

## THE COLUMBIA HERALD.

Published Weekly by The Columbia Herald Company, Inc., J. I. Finney, President, W. D. Hastings, Secretary and Treasurer.

Entered in the Postoffice at Columbia, Tenn., as second-class mail matter.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
One Year ..... \$1.25  
Six Months ..... .75

SUPERINTENDENT GRAHAM.

Maury county has never had a more efficient, more thoroughly conscientious or more energetic official than Prof John P. Graham for the past fourteen years county superintendent of public instruction and unanimously elected for the eighth term on Monday. His election was not only a deserved compliment but it was in response to public sentiment. He has behind him not only his fellow workers in the schools but the great majority of public spirited citizens who have an appreciation of the important functions of the department of education.

Mr. Graham is not only a splendid official, always ready to do his full duty regardless of the cost, but he is an all round patriot. He has been serving the county faithfully for years at less than a living wage. If he had not had other resources he could not have lived on the beggarly compensation paid him. But he has never considered self. As long as the teachers of the county were grossly unpaid he declined to ask for any increase for himself. He has paid all of his expenses and visited repeatedly every section of the county. The humblest rural school has not been neglected.

During the time that he has been superintendent of the county Mr. Graham has disbursed probably a million dollars. His records show where every cent of it has gone. He knows every detail of school administration and can figure within a few hundred dollars of the amount needed to make the schools function. He is a veritable encyclopedia of school information. His qualifications were attested when he was given a life certificate as county superintendent.

Prof. Graham is a patriot as well as an official. He is the leader in his community of all good and worth while movements. He is generous in his support of every interest that makes for the welfare of his fellow man. No man holds to a higher degree the confidence of his neighbors, his associates and the members of the county court. Every man who knows John Graham will subscribe to any statement that he makes. Verily his word is as good as his bond.

The Herald has watched and labored with Prof. Graham for the past fourteen years. It has an intimate acquaintance not only with the official but with the man. It can therefore testify to every fact herein stated. His even temper, his sane and conservative conclusions, never reached until after the subject has been fully weighed, his freedom from prejudice, his absolute open mindedness and his honesty of mind and goodness of heart, admirably equip him for the performance of his duties as superintendent.

Maury county is to be congratulated upon its good fortune in securing his services for another two years.

**FOR SHEEP PROTECTION.**

No sooner has the long fight been won for a supreme court decision upholding a really worth while sheep protection law, until the legislative hopper is flooded with bills for the repeal of the act. To repeal the so-called dog law of 1919 would be a distinctly retrograde movement and efforts in that direction should bring a chorus of protests from the farmers and forward thinking citizens of Tennessee.

The dog law, which should properly be turned an act to encourage the raising of sheep in Tennessee, has not had a fair trial. Its enforcement has been hampered by the opinion of lawyers and lower courts that it was not constitutional, but even despite this handicap, it has proved to be a real insurance to sheep owners against losses in their flocks through the depredations of dogs. In many counties the collections have more than paid for every sheep killed by worthless canines.

Agriculture is the chief resource of Tennessee. Live stock farming is not only the most profitable character of farming in this state but it promotes increased crop yields and maintains soil fertility. Anything that will encourage the growing of sheep, the best farm scavenger and altogether the most profitable farm animal, should have the support of patriotic Tennesseans. The Herald does not believe that the bills seeking the repeal of the dog law reflect the best sentiment of the progressive farmers of Tennessee.

County councils of agriculture and other farm organizations should join in an emphatic protest against the repeal of the dog law. That dogs are a menace to sheep raising all admit. There is therefore nothing but simple justice in the proposition that they should contribute to an insurance fund for the protection of sheep against their depredations.

## SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS.

It will not be denied that The Herald is the consistent and loyal friend of the public schools. It states nothing more than the simple truth when it says that no agency or institution in this section of the state has labored more earnestly and more effectively for the advancement of the public school interests than The Herald. It is equally true that a large measure of credit is due The Herald for the advancement made by this great department of government. This by way of preface.

There will be presented to the legislature on behalf of the teachers certain proposed legislation that not only will not advance the cause of popular education but will really prove a retrograde movement and will inevitably cause a reaction that is bound to be harmful to the great cause. Among the suggestions made in this ambitious program is the erection of residences at public expense for all of the school teachers. The counties lack sufficient funds today to provide decent, sanitary and comfortable school houses and under present conditions it will be years before sufficient funds can be obtained for this purpose.

The Herald is exceedingly anxious that the public school system should be maintained at its present standard and gradually improved, but largely increased expenditures for any department of government are not to be considered at this time. Progress must be steady, sane and not made at the expense of every other interest otherwise reaction will come and much of the ground won as the result of many hard fought battles will be lost.

The idea of having a teacher's residence erected at public expense for all of the school teachers may be in itself a good one, although The Herald fears that it smacks rather too much of paternalism and would be to an extent an invasion of the private life of the teachers, but assuredly this is not the time to embark upon such an ambitious and expensive program.

The Herald for some reason opposes a minimum salary law that would prove burdensome to the taxpayers and that in view of the business depression in the county, would give compensation to some teachers out of proportion to what their earning capacities would be outside of the profession or would be out of line of the income of the majority who pay the taxes to sustain the schools.

There are many changes and many improvements that could and must ultimately be made in the school system of the state. It is far from being what it should be, but we will invite disaster if every necessary reform is attempted in a day, or if schemes that in themselves are sound, should be put into effect in advance of sound public sentiment. The Herald, of course entertains the highest regard for the members of the teaching profession and has repeatedly testified to their self-sacrificing devotion to the public weal, but it recognizes that there are other interests that must be consulted in making a program for improvement in the schools. As the sincere friend of the schools and the teachers this note of warning is sounded by The Herald.

**BACK TAX INVESTIGATION.**

There can be no reasonable objection to an investigation of the back tax collections or the activities of any other department of the state government. In fact a thorough and exhaustive investigation of all of them would be altogether proper and by this statement it is not intimated that they have not been properly managed.

But a large majority of the members of the legislature have already voted for and elected Mr. Thomason, who has been responsible for the administration of the back tax laws, for another term of two years. This was done in spite of the charges that now form the basis for the demand for an investigation. It is doubtful, therefore, if any good purpose could be served by incurring the large expense called for by the Davidson delegation's resolution. Mr. Thomason has been vindicated by the legislative majority, given a vote of confidence and approval and the proposal now to re-open the issue by a long and expensive investigation by a legislative committee, smacks rather of politics. The Herald did not support Mr. Thomason, but earnestly hoped that Col. Berry would be elected, but it accepts the result of the legislative caucus and does not believe that the interests of the state will be served by reopening the issue.

**MRS. BRADLEY ERWIN COMES TO THE FRONT**

IN 1920 SOLD \$765 WORTH OF TURKEYS, EGGS AND CHICKENS.

(From Wednesday's Daily Herald.) Mrs. Bradley Erwin, of McCains, has possibly registered up the largest amount of cold, clean cash in her bank account than any other woman living on a Maury county farm in her lines. Mrs. Erwin raised and sold during 1920 \$765.00 worth of turkeys, chickens and eggs, of this amount \$255.00 was for turkeys.

From her barnyard fowls she has made enough money to pay all the taxes, buy the sugar and coffee, pay the insurance, clothe the family and then have enough left for extra spending money.

**O. L. DORTCH ELECTED ON PHOENIX BOARD**

From Wednesday's Daily Herald.) In the account of the newly elected board of directors of the Phoenix National Bank the name of O. L. Dorfch was inadvertently omitted from the list. Mr. Dorfch was elected to fill the place of A. C. Williams, formerly of this county, but who recently removed to Chapel Hill, Marshall county. Mr. Williams requested that his name be left off the directorate.

County councils of agriculture and other farm organizations should join in an emphatic protest against the repeal of the dog law. That dogs are a menace to sheep raising all admit. There is therefore nothing but simple justice in the proposition that they should contribute to an insurance fund for the protection of sheep against their depredations.

## ENTERPRISE CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS GOOD TALKS MADE

BIG SCHOOL RALLY FOR SIXTH DISTRICT WILL BE HELD ON FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH.

BOYS CORN CLUB GETS BUSY

Community Poultry Show Will Be Held at Enterprise on January 22—Committees Preparing for Fair Next Fall.

(From Saturday's Daily Herald.) Several people of the community brought eggs to the meeting yesterday for the purpose of having them judged in accordance with the announced plans to pay a prize of fifty cents for winners in each class. Mrs. J. D. Barnett won the first prize on brown eggs, while Albert Holt captured a similar prize on white eggs.

The meeting asked for the appointment of a committee on resolutions opposing the new proposed law which would put all automobile license money on state highways. The resolution calls for the expenditure of this money upon all the roads of the district.

Seventy-two men, women and children of the "Enterprise" community attended the reorganization meeting of the Community Club at the School house Friday afternoon. The meeting was called to order by the President, Albert Holt, and after three old fashioned spelling matches the club got down to work.

The Boys Corn Club was the first topic discussed, and farmers of that section agreed to furnish pure seed free to any boy who will agree to work an acre of corn this year under the direction of County Agent McLean, who will be assisted in that section by Prof. W. N. Bingham.

Eight boys agreed to enter the Enterprise Boys Corn Club, and it is expected that the competition will be keen in that section. Captain T. Y. English agreed to pay \$12.50 per barrel to the boy who makes the best yield. C. M. Murphy agreed to furnish the boys pure Neals Paymaster seed.

The Pig Club will be organized at a later date.

Plans were made and committees named to arrange for the community fair to be held next fall, and an effort will be made to have the Enterprise capture the state prize for the best community exhibit.

On January 22 a community poultry show will be given at Enterprise, and committees were appointed to arrange for this fair. Mrs. Kate M. Wells, District Demonstration Agent will judge the poultry at this fair.

Mrs. Kate M. Wells discussed in a most entertaining manner the woman's work for the coming year. The agricultural program for the year has been mapped out by County Agent McLean, and will be submitted at the next meeting of the club, to be held at an early date.

Miss Louise Weed, Maury county's new health nurse, working under the direction of the American Red Cross, made a short talk, explaining the nature of her duties as health nurse. She was assured of the hearty support and the co-operation of the community.

Plans were made for a big school rally for the entire sixth district to be held at Enterprise on the first Monday in March. The program for the big rally will be announced as soon as it has been worked out.

Officers of the Enterprise community Club for the ensuing year were elected as follows: John Nelson, president; C. C. Robinette, vice president; Miss Mary Lee Atkinson, secretary.

The dog law, which should properly be turned an act to encourage the raising of sheep in Tennessee, has not had a fair trial. Its enforcement has been hampered by the opinion of lawyers and lower courts that it was not constitutional, but even despite this handicap, it has proved to be a real insurance to sheep owners against losses in their flocks through the depredations of dogs. In many counties the collections have more than paid for every sheep killed by worthless canines.

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