

# The Mount Airy News.

VOL. XXXIV

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1913.

NO. 10

## YADKIN UNION HOLDS ITS ANNUAL PICNIC.

Farmers Gather at Center and Hear Their Work in Behalf of Education Praised by J. Y. Joyner.

Yadkinville, Sept. 1.—The second annual picnic of the Farmers' Union of Yadkin County was held at Center, three miles west of Yadkinville, Saturday, and was quite a success from every point of view. The principal address of the day was delivered by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joyner, who spoke for more than an hour on the subject, "Co-operation in Education." The crowd began to arrive early, and by noon the people present were estimated at from 3,000 to 4,000, mostly farmers, their wives and children.

After a few choice selections played by local talent on string instruments, and Yadkin is noted for some of the best in this art, Mr. Joyner began his talk. He said among other things that there could not be intelligent operation without education; commented on the good work of the Farmers' Union in securing some good legislation in favor of higher education, in that its members were largely responsible for the appropriation of \$500,000 at the last session of the Legislature that made possible a six-months school term, and also that they had a hand in securing the compulsory school law. He also told of the meaning of the education at childhood, and under the caption, "Money, Manhood and Mastery," he showed how education was the developing factor in these things. The different kinds of education also came in for their share in his address, and he dwelt at length on the farm life schools, and said he believed that a proper blending together of all these schools would be a greater factor in the education of the youth.

His instructions, however, were not confined to the male sex, as he gave a talk on what he termed "Household Economics" for young women and urged them to take a stand for the betterment of the present conditions.

After the close of the speech, dinner was spread on tables in the grove, in all about 500 feet of table being well covered with the delicacies of can only be prepared by a farmer's wife.

At the same time and place the Yadkin County Sunday School Convention convened, but the program was not taken up until the Farmers' Union had completed its exercises. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Joseph A. Brown, president of the State Sunday School Association, made an address on the subject, "The Child," taking up the work as carried on by the State association.

Rev. J. Walter Long, secretary of the State association, was also present, as was the orchestra of the Spring Street Methodist church of Greensboro.

Sunday the convention closed with an address at 11 o'clock by Mr. Brown.

## Slit Skirts Stir North Carolinian

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 2.—When Policeman Jordan beat back a curious crowd in Ayden today, and protected a pretty girl, who appealed to him, he did not know that the flirt slit skirt had drawn the men, and he escorted the girl into a milliner's where the skirt was stitched. Ayden is a town of several hundred inhabitants.

When a girl of nineteen, visiting the place, appeared today with an attire that disclosed grace, nearly one hundred men followed. The young woman sought immunity in flight, but tired quickly. Policeman Jordan drew his club and backed the howling boys off.

"What's the trouble?" He asked, and the girl pointed to the gown and blushed. The officer took her to the milliner's and putting her in a cab sent her home. It was the first time that any Carolina countrymen had viewed the new style, and one of the first appearances of the slash-skirts in North Carolina.

## CURIOUS CASE IS CALLED TO MEMORY.

Man and Woman Went to Prison. Denying to the Last Their Guilt of Homicide Charge to Which One Confessed.

Charlotte Observer.

The manner in which a crowd secured Joe McNeely, shot him and left him, believing him dead, recalls a somewhat similar occurrence in Stanley county some ten years ago. A young physician, named Love, living at Locust, was taken suddenly ill after eating his dinner and died in a few moments. An analysis of his stomach was made and it was found that he had been poisoned. The negro cook, a woman named Ella Knotts, who had served Doctor Love his dinner was arrested. On the way to the jail at Albemarle a mob of men overpowered the officers, took the Knotts woman, tied a rope around her neck and swung her to a limb in an effort to make her confess. Finally she admitted that she had put strychnine on the tomatoes served Doctor Love and that a kinsman of hers, John Knotts, had given her the poison.

She was released from her perilous position and the officers immediately placed John Knotts under arrest. At the time he implicated a with man but upon investigation this man was declared innocent. John Knotts was placed in jail and a few days later he was taken to the jail about 2 o'clock one morning in an attempt to secure Knotts.

The sheriff who lived in the jail was not at home and his plucky wife refused to surrender the keys. Not to be outdone the mob went to the east side of the jail and with picks soon dug a hole in the wall large enough to admit a man's body. Several men in this way got inside the prison and, battering down the steel cell, secured Knotts. He was pushed through the hole and when he struck the ground he struck it running. He succeeded in eluding his captors and made a get-away. It was not known whether or not the mob had lynched the prisoner and a search was made for his body.

Two days afterward it was reported that he was in jail at Monroe. He had covered several miles after eluding his pursuers, wading Rocky river on his way and was in such a bad physical condition when he gave himself up that his toes were frost-bitten. He went to a Union county farmer's home the next day after his escape, told who he was and this man carried him to Monroe and delivered him to the sheriff of the county. He was afterwards carried to Salisbury for safe-keeping. Court coming on, his condition would not admit of his being tried and it was some six months before the case was finally disposed of. When it did finally come to trial both Knotts and the woman bitterly denied having committed the crime, the woman stating that she confessed only when a rope was around her neck and she was afraid they would kill her if she did not own up. Under the circumstances and with no direct evidence the State agreed to a submission of murder in the second degree for both parties and John Knotts was sentenced to the penitentiary for 30 years and the woman was given 10 years. The man lived but a few years in prison, denying to the last that he had anything to do with the poisoning. When Sheriff McCain, of Stanley, carried him to Raleigh he said to him: "John you are now in this place for perhaps the balance of your natural life and the case has been settled one and for all. Tell me if you really did give the woman the strychnine to administer to Dr. Love?" His reply was: "Sheriff, I know nothing about it. I am an innocent man."

The case therefore remains as much of a mystery as when it occurred ten years ago.

Earp has a few large pictures, copies of works of art, that can be framed without glass for fire place screens—they are not expensive.

## LAST BARRIER AT THE CANAL BLOWN OUT.

More Than 1,500 Spectators Witnessed Wonderful Sight at Panama Canal Sunday.

Panama, Aug. 31.—The last remaining barrier at the Pacific end of the Panama canal was blown out by dynamite this morning. It was an intensely interesting spectacle. At exactly 9:30 o'clock an electric switch was turned on and 1,500 spectators including Shriners visiting here from the United States and officers of the British cruiser *Neve Zealand* were rewarded by a wonderful sight. Hundreds of tons of mud and stones were thrown high in the air and the thunderous roar of the explosions resounded in the nearby hills.

About 20 long tons, equivalent to 44,800 pounds, of 45 per cent dynamite constituted the blast, which was one of the largest ever set off in the canal.

The charge planted in 541 holes at an average depth of 30 feet, tore a big gap in the barrier, but not to a sufficient depth to permit water to flow through, as the sea level channel was at low tide.

Equally interesting as the explosion was the actual breaking of the barrier this afternoon, the tide creeping steadily up until at 1:35 o'clock it was level with the top of the gap. A workman seized a shovel and made a small trench through which a rill of water trickled. Gradually it widened, until an hour later a raging torrent, with a 55-foot fall, poured through an opening 400 feet wide into that part of the canal between Gamboa dike and the Miraflores locks which previously had been excavated by steam shovels.

This cut, 5,000 feet long, 500 feet wide and 41 feet deep below mean sea level, was filled entirely by 3 o'clock, when the waters of the Pacific laved for the first time the solid masonry of the Miraflores locks.

Dredges passed through the opening, and in a few days the last vestige of the barrier will be removed. The dredges will begin September 2 to remove the last barrier of the Atlantic channel. When this work is accomplished ships may navigate to the lock ends.

## Yankees Buy Cobb for \$40,000.

New York, Aug. 31.—Ty Cobb, of the Detroit Tigers, will be a member of the New York Yankees next season. The "Georgia peach" has been sold by the Detroit club to the New York club for the largest amount ever paid for a baseball player—\$40,000. The announcement of the sale will not be made officially until the present season is over, but the news of the sale leaked out today through a stockholder of the Detroit club. The latter refused to have his name used at this time.

Clark Griffith, manager of the Washington Americans, got wind of the negotiations between the New York and Detroit clubs, and offered \$100,000 for the great player. He was willing to bid higher, if necessary, but he was too late, as the sale had been consummated. Griffith, it is said, was politely ordered by Ban Johnson, president of the American league, to say nothing about Cobb going to New York.

## Do You Know This Man.

"Last year I did not want to embarrass my best girl to make her propose to me, so asked her to be my wife, and she said: 'I would rather be excused,' and I like an idiot excused her. But I got over with the girl. I married her mother. Then my father married the girl. Now I don't know who I am. When I married the girl's mother, the girl became my daughter, and my father married my daughter he was my son. When my father married my daughter she was my mother. If my father is my son, and my daughter is my mother, who in the thunder am I? My mother's mother (which is my wife) must be my grandmother, and I being my grandmother's husband I am my own grandfather.—Exchange.

## WAVE OF PATRIOTISM SWEEPING MEXICO.

It is Proposed to Have 20,000 Troops in Line on Independence Day, on September 20.

Mexico City, Aug. 31.—A wave of patriotism appears to be sweeping over Mexico, and from many states and from all classes, it is announced, assurances of allegiance and offers of service are being received daily by President Huerta and his minister of war.

Plans are being made for a large display of military strength September 16, Independence Day. It is proposed to hold a big parade in the capital in which 20,000 are expected to march.

The war department has been called upon to furnish military instructors to a dozen cities, where the fear of being impressed for service against the revolutionists has given away before a latter patriotic ardor. Thousands of all ages are asking to be drilled in the use of arms.

Ministers Gamboa and Urrutia, of foreign affairs and the interior, respectively, today issued denials of the declaration from the war department concerning the shifting of army division headquarters from interior points to the coasts and frontier. It now is explained that if these shifts are made it will be solely for the purpose of guarding against rebel operations.

In addition to the students of the preparatory schools, where military instruction has been enforced for some weeks, the manual of arms is being taught workmen who are attending night schools and the employes of the tax department. The employes of several banks also are said to have organized a company and proffered their services.

The newspapers continue to devote themselves editorially to the subject of the diplomatic existence, dwelling upon the alleged sympathy and encouragement Mexico is receiving from the press of France, Germany and Great Britain.

Followers of General Felix Diaz expect him to return to Mexico City not later than October to push his campaign for the presidency. Senor Gamboa today said no further instructions regarding the Japan mission, to which General Diaz was appointed, would be issued by his department until after the elections.

The excitement among American residents over President Wilson's warning subsided to a large degree over Sunday. A limited number of persons left on trains to Vera Cruz today. Consul General Shanklin spent most of the day in his offices, but received fewer visits than on previous days. The opinion is growing that the warning, so far as regards the large centers, will not be obeyed generally unless further information of a definite character is forthcoming.

## "Uncle Joe" Again in Race for Congress.

Chicago, Aug. 19.—"Uncle Joe" Cannon, of Danville, will run a gain for representative in congress next year, according to reports received here. William B. McKinley, a recent Taft supporter, is expected to enter the race in the Champion district.

The political situation in Illinois is such, it is understood from the conversation of the active Republicans that the claims of the erstwhile representatives cannot be overlooked in getting together an organization to make the next State fight.

Renomination of Cannon, McKinley, Rodenberg and Sterling and probably Prince and Fuller is conceded as a practical probability, due to the hold they have upon the organization as Republicans who remained with the party when many went into the Progressive camp.

The indications are that the congressional candidates will be looked to as the responsible factors in their congressional districts in getting the machinery of the Republican organization back into gear, and that a general harmony program will be ready for submission in the late fall.

## CRANKS OFTEN VISIT CAPITAL.

Washington a Clearing House for Unfortunates From all Points.

Washington is the National clearing house for cranks and insane persons. This statement is not designed to burlesque Congress or other high Government officials who come to Washington in spite of an increasing tendency among some of the people to regard public servants in that class. But that Washington Asylum Hospital is truly the headquarters for lunatics.

Crazy people are very often afflicted in such a manner that they become obsessed with the idea that some high mission calls them, and they desire to go to the seat of Government to render aid or to give warning or counsel to the President or to Congress, says The Washington Herald. The guard at the White House, the doorkeepers of the Senate and House, private secretaries to members of Congress and Cabinet members, other watchdogs standing between public officials and the public and the officials and attendants of the Washington Asylum for the Insane have a budget of stories concerning these unfortunate creatures, who, in some way or another, managed to make their way to the National Capital with astonishing frequency.

## Insane Tar Heel.

A man from North Carolina, who recently called at the White House, presents an interesting and ludicrous case. Going to the White House, he announced that he had come to Washington in response to a wireless message in shorthand from President Wilson.

This was an extremely remarkable statement to begin with, inasmuch as it would be totally impossible to send wireless messages in shorthand, so the White House guards immediately knew they had a crank to deal with.

Interested, they drew the caller on to tell more about himself. He did so with gusto. He declared that he had been at his home, a small town in North Carolina, when he received his message. In some inexplicable manner, the man declared, his fellow-townspeople got wind of his affair, and, becoming jealous of his intimacy with the President of the United States, attempted to prevent his keeping the engagement which the President had made with him by wireless in shorthand.

He asserted that he had great difficulty in getting out of the town, as the people fired 800 shots at him and threw stones and brickbats. He was sure about the number—exactly 800. The railroad people were against him, too, he said, and he was compelled to ride on the trucks underneath a car until the train reached a lonely stretch, when he climbed into a Pullman and choked the conductor and porter with two oranges, which he took from the train newsboy. Then he took his ease in the stateroom, from which he evicted a bride and bridegroom. But, according to his story, he did not reach Washington directly. So strong was the jealousy of the people that he was forced to work his way to Washington from North Carolina around by Alabama.

## Prayed in Hotel Lobby.

Before he came to Washington he had been in Philadelphia so that city must have been included in his circuitous route. Dispatches from the Quaker City declared at the time that the man entered the lobby of a fashionable hotel there, and, stepping up to a clerk asked, courteously, if he might use the hotel lobby for a moment. The clerk assented and the stranger knelt down in the very center of the huge room, and, assuming an attitude as if at prayer, silently moved his lips for several minutes. Then, cheerfully returning to the desk, he told the clerk he had been communicating with President Wilson and that the President would be there shortly to dine with him. He said they would dine at the hotel and that the house would be amply repaid in the advertisement it would receive for the use of its lobby. Needless to say

that when the man reached Washington he told his story and was promptly garnered by the Washington Asylum for the Insane.

During President Taft's latter days in the White House a large man presented himself, and saying he was "The Bull Moose," declared he had come to throw the Chief Executive out of the Executive Mansion.

Not long ago one came to the Capital and demanded of the police, with whom he early entered upon negotiations, to see Uncle Sam in person, so that he might recite to that benevolent gentleman his wrongs. He saw the director of the Government Hospital for the Insane.

## Letters to Secret Service.

Chief Wilkie of the Secret Service, receives some fascinating bits of literature in the form of applications for employment under the head of Government sleuth. One man wrote that he had carried a gun from childhood, was naturally so conspicuous that any one could see him in a crowd and be unable to mistake his calling, and that as he had done some counterfeiting himself he would especially be efficient in apprehending others engaged in that trade.

Letters and visitors of all descriptions come to the Secretary of the Treasury. There is a man named Kelly who every few months will write in to the Secretary saying he will call on such and such a date for the \$10,000,000 the Government owes him. The first time he called the private secretary to the then Secretary of the Treasury stumbled upon a plan that always works. He told him it would take some time to wrap up so much money and asked the crazy man to call in an hour. The private secretary expected in the meantime to make arrangements to have him taken into custody, but Kelly did not come back.

After awhile, however, he wrote from a remote part of the world that he would call again, and he did so. He was put off for half an hour again in the same way and did not come back for half a year. He appears to be perfectly harmless, and this simple method of getting rid of Kelly is handed another.

## At the State Farm.

Winston Sentinel.

Mr. H. B. Varner, chairman of the State prison board, made inspection of the State farm in Halifax county last week, and he was very much pleased with what he saw. In his paper, the Lexington Dispatch, he says: This farm contains 7,300 acres and it is probably the finest farm in North Carolina. There are something like 6,000 acres in cultivation. There are nine miles of dikes on the farm, seven and a half miles on the Roanoke river. These dikes are built to prevent the river from overflowing and destroying the crops on the farm. They are 100 feet at the base and about 20 feet on top, from 30 to 40 feet high. Sometimes the rains become so heavy, and the river gets so high that it breaks through the dikes. When it does, the crops are destroyed.

Capt. C. N. Christian, a native of Stokes county, and Capt. Rheam, of eastern North Carolina, are in charge of this farm. They are most excellent farmers and they say that the prospects this year are the finest they have ever seen. They have 2,400 acres in corn, which will produce 100,000 bushels; they have 1,800 acres in cotton, which will produce a bale to the acre; 350 acres in peanuts, which will produce 40 to 50 bushels to the acre; and 400 acres of cow peas and soja beans. There are on the farm 200 head of cattle; 800 hogs, 240 horses and mules, 1,000 chickens, 150 turkeys and about 2,500 pigeons.

There are 450 convicts doing the work on the farm. Of course, it takes a considerable number of guards and overseers to look after these convicts. It is a little world all to itself and is a very interesting place to visit. No North Carolinian would regret spending the time and money sufficient to visit this wonderful farm and see these wonderful products.