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A SEMI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WARRENTON AND WARREN COUNTY

3c. A COPY

BY JOHN PAUL LUCAS.

(Executive Secretary of North Carolina Food Conservation Commission)

"Grow your own food and feed crop or go hungry." In less abrupt phrasing but in language just as easily understood, the is what the rest of the country is saying to the South this year.

The South has been depending upon the North and Central West for food and feed and feedstuffs to the value of approximately \$700,000,000 a year—approximately the figures would be at present prices the billion dollar mark. North Carolina's part of this tremendous aggregate of imports has been in round numbers \$80,000,000. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1916 and ending June 31, 1917, because of the combination of high prices and poor crops in some sections, our importations will no doubt reach the staggering figure of \$100,000,000.

This State in common with all of the South has received solemn warning from officials of the National Government, including Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, that the food and feedstuffs we have been importing will not be available this year because they will be required for our armies and the armies of our allies. The Governor, agricultural leaders and far-sighted farmers and business men of the South have sounded the warning also. So grave is the situation that President Wilson himself has made a special appeal to the farmers of the South.

The State of North Carolina has been early to take steps to meet the situation. Even before war was declared Governor Bickett took time by the forelock and issued a proclamation urging upon the people of our cities and towns as well as those on farms the importance of planting ample home vegetable gardens. Following the entry of this Nation into the war Governor Bickett appointed a State Food Conservation Commission which promptly met and has planned and is putting into execution under the direction of its executive Secretary a vigorous campaign for greater food and feed production. A sub-commission is being appointed in each county in the State, to have representation from every school district. The newspapers of the State, the commercial organizations, ministers, mayors of towns and cities, bankers and other persons and agencies will be called upon to assist in this campaign, in addition to the State Department of Agriculture, the Farm Extension Service, the boys' and girls' corn, pig and tomato clubs and other organizations. In short every possible agency is being mobilized to meet the situation.

There are several means of increasing production. Where farmers can see their way clear, they are urged to reduce slightly their acreage of cotton and tobacco, especially the latter, giving more acreage to corn, soy beans, peas, potatoes, hay and other feed crops. Even where they do not reduce their acreage of cotton and tobacco they are urged to try to take care of a slight additional acreage, if they can do so without neglecting their accustomed crops. Increased amounts of fertilizers may be used to advantage where wisely applied. County commissioners are urged to use convicts and their work stock on tenantless farms for the cultivation of corn and hay especially, even to the temporary neglect of road work. The people of our cities and towns are urged to utilize vacant lots and lands close by for the growing of stable food and feed crops.

When one tries to vision the amount of meat, flour, corn, oats, hay, potatoes, etc., \$80,000,000 or \$100,000,000 will buy he begins to realize what a gigantic task the farmers of the State have imposed upon them, and what a really important work the mobilized forces working through and in cooperation with the Food Conservation Commission have to perform in getting the farmers and others to feel the seriousness of the situation and to act promptly in meeting it.

The farmers of North Carolina are called upon to grow food and feed crops not only sufficient to supply all of their own needs, but to supply the needs of our cities and towns and mill communities as well. If they should raise a surplus above these requirements, which is beyond the range of possibilities this year, there will be a ready market for it because this situation is being called upon to feed not only the armies but to a considerable extent the civilian population of our

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GRADUATION EXERCISES OF NORLINA HIGH SCHOOL

The first annual commencement of the Norlina High School Will Begin on Sunday, May 6.

The program is as follows:

SUNDAY, MAY 6TH.

11:00 a. m.—Baccalaureate Sermon by Rev. P. E. Fleming, D. D., pastor of the First Christian Church, Greensboro, N. C.

MONDAY, MAY 7TH.

Class Exercises—8:00 p. m.

Address of Welcome	Julius Banzette
Class Song	Class
Class History	Alice Hardy
Class Prophecy	Gordon C. Hall
Class Poem	Isabelle Fleming
Class Oration	Woodley Merritt
Essay on Class Colors	Mollie Divine
Burial of Horrors	Class
Last Will and Testament	Pearl Loyd
Class Song	Class

TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH

Graduating Exercises—8:00 p. m.

Salutatory	Gordon Hall
Literary Address	
Presentation of Graduating Class to School Board	by Principal
Presentation of Diplomas	by Sec. of School Board

Presentation of Medals
Report of Principal
Valectory Julius Banzette
The primary and grammar school will present a program on Friday evening, May 4th, at 8:00 p. m. The public is cordially invited to attend all of these exercises. No admission charges!

PATRIOTIC APPEALS

New York, April 30th.—By combining appeals for enlistment in the U. S. Marine Corps with their commercial advertising, the American Tobacco Company, through Hawley Advertising Company, of this city, is the pioneer in devoting part of its contract advertising space to patriotic appeals, as advocated at a recent luncheon of the Bureau of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association at the Waldorf Astoria.

In a huge advertising campaign just launched for "U. S. Marine" tobacco, three-quarters of the contract space is devoted to an appeal for men to join the Marine Corps and be "First to Fight."

The Methodist Sunday School in Macon will celebrate children's Day next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. An interesting program is being prepared, and a cordial invitation is extended to the public.

Allies, whose producers by the millions have been taken from their fields to fight in the trenches.

All authorities are agreed that unprecedented prices may be looked for this year for meat products, corn, wheat, oats, hay, Irish and sweet potatoes, soy beans, velvet beans, cowpeas, canned and dried vegetables and fruits and in fact all non-perishable food and feed crops. The farmer is not being called upon to make a sacrifice, because it is not necessary. Cotton and tobacco are the lowest priced farm products we have, even at their present prices, and farmers who raise these crops to the neglect of sufficient "hog and hominy" and feed for their own use are going to be in the calamity howling class this fall. Cotton and tobacco will no doubt command something like present prices next fall, but there is some danger of an over production of these crops while there is no danger of the South raising too much food and feedstuffs.

The farmers of the State, together with business men, and others who can help, are called upon to perform a patriotic duty. But that is not as far as it goes. They are being given by unusual conditions, such an opportunity to profit as they have never had before. The war is going to bring prosperity to a marked degree to those farmers who are fore-sighted and wise enough to produce abundantly of those crops for which there is certain to be the heaviest demand at the best prices.

GRAVE DOUBT OF LEGALITY OF LOCAL LAWS.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RULES AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER SEVENTH

Boards of Education Not Effected. Magistrates May Be. All New Magistrates Failed to Qualify Within Sixty Days. These Must Be Re-appointed By Governor.

(Editorial)

"A Pretty Kettle of Fish" has been uncovered by Attorney General Manning in an opinion that the Amendments to the Constitution were adopted on November 7th and became immediately effective. If this opinion is upheld by the Supreme Court in a test case which may be brought at once, all Counties will be effected. It will be recalled by our readers that the members of the Legislature were much hurried in getting in their local bills because of the fact that the preceding Legislature had fixed the "second Wednesday after the first Monday in January, 1917" as the date at which the amendments went into effect, and therefore they had only about ten days to get their respective local bills enacted. Judge Manning, as the Attorney General, is of the opinion that the Amendment voted should have carried the date as the day upon which it was effective and that a failure to carry the date fixed the date as the day upon which the elector adopted the amendment, to wit, November 7th.

The question is (for every-day folks) what is an amendment? To amend is to alter formally in any way. Therefore when the electors voted on the 7th of November for an amendment to the Constitution, they voted (in Palimentary language) to formally alter the Constitution. Now who prescribes the form in which this shall be done? The Legislature of the State by a three-fifths vote of the Senate and of the House of Representatives. They prescribed the form, stated when the question should be voted upon, the questions to be submitted and the machinery to put in effect the will of the electors, as expressed at the Polls. There were four amendments submitted to the electors; but our purpose in this article is to only discuss amendment "NUMBER I." This amendment proposed to restrict local, private and special legislation in respect to a number of matters of local nature which had heretofore been performed by the Legislature, but now proposed to be delegated to the Counties. The Legislature when they enacted the machinery for the expression of the public choice also in the same Act fixed the time at which the amendments should become effective. This date was fixed at January 10th, 1917. Our understanding from the public press is that Judge Manning has ruled that the amendments became effective on the 7th of November when the ballot box was closed and a subsequent count showed that on November 7th "a majority of votes cast" were in favor of adopting amendment Number 1, and NOT on January 10th. This opinion, if sustained by the Supreme Court, invalidating much local legislation, but not necessarily all of those local laws. These "shalt notes" are set out in section One of the Act authorizing the vote upon the amendment; but the same section also carries a "SHALL"—the "General Assembly SHALL have power to pass general laws regulating matters set out in this section." Therefore until the General Assembly acts under authority of the amendment to the Constitution and makes "General Laws" regulating the matters voted upon; until the General Assembly provides machinery for shifting the authority from the Legislature to the County then the amendments are not in effect; because the action on November 7th was just one of the steps in the complete whole; just a sanction by the people for the completion of a transfer of power. Otherwise the old maxim that "A trust shall not fail for lack of a Trustee" would cease to apply. If the amendment taking away from the Legislature all power named in Section One of Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1915 was in effect on November 8th and was automatically on that date made a part of the Constitution of the State, the Counties have no machinery to put in effect local laws—and the "trust fails." The subsequent Legislature of 1917 under authority of Section 29, Article II of the Constitution could "repeal all local, private and special laws" and not complete the engrafting to the amendment of section 29 and deprive the people of machinery to enact their own local laws. Therefore, as a part of the completion of the engrafting of section 29, to Article II of the Constitution, the subsequent Legislature of 1917 had to enact the machinery for transfer of power from Legislature to the Counties, and until that was done, and without express provision as to date of said transfer, the final process of engrafting must await the exercise of a power delegated to the Legislature by the amendment itself, to wit: "power to pass general laws regulating matters set out in this section." Therefore it is the opinion of a layman that the Legislature was clearly within its privilege when it enacted local laws prior to the enactment of the necessary machinery to incorporate the amendment into Article II of the Constitution. Especially are we lead to this conclusion because the amendment gives the Legislature power to subsequently repeal local, private or special laws enacted by it

MAGISTRATES

The Legislature in previous sessions passed the bill naming the Magistrates at the close of the session; but the Legislature of 1917 believing that all local legislation should be enacted within the first ten days named the Magistrates for all the Counties in the first few days of the session and the ACT was ratified on the 9th of January. The first section was in the usual form, which gave only SIXTY days for those appointed to qualify, with the usual proviso that those re-appointed would have sixty days from the expiration of their respective terms in which to qualify. The names of the magistrates were not certified by the Secretary of States to the Clerks of the Counties before the expiration of the sixty days, and hence those Magistrates qualifying on the first Monday in April are not legally entitled to act. It seems to have

CREEK ITEMS

Miss Frances Wright closed here eight months school here last Friday and left Saturday for her home in the mountains.

Mr. Arthur Pridgen came home from Richmond last week to see his people, bringing with him his friend, Mr. Lane. They went back to their work with the Wester Electric Co. on Monday.

Rev. Mr. Strowell spent last Saturday night in the home of Mr. W. H. Pridgen.

Misses Mattie and Jimmie Clark were pleasant callers here last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Brown, who lives near here, has quite a curiosity in the way of a calf which has no eyes. It seems to be all right in every other way and gets around pretty well without them.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Davis made several calls in the Marmaduke community Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Mettie Haithcock is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Geoghegan, this week, at Shady Grove.

Farm Work is getting on pretty well around here, and we are going to do our best in making "food stuff."

RUTH.

MEETING OF RED CROSS

The members of the Warrenton Division of the Red Cross will meet in the auditorium of the High School on Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Everybody is earnestly invited to be present.

EPWORTH LEAGUE ORGANIZED AT WARREN PLAINS

In Warren Plains Methodist church last Sunday the pastor installed the officers of the new Epworth League. Much interest was shown in the exercises; and this league with more than twenty members starts off with encouraging prospects. Jerman Walker is President and Miss Essie Wilson is vice-president.

Miss Lucy Boyd, of Afton, is visiting in the home of Mr. H. A. Boyd.

IN MEMORIAM.

Mary Fitts William Thrower, the youngest grandchild of Henry Fitts, was born in Warren County, N. C., May 24th, 1853 baptized in infancy by Rev. T. B. Reeks of the M. E. Church, South, and was educated by Turner M. Jones, D. D., at the Louisburg Female College. She was married Dec. 13th, 1871, to George Rogers Scoggin, who preceded her to the grave several years ago. She died at the residence of her nephew, Capt. O. D. Fitts, of Chio, South Carolina, on the 11th of April, 1917, and the next day was tenderly laid to rest by the side of her husband in the old Fitts' Cemetery, near Oakville, Warren County, N. C. A large number of her relatives and friends were present at her funeral, and her burial was conducted by her pastor, Rev. R. H. Broom. The song service was beautiful, and so were the flowers covering the grave.

Mrs. Scoggin joined the Church at old Hebron, her ancestral church, in early life, and was an accepted member all her life. She broke up house-keeping at the death of her husband, and lived with the children of her sister. For several years prior to her death she spent with her nephew, Capt. O. D. Fitts, who with his good wife Mary, gave her the most affectionate and tender care till the last summer came. What was written by her mother, Mrs. Harriet Thrower, by Malveron Hill Palmer, may be said of Willie (as we all called her) with entire truth.

"Beloved by all, she had no enemies, and it is no wonder that men, women and children of all ages and sexes and color, grappled her to their heart with hooks of steel." "Peace to her ashes."

ONE WHO LOVED HER.

Los Angeles farmer has equipped a specially prized mule with an electric tail lamp to prevent accidents from automobile traffic at night.—Henderson Daily Dispatch.

It's not so hard to love your neighbor, unless he is learning on the coast.—Henderson Daily Dispatch.

been an oversight by everybody connected with the Legislature, including the Secretary of State.

The following Magistrates, in Warren County, have no legal right, under the Act, to hold the position:

G. G. Egerton, Shocco township; W. J. Cole, Nutbush; J. T. Ayscue, Fork; Edward Petar, Warrenton; H. J. Ellis, Hawtree; J. J. Myrick, River; George Robinson, Sixpound; J. G. Gupton, Fishing Creek; J. D. Palmer, Warrenton; H. L. Salmon, River; J. O. Hardy, Fishing Creek; T. D. King, River; D. L. Ryder, Judkins; J. L. Skinner, Judkins; R. D. Fleming, River.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The ruling of the Attorney General does not effect the appointment of the Boards of Education of the Counties (Warren included.)

The members of the various boards of all the counties were named in one bill, and ratified as one State-wide measure. There was no "special act" in respect to Warren county (the Headlight to the contrary notwithstanding) in the appointment of the members of the Board. Mr. Davis' appointment to "a vacancy" only holding until the "next Legislature meets and acts." The Legislature met and acted on the 7th of March, when it named all of the members of the different Boards whose terms expired on the first Monday in July, 1917 or their successors, and filled all vacancies on the Boards; in some instances putting on three men, and in many instances two. The Magistrates are effected because they failed to qualify, and may be effected because the adoption of Section 29 as an amendment to Article II of the Constitution prohibited all action by the Legislature "Relating to the appointment of Justices of the Peace."

If the Attorney General's Ruling holds good, the action by the Legislature would have been null and void in appointment of Magistrates, BECAUSE that power is PROHIBITED by the amendment referred to.

We have discussed this matter fully in order that our readers may be informed of the Attorney General's Ruling, and in order that its effects on our County may be known. So far as we can see, (with the exception of the appointment of Magistrates, and possibly the Highway Commission) there is nothing in Section 29 adopted at the Polls as an amendment to the Constitution which effects any local law in Warren and it is possible that this may not be effected by reason of the following power granted to the Legislature by the same amendment which prohibited legislation: "The General Assembly shall have power to pass general laws regulating matters set out in this section." Therefore the Legislature reserves unto itself that power, and exercised it by naming January 10th as the date at which the amendments went into effect. Hence it was that all legislation was hurried in the first few days of the Session. If the Supreme Court takes this view, none of the local laws passed previous to January 10th (and Mr. Daniel passed all our local laws before that date) will be effected by the adoption of the amendment.