

ESTABLISHED IN 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA FEBRUARY 21st, 1929.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

DR. BERNARD'S COUNTY BILLS FAIL TO PASS

Finds Himself Blocked At Every Move Made To Change Present Status

Legislature Can't Be Made to Understand Why Its Necessary to Change Courts and Treasurer.

Local legislation for Surry County introduced in the legislature at Raleigh by Dr. Halman Bernard, Surry's representative, is meeting with rough sailing and to this date none of his measures have been approved by his fellow members of the house. In the first fight over Surry legislation wherein he endeavored to act up his favorite county court the doctor-legislator tasted of sweet victory when the committee gave him a favorable report. But since then he has drunk from the bitter cup of defeat on numerous occasions and the fight between him and the opposition is being waged with party lines tightly drawn.

Dr. Bernard happened to get elected on the Republican ticket and stands pledged to undo everything that John Folger, Surry's former legislator, had done while at Raleigh two years ago. In carrying out this pledge he has met with stiff opposition to some of his bills in his own party and the successful argument that his measures were for political purposes and not for the good of the county has brought about his defeat at every turn since his first little taste of victory.

When Republicans and Democrats, alike, fighting side by side, put the rollers under his court bill it brought out all the fighting blood that coursed through the doctor's veins and from now until the members adjourn the contest will be waged with no quarter. Failing to oust Judge Llewellyn and Judge Hendren by the establishment of his county court, the doctor came back with a measure to have the Recorder of Mount Airy's court elected by the voters. But this measure failed to gain the approval of his associate members and the committee voted unfavorable on it by 11 to 1.

Then the fight shifted to the ousting of B. F. Folger, as county treasurer and purchasing agent. Here again the committee failed to sustain the doctor and it was carried to the floor of the house on a minority report. When the time came to vote in the house things didn't look too good for the doctor's bill and he stalled off the impending defeat by getting permission to have it sent back to the same committee for another hearing, which will come up next week.

The fight before the committee on the treasurer and purchasing agent was attended by a large number of people from this county and many voluntarily gave evidence for both sides. The doctor's friends claimed a large number of Democrats wanted the office abolished but they had to admit under close questioning by some of the committee that Mr. Folger had saved the county several thousand dollars in checking up the past two treasurers of the county. This shortage of the last two Republican keepers of the public funds furnished an embarrassing subject for the supporters of Dr. Bernard's bill in the cross-examination. With one Republican treasurer short over \$30,000 and another following in his footsteps from the same political party with a shortage of over \$10,000 and no charge of shortage in the office of Mr. Folger, present keeper of the county funds, it was satisfactory to the committee hearing the case to let Mr. Folger remain the custodian of the county's funds. And so the fight goes on.

Senator R. T. Joyce is taking no part in the political contests that are raging around the head of the Surry representative. In fact he has not given any consideration to the political significance to any of the measures, but has considered them from the light of what was best for the people of the county. In the fight over the county court, while taking no active part in it, he expressed himself as of the opinion that it would not be practical to drag all the cases and witnesses to Dobson for the trial of cases now being disposed of in Mount Airy.

The time for the consideration of local legislation is fast drawing to a close and with the end of next week the legislature will ring down the curtain on all local measures and devote its time to the consideration of the major bills of state-wide importance.

Land Sale Postponed

Owing to the snow that visited this section Wednesday night the land sale of building lots in North Mount Airy and the auction of the Granite City Orchard lots had been postponed. This sale was under the direction of The Land Co. A new date for the sale will be announced in these columns later.

High School is "plenty hot" when he sings "Ducky Stevedore" in the K. of P. minstrel Tuesday night.

Cooking School to Continue Next Week

Classes in Foods and Nutrition At Community Building—Demonstrator Will Visit Schools.

So great has been the interest in the cooking school conducted this week in the Community Building by Miss Sue Ramsey Johnston under the auspices of the Mount Airy Woman's Club that the school will be continued all next week.

Miss Johnston will visit the schools both Friday and Monday mornings and on Friday, March 1 a demonstration will be given in table service in the home of Mrs. J. Bruce Yokley in the evening and no afternoon class will be held on account of the regular meeting of the Mount Airy Woman's Club at 3 p. m.

Course tickets for the week will be sold at \$2.50 and individual lessons will cost 25c each. The classes are open to the public.

The schedule follows for the remainder of the school:

Mornings—9:30: Lecture discussion, from 1 hr. to 1 1/2 hrs. Afternoon, 2 to 4 o'clock.

Friday morning—no class—Miss Johnston will visit schools as "Sunshine Sue" for health talks.

Friday afternoon—Tough meats, meat substitutes, one-dish meals.

Monday A. M.—Schools.

Monday P. M.—Demonstration—Pastry, Its Party and Everyday Uses.

Tuesday A. M.—Lecture, discussion—Diet in disease, (auto intoxication, constipation, acidosis, high blood pressure, anemia).

Tuesday P. M.—Demonstration—Cakes and cake icings—a child's birthday cake.

Wednesday A. M.—Lecture-discussion—Foods for children.

Wednesday P. M.—Demonstration—Sandwiches for all occasions.

Thursday A. M.—Lecture-discussion. Foods for children.

Thursday P. M.—Demonstration—The Rose Luncheon.

Friday A. M.—Demonstration—Twenty-minute meals.

Friday night—Demonstration—Table Service—at Mrs. Bruce Yokley's home.

Jesse Simmons sings "Asleep in the Deep" in the minstrel "and how."

Greever Utt steps on it when he sings "When Sweet Susie Goes Steppin' By" in "Minstrel Flashes of 1929."

FARM AGENT WHITE MAY BECOME WHITE ELEPHANT For POLITICIANS

Talk of Damage Suit Against County Officials—Still on Job Despite Jolting He Received From County Commissioners

The turn the contest over the county agent's office has taken is interesting, to say the least. The board of county commissioners dismissed Mr. H. E. White on the first Monday in this month, and it now appears that Mr. White is continuing on the job, for his regular letters are appearing weekly in the press of the county as they have in months past. Friends of Mr. White have tried to effect a compromise by which he would continue on the job until the first of April and then quit without any contest.

Since the appropriation was cut off by the commissioners the first of the month Mr. White has taken the matter up with Federal authorities with whom he holds a written contract for the year expiring the first of the coming July. Mr. Millsaps, of Statesville, who has charge of this work in this district, advises that Mr. White look for work elsewhere, for it is not his purpose to force the services of any agent on a county. He recognizes fully that for the agent to be able to serve a people to the best advantage there must be harmony.

But there is that contract that Mr. White holds which is in black and white for the year ending July 1st. His position is that this county is a party to that contract in that it levied a tax with which to pay the salary of the agent for the full year. He began the year with the full understanding that he was to be on the job until next July. He has had lawyers to advise him, he says, that he can collect by law for the amount of time he was hired by the Federal government.

Then there is talk about a suit for damages against the county for charges have been made freely against Mr. White. It has been used against him that he has misled the people in the poultry business, causing many to

Do Our Schools Really Educate?

Some one has said that an education is a course of training which prepares one for living completely. That would seem to mean that an education should fit one for filling that particular niche in the general scheme of things for which one is most naturally adapted. Then doesn't it naturally follow that the first step in the process should be to find out what kind of tastes and inclinations a pupil has before beginning the process of education? This certainly ought to be the case in high school education. It is at this stage that the pupil begins to assert his individuality, and to realize that he has tastes and inclinations. It is here too that school authorities have their greatest trouble with pupils becoming discouraged and quitting the schools and entering vocations for which they are unprepared and often unadapted. They didn't find out what they wanted in the schools and therefore they tried to get along without the training they might have had, with failure in life as the almost certain result. By failure in life we mean not failure to make a living, but failure to reach that place in life for which one is naturally fitted as a result of which one's work becomes a drudgery instead of a pleasure.

By examining the courses offered by our small high schools we will have to conclude that they are giving their attention mainly to those boys and girls who are inclined toward the professions and those vocations based mainly on academic training with the result that the youngster who is mechanically inclined or desires a business education; must either go elsewhere or try to fit into a niche for which he was not created or forsooth quit and go to work. The reason for this is obvious. It is not that the high school could not help this type of student but that because of its smallness, is unable to do both and feeling that the academic pupils have the first claim gives its entire attention to them. Now how can this glaring defect in our educational system be remedied? We answer: "By securing larger high

school units." This can be accomplished just as we have secured larger elementary units; by consolidation. There are now 230 high school pupils enrolled in the three rural high schools of Mount Airy Township. This gives an average of 75 per school. The law will allow only three teachers for this size school. The recitation periods must be at least 45 minutes long and there are English, history, mathematics, science and a foreign language which must be offered. These subjects take all the time of the three teachers and there is no time left for vocational subjects. Now if these pupils were consolidated with Mount Airy High school there would be between six and seven hundred pupils in one unit. The law would then allow eighteen teachers. There could then be added to the courses such subjects as home economics, agriculture, manual training, mechanics, stenography, typewriting, bookkeeping, office practice, etc.

The next question which naturally arises is: Can Mount Airy Township support such a school. The valuation of taxable property in the township is \$11,975,301.60. There are 101 white teachers and 12 colored teachers. The total cost at present per month is \$11,178.49. It is readily seen that a tax of 30c would more than pay the teachers for 3 months. That would give all the children of Mount Airy Township a nine months school term. A few cents extra might have to be levied to take care of transportation and other incidental expenses. When we consider the above figures the question becomes: not can we afford it? but are we not criminally negligent when we allow a large per cent of our youth, for lack of proper opportunity, to drift into channels where they either eke out a miserable time-serving existence or drift into crime and become a dead weight upon our social fabric? Let every citizen of Mount Airy Township think these things over and talk to your officials about them. May be you will have a chance to help bring about a better order of things.

Will Address High School Pupils

W. E. Woodruff will speak to the pupils of the High school at their regular chapel exercises Friday, Feb. 21 at 11.15 a. m. Mr. Woodruff will speak along nature lines stressing the importance of planting and caring for trees.

This address is sponsored by the Garden Club of the Mount Airy Woman's Club and at this time Mrs. Frank Sparger, president of the Parent-Teacher association will present the prize of \$5 in gold which was offered to the pupil writing the best essay on "How to Make Mount Airy More Attractive." This prize was awarded by the Garden Club.

Local Ball Team Books Schedule

High School Boys Have Strong Line Up For Season.

Coach Underwood of the local High School this week announced a partial schedule of the games that will be played by the High School during the coming weeks, beginning Easter Monday the boys will play Greensboro here. Other dates released are:

April 3—Boonville here.

April 5—Lexington here.

April 6—At Winston-Salem.

April 9—At Booneville.

April 12—High Point here.

April 16—At Lexington.

April 20—Winston-Salem here.

April 24—At Greensboro.

This is one of the best schedules ever signed up by the local boys, as it includes the strongest High school teams in this section of the State. Other dates will be announced later.

The play given under the auspices of the North Main and Rockford street schools Monday evening at the Grand theatre was a splendid success financially and many complimentary remarks have been heard regarding the acting.

Bootleggers Steal The Judge's Car

After Driving It 1,400 Miles Officers Capture It in Raleigh.

While attending the sessions of the legislature at Raleigh last week Judge H. H. Llewellyn had his new Buick coupe stolen. He drove up to the hotel about five o'clock in the afternoon and left it while he went into the lobby to look for some friend. Not expecting to be away from his car but a minute or so he never bothered to lock it, but when he returned to it in less than five minutes it was gone. It was evident on the face that whoever stole it was waiting for the opportunity and was off with the car the moment Judge Llewellyn entered the hotel.

By a strange coincidence the car was recovered this week, after being in possession of the thieves for a week. The speedometer showed they had driven it 1400 miles while it was stolen, and one fender bruised up was the only damage that was noticeable. The officers of the county captured the car from a bunch of bootleggers, it containing several gallons of liquor at the time. There was no suspicion that it was a stolen car, but later investigation by the officers in their effort to obtain the identity of the bootleggers revealed that the car had been stolen from Judge Llewellyn. The thieves made their escape from the officers when they were stopped for the search of the car.

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FIRES HERE SHOW NEED FOR GOOD FIRE COMPANY

Local Volunteers Do Splendid Work But Need More Funds and Equipment

One of the astonishing things about this country is the amount of property that is annually destroyed by fire. In past years our people seem to have paid but little attention to building with any idea of destruction by fire. Even now with state laws against many of the customs of builders in the past, many go right on in the old way of erecting what is called a fire trap.

For many years this town has been unusually fortunate in escaping any great destruction by fire. But the past few months has been a new experience to us and is calling for careful thought on the part of many citizens. As one local wit expressed it, "If we keep on in this way we will soon plant the old town in potatoes."

It may be well that the public mind be made aware of conditions that are here. It is not every one who knows the importance of a fire wall. Many may not know what a fire wall is. A fire wall, if we know the meaning, is a wall of sufficient thickness and material to withstand an ordinary fire. If a fire breaks out in a building that has for its sides a heavy brick wall, it is usually possible to confine the fire to that one building. But if the building is separated from another building by a wooden partition or by a wall with openings in it for doors or windows, then the flames and heat can easily spread to the adjoining building. Firemen tell us that in each of the big fires that we have had in recent times the fire was in buildings where there was no regard to fire walls. It would have been a matter of impossibility to have confined the fire to any one room. In each case the fire was kept from passing over a fire wall.

The recent fire that did so much damage to A. G. Bowman and Wagner's has many points that are worth considering. When the fire was reported the flames were leaping out of the rear windows. The firemen were told that the fire was at the rear of Nelson's Hardware store or in that section. The fire truck that responded first naturally went to Nelson's store and at once saw that back on Main street was the right place for the truck. That consumed a short space of time to get to the right position. Once the truck was at the nearest hydrant and connected up, the firemen ran up the steps to the nearest approach to the fire and found the doors to the cross partition locked. That made it necessary to go back to the truck and get the tools for forcing the doors. By the time that was accomplished the smoke was so dense that it was humanly impossible for a man to live in the building or near the fire. In the meantime, the second truck took up a location so that it could throw water into the rear of the building. To stand off and look on one not knowing might conclude that the firemen were doing poor work fighting the fire, but if one is willing to be fair he must remember that one breath of that dense smoke, saturated with burning paint and oil, would render a man unconscious. Firemen simply had to avoid the smoke where it was dense. Thus the fire had to be fought as it were from long-tow. Until the fire had burned through the roof and through the ceiling in the upper rooms, it was impossible to get the water to the fire. When it had burned through the ceiling it was but a few minutes until the firemen had it under complete control.

Every man of us has a way of forming his own opinion, and in case of a fire we all get ideas of how it should be done and when and where the firemen failed to do their duty. In the case of the fire last week it may be interesting to say that the insurance adjusters give it as their opinion that our firemen did a fine piece of work when they saved the lower floors of the doomed buildings. They say that it is almost an impossibility to save the roof of a building once the fire is in it.

There are some things that are humanly impossible. A man simply cannot live in a dense smoke. He cannot live where the heat will burn him. In many fires the fire is in the roof of the building and if a man could go up in the roof and get at a point from which he could throw water on the fire, he could at once make an end of the job. But he could not live in the smoke that is always present where a fire is burning in the roof of a building. It is for this reason that a fire in almost every case, destroys the roof once it gets started at that part of the house.

In the case of the latest big fire there was no fire wall between Bowman and Wagner's store. A wooden partition was the only separation between the two upper stories. The fire started in the paint room over the Wagner store and if there had been a fire wall Bowman's store would not have suffered more than that of the Granite Mercantile Co.

In all the recent construction of buildings here they tell us that the regard has been paid to the erection of

fire walls, and naturally the danger in future fires will be less. When the big fire wiped out the Goldsmith high those who looked on were confident that Jackson's Department store was reasonably safe, for they knew that a fire wall was on the north side of the Jackson building.

It is all right to criticize. Many times it helps to criticize, but one wants to be reasonable in his criticism. It may be news to many that our local fire company has as fine a record as fire fighters as any volunteer company in the state. They have shown their ability on many an occasion to do a fine work in fighting fires.

Those who stood off and looked on last week while the flames leaped above the apparently doomed stores, were not aware of the fact that many men were playing a part in fighting that fire that would entitle them to rank in the list of heroes. They went into the smoke and out on the red-hot roof and cut holes in it and crossed over to the other side of the doomed building without the least regard to danger. They played parts there that would be hair-raising if enacted on the stage in the movies exactly as they were performed by our citizens that cold winter night.

Let us be fair about it. Have you heard a word of commendation about the men who held the nozzle by the hour, wet to the skin with the thermometer down to freezing? Did you hear a cheer from the watching throng when men went up on the ladders in the smoke and water and opened the windows and made it possible to get water on the flames? You did not.

When this town gets wealthy enough to be able to support a paid fire company it will be able to get a better service than it now gets and that is not any reflection on the present company. No man can work at his calling all day and then do his best work fighting a fire in his tired physical condition.

This local fire company has long needed a half-dozen masks that protect from smoke and heat, but the economy of our city administration has prevented it. They need more ladders and more water hose. Now that we are aware of the fact that bad fires can come here, just as they come to other cities, our governing board may give our fire fighters the equipment they really need.

Money & Wray Barber Shop In New Quarters

For the past month the barber business of Money & Wray has been suspended on account of their burn out in the Goldsmith fire. They have secured the Barnard store room next to the telegraph office and will be open for business Saturday morning. Workmen have been busy this week remodeling the room, putting in new equipment and making their new shop one of the most up-to-date in the state. It will have seven chairs, two shower baths and other conveniences.

Prof. Greaves-Walker Will Address Woman's Club

Prof. Greaves-Walker, head of the Department of Ceramics at State College, Raleigh, will address the Woman's Club of Mount Airy at their regular meeting for March to be held Friday, March 1, at 3 p. m. in the Community Building. Prof. Greaves-Walker will bring with him a display of pottery with which he will illustrate his lecture. This promises to be one of the most interesting meetings of this year for the club and a large attendance is expected.

Rat Campaign Will Begin Next Monday

Next week the campaign against rats gets under way in this city, the extermination of the rodents being under the auspices of the civic department of the Woman's Club. Already much interest is being manifested in the effort to rid the city and surrounding country of the destructive rat, and the city administration is cooperating in the work by urging a clean-up of the premises of the city.

M. J. Brown, an expert exterminator of Ohio, will be in charge of the field work which starts Monday and plans are now going forward for the distribution of a large lot of poison. This preparation is now on sale in the store room next to P. M. Moore grocery store, where Mrs. I. W. Barber will have charge of the sale.

That male quartette is the best used in harmony in the K. of P. Minstrel next Tuesday night.