

The Watauga Democrat.

R. C. RIVERS, Editor and Owner.

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Thursday May 22, 1924.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE

The public school property in this state is given an assessment of \$47,000,000. Locally the impression seems to prevail that Mecklenburg is carrying a heavy school debt, but it develops that thirteen counties are paying more per inhabitant than this county pays. Even the little far eastern county of Pasquotank ranks eleventh county ahead of Mecklenburg. We had supposed from the way that Winston-Salem is investing in public schools that Forsyth would stand at the head of the list in investment per capita, and yet Forsyth is four numbers below Mecklenburg. Durham has the distinction of being the leader in public school investment on the basis of cost per inhabitant. Each citizen of Durham county has \$40.08 cents assessed against him to the account of public schools. Clay county is at the foot of the class with \$1.38. These facts are disclosed through the researches of the industrious young man Hobbs, who makes regular contributions to the University News Letter, generally causing people to revise their notions on existing state conditions. Before going into the general disclosures in North Carolina public school investments, we might mark the fact that the investment per inhabitant in Mecklenburg is \$24. Mr. Hobbs grows enthusiastic over the fact that it is doubtful if any state in the union of anything like the wealth and population of North Carolina can duplicate her story of public school property increase during the last two decades. In 1900 when the new day in Carolina was just beginning to dawn all her public school property was valued at around \$1,000,000, or less than 50 cts. per inhabitant. In 1904 it was reported at \$1,908,675; in 1910 the value of school property was reported to be \$5,863,000; in 1915 at \$10,134,000; in 1919 at \$16,295,000, and in 1923 the total value of all school property was reported to be approximately \$47,000,000! It is much larger today for during the last year North Carolina has been spending more on school buildings than ever before in her history, due mainly to the loans made to the State to the consolidated rural community schools. Forty seven times as much school property in the State in 1923 as in 1900—an increase of 4,600 per cent in 23 years! That is a record that any state might well be proud of! And yet the 1924 record will throw the 1923 record into the shade. It is interesting to note that since 1919 the value of school property has increased from \$16,295,000 to \$47,000,000, or an increase of nearly 200 per cent in four years. The value of school property increased twice as much in the four years following 1919 as in the 10 preceding years! There are ten counties in North Carolina any one of which had a larger total investment in school property in 1923 than the entire State had in 1900. Buncombe county alone had two and a half times as much school property in 1923 as the State had in 1900; Mecklenburg and Forsyth each had more than twice as much, and Durham had almost twice as much. There are nine other counties, either of which in 1923 could almost match the total value of State school property in 1900. The 10 counties of the State each of which had more than a million dollars worth of school property in 1923, are in order: Buncombe, Mecklenburg, Forsyth, Guilford, Durham, Wake, Wilson, Iredell, Rockingham, and New Hanover.—Charlotte Observer.

WHY SCRUBS, ANYWAY? A great deal has been said about pure-bred stock and their superiority over scrubs. But the case has not been overstated.

It may be perhaps, that some of the herd-book promoters have claimed more for paper pedigrees than they are worth in practical farming

it may be that good grades are just as profitable at times as expensive show-ring individuals, but the great and significant difference is between the good grades and the common scrubs.

And the moment farming passes the frontier stage the scrub becomes an inexcusable waste.

This doctrine has been widely preached with reference to beef cattle and hogs. It is just as important all down the line.

The hen that lays 200 eggs costs hardly more for her keep than the one that lays forty eggs a year and steals her nest to do that many.

The difference between good pedigreed corn and scrub corn from the crib is bushels an acre with the same cost of growing.

The difference between the same kinds of seed wheat is one hundred per cent in yield.

Between certified and inspected seed potatoes and the common store variety the same enormous discrepancy always prevails. With onions or carrots or celery the principle holds absolutely.

Why should any man, therefore, tolerate rübbers, scallions and culls when a high grade product can be grown at the same cost? The scallions, culls and scrubs not only refuse to pay cost of production but when they get to market they beat down the price on the quality goods where hope of profit lies.

The one explanation for the existence of the scrub is scrub farming. As long as there are scrub farmers following a scrub agriculture, there will be scrub corn, scrub oats, scrub hens, scrub horses, scrub hogs and scrub congressmen.

Let's make it unanimous and abolish all scrubs.—Country Gentleman.

BUILDING AND LOAN

(University News Letter.) North Carolina is one of the few Southern states in which building and loan associations have made gratifying progress. This is the more remarkable in view of the fact that we have no large cities and very few cities of even moderate size. According to table carried in the Manufacturers Record, North Carolina had 236 building and loan associations in 1923 with a total membership of 60,000 and assets of \$41,398,834. While the assets of all the associations in the United States have doubled since 1918, the assets of North Carolina associations have nearly trebled.

North Carolina has more building and loan associations than any other southern state, and only seven states in the Union outrank us in the number of associations. However, due to the smallness of our towns, seventeen states rank ahead of us in total membership and in total assets. Yet considering the fact that only four states have a larger rural population ratio, and the additional fact that our towns are small, our rank of eighth in number of associations and seventeenth in membership and assets speaks well for the thrift of the small cities and towns in this state.

As we have said before, the building and loan plan of saving for a home is an American idea. It is a most excellent and economical means of laying aside for a home and also is an excellent way to save money.



That's the Answer

of customers who have banked with us for years given to inquirers who purpose opening an account.

Prove the answer for yourselves by giving us your business.

We will show you every consideration and courtesy a banking institution can. Small accounts just as welcome as large ones.

In our Savings Department we pay interest at 4 per cent.

Open your account with us.

Bank of Blowing Rock Blowing Rock, N. C.

R. D. JENNINGS DENTIST

(Office Over Watauga County Bank) BOONE N. C. Patients from a distance would do well to write and have appointment arranged beforehand.

because the associations pay high dividends in the form of accumulated interest and savings are tax exempt.

And as we have said before the same plan which is now used so extensively and successfully by city people can be used by the farmers of North Carolina as the laws of the State provide for the organization and operation of rural building and loan associations. Local groups of farmers should look into the possibilities of such associations for the plan will work for them just as well as it works for urban dwellers. The farmers of Ohio have been operating building and loan associations for several years.

DOUBLE KILLING OCCURS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTY

(Ashe Recorder.)

The report has just reached the office of the Recorder that a double killing took place near Chestnut Hill Wednesday afternoon when John Sault killed his wife and then took his own life.

As reported to the Recorder Mr. Saults returned home from West Virginia last Saturday, that he had been badly abusing his wife since his return, that he had tied and whipped her several times. Wednesday afternoon she got away from him and went to the home of one of the neighbors. Saults followed her. When he found her he took a pistol and began shooting at her. She ran thru the house but he followed, continuing to shoot until he had shot at her nine times, catching and holding her for the last shot which proved to be fatal. He then returned to his home, got another cartridge and shot himself through the temple.

A BAD EXAMPLE

Gov. Morrison should curb his chauffeur or discharge him. For the third time, the newspapers report, the gubernatorial car has been halted for violating traffic regulations. The first time the governor handed over the price. The second time (at Hillsboro) he was indignant and declared a purpose to fight the case in court, and he probably bluffed it out of court, as nothing more was heard of it. The third time the governor's

chariot bumped into another car and the governor was invited to physical combat by the aggrieved party. Annually settled on the governor's promise to pay all damage. Gov. Morrison has stood straight for law enforcement. His record in that respect challenges comparison. The automobile incidents may seem small but the Governor of North Carolina should not allow his car to set the example of violating the speed regulations. At best there is more than enough of that sort of lawlessness—lawlessness that is serious enough because of the continuing menace—and it is surprising that Gov. Morrison would be guilty of it. And it is report too, that the incidents mentioned are not the only times the governor's car has fractured the speed laws. There have been boasts of record runs between Raleigh and Charlotte, the gossips say.

LETTER FROM AGED TEXAN

W. L. Bryan Esq. hands us the following letter with the request that it be published:

Dear Mr. Bryan: I write you a few lines to state that I am a son of Ervin Triplett, and was born on Elk Creek at the mouth of Camp Branch in Watauga county, North Carolina in 1872 and in 1881 I and mother came to Texas, when the west was wild and woolly. I have visited my old home one time since leaving. This is a great country, where once the wild cattle horses and antelope roamed, but are seen no more. I have seen the Indians as they were when grandfather and his comrades drove them from the east across into the Indian territory, now Oklahoma. Texas is the greatest state in the Union, yet it has its disadvantages as well as advantages. I love old North Carolina, my native state, and will never forget where our forefathers enjoyed the free running water from the mountain tops of those beautiful North Carolina Hills.

I suppose you have read of the great oil boom in Kaufman county, Tex. There have been over a half million dollars spent in and around McCoy for leases and royalties on land where the oil companies think they will find oil. Some of the farmers who own the land have leased it for one hundred dollars per acre yet

they haven't struck oil. They are drilling in seven hundred feet of my store now at a depth of twenty-five hundred feet. If they get oil I will be a rich man, and if they fail I will have made some money any way. Well, Mr. Bryan, I don't know whether you remember me or not. I was in Boone 17 years ago. I would be glad to see you again. George Triplett stopped with you last year. Have this letter published in your county paper.

Yours as ever,

L. TRIPLETT

ESTATE OF GENERAL CARR IS HELD AT \$300,000.00

Durham, May 21.—The will of the late General Julian S. Carr was filed for probate with the clerk of Superior court here this afternoon, involving the disposition of an estate valued at \$250,000 to \$300,000.

His two sons, Claiborne Carr and Austin Carr get one half of the estate, grand children and Thomas M. Gorman, his secretary, the other half, including holdings in Texas, and Oklahoma. The western properties will go to the University of North Carolina, Trinity College, Durham public library, old ladies' home, and educational institutions in China established by the General.

Numerous smaller bequests were made. His stenographer gets \$500 and a number of servants \$200 each. At one time General Carr was reported to be the wealthiest man in North Carolina. All his life he gave generously to educational and religious institutions.

If You Want to Have Friends

Don't contradict people even if you are sure you are right, unless some principle of character is involved.

Don't be inquisitive about the affairs of even your most intimate friend.

Don't underrate anything because you don't possess it.

Don't conclude that you have never had any opportunities in life.

Don't believe everybody else is happier than you.

Don't believe all the evil you hear.

Don't repeat gossip even if it does interest a crowd.

Don't jeer at anyone's religious beliefs.

Learn to hide your aches and pains under a pleasant smile. Few care whether you have the earache, headache or rheumatism.

Learn to attend to your own business—very important point.—Detroit Young Men.

Advertisement for Wrigley's Doublemint chewing gum. Includes text: 'Wrigley's Doublemint Chewing Gum', 'Chew it after every meal', 'It stimulates appetite and aids digestion.', 'It makes your food do you more good.', 'It relieves that stuffy feeling after hearty eating.', 'Whitens teeth, sweetens breath and it's the goodie that...'

Advertisement for Dr. Alfred W. Dula, Eye Specialist. Text: 'DR. ALFRED W. DULA EYE SPECIALIST TO SEE BETTER SEE DULA 17 Year's Experience The Best Equipment Obtainable Glasses Fitted Exclusively MARTIN BLOCK, LENOIR, N. C. If you look from DULA, it's all right. WATCH PAPER FOR GATES.'

Advertisement for Dixie Theater and Court House. Text: 'Dixie Theater + Court House SATURDAY MAY 24th—DUSTIN FARNUM IN "THE GRAIL"—A big novel MONDAY NIGHT ALL STAR CAST IN THE VALLEY OF LOST SOULS THURSDAY MAY 28th JACK HOXIE IN GALLOPING ACE THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST WESTERN PICTURES EVER PUT ON THE SCREEN WATCH THIS SPACE EACH WEEK'

Large advertisement for Buick. Text: 'Buick Why does Buick use Four-Wheel Brakes? Because they provide the greatest safety for the owner and his family'

Advertisement for Bank of Blowing Rock. Text: 'Bank of Blowing Rock Blowing Rock, N. C. R. D. JENNINGS DENTIST (Office Over Watauga County Bank) BOONE N. C. Patients from a distance would do well to write and have appointment arranged beforehand. F. M. RICHARDS, Banner Elk, N. C. W. H. GRAGG, Boone, N. C. Chas. E. GREEN, Bakerville, N. C.'

Large advertisement for Boone Hardware Company. Text: 'It's Spring—Now Paint Up! "Save the Surface and You Save All" This is the slogan of all the paint manufacturers of favorable repute in the United States. Our line of paints is complete and we are having the best paint business we have ever had from the fact people have learned how dependable are the lines we carry. Come in and let us discuss the matter of painting your home. We have just unloaded another car of Wire Goods and can serve you with anything you may want or need. Plenty of poultry and rabbit fence in 4 and 5 feet heights. Barbed wire at \$3.25 per spool while it lasts. Stoves and Ranges, Harness, Wagons, Wagon Tire, Rod Iron, Lime, Cement, Roofing, Daisy Churns, and many other things you need every day. Our line of builders' hardware is complete at all times—in fact you will not find a better assortment of Hardware in this part of the country. Why send away from home for the goods you need when you can get them here and always as cheap, quality considered. Let's make this the banner year for our community. Slogan: Watch Boone and Watauga grow. Nissen Wagons, Oliver Chilled Plows, and Deering Mowers. BOONE HARDWARE COMPANY'