

Mount Airy News.

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SCHOOLS RUNNING BEHIND

The schools of Mount Airy are and have been running late, to use a railway man's expression. A public enterprise, like an individual, can get behind and then it is hard to catch up. The hitch with our city schools is that we have not provided the funds with which to do the things we expected those in authority to do for us. We levy a tax and collect it and then say to our school board, give us a nine months school with all the teachers we need, and do it with the money we have provided. We say to them, we have such and such buildings and we expect you to see that every child in town has an equal chance. And we do this knowing that we are short on money and on building space. This has been the status of affairs here for years.

When the county employed a welfare officer and undertook to get all the children in school we said to the welfare officer, we just cannot obey the compulsory law, because we have not enough room to house the children. And so we got by with it, while the children loafed on the streets.

Take the case of an individual citizen and see how all this applies to him, and maybe this will better illustrate the idea we are trying to impress. A man of means moved here a few years ago. He is a large tax payer and a loyal citizen. He moved here for the one purpose of educating his children. Now he is complaining. He is sensible. He says that he is aware of the fact that a child in the first grade can get along all right with a half day in school, but after they get away from the first grade and begin to grow up they need to be in school all day. Last year this man had one child out of school half of each day, when it should have been in school all day, and this year he has two children out of school half of each day.

This citizen says that his two children are in school three hours each day, and that he thinks they are not getting a square deal. He thinks they will not be educated at this rate and he is thinking of moving away to a school where he can give his children the opportunity they should have. Now is he right or not? He is able to educate his children, and he is wise enough to know that it is his highest duty to give them the opportunity they should have.

Ten years ago we were cramped for school room. We built the High School building and by the time it was ready we were short on room again, and with the North Main school building we are even in a worse plight today than we have been in all the years past.

The town is growing, and we are not keeping up with the growth, so far as our schools are concerned. This shortage of room is a constant source of irritation to our folks who are in charge of the schools. There is, and has been, entirely too much strife connected with the management of our schools, and we suspect that it is, and has been, largely due to trying to get along on a poor equipment. No man or set of men can do good work with a dull tool. Poor equipment will engender strife and confusion in any line of human endeavor. It is the same in a factory or a retail store. So long as we are not prepared to take care of the children as they should be as to rooms for the grades, there will be confusion. It all comes down to this. Mount Airy needs to take a long breath and make up her mind to be liberal enough to provide buildings for all the children and money enough with which to give them a school in keeping with the progressive age in which we are living. What do you think about it?

Statement

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PLAYING POLITICS

The appeal of the Mount Airy School Board to the authorities at Dobson last week for the balance of \$8,000 due them from taxes has revealed some interesting things about the management of our county affairs. At this hearing it developed that everyone agreed that either the Sheriff or Treasurer or some county official owed the Mount Airy schools this large sum but no one could fathom where the money is and where it is to come from. At least our city schools are suffering today for the want of this money—long due them. Our teachers are not being paid properly and this money is due and needed.

The fact is brought out that the State law requires the Sheriff to settle the first of January of each year, but so far there has been no settlement between the Sheriff and the county authorities, with the result that no one knows just where the county stands.

All these things have set the folks to talking about how the Republican officers are playing the game of politics in this county. One instance that is causing much criticism: Every year the County Commissioners post great big circulars all over the county telling the people they must list their property by the first of June, and unless this is done a severe penalty is threatened. All this is for the purpose of getting the books in hands of the Sheriff on the first Monday in October. The State authorities have wisely figured out all this. They reason that it is necessary that the Sheriff begin the collection of the taxes in October for the reason that the schools all over the country begin about this time and will need considerable money in getting started.

Here in Surry the schools have started off on time and in fine condition, but nothing is being done to collect the taxes to pay the teachers with. For some reason the books are still in the Register of Deeds office and the Sheriff and his deputies are left free from this duty imposed upon them. This neglect should not be tolerated. Even if it is convenient for the Republicans to put off the collection of the taxes until after the election, hoping to gain the support of some weak backed Democrat, it is too important a matter to be put into politics. The law has said what the county officials should do and when they should do and the people are expecting them to carry out their oath.

If the books are not put in the hands of the Sheriff and the settlement made of the funds in the hands of the Sheriff, as the law has directed, then the voters of Surry ought to know the reason.

THE KAISER'S BOOK

The ex-German Kaiser, like most of the other men who were made famous by the world war, has written a book. American newspapers are printing it in serial form and advertising it extensively.

A fortune was paid the author for it, and now the American people are supposed to be greatly interested in what the old man says. For our part we want none of it. We would not spend an hour over what he has to say on any subject. Not that we do not understand that he is a man of great accomplishments, but we already know too much about such characters as he is. We know that he ruled for years a great nation, and like a Solomon, in one respect he misruled it. He gave of his time and influence to building up a great war machine that he thought could run rough-shod over his neighbors and make a world hero of himself. Every energy, for many years, was bent in the effort to make Germany a huge fighting machine.

And then one day in 1914, on the merest pretext, he launched this huge army against his neighbor, France, and brought on the greatest disaster civilization has witnessed. No, we know too much of the would-be hero. Others can wade through his slobberings, but we will not, and we advise our friends that to read it will be to embitter their minds and debauch their characters the same as spending good time with any other debauched wretch. Time is too valuable to waste listening to a murderer tell why he played the fool.

Commissioner Banner's Condition Critical

Friends of Commissioner-at-Large John L. Banner will regret to know that he has had a relapse after recovering a recent illness sufficiently to be out on the streets. His children Mrs. P. L. Hawks of Roanoke Va. and Miss Love Banner, student of N. C. C. W. Greenboro have joined his loved ones at his bedside. Mr. Hawks and children, and Mrs. Claude Beard of Kernersville are also here. His condition is considered critical.

DEMOCRATIC TICKET

For Congress
CHAS. M. STEDMAN
 For Solicitor—11th Judicial District
S. PORTER GRAVES
 For House of Representatives
DR. J. THOS. SMITH
 For Clerk of Superior Court
FRANK T. LEWELLYN
 For County Treasurer
J. M. ROYAL
 For Register of Deeds
S. GILMER DOBBINS
 For County Surveyor
SAML. R. HARBOUR
 For Coroner
DR. R. E. L. FLIPPIN
 For Sheriff
CALEB H. HAYNES
 For County Commissioners
W. J. BYERLY
ALEX. CHATHAM

THE RACE FOR CONGRESS IN THE FIFTH

Major Stedman has many friends in this district who have loyally stood by him during the years he has so well served the district in congress. This year they are called upon to work even harder, for the major has not been in the best of health for some time and has not yet regained his strength so that he can enter into speech-making with vigor of other days. His health is greatly improved and he is now in the district and will visit many points and shake hands with the folks, but his loyal friends will do most of the speech-making for a time, at least.

The campaign is of more than ordinary interest for the reason that the Republicans now have as their candidate a woman of known ability, Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, of Winston-Salem. In a newspaper article before us we see that she is now engaged in an active campaign in the eleven counties of the district and that she has already traveled eight thousand miles in her motor, and will spend as much as a week in each county during her campaign. She is making a hard fight for the office and no doubt would make a good representative should she be the choice of the district. Certainly we could not afford to say less of a woman.

In the article before us we are especially interested in the points made in Mrs. Patterson's favor, among them being some references to her distinguished ancestry. Of course all this is given out with the hope of getting more votes.

The voters of the district are reminded that Mrs. Patterson's grandfather was the late General Patterson, of the city of Philadelphia. That ought to get her votes, for every one knows that there is a strong attachment between the citizens of the Fifth and the state of Pennsylvania known so well to many of our tottering veterans.

And then the voters are modestly informed that Betsy Patterson is a cousin of her late grandfather Jerome Bonaparte. Now that should arouse interest among all the folks, if anything will. Just why Betsy who was a cousin of the grandfather of our woman candidate should be brought into this canvass of the district, is too much for us, but there may be a reason. The fact that Betsy lived a hundred years ago and married Jerome Bonaparte may throw light on the present day issues to some of the voters, if it does not to us. If we knew who Jerome Bonaparte was it might help, but then we remember enough of our history to recall that after the death of the famous Napoleon Bonaparte there grew up almost as many other Bonapartes as there are now Smiths or Joneses. Anyway, Mrs. Patterson's grandfather's cousin Betsy married Jerome Bonaparte. The voter can take the case.

But what will prove to be of even greater interest will be the fact that Joseph Bonaparte, whoever he was, was a friend of Mrs. Patterson's grandfather. If that don't defeat Major Stedman he is safe. Just how the Major will answer such a strong claim is more than we can tell.

The fact is that the voters of the district should be given further information about this Joseph Bonaparte, for the campaign article goes on to say that the candelabra in the blue room of the White House were given to this Joseph Bonaparte and later they got to this country and finally found their way to the White House. If Clyde Hoye and the other stump speakers who are assisting the Major can get by with all this they deserve anything the Democrats of the state have in store for office holders.

And then the voters are told that the father of our distinguished woman candidate was the late Col.

William Houston Patterson, of the state of Tennessee. That is good. Tennessee is a fine state. And the voters are further informed that the Colonel was an Egyptologist. That simply cannot be answered. It is a point that had better be ignored by the Democratic speakers. To be the daughter of an Egyptologist is an honor that comes to but few mortals. For the life of us, we fail to know what it is to be an Egyptologist, but no doubt the voters will know. Evidently it is something about Egypt, and if Mrs. Patterson's father was an authority on anything about Egypt that should entitle her to a seat in Congress. And it will. If the voters of the district are all informed that her father was an Egyptologist then Clyde Hoye and the other speakers had just as well go home.

THE MONEY SHARK

One of the pests of the business world is the money shark—the man who is willing to take advantage of his fellows and loan him money at a big rate of interest. In every town these petty money lenders can be found who are always on the lookout for some man who needs a few dollars for a few days, or for a month, and, for various reasons, is not in position to secure a loan through the regular business channels. The negro is a favorite with these money lenders.

As an illustration of what this high rate of interest means to the man who borrows and to the man who lends the following is to the point. Out in California, twenty five years ago, Mr. George Thomas Jones, of the city of San Jose, borrowed \$100 from his neighbor and promised to pay him 10 per cent interest monthly and compound it monthly. But up to this date he has paid nothing. Recently he was sued in court for the debt and judgment was given against him for the entire amount of principal and interest from the date of the note to the present. Imagine the task of making the calculation to get the amount due. We suspect that the average school-boy would be able to figure it out in a week. Somebody has calculated it and found the amount due to be the neat little sum of \$304,840,332,912,685.16. Over three trillion dollars! When Mr. Jones learned the amount of the judgment against him the report says he promptly went into bankruptcy, and naturally would.

FOR BETTER GARDENS

Recognizing the great need for better gardens the department of agriculture at Raleigh has appointed Frank E. McCall to the position of State Garden Specialist. It will be his duty to go about over the state and arouse interest in better gardens, better kept homes, show the people how to beautify their homes with shade trees, shrubs, vines, flowers etc. The great need for better gardens was shown during the world war, and it also came to light that a very large number of homes pay almost no attention to the making of a garden or to beautifying the home with trees or flowers.

If the new official can arouse interest along this line it will be well worth while, for many are woefully behind on this subject.

Those little excursions inaugurated by the Kiwanis Club to neighboring towns represent time and money well spent. Two trips to Sparta, one to Stuart. Next stop should be Pulaski and Wytheville.

Parker-Poors

Miss Maggie Parker and Durham Poore were quietly married last Thursday evening at the home of Rev. D. Vance Price who officiated. The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Parker of Green Hill, the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roney Poore. They will do light housekeeping in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Jordan. The groom is a valued employee with the Holcomb Hardware company.

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ROYALTY GOES A COURT-ING

Every one is familiar with the manner and custom of going a court-in' in this country, but the manner of the royalty of Europe may be new to some. Here no one is surprised if John takes the old man's jitney and runs over to see neighbor Jones's daughter Mary, and if John fails to get the consent of the old man to take the jitney, but little is thought of it, for boys will be boys.

It is the same old story over in Europe, but on a somewhat different scale. The other day Prince Humbert whose pap is the king of Italy, went to see his girl, and the manner of his going is interesting. Humbert is 18 and his pap and mother had planned for him to have the thirteen year old daughter of the king of Spain for his sweetheart, but Humbert was not so struck on the girl. Some years ago the king of Italy and the king of Spain had some kind of a falling out—cheated each other in a horse swap or something else, and since that time they have not been on the best of terms, but yet had to speak for appearance sake. Somehow the idea got into the head of the king of Italy that it would patch up the old difference if he could arrange for his son Humbert to marry Beatrice, the thirteen year old daughter of the Spanish king. But young Humbert failed to get interested in the affair and cast his eyes in another direction. And without asking his pap a word about it he tother day took one of the old man's battle ships and a few cruisers that must go along with the huge man of war and steamed away to Belgium to pay his respects to Miss Marie Jose, the sixteen year old daughter of the king of Belgium. And he failed to send word that he was coming, for he found the girl's pap and mother both away from home, but her big brother entertained in their place.

And now the whole world is talking about the naughty way in which the young prince has gone and treated his pap, to say nothing of how he has humiliated the king of Spain and his thirteen year old daughter. For had they not let it be known among all the royalty that the match was the will and wishes of both kings? They had. Wars have been fought over less insults. Just how the affair is to turn out is interesting, for the dignity of kings is something that the whole world must respect, and dignity must not be trifled with. Armies will move first. And such is the result of having such kings as now are pestering the earth.

WHAT PROTECTION MEANS

The way the great American system of protection works out in some instances is beautifully illustrated in the case of the king of Greece and the Leeds family. William B. Leeds, a citizen of this country, got to be a multi-millionaire as the result of our wonderful system of protection that we throw around our infant industries. Under the system Leeds was able to sell tinware to every home in America at a price that made his fortune. Then he died and his widow married the brother of the king of Greece. To get even deeper into that kind of society her son married the king's daughter. Now the king has been driven from his throne after leading his country to disgraceful defeat in his effort to conquer his neighbors and add more to his kingdom. Up in our good state of New Jersey old man Leeds built a mansion for his folks and built it with money that came to him as the result of American protection. Now they are talking of how the king of Greece is likely to come to this fine American mansion and spend his days in luxury living off the fortune of old man Leeds.

It may not be so bad for the citizens of this country to contribute to the building of great fortunes when the fortunes are later used for the development of our country. Many of our protected money kings have done great things for our nation in the way of building railroads and other public enterprises, but when a fortune is extracted from the whole people by a protective tariff as was done when Leeds, the Tin plate king, was allowed to make his, it looks like there might be some way found to regulate or in some way say how these fortunes must be used after they have been created by our legal protection.

Lawyer Harry Lewellyn

H. H. Lewellyn, who recently secured his license to practice law, has rented offices in the Leonard building in this city and will make this city his home. Harry, as he is popularly known, first broke into the limelight about two years ago when he made the race for Mayor of Mount Airy. Although he was defeated he carried on such an intensive campaign that he had the old politicians of our city spending sleepless nights prior to the election. This was about the time the women had entered politics which Harry failed to realize as an important factor, this cost him their vote, and their number proved sufficient to defeat him.

Auction Sale of
School Building
 The School Board will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder the frame school building on Rockford street Saturday, Oct. 14, at 11 o'clock. Terms cash.
 J. C. HILL, Sec. to the Board.

Farms and Residence For Sale!
 Seven room residence and 3 1-2 acres, Lemon Springs, N. C.
 107 acres, 3 miles southwest of Jonesboro on Highway, 25 acres clear.
 49 acres about 1-2 mile south of Jonesboro on improved road. 2 tenant houses, barns and four tobacco barns. 40 acres in cultivation.
 Prices reasonable and terms easy. If you are looking for property in this desirable section it will pay you to investigate.
 11-4p. J. A. Overton, Lemon Springs, N. C.
 I. P. Lasater, Jonesboro, N. C.