

## Christmas Spirit Is Prevalent Among Plymouth Shoppers

Merchant's Stocks Fastly Diminishing As Traders Invade Local Stores

PRICES ARE FAIR IN COMPARISON

Mistletoe, Holly, Turkeys And Chickens Available; Schools Closed Until January 7; Santa Claus Making Ready For Annual Trip; Churches To Have Appropriate Programs; Decorations Galore

Evidences of the Christmas season are glaring on every hand in Plymouth today with plenty of trees, turkeys, holly, mistletoe and Christmas trees available while shoppers from the city and surrounding section are thronging the stores to purchase their Yuletide presents and to persuade jolly old Santa Claus to visit the children at their home. Christmas delicacies are maintaining an average of other years in price which is an added attraction to the shoppers.

Stores and business houses have been thronged during the week and shoppers are buying an immense amount of toys, Christmas gifts, confectioners and other delicacies that tend to make a Merry, Merry Christmas for all while merchants are adding new clerks to serve the customers that are crowding into the business establishments. Each store in town began the season with a great array of Christmas novelties that are fastly diminishing from counters as the stores are remaining open until 9 and 10 o'clock in the evening.

### Turkey Prices

Turkeys began selling at between 25 cents and 45 cents a pound at the beginning of the season. Numbers are being sold at several cents a pound less than the maximum price at the beginning of the Yuletide shopping period. Chickens are selling at 20 cents and 25 cents a pound. This fowl is growing more popular as a special Christmas dish each day. Ducks and geese that are so popular in cities are not so much in favor here.

### Decorations Increasing

Holly and mistletoe are already in evidence. The little Christmas trees are in the yard in front of Reene's Beauty Shop. They add to the Christmas appearance of the town. Stores and business houses and display windows are filled with decorations of the Yuletide season. A personal Santa Claus has not appeared on the streets here as yet. Homes are beginning to engage the Christmas spirit and are being decorated.

### Community Christmas Tree

School work will be suspended after today's classes until January 7 which gives the children a full two weeks vacation. A play in the school auditorium this morning added to the Christmas sentiment. Churches will have special services and programs during the coming Sunday and during Christmas day that will heighten the interest in this festive celebration. The Major Louis Charles Latham chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will sponsor a community Christmas tree on the Christian Church corner at the intersection of Main and Washington streets during Christmas at which time carols will be sung; recitations made; and other entertaining appropriate features for a Christmas service.

### STUDENTS FROM COLLEGES RETURN TO ROPER HOMES

Roper, Dec. 20.—Students home from college for the holidays are Miss Martha Chesson, Wesley Marrow and James Bateman, from Duke University, Durham; Neva Gan Roper and Mary Carolyn Hassell from the North Carolina College for Women, at Greensboro; Cecil and Fred Blount, Campbell College, Buies Creek; Charles Mizelle, State College, Raleigh; and Raymond Ainsley, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

## BOARD TO MEET SOON TO CALL NEW PASTOR

Members of the Board of Deacons of the Baptist Church which includes W. R. Hardison, W. R. White, J. B. Edmondson and Enoch Ludford will meet some time during the next few days to make arrangements for the employment of a successor to the Rev. J. R. Everett, pastor, who has resigned to take up post-graduate work in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Ky., of which institution he is a graduate.

This announcement which was made in the services last Sunday will on the first of the year bring to a close a two years and seven months successful pastorate of the local church. During this time there have been a number of additions to the church as the result of the labor of the minister who came here soon after his graduation from college. Also during this time the financial standing of the church has been improved and many other marks of success are evident.

The minister goes to his Alma Mater to take a course that will consume about two years in his preparation for obtaining the degree of doctor of philosophy and religion in addition to the three years work that he has done which is above graduate work as the result of which he now holds the degree of master of theology. After this he says, "that he is not sure what steps he will take in his future work."

For some time the minister has been anticipating such a course after the first of the coming year. His resignation becomes effective on January 1. The method of selecting his successor and any predictions as to who will be called yet has not been decided by the Board. It is thought that they will take definite steps to fill the vacancy between now and the middle of January.

### FIREMEN TO HAVE SPECIAL MEET ON DECEMBER 28TH

There will be a special meeting of the members of the Fire Department on Friday, December 28, it was announced here today by Chief L. W. Gurkin. Matters of importance will come before the firemen at this time and every member is urged to attend.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY MAN SEES WORLD IN HOUSE CAR

Born at Roper in Washington county about 55 years ago, John Fletcher Gaylord has pretty well traversed the civilized world during his life. He was here this week visiting Mrs. W. T. Nursey and Roland Gaylord. During the Jamestown Exposition in 1908 Mr. Gaylord accompanied by a daughter traveled from Florida to the exposition in Virginia in a 16-foot skiff. Now he is traveling in a house car which is furnished with all the modern conveniences even with running water and electric lights.

Seven years ago while in Japan Mr. Gaylord married a Japanese wife who was with him while here.

## ALMO THEATRE TONIGHT

John Barrymore

"Tempest"

Ninth Episode of Serial "Perils of the Jungles"

M. G. M. NEWS ADM. -- 25 & 35 Cts.

COMING NEXT FRIDAY

John Gilbert

AND

Joan Crawford

IN

"Four Walls"

## JUNIORS TO GO TO CHURCH IN A BODY

Members of the Plymouth Rock Council No. 213 of the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics will meet at their hall Sunday evening at 7:15 from where they will leave in a body to attend services at the Christian Church when the Rev. W. E. Norris, pastor of the church and an honored officer of the order, will deliver a discourse on an appropriate subject, it was announced here yesterday by T. I. Moore, State Organizer. All members are urged to be present at this meeting by Mr. Moore.

It is very likely that the next district meeting will be held in Plymouth some time during January, when several of the State officers will attend. It is a custom of the order to present each free school in their territory with a Bible and flag and this offers a very good suggestion to have such a program in connection with the district meeting should Plymouth be selected as the district meeting place.

A special meeting will be held this evening at which time it is thought that the charter will be closed and any person joining after this time will be subjected to an initiation fee in addition to the regular admission fee. The charter should have been closed at the meeting last Monday evening, however, on account of unfinished business and pending applications was deemed wise to continue the charter until the meeting this evening. Reports are being prepared and everything will be ready to report to the State and national councils by tomorrow. Eighty-four applications have been received and it is expected that a hundred members will be enrolled in a short time.

## SCHOOLS MADE GOOD RECORD DURING 1926

Creswell, Dec. 20.—Washington County's white rural public school system ranks in the twentieth place among the hundred school systems in the State in scores for academic and financial factors for the year of 1926-27, it was revealed here today in available statistics. The average score for academic factors for the year was 70.4, while the average score for financial factors 67.1. The academic factors are not related to the cost at all, while the financial factors relate to the cost entirely.

The percentage enrollment in average daily attendance was 74.5 for the school year. This was figured with a hundred per cent attendance as the perfect score. The percentage of the average length of term in days is 75.5. The scholarship of the teachers in Washington county schools for this year was 66.3 per cent. The percentage in the high school enrollment is 63.2. There was a 72.5 percentage of enrollment of normal and under age or grades.

In the scores of financial factors, the average annual salary of teachers and principals is 64.2 per cent. The per capita cost of instructional service, based on teachers and principals is 46.4. The per capita cost of current expense based on enrollment was 64.4. The valuation of school property per child enrolled reveals a perfect score of a hundred per cent.

The results in all ten factors, together with the averages of the academic five and the financial five, reveal that much progress has been made in the school system for the last four years. Progress is noted in each of the factors for the year of 1926-27. A compilation of these factors for the current year will more than likely show progress also.

## City Fathers Begin New Year In Good Financial Condition

### HOME AND FARM AGENTS BACK FROM MEET

Among the 185 farm and home agents from North Carolina that met in Raleigh last week to attend the annual extension workers conference and short courses were Miss Prati Covington, Washington county home demonstration agent, and R. E. Dunning, Washington county farm agent. Monday was given over to classroom work on major projects to be taken in the different counties for the coming year.

Classes on major projects, conferences and lectures consumed last Tuesday while classes in major projects, joint conferences, lectures and outline courses of study were discussed on Wednesday. On Thursday there was about the same routine of work in addition to the demonstrations. A banquet at the Womens' Club on Friday was the feature of the day. Addresses featured the Saturday's conference program.

The conference was shortened on account of an epidemic of the influenza that was raging in the section at that time. It was shortened to December 15 instead of lasting until December 20 as was first decided. Officials reached this decision after it was decided by the college authorities to suspend classes for the students.

### Power Plant Yielded Profit During Calendar Year Now Closing

### ICE DEPARTMENT MADE MONEY ALSO

Sixty-One Cents Out Of Every \$1.68 Goes To Pay Interest On Light, Power, Sewer And Street Improvement Bonds; Remaining \$1.07 To Apply On Accounts Payable, Street Lighting And Other Debts

A review of the records of the town in the office of City Clerk Spruill reveal that the town will begin the new year with the expenses of the various departments of the city well provided for in the matter of finance. The municipal light, power and ice plant will start the year with the records clear and a goodly amount of revenue in excess of expenses realized from its operation during the current year. The books reveal that it has actually cleared about 6,000 this year.

Sixty-one cents out of every \$1.68 that is paid to the city government by each individual citizen goes towards increasing the general and property tax funds; and the remaining \$1.07 is devoted to expenditures contained in the budget for special tax, it was learned from M. W. Spruill, city clerk, in an interview on the 1928 budget that has recently been adopted by the City Council.

About \$6,533.92 will be expended on sewer bonds, street improvement bonds; the retirement of light and power bonds, the retirement of street improvement bonds and an amount laid aside for emergencies generally termed the sinking fund. No expenditure from this amount will be allowed for any other purpose save the ones mentioned in the budget.

The \$1.07 will go toward creating a fund of \$11,461.14 known as the special tax fund which will be expended for accounts payable, street lighting, salaries, fire hose, auditing, provisions for livestock, street labor, town ditch and miscellaneous expense matters. This special tax rate is exceedingly smaller than the one last year. The poll tax remains the same.

### FINAL PLANS MADE FOR PEANUT SHOW PROGRAM

Final plans have been made for the program from Washington county that will be rendered on next Friday at the Eastern Carolina and Tidewater Virginia Peanut Exposition that will open in Williamston next Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock under the auspices of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce, it was learned today from Mrs. W. H. Clark, who will direct the local talent during the performance at the goober show.

It is understood that the locals will present the "Kitchen Cabinet Orchestra" which has an array of local talent that is hard to beat. The cast is composed solely of women which make music on utensils usually designated for use in the culinary department of the home. This entertainment will more than likely be supplemented by other novelties that will be featured by local entertainers.

The show will open Tuesday at 3 o'clock with a mammoth parade in which floats will be decorated to win prizes amounting to \$100. Reservations for floor space in the spacious Brick Warehouse where the show will be held are selling fast. Fred R. Reh is decorating the warehouse for the event. The nine professional acts that will be featured daily are on the program for the opening day. Martin county will shine on this day with its local talent.

### ENTERTAINMENT SLATED FOR SCUPPERNONG CHURCH

Scuppernon, Dec. 20.—There will be a Christmas entertainment at the Scuppernon Christian Church on Tuesday evening, December 25. Every one is urged to attend.

.. Behold, I Bring Good Tidings..

SO SPAKE the angel of the Lord to the shepherds, guarding their flocks, one night more than nineteen hundred years ago. "Tidings" is an ancient word which means simply "news". Thus it was that the news of the coming of the Prince of Peace was made known that night so long ago and all down through the ages those tidings have been repeated at this time of the year which we call Christmas.

Since those far-off times, the function of bringing tidings or news has devolved principally upon an institution which we know as the newspaper. No such institution performs that function more faithfully than the Home Paper in a community such as ours, a community of homes and home-loving people. And in that community none is so humble but that his or her name is written in its columns not once but many times throughout the years.

For it is the Home Paper that welcomes you when you are born, watches you as you grow up and records your youthful triumphs. It tells the community that a new home has been founded when you marry, congratulates you and wishes you well as you and your helpmate start out on a life together. It shares your pride when you become a parent and aids you in molding the minds and characters of those near and dear to you. It rejoices when you rejoice, sympathizes with you in times of sorrow; it is quick to record your good deeds and your successes and slow to spread broadcast word of your shortcomings or failures. And in the sunset of your life, it is a companion and friend, keeping you informed of the doings of those to whose youthful hands you "pass on the torch" when your race is almost run.

So day after day and week after week throughout the year the Home Paper brings you the news of your community. What better messenger, then, than the Home Paper to say to you "Behold, I bring you good tidings" at Christmas time? For its tidings are the same as those of the herald angels on the hills of Galilee—"Peace on earth, good will to men", and to every person in this community the Home Paper brings this message of community peace, community good will, community prosperity and an increased community hope for the coming year.

THE PUBLISHERS