

**THE NEWS REPORTER OF COLUMBUS COUNTY.**

**OUR POLICY:** We believe, heart and soul, in our paper, our country, state and nation. We stand for progress — for better roads, better schools, churches and a better living enlightened people.

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**W. B. KEZIAH, EDITOR.**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1924**

**RIGHTS VS. MONEY AND POLITICS**

Governor Morrison seems possessed of both the spirit and the intention of putting the State Port program through during his tenure of office, if the report of the commission, appointed to investigate the project turns out to be favorable. Well informed men all over North Carolina believe that the report of this commission will be strongly in favor of a state port and terminals and such a report will leave the matter up to the legislature to act with the desired end in view. The governor has already announced his intention of calling a special session of the legislature immediately after the report of the commission is made.

This matter of a State owned port came up at the last session of the legislature. By building terminals and developing one or the other of the several ports in this state it was pointed out that millions of dollars could be saved the people of North Carolina by cutting out much of the long railway freight hauls from Norfolk, Va., of Charleston, S. C.

A committee of nine good men were appointed an investigating committee to look into the merits of the question, decide upon the most favorable location and recommend this location if in their findings they discovered that a state owned port would be of advantages to the people of North Carolina. This investigating committee is as follows:

- Hon. R. M. Miller, Charlotte, N.C.
- Hon. J. A. Brown, Chadbourn, N. C.

- Hon. D. D. Carroll, Chapel Hill, N. C.

- Hon. W. A. Hart, Tarboro, N. C.
- Hon. A. M. Scales, Greensboro, N. C.

- Hon. C. E. Waddell, Asheville, N. C.

- Hon. C. S. Wallace, Morhead, N.C.
- Hon. J. Y. Joyner, LaGrange, N. C.

- Hon. Emmet Bellamy, Wilmington, N. C.

Upon the findings of these gentlemen is resting the answer to the question regarding whether or not this state will have a state owned port or continue to pay out millions of dollars each year for long haul freight from ports in other states. It is believed that their finding is favorable to the project.

It is assumed that the commission will entirely disregard politics. Their standing in the records of service to the state is sufficient guarantee that such will be the case. They will recommend the location of the port at the point where they believe the interests of the people can best be served. That will be at Southport, the greatest natural harbor along the Carolina coast.

At almost the very beginning of talk of a state port the question of a suitable place narrowed down to Wilmington and Southport. Wilmington possessed much the best existing railroad facilities but is lacking in anchorage grounds and an adequate depth of water up the Cape Fear. Vessels drawing more than 26 feet of water cannot reach or leave Wilmington. It took the federal government a quarter of a century to dredge the Cape Fear from Southport to Wilmington and get a channel three feet deeper than it used to be. If Wilmington

is selected it will take the state and federal government another twenty-five years and millions of dollars to further deepen the channel to the thirty feet required for the majority of ocean going and coastwise vessels of the present day. And even when that depth is reached the then existing conditions will in all probability require continued dredging work if the port is at Wilmington and is to fulfill its purpose and mission to the people of North Carolina. Ocean going and coastwise vessels are each year being built with deeper and deeper (draft). There would appear to be very little reason for spending millions and millions of dollars for a port at Wilmington and in then having to spend millions and millions more in dredging a way for ships to reach there.

It is true that Wilmington has some advantages. It has unlimited money and plenty of political influence to support its claims. The money is enabling it to put up a far reaching fight. The political influence, under any other condition, would cap the climax and carry the day.

We do not believe that the money or the political influence will balance the scales and outweigh the cause of justice to the people of North Carolina. Bladen and Columbus counties are standing by Brunswick and Southport and we believe Southport will win on merit.

We will match the honor and the integrity of the nine men listed above against all the money and all the political influence that Wilmington may have or may be able to rally to her support.

Southport has no money; no political influence, but she has the greatest natural harbor along the Carolina coast. She has everything that the State might wish for with which to build a great port that would serve the interests of the people of North Carolina. Bladen county and Columbus county people are standing by their weaker sister, Brunswick, and wishing her well in her fight for recognition of her rights.

In Joe Brown, Columbus county has one man on the port commission. He will stand faithful to the interests of North Carolina. Bladen believes with Columbus that Joe Brown will disregard all political interests and influences and be loyal to North Carolina, as he always has been.

**ROADS OF THE FUTURE**

It is practically certain that the state of North Carolina will take over Fort Caswell at the mouth of the Cape Fear river, near Southport. The fort is being abandoned by the federal government, as obsolete for military purposes, and the state is not willing to see the splendid buildings dismantled and the reservation broken up.

Just what use the state will make of the splendid buildings and the several hundred acre reservation, is a question still unsettled.

One thing is sure, with the acquiring of this property by the state, a state highway will run from somewhere in the interior to Southport and Caswell.

The Wilmington-Charlotte and Asheville will be one of the links to connect with the proposition. This road runs from the mountains to the coast at Wilmington. From Whiteville to Southport and Caswell it is approximately 37 miles. From Whiteville to Wilmington and the coast beyond it is 60 miles and after getting to Wilmington a long journey still awaits before reaching Southport.

This condition of affairs means there will be a state highway branching from the Wilmington, Charlotte and Asheville highway at Whiteville and going to Southport and the state proposition. The Wilmington, Charlotte and Asheville highway and the connecting link from Whiteville will make Southport and Caswell accessible to the Western part of North Carolina.

From the eastern and central parts of the state there is now a state highway running through Fayetteville, Elizabethtown, Clarkton and Whiteville. By all rights and

odds this highway should have gone on straight through Whiteville to Southport, the county seat of Brunswick. It did not go on because there was abundant influence to prevent a shorter route to the sea than that by Wilmington. Brunswick lacked in political influence and her rights were disregarded.

If Caswell becomes state property or if Southport is selected for the State Port, a hard surfaced highway will undoubtedly run through Bladen, Columbus and Brunswick to Southport. The State Port matter will probably be settled at some time in the near future and the consensus of opinion in Bladen and Columbus counties is that it will be settled in favor of Southport.

It is less than two months until the time when the great truck crop of Columbus, strawberries, will be moving marketwards. Last year was a record breaker in production and prices. Many growers got well on the highroad to wealth through their strawberry patches. At present the outlook, as well as it can be judged this early in the year, is excellent for production. The growers think there will be a big crop but very few of them are willing to hazard a statement regarding the prices that may prevail. Prices in Columbus are always more or less dependent on the crops in other sections of the U. S., and the time they come on.

The other day the writer was in conversation with attorney H. H. Clark of the Elizabethtown bar and we incidentally asked him how he stood in the state port matter. "I am for Southport. I believe it can be made one of the greatest ports in the world. Why, when I was at Pinehurst last summer, I learned more about Southport and the wonderful port possibilities there than I ever dreamed existed along the North Carolina Coast." In saying he was for Southport, Mr. Clark was voicing the sentiments of the majority of the Bladen county folks who are aware of the real conditions, purposes and intents of the State Port. We have recently talked with a number of well informed Bladen county citizens and they were of one accord in saying that if the question of the location of the state port was settled on the merits and advantages that will accrue to the state, Southport will undoubtedly be selected by the Port Commission.

The 1923 tobacco crop of North Carolina totaled approximately 365,000,000 pounds, according to the tobacco sales report issued by Frank Parker, agricultural statistician.

**POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS**

**FOR THE LEGISLATURE**

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Legislators, subject to the will of the Democratic voters of Columbus county, as expressed in the coming primary. I will appreciate the support of the men and women voters of Columbus county and if elected I will endeavor to serve the best interests of the voters.

J. R. MAXWELL.

**FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS**

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Register of Deeds of Columbus county, subject to the will of the Democratic voters of Columbus county to be expressed in the coming primary to be held on June 7th, A.D., 1924.

I appreciate the handsome vote and support given me by the voters in the last Primary, and if nominated and elected will endeavor to serve the best interest of the people while I am in office.

GEO. E. COLLIER.

**Distinguished Officer to Visit Whiteville**

General E. C. Glenn, retired, the only North Carolinian to command a division in France during the world war, will probably speak in Whiteville on either March 12 or 19th.

In a long distance telephone conversation with Mr. Glenn in his home in Raleigh Monday, he expressed his willingness to come on either of the above dates and to address a meeting of citizens of Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties. Mr. Glenn's appearance here will in no sense be a political one. A joint meeting of citizens of the above counties is being arranged to discuss a matter of vital interest to all three counties. Mr. Glenn, by reason of being the best posted man in the state on the matter that is to come up, was asked to speak at the meeting.

A large number of prominent Bladen county citizens have already signified their intention of being present. Brunswick county will send a rousing delegation and Columbus can also be relied upon to do its full share.

The exact date of the meeting will be announced in next week's paper.

The Russian temperament is rather gloomy at best, yet all men strive for a little laughter. Possibly the red-flag rumor was an effort to be facetious.

**WANTED To Sell or Exchange**

- 10 Angora Goats.
- 1 Fat cow (nearly dry).
- 1 Overland 4 Automobile.
- 1 Reo 2 Automobile (Junk)
- 1 Small Steam Skidder hoister complete.
- 1 Combination heading and shingle machine.
- 1 Return flue, 40 horse boiler.
- 800,000 ft. Cypress Tupota timber.
- 1 Monroe Spreader (small)
- 1 Auto Knitting Machine (new)
- 1 Incubator "Buckeye, 150"
- 1 Town lot, near school
- 27 acres near depot.

**WANTED To Buy or Exchange**

- 1 Ford Tractor and disc cultivator.
- 1 Riding cultivator (2 horse)
- 1 Home water system.
- 1 Steel's Brick and tile machine.
- 1 Steel's Skidder hoister
- 1 Forme's cement, tile and block machine.
- 1 Concrete Mixer.
- 1 Small electric motor.
- 1 Small Aim tank and compress.
- 1 Small clam shell dipper.
- 10 Sheep.
- 5 Indian Runner ducks.
- 1 Electric Washing machine.

**Dr. W. Ross Davis**

Whiteville, N. C.

It begins to look very much as if Joe Daniels, former secretary of the Old Navy, and editor of the Old Reliable, may be the democratic candidate for president this year. During the past two or three weeks a far reaching boom was launched for Daniels, seemingly in North Carolina. The boom is spreading and the end is still far from being in sight.

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**NEGROES NEED A DEMONSTRATION AGENT**

Some months ago negro farm demonstration work in this county was discontinued, this paper has been unable to learn the precise cause. The agent, John W. Mitchell, an invaluable worker among the colored people, moved with his family to another county.

The discontinuance of the work is apparently a matter of great regret among the colored farmers of this county and various expressions have been heard from them concerning the matter. This week the News Reporter was in receipt of the following letter from S. W. R. Slade.

S. W. SLADE

**Buy at Home!**

Hometown stores are good stores, and hometown merchants are good merchants. They carry large and well-selected stocks, and offer them at reasonable prices.

In addition, local merchants know you and your needs. They have a personal interest in you, and will go out of their way to be of service.

The money that you spend with them stays at home and continues to circulate among you and your neighbors.

Don't send your money away!

Buy at home!

**BANK OF WHITEVILLE**

WHITEVILLE, N. C. VINELAND, N. C. TABOR, N. C.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

This is to notify the public that the **Bank of Fair Bluff** and the **Farmers & Merchants Bank**, of Fair Bluff, N. C., having in mind the best interests of the community served by the two said banks, and believing that this can best be done through one institution, have consolidated, and from and after the 11th day of February, 1924, the banking business theretofore carried on by the two institutions will be conducted under the name of the **Farmers & Merchants Bank of Fair Bluff**, and for the present both banking houses will be open during the regular hours for business.

The two institutions appreciate very much the patronage they have respectively enjoyed, and invite the continued co-operation of their patrons, assuring them of every courtesy consistent with sound banking, and with the increased facilities of the **FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK** of Fair Bluff it is believed that even more satisfactory service can be rendered.

**BANK OF FAIR BLUFF FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK**

**SUITS TO MEASURE**

Come quick for the best in Clothing, made to your individual measurements and **GUARANTEED TO FIT.** See our special \$25.00 Suits with extra pair pants each.

Vineland, N.C. **F. H. KRAHNKE**

**SEASONABLE**

**MERCHANDISE**

Two and a half-pound bundle Remnants, Special 69 cents a bundle.

Fair grade Tobacco Plant Bed Muslin, 4 cents a yard.

Special values in Blue Denims, Mattress and Bed Ticks, Cheviots, LL Sheeting and other Dry Goods and Men's Work and Dress Trousers, Raincoats, Overcoats, etc.

**VINELAND DRY GOODS**

Dry Goods and Butterick Patterns

**COMPANY**