

# The Reidsville Review.

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REIDSVILLE, N. C. FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1917

ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

## TWO COMMISSIONERS GIVE OUT INTERVIEW

The Review has just interviewed Commissioners McGehee and Smith, the committee appointed by the board to negotiate with the Southern Power Company at Charlotte some time ago to buy current of them for use of the city and other power needed. The following questions were asked and answered to get some information that same may be used by us in clearing up some impressions:

"Were you authorized to negotiate with the Southern Power Company for power?"

"Yes, we were authorized to go to Charlotte and secure the best proposition possible and to submit our report back to the board, which was done, and same was adopted."

"Did you employ the services of an electrical engineer for advice?"

"Yes; he was with us during our negotiation with Mr. Fox, of the Power Company."

"Have you employed this engineer in view of further work in putting in connection, etc., with the Southern Power Company line?"

"Yes, he has been to Reidsville twice and gone over the line and obtained all the information ready for contracting with all parties to further put the arrangement into effect."

"How much power did you contract for?"

"Under the contract which is tested and the laws governing public power companies there is no limit in the amount of power which can be obtained by the town from the Southern Power Co. to be used when needed."

"How about power for the Edna Cotton Mills?"

"The cotton mill can only use secondary power; that is, electric power as an auxiliary to their steam plant, and Mr. Fox, representing the Power Company, tells us that they can not furnish this secondary power to any one before 1919; so it would be a useless expense for us to provide for their power two years before it would be needed."

"How about power for the American Tobacco Co. and other manufacturing concerns?"

"Mr. Fox tells us that he could not get any statement from the American Tobacco Company as to whether they would use electric power or not; but should they want current the town can easily supply them, for if it ran above 450 horsepower sufficient transformers could be installed to provide any amount needed. The same will hold good for all of our industries."

"How much horsepower is now required to use?"

"One hundred and fifty horsepower."

"Then you have a surplus of 300 horsepower?"

"Yes."

"Could you secure increased quantity of power if you executed a contract for less than might be needed later?"

"Yes, absolutely any quantity that would be needed within the 10-year limit of contract, by adding transformers."

"Is the contract so iron-clad that no change could be made now?"

"By no means. It is only a tentative contract, and is subject to any changes that all parties agree before execution."

"Do you know of any town that buys current of the Southern Power Co. as you propose and distribute to their own citizens?"

"Yes, North Carolina towns as follows: High Point, Lexington, Concord, Lincolnton, Shelby, Cherryville, Gastonia, King's Mountain; South Carolina towns: Westminster, Seneca, Central, Gaffney, Blacksburg, Newberry, Greenwood, Abbeville, Winnsboro, and many others."

"What rate does those towns pay to the Power Company?"

"Generally around 1.50 per kw."

"What would Reidsville have to pay if we buy power?"

"1.50 less 10 per cent."

"How is High Point furnished current, and what rate is charged?"

"The city buys of the North Carolina Public Service Company at about 2 cents per kw., and sells to their customers at 6 cents kw. now, and do their own distributing."

"How is Greensboro supplied?"

"By the same (North Carolina Public Service Co.) but the Service Company distributes."

"What rate does Greensboro pay?"

"About 12 cents per kw."

"How about financing the proposition?"

"Have had already three requests to loan the money on such an investment."

Figures given out by the War and Navy Departments show that recruits for the army and navy are being obtained at the rate of nearly 4,000 a day.

## THE BANKHEAD HIGHWAY IS NOW AN ASSURED FACT

Mr. W. R. Lynch of Spray, who represented Reidsville and Greensboro as well as his home town, Spray, at the convention of the Bankhead Highway Association held at Birmingham, on the 19th and 20th inst., made a report to the members of the local association in the rooms of the C. & A. Association on last Monday afternoon.

It was a most inspiring and intensely gratifying report, and some of our members, who have been somewhat skeptical about the whole proposition, left the meeting with the conviction that there was no further reason for scepticism; that the Bankhead Highway was nearly a certain fact as anything earthly, and that the benefit to Reidsville and Rockingham County accruing from being located on this tremendous 2000 mile, 30 foot military highway, could not be reckoned up in dollars and cents.

We want all of our readers to get hold of these facts connected with this proposition. It affects every individual in this whole county. It is almost revolutionary in its scope and in its effect only the day dreamer—the man of vision, can grasp the marvelous possibilities wrapped up in the undertaking.

The hall (it appears from Mr. Lynch's report) originally selected for the meeting of the convention, was found, by noon of the first day, to be totally inadequate to hold the crowds that came pouring in on every train reaching Birmingham, and the pressure became so great as to necessitate adjournment to a larger auditorium, where over eight hundred sweltering delegates, from every town and State between Los Angeles, Cal., and Washington, D. C., fought gallantly for their individual and State interests. In this vast concourse of influential men of every walk of life, were five governors of States, three members of Congress and Senator Bankhead—the originator of the Highway project, himself.

Particular care was given to examination of credentials and the hearing of reports from local units, and a long discussion ensued over organization, ending in the appointment of two committees, one of which had been entrusted to it the last word in the matter of locating the route from Atlanta towards Washington. Mr. W. R. Lynch was appointed chairman of this committee, which went immediately into convention in the hope of being able to submit its report before the main convention disbanded. It succeeded in doing so but only after a long and stormy discussion, entailing a majority and minority report; just however as the chairman was submitting his report, the one remaining member who had held out, and proposed a minority report, submitted, and made the report of the committee unanimous. The report fixes the Bankhead Highway as running from Atlanta to Greensboro, through Reidsville and Ruffin to Danville and Lynchburg, beyond which there were no recommendations. The route so laid out was definitely fixed, and nothing but an Act of Congress can change it, but action of this kind is not to be feared, for the highway is to be a military one, and not a scenic road, the object being for the quickest possible route between the main points—Los Angeles and Washington. No better road can be maintained.

Senator Bankhead addressed the meeting at considerable length, and expressed his extreme satisfaction with the progress made at the convention. His address was exceedingly interesting and instructive, and very encouraging to those working for the highway.

There also appeared before the convention a deputation of The Daughters of the Confederacy who undertook, for the whole society along the route, to plant trees and beautify every inch of the way, and when in addition to the landscaping is added lighting standards, making the highway available by night as well as by day, which is part of the undertaking seriously contemplated, it is apparent that the Bankhead Highway—withstanding anything that may be said by our contemporaries to the contrary spells prosperity, advancement and blessing to every town, village and hamlet it touches as it meanders along its 3,000 mile route to the capital of our nation.

Immediately after Mr. Lynch had finished his report, Mr. P. D. Watt moved that the best thanks of the members of the Reidsville Bankhead Highway Association be extended to him for the yeoman service he had rendered this town, and community by representing us at the convention. Mr. Watt called for a rising vote, and it was heartily and unanimously accorded, with applause.

Now, the first two battles over the highway proposition have been fought and won. There can be no change in the route without federal action in Congress. But without doubt we will

## UNDER WHICH FLAG?

All voters who believe in municipal ownership and control of public utilities—thus making it unnecessary to greatly increase municipal taxes to make up for loss of profits now made in the operation of these public utilities—are asked to vote the following commissioners ticket:

- J. ED SMITH
- DR. J. W. McGEHEE
- J. F. BURTON
- W. S. AUSTIN
- D. A. HENDRIX

All voters who believe in turning over Reidsville's most valuable and profitable utility—the electric light plant—to an alien corporation and are willing to stand for increased taxes, are asked to vote the following commissioners ticket:

- JOHN F. SCOTT
- G. E. CRUTCHFIELD
- W. B. WRAY
- J. F. SMITH
- N. C. THOMPSON

not have this splendid development without some co-operative action on our part. What it may consist of we do not know, but we must keep our organization compact, and build it up, and keep our ears close to the ground for any sign or sound that would indicate opposition, and be prepared to fight for what we have secured. The next step in our organization should be to organize our county and this will be undertaken shortly. We would ask every citizen in Rockingham county to wake up and take a lively interest in this proposition, and show that we appreciate it, and are prepared to meet every requisition made upon us by its projectors, calculated to make it a perfect success, so far as our county is concerned.

And (harping again on the old string, the next best bet in connection with the Bankhead Highway is an hotel for Reidsville. A prominent official of the Southern Railway was in Reidsville last Monday and in an interview with the secretary of the C. & A. Association, he said that if Reidsville would, in addition to the splendid streets it was constructing in the town and good roads in the county, carry out its plan to have a country club, and supplement this by an hotel that would offer the right kind of entertainment to the traveling public, Reidsville could be made one of the best tourist resorts in North Carolina—and his company would be glad to give every assistance in making it so.

Crowds of people travel past it so station every day in the summer from the eastern and southern points to the western part of our State. They would be only too glad to save the additional eight or nine hours railway travel if we could offer them accommodations. Why not do it?

A first class hotel in Reidsville—even though accommodation be limited at the start—could be made to pay splendid dividends right from the start. The opportunity is here now for our own people to make the investment. If we don't do it, it will not be long before the opportunity will be snapped up by an outsider. We ought to be able to organize a company right here in Reidsville. The time to do it is right now!

## \$20.00 Reward

The above sum is offered to any person or persons for information given leading to the arrest and conviction of any person, firm, or corporation for violating during the Municipal Election of Reidsville, N. C., to be held on May 1st, 1917, any of the provisions of the election laws of North Carolina as contained in Chapter 81 of the Revised Code of North Carolina for 1905, with amendments thereto.

TOWN OWNERSHIP LEAGUE  
Reidsville, N. C., April 26th, 1917.

Trouble in Store.  
"What makes you think your husband is coming back, Mandy? Have you heard from him?"

"No'm, but Ah jes' knows something's gwine to happen. Ah broke a mirror dis mornin'."—Browning's Magazine.

Some Good Advice  
"Don't think too much of your own methods. Watch other people's ways and learn from them." This is good advice, especially when bilious or constipated. You will find many people who use Chamberlain's Tablets for these ailments with the best results, and will do to follow their example.

## THE NEWS IN BRIEF SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

The Rhode Island Legislature has passed and the Governor of that State has signed a bill giving women the ballot in presidential elections.

It was announced at the adjutant general's office in Washington that North Carolina's quota for the regular army is 4,412, and that the total enlistments for the State through April 20 was 273.

Two negroes, convicted of killing a policeman at Charlottesville, Va., have been sentenced to death. When the negroes were arrested, a few days ago, a mob was with difficulty restrained from storming the jail.

S. C. Wilson, negro preacher of Durham, was sentenced to the roads for 60 days for acting as immigration agent without license. He was trying to induce negroes to emigrate North and is supposed to represent a Northern labor agent.

With a production of 120 bushels on one acre and a net profit of \$93.18, Allison Overman of Wayne county won the 1916 championship in the North Carolina corn clubs and last week received the gold medal offered by the Progressive Farmer.

Rev. Dr. Adams, the superintendent (presiding elder) of the New York district of the Methodist Church, has issued an address to the pastors and church officials in his district calling on them to display the Stars and Stripes from church buildings.

It is announced that in any policy that may be adopted to regulate the export of food supplies during the war, the American government has no intention of interfering with shipments of supplies to European or other neutral nations, except where assistance to Germany is likely to result.

The agents of the the shipping board and of the Treasury Department who have been investigating the damaged German merchant vessels in American harbors have completed the inspection of nine of these vessels. According to their estimates the reparings of these nine can be completed approximately in 90 days at an average cost of \$50,000 a vessel.

A fellow named Weir, arrested at Greensboro for seditious utterances—expressing hope that Germany and Russia would form an alliance and that the United States would suffer defeat—was trying to get by as an insane at last account, but when arrested he had sense enough to say: "O, they misunderstood my meaning, I am ready to enlist and fight for the United States if need be."

At Columbus, Ga., Judge Tigner of the police court adjourned court, got down off the bench and mixed with Solicitor Fort, to settle a disagreement. The judge, the solicitor and a spectator who was trying to separate them, all landed in a heap on the floor, meantime blows passing fast and furious. After they were pulled apart there were mutual apologies and handshakings. Both of them should have been sent to jail.

A Greek sponge fisherman's dive to a depth of 262 feet in the sea is believed to be the world's record for a man unprotected by any sort of diving apparatus.

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## MRS. ANNIE SPENCER PENN DIES IN RICHMOND HOSPITAL

Mrs. F. R. Penn was born in Spencer, Henry County, Va., March 1, 1848, died April 23, 1917. She was 69 years one month and 23 days old. She was the second daughter of a family of Mr. D. H. and Mary Spencer of Spencer, Va. Of the twelve children, all are gone but five, four sisters and one brother. Mr. Rufus Penn of Martinsville, Va., Mrs. H. C. Buckhanan of Spencer, Va., Mrs. W. G. Lee of Spartanburg, S. C., Mrs. Halls Janey of Montgomery, Ala., and Mr. George O. Spencer of Spencer, Va. During the War between the States she was a student in Salem College.

She was united in marriage with Mr. F. R. Penn of Penn's Store, Henry County, Va., November 27, 1866, to which union were born 10 children, six of whom survive. Mr. C. A. Penn of New York City, Mr. T. J. Penn of Buffalo, N. Y., Mrs. T. Staples Fuller and Mrs. E. F. Kipton of New York, Mrs. Paul Schoelkopf of Niagara Falls and Miss Lucy Penn of Reidsville.

Mrs. F. R. Penn, the most universally loved woman in Reidsville, died in St. Luke's Hospital, Richmond, Monday, at midnight and was buried here on the morning of the 25th. It was with sorrowing hearts that the townspeople received the sad intelligence. Much apprehension had been expressed at the ultimate outcome of her illness but no one was really able to grasp the fact that Mrs. Penn, the great noble soul, who had known grief to its uttermost, and yet was ever ready with sympathy and comfort to others, was never again to be seen in our midst. For years she has been one of the finest influences in the life of Reidsville. As the wife and widow of Mr. F. R. Penn, Reidsville's most prominent tobacco manufacturer, as the mother of ten splendid children, as the friend of all who needed friendship, as an advocate of all that was Christlike, she had broad scope for her influence and was revered by man, woman and child alike. Next to her own intimate circle of husband and children the tenderest and sweetest interest of her life was given to the poor and the colored people of the town. To them she was no "Lady Bountiful" who dispensed charities with gracious air, but their own friend who loved them and gave them her ever ready council and sympathy, who prayed to her God for their comfort and relief, who never sent one from her empty of heart or hand.

These bore witness of their love and sorrow by thronging her house, her yard, and beyond, as far as one could see, patient people with grief laden eyes waiting to pay their last respect to one who had meant so much to them.

Just prior to the eleven o'clock service, at the rear of the house were gathered the faithful servants and with them Mrs. Penn's children. In their midst was Rev. Marcellus Walker pastor of one of the colored churches—one of the many people with whom Mrs. Penn had advised and to whom she had given help and encouragement. He spoke feelingly of this and of her material aid to his people in times of distress—then prayed fervently for the stricken family. Inside, the house was filled with flowers, each one a living evidence of Divine and human love. Gates of lilies that stood ajar, harps and wreaths and pillows of rare coloring and perfume. Everywhere flowers. The casket was completely shrouded in a blanket of white roses. The last tribute of love from her sons and daughters.

By this stood the three ministers who had come to tell of her goodness and of the Hand nailed to the Cross on Calvary which had been her strength and would be their comfort. Rev. Henry Bulger, the young minister of the Christian Church, the church of Mrs. Penn's faith, which would probably never have had a beginning in Reidsville except for her influence and labor, spoke of this and of her faith triumphant over all ills of the body, closing feelingly with an exemplification of her life in the poem by Foss, "The House by the Side of the Road."

Rev. D. I. Craig, who has known her friendship for a period covering more than thirty years, told of his constant association under all conditions and of her never failing goodness. Rev. W. A. Lambeth, now of Salisbury, spoke touchingly of his relation with Mrs. Penn. Just a few years ago he came to minister to the Reidsville people and he, too, had come into the realms of her influence. He knew her in diverse phases of life. His ready sympathy had bridged the distance of years and she honored him with intimate conversation about her own.

Following the Scriptural reading prayers and singing of appropriate hymns the remains were borne to

## PUBLIC SPEAKING AT ARMORY SATURDAY NIGHT

Mr. W. F. Talbot of Danville, Va., a man of great experience in the operation of Public Utilities will discuss the arguments for and against the proposed sale of our Electric Light Plant and Franchise.

Mr. Talbot is an expert widely consulted in such matters and a very able and interesting speaker.

The selling of the Lighting Plant and Franchise is a question of vital concern to Reidsville. Let every citizen including ladies come out and hear an unprejudiced and enlightening discussion of this extremely important and much debated question.

Other prominent gentlemen will be present to make short talks.

Seats will be provided for colored people and all colored voters are requested to be present.

It is free.

Greenview Cemetery and laid to rest beside those of her husband and children who had preceded her to the Great Beyond.

Here the last lesson was read, the last prayer sent heavenward, and concluding the impressive service, Rev. W. A. Lambeth read with exquisite feeling, the loveliest of all poems.

"Now the laborer's task is o'er;  
Now the battle day is past;  
Now upon the farther shore  
Lands the voyager at last.

Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

There the tears of earth are dried;  
There its hidden things are clear;  
There the work of life is tried  
By a juster Judge than here.

Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

There the penitents, that turn  
To the cross their dying eyes,  
All the love of Jesus learn  
At His feet in Paradise.

Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

There no more the powers of hell  
Can prevail to mar their peace;  
Christ the Lord shall guard them well,  
He Who died for their release.

Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

"Earth to earth and dust to dust,"  
Calmly now the words we say,  
Left behind, we wait in trust  
For the resurrection day.

Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

Those from a distance attending the funeral and burial were: Mr. and Mrs. Green Penn, Mr. and Mrs. Rucker Penn, Pemberton Penn, Jas. Penn, Jeff Bass, Miss Jennie Lynn Bass, Geo. Bass, Barnes Penn, of Danville;

Mr. Geo. Penn, Abingdon, Va., J. F. Risen, Mrs. Kelly Alexander, Danville; Mrs. Watkins Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bill Spencer, Mrs. Mack Buchanan, Mrs. Geo. Spencer, Mrs. Tobie Spencer, of Spencer; Jno. Penn, Mrs. Albert Gravely, Mrs. Walter Brown, Mrs. John Carter, Mr. J. C. Kearfoot, Mrs. R. S. Barber, Mr. Jno Smith, Mrs. Rufus Penn, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Penn of Martinsville, Va.; H. J. Penn Howard Penn, Mrs. J. Vaughn, Mrs. Jno. M. Galloway, Madison; Richard Penn, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Williamson, J. L. Penn, Danville, Va.; Mrs. Mattie Lee, Spartanburg, S. C.; Mrs. Harry Vass, Mrs. Leo Vaughn, Miss Annie Sloan, of Winston-Salem, N. C.

The Pall Bearers were: W. B. Wray, N. C. Thompson, R. P. Richardson, Dr. S. G. Jett, Robt. Hairston, G. E. Crutchfield, Capt. A. E. Walters, R. L. Watt.

The Flower Bearers were: Pemberton Penn, Rucker Penn, H. J. Penn, Jeff Bass, Jeff Risen, Welch Clark, W. W. Williamson, J. Walter Lovelace, James F. Womack, T. J. McCann, P. H. Williamson, Rawley Maxwell, E. W. Staples, E. R. Harris, Eugene Irvin, J. F. Watlington, J. S. Turner, R. R. Boyd, Wm. Young, W. J. Penn, J. H. Mobley.

## FARM LOANS AND INSURANCE POLICIES

There is one feature in connection with the operation of the Federal Farm Loan Bill we wish to call attention of the farmers of Rockingham county to. It is this: If any farmer in our county gives a mortgage on his farm buildings, residence, barns—in fact on any of his buildings, as security for a loan, his insurance on that building, or buildings, immediately becomes null and void. The same applies to any mortgage given on any farm buildings. We recommend our friends in the county to examine very carefully their policies of insurance on buildings and they will see at once that this is so.