

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

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COUNTY SCHOOL NEWS

Influenza Has Little Effect on the Rural Schools—Tests Being Conducted—Other News.

The rural schools are being little effected by the epidemic of influenza, there being less than a half dozen schools not in operation on account of the disease. The schools were all stopped during October, a few until the middle of November. In only two instances has it been necessary to suspend school work after having resumed it. Very rigid regulations are being enforced, and every precaution is being taken among the rural schools to keep down an epidemic.

The attendance in most of the schools is exceptionally good, considering the various handicaps. The State high schools at Nebo and Glenwood have had unprecedented attendance so far and an additional teacher will be added at Glenwood immediately after the holidays to aid in taking care of the increased interest of the new high school at that place.

The County Board of Education at its January meeting will offer for sale bonds on the high school districts of Nebo and Glenwood. The bonds were voted last spring but owing to the unsatisfactory bids that have been offered for these bonds, no sale has been made. The board hopes to effect a sale soon that the construction of the new building may be started at once. The new buildings are badly needed and efforts will be made to have them in readiness for the fall opening next year.

The annual apportionment of county funds will be made on the first Monday in January. The County Board of Education having adopted a policy of rigid economy will be able to make the largest apportionment to the various districts in the history of the county. Last year the board very materially increased the apportionments, but the amounts will be still further raised this year. This is absolutely necessary in order to pay the increased salaries of teachers and to meet the prevailing high prices of building material and school furnishings.

By reason of increased salaries very few teachers have gone from McDowell to other counties. A small number have accepted government work, making it necessary to secure a few teachers from other sections. McDowell will be fortunate in having every school taught this year. One of the largest counties reported recently that probably forty of its one-teacher schools would remain untaught owing to the shortage of teachers. Supt. N. F. Steppe is conducting a series of examinations in the schools to determine the proficiency of the students. The results of these tests will probably be announced as soon as the work has been completed.

Letters were sent out from the superintendent's office last week to teachers instructing them to render every possible assistance in the Red Cross drive going on this week. The majority of the teachers take much interest in the work of the Red Cross and it is expected that they will be able to render very effective aid in the campaign for members.



May the Christmas season bring joys of Peace to You; and in the coming year may there be no Embargo on your happiness; may your opportunities not be Entrenched; may the Battles of the past be forgotten, and the Bugle call lead you on to loved ones who love you, and watch over you.

Nebo High School Items.

The Bonerian Literary Society gave a sacred entertainment at the auditorium Sunday night. The program included the reading of the "Other Wise Man," illustrated with tableaux representing different scenes in the journey of the "Other Wise Man." The costuming was entirely oriental. The scenes representing Joseph and Mary with the child Jesus, the heralding of the Angels, and the Roman Soldiers were especially impressive. At the close of the program Miss Padgett, who is in charge of the Red Cross drive, presented the cause and secured thirty-one members.

Miss Richardson is in charge of Miss Stacy's room for a few days.

School closes Friday for the holidays and will re-open Monday, Dec. 30. The mid-term tests will be given in February. New classes will be started in Physical Geography, Physics, Algebra, and one in the Reading Circle work for those who intend to teach next year. Some practice teaching will be given in this class. The seventh and eighth grades are delighted with the prospect of a test Wednesday to be sent out by Supt. Steppe.

Ralph Drake left Sunday for Hendersonville to spend the holidays.

The churches at Nebo now have preaching every Sunday.

How about a subscription to The Progress as a Christmas present for your friend? Nothing would be of more genuine pleasure than the home paper.

Demobilization Gains Momentum.

Demobilization of the military forces at home is gaining in momentum, General March states, with approximately half of the 1,700,000 men in the home camps on November 11 specifically designated for early discharge.

Reports to the war department, Gen. March said, indicate a rate of discharge of about 15,000 men a day which will be doubled when demobilization is in full progress. The list of designated troops as given out by the chief of staff shows that of the combat divisions, which are to be demobilized last, 15,000 men already have been selected for early discharge.

In addition to the figures for the troops at home, General March said that 5,653 officers and 135,262 men of the expeditionary forces up to December 12, had been designated for return, and of these 1,373 officers and 30,750 men already have sailed for home.

While not all counties have reported, the subscriptions to the United War Work fund in this State total \$1,422,485, about 60 per cent oversubscription.

Dr. Alexander Re-elected.

Dr. H. Q. Alexander, of Mecklenburg county, was re-elected president of the North Carolina Farmers' union over Ray King, of Nash county, by a vote of 64 to 30, at the annual convention of the union at Wilson Wednesday night.

Dr. J. M. Tempieton, of Wake county, was re-elected vice president of the union, as was E. C. Faries, as secretary treasurer.

The executive committee for 1919 will be comprised of W. B. Gibson of Statesville, re-elected; Ray King, of Nash; C. L. Cherry, of Edgecombe county; R. C. Maxwell, of Gibson, and Orlin Cruse, of Rowan county, all new men. W. R. Dixon, of Wilson county, was elected State organizer to succeed J. Z. Green, who resigned from the place several months ago.

The reports of President Alexander and Secretary Faries showed a total of 17,000 members in the State, an increase in membership over last year. There is approximately \$14,000 in the treasury at present.

Mrs. W. O. Ledbatter is recovering from an attack of influenza.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Judge Henry W. Whedbee of the fifth Superior court district, has resigned and will return to the practice of law at his home at Greenville.

Mr. Cameron Morrison of Charlotte has formally announced that he will be a candidate in the next Democratic primary to succeed Governor Bickett.

Of 2,238 illicit distilleries seized in the Southeastern States one-third were found in North Carolina, according to the annual report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The proposed memorial building to be erected in Raleigh in honor of North Carolina soldiers who died in the Great War was endorsed by the State Council of Defense in session at Raleigh last week.

Company I, 321st infantry, 81st division, captured a big German field gun the night before the armistice was signed. Many of the members of the company are Buncombe county men and Asheville is now asking the government for that German gun as an ornament for Pack Square.

Filling the vacancy created by the resignation of W. H. Woolard, John G. Nichols, just mustered out of the Aviation Service, has been appointed Assistant State Bank Examiner, a position which he held before joining the colors last May. Mr. Woolard goes with the Pamlico Chemical Company, at Washington, a branch of the F. S. Reyster Company.

Pension Money Here for Old Soldiers and Widows.

Seventy-two veterans of the Southern army during the war between the states, who are now residents of McDowell county, and fifty-three widows of veterans will receive a total of \$5,675 00 as pensions from the state of North Carolina, vouchers arriving late Saturday afternoon at the office of W. H. Hawkins, Clerk of Superior Court. This pension money, which comes as a big Christmas gift to those who receive it, is now ready for distribution at Mr. Hawkins' office.

There is one veteran in the first-class who receives \$75; two in the third class who draw \$55 each; sixty-nine in the fourth class who draw \$45 each; and fifty-three widows who are also in the fourth class and draw \$45 each.

Short-Weight Butter.

To the Editor MARION PROGRESS:

It has been called to my attention that some persons are selling short-weight butter. Special Rule No. 5, promulgated months ago by the United States Food Administration, makes it unlawful for any person to manufacture and sell prints of butter weighing less than one pound. Butter weighing from twelve to thirteen ounces has been on the market for sometime, and each time the Food Laws have been violated. So, it will be well for persons who have butter to sell to see to it that it weighs sixteen ounces hereafter.

J. L. C. BIRD, Inspector.