

Mount Airy News.

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PUTTING IT UP TO THE PRESIDENT

Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania at the conference of Governors of the various states recently held in Washington hurled a bombshell into the republican camp when he declared that the dry amendment had been betrayed in the house of its friends. Declaring that only the President could make effective the Volstead law, he at once admitted failure of the several states to do so and thrust the issue onto the shoulders of the present republican administration. William J. Bryan stated the case about the same time in practically the same terms. Here we have a great leader of both parties urging the same thing. Politicians of both parties have listened to Pinchot and Bryan with wry faces, for if there is one thing they would like to pussy-foot out of it is the responsibility of drying up all the United States. Oh, yes, of course they are willing to adopt planks in their platform pledging themselves in vague and uncertain language to "strict law enforcement" but when it comes right down to brass tacks where they should manfully the responsibility of drying up the wet spots, such for instance as Chicago, Cincinnati, New York and Philadelphia they sidestep the issue.

It is an admitted fact that for several months past the liquor forces have waged an insidious propaganda to discredit the 18th Amendment and the laxity with which certain states have dealt with violators gives point to their contention that the law is unenforceable. All along the Mexican and Canadian borders and the Atlantic seaboard rum runners have for some time been doing a land office business in bootleg whiskey. In Philadelphia, it is said, saloons are running wide open and dispensing drinks across the bar as of old. The lawless element, and for the most part they are made up of ex-saloonkeepers, gamblers and thugs, is openly and brazenly attempting to make the law of no effect in an effort to bring about its repeal. Their plan is to get public men who love their "ficker" and organizations like the Federation of Labor to make speeches and pass condemnatory resolutions against the dry amendment.

Our public men like Bryan and Pinchot see what the wet element is after and altho it may be an unwelcome guest to fling before a national convention, they propose, it would seem, to force both parties to pledge themselves in their convention platforms to a more honest enforcement of the dry law than has hitherto been attempted. The law itself may be defective as regards its provisions for enforcement but that is no reason why it should not be given a fair trial. If the enforcement agents are not doing their duty it is up to the administration to fire them and put in men who will. The American people are a mighty patient folk and they are aight this moment withholding judgment upon President Coolidge, for they rather hope he will prove himself large enough to hold down the job after his temporary tenancy is over. But we predict right here that unless his administration shows an earnest endeavor to make the the country over than its predecessor that he will pay the penalty at the next election. The manufacturers and bankers of the country have seen so much good wrought by prohibition that they will forever oppose a return to the open saloon. And when you add the vote of the women to the business interests of the country it makes a combination that the booze forces will not soon be able to successfully combat. The country might be dryer but the American people will never be satisfied until the Volstead law has had a fair trial.

Policeman Morris Sick

For several days Policeman Morris has been confined to his home and for a time his recovery was in doubt. Mr. Morris was taken with a severe headache and soon was unable to be up. Doctors called in decided that he was suffering from a blood clot located on some part of the brain which was causing his illness. During the past few days he appears to be better and hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Another Fire At Copeland

Wednesday morning fire of unknown origin destroyed an old tobacco factory, a garage and a dwelling house at Copeland. The buildings were all said to have belonged to Grover Wood. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Don't Be A One-Crop Farmer.

Last fall the farmers of this section were unable to sow as large an acreage of small grain as they wished on account of dry weather. Farmers over the county for the past few weeks had begun to fear a repetition of last year's experience, but the copious rains of the past week have put farms lands in excellent shape for ploughing and seeding. The low price of western wheat may discourage some, but the low price paid to the western farmer for wheat is only slightly reflected in the price the consumer must pay for flour. It is hoped that the farmers of Surry county will put out at least an average crop. It should be the aim of our farmers to grow enough, corn, potatoes, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, beans, peas and garden stuff to supply their own needs at least. The money crop whether it be tobacco, melons or pigs, should be made secondary importance.

By secondary importance we do not mean that the farmer should not put his best efforts on his money crop but that he should first and foremost see to it that his farm is as near as practicable self sustaining. The one-crop system not only impoverishes the soil but it will put the farmer who follows it in a hole sooner or later. And it matters not whether that one crop be tobacco, cotton, peanuts or potatoes. This is just what has happened to the western wheat farmer. In his effort to grow the world's bread he has overreached himself.

The crying need of Europe during the war was for bread, and bread to Europeans means wheat bread. To answer this cry the western states turned everything into the growing of wheat. Large investments were made in machinery and equipment for growing wheat. Since the war Europe has for the most part got on its feet agriculturally. It is growing its normal amount of wheat. While this crop may not be adequate to the needs of the entire population still the economic condition of the city population is such that Europe can not buy our wheat. Unlike this country, the working people of Europe are finding it hard to find employment. Unemployment is a serious problem for all of the European states. The man who is out of work must eat potatoes; he can not afford Kansas wheat bread. Hence the one-crop farmers of the West, with a large crop of wheat raised the past season, find that this country can not consume all of it. And over production brings down the market price to a point where it is not profitable to grow wheat.

Just the same, Surry county farmers will find flour this winter so high that they better put in some wheat and grow their own bread. Overproduction, low prices and bad crop years have little terror for the man who tries above everything else to make his farm self supporting. The Kansas farmer who has not gone wild over wheat and who planted a part of his farm to corn or other grains, raised some hay, pigs and poultry, and milks a few dairy cows—this farmer is sitting pretty. It is not he who is howling to high heaven that if the government does not do something for him he will have to go to the poorhouse.

This same principal of agriculture holds true of the cotton or tobacco farmer. Let the tobacco farmer grow only so much tobacco as he can, after he has tended to his crops for home consumption, and as sure as anything can be that farmer will in time become the most prosperous man in the community. And when this method of farming becomes general over a section, that section practicing it will outstrip all its competitors. If farmers generally would diversify their crops more, over-production could not take place. Prices for cotton and tobacco and wheat would always be good.

A farmer from the far west who was visiting Mount Airy last winter, noting the large quantity of feed stuffs and fertilizers purchased by the local farmers declared: "Daisy middlings and fertilizer bills is putting Surry county out of business." There is sound sense in this statement. If Surry farmers would grow their own feed stuff and enrich their soil by rotation and the ploughing under of leguminous crops, thus curtailing the expense for commercial fertilizers, in a very few years this would become one of the most prosperous sections of the south.

Co-operative Members Restrained in Surry Court

All of the 16 members of the Co-operative Association who were cited to Dobeon last week on a temporary restraining order of the Forsyth court lost out. The order was made permanent in every case and henceforth these men will be in contempt of court if they sell their tobacco outside of the association. Judge Lane listened with patience to the pleas of their attorneys but was not visibly impressed by them. Henceforth there is but one thing for these men to do, or suffer both a fine from the judge and a penalty from the association, and that is to sell their tobacco to the association according to their contract.

175,000 Pounds of Cabbage Leaves Here in One Day

Seven carloads of country produce, mostly cabbage, was shipped out of Mount Airy Tuesday by the Mount Airy Produce Exchange. Three or four weeks ago the Exchange was shipping out four and five carloads of cabbage daily. Besides the cabbage shipped by freight as high as 300 crates are shipped by express some days. These cabbages are grown in adjoining counties just over the line in Virginia, some of the cabbage growers planting as much as five or six acres in the crop. They are crated on the farm and hauled by truck and wagon to Mount Airy and here handled by the Produce Exchange.

For the most part a ready market is found for the cabbage in the Carolinas. However, a little figuring will show just what seven carloads of cabbage amounts to. As each car consists of about 250 crates averaging 100 pounds to the crate, a carload weighs around 25,000 pounds. The price paid the farmers is around \$1.10 a crate. That means that the Produce Exchange is paying the farmers daily in this market \$750 to \$1750 for cabbage alone. Now, as the cabbage marketing season lasts three or four months, or say 100 days, and if the farmers receive an average of \$500 a day during the marketing season, then the whole amount received from the sale of cabbage during a season must run into the tidy sum of \$50,000 or more.

Now a little more about those seven carloads of cabbage. Their total weight is over 175,000 pounds. Now as cabbage heads on the average weigh about four pounds, Tuesday's seven carloads contain 43,777 1-4 cabbage heads. Now as one four pound head of cabbage is sufficient for a meal for one family, that means that the Mount Airy market on Tuesday shipped out enough cabbage to make one meal for 43,777 1-4 families. If these seven carloads of cabbage were made into German sauer kraut there would be enough to feed the hungry population of Berlin, the Rhineland and—oh, what's the use? Mount Airy is shipping some cabbage.

Everything Not Salts That Tastes Bad

If you ask G. M. Beck who drives one of the construction trucks for the J. B. McCreary company, he will tell you most emphatically that just because a dose of powder looks like epsom salts and tastes bad that is no reason for believing that it is salts. Tuesday Beck was taken with a headache. He was in the neighborhood of the Haynes warehouse. He ran into a little store run by Mat Tolbert and called for a package of epsom salts. The clerk handed him a package presumed to be the genuine terror of every small boy. He downed about three spoonfuls of the stuff and in about 15 minutes he toppled over.

Dr. Ed Hollingsworth was summoned. The doctor insisted on seeing the package of medicine out of which Beck had taken his dose. When the box was produced it was found he had taken, not epsom salts, but saltpetre instead. The good doctor poured about a quart of hot water into his patient's stomach with the usual good results. Beck will be as good as new in a few days but he has made a resolution never again to buy medicine from a grocery store. He says all is not salts that tastes bad.

Southern Railway's Chief Surgeon Visits Mt. Airy.

Dr. W. A. Applegate of Washington, chief surgeon of the Southern railway, arrived in Mount Airy Tuesday on the noon train. The purpose of his visit is to examine the telegraph operators along the line of the company. At Mount Airy only the chief operator, J. B. Berry, will be examined. The purpose of these examinations is to test the operator's eye sight and hearing and to determine his ability to distinguish the various colors used in the company's semaphore signals.

Doctor Applegate has a party with him, and they are travelling in two private cars. From here the party goes to Wilkesboro and from there they will make the trip over the Asheville line.

Floyd Hall Slightly Wounded

Floyd Hall, an ex-service man who for a time was a Government beneficiary learning the jewelry business under W. L. Steele in Mount Airy, was shot in the abdomen last Sunday while out in the Slate mountain country. He was brought to Martin Memorial hospital where it was found that he had received only a flesh wound, the bullet having just skimmed along the fleshy portion of the abdominal wall. Wednesday Hall was out on the street trying to get somebody to go fishing with him. He refused to talk about the affair or to tell who it was that shot him. After all what is a little innocent target practice as between friends?

370,000 SEWER SYSTEM NEARING COMPLETION

Mount Airy's Twelve Miles of New Pipe Lines to Be Merged With Existing Private Systems

November 1 will see the completion of Mount Airy's sanitary sewer system, according to Mayor A. V. West. For more than a year the contractors J. B. McCreary Co., of Atlanta, Ga., have worked a small army of men digging ditches and laying the twelve miles of pipe lines which go to make up the completed system.

Bonds to the amount of \$70,000 were voted by the town commissioners to meet the expense of this sewer improvement work, and it is thought the cost of the completed job will be kept within that amount. The system is modern in every particular and has been approved by the State Board of Health. Three large concrete septic tanks, several hundred manholes and twelve miles of pipe lines make up the system. Like most other states North Carolina requires that before sewerage be emptied into flowing streams that it be first held for a period of time in septic tanks. By this means the grass and acids present in the sewerage itself sets up a chemical action which destroys all microbes and bacteria that might prove detrimental to the health of persons living on the water course below. Numerous laterals empty into the main sewer lines which in turn empty into one of the three large septic tanks. One of these tanks is located on Lovell's creek and the other two on Ararat river.

November 1, or soon thereafter, the system will be completed and ready for service. It will be operated by the Water and Light Commission in conjunction with the water and light plants of the town. The town authorities have spent much time and thought upon the construction and operation of this sewer system. Joint meetings of the Board of Town Commissioners and the Water and Light Commission have been held, at which meetings the details of the proposition have been thoroughly discussed and worked out according to the best judgment of the two boards and the best information available.

The authorities have already been forced to make several hundred taps on streets where hard surface work was being done. And by taking the average cost of making these taps they have been able to work out an average charge for this service. This they find to be \$18 and this charge will be made for every Mount Airy householder who connects up his residence or place of business with the sewer system. This is a uniform charge and will apply to all alike. It is not the purpose of the town authorities to make a profit on this service, and this charge is made so as to cover just the cost of making the tap. In view of the charge made by other towns in North Carolina for this service it is found that Mount Airy's charges are very reasonable.

A monthly charge of 20 cents will be made to each sewer user for maintenance of the system. This charge, however, is only tentative, as it can not be determined in advance whether this is to much or to little. The charge will be raised or lowered in future so as to cover the actual cost of maintenance.

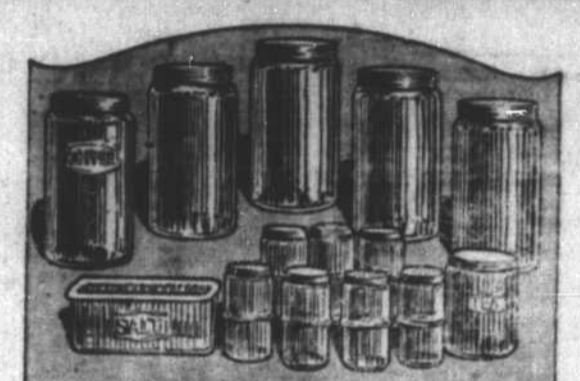
The rules and regulations governing the sewer system are now being worked out by a joint committee, consisting of the Chairman of the Sewer Committee of the Board of Town Commissioners, the chairman and supt. of the Water and Light Commission and the city attorney. These will draft an ordinance covering the entire matter.

Mayor West says that it is the purpose of the town to take over all the private sewer lines now in operation in Mount Airy. In order to avoid possible litigation and trouble in the future it will be necessary for the town not only to secure a title to these lines but it must obtain easements (legal permits) from each property owner through whose property these private sewer lines pass. T. B. McCargo Sr. has been authorized to interview the interested parties and secure the necessary papers which will make these private lines an integral part of the town's sewer system. He is instructed to bind the town to reimburse any property owner for any damage that he may sustain by reason of the passing of these private lines across his property. If a sewer line should need repair, for instance, and it happened to pass under some property holder's garden and the workmen must needs damage the garden cro in order to do the job, in that case the town would be compelled to make satisfaction.

It is estimated that the system when completed will take care of the needs of from 85 to 90 per cent of the homes and 100 per cent of the business houses of the town. The people of Mount Airy have every cause to congratulate themselves over this investment and to thank the town officials for the business like manner in which it has been handled.

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