

The News - Journal

THE HOKE COUNTY NEWS

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CARL GOERCH KIDS THE LEGISLATORS

Says They Have A Reading Clerk That Can't Read—Say the Law-makers Give Governor Gardner a Lot to Worry About.

(By CARL GOERCH)

The legislature is inflicted with a reading clerk who can't read. That's nothing. The State is inflicted with a legislature that can't legislate.

Things are in an awful tangle up at the capitol. Nobody seems to know exactly what it is all about. Did you ever see an amateur cook trying to boil a lot of rice, fry a steak, toast some bread, scramble eggs and peel onions all at one and the same time? That's exactly the status of things in the legislature just now. And there's no telling how they will turn out.

Whenever the members of the house can't think of a new bill to introduce, they turn their attention to Mr. Lunsford, the alleged reading clerk. One of these days some member is going to introduce a bill equivocating the differential of potentialities relative to adjudication of spontaneous and incomprehensible salubrity and Mr. Lunsford just naturally will choke himself to death.

It's a wonder nobody ever thought of that idea.

One of the most important bills passed thus far has been the six-months' school bill. Having partially adopted it, members of the legislature are now looking around for ways and means to tear it to pieces. By the time they get through with it, instead of being a bill to finance the schools for six months by means of State aid, it is liable to be a bill for furthering the interests of deaf and dumb spinsters in Patagonia.

The highway bill is the next important project to come up for consideration. Many people throughout the State regard the legislature as being composed principally of a bunch of highwaymen, so it may be taken for granted that the highway bill won't give them any serious difficulty. In the long run, however, the county roads probably will be paved with good intentions, instead of concrete.

A committee went down to Pinehurst last Friday to interview Al Smith and get him to speak to the legislature. When Al came to Raleigh in 1928 and made a talk, the State promptly turned around and went republican. If he should accept the present invitation and talk to the legislature, there's no telling what might happen. Something actually might happen. Something of a beneficial nature.

Two prisoners out at the penitentiary were electrocuted last week. I happened to go out there that day, but I didn't have the nerve to witness the electrocution. Just about as terrible a sight is to look around and see several hundred men standing around in idleness, with absolutely nothing to occupy their time. And when you stop to think of the crime stories that are told, of the mingling of the hardened criminals with mere novices, of the lessons in crime that are given mere boys, it sort of makes your flesh creep. Put a young fellow in the penitentiary for six months and there is little chance of ever making a useful citizen out of him again. I certainly am in favor of some plan for segregating different classes of prisoners and of providing something for them to do. It's something that George Ross has been trying to accomplish for a long time.

The prison business is really one of the most important problems confronting the legislature. Come to think of it, this plan of having Al Smith make a talk to the legislature might not be such a bad thing after all. Follow it up with a few hot remarks from Tom Hedlin, then urge Bishop Cannon to deliver a lecture and wind up with a talk from Hoover on Re-

KIWANIS CLUB TO HELP LOCAL FARMER

Plans Experimental Patch—Would Have Products For Sale Throughout Year—Committee Works With County Agent on New Plan.

The Kiwanis Club is endeavoring to get a project that may mean a great deal to the farmers of Hoke County who are tired of the one cash crop way of farming. The Agriculture committee of the club has been negotiating with Mr. Marshall Thomas and have about reached an agreement on planting a ten acre tract of land on Mr. Thomas' home place on the highway leading to Wagram, as an experiment in raising crops so as to have something to sell every month in the year. This committee, in cooperation with county agent, W. D. Burton have authority from the club to go ahead and take such steps as are necessary to make this project possible and will advise with Mr. Burton all through the year as to crops, times of planting, marketing and the like. The idea is to find out what crops are profitable and suitable and in this way be an experiment station for the county, demonstrating, if possible, that this county is capable of growing crops at a profit so that the farmer who desires to can have a cash crop for the markets every month in the year.

The outcome of this experiment will be watched with interest by everyone who has become fed up on the old way of farming and whether or not this project makes a profit this year, it may lead to some good results on a part of their program at least.

Tenant House Of Mr. A. K. Stevens Burns

On Wednesday night of last week a tenant house belonging to Mr. A. K. Stevens, near Bownmore, was destroyed by fire of unknown origin. The family of colored people who lived in the house about half consumed by the flames and had time to save but little of their furniture.

SECOND POULTRY CAR LOADED LAST TUESDAY

The second poultry car to be loaded at Raeford this season carried away 4863 pounds of live poultry on Tuesday. The amount for this poultry was \$750.87. The car shows a decrease from the amount shipped about a month ago and it is surmised that Hoke County people like chicken too well to sell all of them.

HEAD OF VAN LINDLEY NURSERIES TO SPEAK HERE

Mr. Paul Lindley, head of the famous Van Lindley Nurseries in Greensboro, will speak to the ladies of this community in the Raeford school lunch room next Tuesday afternoon at 3:30. This will be an open meeting and everybody who is interested in flowers, shrubs and gardens is invited to be present and hear this expert talk.

He comes to Raeford under the auspices of the Educational Department of the Woman's Club. publican prosperity, and by that time the minds of the various members of the legislature would be in such a muddle that they'd vote for any bill that Max shoved at them. By the way, if he'd known that the senators and representatives were going to cause him all this trouble, I'll bet he never would have put out so many free feeds at the mansion for them. If he had permitted them to stay hungry, they probably would have listened to reason. You take a fellow when he's had plenty to eat, however, and he doesn't much care whether school keeps or not.

And just think of all the dishes that Mrs. Gardner has had to wash after those suppers! To say nothing of sweeping up cigarette-stumps all over the house the next morning!

Hoke County Would Lose If Co. Roads Were Taken Over By State

(By J. A. McGOOGAN.)

For the most part, I agree with Governor Gardner in his program for the reduction of taxes, but I am unable to see where Hoke County will be benefitted, or taxes reduced by putting all the County Roads under the control of the State. Our allotment from the present gas tax for County roads for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930 was \$21,601.12. Of this amount \$13,066.43 was used for Road Debt Service and the balance \$8,534.69 for reducing the County Tax Levy for roads. For the past two years we have levied no tax for Road Debt Service, and for the year 1930 we were enabled to reduce the levy for roads to 12c on the \$100 valuation. If an additional tax of 1c should be placed on gas, and the money distributed as at present, we could maintain our roads and take care of our road bonds without any tax whatever on property. roads as proposed, we would have no tax for road maintenance, but we would make a levy to care for our road bonds that would be greater than we are now levying for road maintenance. In other words, we would have an additional tax on gas of 1c, and a slight increase in the county tax rate.

The total expenditures for roads for the three year period ending June 30th, 1930 was \$76,601.97 or an average yearly expenditure of \$25,533.99. This included all spent for roads, machinery, tractors, trucks and all other equipment, except the purchase price of the County Garage and the actual cost of the stockade building. During this period we had exceptionally heavy rains and numerous washouts of roads and bridges, calling for more expense than would have been necessary in normal times. My estimate is that with a 2c tax on gas for County roads, that Hoke would be entitled to receive approximately \$40,000.00 and you can readily see from the figures already giv-

en, that this would maintain our roads and care for our road bonds without any levy on property.

We see a lot in the paper about the expense of convict labor, and I am frank to admit that when we built our stockade, I thought that we could build roads cheaper with hired labor than with convicts. However, I have changed my mind and I now regard the convict camp as a paying investment for the County. We are maintaining our convicts at a very reasonable cost, and are securing good work out of them. If any one doubts the value of the convict camp, he will only have to compare the road work done last year with that of former years to be convinced.

So far as Hoke County is concerned, I see no advantage to be derived from the State taking over the roads, that will offset the added cost to the taxpayers of the County. We should let our representatives know how we stand on the matter, and urge them to oppose the measure to the limit. If other counties can save money by having the State take over their roads, let it apply only to those Counties; but where a County is satisfied with the present system, why disturb them by taking over their roads and forcing them to raise their tax rates?

This is written without reflecting in any way upon the State Highway Commission or its employees. My relations with them have been pleasant, and they have a great organization. They are glad to assist the Counties in any way that they can, and if the Counties had called on them more frequently for assistance, there would have been less demand for the State to take over the roads. The purchasing department of the Highway Commission is glad to assist counties in the purchase of equipment and supplies, but I understand that very few counties have ever asked for this assistance, despite the fact that the State can make purchases much cheaper than the Counties. To my mind, what we need is a little closer co-operation on the part of the counties with the State Highway Commission, a 2c gas tax distributed as at present to the counties to be spent on County Roads as provided under the present Road Law.

Hoke County Farmer Shows Way To Other Farmers In His Section

J. D. Mason, one of the best farmers in Hoke County, who lives near Raeford, showed the way to other farmers in his section this past year by shipping a total of 36 tons of hay to market, besides producing enough hay for his farm needs, according to W. D. Burton, county agent. Mr. Mason is a real "Live-at-Home" farmer, according to information obtained by State College Extension Service. He produces all of his food and feed at home with the exception of coffee, sugar and other supplies. He has to buy necessary concentrates for livestock but that is all. Instead of buying flour he grinds it himself, thereby becoming as nearly as possible completely self-sustaining.

Mr. Mason has over 300 acres in cultivation and employs four tenants, with six mules and 10-20 tractor. Last year he had built his pasture acreage up to 45 acres so fenced as to keep something green on it all the year. This year he hopes to increase this acreage to 70 acres of permanent pasturage.

Last year, Mr. Mason had 25 bushels planted to wheat, producing 500 bushels which brought him a cash return of \$950. He had 30 acres of rye and produced 350 bushels at a value of \$525. His oat acreage was 25 acres and he obtained \$900 for the 900 bushels he produced thereon. Twenty acres in barley produced 500 bushels or a money return of \$750. Spring hay on 40 acres produced 48,000 pounds, valued at \$540, while his bean and pea

hay was planted on 110 acres, following grain. This acreage produced 150,000 pounds valued at \$1,875.

Corn, planted on 75 acres, produced 1,650 bushels, valued at \$1,320. Lima beans, with an acreage of 13 1-4 acres, returned him 500 bushels, worth \$750. Three acres of watermelons brought him \$250. One-quarter of an acre of onions produced \$100 and three acres of early corn, producing 600 dozen ears, sold for \$90. His cotton crop, planted on 27 acres, gave him 19 bales, valued at \$855.

The total from these crops was \$8,905.

Livestock returns were as follows: 40 pigs, farrowed March 1st, 30 were sold in November at an average weight of 171 pounds, for \$513; 10 pigs sold at eight weeks at \$5 each brought him \$50; of 55 pigs farrowed in October, 35 sold at 10 weeks of age for \$210. This brought his final total to \$8,673.

Mr. Mason saved 20 pigs to feed for the spring market this year. He is now "growing out" 15 heifers and five grade steers and will sell them when ready for marketing.

Mr. Mason grows his own vegetables and other produce needed on his farm. He requires his tenants to cultivate a garden each and he and his "folks" come as near to "Living-At-Home" as any farmer of his section. His example should be followed by every farmer in Hoke County. Extension experts say.

Mildouson P. T. A., Banquet Great Success

On Tuesday evening, February 17, the P. T. A. of Mildouson school held their annual banquet celebrating Founder's Day and Live-At-Home Week. Practically everything served was produced in Hoke County and donated by patrons of the school.

One hundred and seventy-five parents and friends of the school placed their names in the guest book. Guests from outside the community were: Mr. W. P. Hawfield, County Superintendent of Public Instruction; W. D. Burton, County Farm Agent, and Mrs. Burton; Miss Julia Melver, Home Demonstration Agent of Scotland County; Mrs. H. A. Cameron, President of County P. T. A. Council; Mrs. Julian S. Johnson, President of Raeford P. T. A.; and the Maxton Junior College Quartette.

The tables were decorated with patriotic colors and long leaf pines. Flags were used as favors.

Mr. Hawfield gave a very interesting history of P. T. A. work. Miss Melver and Mr. Burton discussed farm problems. Much work is being planned in the community to carry out the State Slogan "Farming for a Living in 1931."

Fire Destroys Home of Mr. W. J. Crawley

Last Friday afternoon, fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the main dwelling on the farm of Mr. W. J. Crawley at Arabia. Mrs. John McMillan was living in this house and lost nearly all of her household goods.

Millard Baker And Not William Baker

Many folks are wondering who in the land's sakes is William Baker. William Baker, as a matter of fact, ain't. In an ad last week Butler Motor Co. advertised that Mr. Millard Baker was with them, but the linotype operator nor proof reader could read Paul Dickson's handwriting and put the name William for Millard. (The operator and proof reader can read English, but—)

Mr. Baker has been in charge of the county machine shop for a number of years and refused many attractive offers elsewhere rather than leave Raeford. He resigned his place with the county effective February the first and has since been with Butler Motor Co., local Ford dealers.

Death of Levi Chavis Of Near Arabia

Levi Chavis, aged 72, died at his home near Arabia Wednesday morning following an illness of only a few days, it being said that he had never had a doctor to see him before he was stricken last Sunday.

He was a native of South Carolina and came to this section about thirty years ago and was well known in the county. He is survived by his widow and an adopted son.

Funeral services were conducted on Thursday and interment made at Arabia, his pastor, R. W. Turner officiating.

COLORED MAN SHOT.

On Thursday night of last week, Alex McQuain and Sing Miller, both colored, seem to have had some difference of opinion and the outcome was that Miller came down town next day, purchased some number four shot shells and went to the field of Mr. S. J. Cameron, just North of town, and where McQuain was at work, and let loose a load of the aforementioned number fours at him, three of which took effect in the leg of the opposing party. McQuain's injuries are not serious and Miller has given "Leg Ball."

ANOTHER GOOD MAN GONE WRONG

Raeford Shoves Kinston Off the Map As Good Citizen Goes Wrong.—Rivals Rat Story as Told by Mr. C. W. Seates Recently.

H. L. Gatlin, Sr., aged somewhere between fifty and seventy years, who came to this place when a young man and who has worked diligently for a quarter of a century to build a good name for himself, has been reading of too many happenings around Kinston and reports one to the NEWS-JOURNAL that equals or surpasses a story recently told by C. W. Seate about his rats eating good checks but abhorring bad ones.

According to Mr. Gatlin, his bird dog is in the habit of leaving his store (Mr. Gatlin's store, the Farmer's Furniture Co.) some time before noon each day and he always sends his morning paper to the house by said dog. On the way home the dog passes the home of Mr. B. R. Gatlin but goes straight on to the next door where his master lives and scratches on the door to let Mrs. Gatlin know that the dog and paper have arrived.

A few days ago this dog was given the morning paper and started for home but stopped at the door of Mr. B. R. Gatlin. Mrs. H. L. Gatlin seeing him over there, finally coaxed him to come on home with the paper and upon examining the label thereon, she found that the paper was for Mr. B. R. Gatlin. So the dog must be able to read.

H. L. vows he can prove this by his wife but no affidavits are available as the NEWS-JOURNAL goes to press.

Geernsboro-Fayetteville Bus In Accident

On Sunday a large bus belonging to the Greensboro-Fayetteville lines came near having what could have been a disastrous accident on road just out of town toward Fayetteville. Just as the top of the hill on the East side of Peeler's Branch was reached, the steering gear on the bus became locked and the driver had no control over it. The bus turned to the left, crossing the highway and plunging into a sand bank on the side of the road. Fortunately, no one was passing at the time and only a slight injury to the bus driver was the result. There were no passengers aboard and the driver was unhurt.

JUNIOR ORDER OF AMERICAN MECHANICS REORGANIZED HERE

The Hoke County Council, number 573, of the Junior Order of United Mechanics was reorganized in Raeford at a meeting held here Friday. The local council was first organized in 1924, but was dissolved in 1928. An effort was launched recently to reorganize and the meeting of last Friday was the result. The program was in charge of the crack degree team from Cape Fear Council Number 15, who put on the first second, and third degrees in the finest style. About seventy-five men were present, approximately forty of whom were from Hoke County and the rest from Cumberland and Moore.

The J. O. U. A. M. is a fraternal organization of American business men, maintaining the highest ideals of Americanism and offering great benefits to members. Membership is open to American working men between the ages of sixteen and fifty-five. On Thursday night, seventy-three o'clock at the Raeford school, a picture showing the activities of the order all over the nation will be shown, under the auspices of the Hoke County Council and the supervision of Ex-State Councillor Snyder of Raleigh.

Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Ellington and two children, Elizabeth and Louise and Mrs. J. T. Carson of Salisbury, spent Sunday with Sheriff and Mrs. D. H. Hodgin. Mrs. Ellington is Mrs. Hodgin's aunt and Mrs. Carson is her grandmother.