

The Mount Airy News.

ESTABLISHED 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26th, 1922.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

CLARENCE POE RE-PLIES TO ATTACK ON GROUP SELLING

Bitter Article by Col. G. E. Webb Answered; Shows How Cooperative Marketing Has Been Successful in Denmark and in Several Parts of This Country and Canada

In the Winston-Salem Sentinel a few days ago appeared an attack on co-operative marketing by Col. G. E. Webb. In the course of his article Col. Webb criticizes the motives of Dr. J. Y. Joyner, Dr. Clarence Poe and Aaron Sapiro as follows:

"I want to tell Dr. Poe and others who are with him in this business (and believe me it is business with them) that warehouses and markets in North Carolina and Virginia are going to keep open for sale of leaf tobacco at auction—and let me also say that those who do not sign up this five-year contract will be glad, and those who do sign up will be sorry. I am writing this in a spirit of justice and fairness to all concerned. All I ask is that farmers investigate the plan that is presented to them.

"Before I close this article I want to say that no one with a grain of gray matter will deny that the men of this game are not working for nothing. I have been coming in contact directly with farmers for almost 50 years, and I am in the position to say that they know that the men who are actively engaged in this co-operative market plan are not working for glory. They all know that Sapiro—the Moses—from California will make his thousands—and they know that Joyner, the ex-school teacher and politician, is in the game for what he can get out of it—and that Poe, the editor of the Progressive Farmer, never works for nothing—and there are others including the Forsyth county so-called farm demonstrator, who is working to destroy a legitimate farmer's interest—that would hurt the farmer—and where does he get his pay?

In reply to Colonel Webb's article Dr. Poe sends an argument for co-operative marketing in part as follows:

Two or three farmers have sent me copies of your paper containing reprints of an article of Col. G. E. Webb attacking co-operative marketing in general and my recent speech in Winston-Salem.

I notice that Col. Webb starts out by admitting his entire disinterestedness and winds up by intimating that Dr. J. Y. Joyner, Mr. Sapiro and myself have some sinister and diabolical motives back of our efforts to organize the farmers in the State to "make themselves masters of their own industry" through co-operative marketing. It is not my custom to engage in personalities, and if Col. Webb can convince the farmers that he is a suitable guardian for them and that the rest of us are actuated by some sinister motive, he is acting within his right.

The real question, as I see it, however, is not the goodness of Colonel Webb nor the lack of this quality in anybody else, but simply the question whether cooperative marketing is a good thing for the tobacco farmers of North Carolina to adopt.

Fortunately this question does not have to be settled on a theoretical basis. It is susceptible of very practical proof. Let me submit a few bits of evidence.

Of all the countries in the world, agricultural cooperation and co-operative marketing have reached their highest development in Denmark. I had the pleasure of visiting Denmark nine years ago, and can say from personal observation as well as from the testimony of all other authorities that in proportion to the natural advantages and the size and fertility of their farms, the farmers of Denmark are probably the most prosperous on the face of the earth. In the last 40 years in our own country the proportion of tenancy has increased so that whereas in 1880 only 1 American farmer in 4 was a tenant, today practically 5 in 6 are tenants. In Denmark, on the contrary, under the development of co-operative marketing the proportion of tenants has decreased from 43 per cent to 10 per cent.

But perhaps it may be said that Denmark is very different. All right, let's take our own country. In the United States the development of co-operative marketing has been in the tobacco industry—and if there is any other industry

where farmers are making money, I don't know it.

The United States government through its Census Bureau has just issued a statement naming the fifty richest agricultural counties in the United States—the fifty counties where farmers are making most money.

The very richest or richest one of all was one of the California cooperative counties. So was the second richest. The fourth, seventh and eighth richest were also California cooperative marketing counties.

In other words, of the eight richest farming counties in America, five were from California's cooperative marketing counties. And of the entire list of fifty richest American farming counties, thirteen were from California.

No wonder the California Bankers' Association at its recent meeting, recognizing how greatly cooperative marketing has increased the farmers' bank deposits, officially declared through its agricultural committee:

"Cooperative marketing of farm products of all kinds is undoubtedly the ideal method. Banks can well afford to encourage any organization created for this purpose. Any banker who is against cooperative marketing is opposing one of the saving factors of agriculture."

In California both bankers and business men see how greatly cooperative marketing has increased the farmers' prosperity and are as strong for co-operative marketing as the farmers themselves. If anybody is inclined to doubt this, let him write to Dr. B. W. Kilgore, Director Agricultural Extension Service, Raleigh, for a copy of his bulletin on co-operative marketing with the testimony of scores of California business men and bankers.

But perhaps it may be said that granting that co-operative marketing has made Denmark one of the most prosperous of agricultural States, still California and Denmark had not tried it out on tobacco.

All right, then, let's see the reports from some States that have tried co-operative marketing of tobacco.

"Co-operative marketing is the way out for the farmer. With our Maryland tobacco growers this is no longer a belief but a practical accomplished fact." So said Mr. H. H. Carr of Maryland, a prominent Maryland farmer, landowner, and business man—he used to be manager of Carolina Light and Power Company, Raleigh—in talking to me a few weeks ago.

"Did you have much of a fight in getting your organization going?" I asked.

"Well, I should say we did," Mr. Carr answered. "Baltimore is our great central market, and the buyers and allied interests set out to break us up right at the start. They had an organization called The Leaf Tobacco Association of Baltimore. Every buyer in Baltimore was a member of it, and every commission house or merchant who bought or sold tobacco was also a member, and they had a by-law which strictly bound them not to buy a pound from anybody who was not in this 'Leaf Tobacco Association.' So they had a sort of monopoly and seemed to have everybody else frozen out.

"Consequently, when we went out to organize tobacco farmers our enemies told the growers, 'You can't sell your tobacco who is going to buy it. But you may be sure that the buyers broke and ran as soon as they saw we meant business and would get 51 per cent of our growers signed up. They repeated their old by-law.

"Now these big buyers when they have an order for tobacco come to the co-operative marketing association first of all. They come to us because they know our big association, representing 3,500 of the State's 5,400 growers, has a larger assortment of tobacco than anybody else. Buyers can get any quantity of any grade they want—in reason. And this very fact insures better prices for co-operative growers."

Dr. Poe also included in his reply a questionnaire showing the great benefits which Canadian tobacco growers have obtained through a co-operative marketing system. Concluding his reply, he said:

"My good friends, Colonel Webb has the theory that co-operative marketing will not work. The facts from Denmark, California, Maryland, and Canada seem to be somewhat against it. In all these cases some would-be guardians of the farmers warned them that their crops could never be graded or financed—but they went right on and graded and financed them anyhow."

SAYS MOREHEAD MACHINE TO FALL

Dissatisfaction in Republican Ranks in State; Fight on at Hickory

Hickory, Jan. 21.—Prediction is freely made in local Republican circles that the Morehead political machine, which at present is having everything its own way in the distribution of offices, is riding for the hardest fall ever experienced by an organization in this state. A well known Hickory leader, who was in the fight to oust the late E. C. Duncan, said the demolition at the 1912 Raleigh convention would not be a circumstance to that which will be attempted when the G. O. P. host assemblies again.

Dissatisfaction, it is said, obtains over a large part of the state and Republicans here are reading with interest reports from Washington. At first there was a disposition to minimize these, but direct word from other points has tended to impress them that the complaints were real and not imaginary.

The contest here had its origin in the local postoffice fight, in which Raymond L. Hefner, A. L. Deal and Horace H. Abbe were the three to qualify for the appointment. H. H. Miller, another Hickory Republican failed to get a rating, but at the instance of some leaders here, it is said, the appointment of Hefner or one of the other applicants was held up while two civil service men came here to make another investigation. It is freely predicted by Mr. Miller's friends that he will land the job, but the others are not giving up.

Hefner's advocates say he is undoubtedly the choice of the patrons of the office, who ought to be given consideration, and they are going to war later on the score that the Morehead organization is steam-rolling over Republicans. Mr. Hefner himself has taken no stock in newspaper comment and has acquired himself as have the other candidates, in a manner that cannot be used against him and his friends.

Winsome German Girls

Capture American Hearts

Coblenz, Jan. 21.—Winsome German girls continue to make inroads in the American forces in Germany, despite the standing order issued two years ago that enlisted men who married here would be returned to America with their wives on the next army transport.

Every transport with returning troops carries its quota of newlywed, and whenever a troops train leaves Coblenz for Antwerp, the port of embarkation, the flower shops do a splendid business, their customers being chiefly Germans who desire to bestow flowers upon the departing brides, full of anticipation and hope for a wonderful existence in their new homes across the Atlantic.

More than 1,000 American soldiers have married in Germany during the last two years and ten months, according to estimates of American officers and German civil officials. Most of the men and their wives already have been sent to the United States.

Many soldiers who desired to marry and remain in the service on this side, took great pains, officers say, to keep the facts from becoming known generally. Officers say some of the soldiers took their brides into unoccupied Germany, and were married there, most of these events having taken place when America and Germany, technically, were still at war.

Women Win Victory

Washington, Jan. 20.—The nomination of Harley V. Speelman of Merietta, Ohio, to be register of treasury may well be regarded as a victory for the young white women of that office, for the vigorous protests of these women, Republicans and Democrats, from all sections of the country, against the appointment of a negro over them is said to have had an important bearing in securing the selection of Mr. Speelman, a white man, who has been the assistant register for many years. The candidates at first largely composed of negroes, and prominent among these was "Link" Johnson, who was finally knocked out of box by the Senate when nominated for recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. The nomination of Mr. Speelman is a victory for whites, who fought the appointment of a negro.

SLEEPY VILLAGE WAKES UP

Following Discovery of Oil a Tented City of 30,000 Arose Over Night

Mexia, Texas, Jan. 19.—Overnight a tented city arose. From an apparently sleepy little town of 3,000 population in October 1921, where old settlers farmed for a living and eked out a bare existence from their lands; where they rode cow horses to "town" and hitched them to a hitching post and where even the town hall bell had not tolled for years because of the cob webs and bird nests—to a bustling city of 30,000 people, and all in a few months, this is the recent record of Mexia, an old time Texas town, which is feeling the effects of one of the numerous oil developments in the Southwest.

The population now consists of an assortment of oil field followers and thousands of men and women seeking employment, leaving an old field for the new, coming on trains from all parts of the United States, or in wagons, trucks or "horseback," some bringing their assortment of household goods and camping outfits and finding from 10 to 100 men for every job and no place available for spending the night.

Consequently because of the exorbitant prices charged for a room, if one were lucky enough to secure one, hundreds of men, favored by the long-continued mild winter are sleeping on the grass along railroad tracks, public parking places and, in fact, anywhere they could. Overnight a bed in a tent marked "A place to flop," soared from 50 cents a night to \$3. A night in a crude plank structure where one didn't know his bed fellow or the hundreds of others in the single room, cost \$5. Prices charged the few who were lucky enough to get in one of the few private dwellings vary, but all were high enough to satisfy the most fastidious millionaire. But men are glad to get a bed at any price and many could not find shelter except that provided by nature.

Rail traffic jumped hundreds of per cent. There are two trunk lines the Houston and Texas Central and the Trinity and Brazos Valley leading through here and passenger traffic is very heavy while freight trains are frequently seen running three abreast so heavy is the demand for oil machinery. One road is said to have spent \$600,000 in enlarging its facilities.

The water situation is not altogether what could be desired. The water was procured from a spring a short distance from town, and although good water it was nearly as high in price as gasoline. Some oil men, however, came along, and drilled an oil well right side by side with the spring, "tapping" the water supply so badly that lately it has been entirely stopped. Water wagons have been requisitioned and although they are busy all day and night hauling water to homes, restaurants and improvised "bunking" houses, they are not sufficient to cover the field.

Consequently the town has been declared "very unsanitary" by citizens in heated arguments at the meetings of the City Council, which is making every effort to remedy the situation. Mayor Riddle informed the irate citizens that this "could not be done overnight."

Taking a bath here is quite an experience, if indeed not a task. The old saying, "if you want to do something big—wash an elephant," certainly has found a parallel in Mexia. This luxury may be found, outside the woodland creeks, only in a downtown barber shop. The bath house is a stall in a wooden floored, plank-in-enclosure. Just plain pine planks are slippery, but the proprietors of the house have found that it is not necessary to maintain first aid kits because the board floors are warped enough to allow the bather a foothold. "Cleanliness, after all, is next to godliness," but a bath in Mexia is next to impossible.

But as for oil. There are a solid six miles of new derricks, drillers outfits, tents, wooden buildings and people where once there was the open prairie. A survey of all local lumber men shows that building completed or contracted for since Oct. 1 totals between \$3,500,000 and \$5,000,000.

Gambling and drinking halls filled with dancing girls are open every night, and one may buy openly "red" and "corn" whiskey at 50 cents a drink. There is no effort at closing them. The Winter Garden is the most flourishing of these. Here is said fortunes have been lost overnight at the dice and roulette tables.

OLD MASONIC DOCUMENTS GIVEN TO PUBLIC

Text of Address of Welcome of Isaac Guion and Response of George Washington Incident to Latter's Visit to New Bern 130 Years Ago.

New Bern, Jan. 21.—Documents of unusual interest were given to the public again during the celebration here Thursday of the founding of St. John's Masonic lodge and commemoration of the visit of George Washington.

Judge Owen H. Guion, whose great grand-father, Isaac Guion, welcomed President Washington to New Bern, read again the welcome address, and Col. P. M. Pearsall, who played the role of "Father of Our Country," repeated the response of the Great American in the exact words as they were recorded on May 5, 1791.

Howard's Commission

Another interesting document was that read by Judge Francis D. Winston, of Windsor, it being the commission of Martin Howard from Joseph Montfort, "Provincial Grand Master of America with authority and power to make Masons and to constitute lodges," to constitute the New Bern lodge.

The address of welcome of Isaac Guion, who was Master of the New Bern lodge when George Washington made his visit 130 years ago, together with the response of the President, are taken from the minute book of the year 1791. The priceless volume is kept in the vault of St. John's. The address of welcome and response are as follows:

"To the President of the United States,

"Right Worshipful Sir:

"We the Master, officers and members of St. John's Lodge, No. 2, of New Bern, beg leave to hail you with the mystic numbers. We approach you not with the language of adulation, but sincere fraternal affection, your works having proved you to be the true and faithful brother, the skillful and expert craftsman, the just and upright man. But the powers of eloquence are too weak to express with sufficient energy the cordial warmth with which our bosoms glow toward you.

"We, therefore, most fervently wish, most ardently and devoutly pray that the Providence of the Most High may strengthen, establish and protect you in your walk through this life, and when you are called off from your terrestrial labors by command of our Divine Grand Master and your operations sealed with the mark of His approbation may your soul be everlastingly refreshed with the streams of living water that flowed at the right hand of God.

"And when the Supreme Architect of all worlds shall collect His most precious jewels as ornaments of the Celestial Jerusalem, may you everlastingly shine among those of the brightest lustre.

"(Signed) Isaac Guion, master; Samuel Chapman, S. W.; William Johnston, J. W.

"Solomon Halling, Edward Patton, James Carney, Francis Lowthrop, committee."

Washington's Response

"To the Master, Officers and Members of St. John Lodge, No. 2, of New Bern,

"Brothers:

"I receive the cordial welcome which you are pleased to give me with sincere gratitude.

"By best ambition having ever aimed to the unbiased approbation of my fellow citizens it is peculiarly pleasing to find my conduct so affectionately approved by a fraternity whose association is founded on justice and benevolence.

"In reciprocating the kind matter contained in your address be persuaded that I offer a sincere prayer for your present and future happiness.

"Signed GEO. WASHINGTON."

An Old Document

The commission of Joseph Montfort, Esquire, of Halifax, as "Provincial Grand Master of and for America," bears date of "January 14th, A. L. 5771, A. D. 1771." Judge Winston pointed out in a brief address. Continuing Judge Winston said:

"A year from then, January 16, A. L. 5772, A. D. 1772, Provincial Grand Master Joseph Montfort, directed that a charter issue and it was issued to certain brethren named therein, constituting them into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons to be opened at New Bern, by the name of New Bern St. John's Lodge."

The document in possession of the

charter to Martin Howard as directed was read by Judge Winston as follows:

Montfort's Document

"Honorable Sir and Brother Martin Howard:

"His Grace Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort, Marquis and Earl of Worcester, Earl of Glamorgan, Viscount Grosvenor, Baron Herber, Lord of Rogland, Chepstow & Gower, Baron Beaufort of Galdesot Castle, and Grand Master of the most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of England, hath graciously pleased (by patent dated the 14th day of January, in the year of Light 5771), to constitute me provincial Grand Master of America with authority and power to make Masons and to constitute Lodges.

"By such authority it is now my will and pleasure, you having humbly petitioned therefor, that you and those associated with you, be, and you and they are, hereby constituted into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons to be opened at this place by the name of New Bern Saint John's Lodge.

"I name you Right Worshipful Martin Howard as Master of this Lodge and associate with you Worshipful Joseph Leach, to be Senior Warden; and Worshipful Richard Cogdell to be Junior Warden. The brethren will obey you and them accordingly. As a further evidence of your authority I now place in your keeping and in the keeping of all those who are to follow you in your office of Master, the Charter of New Bern Saint John's Lodge Guard it well!"

The Killing of a Whiskey Runner

Greensboro News.

The sooner whiskey runners learn that resistance to officers of the law means they are inviting instant, violent death, the sooner the practice of taking pot-shots at policemen will be abandoned. The affair near Reidsville should be, and no doubt will be, investigated vigorously; but if the officers can show that they were fired upon from the automobile in which the whiskey runners were riding, then the investigation should be allowed to drop right there. Nobody, with the possible exception of wild fanatics believes that an officer is justified in killing a whiskey runner who is doing no more than trying to escape; but there is no sense in showing mercy to these gunmen who are not only engaged in the liquor traffic, but are ready to commit murder to avoid being caught.

Most Greensboro people incline to the belief that the course of events following the killing of a member of a gang of gunmen by a Greensboro policeman has tended to encourage the activity of such desperadoes. The Greensboro officer was promptly charged with murder, and it was proposed to try him for his life in this same county of Rockingham, and sentiment was so plainly against him there that the court ordered a change of venue.

If that affair did, indeed, encourage the gunmen, then Reidsville has suffered a terrific recoil; for Reidsville now is in precisely the position that Greensboro occupied then. Her whole system of defense of law and order has been attacked. She sees now what it means to permit these criminals to pursue their course unchecked. It would be tantamount to an admission that the law—not merely the prohibition law, but every law—may be flouted with impunity; and once that admission is made neither the property nor the life of any honest man is safe any longer.

Therefore, assuming that it can be proved that somebody in that car actually did fire upon the officers, this fellow is paid for. He got exactly what his crowd was inviting, and there is no call for the State to make any effort to punish the man who gave it to him. It is a terrible occurrence, to be sure; but the crime that the men committed when they shot at officers of the law was more terrible. So far from owing the dead man anything, society still is on the wrong side of the ledger; for he made a more heinous attack upon it than it did upon him.

The crew of a train, arriving at one of the stations on the Uganda railway in Africa, found three lions had taken possession of the station. One lion was in the telegraph room, one in the refreshment room and the other stalked up and down the platform. "A true official story." When the train from the engine which pulled the lion to depart, the station agent emerged from a building some distance away.