

Mount Airy News.

J. E. JOHNSON, Editor and Publisher.

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TELEPHONE CHARGES.

The local telephone company is asking that rates be increased. Public sentiment here seems to be inclined to think that the rates are high enough. The company fifteen years ago entered into a contract to furnish, for a period of 25 years, service at a fixed price. In the first place the company used poor business judgment in entering into any such contract. Conditions at that time might have been such that the service could be given at a nice profit, while a period of ten years might make the business a dead expense to the shareholders.

Now there are many people who maintain a phone system in their homes who think of it as a luxury, and to them it is a luxury. They can easily dispense with the service. But to most people the telephone is a necessity, and they must have one or more at the price that prevails, be that high or low.

Now if the telephone is a necessity then some man or combination of men must maintain the service. And the men who do this are entitled to a reasonable amount of remuneration for the service they render, and for the use of the capital stock tied up in the business. These are facts that no business man can deny.

Now if the local company wants the rates increased it is up to the shareholders, to use the language of the street, to show the officials and the citizens who patronize the phone, that a reasonable charge is not being made for the service, and that the rates should be increased. If this can be done there is every reason for thinking that the citizens of the town will endorse the action of the officials in making the increase asked.

There is no denying the fact that it is common talk that the local company is a paying one, and that the stock is no bad investment. The public has it that the present rates are sufficiently high and that to increase the rates would only be taking money from the citizens to make a paying investment an even better paying investment. Now a fair and full investigation of the facts may show that all this is wrong, and that the public is not properly informed as to the real conditions as to the business of the local telephone company. And, so, to again use the language of the street, it is up to the telephone company to show us.

TIME TO COOPERATE.

These are times when people can cooperate with each other as never before. Before the summer is gone a large number of the young men on the farms will be gone to the army. In many cases the real force of the farm will be gone. Most farmers are good neighbors, and there is much cooperation in the way of swapping work, but there will be even greater occasion for this exchange of help. In many instances farmers can assist each other by the loan of stock for breaking land and doing the heavy hauling.

There should be a free exchange of seeds. One man may have more of one kind of seed and be short on another which his neighbor may have. It would be no bad idea if every neighborhood would form clubs at the school house and meet occasionally to find out the needs of the neighbors.

With the young men gone many others will also leave the country. Already practically all the servant class has gone and in many sections it is almost impossible to get help in cases of sickness. The man who cares to be a good neighbor can in these times find wonderful opportunities to aid those about him. Before the summer is gone many homes will be saddened by the news that will come back from the battle fields of Europe. While no human aid can do much to

comfort in these trying times, human sympathy is always appreciated when it is offered in the right spirit.
 —W. S. S.—

Now that The Times-Leader has lined up to make the Republican Institutions safe in the world the Germans may look out.
 —W. S. S.—

It might not be a bad idea if some of these Mount Airy citizens try and engage board down at Rusk and send some of these unruly youngsters down there for a few weeks and get them tamed down a bit.
 —W. S. S.—

It would be no bad idea if the school down at or near Birch Station could be moved up to this city where some of our youngsters could get the benefit of the persuasion that seems to be so effective down there.
 —W. S. S.—

The esteemed Times Leader balks at helping Wilson make the world safe for democracy, but he is perfectly willing to help "destroy autoocracy and make the republican institutions safe in the world." Good for the Times-Leader.
 —W. S. S.—

To please the folk we often have to go and suppress some mighty good news items, but there is a young strip of a girl teacher down about Rusk who, if the world only knew of her ability and spunk, would be in such demand as a teacher that she would be swamped with offers.
 —W. S. S.—

These Mount Airy fishermen and their tales about their catches, and these Chicken fanciers and their tales about how many eggs they pick a day are beautiful stories that make one wonder just how the trick is turned. And then again one wonders if these fellows ever think of the way the other fellow thinks about their wonderful experiences.
 —W. S. S.—

Some of these local fishermen have been out on the creek banks and come back and tell about their luck, of course they are not wanting it in print, but they manage to let the editor know. Now the time once was when we cared so little for—well for what Saint Peter might think, that we gave space to these fishermen, but we are wiser now.
 —W. S. S.—

To a newspaper man news is news, and if it is bad news it is news, nevertheless. Which reminds us that there is likely to be coming this way some news items that will make mighty interesting reading, to say nothing of any other impressions the reading may make. The story is going the rounds that most of our citizens seem to be perfectly innocent of the fact that there is a single law or custom on the books that regulate the driving of machines. Which, if true, means that some entertaining stories of wrecks are due in future issues of this fireside companion.
 —W. S. S.—

It is bad enough to have to pay prevailing prices for things that one must eat, but when it comes to putting up the price on such simple items as an old fashioned drunk the limit is reached. The Honorable Mayor of this village has gone and raised the price of just ordinary drunks from a dollar and the cost to ten dollars and the cost, making a drunk cost the citizen the neat little sum of \$11.95. Four of our citizens have recently been held up for this amount, and it would not be so bad if one could get drunk on a decent grade of liquor, but to have to pay such prices and be forced to drink these ginger escenses, hostetters bitters and other patent drugs, makes it a real hardship on the man who must put up the coin.
 —W. S. S.—

Next week's issue of The Mount Airy News will contain a general write up of the business interests of the town. A large number of extra copies will be circulated. Mr. J. G. Claiborne, of Lynchburg, is assisting in the work, and it will be his endeavor to call on each and every business man and firm in the town, but if he should fail to see anyone who would care to be represented, a telephone message to this office will put him in touch with you. A full representation of the firms and enterprises is desired. In this issue you are offered a medium of publicity that cannot be surpassed, and no concern in Mount Airy should be omitted from the list.

Revenue Officers Active.

Deputy Collector Oscar Monday and Special employees C. L. Spangley and L. A. Smith working under S. R. Brame, of Richmond, Va., have recently been rounding up the fellows who have been turning good corn into liquor in this section of the moral vineyard. These officers left Roanoke, Va., during the last days of February and came through the country devouring whom they could find and reached this section the first of this week. In the raid through the counties between here and Roanoke they found some large plants using up the corn in a hurry. In this immediate section they located several plants but all were doing business on a small scale.

The word got to Richmond that good bread corn was being made into liquor in many of the mountain counties and Mr. Brame told these officers to depart and not let him look on their faces again until this distilling of bread material was stopped. And so they have been and are busy.

By the time they reached this city they had destroyed as many as nine stills, had some men under bond and visited a number of places where the stills had been carried away.

The officers had a most rare experience in the section of country a few miles north of this city. For years it has been well known that an automobile could leave here and be back in an hour and come back with the ardent, such as they now make in these parts. Time and again Mr. Monday says they have raided in the section where this liquor was supposed to be made, but it was always a hungry and tired and disappointed set of officers who returned, for never could they find a thing. And yet the autos would continue to make trips into that section. Recently some vile and wilful person had to go and give the officers the tip to hunt in the dry hollows. Now may be you don't know what that means. We will explain. When an officer goes into the woods to hunt a still he hunts the streams and branches, for it is very well known that it takes cold water to condense the steam from which the fumes of alcohol are secured. And so they hunt the branches, and hunt as they could never could they locate a still in that section. But when they got the tip to hunt the dry hollows they went, wondering what they were to find. Carefully they went along the dry ravines and, as luck would have it, they found two wells securely secreted under timbers that were covered carefully with forest leaves. Only by the man on the hunt and with a practiced eye would the wells ever have been noticed. And near both these wells they found well established still places where one would believe operations have been going on for possibly years. The trick was to pump or draw the water out of these wells and thus cool the still worm, and in that way make liquor where no officer was supposed to intrude his vile presence.

And to make the story complete the officers were again lucky. In examining the wells they saw something suspicious down in one and proceeded to examine further. They got a long pole and actually fished out of one of the wells a still where it was resting securely at the bottom, under eighteen feet of water. One of the officers crawled down a pole and tied a rope to the still and safely landed it on terra firma. And the officers know very well that a gang who can invent such schemes as these will be hard to beat, and may continue their business as long as they know the art of making the ardent, but it is a game for your Uncle Sam to see they play as little as possible to the hurt of the country.

If these wily blockaders could be rounded up to pit their wits against the Germans dollars to doughnuts that the Germans would be the losers. In the meantime your Uncle Sam is saying some of the bread corn.
 —W. S. S.—

Dr. Lackey who has practiced medicine in the Ararat, Va., section ten miles from here, volunteered some time ago for military service and left here this week for Richmond, Va., where he goes to take a position in the service of the Navy.

The News Office in Trouble.

During the many years that this office has been under the present management we have been up against practically everything to which human flesh is heir, from vaccinated arms to broken limbs, fires and balky presses and linotypes. So trouble to us is no new experience. But the worst seems now to have come. Let the future do its best, we are ready for the contest. The present trouble that is about to paralyze the whole plant is the desperate, possibly fatal attack of automobile fever that has laid its heavy hand on Will Johnson, the man who stays in the office and does practically all the work that is worth while. The fates have decreed that he become owner of one of these things they call a Chevrolet, and he has practically quit business, and is now giving his time to studying carburetors—whatever that may be, pinions, clutches, transmissions, punctures, ignition systems and a dozen other things that is all foreign lingo to us. It is the same line of discourse morning noon and night, and to us it appears to be a case that will need expert treatment if it gets much worse. Just what the office and The News is to do in the meantime is more than we can say. We earnestly implore our customers to bear with us in this calamity, and be patient in their demands, for it is to be hoped that the attack will soon run its course, at least such is the case with chicken pox and other such pesky troubles that befall us all.
 —W. S. S.—

Labor Troubles Adjusted.

On last Friday night the stone cutters of this city and the men who give employment adjusted their business differences in a way to continue operations, and the men went back to work Saturday morning after being off the job for three weeks. The fact that the Quarry is the greatest enterprise here made the business tangle of special interest to the general public and everybody is rejoiced that the men have adjusted their differences and are again making things hum at the Quarry.



Howdy, have you bought a Thrift Stamp today?
 —W. S. S.—

Mr. W. G. A. Oterson, a city mail carrier of Wilmington has sold over \$700 worth of Thrift Stamps on his route.
 —W. S. S.—

Every man and woman has to tackle this saving problem individually. No one can arrange other people's economies. All that one can suggest to another is that each should consider what he would do if he found his income suddenly reduced to a certain amount; in other words, that he should consider what he would save on if compelled to save.
 —W. S. S.—

The Sunday school on Main street Methodist church at Gastonia has subscribed a thousand dollars. Good! What Sunday school in Surry will be first?
 —W. S. S.—

It is religious to save and teach others to save, and it is religious to be obedient and loyal to the government; so after all the Sunday school that invests in War Savings Stamps will be in its regular line of work.
 —W. S. S.—

THRIFTIC

Sing a song of Thrift Stamps
 Sixteen in a row;
 Take them to an agent,
 Add thirteen cents or so.
 Change them for a War Stamp
 And for your loyalty
 You'll get a crisp \$5 bill
 In nineteen twenty-three.
 —W. S. S.—

The County Board of Education of Rutherford County has placed Thrift and War Savings Stamps on sale at every school in the county. To do this the members of the board gave their note as collateral for money to make the original purchase of the Stamps. Making it convenient and

easy for people to buy Stamps is not a bad plan.
 —W. S. S.—

That Rutherford School board understands what education means. An education with Thrift and Loyalty left out is an abomination under the sun.
 —W. S. S.—

Mr. John W. Dale, a farmer near Morganton, finally got his heart in the right place and when he did he was all there. He had not taken the war very seriously until he learned that German was trying to work up a row between this country and Mexico, and then he looked up Germany's barbarous record since she had been in hte way. The result was that he bought \$1,000 worth of aWr Savings Stamps. Let the farmers of Surry come across. There ought to be two hundred in this county who would join The Limit Club by becoming owners of \$1,000 worth of Stamps.
 —W. S. S.—

Buy Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps. It will help you and your country.
 —W. S. S.—

J. H. Folger Buys Country Home.

Attorney J. H. Folger last week bought the home place of Mr. C. C. Hutchens on the Dobson road at White Plains. This is a splendid residence and it may be that Mr. Folger will make it his home in the summer time to give his boys a chance for some experience on the farm. Anyway Mr. Folger does not say what his purpose was in making the purchase.
 —W. S. S.—

Notice Democrats.

You will please be at Dobson Monday first day of April, to elect delegates to the State convention, we want every Democrat in this County there. Its important that you come and lets discuss certain matters that pertain to the party. Meeting at 12 o'clock sharp in the Court house. Now come one and all.

Clarence E. Lundy,
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Mount Airy, N. C.