

PUBLIC LEDGER

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY — TOWN AND COUNTY OFFER BRILLIANT OPPORTUNITIES — ALL HOME PRINT

VOLUME XXXI

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 1917

NUMBER 66

THE SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY

JUDGE CONNOR'S DECISION COMPLICATES MATTERS.

"The Appropriation to the Tomato Club and the High Schools Should Not Be Allowed," Says the Learned Judge—Case Goes to the Supreme Court.

(PROF. WEBB'S CARD.)

I wish to make a statement to the public about the recent disagreement between the County Board of Education and the County Commissioners in regard to the tax levy for schools and the suit resulting therefrom. In the beginning I wish to state that it was entirely a friendly state, the understanding between the boards being that as they could not agree the matter should be referred to the courts for decision.

The budget prepared by the Board of Education was thoroughly scrutinized in court and the Judge decided that the appropriation to the Tomato Club and the High Schools should not be allowed. The High School appropriations included those in the budget to be made to the four rural High Schools, Creedmoor, Knap of Reeds, Stem, and Stovall; and also the amount designed for the high school grades of the Oxford Graded School. No objection was made to any of the appropriations made for administrative purposes or for salaries of teachers or incidental expenses of rural schools.

After deducting the items mentioned above Judge Connor found that the three cent additional levy asked for by the Board of Education was not necessary and ordered that the levy remain as it has been for the past four years.

Judge Connor rules that the four months school required by the Constitution refers only to the elementary grades and that no money shall be used out of the general school fund for work above the seventh grade. This is contrary to the practice in this county and in most other counties throughout the state and it is therefore necessary for the Supreme Court to decide what is meant by the Constitutional four months school. If this Court decides as Judge Connor did that no high school work was contemplated by the writers of the Constitution and that the general school fund must be applied exclusively for the elementary work, then some other arrangement will have to be made for the high school work to be continued, or all of this work will have to be discontinued and we will have a dead level system of instruction stopping with the seventh grade. This is an interesting question for the supreme court to decide and as it is a question of State-wide importance the State Department of Education and the Attorney General will cooperate with the attorneys of Granville County Board of Education in trying to get a decision that will be favorable to the development of the schools of the state.

The question has taken a little different turn from that contemplated by that of either side in the litigation and has resolved itself into a state-wide issue that involves an interpretation of the Constitution of the State. At the expense of being considered tedious I wish to reiterate here that there is no hostility between the boards or any of those connected with the county administrative offices. The Board of Education thought that more money was needed for the schools. The County Commissioners thought that it was the wrong thing to increase the tax and hence the disagreement. Either side will be perfectly satisfied with the decision of the court.

J. F. WEBB

NEW SECRETARY OF THE FAIR

Dr. Morris Cannot Serve as Secretary—Mr. Frank Hancock, Jr., Takes up the Work.

Dr. Morris found out that his duties as Farm Demonstration Agent so completely absorbed his time that he could not attend to the duties of the secretary of the Fair and he herefore tendered his resignation. To take his place Mr. Frank Hancock, Jr., was elected. He will take up the work at once and give his entire time to it until after the fair is held in October. Mr. Hancock is a hustler when he starts after anything and the county may expect some dust to be raised as he high-speeds along over the roads. Every true citizen should give the secretary hearty cooperation in this patriotic work. We must have a good fair this fall; there is greater need for it than ever before. Dr. Morris will still cooperate in working up interest and getting exhibits in the field.

EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS.

There will be an examination for white teachers on the 23rd of August and for colored on the 24th.

J. F. WEBB.

POPE'S PEACE PROPOSALS INCLUDE RESTORATION.

Pope Benedict has addressed another appeal for peace to the belligerents. It is announced from Rome that the Pope has made specific proposals to the heads of the warring nations, and that they include restoration of Belgium, Serbia and Rumania and peaceful adjustment of the questions of Alsace-Lorraine, Trent, Trieste and Poland.

The Pope's proposal embodies most of the principles advocated by President Wilson, calling for reduction of armaments, freedom of the seas and a world court. He opposes an economic struggle after the war. While the Pontiff declares for restoration of all conquered lands, he does not urge reparation for damage done, declaring that all belligerents have suffered to the limit already.

Pope's Offer in Own Handwriting.

Rome, Aug. 15.—The peace proposals of Pope Benedict were written entirely in his own handwriting.

Archbishop Cerretti, who arrived recently from America, where he stopped on his way from Australia, is now supervising the translation into English. The Gerolad, Italia says the papal appeal is the most impressive and the most concrete ever addressed the Enetente giving them the basis on which to open negotiations.

OBSCURED RAILWAY CROSSING.

Lady On Route One Narrowly Escapes Being Hit By Train.

Editor Public Ledger:

May I say a few words through the columns of the Public Ledger regarding corn being planted near railway crossings, especially in town. I was going over to Oxford a few days ago, driving a horse that is scared of the train. There being so much noise near one of the Southern Railway crossings in Oxford it is almost impossible to hear the approaching train at that point. On the left stands a cornfield on both sides of the track and on the right a large sign preventing one from seeing the track. While driving a spirited horse once I narrowly escaped being run down by the train at this same crossing by virtue of not being able to see the approaching train before I got too near the track.

I think that many of the railway fatalities that we read about almost daily in the newspapers are caused by the tracks being obscured by signboards and tall vegetation. Why do the authorities permit any one to plant corn too near the railway crossings, thus obscuring the tracks and endangering the lives of the traveling public.

S. C. W.

A CRITICAL PERIOD

Induce Young Men to Go to the University.

President Edward K. Graham, of the University of North Carolina, states that the Thirty days remaining between now and the opening of the institution is one of the most critical years in the life of the University. So many young men of college age are being called into the service of the government it will require extra trouble to induce the "stay at homes" to go to college. They hesitate to begin a college course because temporary business opportunities and high salaries. President Graham says: "I believe that no alumnus can perform a higher service to the State and country than by doing all he can to influence and help the young men in his section, not yet called into government service, to go to college."

MOVED TO NEW QUARTERS.

Two Large Machine Working Plants Consolidated.

The Gooch machine shop, on Hillsboro street, has absorbed the equipment of the Southern Buggy Company, recently operated by the late R. E. Buchanan, and the work of removing the plant from Hillsboro street and consolidated the two plants in the building on Bank street, formerly occupied by the late J. F. Edwards and later by the Southern Buggy Company, in the rear of the Acme Hardware store, is now under way.

The consolidation of these two shops gives to Oxford the best plant of its kind in this part of the State. All kinds of repairing and rebuilding machine work is done here, the plant being equipped with the Bremo welding process.

GUARD MOBILIZES AT MINEOLA

Units That Will Go to France to Gather at New York Island City

(Washington Special)
The National Guard divisions to go to France, represent twenty-six states and the District of Columbia, will be mobilized at Mineola, L. I., at a camp named Albert L. Mills after the last Brigadier-General Mills, chief of the division of military affairs.

THE FIRST TO GO TO FRANCE

MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD OF THIS STATE WILL BE IN DIVISION TO BE FORMED

The Engineers Train Will Be Organized From the North Carolina Troops—Discussion of Time and Place of Mobilization Not Permissible Under Censorship Rules.

(Washington Special)

Plans for sending the first national guard troops to France have been perfected by the War Department with the organization of a division which will include troops from twenty-six States and the District of Columbia.

Following is the War Department's announcement under the heading "Composite National Guard Division": "The following organizations of the national guard have been selected to compose the 42nd division:

"The following numerical designations have been assigned:

"Division headquarters troops, to consist of the second separate troop, Louisiana cavalry.

"The division machine gun battalion, number 149 to be composed of the Third Battalion, Fourth Pennsylvania Infantry.

"The infantry brigade, to comprise the 150th machine gun battalion, composed of Companies E, F and G. Second Wisconsin Infantry; the 165th Infantry (69th New York Infantry), and the 166th Infantry (Fourth Ohio Infantry) National Guard.

"The 84th infantry brigade to compose the 151st Michigan gun battalions (Companies B, C, and F, Second Georgia Infantry (Fourth Alabama Infantry) and the 169th Infantry (Third Iowa Infantry).

"The artillery brigade to be numbered 67th comprises:

"The 149th field artillery (First Illinois Field Artillery), the 150th field artillery (First Indiana Field Artillery), the 151st field artillery (First Minnesota Field Artillery), and the 117th trench motor battery

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JUNIOR ORDER DOES THINGS

PLANS TO IMPROVE WALK WAYS OF THE COUNTY.

The School District That Builds the Best Mile of Walk Way Will Capture Handsome Prize.

The Junior Order is a great believer in practical patriotism. Its members are thoroughly committed to the task of improving the public schools of America. We have evidence of this devotion here in Granville County in the presenting of flags and Bibles to the public schools of the county. A large number of the schools have had these presentations accompanied by valuable addresses on education and patriotism.

The Oxford Council has decided this fall to initiate a new movement in the way of improving the attendance on the schools for the coming term. The plan is to offer a prize of \$25 to the school district in the county that exhibits the best mile of improved walk way for the children of the district. This is part of the plan to be stressed this year of getting better average attendance on the schools. Many children are kept away from school after the weather begins to get a little bad simply because there are a few bad, muddy places in the walk way to the school. A little effort on the part of the children and older people of the various districts will accomplish much in remedying this trouble. If we can get an average of eight miles of improved walk ways in each district it will mean five hundred miles in the county. Just think of the advantages to the children in having a good, dry walk to school, so they can get there with dry feet instead of having to sit all day with wet, muddy feet.

The details of the plan have not yet been worked out but a committee has been appointed to have charge of the contest. This committee is composed of the following members: J. M. Fagan, J. A. Baker, Jno. W. Hester, and B. K. Lassiter.

Only Two More Days.

The Oxford unit of the Woman's Council for National Defense are reminded that only two more Tuesdays in August remain, for us to save our fruit and vegetables. The offer open to us to can at the Graded school grounds, only last two more mornings. Will the women who have fruit and vegetables let us have them on Tuesday and will all those women who have not been able to give their services so far, plan to come for a part on Tuesday, anyway, even if it can be only for an hour? Every little bit helps. Let us be faithful and patriotic. MRS. H. G. COOPER, Chairman of Oxford Unit.

PROPOSALS OFFER WAR-WEARY WORLD A HOPE FOR PEACE.

Washington, Aug. 15.—Administration officials awaited today the arrival of the official text of Pope Benedict's peace proposals, but would make no statement as to the government's attitude. It was admitted that the government would necessarily have to make some sort of a reply.

The communication from Rome probably will be transmitted to the State Department through the papal delegate here or through the Spanish or Swiss legations. The answer involves a delicate task for the belligerents because the proposals offer to a war-weary world hope for the restoration of peace.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Conferences among the entente diplomats today crystallized into conviction the opinion here that Pape Benedict's peace move is not likely to change in any substantial degree the attitude either of the allies of the American government.

SENSATIONAL TRIAL.

Mrs. Lizzie May Swears Out Warrant Against Mr. Roger Newton.

The storm that had been brewing for some time out on the Berea road, near Blackwell's store, a mile and a half west of Oxford, broke last Tuesday with terrific force. Greek met Greek on the public highway and there was something doing.

According to Mrs. May's testimony she left her dwelling and walked leisurely over to the public road, a few yards distance, to see if there was anything in the mail box for her.

While in the vicinity of the mail box, said Mrs. May, Roger Newton approached her with a stick in hand and using violent language, and demanded that she get off his land. Mrs. May claims that she was on her own land, or that of the highway, and that Newton assailed her with a deadly weapon, to-wit a stick.

The case was heard by Justice De Hunt Wednesday morning. Mr. T. Lanier appeared for Mrs. May and Messrs Lassiter & Parham represented Mr. Newton. After hearing the testimony of Mrs. May the Justice bound both parties over to court, requiring a justified bond of \$200 dollars each.

STARS AT THE ORPHEUM.

Theda Bara in the "Tiger Woman" Monday Night.

Theda Bara will appear at the Orpheum next Monday night in "The Tiger Woman," a super de luxe William Fox production. The New York World says:

"Miss Bara is shown playing two roles that are diametrically opposite to each other, both in the technique of the acting and the natures portrayed. It is one of the severest tests of Miss Bara's ability.

Every character she portrays in entirely different. She intuitively grasps the dramatic situation, and becomes transformed into a different being. You are fascinated with her work.

Miss Theda Bara wears a wonderful gown especially designed for her by the Parisian dressmaker, Paul Poiret. The gown arrived in the United States after a great deal of difficulty, due to the scarcity of cargo vessels."

LARGE STORAGE HOUSE.

The Imperial Will Utilize the Old Owen Warehouse.

The Imperial Tobacco Company has leased the old Owen Warehouse and are converting it into a storage room. The floors are being removed and the tiers of tobacco will set up on the ground.

ENLARGING WAREHOUSE FLOOR

The Farmer's to Be Larger and Better Lighted.

Mr. B. E. Parham will next week begin the enlargement of the floor space of the Farmer's Warehouse. He proposes to utilize the wide drive way, the wagons entering on the floor instead of the dirt passageway heretofore in use. A row of skylights also will be inserted, making the Farmer's one of the largest and best lighted warehouses in this section of the State.

CALLED INTO SERVICE.

Dr. B. K. Hays and Dr. William N. Thomas, recently commissioned, received orders Wednesday to hold themselves in readiness to report at Fort Oglethorpe at an early date.

Piano Recital by Miss Simmerman

The Music Department of the Oxford Woman's Club will present Miss Simmerman in a piano recital Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. A. A. Hicks. This recital will be for the benefit of the Red Cross and all lovers of good music are cordially invited.

WOMAN'S SACRIFICE IN WAR

THEIR FIDELITY PUTS STOUTER HEARTS INTO THE FIGHTING

The Granville County Chapter of the American Red Cross Presents a Pleasing Aspect.

The Public Ledger would commend the Granville County Chapter of the American Red Cross for the loyalty displayed and the noble sacrifices they are making. The men of Oxford may be loyal and patriotic, but thus far in the world's crisis the work in Granville fell to the lot of a few noble women to plan, enlarge and execute, less there would have been no Red Cross or National Defense organization in Oxford. Their loyalty and devotion to the cause for which the country is at war is a demonstration of their spirit which culminated in a busy hive of industry.

There is less idle talk and politics and more genuine patriotism and enthusiasm at the headquarters of the Granville County American Red Cross than in any other industry in the county. It is the one point of assembly where the noble women meet and bare their hearts and ask to serve.

Not only do the mother, the wife and the sister part with the young manhood that is dear to them, but they are earnest in their endeavors to make the life of the soldier—whether their soldier or the soldier of some other mother, wife or sister—as comfortable as may be, to provide for his health and for his care in every condition to which the hazards of war may expose him.

In passing the headquarters of the Granville County Chapter, in the Brown building opposite the Court house, a member of the Granville Grays remarked to the Public Ledger that the sacrifice the noble women are making for the soldiers inspired him to fight clear through to Berlin.

Back of the Army they have promoted organizations for alleviation of the miseries of war. They and their tireless work are essential to the country's cause as the work of the men in the ranks. The familiar toast, "The Ladies, God bless them," is given a more comprehensive and enduring meaning.

THE OXFORD SCHOOLS.

Miss Nell Haynes, of Salisbury Elected First Grade Teacher.

At the last meeting of the School Board Miss Haynes, of Salisbury, was elected to complete the teaching force of the Oxford Graded Schools. She has been teaching in the Spencer Graded Schools and comes with the highest recommendations from these schools and from the University Summer School where she spent part of her vacation further preparing herself for the work. This makes four teachers this year who come to Oxford from other schools.

Since the recent decision of the courts that an increase in the levy should not be ordered because the funds should not be used for High School purposes there has been considerable talk and confusion in regard to the future of the work here. Some have thought that the local school would have to cut its term shorter this year because of the decrease in funds. This may be the case for if the money gives out there is nothing else to do. The thing for Oxford to do is to see that it does run on the full nine months. No loyal citizen ought to let the work stop a day. Of course the Board cannot carry on the schools without money and they are not to be blamed for its shortage at the present time. They are doing all in their power to keep the work on a sound basis.

While this decision touches Oxford at a critical time there is no reason for alarm except to see that the system is so adjusted as to deal fairly with town and county. If it is correct, there must be other means of raising High School funds and now is the time to start.

The Oxford schools are run as economically as it is possible to carry on such a plant. Any item of real extravagance in the operation ought to be pointed out to the authorities. The teachers are not receiving any more and in some cases not as much as similar places are paying. The operating expenses for the various buildings is low in comparison with others.

If it becomes necessary to stop the schools one month early, it is the desire of the Board and superintendent to stop the best school in the State and it is with that in view that he present plant of an enlarged teaching force in more buildings is continued. It is not the policy of the Board to stop a thing that will be for the good of the boys and girls. The work must go on successfully from the very first.

School will open on the third of September. That is just two weeks and a few days from now.