



The Franklin Press

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LEAGUE WANTS INFORMATION

Solesbee and Robertson Speak Before League of Women Voters—Women Say Battle for Australian Ballot Will Continue.

"Hit 'em in de eye, Knock 'em in de head, Dey bones gona rise ag'in."

That was the suggestion of Mrs. Neville Sloan, president of the Franklin League of Women Voters, with reference to the Australian ballot bill, when the Rev. Alvin S. Solesbee, representative from Macon county, "exhibited the corpse" of the late lamented bill before the members of the League at the organization's meeting March 30, at a tea at the home of Mrs. Kate Wilson Smith.

Mr. Solesbee was invited to address the League, and specifically was requested to explain why the bill failed to pass in the last session of the General Assembly.

The end was peaceful, Mr. Solesbee indicated, but just why he did not seem to know, with exactness, except that the leaders appeared not to favor it—a very good reason, it was agreed.

Another speaker at the meeting was Henry G. Robertson, former senator from the thirty-third district. Mr. Robertson explained in detail the machinery by which a bill becomes a law, giving concrete examples of how certain bills passed and how certain other bills did not, and what happened to them.

Extreme regret was expressed that no members of the local organization could attend the birthday party given by the Macon County League, at Highlands, to which representatives of the Franklin organization were invited. The weather and other unforeseen circumstances which arose at the last minute prevented any Franklin women going to Highlands for this event.

A vote of thanks to the Idle Hour Theatre was expressed. The League, through the co-operation of the theatre, earned \$27 on a recent picture put on at the theatre. The money went to the State war chest.

For its next regular meeting, which comes the last Thursday in April, the league is invited to the home of Mrs. W. A. Rogers.

The meeting last week proved delightful, socially, as well as interesting. The attendance was good, and the "over-the-river" hostesses were responsible for those attending having a most delightful afternoon.

Cullowhee Campus Greatly Improved

With the arrival of spring, many improvements are being made on the campus of the Cullowhee State Normal School. Shrubbery of all descriptions, including spruce, balsam, white pine, lilac, and snow balls, is being planted in various places. Several men have been engaged in sowing grass seed and in laying sod.

A stone wall, which will be ornamental and at the same time prevent erosion of soil, is being erected around each end of the Moore building.

Two modern tennis courts are being prepared for the use of students and teachers who love this sport.

Stikeleather's Mother Dies at Asheville Home

Mrs. Laura Stikeleather, widow of Captain J. A. Stikeleather, and mother of J. G. Stikeleather, died at her son's home on Sunset Parkway, at 8:30 o'clock Tuesday night, after several week's failing, from the infirmities of age.

Since the death of Captain Stikeleather, of Olin, N. C., she had been making her home with her son, James G. She is survived by one other son, J. F., and one daughter, Mrs. Myrtle L. Gasque, both of Asheville, and by a number of nieces and nephews.

The deceased was born at Candler, N. C., August 11, 1843. She was the daughter of the Colonel and Mrs. Simon B. Gudger, members of one of the oldest families to settle in Buncombe county. Her people were pioneers in the development of the mountain country.

Funeral services were held at the home of J. G. Stikeleather.—Asheville Citizen.

THE HOG SALE A BIG SUCCESS

What is said to have been the first co-operative carlot shipment of hogs ever to go out of Macon county was shipped from Franklin last Wednesday by farmers of this county, co-operating with the county agent, Lyles Harris.

The event left a jingle of coin in its wake. It placed \$1549.14 in the pockets of about 28 farmers—those co-operating—according to Mr. Harris. The 83 hogs in the car totalled in weight 15,635 pounds.

The hog shipment came in the heels of a \$3,000 co-operative shipment of poultry.

Dowdle Chosen On Board of Education

To succeed the late N. L. Barnard as a member of the County Board of Education on this county, C. W. Dowdle, of Prentiss, was chosen Monday. The election was made by the other two members of the board, Dr. S. H. Lyle and Alex Moore.

The vacancy occurred a short time ago, with the death of Mr. Barnard, who had served on the board for the past 15 years.

At the meeting Monday, the board organized for the next two years, re-elected Dr. Lyle as chairman.

At the meeting, school committees throughout the county were named. A list of these committees, who are the same as in the past, with a few exceptions, will appear in a subsequent issue of the Press.

Grow More Corn Per Acre

One of the outstanding facts regarding the agriculture of the South is its low corn yields.

It has been estimated that when the yields of corn are around 14 bushels per acre, it costs the farmer about \$1.30 per bushel, but if the yields are increased to 40 bushels per acre, the cost is close to 60 cents per bushel. The South not only needs more corn, but it also needs to grow it at less cost per bushel.

Corn not only needs nitrogen, but also phosphates and potash.

There have been hundreds and hundreds of experiments made to determine the value of fertilizers on corn and the Experiment Stations of Virginia and North Carolina have published results recommending liberal applications of plant food for larger corn yields. In general, these recommendations are as follows: Sandy soils, 300 to 600 pounds per acre of a 10-4-4 fertilizer; clay soils and bottom lands, 200 to 400 pounds of a 10-4-2 fertilizer. On the richer bottom lands AND ON LANDS THAT HAVE HAD GOOD COVER CROPS TURNED UNDER, ACID PHOSPHATE IS PROBABLY ALL THAT WILL BE REQUIRED.

Corn is a heavy feeder of nitrogen. The above applications are recommended to be applied before the corn is planted. After the corn gets about knee high, an application of from 100 to 200 pounds of sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda generally gives profitable returns.

This application is very necessary on the poorer soils where a sufficient amount of organic matter is not present.

The South needs more feed grown on its farms. Corn is a very fine crop to grow for feeding purposes. Large and profitable crops can be grown by the liberal use of fertilizers, and always sow more legume crop in the corn before the last working—preferably cow peas.

LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

North Skennah News

Born to Mr. and Mrs. John H. Sanders, a 14-pound boy, March 9.

Mr. Weimar Hastings and family moved from Franklin to their home in this section, the past week.

Mrs. Raymond Sanders has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gregory, on Walnut Creek, the past week.

Mr. Zeli Shope's boys have about completed their new home, and the family will move soon.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnie Sanders, from Prentiss, a 10-pound girl, March 25.

Mr. Grady Stockton and family, from Elberton, Ga., were visitors of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stockton, the past week end.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Earnie Griggs the past week a big girl.

Mr. J. C. Sanders made a business trip to Franklin Saturday.

COMMISSIONERS NAME MANAGER

Under New Law Tax Supervisor Required—Commissioners Combine Offices of Supervisor and County Manager—C. R. Cabe Appointed—Salary \$1800.

The Macon county Board of commissioners Tuesday adopted the county manager form of government for this county, authorized by legislation enacted at the last session of the General Assembly.

C. R. Cabe, chairman of the board, was named full time manager and tax supervisor. The salary was fixed at \$150 per month. At the same meeting, carrying out the provisions of legislation just enacted, Hugh Leach was elected county auditor.

The position pays \$100 per month.

Under the arrangement, the county manager will devote his full time to the affairs of the county. The full board of commissioners will outline the policies to be followed and will, of course, have final say-so. The manager's job will be to carry out the board's policies, and handle detail work, as well as to make recommendations on investigations conducted under the board's directions.

The new legislation affecting county government requires employment of a county auditor and also of a tax supervisor, and authorizes the employment of a county manager. What the Board of Commissioners has done is to provide the tax supervisor required by law, and to add to his duties those of county manager.

The resolution of the commissioners, adopted Tuesday, follows:

"Whereas, it is incumbent upon the Board of County Commissioners, under the laws of the State of North Carolina, to employ a County accountant and, also, to employ a tax supervisor for the County of Macon; and

"Whereas, at the 1927 Session of the General Assembly of North Carolina a provision was made by which the Board of County Commissioners might employ a County manager for the general supervision of the affairs of the County under the control of the County Commissioners; and

"Whereas, said Board desires to combine the duties of all three officers or employees in two men:

"It is, therefore, ordered that a County accountant be employed at a salary of Twelve Hundred (\$1,200.00) Dollars per year, payable in twelve equal monthly installments of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars each, who shall perform the duties imposed upon him by the law creating the office of County accountant and who shall give his full time to the performance of his duties as County accountant.

"It is further ordered that Hugh Leach is appointed as County accountant for a period of one year from the date hereof, or for so long as his services may be satisfactory to the Board of County Commissioners.

"It is further ordered that the office of County manager is created, said manager to perform the duties devolving upon him as such County manager under the law provided for such office, and shall also perform the duties devolving upon the County tax supervisor at a salary of Eighteen Hundred (\$1,800.00) Dollars per year, payable in twelve equal monthly installments of One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars each.

"It is further ordered that the present Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners is appointed and employed as such full time Chairman or Manager as above set forth, to hold the office for a period of twelve months from the time hereof, or so long as his services may be satisfactory to the Board of County Commissioners."

Wants Home

An inquiry from an individual who wants to rent or lease an eight or 10-room furnished house, "with modern conveniences, for private home," has been received here by the chamber of commerce.

"A suburban home or country place, if with good modern house and conveniences would be most desirable," the inquirer states.

Detailed information about this inquiry may be secured from the chamber of commerce office in the upstairs lobby of the Bank of Franklin building.

Coffee and Norton Acquitted; McDowell Bound To Court

Three Officers Were Charged With Shooting Into Car In Which Three Boys Were Riding—Courthouse Packed at Hearing.

Harley ("Hamp") McDowell, deputy sheriff, was bound to Superior court under \$200 bond by Justices of the Peace George Carpenter, James Raby, and J. J. Mann Monday night, on a charge of an assault. The charge grew out of the alleged shooting into the car in which Prioleau and Quine Shope and Clyde Hopper were riding on the night of February 11. The charges against Chief of Police R. M. Coffey and Deputy Sheriff Frank Norton, with Mr. McDowell at the time of the alleged assault, were dropped by the justices.

The hearing, begun Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the courthouse, continued to 6 o'clock, was resumed at 7:30, and lasted till about 10 o'clock when the three justices retired to come to a decision. At 11:30, they announced they had not reached a decision in the case, and that the case would be continued until Monday night at 6 o'clock.

Announcement of the decision was made shortly after they met Monday.

For the hearing Saturday, a crowd gathered that jammed the courtroom to capacity. In fact, before the end of the afternoon session, the space inside the bar was filled, a few spectators being seated on the floor back of the justices' bench. The crowd gave closest attention to the testimony, breaking, however, into frequent laughs at humorous situations that arose or at unexpected answers of witnesses.

The testimony was concluded at 6 o'clock, and the arguments of counsel consumed about two and a half hours at the evening session, the attorneys speaking being R. D. Sisk, A. W. Horn, and Judge T. D. Bryson, of Bryson City, for the defense, and McKinley Edwards, of Bryson City for the State.

The charge grew out of the fact that a pistol shot struck the car in which the three youths were riding. The bullet, it was agreed by both sides, entered the rear of the car, passed through the back seat, and struck but did not pierce the front seat on which the three boys were riding. They charged that it was fired by the officers, who denied having fired at the car.

The story told by the youths was, in substance, as follows:

Leaving home about 7 o'clock in the evening of February 11, they went across the state line into Georgia to attend a sort of party. The car bore no bullet hole when they left, and they were never far from it while in Georgia, and heard no shot.

On the return trip, shortly before midnight the same night, they observed a car following them for about three miles on Highway No. 286, south of Franklin. When they left the highway, taking a side road leading to their homes, they were followed again. And a short distance from the highway, they heard a pistol shot, felt the car jarred, and when the officers came up a moment later, the bullet hole in the car was discovered. The bullet was found in the bottom of the car the following day.

Quince Shope said he looked back just before the shot was heard, and observed the car following, a very short distance behind, and saw no one between the two cars. He looked back immediately after the report, he said, and saw McDowell getting out of the car.

One of the boys said he observed a flashlight in McDowell's hand, another that the officer carried a gun, while the third stated that when he saw McDowell he had the flashlight in one hand and the gun in the other.

Another witness—a man living nearby—testified to hearing the cars turn into the side road, and later hearing the pistol shot.

The officers' version of the affair was that they had followed the car, thinking it contained a man they were seeking, but they denied either firing into the car or hearing any report. They saw the bullet hole after both cars had stopped, however, they stated.

All three denied emphatically that Coffey had questioned the boys after both cars had stopped. "What's the matter, boys? Is anybody hurt?" He

had asked them, Coffey said, "Are you stuck?"

When Coffey took the stand, the crowd in the courtroom rose from the seats and crowded down as close to the bar as possible, and packed that portion of the room inside the bar. He admitted, on cross examination, that he had "shot two or three men," and that he had "shot a man running, because he had a pistol in his hand." He also caused a gasp when, in reply to a question as to just what he had said when both cars had stopped, he stated:

"I said, 'What's the matter, boys? Is anybody hurt?'—No, I didn't say that. I was following you (to State counsel). I said: 'Are you stuck?'"

The three officers all took the stand, and told the same story—that they did not fire, and heard no fire.

Over the vigorous objection of McKinley Edwards, of Bryson City, representing the State, the defence got from Sam Howard, who runs the Black Bird filling station on the highway, a short distance from the Georgia line, this story:

That about 7 or 8 o'clock on the night of the alleged assault a car backed into his door (he lives in the building in which his filling station is located, he said), and that he fired two shots at the back of the car, through the door; that he saw the car, a Ford, on the return trip from Georgia, and recognized it as the one toward which he had shot through his door.

He admitted, on cross examination, that he fired without asking any questions or saying anything; that his family, in the house, made no comment then or later, on his shooting, and that there were no bullet holes through the door. This he explained by stating that there were cracks of five or six inches between the boards on the door, and that the bullets must have gone through the cracks.

The youths denied having stopped at Howard's filling station, merely passing along the road in front of the place.

The warrant for the officers was taken out several weeks ago, and the case has created widespread interest and comment, but he had never mentioned the incident until about a week ago, he stated.

The preliminary hearing was unusual in many respects. No case in 10 years, perhaps—save a murder trial—has created such interest; the number of justices of the peace sitting on it was remarked, and its legality questioned in the course of argument; and it drew the legal services of five attorneys: McKinley Edwards, of Bryson City, for the State; and former Judge T. D. Bryson, of the same town, and A. W. Horn, George B. Patton, and R. D. Sisk, all of Franklin, for the defense.

In the hearing, the crowd was kept in good humor by the numerous laughs—mostly provided by witnesses at the expense of attorneys.

Quince Shope, particularly, drew a laugh on each of his several trips to the witness stand, notably for his reply to a question from Judge Bryson: "What is the difference between a 1924 and a 1925 model of the Ford car," the Bryson City attorney queried. "Just one year's difference," was the unhesitating reply.

MASS MEETING MONDAY NIGHT

Citizens of Franklin are called to gather in the courthouse at 8 o'clock next Monday night to select a ticket for mayor and board of aldermen. The election comes less than a month from now, May 3.

The call for the mass meeting was issued Monday by M. D. Billings. It is time citizens of the town began giving the subject of selection of a mayor and aldermen for the next two years some thought, Mr. Billings suggested in calling the meeting.

The present mayor and board had issued no statement as to whether or not they would run again when the meeting was called, nor had there been other announcements. The town, in short, was in the position of having an election just ahead and of having—officially, at least—no candidates.

Franklin is governed by a mayor and six aldermen. They are elected for terms of two years.