

THE WEEKLY PILOT

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ROAD WORK.

The road commissioners are attempting to get the county roads into better shape as fast as they can, but it cannot be done faster than the money is available. D. J. Blue, who has been made superintendent of the county road system, is making arrangements all over the county for maintenance work, and if the weather continues fit he will have each township doing such repairs as will put the main roads in fair shape and hold them there until spring will allow a better schedule.

All of the townships have a big road mileage, and as the income for road work has not been very big the money has had to be spread over a wide territory and with the high cost of everything, mules, labor and supplies, it has been impossible to keep the roads where they should be. A little more money is available now from the taxes coming in, and the tendency is for costs to go down some, so it is probably we will have better road projects from now on.

COTTON PROSPECTS

The increase in exports of cotton has encouraged the cotton market a little, but not enough that the spinners have been warranted yet in returning to the war time activity at the mills. But the situation seems to show a slight improvement, with the hope that after the holidays the mills will begin to run again and afford employment and call for cotton. It is not to be expected that cotton will bring the high prices, for that period has gone and it is hardly to be supposed that we will see thirty cent cotton in fifty years. Nor is it logical to expect that wages will stay up where the excitement of war put them. In many places reductions have already taken place, and if the low prices for goods are to prevail it will be at the expense of cotton, wages and profits. Farmer, worker, and mill owner all will see their incomes lessening in proportion to the lessening of prices for goods. It is not a bad situation, and it has the advantage of being more stable for the high prices that we have

come through were recognized by everybody to be only temporary and unsatisfactory.

THE FARM SITUATION

Outside of the mills, which are operated by the limited number of the people of Vass territory, farming is the chief occupation. But this year the farm got its jolt, although other lines have felt it the same way. That the farm has had a discouraging experience is not fatal. We are getting back again to normal prices and that is all there is to it. In getting back the process has been painful, but we will recover because we have to recover and because the farm is the basic industry of the world.

The country around Vass is not damaged any in its ability to make farm crops. The soil has the same fertility and the climate is unchanged. The only thing to do is to plan right now for the next season's operation, and to look to the future for a continued intensive campaign. Cotton will still be a profitable crop and so will tobacco. But along with them we need to make the other crops that are needed on the farm and in the community, and above all other things we need to raise more of eggs, poultry, milk and butter for home use, and for the community supply.

We need to take the farm seriously, and to get better acquainted with the new farm demonstration agent, Mr. Wall, who has recently been appointed and who has an office in the court house. We need to make our farming more aggressive, and get more to the acre and more to the man and the mule. The old plan of walking over two or three acres to get a bale of cotton or forty bushels of corn should give place to walking over one acre to get the same amount. We wear out too much shoe leather and too many mule shoes in the old fashion of long distance farming. We ought to plant fewer acres and fertilize them and make big returns from every acre. The country on all sides of Vass will make crops of the best kind and in the greatest abundance if we handle the ground right.

Then we need a lot more neighbors all over this section to give us more populous and thrifty community. Land enough is here for a thousand more families and a neighborhood like that would be more

pleasant and profitable to live in. The fact is that Vass is just coming out of the woods, and a lot is to be done to make her the settled and thrifty and homey community it can be if we want to make it such. But it is worth the effort.

The I. W. W. organization of the United States, better known as the I Wont Work aggregation have a branch located in Vass and they recently held a meeting one night in the rear of Gunter's store, to transact considerable important business, relative to several of their members, that have been seen at work, which is positively against its rules. The meeting was called to order by one of the Weary Willies, and the first man up was the Pilot man, he wasn't allowed to make an excuse for going to work and was literally kicked out of the camp. The next man brought before the tin-plate brigade was Stacy Brewer. He was seen carrying a bucket of water. He stated that water was a necessity for drinking purposes and not to wash in, and he was placed on probation

with a warning. The next culprit that was hauled before the tomato can bar was Henry Matthews. He was charged with working on an automobile. In fact caught right under the machine working. He gave as an excuse that he had two ladies in the automobile and they had to be taken to their homes or walk. The bleary-eyed Willies held a war dance and they too placed him on a months probation. They were seen by young Gunter who invited them into his store to get warm. They swiped coffee and with some sody crackers, and the balance of Henry Matthews Thanksgiving dinner they all had a good feast, and when they left the store the stove was a mess, covered from top to bottom with cigarette stumps and tobacco juice. The next meeting of the barn stormers will be held in the woods in the rear of the school house.

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Edmonds, who left their home, Williamsport, Pa., about six weeks ago for Orlando, Florida, to spend the winter, but finding the place overcrowded and board sky-high left that place several days ago and passed through Vass Wednesday afternoon. They stated they had to pay \$50 a month for a room.

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