

THE CHATHAM RECORD

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Editorials

Is it possible that communism is actually working in Russia? Two or three things have come to light recently that indicate that affairs are not so bad in that country as formerly.

Accidents will happen in the best of shops. Last week the date was not changed on the front page of the Record and we have two papers showing date of April 4, but fortunately the dates on the other pages were correct, April 11.

The Record congratulates Mr. Lawrence F. London on attaining the very highest grade of the University honor roll. There were only 34 others who attained the same honor. This is exceedingly creditable when it is considered that Lawrence is blind.

The week of May 13 is to see the first All North Carolina Industrial Exposition at the State Fair Grounds. Keep the date in mind and go if work or fishing is not hindering you. Mr. T. B. Smith, newly appointed secretary of the State Fair, is manager for the exposition.

The sheriff of Buncombe is reported as surveying the surrounding country with a telescope from the top of the fifteen-story court house in Asheville, seeing a man digging in the edge of the woods a mile or two away and rushing over there and arresting him with four gallons of booze. This ought to be a hint of some kind to enforcement officers.

Charlie Moore is planning to tend 75 acres without a horse, doing the cultivating with a tractor. If he succeeds it should mean much for the county. Tractors do not eat up a big part of the crop while standing idle. But when the horse becomes unnecessary on the farm much less grain and roughage will be needed, and accordingly fewer acres.

Those folk with assured incomes should be happy. Many a business man in North Carolina would probably be glad to close up till the fall if he could then take hold of his business without hurt. But they have to keep going, even if at a loss, in order to save the business for normal times. Teachers think it hard to get pay for only a part of the year, but suppose they had to work all the year and get pay for only a part, and such times as these for a smaller part than the teachers get pay for.

It has been less than twelve years since the editor of the Chatham Record left Louisiana after an eight years' residence. If at that time Huey P. Long, now under impeachment charges as governor, had appeared above the horizon there is no recollection of the fact. With the primary a fellow who can catch the public attention requires only a short while to rise out of obscurity to the top, but the top seems to be rather unsafe for the successful demagogue after he has reached it.

A home market for farm products affords to North Carolina the equivalent of a protective tariff against western produce. A western seed man in Rowan county saw alfalfa hay sell at \$30 a ton, while it is selling in North Dakota at \$9 and \$10 a ton, and the Rowan farmer made a ton more to the acre than the Dakota farmer. The county agent of Rowan informed him that Rowan farmers got \$1.70 a bushel for wheat last year, while the Dakota farmer, according to the visitor, got 70 cents. Evidently, if the Dakota farmers can live, the Tarheel farmers should get rich.

Rowan county is becoming the sweet county of the state, as Union county is the lespezdeza county. Seventy-five thousand pounds of sweet clover seed has been ordered for Rowan plantings. Descriptions indicate that sweet clover is a magnificent pasturage and hay crop.

Chatham county was one of three counties whose school expense last year, exclusive of salaries and transportation costs, was less than ten per cent of the salary cost. Under the former law the counties might spend an equivalent of the salary fund for expenses. The new law makes it 10 per cent. All the counties in the State, then, except Ashe, Watauga, and Chatham will have to curtail expenses. Alamance, for instance, ran far beyond the 10 per cent allowed for the coming two years. Ashe lacked more than \$2,000 spending 10 per cent. Watauga lacked \$500 plus, and Chatham \$262. This speaks well for the economy, comparatively speaking at least, of the Chatham school administration, though, according to Superintendent Thompson, the county did not spend as much as it should for supplies and for fuel and janitor service, the communities having to make additional expenditures. Probably in the more thoroughly consolidated counties like Johnston, for instance, the county paid for all materials and service.

THE BOLL WEEVIL MENACE

That the boll weevil will be a greater menace the coming season than ever before unless the summer happens to be a hot and dry one, is almost certain. There was, doubtless, a larger number of weevils going into winter quarters in this section than ever before, and the winter was an unusually mild one. That this means a large issue of breeders this spring has already been indicated by the fact that at the test place at Aberdeen a larger percentage than ever before, and by far larger, has already issued from their prepared winter quarters. Ten per cent of all the weevils put in winter quarters had come out two weeks ago, and the authorities says that the issue will continue, probably, till June 1.

Chatham saw last year, in sections of the county, what a general prevalence of the weevil would mean, and such a prevalence is certainly threatened for the coming season, and cotton growers should plant with that menace in view. The most of the farmers in this county plant only a few acres in cotton, and the fewer this year the better, the indications are. Moreover, the earlier start can be given the cotton the better. The editor of the Record has known the weevil longer than other Chatham folk. He was in Louisiana in 1909 when the weevil, coming forth from Texas, played havoc with cotton growing in Louisiana. But when some of our best farmers made only a bale to six or eight acres last season, there is no need longer to tell Chatham folk what the weevil can do when he comes in full force.

But if every farmer, or any farmer, will see that the first lot of fallen forms are picked up and burned this summer, he will thereby guarantee himself at least a portion of a crop, and if this is done thoroughly it will be possible to continue the operation long enough to assure a good crop, for the picking up and destroying the first forms will largely decrease the number of later punctures. Poison is often effective, but the burning of the punctured forms is a means of safety in the hands of every farmer, especially the one who has a number of children large enough to gather the forms. The Record would advise planting in proportion to the prospective ability to save the crop. Either begin to arrange for poisoning the weevil or reduce acreage to that extent that you can have the fallen forms gathered.

This advice is based upon twenty years' observation of the weevil's activities. Nature may take care of the crop, but she seems to be prepared rather to destroy it without the closest watchfulness of the planter.

We'd wager that half the folk in Chatham county over twenty years of age cannot tell the names of Isaac and Rebecca's twin boys, though they have gone over the Israelitish history time after time in Sunday school. On the other hand without ever an effort they could name you the children of nearly every family in their community.

For once, we believe we disagree with our most excellent county agent, Mr. Shiver. If we were planting cotton this year, we should plant our poorer land in cotton and push it with nitrate of soda, but taking care not to use so much that it would keep the weed growing all the season. If one could just know how much to use to keep it growing until August 15 on poor land he would have it. Again, we should leave on this poor land two or three stalks to the hill with the mere width of a gooseneck hoe between hills. The more stalks that can blossom early, the more bolls are certain, and the more open the middle of the rows are the more weevils will be destroyed by the sun. The poorer gray lands above Bynum made much better cotton last year than the strong lands of Hickory Mountain. Mr. J. A. Woody, with some of the best land in the county, made only six bales on 60 acres. The poor sand land between Sanford and Carthage made more cotton than our strongest lands in Chatham. Anyway, we should have the benefit of the richer lands for crops that we could count upon, and if we should not make so much cotton as the man who planted his richer land to it, we believe we'd beat in the whole crop. However, it is probably too late for the average farmer to be affected by either Mr. Shiver's or the editor's suggestion, but the two views give you something to think about and to compare this year, if it proves a battle weevil year. The poor uplands of Louisiana were making their usual crop of cotton when every gin had closed up for years in the fertile black areas.

Bear Creek News

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Moore a 10-pound son. Mrs. A. D. Hartsell and boys of Raleigh and Mrs. C. C. Hargrove of Burlington are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Willett. Mrs. Joe J. Cheek, who has been on the sick list, is improved, we are glad to state. Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Maulden and sons, Amick and Herbert, of Liberty, were Sunday visitors in the home of W. A. Coggins. T. C. Vestal is working at a saw mill near Chapel Hill. They expect to move, we have been informed, in the near future. Misses Teresa and Margie Emmer-son of Fayetteville were week-end visitors here and near here. J. Tracy Coggins, who has been running as news buch between Washington, D. C., and Charleston, W. Va., has returned to farm with his father, I. P. Coggins. Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Beal and daughter, Frances, visited Mrs. Beal's brother, C. W. Holt, of Kernersville, last week. Mrs. Scott (Ellen) Tuck (colored) has moved from her home on route two to her home on Pittsboro, route 3, near Mays Chapel Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Hart, of Burlington, were week-end visitors in the home of Miss Belle Beal, on route 2. The Meroney M. E. Sunday school completed their organization last Sunday, with the election of the following officers: Teachers, J. D. Willett, Bear Creek; C. J. Rives, route 2, Bear Creek; Mrs. A. F. Willett, route 2, Bear Creek; Mrs. T. H. Harris, Siler City, route 5, and Mrs. J. D. Willett, route 2, Bear Creek. Organist, Mr. T. B. Beal, Bear Creek, and assistant organist, Miss Karen Rives, route 2, Bear Creek. W. H. Murray, deputy sheriff, reports having captured a large still about four miles northeast of here. He cut down 2860 gallons of beer, which he said, would have made about \$1000 worth of whiskey. The operators had "smelled a rat" and left without leaving their forwarding address, saying: "We have sold out," written on a piece of paste board displayed on the still. Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Moffitt were shoppers in Greensboro last week. Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Brooks and son, Edsel, and Mrs. C. B. Fitts were Sunday visitors in the home of J. W. Coggins, of Tramway section, Lee county. Miss Elizabeth Cheek, the 10-year-old daughter of Troy M. Cheek, has returned from the Central Carolina Hospital, Sanford, and is improving nicely. Mr. and Mrs. Corbin Gains, of Pittsboro, were week-end visitors in the home of W. R. Phillips. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Troy M. Cheek a son.

Bell's School News

Route 3, Apex.—Mr. Genatis Howard has been sick several days, suffering an attack of paralysis. Mrs. Pattie Beckwith spent last week with her daughter, Mrs. F. M. Holleman. Miss Gladys Copeland who is a senior at Cary high school, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Copeland. Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Copeland Saturday visited the latter's sister, Mrs. John Horton, who has been in Watt's Hospital several weeks. Mrs. Lacy Johnson and son, Ted, of Wade, visited relatives around here Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. James W. Goodwin and daughters, Esther and Mrs. S. E. Bryant, spent Saturday shopping in Durham. Rev. Mr. G. T. Mills filled his regular appointments at Bell's Baptist church Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. We were glad to have the choir of Asbury Methodist church with us Sunday. The selections rendered by the choir were greatly enjoyed by those present. There will be a meeting at Bell's church Sunday, April 21, at 2:30 p. m. Seven Baptist churches (Olives Chapel, Mt. Pisgah, Bell's, Lystra, Trades Hill, Mt. Giliad), are expected to be represented. The meeting will be in the interest of the Sunday school. Everybody is invited to be present. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Medlin have moved into one of Mr. A. W. Wilson's houses. They are expecting to farm.

When the general assembly of the Southern Presbyterian church meets next month in Montreat, one of the things to claim attention will be the report of a special committee to study divorce. The committee will recommend that only one grounds for divorce be recognized—violation of the seventh commandment. Some men are too intellectual to be intelligent.

PRISONER KNOCKS OFFICER DOWN

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Charlie said that he had agreed and tried to crank the old Ford. Failing, the young man tried his hand at the crank, and as he stooped over to the work Charlie saw a big pistol or two in his pants' pocket. Charlie immediately decided that it was a mighty fine day for harrowing, and began to tell the youngster that he just was glad that the car wouldn't start, as he had some harrowing that just ought to be done.

The officers, upon receipt of this report, went to search for Rouse, and had left highway ninety upon hearing that the young man had been seen by school boys on a side road. In the meantime, Mr. Grady went along with the Siler City mail truck and was asked for conveyance to Siler City. The fellow got in, as any other mail bus passenger would, and on reaching Siler City tendered a \$10 bill from which Mr. Grady was to take his pay. The officers met the returning mail truck and were informed that such a passenger had been carried to Siler City, and sought him in that town. But the fellow had taken to a bus, or had got out in some other way. It later developed that he had slept in Mr. John Womble's barn.

On Monday two Randolph county officers arrested the younger brother over in the Ramseur section, and he was brought to Pittsboro.

The search of the Rouse premises revealed numerous articles apparently stolen. An almost complete moving picture outfit was found, a box of tobacco, a quantity of snuff, gun shells, a lot of thread, overalls, and three rolls of fence wire hidden under brush in the pasture recently enclosed with wire, also a box of stamped envelopes, the only thing evidencing a postoffice robbery.

At the preliminary hearing Tuesday morning before Squire Lysander Johnson, part of the wire in the fence was declared by Mr. E. M. Kearns of Asheboro, route 2, to be identical like a lot he had had stolen during the winter. He had placed the wire near the field where it was later to be used and missed it in March. He had described the wire to the officers before visiting the Rouse place, and the officers found part of the fence wire to correspond with the description.

At the preliminary hearing Tuesday, Mr. D. K. Rouse, the father, waived defense and was ordered bound over to court under a \$1000 bond, but was taken to jail again until bond should be made. The mother acknowledged that she had covered up the wire in the pasture, and she and the father stated, then or at other times, that L. J. had brought it there. Mrs. Rouse secured a postponement of her hearing until Wednesday and was allowed to return home on her own recognizance to return Wednesday. The younger son was held for a preliminary hearing Wednesday also.

Much excitement was caused in the New Salem community, what with the officers searching premises and the woods, and what with throngs of sightseers visiting the place Sunday. Also much sympathy was evident among some of the people for the father and mother who had been lodged in jail, with the baby girl.

Mrs. Rouse is apparently quite intelligent and has a fine personality for a woman with her supposed opportunities.

Four girls were lodged during the incarceration of the mother in the home of Mr. Charlie Williams, a neighbor.

It seems that L. J. Rouse, the man uncaught, has traveled far and wide. Nothing found has been claimed by any Chatham county man, and if the young fellow has been carrying on a thieving business, he has apparently given his attention to remoter fields.

Much has been made now of the fact that three years ago Mrs. Edwin C. Gregory, daughter of Senator Overman, said that the Reds were looking to the south as a fruitful field and that attempts would be made to spread communistic doctrines here. She was laughed at then, but in the light of the Gastonia mill strike her prophecy is recalled.

How a girl hates to have all her girl friends admire the man she admires!

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Mr. Robinson is a former U. S. Congressman from North Carolina. He is president of one of the leading banks in the state, former director in the N. C. Cotton Growers Cooperative Association, a lawyer by profession and one of the leading farmers of Anson County.

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