

# The Mount Airy News.

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## INDUSTRIAL ROMANCE OF MT. AIRY GRANITE.

The following article appeared as a page advertisement in the Greensboro Daily News, July 15.

Within the borders of this State, near the little city of Mount Airy, is one of the largest granite industries of this country, an enterprise employing at all times six to seven hundred skilled workmen. At the present time the working area of the Mount Airy Quarries, a panorama of which is shown above, covers approximately sixty acres, which, looking at it from a distance, owing to its light grey color, closely resembles a field of snow. The story of the development of this gigantic plant constitutes one of North Carolina's most interesting industrial romances.

The beginning of this enterprise dates back to the year 1889, at which time the property was acquired and the Mount Airy Granite Company was organized, with J. A. Odell as President. Associated with him in the undertaking were J. Van Lindley, J. W. Fry, Julius A. Bray, Thomas Woodruffe, Sr., J. M. Odeff, Judge John L. Cochran and M. Kaufman, the five last named now deceased. Shortly after the company was organized, additional property was purchased, plans perfected and contracts entered into for the construction of a two-mile branch railroad into the property, and for the equipment of the quarry.

A few months later, upon the completion of these improvements, actual quarrying and the work of finishing the granite was begun—in a very modest way, but enough to attract the attention of some of the granite producers of the East, who up to this time had practically monopolized the trade. Immediately a movement was set on foot to discredit the use of so-called Southern Granites; and for years thereafter this opposition was continued. In spite of this concerted opposition, however, Mount Airy Granite continued to grow in favor, due to its very excellent quality; and finally it was discovered that the more "knocking" it received, the better advertised it became. Today, after being on the market for twenty-eight years, it has become a standard the country over, and many of the leading architects everywhere are specifying: "Mount Airy granite—or its equal." Its "equal" is exceeding hard to find.

At the time this enterprise was organized North Carolina was not recognized as a granite producing state. Today, however, it occupies sixth or seventh place from the top as a producer of this excellent material.

Another important fact worthy of mention just here is that during the period of twenty-eight years following the organization of this industry there has been no single suspension of operations, although several changes have taken place in the management.

The first of these changes came when the Mount Airy Granite Company leased its holdings to Thomas Woodruffe & Sons for a term of years. During the period of this lease these gentlemen acquired the entire holdings of their associates, by purchase, and, in turn, sold to a syndicate, formed to organize The North Carolina Granite Corporation, with head offices in Philadelphia. That was in the year 1904; and it has been under this regime that the greatest development of the industry has taken place.

Extensive improvements were made in the quarries to enable an economic quarrying and handling of the granite, and a large finishing and power plant was erected, equipped with thoroughly modern machinery—Cross-Compound Corliss Air Compressors, Electric Traveling Cranes of powerful capacity for the handling the large blocks of stone, weighing many tons each, Polishing Machines, Turning Lathes for large and small columns, and other

equally necessary and expensive equipment.

Upon the completion of this plant the Corporation entered actively into competition for the better class of building and monumental work throughout the country; and, as a result, among the notable structures in which the Mount Airy granite has been used may be mentioned: The National Museum Building, Department of the Interior Building, and Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.; Municipal Building, New York City, (the most important building of its kind in the country); Land Title Building, Philadelphia; First National Bank Building, St. Paul, Minn.; Winona Bank Building, Winona, Minn.; German Saving Bank Building, St. Louis, Mo.; St. Nicholas Church and Parish House, Atlantic City, N. J.

On the Battlefield at Gettysburg, Pa., the Pennsylvania State Memorial and the Monument to the Union dead erected by the Federal government are of Mount Airy Granite; and on the Vicksburg, Miss., Battlefield the Minnesota and Mississippi State Memorials are of the same material.

It is likewise worthy of note that many of the larger cities of the country are building "Community Mausoleums;" and Mount Airy Granite has been selected and used in the construction of the two largest thus far erected, one in Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago Ill., containing about two thousand crypts; the other in Lancaster, Pa. Hundreds of private mausoleums in various parts of the country are built of this material. For years past Mount Airy granite has been used in the construction of Postoffices, practically from coast to coast. Many palatial private homes on all parts of the continent stand today as monuments to this granite and magnificent workmanship to which it is adaptable. Included among these is the one of Peter G. Thompson, Esq., of College Hill, Cincinnati, O., one of the finest in the New World.

Compressed air plays an important part in the economic operation of the Mount Airy quarries, it being employed extensively in splitting out the granite.

In order to avoid the accumulation of waste, such as is to be seen in and around many of the eastern plants, several years ago a large crushing plant was erected, equipped with the best machinery obtainable for the purpose—Corliss Engines, Gyrator crushers, Reduction Rolls, Screens, Elevators, etc.—and now the entire waste produced from the quarries and finishing plants is conveyed to this crushing plant and converted into a marketable product.

The Corporation discontinued its finishing plant several years ago, leaving this branch of the business to be handled by the several independent finishing firms located upon and near by the premises. The largest cutting and finishing plant owned by the Corporation is operated under a lease by the J. D. Sargent Granite Company, Inc., which does an extensive finishing business, and at present is furnishing the dressed granite for the Court House at Washington, D. C., and other important structures.

The Corporation is the sole producer of Mount Airy granite in the rough, and it sells annually from two to three thousand carloads.

North Carolina Granite Corporation, sole producers of Mount Airy Granite, Mount Airy, N. C.

Onyx—My wife burst into a flood of tears the other night.

Bronyx—Did she cause any trouble?

Onyx—I should say so. Swept away \$43 for a new hat in the first torrent.

We confess that long retirement has resulted in a loss of sabre skill, but shortly we shall practise with the noble blade—just as soon as the watermelons are big enough to fence with.

## THE FOOD PROBLEM.

Raleigh, July 16.—Finding an inclination among some people to regard the Government crop estimate as tantamount to an announcement that the food situation has been fully met, John Paul Lucas, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Food Conservation Commission, has issued a statement showing that, while the American farmer is responding nobly to the call of patriotism and humanity, the food situation remains critical.

"Outside the one great fact of the war itself," declares Mr. Lucas, "the food situation is the greatest problem before the civilized world today, and it is the duty obligation and privilege of America to solve the problem. Every farmer, every man with a garden, and every consumer must keep this fact constantly in mind and remember that it is the aggregate of individual effort and sacrifice that must be relied upon to meet the demands of the situation."

"The Government crop estimates, indicating a total food crops production of 6,000,000,000 bushels, including 3,124,000,000 bushels of corn, gives us every reason to be encouraged and inspired, but the fight has just started. The first 'drive' has been a success, but other great drives will be necessary before the war is ended. Any relaxation of interest or lagging in effort upon the part of the producers of America might result disastrously."

"Wheat of course is the greatest crop for human consumption. During the last three years before the war began the United States, with an average production of more than 700,000,000 bushels, exported an average of only 116,000,000 a year. The balance of the approximately 580,000,000

our Allies and neutral Europe was supplied by Russia, 200,000,000 bushels; Canada, 121,000,000; Argentina, 100,000,000; Australia and New Zealand, 52,000,000; British India, 59,000,000.

"One of the most serious phases of the international food situation is the problem of transportation. With the world's available shipping decimated to an undreamed of degree by the German submarine campaign, sufficient ships are not available to carry wheat from Australia and the British Indies to England and the other Allies, and it is to be doubted if the exports from Argentina can be increased. Further, there is no way to transport Russia's usual 200,000,000 bushels to the Allies. This means that the wheat demands of our Allies and of neutral Europe must be supplied almost altogether by the United States with the aid of Canada. This demand in normal times was 650,000,000 bushels. Today, because of the withdrawal of millions of producers from European farms, the demand is probably considerably in excess of those figures.

"The wheat production in the United States in 1914 was 891,017,000 bushels, and in 1915 was 1,011,505,000 bushels; and yet, with these tremendous crops, we were able to export in the fiscal year 1914-15 only 332,000,000 and in 1915-16 only 243,000,000 bushels. If we continue to use wheat in the same amounts as we have been accustomed to we would not be able to export this year 100,000,000 too supply a demand several times that amount.

"In aggregate acreage and production corn is the greatest food and feed crop in the United States. The total production of 3,124,000,000 indicated for this year is no greater than the record production of 1912, and is less than 400,000,000 bushels above the average for the last five years. We have been accustomed to consume practically our entire corn production, our exports before the war averaging less than 50,000,000 bushels a year against the 128,000,000 bushels exported by Argentina. The demands of our Allies, formerly approximately

150,000,000 bushels, are probably not much if any less than three times those figures today. Because of the transportation difficulties already mentioned Argentina will be unable to increase her exports and the United States will be called upon to supply the entire demand. This we can readily do.

"To sum up: While we have large crops of all food products, except wheat, practically assured, the demands of our Allies are so tremendous that if we fully supply them, as we must do, we will have less of all of our exportable food crops left than we were accustomed to have under normal conditions before the war. Notwithstanding the great crops being grown by a determined and patriotic people and vouchsafed by a kind Providence, we must yet economize to the greatest extent possible in the use of those food stuffs suitable for export and must substitute for them to as great an extent as possible other products which are less suited for export or to which our Allies are less accustomed."

"North Carolina is playing well her part in the movement for increased food production and of food conservation. A 14 per cent increase in our corn acreage, a 100 per cent increase in our garden products and a large increase in the acreage of potatoes, beans, peas and other food crops show that the farmers of North Carolina as a general thing are aroused to a keen sense of their duty and opportunity.

"Every North Carolinian should look about himself or herself to find means of increasing and conserving the food supplies. Every pound of surplus vegetables from our tens of thousands of gardens should be conserved through some means, if it is to be allowed to go to waste. Plans should be made for a fall and winter garden to take the place of every summer garden. Every field that has been planted in corn, beans, potatoes or other food crops should receive the most thorough cultivation possible and be made to yield the utmost pound of their products. Cotton should receive equal attention because the staple is of equal importance with food stuffs and the seed may be classed as a food product. Every pound of hay and other forage possible should be saved."

## THE ITALIAN SOLDIERS CAUSE MOST ARRESTS.

Rome, July 14.—One of the most frequent causes of arrests of soldiers of the Italian army is not for drunken or disorderly conduct but for violation of the order that when given leaf of absence to visit their homes, they shall ride on slow and not express trains. Soldiers exert all their ingenuity to evade the order. They are always in a hurry to reach their homes, after many months absence, and as they generally reserve but a narrow margin of their leaf for the return trip, they are in a hurry to arrive at their posts before it expires.

Since the reduction recently of fast trains on the railroads, as a coal saving measure, the policemen have been stationed on each fast train to prevent soldiers, who ride free, from traveling on them. Recently on the Rome-Florence express a policeman found a big, healthy looking soldier who of course had no paid ticket.

"What are you doing here?" demanded the policeman.

"I'm going home from the hospital," answered the soldier.

"You don't look as if you had ever seen the inside of one," the other retorted.

The soldier silently threw back his cape with his left hand. His entire right arm and shoulder blade were missing.

"I guess you've earned the right to ride on the expresses," said the policeman and passed on.

## SEVERAL YEARS LONGER THIS WAR MAY CONTINUE

### A. A. Ebersole, Returns From Austria Tells of Y. M. C. A. War Work Aims.

Blue Ridge, July 14.—Fresh from his work in Austria among the Russian and Seban prisoners, and after having left Austria, traveling with the American embassy on the special train just after the break between Germany and America, A. A. Ebersole, associate war work secretary of the international committee of the Young Men's Christian association, gave the following interview at Blue Ridge, North Carolina, at the close of his address last night to the Army Young Men's Christian association school and to the secretaries' summer school of the city Young Men's Christian association, numbering in attendance 200 persons.

"You are asking me what is the situation in Europe and how long is the war likely to last. I answered that oft repeated question, one who has just come from Europe hesitates, because there are so many factors that enter into the situation. If I were to judge entirely from what I saw myself and heard in Austria, I would say that it would seem impossible that they could hold out another year. I am betraying no secret when I say that Austria is becoming depleted, not only in her supplies, but in everything else that is essential to carry on the ordinary activities of a country's life. Stores are empty, many of them being closed permanently and others opening only for certain hours of the day, simply because they have nothing to sell. Every available man is being used in the army

and as efficient an army as she had at the beginning.

"How long will the war last? Personally, I do not estimate to give an answer, but it is my candid and innermost opinion that it is likely to last several years, and as I return to the homeland after an absence of nearly a year, it is with mingled emotions that I see what is taking place here. Little did anyone suppose a year ago America would be compelled to take her share in winning this war, but it comes to one as a real surprise to see the wonderful response that one sees on every hand on the part of the American people. I would not have believed it if I had been told in Europe that in so short a time the whole country would be so thoroughly aroused and so completely devoted as the American people now seem to be the great task before them.

"One of the most encouraging aspects of the kind abroad in the country to me is the wonderful response which the Young Men's Christian association is meeting in its endeavor to take over the task assigned to it by President Wilson—the task of providing suitable educational social and religious activities at all the various training centers here at home where the men are soon to be gathered in thousands, and where they are to be put in shape for the great fight that they are to help the leaders to make, and in the training centers that are being gotten ready for the troops in France, where they still will have some months of waiting and preparations before they actually go to the front.

"But, to offer men and money to this work is just the beginning. The immediate and most important task which now confronts the association is

their services for the work which they are to do through the Young Men's Christian association in the various military camps. I was more than delighted to learn upon my reaching New York that already training schools had been organized for the purpose in different parts of the country. It was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation to visit one of the largest of these training schools here at Blue Ridge, which I understand to be the center of the Young Men's Christian association workers for the southeastern district, under the command of Gen. Leonard Wood, and I want to express my thorough appreciation of the splendid work that I found in progress here. As for location and equipment, it seems to me that Blue Ridge equals, if not surpasses, any of the training schools that it has been my privilege to visit.

When this term of school is over there should be a second group of young business and professional men, who seeing the great opportunity which this form of service offers, will have offered themselves to their country in this capacity. While a large number of men have volunteered, there is as yet a lack of men of maturity who can be at once put into these centers as executives, and whom we shall have to send in even larger number than we yet have into France to properly command our work in the centers there. The international committee is turning to this training center for the south to furnish its quota of these more mature men, and we believe that in this, as in all other times of testing, the southland will not be found wanting."

There are a great many people who would be very much benefited by taking Chamberlain's Tablets for a weak or disordered stomach. Are you one of them? Mrs. M. R. Seal, Baldwinville, N. Y., relates her experience in the use of these tablets: "I had a bad spell with my stomach about six months ago, and was troubled for two or three weeks with gas and severe pains in the pit of my stomach. Our druggist advised me to take Chamberlain's Tablets. I took a bottle home and the first dose relieved me wonderfully, and I kept on taking them until I was cured." These tablets do not relieve pain, but after the pain has been relieved may prevent its recurrence.