

THE CHATHAM RECORD

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Editor and Publisher

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CHATHAM'S PLIGHT

For five years the citizens of Chatham county have made a stubborn and persistent fight against odds. This is the sixth poor crop to the writer's own knowledge. And in no case has the quality of the crop been due to slothfulness on the part of our people. They have done their best.

Each year they have been looking forward to a rift in the cloud. They started out hopefully this year. Indeed, more land was broken before Christmas last year than in any former year, we believe, and every chance the people have had they have been diligent. But the weather again has deprived them of a chance to make a living. And this is all the worse in view of the fact that they have not made a living from their farms during a period of five previous years. Crows and cedar have helped them pull through. Quite a number have turned to dairying and poultry raising. But those processes require time, and necessarily only a few have reached the point where they are not dependent upon a crop of the staples.

The Record does not desire to discourage our people, but we feel that it is fair that their fight against odds and their bravery be recognized. They know the condition without being told. Men who ploughed up land last fall for this year's crop and have not been able to plant it because of rain do not have to be told that their plight is a bad one. Yet the fact that they have so well won against former odds is heartening and we have faith in them to pull through in some way. It is marvellous the way they have managed against the odds of the last five years, and the same fine spirit will bring them through again, though the conditions, possibly the worst of all within the six-year period, following those other bad years make the fight a more uphill one. But the practical failure to make a living with the staple crops should hurry the change to dairying and poultry raising.

Chatham has the brightest outlook for the future of any section we know. It is so located and has such variety of resources that it will be able to meet the changes of the future more readily than many counties which have been hitherto more prosperous. Yet just now it is a problem of surviving the conditions growing out of unfavorable seasons for six years. Yet if they can survive, will hold on, and adapt their farming as rapidly as possible to the new program, Chatham will be envied in the years to come.

The first thing to do is to fill the land with humus. Where the land has been worked this year the crops are all right. But with the present condition of the average farm, cultivation is almost out of question in wet weather or extremely dry. But till Providence comes to the rescue with good seasons, it is impossible even to grow the soil improvement crops needed.

When on a trip down in Sampson last week Mid Cooper had seen the second woman assisting her husband with the crosscut saw at the woodpile, he remarked that "women down here help their husbands cut wood." The editor corrected him by insisting that down in Sampson the men help the women. Rufe Clark, president of the resters' club here, when told about this, immediately declared that is all he wants to know about Sampson, that he is not going down there.

A SERIOUS MATTER

With the Carolina Power Company trying each year to get a lower assessment value in Chatham, with the Carolina Fireproofing Company seeking, and deserving a cut of \$50,000, with the Carolina Coal Company crippled and needing a reduction in assessment value, Chatham stands to lose a big slice of its former taxable values, so large in fact that it will be almost impossible to make the planned reduction in the tax rate.

The Carolina Power Company's property in Chatham was valued in 1927, the revaluation year, at \$4,213,988. According to the law, County Attorney Horton informs us, these figures should stand for four years, unless some strong reason exists for changing them. But last year, 1928, the state assessment board certified the figures presumably furnished by the tax expert of the Carolina Power and Light Company, which were \$3,844,179, and the new figure went upon the Chatham tax-book, apparently without any awareness on the part of the commissioners or the other officials that a reduction of \$369,809 had been made, with a consequent loss to the county of \$5084.75 in taxes, and a loss also to the Moncure school district and other districts. The reduction was detected this year, and when the figures came in from the state assessment board a few days ago, the officials were on the alert, and they found that another cut had been made, from the \$3,844,179 of 1928 to \$3,649,728, nearly \$200,000 more, or over a half-million dollars since the reassessment figures of 1927.

We are informed that the Commissioners will next Monday replace the 1927 figures. That will probably mean an appeal to the state assessment board by the company. If so, the county is preparing to fight it out down at Raleigh. Yet if the C. P. & L. Co. can show good reason for the reduction in value, the cut may be made, with serious consequences to the tax fund of the county. However, the Commissioners profess to be from Missouri and must be shown.

Thus it is seen that there is a possibility of the county's losing near three-quarters of a million in assessables in three corporations since the 1927 valuation. This shows how uncertain are the bases on which tax reduction may be predicated in Chatham county, and indicates something of the difficulties of the county authorities in giving the much desired tax relief.

A SERIOUS BUSINESS

The action of the Governor and council of state in withdrawing the convicts from the Carolina mine without notice is a serious blow to the future of the coal mining industry in the Deep River field. It is a matter that concerns not only Chatham county, but the whole state. The coal company has coal under the ground and much valuable fertilizer material out and under. But that company has had a series of misfortunes, which though they have made it almost impossible for it to proceed, were gradually being overcome, and no hasty action should have been taken without warning that would further embarrass it.

The state needs to see the company succeed; Chatham county's taxable wealth depends in a considerable measure upon the company's succeeding. But a blow like that rendered by the state, which results in the inability of the company's meeting its contract terms with the Norfolk and Southern railroad, is well calculated to put the company out of business and end coal mining in Chatham county for a generation.

Thirty days' notice would have been of vital importance to the company, and to the interests of the state and of the county. North Carolina has no coal mine properties to sacrifice, and if payments were behind, a little delay for the sake of the state's own interest would not have been bad policy.

TRIP TO SAMPSON

The editor, accompanied by Mr. M. C. Cooper, ran down into Sampson Tuesday evening of last week. He had promised Mr. Cooper earlier in the year to show him some Sampson farming, and as the editor wished to attend the meeting of his Alderman kindred at Delway Wednesday, this occasion was picked.

We reached the home of William Peterson, two miles south of Clinton, in time Tuesday to look over his crop, and that was enough to make us both sick as we contemplated the situation in Chatham, where weather conditions have not even permitted the planting of a full crop. Mr. Peterson had already sold \$1200 worth of green corn, and everything on the plantation, big and little, had been hustling from 5 o'clock in the morning till dark since the beginning of the strawberry season. The pepper crop and 45 acres of tobacco were the chief problems just at the time of our visit. It was almost unbelievable to see the children of the family and white and black help and tenants working like turks till 9 o'clock in the evening.

From Broadway, on the Harnett border of Lee, clear down to Delway, 15 miles below Clinton, the crops were as fine as one could wish. Mr. Peterson had more growing on his place than appears on all the little farms between Pittsboro and Sanford on the paved highway.

A big crowd of Aldermen were present at the first real reunion. Some of them came from Georgia, to which state one branch of the family moved in 1815. Among the Georgians present was Congressman R. L. Moore, who had married one of the Georgia Aldermans.

Senator J. T. Alderman of Henderson is the historian of the family. Solicitor J. Alderman Powers of Kinston was the speaker of the occasion. The meeting was in the old Baptist school building at Delway, the school in which Misses Pearl and Ethel Johnson of Pittsboro once taught. After the big huckleberry crop we were not quite sure whether these Sampsonians would speak to a fellow, but they did. But they were bragging of 60,000 bushels sold at Clinton alone for about \$400,000, and of hundreds of cars of truck at fine prices.

It is gratifying to know that the people of the Siler City school district and of the Moncure district have a bit of tax relief in sight. The increase in assessment values in the Siler City district will allow a cut of ten cents on the hundred dollars in the special school tax for that district. Moncure is still more fortunate. Accumulations of funds in that district, in which the great power plant of the C. P. & L. Co. is located, have reached that point that the school bonds may be cancelled before maturity or if left standing be taken care of at maturity by accumulated funds and interest from now till maturity. Hence, we are informed that this item will be cut from the Moncure district levy.

More than a quarter of a century ago the editor of the Record had occasion to call attention to the misspelling in the press of the word "cantaloupe," and several times since. A new generation who knew not the old blueback has appeared on the scene and seems more determined to spell it "cantaloupe."

Mr. A. H. Oldham declares that it snowed Sunday, that he saw powdery snow coming in over a door as he held it open. It is easily believable that it was not very far up to a snowy temperature, and it certainly was cool enough here for it to fall quite a distance before melting.

Governor Gardner foresees a deficit in state finances of two million dollars during this biennium unless the various departments use the strictest economy. He had the heads of the departments before him Monday and told them about it. They promised to be good.

NOTICE OF SALE

NORTH CAROLINA: CHATHAM COUNTY:
Under and by virtue of an order of the Clerk of the Superior Court in the Special Proceedings therein pending entitled "Bettie S. McIntyre vs. John C. Futrall, et als, the undersigned will on the _____ 24th day of August, 1929, _____ offer for sale at the Courthouse door in Pittsboro, North Carolina, to the highest bidder for cash all of the merchantable timber measuring ten inches in diameter at the stump, 12 inches from the ground when cut, upon the following land situated in Hickory Mountain Township, Chatham County, and lying on Rocky River:

BEGINNING at a red oak, John B. Headen's corner, and running west 160 poles to a stake and pointers in Aaron Berk's line, thence south with his line 32 poles to Rocky River, thence down the same its various courses about 240 poles to a white oak, thence leaving the river south 51 degrees east 72 poles to a stake, thence east 13 poles to a stake, thence north 63 degrees east 118 poles to a wild cherry, thence south 20 degrees west 22 poles to an ash on the bank of the river, thence down the same about 60 poles to a hickory, thence leaving the river south 85 degrees east 11 poles to a post oak in People's line, thence north with his line 151 poles to a small hickory and pointers, thence west with John B. Headen's line 156 poles to a hickory said John B. Headen's corner, thence north his other line 145 poles to the beginning, containing 310 acres more or less, said tract of land being the same conveyed by deed registered in book "AO" at page 57, from N. M. Alston and wife, Sept. 25, 1869.

Another tract containing 13 1/2 acres lying on Rocky River said county, beginning at a stake in B. F. Headen's line and running east with his line 25 1/2 poles to a stone, thence north 11 1/2 degrees east 30 poles to a stone, thence north 50 poles to a dogwood, thence west 27 poles to a stone in said B. F. Headen's line, thence with his line to the beginning, being the same land conveyed by deed from John B. Headen to B. F. Headen, December 3, 1881, registered in Book "BC" page 483.

Said timber on the said land must be cut and removed within two years from the confirmation of the sale.

Terms of Sale: Cash.
Time of Sale: 12 o'clock, noon.
This the 22nd day of June, 1929.
W. P. HORTON,
Commissioner

(July 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15)

MORTGAGE SALE OF SILER CITY LOTS

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a mortgage deed executed by Miss Mildred Adeock (now Mrs. J. C. Drum) and dated November 11, 1925, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, Book FX, page 356, I will offer for sale on the premises at 12 o'clock M. Thursday, August 22, 1929,

to the highest bidder for cash the following described tract of lands, consisting of several lots in the town of Siler City, and one residence, described as follows:
First Tract: One certain lot in the town of Siler City, Chatham County, Matthews Township, beginning on the southeast corner of Mrs. J. J. Adeock's corner, east edge of Greensboro Street, running thence north 65 degrees east about 230 feet, more or less, to the branch, thence south about 25 degrees east down the said branch 105 feet to a stone; thence south 55 degrees west 230 feet more or less to Greensboro Street; thence north 25 degrees west 105 feet with Greensboro Street to the beginning, it being all the lots on which W. H. Welch's dwelling and store house are situated, all of the lots described herein being a part of the land conveyed in a special proceeding entitled "J. Dewey Dorsett, Guardian et als, vs. Miss Mildred Adeock," except that small portion which had already been conveyed and conveyed by W. P. Horton and Wade Barber, Commissioners, to Miss Mildred Adeock on the 9th day of November, 1925, and duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County.

Second Tract: Certain lots in the town of Siler City, N. C., in Matthews Township, adjoining the lands of Ira Foushee, S. P. Teague, and R. F. Paschal and bounded more fully and described as follows: viz: Beginning at an iron stake on the east side of State's Avenue; corner lot No. 7 and running east with line of Lots No. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, 275 feet to Mrs. Cattie Jordan's line, thence with her line southwardly about 240 feet to a stake, corner lot No. 18, 269 feet to State's Avenue; thence northwardly with said avenue 240 feet to the beginning and containing all of Lot No. 14, 15, 16, 17 of the Smith property as surveyed by G. W. Rappey, C. E., in August, 1920, and purchased from R. F. Paschal, who in turn purchased same from J. Q. Seawell. This July 22nd, 1929.

W. G. ADCOCK,
Mortgagee

666

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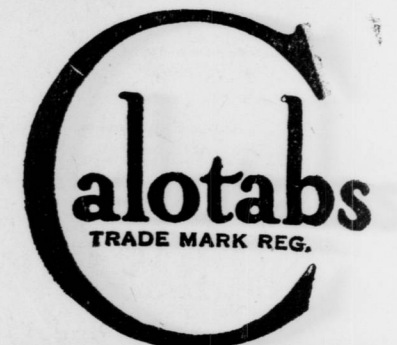
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Office in Goldston Over Bank.
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2 to 4 P. M. each day
Electric Equipment Installed.

EXECUTORS' NOTICE

The undersigned having qualified as executors to the last will and testament of Elizabeth S. Mourienne, deceased, late of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to either of the undersigned on or before the _____ day of _____, 1930, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This the 9th day of July, 1929.
S. D. SMITH,
JAMES GUNTER,
W. L. JOHNSON,
Executors
A. C. Ray and F. C. Upchurch,
Attorneys.
(July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15)

Your tongue tells when you need



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W. C. ROUNTREE, M. D.

sick, I especially want you to write for my booklet. Mrs. J. D. Collett, Route No. 4, High Point, N. C., whose picture appears here, writes: "During the winter of 1927-28 I took your treatments, and I am glad to say that my family doctor says I have no symptoms now. I look, feel, and am a different person altogether. I cannot thank you and your medicine enough".



FOR FREE DIAGNOSIS AND LITERATURE WRITE: W. C. Rountree, M. D., Austin, Texas.

MRS. J. D. COLLETT