

BEAUFORT COUNTY FAR BELOW AVERAGE OF SISTER COUNTIES Inadequate School Buildings.

Familiarity With Conditions in the Many Rural Districts Shows the Absence of a Hearty Public Sentiment for School Improvement, Says Superintendent.

ENTHUSIASM TO BE AROUSED

The County Superintendent of Public Instruction soon realized after assuming the duties of that office, the lack of good, comfortable, adequate school buildings in a majority of the districts of Beaufort county; and in almost all the buildings he has found a lack of proper equipment. A careful examination of the report of the State Superintendent for 1907 and 1908, shows that Beaufort county is paying its rural teachers an average salary per day of more than a majority of the counties, and an average of almost as much as the best counties. Yet a comparison of the character and value of our school houses and equipment with those in our most progressive counties during the period covered by the same report shows that Beaufort county is far below their average.

Familiarity with conditions in the various rural districts has shown, in many, the absence of a healthy public sentiment for school improvement and proper school attendance.

In view of all these facts the Superintendent soon realized that he must direct his attention toward the creation of the proper interest among the people of the rural districts, and through that interest good buildings and equipment, and a proper attendance will follow. As the best and quickest method for obtaining these results, he has directed his attention toward the establishment in every community of a local Woman's Association for the Betterment of Public Schools. Personally, he has visited many of the "box parties" and other school entertainments and assisted the teacher in the organization of such an association, and in almost every instance he has seen immediate results. But this method is very slow and many of the patrons, and even school committees, cannot be reached in this way. He has, therefore, decided to publish the following extracts from a pamphlet issued by the State Superintendent, showing the history, purposes, and methods of this most excellent organization. He sincerely hopes that every citizen of the county will take the time to read the article and learn something of the work. We quote:

In 1903 the loan fund was established by act of the General Assembly creating a permanent loan fund, amounting now to \$400,000 and increasing each year by 4 per cent interest on the entire amount loaned and by the proceeds of the sale of swamp lands belonging to the State Board of Education. One-tenth of this fund, together with the annual interest on the entire fund, and the annual proceeds from the sale of swamp lands, is available every year as a loan for building and improving public schoolhouses. The loans are repayable in ten annual installments, with 4 per cent annual interest. This loan fund has proved one of the most serviceable agencies in stimulating and aiding the erection and improvement of public schoolhouses.

In March, 1902, at the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, the Woman's Association for the Betterment of Public Schoolhouses in North Carolina was organized, and it has proved one of the most practical and powerful agencies in promoting the work of improving public schoolhouses and grounds in the State.

Since June 20, 1902, 1,831 rural public schoolhouses have been built. The value of the entire public school property of the State has been increased from \$1,465,770 to \$4,250,419; the average value of rural white public schoolhouses has been increased to \$502; 1,800 rural public school libraries, containing 150,000 volumes, valued at \$20,000, have been established.

The number of districts without houses of any description has been reduced from 840 to 419. The number of log schoolhouses has been reduced from 515 to 419. For the year ending June 30, 1907, 375 new houses were built, the average cost of which was about \$414.41. As before stated, all new houses erected since March, 1903, have been built in accordance with plans approved by the State Superintendent and the county board of education, and have therefore, been built in accordance with the established principles of modern architecture.

A ceaseless campaign has been carried on by county superintendents and other school officers, by campaign speakers and other patriotic citizens, by the press of the State and by bulletins issued from time to time from my office for better public schoolhouses and equipment and for beautifying the schoolrooms and improving the school grounds.

The average schoolhouse as it existed in 1903, is accurately and faithfully described by Mr. Charles L. Coon. He says: "The schoolhouse is a shabby built board structure one story high. The overhead ceiling is not more than nine feet from the floor. There is one door in the end of the house; there are six windows, three on either side. There are no blinds and no curtains. The desks are home-made, with perpendicular backs and seats, all the same size. There is a dilapidated wood stove, but no wood-box, the wood for the fire being piled on the floor about the stove. The stove is red with rust and dirt, never having been polished and cleaned since it was placed in position for use. The floor of the house is covered with red dirt and litter from the wood. There are several broom-sedge brooms lying in one corner of the room. The occupied blackboard space in this house is just eighteen square feet. The blackboard is, however, too high for the children to use well and it is too small for anything but a bulletin-board. There is no teacher's desk or table. There is one chair. The children's hats and cloaks are hung on nails around the room. The walls and windows are covered with dust, and seem never to have been washed. All the children's books are soiled and look very much like their surroundings. There are no steps to this schoolhouse. An inclined plane of dirt answers that purpose. The yard is very muddy during the winter, and the general appearance of the place anything but attractive."

The initial movement, looking to the improvement of this condition, came from the young women of the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro. On March 20, 1902, at the call of President Charles D. Melver, more than 200 of them met in the college chapel to formulate plans for undertaking the necessary reforms. From this meeting resulted the organization of the Woman's Association for the Betterment of Public Schoolhouses in North Carolina. On April 3d the first public meeting of the association was held at Greensboro. Governor Charles B. Aycock and State Superintendent J. Y. Joyner were present and gave their hearty endorsement to the plans and purposes of the organization. The members were also assured of the cordial and active support of the Southern Education Board.

Two other annual sessions have been held—one at Raleigh in the summer of 1904, during the summer school at the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College; the other at Greensboro in June, 1905, during the annual session of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly. The reports read at these meetings revealed a constantly increasing membership and a continuously growing field of labor, with proportionate results. The Woman's Betterment Association within the six years of its life has become one of the permanent educational forces of the State.

The motives which actuated the students of the State Normal and Industrial College in organizing the Woman's Association are well expressed in one of their bulletins: "Realizing that under present conditions, and with the present surroundings of the average schoolhouse, it is impossible to train the youth of the State properly, and realizing further that unless the women of the State take hold of this very important matter it will remain neglected, the students of the college have organized themselves and call upon the other women of the State to join them in making attractive and habitable the houses in which our children spend five days of each school week."

The purposes and plans of the association are tersely stated in Article

SAYS THE NEXT TREASURER OUGHT TO BE E. R. MIXON

So Writes W. J. Austin A Communication from South Creek Advocates Candidacy of Washington's Young Business Man for County Treasurer.

South Creek, N. C.,
February 4, 1910.

Mr. Editor:

I desire to say a few words to the Democrats of Beaufort county.

Not many months hence you will be called upon to select the candidates for the ensuing two years. To those who are opposed to life tenure in office, for your consideration, I commend the name of one who was born and reared on the farm, one whose character and integrity can not be attacked, one who is in every way worthy and capable of filling any trust imposed in him. I refer to Mr. E. R. Mixon, for County Treasurer.

No man could go before the public with a cleaner or more spotless record. He stands forth a living example of what untiring energy and hard push can accomplish. From a small beginning in the business world he today stands at the very head of Beaufort county's business interests—reaching this coveted place as the result of honesty and integrity in all things, and the closest application. Such men as Mr. Mixon is what the people of any community need and long for to fill their public positions. Those who are capable of steering their own business successfully are the ones to manage and conduct the people's interest. Not only is Mr. Mixon a business man of judgment and discretion, but he is a high-toned Christian gentleman. In his church affiliations as in the business life, he exercises that same sane judgment and forethought he displays as the head of the large wholesale firm of E. R. Mixon & Co.

To have such a man before the people as a candidate for Treasurer means an omen of good times. In that, it depicts a future for the Democratic party in Beaufort county it enjoyed years ago and lays a foundation which cannot be overthrown.

I feel in the candidacy of Mr. Mixon, that the party has something to feel proud of. Why do I make this assertion? From the simple fact I have known him for years; I have watched his course from a business standpoint and, too, I have looked on with pride to his devotion to duty. I knew he would come to the front. He is surely a pattern which every boy in the county of Beaufort would do well to emulate and follow. If Mr. Mixon is honored by the people of the county and selected as their next Treasurer they will have the satisfaction of knowing they have bestowed the gift upon one fully competent, one in every way worthy to wear the mantle. E. R. Mixon is no stranger to Beaufort county citizenship—he is one of them. Born among them, reared among them, and all his ties and interests are among them. Every trust committed to his care has always been faithfully and judiciously performed. He believes in that old adage, "A public office is a public trust." I feel that others in the Democratic party in the county should receive some consideration. Why not elevate someone else of the privates? It will not only give me unbounded pleasure to cast my vote for E. R. Mixon for County Treasurer, but I feel safe in saying a large majority of Democrats in the county will do the same. I have the utmost confidence in him; he is a man that does things and in surmounting them he does not take the occasion to advertise his doings on the house-tops. Can the Democrats of Beaufort county secure a man better qualified for the position as Treasurer? Has he not shown his fitness, his qualifications? In addition to these requisites, does he not possess that integrity of manhood, that honesty of purpose, that circumspectness of walk which not an enemy can gain say?

I think so. If the people of Beaufort county desire a man above reproach for their next Treasurer, then I call upon them to rally around the standard of him who has never before asked of the citizenship of Beaufort county any favors.

As before stated, it will give me great pleasure to support him. I write this communication simply to announce to those of his friends throughout the county to be on their guard; pay no attention to rumors as to his withdrawal from the race, but to have to the line and remain steadfast. If his friends ever forget that

VESSEL SPRUNG A LEAK AND IS SINKING

Ship to the Rescue The Kentucky Has Sprung Leak Some Distance Southeast of Hatteras and is Said to Be Slowly Sinking.

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 4.—Wireless advices at 10:30 o'clock this morning say the steamship Kentucky, Alaska-Pacific line, is sinking in latitude 32.18, longitude 76.45.

She sprung a leak on this her maiden voyage from New York to the Pacific coast. The steamship Alamo, of the Mallory line, is rushing to the rescue.

New York, Feb. 4.—A report received by the United Wireless Company here from its Cape Hatteras station at noon today said the steamship Kentucky was sinking in latitude 32.18, longitude 76.30 which would place her some distance southeast of Hatteras. This dispatch also said that the Mallory liner Alamo had picked up the Kentucky's distress call and was rushing for the scene at top speed.

The Kentucky, which was an old vessel, today had been bought by the Alaska-Pacific line for the northwestern coasting passenger service, sailed from New York on her trip around the horn on January 22. She sprung a leak when but six hours out and almost turned turtle before she succeeded in making Newport News, Va. After repairs there she left on February 2 to resume the voyage. The wireless operator who had made the trip from New York upon her, a man named McLarnie, who formerly had been stationed at the wireless company's office in the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, here, refused to continue the trip from Newport News, although he had asked permission to make the trip around the horn. At the company's office here today it was said McLarnie had reported that the vessel was unfit to attempt the voyage.

W. G. McGinness, another wireless operator, took McLarnie's place and sailed from Newport News. He it was who sent out the "C. Q. D." messages today which were picked up at Charleston, Hatteras and by the Alamo. The Kentucky, which was built for the Eastern Steamship Company twelve years ago, was launched under the name of Lincoln in the service between Boston and Bath. Later she plied under the name of Martinique in the Miami-Nassau service. She later was acquired by the Joy line and plied between New England ports. She was sold to the Alaska-Pacific Company in 1909 and was immediately made over in preparation for her trip around the horn. When she sailed from here January 23 she represented an expenditure of about \$125,000 and was fitted for carrying both freight and about 400 passengers.

When she left New York she carried a crew of about 20 men. She is a twin screw boat, is 203 feet long, has a beam of 37 feet and a tonnage of 995.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The pastor, Rev. Robert V. Hope, will fill his pulpit at the Christian Church Sunday morning and evening at the usual hours. Bible school at 2 p. m., Mr. T. W. Phillips, superintendent. Prayermeeting Wednesday evening. All strangers cordially invited to attend.

PAY NIGHT.

Last night was pay night for the National Guard Company. The men received compensation for six months drawing at the rate of 25 cents for each drill they attended. Quite a goodly sum was paid out.

THE NEXT TREASURER.

The next Treasurer of Beaufort county will be E. R. Mixon, and in electing him the Democrats will have placed in office a man upon whom no stigma can be placed. It will be a glad day for the Democrats of this county when they name such a man as the E. R. Mixon call for office. We can nominate and elect him if we will. He has always been a Democrat and belongs to no clique, is affiliated with no faction; he goes before the people with skirts clean and untrampled. Bossism and dictation by others, I can assure you, will be ignored while he is in office. All together for this sterling young man. Give us Mixon. He practices what he preaches. In naming E. R. Mixon for County Treasurer am I not safe in saying the people of Beaufort county are to be congratulated? I think so. Yours truly,
W. J. AUSTIN.

THE NEXT SESSION MEETS IN ASHEVILLE

M. E. Conference The Southern Methodists Are Looking Forward to the Gathering With Interest—Law Making Body of Denomination.

Asheville, N. C., Feb. 5.—As the sixteenth quadrennial General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, draws near, certain new issues, or new forms of old issues, seem to have superseded the proposition for a restatement of the faith which was the core of discussion, the emotional center of the Birmingham conference in 1906. The conference will convene here May 4, next.

The general conference is the supreme legislative body of a church organization that numbers between 1,700,000 and 1,800,000 members in the Southern States; some 16,000 churches and about 6,500 traveling preachers and 5,000 local preachers. The bishops preside in the order of their seniority, and have no voice in the action of the assembly and no part in its deliberations.

If one may judge by advancing discussion the three overshadowing issues will be the modification of the presiding eldership and the lengthening or the abolishing of the pastoral time limit.

Various restrictions upon the bishops, to prevent the exercise of "orbital power" have been proposed. The enactment of the "recall" is one of them. A limited instead of a life incumbency has been considered. The advice and consent of the cabinet in pastoral appointments is another proposal.

One prominent churchman has said: "There is a present crisis in the church, in regard to the presiding eldership;" and another: "Mr. Wesley used to carry Methodism in his arms, and dandle it on his knee, and feed it from a spoon. But it has grown to be a great giant, and we are still trying to clothe it with baby trappings."

There are proposals to abolish altogether the presiding elder's office and others to make it elective. A demand is voiced for a more democratic form of church government.

What may be called a compromise plan in reference to the presiding eldership is to enlarge the districts and call the elders, elected by conference, junior bishops. This would involve a senior episcopacy, and the junior episcopacy would be diocesan in character.

It is pointed out that if the local church government were so changed as to let the church conference elect all local officials without nomination by the pastor, this would give the power that the congregation has in congregational churches, and step by step up to the general conference delegates would be elected and seated by "the voice of the people," and the laymen would rule the church.

Lay representatives might be given a voice in the bishop's cabinet; and pastors might elect their presiding elders at the annual conference.

Some favor the extension of the successive years a pastor may serve one charge from four to six; others, the abolition of the time limit altogether.

The women of the church are asking for representation in official bodies. They are sending literature, memorials, etc., to the members of the conference, and conducting a strong campaign. The success of these efforts would give them membership in the board of stewards, and quarterly conference and, logically, the district, annual and General Conferences; also, logically, entitle them to the office of Sunday school superintendent.

Those who contended in the Birmingham conference for a restatement of the faith pointed out, among other things, that the articles of faith contain no specific declaration of the duty and responsibility of the church to evangelize the world, while some of their declarations relate to temporal conditions that have passed. The matter was referred to a committee, of which Dr. W. F. Tillett of Nashville is chairman, to report at this conference. It is possible that interest in the matter has somewhat abated; neither the northern church nor the Wesleyan has given it any particular attention.

Another matter that is being urged, especially by some in the border conferences, is a change of the church's name, to eliminate the word "south." Indeed there are various changes in name suggested.

It seems to be clearly recognized,

MANLY BUILDINGS COLLAPSE AND BLOCKS UNSAFE

Toll of the Flood The Seine Has Fallen Five Feet and Rehabilitation is Going on Apace—Relief Work Being Actively Pushed on All Sides.

Paris, Feb. 4.—The Seine today passed the five foot mark below the level of the flood's crest, and continued to fall steadily.

Yet, as it drops, it takes toll of Paris. The collapse of several buildings in the outskirts was reported today to the authorities and in many quarters entire blocks are roped off as unsafe.

Thousands of those whose employment was swept away have been set to work in the ranks of the restorers and the rehabilitation goes on apace. The shoring up of leaning buildings furnished work for scores.

Relief work is being actively pushed on all sides, but there is still much to do. The total on hand now is nearly \$2,000,000.

In the remote outskirts and the provinces there has been little change save for the slow recession of the waters from the lowlands and the draining of the higher ground. The task of rehabilitation is tremendous, little headway has been made generally.

The situation of the metropolis is growing better as rapidly as could be expected and it is believed that by next week nearly all the tram lines and railroads will again be in operation on a normal basis, but the subways may require a long time to be put up shape.

It will be months at least, however, before the streets are again in fit condition, and the work of restoring the parks, the most beautiful of which were flooded to a depth of five and six feet to their former glory, will require two years at least, and probably more.

As the extent of the damage is gradually ascertained, the list of fatalities grows. Several bodies have been found below the city, swept down by the flood. It is believed that several persons reported missing perished in the sewers where their bodies now lie. At Afortville today there was discovered a cab which had been overtaken by the flood as the streets gave way, drowning the horse, driver and a woman passenger.

The looting by Apaches continues, but disorder is being stamped out gradually. One marauder was lynched at Ivry last night, according to a report received by the police today.

and frankly conceded, that there exists what may be termed—the verbiage is not severely accurate—a breach between Methodism or Episcopal Methodism, and twentieth century American ideals in the matter of pure democracy. There is an effort, on the part of a considerable element, "to get away from the emphasis of doctrine, and emphasize method."

The session of the conference lasts 21 days, and an attendance of 1,000 to 3,000 or more, at various stages of the proceedings, is probable.

Each bishop has charge of one conference for the term of one year. The bishops meet and make their own assignments. A bishop may be returned to the same conference indefinitely.

There are eight bishops now. The general conference is a body of 310 men. There are 48 conferences, and each is entitled to one lay and one clerical delegate for every 48 ministers in it; if there are fewer than 48, the conference has two representatives. There are now 48 conferences. This year's general conference will be the first to be held in North Carolina.

There will certainly be six new bishops chosen. That number, Bishops J. C. Granberry, W. W. Duncan, C. B. Galloway, A. C. Smith, J. J. Tigert and Seth Ward—all in active service except the first named—have died since the last general conference. So many bishops have never been chosen at any session, and the elections will assume a large place in the attention of the delegates, to the comparative exclusion of matters of legislation. Here are the list of strongest probabilities talked of for elevation to the episcopacy: Dr. W. B. Murray, president of Millbrook college, Jackson, Miss.; Dr. John C. Kilgo, president of Trinity college, Durham, N. C.; Dr. W. F. Tillett and Dr. Deberry of Vanderbilt University, Nashville; Dr. R. G. Waterhouse, president of Emory and Henry college, Va.; Dr. Tullock of Nashville.

COOPERS' FATE NOW RESTS WITH COURT

Arguments Are Ended General Wright, Former Secretary of War, Closes Case With an Eloquent Appeal for the Defendants.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 6.—Whether Col. Duncan B. and Robin Cooper must serve 20 years for the slaying of former United States Senator E. W. Carmack, or whether they will get a new trial, now rests with the five stately and dignified justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee.

The arguments in the motion for a rehearing were concluded today and the question rests with the court. After that there is but one hope for the Coopers in case of an adverse decision—Governor M. R. Patterson, who is their close friend.

General Luke E. Wright closed the case with an argument for the defense, which in brilliancy, daring and eloquence has seldom been equaled. "I am not here in the capacity of a paid attorney," he said with much feeling as he concluded. "I am here because I have known, loved and respected the man who has been made the principal in this case, and because I loved his son. I am here because this man and this boy have been wrongfully pointed out to the world as cold blooded assassins. I am here because I believe in my heart that a most cruel injustice has been done Colonel Cooper and his son Robin.

"I am not here to denounce Senator Carmack. I admired him as a great statesman and a great editor. I believe in the old adage, 'speak only good of the dead.' God knows there is so much of fault and error in all of us that it should be permitted to sleep with our ashes. But we owe a duty to the living too. I believe, your honors, in all charity, that the talented Carmack deliberately set in motion the chain of events which ended in his own untimely death. And I believe that even his own legion of friends no more regret his tragic end than do the two men I represent.

"And I will go further: probably I—or even your honors—might, under similar circumstances, have readily imagined that we were in the same deadly danger as Senator Carmack imagined threatened him on that fatal November afternoon, and yet, conceding all this, and with the gentlest charity and sorrow for the dead, I submit the case on the record of the testimony, believing that it shows that the whole tragic affair was the result of a tragic misunderstanding."

Y. M. C. L. MEETING.

The following is the program for the Young Men's Christian League Sunday afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce rooms at 1 o'clock:

Opening hymn 156.
Prayer.
Hymn 104.
Scripture reading.
Prayer.
Hymn 163.
Collection.
Address by J. G. Dragaw, Jr. Subject, "Helpfulness and Helplessness."
Prayer.
Hymn 99.
Benediction.

general secretary of the Epworth League; Dr. C. W. Byrd of Nashville, Dr. G. C. Rankin of Dallas, editor of the Texas Christian Advocate—it is said the five conferences of Texas are all behind him—Dr. M. F. McMurray of Louisville, secretary of the church extension board; Dr. Gross Alexander of Nashville, editor of the Methodist Review; Dr. Ainsworth of Georgia; Dr. C. M. Bishop of Missouri (who began his ministry with the pastorate of a mission in Asheville).

The 16,000 church edifices belonging to the conference represent a cost of approximately \$33,000,000, and the 5,000 parsonages about \$7,000,000.

New Advertisements

in Today's News

- Partisan Sage.
- Wm. Dragaw & Co., Insurance.
- Gem Theater.
- Gaiety Theater.
- Vick's Remedies.
- Mother Gray Powders.
- Careful.
- Diana's Kidney Pills.
- Luxative Brown's Quinine.
- Rubright Linctant.