

COUNTIES REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN FUNDS

Dr. Brooks Warns Against Endangering Six Months' School Term

REDUCED VALUATIONS NOT TO LOWER SCHOOL INCOME

Where Values Have Been Reduced, Rate Should Be Raised To Insure Equal Amount of Money Before Counties May Participate in Equalizing Fund

Warning against endangering the constitutional six months' term of public schools in North Carolina through reduction of county school income beyond a point where the loss could be taken care of by the State equalizing fund is contained in a letter issued yesterday to county and city superintendents by Dr. E. C. Brooks, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Under the enactment of the past General Assembly, counties may fall back on the equalizing fund for the support of their schools after they have levied as much as 30 cents on the \$100 valuation of property. Attention is called to the widespread reduction in valuations, which will materially reduce the income from a 30-cent tax, and to the fact that in the equalizing fund there will be insufficient to stand unusual strains.

Income and not the rate of tax should be the basis of calculation, Dr. Brooks advises the superintendents. For school purposes, the income should be fixed at whatever amount the 30-cent tax would have raised on the 1920 valuation, and if reductions are made, additional tax be levied to bring the income up to the estimated basis of computation. Where property values have been reduced by one-third, he would recommend that the tax rate be raised from 30 to 45 cents on the \$100.

Dr. Brooks' Letter.

Dr. Brooks' letter is as follows: "I wish to urge you to call the attention of your board of education and the county commissioners to the necessity of providing enough revenue for six months' school term. From information received through the press and otherwise the county commissioners are reducing the valuation of property. This of course is subject to the review of the State Tax Commission.

"The Constitution makes it the duty of the counties to run the schools six months. The last General Assembly provided that, after the commissioners have levied a 30-cent tax for the six months' term, if this should not produce a sufficient amount to maintain the schools in the several counties for six months the remainder may be secured from the State Equalizing Fund. Deficit in Equalization.

"However, since that act was passed the commissioners have been reducing the valuation of property. Therefore, it is practically certain that the Equalizing Fund will not be sufficient to provide the necessary remainder if no county exceeds a rate of 30 cents. It will require nine million dollars to run the schools six months. If the valuation is cut one-third, a 30-cent rate will produce only six million dollars, leaving a deficit of about three million with only an equalizing fund of about 400,000 with which to meet this deficit. Therefore, if the valuation of property is cut one-third, a tax rate of 45 cents will be necessary to provide what a 30-cent rate would produce under the present valuation.

"We are unable to say this early how much reduction will be made in the valuation of the property. But the Attorney General advises me that whatever the reduction may be, it is the duty of the several counties, to determine how much may be available from the Equalizing Fund and then the commissioners are required to levy a tax rate sufficient to supply the necessary amount. A reduction in the valuation of the property, therefore, will not increase the burden on the State, but the several counties will be required to raise about the same amount of money for schools whether the valuation of the property is high or low.

"Each superintendent knows about how much is derived this year from the Equalizing Fund. The funds available for the Equalizing Fund will be increased approximately 15 per cent for next year. You can determine approximately, therefore, how much your county will be entitled to next year from the Equalizing Fund. As soon as the valuation of the property in your county is finally determined you should be sure that the rate for schools will be large enough to supply the necessary funds for a six months' school term. We shall be able perhaps to fix a fair maximum rate after the revaluation is completed and finally approved by the Tax Commission."

Britt Arrives To Boost His Claims For Choice Plum

(Continued From Page One)

his anger after he failed to land the nomination Senator Johnson is reported to have said that when the opportunity came for him to get even with the North Carolina delegation he would avail himself of it, that he would keep on the job as long as he lived. He is taking the opportunity now in his preparations to smash at Blair, even if he is not able to do more than to make it a verbal castigation. Senator Johnson holds that the vote of North Carolina was due him, that Mr. Blair's district had given him a big majority in the presidential primary, and that he was betrayed.

National Committeeman Morehead is said to have vigorously opposed the proposition at Chicago to split the delegation fifty-fifty between Senator Johnson and General Wood, Mr. Blair and others of the delegation standing by him in this position. Governor Lowden giving almost the entire delegation to the South when there was a fifty-fifty split. Hearing after the band wagon had started. It appears that Senator Johnson will have to fight the Blair nomination single-handed, and I do not think he will be able to get anywhere with his opposition. Incidentally in connection with the North Carolina delegations vote in Chicago, it should not be forgotten that former Senator Marion Butler on the fifth ballot began to vote for Senator Harding and kept it up to the final

ballot. He was the first of the North Carolina delegation to pick the winner and no doubt this will be remembered when he comes forward for a position. From the Postoffice Department comes the appointment of Nattie L. Midgett as postmaster at Maans Harbor, Dare county.

The Postoffice Department announces among the new international money order postoffices the following from North Carolina:

Angler, Bassett, Elk, Bayboro, Boardman, Candler, Cleveland, Council, Culberson, Elk Park, Gresham, Lenoirville, Lenoir, Monroe, Pinetops, Pinville, Polkton, Rural Hall, Seaboard, Sparta, Star, Stony Point, Trossen, Whitler, Woodland.

Bob Page Visits Washington.

Former Congressman Robert N. Page, of Aberdeen, was a visitor here today. He came to attend a meeting of the trustees of the Carnegie foundation for international peace, which has a fund of \$10,000,000 behind it. In the afternoon the trustees were received by President Harding, the Chairman of the Board being Ellhu Root. Asked concerning North Carolina, Mr. Page said that in the Sand Hills section the prospects were for a splendid crop of peaches.

"The peach industry in that section," he said, "has grown very largely. It is an industry that turns loose large amounts of money. We will ship this year about 600 carloads of peaches, with fruit conditions reported as being bad in some sections the returns should be good. I see little or no decrease in the cotton acreage, but I think there will be about a 30 per cent reduction in the tobacco acreage. While financial conditions are no better than they were a year ago, our farmers have gotten used to the matter and there is less complaining. Seeing the conditions to be met they are now meeting them. That is a hopeful sign. The best thing I know to help conditions in the State is that the recent General Assembly voted for a \$20,000,000 bond issue for building good roads, and a \$6,000,000 bond issue for educational purposes. That will give employment to many men and aid in moving material and will be felt beneficially throughout the State."

Federal Raiders Kill Blockaders In Brisk Battle

(Continued From Page One.)

plant, Mr. Gully went for a doctor. The negro died within an hour. Pursuit of the negroes was instituted. The officers caught sight of one of the

Baldwin negroes driving away from the neighborhood at a terrific speed. He had six negroes with him. Coming upon another of the party, still carrying his gun, the officers ordered him to halt. He tried to run and they fired, shooting of his arm. He dropped his gun and took to the woods, and was lost. Careful search failed to discover him. No captures were made.

News of the battle spread over that entire country and soon hundreds of people were on the scene. News came of doctors who had been summoned to a negro house to attend six wounded negroes. The doctors had examined the negroes, some of whom were severely, probably fatally wounded, but all of them had been carried away by the Baldwin in their automobiles. Apparently the crowd was thoroughly scattered and the officers turned their attention to the destruction of the property that had been seized.

Three modern stills, one 200-gallon, one 100-gallon, and one 125-gallon, all solid copper, were chopped to pieces. One hundred and fifty gallons of an apparently splendid grade of liquor were poured out in the little creek that ran by the still; 25,000 gallons of beer were poured out; twenty fermentors of 1,000 gallon capacity each were burnt; together with a vast quantity of liquor paraphernalia, valued at \$7,000. The figures are said to be very conservative as to values.

Cornor C. B. Hendricks, of Mecklenburg county, was summoned to review the situation. With him came C. T. Baskerville, commonwealth attorney, who prosecuted the case for the State. After hearing the evidence, and after fruitless endeavor to establish the iden-

ty of the three negroes, the jury empaneled declared that the officers had acted in the discharge of their duty and in defense of their own lives. Twelve hundred citizens of Warren county were on hand with offers of bail to the extent of five million dollars if it were needed. It wasn't needed.

The negroes were ordered buried and the officers turned back toward Raleigh, arriving here at 9 o'clock last night after 20 hours of the hardest work that either of them had ever done. Some of them were on verge of collapse from fatigue when they reached here, and some of them will likely be absent early today. All of them were very happy over the success of the drive, but regretful that it had been necessary to kill anybody in the battle.

Baldwin Notorious

The Baldwin negroes are notorious blockaders. Two years ago they were given prison sentences in Wake county superior court for blockading in the Apex case. Appeal was taken to the Supreme Court and their bonds fixed at \$2,000. Forfeiting these bonds when the higher court held against them, they disappeared and have been sought by Sheriff Harrison for many months past. Tracks of them were discovered at times, and reports that they were engaged in illicit liquor making near the Virginia line.

Two months ago Mr. Gully came into possession of definite information that the two were operating a gigantic plant

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men to whom the liquor was shipped convinced the officers of the magnitude of the operation.

It is believed that all of the 17 negroes connected with the still were taken to that section from Apex. Neither white nor black citizens of Warren county or Mecklenburg county, Virginia, was able to identify either of the three dead, and none of the officers were able to recognize any but the two Baldwin negroes as they fled from the still, Virginia and North Carolina officers have been directed to be on the look out for the fugitives, and it is believed that all of them will be in the hands of the law before many days.

Citizens of Warren county called the News and Observer last night to express the most profound appreciation and admiration of the work of the officers. No word of criticism was spoken because of the fact that it was necessary to kill some of the negroes, and nothing but praise of their bravery and devotion to duty. Mr. Gully was inclined to give chief credit for working up the case to Mr. Lewis, who has devoted his entire time to it for more than two months.

Meditation

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| Kiss a Miss—Waltz | Joseph C. Smith's Orchestra | 18744 | 10 | .85 |
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| Wyoming (Lullaby) | Charles Hart-Elliott Shaw | 18746 | 10 | .85 |
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