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MOVEMENT FOR CONSOLIDATION

Billings Addressed People of Highlands Township On Proposition of Consolidating Schools.

(By T. I. Tolar)

The people of Highlands hope that history has been made in behalf of educational advancement in Macon county, when Tuesday, April 3, Mr. M. D. Billings, Franklin, spoke to a large assembly of town and out-of-town school patrons at the local school building, in favor of school consolidation in Highlands.

The question has been impending for many months as to the wisdom and possibility of making a central high school in the town of Highlands, but it was not until this enthusiastic meeting did the patrons very seriously consider this all-important question. Now, seemingly, the influential citizens of this and the outlying districts are in support of the project of consolidating the small outlying district one-teacher schools with the school in Highlands. The general atmosphere of the meeting, especially after the common sense talk by Mr. Billings, was most propitious to progress and stepping forward in education even at home. Facts were faced squarely. Opinions for consolidation were largely favorable. Convictions are yet in their making. It is now time for the people, all of us, who must be interested from the sense of our dire

Will Construct Convict Camp

his hands. His hands were so trained that they were almost as quick as thought. This man was Jack Dempsey. I am not trying to lead you into the prize ring but merely illustrating what it means to train the hands. You have seen the magicians with their tricks that are swifter than their eyes, this is because they have trained their hands. We as club members, want to train our hands to do the tasks we have before us. Some people seem to think that a man who works with his hands is not honorable any more and this is indeed a fallacy.

If you go into any mill or factory you see numerous gears, levers, wheels and belts. Over here on one side is a large wheel, so large in fact that a part of the floor had to be cut away in order that there would be room for this wheel. From this wheel runs a belt to a smaller wheel. When the small wheel turns the large wheel turns.

Franklin Circuit Quarterly Conference

The second Quarterly Conference of the Franklin Circuit Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will be held with the Bethel church Saturday, April 14, 1928 at 11:00 a. m.

All of the church, Sunday school, W. M. S., Epworth League and other officers are urged to attend. All of the members that can, are also urged to attend.

Rev. P. W. Tucker, presiding elder of the Waynesville district, will preach Saturday at 11:00 a. m., and after lunch will hold the Quarterly Conference. Brother Tucker will also preach Sunday evening at 8:00 p. m., April 15.

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM HIGHLANDS

Interesting Locals and Other News from Macon County's Popular Mountain City.

The 4-H club girls met at the home of Miss Durein, on Monday afternoon to organize and plan their summer's work. Miss Bess Hines was elected president, Miss Christine Pierson, vice-president and Miss Eva Potts, secretary. After the business session, the girls enjoyed cake and lemonade followed by a game of mumblepeg out on the lawn.

The P. T. A. met at the school house on Tuesday, April 3rd. Mr. Billings, county superintendent of education, was present and gave a most comprehensive and convincing talk on the consolidation of schools. There was quite a large attendance both from Highlands and the surrounding districts. Acting upon the advice of Mr. Billings, it was decided to call a meeting Saturday, April 7, of all the freeholders, to circulate a petition to be signed by 25 per cent of the freeholders, which is to be presented to the board when they meet in May.

The sewing circle met at the home of Miss Nellie Cleveland on Thursday afternoon. Mrs. A. C. Holt assisted Miss Cleveland in entertaining. The Bible topic for the day, "The Beatitudes," was very ably conducted by Mrs. Holt. The refreshments were quite elaborate, consisting of sandwiches and iced tea, fol-

President Coolidge Proclaims American Forest Week April 22-28

President Coolidge has officially designated the week of April 22-28 for nation-wide observance of the annual "American Forest Week," in a proclamation announced today by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The President set apart the week, he said, "for public discussion of our forests and of what must be done to safeguard and restore them." He emphasized particularly the need for suppressing the forest fire evil, and pointed out the benefits to agriculture, industry, commerce, and national life that will result from making the forest lands of the United States fully productive of continuous timber crops. "The rehabilitation of our forests demands first of all that the forest fire evil be suppressed," the President declared. "Many of the forested states, with the co-operation of timberland owners, have undertaken organized protection against forest fires; and in recent years, under the Clarke-McNary law, the Federal government has given its support to the movement. This great co-operative enterprise must be extended and strengthened until every forested county in the United States is safeguarded against forest fires."

"But we are still far from the goal of complete protection. Every year, on the average, 80,000 fires scourge our woodlands, steadily undermining their vitality. For this bad situation, the blame falls equally on us all. Public agencies rarely provide adequate protection against fire, the timberland owner is too often indifferent to his property, the forest worker is too often neglectful of the future forest."

POULTRY SALE 8464 POUNDS

Sale Monday Considered Good Regardless of Snow and Murky Weather—Poultry Brings \$1708.33.

Regardless of the snowfall Monday morning poultry growers of the county flocked to Franklin with 8,464 pounds of poultry and carried back home money to the amount of \$1,708.33. Had the day been propitious it is estimated that double the amount of poultry would have been offered for sale. This is the third such sale within the past five weeks, the two former sales amounting to more than \$5,000.

Former Franklin Boy Wins Honors

The Atlanta Constitution of April 5th carried the picture of Lloyd Kingsbery along with the announcement that he had won first honors in the 5th Georgia congressional district oratorical finals of the national contest being sponsored in Georgia by The Constitution.

again and to announce that Canada is again concurrently observing a similar week.

"The rehabilitation of our forests

LOOK ourselves in the face, and mine if we are playing the game fairly according to the rules of good citizenship and worthwhileness.

Those who are not in favor of consolidation, for reasons purely selfish, are apt to spread propaganda to the outlying districts to swerve public opinion against consolidation. Those of us who feel our responsibility to give the Macon county child a fair chance in this age of education or mind training want the Macon county child to attend a school that will make possible the child receiving the necessary amount of training to equip him reasonably well to face the problems of livelihood, life. Only schools with well trained teachers, adequate teaching equipment, are able to give the child the training that he must have to face this hard-boiled world. Seemingly, some parents have not learned a great lesson: schools are relative in efficiency. Pure reasoning says that an eight-teacher school is more than apt to be several times more efficient than the one-teacher school. This is a simple problem in time.

The cry of increased taxation is soon raised when things of a progressive nature are mentioned. The thing received is usually given little consideration, only the disbursements. But, the attractive part of this great hope is that taxes would not be increased to an appreciable extent, probably five dollars on the thousand. For this five dollars on the thousand tax, these outlying districts school children can come to a school, probably having ten teachers, modern school equipment, a standard high school, that is eager to help prepare them for a fuller and more complete life. Then, just compare, please, the advantages offered by the one-teacher school.

Just the name one-teacher and seven grades suffices to drive home the lesson. There are no advantages, but, many disadvantages. It is little short of a crime for students to attend one-teacher schools when there is the slightest chance of their attending a school that produces results, that is, equipped modernly to train minds for living. The responsibility lays with the parents, not the children. A normal child, following his inclination, is apt to want to stop attending school before the teens are reached. Still some of our good people will refuse such requests of their children, still, permit them to waste their golden hours attending a one-teacher school where on brave, courageous Joan of Arc mus fight six long hours to teach each of the seven grades a smattering of everything and nothing. Of course the one-teacher schools must suffice, rightly so, until Providence will make the eye see and the ear hear. Man must be made

his own mind about a thing, seemingly. Often argument aggravates, rather than changes one's views. One-teacher schools, the session's expense for each child to attend these schools is twenty dollars in excess over the per student cost in the Highlands school for the same period. To think that it is possible for a parent to send his children to a school amply equipped in teachers and equipment at a reduction of twenty dollars per student yearly expense, is

of the community are invited to attend the league each Sunday evening. Preaching at Bethel each first Sunday at 11:00 a. m., and the third Sunday at 8:00 p. m.

A Warning to Brides

Brides and prospective brides are warned that the Woman's Missionary Society of the Franklin Methodist church is going to make it easy to procure that almost forgotten garment, the apron. All day Saturday, April 14, this society will hold an apron sale in front of Sloan's grocery and meat market. A cordial invitation is extended to all ladies of the town and county to attend this sale and to see for themselves the great variety of aprons to be offered for sale. There will be aprons for big, little, old and young—fancy aprons, play aprons for children, blue aprons, white aprons and all other colors. Also cook aprons suitable for either bride or groom. Come and buy and thus help us to send a delegate to the annual conference at Gastonia. The ladies of the society are requested to have the aprons at Sloan's store not later than Friday afternoon.

argument self-convincing economically. So, instead of raising taxes, taxes will be lowered finally, perhaps not in the next two years. Then, when busses are put on the roads, the state will come to the aid of the schools. This is true in counties where schools are consolidated. Therefore, the odds are with us that better schools will mean better roads. A consolidated school in Highlands will result in better roads leading to this school from the sites of the consolidated one-teacher schools. The state is going to do nothing until we show her that we are progressive.

Absurd propaganda will likely be circulated and broadcasted to the citizens residing in the districts of the one-teacher schools. It has been reported to the principal of the Highlands school that the report has been circulated that it is the objective of the town of Highlands to have these districts of Highlands, to pay town taxes. This report is being widespread. The report that the world is void of safe truck drivers is apt next to be the next rumor. Still, we believe that the school men and women of these districts are going to think for themselves, weigh all of the evidence and then come to conclusions. Naturally it requires a good bit of turning to get out of a rut, but, when the effort is realized by us to be well worth while, we are going to turn the wheel. There is no chance taking. Consolidation is no experiment. It is just a matter of accomplishing more in the field of mind training through co-operation. A dollar spent in a consolidated school is well worth many dollars spent in a one-teacher school. Time is the most valuable thing in the world, we know. The time of youth is the time for the plastic mind to receive the important mind impressions for further complete living. What is the verdict?

Mr. Lyles Harris spent the day in Highlands on Friday, organizing the 4-H boys' club.

On Friday afternoon the Highlands Improvement Society met with Mrs. John Jay Smith to discuss the Gillette bill on the advisability of the United States again taking up the question with the other countries of our entering the World Court.

Miss Eva Potts, Miss Mary Paul and Miss Bess Hines, chaperoned by Mrs. J. A. Hines, left Highlands Friday morning for a week's visit in Charleston, S. C., which, of course, includes among the many exciting things planned, a trip to the wonderful Magnolia Gardens. The girls are expecting, and, of course, will get all sorts of thrills.

Owing to a severe cold, Miss Louise Edwards was unable to accompany them.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson and little daughter spent the Easter holidays in Atlanta with Mr. Anderson's mother.

On Friday afternoon the Baptist Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. Phoebe Crisp.

There was a meeting of the freeholders at the school house on Saturday afternoon to discuss consolidation of schools. Mr. J. E. Potts was appointed to circulate a petition among the people to be presented to the Board.

Easter Sunday dawned clear and bright and continued to be an ideally perfect day.

On Saturday, April 7th, County Game Warden Mann was in Highlands for the purpose of investigating the cases of two local parties who were charged with fishing during the closed season. Both plead guilty and were each fined \$25.00 and costs. Very few of our people are disposed to violate the game and fish laws. The sentiment, generally, is for the enforcement of the law. All of us wish to see the streams well stocked and to have game plentiful in the woods. That may be the case the people of the Highlands area will give what assistance they can to the game warden in his efforts to enforce the laws.

As an indication of this fact, thousands of fish have been planted in the streams and lakes and plans are rapidly going forward for the establishment of a fish nursery to care for the small fish until they are of a sufficient size to be turned loose in the streams and lakes. This nursery is to be built in accordance with the requirements of the state. Warden Mann may feel assured that he has the moral support of the community in the good work he is doing.

COLORED BAPTISING

There will be baptising at the colored Baptist church Sunday, April 15, 1928.

Regular services at 11:30 a. m., 3:00 p. m. and 8:30 p. m. Rev. A. H. Stillwell, of Asheville, will sing during the afternoon services. Rev. J. W. Penn, D. D., formerly of Spartanburg, S. C., will preach at 8:30 p. m.

An invitation is extended to all to come out to these services. You will miss a treat if you don't.

must all gain such respect for the forest that its destruction through indifference or carelessness shall be unthinkable.

"We can not permanently abuse our forests with impunity. The soil is the ultimate source of all our wealth and of life itself. One-fourth of our American soil is best suited for forests. Much of this land is already idle. More of it is being made idle by destructive logging and fire. Yet we can not safely permit our forest land to lie fallow and useless and more than we can permit our farms and factories to lie idle."

"To make our vast empire of forest land fully productive of continuous crops of timber will have momentous consequences in our national life. It will give agriculture the advantage of a new and valuable crop. It will afford permanent employment to millions of men in the forest industries. It will provide raw materials for many industries. It will furnish traffic for our railroads. It will maintain foreign and domestic commerce. It will restore our forests as conservers of soil and water, and as givers of health and pleasure to our people."

"We already have made a beginning in forest renewal; but the task is stupendous, and we should permit no satisfaction over what has been done to blind us to the magnitude of what remains to be done."

This year will mark the eighth annual observance of American Forest Week, President Harding in 1921 having issued the first proclamation which brought the Federal government behind the movement. The week this year, as it has for the past two years, will assume an international scope through the fact that Canada will observe its "Save the Forests" week at the same time.

The week in the United States will be directed by an American Forest Week Committee, of which Theodore Roosevelt of New York is chairman. A large number of organizations, representing a wide variety of interests, are co-operating, among them associations representing outdoor, wild life, and recreational interests, foresters and forestry associations, the lumber industry, consumers of forest products, labor, scientific, civic, agricultural, press, church, and women's organizations, as well as the state and Federal governments. Local Forest Week Committees are being organized in every state.

In his proclamation, President Coolidge urges that during the week, "all citizens and appropriate organizations—including public officials, legislators, business organizations, educators, editors, clergymen, landowners, and others—give thought to the preservation and wise use of our forests, to the end that energetic forest policies will be adopted in all communities."

The text of the President's proclamation is as follows:

"For several years a special week has been set apart for public discussion of our forests and of what must be done to safeguard and restore them. Among the agencies making for progress in this direction, American Forest Week has proved its usefulness and I am glad to proclaim it

fire evil be suppressed. Many of the forested states, with the co-operation of timberland owners, have undertaken organized protection against forest fires; and in recent years, under the Clarke-McNary law, the Federal government has given its support to the movement. This great co-operative enterprise must be extended and strengthened until every forested county in the United States is safeguarded against forest fires."

"But we are still far from the goal of complete protection. Every year, on the average, 80,000 fires scourge our woodlands, steadily undermining their vitality. For this bad situation, the blame falls equally on us all. Public agencies rarely provide adequate protection against fire, the timberland owner is too often indifferent to his property, the forest worker is too often neglectful of the future forest, the average citizen is too often careless with fire in the woods. We must all gain such respect for the forest that its destruction through indifference or carelessness shall be unthinkable."

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"We already have made a beginning in forest renewal; but the task is stupendous, and we should permit no satisfaction over what has been done to blind us to the magnitude of what remains to be done."

"NOW, THEREFORE, I CALVIN COOLIDGE, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate and set aside as American Forest Week the week beginning April 22 and ending April 28, in this year of 1928. I recommend to the governors of the various states that they also designate this week for special observance by all our people; and that where practicable and not in conflict with law or custom, Arbor Day be observed during the course of the same week. I urge that during that week all citizens and appropriate organizations—including public officials, legislators, business organizations, educators, editors, clergymen, landowners and others—give thought to the preservation and wise use of our forests, to the end that energetic forest policies will be adopted in all communities."