

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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## Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

### Portugal

Travelers returning from the little known country of Portugal report that it is the most honest country in the world. In the hotels the key to your room is hung on a hook outside of your door and nobody ever steals anything. You can leave your suitcase, your camera or your overcoat on a railroad train or a station platform or in a parked car on the street, and nobody bothers them. The people are polite and hospitable as well as honest. If a sudden shower comes up, house doors open and the occupants ask passersby to step in for shelter until the rain stops.

That sounds like an earthly paradise. It would be perhaps, if Portugal had a stable government. In the last twenty-six years there have been twenty-six revolutions. Under the present President, General Carmona, the little nation is getting along nicely.

### Population

Early reports from the Census office indicate that the decline in the birthrate in the past ten years is greater than ever. It begins to look as if, in another ten years we will have come to an annual increase of only 500,000 or less than one half of one per cent. in population. And that will have tremendous economic significance.

Cities will not grow so fast. Fewer new schools will be needed. Real estate values will not increase so rapidly. Fewer homes will be built. The proportion of elderly people to young will be larger, and old age pensions and retirement funds will become matters of prime importance.

Those are not considerations for the distant future. They are based upon facts which are here, now, and may affect economic conditions very soon.

### Skyscrapers

New York's newest skyscraper, to occupy an entire city block on the East River waterfront at the foot of Wall Street, will be 105 stories high. There is no economic limit to height except the congestion of traffic that comes from crowding so many people into a small area.

Cincinnati has a new solution for the skyscraper problem. A new building going up there will be 46 stories high and will be a combination of office buildings, hotel and parking garage, with two large department stores and numerous specialty shops on the lower floors.

In the old days business men and their employees used to live "over the shop." We may be coming back to that. In the big cities, with apartment houses in the upper floors to house the people who work in the stores and offices below.

### Insects

The other day at my farm home we started to replace a worn door sill. When we took the old board off we found that black ants had eaten away the heavy timber which forms the sill of the house itself, for a distance of several feet. We took out more than two quarts of ants and about a pint of ant eggs, and then had the expensive job of fitting a new timber in place.

The war between man and insects is relentless and unceasing. Along the country roads near my home I frequently meet this summer the U. S. Department of Agriculture "bug men" who are spraying trees in the effort to get rid of the Japanese beetle, our newest insect pest. I found a great colony of tent moths in an old pasture beyond my woodlot. A new pest is beginning to eat up oak and maple trees up our way; another is destroying the willows along the brook and river.

Most of these pests, like the gypsy moth which is killing the New England elms, and the chestnut blight, which has destroyed every chestnut tree in the East, are imported. The Government maintains a plant quarantine, but every now and then some new pest slips across the border.

### Pressure

Ice which will not melt at a temperature of 180 degrees is the latest scientific curiosity. It has been produced by Professor P. W. Bridgman of Harvard University. All that is necessary to keep ice from melting under a flame is to subject it to a pressure of 290,000 pounds to the square inch.

Professor Bridgman's experiments with high pressures have given many surprising results. Many familiar substances change their characters under pressure, much as human beings do. Thirty-nine different metals become better conductors of electricity. Some of the changes persist after the pressure is removed.

What is the good of such experiments? Science doesn't know nor care. Science is just a way to discover new facts, leaving it to inventors to apply them to human uses.

### BAZAAR GIVEN BY THE VALLEY CRUCIS

The Val Woman's Auxiliary and Missionary Society are giving a bazaar on Saturday, August 9th, at 3 p. m. on the lawn of the Methodist Church. Many useful things will be offered for sale, also refreshments. All are cordially invited.

## MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS THE LOW BEEF PRICE

Livestock Growers of Watauga Are Asked to Gather in Boone Next Wednesday for Discussion of Their Common Problems. District Extension Agent Will Be Present to Shed Light on Situation.

Mr. Smith Hagaman, president of the Watauga County Livestock Association, has called a meeting to be held in the courthouse in Boone on Wednesday afternoon, August 13, 2:30 o'clock, for the purpose of discussing ways and means of improving the acute situation, caused by the extremely low prices of beef cattle this season. Mr. Hagaman is anxious that all cattle growers of the county rally to the call. The meeting is called following correspondence with John W. Goodman, District Agent North Carolina Extension Department, Raleigh, and it is expected that O. F. McKary, agent for this section, will be present to offer suggestions calculated to relieve the situation. A part of a letter from Mr. Goodman relative to the general problems now facing the beef cattle growers follows:

"From all the information we are able to gather relative to the sale of beef cattle this year, it seems that some of the cattle will have to be directed to different sections from which they have been going due to weather conditions that have been prevailing this season.

"In a meeting of district agents and marketing specialists here today we discussed the advisability of making an effort to aid the producers of beef cattle in placing their cattle in this State. The eastern part of the State and a part of the Piedmont section have good feed crops this year and it seems to offer an opportunity for some relief in the sale of our cattle. We are sending a letter today to all county agents in these sections advising them that possibly there would be a supply of cattle for feeding purposes in the western part of the State.

"In order that we might have rather definite information about the supply of cattle, and in order that we might render a service to the beef cattle producers in the county at this critical period, we feel that it would be advisable to hold a beef cattle meeting in each county for the following purposes: To advise the holding of the well-bred young cattle for future sales; and for building up good cattle in the county; advising to sell at this period the poor grades of cattle and to aid in the sale of this cattle and of the cattle that is mature; to further advise with the people and emphasize the importance at this time of the use of the very best bred bulls that can be obtained. We would also wish at this meeting to get a fair estimate of the number of cattle for sale, weights or grades of cattle, so that we may, through the papers, county agents and other sources, advertise this so that the buyers will be able to make contact with the people.

"Mr. O. F. McKary, who is now District Agent for that section, can be in Watauga County on Wednesday, August 13, for such meeting. We are anxious to be of any service we can in helping to relieve the situation that apparently is facing us at this time."

## Power Company Installs Huge Oil Burning Engine

Northwest Carolina Utilities Company Puts in Diesel Engine as Auxiliary to Water Power. 24-hour Service Resumed.

During the continued dry weather of the past several weeks water became so low in the power dam of Northwest Carolina Utilities on the Watauga River above Shulls Mills that service to the various communities of the county illuminated by that corporation had to be greatly curtailed. In fact, it had been feared by consumers of power that service would have to be discontinued until the drought was broken.

But G. T. Robbins, manager of the Blowing Rock office, last week got in touch with the home offices at Baltimore, Md., explained his plight, and asked for aid. The result was that a huge Diesel oil-burning engine of 300 horsepower was shipped by express to Lenoir, carried on trucks up the mountain, installed at Blowing Rock, and put into operation as a powerful adjunct to the depleted waterpower.

Regular 24-hour service is now being given to the patrons of the power company, and Manager Robbins states that no further fear need be entertained by the citizens of Blowing Rock, Shulls Mills, Valle Crucis or the Cove Creek section, for everything is again "sitting pretty" and they are assured of unbroken service in the future.

## TO GIVE INFORMATION ON NEW PENSION STATUTE

Mr. Liberty, a member of the U. S. Veterans Bureau, will be at the courthouse in Boone on Thursday evening, August 7, 7:30 p. m., to give some information on how to file for disability allowance or pension under the new law recently enacted by Congress.

All ex-service men are urged to attend. Bring your wives or sweethearts, as the case may be; also a lunch, and spend an evening of enjoyment. An appropriate musical program will be rendered.

All members and prospective members of the American Legion Auxiliary should attend, as that group will elect officers for the ensuing year following lunch.

## Continuing Echoes From Gathering of the Editors

### Will Speak Here



"FARMER BOB" DOUGHTON

## Doughton Will Make First Speech of Year

"Farmer Bob," Eighth District Congressman, Scheduled to Address Voters of County on First Day of Court.

Hon. R. L. Doughton, veteran Eighth District Congressman, is scheduled to deliver the first political address of the year, according to information given out by local Democratic leaders the first of the week. "Farmer Bob" will utilize the noon hour on the first day of September, it being also the first day of Superior Court, and it is expected that a large crowd will be present to hear the distinguished statesman start the political pot to simmering.

Much interest has been manifested locally in the predictions of State political leaders that Mr. Doughton would seek the seat in the United States Senate now occupied by Senator Lee S. Overman, in 1932, however there is no definite information forthcoming as to whether or not he has such ambitions. It is felt, however, that with his unparalleled strength in the west he is in a position to make a strong bid for the higher post.

## Dr. Curtice Will Be Speaker to Sheep Men

Dr. Cooper Curtice, of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry, is spending the week in Watauga County, and will deliver an address to the sheep growers of this region in the auditorium of the Cove Creek High School Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Smith Hagaman, president of the Watauga Livestock Association, who is co-operating with Dr. Curtice, locally, insists that all those interested in the sheep industry be present and hear an able authority discuss their problems from many angles, especially as regards the control of disease and parasites which have caused such havoc among the flocks in many sections.

Dr. Curtice comes to Watauga County under the direction of Prof. Earl H. Hostetter of the State Experiment Station, Raleigh, and has visited the different communities of the county in company with Mr. Hagaman. He expects to stimulate interest in sheep raising and to give out information not known to the average small producer. He will examine some sheep which may be afflicted, as time permits.

Dr. Curtice is a nationally recognized authority along this line and his visit may be expected to be of untold benefit to Watauga farmers, for he goes from here to Newland where he will be engaged during the coming week.

## Mr. McDade Accepts Position at Isaacs'

Mr. R. F. McDade has accepted the position of manager at the Isaacs Department Store, having entered upon his new duties last Friday. The remainder of the personnel of the store force will remain the same, with the exception of the owner, Mr. S. Isaacs, who on account of failing health has decided to relieve himself of active business duties for a period of time and get a much-needed rest.

Mr. McDade has been a citizen of Boone for the past four years, during which time he managed the Spaulding store. Since coming here he has acquired a wide circle of friends throughout this and adjoining counties, who will be glad to know that he is re-established in local trade circles and will remain a citizen of this city. Mr. McDade is thoroughly familiar with the various branches of merchandising, is a fine business man, and the local store is being congratulated upon having secured his services.

The ninth annual farmers field day and picnic will be held at the Tobacco Station near Oxford, Thursday, August 7.

State newspapers continue to arrive carrying voluminous articles concerning this section of country, following up the visit of the editors here recently. Watauga is getting her share of favorable comment at the hands of the journalists, and following are some of the selected clippings:

### WILKES PATRIOT

The Wilkes Patriot, in closing a rather lengthy editorial on the mountains, says:

"... But Boone was the climax to a perfect day, for at Boone, so the program said, a 'chicken dinner' would be served, and a tired and hungry gang watched eagerly the rounding of every curve for a 'city limits' sign that would prepare them for their entrance into this little heaven in the valleys."

"They were not prepared, however, for the bounteous feast that awaited them. Chicken dinner it was, and then some. They had a little bit of everything: angel-food cake, kivered and un-kivered pies, Watauga cheese, sandwiches, country-fried chicken, buttermilk, everything."

"A jolly fat guy named Gragg was master of ceremonies, while bashful Bob Rivers, veteran newspaper man, told the crowd to make themselves at home—and they did. Josiah William Bailey was fished out of the crowd for a short talk, as was Josephus Daniels, young Cary Dowd and Miss Beatrix Cobb. Near-Congressman L. G. Greer pleased the crowd mightily with several folk-songs, and then, to their regret, the pencil pushers were told to skedaddle. Boone had done its part, and more."

"This wasn't their convention, but they wanted to show the cock-eyed world what mountain hospitality was, and they won. Some of the members of the press may forget about dangerous curves, and beautiful scenery and wonderful roads, but not a mother's son of them will forget the wonderful hospitality of Boone and its citizenship."

"Boone had no axe to grind, asked no favors, save simply to call attention of the visitors to the need of a completed pavement of No. 60, to make a delightful main street from the sea to the Tennessee line."

### MORGANTON NEWS-HERALD

Among other nice things, the Morganton News-Herald has the following to say about Boone and its citizens:

"The 58th annual convention of the North Carolina Press Association, held last week at Blowing Rock, was notable in many respects, but likely the memory which will linger longer in the minds of those attending will be the mountain trip of Thursday afternoon, climaxed by a delightful picnic supper at Boone. In years past the association has enjoyed many delightful courtesies, but the hospitality of Boone as expressed in a sumptuous and typical Watauga County meal carried out Governor Gardner's live-at-home doctrine and because of it many an Eastern Carolina editor is now better acquainted with the products of the mountain region. The Boone folks, with Editor Bob Rivers in charge, ably assisted by Professor L. G. Greer, Mr. W. H. Gragg and others, did themselves proud in the way they entertained the editorial party and the stay in Boone was voted one of the high spots of the convention."

"It is worth a trip to Boone, especially to anyone interested in newspapers or newspaper making, to visit the Rivers Shop—the Watauga Democrat. The big maple in front was planted by the veteran editor and publisher, Mr. R. C. Rivers, who has given Boone a weekly newspaper for more than forty years. It will be interesting to Morganton people to know that the paper was established by Judge J. F. Spaulding who ran it for a year and sold to Mr. Rivers."

Rivaling the tree in interest on the outside is an old Washington handpress on the inside, used to print the first issues of the Democrat. This was the center of attraction for the Press Association visitors. Since the News-Herald has one of its own (Mr. Josephus Daniels reported us in the News and Observer as 'claiming to possess one') this was not a novelty to us. If Mr. Daniels will come to Morganton we can show him proof of our claim to the right to belong to the hand press brigade—at least in the possession of one of the old presses."

"The trip over the Yonahlossee Trail from Blowing Rock to Linville, thence to Newland, Banner Elk, Valle Crucis and Boone beggars description. It was a treat even to us 'mountain boomers' and a revelation to our newspaper friends from the East."

### THE FRANKLIN PRESS

Lyles Harris, editor, has the following to say regarding the recent Press Association meeting in his valuable publication, The Franklin Press:

"Last week the North Carolina State Press Association held its annual meeting at the Green Park Hotel at Blowing Rock. It is difficult to find adequate words to express the pleasure that members of the Press Association had at this famous summer resort. Besides the very good business program of the association itself, there was the hearty hospitality of Blowing Rock, Boone and the community at large. The folk in these parts surely know how to make visitors feel welcome and to show them a good time."

"The town of Boone, nine miles away, entertained the boys at a most sumptuous dinner served out in the open by the fair ladies of that city."

(Continued on Page 4)

## In Race for Governor



JUDGE TOM L. JOHNSON

## Gubernatorial Aspirant Pays Visit to Watauga

Judge Tom Johnson, of Lumberton, States That His Chances Are Bright for Democratic Nomination in 1932.

Judge Tom L. Johnson, of Lumberton, who is receiving considerable publicity throughout the State as a possible candidate for Governor in 1932, was a visitor to Boone Saturday. When questioned regarding his candidacy for the high office, Judge Johnson stated in no uncertain terms that his name would be in the running, and expressed the belief that his chances for the nomination are, at present, extremely bright.

Judge Johnson was born at Leicester, Buncombe County. For 23 years he has been living at Lumberton, Robeson County, and during this time he has built up a remarkable record of public service. He is one of the leading Democrats of the section, is a man of keen intellect, magnetic personality, and recognized ability as a barrister and a business executor.

He was chairman of the Board of Education of Robeson County for 15 years and resigned this place to accept the nomination to the State Senate from his district in 1925. He was author of the State Banking Act, enacted in 1925. In 1925 he was again elected to the Senate and was unanimously chosen as president of that body, which carried with it the position of Democratic floor leader. He was author of the State-wide Australian ballot law enacted in 1929, and used for the first time in the primary of June 7, 1930.

On March 3, 1929, Judge Johnson was appointed to the Superior Court bench by Governor Gardner, where he has since been serving as a special judge.

It is the opinion of the Judge's friends in Watauga that should he receive the nomination and ultimate election to the post of honor, he has all the requirement necessary to carry on the arduous duties of a Chief Executive.

## Mott Revival Services to Begin on September 7th

Noted Lay Evangelist Will Preach at Boone Baptist Church. Rev. P. A. Hicks, Pastor, Extends Invitation to All.

Marshall L. Mott Jr., lay evangelist of Winston-Salem, will open a series of revival services at the Boone Baptist Church on Sunday, September 7, according to a letter received by the pastor, Rev. P. A. Hicks, recently. Under former plans the Mott revival meeting was to begin on September 21, but the eminent evangelist in working over his schedules finds that the first-named date works better into his plans.

Mr. Mott, a former attorney at law is looked on as one of the most brilliant pulpit orators in the State, and since he entered the evangelistic field some three or four years ago has done a great work. At present he is conducting a revival meeting at Mocksville where, he states, large crowds are in attendance and interest is running high.

Rev. Hicks is anxious that as many Watauga people as possible hear Mr. Mott during the meetings here, and gives assurance that his forceful preaching will be greatly enjoyed by all.

## Episcopal Missionaries Now Being Conducted

Captain William Smith, of the American Church army, is holding a mission at the Episcopal Church at Valle Crucis, which is expected to last for three weeks. Rev. Rufus Morgan from South Carolina will be the special preacher next Sunday morning, and the Rev. K. G. Emley, Bishop of Upper South Carolina, will deliver the message on Sunday morning, the 17th. On the 21st the Rev. Henry B. Phillips, of Columbia, S. C., will be the special preacher.

Rev. Lane Banton, of Newark, Ohio, is in charge of the Episcopal Mission in Ashe County for the month of August, and Rev. Henry D. Phillips is the visiting clergyman at the Stringfellow Memorial Episcopal Church, Blowing Rock, during August.

Rev. Reginald Mallett, of Greensboro, is in charge of All Saints Episcopal Mission at Linville for the month of August.

## STATE SUPERVISOR LIDA TAKES ISSUE WITH NEWSPAPER

States That Conditions at Convict Camp Have Been Misrepresented. No Whipping Allowed by Law. State Inspector Makes Examination. Discharged Guard Blamed for Revolving Rumors.

In last week's issue of The Democrat there appeared an article which, near its close, made reference to certain unpleasant conditions rumored to have existed at the convict camp on Route 60 just east of Deep Gap. While no definite statement was made in the article concerning the treatment of convicts held there, or no accusation lodged against those in charge, it seems that the "piled work" struck a sore spot in the person of State Supervisor D. R. Lida, who called Monday to ask for an explanation of the origin of the rumors, as well as to offer an explanation for some of the rumors that have been flying thick and fast in these parts for the past several weeks.

Mr. Lida, in brief, with colored his objection to the word "whipping boys" which appeared in the story, and stated that no prisoner had ever been whipped in his camp since it was moved to its present location. He further revealed that the right to use the whip was taken away from supervisors by an act of the General Assembly of 1924 and, so far as he knew, the law had never been violated. Solitary confinement on limited rations, it appears, the only method of punishment allowed to be administered to State prisoners.

Another revolting rumor which had to do with strapping the hands of convicts high over their heads and leaving them on tin-tops for hours at a time, was branded as an unwarranted falsehood by Mr. Lida. According to his statement, no such treatment was ever accorded a prisoner, the only phase of punishment even remotely resembling this being manacled the backs to a wall with hands in a more or less comfortable position for a few hours at a time.

Mr. W. H. Whitley, of Raleigh, chief inspector for the State Welfare Department, was a visitor at the convict camp last week-end, and Mr. Lida is of the opinion that his report on conditions found there will be satisfactory to prison officials. The 80 odd negro convicts are said to be in sound condition physically, and that food furnished to them is good "such as it is."

It was also stated that the two guards, Freeman and Gosnell, who were bound to court last week on charges of possession and intoxication, were bailed out by Mr. Lida. This was a mistake, although The Democrat did not question the source of its information. The prisoners were furnished food by another member of the construction force and were not returned to their duties as guards, as was stated, but to other work on the job.

It is the belief of the supervisor that a guard who was discharged recently for neglect of duty spread the gruesome stories to "get even" with him for losing his job. Mr. Lida's story was logical from start to finish and casts quite a different light on the unpleasant situation.

## Josephus Daniels to Be College Speaker

Hon. Josephus Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, who, with Mrs. Daniels, is enjoying a brief stay at the Blowing Rock Hotel, will deliver an address in the College Auditorium this (Thursday) morning at 10 o'clock, to which the general public is invited.

For several years the prominent journalist and statesman has talked to the students at some time during the summer, and while the subject of his address today was not revealed, it is expected that a large number of town and county people will avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing him.

## BOONE MAN TO APPLY FOR COMMERCIAL PILOT'S LICENSE

Horton Gragg, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gragg, of Boone, leaves Monday for North Wilkesboro, where he will resume his study of aerodynamics under the expert tutelage of Pilot Ed Newkirk, in charge of the flying field there. Later in the month he will go to the Charlotte Airport to add additional hours of flying time, and about the first of September expects to take the examination for commercial pilot's license.

Young Gragg already has to his credit more than eighteen hours at the controls of a plane, is an enthusiastic booster of the newly-inaugurated method of travel, and will, when he has received his "wings," be the first full-fledged aviator in this county. Following necessary schooling, the local birdman will enter the U. S. Army Air Corps.

## NOTED MINISTER WILL DELIVER TWO LECTURES

Elder R. L. Isbell, of Lenoir, will deliver a lecture on his recent trip to the Holy Land at the Howard's Creek Baptist Church Saturday night, August 9th at 8 o'clock. The reverend gentleman is an able speaker and his travel lectures have been widely acclaimed.

Mr. Isbell will also preach at the Advent Church in Boone at the morning and evening hours next Sunday.