

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

A Non-Partisan Newspaper, Devoted to the Best Interests of Northwest North Carolina

VOLUME XII, NO. 34

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1930

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Communists

A group of Communist agitators tried to hold a public meeting on the steps of New York City's Hall the other day. They had neglected to obtain a permit for a public meeting and the police dispersed them. They fought the police and some of them are broken heads. Many half-baked thinkers see in that episode an example of tyranny.

It was rather an example of the communists' lofty disregard for all the laws of civilized nations. Their record in Russia proves that their whole scheme of government is more tyrannical than the worst of the Czars. Every American citizen has the right to agitate for a change in the laws of the Constitution itself. There is no place in America for those who teach disobedience to the law.

Overproduction

The best short phrase descriptive of farming conditions was coined by the Secretary of Agriculture in a radio talk the other day. "Blind production for an unknown demand," were Mr. Hyde's words. Every farmer who has experienced the evils of overproduction. The pendulum swings too far each way. One year a short crop brings high prices; the next year every farmer produces more of that commodity and the markets are glutted at low prices.

For the first time in history intelligent steps are being taken by our Government to keep farmers from competing with each other and to compel them to work together to control production and to make farming a profitable business for all engaged in it.

Mr. Hyde is right in saying that the farmers of America face in the coming years as stern a test as ever faced our forefathers.

Civilization

Human progress consists in the multiplication of human wants and in the means to supply the new needs. The man who wants nothing we call a savage. He is at liberty to live in the wilds and enjoy life in his own way. The process we call civilization consists in tempting the savage with commodities which appeal to him so that he will exchange his labor for them.

The next step is to teach him to want things so badly that he is willing to live under the rules of the community where they are to be had.

The trouble with many folks in America today is that they want things without being willing to pay the price, either in labor or in obedience to the community law. The old law of the Pilgrim Fathers, "He who does not work shall not eat" is not sufficiently enforced. Too many parents are letting their boys and girls "have a good time" instead of going to work when they have finished school. It is from this irresponsible leisure class that most of the criminals develop, according to the Police Commissioner of New York.

Nobility

In 1913, when the unrest in the Balkans was already threatening central Europe with vague mutterings of the Great War which began the next year, Frederic C. Penfield, American Ambassador to Austria-Hungary, attended a tea-party at Buda-Pest, given by the Archduchess Maria Theresa and attended by many of the highest of the Hungarian nobility.

"If you were all to be deprived of your titles, estates and fortunes, what would you do," Mr. Penfield asked.

There was silence for a minute or two. Then the archduchess answered.

"I do not know what we would do, but I can tell you one thing we would not do," she replied. "We would not complain."

The man who told me of the incident was one of the noblemen at that party. He has a good job in New York and only a few intimates know that he has a high title and a great estate in his native Hungary. Like the rest, he lost all, but he does not complain. The Archduchess was right. They are taking their medicine and smiling at the dose. That is true nobility.

Thrift

Savings deposits throughout the nation are showing an upward trend again. They were considerably depleted for a while, money being withdrawn for stock speculation. Life insurance investments are steadily climbing.

Henry Ford was right when he said that most men should not deprive themselves under forty in order to save. The old idea that thrift means living a stunted life in youth in order to eke out narrow and bare existence in old age has gone the way of the twelve-hour day and the overtime. Every worker today has a surplus over normal living costs out of which a small percentage of savings will insure comfort in later years. In the meantime, Americans are fortunate in being able to enjoy a wide range of luxuries while still laying something by.

ROYAL ARCH MEETING

There will be a meeting of Watauga Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, in the Masonic Hall next Tuesday night at 7 o'clock. Officials insist upon a full attendance.

MERCHANTS ASSN. FORMED BY LOCAL BUSINESS MEN

Large Crowd Attends Organization Meeting. B. F. Siler Makes Strong Plea for Support of Home-Owned Stores, and Flays Practices of Mail Order Houses. Temporary Officers Appointed and Committees Named.

Between seventy-five and one hundred merchants of Watauga County assembled at the courthouse in Boone last Thursday evening for the purpose of forming an independent merchants association. The large audience was composed of representative business men from every community in Watauga, and unusual interest prevailed throughout the session.

Mayor R. S. Swift explained the necessity of organization among independent merchants, and told of the many benefits to be derived by from loyal co-operation. Following these remarks, he introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. B. F. Siler, of Elizabethton, Tenn., who spoke at length, using as his theme "Loyalty to the Home Merchant."

Mr. Siler, who is known as an organizer of much ability, told of the growth of chain stores during the last ten years and warned of the threat they offer to independent merchants the country over. In true "Old Man" Henderson fashion, he assailed their "monopolistic" trade practices, averring that the "home merchant contributes to home enterprises, supports the schools, maintains streets and roadways, while the chain store, often without a dollar invested in real money, reaps profits which justly belong to him."

The speaker dwelt for a few moments on the splendid citizenship of North Carolina, stating that this State ranks second in the Union for the number of professional men. It turns out of its colleges and universities the chief portion of the nation's parents teaching their children the lesson of loyalty and the advantages to be reaped by keeping their money in local trade channels.

Turning to mail order houses, the Tennessee organizer attacked the quality of goods handled by them, stating that their low prices were often made possible by the fact that prison-made clothing, mill ends, seconds and irregulars were carried in their stocks and dispensed at "cut-throat" rates to an unsuspecting public. Mr. Siler closed his remarks with a plea for co-operation on the part of each and every citizen in the task of putting over a strong working organization of home merchants.

Following the address, a brief business session was held, at which time Howard Mast was appointed temporary president, and Lloyd S. Isaacs, temporary secretary. A by-laws and constitution committee composed of D. J. Cottrell, W. H. Gragg, Eubert Holshouser and T. L. Mast was appointed; also an advertising committee. The organization is to be known as the Independent Merchants Association of Watauga.

Whether or not the association will establish a credit department has not been learned. Those who took part in the organization state that the chief purpose of the association is to enable the independent merchants of the county to do mass buying, thus aiding them to compete with chain store prices on certain staple articles.

A permanent organization will be formed at a meeting Friday night in the courthouse, when officers for the ensuing year will be elected. The public is invited to the meeting which will begin at 7 o'clock.

Ashe County to Appeal In Lloyd Parsons Case

Judge T. C. Bowie, attorney for Ashe County, stated in an interview last week that an appeal will probably be taken if the Industrial Commission allows compensation in the case of Lloyd Parsons, who was killed while working on a school building at Todd last year. Intimation was made in the press last week that under a ruling of the Supreme Court, the commission will proceed in the case and probably grant compensation to the family of the deceased.

Judge Bowie contends that negligence must be shown and there was no evidence to show that the school committee which employed Parsons was negligent in this case. He is of the opinion that the Supreme Court will stick to its former ruling, requiring that the plaintiff prove negligence.

Parsons was injured in a fall from the roof of the school building and died the following day in a Lenoir hospital.—Ashe County Journal.

OLD-TIME RESIDENT OF BOONE PAYS BELATED VISIT

Rev. P. C. Holsclaw and son, R. W., of Hendersonville, were in Boone for a short while Friday, en route to Sutherland, Ashe County, where they will spend some days visiting with the minister's sister, Mrs. J. L. Munday. The trip to this section was occasioned by Mr. Holsclaw having heard from his sister a few days ago, that he received the letter, her place of abode was unknown to him.

Rev. Holsclaw was in Boone during the days when Messrs. Spainhour and Hill were the local school masters, and he and the editor of The Democrat were schoolboys together. A pleasant hour was spent in listening to the reminiscences of the reverend gentlemen.

After a visit in Ashe County, the Messrs. Holsclaw will return to Watauga where they will spend some days visiting with other relatives.

Will Liberate Covey Of Mexican Quail

Mr. C. H. England, State Game Warden, was in Boone Thursday night, going over with local sportsmen and wardens the possibilities of conservation work in this section and laying future plans for the propagation of wild life in Watauga County.

Mr. England tells the Democrat that he is well pleased with the cooperation being accorded the department from all sections of the State and thinks that the fish and game are enjoying unprecedented reproduction. Within the next few weeks, he says, twenty-five to thirty pairs of Mexican quail will be liberated in this county, to fuse with the native Bob White. Practical tests have proven that this bird, although some smaller than the native stock, is of a harder breed and the intermingling of the two strains produces a stronger and larger bird than either. Notable results have been obtained in all sections of the State since the introduction of the new species.

According to Mr. England, the ring-necked pheasants are to be hatched throughout the State this year. Eggs may be secured from the Conservation Department by those interested, provided they agree that when hatched the pheasants be allowed to stray into hunting regions. Mr. England had considerable experience in pheasant raising when secretary to the late Claude Kitchen in Washington. He says that the young birds are full as easy to raise as the ordinary breed of chickens and easier than the Leghorn and similar types. Eggs for hatching are available to those interested, as well as literature on the subject.

Building and Loan in Stockholders Meeting

The majority of stock in the Watauga Building and Loan Association was represented in person or by proxy when the stockholders of that institution came together in a most enthusiastic session Monday afternoon, transacted routine business and elected the board of directors for the present year.

A report of the last year was read and approved and satisfaction was expressed at the progress of the Association during the past and a determination was voiced to make 1930 the most promising year of its existence. All the old board of directors were unanimously re-elected, except J. P. Hodges, who having moved away was replaced by R. T. Greer. The following gentlemen will conduct the affairs of the Association during the year, their vocations being listed to give an idea of the stability of the board: G. P. Hagaman, cashier, Watauga County Bank; C. M. Critcher, sheriff and furniture dealer; R. L. Bingham, superintendent of the State Farm; L. A. Greene, vice-president, Watauga County Bank; W. L. Holshouser, merchant; W. W. Mast, chairman board of directors, Watauga County Bank, merchant and farmer; R. T. Greer, chairman Board of County Commissioners; John E. Brown, lawyer; Grady Farthing, farmer and coal dealer; D. J. Cottrell, merchant, and W. D. Farthing, merchant.

This board of directors must pass on every loan before it is made and will safeguard to the best of their ability every dollar entrusted to their care. Association officials feel that the past record of the institution, together with the high personnel of the board, will justify the continued favor and loyal support of the citizens of Watauga County.

URGE LARGER COLLECTIONS FOR THOMASVILLE HOME

The Baptist Sunday Schools of Three Forks Association. I am in receipt of a letter from Dr. Kesler, general manager of the Mills Home (Thomasville Orphanage) in which he is making an urgent appeal for us to increase our once a month collections for the orphanage. I quote him as follows:

"Unless we can move up a little on our once a month collections, we are going to be in a serious financial condition at the close of the year. We are nearly twelve thousand dollars in debt when we should be out of debt, with something in the treasury. This is serious, but nothing like as bad as conditions are with some other institutions. In South Carolina, for instance, they are sending back children to relatives in order to save themselves from an overwhelming debt.

"We are having more applications

LADIES' NIGHT TO BE OBSERVED BY THE BOONE CIVITAN CLUB SATURDAY

"Ladies' Night" is to be observed Saturday, the 22nd, by the Boone Civitan Club, when wives and "girl friends" of members, along with a number of especially invited guests, will be entertained at the Daniel Boone Hotel. The banquet, which is planned to be elaborate, will be served at 7:30 o'clock.

Among the guests will be the principals of the four high schools of Watauga County, and the three students from each school who have prepared the best essays on "Citizenship" in Civitan International's contest, sponsored locally by the Boone club. During the evening's entertainment the twelve essays will be read and judged as to perfection by a committee composed of members of the Ashe County Civitan Club, headed by Ira T. Johnson. Gold prizes of \$10, \$5, and \$2.50 will be awarded the writers of the three winning papers. The essay winning first prize is to be forwarded to Civitan International, where it will be entered in National competition.

HOSPITAL PLANS GO FORWARD AT NORMAL COLLEGE

Present Plans Call for Completion of \$65,000 Structure this Summer. New Laundry Building and Basement at Demonstration School Will Complete Building Activities at State College for Year.

Mr. R. F. Coffey, resident engineer at the Normal College, is now making preliminary plans for the construction of the State and community hospital as authorized by the last session of the Legislature. It will be remembered that \$25,000 was set aside by the assembly as the nucleus of the hospital fund and the effort is being made to have that amount supplemented by a substantial donation from the Duke Endowment fund. An application has been made and favorable action is expected early enough that work may be started on the structure by the time spring weather opens up.

The building is expected to be of modern brick and fireproof construction and will cost approximately \$65,000. Necessary equipment, it is said, may be secured for about \$10,000, and the plant will be thoroughly modern in every respect. If present plans materialize the building will be ready for occupancy next summer.

Under the terms of the bill authorizing the hospital, the institution will be conducted strictly as a community benefit, and no profits from its operation are to be sought. It is to be open to the residents of this section, as well as to the college students and fees are to be based upon actual costs of operation.

The spring building program at the college also calls for a new laundry which is to be erected as a part of the building housing the heating and power plants. The new structure will be of brick, one story high and will cost about \$8,000. No new laundry equipment will be added this year.

Mr. Coffey will begin soon the work of excavating for the basement under the Demonstration School building. The space thus provided will be used for seven classrooms, a gymnasium, and some space will be left over for general basement purposes. The cost of this project will be about \$5,000.

STUDENTS OF BLOWING ROCK SCHOOL TO PRESENT PLAYS

Three original comedies will be given by the students of the Blowing Rock High School in the Blowing Rock High School auditorium on Saturday evening. The public is cordially invited to enjoy the comedies and the stunts between, guaranteed to make a fun.

In "A Bargain's a Bargain," the players will be Misses Lois Klutz, Margaret Sudderth, Mae Tester, Duke Bolick, Bynum Teague and William Lentz. In "Mrs. Mason's Poodle" the girls of the tenth grade are the actresses; and in "Jerry" the pranks of a fun-loving boy penetrated on his sister and her absent-minded professor, all brought to a happy ending by Aunt Huldah's arrival—the players are Virginia Coffey, Elizabeth Waiters, Lemuel Gragg and Omer Coffey.

These plays are the first of a series of public entertainments which will be given at intervals, ending with graduation on May 2. Funds from the plays, to which admittance is 25 and 15c, will be used in meeting expenses of the school for which no State or county funds are available.

GRADY FARTHING SELLS INTEREST IN COAL YARD

Mr. H. Grady Farthing, one of the principal owners and founder of the Cash Coal Company, has sold his interests in the business to J. Walter Winkler, who has been associated with him in the enterprise since its beginning. Mr. Farthing releases himself from the coal business, in order to be able to devote the major part of his time to farm activities.

Now more than ever before, certainly the most depressing type. If we should have to cut down, it will be at the expense of a great deal of suffering. Let me urge that we do our best during the next few Sundays to relieve the situation and help these children be comfortable.

I. G. GREER, Moderator, Three Forks Association.

LOCAL EDUCATOR ATTENDS SPRUCE PINE CONFERENCE

Professor S. F. Horton, principal of the Cove Creek High School, was a guest at a banquet given last Wednesday evening at the Toplift Hotel, Spruce Pine, when high school principals and superintendents from all over this mountain section gathered for the purpose of forming an organization, designed for the development of student personality. Mr. Horton was named a member of the executive committee of the tentative "Personality Conference," which will hold a session in Newland on March 8.

Nashville, Tenn.—Thomas Henderson, chairman of the state democratic executive committee, has issued a statement in which he said that "the Hoover democrats will be welcomed back into the party fold and will be permitted to participate in the forthcoming August primaries." Tennessee went for Hoover in the last presidential election.

Marion Reese Dies In Boone Sunday

Mr. Marion Reese, prominent citizen of the Beaver Dam section, passed away at his home in Boone Sunday, following an illness of many weeks' duration. Funeral services were conducted from the Baptist Church at Mountain City, Tenn., on Monday, and interment was in the cemetery in that city. Deceased was 68 years old.

Mr. Reese was a native Tennessean, having been born and reared in Mountain City. Many years ago he moved into the Beaver Dam section, where he was a prosperous farmer, having amassed a considerable fortune, as fortunes are measured in this section. He was a member of the Baptist Church, was an Odd Fellow, and was ever active in all worth-while affairs of his community, county and state. He was never married, and is survived by one brother, W. F. Reese of Reese, and one sister, Mrs. Ollie Madron, of Pennsylvania, and a large number of nieces and nephews.

Under the terms of a will which was probated Monday, it is learned that \$1,000 was left to be used by the Baptists of Mountain City in their present church-building program, \$500 was set aside for the financing and beautification of the Reese graveyard in Mountain City, and the real estate, consisting of three different farms, is to be divided between the near relatives.

With the passing of Mr. Reese, Watauga County has lost one of her finest and most substantial citizens.

Doughton Is Fighting For Veterans' Relief

Hon. R. L. Doughton, member of Congress from this district, is wholeheartedly supporting the Rankin bill, for the compensation of disabled World War veterans, in order that the soldiers who cannot be recognized under the present law, may be compensated on account of injuries received. Mr. Doughton feels that the measure referred to offers most promise of the much-sought relief. It was drafted by Hon. John E. Rankin, member of Congress from Mississippi, who is a member of the Committee on World War Veterans Legislation. A letter received by Mr. Doughton from his colleague will be of interest.

"Dear Mr. Doughton: "Please accept my thanks for your kind letter of recent date pledging your support to the Rankin Bill, H. R. 7825, for the relief of our uncompensated disabled veterans of the World War, and also for your appearance in person before the committee urging the passage of this measure.

"This is the bill the boys want. Letters, petitions and telegrams are pouring in every day from the ex-servicemen of North Carolina and every other State in the Union, urging that Congress pass this bill immediately and do justice to these uncompensated disabled veterans of the World War who have been so long neglected.

"Other bills have been introduced by members of Congress touching various phases of this question. Many of them have been introduced no doubt in good faith, but many of the ex-servicemen, and especially the disabled, believe that a great many of these bills are merely introduced by members who are at heart opposing the Rankin bill, or rather opposing it under pressure from the 'higher-ups,' and are seeking an alibi for their conduct. Petitions have come to me from North Carolina with thousands of names signed to them urging the passage of the Rankin Bill and protesting against the attempts now being made to sidetrack it for other legislation less meritorious.

"It is, therefore, more than gratifying to me to have your letter, coming out like a man and supporting wholeheartedly this measure for the relief of uncompensated veterans. I am not surprised to receive your communication. I have been on the Veterans Committee ever since it was organized, and I know that you have always manifested the keenest interest in all legislation that tended to do justice to our ex-servicemen.

"Assuring you of my very kindest regards and best wishes, and thanking you again for your support of this measure, I remain

"Sincerely your friend,

"JOHN E. RANKIN."

(Editor's Note—A misunderstanding in Watauga has grown from the publication of the bill as introduced by Congressman Pritchard, Republican, last week. The Democrat did not wish to leave the impression that the measure was passed—for it has not been—and so far as is known has never been reported out of the committee.)

PRINCESS CAFE PASSES TO NEW OWNERSHIP

The Princess Cafe, which for some time has been operated by a Mr. Whetstone, has changed hands. Mrs. John Greer and Roger W. McGuire being the new operators. The present owners have thoroughly remodelled the interior of the restaurant and had their formal opening yesterday. Mrs. Greer and Mr. McGuire have had much experience in similar lines of business, and it is expected that the cafe will enjoy a fine patronage under their management.

DIE IN ALCOHOL EXPLOSION

Elizabeth, N. J. Feb. 19.—Five workers were killed and 60 were injured, more than a score critically in a gas explosion at the alcohol plant of the Bayway refinery of the Standard Oil Company. Many of the injured were burned about the face and hands and doctors feared some would lose their eyesight.

The blast was caused by a rupture of a gas line. The escaping gas coming from a maze of coiled pipes on the property, was carried by the wind to a large full of glowing coals used for heating rivets for workmen engaged in new construction nearby. Several of the injured men said a sheet of blue vapor could be seen escaping from the alcohol plant just before the explosion.

THREE HUNDRED FARMERS ATTEND TABACCO MEETING

Abrahamson, Va., Warehousemen Addressed. Enthusiastic Audience of Watauga Men on Growing and Marketing of Burley. Free Seed Distributed. Large Acreage Expected to Be Planted to Weed.

More than three hundred Watauga farmers who are interested in the growing of tobacco, coming from every section of the county, met in the courthouse in Boone last Saturday at 2 o'clock p. m. for the purpose of hearing a number of addresses by tobaccoists from Virginia and Tennessee.

I. V. Wells, vice-president of a tobacco warehouse in Abingdon, Va., also an official of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, was introduced, and after explaining the purpose of the meeting, told the audience how to handle and market the crop.

Clyde B. Austin, president of one of the big warehouses at Greenville, Tenn., followed Mr. Wells of the program. The speaker went into the details of preparing the plant bed, the preparation of soil, planting, cultivation, curing and marketing of the crop. He stated that tobacco for the farmers of Watauga County would be a good cash crop, as a side line, but did not think it wise to attempt production on a large scale, certainly not until the farmers had learned the business. His advice was that each interested person plant about one acre.

Tobacco, Mr. Austin stated, has made on a ten-year average about \$250 per acre. The farmers were much interested in the speaker's discussion, as was indicated by the many questions from every part of the audience.

C. B. Vann, another Greenville warehouseman; Mr. Cozart, Abingdon warehouseman, and J. J. Baker, agricultural field agent of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, were also present.

A large number of tobacco seed packets were sold to the farmers following the meeting, and a quantity of tobacco literature distributed.

If the tobacco crop, which is practically a new venture for Watauga, turns out as well as the first meeting, predictions are that the harvest will be bountiful.

Boone Firemen Extend Thanks to Blowing Rock

One of the most enjoyable occasions of the winter season was a reception tendered the Boone Fire Department by the Blowing Rock Fire Department in the Blowing Rock town hall on Tuesday night, the 13th inst. The entire fire company, with a number of the ladies of the town, Mayor and ex-Mayor, were present, saying and doing everything possible to make the occasion enjoyable for the Boone boys. A fine chicken dinner was served to the queen's taste, and, better still, to the fire fighters' taste.

A genuine good time was enjoyed by the Boone boys, which they sincerely appreciate, and by those present who want to express to the Blowing Rock fire brigade, the good women, Blowing Rock band and citizens of the town, warm appreciation for the occasion.

Blowing Rock has a well-equipped fire department and loyal fire fighters, backed up by the town government and good citizens to the limit. Our boys returned to Boone at a late hour and had just arrived home when they were aroused by a fire alarm in Boone. Every man was immediately at the scene of what promised to be the worst fire ever suffered in Boone. A call for Blowing Rock's fire department was immediately wired. In less than twenty minutes from the call they rushed their engine to our city and were ready to play their hose on the fire that threatened to wipe out the entire business section of the town.

Our city feels under lasting obligation to Blowing Rock for their invaluable aid. Boys, when you need our aid, we'll be there as sure as gas will burn.

BOONE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PRINCESS CAFE PASSES TO NEW OWNERSHIP

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