

## CONTRACTS FOR SEVEN SCHOOLS LET TO BUILDERS

### Record Building Program Attracts Attention to Sampson County

### START WORK THIS WEEK

Contractor Begins Moving Material Immediately and Plans to Have Buildings Under Way in Short Time

The largest single rural school contract ever made in the south, and probably the largest ever recorded in the United States was closed here last Friday when Sampson county, through its board of education and board of county commissioners, awarded a contract for seven consolidated schools to the John W. Hudson company.

The new contract, plans for which have been under way for several years, places Sampson county in an enviable position so far as school facilities are concerned. Housing, as they will, more than 3,500 school children in modern buildings, education is given impetus that has been the dream of educators and public spirited persons for years.

When completed, the new buildings will, with two exceptions, give each of the townships of the county an adequate school center. Equipped, as they are, for high school work, they will permit of the maintenance of accredited schools as soon as the funds necessary for such periods are obtained.

Start Work Immediately Following the awarding of the contracts Friday, Mr. Hudson immediately arranged for materials, and Tuesday he had men and supplies on the Plain View site, seven miles south of Dunn at the Lee's Chapel cross roads. This building, a ten room structure, will be finished before spring.

Within a few days men and materials will also be sent to the other locations, and all of the buildings are expected to be ready for occupancy by next summer. The construction of the buildings, it was pointed out by the contractor, will afford labor for about 150 men all winter and spring, the bulk of the cost of the improvements being spent in Sampson county.

Mr. Linthicum, of the firm of Linthicum & Linthicum, architects, who have charge of the construction, is the authority for the claim that Sampson has established a new record in school building. He says that many cities have more expensive buildings, but that the wide territory covered, and the number of children housed, have never been equalled in his knowledge. He is loud in his praise of Sampson and the effective manner in which the county has worked out its school problem and met the state school laws.

Money Is Saved It was also pointed out that there is a decided financial advantage to the group contracts. Individually, the Hudson firm offered a bid of \$193,500 for the erection of the various buildings. However, if given the entire contract, they offered to do the work for \$164,500, a saving of \$19,000 to the county. This, it was pointed out, is enough to almost give one more building.

The price on the buildings under Hudson contract was Taylors Bridge, \$21,000; Halls, \$24,500; Piney Grove, \$29,500; Shady Grove, \$25,000; Herrings, \$24,500; Plain View, \$24,500; Dismal, 29,500.

### BETTER BUS SERVICE FOR THIS SECTION

An unconfirmed report has been received here of a decided improvement in the bus service over the Warsaw-Clinton-Fayetteville line by the addition of a big 23 passenger coach. More frequent trips are also planned on the line, which now connects with the Goldsboro-Wilmington bus.

It is also reported that a new line from Clinton to Dunn, with connections for Smithfield and Raleigh, is also to be announced soon, with modern busses in use.

### PAYING FAIR BILLS

We have been requested by the secretary of the Sampson County Fair association, Mr. T. B. Smith, to announce that all persons holding claims against the association are urged to present them as early as possible for settlement.

### GEORGIA BOYS HERE

The Boys' Drum and Cornet Corps of the Georgia Industrial Home, Macon, Ga., are to be here Friday evening, giving a free concert at the high school auditorium.

### YES, IT WILL BE

Following the announcement last week that The Sampson Independent plans to issue, at an early date, a special edition devoted to the advancement of Sampson county, one Clinton merchant said:

"Well, if The Independent is taking all that time to prepare it, with several men on the job, it sure must be going to be a big one."

The answer is easy. It will be.

The number, when issued, will form a complete descriptive review of all things Sampsonian. Particular stress will be put on the commercial and industrial life of the community. An attempt will be made to get every unit represented. If we have not called on you yet, call on us. You'll want to be represented.

## CRACK SAFE, USE GUN AND ESCAPE

### Robbers Make Haul in Roseboro and Shake Off Pursuers As They Escape in Auto

The stage was well set for the melo-dramatic, and the first act was completed Sunday night when robbers after supplying themselves with tools at the railroad section house, tore open the iron safe in the J. M. Starling store and made away with its contents. A pistol shot at a curious citizen, and a ruse by which they escaped another, fixed things fine for a movie drama, but there it ended.

The men—evidently four of them—were undisturbed during their early operations. They broke open the railroad tool house and secured their tools. They then forced the store door and started work on the safe. In the course of their operation they made enough noise to awake persons living over the store.

As the men went out the back door a man stuck his head out of an upstairs window and called to them. A bullet whizzed by his head, which was withdrawn to a place of safety. He then called other citizens, and an effort was made to catch the robbers.

Four men in an automobile were seen by one of the searchers. However, the men quickly approached him, and told him that they in turn had seen some one fleeing, asking where a policeman could be found. Getting the information, they started out apparently in search of an officer. They must be still seeking, as they have not been seen since.

## NOT NECESSARY TO REBUILD HIGHWAY

### Engineer Points to Possible Misunderstanding from Article in Former Newspaper Issue

The Independent last week carried an article headed, "To Rebuild Part of New Highway." This according to Mr. Davis, resident engineer for the state, was misunderstood and was somewhat misleading. He has explained the facts concerning the reconstruction of this road in detail.

Mr. Davis says, "Rawhide pavement consists of a mixture of local material of which the road bed is built, and asphaltic oil. The two are thoroughly kneaded together with mechanical mixers, harrows and tampers and compacted into a smooth tough surface. The asphalt is mixed with the local material as each application is poured, the mixing process following each application. Under ordinary conditions six applications are poured. If the pavement is not thoroughly bonded the entire road is resurfaced and the mixing process repeated. Additional asphalt being used. It was meant last week when stated that a part of the road was to be rebuilt, that some of it was not thoroughly bonded and would have to be resurfaced and reworked but this is natural in the construction of this type of road and is nothing unusual."

Mr. Davis, further states that the rawhide pavement is proving entirely satisfactory and that the different phases of construction are exactly as anticipated. The part of the road that is being resurfaced and reworked is the three and one half miles toward Dunn, and not that nearest Clinton as was stated last week.

### RECEIVES APPOINTMENT

Mr. L. S. Bell was appointed last week by clerk of superior court, J. B. Williams to fill the unexpired term of justice of peace, John A. Beaman, deceased. Mr. Bell has served in this capacity in the past with efficiency and news of his appointment will be received with much interest.

### ENTERTAINS INFORMALLY

An informal party was enjoyed Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. G. A. Waller, by a number of the teachers and their friends.

## CLINTON BOOSTER TRIP OVER COUNTY SET NEXT WEEK

### Better Business League Plans to Tour Sampson on Wednesday and Thursday

### WELCOME NEW FIRM HERE

### Business Men Unanimous in Their Belief That Belk-Williams Store Will Prove Tremendous Asset to Community

Next Wednesday and Thursday, December 2 and 3, have been definitely chosen as the days upon which Clinton will call on that part of the county removed from the county seat. At that time, it is hoped that every business house in the town will send a representative with the "Get Acquainted" caravan that will tour Sampson in the interest of better business relations.

The dates were set at a meeting of the Better Business League Monday night, when it was announced that practically all of the preliminary plans for the big trade trip had been completed. The exact routes to be taken, and the hours at which various points will be reached, have not been determined, but are being arranged by a special committee.

A committee of three composed of Messrs. C. F. Collins, J. R. Watson and Isaiah Fann were appointed to canvass the town in an effort to determine who, an show many, merchants and business men would offer their automobiles and services for the purpose of "Get Acquainted" trip next week. It was brought in the meeting that only ten or twelve had offered their co-operation thus far, and that at least twenty five or thirty cars and as many merchants, business and professional men as possible were needed in order for this trip to prove successful.

Visit All Points It is the intention of these citizens to visit the different schools and towns in the county in an effort to more widely advertise Clinton in a personal way, to invite them to trade more in Clinton, and to impress upon them the fact that a cordial welcome is awaiting them.

It was also brought out in the meeting that with the opening of the Belk-Williams store a more complete variety of ladies' and men's ready-to-wear would be handled than has been the case in the past. It was stated that this store with its complete variety of seasonable merchandise would induce shoppers to trade at home who are now leaving Clinton and motoring over to Fayetteville, for instance, and purchasing some little minor item of merchandise, and while there spending several dollars for other merchandise that could be purchased in Clinton for the same, if not a cheaper price, than they paid.

Keep Trade At Home It was stated that there was no question but that the opening of this new business would lend greatly in keeping the trade at home and, too, it would induce shoppers in other sections of the county to come to Clinton to do their trading. It was also said that the grocery line which is carried by the local merchants is second to none in the state, but that ready-to-wear lines are somewhat inferior to those carried by other towns in the nearby counties, that are drawing considerable ready-to-wear trade from Clinton and Sampson county. It was the general belief of all in attendance that the Belk-Williams store which is to throw open its doors to the trading public early in December will be one of Clinton's greatest assets.

It was urged that every progressive citizen in Clinton lend these committees every possible co-operation in making this "Get Acquainted" trip a decided success. Their success will be made known next Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce quarters. Each and every member is extended an invitation and is expected to be present.

### MAY PHONE TELEGRAMS

Western Union service from its telephones in each individual residence is the latest improvement given Clinton telephone patrons. Following an agreement between Mr. Sutton of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph company and Western Union authorities telegrams may now be phoned to the Western Union office and will be charged to the telephone from which the message comes. The telephone company will make the collections.

### STANDARD MANAGERS CHANGE LOCATIONS

Mr. Charlie D. Burnett, representative of the Standard Oil company, left Monday for Lumberton where he will take charge of the Lumberton territory. Mr. J. R. Latham, of Hickory, will be in charge of this territory with headquarters in Clinton. Mr. Latham left last week for Greenville, S. C., to attend the funeral service of his mother which was held there recently.

### DR. THACKER TO CONDUCT MEETING

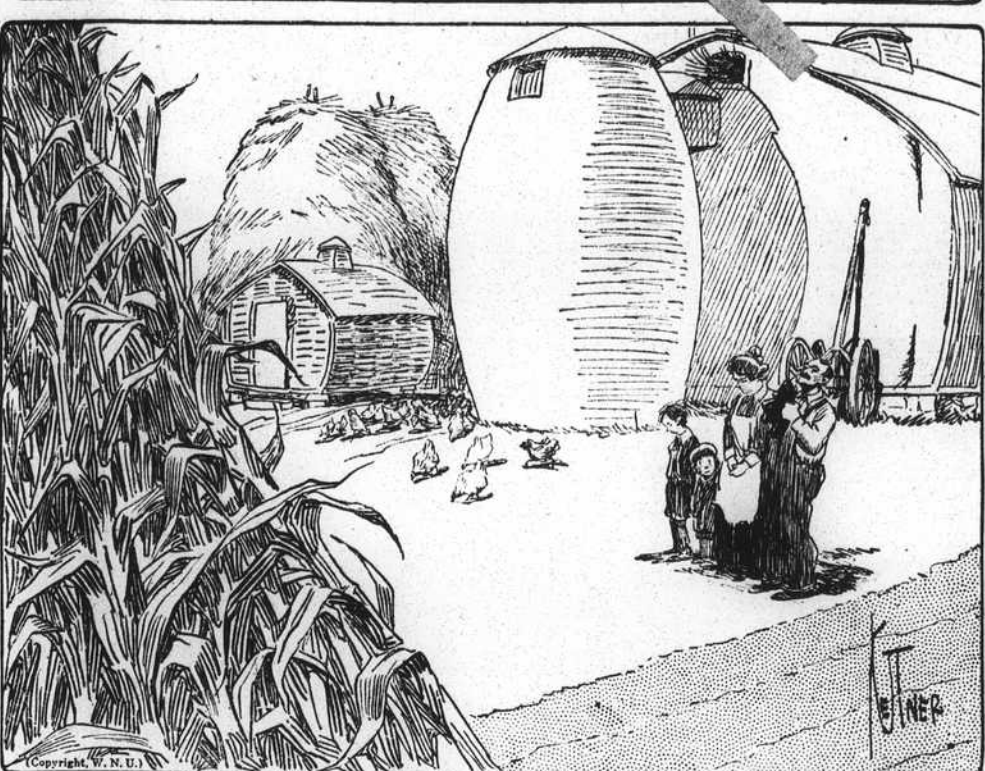
Norfolk Pastor, Assisted by Raleigh Man, At the Presbyterian Church

Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Thacker of Norfolk, Va., will arrive shortly and Dr. Thacker will begin a series of meetings Wednesday evening, December 2 in the Presbyterian church. Dr. Thacker will be assisted by Mr. J. H. Smith of Raleigh, as song leader. Mr. Smith arrives the last of this week and will immediately begin rehearsals so that the singers will be in fine shape for the opening service.

Mrs. Thacker, who was a Miss Dixon before her marriage, and a member of the famous Dixon family is a sister of Thomas Dixon, Jr., A. C. Dixon and Dr. Delia Dixon Carroll, is a lecturer of note. During her stay here Mrs. Thacker will deliver several lectures, probably in afternoons. The past summer she had a prominent part on the program at Montreat and charmed her hearers, so Clinton is especially fortunate in having her accompany her husband here.

Three of her topics are: "The Human Torch," "God's Creation and Christian Science," "Eve the First Modernist and others."

## Thanksgiving



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## COTTON GINNED EXCEEDS FORECAST

### Government Report Indicates That Sampson Will Produce About 40,000 Bales This Fall

The semi-monthly government crop report, issued Monday, indicates that Sampson county this fall will produce approximately 40,000 bales of cotton. The report showed that 27,296 bales of cotton had been ginned in the county prior to November 14. On the same day last year, 21,110 bales had been ginned in Sampson, and only 28,000 bales were ginned in the entire year.

## SPECIAL SERVICE FOR REV. HOLDEN

### Societies and Organizations Take Charge of Last Service at the Methodist Church

An impressive ceremony was held at the Methodist church Sunday morning in honor of Rev. J. E. Holden who leaves for Morehead City some time this week to take the pastorate of a church there. Rev. J. H. Buffalo, formerly of the East Durham Carr Methodist church, is coming here to succeed him. The middle row of seats were occupied exclusively by fraternal orders and by a band of Beaver Boys who Rev. Holden has organized and has been a potent factor in the upbuilding of character and citizenship among them during his pastorate here.

Following speeches by representatives of each fraternal order and the Beaver Boys, farewell gifts were presented to the pastor. The Junior Beaver Boys presenting him with a purse containing a \$5 gold piece; the Senior Beavers presenting him with a beautiful pen and pencil combination set. Then came the Odd Fellows, who presented him with a fountain pen and the Junior order presented him with a gold watch and purse of money.

## LOOK WHO IS COMING!

Kids, old 'uns and young 'uns, do you realize that it is just five weeks until the old boy himself will be here? Well, then, get busy.

He has radioed The Independent, and asked that we act as his agent this year, handling his mail matter for him. His eyes, he says, are getting bad, and his secretary is at work in the toy shop. Therefore we are asked to print the letters for him. The first of the season is here, from little Miss Louise Faircloth, and says:

"Dear Santa Clause: How are you? I want a wheel for Christmas, and a doll, too, and a stocking full of goodies. I just can't wait for Christmas day. Please bring me a wheel, nine years old size and a doll like Louise Tadlock's."

(Here is a tip—write early, as Santa MIGHT run out of things if you wait too long.)

## SECRETARY QUILTS; SEEK NEW MANAGER

### Chamber of Commerce Committee Plans More Effective Arrangement

Mr. J. B. Long, for several months past secretary of the Sampson County Chamber of Commerce, last week tendered his resignation, effective December 1, to the directors of that organization. The resignation was accepted and steps immediately taken to secure a man to fill the vacated post.

Mr. Long came to Clinton from Morehead City, where he had been engaged in similar work and had also done insurance work as a side line. In Clinton he thinks that he has found an excellent field for insurance work and has arranged to enter that field of endeavor immediately.

The directors, after the resignation of the secretary, appointed a committee composed of Messrs. George E. Butler, W. W. Casteel and Henry Vann to find a new man for the place. Several persons are already under consideration, and while the place may not be filled immediately, it is hoped to have the new man on the job by the first of the new year.

A new and enlarged program for civic work is also being undertaken by the organization, and indications are that the work of the chamber will be much more effective under the new plans. Greater publicity for Clinton and Sampson county, and more effective effort, due to the ground work that has been done before, are in prospect.

## CLINTON TO GET HUGE NEW STORE OF BELK WILLIAMS

### Well Known Merchandising Firm Decides to Open House Here

### BIG ASSET TO THE TRADE

### Opening of Big Department Store Looked Upon As Start of New Era in Commercial Prosperity of Town

Clinton, always rated as a good shopping town, received the biggest addition to its trading facilities in the history of the town last Saturday when it was announced that the firm of Belk-Williams of Wilmington had leased the Moses Slossberg building and would soon open a large and modern department store here.

The announcement, coming unheralded and unexpected, was a decided surprise and furnished the week-end topic for the town and county. Although Mr. Slossberg has been in the market to lease his building and retire from business for some time, nothing definite had been done about a new tenant for the corner location.

Naturally, the announcement of the coming of the new firm was received with applause. Business interests in Clinton have long realized the necessity here of a large department store, not so much to take care of the demand, but to increase the trading facilities of the town and draw more trade to the county seat.

Favors Clinton Location The deal was made by Mr. J. C. Williams, who came here last Thursday to look the situation over. Mr. Williams, during the negotiation, admitted that his firm has for several years been considering the advisability of opening a store here. A close study has been made of the field and its possibilities of development. He said, and he is convinced that Clinton as a trading point has among the best advantages in the state. He pointed to the fact that the town has long been known as a good trading point, and the general prosperity of the country surrounding it.

The availability of the Slossberg location clinched the merchant's decision. In former years, he said, when Clinton was under consideration, no location was available that would suit their demands. The retirement of Mr. Slossberg and the possibility of renting his entire building made possible the deal.

On his arrival here last Thursday, Mr. Williams was met by a committee of the Clinton Lions club, composed of Messrs. C. M. Faircloth, J. L. Kerr and Moses Slossberg. After a few minutes with these gentlemen, the Wilmington man announced that, if the building could be made over to suit his demands, and both floors leased for a long term, he would be ready to deal. Following this he was turned over to Mr. Slossberg, and the next day the negotiations were closed.

Will Reopen Soon The store was immediately closed, Mr. Williams desiring to return to Wilmington and arrange for stocking it. It will be opened, he said, in a few days, and such stock as is left by the former owner will be immediately sold in order to make room for the new stock. On January 1, the Belk-Williams firm will be given possession of the second floor of the building, also, which they will remodel for departments, making the store one of the largest in this part of the state.

While no announcement has been made as to the lines of goods to be carried by the store, it is known that the new firm will carry a general line of department store features, giving the combined facilities of several stores in one. Each of the larger departments will be complete in itself. While the store will be reopened in a few days, the formal opening will not be made until after the upper floor has been made over, new fixtures installed, and new stock supplied.

While Mr. Williams will retain direction of the store from his Wilmington office, the local management will be in charge of Mr. Jennings Theodore Kennedy, a former Sampsonian, son of Mr. John T. Kennedy, of Mountville and brother of Attorney J. C. Kennedy of Clinton. Mr. Kennedy has been with the Belk-Williams firm for more than five years, and stands exceptionally high in their estimation. He will arrive here this week and take charge of stocking and arranging the new store.

### HOLDS SERVICE

Rev. G. M. Matthis left for Morehead City Sunday morning for Godwin where he began a series of meetings that evening. Matthis will conclude the latter part of the week.

### CHURCHES HOLD SPECIAL SERVICE

Three Clinton Congregations to Gather for Observation of Thanksgiving Day

So far as could be learned Thanksgiving services will be held this year in three churches, the Episcopal, Presbyterian and Baptist.

The service in St. Paul's Episcopal church will begin at 10:30 o'clock and will be conducted by the rector Rev. Herbert D. Cone.

Rev. G. M. Matthis will return from Godwin, where he is conducting a series of meetings and deliver his annual Thanksgiving sermon at 11 o'clock in the Presbyterian church. As is customary the offering at this time will go to the Barium Springs orphanage.

Services will be conducted in the Clinton Baptist church at eleven o'clock. Rev. S. L. Neff of Mount Olive will occupy the pulpit and will also give a solo. Everyone in town is cordially invited to attend these services.