

# THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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## TOWN BONDS SOLD.

### First National Bank Buys Issue for Street Improvements.

The \$30,000 bond issue approved by the citizens of Fort Mill 14 months ago for street improvements has at last been sold by the commission created by an act of the General Assembly last year and there is now the prospect of a mile and a half of hard surface paving being put down in the town within the next three or four months. The only offer submitted in response to a recent newspaper advertisement inviting bids for the bonds was from the First National Bank of Fort Mill, whose bid of 95 for the issue the commission considered itself fortunate to receive in view of the stringency of the money market and the consequent slow sale of bonds, particularly of small issues of municipal bonds.

Announcement that the bonds had been bought by the First National Bank of Fort Mill was received in the community with general gratification, that a home institution was in position to handle the issue at this time. Yesterday in speaking of the purchase of the bonds an officer of the bank said the money could perhaps have been invested to better advantage, but that the directors took the view that the more patriotic if not the better paying thing for the bank to do was to help its home town and waive the thought of whether the investment meant as big returns in dollars and cents as might otherwise have been secured.

Just when actual work on the streets to be improved from the proceeds of the bond issue will be begun is more or less problematical, according to L. A. Harris, chairman of the street commission, who yesterday said that the public in approving the bond issue understood that not less than a mile and a half of hard surface paving was to be put down with the money obtained from the sale of the bonds and that he was loathe to agree to closing a contract calling for less paving, although at the time the bond issue was authorized the understanding was that \$10,000 federal aid was to be secured to assist in the projects the commission had in mind, and that since then the promise of federal aid had been withdrawn. But the commission, Mr. Harris added, is hopeful of securing assistance from the proposed bond issue which the town council is asking that the voters approve within the next 30 days and with this assistance and the decreased cost of building material and labor taken into account, there is reason to expect that the amount of paving originally planned will be put down.

Dr. J. L. Spratt and N. L. Carothers are the other members of the street commission besides Mr. Harris.

## One Job for Postal Workers.

Postmaster General Hays a few days ago issued an order to all employees of second and third class postoffices prohibiting them from engaging in any outside employment, such as general business, the professions, or any trade or vocation. It is thought the order means that all employees must devote their entire time to the duties of the postoffice and they cannot perform other duties after office hours.

## White House of the South.

Representatives of every State that seceded from the union during the Civil war will be present in Montgomery, Ala., Friday when the Confederate White House will be dedicated there as the shrine of the old South. The governor of every Southern State has been invited to be present and a large number of Confederate fighters will stand again at the home of their beloved leader, Jefferson Davis.

## Finishes at Infantry School.

Of 28 National Guard officers graduated from the school for infantry officers at Camp Benning, Columbus, Ga., last Friday afternoon, Robert F. Grier, Jr., of Fort Mill was the only South Carolinian. Mr. Grier is second lieutenant of the Tom Hall Guards and had been in attendance at the school for officers for the last three months.

## PINEVILLE BANK CLOSED.

### Shortage Reported, With Former Cashier Out of Town.

The Pineville Loan and Savings bank, Pineville, N. C., just across the State line from Fort Mill township, apparently is in bad shape. The bank's doors are closed and a State bank examiner, who has been appointed receiver of the institution by Judge Harding of the North Carolina superior court, sitting in Charlotte, is busy checking up the accounts of the institution. Yesterday the word was current in Pineville that a shortage of several thousand dollars had been discovered by the bank examiner, who is said yet to have several days' work ahead of him before the actual condition of the bank will become known.

Two years ago C. S. Oakley of Ridgeway, Va., came to Pineville and was made cashier of the bank. About two weeks ago the directors of the bank, all Pineville business men, suspecting that the finances of the institution had become somewhat tangled, told Oakley that his resignation would be accepted. Then Oakley turned the keys of the bank over to the president, W. M. Morrow, and got out. He remained in Pineville until last Friday evening, when he left town ostensibly to go to Ridgeway, Va., to ask a rich relative to help him out financially, saving he would return to Pineville within a day or two, it was stated. Nothing has since been heard from him by any officer of the bank so far as The Times yesterday was able to learn.

After moving to Pineville, Oakley is said to have lost little time beginning to bore with a big auger. One of the first things he did after establishing himself in the town was to build the best home the place boasts. Then as a side line he entered the lumber business, to which he devoted so much time, however, according to an official of the bank, that frequently he neglected to strike a daily balance of the bank's transactions, sometimes failing to attend to this phase of the business, considered important by most bankers, for three or four days in succession. Later he began hording with a still bigger auger when he took the contract for the erection of several residences in Charlotte. These contracts are said to have panned out little pay dirt for him and less, it is feared, for the stockholders and depositors of the bank.

The Pineville loan and Savings bank was chartered under the laws of North Carolina about 12 years ago and has a capital stock of \$15,000.

## Fail to Elect Superintendent.

A meeting of the board of trustees of the Fort Mill graded school was held Monday evening at which the names of several applicants for the superintendency of the school for the session to open in September next were considered, but none of those proposed for the position received a majority vote of the trustees and there was consequently no election. The matter of electing a superintendent will again be taken up by the board at a meeting to be held within the next week or ten days, it is understood.

## Hon. J. E. Swearingen in Town.

Hon. John E. Swearingen of Columbia, State superintendent of education, spent several hours in Fort Mill yesterday in conference with the board of trustees of the local graded school relative to the school's finances. A friend of Mr. Swearingen's who saw him in Fort Mill yesterday for the first time in several years remarked that as he grew older the facial resemblance he bore to his distinguished uncle, the late Senator B. R. Tillman, became more pronounced.

All the 22 officers and teachers of the Fort Mill Baptist Sunday school were present at the monthly teachers' meeting at the church Tuesday evening except one. An unusually good meeting was held, at which plans were made for the progress of the work. After the business session refreshments of ice cream and cake were served in the Berean room and a brief address was delivered to the teachers by the pastor, Dr. J. W. H. Dyches.

## STANDING BY FARMERS.

### Members of Congress Unite to Aid Agricultural Interests.

The solidarity with which the group of members of Congress from the farm States are organizing to push through a program of legislation asked by the agricultural interests marks the most significant development of law making in recent years.

Divisions in Congress in the past have been along party lines; but in this new movement no attention is being paid to party divisions. Southern Democrats are working side by side with Republicans from the West. In fact, the new movement is said to represent a complete breakdown of the old party lines, with the South and Middle West standing more closely together than any other sections.

Informal caucuses of so-called farm members have not been infrequent in the past, but they generally met only when some bill of great importance to the farm sections came up and were designed to devise means of getting that bill through. In the last few weeks a thorough going farm organization has been effected in each house of Congress, with designated leaders apart from party leaders to steer the course of the agricultural measures.

From time to time, the senate and house farm conferences will hold caucuses. The entire farm group will agree upon just what bills it will back and then the whole weight of the farm vote will be thrown behind them. How the experiment will work out remains to be seen, but its friends say it promises to do more to shatter party lines in Congress than any other movement in years.

## School Term Ends.

The closing exercises of the Fort Mill graded school were held last Friday evening in the presence of an audience which filled the big auditorium. Certificates were given the pupils finishing the 10th grade by J. B. Mills, chairman of the board of trustees, and diplomas were awarded the graduates of the 11th grade by Col. T. B. Spratt, secretary of the board. The address of the evening was made by W. H. Ward of Greer, former superintendent of the school.

Among the honors announced by Bruce H. Stribling, superintendent, was a prize of \$5 to Miss Frances Hoagland of the sixth grade for the best original short story. The \$5 gold piece annually awarded by Kanawha chapter, D. A. R., to the high school pupil making the best general average for the year was won by Miss Nannie Lee Phillips, who also has the distinction of being the youngest pupil in the high school. Eight pupils of the school were awarded certificates for perfect attendance records.

## The Drought of 1845.

Discussing a few days ago farm conditions in this section, D. G. Kimbrell, well known Fort Mill township citizen, recalled that 1845 was one of the driest years ever known in South Carolina, according to a statement often made to him by the late A. S. White, who told Mr. Kimbrell that so little rain fell during the summer of that year that nearly all the springs and wells in the Fort Mill community dried up and that it was with great difficulty the people were able to get water for their own consumption and for their stock and cattle. One spring which continued to flow freely during the drought, however, was on the place now owned by Mr. Kimbrell a mile and a half south of town and people from miles around came to this spring and got water and hauled it home.

Thousands of acres of cotton recently attacked by the boll weevil in the lower section of the State are being plowed up and the land planted in corn, according to A. Y. Williamson of Fort Mill, who returned to his home here a few days ago after a trip through several counties south of Columbia. Mr. Williamson says that he saw one large field in Bamberg county which had cotton on it from 6 to 10 inches high that was being plowed under because it had been ruined by the boll weevil.

## PLAN TO MOVE MISSOURI.

### Farmers Would Send Big River West of Present Course.

The greatest engineering feat of the times, or what some describe as the biggest fool proposition of a century, is being undertaken by 7,000 Western farmers and business men, headed by a Nebraska judge named Bartow. The proposition is to move a large part of the Missouri river from its present bed on the eastern side of South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas and empty it into the Arkansas river, near Garden City, Kans., a distance of approximately 1,000 miles.

The proposition is no joke. The 7,000 backers of the project have already completed a preliminary survey along the entire 1,000 miles. Engineering estimates of the cost for half the distance have been secured. The men behind the project are said to be in earnest and are willing to spend their own money. Here are some of the benefits as outlined by the Nebraska judge:

Irrigate 16,000,000 acres of farm land which now is worthless, making the land worth \$200 to \$300 an acre.

Provide 400,000 farms of 40 acres each, irrigated land.

Establish 100 new towns along the 1,000 miles of the new river. Prevent floods for all time on the lower Mississippi river in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Develop 3,500,000 hydro-electric horsepower, which will be used to operate an electric railroad the entire 1,000 miles of the project, light the homes on the farms, furnish power to all these farms and pump the new river over a mountain range.

The State engineer of South Dakota has estimated the cost of completing the project across the two Dakotas to the Nebraska line at \$80,000,000, and a similar sum is believed necessary for crossing Nebraska and Kansas.

## Uncle Sam's Flour Mill.

Uncle Sam has a perfectly equipped miniature flour mill and bakery in Washington which, despite its small size, draws its grit from all over the world. The mill and bakery is a part of the equipment of the department of agriculture. Its principal object is to supply information which is of use in the preparation and revision of the federal grain standards.

Hundreds of samples, representing various grades, conditions and varieties of wheat are sent to the little mill and each of these samples is cleaned, scoured, tempered, ground, bolted, and baked in an electric oven. After baking the specialists can study the weight, volume, color and texture of the bread and record the results obtained from the sample of wheat that was used. There is no chance for error in making these comparisons, as all the samples are treated exactly alike.

## To Rule on McNinch Case.

Judge W. F. Harding, sitting in the superior court for Mecklenburg county, Charlotte, N. C., was expected to render a decision today on the motion to set aside the verdict of \$29,344 damages which a Mecklenburg county jury some weeks ago returned against the American Trust company of Charlotte in the suit of S. S. McNinch alleging that the trust company disposed of the plant of the Charlotte Brick company, property of the plaintiff in Fort Mill township on which the defendant company had a mortgage, at a sacrifice and in violation of an agreement between the parties. Trial of the damage suit consumed three weeks and was heard in Charlotte about three months ago. Numerous Fort Mill citizens offered testimony as to the value of the brick plant and farm lands involved in the suit.

Congressman W. F. Stevenson has two vacancies at the Naval academy, Annapolis, Md., which he is anxious to see filled by ambitious young men from the Fifth district. Information as to the entrance requirements and the desirability of an appointment to Annapolis will be furnished interested young men by Mr. Stevenson.

## STILL SERVING HIS MASTER.

### Though 90 Years Old Rev. Mr. Ratchford Occupies Pulpit.

Many of the older citizens of the Fort Mill community will read with peculiar interest the following news item from the Yorkville Enquirer of Tuesday relative to the Rev. W. W. Ratchford, aged Presbyterian minister, who was pastor of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church a half century ago, in 1870-71 to be exact:

"Coming back to greet his old congregation after the passage of 38 years since he was pastor of Bullock's Creek, the Rev. W. W. Ratchford of Waxhaw, N. C., aged 90, perhaps the oldest minister in America, preached in Bullock's Creek church Sunday to the largest congregation that Bullock's Creek has known in months. Despite the fact that the winds and suns of 90 summers and 90 winters have passed over his brow, 'Father Ratchford,' as he is lovingly known to thousands of people over the Carolinas, is still in good health. His step is a little slow. His eye is clear. His hearing is good. He still preaches with that fire and force and determination and earnestness of purpose that characterized his efforts when pastor of the church nearly four decades ago."

## CLOSE COTTON SPACING.

### Gain in Yield Reported From Single Stalk Method.

Twenty-five to 100 per cent increase in yield is reported by cotton growers who have adopted the new close spacing system of cotton culture, according to the United States department of agriculture. The reports to the department show that many farmers in the South are turning to the plan. Increased yield, less labor and expense for the same crop and a lessening of boll weevil damage are among the benefits recited in hundreds of letters written by farmers in various sections of the South.

Close spacing, more commonly known as the single stalk method of cotton culture, consists primarily in spacing the cotton plants so close in the row—a hoe's width apart—that the lower branches do not develop, and the growth of the plant goes directly into the upper or fruiting branches, permitting them to begin the development of blossoms and bolls earlier and giving them more nourishment and light.

The distance between the plants is regulated with reference to local conditions and the habit of growth of different varieties, the range being between six and 12 inches. The plants then have a narrow upright form and can be left closer together in the rows. Even with the plants only three or four inches apart in the rows there may be less injurious crowding than with large many-stalked plants three feet apart in the rows. The distance between the rows, usually about three feet, can also be varied with reference to local conditions, but crowding the rows together, so that the sun does not reach the ground, is undesirable, especially under boll weevil conditions.

## Patterson-McMurray Wedding.

The Charlotte papers of Thursday contained the announcement of the wedding in that city Wednesday, May 25, of J. H. McMurray, Jr., of Blacksburg, son of J. H. McMurray of Fort Mill, and Miss Annie Lee Patterson of Charlotte at the home of the bride. The officiating minister was the Rev. A. S. Johnson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Charlotte. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. McMurray left for a bridal trip. They will make their home in Blacksburg.

Mr. McMurray is a native of Fort Mill and was reared here. Several years ago he went to Roek Hill and accepted a position with the National Union bank, where he remained until he entered the service during the World war. After the war he moved to Charlotte and became connected with the Charlotte National bank. He is now cashier of the Bank of Blacksburg and is held in high esteem wherever he is known both as a citizen and business man.

## VOTING ON ROAD BONDS.

### Small Number of Citizens Taking Part in Fort Mill Election.

A very small number of Fort Mill township citizens are going to the polls today to cast their ballots in the special election ordered some time ago by the York county board of commissioners to pass upon a proposed \$75,000 township bond issue for road improvements. Whether the bond issue will be authorized will not be known until the polls close at 4 o'clock this afternoon, but so far as the expression of sentiment heard on the streets today indicated the attitude of the citizens toward the proposition, there was practically no opposition to it.

Many who ordinarily would have voted in the election were disqualified by a decision of the State supreme court holding that no citizen who had failed to pay his State and county taxes prior to January 1 was eligible to vote in any special election held during that tax year. Whether approved by a majority of 1 or 100 the bonds would be equally legal so far as that phase of the election is concerned, but bond buyers are said to prefer to put their money in issues approved by a representative majority of citizens.

Should the voters of Fort Mill township authorize the road bond issue the next step toward the improvement of the roads of the township will be the appointment of a road commission of three members by the governor upon the recommendation of the county legislative delegation. In King's Mountain township, where road bonds were voted some time ago, the commissioners were selected from three different sections of the township. It is presumed the delegation would follow the same policy in selecting the commission for Fort Mill township.

With a road bond issue of \$75,000 by Fort Mill township, there would become available upon the sale of the bonds approximately \$115,000 for road improvement in the township, the county having agreed to put up \$30,000 for the purpose along with \$10,000 federal aid already approved by the State highway commission.

## R. F. D. Men in Session.

After electing officers for the ensuing year, choosing delegates to the State convention to be held in Orangeburg and selecting Rock Hill as the next meeting place, the county convention of the York County Rural Letter Carriers association, in session in the town hall, Fort Mill, Monday morning, adjourned. Fifteen carriers from various sections of the county attended the convention, which was the guest of the Fort Mill carriers. Following the session in the town hall a picnic dinner was served in honor of the visitors at Jones' spring, on the banks of the Catawba, near town. Perhaps as many as 50 people, including a number of ladies, were present for the dinner.

W. W. Love, carrier on York route No. 7, was honored with the presidency of the association, and A. D. Neely, also a York carrier, was elected secretary and treasurer. J. C. Burge of York, John Keys of Rock Hill, Mr. Simpson of Catawba and T. A. Mills and Shelly Sutton of Fort Mill were elected to represent the association at the State convention on July 4 and 5.

## News for Meat Consumers.

Prices of meat animals (hogs, cattle, sheep and fowls) to producers of the United States decreased 9 per cent from March 15 to April 15, according to a report issued by the United States department of agriculture. In the last ten years prices paid for meat animals have increased 4.5 per cent during the period from the middle of March to the middle of April. The report shows that on April 15 the index figure of prices for meat animals was about 37.9 per cent lower than a year ago, and 16.3 per cent lower than the average for the last ten years on April 15.

Thousands of textile operatives in the Charlotte, N. C., district yesterday went on strike because of recent wage cuts.