

Rutherford County Offers Unequaled Opportunities To Manufacturers and Others

# FOREST CITY COURIER

10 Pages

FOREST CITY—"ONE OF THE TEN BEST PLANNED AND MOST BEAUTIFUL

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## CITIZENS MASS MEETING HELD MONDAY NIGHT

### Temporary Organization of a Merchants' Protective League Perfected at Rutherfordton Meeting.

Rutherfordton, Feb. 4.—At a mass meeting of citizens of Rutherford county, held in the court house here Monday evening a temporary organization, similar to the Henderson County Protective League, was formed. The meeting was attended by more than 500 people, representing every community in the county.

Temporary officers elected were: B. D. Wilson, Rutherfordton, president; J. H. Burwell, Rutherfordton, temporary secretary; board of directors: K. E. Simpson, Rutherfordton; W. C. Ellis, Spindale; M. Littman, Rutherfordton; J. T. Harris, Forest City; Tommie Jones, Forest City; C. O. Ridings, Forest City; B. C. Horn, Forest City; Z. O. Jenkins, Cliffside; M. L. Edwards, Rutherfordton; Carl Higgins, Caroleen; Grady Withrow, Hollis; J. L. Culbreth, Ellenboro; H. A. Bell, Union Mills; H. F. Higgins, Gilkey; J. L. Morris, Chimney Rock; C. F. Ward, Avondale; F. B. Edwards, Henrietta; E. N. Washburn, Bostic; J. L. Harris, Harris; B. B. Logan, Iton. A meeting of the board of directors will be held soon, announcement of which will be made later.

### Purpose of Movement.

The object of such organization, according to the chairman of the Hendersonville board, is to organize the independent retail merchants into a body, use regular space in the newspapers in advertising; educate the people to trade with home merchants; in order to keep money expended at home; compile a mailing list and mail printed matter regularly to customers giving reasons why they should trade at home; to support Governor Gardner's live-at-home program; to carry regularly specials in each retail merchant's store; clean-up, paint-up and place daily displays in each store window. "This is not a fight on the chain stores," he said, "or a fight against the clerks or managers, but a fight against the pernicious system employed by them."

The Spindale Band was present and opened the program with three band selections. Prof. Clyde A. Erwin stated the purpose of the meeting, and after a few preliminary statements, paid a high tribute to the late S. B. Tanner, R. R. Haynes and J. P. D. Withrow, whom he characterized as the pioneers in the manufacturing and mercantile field in Rutherford county.

Z. O. Jenkins, of Cliffside, was presented, and stated in the opening that he felt ill at ease in a court house as that there was only three places in which he felt at home—in the church, in a political meeting or behind the counter arguing with a woman over a piece of dress goods. Mr. Jenkins then proceeded to outline the objects of the meeting, and to give the merchants present a "remedy" for chain store competition. "Chain stores do come into a community after it is built up," said Mr. Jenkins "and proceed to take the 'cream' of the trade. But independent retail merchants need to take a lesson from the chain stores. I will give you a recipe,—it is simple—just four letters—W O R K. You can't get anywhere without it. Slothfulness, dirt, carelessness, dirty goods and shelves are losing for the merchants more trade than the chain stores are taking away. Use your head. Use advertising space. Tell the people you have as nice, clean goods as anyone else, with a price as cheap. "Take a lesson from the chain stores. Don't cuss 'em, watch 'em and follow out some of their ideas."

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Wilkins, of Hendersonville, an official of the Henderson County Protective League. He called for the representatives from the various towns to stand. People were present from Tryon, Forest City, Spindale, Caroleen, Cliffside, Ellenboro, Harris, Rutherfordton, Bostic, Hender-

## LIBRARY GROWING

With a circulation of 202 books, Saturday was the busiest day in the history of the Forest City Public Library. Circulation for the month of January was 930. This is also the largest circulation of any month since the opening of the library.

Several donations were very gratefully received during January. The library is growing, but its patronage is also increasing, so more books are requested. We now have 779 volumes.

## SNOW CUTS DOWN ATTENDANCE AT THE TABERNACLE

### Several Hundred Present Wednesday Evening Despite Heavy Snow—Several Delegations.

Cliffside, Feb. 4.—The Stephens tabernacle meeting was very much interfered with last week by the biggest snow storm that has visited Cliffside in many years. The wind began to blow and snow began to fall in the forenoon on Wednesday, and continued almost without ceasing until Thursday morning. The ground was covered about six or seven inches deep, and travel was very much interfered with. But in spite of the blinding snow Wednesday night several hundred were present and a small delegation from Alexander braved the stormy weather to attend. Many people in Cliffside came afoot through the snow, which by this time was getting deep. The meeting that night was one of the most interesting of the whole week.

As the weather cleared up the attendance got back to normal by Friday night, and a large and enthusiastic delegation from Spindale was present that night. On Saturday night delegations of the young people from the Methodist and Baptist churches of Avondale were present. Delegations from Henrietta and Caroleen were also present. The delegation from Rutherfordton last Tuesday night was one of the largest as yet attended.

On Sunday night there was another record attendance present, and the tabernacle was taxed to its capacity, and the interest continues to grow.

On Tuesday night delegations will be present from Mt. Pleasant Baptist church of Cleveland county, Race Path Baptist church and Mooresboro. On next Thursday night there will be a large delegation from Forest City. On Friday night there will be a large delegation from Henrietta.

## ELLENBORO HATCHERY TAKES OFF HATCH

Ellenboro, Feb. 3.—The first hatch of baby chicks was taken from the Ellenboro School Hatchery last Thursday, the day on which the hatch comes off each week. All of the chicks were sold to a local poultryman who is growing them out for broilers.

The Ellenboro School Hatchery with a capacity of 7,000 eggs is owned and operated by the agricultural department of the school to stimulate more poultry in the community for a better live-at-home program and for another cash crop.

sonville, with a large number present from the rural communities.

Mr. Wilkins proceeded to describe conditions in Hendersonville as compared with twenty years ago. After an introduction of the Hendersonville delegation Mr. W. A. Keith, vice president of the Hendersonville Protective League, spoke briefly and stated that North Carolina was fast becoming the leading chain-store state of the south, due to its strategic location, and good roads. Hon. Lee Whitmire, of Hendersonville, former state senator, spoke next, and was followed by Mr. W. M. Sherrod, a former Rutherford county man now living in Hendersonville. Others speakers were: Clarence Carson, of Hendersonville; C. O. Ridings, of Forest City and O. P. Ballenger, of Tryon.

## SIX RUTHERFORD BANKS CLOSE THEIR DOORS THIS WEEK

### Suspension of Rutherfordton Bank and Two Branches Followed by Banks at Forest City and Chimney Rock.

Five of Rutherford County's banks were closed Tuesday morning and placed in the hands of the state banking department, followed by one other bank closing Wednesday morning.

The Rutherford County Bank and Trust Co., at Rutherfordton, with its two branches at Spindale and Union Mills, did not open for business Tuesday morning. As a result of this, a run was started on the Farmers Bank and Trust Co., at Forest City, which had opened for business as usual. Seeing the danger of a sustained run on this bank a called meeting of the board of directors was held and the bank was closed and placed in the hands of the state banking department.

This order for closing was also put in effect at the branch bank at Caroleen. Naturally, the closing of the banks caused much excitement and confusion and many unthinking ones became unduly alarmed. However, it is the opinion of the city's most conservative business men that the closing of the bank at the time was a wise move and the only thing to do under the stress of the circumstances; and, it is also the opinion of the level headed ones that the bank will pay dollar for dollar to depositors, but that the stockholders many suffer a slight loss.

The Courier was informed Wednesday morning that the Chimney Rock Trust Co., had failed to open. This bank was not affiliated with either the Rutherfordton or Forest City banks. Their exact reasons for closing is not known at the time this is written.

Standing like the rock of Gibraltar amid the stress of the financial storm Tuesday was the Industrial Loan and Investment Bank, Forest City, the First Industrial Bank, Rutherfordton, the Haynes Banks, Cliffside and Avondale; the Bostic Bank and the Ellenboro bank.

In order to accommodate the local business men who do most of their business with checks, the Industrial Loan and Investment bank of this city, which operates under the Morris banking plan, is issuing cashier's checks on the American Trust company of Charlotte to all merchants who deposit their cash in this bank. This is done for the benefit of the merchants who prefer paying their bills with checks. There is no charge made for this service.

It is also understood that the Industrial Bank at Rutherfordton is following this same plan. The business men of both cities appreciate the efforts of these banks in giving them the much needed facilities.

Locally, thousands of dollars have been deposited in the Industrial Bank since the financial debacle of Tuesday.

Officials of the Farmers Bank have a statement on this page, a perusal of which will aid greatly to restore confidence and allay the fear of loss by depositors. Dr. T. B. Lovelace is president and J. A. Dennis is cashier. W. L. Hicks is cashier of the Caroleen branch. The capital and surplus of the Farmers Bank is \$500,000, while its resources and liabilities run over a million dollars.

J. L. Taylor is president of the Rutherford County Bank and Trust company; W. W. Hicks is chairman of the board of directors, while W. B. Walker is cashier. On January 1 the capital was \$200,000; surplus, \$20,000; bills payable, \$145,000 and deposits, \$970,407. The total resources were \$1,340,606.55.

It is reported that a new bank will be opened in Rutherfordton soon.

### Very Consoling.

No less an authority than B. H. Long, cashier of the First Industrial Bank at Rutherfordton, and noted as one of the best posted bankers in the state, remarked to The Courier

## Statement of Farmers Bank Officials

A statement was issued Wednesday morning by officials of the Farmers Bank, as follows: "It is the opinion of the officials of the Farmers Bank that the institution is perfectly solvent. In our opinion there are enough assets to amply take care of all depositors. There is on deposit one million dollars at this time. Loans and discounts amount to one million four hundred thousand dollars, and there is also a capital of \$250,000 and a surplus of \$250,000.

"There is also a movement on foot for a strong banking interest coming in and re-opening the Forest City and Caroleen banks.

"The closing of the bank was done by the order of the board of directors after word had gone out that The Rutherford bank would not open, and a run on the bank was beginning to materialize. This step was taken to protect the interests of the depositors of the bank, and prevent a run."

The state bank examiners arrived Wednesday and are now in charge at the bank. A statement may be expected from them within a few days. Mr. Roberts, of the Board of State Bank Examiners, of Raleigh, is in charge of the auditing.

Wednesday morning that the two industrial banks of the county were in splendid financial condition and able, ever the need to arise, to pay depositors dollar for dollar on their deposits.

Mr. Long also stated that he felt that the Farmers Bank depositors should not feel alarmed, as he was confident the bank, with its magnificent resources and substantial board of directors, officers and stockholders would protect them from all loss.

### Sit Steady in the Boat.

The Courier wishes to urge any of those distressed over the local banking situation to take stock, calm your alarms and allay your fears. While, naturally, there will be some disturbing business conditions until the newly formed bank is opened, business will then be resumed under a more substantial banking situation than has heretofore prevailed. Go ahead with your business, don't get discouraged and within a short time Forest City will be moving ahead and business stronger and better under the restored confidence and new banking relations.

As the writer heard a physician illustrate: Our financial situation is to be compared to a boil. It has now erupted, the source of infection has been expelled and now all we have to do is to wait the healing process. A re-organized and strengthened banking institution here and at Rutherfordton will bring about tranquility and business will resume its normal course.

### Rutherfordton Banks.

State bank examiners arrived in Rutherfordton Tuesday evening, and Wednesday morning began a check of the Rutherford County Bank and Trust Company's books. As The Courier goes to press the officials of that institution have made no official statement, other than that the condition of the bank would probably permit them to pay the obligations of the institution one hundred cents on the dollar at an early date.

### County Funds Safe.

The funds of the Rutherford County Board of Education and the funds of Rutherford County, deposited in the Rutherford County Bank and Trust Company and The Farmers Bank are safe, according to county officials. Practically all of the county funds were on deposit in these two institutions, but were covered by heavy surety bonds. In event these two banks should fail to liqui-

## Sam Ruppe Wins In State Contest

Sam Ruppe, of Forest City, R-2, has been awarded \$20.00 cash prize in the Chilean Nitrate of Soda cotton contest, as third prize for his record on five acres of cotton during the past year. Mr. Ruppe produced 8½ bales on five acres of land. He also won in the Kiwanis contest, sponsored by the local Kiwanis club, and was awarded a ton of fertilizer by Mr. George Blanton. The Rutherfordton Kiwanis club also gave a prize to Mr. Ruppe last Thursday night as winner in the Rutherfordton club contest.

## DEATH CLAIMS AGED DOCTOR

### Dr. Romeo Hicks, Aged 84, Died at Henrietta Monday—Funeral Held Tuesday Afternoon.

Henrietta, Feb. 5.—Romeo Hicks one of the county's oldest and best known medical doctors, died at his home here Monday after a lingering illness of several months. Dr. Hicks was eighty-four years of age. He retired from the active practice of medicine some years ago.

Funeral services were held in the Henrietta Methodist church at one o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Rev. George Ezelle was in charge of the service, assisted by Rev. A. W. Lynch. Interment was in the Harris cemetery, at Harris.

Mr. Hicks is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Lewis Elmore Hicks, one brother, T. B. Hicks, of Chesnee.

Pall bearers were: Messrs. J. M. Brackett, W. L. Hicks, John Roach, L. W. Hawkins, Dr. J. F. Whisnant, J. D. Wells, J. B. Watkins, and L. P. Hamrick. Honorary pall bearers were the members of the Rutherford County Medical society.

Dr. Hicks was a member of the Henrietta Methodist church, and had been a member for 23 years. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and the Rutherford County Medical Society.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GOOD

An unusually fine record was made by the Sunday school of the First Baptist church last Sunday. The junior department, making 71 per cent made one of the highest percentages ever made by any department in the school using the six point record system. The primary department, which is only graded on four points, made 74 per cent. There was a slight increase in the percentage made by most of the other departments. Including three visitors, there was a total of 363 present at Sunday school last Sunday.

date no county funds will be lost, according to Mr. Clyde Erwin, as the surety companies will be responsible for the amounts on deposit.

### Statement From Cashier of Caroleen Branch Bank.

Mr. W. L. Hicks, cashier of the Caroleen branch of the Farmers Bank, stated Wednesday morning that the Caroleen bank was in good condition. The bank did not have a single withdrawal on Tuesday, and neither Mr. Hicks or his employees knew anything of the closing of the other county banks until he was ordered by the Board of directors of the Forest City bank to close the doors Tuesday.

### Statement From G. B. Harrill, Cashier Industrial Bank.

"It is needless to be alarmed over the financial situation in Rutherford County. We feel sure that our local situation will work out without any material loss, and feel that it is the time for every one to be calm and composed and go ahead with the ordinary run of business as usual. "We are indeed very grateful for the support and loyalty of the community given our institution. We are financially able and anxious to take care of the banking needs of our community during this period of readjustment."

## FORMER FOREST CITY PASTOR KILLED SATURDAY

### Rev. O. L. Stringfield Dies Instantly When Struck by Freight Train Near Wendell.

Wendell, Feb. 4.—Rev. O. L. Stringfield, 79, who over 50 years ago canvassed the state for funds for the erection of Meredith college, and one of the school's active founders, was instantly killed near here shortly after noon Saturday when struck by a freight train.

### Walking on Tracks.

Retired from the active ministry for some years, Rev. Mr. Stringfield lived with a daughter near here. He was accustomed to walk to town on the tracks of the Norfolk Southern railway. Relatives believe that because of partial deafness he did not hear the approach of the train from behind him.

Meredith College, a Baptist school for women in Raleigh, was founded in 1879.

### Well Known in State.

Rev. Mr. Stringfield was well known throughout the state in church circles. He once held a pastorate at Raleigh. Funeral services were held here Monday.

The minister is survived by his widow and the following children, Rev. Preston Stringfield of Mars Hill; Dr. Alvin Stringfield of New York; Mrs. Mozell Swain of Asheville; Lamar Stringfield, New York composer; Mrs. P. C. Brantley, of Wendell; Miss Bernice Stringfield of Asheville and Vann Stringfield of Thomasville.

Rev. O. L. Stringfield, who was killed when struck by a freight train at Wendell Saturday, was a former supply pastor of the First Baptist church, Forest City. Mr. Stringfield came to Forest City early in 1922, succeeding Rev. S. N. Watson. He served here about eight months, until Dr. W. A. Ayers came to Forest City. While here he endeared himself to the people of Forest City in general as well as to the members of his congregation.

## FUNERAL HELD FOR MR. MIKEY TONEY

### Golden Valley Man Died Tuesday, January 28.—Funeral Held at Mt. Harmony Baptist Church.

Bostic, R-3, Feb. 2.—Funeral services were held at Mt. Harmony Baptist church Wednesday afternoon for Mr. Mikey Toney, who died at the home of his parents Tuesday night at nine o'clock. Mr. Toney had been in ill health for sometime, suffering from that dread disease tuberculosis, but had only been confined about three weeks before his death.

Rev. Mr. Mayberry, of the South Mountain school, officiated at the funeral, and was assisted by Rev. Mr. Williams, also of South Mountain school. Both ministers paid a glowing tribute to the sterling worth of the young man, who, just before death, declared that he was ready to go.

The deceased was born September 26, 1906, being a little over 23 years of age at the time of his death. He joined Mt. Harmony Baptist church about two years ago, and lived an exemplary christian life since that time.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Toney, four brothers, Messrs. Crawford Toney, Forest City, Adam Toney, of the Salem community; Thomas and John Toney, of Bostic, R-3; two sisters, Mrs. Ed. Melton, of the Washburn community and Mrs. Bynum Arrowood, of Forest City.

Due to the heavy snow the attendance was not large. Interment was in the Mt. Harmony cemetery, and the grave was soon covered by snow.

The Fellowship Banquet of the Men's Bible class - First Baptist church scheduled for Friday night the 7th has been postponed until later date.