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PRESIDENT COON TO TAR HEEL TEACHERS

His Annual Address One of the Interesting Features of the Teachers' Meeting—He Indulges in Criticism.

Raleigh, Nov. 30.—One of the most interesting features of the Teachers' assembly is the annual address of the president. The address of President C. L. Coon, superintendent of the Wilson graded schools, formerly of the Charlotte graded schools, has created much comment. Mr. Coon is a man who thinks for himself, and doesn't fail to speak his thoughts. He is a bold sort of fellow, and frequently he doesn't agree with other folks, and he lets the state know about it. Just now he is rather out of harmony with the present policy of the educational leaders, and in his address tonight he pointed out what he considers some of the mistakes of the present educational policy. Mr. Coon is nothing in the way of a diplomat, and he always delivers blows straight out from the shoulder. In the past he has only spoken as a private school teacher, but tonight he spoke as president of the North Carolina Teachers' assembly. In the past he has made a fight for a selection of school books by school men and in his address tonight, "The Need of a Constructive Educational Policy," he made a strong plea for other changes.

Mr. Coon began his address by saying that when teachers got to the place they couldn't stand criticism they ought to be born again. He then related the fable of a school master who had not the wherewithal to buy a pair of trousers. His various friends gave him pieces of cloth. Of these he made a pair of trousers—trousers of patchwork. The speaker said the boys laughed at the school master and he had to throw away his patchwork trousers. The present educational system was then likened unto the patchwork trousers of the school master. The speaker then proceeded to criticize the present method of securing county boards of education, county superintendents, city superintendents and teachers. He criticized the method of giving certificates to teachers—teachers are teachers only in spots, for they may be licensed in one county and not in another.

The speaker then discussed some of the patches that have been added to the educational system. He mentioned the patches added by the state schools, the denominational school, the city schools, and the private schools. The speaker didn't express himself as much pleased with the patch added by the state high schools. He thought it wrong to establish a high school, when the elementary school was only 90 days in a year. He thought that many of the high schools were little more than poor elementary schools. Mr. Coon doesn't take much stock in farm life, carpenter life, high schools, and in this connection he pointed out the fact that the only farm life high school so far established has been established in a county that has only a 90 day school term, and pays its 57 white teachers only \$9,500, or \$167 each. He also pointed out that this county has only \$27,000 worth of county school property, and yet a county farm life school is to be established at a cost of \$25,000 in equipment. He also pointed out that this farm life school will have a salary schedule equal to fully half the salary of all the other teachers of the county, and the term would be much longer than the elementary schools.

The speaker said his self-respect forced him to resent the fact that the teaching profession had turned over the making of an educational policy to the politicians, doctors, lawyers, editors and the Farmers' Union. He said the teachers themselves were responsible for this state of affairs.

The speaker then outlined what he considers a constructive policy. First, he said the Teachers' assembly should be a delegated body, made up of delegates from smaller educational organizations. That the assembly should be composed of teachers, and that book agents, laymen and other "friends of education" should not be admitted just because they pay the annual dues.

Again, the speaker said there

ought to be an educational commission of eight members appointed by the governor upon the recommendation of the Teachers' assembly. It should be composed of real teachers.

Again the speaker pointed out that the county is too large a school unit and the district too small. He thought the unit should be the township, and that the county boards of education should be elected by the township committeemen. The county board should elect the county superintendent, but no man should be elected who didn't fill the requirement laid down by the state educational commission mentioned above. In the last place the speaker declared that provision should be made for the gradual absorption of all separate and special taxes into a unified system.

The speaker concluded by saying that he wouldn't suggest other reforms, and stated a program was adopted last year at Asheville, and that some of the very people who were very prominent in promulgating it never thought it was their Christian duty to live up to its provisions in the face of opposition.

The speech of Mr. Coon—the above being a bare outline—is causing quite a bit of comment. Everyone who knows the president of the assembly expected his speech to be bold—in fact, rather radical, and they have not been disappointed. The present educational system from the higher institutions of learning down to the little country school has been criticised, and that, too, in a bold and fearless manner. There will no doubt be an aftermath when the business session takes place. The resolution committee will have a big job on its hands, if it attempts to suggest resolutions about all of Mr. Coon's suggestions.

HUFFSTETLER-HARRILL REUNION

The Huffstetler family reunion was held at Mr. W. R. Huffstetler's residence of Lincolnton Route five, on Thanksgiving day. It took the form of Huffstetler-Harrill reunion this year. Prior to marriage, Mrs. Huffstetler was a Harrill. It was a cold day, but long before the noon hour most of the two families had arrived and seemed to enjoy themselves to the fullest extent—The sumptuous dinner was served on the lawn. Several whole roast turkeys occupied conspicuous places on the table. In the afternoon some enjoyed the chase, others their marksmanship, and the boys had a blindfold wheelbarrow contest. Mrs. Huffstetler entertained her lady guests with music. Those present on this joyous occasion were: Mrs. J. B. Harrill and daughters, Misses Katie and Austin Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harrill and children, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Carpenter and children, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norman, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Norman and children, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. G. Paysour and children, Mrs. Susan Huffstetler, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Huffstetler, and child, and Mrs. J. Brown and children.

MARRIAGE ON CROUSE ROUTE TWO

On Thursday, November the 23rd, Mr. Charlie Neal and Miss Mary Reynolds were very quietly married at the home of Esq. M. L. Baker. Only a few friends being present to witness their marriage. We wish them happiness.

Lincoln County Boy Appreciates His Home Paper.

Such letters as this spurs a newspaper man on to exert his best efforts to get out a good paper:

Benham, Va. Dec. 2nd, 1911.—The Lincoln Co. News—Lincolnton, N. C.—Dear Sir:—I enclose check for one dollar for one year's subscription to The News. Am sorry that I neglected this matter for so long, but will try to not be so careless next time my subscription expires, for I do not want to miss a single issue of the paper. Success to The News.—Sincerely—

Mesdames Milton Tiddy and L. B. Wetmore and little daughter, Louise, were Charlotte visitors yesterday.

THE LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR!

All Articles For Exhibition Must Be Registered By Ten O'clock Tuesday, December 12th—A Good Time In Store For All.

Every one understands the meaning of the County Fair, so details are not necessary, except to say we want to rival the success of last year. All articles to be exhibited must be registered by ten o'clock Tuesday the 12th. Beginning at noon Friday the eighth, the doors of the Fair Hall will be open and will not be closed to those desiring to exhibit articles until ten o'clock Tuesday. The Fair will open at twelve o'clock, December the twelfth and continue throughout Thursday night. Admission is only ten cents, and a good time for Every One. Send in your articles early. An effort is on foot to have a Confederate corner and if you can contribute it will be greatly appreciated and will help the worthy cause. Below is the premium list:

1. Best collection of preserves, pickles, etc. (No other cooking to be exhibited).
2. Best collection of fancy work, embroidery, crocheting, etc.
3. Handsomest single piece of hand work.
4. Prettiest collection of quilts, (three in a collection.)
5. Handsomest quilt.
6. Best collection of woven articles, rugs, coverlets, etc.
7. Best single article woven by hand.
8. Best collection of hand made articles, brooms, chairs, baskets, pottery, etc.
9. Oldest article exhibited.

In the place of refreshments, as we had last year, the Children of the Confederacy will have a bazaar and any friends who want to donate articles to be sold will be appreciated. Of course candy, red lemonade, balloons and confetti will be there in abundance and the same good time only more of it is again in store for Lincoln county people.

FAIR SEX ENTERTAINED.

The Melville Club Gives a Delightful Reception in Their Rooms in the Reinhardt Building—List of Those Present.

On last Friday evening the young ladies of Lincolnton were given a beautiful reception by the members of the Melville Club, the comfortable club rooms on the third floor of the Reinhardt building being very tastefully decorated for the occasion. One especially attractive nook seemingly possessed the drawing qualities of a magnet. Here Misses Lena Reinhardt and Carrie Smith served delicious fruit punch very graciously and also frequently to those who gathered about them. Later the guests were invited to partake of a delightful luncheon consisting of luscious fruits, a salad course and coffee.

Those present were: Misses Lena and Bryte Statts, Annie and Myra Nixon, Mattie Camp, Mary and Stella Dellinger, Agnes Mundy, Kate Burgin, Lena Reinhardt, Nora and Sadie Lander, Hattie Lea, Josephine Pressley, Forney Roseman, Carrie Smith, Edith McMillan, Minnie Lee Peedan, Miss Ragsdale, Miss Murphy and Miss Flowers; Messrs. Fred Ramsaur, Poly Jenkins, B. P. Costner, E. H. Burgin, Steve Reinhardt, Herbert Coon, George Rhyne, Guy and Hugh Cline, Moorman Roseman, Mont Ramsaur, Joe Reinhardt, Russel Dellinger and E. L. Pickard.

With Mrs. Rees.

"England! my country great and free!
Heart of the world, I leap to thee."
—Balley.

With "England under the Tudors" as their subject for study, the members of the Book Club held both a pleasant and a profitable meeting with Mrs. Jno. W. Rees on last Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Cobb read a beautiful paper that she had written on "Merrie England" while Mrs. Hopkins made a strong, instructive talk on the Reformation. One of Milton's masterpieces was read by Mrs. Costner.

As the meeting was held on the day before Thanksgiving, the decorations in the dining room and the luncheon were symbolic. A delicious salad course followed by cream, coffee and mints was served upon the large and handsome round table whose centerpiece was formed of golden oranges, rosy-checked apples and other luscious autumnal fruits. The place-cards were also symbolic of Thanksgiving Day and were painted by Miss Mary Rees, the daughter of the hostess.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE NEWS.

THE WAREHOUSE IS FULL

The Fleecy Staple is Safely Housed Awaiting a Rise in Price—New Officers Elected at the Regular Meeting Saturday.

The Lincoln County Branch of the Farmers' Union held its regular meeting in the court house in Lincolnton on last Saturday. The meeting was called to order by Chaplain Jno. E. Deaton in the absence of the president who, however soon arrived and presided. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Sidney Johnson, after which the usual routine business was attended to. Besides other things the executive committee made a report of settlement with Secretary-Treasurer B. C. Wood. Everything was found in fine shape and ample funds on hand to conduct the business. After the report of this committee was disposed of it being the proper time the annual election of officers and different committees was gone into. The result is as follows:

J. R. Warlick.....President
W. J. Wingate.....Vice President
C. C. Hauss.....Co. Organizer and Lecturer
B. C. Wood.....Sec. and Treas. and Business Agent
Jno. L. Deaton.....Chaplain
Executive Committee—J. H. Nixon, Catawba Springs; J. N. Dorsey, Ironton; J. L. Shrum, Lincolnton; T. J. Hoover, Howard's Creek and Geo. W. Bess, North Brook.

Committee on Good of the Order—D. C. K. Wilkinson, Catawba Springs; S. J. Shrum, Ironton; W. W. Biggerstaff, Lincolnton; C. A. Leonard, Howard's Creek and J. C. Hull, North Brook.

Delegates appointed to attend the State meeting which convenes at Wilson, N. C. Dec. 13th, 14th and 15th are as follows: C. A. Leonard, W. C. Hallman, J. H. Nixon and B. C. Wood.

The Union in this county has grown to be a husky babe. It now has a membership of something like one thousand. We are unable to state the exact number at the time this article is written. This is considered a remarkably good membership in a county so small as Lincoln. During the past year five new locals has been organized through the efforts of that capital citizen, C. C. Hauss, who is a live wire in union circles. These new locals brings the total up to twenty-eight.

The meeting Saturday was enthusiastic, seventeen locals being represented. The next meeting will be held on the first Saturday in January. After the adjournment of the county meeting at the court house the stockholders and directors of the Farmers' Union Warehouse Co. Inc., met in the offices at the warehouse and transacted the usual business.

Several weeks ago the warehouse was filled to the roof by the men who mean to stand by the efforts of those interested to boost the price of cotton up to the point where there will be profit to the man who tills the soil and is entitled to it. It is a beautiful sight to see over 300 bales in one lot. It looks like the farmer has at last realized that he has the situation in his own hands if he will but use it. Up to this date only one bale has been removed. The folks mean business on this deal and the sooner the cotton gambler realizes it the better it will be for all concerned. There is but one way out of the woods, let every man stick to his guns and hold his cotton. Don't get frightened if it goes off a point or two. Swing to it and reduce the acreage for next year and you will yet receive the profit that rightly belongs to you.

Thanksgiving Dinner in "Ole Virginny."

A few days ago Miss Harrie Lee Hopkins sent her mother an account of the happy Thanksgiving Day they spent at the Episcopal institute in Chatham, Va. The following delightful menu was served at dinner:

Roast Turkey; Cranberry Sauce; Baked oysters; Curled Oclery; Hot Rolls; Potatoes; Carrot Cubes; Queen Olives; Pickles; Oranges, Bannans, Apples, Raisins, Nuts; English Plum Pudding; Cafe Noir.

Miss Lou Miller who has been living on Iron Station route one, is now living with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Ewing on Lincolnton route three.

SEAWEED CROP OF FRANCE

Takes Hard Work to Harvest the Slimy Stuff, but Financial Returns Are Good.

Among the important features of the agricultural industries along the northern coast of France is the harvesting of seaweed.

As soon as the receding waters permit, the seaweed gatherers fall diligently to work. Soon every rock and ledge is shaven of its brown, slimy fleece, and left as bare as the back of a shorn sheep.

Then preparations are made for an attack on the reefs, so numerous along the southern coast of the English channel. Everything that will float is pressed into service. Huge rafts are constructed, and next morning, with the current of the ebbing tide in their favor, they are towed by the people in the boats eight or ten miles out from the coast.

Low water leaves them stranded on the reefs, and all hands make the best of their time. The worker kneels on the dripping weed, grasps a handful in the left hand, and with the sickle in the right, cuts it off close to the rock and places it in a bag. As soon as he has cut as much as he can carry, the sack is taken on the back to the raft, upon which it is received by men with pitchforks, stacked and securely roped.

Towing the heavily laden rafts to the shore is tedious work, and progress is slow. The wet harvesters are soon chilled to the bone by the keen east wind that always prevails in this latitude during the month of March, the harvesting season for seaweed.—Harper's Weekly.

WELCOMED THE CHANCE



Evelyn—Did the minister kiss you?
Bride (very pretty)—Of course
Have you ever seen his wife?

RETAINED THE PACKET.

Two years ago Ralph Green, a carpenter of Georgetown, Del., bought at an auction sale an old trunk for 15 cents. The sale was of the effects of Mrs. Clara Davis, an old woman who had died suddenly. Green, under the good-natured chaffing of the bystanders, burst the lock and began to distribute the odds and ends the trunk contained to his friends. He gave away a shawl and several other articles. He was about to toss a small packet with a torn paper wrapper to a boy who hovered on the outskirts of the crowd. But Green didn't throw the packet. Instead he suddenly walked away. He had caught a glimpse of something inside the torn wrapper and when he was alone he counted the roll of bills the former owner of the trunk had hidden away against a rainy day—and then died so suddenly that she could not tell where she had hidden it.

STOCK STORY.

"When I was a barefoot lad," said Mr. Dustin Stax, "I had to spend a good deal of time minding the stock on father's farm. I'll never forget the day when father told me to take a rope and hold a couple of bull calves."

"What did they do?"
"They scorched my hands with the rope and then turned around and stepped on me."

"Unruly disposition?"
"No. Wonderful instinct. They recognized me at a glance as a small stockholder."