

The Watauga Democrat.

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THE LESSER OF THE TWO

It has been said that a financial break is as bad for a town as a fire, and in some instances it is.

We feel that in fairness to our town and county, as well as for the information of those who contemplate opening places of new business here, it is our duty to refer to the assignment made Monday night by those in charge of the Watauga Supply Company's store.

From all reports, the prices ranged along about 100 per cent below cost on practically everything, and of course the buyers stampeded in their frantic drive for the great bargain emporium—quite natural to be sure.

But we are getting off the key a bit. This is not the sort of financial calamity that is to be likened in its effects to the ravages of fire—the break that came because of a totally impossible location, because a town prospered or at any rate shows signs of sickness—so that is not the variety of calamity from which we shall now endeavor to recover.

The Watauga Supply Company was one of the first new business houses that opened its doors when business in Boone began to boom with the advent of the railroad and a system of graded roads. It was founded by some of our finest, far-visited men, and was a success and a money-making proposition from the start.

No doubt the corporation was involved to some extent before the new owners took charge this winter. Anyway it is natural to suppose a business of its magnitude was not running absolutely unincumbered, but it is safe to say it lacked many leaguers of being "against the wall."

The new men who "threw up the sponge" this week, were good, industrious fellows it seems, and it is a little surprising that they failed to "register" from the start. They undoubtedly got into the wrong channel as many of us are apt to do, for the business, like an ailing Lizzie began to splutter and miss as soon as the new driver took the seat, and now its stuck on the grade. In the same way as a mechanic must know his business to get the proper rattle out of a Henry, so must a man know the merchantile business before he can make a dry goods store pay the bills and profit besides.

However slight, there will be a rifle among all our business houses it will hurt all of us to some extent regardless of everything, and but for the hope that hereby we may reduce the effect of the break, this article would not appear.

Therefore, again let it not be understood that a failure in Boone means the town is dying. It is more alive than ever before. We are all playing the game together and are all winners to be sure, but one is sure to lose if he takes a hand and doesn't know the cards.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION FOR GERMAN OPERA STARS

BALTIMORE.—An audience that occupied every available seat in the theatre heard the Wagnerian Festival company, a group of German opera stars, here in their first appearance before an American public. Rounds of applause greeted the singers, who presented "Die Meistersinger." So great was the hand clapping after the first act that the company had to respond 13 curtain calls. The theatre management stated that advance sales of tickets indicated that packed houses would greet the artists in their four remaining performances in this city.

The orchestra, before opening the overture, played the "Star Spangled Banner," with all the musicians standing. The 108 members of the company which includes a full chorus of 60 men and women, arrived in New York several days ago from Germany. Many of the leading members of the group, at that time, stated their pay in Germany amounted to about 25,000 marks a month. At the present rate of exchange that would be fifty cents in American money as the mark is quoted at 45,

Mr. J. M. Downum of Boone has been appointed chairman for Watauga county of the Near East Relief, for the current fiscal year, and will handle the campaign for that great humanitarian organization here, was announced from Raleigh by Colonel George H. Bellamy, state chairman.

Watauga county's quota is \$600 which will feed cloth and educate the ten children who are motherless and fatherless and assigned to this county for support. So efficient is the work of the Near East Relief overseas, that each child can be taken care of and given an education on \$80 a year—\$5 a month—17c a day.

Mr. Downum will have the active co-operation and assistance of a number of leading men and women of Watauga county in this great work. His plans will be announced at an early date.

In making this announcement, Colonel Bellamy pointed out that although the need has been doubled in the stricken Bible lands as a result of the recent massacre at Smyrna, the country's minimum quota has not been increased over last year. More than 800,000 refugees were driven into Thrace and suddenly thrown on the hands of the Near East Relief as a result of the horrible massacre of 150,000 Christians in Smyrna. Other hundreds of thousands are now leaving Anatolia to escape a similar fate.

The regular quota of Watauga county will take care of its children, which is paramount to the feeding of the refugees. All funds received over and above the regular quota will be used to feed these Smyrna and Anatolia refugees, thousands of whom have already starved to death.

WATTS' EARLY LIFE

(Dan A. Cable, in The Oxford Public Ledger.) The downfall of Revenue Commissioner A. D. Watts brings to the mind of the editor of the Public Ledger a sad chapter in his early life. At the age of 35 he was the editor of the Statesville Mascot, and sold his paper to accept the position of private secretary to Senator Simmons. He was educated at Davidson college, and his mind and heart was as pure as any young man you would find in a days travel.

He fell in love with one of the prettiest and purest young ladies in Statesville, who was heir to a comfortable fortune, but the match was opposed by her guardian, a fine old uncle. Colonel Watts made frequent trips from the national capital to see the young lady, and in course of time there was a reconciliation, but the young lady was taken with fever and speedily passes to her reward. Her funeral marked one of the saddest days in the history of Statesville. Her death was a sad blow to Colonel Watts, from which he never recovered.

Colonel Watts was elected to the legislature, and in memory of this young lady he became sponsor for the "Watts bill"—the initial legislation on which for a decade a agitation were founded the hopes and success of the "moral forces."

Colonel Watts' father was for many years sheriff of Iredell county and he left his three children in comfortable circumstances. The axe has fallen justly upon the head of the guilty; but behind it was a force and direction of ruthless malice akin in disgrace to the debauchery it punished.

Colonel Watts is down and out, but the newspapers and politicians who would place their feet on his neck have sinned already.—Charlotte Observer.

IMPERSONATED MEMBER OF CONGRESS, IS CHARGE MADE

A grand jury indictment was returned Thursday, against Robert L. Vannoy, of North Carolina, on a charge of having impersonated a member of the house of representatives. He is alleged to have sent letters to several rural carriers throughout the southern states, representing himself as a member of the lower branch of Congress and as serving on the committee on postoffices, in which he announced that the government had a batch of automobiles for sale for carriers for \$50 each. A number of responses with money enclosed are said to have been received by him.

Vannoy was indicted several months ago on a charge of using the mails to defraud, growing out of the same transactions.

000 to the dollar. The leading members' salaries therefore, during their American tour will be in most cases the equivalent of 20,000,000 marks a performance and in the cases of a few soloists, more than twice that much.

NO NEED TO GO WEST GO TO COLLEGE

Stating that college trained farmers make higher profits than the less fortunate ones, President W. M. Jardine of the Kansas State Agricultural College recently made a plea for higher education in the rural districts. His plea, supported by facts, is as follows:

"An investigation of the income of 551 farmers in one county in Missouri, made by the Missouri College of Agriculture, showed that the educated farmer's income was 71.4 per cent larger than that of the untrained farmer. A survey of 633 farmers in seven counties of Kansas State Agricultural College, showed that the trained farmer has a greater income by nearly \$1,000 a year than those of farmers with common school education.

"The United States Department of Agriculture reports a survey of three representative areas in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. It is shown that tenant farmers with a college education received an average labor income of \$163 more a year than a man with a high school education and \$979 more a year than the men with only a common school education.

"Cornell University reports that men having more than a high school education receive \$225 more a year than farmers with a high school education and \$529 a year more than farmers with a common school education. They also report that 5 per cent of the farmers with a district school education had labor incomes of more than \$1,000, and that 20 per cent of the farmers with a high school education had labor incomes of more than \$1,000. Thirty per cent of the farmers with more than high school education had labor incomes of more than \$1,000. A high school education is worth as much to the farmer as \$6,000 worth of 5 per cent bonds. A college education is worth twice as much."—Better Rural Life in North Carolina.

CONCERNING EASTER

(Episcopal in Gastonia Gazette) Some weeks ago your editorial page contained an article on the question of when Easter Sunday comes this year, mentioning two dates that differed by a day.

Easter Sunday for 1923 comes on April 1. I give as my authority the common prayer book of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The prayer book devotes eight pages to movable days as observed by members of the Episcopal church. In order to know when the movable feasts and holy days begin, the prayer book uses the following:

"Easter Day, on which the rest depends, is always the first Sunday after the full moon, which happens upon or next after the twenty-first day of March; and if the full moon happen upon a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after."

"But note, that the full moon, for the purposes of these rules and tables is the fourteenth day of a lunar month reckoned according to an ancient Ecclesiastical computation, and not the real or astronomical moon."

Following the above rule, the prayer book contains a table to find Easter-day, from the year of our Lord, 1753, to the year of our Lord, 2013, both inclusive, being the time of the twelve cycles of the moon.

INCREASES CORN YIELD

When A. G. Hendren began county agent work in Wilkes county, about eleven years ago, one of the first men to be secured as a demonstrator was H. H. Jennings, who lived about six miles from North Wilkesboro.

Mr. Jennings had bought a poor "ridge" farm of 140 acres, for which he paid \$600. That was eighteen years ago. At that time he could hardly produce over ten bushels of corn per acre, but his acquaintance with Mr. Hendren rapidly ripened into a close friendship and he endeavored to follow the suggestions given to him by the county agent.

About eight years ago Mr. Jennings applied about 16 tons of ground limestone on one 10-acre field. He sowed the field in wheat, followed by clover seeded the spring. Since that time he has followed a rotation of corn, wheat and clover. The past year a sod was turned under in the winter and corn planted early in April. The only fertilizer used was 300 pounds of acid phosphate per acre. Last fall one average acre was measured out of the field, the corn was shelled and weighed and the results showed 99 bushels and 32 pounds. This was only an average acre, and the other nine looked to be equally as good.

On another field of eight acres Mr. Jennings made 160 bushels of wheat and ten big stacks of straw. In September he used the mowing machine in this field and cut nine big stacks of good hay. The field now has a fine stand of clover from seed already on the land.

Mr. Jennings' entire farm is under fence. He has a good herd of Jersey cattle, and the good old ridge farm of eighteen years ago would hardly be recognized as the same place now. The acreage has been increased to an even 200, and Mr. Jennings still listens to his old friend and adviser, the county agent.

TRAINING SCHOOL NEWS

A basket ball game at Newland the past week between the team of the Appalachian Training School and that of Newland resulted in a score of 18 to 24 in favor of the Newland team.

The second quarterly conference for the Boone charge of the Methodist church was held at the Methodist parsonage on Saturday night, and Presiding Elder Williams preached on Sunday morning to a good congregation, considering the weather, and gave his audience a thoughtful and inspiring sermon.

The believers in the ground hog sign can now take some consolation in their theory. The day, Feb. 2, however, Missouri and possibly some others claim it is the 14) was partly clear, so of course he saw his shadow. Snow has been coming down some days so that now he heaviest snow of the season is on the ground and trees. It is too bad to credit a snow of the beauty of this one to the ground hog, but now the weather men tell us that this storm came from Chicago—Well! Well!

The Boone Commercial Club had a most interesting meeting on Saturday night. The principal speaker was Mr. Van Dooser, of Nebraska, a creamery expert, whose purpose was to encourage the people here to establish a creamery. Some interesting discussions resulted, but no definite action was taken. After some discussion in regard to a re-organization of the Club it was decided to change its name to the Boone Chamber of Commerce that it might be as efficient as possible by securing information from national sources.

J. M. DOWNUM

AGENT FROM KENTUCKY RAIDS NATIONAL CAPITAL

J. L. Asher, revenue agent from Kentucky mountains who came to Washington three weeks ago and has not in his time since in guises ranging from an ashcart driver to a Kentucky colonel at a fashionable ball last week directed more than 60 capital revenue agents and police in liquor raids on 50 places, netting the arrest of about 30 persons, including 12 women, and the confiscation of more than 300 gallons of intoxicants.

Evidence for the raids, which were begun in five police precincts at 11 o'clock this morning and were not completed until late in the day, the most all-inclusive campaign conducted in the city since the advent of prohibition, was obtainable almost entirely by Asher.

The five precinct stations presented their busiest appearances in years as bondsmen hastened to gain the release of prisoners practically all of whom were held for \$1,500 bail, and police and revenue agents guarded prisoners and directed the storage of huge supplies of corn whiskey, bonded goods and wine carried in from the raided homes in government trucks and automobiles. In only one instance were the raiders disappointed by failure to find the goods described by the Kentuckian.

Asher first drove into the underworld in quest of the bootleggers' rendezvous aboard an ice wagon as a helper. He then switched to an ashcart and quickly caught the trail of victims as he picked up the "empties" in all corners of the city. Then as a coal wagon driver he got into the homes again, assisting in storing away coal and modestly accepting pint bottle rewards. He later appeared as a piano tuner and again as a lawyer.

Before long Asher had won the confidence of the principal bootleggers in various sections, and by aiding to store away goods in his capacity as a wagon driver an dhelper, gained knowledge of numerous and clever hiding places for the goods.

With this evidence in hand, the raiders went quickly to secret catches these included holes in the wall, baby cribs, pianos, victrolas and chicken coops. In one home, more than 10 gallons of liquor was found tucked away behind the wall moldings in various rooms.

One woman was reported by Asher to be selling liquor in baby milk nursing bottles and the police confiscated more than a dozen such receptacles, well-filled, from her home. As a retired Kentucky colonel at a recent ball, Asher was introduced to several alleged bootleggers, who were arrested. He posed as an agent preparing to ship considerable whiskey here from Kentucky.

His Disguise Complete So complete was the agent's disguise that while returning to police headquarters one day as a tramp with several quart bottles bulging from his pockets he was arrested by his immediate superior before the officer discovered his identity.

The raids were conducted under the supervision of Lieutenant C. O. Davis, of the police force, and R. G. Ruby, Washington chief of revenue agents. In two instances the agents raided four homes simultaneously within one city block.

Just like a long letter from home to the folks who have left the community—that's what the home town paper is.

"Well," remarked the husband after a long and heated argument on the question of man's superiority over woman, "at least there is one good, sweet and perfect thing which a man can have and woman cannot." "Never," cried the wife, passionately. "Never! I deny it! What do you mean?" "A wife," replied hubby.

MILK MANUFACTURED INTO SWISS CHEESE PAYS WELL

The Swiss Cheese Project Which was Started Here in December 1921 is Making Slow Progress—But Looks Favorable. However Good things usually come slowly.

H. L. Wilson

There were twenty three cheese manufactured from December 2, 1921 to Feb. 3, 1922. The quality of these cheese were not as good as we wished for, however they sold for a good price. It was decided at that time to discontinue the manufacture of Swiss cheese until about the middle of April and then to make about one cheese a week up until about December 1, 1922. It was considered advisable to install additional equipment and due to the fact that it did not arrive until Sept. 1, the Swiss cheese making experiment was postponed until that time. Four more cheese were made in Sept. Two of these cheese were graded as fancies or were number two cheese. Having so few of the number two cheese it was not difficult to dispose of them at a good price. It might be well to mention here that one of the largest winter resort hotels in the state, The

Carolina Hotel at Pinhurst, N. C. bought one of the fancies weighing about 100 lbs. and four weeks later ordered another.

The plan which the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State Department wish to follow is to make just enough to determine whether or not Swiss cheese can be reasonably sure not lose any money for the milk producer.

I visited with a man a few days ago who had charge of a Swiss cheese factory in Ohio last year. He said his factory opened April, and closed November 1st, and that they paid the farmer an average of \$2.00 per hundred pounds or 17.2c per gallon. The fancies were sold for 28c per pound and under grades at 22c.

The following is a brief report on Swiss cheese made in winter and fall experiments.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Total No. Gallons of milk used: 3,600. Total No. Pounds of cheese made: 2,533. Total No. Pounds cheese sold: 2,200.5. Shrinkage per cent: 13. Average price per pound received: .41. Value of cheese sold: \$ 902.20. Value of cream sold: 129.00. Total value of cheese: \$1,031.20.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Expenses: 160.64. Milk, 3,600 gal. at 19.1 cents: 688.49. Loss caused from spoiled and returned cheese: 48.41. Total, loss and expense: \$ 897.54.

Total profit to factory: \$ 133.66

Had the above profit been included in the price of milk it would have netted the farmer 22.3 cents per gallon.

"Expenses," includes supplies, manufacturing cost, and interest on money invested in equipment.

IS THE COUNTY AGENT NEEDED?

Read this Wisconsin verdict:

The question of abolishing the county agricultural agent, which has been up in several Wisconsin counties, affects the future of the state's greatest industry and cannot be passed on lightly.

The county agent is the keynot to better farming. He brings to the individual farm the results of the study, research and experiment of state and national agricultural departments. Through him their work becomes of practical value. In Wisconsin the county agents have been behind such movements as the eradication of bovine tuberculosis. They have promoted cow testing associations which have done so much to raise the standard of dairy herds and have made the Wisconsin grade cow famous. They have directed the surveys. They have been leaders in the movement to put the marketing of farm products on a business basis. Anything that puts more brains into farming and helped to take more money out of it has been within the scope of the county agent.

Agriculture in the United States is at a crisis. Farming by rule of thumb will no longer do. New land on which the raising of a crop is a mere matter of plowing and harvesting is getting scarce. The farmer can no longer look for his profits from the increase in value of his land. Unless his balance sheet shows a profit from operations he is only broke. Marketing has become a complex business.

If agriculture is to progress, it must keep in step with conditions, and the county agent is the man who enables it to keep in step. County boards cannot be blamed for looking for ways to reduce taxes, but crippling agriculture is not economy. Taxes spent for better farming are an investment whose dividends are more productive farms, and profitable farms make the tax burden casier. Abolishing the county agent is killing the goose that lays the golden egg.—Milwaukee Journal.

The county agent system is based on the proposition that a man is never to old to learn.—Sheboygan Press.

Advertisement for Watauga Fur & Lumber Co. featuring the headline 'Isn't it Funny?' and text about how you can think and then think some more to get up a suitable advertisement for your business. The ad includes a decorative border and a small illustration of a house.