

Closing Exercises

Of Big Stone Gap High School Interesting Events.

Miss Ella Blake's large and enthusiastic class in instrumental music gave a piano recital Friday night in the school auditorium which was the "beginning of the end" of the final exercises for the present session.

At the last moment, measles being no respecter of persons, kept a number of the class from taking part in the program, but still about twenty pupils took part, which speaks volumes for the popularity of Miss Blake as an instructor.

The first part of the program as usual, was given to the efforts of the small beginners in the class, who acquitted themselves quite creditably, and very conscientiously.

The playing of the older members of the class showed such admirable technique in the rendering of some very difficult selections that the audience was delighted.

The vocal solos by Misses Margaret Pettit, Mary Skeen and Mabel Willis were a pleasing feature of the evening, particularly that of Miss Mabel Willis, whose really lovely voice was never heard to better advantage, in spite of the failure of her first attempt to chase down an elusive high note in "I Had the World to Give You" as much to her own amusement as that of the audience.

Peter Wolfe's playing is always delightful, and "Old Black Joe" with variations, his number on the program, met with enthusiastic applause from the audience, which like all audiences, has a warm regard for the popular old favorites in whatever guise they are presented.

Declamation and Recitation Contest.

Saturday evening, every seat in the auditorium was filled to listen to the declamation and recitation contest for the "Business Men's Medal," an annual event.

Miss Glessie Gilly, of the Senior class, presided very gracefully at the contest, and announced the names of the different contestants, with the titles of the various recitations, as well as the other numbers of what proved to be a very interesting program.

The opening number was a really beautiful drill by sixteen young ladies representing eight different flowers with costumes to match. Some new and very pretty figures were introduced in what is always a pretty spectacle.

The following pupils with the titles of their recitation or declamation are given below:

- Kula Tackett—The Drowning Singer.
- Louella Johnson—The Ride of Jennie McNeal.
- Mary Skeen—Widow Bedott's Poetry.
- Glady's Libe—Old Mistin.
- Truman Kennedy—The Spelling Lesson.
- Bruce Skeen—Prior to Miss Bell's Appearance.
- Nina Johnson—Tommy's Prayer.
- Margaret Pettit—To the Lions.
- Annie Hazel Fleenor—The Little Orphan.
- Virgie Bounds—He Had to do His Duty.
- Elsie Taylor—Changing Colors.
- Edith Ballard—Counting Eggs.

All the recitations and declamations showed a decided improvement over last year, and it was a hard matter for the committee, Mrs. J. J. Lloyd, Mrs. L. B. Winston and J. M. Hodge to decide on the most deserving, but they finally reached the conclusion that taking everything into consideration, Miss Margaret Pettit's superb rendering of that difficult selection "To the Lions" deserved the medal, and Mr. Hodge in as few words as possible.

Swears Vengeance. Sutherland Found Guilty

Judge Skeen Receives Threatening Letters Anent Lee County Bribery.

Jonesville, Va., May 16.—Faced with an anonymous threat, received through the United States mails, that something like a repetition of the Hillsville tragedy may be repeated, in the event the election law violators in the county are sent to jail, Judge Skeen, of the Circuit Court, has nevertheless determined not to be swayed from his duty, and has just announced that he will carry the election bribery cases to a conclusion.

The cases are scheduled to be called in the courtroom here on next Monday.

Realizing that Judge Skeen was determined in his course, somebody interested in preventing any trials has mailed the judge an unsigned letter of warning. The author of this letter says in part:

"There are about thirty-eight in my crowd, and if any of us are sent to jail, the town will be destroyed. We will die and go to hell before we will submit to being punished."

Notwithstanding this threat, and the fresh reminder in the Hillsville tragedy of a disposition to override courts by force and brutality, Judge Skeen declares that at the proper time he will proceed with the trials of those indicted, and will carry out the trials if the task requires the entire summer.

A special grand jury was empaneled this week to investigate felony cases, and six more election bribery indictments were returned, running the number up to nearly two hundred, since the first sitting of the court on these cases last fall.

Judge Skeen and members of the Lee county bar, following a long consultation with reference to the probable best course to pursue in dealing with the election cases, in view of apparent defectiveness of the election laws, decided to make a test case with reference to whether or not a witness could be compelled to testify that he bought votes, and thus have the Supreme Court of Appeals pass upon the question of whether a vote-buyer can be compelled to testify under the bribery statute of Virginia.

All other election cases, except this one, will, it is now stated, be continued until the legal point involved is settled.

Miss Grace Adams Will Teach in Connellesville.

The many friends of Miss Grace Adams will regret to know that she will not return to Stonegap to teach this year. She will teach in Connellesville, Pa., and regarding her election the Connellesville Courier says:

Miss Grace Adams was the only applicant for the position of substitute to the Ward principals. This is one of the most difficult positions in the schools here. Miss Lulu Oglevee, of her own choice, will be assigned to a grade school this year. She filled the position creditably, but like Miss Lucretia McGray before her, she preferred an assignment to one particular room after three strenuous years as Principals' substitute. Miss Adams is a graduate of the Connellesville High School and of a Virginia normal school. She comes highly recommended as a teacher.

\$135,000 To The N. & W. Shopmen.

Roanoke, Va., May 16.—Yesterday was pay day for the Norfolk & Western shops, the pay roll for the month amounting to \$135,000, and is \$15,000 less than it was last month. The pay roll for the West End shops is \$84,000, which is falling off of \$2,000 as compared with that of last month.

And Sentenced to Six Years In Federal Prison at Atlanta

Abingdon, Va., May 15.—The jury in the case of Walter D. Sutherland, former cashier of the Citizens' National Bank of Clintwood, Va., who has been on trial in the Federal court here for more than a week, returned a verdict of guilty late Tuesday evening and Judge Henry C. McDowell sentenced the prisoner to six years in the Atlanta Penitentiary. In passing sentence Judge McDowell stated that he could not give the prisoner less than five years and that he added on one year for the falsehoods which he had sworn in the case.

Sutherland embezzled nearly \$8,000 of the bank's money and skipped from Clintwood July 1, 1910. He had arranged with the other bank for both to be closed the following day, which was Saturday, Monday was Fourth of July and the bank was not to re-open until Tuesday. He skipped to Canada and when the vault was opened a note was found reading: "Gone to the Tall Timber."

Sutherland was captured a year and a half later working as a common laborer in West Virginia. His first trial resulted in a hung jury. He claimed that he was innocent, that others higher up got the money and that he skipped to shield them. The Strongest witness against him was Mrs. Maggie Charles, a married woman to whom he wrote letters that convinced the jury of his plan to rob the bank and skip. Sutherland will accept the sentence.

The jury deliberated about three hours. The final argument of counsel consumed the most of the day. There was much interest locally in the outcome of the case and the prisoner's conviction occasioned no surprise.

At the conclusion of the trial Judge McDowell imposed fines of two hundred dollars each on United States District Attorney Barnes Gillespie and Attorney Holladay Sutherland, the latter counsel for and a relative of the prisoner, for a fist fight which they had in open court Monday.

Will Virginia Be True To Taft?

Washington, May 18.—Rumors are still current here, and a little more persistent than before, that some of the Virginia delegates to the Chicago convention pledged to Taft are ready to swing over to Roosevelt, because the latter looks like will sweep the field, and the break may come at once.

One of the Taft delegates said today when asked about the matter that he was not in the least worried about the situation, and that Roosevelt's gains was not causing him any loss of sleep. He will stand firm for Taft, but there is no telling how others will go.

A swing to Roosevelt now might mean a severe blow to the future political hopes of Congressman Slemp, who has thus far kept the Taft line straight, and free from disruption.

Honor Roll of Big Stone Gap High School

- Six Grade, Section A—Oscar Sutherland.
- Seventh Grade, Section A—Glady's Lyle. Section B—Hattie Johnson.
- Third Year High School—Byron Rhoads.
- Fourth Year High School—Glessie Gilly and Ruby Kemper.

A lifer in the Minnesota penitentiary refuses to accept freedom. Wonder how he managed to inform himself so well as to conditions on the outside?—Nashville Banner.

Panama Canal Work Booming Electric Signal System

Will Soon be opened to the Commerce of the World.

Washington, D. C., May 18.—The consideration of the bill to provide for the administration of the Panama Canal, which was begun in the House of Representatives on Thursday, opens a new chapter in the history of an undertaking in which the United States has succeeded where all others have failed. For many generations it has been the dream of far-seeing men to open a new pathway between the two oceans by cutting the strip of land which connects the continents of North and South America and shortening, by weeks, the time ships must consume to go from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Frigate failure resulted from the efforts of the French government to build the Panama Canal. Few lessons could be learned by our engineers and statesmen from studying French methods. Unknown difficulties had to be met and new plans devised for meeting them. It was done successfully and the fact that the opening of the canal is assured is a tribute to the genius of America. The legislation now being considered must be enacted practically without precedent. Great problems must be solved, with little but reason and instinct to guide. Intricate and delicate matters of diplomacy as well as grave methods of administration must be decided. Congress has entered a new field in determining what it shall decide for the regulation of the Panama Canal. The answer it will make is to mark a new epoch in United States history and the history of the world. Men of all nations as well as citizens of this country are listening to hear what determination is reached. The regulation of the Panama Canal is one of the most important pieces of legislation ever presented to the American Congress.

Studying Typhoid

Health Department Will Continue Investigation begun Last Year in State

Richmond, Va., May 18.—Plans are being perfected by the health authorities of the State to continue the investigation of typhoid fever begun last year. As heretofore, every known outbreak of typhoid will be investigated, and, in addition, Dr. A. W. Freeman, Assistant Health Commissioner, will renew the study of typhoid fever in those localities where the disease is epidemic and reappears year after year. In this work, Dr. Freeman will be assisted by Dr. L. L. Lumsden of the United States Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, who collaborated with him last year. It is expected that the inquiry during the summer will supplement the results already presented by Drs. Freeman and Lumsden before the American Public Health Association in Havana and reprinted in the current issue of the Association's Journal.

The Health Department has renewed its request that every outbreak of typhoid fever be reported promptly in order that the necessary investigation may be made without delay.

Democrats and Republicans know that General Ayers has done a great work for the Southwest Virginia. No man did more than he to bring in the railroads, open the mines and set on foot the industrial development that is making this section famous. These facts will not be forgotten.—Gate City Herald.

With the Coal Operations in Harlan County, Ky.

With the arrival of whether favorable for construction work, which was greatly retarded during the winter and early spring, the development of Harlan county is proceeding at a rapid pace.

Three large mining plants, in addition to the three which are already shipping coal, will be in operation by next fall or earlier. These newest mines are being opened up along the line of the Clover Fork extension of the Wasieto branch. This extension is rapidly being completed to its terminus at Ages Creek and from present indications will be ready for operation about July 1st. The camp buildings of the mining companies are already dotting the country along this road and hundreds of hands are being employed on the railroad and coal development.

The Harlan Coal Mining Company, which controls 10,000 acres of land along both sides of the Clover Fork extension, has just let contracts for equipment of character differing from the type customary in this section. This company is opening the Harlan seam 360 feet above drainage level, but is not planning to lower the coal down the mountainside on a rail incline, but to dump it in large bins when brought from the mine mouth. From these bins it will be delivered by a retarding conveyor to the tipple below in the valley. The operation of this conveyor will be almost automatic, and the coal will flow from the mines to the railroad cars with a minimum of breakage, and its movement will be controlled by one man.

Nearly all the mines in the Harlan field will be electrically operated. The Wisconsin Steel Company, which is coking its product for shipment to the furnaces of the International Harvester Company at South Chicago has recently added to its mines machines and motors, as has the Terry's Fork Coal Company, at Wallins. The Wilhoit Coal Company, which has been operating several months and pick mining its coal, is now installing a power plant and will undercut its coal with chain machines. Both the Harlan Coal Mining Company and the Harlan Town Coal Company are putting in electrical plants. The Clover Fork Coal Company is opening up one of the largest of the Harlan operations, in charge of Messrs. B. W. and A. F. Whitfield, which will be shipping coal before the end of the summer.—Harlan Enterprise.

Lee County Championship.

Jonesville, Va., May 20.—The Cumberland High School won the school championship at this place Saturday by defeating the Dryden High School by the close score of 5 to 4. It was a pitcher's battle between C. Richmond for Cumberland and E. Coldiron for Dryden, as was the game of 1911, when the Dryden High School defeated the Cumberland High School 5 to 2.

Following are the player who took part in the game:

- Cumberland.—G. Combs, 1b; Fugate, 2b; Blessing, 3b; Carmony, ss; Yeary, rf; Morgan, cf; D. Richmond, lf; C. Richmond, p; R. Combs, c.
- Dryden.—Tritt, 1b; G. Coldiron, 2b; L. Johnson, 3b; Kelly, ss; R. Johnson, rf; Flannery, cf; Ward, lf; E. Coldiron, p; Gilbert, c.

Married.

At the home of Mrs. Riggs, the bride's mother, last Sunday Rev. Johnson performed the ceremony binding together as man and wife Miss Ida Powers to Mr. M. M. Flannery, the shoe man of Appalachia. Compliments to the parties, neither of whom ever took a more lasting stitch.—Appalachia Progressive.

On Southern Railway Between Washington and Atlanta.

Washington, D. C., May 16.—One of the most complete and up-to-date electric automatic signal systems in operation on any railway in the world is to be installed by the Southern Railway on the important stretch of its Washington-Atlanta main line lying between Denim, N. C., the first station north of Greensboro, and a point just south of Charlotte and embracing practically 96 miles, nearly all of which is double track. Contract has been let and the work will be completed in the next few months. Not only will the signals be operated by electricity but the same power will be used to light all stations, switch and signal lights between Greensboro and Charlotte.

One hundred and sixteen three-position upper-quadrant automatic signals, representing the very latest product of engineering science, will be erected and so located that blocks will be approximately two miles in length. The system will be operated by alternating electric current furnished from a main plant at Spencer, N. C., and auxiliary stations at Charlotte and Greensboro, which will be so constructed that should the Spencer plant become inoperative from any cause, the power of the Southern Power Company can be immediately cut in without any interruption to the operation of trains or the lighting system. The current to operate the system will be transmitted by a line carrying 4,400 volts constructed on the right-of-way of the Southern Railway and at each signal and station transformers to step down the current to 110 volts will be located.

The installation of this system of signals will not only provide protection against the possibility of collisions but will also detect the presence of a broken rail, an open switch, a washed out bridge, or a car standing on a side track, dangerously near the main track, thus affording a greatly increased measure of protection. Engineers approaching a signal and observing the signal arm in a horizontal position or a red light at night will know that a train is in the first block ahead and must stop. Should they find the signal arm raised 45 degrees above horizontal or a green light at night they will know that a train is in the second block ahead and they must proceed with caution. When they find the signal arm vertical or a white light at night they will know that they may proceed at full speed as the track is clear of all obstructions and no train nearer than two blocks ahead.

The Southern Railway is just completing the construction of a similar system on the twelve mile double track stretch from Monroe, Va., through Lynchburg, to Montview, and although a very efficient manual block system is operated on all lines on which traffic is at all heavy, President Finley has announced that it has been determined to install automatic electric signal system on all double track lines and on all lines which may hereafter be double tracked.

Ed. Callahan, former sheriff of Breathitt county, and who was a member of the Hargis clan, who was shot from ambush at his home in that county on Friday, May 3, died from his wounds last Saturday. His remains were interred at Crockettville, near his home Monday afternoon the funeral cortege being escorted by one hundred of his friends heavily armed. It is freely predicted that the killing of the ex-sheriff will result in the immediate reopening of the Callahan-Denton feud.—Pineville (Ky) Sun.