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# THE ROBESONIAN

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## SUPERIOR COURT

### Trial of Gus Floyd for Murder of Leola Meares, Both Colored Begun This Morning—Phillips and Barker Cleared of Blocking Charge—Fred Lawson Pleads Guilty of Store Breaking—Other Cases—Civil Court Next Week.

A number of cases have been disposed of in Superior court here this week, but very few have been found guilty by jury. The trial of Gus Floyd negro, charged with the murder of Leola Meares, also colored, was begun today. Meares was 17 years old and was shot on Thanksgiving day, at Alma, death resulting from loss of blood before a physician reached him.

Following are the cases disposed of up to last night: Tom J. Phillips and Clarence R. Barker, manufacturing liquor; not guilty.

Fred Lawson, store-breaking, plead guilty; sentence not passed. Lawson was charged with breaking into Mr. L. H. Warwick's store at Orrum last summer, soon after he returned home from the State prison at Raleigh, having been given a conditional pardon by former Governor Bickett. He had served four years of a ten year sentence for larceny.

J. A. McRacken, carrying concealed weapons, plead guilty; prayer for judgement continued upon payment of cost.

Levy McKay, manufacturing liquor; not passed with leave.

P. G. Byrd, violating sanitary law; not guilty.

Richard Thompson, carrying concealed weapon; plead guilty; fined \$50 and cost.

Richard Thompson, assault with deadly weapon, plead guilty; prayer for judgement continued upon payment of cost.

Maddick and French Locklear, assault with intent to kill; not guilty.

Herald Thompson, having too much liquor in his possession, plead guilty; fined \$25 and cost and required to make bond in the sum of \$100 and appear at each term of criminal court for two years and show that he has not sold or drunk any whiskey and also show good behavior. Local officers found a gallon and a half of whiskey in Thompson's auto here early in December of last year.

Albert Locklear, larceny, plead guilty; prayer for judgement continued upon payment of cost and \$6 to P. F. McGirt for corn stolen.

Bog Cummings, larceny, plead guilty; prayer for judgement continued upon payment of cost and \$3 to P. F. McGirt for corn stolen.

Sam Burns, removing crop; judgement suspended upon payment of cost and \$40 to Jno. D. McArthur for corn removed.

Hubert Childy and Ed. Braddy, larceny of auto; not guilty.

Judge Frank A. Daniels of Goldsboro is presiding and will preside at next week's term of civil court.

## Cotton Meeting

### Next Week

Cotton meetings will be held next week under auspices of the county cotton association, county board of agriculture and cooperative demonstration work. Speakers from the various organizations will be present. Following is a list of meetings: Mexton—Tuesday, February 8, at 10:30 a. m. Rowland—Tuesday, February 8, at 2 p. m. Fairmont—Wednesday, February 9, at 10:30 a. m. Marietta—Wednesday, February 9, at 1:30 p. m. St. Pauls—Thursday, February 10, at 10:30 a. m. Parkton—Thursday, February 10, at 2 p. m. Lumber Bridge—Friday, February 11, at 10:30 a. m. Pembroke—Friday, February 11, at 2 p. m. Everyone interested in cotton is asked to attend nearest meeting.

## Propose to Tighten Up Volstead Law.

Prohibition leaders in Congress are hoping to tighten up the Volstead law states a Washington dispatch. They are planning new legislation to provide a flat jail sentence for the first offense of selling liquor without giving the courts the optional right of imposing a fine. Other changes being discussed among the prohibition leaders relate to the search and seizure clause, so as to reach the home brew and to make more sweeping the present law under which a person buying liquor may be punished equally with the person selling it.

Mr. Ed E. Johnson of St. Pauls, R. 2, was a Lumberton visitor Monday. Messrs. L. Martin and Winfred Carter of Maxton were among the visitors in town Tuesday. Mr. Z. D. Sealy of the Barnesville section is a Lumberton visitor today. Mr. Roger Pittman of Barnesville is a Lumberton visitor today. Mr. Burnie N. Bristow of Lumber Bridge, who is taking a business course at Kings business college-Raleigh, spent the week-end at Lumber Bridge with home folks. Mrs. Bristow and baby who are with his father, will go to Raleigh in a few weeks to join Mr. Bristow.

## General Assembly

### Welfare Officer Bill for Robeson Enables County Commissioners to Sound Out Public Sentiment and Re-establish the Office—Senate Votes Down Salary Increase Bill But Will Consider It Again—Free Text Books Proposed.

The Senate Tuesday passed the Caritor bill making it unlawful to deposit in the mails or transmit by hand or post any anonymous or threatening letter.

It also passed the bill making section 4481 of the Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting a tenant to desert a crop without refunding any advances he has received and forbidding any other land-lord from harboring such a tenant applicable to the entire State. The constitutionality of the law was questioned when it was under consideration some days ago, and Senator Hartsell pointed out yesterday that the Supreme Court has held that intent to defraud at the time the advances were received must be shown in order to convict under the statute.

A bill to validate school bonds in St. Pauls passed the House Tuesday. The Long bill for increases of salaries to heads of State departments and judges was Tuesday reported favorably by a unanimous vote at a joint meeting of the House and Senate committees on salaries and fees.

Mrs. Edith Vanderbilt of Buncombe county addressed a joint session of the Legislature yesterday, creating a most favorable impression. She advocated the good roads program and agricultural upbuilding in North Carolina. Mrs. Vanderbilt is president of the State Fair association.

The Senate yesterday voted down the bill crying increased salaries for heads of departments and judges by a vote of 21 to 20. Senator Taylor changed his vote from aye to no and lodged a motion to reconsider, which will be acted upon today. Senator Varner was among the friends of the measure who spoke in its behalf yesterday.

The Senate yesterday passed a substitute to Senator Varner's bill to abolish the county welfare officer in Robeson which enables the county commissioners, upon application from the proper authorities, to sound out public sentiment and re-establish the office. Senator Varner stated that the Department of Public Welfare has no objection to the substitute.

Senator Kaupie, Republican, of McDowell, yesterday offered a bill providing for free text books for all public school children up to and including those of the 7th grade. The bill provides that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall ascertain the number of textbooks needed to supply all of the children in the public schools of North Carolina and that an estimate of the cost shall be filed with the Budget Commission in his next and each succeeding biennial report and that a sufficient sum shall be set apart for the purpose.

## Don't Kill It

### But Doctor It

Equalization and Not Repeal is What is Expected to Happen to Revaluation—Public Hearing Tuesday of Next Week.

Equalization and not repeal is what will happen to the Revaluation act, if the opinions voiced by the full joint finance committee yesterday afternoon indexes the sentiment of the General Assembly. "Not kill it, but doctor it," as Senator McKinnel expressed it, and with variations as to method of treatment, that was the sense of the entire session yesterday.

Out and out enemies of the Revaluation act, headed by President Stone, of the Farmers Union, and Collector J. W. Bailey, were present at the beginning of the hearing, but they wanted longer notice than from Friday to Monday to line up the opposition, and were given until next Tuesday afternoon to prepare their case. Pending this public hearing, the committee declined to take final action yesterday afternoon, although it was urged by several members.

Representative Doughton surprised the committee and the attendants upon its hearing with the announcement that in spite of the ten per cent limitation imposed by the General Assembly, levies for public schools of commissioners in ninety of the hundred counties of the State exceeded the limitation by \$900,000.

Mr. Doughton based his statement on a tabulation of reports from these ninety counties in the hands of the State Tax Commission.

These levies were made presumably on school budgets made up by the county boards of education. Seventy-six of the ninety counties exceeded the ten per cent increase and twenty-eight of these counties exceeded it by more than ten thousand dollars. It is noticeable also that the most complaint of excessive taxes is coming from tax payers in these counties where the increased taxes were levied for county schools by the county board of Commissioners and in violation of the limitation of tax rates fixed in the revaluation act.

The twenty-eight counties exceeding the limitation by more than ten thousand dollars each, and the amount

## Compromise Bill

### On Welfare Work

Whole Time Officer Will be Optional With Counties of Small Population—Varner Withdraws Abolition Bill and Offers Substitute—Increased School Attendance, Alone Has Made the Work Worth While.

Compromise of the question of discontinuing the work of welfare officers in many counties of the State was agreed upon by the joint propositions and grievances committees of the House and Senate yesterday afternoon, and if the General Assembly concurs in the report, retention of full-time officers in counties of less than 25,000 population will be made optional. No offices are fully abolished.

Proponents and opponents of welfare work were heard by the two committees sitting jointly, and afterward each retired to consider separately what action it would take. Both committees accepted the substitute, but in the face of urgent requests by Senators Burgwyn, of Northampton, and Nash, of Richmond, the Senate committee reported two direct abolition bills favorably. The difference will be ironed out on the floor of the Senate.

Senator Varner, who had an abolition bill pending before the committee set the status of the hearing when he withdrew that measure and offered in lieu thereof a bill making it optional with the county commissioners and the county board of education whether the office should be continued on full time, and in the event that the full-time officer was released the county superintendent of public schools should assume the duties.

This measure was acceptable to the Welfare Commission, and received general support in the committee. Commissioner Beasley and Superintendent Brooks spoke in favor of it, and against it were Pitt Burgwyn, of Northampton, and Nash, of Richmond. The two latter were resentful of what they termed "dictation" from an officer created by the General Assembly, the Commissioner of Public Welfare.

General complaint against the operation of the bill was made from various counties, and the report of Dr. Brooks and Mr. Beasley was that it was not the law at fault, nor the office, but the officer and the people of the county who had not properly supported it. Both appealed to the members of the committee to judge the matter in the broader light of the intent of the law, rather than its ineffective working in some counties.

One thing alone, Dr. Brooks declared, made the welfare work worth every penny that it had cost the State and the counties, and that was the fact that during the past year 100,000 more children were in the public schools of the State than had ever attended them before, although the school population had not increased above 40,000. These 60,000 children in school, who had never attended school before, stood as a living monument to the welfare officer, no matter what other shortcomings he might have had, he asserted.—Raleigh News and Observer, Feb. 2.

## of the excess taxes levied for schools in each of such counties, above the ten per cent authorized by the revaluation act, is as follows:

Anson, \$27,233; Bertie, \$12,526; Burke, \$15,978; Cleveland, \$13,351; Craven, \$17,515; Cumberland, \$25,358; Durham, \$60,509; Franklin, \$19,315; Harnett, \$14,260; Johnston, \$41,819; Martin, \$23,712; Nash, \$12,568; New Hanover, \$15,100; Northampton, \$21,631; Pitt, \$23,838; Robeson, \$30,654; Rockingham, \$59,989; Rowan, \$17,864; Rutherford, \$10,864; Stanley, \$16,565; Stokes, \$11,768; Surry, \$11,699; Union, \$54,493; Vance, \$20,395; Washington, \$12,466; Wayne, \$13,650; Wilson, \$67,591.

Some machinery for equalization of assessments locally, and for bringing the county assessments throughout the State to a common value is the aim of all members of the General Assembly who discussed the matter yesterday; and during the two hours, very nearly every member of the committee had something to say about it. Some advocated the recall of the board of assessors and others advocated the county commissioners as the proper channel, but both with the State Tax Commission to supervise the whole to the end that all counties should be assessed alike.—Raleigh News and Observer, Feb. 1.

## President Refuses to Commute Sentence of Debs.

Recommendation by the Department of Justice that the ten-year sentence of Eugene V. Debs, long a prominent Socialist leader and now serving a ten-year sentence at Atlanta, Ga., for violation of the wartime espionage laws, be commuted, effective February 12 next, Lincoln's birthday, was rejected Monday by President Wilson and commutation refused.

The decision of the President is not a surprise, because of his previous refusal to intervene in the case on the ground that Debs had sought to handicap the government through opposition to the selective service act during the war and that the granting of clemency in this case might induce similar tactics on the part of others in the event of another war.

## Parkton News Letter

The Farmer Has Been Thoroughly Informed—Death of an Infant—Mr. Collier Cobb is a Lucky Hunter—Those Injured in Auto Wreck Able to Return Home—Personal and Other Items.

By C. D. Williamson

Parkton, Feb. 1.—Our town was well represented in Lumberton Monday. The farmers were there in their interest, while several of our business men were there in their interest. This scribble arrived too late to hear the speeches, but was told they were great. Farmers were there in great numbers and you could see they meant business. We were pleased to shake the clever hand of our friend ex-Sheriff McLeod, and hear him express himself in regard to the farmer for the year 1921. He says if the farmer would dispense with guano this year and cut his cotton acreage half, the rest would take care of itself.

As we see it now, the farmer has been thoroughly informed. Now if he doesn't profit it is his own fault. Rev. W. L. Maness preached one of the most able sermons here Sunday, yet holding his large congregation spellbound for 45 minutes. His theme was—Christian Warfare. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand the fiery darts of the devil. At the conclusion of his sermon, many professed Christians responded to his call to renew their covenant and lead a more devoted Christian life.

On last Wednesday evening Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Currie came down from Weldon, on train 89 with their 5-months-old baby a corpse, having died of pneumonia on Tuesday. The body was taken immediately to the cemetery, where we laid it to rest beside two others of the family. This was a sad burying indeed, this being the last of their children to die in their infancy. We extend our sympathy to the heart broken parents. The services were conducted by Rev. J. K. Hall, pastor of the parents.

Miss Annie Lee McArthur is nursing at the home of Mr. L. C. Hall, where two of his children have pneumonia.

Wednesday evening late as the sleet and snow were falling thick. Mr. Collier Cobb came in with a 20 pound gobbler that he had shot a couple miles away on the marsh. This makes the second wild turkey he has landed since Christmas. He's a lucky number anyway when it comes to wild game.

Mr. Frank Davis of Tobemory is in town tonight. He says he expects to leave for Florida soon, but how can a fellow stay away long while he is suffering with heart trouble?

The Parkton band meets Monday and Friday nights for general rehearsal and they, keep our town live-some. They are giving the town some live numbers.

The scrub basketball team of our school went over to Lumber Bridge this p. m. and won a game, score 8 to 2 as reported. When the weather will permit you may expect to hear from our boys. Some real league games will be played.

Our town was well represented at Red Springs Monday night to enjoy the great violinist. They report a great time. Several of our town girls spent Monday with home folks and returned Monday night.

Dr. Herndon was able to come home Friday from the Pittman hospital and Mr. J. C. Lancaster returned home Monday p. m. Both are able to walk some but it will be quite a while before they will be able to do much work.

Mr. P. H. Fisher is enjoying a seat with the grand jury this week.

Mr. Neill McQueen and bride arrived from Georgia Sunday and are visiting at the home of his brother-in-law, Mr. J. G. Hughes.

Little Douglas Tolar is sick with pneumonia. He was taken Saturday. A nurse from Fayetteville is with him.

## Coast Line Will Discontinue Some Trains.

Declaring they are face to face with a most serious situation, that of paying large payrolls and other heavy overhead expenses which the present revenue of the system will not meet, the officials of the Atlantic Coast Line say they have found it absolutely necessary to discontinue some trains and curtail other passenger train service in order that the receipts may meet the operating expense.

## Robeson Should

### Have New County Home

Grand Jury Makes Strong Plea for Better Provision for Poor—"We Have No County Home." Report Says—Repairs Should be Made Until Other Arrangements Can be Made—Jury Scores Conditions at Court House and Calls for Repairs There Also.

In its report to Judge Daniels yesterday the grand jury did not mince words in denouncing conditions at the county home and the court house.

"We have no county home," the report says, "it is a poor house in fact as well as in name. The time is at hand when Robeson county should have a new county home from top to bottom, with buildings sufficient to serve the purpose for which they are intended." The jury believes that the people of the county are willing to stand any tax that may be necessary to remove this reproach. Until a new home can be built, the jury calls for repairs to be made at the present makeshift, and if repairs are not made within a reasonable time it calls upon the solicitor to take whatever steps may be necessary to "stimulate those in authority into action."

Conditions at the court house also are denounced. The temple of justice, erected at great cost, needs repairs, and conditions are not sanitary there, the jury says. Attention also is called to the bad condition of bridges.

The report in full follows: To the Honorable Frank A. Daniels, Judge Presiding at January Term, 1921.

The grand jury having completed its work at this term of the court begs to leave to submit the following report:

We have passed upon 17 bills of indictment, finding 15 true bills and 2 not true bills.

Jail and Chain Gang Okey. We visited the county jail in a body and found ten prisoners—four white and six colored. We found the jail well kept and in good sanitary condition. The prisoners stated that the jailer, Mr. Arch Prevatt, was kind to them and that they had plenty to eat and were well cared for. We visited the chain gang by committee and found 26 prisoners—3 white and 23 colored. They all appear to be in good health to be treated kindly and to have plenty of food. We found the camp in fair condition and have no criticism to submit as to it.

Court House Needs Repairs; Poor Janitor Service. We visited the several county offices in the court house in a body, and found them well kept, in good condition and the officers in proper discharge of their duties. We desire, however, to call attention to the condition of the court house building. It was built at great expense to the taxpayers of the county, and both business prudence and common decency requires and demands that it be kept in good order and condition. We are advised that a janitor is regularly employed whose sole duty it is to look after the building and see that it is kept in proper condition. Despite this, we find that the building is in very unsanitary condition, especially with respect to the toilets and water closets. The entire building is by no means as clean as it should be, and some steps should be taken to prevent spitting on the floors and the walls, and the toilets should receive such care and attention as may be necessary to keep them in a sanitary condition. We recommend that the officer in charge of the building see to it that hereafter the janitor performs his duty in a more satisfactory way, or else that he secure the services of a new janitor. We also observe several leaks in the building, plastering falling in places, tiling broken up, etc. Repairs are necessary and should be made at once, else the building will damage greatly. We recommend that the county commissioners forthwith secure the services of a competent contractor and have the necessary repairs made to the entire building, and that this be done at once. This much is due the taxpayers of the county.

Must Make Better Provisions for the Poor. We visited the county home by committee and are not at all pleased with the conditions which exist there. We found ten inmates—4 white, 4 colored and 2 Indians. The inmates seemed to be well fed and cared for as well as can be done under existing circumstances, and in this report it must not be understood that we are making any criticism of the keeper of the home. He has no doubt done the best he could with the means at hand. But we do mean to criticize and also to emphasize the fact that different arrangements should be made in this county with respect to our county home. In fact we have no county home. It is a poor house in fact as well as in name. The buildings are worn out and dilapidated and the general conditions and surroundings are not at all what they should be. The time is at hand when Robeson county should have a new county home from top to bottom, with buildings sufficient to serve the purpose for which they are intended. We cannot afford to be ungenerous in dealing with the unfortunates in our midst. We are able and we believe our people are

## COTTON MARKET.

Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 11 1/2 cents the pound; strict middling 12 1/2 cents.

## BRIEF ITEMS LOCAL NEWS.

—Born, Sunday, to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Roach, a son—W. A. Roach, Jr. —The ground hog who lives hereabouts surely failed to see his shadow yesterday. Come on spring.

—The Alfred Rowland chapter, U. D. C. will meet tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 in the municipal building.

—Maccabees will meet tomorrow (Friday) evening at 7:30. All Maccabees are requested to be present, as some important matters will be considered.

—Mr. C. B. Oliver of Fairmont, R. 2, killed a "pig" recently that tipped the scales at 733 pounds. Has a larger been killed in Robeson this season?

—"Somebody stole my wife," said a man who came into The Robesonian office yesterday. The stealing took place Tuesday night, according to the husband. What sort of larceny would you call that?

—Mr. J. M. Thompson, an independent cotton buyer who is at present located at Proctorville, expects to move to Lumberton with his wife and child and buy cotton on this market, if he can secure a house.

—At a meeting of the mayor and town commissioners Tuesday evening Messrs. R. H. Crichton and E. M. Johnson, members of the board, and Mr. J. P. Russell, town clerk and treasurer, were appointed a committee to draft a new town sanitary ordinance relative to the handling of fruits, vegetables, meats, fish, oysters and other edibles. While some other matters were discussed, this was the only action taken by the board at this meeting.

## Chairman White Calls Meeting of Democratic National Committee.

George White, chairman of the Democratic National committee, yesterday appointed an executive committee of the National committee, and called it to meet in Washington February 17 for the purpose of obtaining its "advice and counsel" in the reorganization of the party's machinery. The executive committee is composed of sixteen members. The member for North Carolina is A. W. McLean of Lumberton.

## Wizard Automobile Officers Held Under \$5,000 Bonds Each.

Three principal officers and two directors of the Wizard Automobile company of Charlotte, were held for investigation by a Federal grand jury under bonds of \$5,000 each by United States Commissioner J. W. Cobb at Charlotte Monday night at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing, which began last Thursday, on charges of conspiracy and fraud in the use of the mails, filed by District Attorney S. J. Durham.

## Asheville, Feb. 1.—A little "under world" was explored thoroughly by hundreds of persons early this afternoon when many laymen witnessed for the first time an illicit still in full operation near the heart of the city, following discovery of a complete outfit, buried in the basement of a little dwelling on Biltmore avenue.

J. H. McCully, 35 years of age, and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Williams, 50 years of age, alleged owners of the still, are now in jail, awaiting preliminary trial before Magistrate Creaman.

## Mr. Swain Britt and daughter, Miss Gertrude Britt, of R. 1, Orrum, are among the shoppers in town today.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. McGougan and Mr. H. L. Walters of Renfrew were among the visitors in town yesterday.

Mr. W. F. DeVane and son, Mr. James DeVane, of Bladenboro, were Lumberton visitors yesterday.

willing to tax themselves to any extent that may be necessary to give these unfortunate people all the comforts they are reasonably entitled to as citizens of a civilized State. In the meantime, until other arrangements can be made, repairs are badly needed to buildings and should be made without delay. We are advised that this matter has been repeatedly called to the attention of the county commissioners by grand jury after grand jury, but still nothing has been done except to file the reports of the grand jury and serve a copy on the commissioners. And so it goes. We think the time has now come when there should be some action and if these repairs are not made within a reasonable time, a copy of this report should be handed to the solicitor and we rely upon him to find the necessary ways of stimulating those in authority into action.

## Bridges in Bad Condition.

The bridges of the county, as a whole, are in very bad condition indeed, many of them being almost impassable and a menace to public travel. We recommend that this matter be also called to the attention of the commissioners and that they be requested to see to it that the bridges of the county under their supervision have necessary attention and have it at once.

Respectfully submitted, L. L. SHAW, Foreman.