

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## ROAD LAW FOR M'DOWELL

Synopsis of Law Providing for Construction of Highways Through the Various Townships.

Provision is made by the county road law, enacted by the Legislature just adjourned, for the construction and maintenance of main highways through the several townships in the county to the county seat, or to connect with a highway leading to the county seat, at the expense of the entire county, so that taxes collected from the railroads and all other corporations and property can be used throughout the county on the main highways.

A road commission for the county is provided for in the act, with H. F. Little, W. P. Artz and R. P. Morris members, and they met and organized on Monday the 17th, by electing H. F. Little chairman and R. P. Morris secretary and employing W. T. Morgan attorney.

The township road commissioners and the general road law for the various townships remains unchanged, except that when highways are constructed by the county road commission they shall be maintained by it, that is by taxation, and the "free labor" will be released from such road when taken over as a highway, and apportioned by the township road commissioners upon the other roads in the township.

The highways are required to be constructed to specifications and to be maintained at all times according to such specifications, and are to be let out to the lowest bidder in certain sections and for certain periods of time, and the bidder who is awarded the contract is required to give bond for the maintenance of the road (except bridges) to such specifications, and where satisfactory bids are not to be had for the maintenance of the highway the commission is authorized to adopt such other means as it may deem best for the upkeep of the highway.

And in order to place each township upon as nearly an equal footing as possible, the townships which have not heretofore issued bonds for road purposes are authorized to issue road bonds in a sum, based upon the valuation of property for taxes, equal to the average amount, as per tax valuations, for which the other townships which have heretofore issued road bonds, provision being made for the expenditure of all funds derived from the sale of such bonds in the township which issues them. By this arrangement each \$100 valuation of property for taxes in each township throughout the county would bear the same average amount of taxes, and the main highways throughout the county will be built and maintained by the same amount of taxes on each \$100 valuation of property throughout the entire county, whereas, heretofore the weaker townships, financially, and especially the ones having no railroad, nor other large corporation property in them, were left without any available means of building good roads, or of getting the "square deal" which this act provided for for every township in the county alike.

The highway commission is given power to fill all vacancies occurring upon the commission, with the provision made that the person appointed by them shall be of the same politics of the member whose vacancy is to be filled.

At each general election in the county one member of the commission is to be elected by the voters of the county.

The highway commission is authorized to co-operate with State and National agencies in road work in order to get all possible assistance from the Federal government and the State, and from these sources the prospect is that large sums of money can be had in the future by the county's co-operating with its one-fourth of cost, the government and the state paying the other three-fourths upon such highways as they undertake. Without a county road law and a county system for the building and maintaining of highways this aid could not be had, as under the township unit system alone some townships would help while others could not.

## Crop Statistics to Be Collected.

If the plans which at present are being worked out by the agricultural extension service are successful some very definite information in regard to North Carolina crop acreages will be secured at tax-listing time this year.

It has been felt for a number of years that the State was not securing enough definite, basic information about its crop acreages. An attempt was made last year to secure this information and many counties voluntarily instructed their tax-listers to obtain definite crop information from each farmer as he turned in his taxes. The results of this were successful, to some extent, but it is desired this year to make the information more complete.

The extension service is now having a supply of blanks printed for the purpose of collecting this data, and it will attempt to have the commissioners of each county take up the matter, paying the tax-listers for their extra labor.

The reasons assigned for securing this information is that this data will help to stabilize agricultural affairs, and will put the farmers of the State in a position to know just how many acres are devoted to different crops. With these accurate crop conditions it can be foreseen just about what the production will be, and, as the government collects other needed information through its field agents this, when applied to the acreage information collected, will give complete data for any county. It will also encourage farm records to be kept.

Mr. Frank Parker, field agent of the bureau of crop estimates, is aiding the extension service in this work, and will have charge of tabulating the information when it is received, later in the year.

Director Kilgore has sent a letter to all county commissioners urging their active co-operation in the matter.

Colorado Republicans have organized the Leonard Wood Republican club of Colorado, the object being to promote the candidacy of Wood for the Presidency.

## NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Brief Mention of Some of the Happenings in McDowell County—Items About Home People.

### WOODLAWN

Woodlawn, March 17.—M. L. Good killed a four hundred pound hog last week.

The sudden death of Mrs. Charlie Hollifield of Armstrong was a shock to the neighborhood. She had entirely recovered from an attack of influenza and was up doing her housework when she fell dead as she tossed out a pan of water. She leaves three small children and a husband.

It is with much regret we chronicle the death of Mrs. Bagio Caruso. She was the daughter of J. D. Leakey, a well known citizen of this community. Her husband came here as a stranger among us but has many friends. Five small children survive.

Willie Greenlee, formerly of Woodlawn, but now of Studley, Va., is here on a visit to friends and relatives.

A small party of friends from Woodlawn spent a few hours very pleasantly Thursday afternoon with Mr. Charlie McCall and sister. The weather was spring-like enough to play croquet.

Vindsey Gouge and family have returned from Mitchell county after spending a few days with the former's mother, who has been seriously ill with influenza.

### GREENLEE

Greenlee, Mar. 17.—Farmers are preparing to plant a big corn crop.

R. H. McCall is on the sick list.

W. I. Crisp made a business trip to Asheville last Monday.

Miss Grace Erwin and sister spent Saturday and Sunday with their grandfather, Mr. Pendergrass.

R. W. Tate made a business trip to Marion last Saturday.

I. G. McCall spent the week-end in Marion.

Mrs. A. B. Wright and two little sons left Monday for their home in Macon county.

Miss Annie Wells visited her little brother at the hospital in Marion during the week.

Master Glen and Herman Snipes spent Saturday and Sunday with relatives at Stroudtown.

Miss Pearl Snipes spent Saturday and Sunday with friends at Harmony Grove.

Charles Marsh spent last Saturday in Marion on business.

### STROUDTOWN

Stroudtown, March 17.—Judging by the busy farmers of this section spring is surely coming.

The school here is still improving since the "flu" epidemic has subsided. The enrollment is now fifty.

Earl Poteet has recently accepted a position with the Southern Power Company at Bridgewater.

Miss Maggie Byrd spent the week-end with relatives at Marion.

Mr. and Mrs. Lisenbee spent a part of last week in Spartanburg.

Mrs. Millard Horton is still on the sick list. Her many friends wish for her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. J. W. Hensley and daughter, Kathryn, were visitors at Stroudtown last Friday.

Grover Green has just opened a new dry goods store in this "city" which will be a great convenience to the people of this vicinity.

Miss Ethel Wilson spent the week-end with home folks at Ashford.

J. G. Pyatt of Dysartville made a trip to Stroudtown last Saturday.

There will be a box supper at Stroudtown school house Saturday night, March 22nd. Everybody is invited to attend.

Damage resulting from a fire in Atlanta, Ga., Sunday night, which destroyed the Southern railway freight transfer at Inman yards, is estimated at \$1,000,000. About 80 carloads of foodstuffs and other freight was destroyed.

Services at St. John's next Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

## Teachers Take Much Interest in Reading Circle—Other News.

The teachers of the county are taking great interest in the Reading Circle work. There are four groups—Marion, Old Fort, Nebo and Glenwood. The Marion group met here last Saturday, discussing Arithmetic in the Elementary and Grammar grades. The meeting was a very enthusiastic and interesting one. The attendance was good, notwithstanding the inclement weather.

The schools are beginning to close. The Ashford school being among the first to finish the year's work, held its closing exercises last week. The school had a very successful year with Miss Belle Ledbetter as principal and Miss Nelle Gibbs as assistant.

The teachers have had a very busy year. They have responded to all calls connected with war work. With their assistance and through their influence in the various districts the numerous calls have been made more successful than had they not been alert to the needs of the times. For the past few days they have been engaged in aiding to raise the county's quota of the Armenian-Syrian relief fund. Surprising sums have been raised at a number of schools.

With the additional two months provided by the State and county by reason of the six-months law the special tax districts will have very satisfactory terms after this year. Quite a number will have a term of eight months and some will probably be able to run nine months.

By reason of the increased salaries and lengthened terms for next year it is expected that the school of the county will be about doubled.

## Armenian Relief Drive Extended.

The Armenian-Syrian Relief drive scheduled to end March 8th has been extended until April 1st. This comes about from the fact that North Carolina, on the closing date, had raised only about one-half of her quota. This is one of the most worthy causes for which a call has been made connected with the war. These Armenians are among the oldest Christians in the world, and have suffered untold persecution at the hands of the bloody Turks. These are calling for aid.

McDowell county's quota was \$1400, only half of which has been raised. County Chairman W. L. Hutchins is very much concerned about this matter. He wishes to urge upon the people of the county the great importance of raising our allotment. In a few instances the public schools have taken the matter in hand in certain communities and have turned in a neat sum. If the county is to be put over the top it will be necessary for every agency interested in work of this kind to get behind the move and put it over without delay.

It has been announced that plans have been made for the erection of an administration building at Yancey Collegiate institute at Burnsville. The institute has recently suffered several costly fires and after an investigation a Morganton boy who was a student there, was arrested. He admitted that he had fired the building, because he was mad at a member of the faculty.

## PROPERTY REVALUATION

Chairman Lee Issues Appeal to Taxpayers—Want Good Business Men for County Assessors.

Calling upon the people of the State to assist the Commission in the selection of a splendid business man in each county as County Tax Assessor, the State Tax Commission is losing no time in getting behind the new piece of legislation for revaluation of all property in North Carolina at its actual worth. Chairman W. T. Lee has issued an appeal to the taxpayers of the State, outlining the general principles of the law and assuring the taxpayers that the new system will not mean a greatly increased tax.

### CHIEFMAN LEE'S APPEAL.

The statement follows:

"The General Assembly, just adjourned, has imposed a responsibility upon the Corporation Commission as a State Tax Commission which it feels unable to properly meet without the support of the taxpayers of the State. As chairman of the commission, I desire to take the people into the confidence of the commission and acquaint them with the purpose of the General Assembly and request of them their full co-operation in aiding us in the proper discharge of our duties.

"For many years it has been the law that every person's property should be assessed for taxation at its full value in money. Notwithstanding this law, nearly everybody in the State has escaped a full valuation of his property for taxes. The General Assembly, just adjourned, has said by passing the Revaluation Act, that an end must be made of this condition and that hereafter property must be valued for taxes at its true value. It places the responsibility upon our commission to see that this is done and it must and shall be done. It is the purpose of the General Assembly upon a proper valuation being made, to lower the tax rate, and it will meet after the property has been assessed, for that purpose, so that the burden upon the taxpayers will not necessarily be increased. This is assured to us as a commission and we in turn desire to assure the taxpayers of the State that a full valuation of their property will not mean greatly increased amount of taxes. This act under which this assessment is made provides that the State, no county or municipality shall collect in excess of ten per cent more taxes after this revaluation is made than is being collected in 1919 under the present valuation.

"I call upon the people of the State to assist the commission in the selection of a splendid business man in each county as county tax assessor. He should be a man of fine judgment, good business ability, having a good knowledge of values both in town and country, and one in whom the public has confidence as to his honesty and integrity. It is not a political office but one of strictly business and we trust our political friends will understand this and only suggest the most competent men. After the County Supervisor is selected by us, we trust every taxpayer in each and every county of the State will fully co-operate with him to the end that he will be able to assess each person's property at its true value in money."