

MCLAURIN IN MAYESVILLE.

Marlboro's Favorite Son Addresses Patriotic Meeting on Issues and Problems of the War.

Several hundred ladies and gentlemen of Mayesville and Mayesville township last night heard Hon. John L. McLaurin deliver a forcible and interesting interpretation of the history of the present world war, and trace out the origin of its causes dating back to the reign of Frederick the Great. Mr. McLaurin's speech was absolutely devoid of politics of a State character, except in one part, when he said "that any man who attempts to bring about discord and dissension and to arraign men against men against our government during these critical times in order to ride into office is worse than the Germans, and a dastardly traitor to his country, and unworthy of the confidence and friendship of the people. The meeting was held in the large auditorium of the Mayesville Graded school.

Mr. McLaurin addressed the Mayesville patriotic meeting in compliance with a largely signed petition and he had the best and most intelligent, and progressive men and women of Mayesville to talk to.

Rev. R. L. Grier, of the Mayesville township committee of the Sumter County Council of Defense presided and in a short but patriotic talk welcomed Mr. McLaurin, and Secretary E. I. Reardon, of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, the two speakers of the evening.

Secretary Reardon opened with a thirty minute plea for more compact and systematic community organization for war purposes and he paid his respects in warm language to all profiteers, slackers, and disloyal citizens. He stressed the importance of an extraordinary production and conservation of food and feedstuffs, and said that it is largely up to the South, and to the Southern farmer and the Southern housewife to win the war. That it was probable that the National Food Administration will build an iron fence around the South in another year and not permit the importation of the annual one hundred and ten million dollars worth of wheat, corn, meats and feedstuffs into South Carolina; that the South can and must feed itself, because it can do so, and that those who planted all or nearly all cotton and tobacco, and left off food crops will likely go hungry with gold jingling in their pockets.

The secretary emphasized the sentiments of the Sumter County Council of Defense, that any farmer who does not plant at least one-third of his crops in food and feed stuffs is lining up and sympathizing with the German Kaiser and his hordes of barbarians, in helping the Kaiser to win the war, in stabbing in the back the millions of American, French and British soldiers, and is, because such farmers are profiteers, a traitor each of them to their flag. He applied the strongest terms to profiteer merchant who bleed their fellow citizens by un patriotic profits.

The speaker pleaded for support of the Red Cross, the organization for selling the third Liberty loan bonds, War Savings Stamps, and said that any man who can and will not support the Red Cross, buy Liberty Loan bonds, and War Savings Stamps, who will not produce food and encourage his tenants and sharecroppers to do likewise, that all men who can buy Liberty loan bonds and War Savings stamps, and who can afford to liberally support the Red Cross and will do so only as sparingly, appearances permit, and who over charges is a traitor, a slacker and a profiteer and when he walks across the public highways the shadow of a traitor follows him, and when he

looks into a mirror the face of a profiteer, a slacker, and a traitor confronts him.

Mr. McLaurin then was introduced, and received a cordial reception. He masterfully outlined the history of the German theory of might against right, he told of the "mailed fist" ideals of German efficiency, and showed his audience just what Germany desires to do in the shape of world conquest, and depicted eloquently and instructively just how the United States might be invaded by Germany through a German-Mexican alliance should England and France be forced to their knees and lose control of the seas by their navies or large portions of their navies which would go to Germany for American invasion. He told how Germany would in such an alliance educate Mexico in "German efficiency" methods, and finding a base on the North American shores, sooner or later give this country much trouble, if, indeed, we do not have to fight and fight hard to maintain our freedom from German domination.

A new phase of the menace to commerce of this country and of the entire world, should Germany win this war, was clearly brought out by the speaker. He said that the big German war debts have to be paid and that if Germany wins she will dictate to France, England and Italy their tariff schemes, both for export and import and will insist that all exchange go through German banks and that by this process Germany could fix the price of cotton and other commodities of this and other countries to the advantage of Germany and against the Southern farmer, manufacturer, and against the consumers. German victory means disaster to the agricultural, financial, manufacturing and general commercial world. That cotton is the greatest or among the greatest of export commodities.

He told in cold blooded terms, as he termed them, of some of the atrocities of German soldiers on the women and girls of Belgium; in fact, he was very plain, and he showed what the women of this country might expect if ever Germany crushed England and France before the United States can get a couple of million men across to exert the balance of power.

Mr. McLaurin made a clear and logical presentation of the reasons why food should be the main crop of the South and of this entire country during the war. He said that all southern farm products will bring high prices during the war, and some of them afterwards, but that it will require food to win this war in order that we may enjoy the prosperity of high priced cotton after the war. No farmer can be patriotic and not plan an abundance of food crops to the exclusion of cotton.

This is, in his opinion, no time for political profiteering either, and that he, county, city and town, the farmer, merchant, banker, mechanic, laborer, teacher, preacher and men, women, boys and girls of every profession, class, trade and occupation ought to be closely and compactly and thoroughly organized in every community to support the president of the United States, the national and state governments, and sacrifice if necessary, everything, except honor, support, feed and otherwise back up our soldiers and those of our allies.

He brought out information about the German spy system to show that Germany has for years believed that because of the German-American political influence of this country, and because of the millions of dollars of German money invested here, that this country would not dare to declare war on Germany. He said that the German Kaiser had boasted, as shown by papers seized in German propaganda secret offices, that the United States would never dare to take sides with England and France against Germany. Mr. McLaurin told of many things about the German espionage system, and how it works, and enlightened his audience along lines not heretofore brought out by any speaker in this county. He did not deliver a political talk, but his speech was educational, inspiring and patriotic all the way through.

Mr. W. S. Chandler and Mr. J. E. Mayes of Mayesville came to Sumter to meet Mr. McLaurin, and with Mr. C. E. Stubbs, in Mr. Chandler's car accompanied the speaker to Mayesville. The visitors were hospitably entertained at supper by the Anderson hotel, as the guests of the people of the hospitable town of Mayesville.

Jas. C. Bryan, for twelve years an efficient clerk in the Sumter post office, and for a number of years a member of the Local Civil Service Board, has resigned his position with Uncle Sam and has accepted a position as salesman with R. E. Phelps, Real Estate Broker.

It has been suggested that Congress adopt "bull-less" days.—Wilmington Dispatch.

WHISKEY LAW IN COURT.

Judge Sease Hears Arguments of Lawyers as to the Constitutionality of Amendment to Quart-a-Month Law.

Spartanburg Herald, March 21. Arguments were heard by Judge Thomas S. Sease in the courtroom yesterday in the case of Singleton Bradford, of Sumter, against Thomas E. Richardson, probate judge of Sumter county, the case being brought to test the constitutionality of the quart-a-month law which was passed at the last session of the general assembly. Appearing in the case were D. S. Henderson, of Aiken, representing the plaintiff, and Assistant Attorney General Claude S. Sapp, and Senator Carlton DuRant, of Manning. Probate Judge Duncan E. Ellinger, of Richland, took an active part in the proceedings in behalf of the plaintiff. The arguments were begun at 10 o'clock and were concluded shortly after 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Judge Sease reserved his decision.

The decision of Judge Sease is being awaited with interest in all sections of the State, for should he decide in favor of the plaintiff the law will stand and every probate judge in the State will be required to comply with the amendment to the quart-a-month law.

This case grew out of an amendment to the one-quart law passed by the last general assembly, which amendment provides that the judge of probate of any county in the State, must satisfy himself that the oath made by deponent that the quart of whiskey is needed for medicinal purposes, is entirely true and correct. Unless so satisfied, the judge of probate must not issue the license and a penal fine is imposed for a violation of this law.

Singleton Bradford, of Sumter made application after the new law went into effect on March 10 to Thomas E. Richardson, judge of probate for Sumter county, for a whiskey permit. The Sumter official declined to issue the permit on two grounds. He said in his decree that he was perfectly satisfied that the applicant for the whiskey permit was telling the truth and that he believed the affidavit to be true, but he would not issue the permit because he believed the act to be unconstitutional on two grounds.

First, he takes the position that the nature of the act is not expressed in full in the title, as is required by the constitution, and his second objection is that the constitution prescribes what the duties of a judge of probate shall be and names the various duties of the office, one by one, and that no mention of handling whiskey matters is made in the constitution, and that, therefore, the act must be unconstitutional. The mandamus proceedings were then brought to determine whether or not the act is constitutional, and the matter was brought to Spartanburg to be heard before Judge Sease because the Spartanburg judge is presiding in the circuit in which Sumter is located.

Militia Company Election.

At the appointed meeting of the Sumter Company, S. C. Reserves, in the army at 8:30 o'clock Tuesday evening, the election of officers was held. By unanimous vote of the company the appointment of Mr. A. C. Phelps as Captain by Col. Thompson was confirmed. It was decided to elect the two lieutenants by ballot. For First Lieutenant Messrs. R. K. Wilder and George C. Warren were nominated. Mr. Wilder received a majority of the sixty-eight votes cast, and on motion of Mr. Warren the election was made unanimous. For Second Lieutenant Mr. Warren was the only nominee and he was elected by acclamation. It was decided to hold the next meeting at 8 o'clock Thursday April 4th, at which time the question of regular meetings and drills will be taken up and decided.

The Coming of the Chautauqua.

The following letter will doubtless prove of great interest:

Mr. S. H. Edmunds, President Y. M. C. A., Sumter, S. C.

Dear Mr. Edmunds: The definite opening date for the Sumter program has now been arranged for May 1st. The program is now complete and our advertising material goes to press immediately. You will be delighted, we know, in the list of attractions which we have secured for this summer, and we take pleasure in enclosing to you herewith an outline of the main features. As too early publicity takes the "edge" from our advertising, we will appreciate it if the enclosed outline is not allowed to get into the papers.

Cordially yours,
Redpath Chautauqua,
By R. M. Kendall, Sec'y to Manager,
Chicago, March 21, 1918.

Dr. E. R. Wilson has been elected an executor and trustee of the Toumey estate to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Dr. S. C. Baker.

THE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

"Food and Feed Stuff's Full, and Running Over."

Farmers of South Carolina. The most important question before America today is the production of food and feed stuffs necessary to carry on the war, the feeding of our armies and the feeding of the armies of our allies.

We have proudly boasted that imperial South Carolina might be cut off from all the rest of the world and she could still supply her own needs. But we have not been feeding ourselves by half.

The allies entered 1918 with a food supply smaller than at any time since the war began. The crops of Europe will be shorter this year than ever. It is up to America, and it is up to the South.

The food administration will draw an iron ring around the South another year. Do you wish to face starvation like Europe is facing it and go hungry while your pockets jingle with gold, or do you want to share gloriously in this war for liberty?

History records no instance in which the South has ever failed to do her share. For God's sake let history repeat itself now.

You farmers of the South: Forget yourself and put your heart and soul in winning this war. No one has a greater opportunity than you.

Plant food—food—food. Let your slogan be "Food and feed stuff, full and running over."

Augusta Cotton Exchange.

To the Farmers of Sumter County.

The above message from the Augusta Cotton Exchange meets with our hearty approval, and we hope that you will patriotically respond to the sentiments contained therein.

Faithfully yours,
G. A. LEMMON,
County Food Administrator.
E. I. Reardon, Asst. County Food Administrator.

NEXT WINTER'S COAL.

Fuel Administration Planning to Forestall Fuel Shortage.

To Each City Chairman, Fuel Administration for South Carolina.

Dear Sir: Under separate cover we are mailing to you as Chairman for your city 1,000 copies of Form X-4 which are to be filled out by the coal consumers in Sumter and filed by them with their respective coal dealer. We are also sending in the same package a number of copies of form X-2 which are to be filled out by your coal dealers and filed with you as fuel chairman.

These forms are sent in accordance with instructions from Washington, which read in part as follows:

"Every consumer should be urged on or before April 1st, 1918, to place with his regular dealer his order for his reasonable normal requirements for the year ending March 31st, 1919. Such orders must be in writing. When such orders have been entered, the dealers shall proceed to make deliveries thereon, until each consumer, willing to accept same, has received two-thirds of his normal requirements of anthracite coal, provided that orders of six tons or under may be filled in full, and until each consumer is furnished his normal annual requirement of bituminous coal for domestic use. If a consumer already has a quantity on hand, he shall receive only such additional amount as shall make up his normal annual requirements. New customers who are unable to have their orders accepted by a dealer should apply to the local Fuel Administrator who should see that their requirements receive attention from the proper dealer. Carload or cargo-load lots shall not be delivered to a single domestic consumer or to a group of consumers except with the permission of the local Fuel Administrator. Dealers shall file with the local Fuel Administrator on the first of each month a statement containing the names and addresses of consumers to whom deliveries have been made during the previous month and the quantity delivered to each one."

Until consumers have filed with their dealers Form X-1 properly executed the dealers shall not deliver any coal to them.

Any dealer or consumer who violates the foregoing regulations will be subject to the penalties prescribed by the Lever act.

B. B. GOSSETT,
Fuel Administrator.

Winthrop Daughters.

At a recent meeting of the Winthrop Daughters the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. R. C. Forester; Vice President, Miss Abbie Bryan; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Mabel Booth. The chapter is in a most flourishing condition and is now supporting two scholarship girls at Winthrop. The members are planning a silver tea for the near future and wish to solicit the support of their loyal friends in this undertaking.

Get the Men to the Farmer.

(By Mark Swan of The Vigilantes.)

The greatest question before the American people today is "where with shall we be fed?" We neglect to answer the question because we don't have to answer it now. Some of us won't even admit that it is a question.

Reginald has always gone to Rectors after "the show"; there's always been fillet mignon and mushrooms, Spike, the truck driver, has always gone into that quick lunch, around the corner, and called for "ham and"—and from some mysterious region "ham and" has appeared. Why should fillet mignon—and "ham and" fail to answer "present" as long as one has the price?

Reginald has every confidence in Rector's and Spike places unbounded dependence in the quick lunch. It is absolutely inconceivable to either of them that their haven of food should fail them.

And they won't believe it—now—they won't even consider it—or try to understand it, until one day the Food Card will softly step up and tap them on the shoulder. Thereafter Spike will have to get along with a lightweight portion of war bread once in a while—and the best Reginald will get will be shredded peanuts and a split prune for breakfast—and the wig of a shrimp every other Thursday. Yet if you warn them—they call you Calamity Howler.

It's a terrible thing, for people to have to listen to a Calamity Howler, and read his dire prophecies, when there are so many pleasant things to do; but it's worse, much worse, to be a calamity howler; see calamity approaching slowly but relentlessly and feel that howling is in vain.

Yet calamity is coming. We have had a slight foretaste of it this winter. We have had meatless days and porkless days and wheatless days and we've had to deprive poor Fido of the daily lumps of sugar he so gracefully poises on the end of his nose and gobbles up on command, but what we've had is nothing to what we will have this time next year.

Short rations will be with us and instead of feeding Fido sugar we may be appraising him with hungry and speculative eyes. The question can be stated in thirty words. We need more food staples than we raised last year and we're not going to raise nearly as much as we raised last year because the farmer can't get labor.

Does this sound like panic, like fright, like a boggy man? Ask the farmer. There are meetings all over the country where men are agonizing over this question. They are begging for help. Their planting time is upon them. They haven't the men to plant for them, besides why should they be such fools as to plant what they can't harvest? Would you start something you couldn't finish—and lose money?

If you want more evidence, read the papers. A great New York daily carried four columns of a front page article Sunday, March 3d. And if you're not satisfied read the report of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, who admits this condition and states that the department of

agriculture is doing what it can to cope with it, and that he hopes—hopes, mind you—that the labor shortage will be met.

Is this a question to be met with hope? Is this a problem to be solved with some city gardens, and a few volunteer high school boys and girls to work on a few farms?

When war was declared with Germany, we called on every man between 21 and 31 to be ready to fight to defend the national honor and defend our liberties. But this food question is a greater question than the war peril—the success or failure of the war depends on it. We must feed our allies and our army and navy or they'll have to quit cold; the bravest man alive can't fight if he's starving. Our very lives depend on it. Your life. Mine. The lives of all of us.

Consider the scientific way in which we went to war, and the unscientific way in which we go to work. We have met the war question fairly, to the best of our ability, and we're not meeting the food question at all.

There's only one way to meet it. Double the crops. Get men to the farmer. Get them to him at once so he can plant. Keep them at it till after harvest. Subsidize the farmer, or subsidize the farm hand. Double their wages—do anything—but get them.

If necessary, draft them. Draft two million men, and put them at work on the land. Just as the men who are fighting were drafted. Put them under the same conditions. At that they'll be better off than the boys at the front, for they won't be risking their lives—and nine-tenths of them will come home—at harvest time—with a "back to the land" bee in the bonnet.

If this question is put squarely up to the people of this country—and our desperate need explained—public opinion will back a draft. No one will object—least of all the men who have to go. And this is the only remedy in sight. Get men to the farmers—now.

Books Needed by Our Soldiers and Sailors.

Look over your shelves and pick out the books you are going to send to the men in khaki.

Select the books you enjoyed, but will never read again.

Choose some you would like to keep. Others will like them, too.

Men like adventure, Western stories, detective stories, biography, travel, history, and poetry of all kinds.

War books, military manuals and up-to-date technical books are in great demand.

Wrap them up and label the package "Library War Service, American Library Association."

Send the package to the public library.

Some of the farmers who took a long shot on planting cotton have early plantings up to a cotton. They are fortunate—if there is no more frost. The danger is not past, however, as there was a light frost Tuesday morning, but not enough to do any damage.

LIST YOUR FARM LANDS NOW.

Indications are that there will be a good business in farm lands this fall. Those who have lands they wish to sell will probably have exceptional opportunity to sell them. The farmers are making money and are in position to satisfy their ambitions to acquire their own lands. It will pay them better to buy while they are able than wait for a period of reaction in the hope of securing better prices as in such periods credit is restricted and they may be unable to finance any balance of the purchase money which they are unable to pay in cash. And even if financed under unfavorable farming conditions, which we have learned by experience come in recurring periods, they may find it difficult to meet the deferred payments.

From the standpoint of the seller the time is favorable to sell for the reason that the prospective buyers are in shape to buy, and as we know by experience such is not always the case. From the standpoint of the buyer, while the present prices may seem full, under the prevailing favorable farming conditions he is better able to pay the prices asked than lower prices under unfavorable farming conditions. And having before him the best possible use of the profits which the high prices of farm products are enabling him to make.

For the past fifteen years we have been making a careful study of farm lands of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee Counties and we believe that in this period we have made observations and come into possession of facts which enable us to make our services of the highest value to prospective farm buyers and sellers. The fact that during the past season we sold \$508,000 worth of farm property is evidence that we have in a measure at least succeeded in this end.

A good deal of property was listed with us so late in the season last year that owing to the amount of our time taken in showing prospective buyers we were unable to inspect in time to properly advertise it. If you have farm lands which you want to sell it will pay you to list them with us now so that we can have ample time to go over the property carefully and prepare a suitable description to go in our advertising list.

A prospective buyer by letting us know in advance what he will probably want will put us in a position to give him the choice of a large number of suitable places. We expect to have a special salesman for both Clarendon and Lee Counties, and believe we will be in a better position than ever before to handle your business in the real estate line. If you have land to sell or expect to buy this year, take it up with us now.

R. B. BELSER,

Real Estate Broker.

26 N. Main St

Sumter S. C.



OUR LENS GRINDER.

We Grind Lenses, examine the eyes scientifically and fit eye-glasses perfectly. Let us work for you.

We have all prescriptions on file. Broken glasses repaired promptly. Graduate Optometrist and Optician in charge.

W. A. Thompson,

JEWELER & OPTOMETRIST.