

OFFICIAL PAPER  
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CURRITUCK  
COUNTY

# THE ADVANCE

NEWS WITHOUT  
BIAS  
VIEWS WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE

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## INCREASE ON LAND VALUATIONS ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT

### But Part of This Due to Proper Assessments on Timber Lands and Low Valuations on Personal Property Also Help to Offset It

Whereas, the values placed by the assessors on the real estate in Pasquotank county are excessive, unjust, and unequal, and whereas, there was a mass meeting of the people of Pasquotank County on the fifth day of July 1915 which appointed a committee to go before the board of equalization and ask for a reduction of the excessive values and the equalization thereof, and whereas, the Board of Equalization passed an order after hearing said committee that they would not increase the values on real estate in the county to exceed twelve per cent and that they would equalize the values of the real estate in Pasquotank County, and whereas, the said Board was in session a number of days and made a number of reductions and adjourned till Friday, the 23rd of July, 1915, to make a final settlement adjudicating the values, and whereas, at that hearing, during the forenoon, part of the committee attending the session, it was agreed that the reductions should be made, according to the order made and whereas, after the committee had left, a majority of the Board, without any notice to the committee or to the people, rescinded its former order to increase the values not to exceed twelve per cent, and proceeded to pass an order reducing the values of the land in Salem ten per cent, Nixonton 16.23 per cent and farm lands in Elizabeth City, ten per cent, leaving an increase in Salem of 16 per cent, Nixonton 21 per cent, Providence seven per cent, Mt. Hermon about 22 per cent on farms, Newland about 20 per cent on farms, and the town property in Elizabeth City 18.76 per cent and whereas, said order, passed by the Board was unjust and unfair to the people of Pasquotank County, and whereas the rescinding was unjust, unfair, and misleading, and whereas the equalization of said values of real estate in Pasquotank County is unequal and not properly adjusted and whereas J. A. Pinner and J. M. Jennings were opposed to the rescinding of the former order passed by the Board at the hearing.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That we commend the course of W. A. Pinner and J. M. Jennings.
2. That we condemn the course of the other members of the Board of Equalization as unjust, unfair, and creating an unjust burden of excessive taxation upon the people of Pasquotank County.
3. That we condemn the course of the Chairman of the Board in refusing to call a meeting of the board after its adjournment on Friday when requested to do so by a part of the committee for the purpose of adjusting the values of the property.

The foregoing resolutions were unanimously adopted last Saturday afternoon by the mass meeting at the courthouse after about an hour's discussion. The matter of going before the

for a further reduction or at least an equalization of the valuations was taken up but it was the sense of the meeting in view of the expense which this step would involve and of the reductions which had already been secured as well as the improbability of obtaining any relief from the commission, that it would be better for the mass meeting simply to register its protest against the action of their representatives on the board of equalization. The resolutions quoted above were adopted on this decision.

The meeting was called together at three o'clock by its chairman, W. L. Small. Mr. Small stated that the meeting had been called by the Citizens Committee in order to report to the people of the county what the committee had done. He called upon E. F. Aydtlett to make this report.

#### Aydtlett's Speech

Mr. Aydtlett told how the committee had gone first before the county assessor and secured the promise of certain reductions but not such concessions as had been asked for by the people. The committee, he went on to say, had therefore gone before the board of Equalization and secured the passage of a resolution agreeing to meet the demands of the mass meeting after the complaints of individual property owners had been adjusted. When all of this had been done the Register of Deeds had been asked to prepare a comparative statement showing the increase in the real estate valuations by township. When this report had been prepared the Board met again. Representatives of the committee were present at this meeting until late in the afternoon. They received no notification that the board would rescind its former action and were surprised to learn that it had done so. As soon as the committee was apprised of the board's action its chairman was requested to call a meeting of the board to meet the citizens committee and it was at first understood that he would do so. Later the committee was advised that the chairman had legal advice to the effect that he had no power to re-convene the board except upon demand of the corporation commission. Thereupon the call for the second mass meeting was issued.

The speaker declared that he did not believe that the Board of Equalization had given the people a square deal. He understood that it was the claim of the members of the board that they had received word from the corporation commission that they had no right to order any general reduction of the assessments. He pointed out, however, that general reductions had been ordered in various townships and said that he did not see why the board had any more right to reduce valuations in one township than to reduce them in all townships. 'It has been reported,' Mr. Aydtlett said, 'that the fight for this reduction has been

#### MRS. SARAH FROST DEAD

Poplar Branch, N. C. July 31—Mrs. Sarah Frost one of the most well known and highly appreciated christian women of Poplar Branch, Currituck county, N. C. died at her home Thursday July 29th 1915 after a lingering illness of about four weeks.

Mrs. Frost was about seventy nine years old and had a large circle of devoted friends and relatives who knew and loved her. She has left them a rich legacy the aroma of a most unselfish and beautiful life.

The funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon July 30th by Rev. J. Y. Old pastor of the Perquimans charge assisted by Rev. C. P. Jerome of Currituck charge at Ebenezer church near Poplar Branch in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives who mourn their loss.

Mrs. Frost is survived by six children; Mrs. Edmund Woodhones of Va. Beach, Mrs. P. N. Bray of Sligo, N. C., Mrs. George Cartwright of Weeksville, Mrs. L. C. Baum and Miss Mittie Frost of Poplar Branch N. C. and one son, Mr. Charles Frost of Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. Frost's remains were laid to rest in the family cemetery near Currituck courthouse

made by a few large land owners in the county, and the attempt has been made to make the people believe that large property owners would be the only beneficiaries of a reduction. He asked why the small farmer and the man owning only a house and lot would not be as much benefitted as any body else. 'And after all', he continued, 'the question is, should Pasquotank be asked to carry more than its share of the general burden of taxation?'

The speaker pointed out that another way in which the action of the board was unfair to the people was in the fact that in promising a reduction and then rescinding that promise they had deceived many property owners and prevented them from going before the board to make complaint of over assessment. Men had told him, he said, that they would have gone before the board if they had not believed that there would be a general reduction in their township.

General discussion followed Mr. Aydtlett's speech and some were in favor of pressing the fight before the corporation commission. A committee was appointed consisting of F. P. Markham, R. O. Mercey, E. F. Aydtlett, A. J. Jennings, E. Coppersmith and J. W. Perry to draw up resolutions for adoption by the meeting, and after discussion the clauses of the resolution providing for pressing the fight further were stricken out.

#### Mr. Munden's Report

Mr. Munden's revised report of the increase in valuations since the reductions in Salem, Nixonton, and Elizabeth City townships authorized by the Board of Equalization at their last sitting was read before the mass meeting and set forth the following facts:

The total real and personal property listed in Pasquotank county for taxation amounts to \$6,063,429.00, an increase of 36 per cent over last year's valuation. This does not include unlisted real and personal property, the valuation on which in the whole county amounts to \$151,288, and brings the increase up to 17 per cent. On real estate alone in the whole county the increase in valuations amounts to 25 per cent or about 27 per cent if the de-

#### PARKER FAMILY IN RE-UNION

The Parker Family Re-Union was entertained yesterday by Mrs. P. A. Parker and Mrs. J. W. Wilcox at Mrs. Wilcox's home on West Main Street. All of the family were present consisting of the following members: Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Parker and children, Edwin and Simpson, of Charleston, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Parker and children, Evelyn, Jake and Alton; Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Parker and children, Ben Thach and Elizabeth, of Burgess, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. James Moran and children, Isa Parker and James of Edenton Misses Annie P. and Hilda Mae Moran of Edenton. Mrs. P. A. Parker Mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wilcox and son, Ralph of this city, and M. Luther Wood Laker of Harrisburg, Pa.

#### LOCALS DEFEAT CUBS

The Elizabeth City Baseball team took both ends of a double Friday afternoon from the 'Cubs'. The first game was fast and snappy, all the way through, which resulted in a score of 12 to 7. The batteries were, Elizabeth City, Webb, Perry, Belangia. Cubs, Cady and Baker.

The second game was a swat fest, Elizabeth City winning by a score of 15 to 0 but was featured by the Elizabeth City team's batting, every man getting as many as two hits each. One of the leading features of the game was a great one hand stab in right field by Seeley and a running shoe lace catch by Webb in center.

Batteries, Elizabeth City, Twiddy and Belangia; Cubs, Baker, Cooper and L. Cooper.

In Salem township the increase on listed real estate amounts to \$54,732 or 16 per cent. On personal property in Salem township there is an increase of \$23,521.00 or 15 per cent.

Real property valuations listed in Nixonton show an increase of 76,786 or 21 per cent. The increase on personal property in this township amounts to only \$5,886 or 4 per cent.

The increase on real estate listed in Providence amounts to \$16,821 or 7 per cent, while on personal property in this township the books show an increase on \$27,904.00 or 33 per cent. This gives Providence an increase in real and personal property of fifteen per cent.

In Mount Hermon township the increase on valuations of listed real property is \$82,903.00 or forty per cent. About forty thousand of this increase is on timber lands, leaving the increase on farm lands about 22 per cent. In this township there is an actual loss in the value of personal property of \$2,941.00 or 4 per cent.

Newland shows an increase in assessments on listed real property of \$135,903.00 or 63 per cent. Over half of this increase is due to a higher valuation on timber lands and probably the increase on farm lands in this township does not amount to more than 23 per cent. This township shows a loss of \$18,434.00 in personal property, or 14 per cent.

## OTHER COUNTIES FALL IN LINE

### Camden and Currituck Will Have Demonstrations of Hog Cholera Treatment

Mr. G. W. Falls, county agricultural demonstrator, arrived in the city Saturday morning to begin his work in Pasquotank county.

Mr. Falls will be busily at work in the various sections of the county but a letter from any one desiring information or assistance along agricultural lines will reach him if addressed to him at Elizabeth City. For two or three weeks Mr. Falls will be with Dr. Owen in the series of Anti-Cholera demonstrations to be conducted throughout the county, the first of which is scheduled for August 9th at Forks Schoolhouse.

Dr. Owen went before the County Commissioners of Camden county yesterday for the purpose of securing their cooperation for a similar campaign in Camden. Funds were appropriated and the work will be taken up throughout that county immediately after engagements for demonstrations in Pasquotank have been filled.

Dr. B. B. Flowe, state veterinarian, went before the Currituck Commissioners yesterday on the same mission and secured an appropriation from them. The work in that county will follow the campaign in Camden.

#### REVIVAL AT SHILOH

Rev. H. P. Lamb, pastor of Shiloh Baptist church in Camden county reports one of the greatest revivals within recent years at that church as a result of the series of the series of meetings which he has conducted there assisted by Dr. B. C. Henning of this city. As a result of the meeting twenty five were received into the church for baptism and six old members were restored to the fellowship of the church. The members feel, says Mr. Lamb, that still greater good has been done in the reconsecration of the regular members of the church.

#### BABY FINDS A HOME

Some one in Elizabeth City—and seemingly some one who reads the comic supplement of the Sunday newspapers—tried last week to help baby find a home.

A nice little fellow only a few days old was left on the porch at the home of Biddy Crank on corner of Shepherd and Ehringhaus streets, last Thursday night. The family have purchased a cradle for him and are making him feel at home.

#### GOT HERSELF IN TROUBLE

Irene Johnson, colored, swore out a warrant against Angie Ruffin, charging him with assault. Ruffin was brought before Judge Sawyer Friday morning in Police court and Irene appeared as witness against him. After hearing her testimony Judge Sawyer reached the conclusion that the woman was as much guilty as the man. As a result Irene is in jail and Ruffin is on the road.

## SANITATION OF CITY IMPROVING

### Health Officer Declared General Conditions of Town Good and Growing Better

'General health and sanitary conditions in the city good and improving,'—so says the report of the City Health Officer read at the meeting of the Board of aldermen yesterday afternoon. City Manager Commander has had the chain gang at work on the streets of the town and they are probably cleaner, taking the city as a whole, than they have ever been before. Also vacant lots and swamp property is said to be in the best condition in which the city has ever seen it.

There was little else of interest at this meeting of the board. The city manager reported that the property owners on both Sides of Scott Street had made satisfactory concessions and the work of laying the sewer along this street was proceeding. There was complaint that the brick laid on Riverside avenue are not up to the sample furnished by the brick company and city manager and board of aldermen have agreed that they will inspect these brick in a body within the next few days.

It was ordered that the City Manager request the Norfolk Southern Railway to extend the shed at the new depot from the depot to Main Street in order to give shelter to those passengers getting off the South-bound train. Extension of the concrete walk for the length of the shed was also suggested.

The town through the City Manager is negotiating with the hosiery mill for a proper disposal of the discharge of the dye-vats which at present empties into the open drains of the city. The directors of the hosiery mill have been instructed to connect these vats with the city sewer regardless of expense and it is only a question of time before the location of this sewer will be agreed upon.

An ordinance was passed regulating the conduct of hackmen who meet the train at the Norfolk Southern depot and the boats at the various wharfs of the city. Such an ordinance was drafted some time ago and was supposed to be in effect but a recent case in police court disclosed the fact that it had never been ratified by the board. The object of this ordinance is to prevent hackmen from interfering with passengers as they leave trains so that they may choose their own hackman or walk as they prefer.

The city manager was instructed in cases of sickness where families are unable to secure the services of a physician to see that proper medical attention is given.

#### IN POLICE COURT

Joe Brooks and Grant Eason were given sixty days on the road in police court this morning for disturbing the peace Saturday night. The offenders were using violent, profane and indecent language on the streets after midnight. Robert Kines was given thirty days for beating a negro girl.

FOR SALE CHEAP—One Oliver Typewriter. In good condition. Herbert Peel. Advance office.