to see his mother, Private Leibel Pitman, who arrived from overseas last week. Mrs. B. H. Todd and infant visited at Lumberton Saturday.

Mr. Grover Branch spent several days recently at Fairmont.

Mrs. George Singletary and two children and sister, Miss Mae Duncan, spent several days recently at Fayetteville visiting their brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Duncan.

Miss Lillie McLean spent last week at Pembroke, the guest of Misses Elma and George Hall.

Mrs. Gussie Gerald and infant of Lumberton have been visiting in this section.

Mrs. Bettie Pitman of East Lumberton visited at the home of Mr. J. B. McLean Sunday.

Messrs. Wright Pitman and Henry Todd were Lumberton visitors Saturday.

Farmers are taking advantage of these beautiful spring days, getting the soil ready for another crop. We don't hear of any that have planted corn yet. The gardens are coming on nicely.

30TH'S MEN BROKE HINDENBURG LINE

Pershing Gives Full Credit to Southern Boys for Perhaps Greatest Single Accomplishment of World War.

The Thirtieth division is given full credit for the wonderful feat of arms accomplished in the breaking of the Hindenburg line last September 29 in a letter from Gen. John J. Pershing, commander in chief of the American expeditionary forces, to Major Gen. Edward M. Lewis, commanding the 30th. This letter was published in the Charlotte Observer of the 25th inst. Credit for first breaking through the Hindenburg line, declared by many authorities as the greatest single military accomplishment of the world war and by others as the greatest military decision of that contest, has been given in some quarters to the 27th division (New York national guard), but Gen. Pershing's letter definitely settles the matter and gives the men of the 30th full credit.

SINGING CONVENTION.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

WATCH THE LABEL

Two Women and Two Men to Be Tried on Charge of Murder—One Rape Case and One Manslaughter.

Superior court for the trial of criminal cases will convene Monday of next week with Judge W. P. Stacy of Wilmington presiding. Among the cases on the docket are four murder cases, one manslaughter and one rape case.

Those who will be tried on the charge of murder are: H. Q. Beard, charged with killing Hezzie Connor; Cattie Rowland, charged with killing Carrie Breedren; Martha Wood, Indian, charged with killing the wife of Joe Chavis; another Indian; Hob Hunt, Indian, charged with killing Yarboro Locklear. As indicated by the names—Carrie Breedren; Martha Wood, Indian are females.

Elberta Goodyear will be tried on the charge of rape and Joe Atkinson will be tried on the charge of manslaughter. Atkinson was driving the auto that ran over and killed Mr. Nathan Bullard about a year ago.

WITH ROBESON SOLDIERS.

Sgt. J. B. Strickland. Sgt. J. B. Strickland arrived here Monday night from Camp Jackson, having been given an honorable discharge from the army. Sgt. Strickland made his home here before entering the army. He has not yet decided where he will locate.

Mr. Q. T. Williams received a wire yesterday from his son Private Furman Williams advising that he arrived in New York Tuesday, feeling fine, and was going to Camp Lee. His parents have not seen Private Williams since he volunteered for military service on June 4, 1917, and was sent to Camp Gordon. He went to France in August, 1917, and spent most of the time at St. Nazaire.

Relatives of the following Robeson soldiers were advised by wire that they arrived in New York yesterday from France: Messrs. T. O. Edens and John L. McNeill, Lumberton and Layton Stephens of Fairmont.

Corp. Bert Ivey of Proctorville. Corporal W. Bert Ivey of Proctorville arrived home Tuesday from France. Corporal Ivey went overseas with the 81st—or Wildcat—division and belonged to Co. K, 321st Infantry. He left his company September 29 and entered an officers' training school. When he left his company it was on the front in the Alsace sector and had been under heavy shell fire for several days. Corporal Ivey sailed from Brest March 3 and landed in the State March 11.

Messrs. A. A. and A. E. Thompson of Fairmont. Messrs. A. A. and A. E. Thompson of Fairmont arrived home yesterday from Camp Jackson, having been given honorable discharge from the army.

Private W. D. Godwin. Private W. D. Godwin of Lumberton R. 1. arrived home Monday night from France. After spending a few days visiting home folks he will go to Camp Jackson, where he will be mustered out of the service. Private Godwin went overseas with the 81st—or Wildcat—division and was transferred to the 42nd division after reaching France. He was slightly wounded by shrapnel on October 15 while fighting on the Verdun front.

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SINGING CONVENTION.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

The Burnt Swamp Sunday school singing convention will meet with the church at Mt. Olive the fourth Sunday in April. The Sunday schools are all invited to be present.

T. H. HAMMON.

Messrs. C. M. and Dudley Britt of R. 4, Lumberton, were in town Tuesday.

Messrs. E. B. and W. I. Stone of R. 4, Lumberton, were in town yesterday.

Mrs. Mary R. Anderson of R. 1, Orrum, was among the shoppers in town Tuesday.

WATCH THE LABEL

Watch the date opposite the name on the label on your paper. When your subscription expires your paper will be stopped. This applies to all subscribers.

BRIEF ITEMS LOCAL NEWS

—Born, to Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Williamson, this morning, a fine boy.

—License has been issued for the marriage of Robt. W. Cobb and Laura Henderson.

—Messrs. Bullock Brothers have opened a garage and livery business in the Caldwell building, Second street.

—Mr. R. C. Birmingham has opened a grocery store in the McLeod building, Elm street, next to the Pas. time theatre.

—There will be a box supper at the McDonald school house Friday night, March 28, 1919. The public is cordially invited to attend.

—Mr. Robert W. Proctor, a student at the university of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, arrived yesterday and will spend a few days here visiting home folks.

—There will be a box party at Smith's school, fouse, Howellsville township Saturday night of this week. The proceeds will go to the benefit of the school. The public is invited. Misses May Clark and Caro McNeill are the teachers.

—Mr. L. C. Blanchard, formerly Robeson county farm demonstrator, is now located in Washington, having a position with the agricultural department of the census bureau. He left last night for Washington after attending the funeral of the late Lieut. R. A. McLean here.

—Claud Thompson, colored, of R. 3, Lumberton, was in town yesterday and advised The Robesonian that he killed a rattlesnake Monday that was some snake. The snake had twenty rattles and a button and was routed from his winter quarters by a forest fire, according to Claud's statement.

—Nine dozen bottles of ginger were thrown into Lumber river this morning by Sanitary Officer H. B. Robeson and a Robesonian reporter, who was deputized by Officer Robeson to assist him in the act. The ginger was 91 per cent. alcohol and was confiscated by the officers at the store of H. G. Meares.

—At the suggestion of the pastor, Rev. Dr. Chas. H. Durham, the congregation of the First Baptist church extended a vote of thanks to the board of censors for the services rendered last week. The vote was taken Sunday evening and practically all the congregation voted in favor of extending thanks to the board. None voted against it.

NEWS FROM ANTIOCH SECTION

Preaching Sunday—Missionary Rally
Next Sunday—Personal and Other Items.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Lumberton, R. 5, March 25.—There was preaching here Sunday. Large crowds attended and very excellent sermon by our pastor, Rev. L. E. Daily.

We are planning to have a missionary rally here Sunday a. m. We are glad to note that the infant daughter of Mr. Oscar Davis is much better after having spasms.

Mr. Pope Pitman, who has been working at St. Pauls, has come home to stay a while.

Miss Nornie Wilkerson, who teaches here, spent Saturday and Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilkerson of the Center section. Little Misses Mary Jane and Veima Patterson went with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Pitman spent Saturday and Sunday with Mrs. Pitman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Freeman of the Hog Swamp section.

Miss Tossie Townsend spent Saturday at Lumberton.

Miss Artie Britt, who is attending school at Wilmington, is spending a week or so with home folks.

Miss Lora Small is spending some time with her cousin Miss Mary Pitman here.

Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Pitman and daughter, Miss Emma, of the Boulah section, attended preaching here Sunday.

Messrs. Albert Small, Gaiter Small and Bullock of the Center section made a flying trip in these parts last Tuesday night.

Misses Artie and Blanche Britt are spending the day in Lumberton shopping.

Misses Joanna and Lillie Smith attended preaching here Sunday.

Everybody seems to be hauling guano today, looks as if they do not care for the price and mean to make a mney and food crop. I prefer the food crop.

Mr. Lewis Pitman and son, Mr. Pope Pitman, spent Saturday at Lumberton, also Mr. Ernest Powell.

Mr. Rinco Britt spent a while at Lumberton Sunday night.

Lots of people have been planting watermelons, guess they will be nice to eat in the shade when the hot days come in the summer.

DR. WILLIAM W. PARKER,
Optometrist
Expert Knowledge of Eye Diseases
and Fitting Glasses.