

Mount Airy News, Mount Airy, N. C., Jan. 10, 1923. J. E. JOHNSON & SON, Publishers.

FARM LIFE IN SURRY

Every farmer who is interested in farm life and expects to stay on the farm is making plans these days for the year that is now with us. It may not be out of place to make suggestions that possibly will aid in reaching conditions that will tend to better conditions. The trouble with the average farm in this county is that the farm does not have enough income. Let a man work at the business of some one of the trades and he can tell you in advance about how much he will make in a year. He knows how much to expect and makes his plans accordingly. The entire time we suspect will not show as large an income considering the amount of labor as the trades show. If this is true then there must be a reason. There should be an income from the farms that is in keeping with the amount of labor required to produce wealth in other lines of human effort.

If the farmers kept books we suspect that it would be found that there is much of the year that nothing is coming in in the way of money. The ideal farm is one that furnishes something all along to meet the needs of the family. The ideal farm should find something to sell each week in the year to say nothing of the main farm money crop. There are plenty of farmers here with us now who come to market each week as regularly as the weeks go by. They manage their business in a way to have something to sell all the time.

One of the greatest weaknesses of farm life here is the lack of information as to how to make the poultry pay. A few weeks ago we heard a neighbor remark that he had just commenced to feed his dozen hens for eggs. Feeding for eggs, mind you. He seemed to know just what to expect and how to get results, for he knows the poultry business. In a few days after he began to feed for eggs he remarked that he was getting six eggs a day from his dozen hens. Right now there are great flocks of hens about over this county that are consuming large quantities of feed and not laying. It is all in knowing how. Every one of these flocks should be sending eggs to market these days when the world is anxious to get them at 50c the dozen right here on the local market.

For ten years ye editor kept a cow in his home that was worth while. That cow gave an average of as much as from two to three gallons of rich milk a day for years. She was worth two ordinary cows to a family. And it required no more to keep her than it does to keep an ordinary cow. There is no reason why the farmers of this county should not quit the habit of keeping inferior stock and get the kind that will give higher results. In this way the average farm will be able to send butter to market every week where now none comes except from a few homes.

It begins to look as though the farmers of Surry should consider growing cotton to some extent. There is no question about this soil being able to grow cotton for it has been grown here for years in a small way. And sandy land that is well drained and of southern exposure should make cotton here in paying quantities now that the price has advanced.

There is no reason why people should be discouraged about the present price of tobacco. It is almost a certainty that the price will be high enough to make the crop profitable in the coming years. The co-operative movement is as certain to succeed as time lasts. That does not mean that all tobacco will be sold by the association by any means, but it does mean that the association will aid much in keeping up the price to a point where the crop will be a paying one.

With better schools and better roads in Surry the day is here when our people are certain to be better contented on the farm and more willing to aid in every way in making better conditions in our county. Truly the outlook is encouraging.

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

The past year, the fifth since the World War, has been one of slow but evident progress. The countries of Europe, with the exception of Germany, are said by economic observers to be successfully struggling toward better economic and social conditions. Our exports are still at a low ebb, due to the inability of Europe to purchase our goods. It is thought that if Europe as a whole can make the progress during 1923 that she has during the past year that before many years the world will get its stride again.

Social and economic conditions in our country during the past year have been very satisfactory when compared

with the same time in 1918. Workingmen everywhere find ready employment, there has been few bank and monetary failures and for the most part our factories have kept steadily in operation. With the exception of the farmers in the wheat belt, most agriculturists have experienced a fairly prosperous year. On the whole there is absolutely no room for pessimism; and the calamity howler finds in the U. S. A. but little response to his coyote serenade.

Coming right down home we find that 1922 has been for Mount Airy and Surry county generally a year of progress. The forward reach of a city is usually an index to the condition of its supporting agricultural districts. When judged by this standard and in the light of the rapid strides of our city during the past year, we are inclined to say that this section has rarely made so much progress in any one year as has been made during 1922. No year in the history of the city have so many miles of pavement and sidewalks been laid. Improvements have been made in the water and electric facilities and the completion of a modern sanitary sewer system may be mentioned among the notable achievements of the year. During the year Mount Airy has climbed out of the mud, grown in population from the village to the city class and is now planning for larger things the coming year.

The past year has seen the completion of three or more business houses worthy of mention. Jackson Brothers new department store is a credit to the city, as is also the new home of the Nelson Machinery company. The new home of the Bank of Mount Airy, which is almost ready for occupancy, is a notable achievement of the year. Come to think of it, 1922 was a building year. The Haymore Memorial Baptist church has been completed during the year, and both the Central Methodist and the First Baptist churches have made additions to their buildings that bring them abreast of the times.

Several new homes of first magnitude have been built, among them being that of S. A. Hennis, J. E. Johnson and Dr. H. R. Hege, the last not yet being completed. Scores of bungalows and medium-priced residences have gone up all over Mount Airy during the past year. And the prospects are bright that the coming year will see building operations go forward with the momentum already acquired.

The building of churches and school-houses over the county has been but a little behind that of Mount Airy. The year has also witnessed much needed road construction. In a thousand ways the people of Surry county and this section generally have cause to feel good over the year that has gone into history.

What of the future? Mount Airy will certainly go forward but so do we must have more school buildings, more electric power and more social coherence. Too many of us live in Mount Airy merely as boarders, not citizens. We are undigested masses in the midst of the population. Once we get the feeling in our blood that this is my city, my home, and I am proud of it, then you will see Mount Airy march steadily toward the goal of 10,000 population in 1930. The News takes this occasion to thank you for the measure of success that you have helped it to achieve during the past year. During the coming year, any worthy enterprise in any part of our territory needs this paper's support, only let us know it and we will as always, be at your service. We wish all our readers the best year that you have ever had.

AS OTHERS SEE US

It is wonderful how opinions are formed and what different views seemingly intelligent men are able to form. Just now we have in mind the fact that Captain W. H. Stayton, the chairman of the association against prohibition, has called a meeting of all those who like a drink, in Washington City on January 21st for the purpose of formulating legislation to take the place of the present national liquor laws. The Captain says that the four years just passed have been wasted and that something must be done at once to save the country. Men just must not be allowed to go on drinking the kind of liquor they can now get.

While the Captain was making up his mind as above a committee of distinguished medical doctors were spending a time in this country sent here from several of the nations of Europe, for the purpose of learning first hand just what prohibition has done for us. These learned doctors have gone back and report that, "Prohibition has already improved the nation's health and given abundant promise of even far greater results."

The way a man is made up no doubt has something to do with the kind of conclusions he will reach. We would suppose that any man who would be willing to become the head of an association formed to advocate the cause of strong drink would be utterly unable to see any good in a sober nation.

MISSIONARIES AND GUNS

This country finds itself in the strange position of sending both missionaries and guns to our neighbors the Mexicans. Just now we are sending them almost a million dollars worth of war material with which to put down a rebellion that has developed during the past few weeks.

While all this may be of little interest to the man up here in the mountains of North Carolina, it is of vital interest to all those people who live along the southern border of our country.

Down in Mexico they have had civil war for a dozen years, and for the past few months it appeared that a government had been formed with General Obregon at its head as president that would be able to keep order in that turbulent country. But opposition has now developed of a serious nature. It is to help President Obregon put down the rebellion that this country is selling him ammunition and airplanes and such like truck.

In Mexico at the present time there are two parties trying to control the country. One party, the one in power, stands for the common people and for reforms that will give the under dog a chance in the way of owning lands, schools and some degree of freedom and protection from those who would exploit him. The other party is made up of the old Spanish element—the rich and wealthy people who are hereditary enemies of this country and even of a republican form of government. The recent civil war was to overthrow this party. Now they would regain their position not by the ballot but by force and arms.

The fact that much of the wealth and brains of Mexico is lined up on the side of the rebels is some indication that the present trouble is no light matter. It would be a calamity for the country to again fall into the hands of the overlords who would restore the old order and again reduce the country to a form of slavery which would again be the cause of more civil strife. There can be no question about the righteousness of our government furnishing arms to help put down the present uprising, for those who are responsible for the uprising are of a mental caliber that can be appealed to only by force.

MOSES GORDON KILLS HOG WEIGHING 841 POUNDS

Moses L. Gordon of White Plains January 3rd killed a hog weighing 841 pounds. The animal was so large that it was necessary to cut the carcass into several pieces in order to weigh it. It measured three feet across and was close to seven feet long. For a long time the hog had been so fat as to be unable to see, altho it could stand up to eat.

Mr. Gordon wrote The News the following nice letter about his supposed prize-winner:

Mount Airy News, Dear Sirs:

I understand that you have hanging out a free subscription to the Mount Airy News for one year to the man that kills the biggest hog during the hog-killing season. You might as well send me along the paper, for on January 3rd I killed a hog that weighed 841 pounds. H. H. Blue of White Plains and J. D. Mitchell and Thomas Hutchens of Dobson helped weigh the carcass and will vouch for the weight.

The hog was a big honed Poland China, aged 26 months. Color solid black with white feet. Color of eyes unknown. I purchased him of a pig dealer by the name of Faddis when very small. I fattened him on corn meal with a little corn.

Respectfully submitted, Moses L. Gordon, White Plains, N. C. R. F. D.

An unofficial report from J. E. Atkins also of White Plains is to the effect that he killed a hog 15 months old weighing 663. P. W. Riggs of Dobson last week killed a 14 months old hog weighing 463 1-2 pounds. R. B. Badgett also of Dobson killed one weighing 476.

But farmers and country people are not the only folks that can eat pork, for Will F. Messick of Jonesville slaughtered two porkers the past week that combined weighed 1040 lbs.

Can any of our readers beat those records? Who in your neighborhood killed big hogs? Send us in a list of them and as many facts as you can gather. The contest is growing warm. Moses Gordon thinks he has the first subscription prize by the tail, but has he? J. E. Atkins thinks he has the second prize tied up in a sack, but has he? We happen to know he has not. Come on with your reports, whether they are large like these two fellows or not. Any pig weighing over 300 would taste just as good in this office as one weighing a ton. Who killed the greatest number of pounds of swine in your locality? Before the contest is over we may decide to offer a prize for the best tasted side of ribs brought to The News office.

FOR OUR FAR AWAY READERS

Just at this time we are having our first touch of real winter in this part of the country. The cold wave that swept down from the north over the entire country hit us hard on last Saturday afternoon. At noon the thermometer stood at thirty and dropped about two degrees an hour until it was down to one degree above zero. It is rare that we have such weather in these parts. Last winter the coldest was sixteen above. Once in about a dozen years we have seen weather here but usually the coldest days we have are not worse than twenty above.

The past year has been a fine one in many respects for the people of this section. The rains were frequent enough to make general crop conditions good. It so happened that the later rains came at a time that greatly damaged the quality of the tobacco, while the amount produced to the acre was large. It is the common idea here that the quality of the tobacco produced in this immediate section was far below the average of the whole county, all due to the rains coming at a time that caused tobacco not to ripen on the hill as it usually does.

The war years seem to have opened the eyes of the folks about here to the importance of making a living at home. The high price of all shipped stuff is causing our people to try to produce meat and meal and all other home supplies as they have never done before.

Many said that when we spent a million dollars to make good roads in Surry that they would soon be neglected and prove to be a great loss to the county. Every day is proving this prediction to be a had one. It is common knowledge that our system of roads is being kept up in a way that is a credit to those who are doing the work and to those who were wise enough to so invest the money, which means the whole people.

Mount Airy covered herself with glory last year by getting out of the mud. The street improvement that was done was of a nature that will appeal especially to those who live out of the town. Visitors can now approach the town from any direction and have the benefit of a hard surfaced road after reaching the corporate limits.

The importance of good schools has taken possession of the minds of our people as is evidenced by the fact that so many of our country neighbors are appealing to our city schools to be permitted to enter their children in the city schools. That does not mean that the country schools are deficient, but it does mean that many country citizens are thinking that we have a superior school and they are willing to go to the expense of sending their children where the best is to be had.

That Bear Dead at Last

Readers of this paper will recall that two weeks ago it carried a story about a black bear chased across five counties and still unkilld. Presumably one of those bears (for there is no doubt now that there were two of them) has been killed. The Carroll News, a paper published at Hillsville, Va. carried a story January 3rd about the killing of a black bear near that place a few days previous by a party of hunters. The paper says that over a hundred shots were fired at the bear before he was brought down. A Doctor Goad and Howard Early, two citizens of Hillsville, rushed to the scene with high-powered rifles and dispatched brute.

The carcass was carried to Hillsville where the town butcher dressed the animal on the courthouse square. Examination of the hide and carcass revealed the fact that while his hide contained many bird shot and one pistol ball, it is not likely that the bear suffered any inconvenience from his wounds until the high-powered rifles began to sling lead into him. The other bear, which at last report was in the vicinity of Stone mountain, has not been heard from. It is thought he was able to make his native Grandfather range and find him a snug cave to sleep in before winter set in.

Family Loses Three Children From Measles Inside 3 Days

Three children of Tyre Luffman who resides near "Happy Hill" a suburb of Jonesville, Yadkin county, died the past week from measles followed by pneumonia. Tuesday morning one was found dead in bed, another was likewise found Wednesday morning, while the third died Thursday night. A fourth child suffering from the same trouble was reported Saturday as being beyond hope of recovery. The Jester family, composed of 11 members, who also reside in Jonesville was reported as having ten members down with measles at one time. The epidemic is said to be widespread in that vicinity.

The Mount Airy News four months for 50 cents, one year \$1.00.

Merry Clothing War Goes Merely On

The sea-hungry throng pressed so feverishly upon the front doors of J. D. Smith's clothing store at the opening of the big sale Friday morning of last week that the plate glass in one of the doors was crushed and the crowd began to crawl unceremoniously thru the door panel into the big sales room. That opening day will long be remembered by the clerks who waited on the clothing hungry crowd. The inclement weather, combined to make buyers out of curiosity seekers. At Smith's the clothing war goes merrily on and the fove keeps on selling clothes.

Frather's Clothing store, altho their sale has been running longer, reports good business in all lines. From Siloam and from as far away as Grayson and Alleghany counties customers have come, attracted by the unusual offerings. Suits and overcoats seem

to be the hot sellers here. "Right in Mount Airy," says Mr. Frather, "scores of men have come in to take advantage of our prices who had not thought of buying new clothes before." The clerks are being careful in preparation for the big rush expected on Thursday when the Co-op ship comes into port.

Simmons Clothing company report a most satisfactory volume of business done during their sale. They think the men of this section have at last got filled up on sex, as they have a few pairs left. But there is no let up in buying suits and overcoats. They are also spinning price webs to snare clothing buyers when the farmers bulging with coin, leave the Co-op warehouse Thursday.

CARD OF THANKS—We want to thank our many friends for their kindness during the sickness and death of our wife and mother, Sarah E. Childress. May the Lord bless each of them. C. R. Childress and children.

LAST ROUND FOR 1923 TAX!

I will meet the tax payers of Surry County at the following places on dates named for the purpose of collecting the 1923 tax:

- Dobson township, Sheriffs office, all day, Jan. 7th. Westfield township, Hunters store, 10 a.m. to 12 m.; E. C. Wood's store, 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 10th. Pilot township, Pilot Mountain, Farmers Bank, Jan. 11th. Shoals township, Trulove & Owens store, 10 to 12 m.; Key's store, 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 12th. Siloam township, Key's store, 10 to 12 m.; Siloam, 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 14th. Rockford township, Banner's store, 10 to 12 m.; Harbour's store 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 15th. Marsh township, Burch station, 10 to 12 m.; A. Phillips' store, 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 16th. Elkin township, at Elkin National Bank, Jan. 17th. Bryan township, Flat Branch, 10 to 12 m.; Mtn. Park, 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 18th. Franklin township, Martin's school house, 10 to 12m.; Lowgap, 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 19th. Stewarts creek township, Round Peak P. O. 10 to 12 n.; Pine Ridge, 1 to 3 p. m., Jan. 21st. Eldora township, Luther Venable's store, 10 to 12 m.; Johnson's store, 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 22nd. Long Hill township, Ararat, (will have Eldora books), Jan. 23. Mount Airy, Sheriff's office, Jan. 26th.

The taxes are past due and must be paid. Why not pay NOW and AVOID the PENALTY? I am compelled to have the money to pay teachers and meet the County expenses.

Meet me promptly and pay up.

C. H. HAYNES, SHERIFF OF SURRY CO.

Lilly Land Co.

Has Sold 550 Lots on the East Gate Addition to the City of Roanoke, Virginia. To Satisfied Customers

The famous EAST GATE ADDITION to the City of Roanoke, Va., contains 825 lots and we are proud to announce that we have already sold 550 of these lots to a splendid class of satisfied customers, and we are satisfied that if the general public knew exactly what the EAST GATE ADDITION was and knew its splendid location and our special low price and easy terms, we don't believe that we would have a lot left on the EAST GATE ADDITION in one week's time.

Our present prices range from \$150 to \$800 per lot sold on terms of approximately 5 per cent down and 3 and one half per cent each month without interest or taxes.

We take it that you know that Roanoke is one of the most rapid growing cities in the State of Virginia and is increasing in population at a very rapid rate and when you take into consideration the nearness of the East Gate Addition to the center of the city and the rapid growth of the city, this should be a good reason to believe the lots on the East Gate Addition will increase in value at a good reasonable rate.

Now we would like for you to call at our Roanoke office at once at 624 MacBain building and ask to see the lots on the East Gate Addition before they are all sold, and we will pay your railroad fare both ways by giving you a receipt on your first month's installment, fare not to exceed \$7. We are not trying to sell you these

lots from the blue print, we want you to go on the ground and if we can't show you the best lot for the least money and on the easiest terms that can be had in Roanoke we will not expect you to do business with us. It is absolutely up to us to prove to you that we are offering you a bona fide proposition and something that you had better buy, but we can't do this unless you give us the opportunity.

The LILLY LAND COMPANY has been in the real estate business for sixteen years and is an old and well established concern and we give our reference any of our thousands of customers that we have scattered all over the country.

We also have a large and well selected list of both lots and truck farms located in the Cities of Princeton, Athens, Beckley, Oak Hill, Fumbston, Montcalm, Inger and Bluefield, W. Va. In fact, we can sell you a truck farm in the City of Bluefield, located within one-half mile of the depot. We also have a number of choice truck farms in the Ohio Valley near Huntington, sold on the same above mentioned easy terms. Also have a number of bungalow houses located on the hard road and street car line between the cities of Princeton and Bluefield.

We are anxious for you to look at any of our property, but if you can't go, be sure and write us at Princeton, W. Va., stating the property you are interested in and we will have one of our salesmen call on you and explain our proposition fully.

Lilly Land Company Home Office, Princeton, W. Va.