

A home newspaper dedicated to the service of Washington County and its 12,000 people.

THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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BIG DEBT MAKES HIGH TAX RATE IN THIS COUNTY

Rate of \$1.12 Necessary To Meet Bonded Debt of The County

Incumbent commissioners and tax payers of Washington County are lamenting the fact that previous officials thought it wise to burden this county with an outstanding indebtedness of about a million dollars and the valuation the last time was only a little more than eight million dollars.

For this fiscal year the commissioners were compelled to fix a tax rate that would allow \$1.12 for debt service that was occasioned by a spending spree years ago by officials who failed to consider that there ever would be a depression lasting for four years or more with each period waxing worse financially.

This \$1.12 debt service fund is designed to raise \$77,799.78 for the fiscal year to be divided for the retirement of \$22,320 worth of principal; \$49,899.10 for interest that will be due this year; \$5,447.15 for sinking fund; and \$133.53 for exchange fees. This will hardly be done as many can not pay their taxes.

A review of the bonds and notes issued against the county years ago when the dollar was not so scarce shows that the present commissioners can not help from imposing such high taxes on the people now as the law requires that a budget be arranged annually to care for every item necessary and so they were forced to appropriate for these funds.

Issued during the period between 1915 to 1927 were general county funding bonds amounting to \$180,000. Up until July 1, 1932 only \$27,000 of this amount had been paid leaving a balance in this account of \$153,000 that is to fall due at intervals, what has not already been formally acknowledged due.

State loans have been made on county notes to the following projects: 1922 Roper colored school \$10,000; of this amount \$4,500 has been paid leaving a balance of \$5,500; Roper and Mackeys schools, 1932 issued \$40,000, paid \$18,000, balance due \$22,000.

Other State loans on county notes follow: Cherry 1924 school loan of \$1,200 with \$840 paid and \$360 balance due; 1930 Washington County Training School (colored) Plymouth, a loan of \$22,000 with only \$2,000 paid and a balance left of \$20,000.

In 1917 to 1919 a total of \$75,000 worth of bonds were issued for the erection of the beautiful and commodious courthouse that is now in Plymouth and this depression has caught the officials with only \$6,000 paid, leaving a balance on it of \$69,000 all of which is not due at the present but extends over a period of years.

Road and bridge bonds issued in 1920 to 1922 by the commissioners totals \$235,000 with \$30,000 paid and with a balance of \$205,000 still to be paid. Mackeys High School, \$10,000 issued in 1924. Paid \$3,000 leaving a balance is \$7,000.

During the period in the years of 1923, 1927 and 1928 Washington like all other counties was afflicted with a craze for new and better schools and then a debt for general county school bonds for \$240,000 was put on the people. Of this amount \$28,000 has been paid leaving a balance to become due at intervals of \$212,000.

None of the bonds has ever been paid on the \$120,000 indebtedness issued in 1920 and 1921 for the erection of the beautiful and well equipped Plymouth High School building on Washington Street and none of the \$15,000 debt incurred in 1918 on the Creswell High School has been paid.

This shows that Washington County was indebted \$948,200 on notes and bonds but of this amount \$119,340 has been paid, leaving a balance of \$828,860.

Now it is to be understood that not all of the bonded indebtedness of the county is due and neither will it all come due in a number of years to come as the annual payments of these notes and bonds are spread over a long period of time in some cases. But some of it is due.

Those who can pay their taxes are urged to do so by the commissioners so that the amounts due for this debt service can be paid and the commissioners now are endeavoring to cut expenses to the bone so that these bonds and notes can be paid without default as they come due.

It can be noticed the schools and other county expenses totalled together amount to only 75 cents while the debt service rate is \$1.12. But then all of this money has not been wasted. Today for these outstanding bonds this county has beautiful schools and a courthouse which are comfortable and are used daily for the purposes intended unless otherwise arranged.

Girls' County Council To Meet At Creswell

Creswell.—The 4-H Girls' County Council meeting will be held in Creswell at the High School auditorium on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Creswell clubs are preparing a program and we are looking forward to a fine meeting. Every club officer is urged to be present. This will be an important meeting.

MIZELLE FAVORS CUT IN SALARIES

Votes for Bill Reducing the Salaries of Constitutional Officers 15 Percent.

Representative Charlie S. Mizelle, of Washington County, was one of the 99 members in the lower house of the North Carolina General Assembly who cast their vote in favor of reducing the compensation of officials elected last November to State offices by 15 percent.

This measure passed the lower house and it passed the senate with Senator C. L. Bailey also supporting the move to bring about curtailment. When this bill was introduced in the House it carried with it also a clause "to reduce compensation of legislators and the hired personnel by 20 percent," but it is not clear whether or not this was passed.

This reduction does not include the State treasurer or the judiciary as there were only two new members of the judicial branch of the State government elected this time. Some of the solons think that this reduction measure was unconstitutional pointing out that a salary of a person could not be cut before he occupied the office.

Four years ago salaries of the State officials were raised as follows to be reduced by 15 percent if the enactment of the legislature becomes law: The names of the officers and their salaries before the 15 percent cut become law this year, are given as follows:

Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus, \$10,500; Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt, \$7,500; State Superintendent of Public Instruction A. T. Allen, \$5,000; Chairman of the Corporation Commission Stanley Winborne, \$5,000; State Treasurer, Charles M. Johnson, \$4,500; Secretary of State Stacy W. Wade, \$4,500.

Insurance Commissioner, Dan C. Boney, \$4,500; Commissioner of Labor and Printing A. L. Fletcher, \$4,500; Auditor, Baxter Durham, \$4,500; Commissioner of Agriculture, W. A. Graham, \$4,500.

RECOVERS OWN OLD FURNITURE

Mrs. R. C. Jackson, of Hoke Club, Displays Unusual Talent and Ability

By Miss Eugenia Patterson
Mrs. R. C. Jackson, of the Hoke Club, has a beautiful suit of living room furniture that has been recovered by herself, and it is much prettier than it was as a new suit.

Mrs. Jackson is very fine with a needle, and she has quite a bit of creative ability along the line of making designs. In addition to the above she had quite a few old garments, such as knitted sweaters, etc. She unraveled the knitted garments that had been discarded and dye them. In the meantime she was original designs on bur-lap for the covers for the chair cushions and settee cushions. She made a beautiful one also for a rug. Then she set to work on hooking the covers and rug. The colors are beautifully combined and Miss Helen Estabrook, home management specialist of the state department, says that she "has never seen anything like it in all her work and travels."

Mrs. Jackson's suit was a green color with touches of burnt orange as a trimming. She has stained the suit a mahogany color, which blends beautifully with the new covers. This is a beautiful piece of work and quite original. It seems to be a habit with those Long Ridge folks.

Mrs. Jackson is now picking another beautiful rug. Her work doesn't stop at this. She has taught her daughter to do the same, and she has one started.

Farmers Meeting To Be Held Monday in Roper

Roper.—All farmers interested in growing lespedeza this year are requested to meet in the agriculture classroom at the Roper school next Monday night, January 15, at 7:30 o'clock.

Lespedeza is a legume, valuable in North Carolina for hay, soil improvement, grazing, and commercial seed production, and all who are interested should be present, according to B. G. O'Brien.

DESPERADO IS CAPTURED BY OFFICERS HERE

Slayer of Windsor Police Chief, Escaped Convict, Caught This Week

Back to jail went a desperado this week when the alertness of Chief of Police P. W. Brown and Sheriff J. K. Reid aided in the capture of Percy "Foots" Miller, who escaped while serving a life sentence.

The negro was captured in the home of a negro family in White City in the suburbs of Plymouth, with the above officers, aided by J. K. Basnight, walking into the room where the negro was asleep, and when the killer awoke he was staring into the muzzles of three pistols.

When aware of the fact that he was in the hands of the law again, the negro manifested no resisted but submitted quietly. He was escorted to the jail here, where he was kept until officers arrived to take him back to the Carey prison camp, from which he escaped some time ago.

The negro told the officers that he had been to Maryland and had hopped his way back to Portsmouth and then on into Plymouth, where he was arrested. He escaped from the prison farm about 10 months ago, when he blinded a guard by throwing lye into the officer's eyes.

The negro was sent to prison for life about two years ago when he was found guilty of murdering Chief of Police Pat White in Windsor when the officer tried to arrest him on a charge of gambling.

ROPER TEAMS DEFEAT LOCALS

Boys Win 25 to 24; Girls Win 44 to 22 At Roper Last Thursday

Roper.—The Roper High School basketball teams administered a licking to both the boys and girls from Plymouth High School last Thursday night when the Roper boys nosed out a point ahead with the score 25 to 24 while the girls doubled Plymouth's tallies 44 to 22.

Both games were full of pep, but the close contest between the boys marked the evening's contests as it was a tit for tat battle until the finish, but the girls from Plymouth never lost heart and fought until the end. C. W. Dinkins was referee and Bill Clagon umpire.

Playing for the boys were: Roper, Floyd Asby, Maurice Peacock, Henry Everett, Willie Peacock and Roy Blount. Plymouth: Eddie Gotsinger, Grant Sears, C. W. Waters, Bobbie Cahoon and Charlie Jackson.

Girls: Plymouth, Edna Ayers, Emily Lucas, Lois LeFever, Hazel Fletcher, Ellen Bowen and Florence Davis. Roper: Opal Chesson, Margaret Collins, Elsie Chesson, Mildred Blount, Mary Peacock and Christine Spruill.

Hoke Club Member's Curb Market Sales Total \$111.10

By Miss Eugenia Patterson
Miss Lula Watson, of the Hoke Club, kept an account of all her sales on the curb market last year, and we are proud of her record.

Miss Watson had a small flock of hens, consisting of 30 in number. From those 30 hens she gathered last year 253 dozen eggs. These were used at home and sold on curb market for prices ranging from 11 cents to 28 cents per dozen.

Miss Watson has a year-round garden and always has fresh vegetables for her table and for market. Her sales for 1932 from chickens, eggs, vegetables, and fruits amounted to \$111.10 cash. This came in mighty well in a year like 1932 on the farm.

Craven Farmers Put 7,000 Pounds Meat In Storage

About 7,000 pounds of meat have been placed in the curing room of the local ice plant in New Bern by Craven farmers. Many of these men plan to sell cured meat next spring and summer.

Produces 1,660 Pounds of Tobacco on Acre of Land

Using a home-mixed fertilizer according to a formula developed by E. Y. Floyd, tobacco specialist at State College, J. E. Rice, of Madison County, produced 1,660 pounds an acre of good burley tobacco.

Few Harnett Farmers Get Good Return From Leaf

A few Harnett County farmers report an income of \$200 an acre from their tobacco crop this past season.

LOWER RATES

Authority to establish lower rates on potatoes between the Norfolk area and points in North Carolina is being sought in Washington, D. C., in a petition filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by agents of the Norfolk Southern and Atlantic Coast Line Railroads.

The application proposed a rate of 12 cents per 100 pounds from Norfolk, Pinners Point, Portsmouth, and Suffolk to Bethel, Plymouth and Washington, N. C., and 15 cents per 100 pounds to Vandemere. The railroads said a reduction was necessary in order to meet "unregulated" water borne and truck competition.

EDUCATION BODY HOLDS MEETING

Decline To Assure Chapel Hill Delegation Use Of Building

Holding that the law would not allow them to do so, the Washington County Board of Education declined to assure the delegation present that the Chapel Hill school building would be turned over to the people in the community for their use.

The delegation presented a petition signed by 200 or more citizens of the community asking that the board not give the building to the negroes of the Macedonia district and that it be left where it is now located for use of the community people themselves.

The board declined to allow the athletes of the schools the use of the school trucks in transporting the teams and their supporters to places for games on the premise that not enough children were interested in the games to warrant the use of the trucks for this purpose.

The superintendent of schools was authorized to write the schools informing them that no teachers could be employed by the local committee of any school unless the teachers were recommended by the superintendent of public instruction.

FORMER LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD

Henry C. Spruill Prominent In Public Affairs of Bertie County

Below follows in toto the story of Attorney Henry C. Spruill, formerly of Plymouth, who has made good as a lawyer and citizen of Windsor as the story appeared last week in the Bertie Ledges-Advance. Mr. Spruill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Spruill of Plymouth. His picture was above the story.

Mr. Spruill is chairman of the Bertie County Board of Education, having been selected for this post in the election two years ago. Mr. Spruill is a native of Plymouth, coming to Windsor several years ago to enter the practice of law with his kinsman, Moses Gillam, forming the present partnership of Gillam and Spruill. He is a World War Veteran and has been active in American Legion affairs, serving as district commander until forced to resign because of his health. A slight but dangerous heart ailment, which he hopes to overcome and for which he took several months treatment last summer in Walter Reid Hospital in Washington, has slowed up his activities somewhat although he continues his legal practice. Before going to the hospital, Mr. Spruill handled the liquidation of the Citizens Bank of Windsor.

ANGRY FARMERS STOP LAND SALE

Mortgage Holder's Attorney Narrowly Escapes Hanging
Le Mars, Iowa.—Farm unrest, smoldering for months in the Iowa corn belt, flamed anew one day last week with threats to lynch a representative of a mortgage holder and forcible detention of a jurist who sought to summon aid.

The demonstration occurred at a foreclosure sale when Herbert S. Martin, attorney for the New York Life Insurance Company, submitted a sealed bid for the John A. Johnson farm of \$30,000—\$3,000 less than the amount of the mortgage held by his company.

The farmers, numbering between 500 and 800, dragged him from the courthouse steps. Brandishing a rope, they threatened hanging, tar and feathers, and riding him out of town on a rail.

Finally released, Martin wired officials of his company, asking permission to raise the bid. He ended his wire with a plea to "rush answer, my neck at risk."

FARMING MUST BE PUT BACK ON PAYING BASIS

Writer Says It Can Be Done If People As Whole Will It

By A. R. DUPREE

The problem of bringing back adjustment in the disparity of commodity prices with the finished product and the regulatory means in apportioning each business connection so it may have a reasonable return for the capital invested in their coordinated working which completes the circuit and hands it back to the consumer seems to be at this time more baffling and harder to solve and within itself holds the key which will open the way for the relief sought. Our statesmen and leading economists from our colleges differ on plans of procedure to overcome our depression, each one presenting his views and advancing methods for the cure.

The period of inflation from 1915 to 1920 was one of unparalleled prosperity and had the effect of unbalancing the steady and normal growth of industry, influencing us to believe that we could accomplish anything we desired and that we were destined to become the dominant nation of the globe. So, permeated with this idea, we took upon ourselves obligations, debts, and lived in such extravagance and waste that we now realize it was not in keeping with good business ethics and for which we are now paying a huge penalty.

With 40,000,000 of our population depending upon agriculture for a living, is there any sound reason why it can not be put back on a dividend-paying basis if it is the will of the people to place it there? All relief measures granted the farmers through Congress and the financing methods used so far would appear to have increased their burdens rather relieved him, if we are to measure his gradual decline in prices of his products from year to year as an index of benefit.

This, within itself, suggests other remedies must be resorted to for relief.

When North Carolina began its road building program in 1921, no one thought it would ever reach its proportions it has reached within the short time of 12 years with the enormous cost attached to it. It was brought about by the united concert of action on the part of the people in their determination to do that one thing. Agriculture can be brought back to a paying basis if the people will it to be done and seek the correct remedies to put it on its feet again. When the country is convinced that our prosperity is dependent on making agriculture a paying part of our industrial system we will be too glad to cooperate to that end.

Farmers should do their own thinking and planning, keeping in mind the crop surplus and carry-over from last year of the money crops and reduce the acreage, which includes in this section in particular, peanuts. I dare say if every farmer in the peanut belt of North Carolina and Virginia will reduce his acreage 50 per cent, they will receive for this reduced acreage a sum of money larger than this crop will sell for under present prevailing prices.

To facilitate the moving of this crop at an advance in price, let me suggest a movement be inaugurated known as the "buy-a-bag movement" soliciting every person who can afford it to buy one or more bags at \$150.

There are thousands of people who can do this and use them to an advantage and in many instances realize a profit from them.

Let agriculture start the movement of increasing employment by doing away with all labor-saving devices used on farms, even if it militates in reducing their output, as this seems to be one of the many things that are hindering his progress and holding him down to an unprofitable basis.

Hold Funeral Wednesday For Onesimus Craddock

Roper.—Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon for Onesimus Craddock, 35 years of age, who died Tuesday in a Washington hospital as the result of a severe attack of a disease that has been bothering him for some time. Officiating were the Methodist minister at Roper and Rev. T. F. Davenport, of Creswell. Burial was in a cemetery on the Craddock home place.

Surviving are a widow and five small children. Mr. Craddock had been married twice.

Put 9,000 Pounds Pork On Storage in Tarboro

Edgecombe and Halifax farmers have placed 9,000 pounds of pork in the local cold storage plant in Tarboro since the plant was opened on December 2.

Have Narrow Escape When Auto Hits Cow

An automobile driven by Mrs. Gilbert Davis struck a cow close to Williamston Thursday night. The cow jumped a ditch bank and plunged into the road in front of Mrs. Davis' car. Accompanying Mrs. Davis was her mother and Mrs. Tom Clagon. No one was injured, but the car was slightly damaged.

FOUND GUILTY OF SEDUCTION

Seaton Patrick Convicted By Jury in Superior Court Here

A verdict of guilty of seduction was rendered by a jury in the January term of Washington County superior court that opened here Monday, against Seaton Patrick, 30 years of age, white man of the Skippersville section, who is well known in this county.

The young man was arraigned in the higher court after having been sent up from recorder's court on probable cause. His bond was fixed at \$650. It was found that he was guilty of seducing Mary Swain, pretty young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Swain, who are also well known.

Evidence tended to show that the boy and girl both admitted sexual relations and the girl alleged that Patrick persuaded her to commit immorality under a promise of marriage. Patrick did pay her expenses incurred in transportation to and from and while in an up-State maternity home.

The neighbors of the girl gave her an excellent character, and there was no tendency of the defense to disprove this, but W. L. Whitley, defense counsel, did purport to show by C. B. Pearce, former police chief of Greenville, that the girl had worked for a while in a coffee shop of bad reputation in the Pitt County capital.

The proprietor of this house was arrested and tried in Federal court in Washington, at which time Miss Swain was a witness in the case. But it appeared that there was no direct attempt to prove that the girl had a bad character. The jury deliberated only a short time.

LEADERS SCHOOL IS HELD TUESDAY

30 Women Present, With 12 of County's 16 Clubs Represented

By Miss Eugenia Patterson
A home management leaders' school was held Tuesday at the Riverview Hotel with Miss Helen N. Estabrook, home management specialist, in charge. There were 30 women in attendance and 12 clubs represented.

The topic for the meeting was house hold expenditures and how to keep household accounts. This is a very appropriate subject for times like this. Each household management leader from each of the 16 women's clubs will keep accounts of household expenditures this year, and several members in each club are working with the leaders on the same project. We will watch with interest this project and hope that it will be of great benefit to the home of our county.

Grand Jury Returns Its Regular Report

Little interest was manifested in the report of the grand jury that was made here at the January term of superior court as the document only pointed out that investigations had proven the courthouse and jail were in good condition except that walls on the courthouse should be plastered in certain places.

Grand jurors were J. T. Terry, foreman; W. C. Stillman, Sam Stallings, L. D. Barr, B. O. Oliver, W. H. Gurkin, J. F. Carter, B. M. Spruill, L. L. Mizelle, Dennis H. Phillips, R. L. Tetterton, J. H. Kiddick, J. B. White, A. J. Edwards, S. B. Davenport, John W. Snell, Hoyt Davenport, J. H. Gaylord 3rd.

High School Students Eligible for Scholarships

Announcement has been made that students of the high schools in Washington County are eligible for the contests in essay writing, oratory and music that will be held at the High Point college during the spring. Scholarships ranging in value from \$50 to annual expense offered.

Oration contest will be held at the college March 24 with names of entrants to be sent to N. M. Harrison, promotional secretary before February 20th. Music contest in voice and piano will be held April 23. Participants must register with E. B. Simson not later than April 15.

For more particulars address High Point College, High Point, N. C.

SCHOOL PEOPLE OF DISTRICT TO HOLD MEET HERE

School Superintendents of Easter Carolina Will Attend January 24

A program for the meeting of the county and city superintendents of schools in the eastern section of North Carolina which will be held here January 24 at a place to be determined later in the form of a banquet has been released for publication by the Roanoke Beacon.

The banquet will last for a little more than two hours at which time eminent educators will speak on topics that are timely and interesting today. James W. Norman, superintendent of public instruction, and E. H. Hicks, superintendent of Plymouth City Schools, are on the committee of arrangements.

Fifteen minutes each will be allowed the speakers on "Basis for Standardization to Give Uniformity in Determining Percentage of Enrollment in Average Daily Attendance." Those scheduled for discussion of this topic are K. R. Kurtis, superintendent of public instruction of Wilson County; Edgar E. Bundy, superintendent of public instruction of Perquimans County; and R. M. Wilson, superintendent of city schools in Rocky Mount.

"Some of the Problems Involved in Making a Comparison of Counties in Studying the Percentage of Enrollment in High School" will be discussed for 12 minutes each by H. W. Early, superintendent of public instruction of Bertie County, and E. E. Sams, superintendent of public instruction of Lenoir County.

"The Relationship of the Length of the School Year and Average Daily Attendance (promotions, retardation, will be discussed for twelve minutes each by W. A. Mahler, superintendent of city schools in Tarboro, and E. S. Johnson, superintendent of the city schools of Washington.

"The Factors that Should Be Considered in Grade Promotions" are to be discussed for 15 minutes each by Miss Maude Newberry, superintendent of public instruction in Currituck County and H. B. Smith, superintendent of the New Bern City schools. W. A. Graham, superintendent of city schools in Kinston, will speak for a short time on "Criterion To Be Used in Promoting To High School." A summary of the meeting will be made by Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, director of the division of inspection of the North Carolina Department of Education.

Also one of the high lights of the meeting will be an address by Jule Warren, secretary of the North Carolina Education Association, on "Resume of Tendencies in School Legislation."

MEET FRIDAY AT CRESWELL

Field Agent of Agricultural Credit Corporation To Be in Charge

Business men and farmers are urged to be present at a meeting that will be held in the school building at Creswell on January 17 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at which time an address will be made by H. C. Bernard, field representative of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation in Raleigh.

The purpose of the corporation is to loan money on production credit. Similar to what has been done with the seed loans for the past few years. However, the two organizations are separate and distinct.

The corporation is in the position to loan money to farmers who probably would not be eligible under the other organization in that it will take mortgages not only on the crops but all chattels, including machinery and livestock.

The organization appears to be interested in promoting the livestock industry. This is the thing that the extension division of State College has been trying to do for years.

Mr. Bernard will probably ask County Farm Agent R. E. Dunning to assist him in selecting a banker, a farmer and a business man for a committee set-up to work with him on these loans. The farm agent will not be obligated except in an educational way in the organization's work.

Johnston Farmers Report Large Acreage To Grain

Johnston County farmers report the largest acreage to small grain ever planted in this cotton and tobacco growing county. The increase in barley planting to help out the short corn crop is especially noticeable, says the farm agent there.