

TENTATIVE PLAN FOR CLOSING OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

Hon. J. C. B. Ehringhaus Will Deliver Commencement Address May 8

Tentative plans, in part, for the closing (regular, not forced) of the local schools were announced yesterday by Principal Wm. R. Watson, who referred to the scheduled exercises as the best so far planned at any previous closing of the Williamston Schools.

The first of the series of exercises will be held Friday evening of next week when a library play will be staged. Schools activities for the 1930-31 term will be brought to an end May 8 when the graduation exercises will be held in the new school building.

Announcements, in detail, will be given from time to time, Mr. Watson said, in connection with the following events:

- March 20—Library Play.
- March 27—Grammar Grade Operetta.
- April 17—Senior Play.
- April 24—Seventh Grade Exercises.
- May 1—Music Recital.
- May 3—Sermon to High School Graduating Class.
- May 8—High School Graduation.

LEGGE PREDICTS 5 CENT COTTON

Statement Will Also Apply To Tobacco Prices This Fall

Referring to the failure of growers to cut acreage, Alexander Legge, recently resigned chairman of the Federal Farm Board, said the cotton farmer "is still trying to put the price down to five cents," and the wheat farmer will "quit growing wheat when it gets down to 25 cents."

The former farm board chairman, whose position is now filled by James C. Stone, one-time tobacco member of the board, did not mention the various other crops, but his statement was accepted as applying to tobacco.

When it comes to acreage reduction, he said, farmers are too willing "to let George do it."

Asked if he saw any immediate possibility for five cents cotton, Legge said "there is no question but if they raise as much this year as they have been, the price will be lower than anything they have seen yet."

He believed, however, there would be some reduction in cotton acreage this year, but "not as much as it ought to be."

Regarding wheat, while reduction this year will be small, the chairman still saw the possibility the acreage would be cut 20 per cent within two years.

SCHOOL MEN TO HOLD MEET HERE

Schoolmasters Club Plan a Discussion of School Legislation

The Martin County schoolmasters will hold their sixth meeting of the 1930-31 term in the high school building here Thursday evening, it was announced by Professor W. R. Watson, president of the club, yesterday afternoon.

Two topics, a county field day and school legislation, will be discussed, Mr. Watson stated in his announcement, and a goodly number of the male teachers are expected to attend and take part. A county field day was suggested by Professor R. I. Leake, of the Robersonville Schools at the county teachers' meeting held here last Saturday afternoon when it was referred to the Schoolmasters' club for consideration.

The "discussion, having to do with school legislation, is advanced in an effort to acquaint the various school heads with all new measures passed or proposed in the North Carolina General Assembly.

The teachers will be served dinner in the high school lunch-room by the ladies of the Methodist Church Aid society, according to present plans.

Kiwanians To Hold Meet Here Tomorrow at Noon

4,000 Merchants Attack School Revenue Measure

WOULD PREFER PRESENT TAX BE CONTINUED

Action Not a Test Vote on Sales Tax, But Shows Strength in House

FAVOR NO SALES TAX

Prominent Merchants Declare Day Sales Tax Bill Would Completely Destroy Them

Four thousand merchants marched down on Raleigh yesterday to register complaints, some against the Hinsdale or so-called luxury tax, and some against the Day tax bill or tax on gross sales, and some against any form of sales tax whatever. The result was a marked blow directed at the MacLean School Bill, and gives rise to an impending danger for the landowners throughout the State.

The action of the committee last night was not a test vote on sales tax, but it does indicate that the House is stronger for a sales tax than the Senate is. In short, it looks as if the line of defense set up by farmers and landowners earlier in the session was attacked by politicians backed by more than 3,000 merchants in a last battle of the season.

CHARGED WITH ATTACKING CAT

Paul Bozeman Breaks Glass Partition And Knocks Cat Off Of A Box

Charged with attacking a house cat Paul Bozeman, young white man of near here, was carried before Justice of the Peace J. L. Hassell last week. He was required to pay the damage connected to the assault and justify the court for its trouble.

A few days ago, Bozeman, partially if not totally intoxicated, wandered into C. O. Moore's store on Washington Street here. A large house cat, peacefully sleeping on a box just on the other side of a glass partition, attracted Bozeman's attention. The man cursed and dared the cat to meow or growl, and as the pet continued to sleep, he became worried and with pugilistic force thrust his fist through the glass partition. The cat, landed on its feet several paces away. Bozeman arrested and carried before Justice Hassell to answer in the case charging him with assaulting a cat.

CLUB MEETING AT JAMESVILLE

Agent Explains Curb Market and Urges Support Of Club Members

The Home Demonstration Club of Jamesville held its regular monthly meeting in the club room on Friday March 6 at 2:30 p. m. In the absence of the President, Mrs. Lessie Holliday Vice President presided. Thirteen members and two visitors were in attendance. The club decided to assume the responsibility of supplying milk and fruit for a sick child in the community.

After the regular business meeting at which time Mrs. Bettie Hassell was appointed News Reporter, Miss Sleeper took charge stressing the need of hot beds and cold frames for starting early vegetables. Names of quick growing vegetables and those of new favor in the state were suggested to the members. She explained the management of the curb market that is to be opened in Williamston soon and urged every club member to support the market. She also gave her plan for the afternoon was remodeling and Restyling old garments.

After adjournment the Club was delightfully served a salad course with coffee by Mrs. J. E. Smithwick—Club Reporter.

RED CROSS AIDS TWO MILLIONS

Contributions to \$10,000,000 Relief Fund Totals \$9,704,654.00

Washington, March 7.—The full disaster measure of last summer's drought was calculated today by the Red Cross.

Approximately 2,000,000 persons in 850 counties of 22 states were being fed or otherwise aided by the Red Cross on the last day of February—a month-end summary believed by officials to represent "peak load."

In the shortest, leanest month of all, February, 460,240 families were being fed, as against 255,737 families the month before. The national relief scene was etched in terms of families aided, with the explanation that four and one-half persons were considered the average per family.

By states, aid was given as follows: Alabama, 22,752 families; Arkansas, 161,114 families; Georgia, 1,122 families; Illinois, 4,785 families; Indiana, 2,356 families; Kansas, 26 families; Kentucky 40,903; Louisiana, 51,251; Maryland, 567; Mississippi, 31,389; Missouri, 22,626; Montana, 569; North Carolina, 2,120; North Dakota, 280; Ohio, 8045; Oklahoma, 52,616; Pennsylvania, 549; Tennessee, 16,467; Texas, 26,519; Virginia, 9,175; West Virginia, 5009.

Contributions to the \$10,000,000 drought relief fund totaled \$9,704,654.

SCOUTS HOLD A HONOR COURT

Twenty-eight Boys Attend Meeting Held Here Friday Evening

BY L. L. HALLMAN, Secy. Sincerely hoping that every father and mother that sees this article will read same, as we are not asking for anything but we do offer you information that you should be eager to get.

The organization of Boy Scouts is an International Institution that stands for the greatest things that life holds for man.

Is Your Boy a Scout Why? Scouting offers the boy more than he can get any place that I know of away from his parents. Just consider for a moment the oath that the boy takes before being admitted to become a scout any you will see that he is compelled to gain some benefit from the organization that he is joining.

The Oath.—On my Honor—1. I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and obey the scout laws. 2. To help other people at all times. 3. To keep my self physically strong mentally awake and morally straight.

If your boy is a Scout help him to be a better one, if he is not get him in.

The advancement at present in the troop of your town is great indeed, within the next few months you will have some boys that will have reached the highest rank possible in scouting, why not let one of these boys be yours.

The last Court of Honor held in the Court House presided over by the chairman of the Court Scouter Z. T. Piephoff. There were also present L. L. Hallman Secy. Wheeler Martin Scout Master, William Manning an Scout, H. D. Harrison Councilor for Firemanship Merit Badge.

There were twenty eight scouts present. We also had in attendance a great number of visitors, of which we were very proud.

The following young men were presented to the court for advancement, in a very impressive ceremony. There were three young men dubbed scouts by becoming Tenderfoot Scouts, they were Howard Cone, Thad Harrison and Exum Ward.

For the Rank of Second Class—Harry Taylor. For higher advancement, being merit badge work the following were presented for the various awards in the different subjects.

Civics Merit Badge—W. F. Clark, Jno. H. Gurganus, Ben Hopkins, Wheeler Martin Jr.

Wood Work—L. L. Hallman. First Aid—J. S. Rhodes, Jno. H. Gurganus, Leslie Fowden Jr., Lawrence Lindsley.

Handicraft—J. D. Rhodes Jr., Leslie Fowden Jr., Jno. H. Gurganus, Horace Ray, L. L. Hallman. Firemanship—H. D. Harrison, Jr., William F. Clark, O. S. Anderson Jr., M. J. Ben Hopkins, L. G. Lindsley, Jack Manning, Horace Ray, Donnie Harrison, Jno. H. Gurganus, Reginald Simpson, Leslie Fowden Jr., L. L. Hallman.

Cycling—J. Ben. Hopkins, H. D. Harrison Jr., Donnie Hardison, Horace Ray, O. S. Anderson Jr., Wheeler Martin Jr., L. L. Hallman. Personal Health—J. S. Rhodes Jr., Reginald Simpson.

Basketry—L. L. Hallman. Pioneering—L. L. Hallman. Automobiling—L. L. Hallman. The court was closed by the chairman and the meeting was turned over to the scout master, after which there were numerous games played, both entertaining and educational.

Fertilizer Man Voices His Opinions on Conditions

Mr. S. Y. Priddy, associated with the C. W. Priddy Fertilizer Company, of Norfolk, was a business visitor in our town yesterday.

Mr. Priddy, is of the opinion that high prices for farm products have departed and will remain so, far quite awhile unless something unforeseen come to light. Mr. Priddy, says conditions are not so bad in his territory where farmers have been operating on a conservative basis, and he believes conditions will adjust themselves where the farmers will follow a conservative course of crop variety.

ANSWER BOX

Q. When was the first agricultural fair held in Martin county? A. About 1854.

Q. Where was the first agricultural fair held in Martin county? A. In Hamilton.

Q. What was the assessed property valuation in Martin county? A. \$15,887,039.00.

Government Seed-Feed Loans Available to Martin Farmers

Eleven Convicts Cremated In Duplin County Prison

Forty-one Save Lives When Camp Burned Early Saturday Morning

Eleven Negro convicts were burned to death at two o'clock last Saturday morning when the Duplin County stockade was destroyed by fire. An investigation, conducted by State authorities held no one responsible for the tragedy, but efforts to have the old State Prison replaced by a modern one were rebuffed as a result of the Duplin tragedy.

The fire, starting in the kitchen of the camp, was discovered by two guards, but before they could give the alarm and release all the 52 prisoners, stifling smoke pushed them back. Eleven trapped in a back cell, were left to perish. The flames never reached the 11 men, but the heat from the burning structure around them scorched their bodies, making identification impossible.

Starting from what is believed to have been a defective wire, the flames advanced so rapidly that when discovery was made, it was too late. The officers ran into the center entrance of the blazing building and released the first 16 men in the cell blocks. These screaming and howling, maddened by terror, fought wildly in a stampede for the door.

Owen Basley, Jr., guard who released them, was thrice knocked down in the rush and received painful head injuries.

But when the guards sought to un-fetter the men in the second cell block they found fiery death and preceded them.

Crowded into a single cell of the block containing five barred sections, the negroes had died, impotent to struggle against the red hot iron bars which both imprisoned and tortured them.

As a result of the Duplin tragedy, near Kenansville, pressure from a number of quarters was being brought to bear on members of the general assembly to secure passage of a bill now before the body to re-appropriate \$400,000 in order that a fire proof central prison may be erected at Carey prison farm.

Though all prisoners killed at Kenansville were county charges, and the state department of public welfare and state prison immediately dispatched investigators to the scene.

Close on the heels of the news of the fire Mr. Pou gave every member of the general assembly a communication warning them that "if proper and safe buildings are not authorized, then members of the general assembly and those who oppose the bill must accept the responsibility in the event of a fire and the loss of human lives."

Dan C. Boney, commissioner of insurance, said the Duplin fire should "forcefully call to the attention of our present general assembly" conditions existing at the central prison and the hospitals for the insane at Raleigh and Morganton. Mr. Boney said "just such occurrences can happen any day" at any of the institutions.

"The conscience of the state is shocked beyond measure at the catastrophe in the Duplin prison fire which tortured to death 11 helpless convicts early this morning," Governor said in a statement tonight.

"I am inexpressibly distressed at the occurrence, which, while not expected, could have happened in so many places in North Carolina. I shudder to think of what the outcome would be if a similar fire should occur at the state's prison.

"If anyone needs to be convinced of the duty that the state owes itself as well as the individuals on whom it lays its hand of restraint, the mutually eloquent charred bodies of these 11 unfortunate wretches I think furnishes it.

"I hope to see the administration recommendation for the relocation and rebuilding of the state's prison in suitable units, and according to practical modern standards, go through in time to prevent a truly distressful occurrence happening again in North Carolina. I wish it might have been done in time to have prevented this."

Pneumonia Deaths More Numerous In the County

Although the disease is far from the epidemic stage, pneumonia has resulted in a number of deaths in several sections of the county during the past few weeks according to reports coming from the various practicing physicians. The percent of pneumonia deaths is said to be larger than usual, and practically all the cases developed from influenza, it is believed.

Clothing Specialist To Hold Meet Here

Miss Willie Hunter, State Clothing Specialist of the Extension Division at Raleigh will be in the County Wednesday for an all day meeting in the Home Agent's office beginning at 10.30. This is the first meeting to be open to women interested in the subject "Children's Clothing." Miss Hunter has asked that the women bring old garments from which children clothes can be made.

DOINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Introduce Bills Providing Further Delay In Real Estate Valuation

Countless bills, humorous ones and minor ones along with a few worthy ones are being enacted into law by the present legislature, such good luck so far for the revenue bill that would create funds for operating the six months schools.

The Senate yesterday passed the administration bill to reappropriate \$400,000 to state's prison to provide for the erection of a modern, fire-proof central prison.

Fighting to postpone a revaluation of real property in N. C. until 1933, members of both-houses of the general assembly yesterday introduced bills continuing the effect of the Neal law until January 1 two years hence.

Early in its session the assembly passed the bill of Representative Neal of McDowell postponing the revaluation until March 25, though it was supposed to have started January 1, a week before the legislature met.

Due to extraordinary times existing, with land values at unusually low figures, Governor Gardner urged the assembly in his biennial message to postpone the work until 1933.

The new bills are by Neal of McDowell in the house and Pritchett, Campbell, Hendren and others in the senate.

Coming before the Senate as a substitute with committee amendments designed to allay opposition by reducing its cost, the State-wide automobile drivers license bill became involved in a running debate yesterday and emerged, after its third reading, as a mere gesture toward greater highway safety.

Under the bill as amended, members of the highway patrol, sheriffs, police officers and other constituted authorities in the name of the state may issue licenses to drivers of automobiles after January 1, 1932, but may charge nothing for this service.

It has been agreed that no new bills would be introduced in the two branches of the legislature after tomorrow. Probably no record has been established, but apparently there have already been sufficient bills introduced.

U. S. SURVEY OF SCHOOL FOLKS

Lengthy Questionnaire Is Sent To Each Teacher In the United States

In an effort to make a survey of the demand for and education of teachers throughout the United States, the Department of Interior, Washington, is sending out to every teacher in the country a questionnaire propounding numerous questions. The blanks are being mailed from the superintendent's office in the county this week, and the teachers will have something to really amuse them over the week-end. The questionnaire is complete in every detail.

In addressing the questionnaire to the teachers, the department says, "The present unemployment of many experienced and trained teachers led the Seventy-first Congress, at the request of professional organizations, to provide for a nation-wide survey of the demand for and education of teachers, supervisors, administrators and other specialists in the public school systems of the United States. You may have answered similar questions for local studies. However, to secure data comparable between States, all teachers and other professional employees are asked to reply to the same set of questions.

This study is solely for the improvement of American education.

INCLUDE COUNTY IN CHANGE MADE A FEW DAYS AGO

\$189,000 Has Already Been Lent To North Carolina Farmers

\$5,000 LENT LAST YEAR

County Agent T. B. Brandon Will Handle Seed-Feed Loans In This County

That Martin County farmers will be eligible, after all to share in the United States \$25,000,000 seed and feed loan fund was announced last Saturday, when several additional counties in this immediate part of the State were included in the list of drought sufferers. Late in January, a list of the State and counties eligible for participation in the loan fund, was announced, but Martin county was not included, and at a last minute this county was included.

The allotment available to farmers in this county is not known, but it is believed that all those who are eligible will have an opportunity to share in the fund. The rules for securing the loans are not known at this time, but it is understood that similar methods in effect last year will continue again this year. Farmers losing their crops on account of dry weather and finding it impossible to finance themselves this year can borrow from the fund, giving a lien on his anticipated crop as security. It is also understood that no loans will be made unless the borrower agrees to plant ample feed and food crops during the coming season.

County Agent T. B. Brandon will handle the loans in this county, it was announced. Those eligible to participate in the fund should see him at once. It is specifically stated, however, that no loans will be made to finance other than farming activities, and money secured from the fund can not be used to pay taxes or other debts of a similar nature.

Last year, approximately \$5,000 was lent to about a dozen farmers in this county, it is understood. According to reports coming from those sharing in the \$8,000,000 loan fund last year, the benefit was marked. One of the farmers coming in for a loan remarked that he accomplished as much with the \$300 cash lent him as he had been doing with around \$700 worth of credit.

Practically all the 1930 loans have been paid off.

Approximately \$189,000 has been loaned to North Carolina farmers under the drought relief appropriation, Dean I. O. Schaub, of N. C. State College, says he has learned from Washington.

Approximately 900 loans have been made in the state, he said.

"We have had one of our district agents, O. F. McCrary, in Washington for the past two weeks assisting in arranging these loans," Dean Schaub said. "He returned to Raleigh this week and will be replaced by John W. Goodman, district agent in the south-western part of the state."

Mr. Schaub said a large number of the applicants for loans from farmers in Stokes and Surry counties, where the drought was most severe last summer.

He said the demand for application blanks in Stokes county was so great two weeks ago that the local committee and county farm agent could not keep supplied.

Tar Heel Farmers Plan Banquet in Jamesville

The members of the Young Tar Heel Farmers' club of the Jamesville High School, will hold a Father-Son banquet in the school here Friday evening of this week from 8 to 11 p. m., it was announced yesterday.

Each year, the young farmers of that section get together with their fathers for a general discussion having to do, more or less, with farming. The students in the agricultural class of the Jamesville School are doing a marked work, according to reports, and the Father-Son banquet is looked forward to with much interest.

False Fire Alarm Received By Volunteers Here Today

The local fire company was called out at 12:30 this afternoon when a fire was reported near the old convict camps at the foot of the river hill. The truck went down the hill, and when the firemen could learn nothing about the report there, they returned. The alarm was turned in by Penn Respass, local colored man.

No definite details have been determined at this time, but an investigation will be made, it is understood.