

# STORES CLOSE FRIDAY AT ONE O'CLOCK

OFFICIAL PAPER  
OF  
CURRITUCK  
COUNTY

# THE ADVANCE

NEWS WITHOUT  
BIAS  
VIEWS WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE

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## MASS MEETING MAKES PROTEST

### Increase in Assessment out of Proportion to that in Other Counties

A mass meeting, the object of which was to devise ways and means for effecting an equitable adjustment and reduction of the assessed property valuations in this county and the call for which was issued about ten days ago, was held at the court house yesterday morning at ten o'clock and was attended by a large crowd of interested citizens and tax-payers.

The meeting was called to order by E. F. Aydtlett, who nominated Dr. O. McMullan as chairman. J. C. Perry and Herbert Peele were nominated as secretaries of the meeting. All were unanimously elected.

Dr. O. McMullan stated the object of the meeting and called for expressions of opinion from those present.

Mr. Aydtlett took the floor. "As one of the signers for the call for this mass meeting," he said. "I wish to make my position clear in this matter. I am heartily in favor of the county's paying its just taxes, but the valuations here have been raised out of all proportion to those in adjoining or neighboring counties. Property in Pasquotank should not have a higher value placed upon it than the property in other counties of the state. In this matter the interests of our people are at stake and unless some action is taken a grave injustice will be done the county. For if our taxes are higher, in proportion, than in other counties people will be kept from buying land, buying city lots and building houses. This would affect every citizen of the county, as it would mean less work for the laborer, less trade for the merchant and a poorer market for the farmer.

"I have nothing to say," continued the speaker, "against the men who have acted as assessors this year. I have no doubt that, acting upon instructions sent them by the Corporation Commission, they have been conscientious, and have used their best judgment. At the same time I feel certain that they have erred and that the error should be corrected. For instance, I was talking the other day with a prominent member of the Senate during the last session of the General Assembly, and he said that he felt sure an increase in property valuations of twelve per cent would meet the expectations of the State and would be about on par with what is being done in other counties.

"Now in Pasquotank the property valuations have been raised twenty-five, fifty and even 100 per cent over those of four years ago. I know, for instance of the farm of a widow the valuation on which has been increased one hundred per cent. This is exceedingly unfair to the citizens of our county, both those of the country and those of the town. Some are telling you, perhaps, that an increased valuation will reduce your tax rate and perhaps even lower your taxes; but this can not be true so far as the state is concerned, for the levy has already been made and an increase of twenty five per cent in the valuation of your property will mean an increase of twenty five percent in your taxes—as far as they go to State purposes. Pas-

## HOLD CANNING DEMONSTRATION

### Pasquotank Tomato Clubs Make Good Showing in Work Done This Year

Miss Ruth Evans, Field Agent for the Girls Canning Clubs, met Thursday afternoon at the home of Miss Linda Albertson, with the Tomato Club Girls of Pasquotank, demonstrating to them methods of putting up fruits. The meeting was held out doors and after the demonstration plenty refreshments were served.

On Friday morning Miss Evans and Miss Albertson went to the home of Miss Linda Reed at Nixonton and gave a demonstration to the Club Girls of that section, enjoying a sumptuous country dinner at its close and going on to give another demonstration in the afternoon at the home of Miss Winnie Wood of the Corinth section.

Miss Evans expressed much gratification at the work done by the girls, who are undertaking their work for the first time this year. One girl last week sold a bushel of first class ripe tomatoes and the work of canning will be on with much rush and bustle in another week.

quontank is already helping to pay the school tax of other counties, and already, I am told, ranks third among the counties of the State in the proportional valuation of its property—and this proposed increase will put on us far more than our share of the general burden. I am willing and anxious that Pasquotank shall bear its pro rata share of this burden, but none of us wants it to pay more than that. We must adopt some plan whereby the error of the assessors may be corrected.

"The board of equalization meets next Monday. I, for one, am willing to trust the judgement of a board of representative citizens of the county to do the right thing when they know the general conditions. I suggest that we appoint a committee and ask for a square deal and a fair increase."

Further expressions of opinion were then called for. Several citizens responded and endorsed Mr. Aydtlett's remarks. Among these were R. B. White, R. S. Pritchard, Ed Jordan and Walter Small. Mr. Jordan cited a piece of land which sold at auction a year ago for about six hundred dollars and is now assessed over twelve hundred. Mr. Small, Pasquotank's representative in the House during the last session of the General Assembly, stated that as a member of the Finance Committee of the house he had had opportunity to know that no extreme increase in property valuations in the State at large is looked for this year. He said that the matter came up and that many members of the committee favored a new method of assessment. He felt that some new method would have been adopted had it not been for the depressing influence of the European War on business and property interests generally. This, he said, led most members to think that nothing radical should be attempted at this time and he expressed himself as confident that a ten per cent

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## To-Night and To-Morrow Night at the Alkrama



Lynch Trio. Also Butler and Savon in Good Clean, Refined Vaudeville

Judging from the applause and tomorrow night the house will be crowded again as a complete change of program was announced for every performance.

"Bring the children," says Mr. Allen Kramer, "and let them see little Taddy Lynch, the youngest performer on the stage."

## BICKETT MAKES FINE SPEECH

### Splendid Impression Results From Address at Poplar Branch School

Poplar Branch, July 4 The Fourth was celebrated at Poplar Branch on Saturday July 3rd by an educational rally at the high school building under the auspices of the Woman's Betterment Association. Scarcely a day passed more pleasantly in the history of this community.

The Henry M. Shaw camp of the Confederate Veterans and the Seventh grade pupils of Currituck county were the guests of honor on this occasion and the aged guests viewed with the school children in their enjoyment of the hospitality extended them. No Confederate reunion held in recent years in this county has brought them more enjoyment and real pleasure.

The big feature of the day was an address by Attorney General, T. W. Bickett. Many who heard it pronounced it the finest address ever heard at Poplar Branch and every one present was charmed at once by the speaker's ready wit, his choice diction and the inspiring eloquence of his message. Many were heard to express the opinion that North Carolina would make no mistake in making him her next governor.

The meeting was called to order at eleven o'clock by Dr. W. T. Griggs who welcomed the guests of the day in behalf of the community. Speaking especially to the veterans, Dr. Griggs paid a splendid tribute to their valor during the war and to their heroism when they returned to the ruin that was home after the four years of conflict. He then introduced

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## SHOOTING AT SOUTH MILLS

### Cale Forbes Shot and Instantly Killed by Ben Hewett Sunday Evening

News reached here yesterday that Cale Forbes was shot and instantly killed by Ben Hewett at the latter's home last Sunday afternoon at about three o'clock. Forbes, who lived about three miles from the Hewett home, came up to the house and was talking to Mrs. Hewett through the litchen window when Hewett appeared on the scene and ordered Forbes off the premises. Hot words ensued and Forbes who was a man of considerable physical strength, is reported to have threatened to tear Hewett limb from limb. At any rate Hewett picked up a shot gun and standing barely six feet away from Forbes shot him down dead, the lead entering the ill-fated man's body below the left breast and tearing a great hole through his side.

That Hewett objected to Forbes' attentions to his wife is the reason assigned for the altercation. Mrs. Hewett was formerly Mrs. George Sawyer. She was divorced by her first husband who married again after she had left the state with Hewett. Mr. and Mrs. Hewett returned to Camden county after Sawyer's second marriage.

Hewett was still at large yesterday afternoon pending the decision of the Recorder before whom the preliminary hearing was conducted.

The board of aldermen are in regular session to day as this paper goes to press. No meeting was held last night on account of the fact that Monday was the day given over for celebrating the fourth of July.

## CARTER'S RECORDS STRICKEN OUT

### Solicitor Abernathy Cleared of Aspersions Upon Character and Conduct

Newbern, July 2—The final act in the famous Judge Frank Carter—Solicitor Charles L. Abernathy contempt case took place today when Judge George W. Connor, before whom Solicitor Abernathy made an appeal to have stricken from the records of Craven Court the various records made thereon by Judge Frank Carter and which were detrimental to his official and personal character rendered his decision. This decision covers more than a dozen typewritten pages and the jurist goes fully into the details and makes each one plain. In the whole it orders that all the records placed on the records of Craven Superior Court, with the exception of that in which Judge Carter held that Solicitor Abernathy was acting in contempt of the court by refusing to sit down when told to do so should be stricken off and the clerk of the court was ordered to do this.

In the handing down of this decision, Solicitor Abernathy is completely vindicated. Every record made by Judge Carter with the exception of one and the legislative investigating committee held that Solicitor had enough provocation to make him act in contempt of the court, has been ordered wiped off of the court records and, so far as they will benefit the show, the incident never occurred. In concluding his decision in the case Judge Connor has this to say:

"The undersigned Judge finds the following facts: First, that at the time the said papers were filed and ordered entered upon the minute docket of this court, no matter was pending in this court or before the presiding judge at said term to which the said papers or either of them had any relations which they or either of them were in any way connected.

"Second, that said paper contained reflections upon the personal and official conduct of Charles Abernathy, the solicitor of this district, made by the presiding judge without any lawful authority and not in exercise of any jurisdiction conferred upon him by law.

"Third, that said papers were filed and entered upon the record of this court over the protest of the said Charles L. Abernathy, are prejudicial to his rights as a citizen and as a public officer and are not now and have never been any proper part of the records of the court.

JUDGES ORDER  
Upon the foregoing findings and conclusions the undersigned judge holding the courts of the fifth judicial district and presiding at the June term 1915 of the Superior court of Craven County orders:

"First, that the clerk of the court will withdraw from the records of this court the following papers: A that certain paper entitled, statement of judge presiding which he directs to be entered upon the minutes of the court signed Frank Carter presiding; B—that certain paper being a reply to the foregoing statement addressed to Hon. Frank Carter presiding and signed

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## MUST APPEAL TO ASSESSOR

### Board of Equalization Think General Reduction Would be Beyond Their Province

It was the sense of the county commissioners in regular session yesterday that the county board of Equalization would be going beyond their right in making any general or sweeping reduction in the property valuations of the county assessors this year.

This does not mean that the county commissioners are out of sympathy or not in accord with the action taken at the mass meeting at the courthouse yesterday morning, but they feel that the proper court of appeal in this matter is the county assessor instead of the board of equalization.

There was little business before the commissioners yesterday and their session would have ended before noon but for the fact that they became cognizant of the action of the mass meeting at the court and wanted to make their attitude plain in time to prevent misunderstanding and confusion. They, therefore, summoned Mr. Walter Small, chairman of the local committee appointed to take the matter of a reduction of assessment up before the board of equalization, and suggested to him that the committee go before the county assessor first at any rate and see if a satisfactory adjustment could not be made.

Mr. Small, therefore, has called the local committees to meet him at the court house next Thursday and it is probable that an understanding may be reached at that time. If not there will be left time for another meeting before the session of the board of equalization.

## AT THE SIGN OF THE DOOR

No person with a discriminating eye can walk along East Main Street without making a special mental note of the always attractive show windows of the Woman's Wear Store of the M. Leigh Sheep Company.

At present 'The Sign of the Door' shows a marvelous clearance sale on for July lasting until Saturday July 17th. The woman shopper has supposed that the last word has already been said in summer bargains, perhaps. If so, she was mistaken, for the prices there advertised for the feminine necessities of summer time are but shadows of former prices for these goods.

Slaughtered devastated, and starved out by a destructive hand—they are there, and the goods are there, new, fresh, dainty, and attractive, as only goods from the Woman's Wear Store can be. The opportunity to fill the need of lingerie, hosiery, laces, embroideries, silk dresses and suits will not be seen again this season. To get ready for a vacation will take very little time and very little money for the woman who knows that this is the time and place to find everything needed and find it "just right." This sale began Saturday morning and the Woman's Wear Store has been the busiest place in town ever since.

Adv.