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SMITHFIELD IN TRIANGLE DEBATE

League of Nations Subject of Discussion; 250 Schools Enroll for Debate

Chapel Hill, Jan. 24.—One thousand debaters, representing 250 high schools in this state, have enrolled in the annual high school debating union, and will participate in the preliminaries March 24, according to an announcement of E. R. Rankin, associate director of the University Extension Bureau. From these preliminaries the debaters will be selected for the final contests in Chapel Hill April 6 and 7.

The query for the tenth annual contest will be: "Resolved, That the United States should enter the League of Nations." In explanation of the query, the bulletin sent out by Mr. Rankin has this to say: "This question held the center of public interest in the United States for many months, and at the present time the general subject of our foreign relations makes up perhaps the most important problem before the country. It is felt that it will be of considerable profit to the debaters and high school students and to the citizens of the state general to have a comprehensive state-wide discussion of the query."

The 250 schools enrolled in the union are divided among 91 counties throughout the state. Guilford county leads all others, with 25 schools entered, with Gaston and Buncombe counties coming second, with nine each. The others have anywhere from seven to three schools represented and a few have only two.

A 67-page bulletin has been prepared by the Bureau of Extension and mailed out for use of the debaters in preparing their speeches. This bulletin contains arguments pro and con on the query, and gives an exhaustive survey of both sides. It also lists reference elsewhere for use of the debaters in preparation.

The high school debating union was organized among the secondary and high schools of North Carolina by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Societies of the University during the school year 1912-1913. Over 90 schools took part in the state-wide debate during the first attempt of the union. Since that time the debate has been annual, and growth of the union steady. In some of the debates in the past more schools have entered than this year, but a very great interest has been stimulated for the coming contest this year.

The Graham Memorial Cup is the prize offered the school that wins out in the final debate, which takes place in Memorial Hall here. The schools that are entered now are divided in triangles and the winners in the preliminaries of the triangle will send contestants to Chapel Hill to participate in the semi-finals on April 6. The two schools that win out in the semi-finals will debate for the cup in Memorial Hall.

In the past the following schools have won the cup: Pleasant Garden High School (1912-13); Winston-Salem High School (1913-14); Wilson High School (1914-15); Graham High School (1915-16); Waynesville High School (1916-17); Wilson High School (1917-18); Durham High School (1918-19); Asheville High School (1919-20); Durham High School (1920-21).

The Graham Memorial Cup is kept by the school winning out for one year and then turned over to the school winning out the following year. The name of the school and of the debaters to which it is awarded are inscribed on it. Any school that wins the cup twice in succession is entitled to keep it. No school in the past has done this, although Wilson, Winston-Salem and Durham have won out twice, not in succession.

This year Smithfield High School is in a triangle with Dunn High School and Sanford High School, which was also the triangle of last year. Six boys in the Smithfield High School are trying out for the debate teams. These are Donnel Wharton, Mose Godwin, Erwin Pittman, Harry Biggs, John Ennis and Gilbert Boyette. On February 24, these six boys will hold a preliminary to determine who shall be on the teams. There will be two teams, one on the affirmative side of the question and one on the negative side of the question. Our affirmative

FIRE LOSS AT KINSTON WILL REACH \$300,000 MARK

Losers in Fire Monday Night Will Number Nearly Half a Hundred—Several People Injured.

Kinston, Jan. 24.—Insurance men this afternoon estimated the damage in last night's fire here at \$300,000 with insurance of \$125,000. The blaze destroyed the Hunter Building at Queen and Caswell streets and gutted No. 107 South Queen. Losers in the fire numbered nearly half a hundred. Those who sustained heaviest losses were Mrs. Alice Hunter, \$200,000 with insurance less than half of that sum; The Kinston Drug Co., A. J. Sutton and Sons, dry goods dealers; Sample Shoe Store and Caswell Banking and Trust company. The Suttons and shoe store owners had losses of \$30,000 each with insurance of probably 50 per cent.

The firemen's battle with the flame lasted until well after daybreak, the dawn found the neighborhood of fire a scene of destruction, with ice covered wires strewn over the streets and the largest office structure in the city in ruins. For hours last night the blaze threatened the destruction of two or more blocks.

Four persons known to have been injured, none seriously, included Rev. Dwight Ball, a Universalist minister, struck by debris from a falling wall, while working as a volunteer fireman. Several persons had narrow escapes from the upper stories of the Hunter building.

Hogs May Profitably Be Raised in the South.

Many of the farms of the Corn Belt were paid for and mortgages lifted from others by the proceeds from the sale of hogs at prices lower than they are at present. Hogs should probably never sell for below 10 cents a pound alive, but if produced as one of the routine or regular operations of the farm, with feed grown on the farm and largely harvested by the hogs, they may be profitably produced in the South at present prices. If hogs are now too low they will certainly be higher, therefore, this is the time to buy the required breeding stock. There is no longer any excuse for using anything but a good pure-bred boar.—Progressive Farmer.

SCHOOL BUILDING AT PHILADELPHUS BURNED

Red Springs, Jan. 25.—Fire caused by a defective flue completely destroyed the brick school building at Philadelphus, four miles south of here, at 3 o'clock today. The fire started between the ceiling in a room on the second floor and the roof, and in two hours the building was a total loss, with only the front walls standing. All records were destroyed, together with equipment. The building was valued at \$30,000 and was partly covered by insurance.

SMITHFIELD PLAYS A. C. COLLEGE HERE TONIGHT

To night at 7 o'clock the Girls Varsity Basketball team will meet the Atlantic Christian College quint from Wilson. The game will be played on the Farmers Warehouse court. This is the first game that he local quint have played. They have been having early practice for over two months under the supervision of their coach, Miss Margaret Newell. The team is well trained but it will remain to be seen what it can do against the college team from Wilson. The line-up tonight will most probably be Sarah Patterson and Ava Wellons, forwards; Mary Avera, center; Ruth Brooks and Elizabeth Young guards. If you wish to support your home team, school and city go out tonight and "root" for the girls.

How Johnston County Got Its Name

Johnston County was named in honor of Gabriel Johnston, governor of North Carolina in 1784-85.

team will remain at home on the night of the debate, March 24 and debate Sanford's negative team. Our negative team will go to Dunn and debate Dunn's affirmative team the same night.

NATIONAL FARM CONFERENCE MET

Agricultural Meeting Defended by Speaker; Proposal for Relief

Washington, Jan. 25.—Proposals looking to development of American agriculture as a self-sustaining industry were considered today by the National Agricultural Conference while its committees continued work on suggested measures to relieve the present acute situation and provide for general rehabilitation. The program of addresses which covered marketing problems in many phases was interrupted long enough to permit Chairman Anderson to deny the charge voiced in some quarters that the delegates to the conference were "hand-picked."

Mr. Anderson said that Secretary Wallace, despite the shortness of time in which to select delegates after the conference was called, had consulted farm organization leaders and others in making up his list.

Governor Parker, of Louisiana, one of the speakers on the program who was the first to mention the "whispered" talk of "hand-picked" delegates at today's meeting, also defended the conference.

A proposal for establishment of commodity financing through loans to farmers running from six months to three years was endorsed today by a sub-committee working on this phase of the rehabilitation program. The proposal was said to provide for creation by the government of an agency for discounting farmers' notes based on agricultural commodities and livestock paper. This was said to be one of the important steps necessary to ameliorate the present situation.

A number of informal conferences were held today, both before and during the conference session, by delegates who were said to be considering the proposal for a resolution endorsing the "farm bloc" in Congress. Considerable informal discussion of the "farm bloc" has followed President Harding's address Monday, it was said, and delegates favoring action in support of it are understood to be canvassing to determine what reception such a resolution would be likely to receive.

Reduction of wages paid railway labor and of freight rates was recommended tonight by a sub-committee on costs, prices and readjustment. The committee declared that prices paid railroad labor and that of other industries was much greater than returns received by agricultural labor, and that a readjustment was necessary.

Another sub-committee recommended a tariff rate on sugar high enough to put sugar production in America on the same basis as during the war. These reports are to be considered by the full committee at a meeting tomorrow.

The committee on agricultural credit and insurance also reported a resolution urging Congress to consider the advisability of a plan for crop insurance, especially against pests, and elements, and the creation of a crop insurance bureau.

Co-operation between various producing and distributing agencies was recommended by a sub-committee on market costs, studies and improved business methods.

Considerable difference of opinion developed in the sub-committee on waterways in its discussion of the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes waterway, opposition being evidenced by New York interests. It was understood, however, that this proposal was endorsed.—News and Observer.

Moved and Changed His Address.

Mr. Leonard H. Stephenson has moved from his former location in Pleasant Grove township to a farm he bought from the Edmundson estate. His new place will be called the Bridge End Farm and his address will be Willow Spring, N. C., Route 1. He expects to continue farming and raising cattle making a specialty of cattle.

Onslow County Never Been Divided

Onslow county is the only early county in the state which has never been cut up or divided. It stands today as when created.

LAYS BONUS BILL BEFORE SENATE

Senator Simmons Throws a Bomb into Republican Camp Urges Adoption

Washington, Jan. 24.—The question of a bonus for former service men again was formally presented to the senate today through the introduction by Senator Simmons, democrat, North Carolina, of the five way adjusted compensation plan as an amendment to the pending measure providing for refunding the war time loans to the allied powers.

With the exception of provisions for payment of the bonus, the Simmons amendment is identical with the bonus bill which was taken up by the senate last summer only to be recommitted to the finance committee after President Harding had addressed the senate on the subject.

The provisions for payment of the bonus call for the issuance of short term treasury certificates until interest on the debt can be collected to retire them, and later, the use of the principal of the debt, of and when such becomes available, through the issuance and sale of the foreign bonds.

In offering the amendment, Mr. Simmons assured the senate that he was "in earnest," and declared that he was bringing the subject up because former service men deserved the bonus, and because the finance committee, of which he is the ranking democratic member had given "serious consideration" to attaching it to the funding bill before the latter was reported to the senate.

It was said that as a result of informal conferences among democrats, Mr. Simmons had been assured that his colleagues would support his efforts to have the amendment attached to the funding measure.

Senator Walsh, democrat, Massachusetts, also submitted an amendment to the bill, stipulating that any agreement resulting from negotiations between the proposed commission for funding the debt and the foreign representatives should not be binding on the American government until the consent of the senate had been obtained. Such provisions previously were placed before the finance committee, but were not accepted, it was said, because of objections of the treasury.

Mr. Simmons in the course of his speech declared that when the senate committee agreed to strike out the provision for a flat 5 per cent interest rate, it had left the way open for "the international speculators to gather the fruit." The Republican majority on the committee in his opinion, he added, had in mind a reduction of the interest rates to be demanded of the foreign governments in the future.

Senator Watson, republican, Indiana, interrupted to say that he as a majority member had felt that the flat rate provision was unnecessary, inasmuch as "your party," addressing Mr. Simmons, "when in power wrote into the liberty loan acts the provisions which has governed interest rates on the loans up to this time." He declared that he provisions requiring a rate from the foreign government approximately equal to that paid by the United States on its own bonds was the only "rational" way to dispose of the question.

"As for the contemplated reduction," Mr. Watson continued, "I have always had such views of both as to the interests on our own bonds and on those of the foreign government, but I do not know that they are shared by any one. Why should our government pay 5 per cent, if in 15 years it should decide to fund its bonds and could borrow all of the money it needs at 3 per cent? Where would this government be if the 5 per cent rate were in the law and we reduced our own rate when this government is morally bound to ask no more of the foreign governments than it pays in its own borrowings?"—H. E. C. Bryant in Charlotte Observer.

Half and Half.

"Folks who get mad at the editor usually have a reason," explains the Osborn Enterprise, "and the editor usually has a reason for getting them mad, so it is a sort of 50-50 proposition near as we can figure."—Kansas City Times.

SPENCER POSTOFFICE SAFE IS BLOWN OPEN

Bold Yeggman Make Away With \$500 In Stamps and Money Early Monday.

Spencer, Jan. 25.—The safe in the Spencer postoffice was blown open and robbed by unknown yeggman at a late hour Sunday night, the robbers making their escape with approximately \$500 in money and stamps.

The robbery was discovered about 7 o'clock this morning by Jas. C. Hicks when he went to the office with an automobile load of mail. He found the doors slightly ajar and a strong odor from a high explosive attracted his attention. He found the rear door prized open and the safe blown open in the middle of the floor. He notified the postmistress, Mrs. J. D. Dorsett, at once, and an investigation was made.

Heavy timbers had been used to prize the safe away from the wall so that an electric light burning in the office would shine on the front door. A quantity of bed clothes, quilts and blankets, taken from a cot in the office had been spread on the floor to catch the safe door.

The freshness of the strong odor from the explosives still strong in the room indicated that the yeggman had barely completed their work.

Sheriff J. H. Krider responded promptly to a call and was soon on the scene but so far the officers have not been able to secure a clue to the robbers.

The postoffice authorities are of the opinion that something like \$200 in cash and perhaps \$300 in stamps were taken, though it will require an inventory to determine this.

The office presented a scene of havoc this morning, fragments of the safe and its contents being blown in almost all directions, leaving marks in the interior. The office is located in the center of the business section of town and it was a bold piece of work. This was the second time the office safe has been blown and robbed, the other occasion being in January, 1916.—Greensboro News.

WOULD TEACH BIBLE IN HENDERSON SCHOOL

Henderson, Jan. 25.—Recently the ministers of Vance county and the Woman's Club have aroused the community on the subject of having some time given to teaching the Bible in the public schools. Three meetings have been held this month by the ministers to discuss the several phases of the matter. And a mass meeting of the people is to be called for Sunday night, January 29, when some of the ideas will be given and the parents encouraged to demand a small part of the school time—at least one hour a week—for teaching the Bible. They approve also the plan to have high school pupils desiring study in their own Sunday schools under proper requirements, and earn the unit of standing towards their admission into State colleges.

One minister is already teaching the Bible once a week in two of the rural schools—one a high school—he having been invited by the principal with the approval of the trustee.

FORD PLACES NAME TO SHOALS CONTRACT

DETROIT, Jan. 25.—The contract covering the proposed lease and purchase of the government's nitrate and water power projects at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, was signed by Henry Ford and returned to the war department by one of the Ford engineers tonight, a few hours after it had been received, it was announced at the office of the Detroit manufacturer.

Special Services at Trinity Church.

Beginning at eight o'clock next Sunday night, January 29th, there will be a special Sunday school service at Trinity church, Peacock's X Roads. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Powers, will give a Sunday school address, after which convention normal diplomas will be awarded to the twelve officers and teachers who have recently finished the Normal Manual Course of Study. This will be an occasion of much interest to the church and community and everybody is invited to attend.

PLOT OF TOWN GIVES HISTORY

Made in 1802 In Days When Vessels Came Up Neuse River to this City

A very interesting plot of the town of Smithfield was shown us this week by Judge F. H. Brooks. The plot is interesting because of its age, having been made in 1802—just one hundred twenty years ago. It is now in the possession of Mr. S. S. Holt, and probably came to his family through Bryant Alford, colored, who was at one time mayor of this city. The plot is yellow with age and in order to preserve it, it has been mounted on cloth. The owner expects to frame it as an historical record.

The plot gives only four streets running north and south, these stopping on the south with Church street, and on the north with Hancock street. The names of the streets correspond with the names of today with the exception of one. The street leading from the river bridge is now generally known as Bridge St., but the old plot gives its name as Smith St.

On the river, two bridges are indicated, one at the end of Market street called a free bridge, said to have been under construction at the time the plot was made, and another where the present bridge is called a toll bridge.

Printed at the bottom of the plot is the following which gives a bit of Smithfield history:

"This town is situated at the head of boat navigation on Neuse River, 100 miles west of New Bern by land, and 27 miles east of Raleigh. The current of the river from New Bern is swift but navigable as far as Smithfield; from thence upwards the river is more or less bedded in rocks and is very rapid. The town is beautifully situated on a high dry plain on the left bank of the river. The greater part of the houses are built in handsome style. The Court House is large and convenient and among the best in the state. The town is of late improving very considerably, and for more than a year past has usually had 7 or 8 well assorted retail stores. The boats employed in this trade carry from 80 to 200 barrels. Boats of much larger size have heretofore been some times employed, but it has been found on experience, that they cannot be navigated so advantageously as those at present in use. Two vessels, one of 90 tons and the other of 120 have lately been built in the vicinity of Smithfield. The Legislature of North Carolina held a session at this place in 1778, and when the Seat of Government was permanently established by the Convention in 1778, Smithfield on every balloting, except the last, was within a very few votes of obtaining the highest number."

A plot of the town to-day would show indeed many changes, but one thing could still be said. Mention was made of the commodious court house which had been erected here. One hundred twenty years ago it was among the best in the state. The same can be said now. The court house which is now being erected, is among the best in the state. Just as the record of more than a century ago stated that the town was improving so can we say to-day. The growth of Smithfield has been slow, but has been of a permanent type, a fact the citizens should be proud of. It is one of the oldest towns in North Carolina and improves with age.

First Snow Since 1904

Wilmington, Jan. 25.—This city experienced today its first snow fall since 1904. Two and a half inches of snow had fallen at 6 o'clock tonight. The precipitation was restricted to Wilmington, according to reports from nearby towns.

How To Tell a Turkey's Age.

"Casey," said Pat, "how de yez tell th' age of a tu-u-rkey?" "Oi can always tell by the teeth," said Casey. "By the teeth!" exclaimed Pat. "But a tu-u-rkey has no teeth." "No," admitted Casey, "but Oi have."—Exchange.