

The Watauga Democrat.

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AS TO ELECTRIC CURRENT

The board of town aldermen as is noted elsewhere in this issue have some propositions from Mr. E. W. Thomson, who owns the fine power proposition on Watauga River, as to furnishing Boone electricity for both lighting and commercial purposes. In order that Mr. Thomson may build his plant of sufficient size to supply our every need, he must close some sort of deal with us soon as he must start on the big job a sear as possible. If we refuse to accept any proposition made or come to no terms the plant will be built solely for Blowing Rock, whereas if we are so inclined, we can have it twice as large, with adequate current for both Boone and Blowing Rock for years to come. It is as we wish, Mr. Thomson wants us to let him help us in this our great need; we don't know exactly what propositions he has made, but it is evident that he is reasonable and that an agreement can be made with him that will be good for us. He wants to invest money here, so why not?

Our growth in many lines depends on our power. We have long been handicapped because of the lack of it, and now, town fathers, we implore you to come to terms with Thomson without unnecessary delay, the town stands with you, don't be side-tracked by other propositions. This one is sure. Let us all stand as one on this issue for its our real chance. The matter will probably be definitely decided upon Saturday evening when the Commercial Club meets at the Creecher Hotel. Be there and boost this project.

Opportunity knocks, shall we open our door?

SWISS CHEESE IS NOW MADE IN NORTH STATE

(Raleigh News and Observer) Swiss cheese with the regulation eyes and teardrops, is now being manufactured in North Carolina.

To date, it is only being done in an experimental way by the dairy specialists of the State College and department of agriculture, but the outlook is bright for the new industry to become firmly established, according to F. H. Jester, editor of the department.

"This new industry for the state was begun last year at the Cove Cove Creek Co-operative Cheese Factory in Watauga county," he said. "It has long been known that the mountain coves of North Carolina were ideally suited to the manufacture of cheese. Since the movement was begun in a small way over there in 1915 by experts of the experimental station and extension service, there has been a steady increase in the number of factories being built until about 30 were established.

"But all these factories were for the manufacture of cheddar or cream cheese. In the last year or two, the market for this kind of cheese has not been so good and the farmers were not getting enough returns from such milk as was made up in this way. Consequently, some of the co-operative factories began to lose their earlier popularity.

"Seeing this, the office of the dairy farming under the direction of J. A. Arey began experimenting with cheese of higher quality. L. H. Wilson, of the United States department of agriculture, was secured to begin experimenting with the Swiss cheese.

"It was found that conditions were ideal for the manufacture of this kind and some experimental cheese was turned out for curing and testing. The quality was good, but there were two many eyes or holes. Now, the dairy specialists have eliminated these extra holes, and state that the cheese is as good as any made in Switzerland and marketed in this country.

"Mr. Arey states that by adding a newly discovered culture to get the eyes of the cheese, a majority of those manufacturers at Cove Creek are number one products. This is not true of the Swiss cheese manufactured in Europe, since only about 40 per cent of their manufacture is number one quality. However, the Swiss only send their best cheese over here, and Mr. Arey states that he is delighted that North Carolina made cheese is ranking with the best quality coming over here.

"Mr. Arey further states that Swiss cheese is bringing about 40 cents per pound now and that cheddar cheese is marketing at about twenty six cents at the mountain factories. He finds that the Swiss cheese then is returning a third more money for the milk sent in by the co-operative farmers.

"Some Swiss cheese is now being made in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but this is the first attempt to bring the industry to the South.

"With the excellent conditions for manufacturing existing in the mountain coves of North Carolina, however, there is no reason why the new industry should not grow into a large and lucrative business," he said.

MOUNTAINEER ANCESTRY

(Edith M. Holt, in the Charlotte Observer)

In an article entitled "Railroad Urged to Reclaim the Lost Provinces" appearing in the Observer of December 22, I noted with interest that the citizens of western North Carolina counties are tired of being referred to as belonging to the "Lost Provinces," scating emphatically that they are native born "Tar Heels" and desire to be known as such.

I am not a mountain by birth, but I have lived in the mountains a large part of my life. I have taught scores of mountain children and visited numbers of mountain homes in North Carolina and Kentucky, and I know who the mountain people are. There are no negroes among them—no Chinese nor Japs, nor Russians, nor Greeks, nor Italians, nor Jews.

The purest strain of Anglo-Saxon blood in America today flows through the veins of the mountaineers. There are a few Scotch, French and Irish, but the English names predominate and a glance down the condensed biographical dictionary of the encyclopedic Britannica reveals their ancestry. The names that show the longest lists of great men in the history of England are the names of the mountaineers. Look again—the signers of the declaration of Independence. What names had they? The names of our mountaineers. The generals and great men of the American revolution? The very names now common in our mountains.

Who occupy the middle and eastern section of North Carolina? Men who bear the same names that our mountain men do, to be sure.

Who are the leaders of our nation today? Men who sign these very same names.

And to my personal knowledge the following members of the sixty-sixth Congress have names which are identically the same as those possessed by the mountain folk: Marcus A. Smith, Joe T. Robinson, Hiram W. Johnson, Charles S. Thomas, Duncan U. Fletcher, W. J. Harris, James E. Watson, Frederick Hale, John W. Smith, Knute Nelson, John S. Williams, B. P. Harrison, James A. Reed, Key Pittman, Walter E. Edge, Andriens A. Jones, Furnifold McL. Spaulding, Ellison D. Smith, Edwin S. Stanton, Thomas S. Martin, Wesley L. Jones, to say nothing of the name of ex-president Wilson—the greatest man in the world today.

GREEK AND ARMENIAN EXILES FACING DEATH

Dedeagatch, Western Thrace, Dec. 27.—Heavy snow, icy winds and intermittent rains have wrought great misery and suffering among the half-million shelterless refugees scattered over Thrace and Macedonia. Unless help is prompt and generous the Greek and Armenian exiles in these areas will perish in large numbers. Already the majority are half-naked, starving and diseased. All the elementary needs of life are lacking. Food stocks in the towns are growing low. Famine must ensue this winter unless flour is sent in.

Human woe and wretchedness seldom have reached such levels. Large numbers are dying daily of exposure and insanitation. The condition of the children and the babies in pitiful infectious diseases are rampant. Typhus is gaining such headway that it is feared the great epidemic of 1918-19, which began at Cavalla, will recur. Life in the east always has been cheap, but never so cheap as in this corner of Europe. Had the population been permitted to remain in Eastern Thrace and faced the Turkish invaders, their lot could have been little worse.

When the Associated Press Correspondent crossed the little river near Drama where Paul baptized the first Christian, he was assailed by a band of hunger-maddened Greek women and children who begged piteously for a crust of bread. They said they had been on the march for 24 days and were subsisting on beet-roots. Although there was a foot of snow on the ground, many were shoeless, coatless and halless. The blistered bleeding feet of the children left red silhouettes in the snow.

In spite of many promises of help from the outside, little has been done to assuage the misery of these helpless exiles. Most of them are women and children. They are sadly in need of help.

A HOLIDAY MEMORANDUM

The original plan of the American Relief Administration in Russia, as drafted in August, 1921, provided for the feeding of 1,000,000 sick children and adults. In August, 1922, the A. R. A. was feeding 6,257,958 adults and 4,171,000 children. In the areas affected there was a population of more than 42,000,000, of whom nearly 24,000,000 were described as "hungry." In this hungry mass American charity fed 48.5 per cent of the adults and 43 per cent of the children. Last July American aid was being given to 1,663 hospitals with a bed capacity of 121,000, to 818 dispensaries, and 819 children's homes.

This winter according to Fridtjof Nansen, there will be 3,000,000 people in need of relief, with the Soviet Government able to support no more than two and a half million.—The New York Post.

Finger prints are now sent by radio by means of the Belin system.

The Chilean earthquake broke open an ancient graveyard, within 10 miles of Copiapo, which may reveal valuable data.

MOUNTAIN MOTHER OBEYS THE CALL OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday evening an old, bent and wrinkled woman knocked at the door of the Methodist parsonage, Rev. W. L. Hutchins answered the door.

"I have come all the way from Caldwell county to see my son, who is on the county roads charged with a crime of which he is not guilty. I am old and tired, I have no money and I am hungry. I have not been able to find a way out to the camp yet. I must have something to eat and a place to sleep," so spake the aged woman whose mother love had drawn her from her mountain home to be with her son at Christmas.

Rev. and Mrs. Hutchins took her in and gave her supper. The home was filled with Christmas guests and there was no bedroom to spare but the genial preacher, whose heart is always touched by the woes of humanity, secured a room for her at a local hotel and paid for it and her breakfast.

Saturday night Mr Hutchins told the woman's story to M. A. Karp county road superintendent, who volunteered to carry the woman out to the camp where her son is, allow her to spend the day there and bring her back in the afternoon. This was done. Arrangements were also made to assure that the mother get back to her home.

"My boy is not guilty," she told the minister. Then she recounted that he had always been a good son to her, had gone to the war and did his duty by his country. Returning home he and two others were mixed up in the theft of some cloth from a store. "The others put it all on my boy, but he is innocent," she repeated. She believed it too. "I have made my living most of my life by washing but rheumatism got hold of me. Then I made some money putting up cord wood—but you know an old woman whose fingers are drawn with rheumatism like mine can't wash or put up cordwood any more. I need my boy," she said, as she exhibited a pair of hands drawn and gnarled by labor and disease.

The aged mother was taken early Sunday morning to the camp and allowed to be with her boy and in so far as conditions would permit there was perhaps no greater measure of the Christmas spirit anywhere than with the humble pair.—Lexington Dispatch.

MAINTAIN RESPECT FOR LAW, SAYS DAUGHERTY

Action by business and industrial trade associations to maintain respect for the law of the government would go far toward preventing "unrest" among our people endangered by certain dissatisfied and radical elements. Attorney General Daugherty declared to day in a letter to the Philadelphia board of trade.

The letter was in response to a resolution adopted recently by the board declaring its opinion that the time had come for the business interests to rally to the support of the government.

Mr. Daugherty declared he was wholeheartedly in sympathy with the board's declaration demanding the law and overthrow of those destructive forces which oppose the orderly processes. So long as the mass of people realize, the attorney general said, that government can endure only through "righteous observance of law and order and justice" the nation has nothing to fear.

"Our government today is passing through a critical stage," the Philadelphia chamber was told. Not since the civil war has the nation been confronted with economic conditions so acute, so complex, so fraught with danger. Yet we are not isolated in this respect. All the nations of the earth have felt the blight, some more seriously than others. Some have recovered, others are recovering, and a few possibly will never recover. At this period of our history, especially, the economic or substantial basis of constitutional government must be preserved and fostered at all hazard, for out of unstable economic substances pour the fumes of unrest, distrust, rebellion against organized and lawful authority.

"Since the termination of the world war our government has met and conquered most of the economic ills that threatened our body politics, today our nation is prosperous and at peace, militarily, with the world. "Yet there are in our midst today some elements striving vainly to overthrow through viciously founded theories and violent attacks upon those public servants called by the mandate of the whole people to preside over and preserve the sacred ideals of the greatest government ever established by the hand and brain of men.

"So long as we have a nationalism purged of malice and hatred and dedicated to all that is best in government and peoples, then shall we have little from those contentious elements which in their infinitesimal minority, seek to practice deceit upon the people through unhealthy and viciously acquired views.

FEW ON WAITING LIST

New Year's Eve at Ellis Island found only 800 immigrants awaiting entrance to America, the smallest number at the Island on that day in many years. Six liners are due to arrive Monday, but none of the newcomers will be admitted until Tuesday.

FINANCED HIS OWN FARM

(Dearborn Independent)

The Southern Farmer relates how by co-operation a farmer was able to make needed improvements to his buildings, fence his land, and finance his coming crop of magnolia figs from a position of deflation to the bare land.

Texas laws do not permit an owner to mortgage a homestead, thus the farm had remained clear of liens. The banker to whom the farmer applied for a loan was satisfied with the risk, and knew a way in which the land could be made available as security. It was a trick to evade the law forbidding validation of a mortgage, and this was the way of it: Mechanics and labor liens against the property were legally permissible, so a contractor was secured to take the job of completing the house, erecting a barn and necessary sheds, and building the fence. The contractor received liens for work and material, the liens being transferred to the bank to be drawn against as the work proceeded.

The farmer's table had been provided for the winter, and he needed very little cash for expenses during the idle season; but where was he to get the amount needed to finance his crop?

The banker had thought of that too. And here is where banking brains proved to be creative. This banker insisted that the contractor employ the farmer on his own job, rough carpentry, driving his in hauling material, excavating, and on whatever work the farmer could do.

When the contract had been carried out, Mr. Farmer had much better property than before, more than cash enough on hand to finance his next crop, and was able to discharge the liens from a seasons produce.

The banker had gained interest on more money than the farmer would ordinarily have borrowed; further more this interest was obtained upon security which the banker could not have used in obtaining funds from the Federal Land Bank; and besides all this, the farm had practically improved itself.

Of course, the same evasion of the mortgage law might be taken advantage of to rob the owner of a homestead, but the banker who appears in this narrative was a true servant of his community, following a policy that dictated helpful treatment of patrons. If this were more generally the case there would be much less reason for bitterness when farmers are out of money.

A RUSSIAN MYSTERY

(Washington Herald)

It is announced that the Russian people under the Soviet government have now a surplus of grain which they can export.

And yet, singular as it may seem Russia will still need the assistance of foreign nations in grain. Now, what does this mean?

The answer is simple. In Russia's vast empire it is more difficult to move goods from one part to another than than to move goods from the remotest part of the world to Russia. The reason is that Russia has no railroad system worthy of the name. She had none under the old Czar. But even such railroad equipment as she had was completely destroyed during the war.

It is in better condition today than it was when the Soviets took control but it must be in very much better condition still before the Russians' grain can be brought from all parts of the empire to feed the western cities.

Russia is now buying railroad equipment right and left. Five hundred million dollars worth was recently bought from Canada, Germany and England and selling Russia hundreds of millions of dollars worth of engines and cars. Only America has so much business that she can afford to throw away Russian business in order to satisfy the spleen of our international bankers.

POLITICAL PRISONERS TO RECEIVE PARDONS.

"President Harding," says a dispatch of the 29th, expects to sign tomorrow commutations of sentences of 12 or more "political prisoners." There will, however, be no "general amnesty" it was added. The commutation, it was explained, will be in the nature of a New Year's gift. Just prior to Christmas the President granted these commutations but these were not for offenders of war-time laws.

REV. J. F. DAVIS WRITES

We are in receipt of a letter from Rev. J. F. Davis, formerly of Boone, in which he congratulates us on "The New Democrat" and upon the growth of our town, and expresses a longing to visit Boone again. Rev. Davis has many friends in Watauga to whom he sends best wishes. He is now located at Hilda, S. C.

SORE MUSCLES

Vacations are often spoiled by soreness resulting from outdoor games. A good massage with Vicks often gives surprising relief.



LONG DAYS IN THE LAND

When it comes to the land of long life, North Carolina is it. We believe the Surry County woman who a few months ago became a member of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, is 107. Ninety odd year old field hands and 101-year-old cornshuckers are not uncommon in Cleveland County. And now comes Carter's Weekly with a fine rounding-out incident for the year. Mrs. Debby Riddle, living on a rural route a few miles out from North Wilkesboro, relates that paper, "jumps up all at once in the limelight of National fame for two reasons, first she delayed being a prominent citizen until well on towards 110 years and second she sent a letter recently to President Harding with five dollars enclosed for Greek refugees."

The American Red Cross was so much interested in this Wilkes county personality and her gift that it sent for a photograph, to be preserved "as an example worthy of being followed by a younger and stronger generation." The picture was secured along with some history of this remarkable woman. Her youngest son is 75 years old, and she has seven great great grand children. There are five generations of the Riddles. All live within a radius of two or three miles, and to prove it, Carter's Weekly is shortly to print a picture of the families.—Charlotte Observer.

NORTH CAROLINA APPLES WIN MEDAL

For a meritorious exhibit of named varieties of apples and pears, the American Pomological society, meeting with the Mid-west Horticultural Exposition at Council Bluffs, Ia., last week awarded a bronze Wilder medal to the North Carolina Experimental station of the state college and state department of agriculture. The exhibit, prepared and displayed by C. D. Matthews, horticulturist and F. H. Jester, editor, attracted great attention from visitors to the exposition. Forty-one varieties of apples and fifteen varieties of pears, all grown in North Carolina, were shown in the exhibit. A decorative feature of long leaf pine was used.

About ten other states were represented with different varieties of fruits. North Carolina was the only state showing named varieties that was awarded such an honor. A silver medal was awarded to Iowa for its experimental work in developing new varieties and a bronze medal was awarded to New Hampshire for its display of fruits in packages.

I used to think when times were flush

And everybody gay, That money came from grain and hay.

That cows were poorer pay, But now my eyes are opened wide, Since feed been down so low, I know it pays to keep good cows, It always has been so.

Reavers of Alaska are felling telephone poles where the poles stand near the waterway. Several poles have been destroyed in this way and the linemen protect the remaining poles by wrapping them with heavy wire to a height of several feet.



PEOPLE demand quality in building material the same as they do in other things. Buy where you can get the lengths, grades, and the kind of lumber you want.

DEMAND is growing stronger each day for the best, even though the price be much higher, people have found that quality must be considered first.

QUALITY is a part of the price. Take for instance our No. 2 siding. One dealer may have the same grade, yet it is full of loose knots, air dried, and is cheap in quality as well as price—Ours is thoroughly kiln dried has a few tight knots, and will make a beautiful ob. Which would you want for your house? Isn't quality a part of the price?

Think it over.

Watauga Fur. & Lumber Co.