# Sanford Tobacco Market Assured of Good Buyers of the Page Trust Company as liquidating agent Tuesday morning shortly after 5 o'clock.

Representatives of the Big Com Market Opens on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd.

The Sanford tobacco market was given a good boost by a group of ocal business men who visited and interviewed officials and representatives of some of the leading tobacco companies, who have headquarters in Henderson and Richmond, anent the Sanford market. This group was composed of Mayor W. R. Williams. Gilliam Anderson, J. W. Kirkpatrick, and E. Frank Andrews. They visited these tobacconists to talk over the market situation and solicit their cooperation in securing the highest market prices for the crop that will be put on the Sanford market which will open for the season next Tuesday, September 23rd. The officials and representatives of J. P. Taylor and Company, of Henderson, and Imperial Tobacco Company and the Export Tobacco Company, of Richmond, received this delegation ofcitizens and business men with all due courtesy and gave them a most patient hearing in discussing this matter. They were impressed with the advantges that Sanford has to offer as a locapromised to see to it that experienced buyers are sent to Sanford by their companies. They stated that the good grades of tobacco would sell just as high on the Sanford market as on any of the big markets in the State. They stated that it might appear that the average price was higher on the big markets as the volume of high grade tobacco would be much larger and that much of the sand lugs would be put on the small markets which would lower the average price, but that the good grades would sell just as well on the small as on the large markets.

The Sanford gentlemen who made this visit to Henderson and Richmond in the interest of the local market tion for a big tobacco market and

in the interest of the local market were highly pleased with their trip and believe that it will bear fruit. These tobacco people were impressed with the manner in which the mem-

Sanford a real tobacco market and the business men of the town stand ing presented. The Presbyterian ready to do all they can to help put the thing over. All realize that Sancluded in Orange Presbytery. ford is the logical place for a tobacco market for all this section of the State. The clubs and other organizations of the town are also interested in the success of the market and are ready to put their shoulder to the wheel. The gentlemen who went to Henderson and Richmond in the interest of the local market plan to go to Reidsville the latter part of the week on a similar mission.

While in Richmond J. W. Kirkpatrick saw more money than he ever saw before or ever expects to see again unless he can become a partner to Henry Ford. He was permitted to visit the big vault of the Federal land bank of Richmond and while looking around guarded on every side by guards fixed his eyes just for a minute on \$150,000,000. He was convinced that there was a plenty of money in Richmond but all in one pile.

A tobacconist who has been on the markets in Georgia and South Carolina and knows something of the grades of tobacco raised in eastern North Carolina tells The Express that the best grades of tobacco in the whole belt can be found in the barns of the planters in this section. He thinks it will average a good price. He is of the opinion that the planters will make a mistake by bringing the sorry lugs to market. They will getvery little for this grade of tobacco and it will lower the average price of the good tobacco.

Some of the people who expect to be on the local market in one canacity or another, are now here making final preparation for the opening of the warehouses. As The Express has warehouses. As The Express has stated there will be three warehouses in operation here this season. Messrs W. F. Wood and J. C. Yarborough will run the upper warehouse and Messrs. Jordan and Hester the lower warehouse. The third warehouse, a building owned by the Wilkins estate on the opposite side of Wicker street from the other warehouses, will be beld at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. All officials are urged to be present for the business meeting.

run by Tilley Bros. J. W. Tilley has | WESTVIEW FILLING STATION panies State that Tobacco been here several weeks making prewill sell Just as high on the paration for the opening. The other Sanford Market as on any of warehousemen, buyers, auctioneers, the Big Markets of the State book-keepers and other helpers will -Representatives of some of be here the last of this or the first the Leading Companies Vis- of next week ready for the opening ited in Henderson and Rich- The planters are invited to come and mond by a Group of Sanford attend the opening whether they bring Business Men. — Sanford any tobacco or not. We believe that they will find that the Sanford market will pay as much for tobacco as any market in the State

### CIVIL TERM LEE SUPERIOR COURT NOW BEING HELD

A one week civil term of Lee Superior Court convened at the court house last Monday morning and will adjourn at the end of the week. Judge C. C. Lyon, of Elizabethtown, is presiding. Judge Lyon is on the emergency list. Judge W. A. Devin, of Oxford, who was to have held court, was detained at Kinston, as Herman Casev, who was up for murder, was being tried before him. Casey was found guilty of the charge by the

Few cases of public interest are up for a hearing. Only three or four cases have been heard.

MR. HAM TALKS TO ROTARIANS "The United States retired \$1,250,-000,000 in bonds yesterday. The railloads are now getting ready to spend \$1,000,000,000 in construction work in addition to their regular pay rolls. We have been lending and not borrowing since the passage of the 18th Amendment."

represented at this meeting.

### MEETING OF ORANGE PRESBYTERY

On Tuesday of this week the 321st with the manner in which the members of this group went about the business of securing better prices and competent buyers to handle the crop for the big companies. They realized that they meant business and being in a receptive mood themselves were ready to talk business. ready to talk business.

The Sanford Merchants Association is behind this movement to make Sanford a real tobacco market and to sanford a real tobacco market and the church and its work, including home and foreign missions, are be-

> Orange Presbytery is a component part of the Synod of North Carolina, which is itself a part of the organization known as the Presbyterian Church of the United States. The Synod of North Carolina was organized on October 7, 1813, at Alamance church in Guilford county.

# COTTON GINNERS BUSY.

Watson & Stevens, cotton ginners Watson & Stevens, cotton ginners, of Broadway, began running their gins on Monday, September 8th. The first bale ginned was for Ike Rollins, who lives on the E. T. Ussery plantation. People are now very busy picking cotton which is opening very rapidly and all the gins in the county will be busy for the next few weeks ginning the fleecy staple and getting it ready for market. It is too early for Cotton Statistician John T. McDonald to tell anything about the size Donald to tell anything about the size

# COUNTY COUNCIL HOME DEM-ONSTRATION CLUBS MEET HERE SATURDAY.

The County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs wil meet Saturday, September 20, at 2 o'clock P. M., in the City Hall. Mrs. Estelle T. Smith, of Raleigh, will speak to the women. All club members are welcome to attend this meeting. Each club will have two delegates. There is plenty of parking space near the City Hall.

LIBRARY HOURS.
On and after October 1st the Sanford Library will open at 3 o'clock
P. M., and close at 6:00.

JONESBORO CIRCUIT. Methodist Episcopal Church, South Ivey T. Pole, Pastor.

Schedule of services for Sunday, Sep-

tember 21st: 11:00 A. M.—Jonesboro.

WESTVIEW FILLING STATION
RAIDED, LIQUOR FOUND
AND ARRESTS MADE
Last Saturday morning Sheriff
Sam Watson, Deputies J. M. Thomas,
a raid on Westview filling station,
just north of Sanford on Federal
Highway No. 1 and made a big haul
of men and liquor. In making search in a few days.

a total of eight other branches,
agreed as liquidating agent, to pay the depositors 50 per cent of their deposits as soon as the necessary least he players will come
The players were brought to America from Freiburg Baden, Germany, by the city of St. Joseph, Mo. They are just completing a tour of the country and will sail for the momental late this year.

Three of the Fassnacht family, together with more than thirty of the original German cast will appear in the Durham engagement. Some 150 of men and liquor. In making search they found 7 1-2 gallons of liquor in jars. Most of this liquor was found concealed in old junked cars in rear of the filling station. The officers ville, Liberty, Ramseur and Sanford. Were able to locate the liquor by plain paths that led from the filling parment said the primary cause of station and highway to the cars. They have a found two and one half crates company's closing was due to wild a greatly developed in the course of the state Banking and Trust company's closing was due to wild bassing of a plague on their city and has greatly developed in the course of the passing of a plague on their city and has greatly developed in the course of the freiburg setting.

The Passion Play was originally produced in Freiburg, Baden Germany, in the year 1264 as a thank offering to Divine Providence for the passing of a plague on their city and has greatly developed in the course of the freiburg setting. they found 7 1-2 gallons of liquor in also found two and one half crates company's closing was due to wild of home brew that had also been concealed in cars and about the filling sulted in withdra vals of the deposits station. This intoxicant that now faster than the bank could convert seems to be very popular with the its assets into each.
"ganka" in this community, had been Deposits of the pank at the close of

The officers arrested Dewey Mcwho was in his employ. They also branch in Religin and immediately arrested James Riley, who operates began the acceptance of deposits. a garage a short distance from the filling station. Three Lamb, who has been operating the filling station. Three negroes, Dennis Womack, Louis Dark, and Doug Dark, were also placed under arrest by the officers. They were given a preliminary hearing before K. E.

ous "Boar's Den" that became a stench in the nostrils of the good people a few miles west of Sanford, but was finally put out of commis-

# REV. R. W. BAILEY DIES IN RALEIGH.

Rev. R. W. Bailey, a well known Methodist minister, who since he was placed on the superannuated list, has made his home in Raleigh, died in that city about 8 o'clock Sunday morning. Mr. Bailey had been critically ill for several weeks, following a stroke of paralysis which he suffered July 19th. The funeral services were conducted from Edenton Street Methodist church Monday morning at 11 o'clock, by Rev. M. morning at 11 o'clock, by Rev. M.
Bradshaw, presiding Elder of the Releigh district, assisted by Dr. W. A.
Stanbury, of Duke Memorial church,
Durham; Rev. J. F. Herbert, of Central Methodist church, and Rev. Philip
Schwartz Raleigh Schwartz, Raleigh. Mr. Bailey had served in the Moth

odist ministry to 1920, when he retired. Born in a portion of Wake county, which is now Durham, he spent a good many of his years in each county, that served asstorates all the way from West Durham to S among them the Steele Southport, e Street among them the Steele Street Methodist church of Sanford. He came to the Sanford church in 1906, and after serving three years left this field in 1909.

this field in 1909.

Due to his long and useful life, Mr. Bailey had drawn to himself friends all over the State. On August 2, 1888, Mr. Bailey was married to Miss Frances M. Cunningham, of Raleigh, to which marriage were born three sons: Robert Cunningham Bailey, who died in Louishure some wars who died in Louisburg some years ago; Palmer E. Bailey, of Raleigh, and Jessie Lee Bailey, of Memphis, Tenn. In addition to his wife and two sons, Mr. Bailey leaves surviv-ing two sisters, Mrs. Sarah E. Bled-soe, and Miss M. Loula Bailey, of

The committee from the civic department will with the cemetery churches, board apply as wisely as possible the money raised for the upkeep of the decided that cemetery. They are asking for the cooperation of the plot owners in the second S. raising this fund.

### EVANGELIST HAM TO DISCUSS BIG SUBJECTS.

The Express is requested to state that Evangelist John W. Ham, of At- this week. lanta, who is holding a meeting at Siler City this week will discuss the following subjects next Sunday: "Musolina and Satan, or the Revival of the Roman Empire," "Will Mussolina Succeed in his purpose to bring about a United States of Southern Europe?"

PAGE TRUST COMPANY GETS BANK AT RALEIGH.

The Raleigh Banking & Trust Com- To Be Staged in Durham pany, with deposits on June 30, of \$2,167,180.28, was placed in the hands

in a few days.

Branches of the Page Trust Company are at Aberdeen, Carthage,

put in coacola bottles. It had been business Monday aggregated \$1,592,-colored so as to look like cocacola. 000, Robert N. Page, president of the

Page Trust Company stated.

The Page Trust Company Tuesday

# HOSPITAL CON RACT AWARDED TO J. W. TOUT, INC.

The board of crectors of the Lee County Hospital met at the City Hall by the officers. They were given a preliminary hearing before K. E. Seymour, Esq., and placed under bond of \$500.00 each for their appearance at the next term of the Recorder's Court. Riley and McLamb gave bond. The other defendants who failed to give bond were committed to jail, but gave bond later and were discharged. They will be given a hearing in the Recorder's court next Tuesday.

One of the officers who made the raid compares this joint to the famous "Boar's Den" that became a County Hospital met at the City Hall Tuesday afternoon and opened sealed bids that had been filed by seven contractors for the construction of the hospital. After spending some time considering the bids they adjourned to meet again Wede sday evening, at which time they awarded the contract of J. W. Stout, Inc., his bid beging \$87,800. They met again this morning and are in sersion this afternoon as this paper goes to press working out the details. The contract has not as yet be a signed up. Full details of the contract will be published in The Express next week.

inshed in The Express next week.

OPENING GAME EETWEEN SANFORD AND CADOR HERE

The opening his shool football game of the star hord and Candor. The people of the town are asked to come out and see what our boys can do in the initial game.

The members of the Sanford team, who have been putting in intensive practice for the past two or three weeks seem to be pretty well seasoned and it is expected that they will play a good game. Mr. L. E. Warrick, the coach, has been giving them intensive work outs every afternoon, and expects soon to have play a good game. Mr. L. E. War-rick, the coach, has been giving them intensive work outs every af-Kelly captain. Kelly is considered one of the best players on the team and will he heard from during the

# B. Y. P. U.'S HOLD RALLY AT CAMERON.

Sunday at 2:30 P. M., a rally of the Fourth District of the Sandy Creek Associational B. Y. P. U. was held in the Cameron Baptist church, in Cameron. Of the 18 churches in the district, approximately half the district, approximately half of them were represented with a total of about 75 delegates. Miss Floy Rivers, of Santord, district leader, presided. Following the opening hymas, R. B. Gross, of the Cool Springs Union, led the devotional with an interesting address. Miss Luna Yates, of the Sanford Baptist church, vice-president of the associational union, delivered an inspiring address on "Growth Through Expansion." Lattle Miss Mary Caudle ddress on "Growth Through address on "Growth Through Sion." Lattle Miss Mary Caudle Gavin, of Sanford, sung a beautiful solo, "Living for Jesus," which desolo, "Living for Jesus," which desolo, "Living for Jesus," which was followed by the sun bear hearers. This was followed by the sun bear hearers. solo, "Living for Jesus," which delighted her hearers. This was followed by an able address by Miss Floy Rivers, who discussed in an interesting way "The Associational B. Y. P. U. at Work." After this came soe, and Miss acceptance of the Mornal's Club is working in cooperation with the Cemetery Board to raise a fund for the cleaning up and the grading of the cemetery at Buffalo. The members of this department will be members of this department will be members of the owners of canvass of the owners of ask for the cleaning to the complex of the many cars, movernment will be many cars, which the section of Mrs. O. I.

One might will be the house of Mrs. O. I.

and Mrs. Theodore High, near Buff and took from their being and took from their being able to use the building. I want to make an improming the move of first or many cars, movernment will be moved the many cars, movernment will be moved the many cars, which the house of Mrs. O. I.

And Mrs. Theodore High, near Buff and took zations in other that he had no fear similar second semi-annual istrict would be held in the Jonesho

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. the usual services at church next Sunday is 8 P. M. Preaching There wil r. Gilmore, who will vacation the last of



## PASSION PLAY

Duke University.

s2,167,180.28, was placed in the hands of the Page Trust Company as liquidating agent Tuesday morning shortly after 5 o'clock.

The Page Trust Company, with a parent institution at Aberdeen and a total of eight other branches, agreed as liquidating agent, to pay the depositors 50 per cent of their denosites as soon as the necessary leads of the page of

Durham engagement. Some 150 Durham persons are required to com-plete the cast and chorus. Two car-loads of scenery and costumes are

The outstanding feature yers themselves, direct liof the players themselves, direct li-neal descendants of the players who have carried on the traditions of the

group of players for centuries.

Adolph Fassnacht, Christus of the play, has been in the Christus role since infancy, having portrayed the Babe in the Manger at the age of six months, while his father at the time had the Christus role. The Passion Play became a hereditary affair of the Fassnacht family con-Passion Play became a hered 200 years ago, and for generations the production of the play has rested on the shoulders of a Fassnacht.

## DANIEL-LAMBETH.

A surprise wedding of interest was solemnized Tuesday afternoon at 6 o'clock, September 2nd, at "Oak Glen," the county home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar E. Lambeth, when their eldest daughter, Annie Maxwell, became the bride of Mr. Andrew Turner Daniel, of Mocksville. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. A. Dailey, of Pittsboro, pastor of the bride

bride.

Just before the ceremony, Miss Lucy Boone, of Burlington, sang "At Dawning." At the strains of Lohengrin's "Bridal Chorus," the bride descended the stairway and was met at the foot of the stairs by the groom, unattended, and entered the living room where the yows were spoken.

Barbara Kelly, whose anniversary oc-curred on Saturday.

The jolly crowd proceeded to the home of Miss Kelly on Saturday ev-ening bearing attractive gifts for both honorees and an evening of real fun ensued with bridge and dancing as the shief diversions. Punch and as the chief diversions. Punch and

Jr., Miss Bernice Hunt with Herbert Russell, Miss Jewell Stout with Arch Bryant, Miss Edith Makepeace with Clyde Williamson, Miss Helen How-ard with Frank Snypes, Jr., Miss Lou-ise Gilliam with John William Brown, Miss Stephanie Newman with Robert

noise.

# CLEAN UP WEEK.

The Civic Department of the Wo-man's Club of Sanford will spensor a clean up week in Sanford the first week in October. All citizens of the town are earnestly requested to clean up around their premises and put everything in sanitary condition if pos-sible, before that time.

The Express stated last week that

# FRANK PAGE IS NAMED AS HEAD OF THE TOBACCO ORGANIZATION

MORE THAN HUNDRED TO-BACCO GROWERS HEAR FARM BOARD REPRESENTATIVE (Reported for The Express by E. O.

McMahan.) More than one hundred tobacco growers met at the Town Hall in Sanford Tuesday afternoon to hear Col. Charles B. Rogan, a representative of the Federal Farm Board, explain how the Farm Board could help the tobacco growers market their tobacco.

Col. Rogan explained how the Farm Board was ready to advance money to farmers on their tobacco so that they would not have to dump it on the market at a time when the prices are as low as they are now. he also made it clear that the Farm Board could not deal with individuals. and that it would be necessary for the farmers to organize a marketing association before they could get this help from the Farm Board. He explained in detail how an association could be formed and what it could do and some of the things that it could not do.

Mr. E. W. Gaither, of Raleigh, who s District Farm Demonstration Agent for the Southeastern District of North Carolina, made an interesting talk on the tobacco situation. He showed how the price of tobacco is mainly controlled by the law of supply and demand. He quoted figures for the last fifteen years that showed that the large crops of tobacco had always sold for less money than the small crops had sold for.

Col. Rogan and Mr. Gaither discussed cooperative marketing in detail, taking up some of the mistakes that were made by the old 'I'm State Association and showing how association could keep from making these same mistakes. They also showed how the Federal Fa Board could be a great help to at association.

After these discussions the farmers were asked if they thought it would be worth while to hold a series of community meetings in the county to discuss cooperative m rketing with all the tobacco grower: to that they would be in better ; decide if they wanted to o association or not. It was

animoulsy to hold these 1 Dates and places for th ings will be arranged at an

Before the meeting adjourned Mr. G. W. Crissman of Jonesboro, Rt. 1 was elected to represent Lee County last on Gov. Gardner's Tobacco Relief

time in their new church building on North Steele street. Much work in the way of flooring, plastering, and

Carolina type may also be handled separately.

But in any event all of the separately. interior work remains to be but the building was comfortably used by a congregation that filled it of real to capacity with a number of people unable to obtain admission. congregation were members of the various churches of Sanford as well as friends from Pittsboro, Siler City, as the chief diversions.

as the chief diversions.

cakes were served.

Present were Miss Barbara Kelly with John William Brown, Miss Julia Chaffin with Fred Newman, Miss Conelia Atkins with R. B. Wicker, Jr., Miss Bernice Hunt with Herbert Russell, Miss Jewell Stout with Arch Russell, Miss Jewell Stout with Arch Bryant, Miss Edith Makepeace with Bryant, Miss Edith Makepeace with Bryant, Miss Helen Howhelp and interest shown by friends in Sanford and elsewhere in the effort Sanford and eisewhere in the effort to erect a suitable church building. He read letters from Right Reveren-ed Edwin A. Penick, Bishop Coadju-tor, Rev. A. B. Hunter, of Raleigh, and Miss Carrie Hughes, of Raleigh,

the many cars, mover the many cars, mover the many of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of the young in work of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the work of the young in work of this kind, the young in work of the young in work of this kind, the young in work of this kind, they work of the young in work of this kind, they work of the young in young in you members of St. Bartholomew's choir of Pittsboro, was unusually good. Mrs. James Holland presided at the organ. The building, which is of red brick, is modeled after the English Chapel style, and has been pronounced an unusually beautiful type of architecture. L. M. Thompson, of Sanford, was the architect, with O. Z. Barber, of Goldston, the builder. One of the windows on the north side of the chancel representing "The Good Shepherd," was given by friends in Pittsboro as a memorial to the late. erything in sanitary condition if possible, before that time.

The Express stated last week that Dr. C. Presley Wilson, oculist, of Shelby, had made arrangements move to Sanford where he will engage in his profession. He came down this week and has opened an office on the second flow of the Postoffice of at the corner of Moore and Cart. on the second floor of the Postoffice of at the corner of Moore and Carbuilding, where he can now be seen by people who need his services.

Is mail wooden building and was location of the public school auditors, and the corner of Moore and Carfarmers in the public school auditors, and the public school auditors,

Minimum Goal For Sign-up Placed 100,000,000 Pounds—All Details Left to Committee of Five Which Will Be Appointed by Governor Gardner.

Following an enthusiastic mass meeting at City Auditorium in Raleigh yesterday morning the Tobacco Relief Commission composed of elective representatives from 49 tobacco growing counties, unanimously elected Frank Page, former chairman of the North Carolina Highway Commission, and now vice-president of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, in charge of its Raleigh branch, as the head of the movement. It was agreed to work for a minimum signup of 100,000,000 pounds, or one-fifth

of the State's crop. All details of the plan for co-operative association, including the form of the marketing agreement to be signed by growers were left to an executive committee of five to be appointed by Governor Gardner, who was also empowered by the mass meeting to name seven members of the organization to rep-

resent the state at large. The election of Mr. Page, who has not been officially notified of election and last night declined to comment thereon, was merely for the organization of the co-operative since permanent officers will be chosen by the directors to be elected by grower members after the sign-up.

Would Draft Page. However, Mr. Page was proposed at the mass meeting as the permanent, full time head of the organization, and the suggestion was well received. His selection is thought to depend only on his acceptance.

"We must elect one man and put him in charge," declared the Gover-"We must have a leader whom nor. the tobacco companies from New York to London and from Durham to Winston-Salem will regard as strong enough, to carry the flag of North Carolina.

"I propose to draft Frank Page for this job, a man who has handled hundreds of millions of dollars without the strain of any of it leaving its slimp mark upon him.

"It is a big undertaking, but know Frank Page is patriotic and I believe he will undertake it for North Carolina. The State needs a man of his calibre to lead it out of this crisis."

# Minimum 100,000,000 Pounds

The relief commission yesterday fixed 100,000,000 pounds as the minternoon, and expects soon to have them in good shape. The team recently organized by electing Norman Kelly cortain Norman (Norman Kelly cortain Norman Commission which is trying to make plans for getting a better price for this year's tobacco crop.

Commission which is trying to make plans for getting a better price for this year's tobacco crop. On their return they will make their home at Mocksville.

Birthday Party.

A number of their friends planned a surprise party to celebrate the birthday of John William Brown, whose birthday was on Thursday, and Miss Barbara Kelly, whose anniversary oc-

But in any event all of the sepa rate belt organizations will be tied up under one executive head and selling agent, the job for which Mr. Page has been picked.

# NEW GIN PUT IN OPERATION BY MARKS & WALKER.

Marks & Walker have finished and put in operation a new gin system at Swann Station, this season. The first "run" was made Monday. The plant is modern in every respect, the building having been constructed of brick. It is a 2-80 saw ginning system, and has a capacity of 50 bales daily. Mr. Ernest Marks will be in charge of the gin during the season. He expects to operate the plant at night should the supply of cotton justify it. This gin is in one of the best cotton sections of lower Lee and upper Harnett counties. Cotton is now opening very fast in that section and the planters are busily engaged in gathering it. The crop is good and it is expected that there will be a large yield.

Due to the crowded and congested condition in the Sanford city schools, the City School Board at its regular meeting on September 8, decided to discontinue admitting beginners at mid-term so there will be no beginners admitted at mid-term this year. In order to take care of as far as would enroll at once.

G. R. WHEELER. Superintendent

# IMPORTANT MEETING

There will be a meeting of cotton farmers in the public school auditor-