

MANY HEAR B. F. McLENDON HERE FRIDAY NIGHT

Famous Evangelist Attacks The Centralization Of Wealth

URGES LEGISLATION

Meeting A Decided Success; Parker's Orchestra, of Rocky Mount, Furnishes Entertainment

"By engaging in unfair, unequitable, circumventing competition, the great combines of the country are gradually 'killing off' the local business man," Rev. B. F. McLendon declared in his address, "The Centralization of Wealth," delivered to more than 1,000 people in the Planters Warehouse here last Friday evening. The meeting, arranged by the Community Builders' League, was a decided success, the entertainment by Ed Parker's orchestra and the address being subjects for much favorable comment.

For more than an hour the speaker exposed the practices of the great combines, often illustrating his points, and assuring his audience that he could well substantiate his every statement. Mr. McLendon predicted that when the ruin, destruction, and utter disintegration of local industry shall have been consummated, the masses who now are patronizing the combines will be "reduced to economic slavery and serfdom."

The speaker mentioned the several great combines in the various fields of industry, stating "home people be crushed and closed out by a horde of grasping, covetous, parsimonious, sordid, penny-pinching, rapacious, miserly, money-grubbing, pinch-gutted, curmudgeon and blood-sucking Wall Street millionaires who pay no taxes, support no orphan homes or churches or preachers, and pave no streets."

Their interest in a town where they squat is identical with a turkey buzzard on a dead dog, "to fill their slaws," he declared.

Continuing, the speaker declared that the centralization of wealth resulted in the fall of the great Roman Empire, that the present-day centralizers would crush bones, tear flesh, and wade through blood in order to pile up their millions while they filled the country with rags, illiteracy, hunger and serfdom.

"The country, with all its rich resources and supplies for man, is so manipulated by human greed and selfishness that millions of people live in misery and die prematurely because of the lack of proper nourishment, housing and clothing and go up to God to bear witness before Him of the mismanagement, starvation, and slaughter that are going on in this fallen and sinful world."

The matter of competition was explained when Mr. McLendon said, "Merchants could meet honest competition, but they can not compete with a horde of rapacious, mendacious, predaacious, pilfering, filching, pillaging, peculating, furacious, light-fingered crooks."

Throughout his speech, "Cyclone Mack" demonstrated the practices followed by the combines, assuring his hearers that he could support every allegation made by him. At no time in his bitter attack on the combines did the champion of home industries express a fear.

In conclusion, the evangelist urged the local interests to meet the competition by a vigorous overhauling of their stores. "Get in touch with the Senators, Congressmen, and legislators, governors, and urge the passage of legislation limiting the operation to a fair basis."

New Concern Reports Good Opening Here Last Friday

The Norfolk Underselling Company, opening their business here last Friday, report a good start and a rush business so far.

Fr. Frank, says a capacity crowd visited his store, taxing the clerks to an unusual extent. He stated that he was well pleased with the opening.

Marital Laws in India Are Changed Today

It is now against the law for girls under 14 years of age to marry in India, a law preventing marriages under that age having been passed today.

There are hundreds of thousands of girls of seven to eight years of age married in that country. There are said to be more than 100,000 widows under ten years of age there.

Commencement Held At Cross Roads Last Friday

The Cross Roads School held its commencement exercises there last Thursday evening. Rev. A. Corey, of Jamestown, delivering the principal address at 11 o'clock Friday. Mr. Corey lectured on "The Tour of North Carolina," which was greatly enjoyed.

Federal Agents Find Liquor In Judge Sinclair's Hand Bag

No Arrests Made in Case, Judge Declaring, When Questioned at Sanford Yesterday, That Affair Was A "Frame-Up"; Local Boy Is Accused

N. A. Sinclair, superior court judge, after holding a two weeks term of court here, was stopped by Federal prohibition authorities on Highway No. 90, near Tarboro Sunday afternoon, the officers finding a pint bottle partly filled with liquor and a pocket flask containing a very small quantity of whiskey in the man's traveling bag. No arrest was made, but the case was reported to district prohibition authorities, Mr. C. S. Coats, the agent in charge of the raid, stating yesterday that he was awaiting advice concerning the search.

Agent Coats, believing that the judge was carrying liquor took Assistant J. H. Roebuck and trailed the car to Mildred where the search was made. Introducing himself, Agent Coats stated that he had reason to believe that liquor was in the grip and asked the judge for permission to make the search, after talking with the court officers as to the necessity of a search warrant was unnecessary, but told the two raiding officers that they ought not to do it. When asked why they should not do it, the judge repeated, "You just ought not to do it." The officers stated that it was a very unusual case, but that it was their duty to make the search.

Mr. Sinclair explained just before the agents searched the bag that if liquor was concealed there he knew nothing about it. In further explaining the presence of the liquor in the grip, the judge stated that he did not pack the grip himself.

Shortly after the search was made, the news spread rapidly. Hundreds

TEACHERS HOLD FINAL MEETING

Sixth Session Held Last Saturday Afternoon at Robersonville

The Martin County teachers held their sixth and last meeting of the 1929-30 term in the high school building at Robersonville last Saturday afternoon, the body receiving various reports of the delegates attending the State meeting held in Raleigh the week before.

Principal W. R. Watson reported Dr. Highsmith's talk, in which the importance of telling the public of its most important institution—the school. Five means of handling this work were mentioned. Telling of Mr. Allen's talk on taxation, Principal Ainsley reported the State superintendent as stating that the schools are costing too much and to what extent the cost should be limited. Mr. Coltrane, of the Salisbury Schools, stated, according to Principal Plyler, that the situation is unusual but is not a drastic one. The remedy suggested would have all teachers prove that they give 100 per cent service for every dollar they receive. Principal Pollock made a general discussion of the happenings at the State meeting.

Following the reports, Superintendent Pope instructed the teachers as to census and attendance figures and tabulations.

Mrs. Davenport, of the Jamesville School, entertained the assembly with a Crazy Kat orchestra.

Episcopalians Announce Service for the Week

Meditation service, Tuesday afternoon at 4:30. Holy Communion service, Wednesday morning at 10. Litany service, Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Sunday school, Sunday morning at 10 and Evening Prayer and sermon, Sunday evening at 7:30.

Holy Trinity Mission. Evening service every Friday at 7:30. Sunday school, Sundays at 2:30. Evening Prayer and Sermon Sunday at 3:30.

You are cordially invited to these services.

Local Seniors To Present Play Here This Evening

The senior class of the local high school will present "The Path Across the Hill," a three-act comedy drama, in the new high school auditorium this evening at 8:00 o'clock. The play is being staged under the direction of Miss Pearl Haywood, teacher in the school.

The proceeds will be used in the purchase of a fare-well gift to the high school, it was stated.

Prohibition Officers Raid In Bear Grass Section

Federal prohibition officers, raiding in the Bear Grass section yesterday afternoon, found a large steam plant and 1,500 gallons of beer and three gallons of whisky. The plant was cold and no arrests were made. Eight hundred pounds of sugar were confiscated along with the complete outfit.

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS APPOINTED

To Appoint Registrars and Judges of Election at an Early Date

WILL MEET MONDAY

County Board Will Have To Make New Arrangements for Handling Vote Under "Australian" Law

Appointed by the State Board of Elections last Saturday as members of the county board, Messrs. Sylvester Peel, of Williamston Route 1; J. R. Winslow, of Robersonville, and C. B. Fagan, of Dardens, will meet here within the next few days to appoint a registrar and two judges of election for each of the eleven precincts of the county for the primary to be held on June 7.

The County Board of Elections will also have to make complete arrangements for handling the primary in the several precincts, meeting the requirements of the new Australian Ballot Law as to the use of booths and ballots.

The appointment of county members has created much criticism in certain parts of the State, and campaign managers in several cases have attacked the action of the State Board. The appointments in this county, however, have given cause for no criticism, two of the members, Messrs. Peel and Fagan having served on the board before. Mr. Winslow comes in as the third member of the body for the first time.

The primary this year is expected to attract much attention as it is the first State-wide one to be held under the new Australian Ballot Law, passed by the last Legislature.

HOOVER RELIEF PROGRAM NOT SO SUCCESSFUL

Farm Board Continues Plea For a Reduction in Crop Acreage

FARM PRICES LOWER Outlook For Tobacco, Cotton and Other Crops Gloomy, Agricultural Department Says

Washington, March 30.—With the general level of farm prices at the lowest point since May 1927, according to the Federal Department of Agriculture, President Hoover's farm relief program is indeed in a bad way. The worst part of the sad story is that it declined five points from February 15 to March 15, and at the latter date was 14 points under the general level at the time President Hoover took office a year ago.

The Farm Board has been functioning for nine months and instead of farm conditions getting better they are getting worse. Faced with continuing disaster, the Farm Board has taken refuge in the familiar exhortation to the farmer to reduce production.

Reports coming from Kentucky to the Department of Agriculture indicate an expected increase of 15 per cent in burley tobacco acreage. The Farm Board immediately dispatched a message to the growers that this would be suicidal. With no increase in acreage, prices are likely to be lower than last year, and the situation now developing probably will mean prices as low as in 1926 when growers averaged 13 cents a pound.

While no warning message has been sent to the tobacco farmers of North Carolina, the Bureau of Economics of the Department of Agriculture has issued an outlook statement in which it is stated that an intended increase of two per cent, is reported in Southeastern North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Even with no increase in production this year, the department reports there would be larger surplus this fall than last, and unless the quality improves, the average price per pound is likely to be smaller this year than last, and they were disastrously small last year. There is little hope held out for the production of flue-cured tobacco to make any money this year.

While the Federal Department of Agriculture is prohibited by law from issuing reports on intentions to plant, it paints a gloomy picture from facts developed under existing conditions. Prices declined a cent a pound from February 15 to March 15, the quotation for the latter date being 13.8 cents, and were five cents under a year ago.

February statistics show a 34 per cent. reduction in exports of cotton, and a 17 per cent. reduction in domestic consumption, as compared with February, 1929, resulting in an increase of 18 per cent. in March 1 stocks.

In the face of these conditions, Congress has just turned out the highest tariff bill in history. The House boosted the general average of duties 8 per cent., the Senate cut down the House average but left it at more than four per cent. higher than the average for the present law, according to the Tariff

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Verdict Favoring Plaintiffs In Church Case Set Aside By Judge Sinclair In Court Here

Final Evidence Is Given In Famous Church Case Here

BODY FOR TAX RELIEF FORMED IN THE STATE

Messrs. Lilley, Slade, Cox, Salisbury and Staton Represent Martin

356 ATTEND MEETING Will Not Ask, But Will Demand Relief at the Next General Assembly Meeting in Raleigh in 1931

A North Carolina Tax Relief Association was formed in Raleigh yesterday when 356 representatives from 44 counties assembled in Raleigh to discuss the tax situation and to demand a substantial tax reduction from the General Assembly of 1931. The association will carry on a campaign in every county of the State to reduce taxes.

Messrs. R. W. Salisbury, J. Eason Lilley, T. B. Slade, G. H. Cox and J. G. Staton represented this county at the meeting, having been appointed by the county commissioners several weeks ago.

Reports from the meeting: "The three sessions of the day were surcharged with a determination which by the late afternoon had swamped the suspicion and bickering which at first threatened the success of the meeting. At last organized and ready to take their fight into the counties, the association passed resolutions calling for the following remedies:

"State support of the constitutional school term. State maintenance of all public roads and bridges. State, county and municipal economy in government. Reduction of land valuation on county tax books. Complete reform in method of land value appraisal. A tax reduction pledge from every member of the Legislature. Repeal of the tax exemption on foreign stocks."

"Though frequently urged and never fought during the morning and afternoon session, the matter of a sales tax was not presented to the body by its joint resolution and organization committee. The committee, however, asked for further time to consider other resolutions submitted to it.

"Invited to address the assembly by a unanimous resolution, Governor O. Max Gardner told them last night, told the delegates that he believed North Carolina land was taxed too high but reminded them that each year land bore a smaller proportion of the total revenue needed to run all governments. The problem, he said, was made more complex by the fact that the State government even now faces a deficit and the next General Assembly will have to raise \$4,000,000 more than the last if the State is not to go backwards in the matter of State projects."

J. W. Wyatt, of Selma, stated that he had been a preacher for 26 years, and that the explanation—Hutchens, Gilliam and others had given as to the Primitive Baptist doctrine was correct. He stated he had heard Harrington say he advocated general atonement. In explaining the chance system, the witness illustrated his belief by saying that when you put water on fire, sometimes it boils, some times it freezes; that is chance.

J. L. Ross, of Stokes, stated that he was a Primitive Baptist Elder, that he had heard Harrington preach several times, that he had heard others call him down and reprimand him on several occasions, that at the council in January 1930, the defendants urged Harrington to defend himself. On cross examination, he stated that he was notified to meet on December 6, but heard there was going to be a fight, that they had their sleeves rolled up, that he would not go. Upon being asked who had told him, he giggled and failed to answer. He described the council on January 11 in about the same manner as others, except that he stated a person might be led off by hearing wrong doctrine and not know it, that man can't endorse that which he knows nothing about.

Carl Goerch, editor of the Washington Progress, was the next witness. He read two articles from his paper written from interviews held with Elder Harrington.

Elder J. S. Corbitt, of Greenville, who for 48 years has been a Primitive Baptist minister stated that he had heard Harrington preach several times, and that he did not preach in accord with the Primitive Baptist Faith. The witness explained that the purpose of the council was to bring the accused and the accused face to face. The complaints made were general, mutual one with another, same by the minister and some by the laity. Harrington was called upon to answer the complaints, but he did not answer a single question, except by quoting Scripture, the witness said. He was asked to explain difference between regeneration and conversion four times, but he did not answer. Continuing, the witness stated that some one had said his doctrine was the same as catholicism. On

Having heard that many whose loved ones sleep there would like to contribute towards the recent expense incurred by the building of the fence, this is to advise them and all others interested that any contribution, be it much or little, will be received with appreciation.

MRS. FANNIE S. BIGGS.

Improvements Made at the Baptist Cemetery

A new fence is now enclosing the Baptist Cemetery, thereby much improving the appearance of our "City of the Dead." A permanent improvement will be noticed and maintained if individuals will keep clean their plots, and when cleaning them, be careful not to leave grass, leaves and weeds in the walks and driveways.

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VERDICT SAID TO BE CONTRARY TO EVIDENCE GIVEN

Case Back to Where It Was Before Proceedings Were Started

JURY RESENT ATTACK

Is Fourth Verdict Ever Set Aside by Sinclair; Future Developments In Controversy Not Known

Returning a verdict favoring the plaintiffs, the majority faction, twelve Pitt County citizens forming the jury, were reversed when Judge N. A. Sinclair declared that the decision was contrary to the weight of the evidence gathered during five days in the Smithwick's Creek Primitive Baptist Church controversy, the action leaving the case just where it was when the proceedings were commenced more than a week ago.

At 12:05, Sunday morning, the jury filed into its box in the county courthouse, weary after a week's stay in the courtroom and a deliberation lasting around eight hours. Approximately 100 people, a majority of them being from the country where the case had its beginning, heard the announcement of the verdict. The two questions, "Are the plaintiffs entitled to the exclusive use and possession of the church building and property of Smithwick's Creek Baptist Church?" and "Have the defendants wrongfully occupied and withheld possession of the same from plaintiffs?" were answered in the affirmative. The decision was calmly received, but the defense was quick to enter an objection, stating emphatically that the verdict was "contrary to the weight of the evidence." For almost an hour, Defense Attorney A. R. Dunning argued the cause. Attorneys Paul and Peel replied to the argument, maintaining the jury system and mentioning probable issues upon which the jurors reached their verdict. Mr. Paul complimented the court upon its manner of hearing the proceedings, adding that the case had been carefully tried, that the verdict should stand.

In a brief introduction to his action, Judge Sinclair stated that in all his years on the bench, he had reversed juries but three times, that he respected the system and regretted to find it necessary to alter the decision. Then he stated that the verdict was contrary to the evidence, and that he would be forced to set it aside.

An attempt by Attorney Paul to have the Judge reconsider the action proved useless, Mr. Sinclair stating that the senior attorneys in the case had an opportunity to be present when the decision was rendered, and that the reversal should be final.

The method of procedure waxed warm at times, but as a whole the spectators remained quiet, expressing their doubt as to what really was going on and what had been done in so short a time. The jury composed of Messrs. J. L. Jenkins, J. E. Humble, A. F. Rowe, W. D. Owen, H. S. Ragsdale, C. M. Smith, W. D. Bailey, George Dail, J. H. Byrum, W. T. Allen, E. H. Hooks and L. C. Fletcher, accepted the harsh criticism of the court without a word at the time, but members of the body are said to have resented it later. However, they were conservative in their remarks, it was said, but expressed no great desire to ever return to court in this county.

Following the last of the proceedings, it was reported that the first count in

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8-MONTHS TERM FOR BEAR GRASS

Election In Favor Tax Levy Carries by Only a Majority of 19

An eight-months term was provided for the Bear Grass School yesterday when 134 voters out of 249 registered voted for a special tax of not more than 35 cents with which to operate the school during the two extra months. The election, the second to be held in this county under the new Australian ballot system, carried by a very small majority, 134 voting against and nine not voting, making the count stand 134 for and 115 against the tax.

The passage of the measure makes possible the continuance of the school for one more month this year, the school being in its seventh month now. Had the election failed to carry, it is understood that the school would have automatically stopped, as the teachers had agreed to continue in the anticipation of the scheduled election.

According to reports coming from both sides, the voting system recently introduced was favorably received at the polls there yesterday.