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THE ROBESONIAN

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NUMBER 195

Considerable Hail Fell Last Night

Six inches of hail reported in Rennert section and two inches at St. Pauls—Tobacco Plant Beds May be Damaged.

Considerable hail fell in various parts of Robeson last night about 8:30 o'clock, two to six inches being reported, and in some places hail was on the ground this morning. No hail fell in Lumberton, but a light rain fell here about the same hour.

The hail seems to have been heaviest in the Rennert section. Mr. W. B. Smith, who lives in that section and is a Lumberton visitor today, says the storm touched about two miles from his home. The hail came in a streak about one and a half miles wide and piled up till it was about 6 inches deep. This morning when Mr. Smith passed on his way to town it was then 3 or 4 inches deep. Mr. Smith, who is now 37 years old, says that he has never seen anything like it before. Many people went to view the scene last night. Mr. Smith says:

Mr. Lacy McNair of Rennert, who is also a Lumberton visitor today, reports that the hail covered the ground several inches and some of it still remained on the ground this morning. It is feared that tobacco plant beds were damaged by the hail. The hail was accompanied by an electrical storm.

This side of Philadelphus a heavy hail storm covered a strip about 300 yards wide, according to Mr. J. L. McNeill, who is a Lumberton visitor today, the ground being covered with hail this morning.

At St. Pauls there was about two inches of hail, according to Mr. Thomas (Prevatt) of Cumberland county, who came to Lumberton this morning after spending last night at St. Pauls with his nephew Mr. Arch Odum.

SPLENDID PLAY BY PUPILS OF PRIMARY GRADES

"The Coming of Liberty" Presented by Graded School Children Friday—Armenian Relief Day.

A play, "The Coming of Liberty," was presented in a most pleasing manner by pupils of the primary grades of the Lumberton graded schools Friday morning. The play was presented in the high school auditorium, many patrons of the school being present.

The play portrayed the signing of the Declaration of Independence and each member of the caste played his or her part in a praiseworthy manner. Though simple in design, the costumes worn by the children were most attractive, Colonial days being called to the memory of those present.

Some members of the caste were dressed as farmers, some as housekeepers, mechanics, soldiers, sailors, and Red Cross nurses. The play was altogether delightful and the manner in which the children acted their parts showed unusual talent and good training on the part of the teachers.

The play was supplemented with several vocal musical selections and the high school orchestra rendered splendid music. The auditorium was tastefully decorated with United States flags.

Friday was set aside as Armenian Relief Day in the school. Silver offering were taken at the door and the children of the various grades made contributions to this worthy cause.

Jail Delivery At Laurinburg

Four Negroes, One Charged With Wife Murder, Escaped Last Night—Blaze in Dental Parlors Causes Excitement.

By W. S. Wishart.

Laurinburg, Feb. 28.—Laurinburg had a jail delivery last night, all the prisoners—four negroes—making their escape. One of them was charged with wife murder, the others being charged with minor offenses.

Some excitement was caused here early last night by a small fire in the dental parlors of Dr. C. W. Regan, caused by the explosion of a lamp. The blaze was soon extinguished with little damage, caused mostly by water.

Superior Court

Superior court for the trial of civil cases convened today at 10 a. m. with Judge F. A. Daniels of Goldsboro presiding. While this is supposed to be a two weeks' term, it is expected that the calendar will be cleared by Wednesday or Thursday of this week. The calendar was published in last Thursday's Robesonian.

Examination to Fill Office of Postmaster at Shannon.

The United States Civil Service commission has announced an examination to be held at Fayetteville March 26 as a result of which it is expected to make certification to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth-class postmaster at Shannon. The compensation of the postmaster at this office was \$501 for the last fiscal year.

McLean Resigns Treasury Post

In Accepting Resignation President Expresses Appreciation for McLean's Services—Urged to Remain on War Finance Board and May Do So—He Expects to Return to Lumberton but not Before May or June.

Mr. A. W. McLean has tendered to President Wilson his resignation as assistant Secretary of the Treasury, effective at midnight on March 3rd. Mr. McLean accepted the appointment only until the end of Mr. Wilson's administration. Before he left Washington for Lumberton Friday night Mr. McLean was told by Mr. Joseph Tumulty, President Wilson's private secretary, that when he presented the resignation the President said McLean had been a loyal friend to him and to his administration and that in accepting the resignation he would express his appreciation.

Mr. McLean has not decided how long he will continue as managing director of the War Finance corporation. His appointment was for four years and it is a non-partisan board. Mr. McLean will remain on that board for some weeks longer, at any rate. He is being urged to continue on the board, as in the event he should resign the South probably would have no representation, and it is hoped that the board yet may render material assistance in helping out the cotton and tobacco situation, though no application has been made so far for assistance in the export of these products.

Mr. McLean left for Washington last night after spending two days here. He does not expect to move back to Lumberton with his family until May or June in any event, as his son is in school there. He does expect, however, he says, to move back to Lumberton, though he has had a number of offers. When asked about a rumor that had reached here that he would remain in Washington and practice law with Mr. Tumulty, Mr. McLean said Mr. Tumulty proposed a law partnership but that he had said nothing about it and did not know how the report got out. He said he had not been able to figure out where it would pay him to give up his business interests here and start over again. Asked about the report circulated here recently that he had offered his residence here for sale, Mr. McLean laughed and said he had not thought of such a thing and could not imagine how such a report got out.

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POSTMASTERS WILL BE NAMED BY HARDING UNDER OLD PLAN

It is Said He Will Return to Patronage System—Hundreds of Tar Heel Nominations Will be Wiped Off Slate.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Apparently reliable information from St. Augustine that President-elect Harding intends soon after he takes office to abolish civil service examinations in appointing postmasters means that the patronage struggle in North Carolina and all other states will become more desperate than ever.

Applied locally, such action by President Harding will negative off-hand nearly 100 nominations by President Wilson of postmasters in North Carolina.

Washington heard today that President-elect Harding believes in the merit system of appointment but does not believe this system calls for a system of percentage figures by the civil service commission. He is reported as being unwilling that Democrats, simply because they have passed an examination, shall hold on indefinitely to postmastership during a Republican administration. This is merely a reflex of statements made by Mr. Harding during the campaign wherein he affirmed his belief in "government by parties."

In North Carolina, for instance, there are hundreds of postmasters holding on under civil service examinations. Possibly because the Democrats in the state outnumber the Republicans it is also true that most of the nominations sent in by President Wilson in the past few months were of Democrats.

When President Wilson came into office only four class offices were under the civil service. Eventually he broadened this by executive order to include third, second and even first class offices and there has always been friction over distributing such choice plums through a percentage table.

It is Not Law.

The executive order of Mr. Wilson is only an executive order. It is not law and may be rescinded as soon as Mr. Harding takes office. Postmasters then would go back on the patronage basis under such regulations as Mr. Harding and his postmaster general may decide are necessary to observe to a degree, the merit system.

The local consequences of this are apparent. Such a policy will set aside automatically civil service examinations that have been held and kill at one blow several thousands postoffice nominations pending in the senate. The senate all along this session has refused to confirm such Wilson nominations, but now the indications are the slate will be wiped entirely clean by the new President and new system of appointments substituted. This adds to the "plums" in North Carolina and should also result in a mad scramble for patronage

Troy Thomas Says He Did Not Know Goods Were Stolen

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

I wish you would correct the mistake in the case of mine in The Robesonian of this week where I was bound over to court. I wish to say I was bound over to court but the paper stated that I bought goods and was knowing they were stolen goods. That is not true and I never stated such evidence to no one. I bought them and did not know they were stolen goods at all and the way the paper stated this week at I did but I did not. Please correct that mistake in your next paper.

TROY THOMAS.

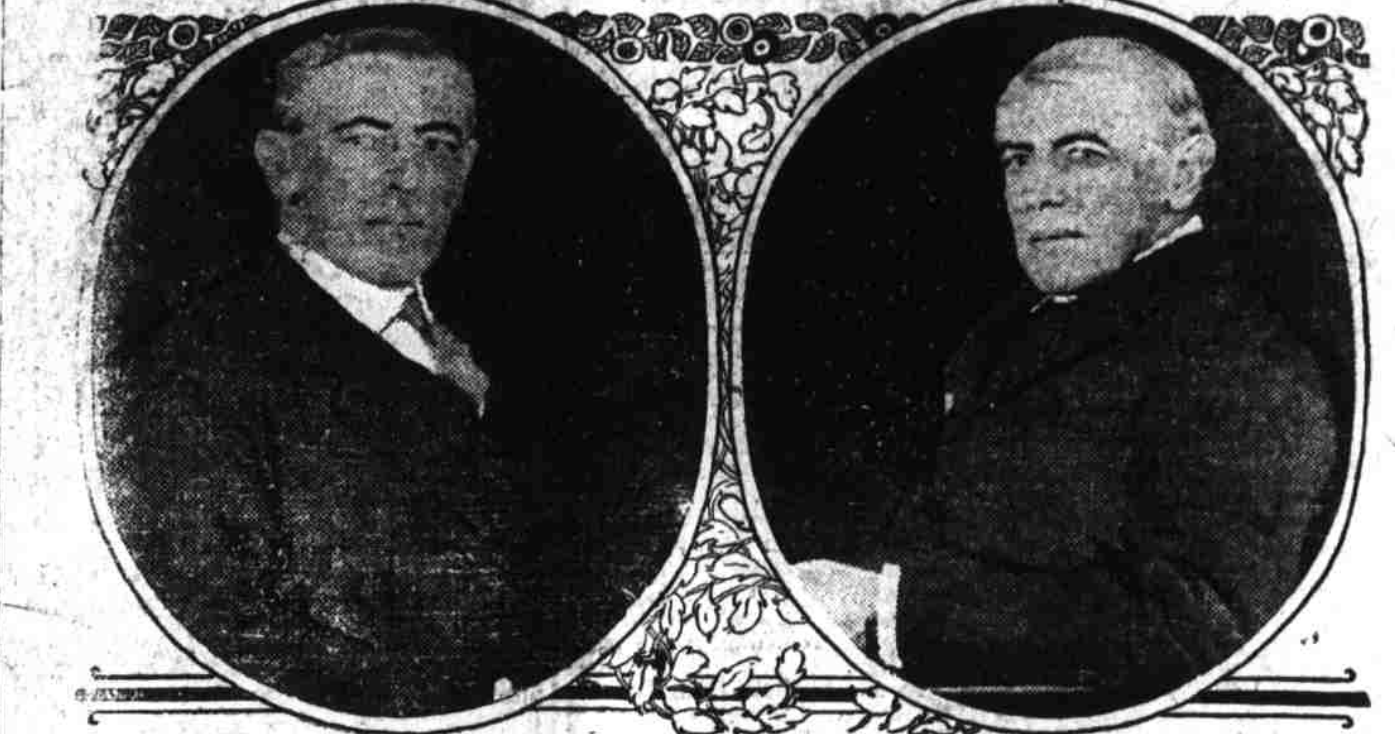
Pembroke, N. C. Feb. 26, 1921.

Mr. E. C. Bridgers' Condition is Not Improving

A dispatch of the 27th from Bladenboro states: The many friends of H. C. Bridger regret very much that he is not doing so well at his home here. Two weeks ago he was stricken with paralysis and for a week he seemed improving but for the past week he has not rested so well and the physicians have no encouraging news for his family and friends.

as the news is disseminated among the Republican faithful.—Theodor Tiller of Greensboro News.

EIGHT YEARS OF PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE, AND A WAR



Ravages of war are far-reaching. These two pictures of the retiring president tell their own story. On the left is a picture of President Wilson at the first meeting of his cabinet, eight years ago. On the right, the last cabinet meeting in the Wilson administration, when this picture was taken, Feb. 11, 1921.

General Assembly

Bill for Relief of State Institutions.

Senator McCain's bill providing for an issue of \$5,740,000 for the "permanent enlargement and improvement of the State's educational and charitable institutions" was offered Saturday night. The bill provides that \$2,872,500 shall be issued in 1921 and 1922, and shall bear interest not exceeding 5 per cent and shall be in denominations of \$500 and \$1,000. They must not be sold under par and run 40 years. They shall be exempt from all state, county or municipal taxation.

Road Bill Passes Senate.

The Senate Saturday passes the \$50,000,000 road bill and sent it back to the House for concurrence in amendments.

Censorship Bill

The moving picture censorship bill was reported favorably Saturday by the Senate committee and unfavorably by the House committee.

Municipal Finance Act.

The municipal finance act passed its final in the House Friday. It differs but little from the provisions of the act of the special session, except that it raised the authorized municipal tax rate from 50 cents to \$1 on the \$100 property valuation, and the ratio of allowed debt from 5 per cent of the total valuation of property to 8 per cent.

Tick Bill Killed for Good.

The Senate tick bill came into the House Friday and was killed with the rule which provides that the House may not consider for a second time any measure upon which it previously has acted. It had killed the tick bill before the Senate acted upon it.

A bill introduced by Senator Varner requires the State Auditor to audit and examine the books of all county officers in all counties not having a wholetime county auditor. Senator Kinsland introduced a bill requiring all cities, towns and road commissions not under the control of county commissioners to have their books audited by certified public accountants in April of each year and requires publication of the result of the audit. The bill applies only to instances where the annual expenditures exceed the interest on indebtedness by more than \$5,000.

A bill offered by Senator Varner to prevent the commissioners of Robeson, Northampton and Randolph counties from prescribing rules and regulations in regard to sanitary privies passed the Senate Thursday.

Recorder's Court

Dock Hardin Gets 30 Days on Roads—Charged With Insulting White Girls—He's One of former Governor Bickett's Pardon Beneficiaries—Other Cases.

Dock Hardin, Indian, was sentenced to 30 days on the roads by Recorder David H. Fuller this morning on the charge of disorderly conduct on the public highway. Hardin was also found guilty of being drunk in the town of Lumberton. He was fined \$5 and cost in this case. He was also charged with being drunk on the public highway, but was found not guilty, the evidence not being sufficient to convict. He gave notice of appeal in each case and his bond was fixed at \$250, in default of which he was remanded to jail.

Hardin made an insulting remark to two white girls on the Carthage road, yesterday afternoon, according to the evidence, for which he was given the road sentence. He was given a pardon from a road sentence a few months ago by former Governor Bickett, having been convicted of manufacturing whiskey.

Arthur Lamb plead guilty of being drunk in the town of Lumberton and was fined \$5 and cost. He was arrested Saturday night and placed in jail.

Furman McIntyre was found guilty of operating an auto while under the influence of intoxicants. Prayer for Judgment was continued upon payment of a \$25 fine. He was also found guilty of exceeding the speed limit. Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in this case.

MRS. VARNER FOUND GUILTY.

Jury Returns Verdict After 42 Hours Deliberation—Mrs. Varner, Prostrated by Verdict, Declares She is Innocent.

Mrs. Florence C. Varner, wife of H. B. Varner, prominent publisher and business man of Lexington, is guilty of illicit relations with R. Baxter McRary, wealthy mulatto, formerly of Lexington, now of Cincinnati, O. This was the crux of the verdict returned yesterday morning at 10:10 o'clock by the jury in the United States district court, after 42 hours of deliberation. It closed the first chapter of one of the most sensational litigations ever waged in the courts of justice in the Old North State. The trial commenced Tuesday morning, February 15, and was fought furiously by both sides until 3:45 p. m. Thursday, February 24, when the case was given to the jury for decision. Not in the history of North Carolina, perhaps, has a trial created quite so much interest, not only in this, but in practically all Southern states. Mrs. Varner was suing her husband for a reasonable subsistence, laying claim to the Varner building in Lexington, valued at \$50,000. In her complaint she alleged that he had wilfully and maliciously abandoned her.

Upon learning of the verdict, Mr. Varner, with tears in his eyes, said: "I am glad it is over. It is a matter of grief to me, but I want to see justice done and I intend to prosecute the mulatto to the end. I appreciate the fact that I have got a fair trial here. I was never in doubt about the verdict."

Mrs. Varner was notified of the verdict by one of her attorneys shortly after it was announced. She collapsed, declaring, "I'm innocent."

Mrs. Varner has been a patient at Glenwood sanatorium for several weeks. Attendants there declare that it will be three or four days before she is able to decide upon her future course.—Greensboro Daily News, Feb. 27.

Mr. L. P. Nye of R. 2, Fairmont, was among the visitors in town Thursday.

Mr. Jetter J. Branch of the Bellamy section was a Lumberton visitor Thursday.

CITIZENS PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Say Board of Audit and Finance Should Not be Abolished and Citizens Should be Allowed to Vote on Proposed Bond Issues.

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

We notice in your last issue reference to increased bonded indebtedness for the town of Lumberton, and we have noticed also the abolition of the board of audit and finance of the town.

Permit us to say as citizens and tax-payers of the town and county, that while we are always favorable to progressive measures when the time for such is propitious, it has occurred to us that this legislation taken together is not progressive, either for this or any other time. It is our understanding that in 1907, at which time and subsequently most of the present bonded indebtedness of the town has been contracted, the Legislature provided this board of audit and finance, whose main duties were the supervision of the spending of the town's money in all sums in excess of \$500, and whose duty it is and was to see that sinking fund money was provided for the ultimate retirement of these bonds. In other words, this board is the "safety-valve" of the town treasury. It ought not to be abolished, but strengthened, if anything. Especially so, if it is contemplated that we shall have other large bonded indebtedness. We must not break faith with the people who loaned us money under a law that provided a special board to see that their investments were protected, and that the town commissioners would not make extravagant expenditures of the town's funds.

Another thing we wish to emphasize is that the present members of the Legislature from this county were elected largely upon the assumption that high taxes would be reduced by them if such a thing were in their power, and speaking as some of those who so understood their attitude on the tax question, we would like to have the privilege of voting on any further bond issues, rather than have the Legislature, speaking through only six of the town's citizens, composing its mayor and board of commissioners, fix this bond issue on us.

If abolished, it is not too late for the Legislature to give us another board of audit and finance, with ample authority to supervise the expenditures of the town's funds to such extent as is necessary and proper, and it should be a body independent of any controlling power on the part of the mayor and commissioners.

Very truly,

C. M. Barker, B. F. McMillan, Jr., G. Badger McLeod, R. E. Lewis, C. M. Fuller, O. C. Deese, Rowland Deese, J. M. Jones, D. R. Shaw, E. M. Britt, T. A. McNeill, Jr., L. T. Townsend, Jno. D. McMillan, John Knox, J. A. Martin, A. P. Caldwell, J. H. Floyd, Junius J. Goodwin, K. M. Barnes, E. L. Hamilton, M. A. Geddie, Jno. C. Fuller, H. L. Pope, W. G. Pitman, E. A. Thompson, W. K. Bethune, E. L. Holloway.

Many People Killed in Railroad Wreck

Porter, Ind., Feb. 27.—Between 30 and 40 persons were reported killed and an unknown number injured tonight when a westbound New York Central train crashed into a derailed eastbound Michigan Central train here, in which railroad officials said may be one of the most disastrous wrecks in history.

Michigan Central officials placed the number of dead at more than 30, while unofficial reports made the death list as high as 50.

The towerman of the Michigan Central was arrested immediately after the wreck, officials saying they believed that he had left a switch closed, causing a derailment of the eastbound train.

Mr. J. W. Barnes of Barnesville was among the visitors in town Friday.

COTTON MARKET.

Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 9 1-2 cents; strict middling 10 1-2 cents.

BRIEF ITEMS LOCAL NEWS

—Mr. E. C. Graham had his right arm broken Thursday by a "kicking" Ford.

—Mitchell McMillan and Emma McLeod, colored, of Shannon, were married here Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of Justice M. G. McKenzie, who officiated.

—A fresh coat of pain has been added to the tower on the court house. The roof of the court house is also being repaired, this being recommended by a recent grand jury.

—Mrs. C. H. Durham and daughter, little Miss Kathleen Durham, left Friday evening for Coolemen, Davie county, to be with Mrs. Durham's mother, Mrs. Ida Tatum, who is ill.

—It has been rumored that the yeggmen who robbed the Fairmont postoffice last summer have been arrested in Atlanta, Ga. The Robesonian has been unable to confirm the report, however.

—Mrs. C. P. Grapham of Fairmont passed through town Saturday en route to Asheville to be with her husband, who is ill in the Billmore hospital there. She was accompanied by her son, Mr. C. E. Grapham.

—A license has been issued for the marriage of Walter Ivey and Elizabeth Hayes; W. Almond Graham and Virginia D. Humphrey; Sandy Patterson and Effie M. White; Marvin Townsend and Douglas Hollingsworth.

—Mr. C. J. Helgren of the Globe Swamp section was a Lumberton visitor Saturday. He was accompanied home by his sister, Miss Emma Helgren, who had been a patient at the Baker sanatorium for three and a half weeks.

—Miss Josephine Breece returned yesterday morning from New York and Baltimore, where she spent some time buying spring goods for her millinery store. Miss Cora Collins of Christfield, Md., accompanied Miss Breece to New York and Baltimore, returning with her yesterday. Miss Collins will be with Miss Breece again this season. Miss Breece will have her opening on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 8 and 9.

—Mr. and Mrs. Furman K. Biggs returned Thursday night from their bridal trip. They visited Washington, D. C., and several other points of interest. They will live with Mr. Biggs' parents, Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Biggs, until Mr. Biggs can erect a residence. He has already purchased material for his new home. Mrs. Biggs was Miss Katie Britt, daughter of Mrs. Florence Britt of R. 1, Lumberton, and the marriage took place Wednesday evening, February 16.

—Edward Brigham, basso profundo, dramatic reader and pianist, gave a song and dramatic recital in the high school auditorium Saturday evening. The recital was advertised for Friday evening, but so few people turned out that a second attempt was made at getting an audience. The audience was small but appreciative and Mr. Brigham's work was really good. He came under the auspices of the Boys' Athletic and Literary society and the cause and the merit of the recital deserved a larger audience.

—Mayor A. E. White returned Saturday night from Raleigh, where he spent most of last week, making two trips. He was not there, he says, as many seem to think, in connection with the various local bond issue bills before the Legislature, but in connection with the fight of the power companies to be allowed to increase their rates. Mr. White was representing the interests of the Lumberton, Dresden and Jennings cotton mills. The proposed increase would mean an additional expense of several thousand dollars to these mills and also to the town. The matter comes up for final hearing tomorrow.

THE RECORD OF DEATHS.

Mr. Jim Wiggins of Columbus County.

Mr. Jim Wiggins, an aged Columbus county citizen, died Saturday afternoon at his home, death resulting from heart trouble. Deceased is survived by his wife and several children.

Miss Odell Smith of East Lumberton.

Miss Odell Smith, aged 17 years, died yesterday at her home in East Lumberton, following an extended illness. Interment was made in the family burying ground, near Allenton, at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Patrick McLane, of Scranton, Democratic representative from the Tenth Pennsylvania district, was unseated by the House late tonight on charges of violating the corrupt practices act and because of election funds. Immediately after taking this action the House adopted a report by the committee on elections declaring John R. Farr, Republican, also of Scranton, duly elected and entitled to McLane's seat. The vote to put McLane out was 161 to 121.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The influence of President-elect Harding today was thrown behind the big navy program of the Senate Naval affairs committee majority and against the stand of the House for decreased appropriations for the naval establishment.

Mr. D. P. Buie and two children Miss Fodie and Master McPherson, of R. 2, Red Springs, were among the visitors in town Saturday.