

Counties Take Initiative For Eight Months School Term

Will Not Wait for Legislature to Act on Proposal—Eight Counties Out of Hundred in This High Class

Raleigh, Dec. 26.—Transylvania's determination not to wait on the state for an eight-month school term has set an example which several other counties are planning to follow.

According to reports to Superintendent of Public Instruction A. T. Allen, no less than a dozen counties, generally classified as "rural", have signified their purposes to call an election within the next year for a vote on the proposal to extend the county-wide school term from a minimum of six months to a minimum of eight. And once the ball gets rolling, Mr. Allen believes, the eight-month term will be well on its way toward state-wide adoption before the legislature gets a chance to act on it.

Transylvania Leads

Transylvania pleased the state educational forces mightily when it rolled in a majority in the election held the other week for a longer term. It voted a tax sufficient to run the schools for nine months in several districts, while the minimum term for every district in the county will be eight months.

Just east of the hundred counties of the state fit into the class in which Transylvania has placed itself. The other counties are New Hanover, Edgecombe, Pamlico, Wilson, Vance and Graham. All but New Hanover and possibly Wilson are classed as rural counties. Guilford missed a place in the list by one township, High Point, which has a few schools outside the corporate limits of a furniture city that will run for less than eight months.

Other large counties of the state fell considerably down the line. According to the latest figures available at the department of public instruction, Mecklenburg had for last year's term 2,461 children in schools that ran less than eight months while the average length of the county-wide term was 152 days. Buncombe had 3,373 children in shorter-term schools, with an average term for the whole county of 141 days; Forsyth had 3,734 children in shorter-term schools and an average of 126 days, while Wake, with an average term of the county of 142 days, had 4,037 children in schools that ran less than eight months.

Mecklenburg's Position

Mecklenburg's position is notable by reason of the fact that its county board of education is chaired by Plummer Stewart, who has come forth as one of the outspoken opponents of the proposed state-wide eight-month term.

Among the dozen or more counties which are expected to hold elections within the next year, Mr. Allen mentioned Jones, Jackson, Stanly and Montgomery, all purely rural counties with their principal towns small. The state department hopes to see the list of prospects grow appreciably as interest in the longer term becomes more pronounced.

Even in counties which haven't as yet caught the fever, many of their districts have. Frequent reports to the department announces that the votes in districts have lengthened the school term. Every time a district falls into line the chances of eventually carrying the whole county grows brighter.

And the more counties the school people can get lined up before the next legislature meets, the better will be the chance of the proposal to make eight months the minimum term for the whole state.

Farmers Purchasing Beans Cooperatively

Pittsboro, Dec. 26.—More than 600 bushels of Mammoth Yellow soybeans were purchased cooperatively by farmers of Chatham county reports county agent N. C. Shiver. Other farmers are being pooled and a shipment for farmers in the Brickhaven community have already been arranged.

Shiver states that the orchard on the farm of B. M. Welch, near Deep Creek, has been selected for a demonstration in how to handle the home orchard, and arrangements are being made now for pruning and spraying this orchard according to the best methods.

GO OUT TO AGED MINISTERS

Provided by J. B. Duke, Sent to Superannuated Preachers

Dec. 22.—Christmas checks amounting \$10,000 have been mailed out by superannuated preachers of the Methodist Episcopal church, in this county, by President Few, of Duke University. A fund, established by James B. Duke, has aided superannuated ministers in this way for some time during the past years. The following letter, accompanying each check, was written by President Few:

"Dear Friend: On December 11, 1925, James B. Duke set up a fund, called the Duke Fund, and forever devoted to the educational purposes. Superannuated ministers of the North Carolina conference, and their families, will share the benefits of the fund. The fund will be operative from the year 1926, and checks for superannuated ministers hereafter go from this fund."

Duke died October 10. But I am privileged to send the usual Christmas check and I send them in his memory. I have heard you use words like these: My father says said if he amounted to anything it was due to the influence of the riders who used to visit his home and if I amount to anything it is to my father and hence to the preachers. I want to do all I can to pay this back.

"Duke's fund for superannuated ministers is the way in which he seeks to pay his debt. You did not know him personally, but I want you to know that many of us who did know him believe him to have been among the greatest and best men our country has produced. May God raise up one like him.

"As my God grant to you and yours a happy Christmas and a New Year with all good things. Affectionately yours,

"W. P. FEW."

HEARNS OF FLAPPERS AND LOUNGE LIZARDS

They are Breeding Hell, Declares High Official of Southern Railway

Charlotte, Dec. 24.—Men who hope to reach the top in the climb for success should shun the company of "bobbled flappers and long-haired lounge lizards, for they are breeding hell," it was asserted by R. E. Shuman, of Charlotte, general manager of the Southern Railway System, making the principal address here Tuesday night at the fifth annual banquet of the Carolina Chamber of Commerce dining hall.

There is nothing, however, that is more to a man's success than his association and companionship with a good woman, Mr. Simpson declared. Service was the keynote of the general manager's speech, which was filled with old-fashioned axioms and good advice. Among the essential advice to employer, to family, to country, to church and to self.

The speaker deplored the attitude of antagonism to the public which he said prevailed among some of the railroad men in the past, adding that with progress in all lines during recent years, a policy of courtesy has triumphed.

A Famous Santa Claus Dies While on the Job

Port Huron, Mich., Dec. 24.—Santa Claus died last night in the excitement attendant upon Christmas exercises at Harbor Beach in the Methodist church.

Santa Claus' real name was William Johnston.

They never knew, those hundreds of eager children with bright eyes and laughing lips, that they were to see Santa die before their eyes.

They couldn't see behind his smiling face and flowing white beard and known that a heart, made weak by years of labor, was undergoing a great strain. And so when Johnston fell dead, they shrieked and cried.

In the crowd were Johnston's wife and three children. His body was taken to an undertaking establishment. The festivities continued.

BAPTIZED WITH WATER FROM THE RIVER JORDAN

Interesting Christening Service in Old St. Bartholomew's, Pittsboro.

Pittsboro, Dec. 26.—An interesting christening service took place on Christmas day, in old St. Bartholomew's Episcopal church in Pittsboro. After the Christmas communion service at eleven o'clock the rector, Rev. R. G. Shannonhouse, baptized the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Cordon, of Raleigh. Her name is Betsy London Cordon, age three months. The sponsors were Mrs. F. D. Jerome, an aunt; Mrs. Henry A. London, grandmother; and Capt. Jno. J. London, U. S. Navy, an uncle. The water used in the service was brought by Capt. London from the river Jordan. And the christening service under the Christmas decorations, including a large holly tree for the Children's Christmas service, was very impressive.

The Episcopal church was the only church in town having a Christmas service at eleven o'clock, and many visitors were present.

GARRETT'S FAIL TO GET CHRISTMAS PARDON

Governor Trinkle Will Look Further Into Plea of Minister's Slaying

Richmond, Va. Dec. 22.—Governor Trinkle has been so busy with other matters recently, he stated today, that he has had little time for consideration of the applications for pardon of Robert O. Garrett and Larkin C. Garrett, brothers, doing five years and four years respectively in the Virginia penitentiary for the murder of Rev. Edward S. Pierce, Baptist minister, in Cumberland county, June 5, 1925. He added that it will be some time before he will be able to go over all the papers in the case and consider them more fully.

This means that the Garretts, who are former office holders of Cumberland, have no chance of getting out of prison before the Christmas holidays are over. It was stated at the penitentiary today that both were hopeful of being pardoned before Christmas so that they might spend the Yuletide with their families at home. Their victim was a native of Gates county, North Carolina, and held pastorates in West Durham, N. C. and in several places in Virginia before going to Cumberland in which he had taken sides against the Garretts.

NEW HOSIERY MODES CHANGE OLD RHYME

Twinkling Knees Have Become Reality at World's Fashion Capital

Paris, Dec. 25.—Paris is taking liberties with our nursery rhymes and the little child of today, at bedtime might easily recite:

"Twinkle, twinkle little star,
How strange to find you where you are,
Once you shone down over me,
Now you twinkle on mother's knee."

For twinkling knees are a reality since an enterprising Parisian stocking maker conceived the idea of embellishing silk hose with stars and comets, embroidered flowers and birds, landscapes and portraits.

In this knee-length era, the effect produced is really remarkable. The landscapes and portraits are worked in silk threads of myriad colors, but the stars really twinkle for they are worked in brilliants or imitation diamonds. They are worn at the theatre or the ball.

Last year saw a successful invasion of the Paris stocking market by the Scots. Heavy woolen stockings found favor with the sportswoman and her sister who paid allegiance to silk plaid designs without regard to class. But they enjoyed only brief popularity and Paris pays tribute again this year to flesh colored silk with such deviations as the stars and landscapes can afford.

There is but one color of stockings to be seen on the boulevards and that is flesh. Black is worn only with a black gown, and gray and brown have about passed from the color scheme. French stockings have again attained their pre-war excellence, but their cost is a constant worry to the Parisian. The twinkling variety can cost from 100 to 250 francs a pair.

SHOULD WALK TEN MILES EVERY DAY

So Declares Physicians Writing for Popular Health Magazine

A ten-mile walk daily is none too much for most of us, judging from the amount of food we consume daily, according to Dr. James Frederick Rogers of the U. S. Bureau of Education who contributes an article on walking to the September issue of Hygeia, popular health magazine (Chicago.)

"Those who calculate in calories say we ordinarily consume sufficient—in excess of our needs for keeping warm and running the internal machinery at a gait of five miles per hour, or ten miles at half this speed," declares Dr. Rogers.

The speed of the walk depends, for best results on the walker. Each of us has a best gait, a natural rhythm, depending on length of limb and other factors; to go more slowly is irksome, to go much faster is fatiguing. It is far more exhausting to run a mile than to walk a mile, or to walk rapidly for this distance than at our accustomed gait.

To be most beneficial, Dr. Rogers believes, exercise should be mind-absorbing, and walking needs some added feature or objective to add the proper interest. Going on an errand may be sufficient to take away the curse of the "leg over leg" if the distance is not too great. New scenes, urban or suburban, may be sufficient. A golf stick, fishing rod, gun, camera or bird glass are helpful, according to our taste, and even a cane is useful for much more than support. A dog or an agreeable human companion is a still better accompaniment.

If we have been walking only a mile or two, we should not change in a day to five or ten, it is pointed out. Every ounce we carry adds to the energy that must be expended and unprepared-for long hikes, with the addition of camp equipment, are anything but safe and sane for many persons, especially for children. Certainly we should never unnecessarily take tramps, the fatigue of which cannot be slept off in a night.

Airplane in Woods May Reveal Death of Aviator in 1919

Pittsfield, Mass., Dec. 16.—Moss-grown wreckage of an airplane found by a hunter in a thicket in a lonely region of the town of Tyringham may solve a mystery of more than six years. The unexplained disappearance of Capt. Mansell R. James, a Canadian aviator, in the early summer of 1919. A party will go out tomorrow to find and examine the plain and to beat the woods for the body of the lost flier.

Members of a party which went into the Tyringham woods several days ago to shoot deer reported today that Warren Campbell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., one of their number, became lost and wandered upon the wreckage of the plane miles from a human habitation. He paid little attention to it, believing others had found it before him. It was only when the news was brought here that the wreck was linked up with the loss of Capt. James.

The Canadian aviator, who had served in the World War with the Royal Air Force, won late in May, 1919, a competitive flight from Atlantic City to Boston for a cup offered by the Boston Globe and a purse of \$1,000. He left Boston on June 1 to return to Atlantic City, followed the wrong railroad line and lost his bearings in the Western part of Massachusetts and next morning set out in ideal weather and wind conditions to resume the flight.

Persons at the Tyringham Field saw him fly westward and then turn suddenly south as if to return, but he passed from view. He never was seen or heard of again.

Dr. J. F. James of Sarnia, an uncle of Capt. James, offered a reward of \$500 for his discovery and the search was carried on for months. Many clues were followed, and finally the quest was abandoned as hopeless. One theory was that the aviator had fallen into a lake or the ocean.

Campbell stumbled on the plane as he wandered about looking for his companions. It lay in a thicket in a remote section, at least four miles from a house or highway. The tail and wings appeared to be intact, but bushes had grown up about the fuselage, partly concealing it. A tree partly rotted, lay nearby, and there was every indication that years had passed since the plane fell.

MORE TALK ABOUT FORD ROAD IN N. C.

But Man Who Has the Dogs Indulges Only in Mysterious Assertions

Greensboro, Dec. 26.—With the promise that "It will be a big story when it does break," a resident of this city, formerly actively engaged as a civil engineer, gives hints now and then of a survey said to have been made for Henry Ford for a railroad line from Tennessee to Southport, N. C.

It's one of those stories where there does seem to be something but the person with the information prefers to be mysterious and promises to divulge his information in the future. All the newspaper men here know of it but so far have been told in a whisper. "Not yet, not yet," and "It's going to be a big—"

However, from what has been told, such a survey was actually made and handed to the motor king. He has coal mines in Kentucky, thousands of acres of them and is supposed to want railroad connections with the Atlantic Seaboard somewhere along the coast of the Carolinas, to trade with the South America.

The story, however, at this end, apparently can't be told. It is one of those yarns where the reporters are informed that to print it now would be "to ruin everything." Why ruin would follow is not disclosed. Maybe Ford would be peeved and run his line to the Pacific coast, instead of to Southport. Maybe he would tear up the survey. Anyway for sometime this story has been in the air here but couldn't be snatched down because it would be better, it is said, to wait until the time was ripe, "when it would be a big story."

Perhaps it is as big now as it is going to. Besides, waiting for Mr. Ford to give his O. K. on the story is long, tiresome business, especially when Ford is in Detroit or somewhere 'way off hearing Mollie Dunham make the fiddle talk.

FIND MUCH POISON IN BOOTLEG WHISKEY

Plain Concentrated Lye, Sulphuric Acid and Fusel Oil Found

Charlotte, Dec. 17.—Whiskey containing a high percentage of poison, ranging from plain concentrated lye to sulphuric acid, is being consumed by patrons of bootleggers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

This was disclosed in a report by the laboratory of division headquarters here of the federal prohibition enforcement organization. Ben C. Sharpe, divisional director, Thursday made public the report, which was sensational in its disclosures.

The analyses were made by J. D. Albright, Jr., chemist in charge of the laboratory, from 100 samples of contraband secured by federal agents operating in South Carolina.

The samples included concoctions labeled "moonshine" and some bearing the names of well known brands of pre-Volstead days.

Seventy of the samples examined were labeled "moonshine" and contained "fusel oil in high content," according to the report.

South Boston, Va., Fire Causes \$750,000 Damage

South Boston, Va., Dec. 28.—Thirteen buildings, comprising two blocks of the heart of the business section, were destroyed by fire here early Sunday at estimated loss of \$750,000.

Starting shortly after 2 o'clock this morning from an undetermined cause, the fire was swept beyond control by a high wind. Fire fighters also were handicapped by a temperature of 15 degrees above zero.

The loss was believed to have been mostly covered by insurance.

Among the buildings destroyed were the Garland hotel and the First National bank, the vault of which was believed to have withstood the flames.

The fire started in Erlick's dry goods store and, fanned by the wind, spread rapidly to adjoining structures. An engine company from Danville, answering an appeal for aid, made the 30 miles trip here on a special train.

Volunteer fire fighters prevented possible wider destruction by checking burning brands as they were deposited by the wind within a mile-wide area of the flaming district.

WHEELER SAYS DRYS HAVE WETS HOG-TIED

Sure of Two More Years of Prohibition Majorities in Congress

Washington, Dec. 27.—Wayne B. Wheeler challenged the wets of the country today to do their utmost. He boasted the drys had them hog-tied and they could not budge the present Congress. Two more years of dry majorities in the House and Senate, he said, could be expected by the public, and after that the people will decide.

The leader of the Anti-Saloon League he is thoroughly satisfied with the present situation and doubts if the 1926 Congressional elections will change it.

"The demise of the National Liberty Alliance was a welcome New Year's present to the drys," said Wheeler. "This organization sued us for \$100,000 for telling the truth about it, and its case was thrown out of court, just as the plea for beer and wine will be thrown out of Congress.

"Beer and whiskey were meant for a lower and slower age than ours. Alcohol does not mix safely with gasoline or high-powered machinery. Other wet organizations would do well to follow the example of the National Liberty Alliance. Eventually they will have to, so why not now?"

Wheeler said the Anti-Saloon League has a graveyard full of the remains of Anti-Prohibition organizations, and he will add those of the Liberty Alliance to the long list already there.

The recent test vote in the House which showed the Anti-Saloon League and similar organizations still wield widespread influence there, delighted Mr. Wheeler, and his utterances today is considered a crow of exultation and defiance.

Boy, 3, Lost 15 Hours Found By Police Dog

Lewistown, Me., Dec. 17.—Three-year-old Kenneth O'Hara, for whom nearly 1,000 persons had searched the woods fifteen hours, was found this morning. A police dog, and the child's cries heard earlier in the night, guided searchers to the spot.

The boys was discovered asleep by Miles Parker and James Forrest, under a tree in the dense thicket where he had wandered. Several hours before they had heard faint cries of "mamma, mamma". A police dog owned by Patrolman P. ... then picked up the trail.

Kenneth was rushed to a hospital in Lewistown, where physicians found no ill effects from exposure.

The child's mother, Mrs. John O'Hara, who had been prostrated with grief, was overcome with emotion when the news reached her. The father had led searchers constantly since his son disappeared.

The child had wandered four miles from home.

Interest in the search had been so great in this city that the Lewiston Sun issued an extra edition.

Among the hastily organized searching parties that set out yesterday afternoon were two companies of the National Guard, members of the Fire and Police Departments, students from Bates College and hundreds of private citizens. They lighted their way in the woods with lanterns, torches and flashlights.

Charlotte Barbers Fight Over Colors

Charlotte, Dec. 21.—Disagreement over the color of Christmas decorations to be used in their barbershop in the Hotel Charlotte resulted in serious trouble for M. C. Bradley and Will Hayes, well known local barbers, this afternoon. As a result of the disagreement Hayes is in a local hospital suffering with severe cuts and Bradley is at liberty under \$300 bond on a charge of assault. He also is carrying a plainly marked eye and other bruises about the body.

Bradley and Hayes own and operate the Hotel Charlotte barbershop. There has been bad feeling between the two for some time it was said, this culminating in a fight today after disagreement over the Christmas decoration color scheme. Argument over a key to the shop this morning added further fuel to the smoldering flame, it was said.

In the argument over Christmas decorations it was said Bradley favored red as a predominant color while Hayes stood up for green.