

The Watauga Democrat.

R. C. RIVERS, Editor and Owner.

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Thursday September 18, 1924.

The officials of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railway were over the line from Johnson City to Boone last week. They spent some time here, but we hear they were entertained by Mr. Alexander at the Mayview Manor, Blowing Rock, N. C. and from there went to Cook's Gap and other gaps in the Blue Ridge. Just what this means is a matter of conjecture. The people are very anxious to know just what kind of a proposition they are figuring on. The predominant idea among the laymen is that this strong company is considering the extension of their line to Wilkesboro, a third rail to be supplied from Johnson City to Boone, and then a standard gauge line from here on. If this conjecture is right, and it is plausible, it would be a boon for the company and what it would mean to this mountain section in dollars and cents could hardly be estimated. Should we be fortunate enough to fall on the line of the proposed road, the business of the nation would be paralyzed. It may be that the officials of our road have seen the handwriting, and are getting busy. Let us hope so.

ONLY A WARNING

In this issue we carry a new story concerning the liquor traffic as it has been handled in Boone of late—not only in the town but county as well. This comes as a great surprise to us. We had said at different times that Boone and Watauga was probably as free from liquor and its influences as any town or county in the state. The appalling part of it is that boys in tender years, some of them in their early teens, and members of good families, were enticed by the wily young officer to accompany him to the favorite haunts in Wilkes county where liquor could be purchased in any amount desired. As we understand it these kids will not be prosecuted as it was largely sought by the officers, and they surely bagged a nice ravy. But boys this is only the beginning of the end. Plans deep and wide are being laid for the extermination of liquor in this beautiful God-favored country of ours, and if you persist in bumping with it in any way, you will soon be overtaken again, and if you see, you can't hope for nothing less than severe punishment at the hand of the law. The rule made by the boy in the yellow car is as we said only a beginning. The next may be worked from a different angle, and you may again be caught in the toils. They are on the trail of the buyer and the seller, and your watchword now should be, "I will never again be smothered by a good name by even taking a drink of the damnable stuff." This is only given out as a little advice to the boys, and we hope it will be taken in the same good spirit in which it is written.

RICKETT'S DREAM

"I have endeavored to visualize my dream of a fairer and finer state. I have outlined the means by which I hope to make this dream come true. And the means all reach out to a single end—a larger hope, a wider door for the average man than he has ever known. With a six months school guaranteed to every child, with the forces of disease routed from their ancient stronghold, with the curse of rum lifted from every home, with our fields filled by the men who own and therefore love them, with our harvests free from the crop lien's deadly blight; with modern conveniences and wholesome diversions in reach of every home, our dear old state, released from her bondage to the blood kin tyrants of Ignorance, Poverty, Disease and Crime, will begin to realize her finest possibilities in riches and grace; will assume her rightful place in the march of civilization; and from the blue of the mountains to the blue of the sea there will spring up a hardier, holier race, not unlike the giants that walked the earth when the sons of God mated with the Daughters of men.—T. W. Bickett, Ex-Governor of North Carolina.

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Making the Automobile Pay The North Carolina plan of making the automobile pay for the road is fast becoming of universal adoption. It is popular because practical and constitutes a form of taxation which the people pay without knowing it. The thought scarcely occurs to any purchaser of a gallon of gasoline in this state that he is paying a tax. He only thinks of the fact that his gallon will carry him over a good road miles more than the same amount would carry him over a bad road. He pays more for his gasoline but he gets more out of it. The Observer a few days ago gave statement of the amount of revenues developed for the State automobile department from sales of gasoline and the part this tax is playing in paying off the debt and going into a sinking fund, and now we can give some figures for the country as a whole, as compiled by the Economic World, from a report by the Bureau of Public Roads at Washington since 1914. The tendency has been steadily in the direction of placing the tax on the automobile. It is disclosed that in 1914, out of a total highway income of \$240,262,784, the collection from motor vehicles amounted to \$12,382,031, or 5.1 per cent of the total. In 1921 seven years later, the motor vehicle owners and operators paid \$118,942,706 in motor vehicle taxes and \$3,685,460 in gasoline taxes which together equaled 10.6 per cent of the total income for highway purposes. A similar compilation of payments made by owners and operators of motor vehicles for licenses and permits in 1923 shows a total contribution on their part of \$188,970,922. In the same year gasoline taxes levied by thirty five states, amounted to \$36,813,939. The motor vehicles accordingly contributed a total of \$225,784,861 or 19.5 per cent of the entire 1923 highway income. In the six New England states this contribution is 25.1 per cent. —Charlotte Observer.

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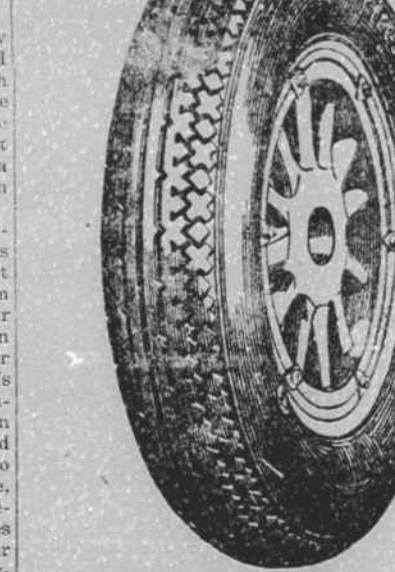
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W. R. WINKLER Boone, N. C.

AMERICA SHOULD PRODUCE ITS OWN RUBBER... J. B. Johnson

Didn't Fool the Judge Statesville Daily. Following a plea of guilty to a charge of manufacturing the ardent plea was offered for the defendant in Wake Superior Court, that he had seen the error of his evil ways, had been converted and joined the Church, and was living a righteous life. That would have been sufficient in most courts to have won a suspended judgment, but Judge Loyd Horton who was presiding, expressed doubt as to the genuineness of some conversions on the eve of a trial for a criminal offense. If the defendant had really become a Christian, said his honor, he must believe in atonement for sin and he was therefore sentenced to a period of six months on the roads. That is sound sense. If there is genuine conversion, the defendant realizes that he deserves the punishment and will enter no complaint to satisfy the demands of the law. SUMMER COMPLAINT makes little headway with children whose careful mothers protect them from stomach and bowel disorders, hot weather cramps, weakening diarrhoea - with CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC and DIARRHOEA REMEDY Quick in action - satisfying in results. COMMERCIAL PRINTING OF EVERY KIND BY RIVERS PRINT. CO.



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