

Missionary Tells Of Conditions In War Stricken China

Says Church Is Building Firmer Foundation in Orient

"In periods of persecution, the church has ever builded a firmer foundation, and we will not call it a day and quit China when she needs us most," Rev. C. H. Plopper, missionary home on furlough from the war-stricken country, told a small but interested group in the local Christian church last evening.

A preacher-teacher in the Orient for a quarter of a century, Dr. Plopper had a large store of interesting information to offer, and he touched on the work of the several mission churches, the educational activities and work that is being done during the troublous times now confronting China and its millions.

He told of the church work and how budget requirements exacted time as well as cash donations, how some of the missions were beginning to become self-supporting and how the work is progressing. His description of the war, while confined to incidents related to mission work, offered new insights on the activities in that great country and especially those centering around the Christian program.

Called to follow the army into far removed fields, Chinese doctors have been forced to leave hundreds of thousands of people without medical attention. In one city, Dr. Plopper pointed out, a missionary doctor, broken in health, is operating 15 hours a day. Nurses are substituting for doctors, and the hospitals and schools have been filled to overflowing with the sick and the dying.

The bombing of a Christian hospital was described, the Japanese raid claiming the life of one of the church's foremost surgeons and the lives of five nurses. Thirty-five thousand refugees sought safety on the campus of Nanking university, a union institution supported jointly by the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Christian churches, when the invaders entered that city of more than a million people.

Nine missionaries continued at their posts directing relief and offering aid to more than one hundred thousand people. "But we will not call it a day and quit," the visiting missionary said.

Dr. Plopper spoke to the several missionary societies yesterday afternoon, and in a forum at the close of the service last evening answered many questions. No appeal for aid was heard last evening, but the church man clearly pointed out the golden opportunity for the church to march forward in that great country.

Twenty million people have moved out of their homes, leaving savings of a life time to march to safety ahead of the invaders, the migration being described as the largest ever recorded in the history of the world.

"How long can it last?" Dr. Plopper was asked in a small forum yesterday. "Last December, an authority on affairs in the Orient stated in an article in the New York Times that Japan would spend itself in twelve months. Today, that same man says he would reduce the number to six months, but some believe it will take two years for the situation to reach a definite crisis."

Whooping Cough In Three Townships

Since March 1, 23 cases of whooping cough have been reported in this county, according to a preliminary report released yesterday by Dr. E. W. Furguson, full-time county health officer. Eleven of the cases were in Cross Roads, and six each in Hamilton and Robersonville.

In connection with the appearance of the cough in this county, Dr. Furguson offers the following comment: "Whooping cough usually begins with the symptoms of a cold in the chest, and a week or ten days may pass before the whooping and spasms of coughing occur. Sometimes there is no real whooping throughout the whole period of sickness. The disease is more dangerous to infants than to older children, and pneumonia is the most frequent complication.

Fishing Season Scheduled To Open in Roanoke Next Week

Fishing on a large scale is scheduled to get underway in the Roanoke at Jamesville and in the lower part of the county next week, no definite dates having been announced at this time for starting the operations at Camp Point and Jamesville. The fisheries in the extreme lower part of the county, near Plymouth, are slated to start operating next Monday, but a last-minute delay might be effected, holding the nets out of the water until later in the week.

"We hope to start fishing some time during the latter part of the week if conditions are favorable," Mr. C. C. Fleming, operator of the fisheries at Camp Point and Jamesville said a few days ago. The plant at Camp Point has been rebuilt in its entirety, the owner having invested heavily during the past few months in restoring the fishery there.

Reports coming from the river fishing grounds in recent days have been more favorable than they were a week or two ago. A single machine on the river at this point picked up two dozen large herrings night before last, indicating that some fish will come through pulp mill acids and tannic acid poison or any other obstacles, actual or imaginative.

It will be quite a few days before the fishing season comes into its own, but the early catches generally command higher prices making the seine operators eager to start operation as soon as possible. In early April, the size of the catches ordinarily reach a maximum, and along about that time throngs visit the fisheries, some to see the operators and others to lay up a store of food for the coming months.

Road Refund Claims Are Given Attention

Commission hints it will possibly make adjustments. Martin County authorities and its citizens were given encouragement in their claim to a half-million dollar road refund this week when the State Highway and Public Works Commission issued a last call to counties claiming restitution of road expenditures made in highway development before the State took over the road system.

A resolution unanimously adopted set May 1 as the deadline for filing "any new or additional information" before the commission begins to make a "final determination" of the more than \$70,000,000 in claims from the counties.

A commission created by the 1935 general assembly held hearings on the claims of certain counties; that they were due payments from the State for monies borrowed for road construction or for roads constructed by the county and later taken over by the state. The commissioner reported to the 1937 legislature, which turned the whole matter back to the highway commission.

Martin County more than a year ago filed a claim for a refund of \$401,907.88 spent in advancing a strictly state highway program. Senator R. L. Coburn and Representative H. G. Horton sponsored a bill in 1935 calling for the creation of a commission to study the claims. After a long and costly investigation, the commission threw the hot problem back into the highway department lap where it has been held under surface until this week when a deadline was set for offering any new or additional information.

It is now believed that the commission is considering plans for adjusting the claims one way or another, some believing that the authorities will offer a percentage settlement. Martin County's claim is said to have stood up under attack directed to it by both the special fact-finding commission and the State Highway body, and that it is reasonable.

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Arrangements Go Forward For Opening Library April 1

The first order for books for Williamston's public library was mailed Wednesday afternoon after the board of directors met in the office of Mayor John L. Hassell and approved a list of about three hundred volumes. Delivery is expected within two weeks, and during the meantime, leaders of the movement are rushing plans to completion for opening the library in the American Legion Hut on Watts street or about the first of next month.

Cabinet makers are at work on the shelves and book stands and they plan to complete that work by the middle of next week. The library operating personnel will be announced shortly. Rev. John L. Goff, with quite a few others, has been instrumental in establishing the worthy project

Hold Last Service At Old Piney Grove On Sunday Morning

Congregation Plans to Use New Building Next Month

Members of the Piney Grove Missionary Baptist church will worship in the old building on the Manning Road, near the P. E. Getsinger home in Griffins Township, Sunday morning possibly for the last time. "We are ceasing the new church on the site of the old township house near the Manning boys in Griffins Township this week, and we hope to have the building ready for use the second Sunday in April," Rev. W. B. Harrington, pastor and leader in the new-church movement, said yesterday.

At the Sunday morning hour, Mr. John W. House, chairman of the executive board of the Roanoke Baptist association, will occupy the Piney Grove Church pulpit, and the public is cordially invited to hear him, the pastor announced.

Just a few weeks ago, the Piney Grove membership agreed almost unanimously at the start to move their worship activities to a spot more conveniently located. Some members pledged lumber and other building materials. Others offered their services free, and friends of the congregation made liberal donations to advance the project. Large numbers, including members and non-members of the church, reported for work not long ago, and the house was framed in a few days. Activities were halted a few days, but recently the forces returned and in a short time closed in the structure. They are now finishing the interior, and it is almost certain the building will be ready for use the early part of next month or possibly even before that time.

Owned by Mr. P. E. Getsinger and offered to the Piney Grove Baptists for their use, the old church will likely be converted into a residence.

Draw Jurors For Special Term Of Superior Court

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn To Preside Beginning April 18th

Jurors for the special term of Martin County Superior Court convening Monday, April 18th were drawn by the county commissioners in regular meeting last Monday. Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, of Jackson, is scheduled to preside over the term that lasts for two weeks. The court will try civil cases only. Names of jurors and their places of residence are, as follows:

- First Week: Jamesville Township: Eli D. Rogers, L. W. Ange, J. H. Davenport. Griffins Township: Archie T. Coltrin and Otis Wainwright. Bear Grass Township: James S. Bailey, W. Alton Rogers and Dewey Leggett. Williamston Township: K. P. Lindsley, Ira S. Price, Robert Cowen and J. Hayward Rogers. Cross Roads Township: C. P. Hopkins and L. A. Clark. Robersonville: J. E. Page, P. T. Norwood, W. Hugh Roberson and Alton E. Grimes. Second Week: Jamesville Township: H. S. Hardison, George H. Mizelle, Jr., W. R. Roberson, R. G. Coburn and Howard E. Hardison. Williams Township: Ben Griffin and Lawrence Griffin. Bear Grass Township: C. H. Ayers, J. L. Stalls and Alonzo D. Terry. Williamston Township: Charles Herriott. Cross Roads Township: W. M. Wynne. Robersonville Township: Grady E. Smith, A. P. Roberson, H. C. Woolard. Hamilton Township: Ed Purvis and Elmer Edmondson. Goose Nest Township: Robert Hux.

The jurors for the special term were drawn from a list just recently revised by the county commissioners. Heavy poultry loadings are being made cooperatively in the county this week, reports from Jamesville and Williamston stating that nearly 8,000 pounds were loaded at the two points on Tuesday and yesterday. "They are loading heavy in Robersonville today," County Agent T. B. Brandon said.

Heavy Poultry Loadings Underway In The County

Authorities Predict Farmers of This County Will Give the New Farm Bill a Big Vote Tomorrow

Nearly 1,000 Farmers Call For Checks Here This Week

Nearly 1,000 Martin County farmers who complied with the soil conservation program last year have called at the office of the county agent for their benefit checks this week. In a few cases, the farmers notified by mail to call for the checks beat the mail man to town, and the office of the agent has been kept busy steadily from early morning until late afternoon handing out the checks.

To date, the office has received 40 checks representing 453 applications. The checks total approximately \$48,984.15, reports from the office of the county agent stating that this amount represents about half the benefits payments expected in the county this season. Just when additional checks will be received, no one is able to say at this time, but the agent's office points out that it can see no reason why most of the remaining checks should not be ready for delivery to the owners within a short time. Farmers, as a general rule, are greatly pleased with the size of their checks, a number of them explaining that they are receiving twice as much as they had expected. All of them are glad they participated in the program and complied with its provisions, but there are many who planted their soil-depleting base limits, and therefore will receive no benefit payments. Last year, the farmers received approximately \$180,000 in benefit payments. This year, they will receive hardly \$100,000.

No Tax Exemptions Allowed, Official Says

Plans Go Forward For Listing 1938 Property Holdings

Rumors claiming that the properties of the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of this county would be exempt from taxation were denied by J. E. Pope, chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, here this week. "It has been pointed out to me that reports, widely circulated in some sections of the county, have charged the county authorities with exempting the North Carolina Pulp Company of taxes," Mr. Pope said in issuing a strong denial of any such action.

This matter was discussed in several meetings of our board when the company was considering locating its plant in or near Williamston," Mr. Pope continued, "and it was pointed out on those occasions that our board was forbidden by law to exempt property of taxation."

The board chairman pointed out, however, that the county and its people would cooperate with the plant ownership in any way they could, "and we want to do what is right and fair in listing the pulp company's property just as much so as we want to list fairly the property of every other owner in the county."

"When the Kieckhefer Container Company management abandoned plans for locating the plant in Williamston, we considered the matter closed. No official requests for cooperation were then directed to the board other than on asking for the re-routing of a county road around the plant property. This request was granted," Mr. Pope concluded.

Last year when the pulp company started construction work, it listed property valued at \$13,488, this amount representing the site purchased. Several possible sites in this immediate area are now under consideration, but no definite location is expected until the engineer has investigated numerous claims filed by towns and cities throughout the State.

China Missionary Addresses School

The high spots in the New Life movement in China were pointed out to local high school students yesterday afternoon by Dr. C. H. Plopper, returned China Missionary. The speaker's review of activities by the Chinese as compared with Western civilization was very interesting, and the youths listened attentively to his stories.

Dr. Plopper did not mention war conditions in his talk, but he offered several valuable lessons to his hearers in pointing out the value of courtesy, cleanliness and thoughtfulness. He told about educational activities in the high schools and in Nanking university where he has spent almost a quarter of a century teaching "Christianity is back of all the enlightenment in the New Life Movement," Dr. Plopper declared.

County Ministerial Group Will Meet Here Monday

The Martin County Ministerial association will meet in regular session at the Presbyterian church on Monday morning at ten o'clock. A special program has been prepared and all ministers in the county are urged to attend. The talk was one of three scheduled here yesterday.

Plan Series Of Pre-School Clinics In County Shortly

A schedule for holding a series of pre-school clinics in this county was effected by the several principals and county superintendent in a special meeting here yesterday. In addition to formulating a clinic schedule, the school men agreed to hold the State-wide seventh grade examinations in the schools of this county on March 31.

Successful Campaign Closed in County Last Wednesday

More than 3000 votes will be cast by Martin County farmers in the tobacco and cotton referendums tomorrow if predictions made by those who have studied the situation hold up. Interest in the outcome of the referendums has reached high point throughout the county, the campaign, conducted in behalf of the new farm bill, have met with marked success in nearly every nook and corner. For nearly two weeks, the all-important problem has been called to the attention of farmers, and when the campaign was closed in Hassell and Williams Township Wednesday night the opposition was virtually wiped out, and unless the unexpected happens, the effects of the drive will be reflected in a support of 90 per cent or more at the eleven voting places in this county tomorrow.

"We had a large crowd out at Everetts, Wednesday evening and a strong support for the bill can be expected in that section," Mr. T. B. Slade who has been active in the campaign, said yesterday.

In the township house over in Williams the same night, the swelling crowd backed the agent back into one corner, but he held his own and the opposition is said to have weakened before he completed his master oration, and closed the campaign by explaining to the farmers that it was up to them to head off a return to the troublesome times that left their impression back in the early thirties.

There are registered in this county 2,852 farmers eligible to participate in the tobacco referendum, and 1,863 farmers eligible to participate in the cotton referendum, Mr. T. B. Slade explaining that there are approximately seven or eight hundred others who will be eligible to vote but who do not have their names on the records because they did not sign work sheets or comply with the 1937 soil conservation program. It was clearly pointed out that these farmers are eligible to participate in the referendums and they are cordially urged to vote.

The following table shows about the number of eligible voters in the townships, not including those who did not sign worksheets or those tenants on farms where compliance requirements were not met:

Table with 3 columns: Township, Tobacco, Cotton. Rows include Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass, Williamston, Cross Roads, Robersonville, Poplar Point, Hamilton, Goose Nest.

Polls will be opened in the county tomorrow from 7 to 7 in the following places: Jamesville: Town Hall. Williams: Township House. Griffins: Manning's Store at Township House. Bear Grass: School Building. Williamston: Agricultural building.

Cross Roads: School house or in old garage building if weather is favorable. Robersonville: C. and W. Motor Company showroom on Main street. Hassell: Regular voting place in store.

Hamilton: Town House. Goose Nest: Old hotel lobby. Poplar Point will have no voting place within its lines, but farmers nearest Williamston will vote in the county agricultural building at Williamston, and those nearest Everetts, will vote in Everetts.

No one knows how the outcome will be, but on the eve of the voting period, indications are that the bill will pass in this county by a majority of 90 per cent or more, but that the bill will have tough sledding throughout the several belts, making it necessary for farmers in this and other nearby counties to turn out to the man. Voting returns will be tabulated in the agricultural building.