

THE ROBESON ASSOCIATION.

Interesting Report Written by Editor Archibald Johnson—He Declares It the Best He Has Attended—Notes and Comment.

Charity and Children.

It is hard to write about Lumberton and the Robeson association, and keep within the bounds of reason. The Robeson met with the First church of Lumberton on Wednesday morning Oct. 29th. Two strong laymen, Mr. L. R. Varner and Dr. R. T.

Allen are the officers of the association. There are 57 churches in the body, one or two of them being across the border in South Carolina, and the remainder in the county of Robeson. Lumberton has a population of between five and six thousand with as fine streets as those of Oxford. It has mercantile establishments of immense proportions and the volume of business is large and growing. Since our last visit, a splendid hotel has been erected which fills a long felt need. It is one of the very finest and most substantial towns in the

state. What shall we say of the Lumberton First Baptist church that our readers do not already know? They have about 600 members, and no millionaires, but it is a church of vast wealth. The money in this church is beautifully distributed, and they discovered long ago that money was not made to hoard. They worship the Lord in that church, and not the dollar!

The allotment of this church in the 75 million dollar campaign is \$82,000, and they will pay it in hilarious fashion. They have in their membership 15 well furnished lawyers, many of them the leaders of the Lumberton bar—one of the strongest in the state. The moderator is regarded as among the ablest lawyers in North Carolina, and we dare not begin to name the others for we would be obliged to name them all. The Baptist business men of Lumberton are among the wealthiest and most successful in the town. The women cannot be described.

Lumberton is one of the Baptist Gibraltar of the state. There are hundreds more Baptist in Lumberton than the members of all other denominations combined. There are no less than three vigorous Baptist churches in the town and they are all growing rapidly in influence and power as well as in number.

Rev. C. H. Durham is the happy pastor of the great First church. He was pastor for many years once before and went to Winston Salem for a few years, but he was needed and loved so much in Lumberton that he could not resist the call to return, which came not only from his own people, but from the citizens generally; and he has made no mistake.

We are also delighted to record the steady growth of the other denominations in Lumberton. The Methodists have completed a fine building, and the Presbyterians have erected one of the most beautiful and tasteful meeting houses in the State. The Presbyterians are numerically weak in Lumberton, but they have considerable wealth and are a generous and loyal people.

The association was the best we have ever attended. The discussions would have done credit to the Baptist State Convention. Three addresses, one by Rev. J. S. Snyder of Fayetteville, one by Dr. Walter N. Johnson and one by Rev. Q. C. Davis were well worth the trip to Lumberton to hear.

Pastor Davis is enlisted in the 75 million campaign, his church at Albemarle having given him permission to fill as many engagements as possible during the campaign. His plea is one of marvelous power. We heard the opinion expressed by some who heard George Truett that this speech by Mr. Davis is in the same class. It is a very powerful and unanswerable argument in favor of the mighty movement that is stirring Southern Baptists as nothing else has ever stirred them.

The Orphanage hour was very tender and sweet. The report, which was one of the best we have ever heard, was read by Rev. C. V. Brooks of Red Springs. At the conclusion of the discussion in which it was suggested that the Robeson association ought to have a building at the Orphanage, Mr. James D. Proctor moved that the association proceed to build a house, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas L. Johnson with a subscription of \$500. The ball kept rolling until \$11,100 was subscribed on the floor of the association and the Orphanage man was told to go home and report that the Robeson association would add a \$25,000 building to the Orphanage equipment. It was all done so easy and with such smiling generosity that we hardly realized the magnitude and importance of the little time employed. But that is the way the Robeson, which is one of the greatest associations in North Carolina, does things.

Time fails us to tell of all the thrilling experiences of this momentous session of the Robeson association, and this lead pencil balks in the attempt to describe the gentle Christian courtesy showered on the visitors. Rev. C. H. Durham is past master when it comes to delicate and thoughtful consideration for the comfort of others and the Lumberton women can not be adequately described.

The writer was entertained in the sweet home of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Varner, the finest home in Lumberton, except those in which the other

visitors sojourned.

Our church at Red Springs has passed through a season of sorrow owing to internal strife and dissension. However, the unruly element has been suppressed, and a day light has broken on our cause in that town. Pastor C. V. Brooks has had much to endure but he stood at his post like a soldier until the storm subsided, and as a partial reward for his fidelity his salary has been substantially increased. The moral power of the Robeson association is behind the little band at Red Springs, and the outlook is bright for the brethren. The next session of the Robeson association meets at Red Springs.

It was the pleasure of the writer to stop with Rev. H. H. Honeycutt at Maxton on Friday night, and worship with a number of the brethren of the Baptist church at the evening service. There are few pluckier little churches in the Robeson association than this Maxton church, and some of these days they are going to build a meeting house worthy of their faith and courage. Mr. Honeycutt, to use the expression of Mr. Mack McKinnon, a good Presbyterian brother, "is a wheel horse."

It was our pleasure to visit the Robesonian office in Lumberton the other day, and pass the time of day with Brother J. A. Sharpe, the general editor, and the President of the North Carolina Press Association. The Robesonian has fifty years of continuous existence behind it, and it is more vigorous and influential than ever. It has borne a large share of the load in the wonderful development of Robeson.

Rev. J. L. Jenkins of Parkton, one of the ablest ministers in the Robeson association, was holding a meeting somewhere and thus missed the finest session of his association ever held. Mr. Jenkins should not have got tangled up in a meeting until after the association.

Pastor C. H. Durham was hardly happier than our big Orphanage representative, Hon. Stephen McIntyre at the Robeson association. That was one time he let the law go and stuck to the gospel. His face was wreathed in a wide smile all through the session.

Rev. John R. Miller, formerly of the Liberty association, is prospering greatly at Fairmont, one of the

mighty churches of the Robeson. Mr. Miller has a great hold on his people who thoroughly appreciate the exceptional ability of their pastor.

We have long hoped to see a building at the Orphanage bearing the honored name of the Robeson association. That desire is soon to be realized.

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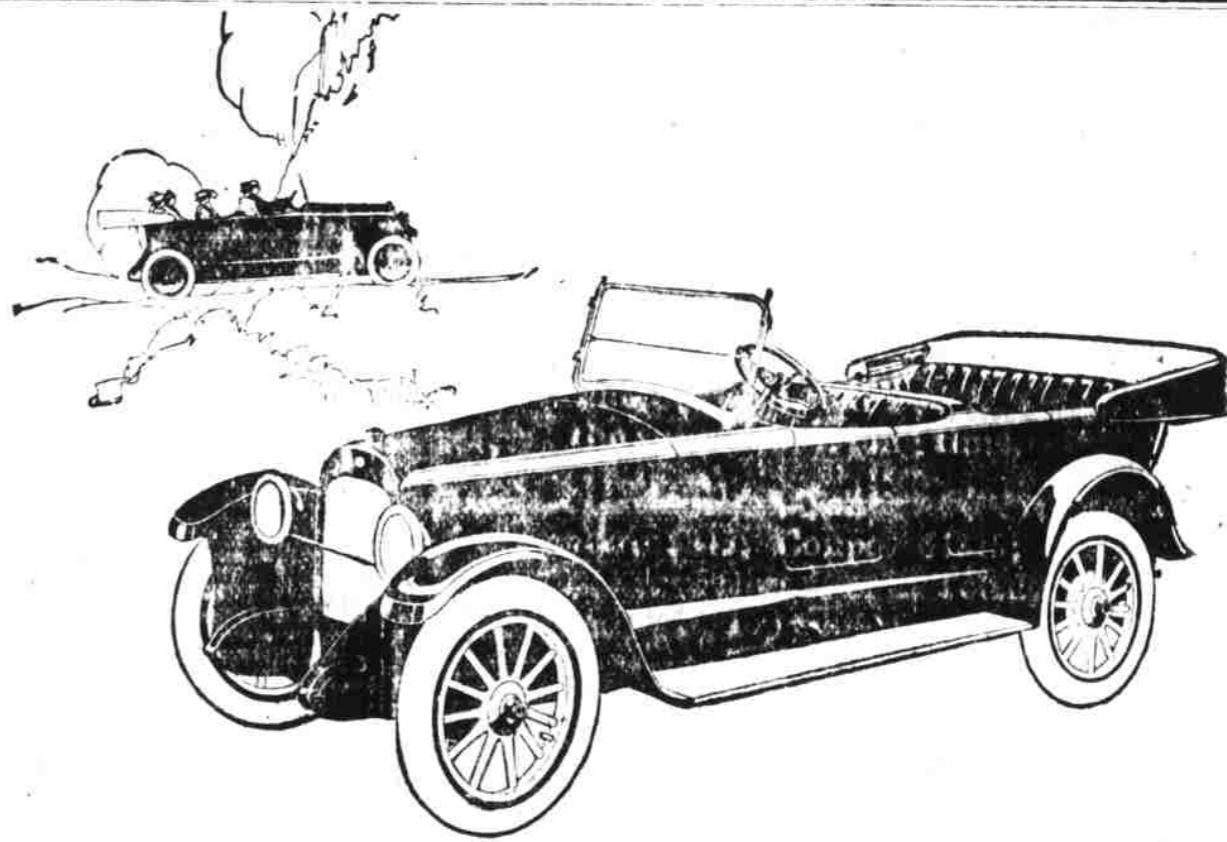
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