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JUST FREIGHT RATE MEETING

Local Organization Effected With Mr. G. H. Geitner as President

Send Delegates to the State Meeting at Raleigh—Assembly Room in Capitol Building Was Packed, Forty Counties Being Represented—State Leaders and Delegates of One Mind as to the Necessity of Redress in the Matter of Freight Rate Discrimination—Selection of Officers.

The manufacturers and merchants of Hickory had a mass meeting May 12, and perfected a local organization to co-operate with the State organization in an effort to secure an adjustment of freight rates that would put the shippers of North Carolina on an equal basis with the Virginia cities. At this meeting, Mr. G. H. Geitner was elected President and A. K. Joy and J. A. Moretz delegates to attend the meeting of the State organization at Raleigh May 13.

The meeting at Raleigh was a decided success, both in numbers present, as a representative body, and in the fair and conservative action taken.

The Assembly room of the State Capitol was packed full with delegates and spectators representatives being present from over 40 counties in the state—361 delegates in all. It was an impressive gathering of business men, many of whom had come great distances to give expression to their objections to the manner in which this state had been discriminated against.

Perhaps the most impressive feature about this gathering was the unity of sentiment between the citizens and our state leaders. Governor Craig, Attorney General Bickett and Chairman Travis of the Corporation Commission, all of whom spoke in decided terms that the time had come when the shipping interests of the state must be put on an equal basis with that of other states.

Governor Craig advised this organization to go ahead with the work they had undertaken without regard to the railroads; to perfect the organization and after outlining the work to consistently stick to that plan without thinking anything about what the railroads may or may not do in the interim; that he and the Corporation Commission would be in touch with the railroads whenever they had anything to offer in the way of changed rates; that the railroads had but a few days ago submitted a proposition that he did not consider worth presenting; that whenever the railroads had a fair proposition to make he would present it to this organization.

The permanent organization was effected on the basis of one vote to every legislative district.

Fred N. Tate was elected president, with the power of selecting other officers. He appointed Mr. Carroway as Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Ramsour as Organizing Secretary, and Mr. T. J. Ryan as Traffic Rate Secretary.

The Vice Presidents of the State Organization are: W. R. Foreman, of Charlotte, W. P. Gibson, of Statesville representing Farmers' Union, Gen. Julian S. Carr, of Durham; B. Noah Barefoot, of Elizabeth City, and Capt. Alf. A. Thompson, of Raleigh, was chosen Treasurer.

Upon motion, the President appointed a Committee on resolutions, to which all resolutions introduced were referred. The Committee presented to the organization a set of resolutions that embodied in moderate language all the vital principles at issue. Some of the delegates considered the language of the resolutions too moderate, and insisted on substituting some of the other resolutions offered. The most prominent of the resolutions offered as a substitute for those returned by the Committee were those offered by former Judge Robert W. Winston of Raleigh and Mr. Chas. Daniels of Wilson, the latter urging that the Attorney General and Corporation Commission look into the matter of the law and the facts as to the setting to one side or annulling the charter, leases and franchises of every railroad in the state. However, the resolutions offered by the committee were finally adopted unanimously after all other resolutions had been withdrawn.

It was decided to finance the organization on the basis of \$100 to every legislative district in the state.

The President requested that each local district effect an organization at the earliest possible moment and notify the secretary of the state organization of such organization with officers of same.

The following extract from the High Point Enterprise shows that President Tate is acting with his characteristic vigor:

Mr. Fred N. Tate, president of the North Carolina Just Freight Rate Association, as organized at Raleigh May 15th, has announced the following appointments: Mr. Leok Carroway, of Charlotte, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. T. J. Ryan, High Point, Traffic Secretary; Mr. Hubert Ramsour, Fayetteville, Field Secretary; also an Advisory Board of seven, composed of the following gentlemen: Mr. E. R. Preston, Charlotte; Col. J. L. Ludlow, Winston Salem, Mr. J. C. Forester, Greensboro; Mr. W. K. Holt, Burlington; Mr. J. B. Pierce, Raleigh; Mr. W. P. Gibson, Statesville; Mr. B. Noah Barefoot, Elizabeth City.

It is the purpose of the President, which is also in line with the instructions of the Raleigh meeting, to get the entire state aroused and promptly organized into districts, and at the head of each district live and enthusiastic men, who are willing to assist in the campaign of education of all the people for the necessity of immediate and effective action with a view of bringing to an end the unjust and unbearable discriminations in freight rates now practiced against every section of our state.

The Raleigh meeting composed as it was of nearly four hundred of North Carolina's foremost farmers, merchants, manufacturers and others, all of whom were in hearty accord as to the necessity for this organization and the methods to be pursued in order to effect speedy relief, should be sufficient evidence that this is no child's play and a matter which will call for and demand the best thought and attention of all our people at this particular time. The President appeals to every citizen of our state to get to work in his own neighborhood and among his own people, and inform every farmer, merchant or other person just what the burden of these discriminatory freight rates means to us. Every farming implement, every bag of fertilizer, every bag of salt and every other commodity, is costing our people much more than the same articles can be purchased for in adjoining states where freight rates are figured on a fair and equitable basis.

The very day our state is placed on a proper basis with Virginia in this respect, outside capital will begin to flow into North Carolina as never before, farm lands must of necessity rapidly increase in value, our merchants will be able to do a larger business on account of being placed in position to compete with Virginia cities, and last but not least, our money will be kept at home instead of being sent to other trading centers now more favorably situated.

Mr. Tate invites suggestions and advice from every person interested in this fight, in order that every section of North Carolina may be properly looked after and that the adjustment of freight rates which must shortly follow, may be satisfactory to all of our people.

Gastonia Council Lets Contract.
At an adjourned meeting of the city council Friday night, the street committee, Mr. Andrew E. Moore, chairman, was authorized to close a contract at once with A. H. Guion of Charlotte for the construction of 38,000 square yards or about 15 miles of concrete sidewalks, work on which is to be commenced at once. The sum involved is about \$85,000.

FOR BETTER EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES IN COUNTY

Cannot Something be Done to Reduce the Illiteracy in Rural Districts?

According to the census of 1910, Hickory has within her borders two thousand and seventy white people over ten years of age. Of this number only twenty-three cannot write.

In Catawba county (outside of Hickory,) there are fifteen thousand and one hundred and thirty-three white persons over ten years of age. Of this number one thousand and seven hundred and ninety-six are illiterate, or twelve per cent.; in other words, nearly every eighth person cannot write. Notice the difference: Hickory one per cent. illiterate; in the county twelve per cent. (statistics for Newton are not available, as the census report does not classify Newton separate from the county.)

The towns are looking after the illiterate by providing splendid schools and teachers—shall we let the country lag? We cannot build up our towns without the country. Is it any wonder that our people leave the farms for the towns?

At the educational conference in Richmond, a frail woman teacher got up during the conference and told how, in her county, they had moonlight schools, and old men and women came to learn to read and write. She told how they came for miles in order to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Cannot something be done to reduce the rural illiteracy in Catawba county? As a general rule, the illiterate man pays very little tax, carries no life insurance, has no bank account, is more often a tenant than not. He is against all progress. He is laboring under a fearful handicap. How can he be reached? Is it too late to teach him the rudiments of education? Would it not be worth the effort to try? What are we going to do about it?

W. J. SHUFORD.

Secretary Daniels Guest of Honor.

Washington, N. C., May 18—Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, arrived in the city this afternoon from Norfolk by special invitation as the guest of the city of Washington, North Carolina, his birthplace and former home, whose citizens delight to honor him. He was met at the station by a committee composed of Mayor Kugler and a number of prominent citizens in automobiles and escorted to the residence of Col. W. C. Rodman, whose guest he will be while here.—Charlotte Observer.

Mass Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Rooms Tonight.

There will be a meeting of the manufacturers, merchants and shippers in general at the Hickory Chamber of Commerce Thursday, May 22, at 8:00 p. m.

Every county in the State is being organized in the interest of an adjustment of freight rates on a basis that will put North Carolina on an equal footing with that of Virginia and other states.

You are urged to be present at this meeting. It is a matter of vital importance to you; in fact, it is of vital importance to every citizen of North Carolina.

Very respectfully yours,
G. H. GEITNER, President

Hickory Branch State Just Freight Rate Association.

In Social Circles

Mrs. L. R. Whitener entertained the Embroidery Club May 15th with eleven members present. Mrs. Bost, who was out of town, sent greetings in the shape of "The Widow Bedott Papers," four chapters of which Mrs. Whitener read during the work hour. Officers for the coming year were elected: President, Mrs. L. R. Whitener; Vice President, Mrs. George Ivey; Secretary, Mrs. Ernest Herman. Refreshments were served, and a beautiful red rose was given to each one on leaving the table. There will be no meeting until September.

Mrs. Hooper of West Point, Miss., is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. Geo. Baly.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY STOPPED DURING SPEECH

Delegates to Southern Convention Force Napier to Sit Down—Plan Seminary for Negro Preachers.

St. Louis, Mo.—When A. Y. Napier, Baptist missionary from China, in an address before the Southern Baptist Convention Thursday on how to make foreign missionary work more effective, said it was desirable that the Baptists join the other Protestant sects in building up interdenominational mission schools, there were cries of "No, no," and "Sit down" from all over the audience. Finding it impossible to continue his address, he took his seat.

Special attention was given to the subject of missionary work among the negroes of the Southern States and it was decided to build and equip a theological seminary for the education of negro Baptist preachers. This school will be located in Louisville, where the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary under the principalship of Rev. Dr. E. Y. Mullins, is located, and Dr. Mullins will have the supervision of the work of the new school.

The subject of educating negro preacher was introduced by Doctor Mullins, who read a resolution providing for a committee to supervise the preliminaries. The resolution was adopted unanimously. A member of the committee appointed was G. W. McDaniel of Richmond, Va. The convention voted a special order of business men to give Rev. Sutton Earl Griggs of Memphis, Tenn., an opportunity to speak. In his address he said:

"God snatched the warm-hearted black people from darkest Africa and set them down among the best regulated white race on the globe today, the white people of the Southern States, that they might learn the true religion of Christ and take it into the places where the white man finds it impossible to go. I believe the negroes of the South will be the greatest influence yet in the evangelization of all Africa."

The Laymen's Movement was given a prominent place in the discussion, most of the addresses being in favor of lay church members paying a tithe, or 10 per cent of their income. Henderson of Bristol, Va., secretary of the Laymen's Association said the tithing system was the only one that successfully would solve the question of evangelization of the world. He outlined a plan which was adopted, providing for Laymen's State rallies in all Southern States during February, March and April of next year.

FRED R. YODER FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

W. J. Shuford Writes in Advocacy for This Important Position.

Probably the most important office in Catawba county is the office of superintendent of Education. To the Superintendent is entrusted (with the help of the teachers,) the building up of the rural schools, the advocacy of local tax districts, the arousing of enthusiasm among teachers, and pupils, for better agricultural and educational conditions.

He should be a leader; a man with vision; a man trained especially for teaching, and who has made teaching his aim and object in life.

July the first, the County Board of Education will elect a Superintendent for two years, and I am writing this article in advocacy of the candidacy of Mr. Fred R. Yoder, for this important position.

Mr. Yoder is a young man, a son of Colin Yoder, raised on the farm, a graduate of Lenoir College, completing his education at the State University and University of Tennessee Summer School.

He has made teaching his calling and has been successful wherever he has taught. His training and mind both tend to make him admirably fitted for the place. He is well read and thoroughly posted on everything pertaining to the rural schools. His credentials are of the best. He is a Catawba county boy who has made good wherever tried. I commend his candidacy to the thoughtful consideration of every man interested in the question of better education in Catawba county.

W. J. SHUFORD.

COMMENT

REDUCE THE ILLITERACY IN OUR COUNTY.

We are glad to note the interest that is being aroused here in the necessity of better educational advantages for our rural neighbors. It will be noted in an article published elsewhere, that according to the census of 1910 nearly every eighth white person in the rural district of Catawba county is an illiterate. The illiteracy in Hickory is but one per cent. The reason for this is apparent, as the writer of the above referred to article sets forth—the towns supply good schools, good teachers and longer school terms. It is true that our rural school districts are adding every year to the special school taxes that enable them to extend their school term, but the extra money so raised is all taken up in the expenses of the extra month or two, while not one dollar is left over to offer as extra inducement to a higher grade of teachers. It is also true we cannot hope at this time to reach that high grade of excellency in our schools that requires the employment of only such teachers who have had the advantage of a Teachers' Training School, but we should at least be able to secure for our rural school teachers of larger experience and better qualifications than we do. This is one of the most difficult tasks of a County School Superintendent, as the school boards of the various districts usually depend very greatly on his judgment in this matter. A County Superintendent should be up to date in 20th century school methods, thoroughly versed in all aspects of pedagogy and possessed of that sense of discernment that will enable him to make the fewest possible mistakes in granting certificates to the educators of our children. In the meantime it is up to the citizens of Catawba county to see that sufficient money is raised for school purposes that will lift the remuneration of the average country school teacher above that of a day laborer.

FLOYD BOWMAN ACQUITTED

Deputy Sheriff of Anson County Arrested Young Man on Suspicion

At Preliminary Trial in Wadesboro it Was Conclusively Proven by Reliable Witnesses That Floyd Was Not Within a Quarter of a Mile of the Place Where the Assault Should Have Taken Place—Nearly Mobbed by Negroes.

It seems an easy matter to spread a false report, but the truth travels slowly. Such it appears to be in the case of Mr. Floyd Bowman, an honorable young man of our county living with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Titus E. Bowman, about eight miles northeast of Hickory. In many papers the statement appeared recently, that the above lad was guilty of an assault on a colored girl in Anson county. According to reliable witnesses, these are briefly the facts in the case:

Mr. Floyd Bowman had been at work with the saw mill outfit of Mr. Alphonso Killian near the town of Pee Dee, in Anson county, since January 1st. His parents had written him repeatedly, requesting him to come home and help on the farm. Floyd had decided to leave for home and had so written his mother. Now it so happened that on the day Floyd was at Pee Dee inquiring about train connections for home, the so-called assault on a colored girl should have taken place one-quarter mile west of Pee Dee. On Friday, the next day, Floyd, with his

suit case, was about to take the train for home when a deputy sheriff arrested him on suspicion. This news quickly spread among several hundred blacks at a negro school closing, whereupon the lad was nearly mobbed before taken to a place of safety.

At the preliminary trial in Wadesboro, it was conclusively proven by a score of reliable witnesses that Floyd was not within a quarter of a mile of the place where the assault should have taken place. It was also proven that he was not trying to run away from the town, as had been charged, but that he was only keeping the promise written his parents about coming home. The correspondence that passed between mother and son played an important part in the trial.

And now the query: Should there not be some way in which such grievous blunders could be avoided—mistakes on the part of deputy sheriffs whereby innocent parties are lodged in ill-ventilated cells; and parents plunged into great worry and trouble, and into needless and heavy expense.

BAND CONCERT ON THURSDAY NIGHT

Hickory People Justly Proud of the Work Done by This Splendid Organization Under the Direction of Prof. J. E. Barb.

The people of Hickory were justly proud of the work done by the local band at the concert last Thursday night. The high class of the selections, the interpretation, the time, the orchestration, or combination of all the parts to a harmonious design and unity, were splendid. Mr. Barb is to be congratulated on the membership of his band, and each one is not only to be complimented on his music and playing, but commended for his willingness to undertake such a task, and to give the time and talent to the pro-

duction of good music. It is a pleasure to know that these young men care for these things rather than low and useless pursuits of pleasures that degrade, instead of ennoble and uplift. Let us hope their music and their characters as well shall always be of the highest order.

We suppose the members of the band would say the music is impossible without their leader, and we agree. The city owes Mr. Barb much for public service, but in no account are we more indebted than in this one of good music.

PARCEL POST GROWING

Assistant Postmaster Bradford Declares That Business Holds Up.

Assistant Postmaster W. B. Bradford stated yesterday that the business of the parcel post in connection with the local office, instead of decreasing as the Summer season opened and the novelty wore off, had increased and that the business, month by month, was showing a gratifying growth. This appears to be the record generally, indicating that the parcel post is filling a long-felt need.

In this connection, the following from yesterday's issue of the New York American will be of interest.

"Officers of three of the largest express companies in the country told The New York American yesterday that the parcel post had caused a reduction of between 25 and 30 per cent. in their small package business during the first quarter of this year. The loss has increased as the general public became more familiar with the parcel post operations.

"Incidentally this has caused the express interests to redouble their efforts for new business.

"J. H. Bradley, traffic manager and vice-president of the American Express Company, said:

"The business in small packages fell off about 25 per cent. during the first three months of this year, the decline being an increasing one. We expected this, but it left us in a peculiar situation, because we were unable to adjust our organization to the suddenly changed conditions. We cannot cut down our expenses of operation, because we have to give the public the same efficient service built up by us in 60 years. We could not, for instance, reduce the number of wag-

ons operating in New York City, although there has been a falling off in the small package business. Of course, in time we will adjust ourselves to the new conditions.

"We regard the Government as a competitor, but hope to prove to the people that we are still indispensable to them."

"An official of the Adams Express Company, said:

"Small package business of this company fell off about 17 per cent last January, and by March the shrinkage was between 25 and 30 per cent. We expect there will be an even greater reduction, as the public becomes familiar with the workings of the parcel post. Undoubtedly a great proportion of this shrinkage is attributable to the fact that the mail order houses have shifted a large part of their business to Uncle Sam."

"An officer of another company said the shrinkage in the small parcel business corresponded with the American and Adams companies."

Nominations for 14 Postmasterships.

Washington, D. C., May 15.—Fourteen successful applicants for North Carolina postmasterships were advanced a step today when the president sent their names to the Senate from the White House. The names were:

Howard C. Curtis, Southport; W. D. Pethel, Spencer; Joseph S. Stallings, Spring Hope; W. C. Hall, Black Mountain; P. J. Caudill, St. Paul; John L. Gwaltney, Taylorsville; Mrs. Nettie G. Rowland, West Raleigh; C. W. Whitehurst, Beaufort; Lee H. Yarborough, Clayton; Plato C. Rollins, Rutherfordton; William H. Etheridge, Selma; Duncan L. Webster, Siler City; W. H. Stearns, Tryon; and Hector McL. Green, Wilmington.