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WILLIAMSTON, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1908

WHOLE NO. 410

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Farmers & Merchants Bank Declare 6 Per Cent. Dividend--Election of Board of Directors--Presentation of Oil Painting of the Late President, Dennis S. Biggs.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The Farmers and Merchants Bank, was held in the banking house on Wednesday, the 15th inst. at two o'clock. The president's and cashier's reports were read and showed the bank to be in a progressive condition. During the recent financial depression its doors were kept open, and through the clever management of the cashier, Frank F. Fagan, the currency was managed so that not a single time did the bank have to resort to script, every check was honored when properly signed and endorsed. The president's report showed that 14 per cent of the capital stock had been made during the year, 6 per cent of this going to the stockholders, and 8 per cent set aside as an undivided profit. One hundred and eighty-five shares were represented, and the following stockholders were present: Charles D. Carstarphen, J. H. Knight, Ambros I. Owens, Plymouth; W. J. Whitaker, R. W. Salisbury, Hamilton, H. M. Burrass, J. C. Crawford, George W. Blount, John D. Simpson, S. Justus Everett, N. S. Peel, Asa T. Crawford, John D. Biggs, F. J. Roebuck, John L. Hassell, Alonzo Hassell, W. H. Crawford, Mrs. Dennis S. Biggs, Mrs. Asa T. Crawford, and the following were represented by proxy: Wheeler Martin, B. L. Long, Hamilton, T. W. Tilghman, G. P. McNaughton, Everetts, James A. Everett, William Slade, C. H. Hassell, Sylvester Hassell and Miss Charlotte Wood, Edenton.

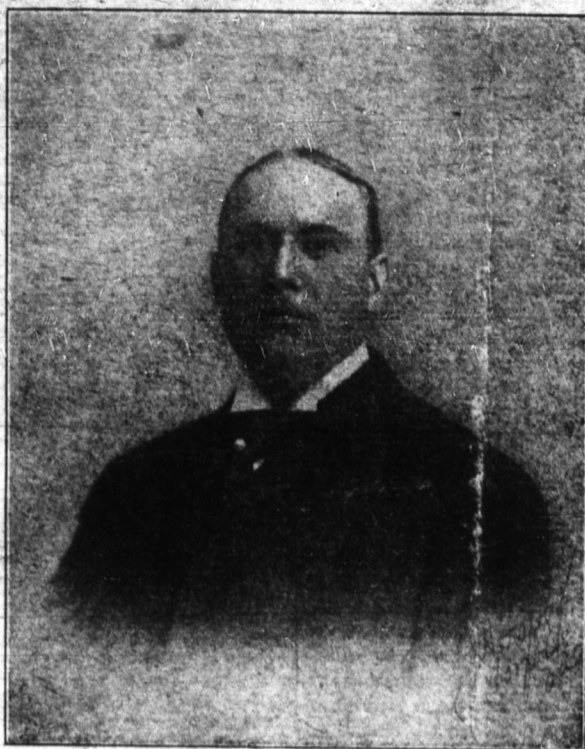
Messrs. H. M. Burrass, W. J. Whitaker, and J. C. Crawford were appointed as a committee to retire and appoint a Board of Governors. Upon their return to the meeting they read their decision, and it was

the reappointment of the present board. At this meeting of the stockholders a life-size oil portrait of the late Dennis S. Biggs, the gift of his wife was presented to the bank. Mr. S. Justus Everett, in the following words made the presentation.

"Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen: In the absence of Mr. Martain it becomes my pleasant duty in behalf of a bereaved relative to present to you, the stockholders of the Farmers & Merchants' Bank, in your annual meeting assembled, the portrait of your first president, the late Dennis S. Biggs.

His brain was the conceptive parent of this institution. He was the father of this bank, and was the first president of the first incorporated bank in this county. Others have followed his example of foresight and courage, and today there are four banks in the county, and wherever they have been planted they have become entwined in the life of the community, and are like fountains in a desert. Thus has the life of your deceased president touched and remade the life of the county's people he loved so well.

Banks have characters as have individuals, and they like states and communities are judged by the people at the head of them. This bank has taken the character of the deceased president, its popularity, probity and integrity, and may those virtues ever be characteristic. That portrait puts your president as forever the head of this institution, and may it be so, a mere gift, but a guardian angel and an inspiration. It is not merely a portrait to beautify the walls, but is as a token of love and ap-



The Late DENNIS S. BIGGS

preciation from a fond parent to an affectionate and deserving child. Accept it in that spirit from his surviving marital companion, Mrs. Fannie Chase Biggs.

It was accepted by Mr. John L. Hassell, who spoke as follows: "Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: In rising to accept, on behalf of the stockholders, the portrait of our late president, Dennis S. Biggs, I approach my task with great trepidation.

This is our first annual meeting since the demise of him whose taking of us all deplore, and to see his familiar face absent from this council table is a poignant grief that goes to the heart of all, and transforms this room for the time being into a lodge of sorrow. We extend to his bereaved widow our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the gracious gift, and we sym-

patize with her in her great sorrow, and appreciate the fact that this occasion must bestir the wound so deeply made by the insatiate archer. To see this bank which was the child of his genius rise almost Phoenix like to the foremost rank among institutions of its kind in this section of the state is proof positive of his foresight and unerring judgment, and it is decidedly fitting and proper that his likeness should adorn its walls.

The time at my disposal does not permit me to make any extended remarks, but I will make this opportunity of paying my humble but sincere tribute to the better side of his nature, as Mr. Everett has told you so truly of his genius in financial affairs, I invite your attention to his spirit of public enterprise, his kind heartedness, and generosity, and we can say of him with-

out exaggeration, in the language of Anthony speaking of his lamented Caesar: 'For his bounty there was no winter in't, autumn 'twas that grew the more by reaping. His delights were dolphin-like, they showed his back above the elements they lived in.'

"It is for his successors to continue and carry on to a glorious consummation this financial institution so favorably launched by him, and in the years to come when it shall have become a Gibraltar of financial strength as we have every reason to believe it will, may they avert to him, its founder and first benefactor, and may the great memory of his life increase as the years go by."

The members of his family present were his wife, Mrs. Dennis S. Biggs, his mother, Mrs. John D. Biggs, his brothers, John D. Biggs and Harry A. Biggs, and his sisters, Mrs. Asa T. Crawford and Miss Carrie A. Biggs.

The death of Dennis S. Biggs, so fresh in our memory, was received with startling sorrow on the morning of March 21st, 1907. Only the day before he was seen on our streets, seemingly in perfect health, and in the best of spirits, with a good word for every one whom he met. Truly no one knows how near he is to the spirit world, here to-day, gone tomorrow, to-day a physical body, tomorrow a spiritual one. At times man flashes on the view like the flaming meteor on the mist of the night, his coming compels attention, inspires love, but hardly has he begun to shine and to attract when he is swallowed up in the darkness of oblivion.

Fever Sores
Fever sores and old chronic sores should not be healed entirely, but should be kept in healthy condition. This can be done by applying Chamberlain's Salve. This salve has no superior for this purpose. It is also most excellent for chapped hands, sore nipples, burns and diseases of the skin. For sale by All Druggists & Dealers in Patent Medicine.

Some of the ladies who propose this year will undoubtedly feel real peevish when they learn that there was no law whatever against their taking the step last year or the year before.

A Cure for Misery
"I have found a cure for the misery malaria poison produces," says R. M. James, of Louellen, S. C. "It's called Electric Bitters, and comes in 50 cent bottles. It breaks up a case of chills or a bilious attack in almost no time; and it puts yellow jaundice clean out of commission. This great tonic medicine and blood purifier gives quick relief in all stomach, liver and kidney complaints and the misery of lame back. Sold under guarantee at S. R. Biggs drug store.

In France they make flour of chestnuts. They furnish bread and meat for a number of people in this country.

Rank Foolishness
"When attacked by a cough or a cold, or when your throat is sore, it is rank foolishness to take any other medicine than Dr. King's New Discovery," says C. O. Eldridge, of Empire, Ga. "I have used New Discovery seven years and I know it is the best remedy on earth for coughs and colds, croup, and all throat and lung troubles. My children are subject to croup, but New Discovery quickly cures every attack." Known the world over as the King of throat and lung remedies. Sold under guarantee at S. R. Biggs, drug store, 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

An Arkansas minister says "Satan encourages people to go fishing." Some preachers seem bent upon making a pretty good fellow out of old Nick.

Special Announcement Regarding the National Pure Food and Drug Law
We are pleased to announce that Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds and lung troubles is not affected by the National Pure Food and Drug law as it contains no opiates or other harmful drugs, and we recommend it as a safe remedy for children and adults. S. R. Biggs, C. C. Chase.

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A FIRE INSURANCE POLICY beats good luck all to pieces. That is protection you can be sure of. Let us write you a policy to-day; you have escaped fire so long that it is possible your turn is about due. You never can tell when fire is coming, so you know.

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- ALONZO HASSELL, J. L. Hassell & Co., Merchants
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