

County Commissioners Turn Deaf Ear to Plea of Farmers

Dobson Gathering Proves Value of Farm Agent

After Claiming Poverty Commissioners Pay Out \$910 For Auditors and Expense

Any doubt as to the good that is being accomplished by the Farm Demonstration Work in this county was dispelled at the hearing before the County Commissioners at Dobson last Monday when that body held a meeting to get the expression of the farmers on the continuance of the work. In January the board discontinued the work, but there arose such a protest that the chairman opened up the question for reconsideration, stating at the time that it was shown that the farmers wanted the work continued the board would be willing to do so, but that at the January meeting it had been made to appear to the members that the farmers did not want the work. But the enthusiastic gathering of the most intelligent and industrious farmers of the county that appeared before the board Monday left no reason to further doubt the great good that is coming from the Farm Demonstration work that has been in progress for the past three years.

The occasion was the first time in a quarter of a century when such a gathering of farmers had ever appeared before the County Commissioners in their own behalf, and this time there was the small sum of \$1,500 involved—the amount necessary to carry on the work. This amount seemed insignificant when it is recalled that there is collected out of the people of the county \$350,000 in taxes every year. The farmers had no spokesman for them, but the meeting started off with many of the farmers telling the various benefits they had received from the County Agent. Mr. W. E. Lindsey chairman, stated that the board was pushed for time and asked that the speeches be short and his request was complied with.

J. W. Lovill, while admitting he was not a farmer, was nevertheless intensely interested in the welfare of the farmer and was informed as to their plight. The farmers, he said, must change their plan of farming, learn to grow the bright grades of tobacco, and the young people encouraged to stay on the farms. Unless this is done he foresaw a great drop in the farm valuation and a loss in taxes that would

be greater than the cost of the Farm Agent work. "We need somebody to go among our farmers and encourage the young people to remain on the farm, and the County Agent is the only one we have to do this," said Mr. Lovill.

Rev. J. H. Hall, although a minister lived on the farm and stated that in his visits among the people he found that the Farm Agent work was doing much good. In his own case the agent gave him instructions on the growing of wheat whereby he was able to make 63 bushels on three acres of land.

A. E. Tilley, of Mount Airy, spoke in behalf of the work and stated that the experience of the whole county shows the value of the work. "The county cannot spend a like amount of money," he said, "and get anything like the same returns as in this work." He hoped the board would continue the work and would consider it a mistake to do away with it.

Morgan Gentry, substantial farmer of State Road, sensed the feeling that politics was working against the interest of the farmers, and at once told the board he had left his politics at home. That this matter was a question of meat and bread and not of politics. He had farmed for over 50 years and the county agent was a great help to him in many ways. He admitted that there were farmers who would not use the agent, and told how he had a neighbor who was against the work and wanted it stopped and only last week was this neighbor talking against the work, "but right here in my pocket is a package of tobacco seed that same farmer gave me this morning and asked me to bring it up here to have Mr. White clean and treat it," and with this parting shot Mr. Gentry brought down the house.

By this time every available standing space was occupied in the commissioners room, the little hall was packed far out to the back, and the crowd overflowed through the doors of the court room and backed its way up the balcony steps.

For the past few months farmers of the Elkin section have been interested in securing a cheese factory in order to afford a better market for their

farm product. Brady Felts of that section appeared to be well informed on that subject and reviewed the prospect. One thing he brought out was that the cheese people will not go into a county where there is no farm agent. These successful business people realize that where there is no farm agent there cannot be the best results from the farms and so they select the counties where there is an agent employed. So with the discharge of a farm agent the Commissioners drove out of the county one of the best industries that could have been brought here for the benefit of the farmers.

Joe Layne, of Rusk, saw a great change among the farmers since the work of the farm agent was put on. There are better homes, better stock and the farmers who use the agent are well pleased with the result.

At this juncture Bob Bunker gained the floor and his voice was pleasing to the politicians who had secretly lead the fight against the farm work. "I have been farming for 50 years, never had a farm agent on my place," said Mr. Bunker, "and never expect to let one come on it. I don't have to have anybody to tell me how to build a chicken coop or how to get a hen to lay an egg. My crib is full of corn, my smoke house full of meat, owe no body a cent, money in the bank, my head is high, my tail is over the dash board—and all without a county agent," and with that he made for the door and left the meeting.

N. J. Martin put up some strong arguments for the work. He had figures on the cost of the work and the results to be obtained from the employment of a farm agent and his argument was unanswerable. "Today there are \$40,000 on our tax books that cannot be collected," he said "and all because of the condition of our farms." And right when we need him most was no time to be stopping the work of the farm agent.

Wesley York was not in agreement with the members of his party in their effort to stop the work among the farmers. He admitted that once when he was on the board he was against the work, but since it had been in force he had seen its value and urged the board to continue the work. "As we pass out another generation must take our place on the farms," he said "and the young people now coming on must be shown a more profitable way of farming if we are to keep them on the farms and through a county agent is the only way this can be done." An audit bills and many other county expenses brings no benefit to the farmers, but the money paid to a farm agent does bring something to the farmer, he told the commissioners.

J. Luther Wood gave the board some light on the way the farmers of the county were using the farm agent. Mr. Wood represents a farm loan bank and his concern has about 600 loans among the farmers of the county. In making out applications for these loans the farm bank asks if there is a farm agent in the county, and then asks if the farmer seeking the loan uses the agent. It is in this way that Mr. Wood has arrived at the great number of farmers who are using the agent.

Many others told of the results they had obtained from little points of instruction on various crops and the farmers were well pleased with the showing they had made before the board. They were also encouraged by the sincere talk that Mr. Lindsey made at the conclusion of the meeting. Mr. Lindsey expressed to the farmers his sincere desire to do all for them that he could; that the board realized that the farmers were the back-bone of the county; should be shown every consideration and that the board would cooperate with them in every way possible.

And then discharged the farm agent on the grounds of economy and lack of funds.

And then paid an auditing bill of \$310.

And then paid another auditing bill of \$200.

And then paid another auditing bill of \$100.

And then spent \$100 for new Yale locks on the court house doors.

Junior Club Meeting

The Junior Woman's club met Thursday January 31 in the Community Building. After the business meeting, which consisted of reports from the various chairmen and the decision to meet the first Tuesday in the month Mrs. Katharine Price gave us a talk on "What the Women are Doing in the Legislature." The women are helping to pass fine laws and need the backing of every woman voter in the state.

Rachel Bray gave a very pretty piano solo. After this plans were discussed for having a benefit party very soon. The club would like to have some new members.

Bridge at Jackson's Ferry Now Assured

Very Little Opposition to Project and State Expected to Let Allocation Stand

Several hundred people attended a hearing before the Virginia State Highway Commission at Wytheville, Va., Tuesday when that body hearing on its recent allocation of funds for the year. There were several counties represented but citizens of Mount Airy were mostly interested in the Jackson Ferry project where the state proposes to build a bridge to take the place of the present ferry.

Representatives were there from Carroll, Patrick and Grayson counties urging the state to let the appropriation stand that has been made to build the bridge. The only protest made was from the county of Wythe and their representatives asked that the funds necessary to build the bridge be used to build the road from Wytheville to Independence and on to Sparta. Mr. R. F. Johnson, president of the Lakes-to-Florida highway association, spoke against the bridge and urged the state to complete the road to Independence and thus connect up the "Lakes-to-Florida Highway." He explained to the commission that this was the Lakes-to-Florida highway and Virginia should do her part and build this missing link. The gathering from Carroll, Grayson and Patrick was fighting for the bridge over New River and Attorney W. D. Tompkins of Hillsville presented to the Highway commission a resolution adopted by the directors of the association in which that body had named the route from Bluefield to Hillsville and down the Fancy Gap as the Lakes-to-Florida highway, and he further pointed out to the commission that this resolution was signed by Mr. Johnson who was present and arguing for another route.

The money has been allocated for the building of the bridge and in view of the small amount of opposition to the project it is expected that the work will go forward according to schedule already made out by the state. The bridge will cost \$147,000.

Many people from North Carolina were present at the hearing those from Mount Airy being S. M. Hale, J. B. Sparger, Rev. J. W. McFall, W. W. Burke, D. A. Roberson, D. E. Nelson, Edw. M. Linville, W. M. Johnson, J. E. Cockerham, W. G. Sydnor and John Banner.

T. M. Brower Rests In Family Plot

Thomas M. Brower one of Mount Airy's oldest citizens passed away about 11 o'clock last Friday night aged 81 years. He had been sick since October with stomach trouble.

In his early manhood Mr. Brower who was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Warren Brower, deceased, was engaged in the cotton mill business at Hamburg and later engaged in farming and resided at Brower's spring. As age advanced he moved to town and was making his home with his niece Mrs. J. C. Hollingsworth at the time of his death.

His only brother John M. Brower died about fifteen years ago. Mrs. John Brower and her children Mesdames J. C. Hollingsworth, George D. Fawcett, and E. S. Cooke, Charles and Clarke Brower, of Texas, and Will Brower, of Chile, are the nearest relatives.

The funeral was conducted from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. J. W. McFall and interment made in the old cemetery in the family plot.

Martin Hospital Notes

Among the newer cases receiving treatment at Martin Memorial hospital are the following: Mrs. E. C. Mauldin, of route 4, treatment and probable operation.

Elbert Johnson, route 3 is in the hospital for treatment.

Hattie Fallin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Fallin, of Rusk, is a pleurisy patient.

Miss Nona Clayton, of Mountain Park is a patient for treatment.

Mrs. V. S. Nunn of Francisco is a patient for medical care.

Haywood Shropshire, son of J. M. Shropshire, of Ararat, is doing nicely. He suffered a fracture of the right leg when struck and run over by his father's car.

Mrs. T. B. Ashby has returned to the hospital for further treatment.

Mrs. Noah Dies at Brim

Mrs. Leah Noah, wife of B. F. Noah died at the home of her son John W. Noah at Brim Wednesday. The funeral was held from Mount Hermon Church Thursday with Rev. C. A. Morrison officiating.

Miss Mary Baine Cooke student at N. C. C. W. Greensboro spent the week end with her mother Mrs. Lacy Cooke.

Judge Grady Views On Punishment

Door of Hope Should Not Be Closed to Youthful Offenders, He Said At Dobson

Judge Henry A. Grady is holding the criminal term of Surry's Superior Court at Dobson this week. Not in years have the courts of the county been attended by as large crowds as have been going this week, regardless of the weather conditions. Not more than one-fourth of the docket will be disposed of in the prediction, so crowded is the court and Clerk F. T. Llewellyn says the grand jury under the foremanship of J. B. Haynes is adding new cases to the docket for trial about as fast as they are being disposed of.

When the court had selected the grand jury and the trial jury Sheriff Smith was ordered to summon an additional lot of men for jury service and during Monday and Tuesday the following were called into service: T. G. Sisle, W. H. Norman, W. W. Hampton, W. B. Marion, C. D. Combs, Geo. Hayes, John Simpson, E. F. McKinney, S. T. Bryant, N. W. White, J. I. Epperson, D. O. Callaway, Moses Hodges and T. D. Hatcher.

His Honor Judge Grady will be remembered as the Judge who, with two pistols on the bench before him at a court in Goldsboro several months ago held off a mob of infuriated citizens during the trial of the Newsome negro for the brutal assault and murder of a little white girl. While he has not referred to that instance yet during the session of the court he finds occasion to relate many interesting events and makes his court one of information and a lesson to the public as well as to the defendants. Judge Grady is firmly sold on the reformatory idea and insists that the state should make more provisions for caring for the youthful offenders that come before the courts.

During this term there have been several boys, 18 and 20 year old youths, before him for thefts, liquor troubles, etc., yet not so serious as to brand them as hardened criminals. During one case the solicitor was making an effort to secure additional evidence against a couple of boys up for larceny, but when the judge saw those boys sitting there at the bar he promptly stated that he wasn't going to send those boys to the roads to be associated with the hardened criminals of the state. There was a chance of them yet becoming useful citizens and to send them to the roads meant closing the door to many of them, he said. Then it was that he halted the proceedings and said something like this:

Said Judge Grady: I had an experience one time with a boy that I always remember and I want to tell the people in this court room about it. I was holding court down the state when a ragged and haggard boy was brought before me for burglary and larceny. He had no lawyer and when I offered to furnish him one he said it didn't make any difference. He said he was guilty of all they charged him with and it didn't make any difference what went with him. The boy had lost all hopes of being anything and I told him he had confessed to enough to send him to prison for 60 years. He had stolen some clothing, said he was down and out and had no money was the reason he did it. I reminded him of the Salvation Army slogan, "A man may be down, but never out."

I didn't want to send the boy to prison and so waited until that afternoon to pass on his case. In the meantime I told the boy I was going to trust him, that he could be free and come back at 2:30 for his sentence. I called him up to me and gave him a five dollar bill and told him to get a hair cut and shave, have his clothes pressed, his shoes shined, get a bath and come back at 2:30. He said he would.

I never expected to see him again, and secretly I hoped he wouldn't come back for I didn't want to send him to prison. The hour of 2:30 came and I didn't see him and I told the bar, well I guess my boy took leg ball and left town. Just then there sprang to his feet a nice young man over in the corner of the court room and with a sharp voice said, No sir, Judge I ain't left. I told you I'd come back and I am here. Well there he was as nice a looking young man as there is in this court room. I called him up to me and said, Well young man you have kept your part of my first contract with you. Now if I make another contract with you will you keep it? He promptly said he would and so I wrote out a suspended sentence for him and had him to sign it in black and white on my bench and let him go. I warned him to keep the faith as he had done that morning with me.

Two years later in a hotel in Fayetteville one night a nice young man came up to me and said he was this same boy. He introduced himself and told me he had

kept his contract with me and had violated none of the laws of the state. Judge, he said, here's the five dollars you loaned me. I am now married, have the finest boy baby you ever saw, am making \$50 a month as a traveling salesman and am the happiest man in North Carolina.

So you can never tell what the future holds in store for some of those boys out there who are up here for larceny, bootlegging and fighting. The state some day will make some provision to train them to do something honorable. That's all Mr. Solicitor, call the next case.

C. F. Wagner and John Burchett, both caught making liquor put up the novel plea that their wives were weakly and needed some real good liquor for their health. And it took a good bit of questioning on the part of the solicitor to bring out just how much liquor it required for their wives and where they bought their stills, etc. Wagner claimed he had ordered his from a small order house and the officers thought it was one of those kind. But Burchett had two home-made ones and got into trouble when he began to dodge around about who helped him make them. In the end Wagner, who did show that he had an invalid wife and six small children, was allowed to pay \$50 fine and the cost, but Burchett proved to be an old time blockader and was given six months on the roads.

Oscar Hawks and Elmer Nichols, two youths, given suspended sentences for theft of a car.

Elijah Cook and Garfield Arrington two youths, who stole their neighbor's chickens to get some spending money paid the cost and were placed on their good behavior.

Elmo Gwyn, colored, of Mount Airy, was sent to prison for two years for an assault on his wife, when he almost killed her with a knife wound on her throat.

Donald Mayer was sent to prison for seven years for breaking into the hardware store of Holcomb & Midkiff. Three others held with him were acquitted by the jury. They were Roscoe Brannock, Ralph Love and Clyde Alderman.

Harrison Jordan paid \$100 fine for violating the liquor laws.

Oscar Southern for forgery, was given a suspended sentence.

Pleas Jenkins and Brady Ladd, charged with larceny of box bushes from F. L. Johnson were given suspended sentences on paying for the damage they had done to the bushes.

Geo. Robertson, of Mount Airy, charged with malicious injury to property had a combination sentence passed upon him. He operates an eating place in this city and competition had become keen between his place and a Greek place close by. He was caught cutting the plate glass to the Greek's place, to which he plead guilty. Previously another glass had broken out of the same place and suspicion also pointed to him as being the cause of it. The court's sentence was this: Pay for both glasses, \$250 fine and cost, and give a bond of \$1,200 not to violate any of the laws of state for five years. Sentence of eight months on the roads to remain suspended.

Miss Marie Wood Bride of Joe Brock

The wedding of Miss Marie Wood and Joseph William Brock was solemnized on Tuesday morning at Grace Moravian Church at 9:00 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. C. D. Couch officiated.

The bride was costumed in a smart spring ensemble of tan imported French tweed with caracal trimming and close fitting baneock hat of two shades, accessories were in harmonizing shades of brown. She carried an arm bouquet of sweetheart roses. She is the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wood of this city and is an alumna of Salem College.

The groom is an alumnus of Georgia Military Academy and Furman University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Brock. Mr. and Mrs. Brock left immediately after the wedding ceremony for Florida where they will spend two weeks, after which they will be at home at 206 South Main Street, Mount Airy, N. C.

More Big Hogs

J. M. Vaughn of Round Park, was in the news office last week and reported killing a big pig which weighed 500 pounds. His neighbor, S. S. Boyles killed one weighing 250 pounds.

Bernard Would Establish County Court At Dobson

Some of His Party Against His Court—Claim Cost County Over \$15,000 Yearly

Surry's representative in the legislature, Dr. H. Bernard, of Pilot Mountain, has swung into action and now has before the legislature a number of local bills affecting Surry County that will be hard fought before they are disposed of. The representative has set out to do away with all the legislative acts that have been enacted during the term of the Democrat officials in the county. And in some of his work he is not exactly in harmony with the leaders in his own party. Especially is this true of his County Court plan. Dr. Bernard wants to do away with the two Recorder's Courts in the county and require all the cases to be tried at Dobson in a County Court with the same jurisdiction as a Superior Court in matters not a felony, and with no right of appeal only on points of law.

This law would put out of office the judge and solicitor of the courts in Mount Airy and Elkin and set up a court at Dobson the judge and solicitor to be named by the County Commissioners and later to be elected by the entire county. This plan is meeting with objection among many people of the two towns for the reason that it would require so many cases to be carried over to Dobson for trial that can now be disposed of in the local courts. And Dr. Bernard's party members who are opposing him on it are afraid of the great dissatisfaction of dragging so many people over to Dobson every first Monday and again some of his party are free to state that it would cost the county not less

than \$15,000 to maintain a county court—and this right here at a time when the County Commissioners are taking the farmers' County Agent away from them, costing only \$1,500, on the grounds of economy.

This bill is now before the committee and comes up for a public hearing next Tuesday when those opposing it will be heard.

Bills doing away with the office of purchasing agent and designating some bank to serve as treasurer for the county are also before the legislature and friends of B. F. Folger, who this bill is intended to displace, are expected to make a fight on it.

Dr. Bernard has signified his intention of taking into his hands the matter of naming the school board for the county. Already his party has certified the names of Vestal Taylor and Dr. Gambell for the board as members of the Republican party, but Dr. Bernard claims that the Democrats have not followed the lawful procedure in certifying the three Democrat members and that the matter is now in his hands. He is talking much of placing on the board some lady from Mount Airy and is open to suggestion as to who the people in this part of the county would desire for the place. He states he is bound by the action of his party as to Mr. Taylor and Dr. Gambell, but is free to name a woman as one of the Democrat members. Among those who have already been suggested for the place are Miss Katherine Price, Mrs. J. L. Wolfe and Mrs. C. C. Oreviling.