

Lumberton Ranks With Best Cities and Towns in State in Financial Condition

State and Public Auditors Class Lumberton With Best

Budget Plan Changes Deficit to Surplus in All Departments.

TOTAL VALUATION \$1,155,187.38.

This is Exclusive of Town Commons and Town Hall Site—Net Value Over Liabilities \$296,627.04—Surplus Over \$2,400 Despite Unusual Obligations Met and \$8,000 Paid to Sinking Fund—Light and Water Department Shows Profit.

Lumberton's financial condition compares favorably with that of any other town in the State, according to a statement made by the State auditor some time ago, and Auditor Wilson, who audits the town's books annually, said recently that no city or town in the State whose books he audits can show any better condition, and that very few can show as good condition, as Lumberton shows now.

This gratifying information, with figures to back it up, was given by Mayor E. M. Johnson at the Kiwanis club luncheon last week. Mayor Johnson's statement shows that the deficit which was the rule some years ago has been changed to a surplus; that the town's light and water department is operated at a substantial profit; that the total valuation of the property of the town, exclusive of town commons and the property on which the town hall is located, is \$1,155,187.38; and that there is a net value over liabilities of \$296,627.04.

Following is a full report of Mayor Johnson's interesting talk to the Kiwanians:

Too Little Interest.
"I have ascertained from seven years experience as an official of the town of Lumberton, five years as a member of the board, of alderman and the last two years as mayor, that few citizens take any personal interest in the financial condition of the town, and the manner in which the affairs of the town are being handled. For this season I have asked for this opportunity to give a short detailed report to the members of the Kiwanis club of the present financial condition of the town, believing that the members of the Kiwanis club represent the leading type of the citizens of the town."

"Those who have served the town in the past will realize the truth of my statement when I say that very few citizens of the town give any helpful assistance to the affairs of the town, and most of them hear only the sidewalk gossip and criticisms."

Closer Relationship Needed.
"On account of this also I desire that you may obtain proper information as to how the affairs of the town are being managed, in order that a closer relationship might be brought about between the citizens of the town and the officials whom you have elected to carry on its affairs. I believe that if you know something about the problems that we constantly have before us and the manner in which we handle these problems, and if you know still further the financial condition of the town, that you will naturally take a greater interest in lending your assistance and advice along constructive lines to the officials."

Deficit Changed to Surplus.
"Up to two years ago, from 1900, not a year had passed without a deficit in the general running expenses of the town. We determined 2 years ago that it was poor business not to have reasonably accurate budgets made up by the various departments of the town and then levy a tax sufficient to take care of the budget. At the close of the first year after this plan was adopted we found for the first time since 1909 that we had a surplus to our credit. The auditor's report that has just been completed for the year ending May 31st, 1924, shows also a surplus above our running expenses in all departments that the mayor and board of commissioners have charge of, of more than \$2,400. We had this surplus at the end of the present fiscal year in spite of the fact that we had some unusual obligations to take care of, among which were the purchase of five head of mules, a street sweeper, two trash wagons, a street scraper and a lot at a cost of \$1,500 on which the town stables and storage house is now being erected. In addition to this we have paid the board of audit and finance over \$8,000 due by money borrowed, for street paving, from the sinking fund in 1913. It was not known by the present officials until we obtained the information from Mr. Wilson, the auditor, that the town owed money, it having been borrowed and

S. S. Small's House Destroyed By Fire

Fire of Unknown Origin Early Friday Morning—Loss About \$3,000.
Fire of unknown origin destroyed the residence of Mr. S. S. Small, Carthage road, Friday morning about 3 o'clock. A negligible amount of furniture was saved but the building, which did not burn to the ground, is considered a total loss. Mr. Small's loss is considered to be about \$3,000, partially covered by insurance.

No one was injured and the efficient work of the fire department, which arrived quickly on the scene, soon had the fire under control and the neighboring houses, thickly clustered, out of danger.

Prayermeetings This Week.

The Men's Christian league will hold prayer-meetings at the following places this week:
Tuesday night group No. 2 at Baptist church at Jennings cotton mill; Thursday night group No. 1 at Prof. W. B. Crumpton's home; group No. 3 at I. E. Bullard's home on Chipewa street; group No. 4 at Jennings Cotton mill; group No. 5 at M. G. Gray's home on Fifteenth street.

All group members are expected to attend the meeting of their group.

—Miss Janie Carlyle, who has just returned home from Porto Rico, where she spent several months teaching in a government school, will speak at the Epworth League meeting at Chestnut Street Methodist church this evening at 8 o'clock on Porto Rico.

no note given, but as soon as we ascertained that this money was due the board of audit and finance we immediately took steps to pay it off, realizing that it was a debt that ought to be cancelled, because it was taking from the sinking fund an amount of money that should be used in taking care of the bonds outstanding against the town. That debt is now wiped out.

Light and Water Department Shows Profit.

"It is very gratifying also to know that our light and water superintendent has handled that department in such an efficient manner that a net profit of about \$9,000 was made above our operating expenses during the year just ending. As a result of this economic management of the light and water department, the board has adopted a plan of laying aside \$2,000 from this profit each year to take care of the future upkeep of the light and water department, this plan having been adopted upon recommendation of the auditor.

Net Value \$296,627.04.

"The balance sheet relating to the sinking fund division shows a total valuation of the property owned by the town exclusive of the town commons property, and exclusive also of the property on which the city hall is erected, of \$1,155,187.38. This total includes \$31,714.26 cash, \$4,747.47 unpaid taxes, \$59,510 securities and something over \$149,000 street paving notes due by property owners, \$225,000 water and sewer system, \$35,000 water plant, \$60,000 electric lighting system, \$365,000 school improvements and \$225,000 street buildings and notes. The liabilities represented by a bonded indebtedness amount to \$854,500, leaving a net value over liabilities of \$296,627.04.

Lives Within Income.

"We have found from practical experience that it pays to live within our income. We are paying cash for all that we purchase and thereby save the discount. We assure the citizens of the town that we appreciate any helpful suggestions, and the citizens are always welcome before our board when they have anything they desire to bring before the board. We feel like, however, if the citizens of the town would interest themselves by investigating and getting correct facts as to what our officials are trying to do, and are doing, that they will then more fully appreciate some of the hardships which they are constantly confronted with in rendering a service to the public that is practically free.

One of Best in State.

"We had a statement from the auditor some time ago that the financial condition of our town is one of the best in the State. This statement is also given by Mr. Wilson, who audits our books annually. He stated recently that he audited no books for any city or town in the State that can show any better condition, and very few that could show as good condition as our town at the present time. We now have an A-1 credit standing. We believe that the citizens of the town will appreciate this information."

Mr. Hal V. Brown spent the weekend at Wrightsville Beach and Wilmington.

Mrs. V. G. Smith Killed By Train at Parkton

Wife of Presbyterian Minister Instantly Killed Last Night When Train Struck Auto—Dr. Smith Injured But Expected to Recover.
By Phone to The Robesonian.
Parkton, July 14th—Mrs. V. G. Smith was instantly killed last night about 10:30 when the automobile in which she was riding was struck by a Coast Line train at a crossing here. Her husband, pastor of the Parkton Presbyterian church, who was driving the car, was injured and was taken to a hospital in Fayetteville. It is thought that he will recover.

Dr. and Mrs. Smith were returning from Rex. No one was in the car with them. A daughter, Miss Eutha Gray Smith, is attending summer school at the university of Virginia. A son, Mr. Caylor Smith, is at home here.

A phone message to The Robesonian at 1:15 p. m. today from the Highsmith hospital, Fayetteville, stated that Dr. Smith had regained consciousness and that he suffered no broken bones except a fracture over an eye, but that he was badly bruised and his hands badly lacerated. He is expected to recover.

Free Assistance in Making Out Bonus Blanks

World War Veterans Are Offered Assistance Free of Charge in Filling Out Application Blanks for Bonus—Blanks Should be Filled Out at Once.
Application blanks for adjusted compensation for veterans of the world war may be obtained from Capt. F. E. Wishart at McMillan's drug store or at the American Legion hall, where Messrs. Fred Townsend, I. L. McGill, Colin Phillips and Robert W. Proctor will help veterans fill out their blanks. This service is being conducted by the American Legion and will be free of charge. Mr. Jim McLeod at the sheriff's office will also help fill out applications.

The American Legion hall will be open for this service Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and nights, afternoon hours from 3 to 6 and night hours from 8 to 10. It is highly important that these blanks be filled out at once and Captain Wishart or any of the above-named men will be glad to answer any questions about the bonus. Elsewhere in this issue of The Robesonian is given a detailed account of how to figure your bonus.

SPICY MUSICAL COMEDY AT SCHOOL HOUSE TUESDAY NIGHT

"The Spice of Life Will be Given by Talent from Rowland—Well Worth Seeing."
If enthusiastic reports of several Lumberton people who consider themselves fortunate in having seen this show, "The Spice of Life", to be staged by talent from Rowland here at the graded school tomorrow night, is something that will be well worth turning out to see.

The Woman's club of Rowland, acting with the Woman's club of Lumberton and the Lumberton American Legion, has charge of this spicy musical comedy, and the proceeds will be used for the public library that Lumberton needs so badly. Admission, 25 and 50 cents.

Judge Sinclair, Hurt in Wreck, Improves.

Today's Charlotte Observer: Judge N. A. Sinclair, of Fayetteville, and Miss Kate O'Hanlon, a niece of Wilmington, who were injured Saturday on the highway near Albemarle when the large touring car in which they were riding was overturned, and who were taken to the Tally-Brunson hospital at Albemarle, were reported last night by relatives in Charlotte to be resting comfortably, and expected to be released from the hospital in about 10 days.

To Hear Charges of Primary Irregularities Tuesday.

The county board of elections will meet at the courthouse tomorrow at 10 o'clock to hear complaints coming from the Fairmont district charging irregularities in the second primary.

Charged With Being Too Wet.

Following the finding of several gallons of liquor in the yard of Don Yates, near Barnesville, about two weeks ago, Yates himself was arrested Thursday night and later released on bond.

—Mr. J. F. Marquette of Richlands, a lecturer of the Masonic Grand Lodge, arrived this morning and will spend the week here instructing St. Alban's Lodge No. 114.

Democratic Nominees For President Vice President



St. Paul News

Rev. J. M. Page Resigns as Pastor of Baptist Church to Go to Another Field—Reporter Succumbs to Milder Form of Hair Bobbing—Social and Personal.

By Bessie G. Johnson
St. Paul, July 11—Friends of Mrs. Roxie McMillan regret very much to learn of her illness. While not confined to her bed, she seems to be in a very weak condition. Her sister Mrs. W. R. McKenzie of Sampson has been with her for some time and since Tuesday this week a niece, Miss Ala McNeill of the Rennett vicinity, who offered her assistance, has been with them. Miss McNeill was in town a few days last week, visiting in the home of her aunt, Mrs. Sallie Evans, returning home Thursday.

The resignation of Rev. J. M. Page as pastor of the local Baptist church has been noted with a feeling of deep regret by his numerous friends in St. Paul and surrounding community, where he is well known, having been pastor of the church for several years. Mr. Page's resignation is due to a call to Biaden where he has been engaged by the State Mission board to take up work and assist in the completion of a church which is under construction there, his work beginning about the first of September. The handsome brick building recently erected by the Baptist congregation here, which is free from debt, was planned largely by Mr. Page.

Mrs. Willoughby of near town has been real sick for several days.
Mrs. R. L. Rivers, who spent several weeks in Lynchburg, Va., guest of her son Mr. Howard E. Rivers and family, returned to St. Paul Tuesday. While Mrs. Rivers was away the family moved from the dwelling on Broad street where they were occupying into Hotel St. Paul, which was made vacant by the resignation of Mr. J. D. McCormick, who moved with his family to Ayden, as mentioned previously. In Mrs. McCormick's letters to home folks her mention of her new home at Ayden is very pleasant.

Mrs. J. E. McMillan and family in company with her mother, Mrs. Kate McCormick, arrived last evening from their home, Andalusia, Ala., and are guests in the home of the latter's brother, Mr. John Daniel McCraney, who resides a few miles from town. Having been former "Robesonians", both Mesdames McMillan and McCormick are well known in and around St. Pauls, where numerous friends reside.

The "hair-bobbing" fad which has so enveloped femininity got the better of your "reporter" this week, Tuesday afternoon finding her among the "trimmed locks" list. The "shingle bob" has reached places but so far the St. Paul "menu" consists chiefly of "French bobs", "pineapple bobs" and the like which are enough without further addition.

Tuesday evening, the 15th, Wallace, a magician, will give a performance at the graded school building, at 8:15. Admission 25 cents and 35 cents, proceeds to be divided with the Parent-Teachers Association. An evening of fun is anticipated.

The young men's and women's Christian leagues held their regular business meetings at 7 o'clock last evening, afterwards uniting in entertaining complimentary to Misses Johnson and McNeill of Lumberton, who were over here during the latter part of the Stephens evangelistic campaign.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie A. McEachern of Fayetteville were St. Paul visitors this afternoon to the delight of friends and relatives, where they were former residents.

Mr. Reuben Brown of Philadelphia was a Lumberton visitor Saturday.

Parkton Letter

Chason-McFayden Marriage—Military Boys Off to Camp—Methodist Parsonage Completed—Good Ball Game, Good Music and Fine Barbecue.

By C. D. Williamson
Parkton, July 10—Not dead, nor not sleeping, but sick. This is to certify that this scribe has been knocked out for the past week. Suffering intensely with rheumatism which took effect on both hands, and only those who have suffered in like manner can sympathize. Am able only for a brief letter.

The fourth went off nicely up our way. Most everybody from our town spent the greater part of the day at Midway. The barbecue was a success, as the committee were on the job bright and early, and by the noon hour were serving as good barbecue as anyone could wish for. Therefore we feel under many obligations to Messrs. Garris, Britt, Thompson and Everett. But how about the good ladies? They were on the job with the best of everything good to eat.

The day was pleasant indeed. The Parkton band, numbering 12 pieces, furnished spirited music from 12 to 2:45 p. m. At 3 o'clock the baseball broke up the band, as several members of the band played ball; but at 8:30 the band reassembled at the band stand and gave a concert that was much enjoyed. The music was heard largely to Parkton.

The large crowd of people was not present as has been attending for the past three years for the morning program, owing to the busy farmers, but the baseball brought the large crowd, and the game between Buck Horn and St. Pauls was a close and interesting game until the 7th inning, when the game stood 2-2. Does, pitcher for St. Pauls, had held B. H. to a very few scratching hits, yet he was relieved by McDonald, who succeeded in holding the Buck Horn boys from making much connection. McMillan, pitching for B. H. had poor support and weakened in the 7th inning and was relieved by Carter, who was unable to prevent heavy batting by the St. Paul boys. Hence the final score, St. Pauls 9, B. H. 3. Batteries: for Buck Horn, McMillan and McMillan; St. Pauls, Dees and McDonald.

The game was not free from friction, as there were some close decisions unsatisfactory to each team. Umpire Johnson of St. Pauls leaving the field not to enter anymore, and was not criticized for thus doing.

We take the privilege right here to thank the following musicians who assisted in the band for the 4th from Lumberton—F. Gough, trombone; C. B. Skipper, piccolo; Emmit, S. drum; From St. Pauls—P. R. Lowry, Baritone; Jas. Jolly, cornet; Jas. Inman, saxophone.

The Methodist parsonage is completed and the pastor, Rev. J. C. Humble, is moving in today. He says he has been boarding five months and is enjoying going back to house-keeping.

The farmers up our way are quite blue over the present out-look for 1924 crop.

Co. L left Sunday at noon for Morehead City for encampment, 56 strong. The Red Springs company numbering 46, also appeared the same hour and both companies left by same train. We will miss the boys for the next two weeks.

Mr. C. P. Chason and Miss Arden McFayden were united in marriage yesterday evening at 6 o'clock, marriage taking place at the bride's home in Seventy First township, Cumberland county. From there they came to the groom's home for a reception, where they will make their home two miles west of Parkton. Congratulations to these happy young folks. Rev. D. L. Jones of Hope Mills officiated.

McLean Thinks Davis Best Choice Next to McAdoo

Lumberton Man Thinks McAdoo Would Have Been Next President But for Combination, Which Decried Him of the Nomination—New York Bankers Give Sigh of Relief.

DEADLOCK'S BEST SOLUTION.

The Democratic convention nominated the best possible ticket, since McAdoo could not be nominated, in the opinion of Mr. A. W. McLean, Democratic nominee for Governor of North Carolina, who arrived home yesterday from New York, where he attended the convention.

Mr. McLean was a strong supporter of Mr. McAdoo and was one of the Californians' convention floor managers. He thinks it a great pity that McAdoo could not be nominated, for he is satisfied that the great majority of the people wanted McAdoo and that he unquestionably would have been elected if he had been nominated, but the combination against him was too strong and it would have been impossible to nominate him if they had stayed there all summer. McAdoo could have won in spite of the combination against him if Virginia had gone to him at the time McAdoo held 530 through six ballots, but when that opportunity passed it was a hopeless deadlock, and Mr. McLean thinks the Davis-Bryan ticket the best that could have come out of the deadlock.

On the morning after the nomination Mr. McLean said he was told by some New York bankers that they heaved a sigh of relief when Davis was nominated, that if McAdoo had been nominated he would have been elected certain, and that they did not want him to be President.

Mr. McLean has known Mr. Davis for some time, having been a member of one of the clubs to which Mr. Davis belonged when he was living in Washington, and regards him as a very able man who will make a capable President.

There was no foundation, Mr. McLean says, for the stories sent out from New York after the nomination that McAdoo might bolt the ticket. He saw Mr. McAdoo after the convention and he was, of course, a severely disappointed man, but there never was any doubt about supporting the nominees.

Mr. McLean says he has never seen anything so bitter and dangerous as the feeling aroused by injection of the religious issue into the convention. During the fight on the Ku Klux Klan plank, he said, passion was so thick in the convention hall that it could be cut with a knife, and it would not have taken much to start a massacre. Mr. McLean thinks he felt for some years and will be felt for some years and will cause loss of votes of many Catholics to the Democratic party.

Mr. McLean, as has been stated, resigned as national committeeman from North Carolina at this meeting of the national Democratic committee at New York, and was succeeded by Senator Simmons.

Mr. McLean had practically no rest between his strenuous campaign preceding the primary in June and the Democratic convention, and he will take some needed rest before beginning an active pre-election campaign in September.

Mr. McLean, who was in New York during the convention stopped over in Baltimore and will return home this week.

Martin Wilkins Killed By Lightning Near Buie

Indian Instantly Killed and Four Others People Knocked Down by Bolt Which Struck House—Wilkins Was Standing in Door and Others Were Standing Near Him.
By W. H. M. Brown
Buies, July 11—Martin Wilkins, Indian, living on the farm of John F. McNair, two miles from here, was instantly killed yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock by a stroke of lightning. Four others standing near by were knocked down, one remaining unconscious for several hours. The four who were knocked down were a woman and three boys, the latter being colored people, and they have recovered from the shock.

The lightning first struck the top of a chimney, and ran down the shingles off on the side of the house to the door, where Wilkins was standing, killing him instantly and knocking down the four others who were near him. It then ran into a room, tearing up a bed post, and back out at the door to the ground and then to a pump piping, where it grounded.

The dead man leaves a wife and ten children. He worked on the McNair place for several years, was a hard-working, industrious Indian, and had many friends. The burial takes place near here today.

Items of Local News

—Rev. J. M. Fleming left yesterday afternoon for Wray, Ga., to assist Rev. E. J. Riddle in revival meetings for 20 days or more.

—Remember that tomorrow is the last day for paying light and water bills. All light and water will be cut off early Wednesday morning where bills are unpaid.

—The regular meeting of the Maccabees has been changed from Friday night to Tuesday night. The meeting hour, 8 o'clock, has not been changed.

—The interior of the stores occupied by Stephens & Barnes is undergoing some alterations. The partition which separated the two stores has been removed, which adds materially to the attractiveness of the building.

—Miss Marjorie McLeod of Maxton and Miss Margaret Chasten of Greensboro were in Lumberton Saturday on a business for Queens college, Charlotte. They were accompanied by Miss Ruth Conroy of Waycross, Ga., and Mr. Robert McLeod of Maxton.

—President C. L. Hornady of Dayanport college, Lenoir, Mrs. Hornady, and Miss Bernice Hornady of Maxton were Lumberton visitors Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Hornady are visiting at the home of the former's parents, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Hornady, at Maxton.

—Mr. F. L. Parnell of Buie, who was a Lumberton visitor Friday, remembered the editor with some of the most delicious peaches he has seen. Peach-growers of the famed Sandhills have nothing on some Robeson county farmers in the matter of growing peaches of fine flavor and tempting appearance.

—The Woman's Missionary society and the ladies' Wesley Bible class of Chestnut Street Methodist church and Sunday school will entertain members of the men's Bible class and their wives, offices and teachers of the Sunday school, and recent adult additions to the church at the church Thursday of this week at 6 p. m.

LUMBERTON GIRL IN ANNUAL FASHION SHOW AT CHAPEL HILL

Chapel Hill, July 10.—The latest mid-summer styles from bathing suits up will be on display in Memorial hall Saturday night when the university Y. W. C. A. will present, for the regular Saturday night entertainment, its annual fashion show.

Ten of the most popular and attractive girls attending the summer school have been chosen as models. A committee, appointed by the "Y" officers, after weeks of careful and thorough investigation, announced today the choice of the following models:

Carrie Edmunds, of Lumberton; Dorothy Jones, Monroe, La.; Sarah Mason, Durham; Mrs. J. McFadden, Jacksonville, Fla.; Alice Hooker, Greenville, N. C.; Katherine Freddy, Rocky Mount; Elizabeth Rose, Henderson; Sarah Withers, Suffolk, Va.; Betsy Woolen, Chapel Hill; Neil Reynolds, Greenville, S. C.; Dorothy McIntosh, Columbia, S. C.

FOUND DEATH WHERE HE SOUGHT SAFETY.

Martin Wilkins Killed by Lightning When He Entered a House Near Buie Thursday to Escape a Storm.
Finding death where he sought safety was the queer twist that fate handed out to Martin Wilkins, Indian, aged about 40, when seeking to escape the storm Thursday afternoon, he ran into a negro house on the McNair place near Buies, where he worked, only to be instantly killed by a bolt of lightning which came down the chimney, ran out the front door and snuffed his life out just as he was sitting down on the porch.

Two negro boys were seriously stunned and five chickens, seeking shelter under the house, were also killed.

Tuesday Last Day for Auto License Numbers.
After tomorrow all autoists not having new numbers will be pinched. The 15 days grace given by Secretary of State Everett runs out Tuesday, 15th, and Mr. Rosser, in charge of the local state license office, located in the rear of the city hall, is anxious that those who have not obtained licenses do not wait to the last minute to obtain it.

At the time of writing a total of 1725 licenses had been sold.

Mr. E. W. Dunham's Father Dies in Massachusetts.
Mr. E. W. Dunham is expected home tonight from Worthington, Mass., where he went in response to a telegram Thursday advising that his father, Mr. Chas. Dunham, succumbed that day to a stroke of paralysis at the home of his daughter. Deceased had been in ill health for some time, having suffered a similar stroke several months previous to the fatal attack.

NOW READY! HOME CONVENIENCE HANDBOOK WRITTEN BY MISS MERTHA FLAX ANDREWS. IS NOW ON SALE AT FREEMAN PRINTING COMPANY, LUMBERTON, N. C. PRICE \$2.25.