

The Manassas Journal

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\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

LARKIN HEADS COUNTY BOARD

Manassas Supervisor Elected to Succeed Chairman Dawson, of Occoquan District.

Supervisor James R. Larkin, of Manassas district, was elected chairman of the Prince William supervisors when the new board held its organization meeting on Tuesday. This is the first time in many years that Manassas district has held the chairmanship. The retiring chairman, Supervisor J. L. Dawson, of Occoquan district, has held office about eight years, having succeeded former Supervisor J. T. Syncox, of Dumfries, who was preceded by former Supervisor Peyton Manuel, of Brentsville district. The late B. D. Merchant, of Manassas, presided over the board more than twenty years ago.

The new board which met on Tuesday is composed of Supervisors Larkin, of Manassas district; Dawson, of Occoquan district; William Crow, of Dumfries district; D. E. Earhart, of Brentsville district; J. E. Keys, of Coles district, and Rolfe Robertson, of Gainesville district. Supervisor Dawson, the retiring chairman, was made temporary chairman of the meeting, on motion of Supervisor Earhart. The election of the new chairman was by unanimous vote, Supervisor Larkin not voting.

Business was transacted by the board as follows:

Order for warrant, \$56.82, to O. C. Hutchison, paymaster, and charged to special appropriation for improvement of highway from Haymarket to Thoroughfare. Paymaster's report to the board was as follows: The county treasurer has charged in county fund with \$1,400.00 amount of county's portion of 1922 capitation tax collected by treasurer and remitted to state auditor as provided by law, and with the further sum of \$33 for delinquent collections.

Order for payment of \$3 per month out of county fund to Mrs. Sid Cross.

County warrant, \$72, drawn on Occoquan district road fund for salary of H. L. Tubbs, when there was no money in county fund, ordered credited to Occoquan district road fund.

Estimate for construction of county road No. 5, Hoadly road between Coles district line and Lowe's corner, amounting to \$12,163.45 and made by J. C. Albright, district engineer, December 21, 1923, accepted and approved; chairman of State Highway Commission requested to furnish survey and detailed estimate.

Resolution of June 26, 1923, affecting highway commission's estimate of \$16,650 for resurfacing county road No. 3 from Kewitt's corner through Nokesville to Fitzwater's gate, amended so as to read \$10,790.65, as per new estimate.

Order for warrant, \$4, from county fund, payable to Robert Jarman, jailer, for mattresses for county jail.

Appropriation of \$400 to be expended in conjunction with \$1,310 collected by citizens for improving highway from Kewitt's corner to Chappell Springs and Greenwich highway, via farm of the late S. A. Marsteller.

Report of viewers for road over old R. F. and P. right of way leading into the T. Powell Davis place, Occoquan district, filed and resubmitted for report.

The following approximate estimates of the cost and maintenance of roads, prepared for the board by the State Highway Commission, were accepted:

No. 6. Blandford Bridge road between Blandford bridge and Manassas, \$507.71.

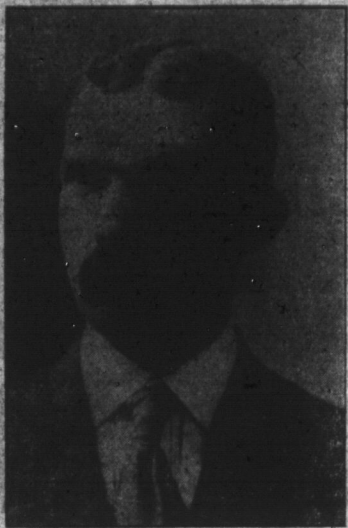
No. 6. Blandford Bridge road between Blandford bridge and Independent Hill, \$1,214.98.

No. 5. Hoadly road between Hoadly and Coles district line, \$507.15.

No. 2. Dumfries road between Dumfries and Independent Hill, \$347.29.

No. 1. Hoadly road between

New Chairman Prince William Supervisors



JAMES R. LARKIN

SMALL FIRES IN MONDAY'S COLD

U. B. Parsonage Damaged—Fire Starts from Torch Used on Frozen Water Pipes.

The United Brethren parsonage, West street adjoining Asbury U. B. Church, was saved from destruction by fire late Monday afternoon by prompt work on the part of volunteer firemen. The blaze started from a blow torch which was being used to thaw out frozen water pipes. Four rooms were damaged to the extent of about \$300. Furniture belonging to the occupants, Rev. C. J. Racey and family, was said to be damaged to the extent of \$100. The house was insured, but Rev. Mr. Racey had no insurance on his household goods.

The family has been unable to occupy the house since the fire. They are staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Burdge.

The pastor expressed, on behalf of his family and the trustees of the church, warm appreciation of "the heroic work of the fire company."

A chimney burning out threatened fire Monday morning at the Larkin property, Centreville road, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Blakemore. Several rooms were damaged by smoke.

Citizens responded promptly to the fire alarms given by the fire whistle and operators at the telephone exchange. While the weather was extremely cold, the fire fighters fortunately were not hampered by high winds, and the flames were soon extinguished.

Prompt discovery probably averted a serious fire recently at "Willowmoor," the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Covington, near town. Mr. Covington's coat was found ablaze on the rack in the hall and the flaming garment was thrown outside before the fire spread to the house.

Centre street between West street and Grant avenue is being improved by the application of cinders. Centre street from Main to East is in fine condition now, a layer of cinders having elevated the road bed, which was formerly under water after a rain. A new cinder pavement has been laid on Centre street from Fairview avenue to Prescott avenue.

Sanborn's corner and Bacon Race, \$1,546.81.

No. 2. Woolsey road between Haymarket and Hickory Grove, \$323.59.

The State Highway Commission was requested to accept these estimates, which were made December 14, 1923, by Mr. C. L. Kinnier, in lieu of estimates required to be furnished by county, and to authorize the board to proceed with work, according to law.

It is understood that the use of state money aid in paying royalty on local materials will be limited to 50 per cent of the unit prices shown on approximate estimates.

The board adjourned to Tuesday, February 5.

PATRON SEEKS SCHOOL FACTS

Suggests Mass Meeting of Citizens to Consider Serious Situation in County.

Dear Editor: The writer, like many of our citizens, slow-going and apathetic when the welfare of our schools is considered, was rudely awakened from his state of coma when he read in your worthy columns of last week that owing to a financial shortage our school year for this term would be shortened to seven months. Now, being but poorly versed in matters pertaining to school finances, he immediately questioned several of our citizens as to the cause of Manassas district's pitiful plight, and as the answers varied and reasons differed so, he thought it might not be a bad idea to submit them to your readers.

He knew that the adjacent counties maintained more accredited high schools than our own, and funds for their maintenance were to be had when needed. He had heard educational speakers time and again point to Manassas High School as a model for the state, and had seen teacher after teacher leave to go to adjoining counties for a more lucrative position, as our school could not compete. So he asked them all this question: "What's the matter with our schools, and why do Manassas children have to beg for an education when our neighbors regard it as a child's birthright?"

Here are the answers, but as they would not be quoted direct, I will refer to them as first:

Citizen A: The county assessment is too low, while the district assessment is too high.

Citizen B: The district assessment is too low, and the county assessment, too high.

Citizen C: The county superintendent has employed too many extra teachers. While I believe they are all right, yet we cannot afford them. The pay of these teachers would run the high school for two months.

Citizen D: Let Mr. McDonald furnish us with an itemized report of receipts and expenditures of Manassas district funds, and then we can arrive at some intelligent conclusion. As it is, we work in the dark. No budget has been made up this year.

Citizen E: Mr. McDonald should have the court mandamus the board of supervisors and demand that they raise enough taxes to properly run the schools.

So it goes. From the foregoing assertions, right or wrong, we face one horrible fact: We stand at this writing a fine chance to lose our accredited high school. Shall we follow the line of least resistance and see it go, or shall we formulate a working plan like the people of Loudoun? They have instructed their delegate to the legislature now in session, with the sanction of the board of supervisors, to lay a capitation tax of \$1 on every citizen. They believe in schools.

Let's wake up. We are entitled to know the facts. Let's put in the "unforgiving minute" sixty seconds' worth of serious thought and work, and call a mass meeting. Free schools mean free people.

O. D. WATERS.

PRESSURE TANK BLOWS UP

A water system pressure tank in the basement of the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Lyon, near town, exploded Tuesday evening about 7 o'clock, wrecking the living room above it. The explosion fortunately came at supper time, when the family was in another part of the house.

The floor of the living room was torn up, rug demolished and a chair torn to pieces. The cause of the explosion is unknown. Mr. Lyon says he has known of similar tanks in use for twenty years without an accident.

A new tank is to be installed immediately, but this time it will be located in a trench outside the house.

LEAGUES A HELP TO THE SCHOOLS

Much Needed Assistance Rendered Here by High School and Bennett Leagues.

In face of the present situation in regard to the schools, the work of the Manassas school leagues in providing help and equipment should be realized anew by the public.

The school community leagues under the State Co-Operative Education Association have been doing a great work all through the state, in fostering a co-operative spirit among the people and through the resulting co-operative effort in providing help for both school and community. In the troubled history of the Manassas schools for the past few years, it is difficult to see what would have been done without the aid of the school leagues, for practically all of the equipment which the schools have received during that time has been provided by them.

The Bennett School League, which was founded first has had the interior of the Bennett Building (which was badly out of repair) renovated; has bought curtains for the entire building and supplied books and much needed equipment of all kinds for the work. In addition to this, several hundred dollars were given to the school board year before last, in order to keep the school open for the full term. This year the league has fitted out one of the rooms with desks at a cost of \$260.00.

The High School League has also renovated the school assembly room, fitting it out with curtains and chairs, and has bought several valuable sets of historic maps and equipment. Besides doing much community educational work, it has also, in conjunction with the Bennett league, entertained the county teachers in their yearly institutes.

In view, then, of the present situation, it should be clearly realized that the school money has not been extravagantly or needlessly spent. For, because of the straightened condition of the school board, our schools would have suffered badly for equipment for their work, and for repairs urgently needed, if it had not been for the work of the leagues. Also, we cannot go with less teaching force than we have and keep our school standardized, or keep its state appropriations. Again, we cannot pay our teachers less and keep a teaching force; for the graded schools in the counties around us are paying more, and the high school teachers with the preparation they are required to have would have no difficulty in getting more elsewhere. We have secured and keep our present faculty in considerable measure because the high standardization of the school makes it worth while to be here.

(The facts presented above are from the Committee on Publicity of the Manassas High School Community League.)

MRS. MEETZE A HOSTESS

Missionary Society Takes Up Study of China.

(Mrs. J. H. Dodge, Secretary) Mrs. C. J. Meetze entertained the Presbyterian Missionary Society on Tuesday afternoon. Our devotional leader opened the meeting with prayer, which was followed by the reading of the 91st Psalm, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High," pointing out the significance of this verse.

The topic of the afternoon was Southern China. Mrs. J. H. Dodge, as leader, read an article on the conditions of the city of Canton, China, which was set forth as being more progressive than other Chinese cities. The meeting closed with benediction.

After the program all enjoyed a pleasant social hour and the fine repast prepared by the hostess, assisted by her little daughter Christine and Miss Beulah Baker.

HAS UNIVERSITY PLANS

Mr. Hopkins Says Eastern Will Reopen as University.

The Eastern College property is to be the home of a "big university," according to Mr. C. Maurice Hopkins, of Washington, who has been to Manassas to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. S. Hopkins, and to inspect the college property. He purchased the property from Mr. J. R. Hayden, he says, with the intention of opening a successful school, but is not ready to announce his plans. He has appointed Mr. Thomas H. Lion, he states, to represent him here.

BILL TO CHANGE COURT DISTRICTS

Virginia Legislature Asked to Place Prince William with Stafford County.

(Communicated)

A bill of vital importance to this county has been offered in the Virginia legislature, rearranging the judicial circuits of the state. Under the proposed measure, the sixteenth judicial circuit (Judge Samuel G. Brent), which is now composed of Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington counties and Alexandria city, will embrace Fairfax and Arlington counties and Alexandria city, while Prince William will be tacked on the circuit with Stafford, King George and other of the lower counties, which courts are now presided over by Judge R. H. L. Chichester.

There is very decided opposition to taking Prince William out of this circuit, and tacking on the lower circuit.

It will be far more inconvenient and expensive for litigants and attorneys having business before the judge in vacation, to reach the judge in the event of this change than at present. If the judge happened to be holding court down the river—and with the new circuit, he will, of necessity, be holding court continually—much delay will be experienced. Whereas, at present, the judge may always be reached within two or three hours, at the most, and with practically no expense.

In the event of this proposed change becoming effective, it is highly probable that this county will get a term of but one week, whereas, it usually takes about two weeks to conclude the business of a term.

The matter is now before a committee of the House of Delegates where the matter will be threshed out.

It is said that the object of re-districting the state is to eliminate some of the circuits entirely, in the interest of economy.

But, to take Prince William county out of the present circuit, under the proposed bill, not only will not be an economical change, but will actually add to the state costs of administration.

The present circuit will actually be dismissed, as no other county will be added in the place of Prince William.

On the other hand, as the state defrays the expenses of the judge when holding court, including his traveling expenses, it is obvious that it will cost the state more for the judge to come from Fredericksburg than from Alexandria.

Economy is the sole reason urged for the change; and if economy is to be the controlling consideration, it is self evident that the framers of this bill have not carefully canvassed the situation.

Mrs. J. D. Janney, of Occoquan, with her little daughter Jean, who had been the guests of her sister, Mrs. John L. Hynson, left on Wednesday to spend a month at Fredericksburg with Mr. Janney's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tyson Janney. Mr. Janney, who is connected with the Janney store at Occoquan, is traveling in the middle west in the interest of a wheat concern. Mrs. Janney expects to join him later.

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PRIZE OPINIONS OF PROHIBITION

Writer Quotes Winning Letters From Readers of Collier's—Discusses Publicity.

(H. A. Knevels, Secretary Law Enforcement League)

Referring to an editorial carried by The Journal in the last issue, our friends suggest that inferences may be drawn from it which we believe were not intended. It is true that the owner of The Journal agreed to give space to the writer as secretary of the Prince William County Law-Enforcement League. One inference might be that the writer sort of put one over on The Journal with the kind of matter used.

We wish to state that after three or four articles had run in The Journal by the writer, that the owner of The Journal publicly commended those articles, and said that we were proceeding on exactly the right lines, the educational lines, and to go ahead with the articles. Later, when the threatening letter had been received, he called us into The Journal office and told us about it and said he could not be bluffed that way; that if the writer did not come up each week with an article as scheduled, he would tell the world that the writer possessed the yellow streak, not the owner. Later, when for various reasons no copy appeared at The Journal office for two weeks, the writer was urged by the owner to continue the articles.

The writer emphatically disclaims any responsibility for the untrue versions of any stories circulated, as he has given out nothing.

The writer is responsible for only what appeared in The Journal and no more. We did not make a reputation for Manassas. She made it for herself. When we came to Manassas five years ago we asked how the town stood on the liquor question. We were told by all that Manassas had the reputation of being well, it was a long ways from being flattering.

A few weeks ago at a meeting of the Law-Enforcement League, we asked to be relieved of the work of publicity agent, with the result that it brought out a unanimous vote of thanks for the work we have done and an insistent demand that we continue the work. We take it that we have the support and approval of the league in this work.

Manassas has come to be our town. Prince William county has come to be our county. If our words have sometimes been unkind, it is because we would cure the disease, as the surgeon would with the knife. We have come to love the people here. Remembering the many kind words and deeds of the people of this community, especially through sickness and death, we feel that no sacrifice we could make for them would be too great. We have even brought ourselves to vote the democratic ticket.

We heard a story from the lips of William Jennings Bryan a few days ago at the convention of the Anti-Saloon League in Washington. He said that when the republicans suggested to him that his party was the whisky party, it made him mad twice. It made him mad once because they would suggest such a thing about his party; and it made him mad again because he couldn't deny it. That is about the way we feel about Manassas.

Collier's, The National Weekly, has offered \$2,000 in prizes for the best letters on prohibition and enforcement, for the purpose, as it states, of shaking up the people's minds. The first prize letter won \$1,000. Here it is: by Willis P. MacGerald, Chicago, Ill.

Let us assume that the Eighteenth Amendment is immutable. Cannot a constitutional, common-sense, workable program be arrived at that shall conserve the great good national prohibition has accomplished.

(Continued on Page Three)