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Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Oranges

In California 78 per cent. of the orange and lemon growers ship through co-operative organizations. In 1930 California grew 30 per cent. fewer oranges than in 1929, and got fifteen million more dollars for it.

In Florida more than 100 different shipping agencies control the shipment and sale of oranges. Florida growers, except a few large ones maintaining their own marketing organizations, make very little money for their work. They are nearer the great orange-consuming centers, but they have never been able to organize co-operatively and pull together.

Inventors

An "inventor" was indicted in New York the other day on the charge of swindling gullible investors out of more than a million dollars in the past four years. He had an invention which would revolutionize automobiles and airplanes, a new kind of engine—so he said. The great corporations were trying to steal it from him, but he wouldn't let them. Instead, he was letting the common people have a share in the enormous profits which the invention would earn.

That was his story, and the common people bit, as usual. Nothing is more persistent than the erroneous belief that the great industrial companies always try to rob the inventor. The fact is just the other way. There is no limit to the price which may be paid for an invention which may be one of a dozen concerns would pay for an engine which could do what this inventor claimed his engine could do. But if the experts of the big manufacturers decided that it would not do what he claimed, it is a safe bet that they were right and he was wrong.

Ordinary people would better buy shares in established companies using inventions which have been proved practical, than in new inventions which are so good that nobody will buy them.

Thrift

The week beginning January 17 is National Thrift Week. Everybody is supposed to think about saving money during that week, and to begin some sort of saving program.

That is not what is needed now. There is too much thrift. Too many people are hoarding money, keeping it out of use. What is needed this year is not more thrift, in the narrow sense of merely saving the symbols of wealth, but real thrift in the sense of investing money where it will create more wealth.

The new crop of millionaires five years from now will be the ones who are putting every penny they can take or squeeze into securities and real estate that are going beyond a million far below their real values. The foundations of great fortunes are being laid now by that sort of intelligent thrift. The mere saving of surplus income never made anybody rich.

Celebrities

The practice of honoring men who have contributed to the world's progress by issuing special postage stamps is one which is growing. The newest proposal in this line is to honor House and Draper, inventors of the electric telegraph, which will be 100 years old this Spring.

It is hard to realize that only a century has passed since men first learned how to communicate at a distance electrically. It is hard, for that matter, to realize that electric telegraphy without wires—what we call radio—is only thirty years old.

The names of Morse and Draper, of Marconi and De Forest, will live for all time as those of men who made it easier for people to communicate with each other, and so hastened the day of universal friendship and peace.

"F" litics

Chair Lewis, author of "Main Street," "Babbitt" and other popular novels which hold up certain phases of American life to ridicule, if not to contempt, was awarded the Nobel prize for literature for 1930. The European judges thought his picture of American life must be a true one, since it was so different from that which other American writers presented, and gave European readers a chance to sneer at the United States.

Mr. Lewis belongs to the school of modern writers who have discovered that one way to get people to read your books is to attack everything which most folk hold in respect or reverence. They call this "realism." Nobody can object to their writing whatever they please. But most readers read to be entertained, and prefer the sort of stories which "leave a good taste in the mouth."

DEMOCRATS NAME WILLIS SMITH FOR HOUSE SPEAKER

R. D. Johnson Chosen for President Pro Tem of Senate. Lunsford to Be Recording Clerk. Thad A. Eure Defeats Alex Lassiter for Principal Clerk. LeRoy Martin Unopposed for Principal Clerk.

Raleigh.—Democrats of the North Carolina General Assembly Tuesday night nominated Willis Smith, of Wake County, as Speaker of the House of Representatives and named Rivers D. Johnson, of Duotin, for president pro tem of the Senate.

Meeting in separate caucuses, the Democrats of the upper and lower houses moved rapidly in their organization.

Only one ballot was required to choose Smith, O. B. Moss, of Nash, a third candidate for the speakership, withdrew from the race and Smith won over Fred I. Sutton, of Lenoir, 71 to 39, for the House leadership.

In the Senate, Johnson defeated M. K. Blount, of Pitt. 31 to 17, on the first ballot for the nomination as president pro tem of the Senate and Democratic leader of that branch. The nomination of all officers Tuesday night was tantamount to election. There are only two Republicans in the Senate and five in the House. The Senate caucus took less than an hour, while the House meeting lasted much longer.

LeRoy Martin, principal clerk of the Senate, was unopposed and unanimously chosen. Fritz Smith of Raleigh, was nominated for principal reading clerk; A. Corey of Martin for enrolling clerk and O. B. P. Shell, of Hartnett, was nominated for sergeant-at-arms of the Senate.

Thad A. Eure, of Hertford, former representative, defeated Alex Lassiter, veteran incumbent, with a record of thirty years' service, for the nomination to be principal clerk of the House. Eure got 79 votes and Lassiter 33.

Unlon L. Spence, of Monroe, nominated Smith for the Speakership and John A. MacRae, of Mecklenburg, placed Sutton before the caucus. After the balloting the selection of Mr. Smith was made unanimous on motion of Mr. MacRae.

R. L. Harris, of Person, acted as permanent chairman of the House caucus after A. A. F. Sewell, of Lee, called the body to order and nominated him.

Bascom Lamar Lunsford, of Blount, was nominated for reading clerk of the House. Miss Rosa Munn, of Cabarrus, was unanimously re-nominated enrolling clerk of the House. Dr. C. M. Higgins, of Rowan, was nominated for sergeant-at-arms.

At noon today (Wednesday) the 1931 General Assembly will be formally opened when Alex Lassiter, retiring principal clerk of the House, and Lieutenant Governor R. T. Fountain call the two houses to order.

The opening session will be taken over with organization and Thursday looks as an open day with Governor Gardner scheduled to deliver his biennial message Friday. While the Democratic caucus held the attention of the legislators and senators Tuesday night, there were ramblings, however, overshadowed, among small gatherings on the outlook for the session.

The Brookings report recommending a complete reorganization of the State government, the short ballot, taxation, consolidation of schools and anticipation of what Governor Gardner may recommend were popular topics. Governor Gardner is sponsoring a State purchasing agency and is favorable to the consolidation of the three State schools of higher learning.

Heavy Enrolment at State Teachers College

Reports from the State Normal College are to the effect that the present enrolment is far in excess of the records established for this particular season of previous years, there now being registered about 635 students. It is indicated that should the present percentages of increase be maintained until the opening of the spring term on February 22nd, there will be at that time more than 800 students at the local institution. It is to be doubted if any college in the State of North Carolina has shown such consistent growth within the past few years.

BANK MAKES GOOD SHOWING

The Watauga County Bank carries in this issue the report of its condition as required by the Corporation Commission. It is interesting to note that the local institution has made outstandingly large collections during the past year, and that the reserve fund being carried is far in excess of the legal requirements.

Most of us come in contact with the ugly side of life sufficiently in our daily occupations.

Depositors in Watauga Banks Sign Agreement

In times of financial stress almost everyone begins to appreciate the value of banking institutions and to understand what it means to a county when it becomes difficult to borrow money.

Many banks over the country have closed their doors in the last year. A very small per cent. of these were forced to close because of unusual business methods during the times of easy money and flush business, such as inflated securities and stock market speculation.

A large percentage of these bank failures were caused, not by any unsound banking methods or fault whatever on the part of the banks or their officials, but nothing more nor less than just talk, which produced a feeling of suspicion and uneasiness, followed by excessive withdrawals by depositors, which made it necessary to close at least temporarily. Many of them are now reopening since the people awoke to their folly.

The banks of Watauga County (while they are in excellent condition, having reduced their loans in the past year more than \$135,000), seeing some slight indications of spreading uneasiness among the people which was calculated to cause heavy withdrawals by those who might not understand the real situation, in order to protect their depositors and in order to protect the people of

the whole county against the wholesale destruction that must follow the closing of banks, decided, after much deliberation by many good citizens, as well as the bank officials—in order that these banks might be made absolutely safe against any dangerous withdrawals until the uneasiness is passed—to ask every person doing business with these institutions to sign an agreement not to withdraw any money now on time deposit before October 25th, 1931, and to maintain their checking balance at 85 to 90 per cent. of what it was at the close of the year 1930, until October 25th.

These articles of agreement were circulated by public-spirited men without cost to the banks, in every community of the county. No such response has ever been witnessed in this or perhaps any other county. Out of more than a thousand people who were asked to sign the agreements, those who refused to affix their signatures could be counted on the fingers of your two hands. All others who have not had an opportunity to sign will be seen as quickly as possible.

If unanimous response is given, as it appears will be, to this plan worked out by the business men of the county, it will be to the best interest of every man and woman in the county. Every citizen will love his county and his neighbor better by reason of such heroic devotion to the common good.

WEATHER DATA FOR PAST TWO YEARS IS COMPILED BY LOCAL OBSERVATORY

J. T. C. Wright, observer at the local Weather Bureau, has prepared the following weather data for the years 1929 and 1930, and a glance through these interesting figures will convince the reader that the "weather man" dished out a bunch of extremes for Watauga County during that time:

	1929	1930
Average maximum temperature	61	57
Average minimum temperature	42	37
Average temperature for entire year	51	47
Highest temperature reached during entire year	94	84
Lowest temperature reached during entire year	-6	-1
Average daily range in temperature	20	20
Greatest daily range in temperature	47	48
Total precipitation, including melted snow (inches)	58.05	40.1
Average monthly precipitation	4.84	3.37
Average daily precipitation for entire year	0.16	0.11
Greatest precipitation in any month	7.98	5.55
Least precipitation in any month	2.72	1.33
Greatest precipitation in 24 hours	2.25	1.95
Total snowfall	10.85	11.50
Greatest monthly snowfall	16.75	13.25
Greatest snowfall in 24 hours	8.00	15.00
Number of days with .01 inch or more precipitation	176	129
Greatest number of rainy days in any month	19	20
Least number of rainy days in any month	10	6
Number of clear days during entire year	147	169
Greatest number of clear days in any month	17	23
Least number of clear days in any month	6	9
Number of partly cloudy days during entire year	126	169
Greatest number of partly cloudy days in any month	19	21
Least number of partly cloudy days in any month	1	0
Number of cloudy days during entire year	108	87
Greatest number of cloudy days in any month	16	14
Least number of cloudy days in any month	0	7
Number of killing frosts	12	15
Number of thunderstorms	29	7
Number of sleets	1	0
Number of solar halos	2	10
Number of lunar halos	2	6
Number of double rainbows	2	1
Number of days with west winds	98	112
Number of days with southwest winds	33	56
Number of days with south winds	9	8
Number of days with southeast winds	63	76
Number of days with east winds	49	31
Number of days with northeast winds	11	6
Number of days with north winds	100	73
Number of days with northwinds	2	2
Number of days when winds did damage	3	1
Number of days with freezing temperatures	121	141
Greatest number of days in any month with freezing temperature	24	29
Number of days with zero or below zero temperature	4	3
Greatest number of days in any month with zero or below zero temperature	3	3

Ivan Church Injured As Auto Overturns

Mr. Ivan Church, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Church of Mabel and an employee of the J. C. Muse Hardware Company, Mountain City, is under the treatment of Dr. Bruce Rhea, for injuries sustained when the automobile in which he was riding over turned in Forge Creek. Spencer Greer, who was driving the car, was unhurt, while Church received deep lacerations on his face and head and sustained several broken ribs besides minor cuts and bruises.

It is said that Church and Greer were returning to Mountain City when the accident occurred. The injured man's parents are at his bedside, and latest information is to the effect that his recovery is expected.

How to grow and feed fat hogs for market and for tonners is the subject of Extension circular 181 recently prepared by W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist, and available for the asking from the agricultural editor at State College.

Dr. Alfred Dula Is a Victim of Paralysis

News reached The Democrat from Lenoir yesterday to the effect that Dr. A. W. Dula, well known eye specialist, suffered a stroke of paralysis last Saturday, that he is gradually sinking, and that no hope is held out for his recovery.

Dr. Dula has practiced his profession in Watauga County for more than twenty years, and during that time has made acquaintance with practically all the citizens of this section. The news of his illness will be received with sorrow by the wide circle of friends he has made here.

TIN CAN IS POOR BANK

Hickory.—Dave Barger's lifetime savings, amounting to around \$330, are in some other person's hands today. Thieves entered a smoke house back of Barger's home and stole the money. The smokehouse was ransacked but the thieves left two butchered hogs and other articles, carrying off the money, which was concealed in a tin box.

J. L. Tatum Succumb On Wednesday Morn

Mr. J. L. Tatum, aged 65 years, died at his home, Brookside, Wednesday morning, after an illness of perhaps a year. Funeral services were conducted from the home on Thursday afternoon by Rev. Mr. Winkler, pastor of the South Fork Baptist Church and interment followed in the family cemetery.

Mr. Tatum was a native of Watauga County, having died in the same house in which he first saw the light of day more than three score years ago. He was a prosperous farmer, and contributed a full share to the betterment of the community in which he lived his long and useful life. He was a faithful churchman and was a member of the South Fork Baptist Church for more than forty years. In his death Watauga County loses a model citizen.

Surviving are the wife and four children: L. T. Tatum of Boone, W. S. Tatum, Rocky Ford, Colo.; Mrs. W. F. Norris, Brookside; and Mrs. C. B. Watson, Abingdon, Va.

Richard Campbell Faces Serious Charge in Ala.

Richard Campbell was arrested Friday at his home at Mabel by Deputy Sheriff H. A. Hagaman on a charge of grand larceny, and placed in the county jail, awaiting the arrival of an Alabama Sheriff, who forwarded the papers to the local officer. No details as to the charges against Campbell are available, however it is said that larceny of automobiles figure in the case. An officer from Alabama arrived Monday and the prisoner was delivered to him.

W. L. Trivett Home Destroyed by Fire

The country home of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Trivett, which is located on the farm two miles east of Boone, was totally destroyed by fire on last Thursday morning. The flame is supposed to have started from a defective stove.

Although no estimate has been made on the losses, the home was a good one and was completely furnished. The losses are said to be partially covered by insurance.

TWO GOOD REASONS FOR SAVING SEED ON THE FARM

Money sent away each year to purchase farm seeds could be used profitably in farm operations at home but inside from this there are two other good reasons why every landowner should grow and save his own seed. First, they can be grown at little expense, and second, the grower can tell whether they are free of disease.

The purchase of large quantities of both major and minor seeds by growers each year is tremendous, says Dr. R. T. Poole, plant disease specialist of the North Carolina Experiment Station. The quality of many is not so keeping with the aims of our local home program. Also there are but few crops grown in the State where high yield and high quality of produce cannot be maintained by home production of seeds. Conditions are favorable in this State to improve crops by the careful selection of seed on the home farm.

Dr. Poole says seed can be grown at little expense. The ripening and curing needs are not expensive. About the only attention necessary is to keep them in moderately dry storage and in tight containers. Seed may be saved from the finest quality fruits without losing the edible parts, and, home grown, well matured and properly stored seed will always give a high percentage of germination.

By growing seed at home, the grower can be assured that they are free from disease. This is not so easy in rainy seasons when heavy infection occurs before maturity; however, a few trials will give any grower a satisfied understanding of how stands and quality may be bettered by small effort. For instance, says Dr. Poole, the early bunch bean crop last season was entirely free of anthracnose and bacterial spot. No better seed stock could have been obtained from any source, yet most of these fine beans were plowed under. The grower will this season purchase his beans from another source at a higher price when he could have had them very cheaply from a home supply.

PHILIPPINE GOOD TURN

Native Filipino boys who are members of Troop 155, Boy Scouts of America, located at the Willard Straight Agricultural School at Indian Sulphur, have undertaken as a good turn the building of huts and other shelters at several points along the highway leading to the city to provide travelers and marketers with protection from the burning sun in the middle of the day and during the tropical downpours which sometimes occur.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS ARE CELEBRATED AT VALLE CRUCIS

Mr. and Mrs. Finley Mast and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith's Round Out Fifty Years of Married Life. Five Golden Weddings in Same Family. Host of Friends, Many from Distant Points, Attend.

Tuesday, December 30th, was a gala day at Valle Crucis, for on that date two of Watauga's best-loved couples, Mr. and Mrs. Finley Mast and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith, rounded out fifty years of married happiness—a half-century packed full of usefulness and kindly deeds. Mrs. Mast and Mrs. Smith are sisters, and the lamy celebration of their "golden anniversaries" was not the first event of the kind to happen in the Mast family; in fact, three other members of that sturdy household have lived to pass the fifty-year matrimonial mark. Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Mast, parents of Mesdames Smith and Mast, both of whom are long since deceased, were the first celebrants. Mr. and Mrs. Newt Banner, of Sugar Grove, the latter a sister of the two ladies, have journeyed life's highway together for more than sixty years; and Mr. and Mrs. Andy Mast, of Sugar Grove, the former a brother, have been married for more than fifty years.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Mast, eight of whom survive, the oldest, eighty years of age, the youngest sixty. Possibly no family in North Carolina has a more perfect record of survival than this one, and, needless to say, no better family ever resided in the county. A full report of the celebration last Tuesday follows.

Mr. and Mrs. Finley Mast and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary Tuesday, December 30th, from 2 to 10 p. m. at the home of the former, Valle Crucis, N. C.

The house was decorated with the native spruce and silver pine throughout, with noiled plant here and there. The reception room was very pretty with the white wedding bells and silver candles which held white tapers. The living room had huge bouquets of spruce and evergreens with poinsettias as centers, and an open fire which made it very cheerful. The dining room was especially effective with the golden candles and evergreens so charmingly arranged on side boards and the dining table.

Miss Elizabeth Dula and Miss Nannie Foster welcomed the guests at the door; Mrs. A. W. Dula and Mrs. W. J. Baird introduced them to the receiving line, composed of the bride party. Receiving with them were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mast, Miss Leona Mast, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Mast, Mrs. Mollie Mast, Mr. John Mast and Mrs. Dan Mast.

Mrs. Stella Gray and Mrs. Genevieve H. Hobby were in the lovely old secretary, an heirloom of the family, where all the guests were their seats in the dining room. From Mrs. Genevieve Hobby, Taylor and Miss Lona Deberry directed the guests to the dining room where delicious refreshments were served consisting of a salad course followed by ice cream, cake, coffee and mints. The dining table was covered with a lovely linen cloth and gold candles and silver time wreaths surrounded the wedding cake which held a miniature bride and bridegroom, in the center of the table. The wedding cake was made by a famous cake maker in New York and presented to the brides as a wedding gift from Mrs. Brita Erickson and Miss Annie Walstead, of Orange, N. J.

Mrs. E. P. Lund and Mrs. Daisy Greer served in the dining room. Miss Annie Walstead poured coffee from a lovely service of silver. Each guest was presented a tiny white box tied with gold ribbon which held a small piece of fruit cake as a favor.

The brides were attired in lovely black chiffon with old-fashioned bouquets. They were the recipients of many beautiful gifts.

Over one hundred guests called during the afternoon and evening. Many more would have been present had the weather been more favorable. Guests from a distance were: Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Hayes and Miss Redwine, of Lexington, N. C.; Mr. John Shull, Healey, Kansas; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Mast, Bel Air, Md.; Mr. Vester Moore, White Hall, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mast and four children, Darlington, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Lund and two children of West Orange, N. J.; Miss Gladys Taylor, Charlotte, N. C.; Mrs. Charles Mczie, Hickory; Miss Virginia Shipley, Danascus, Va.; Dr. Glenn, Richmond, Va.; Miss Beatrice Skull, of New York; Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Dula and family, Lenoir, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Lunke, Manila, P. I.; Miss Edna DeBerry, China Grove, N. C.; Mr. Jim Shull, Nava, Tenn.; Mr. and Mrs. James H. Robby, Concord, N. C.; Mrs. Brita Erickson and Miss Annie Walstead, of Orange, N. J.; Mrs. D. D. Dougherty, Miss Edna occur.

Continued on Page 8