

The Mount Airy News.

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COUNTY AGENTS AT WORK

Yes, Everywhere But in Surry, And Surry is Too Poor to Have One.

Raleigh, May 7.—Every week of the year, that overworked, sometimes harassed, individual known as the county agent of the Agricultural Extension Service performs some useful duty for the farmers in his county, says C. R. Hudson, State Agent for the Farm Demonstration Division. The farm agent has many varied duties and is subject to every conceivable demand for his time and knowledge. As an example, Mr. Hudson gives just a few of the activities reported by agents last week. Some of these he believes will be of interest to the farmers of the State as they show of the ways in which the agent may make himself useful.

Zeno Moore of Edgecombe County, states that his exhibiting fine specimens of home-grown Burr and Sweet Clover on the streets attracted much attention and made a strong impression on farmers who came to town to buy hay.

U. A. Miller, of Alexander County, states that farmers are getting the spirit of co-operation slowly but surely. He has assisted seven communities in pooling their fertilizer requirements and buying 10 car loads together at a saving of from 50c to \$1.20 on each bag. He has had an unusual demand for terrace building demonstrations during the present season. He has held three meetings to promote garden work among negroes.

O. O. Dukes, Roberson, has just shipped out 2 car loads of hogs. He expects to have another car ready for shipment in August. Farmers are still planting pastures both for cattle and swine.

L. W. Anderson of Perquimans County, writes that a movement is on to rid the county of ticks this year. A crew of men is now at work in building vats in each township. He made a talk to the negro teachers of the county on Garden Work last week. The teachers promised to promote the matter in their respective communities.

N. K. Rowell, of Chowan, has just bought 140 bushels of Cleveland Big boll Cotton seed for planting in the county. During the Rat Extermination Campaign in which he assisted the work was carried on in 11 schools of the county, fourteen hundred and thirty-four rats were reported killed, one school—that at Wards—destroying 450. The pupil leading the work was Willie May Overton, who reported 185.

R. B. Reeves, the new agent in Green county in co-operation with Dr. C. C. Hunt, has just closed a 2-week campaign on Hog Cholera control. During this time they treated 639 hogs for 65 farmers. At the end of that period the farmers gave a big barbecue. One community that specializes in a high-bred big-boll variety of cotton has just pooled and sold co-operatively 3,339 bushels of seed at \$1.50 per bushel.

R. B. Reeves, the new Agent in Pitt county, assisted in selling a car load of hogs at Greenville and in shipping another car load to Richmond where good prices were obtained.

L. L. McLendon, of Duplin county, has had a splendid demonstration of the value of pure-bred livestock. Two scrub pigs fed in competition with pure-bred shows that while the profit in the pure-breds was not very large the scrubs did not pay for their feed.

Clean Dollar Bills

Those bright new dollar bills the banks have been accustomed to pass out for several years past, have become worn and soiled.

It will be several months before new bills are again passed out at the bank windows. The Government has run short of a supply of dollar bills and the public will have to put up with more or less used currency until the shortage can be made good, said a local banker.

This will not be until along in July, by which time the Treasury presses will have been provided with the needed supplies of paper for the work of printing new money. And by that time the dollar bills that will be passing around will be in condition that will make the change more than ever welcomed.

If you have relatives and friends who live in or about Mount Airy you need The Mount Airy News in your home.

DEATH CHAIR CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM

Giant Negro Gives His Life for Life of Officer He Killed

Raleigh, May 11.—Two undertakers' wagons drove up to the state's prison this morning and parked for Willey Perry, giant negro, whose 10 minutes lease on life may have been cheered by this uncommon interest in his welfare. Perry was waiting to be electrocuted and was served in his turn.

The appearance of two dead wagons was explained as a misunderstanding rather than by the fierce competition of modern business life. The explanation did not reach Perry who was then wrestling with the spirit as a preliminary of stepping off. The murderer of Roy Aiken, world war soldier who lost his life in a momentary tenure as especially deputized officer to assist the misadventurer, was apparently unconcerned about everything including himself.

The muscular black, ashened by confinement, was led dumb into death chamber at 10:25. Big as Jack Johnson and apparently as powerful, the fellow was a lamb at the slaughter. Beyond a glance at Soldier Aiken's two brothers, two uncles, and other Granville witnesses, Perry betrayed no more interest in his own supremely important moments than a pig takes in his own impending butchery. The black just dropped into the chair, was buckled into it, was four times shocked, was called dead and then carried out for burial.

Of course it looked to be a horrible waste of muscular energy and potential service to the state to fry and bake, and blister and twist Perry's huge body, but the state is the doctor and that is the medicine that it prescribed. The fellow had killed a fine soldier who was doing nothing to him except to help catch him for a misdemeanor. In the mix-up Perry was shot but escaped and was later taken. He was brought here for safe-keeping before trial and after conviction he came to death room without an appeal. There was nothing to be said for him.

Five Car Loads Auto Plates

North Carolina's new automobile plates have arrived and the numbers which will be sold will reach 200,000.

There are five carloads in the state's warehouse ready for the new marking which begins in June. This will be about 20,000 more than the state has ever used and that may not tag all of the machines which will be in use before the year ends.

The licenses and other taxes growing out of the automobile business will run beyond the \$6,000,000 for the year, according to Secretary W. N. Everett, of the department of state. The increase of 2 cents on gasoline and the natural growth of the machine business will almost double last year's \$3,200,000 in the judgement of Mr. Everett. All this will go into the fund and will help to pay off from the very start bonds which are issued for the new \$15,000,000 construction.

Governor Morrison this year gets plate No. 1. That is settled and there will be no scrambling over that figure. The plate has been seen and is now on exhibition. The lieutenant governor takes tag No. 2, the speaker of the house No. 3 and the secretary of state No. 4.

The state is following the example of other commonwealths in marking the automobiles for officialdom. Hitherto there has been no distinction. The departmental owners will this year get the first and the change is contemplated with entire satisfaction.

Siler City Newspaper Quits

Siler City, May 11.—For the first time in the past 19 years Siler City is without a newspaper.

This condition comes through an announcement in today's issue of the Weekly Herald by Editor Colin G. Shaw, who says "lack of business forces us to suspend the paper for the time being at least, and no one will regret the necessity for it more than the publisher himself. We have made every effort to print a good paper for Siler City and there are a few that have stood loyally by us, but sufficient interest has not been manifested by all the business men to enable us to continue the publication. The paper will be consolidated with the Chatham Record at Pittsboro and a little later we contemplate making of it a semi-weekly."

FIVE AMERICANS STILL HELD BY CHINESE BANDITS

Two Boys, Released by Brigands, Say it Was Great Fun To Be Captured.

Peking, May 12.—While 15 men, including five Americans, and two women still are held by the Sochow bandits, it seemed probable tonight that the captives would be released before tomorrow night. This hope was fostered by the announcement that the bandits, dropping their demand for ransoms, now ask only that they be granted freedom from punishment with liberty of movement and withdrawal of the Che troops.

The five Americans still held are Allen Pinger, Friedman, Solomon, and Powell, J. A. Henly, San Francisco banker is reported to have escaped but this has not been confirmed.

Senora Yerea, wife of the millionaire paper manufacturer of Guadalajara, Mexico, and another woman, whose identity has not yet been established, are the only women prisoners still with the party. Senora Yerea refused to leave her husband, who is ill. They are on their honeymoon. All the other members of the party were reported well.

While diplomats, soldiers and missionaries are spending sleepless nights over the bandit situation, the two Roland Pinger and Robert Allen, are telling the world that being captured by bandits is the greatest fun ever.

"Tom Sawyer never had anything on us," said young Pinger, who is 12, when the boys arrived here today. They were wearing blue coolie trousers and coarse coolie shoes, and they were full of their adventure, which falls to few kids in millions. Aside from sunburn and stone bruises the boys were well. "We had nothing but eggs," said Pinger. "I'm sick of them. All we got while we were with the bandits was hard boiled eggs some kind of dough cakes and tea. But they were good to us. They didn't harm us at all."

"We told the chief that we could not pay any money for we did not have any, and we wanted to go to our mother. The chief, he was a young fellow, about 20, looked at us and said in English, 'Oh, all right,' and then he let us. He said he liked our yellow hair, and said it was so funny he couldn't help from laughing. He was not a bad man. He gave us a Chink who could speak English to bring us up here. There were two chiefs. One of them served in France during the war and spoke English and French."

Dispatches from Shanghai tell of the heroism of the French maid of Miss Lucy Aldrich as the outstanding feature of the bandit attack.

The maid, Miss Schomron, an orphan, when the bandit's camp was under fire of the Che troops and the lives of the captives were endangered by the firing, volunteered to carry a white flag down a mountain to stop the firing.

"The Che chief gave me a suit of men's B. V. D's on a stick for a flag," she said. "I climbed down among the rocks and waved the flag. The soldiers were firing steadily but I was not hit. Once a bullet whizzed by my face and passed through the throat of a bandit behind me, it killed him. I was almost unconscious from fatigue when a soldier found me and led me to the commander. I delivered him the message from the bandit chief. He sent me in a cart to the railroad."

Coffee

The May health bulletin has an article calling attention to the harm done by drinking poorly made coffee, and suggesting that children and young people under 21 years of age should not drink coffee at all. The following instructions are copied from the bulletin:

1. Purchase only the best grade of pure coffee that can be had.
2. Spend at least \$4.00 in getting a combination coffee pot in which the coffee (solid particles) is held in a sieve near the top of the pot, and in which the boiling water is poured over the coffee, the top tightly closed and the product after steaming is poured off from bottom. No egg setting is necessary and no "grounds" can escape into the cup.
3. Never boil coffee under any circumstances if it is to be fit to drink. Boiling extracts the tannic acid and thus makes it a most injurious drink as well as destroys the aroma.
4. Never use "over" by adding a portion of fresh coffee to "old" sediment or "grounds."

LABOR SHORTAGE HURTS INDUSTRY

Southern Farm. Being Abandoned for Lack of Workers

Washington, May 12.—The labor shortage in the north and west, caused by shutting off foreign immigrants, threatens a backset for business.

Wages have mounted so high that people who intended to let contracts for construction work are giving up their plans. Many such instances are reported here. The action of J. B. Duke, in announcing that he would have to postpone water power developments, is typical of what is going on in the south.

There is danger of labor killing the hen that laid the golden egg. If the present building boom should collapse the farmer could get all the hands he needs.

Administration leaders are worried about the outlook. The news of the steady stream of negroes from the south to the north is not any more pleasing to the northerner than it is to the southerner.

A prominent Southern railroad official, who came here a few days ago, said that he was in the market for coal cars, and that the price is practically double that of last year for the same equipment.

Senator Simmons had a Washington tailor make him a suit of clothes. He asked him how much extra it would cost to skeleton line the coat with silk instead of the regular material. The answer was \$15. That was \$10 more than it used to be, \$5 more than during the war.

The tariff and the high cost of labor has advanced prices on everything that one has to buy.

Administration leaders are manifesting interest in this labor shortage. The appeal from the south is not any stronger than the one from the west will be inside of four or five weeks. Demands from industrial centers with the inducement of higher wages has stripped thousands of farms of able-bodied men.

Secretary Wallace, of the department of agriculture, has been informed by his representatives in the south that in some communities all that is left of the labor supply are aged and decrepit negro men and women and children. Cotton manufacturers are alarmed lest the inability of cotton producers to get help needed in the planting season will result in a tremendous boost in the price of their raw material.

Government officials cannot stem the tide from the farm to the city. The negro movements from the south is not only from the rural district but from the farm to the industrial plant. Thousands of negroes who have known nothing but field work are now quitting that for the bustling factory. Northern and western railroads, coal mines and steel mills are getting large numbers of southern negroes.

In nearby Virginia and Maryland farm after farm is being deserted this year. In many instances renters, unable to get labor, have notified their landlords that they would have to cancel their contracts because of a lack of workmen.

Situation Is Serious With South Carolinians

Columbia, S. C., May 12.—The labor situation in South Carolina is the most serious in many years, if not in the history of the state, according to a statement made here today by W. T. Willingham, in charge of the United States employment bureau here. Labor is short for all kinds of work, he said.

Mr. Willingham said that labor agents from northern sections have been working throughout the state inducing negroes to leave for other states. They are receiving from \$5 to \$7.50 each for every laborer they induce to go to industrial plants outside the state.

The federal employment bureau head said that he had never heard of reported offers of \$4.00 to \$10.00 a day being made by agents for labor to stay in the south. "It is a wild rumor, in my opinion," he said.

The labor shortage in the state extends not only to the farming districts, but is also acute along the manufacturing industry, he said, with the possible exception of cotton mills. Lumbermen from the eastern section of the state are pleading daily for help and in the Piedmont section manufacturers are asking for labor.

Domestic help also is short and what can be had is inferior, he said.

BANKER GOES TO JAIL

High Point Cashier Begins 3-Year Sentence

Greensboro, May 11th.—Basil H. Hedgecock, former cashier of the Home Banking company, under sentence of three years in the state prison for making false entry in the books of that institution and denied a re-hearing of the case by the state supreme court 10 days ago, at noon today began serving his sentence.

Hedgecock, out on \$25,000 bail signed by a number of prominent High Pointers since a day or so after an examination by state bank officials disclosed the affairs of the Home Banking company to be hopelessly involved, appeared at the county courthouse at noon today and surrendered himself to Sheriff Stafford. He was accompanied to the city from High Point by a brother-in-law.

The former cashier was convicted of false entry in superior court here last December and sentenced by Judge W. F. Harding to serve three years in the state prison. Attorneys representing the defendant excepted and carried the case to the state court, where the lower court was upheld. The specific charge against Hedgecock was that he had made false entry of \$10,000 in the account of M. J. Wrenn, an official of the bank, in an effort to prevent examiners finding a shortage of that amount.

Time spent in the Guilford county jail will be deducted from the term imposed in the state prison, inasmuch as the former cashier will be held here awaiting trial under other charges growing out of the Home Banking company's difficulties. He and William Switzer, former High Point merchant, now of New York, and Arnold B. Huff, High Point theater man, were indicted last fall by the grand jury for alleged conspiracy to defraud the bank, while another charge against Hedgecock is embezzlement. It is probable all these bank cases will be heard during a special term of court requested from Governor Morrison, for June 4. Until that term is either held or denied, Hedgecock will remain in the Guilford jail.

Nightriders Get Busy in Rockingham Field

Danville, Va., May 12.—What is believed to be the first instance of "night-riding" in this section was reported today from a point a few miles south of Danville on Dan river where S. E. Alcorn found that all of his tobacco beds had been uprooted during the night, a note written on an envelope warning him that he would not make a crop of tobacco unless he joined the Co-operative Marketing Association.

The note read as follows: "We helped you get a good price for your tobacco this year. Now join the co-ops and help put it over. Sign up and do your part or you will not make a crop of tobacco."

Alcorn today applied for punitive measures to the police of Rockingham county at Leaksville, offering to pay a reward of \$100 to the person convicted of tearing up his tobacco beds. With the prevalent scarcity of plants this destruction is a serious thing for the tobacco grower because of the lateness of the season and the virtual impossibility of replanting a bed so as to make a crop of tobacco within reasonable time.

Alcorn told the authorities that in his belief the work was done by someone connected with the co-operative marketing association. He has however no proof of this. Members of the organization who heard of the outrage today expressed it as their opinion that the "co-ops" were not responsible for the beds' destruction, declaring that the membership in Rockingham county is composed of the "best citizens" who would not stoop to do such a thing. In their opinion it was a prank done by mischievous boys. Others issue with the supposition in view of the context of the note which they said, suggested work by adults.

French Impose Heavy Sentences on Krupp Chiefs

A dispatch from Werden, Germany, says:

Dr. Krupp Von Bohlen, head of the Bruhn, Oesterlen and Hartwig, heard their sentences in the Werden jail tonight. The penalties totalled imprisonment aggregating 55 years, the French court martial having convicted them of responsibility for the conflicts between the Krupp workmen and a French squad of soldiers March 31, last which resulted in the death of 14 workers.

Kentucky Death Feuds Unchecked

Harian, Ky., May 7.—The flash of gunfire, with its inevitable aftermath of tragic death, sweeps the Kentucky foothills today with a regularity only duplicated in the popular vein of fiction which recounts her most famous blood feuds.

In this one county, high in the Blue Ridge Mountains, seven lives were taken recently within 48 hours in a trio of gun battles. The dead were Kell Walker, Bell county deputy sheriff; Ike Strong, a mountaineer; Mrs. Strong, his wife; George Strong, his brother; Constable Alex Little, Constable Claude Short, both pioneers of the hills, and Ernest Gilliam, a boy.

Four of the seven, including Mrs. Strong were slain in a fierce battle waged at the Strong home between the family and a posse of federal and county officers. The posse was raiding in search of a still and had surrounded the house before calling on the family to surrender.

Mrs. Strong, a powerfully built woman, opened the front door and blazed away with a rifle. Her first shot was believed to have struck Deputy Sheriff Walker, a member of the posse. His body later was found, riddled with shot, in front of the home.

The answering fire of the raiders crashed time and again through the house until all signs of life had ceased. For a long while, though, the Strong maintained a constant counter-attack on the posse, but when silence reigned again the posemen broke into the house to find Strong, his wife and brother lifeless on the floor.

Five little children of the family were found huddled under the bed where they stared, terrified, at the lifeless bodies of their father and mother. The posse took the children away to place them later in a state institution.

Search of the dwelling also revealed two monster stills, 600 gallons of mash and 75 gallons of whiskey.

Three persons were killed in the second battle. A trio of town constables—Claude Short, Alex Little and C. H. Gilliam—participated in it, at the town of Kitts, near here. The quarrel was said to have started over "nothing", when the mountain spirit suddenly flared. At any rate, all three "pulled their guns, and when the fire ended Little was dead in his tracks, and Short fatally wounded. Gilliam escaped unscathed, but his young son Ernest, been struck by a stray bullet. The youth and Short died within an hour.

The third battle was between "dead shots," and the two gunmen who participated were both badly wounded, but probably will recover. George Belcher and Jesse Pace, feared by all the mountaineers for their straight shooting met and quarreled. Belcher fired first and Pace fell drilled through the chest. Lying on the street desperately wounded Pace drew his gun and blazed away. Five times his gun spat lead at Belcher and when the latter fell the five shots were seen to have struck within a circle of eight inches. Both men were rushed to a hospital and operated on immediately. There is some hope they may live.

Calm observers declared all three battles were caused by the "mountain spirit," born in the days of feuds, when lives were held in contempt and only the "honor of the family" counted. Even with modern schools invading every nook of the backwoods this spirit of sudden warfare, with recourse to rifles and guns, is not expected to die. It is an integral part of the mountain life.

Passive Resistance To Be Strengthened

Essen, Germany May 13.—The measures of a passive resistance of the Germans are to be strengthened under a decree announced by the reich authorities which prohibits Germans in the Ruhr from riding on military seized trains operated by the French and Belgians and otherwise tends to reduce the already limited communication between the Germans and the occupation authorities.

"Under no circumstances will Germans be permitted to travel on French or Belgian trains," says the decree. "All persons violating these instructions will be heavily punished."

No penalties are specified in the decree. The first application of the measure is reported from Frankfurt where Germans riding on French controlled trains for Mayence were arrested by German authorities.