

PORTSMOUTH

CONFERENCE IS HELD ON CRADOCK SCHOOL SITUATION

Utilities Company Asked to Finance Institution, but Finds it Impossible

ASSESSMENT OF EACH RESIDENT NOW PROPOSED

In order to cope with the educational situation in Cradock, which has developed a possibility that the public school will be closed March 1, a meeting was held last night at the fire station in the town between the school committee and the officers of the Cradock Utilities Corporation. The direct purpose of last night's meeting, which was called by the school committee was to endeavor to have the Utilities Corporation in some way finance the schools until the end of the term, but the officers of the former declined, stating that under their charter they were not legally permitted to use their funds for any purpose other than that of the demands of the Utilities Corporation.

As a counter proposal it was suggested that the officers, as individuals, could lend assistance to the raising of funds, and J. B. Duncan, chairman of the Cradock Citizens' Council, stated that at the mass meeting, which has been called for Monday night, the people of Cradock would be asked to pay up their personal property tax, totalling \$1,274, and each family, especially those having children, would be requested to contribute \$5 for the maintenance of the schools until the end of the present term. He said that there were approximately 500 families in Cradock at this time, and if each will contribute the amount suggested, the situation can be relieved at once, as the entire amount received from the personal property tax will be used to defray the expenses of the schools.

Mr. Duncan said he hoped that those families in Cradock who had no children would also donate their part, in order that the schools be not closed.

Meeting is Called

Representatives of Cradock, who handle educational matters there in conjunction with the School Board of Deep Creek Magisterial District, Norfolk County, yesterday morning issued the following announcement of a mass meeting to be held in the community tomorrow night:

"A mass meeting of the citizens of Cradock, for the purpose of raising funds to continue the school at that place, has been called by the Cradock school committee to meet Monday night at 8 o'clock in the school auditorium. The committee is without funds to continue the school beyond the first of March unless additional money is given by the citizens."

Five hundred pupils of the Cradock school are receiving their education by arrangement with the Deep Creek School Board. According to a statement made yesterday by Superintendent Hurst, of the Norfolk County Public Instruction, the State Board of Public Instruction agreed prior to the opening of the current school term to assist in the payment of teachers' salaries in the Cradock school to the extent of \$7,000. A fund of between \$10,000 and \$11,000 is required for salaries. As realty taxes are not paid in the community, it was proposed to apply the personal property taxes of the town to the school fund to make up the difference between the appropriation made by the State Board of Public Instruction—\$7,000—and the fund of \$11,000 required for this purpose.

It was further agreed that the residents of Cradock would take care of the janitor service, fuel and lighting supply accounts of the school, an item of \$1,200.

Superintendent Hurst said that only a small part has been collected from personal property assessments in the town and it has been necessary to meet a deficit in the charge for janitor service.

Under the circumstances it has been necessary to notify the representatives of the community handling educational affairs that unless something is done to meet the shortage of funds to take care of teachers' salaries after March 1, it will be necessary to close the school at this time. This statement was given to the representatives of the town in a meeting of the Deep Creek Magisterial District School Board held last Friday afternoon.

CTDEET CAD CTDIKE