

THE COMMONWEALTH.

Published Every Thursday BY E. E. HILLIARD, Editor. ASHBY W. DUNN, Ass't Editor.

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Publisher's Announcement.

It is a settled point in newspaper ethics that editors and publishers are not responsible for the views of correspondents, and the publication of a communication does not mean that the editor or publisher endorses the communication.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

It is pleasing to note the signs of educational progress in the State. For the past several weeks reports coming in from all sections have gone to show that people generally have awakened to the fact that in the education of their children rests the hope of a still better and brighter day for them and their State than even that they now see.

During the past spring the people, through the many special school tax elections that have been held throughout the State, have declared for higher taxes, with the result that during the coming session the doors of more and better equipped schools will be opened to children who have never had the opportunity of entering heretofore.

Education develops ones mind; the developed mind makes the more efficient man, hence it follows that education increases efficiency. Increased efficiency applied to the affairs and pursuits of men increases their progress and prosperity, hence it follows that education makes men, and consequently the section in which they live, more prosperous and progressive.

This being so what a bright future can be foretold for our State as concerns its progress, prosperity and the happiness of its people, since the doors of more and better equipped schools are opened and children may enter in and be educated.

What with this educational progress in the State and the successful culmination of the movement that is on foot for a better system of roads, North Carolina will have taken a long, upward stride and untold good will have been accomplished.

The town of Greenville has selected as its slogan, from the numerous slogans that were suggested, the following: "Our Greenville; Yours if You Come!"

News has been received that Rev. Baylus Cade, once editor of the Progressive Farmer, preacher, editor and poet, who now lives in Boiling Springs, has invented and patented a typesetting machine.

Senator Simmons, replying to an inquiry as to whether he had anything to say about Mr. Bryan's attack on the seventeen Democratic Senators who voted against free lumber, in the course of his remarks said: "More than once we have had to repudiate Bryan's teachings and preachments to save the party from disaster and ruin."

JUSTICE MANNING APPOINTED.

Justice James Smith Manning, of Durham, whom Governor Kitchin appointed to succeed Justice Connor on the Supreme Court bench, was sworn into office Saturday, Judge J. Crawford Biggs, of Durham, administering the oath.

What accomplishments ought a school marm to possess? We all know if she is a North Carolinian she has innumerable charms and accomplishments, but can any one equal this enumeration by the Montgomery Advertiser of an Alabama school marm: "She can snatch up a deadly moccasin by the tail, flourish it around her pretty auburn head, crack it like a whip and snap off its head. She can kill a dozen of these in one day, after school, go home and cook supper, do the family washing, go to prayer meeting, and then sit up till midnight with a young man clerk from the village store, then get up in the morning, milk three cows, cook breakfast, wash the dishes, sweep up the house, and go and teach school all day."

Halifax Court.

The special term of Halifax court which began Monday, May 31st, with Judge O. H. Guion, of New Bern, presiding, is still in session, and the cases on the civil docket are being disposed of.

The case of Clark vs Pataco Guano Company, in which Claude Kitchin, E. L. Travis and W. E. Daniel were counsel for Clark, and Albion Dunn, Raymond Dunn and Judge Winston, of Raleigh, for Guano Company, was compromised Monday, Judge Clark agreeing to accept \$750.00 in satisfaction of all damages that had arisen.

Among the important cases that will come up for hearing this week may be mentioned the following: The Roanoke Rapids Power Company vs Roanoke Navigation and Water Power Company, and Rena Young vs the Fosburg Lumber Company.

Mystery at Plymouth.

Rocky Mount, May 30.—Residents of Plymouth and neighboring vicinity are puzzled over the finding of an opened vault about three by two feet in width and about two feet in depth on the bank of Roanoke river about one hundred and fifty yards from the Atlantic Coast Line station there. The vault was opened one night last week and by parties unknown, and the fact of the existence of such a vault was not known to the residents there, and as to what was contained therein is also unknown in that little hamlet.

The position of the vault is near the site of the old custom house of the government that existed there before the war between the states. That there is reason for the existence of an abundance of mystery in the case is evident, for not only was the Pamlico Sound and the rivers flowing therein the hiding place of that greatest of all American pirates, Capt. Kidd, or Blue Beard, but it is thought by all the older residents there that his treasures are hidden somewhere on the banks of these waters.

Plymouth was several times taken and retaken by the federal and Confederate forces during the civil war, and it may be that treasures were secluded there in order that they might not fall into the enemy's hands. The finding of the opened vault one morning this week has caused no limited amount of talk and conjecturing.

Notice to Confederate Veterans.

All Confederate Veterans who expect to apply for pensions will please make their application sometime between now and the first Monday in July, on which day the Pension Board meets in Halifax.

All applicants must be examined before some practicing physician before they can get the application before the Board. Application blanks may be received from Comrade R. H. Smith's office. W. F. BUTTERWORTH, Commander.

COMMISSIONERS MEET IN HALIFAX.

Decide to Erect New Court House—Contract Awarded.

OLD COURT HOUSE SOLD FOR \$560.

Monday, June 7th, the County Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting in Halifax. The only important business that came up for consideration and dispatch was the question of the erection of a court house to cost not less than \$40,000.

The Commissioners met at two o'clock in the afternoon for the consideration of this question, several representative citizens from the different sections of the county being present. Messrs. E. E. Hilliard, Albion Dunn and Major J. B. Neal, of Scotland Neck township spoke against the erection of a magnificent building to cost so much, without first submitting the question to the voters of the county.

They said in substance that the people in their part of the county and people in other parts too, if reports were true, were opposed to the erection of a \$40,000 court house. That having come from under one bond issue they did not wish to go under another immediately. That the people, because they pay the taxes and foot the bills should have a voice in the matter. That the people were willing to be taxed to repair and remodel the present court house, but did not think it wise or expedient for the Commissioners to go ahead and issue bonds for the erection of a new one without first submitting the question to them.

When these gentlemen had concluded their remarks, citizens representing all the other townships in the county, except those of Butterwood and Littleton, addressed the Commissioners concerning the issuance of bonds and the erection of a costly court house, and most of them protested against it, and asked the Commissioners to submit the question to the people.

Representing Brinkleyville township was Mr. C. A. Williams, who said that he had yet to hear a man who favored the erection of a new court house; that the people at this time were not ready to build such an expensive building; that taxes were too high.

Mr. W. G. Hedgepeth, of Palmyra township, said that 99 per cent. of the people in his community were opposed to the erection of a \$40,000 court house; that the people had been damaged by heavy rains and were not able to stand the high taxes that the erection of the court house would necessarily bring about; that they wanted an opportunity to vote on the measure.

Mr. Wilson Pittman, of Enfield, said that the people there were opposed to the erection of a \$40,000 court house as evinced by their petitions to the Commissioners asking them to submit the question to a vote.

Mr. W. T. Eure, of Halifax, said that he had seen no farmer in that neighborhood who favored the erection of the court house.

Messrs. Amos Cherry, of Rose-neath township, and J. B. Smith, of Faucetts, said that people in their township did not want a new court house, but wanted to vote on the measure.

Mr. A. L. Clark, of Roanoke Rapids, said he hadn't heard many express themselves on the matter, but the few he had heard were opposed to the erection of a \$40,000 court house.

Mr. Ed Clark, of Weldon, said he thought people would be better satisfied if allowed to vote on the question of a new court house; that he thought the present building could be suitably repaired for \$8,000 or \$10,000.

Major Emry, of Weldon, said that he for one was very much opposed to saddling a large bond issue upon the people of the county; that he was satisfied that as the bill was drawn that the court house would cost more than \$40,000 before it was completed. He said that if the Commissioners did decide to build the court house they would in all probability keep a large mill out of Roanoke Rapids, and the great number

of the citizens whom the mill would bring to the county, from coming.

Messrs. George Green and Walter Daniel, of Weldon, and E. L. Travis, of Halifax, explained the position of the County Commissioners and advocated the erection of the court house without submitting the question to the people.

They said in substance that the Commissioners didn't take the matter up without frequent recommendations, recommendations, too, on the part of people who had a right to enforce them. That the grand juries and the judges at the past several courts had recommended the erection of a new court house, and that the Commissioners having these recommendations under consideration had requested the Representatives at the last Legislature to pass a bill to allow the Commissioners to bond the county for a new court house. That acting upon this request, one of the gentlemen, Mr. Travis, drew up a bill in exact accordance with other bills of like nature, and had it passed. They said that no word of complaint had been made until the Commissioners had gone so far as to enter into a contract with an architect. That the Commissioners didn't think the people had treated them fair, that if there was so much opposition to the erection of a new court house it ought to have been given expression long ago.

They said that the Commissioners did not look at the question as a political one, but as a question of doing their duty as they saw it. That they felt that a new court house was needed, and for that reason, regardless of other considerations, that it was their duty to build. That to remodel the old building would simply be building for the present. That something was needed and that the Commissioners should set about to build a new court house; that no county in North Carolina deserved any more than Halifax county. They said that the fact that a great number of people had not appeared before the Commissioners to enter their protest against the erection of a new court house was evidence of the fact that they were willing to leave the matter to the Commissioners.

At the close of their remarks Mr. Ashby W. Dunn, in a few words, presented several petitions to the Commissioners, signed by many citizens in several townships, asking the Commissioners not to erect a new \$40,000 court house without first giving them a chance to vote.

After the petitions had been examined, a vote was taken, the result of which showed Messrs. Stedman and Thorne by submission of question to people, and Johnson and Pope against submission. The deciding vote was cast by Mr. Harvey, Chairman of the Board, and a new court house is to be erected.

The County Commissioners in session Tuesday awarded the contract for the erection of the new court house to the Falls City Construction Co., Louisville, Ky., said firm agreeing to erect the building for \$39,000.

The old court house was sold for \$560.00, Mr. Paul Garrett, of Norfolk, buying the columns for \$160.00, and the contracting firm buying the court house proper for \$400.00.

Palmyra Items.

(Cor. to The Commonwealth.)

Miss Catherine Staples, of Harrisonburg, Va., who has been the guest of Miss Sallie Baker since the Meredith College closed, left today for a visit in Greenville.

Miss Selvia Guilford, of Rocky Mount, is visiting her cousin, Miss Mary Ausbon.

Mr. R. E. Roberson spent several days in Rocky Mount this week.

Misses Hattie and Blanche Everett are visiting relatives in Robersonville and Bethel this week.

We are glad to see the improvement paint has made on Baker and Roberson's store.

Mr. J. W. House will make his usual business visit to Halifax this week.

Miss Sallie Baker finished her work at Meredith College this year, having taken a certificate in oratory. She intends to pursue the work further, and to take her bachelor degree elsewhere.

Mr. Robert Everett is home from Warrenton where he has been attending the Warrenton High School.

Miss Lizzie Johnson is visiting friends in Scotland Neck at present.

Our community sustains a severe loss in the death of Dr. Dan Lewis, which occurred Sunday morning, May 30th. He was seventy years old and was by profession a successful physician. He came while a young man to Martin county from Hertford county, his birthplace, and married Miss Ann Williams daughter of Samuel Williams.

In the Confederate Army he rose to the rank of Lieutenant in the cavalry service.

His remains were interred Monday at the old Colonel Joe Williams graveyard, Rev. Wm. J. Gordon, of Williamston, having charge of the funeral service. E. E.

ICE. ICE. ICE.

It is so cheap now, and convenient, all of us can afford to use it. You need a refrigerator; get the ODORLESS. It is the only kind we sell, because we have found that it is the BEST. You need a cream freezer; get the FIVE MINUTE WONDER, the only kind that we sell, for we have found that they will do all that is claimed for them. They take little ice, little time, little labor, and we sell them for a little price. WATER COOLERS---We are "overstocked" and will sell them almost at cost. And don't forget that this is the place to buy your SCREEN DOORS and WINDOWS.

Josey Hardware Company

The Pioneer Hardware Dealers,

Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

Death of Mr. W. T. Whitfield.

Weldon, N. C., June 5.—Mr. W. T. Whitfield, for more than forty years agent of the Southern Express Company here, died in Richmond Friday night, aged 91 years.

Mr. Whitfield came to Weldon when it was known as "Weldon's orchard." He was the oldest living Odd Fellow in the United States and was born on the day that Odd Fellowship was first introduced in the United States. He was a charter member of Weldon Lodge No. 1, and after that lodge went down some years ago he removed his membership to Portsmouth, Va., where he held it up to the time of his death. He was a Past Master Mason, and stood high in the order. Several children and grand-children survive him. Mrs. J. B. Timberlake, of Raleigh, and Mrs. T. F. Anderson, of this town, are his daughters. He had been three times married, his last wife surviving him.

Mr. Whitfield was a splendid gentleman of the old school, and he will be sadly missed. He had been spending the few remaining months of life in Richmond, the Southern Express Company having some years ago relieved him from active service on full pay.

Mr. Whitfield was a most remarkable man and was active up to a few months ago. He will be laid to rest in Cedarwood cemetery here Sunday with Masonic and Odd Fellows' honors. A delegation is expected from the Portsmouth lodge. Honored, esteemed and beloved in life the people will pay tribute to his memory and will ever cherish and hold dear his Christian virtues, his stainless life and his high and lofty character which exerted an influence for good wherever he was known.

It is a pleasure to call attention to the advertisement of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The State greatly needs industrially trained men, and the college is rapidly helping to supply this need. Its graduates are busy and successful in many lines. Many of our farms show the practical value of their training. The railroads, public highways, drawing rooms and shipbuilding plants call on the College for Civil Engineers. Our lighting and water plants and our machine shops are being manned by its graduates. Not a few of its men are superintending or managing cotton mills and dye-houses. Its chemists are taking high rank in experiment stations, industrial plants and departments of agriculture. Young men cannot do better than fit themselves for their vocations at the same time that they are being educated.

LINN'S LUNCH ROOM AND RESTAURANT. Nos. 16, 18, 20, Granby St. Prompt Service! Popular Prices! The Place That's Different. NORFOLK, VA.

DeWITT'S CARBOLIZED WITCH HAZEL SALVE For Piles, Burns, Sores.

\$18.50 TO Memphis, Tenn. and Return VIA ATLANTIC COAST LINE. ACCOUNT REUNION. Tickets on sale June 5th, 6th and 7th. Final limit June 14th. By deposit of ticket with Special Agent at Memphis not earlier than June 9th and not later than June 14th, and payment of fee of \$1.00 at time of deposit, extension may be secured to leave stop not later than July 1st. For further information, Ticket Agent or write W. J. Craig, Passenger Traffic Manager, T. C. Williams, General Passenger Agent, Wilmington, N. C., 6-27-09.

SAVE Work, Worry, Money, BY USING A STOVER Gasoline Engine, MADE RIGHT! SOLD RIGHT! SEND FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE FREE. Stover Engine Works, 25 River Street, FREEPORT, ILL.

Buggies & Harness! We can build you a Buggy and then sell you a Harness, both of which will compare favorably with anything you can buy elsewhere, and perhaps at a smaller price. We also build High Grade Carts and Wagons and do all kinds of repairing. It will be to your advantage to see us before you buy a new Harness, Buggy, Cart, Wagon, or have any repairing or horse-shoeing done. W. A. BRANTLEY, Scotland Neck, N. C.

DOCTORS say consumption can be cured. Nature alone won't do it, it needs help. SCOTT'S EMULSION is the best help, but its use must be continued in summer as well as winter. Take it in a little cold milk or water. Get a small bottle now. All Druggists. HUX'S KITCHEN. Next Door to S. A. L. Ticket Office, Weldon, N. C. OYSTERS! Served on Short Notice, Any Style. Full Dinner 50c. Hot and Cold Lunches. A First-Class Dining Room for Ladies and Gentlemen. Lady Clerks in Attendance. Good Meals at All Hours.