

The Franklin Press

VOLUME XLII

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1927

NUMBER SIX

EIGHT MONTHS TERM DESIRABLE

Few Schools Have Long Terms—Eight Months School Discussed—Would Benefit 179,404 pupils.

Facts and figures bearing on the proposal that the State Constitution be so amended as to provide for a minimum eight months school term—the proposal on which the State Education Commission split recently—are contained in the most recent issue of State School Facts, just received here.

One hundred seventy-nine thousand, four hundred four rural white pupils in North Carolina would secure a longer term, under the eight months' minimum, the publication, put out by the State Department of Public Instruction, shows. The figure represents 42.1 per cent of the State's rural white school children.

In the rural negro schools, 173,110 children, or 89 per cent, are enrolled in schools having terms of less than eight months.

In the city schools, on the contrary, all white schools have terms of eight months or more, and 92.8 of the negro children are enrolled in schools having terms of eight months or more.

The proposed minimum would give a longer term to more than three fourths of the rural white children in this county. School Facts shows that 2,715, or 76.5 per cent, of the rural white children in Macon are enrolled in schools having terms of less than 160 days, or eight months.

The publication lists the counties by rank, according to percentage of children attending schools of eight months or more. Macon county is ranked ninety-third in this particular, only seven other counties having a smaller proportion of their rural white school population enrolled in schools of eight months or more. Counties ranking lower than Macon are Dare, Ashe, Watauga, Surry, Caswell, Yadkin, and Wilkes.

School Facts reviews the history of school term growth in North Carolina, and gives a large number of statistical tables, on which its statements are based.

It points out that during the first 17 years of the present century, increases in school terms were largely made possible through schools districts voting upon themselves additional taxes. But after 1913, when the State Equalizing Fund was created, the State as a whole helped to increase school terms in poorer counties.

In 1917, the constitution was so amended as to make the minimum term six instead of four months.

Since that time, says School Facts, special tax districts have increased their terms beyond the six months minimum term in the same way—by voting additional local school taxes.

"In other words, where wealth has centralized, the people have been able to provide for a longer term than that set forth in the Constitution, and where very little taxable wealth exists, the people have been forced to be content with a six months school term."

From 1900-01 to 1925-26, the average term in the white city schools has increased from 170 to 177.6 days; in the white rural schools, from 76 to 139.6 days, a statistical table shows.

The figures for the 25-year period show, according to the publication, that the "increase in average term for the rural schools has been a gradual but slow process;" and that "all the city children, both white and colored, have had the opportunity to attend school for eight months or more during the whole of the period whereas the average rural child has never had as much as seven months."

"In 1922-23, there were 429,368 children that did not have the opportunity of an eight months school term. In 1925-26, there were 360,707 children in schools having terms less than eight months. Of this number, 356,044, or 98.7 per cent, were rural children."

"Thirty-five per cent of the rural white children and 81.7 per cent of the rural colored children are provided with the minimum school term of six months. No city white child and only 2.1 per cent of the city colored children are enrolled in schools having the minimum term of six months as provided by the Constitution."

The publication summarizes, with "indications and proposals" drawn from the figures thus:

"All these facts indicate that there is a very definite tendency for the people of the State to extend the term beyond the six months as required as a minimum in the Constitution. However, this method of extending the term also tends to make more unequal the opportunities of the

DEATH CALLS JOHN WILLIAMS

Mr. John Williams, 63, a pioneer citizen of the county and prominent farmer of Holly Springs district, died at his home February 6, and was interred at Holly Springs Baptist Church February 7. Rev. Wayne McCracken, of Canton, preaching the funeral services.

Besides his widow the deceased is survived by three children, Charlie Williams, Mrs. Harvey Seay and Mrs. Dewey Corbin, all of Macon county. He is also survived by three brothers, Bob and Jim of Macon county and Charlie of Buncombe county.

The deceased was a member of the Holly Springs Baptist Church for many years and took an active part in all affairs tending toward the betterment of the community and county.

GOVERNMENT TO PRESERVE HISTORIC LONG-HORN CATTLE

That the long-horned, or Spanish cattle, once so numerous in the Southwest, may be preserved from complete extinction, the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, will maintain a herd on the Wichita National Forest in Oklahoma, according to an announcement made to-day by Col. W. B. Greeley, chief forester. The agricultural appropriation bill signed by President Coolidge on January 17, carries an item for their purchase and maintenance.

The department has for several years urged the necessity for a small herd of these picturesque examples of early pioneer life of the Southwest for the benefit and education of future generations interested in pioneer history, said Colonel Greeley.

The Wichita national forest lies right in the heart of the range of the old southern herds of plains buffalo, and is a part of the region formerly known as the Indian Territory, where now live more than fifty thousand Indians.

Here also grazed some of the pioneer herds of the long-horned cattle when the livestock industry in the Southwest was in its infancy.

There are still a few living members of this once numerous breed of cattle to be found in Texas. The herd for the Government will be selected by expert cattlemen familiar with the characteristics of the cattle and of the southwestern ranges. They will be grazed in a pasture immediately adjoining the one occupied by the herd of buffalo now established on the forest.

PARK BILL INTRODUCED

In the general assembly at Raleigh a bill has been introduced to authorize a bond issue of \$2,000,000 for purchase of the lands to be included in the boundary of the proposed Smoky Mountain Park in North Carolina. Tennessee is expected to provide funds to buy 75,000 acres. Thus the two states will obtain a nucleus of 150,000 acres in the Smoky mountains and turn this land over to the national government. The government will then improve the park area by the construction of roads, etc. Those in charge of the bill estimate that the state will soon receive enough money from gasoline tax to repay the bond issue.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Omohundro, of Hendersonville arrived Monday to visit Mrs. Omohundro's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Barnard. Mr. Omohundro returned Wednesday while Mrs. Omohundro will remain here several days.

children to secure an education. In effect it gives to that child born in the community where taxable wealth is available a greater opportunity than it gives to the child living in the wealthy section of the State.

"Since, therefore, there is already a very definite tendency toward the securing of an eight months school term as a satisfactory minimum standard; since all high schools of the State have this minimum as a prerequisite to standardization; since nearly all city schools have a nine months term; and since there are yet 360,707 children living in the rural districts that do not have as much as an eight months school term—it has been suggested that, in order to offer these children living in the less wealthy sections of the State a longer school term and to distribute the support of such a minimum term uniformly throughout the several counties, the word 'six' as to 'eight.'"

"The first step in the process is for the General Assembly to submit the question to the people for them to determine at the general election of 1928. If the people by their votes decide favorably, then the Constitution as changed would be effective for the first time in the school year 1929-30."

STATE GAME LAW INTRODUCED

Provides State Warden and Specifies Closed Season On Birds and Game.

The State Game Bill, introduced in the house by Representative Sutton, of Lenoir, meets the requirements of Western North Carolina, organization formed here sometime ago for the purpose of seeking game and fish protective legislation and of re-stocking the forests and streams in the mountain counties.

The executive committee of the Association, which has a membership of approximately 500, has endorsed the bill, and asked western legislators to work for its enactment.

The organization originally had in mind a district measure, which would take care of the situation in the mountain counties, but because the Sutton bill provides for members of the Game Commission to come from different sections of the State, insuring the west representation, and provides that the Commission shall have the authority to vary provisions of the law in different counties or sections, in accord with local conditions and needs, which vary in the different parts of the State, the Association concluded that the Sutton measure would give the legislation believed desirable and necessary.

The Commission would be composed of five members, four appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the senate, for six-year terms, and the fifth, the Director of the Department of Conservation and Development. The members would serve without pay, except for per diem expenses while actually performing their official duties.

The Commission, in turn, would appoint a State Game Warden, at a salary not to exceed \$5,000, and traveling expenses not in excess of \$1500 per annum.

The Commission and warden would have their offices at Raleigh. The warden would act as Secretary to the board, but would have no vote.

The purposes and duties of the commission, under provisions of the bill, would be "to protect, propagate, and preserve the game, fur-bearing animals, and protected birds of the State and to enforce the provisions of this act and other acts relating to the protection of game."

The commission would be empowered to acquire land, by lease, gift, or purchase; to establish "game refuges" on such land or on State forests, with the consent of the State Forester; to "formulate, adopt, and post regulations" governing the use of such lands, which regulations would have the force of law; to "change any open season within the first and last dates of such open season provided by this act for the State or for any county or district," and to lower the bag limits; to establish "lay days" on which migratory birds might not be taken—all these changes to be made only on petition of at least 25 citizens, and after publication of notice of intention to make such changes; to entirely close a season, if it were deemed desirable; to acquire animals or birds to re-stock the forests; and to borrow money in anticipation of license fees to be collected.

The bill would not interfere with county game commissions, except that the State body would have jurisdiction, in so far as the provisions of the bill were concerned.

The State Game Warden would be authorized to issue permits for the taking of birds or animals for scientific purposes; to appoint, with the consent of the commission, deputy game wardens; and to prepare the form of license and execute warrants.

All sheriffs and other officers would become deputy game wardens ex-officio and would be charged with the duty of enforcing the bill's provisions. In addition to their regular fees, they would receive a fee of \$5 for obtaining evidence leading to a conviction of violation of the bill's provisions.

The warden, deputy wardens, and refuge keepers would be deputy forest wardens, ex-officio.

Moneys received for licenses, etc., would be required to be deposited with the State Treasurer, and kept in a separate fund, for use in executing the provisions of the measure. The license fees would be fixed at \$1.50 for residents of the State and \$25 for non-residents. In addition, the licensee would be required to pay the officer issuing the license a fee of 25 cents. Additional fees could be charged non-residents by counties.

Property owners would be permitted to hunt on their own property without license, except that they would be subject to the seasonal and other provisions of the bill and regulations of the commission. The li-

CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW COMMERCIAL HOTEL

ROAD BUILDING SHOWS PROGRESS

Visitors Praise Work of Road Building Being Carried On—Committee Inspects Prospective Routes.

That Georgia will in the very near future be traversed by a network of good roads to more adequately accommodate the ever-increasing traffic, is now becoming more apparent with each passing day.

That Georgia realizes this need, and is providing the means and methods for attaining its culmination, is a self-evident fact which is brought more forcibly to the attention of her citizens now than ever before.

In this connection we will again mention the inspection trip of the committee of five from the Appalachian Scenic Highway, which committee inspected prospective routes for this great highway from Atlanta to the Florida line and selected route No. 3 as the official route. This committee—two members of which were Gainesville men, H. H. Estes and W. G. Meador—had as its chairman Hon. Jas. G. Stikeleather of Asheville, N. C.

It is now recalled that at a good roads meeting last fall at Franklin, N. C., Mr. Stikeleather declared that Georgia had received more per dollar for the money which it has expended for highway construction than almost any other state in the union.

A few days ago Mr. Stikeleather toured through the center of Georgia from the North Carolina line near Blairsville to the Florida line near Valdosta, via Gainesville, Atlanta, Macon and Cordele, and back to North Carolina from the Florida line via Thomasville, Albany, Americus, Thomaston, Atlanta and Gainesville. His observations on this trip moved him to express great surprise and pleasure over the splendid condition of the highways which he had traveled in Georgia and over the evident progress which the state is making in highway construction.

Among others Mr. Stikeleather was accompanied by Roscoe A. Marvel, of Asheville, president of the Appalachian Scenic Highway association, and Dr. K. E. Bennett, of Bryson City, N. C., both highway enthusiasts, and both of whom joined with Mr. Stikeleather in his commendation of what Georgia is doing in the matter of highway improvement.

That Mr. Stikeleather and his two distinguished fellow North Carolinians were correct in their conclusions and were thoroughly justified in their statements is shown by figures taken from the official records of the state highway board.—Gainesville News.

EX-SERVICE MEN AND INSURANCE

Recent legislation has extended the time for reinstating government insurance to July 2, 1927. Ex-service men who desire to reinstate their insurance or to convert their insurance to another form can get information from Mr. Alf Higdon of Franklin, or the U. S. Veterans Bureau, Charlotte, N.C.

cense year would extend from April 1 to March 31.

Violations of the measure would be misdemeanors, punishable with a fine of not more than \$50 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, for the first offense; second offenders would be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$200, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both. In addition, offenders would be subject to having their licenses revoked.

The Audubon Society would be dissolved, under provisions of the bill, and an appropriation of \$10,000 would be made for initial expenses, this first moneys collected under the provisions of the measure.

The bill fixes maximum open seasons and bag limits for squirrel, rabbit, deer, bear, raccoon, opossum, mink, skunk, otter, muskrat, gray and red fox, quail, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, Mongolian, Chinese and ring-necked pheasants, ducks, geese, brant, Wilson's snipe, coot, gallinules, black-bellied and golden plover, woodcock, and dove, and authorizes the State Game Commission to shorten or close the season, and to lower the bag limits, in its discretion.

It provides for no open season for beaver, elk, buffalo, swan, wood duck, and eider duck, and for no closed season on wild cats.

The Scott Griffin Hotel Formally Opened Last Tuesday—Dance Features Opening Ceremonies.

Franklin Tuesday celebrated the formal opening of its new \$50,000 hotel, the Scott Griffin, easily one of the best commercial hotels west of Asheville.

New, attractive, and thoroughly modern—from the Trane vapor modulating heating system to the 99-inch sheets on the beds (90 inches is the standard length, hotel men say)—the new hotel concluded its formal opening ceremonies Tuesday night with a dance on the fourth-floor roof garden—another innovation in this section.

Participating in the opening ceremonies were the people of the town and numerous visitors. Sam L. Franks, W. C. Cunningham, and H. W. Cabe, the builders and owners of the structure, and Mrs. J. L. Farmer, the lessee, were in charge of the program. Music for the dance was furnished by an Asheville orchestra.

The new hotel building, under construction for the past several months, has just been completed, and it was only recently that its name and management were announced.

It is named for the late Scott Griffin, a prominent citizen of Rutherfordton, and well known throughout Western North Carolina; Mr. Griffin was Mr. Franks' father-in-law.

Mrs. Farmer, who has leased the hotel for a five-year period, comes to Franklin from Gainesville, Ga., where for the past four years she was connected with the Princeton Hotel. Prior to her work in Gainesville, she was connected with hotels in Tuscaloosa, Ala. She is said to be a hotel manager of marked ability, having given special study to problems of the preparation and serving of meals. Mrs. Farmer brought her cooks, trained by her, with her from Gainesville.

The Scott Griffin Hotel, a four-story fire-proof brick structure, stands on the north side of Main street, in the very heart of the business section of Franklin. It has 36 bedrooms, each attractively furnished, with hot and cold water in each room.

The office and a spacious, well lighted lobby, made cheerful by an old-fashioned wood fire at one end, is on the first floor. The remainder of the first floor is devoted to two attractive store rooms and a barber shop.

The bed-rooms are on the second and third floors. On the second floor are the dining room, which is very attractive with its many windows and small tables; the kitchen scientifically arranged, and equipped with all-metal tables, etc.; and a ladies' parlor, overlooking the street.

The fourth-floor roof garden is perhaps one of the most attractive features of the new hotel. Lighted and heated, it can be used, winter and summer, for banquets, concerts, dances, and other large gatherings. The interior is finished with plaster.

The wood work and furniture are in walnut finish.

All equipment and furniture, the builders say, has been carefully selected, with a view to getting the best.

The owners take particular pride in the modulating heating system, and in the circulating hot water system, which makes possible the instant hot water system.

The hotel has been arranged for telephones in each bedroom. The telephones probably will be installed later.

The building contains no inside rooms, every room having outside windows.

Franklin has long felt the need of a new and up-to-date hotel, to accommodate the growing traveling public that comes here, and it is generally felt that the new inn fills a long and acutely felt need.

The owners are prominent business men here. Mr. Franks is postmaster of Franklin; Mr. Cunningham, a leading merchant; and Mr. Cabe is the cashier of the Bank of Franklin.

The owners built the hotel themselves. Supervising the construction work was H. O. Curtis, of Sylva. The plumbing and heating was installed by Holder Brothers, of Murphy. This particular line of the work was under the supervision of C. H. Holder, of Murphy, and W. G. Hall, of Franklin.

Mr. J. H. Swafford had his hand pretty badly cut with an axe, while working at the mine of the Mica Products Company at the head of Cowee Wednesday of last week. He was engaged in jacking up a building when his assistant in driving a wedge turned the axe loose resulting in the injury.