

SCHOOL CHANGES BY STATE; NOT COUNTY BOARD

Supt. Hawfield Explains That Consolidations Were Made By State Board, and Based On Attendance Record.

There seems to be an impression with some that the county superintendent of schools and the board of education brought about the consolidation of schools and the allotment of teachers. The board of education prepared an organization report setting forth the average daily attendance for each school and showed the location of each school. The average daily attendance showed as it was reported by each school for the previous year for both the high school and the elementary school separately. This report was sent to the State Board of Equalization and that board reported the high schools that would be consolidated and the number of teachers allotted for each school, white and colored, separately. The Equalization Board is limited by the section of the school law which says that they can not operate a high school with less than fifty in average daily attendance unless and until every other plan for caring for such schools is regarded as unsatisfactory and has been ascertained by careful calculation to be more expensive.

Some of the colored schools were not allotted as many teachers as the average daily attendance called for, but the rooms are not available. The Equalization Board specified the schools that would be allowed additional teachers if the rooms are provided. There does not seem to be much chance of providing the rooms for the coming term as the funds to provide the rooms will have to be provided by the county from the Capital Outlay Fund which is not taken care of by the State.

The opinion of some seems to be that the special tax could be voted off and the elementary school operated for six months by the State and that the high school pupils would be taken care of for the extended term. This is not a correct opinion for the special tax is necessary to provide transportation for the extended term at least. Should the special tax be voted off the high school pupils would have only six months in a separate school or would be given six months high school in the school to which they belong. No tax reduction funds would be allotted to a school that operates for only six months. There are \$1,500,000 set aside to be distributed to the districts and this is allotted to schools that run for more than six months.

Before a backward step is taken serious consideration should be given as to its effect on childhood. Any child deprived of his rightful opportunities can never overcome his loss. Times are hard we all admit, but when it comes to depriving children of their right to burgeon out all that there is in them, as the immortal Aycock said, it is a serious question. Time lost in preparation can never be regained for it is as water going over the fall never to return. May it be said of all that they are never willing to go back yard for the sake of a few dollars when the flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone are at stake.

WITH THE BOYS IN CAMP.

At each encampment there is a word or group of words that through much humorous repetition, come to be camp by-words, or pass-words, or sump'n, as Andy would say. Last year's was "Corporal Lowe!" This year's good word was "Turn out the wild man!" The author is said to be Sgt. Hector McBryde.

At the Message Center one day, during a lecture, some talking was reported to Lieut. McNair Smith, who decided a vigorous howling out was in order. But, as the report goes, Pvt. Locke Cameron told Mac, in his best long-drawn-out way: "That wasn't talking you heard, it was just somebody's headache."

Then there was that regular service man from "Wayback" who referred, in all seriousness, to surf bathing, as "going washing."

It is said that on the streets one day, Private John Currie accidentally on purpose "keeled over." Of course those near him quickly placed him on a stretcher and sent him to the infirmary, where he bounded off the stretcher and said meekly: "I'd like to get my finger dressed, please."

HOKE TROOPS HOME FROM ENCAMPMENT

Lieut.-Col. Lewis and Others Say This Encampment Most Successful Ever Held. Local Units Make Fine Showing.

Battery F and 1st Battalion Company Train returned home Sunday morning at eight o'clock, from their two weeks annual encampment at Fort Moultrie, S. C. Lieut.-Col. R. B. Lewis and other officers are unanimous in their opinion that this year's encampment was the most successful ever held. There were no serious accidents, and there was very little sickness during the encampment. The weather was unusually good.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the first week, and Monday of the second week, firing practice was held, in which each battery made a very good score. Three Regimental and three Battalion parades were held during the encampment. Field inspection took place on Wednesday morning. At the Field Meeting on Wednesday afternoon Battery A of Wilmington was the winner. Battery F of Raeford, won the Competitive Battery Drill.

Captain W. L. Poole, of Battery F, was in charge of all Rifle Firing. In this shoot, Captain J. H. Blue scored 237 out of a possible 250, which is said to be high score for the regiment. High men in this shoot were recommended for places on the State Rifle Team that goes to Camp Perry, Ohio. Captain Poole also acted as Battalion Commander for the 4th Battalion.

Prize for the best mess hall was won by Headquarters Battery, of Wilmington.

The two Raeford units were outstanding in many ways, and were very favorably commented on by most of the higher officers.

Hoke County people have every right to be proud of the two local units, and the good showing they always make. Local officers of the 252d Coast Artillery are:
Lieut.-Col. R. B. Lewis, Executive.
Capt. W. L. Poole, Battery F.
Capt. R. A. Matheson, Medical Corps.
Capt. J. H. Blue, Plans and Training Officer.
Capt. J. W. Walker, Combat Train.
Lieut. H. A. Currie, Battery F.
Lieut. McNair Smith, Combat Train.
Lieut. Herbert McKeithen, Battery F.
Lieut. Younger Snead, Battery F.
Lieut. Jno. A. McPhaul, Jr., Combat Train.

HITCHING POST TOM McNEILL HERE SAT.

Solicitor Verifies Statements That He Will Make Picnic Grounds Of Governor's Front Yard—If Elected.

Solicitor T. A. McNeill, of Lumberton, was in Raeford a short while Saturday and soon a crowd of politically minded wags were gathered around him asking "What about it?"

It will be remembered that Tom has created quite a bit of comment in the state by a humorous reference in Raleigh a few weeks ago that he would put hitching posts in front of the governor's mansion when he became governor and turn the jaws into a place to have old time barbecues and picnics.

Whether or not he would be a candidate he refused to say but he admitted that expressions of support were pouring in from all over the state and local prognosticators gathered the impression that he was considering making the race. He stated that he found sentiment in Western North Carolina just as strong for reduction of land taxes as it is in the East.

The governor's race, so far, is a rather drab affair with no one candidate showing any special strength. Talk of running McNeill has been gaining momentum ever since he made a vigorous fight for the reduction of land taxes during the last legislature and this talk is now so wide-spread as to be attracting attention from all parts of the state. Should he decide to enter the race his friends here feel that he would make a fine impression on the people of the state as soon as they knew him and that he would make a most creditable showing.

CYPRESS CHURCH HAS CENTENNIAL

Presbyterian Congregation Enjoys Big Dinner and Historical Talks; Amusing Incidents Recalled.

Vass, July 29.—Last Sunday, July 26, will go down in local history as a red letter day for Cypress Presbyterian church, being the day when its centennial was observed, and a pronounced success from every standpoint.

Local members of this historic church had made elaborate preparations for the event. The grounds had been put in first-class shape; the large cemetery nearby where Scotchmen of the early days and their descendants lie sleeping had been made as neat and clean as possible; the ladies had decorated the building with plants and flowers; a long table had been built beneath the trees, and everything was in readiness for the return of the members of former days and other friends of the church.

The regular Sunday school was held at 10 o'clock, followed by the preaching service. The pastor had hoped to have Dr. Dougald N. McLaughlin, of Norfolk, Va., a son of the church, present to deliver the sermon, but as this was impossible, Rev. Mr. Lawrence himself occupied the pulpit, bringing an appropriate message which was greatly enjoyed.

After enjoying a bounteous dinner and spending some time mingling with friends, the crowd—or as many as the church would accommodate—reassembled for the afternoon session. "The Church in the Wildwood" was most fittingly sung in opening. The pastor read a list of the ministers who had served the church from its beginning, or as far back as records were available, and also told who many of the elders and other officers had been. E. R. McKeithan, of Aberdeen, read a history of the early church which was written 52 years ago by Dougald McLaughlin, father of the present Dr. Dougald McLaughlin. This history was very complete, and contained many interesting facts. That times have not changed so much is shown by the fact that the historian recorded that some of the deplorable problems of the day were "dancing" and "the use of ardent spirits."

An amusing incident about an old Scotchman by the name of McGregor was also recorded. McGregor, it seems, was fond of dancing, a pastime which the church regarded very sinful. McGregor's sons who were in business for themselves had returned home for a holiday and there was much merriment. The old Scotchman refrained as long as possible, doubtless remembering a church case which was at that very time pending, but finally his desire to dance overcame him and he remarked: "The session may session, but McGregor's on the floor."

D. P. McDonald, of Olivia, gave an interesting history of the church, bringing in much information about the early days of Barbecue, the mother of Cypress, and other of the historic churches of this section. He told of the great solemnity of the communion service in the early days. The preaching service was held then during an intermission, prospective communicants were examined by the session, and to those deemed worthy to participate in the Lord's Supper were given "tokens." When the communion was held, those presenting their tokens were served and others were passed by. Mr. McDonald displayed one of these tokens, the only one which he has been able to locate. It is a small, flat square of pewter with the letter "C" which stands for "Cypress," on one side, and is kept in a deer-skin bag.

Dr. W. M. Fairley, of Raeford, whose father was pastor of Cypress for 40 years, was the next speaker. Dr. Fairley recalled that his father, when just out of the seminary, preached his first sermon at Longstreet in the morning and his second one the same day at Cypress. Forty years later Dr. Fairley followed in the steps of his father, preaching his first sermon at Longstreet and his second that afternoon at Cypress.

Rev. M. D. McNeill, of Cameron, who was for some 20 years pastor of the church, made the closing address and pronounced the benediction.

Cypress church is located about eight miles from Vass, in Hoke county, and derived its name from its proximity to Cypress creek.

In few fields of Harnett county are boll weevils above the dangerous ten percent point of infestation, says the farm agent.

FINE MELONS BEING SHIPPED FROM HOKE

One Hundred and Ten Cars Shipped Last Week; Last Year's Total Was Only One Hundred and Sixty-four.

One hundred and ten cars of watermelons were loaded in Hoke county last week. This figure indicates unusually large loadings for this season, as the total loadings for all of last year came to only one hundred and sixty-four cars. The bulk of this season's crop will go out this week, which will mean even heavier loadings than last week.

Prices are low, but are now a little stronger than at the end of last week. The melons are very good this year—averaging from twenty-six to thirty-six pounds. Mr. Ryan McBryde loaded two cars this week which averaged thirty-six pounds.

The railroads are running "extras" in order to expedite the movement of the melons.

It is worth the time of anyone who has not seen it, to visit the scene of loading and selling, at the local A. & R. tracks, where, in these dull times, the activity this week is surely a "sight for sore eyes."

REV. W. C. BROWN TO PREACH AT BETHEL "HOMECOMING" DAY

Bethel Presbyterian Church is preparing for its Homecoming Day to be held next Sunday, August 2nd. Bethel is the oldest Presbyterian Church in this section, and many former members and residents of the community are expected to return for the day's exercises.

At 11:30 Rev. W. C. Brown, of Barium Springs, who was for many years pastor at Bethel, will preach. Following the sermon, a picnic lunch will be served on the grounds.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock, several short talks will be made, and the history of the church given. This should prove a very interesting program.

All former members and friends of the church are cordially invited to attend, bring their lunches, and spend the day.

HOKE NOT REPRESENTED AT FARMERS CONVENTION

Nobody from Hoke attended the Convention of Farmers and Farm Women held this week at State College in Raleigh, because, perhaps, of the change in the date of the meeting.

At these conventions the men discuss farming in general, and especially, of course, crops and live stock. The women discuss home-making, canning, cooking, sewing, etc.

The Farm Short Course at State College will begin the first week in August. Any particular kind of instruction desired by farmers or farm women will be available.

FORMER RAEFORD MAN FALLS FROM WINDOW

Mr. Chandler Roberts, formerly of Raeford, now of Washington, N. C., suffered a broken leg, and severe injuries to his hip and head Tuesday night in a fall from a window of the Atlantic Hotel in Morehead City, where he was attending the State American Legion Convention.

Mr. Will Roberts, of Raeford, brother of the injured man, went to Morehead City Wednesday to be with him.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

There will be an all day canning at the residence of Mrs. H. A. Cameron on Wednesday, August 5th, beginning at 7 o'clock a. m. All members of Woman's Club and Parent-Teachers Association are expected to assist in this work and are invited to come and bring all their surplus vegetables, knives, pans, etc. This canning is for the use of the school lunch room, if impossible for you to come, please send your surplus vegetables. Each woman is expected to bring lunch and join in a picnic dinner.—Mrs. H. A. Cameron, Chairman Welfare Board of Woman's Club.

Catawba County farmers cooperated to order a car of tin cans for conserving food this summer.

Tobacco Opening In Georgia Drab Affair; Prices Are Low

HOPE FOR PROFIT ON PEACH CROP

Too Early To Determine If Returns Will Be Satisfactory; Heaviest Yield In Five Years.

Sandhill peach growers are "hopeful" of clearing money on this year's crop, according to Mr. M. C. McDonald, former county commissioner of Moore county, and himself a big peach grower. However, it is a little too early in the season to predict just how large, if any, the profits will be. Mr. McDonald's orchard is located at West End, and has a fine crop this season.

The Tar Heel peach crop for 1931 is forecast at 2,710,000 bushels, as compared with last year's yield of 1,800,000 bushels. The average yield during the five years preceding 1930 was 1,808,000 bushels yearly. It is confidently expected that the Sandhills crop will be easily up to the average. The State crop is in line with the bumper yield forecast for the country as a whole, the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics stating: "If the July 1st condition holds good and the present forecast of 77,963,000 bushels materializes, it would be the largest peach crop to be produced since records began in 1899."

Mr. McDonald stated that the price being paid for peaches at present is, on the average, \$1.00 per bushel. Some bring slightly more or less. This figure applies to No. 1 fruit.

More are being shipped by truck than by refrigerator car from this section said Mr. McDonald. The big trucks, many of which carry well over two hundred bushels each, are to be seen almost any hour of the day traversing the highways of this section on their way to the north. Housewives are buying much fruit this year for canning purposes.

NEPHEW OF SHERIFF BARRINGTON KILLED

Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. W. R. Barrington were called to Mulberry, Fla., Monday, on account of the death by automobile accident, of their nephew, Mr. Lee Barrington.

WORK COAL MINE IN MOORE COUNTY

Product Said To Be Better Than Cumcock or Coal Glenn Coal; Will Mean Big Saving To Consumers.

Carthage.—If a mining development which is now being worked near Haw Branch turns out as owners confidently expect it will, Moore county folks may be burning coal mined in this county next winter. A load of it was brought to Carthage Tuesday for the people to look over and sample, with a view to settling some of it around here immediately. It is claimed to be a higher quality product than that obtained from the Cumcock and Coal Glen mines, according to an article in the Moore County News.

Around a dozen men are now employed at the mine, which is located on the Hardin and Leon T. Lane lands. A Mr. Wakefield is operating the project on a royalty basis. He was formerly with Carolina Mine at Cumcock. Lack of capital to properly work the mine is at present retarding the progress of the development, but it is hoped that this difficulty may be surmounted and mining operations begun on a big scale within the near future. At present some old machinery is being used, but coal is being mined in considerable quantities just the same.

This mine was first opened during the closing days of the Civil War. Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy saw the imperative need of fuel for his ships which were bringing in cargoes of arms and ammunition from the Bahamas. At that period the chief coal supplies of this country were in the north. It was the Southern leader's idea to mine the needed coal here in Moore county and load it on barges for passage down Deep River and on to the coast. In fact,

21 Markets Open With Good Crowds and Plentiful Supply—5 to 75 Cents Paid; Better Grades Held.

Macon, Ga., July 28.—Georgia tobacco planters went to market today and found the opening 1931 auctions rather drab.

This however did not dampen their enthusiasm for spirited offerings in later bids as a dull opening was anticipated due to late maturity for bright leaf in the belt.

First offerings bore out government predictions of a sharply detailed crop forecast recently on reports of acreage reduction and adverse weather.

The 21 markets in the state opened with good crowds and the floor supply was plentiful particularly at Adel where more than a quarter million pounds were available. Prices improved as sales proceeded and an unofficial report said the average price there was seven cents.

The only official prices reported in the belt came from Douglas where the United States department of agriculture is maintaining a crop reporting service. First quality orange lugs there brought \$12.50 near the opening while fifth grade brought \$2.20.

The department said prices averaged below last year's at the opening but improved during the day. A total of 92,000 pounds was sold at Statesboro and the unofficial average price there was \$3.34 per 100 pounds.

Vidalia reported sales of 400,000 pounds for an unofficial average of \$5 per 100.

Growers generally did not offer their best grades today. Much of the choice leaf has not matured, and tobacco men agreed the sales would be comparatively slow until this crop is brought to the floors.

Tifton reported its warehouses about half full. Best grade lugs there brought an unofficial average of 25 cents per pound.

Douglas, Ga., July 29.—The second day of Georgia's tobacco market found prices ranging from \$20.50 to \$1.50 per hundred pounds, the U. S. Department of Agriculture tobacco reporting service announced today.

Offerings were light and generally inferior in quality to those at the opening of the four-week market yesterday.

At the various warehouses, better grades of tobacco were in brisk demand, but medium to low grades were somewhat weaker.

NEW SERVICE SOON FOR HOKE COUNTY FARMERS

Mr. W. D. Burton, County Agent, left Wednesday to go to Raleigh to attend an instruction meeting for soil testing for potash, manganese, or lime deficiencies. Each county Agent attending this meeting will be given a test kit or equipment to make these deficiency tests in the field, doing away with the necessity of sending soil samples to Raleigh as in the past. Mr. Burton will be prepared to give this service to Hoke farmers this fall.

A public sale of 30 pure bred Hampshire rams will be sold at Sparta in Alleghany County to help improve local stock.

this was done, but it happened near the close of the war before much could be accomplished, and as need for the coal expired with the surrender, the mine was closed.

The recent renewal of operations at this point were begun in April of this year. A considerable quantity of coal has been taken out and is going to be sold in this territory, if a market can be found for it. And if the coal is what its owners claim, that should be an easy matter. A great saving on the cost of coal to users would be possible through the immense saving in freight, which now amounts to practically as much as the fuel itself. By the purchase of as much as six tons, a representative of the mine here Tuesday said the coal can be obtained for \$5 a ton. Lesser quantities are charged for at the rate of \$5.50 per ton. A large lamp was placed in The News office window as a sample of the new company's product. It looks like good coal, but it yet remains to test its burning qualities. It is of the bituminous or soft coal variety.