

The News - Journal

THE HOKE COUNTY NEWS

THE HOKE COUNTY JOURNAL

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\$1.50 YEAR, IN ADVANCE

Urge Standard Shipping Rules Be Used By Watermelon Growers

Railroads Submit Shipping Specifications For Safe Delivery of 1931 Crop; Would Benefit Railroads And Shipper.

As the thoughts of farmers are beginning to turn toward the summer crop of watermelons in this section, the following dispatch from the State Department of Agriculture will be of interest. Hoke County has been a section of the State which has rapidly become prominent in the production of watermelons. Many farmers found them profitable even in the circumstances of the past year.

The rules printed below are urged by the railroads in an effort to secure uniformity and safety in the packing of watermelon cars. Those who have packed watermelons in former seasons will immediately note that these rules are those followed by the majority of the farmers in this section who have endeavored to ship a well-packed car. Each detail of this packing is familiar to most Hoke County growers, but these rules will accomplish much if they are given thorough publicity and adhered to by the growers as a whole.

The suggested rules are as follows:

Rule 1. The shippers shall at their expense, line with 50 pound kraft paper the side walls of cars to the height of the load, and properly bed the floors with dry excelsior using not less than three bales of 100 pounds per bale to the car and shall cushion the ends of the car with excelsior pads not less than 4 inches in thickness to the height of the load, such pads to be securely attached to the ends of the cars.

Rule 2. Melons must be loaded compactly with the least possible slack. Melons varying more than 4 pounds in weight shall not be loaded in the same car.

Rule 3. Shippers shall, at their expense, board car doors from floor of car to top of load using boards of not less than 4 inches in width and 1 inch in thickness, spaced not more than 2 inches apart; such boards shall be free from knots and shall be flush with the inside wall of the car. This submittal was also advised in Docket No. 533.

Local Legionnaires Have Shad Roast

The members of the American Legion enjoyed a shad roast last Friday at the Country Club. The social was the first of a series of activities that are designed to renew the activity of the Ellis Williamson post. About fifty guests were present from all over the county and ate their fill and were satisfied with the roast shad, catfish stew, slaw and cornbread. The food was arranged and served under the supervision of Womble, the Sanatorium chef and reached a climax of gastronomic perfection. Several of the local ministers were honor guests and held up the eating standards of their tribe in the most creditable fashion.

Superior Court Convenes April 20th

The April term of superior court for Hoke County will convene at the Courthouse in Raeford on Monday, April 20. Summons for jury services have been issued and all preparations are being made for the session. His Honor Judge Frank A. Daniels, of Goldsboro, will preside.

Notice To Legion Auxiliary Members

Please send 1931 Auxiliary dues in at once; otherwise your name will be automatically dropped. Send dues to Mrs. Paul Dezern, secretary and treasurer.

LEGISLATURE SEEMS QUITE PERMANENT

No Agreement, No Adjournment; Legislators Favor Indirect Approach.

By CARL GOERCH
Talk about your contrasts! One day we have Easter, with its beautiful anthems, gorgeous flowers, inspiring thoughts, lofty ideals and sublime significance; the next day we have the legislature again, with all of its foibles and follies. That's moving from one extreme to the other with a vengeance.

There's a reason for Easter, but it's hard to find any justifiable reason for the legislature still being in session. When we sent the boys up to Raleigh, it was with the understanding that there was only one thing in the world that we were interested in, and that was a reduction in property taxes. Prior to their election as members of the General Assembly, every last one of them was shouting from the housetops that he would tear his shirt, his sox and his red flannels in the effort to lift the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the farmers. And now look at 'em!

Perhaps we were at fault in making the instructions too plain and obvious. Politicians don't like a direct course about anything. You take your real, genuine, dyed-in-the-wool legislator and he'd a darn sight rather drive over detours than sticks to the paved highways. Start him off with the idea in mind of buying a new suit, and he'll commence operations by going first to a hardware store and asking the price of stoves. Ask the average man what time it is, and he'll pull out his watch, glance at it, and announce; "Half past five," or whatever the hour may be. Ask a politician and he'll smile at you benignly, pull out his watch, with a flourish, stare at it fixedly, clear his throat impressively and then unburden himself as follows:

"Time varies with the longitudinal position which you may occupy on the earth's surface, in accordance with the principles first announced by Aristotle, ancient Egyptian philosopher, who lived long before the days of pyramids. These pyramids were built as monuments by certain

MACHINE AGE INDEED

The industrial revolution has finally taken its most telling toll on the inhabitants of Raeford. Long known as a town where the ball and bat were the first thing that infant sons learned to use and the last symbols of youthful play that maturity laid down, Raeford has come to take her baseball from a machine. The palace of the mechanical pitcher in the old McNeill Wholesale House has drawn crowds of old timers back to the wielding of the taped handle club. The pitcher is an iron man and his arm creaks a little as he throws but he has control, stamina and serves up nice straight balls in gravy train style for the eager batsmen. All the stalwarts of Raeford Baseball history have been taking their turn and casting mighty clouts against the canvas horizon. It is a far cry from the time when Raeford had a ball park fence and a grandstand but it feels good to have a bat in hand again and—chunk—whack—plock, there goes another one in the home run section.

SCOUT EXECUTIVE MEETS LOCAL BOYS

Raeford Scouts Prepare For District Jamboree; Attend Honor Court Monday Night

Scout Executive C. D. Brothers, of the Cape Fear Area Council, was the guest of the Raeford Scout troop at a meeting at the Scout Hut last Tuesday night. The meeting was well attended by the Scouts to listen to the story of what will happen at Wilmington on May the first and second when the district Boy Scout Jamboree takes place.

Mr. Brothers explained the various plans for the Jamboree, which will be a gathering of about one thousand Scouts from Southeastern North Carolina. The Scouts will erect a city of tents, attend a campfire Friday night and get a good night's sleep for the strenuous exercises which will take up the time Saturday.

Following the explanations by the executive, the Raeford Scouts went into the business of electing their teams for competition on the big day. Teams to compete with the other Scouts were selected for the following events; Rifle Marksmanship, First Aid, Archery, Chariot Race, Paul Revere Race, and Wall Scaling. In addition there will be a big parade in which all Scouts will take part.

In an election of a different nature, Thomas Cameron was elected Senior Patrol Leader. Thomas was formerly patrol leader of the Bob Whites. His place with the Bob Whites will be taken by Jake Austin.

Monday night at Laurinburg the following Raeford Scouts went up for degrees: Tenderfoot, James Gordon Currie and Kerr Stevens; Civics, Cooking and Handicraft Merit badges, Paul Dickson; First Aid to Animals, Public Health, and Leather Craft, Robert Ward Whitley; Civics, Cooking and Handicraft, Jack Morris; Civics and Handicraft, Jake Austin; Firemanship, Clyde Upchurch.

ATTENTION FARMERS

Mr. J. B. Dawson, Jr., fertilizer expert of the State Department of Agriculture, will be in Raeford next week to analyze fertilizer samples for such Hoke county farmers as desire this service. All farmers who wish to avail themselves of this service should notify County Agent Burton immediately so that he can arrange for this service.

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS SHOWS FINANCIAL CONDITION OF HOKE

The County Commissioners met in their regular monthly session last Monday, April sixth. The meeting was mostly taken up with routine matter. Several applications were made for the pauper roll, some being accepted and several rejected. Dan Graham, colored was granted admission to the Sanatorium on county funds. The calls for assistance at this time are proving greater than at any time in the history of the county.

Mac Daniels, a negro prisoner who was taken to the Sanatorium some time ago when it was thought that his physical condition forbade his working, was adjudged by the Sanatorium authorities as too healthy to stay there. He was hired out to his father-in-law for the remainder of his sentence.

At this meeting, County Auditor McGougan made his statement to the commissioners as to the condition of the county finance. His statement included the budget assignments for the various items in the general county fund, the amount that had been spent so far this year and the amount left to be spent. This report covered the first eight months of the county year which ends July the first, nineteen thirty-one. The report showed that the county finances were in very good shape.

The total amount assigned by the

RAILROAD EMPLOYEE IS KILLED IN WRECK

Vance Burch, Clifton Young Man, Loses Life When Motor Car Is Derailed; A. S. Allen Receives Minor Injuries.

One man was killed and another very painfully injured on Aberdeen and Rockfish railroad at Clifton, eighteen miles east of Raeford, on Wednesday, April eighth about seven-fifteen o'clock in the morning, when the motor car on which they were riding to work was derailed. Four negro section hands, also riding on the motor car were scratched and bruised in the accident.

The section hands under the supervision of A. S. Allen and Vance Burch, foreman and sub-foreman of the Aberdeen and Rockfish section gang, set out from Raeford for their work about seven o'clock in the morning on Wednesday. While going at a moderate speed near Clifton the car was derailed, hurling all the men to the ground. Burch was seriously injured and Allen painfully hurt, while the negro workmen were shocked and received minor injuries.

The injured men were immediately taken to the hospital in Fayetteville. Here Burch died about an hour later and Allen was reported as painfully but not seriously injured. The nature of his injuries was not reported.

Both Burch and Allen were well known residents of Clifton. Burch, who met his death in the accident, was a fine young man about thirty-years old, and his death was a great shock to many people in Raeford and Hoke County who had been associated with him.

The cause of the accident was shrouded in mystery. It was found that a railroad spike had been driven into the track where two sections of steel rails joined. It was by this that the motor car was derailed. The car was a total wreck. Railroad officials were unable to explain the presence of the spike between the rails. It was thought probable that it was the thoughtless act of some children that caused the tragedy.

Hogs on feed in Chatham County recently, paid from \$1.35 to \$1.85 a bushel for all corn consumed in addition to paying for the other purchased feeds.

Cream Depot Plans Obtain Endorsement of Farmers Here

Robeson Demonstrator Presents Proposition To Gathering; Great Opportunity For Cattle Raising In County.

NEW RIVALRY FOR SOUTHERN COTTON

India And Russia Plan Cotton Production On Large Scale, Further Reducing American Monopoly.

According to information brought to this country by American Consul William Hall Beach of Bombay, India, who has been conferring with American tobacco officials with regard to the shipping of their product to India, the fabled monopoly of the Southern States of the United States has suffered another blow in the activity for cotton growing which is manifesting itself in India and Soviet Russia. This activity is a dual threat; it reduces the market in these two great territories for American cotton, and it makes the two rivals with America for the patronage of the rest of the world. The entry of Russia into the field of cotton growing parallels their recent distressing activity in the field of wheat.

The consul stated in part: "The Indian governments Sukkah Barrage, an irrigation and dam project of considerable magnitude, will make available 7,000,000 acres of fertile land that is to be planted in cotton. This area of Western India, near Karruchi, is to be given over to raising a plant bred from the Indian and Punjab-American seeds. Land is to be leased by the government, the maximum acreage leased being 20,000."

Such has been the increase in the production of cotton in India that while this country imported 400,000 bales of American cotton in 1926-27, she imported only 40,000 bales in 1930. Officials cause all cotton going into India to be fumigated against the boll weevil. They have no tariff on imported cotton.

A mass of cheap labor is available for the work in the Indian cotton fields, but present indications are that the large scale use of mechanical devices similar to that used on the large plantations in Texas will reduce by a large part the market for American cotton in the Orient. Hitherto Japan has been a fine market for American cotton. Much of the Indian cotton is sure to be used in the English mills as well.

The textile business is booming in India, as well and it is thought that fully half of her 6,000,000 bale crop will be used within her own territory. The dominion now has 10,000,000 spindles and in the territory.

(Continued on page 8)

WILL INSPECT LOCAL MILITARY UNITS TODAY

A great deal of activity may be seen in the ranks of the local military units this week and all eyes and minds are turned toward the annual inspection which is on schedule for Friday of this week. The inspection is an annual event and is a climatic one for the officers and men of the Hoke county military units.

Beginning Friday afternoon, Major Franklin Kemble, senior instructor of the two hundred and fifty-second regiment, North Carolina National Guard, will be in Raeford to direct the inspection. In the afternoon inspection will take up the records and papers of the units, Battery F and Battalion headquarters and supply train of the first Battalion. In the evening the inspection of the units will continue with a drill and review.

Much interest is manifest in the inspection and it is certain that the local soldiers will be at their best.

More than thirty farmers and cow-owners of Raeford and vicinity were present last Friday afternoon at the courthouse for the meeting with regard to the establishment of a cream depot in Raeford to serve the people of the county. The meeting was held at the instigation of County Agent W. D. Burton for the purpose of testing the sentiment of the citizens toward the proposed cream depot.

Mr. O. O. Dukes, farm demonstration agent of Roberson County was the principal speaker of the occasion. Mr. Dukes made an illuminating and interesting talk on the cattle industry in this section. He explained in detail the function of a cream depot, emphasizing that its main purpose was to take charge of the excess cream. He declared that as long as there was a market for the raw milk and cream, the operation of a cream depot was useless due to the lower prices in that field. If, however, there is not a market sufficient to take charge of all the milk and cream produce in the county, then, he assured his hearers, a cream depot would prove its worth.

Mr. Dukes advised the testing of cream for butterfat before it was attempted to sell it to creameries. To be available for such use, he said, the cream should test four and a half per cent butterfat. Cream which tested only three or three and a half per cent would not be taken he said.

Mr. Dukes told his audience that this section of the country need not feel itself inferior to the sections which are famed as pasturage and cattle growing sections. He reported a recent conversation with a Michigan man, a citizen of a section famous for its pasturage, who said that the pastures in Roberson county were as fine as any in the country. The same could be true of Hoke County, said Mr. Dukes, if the farmers took care in seeding their pastures. He recommended especially Lespedeza and Carpet grass.

Following the talk by Mr. Dukes a poll was taken of those present as to what they wished to do about the matter of establishing a cream depot in Raeford. Hearty commendation of the move was found among all present and a good number committed themselves as being prospective patrons of the depot were it established. It was explained that the establishment of the depot would require a revolving fund and ways of raising this fund were discussed. Action was deferred until it could be ascertained whether this money could be obtained. However, it was definitely settled that the need was present in the county and that the depot would be established if means of raising the revolving fund were found.

CONSTRUCTION WORK AT FORT BRAGG

News has been received in Raeford of a large construction program which will be instituted at Fort Bragg in the near future. The plans call for the erection of sixteen additional units at the fort which will be used as officers quarters. The sixteen units will be constructed at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The contract has been let to the C. V. York Construction company of Raleigh.

The former inspections have rated the Raeford organization well. The officers have been at work for some time practicing their men in answering the curt, swift questions in which the inspectors test the soldiers for alertness. With a week of polishing, scrubbing and training the boys will be in tip top condition for the testing of Friday.