

Devoted to the Upbuilding of Vass and Its Surrounding Country

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LUMBER PROSPECTS BETTER

Walter Graham has been in Norfolk and the south in the last week or two, and he comes back home saying that building prospects look better. "More building is in progress around Norfolk, and the outlook is that it will continue. The building and loan societies are furnishing money from somewhere," he said, "and the tendency is to try to catch up with the building shortage that has prevailed for the last half dozen years. The demand for lumber is a little better, and the prices are showing a tendency to improve slightly, although there is no great rush to clean out what is in the mill yards. But take it all through it looks as if building movement had commenced that may lead to improvement, even though gradual, in the lumber trade."

Not a great deal of lumber is made any more in this section, still here and there are little mills that bring out amounts that in the final total constitute an industry of importance. Also several men of the community are interested in lumber production in other sections, and in that way lumber is more of a product of concern in the welfare of the Vass section than it would be otherwise. But as Mr. Graham says, lumber is a sort of barometer of other business. If lumber begins to show improvement it is a fairly reliable sign that things in general are picking up, and when one starts in that direction it has an influence on others. But even in itself if lumber is improving the improvement will be felt through this community.

DEATH OF MRS. McINNIS

On Sunday evening, July 17th, Mrs. Duncan McInnis died at her home in Lakeview, aged 43 years, 3 months and 11 days. She suffered painfully for many months before her death, but she bore her suffering bravely until the end.

Mrs. McInnis, before her marriage to Duncan McInnis, was Evelyn McDonald, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McDonald, also of Lakeview. She was loved by her school chums and girlhood friends as well as by those who knew her in womanhood.

She joined Union church when a girl and had been a consistent member for 26 years. Besides a husband, seven children and four sisters, a host of friends and relatives are left to mourn her departure.

A Southern Pines man in Vass this week says it will soon be time for that section to be looking for wood, and that as the mild winter of last year is hardly likely to be repeated he expects the big demand of last year will be exceeded this year. He predicts that farmers around Vass who have trucks and wood will be called on to help out some before the robins nest again.

THE CAMP ROAD

Reference to a road from Pinehurst to Camp Bragg by way of Vass has an interesting sound, but the Pilot has not been able to get much light on the matter. Some years ago an effort was made to have a road from Fayetteville to Pinehurst, passing through Vass, but the many hills on the Cumberland end of the line prevented action. Later that road was built from Fayetteville to Longstreet church, and from Vass to Morrison's bridge a good road was provided, but through the upper end of Hoke a stretch remained; it had a number of streams to cross and not a large population, and a road was finally built by Raeford, and the Vass road slipped into the air.

When the camp was established a new obstacle appeared, as the whole

country from Morrison's bridge to within a few miles of Fayetteville is within the camp boundary. But the building of Overhill and the development of the McQueen waterpowers on the river have given road building down that way a further stimulus, and talk has been heard at times of a road that would cross at the Lamont bridge and go to Fayetteville by a connection with the clay road that comes from Fayetteville to Manchester. Part of this route would have to go through the camp, as Lamont bridge crosses over into the camp territory.

The Pilot has no information as to the probability of the building of this road, but the people out that way are seemingly much interested, and they think they see a chance.

KEEPING THE COTTON MILL RUNNING

The cotton mill is kept running, although prices for yarn are low. But the mill management figures that if the hands can be kept employed the people of the community are provided with an income, and the trade is held to a certain extent by the sales of the product. The organization is always an important factor about any industry, and if the hands can be kept employed and on the job so that in case business picks up again some day they will be there ready to work it will be much better than having everybody scattered.

Then Mr. Cameron figures that the community has grown up about the cotton mill and it is better to find something for the hands to do even if the mill makes no profit, than to shut down and make no profit. It is the case of the oyster when the cook asked him if he would be fried or roasted and he said he didn't see that it made much difference. The demand for yarn is still slow, and one reason is that the government when the war closed had on hand a large supply of cotton goods of various kinds and has been throwing that on the markets at any price and in big quantity to get rid of it. How much of that material is yet to be unloaded is not known, but it has badly demoralized trade, and is a factor in the uncertainty that still prevails.

At the mill office it is said that it is hard to make a forecast on the prospect for cotton. The mill has a big stock still in the warehouses, which it is working up as fast as it can, but it is not enthusiastic over manufacturing yarn from cotton that cost thirty-five or forty cents a pound and sells in the market in competition with cotton that cost twelve cents. Trying to work off the high priced cotton in manufactured form has had an influence in lessening the demand for cotton goods. Every wholesaler

who had on his hands cotton that he had bought at a high figure disliked to push it out at the present lower prices. So selling the manufactured goods has been a slow business.

Gradually the market is taking goods that have been made from last year's crop, and with the smaller crop made this year, which the government estimates at 8,500,000 bales, or the lowest that has been made in twenty-five years, it is presumed that the new cotton will be called for in the course of time. Every day the mill is using some of the stock on hand and it must have more when that is gone.

CROPS LOOK GOOD

The crops in this part of the state look good. Those who have been in other sections of the state and country tell the Pilot that the tobacco crop of Moore is about the best they have seen any place. Cotton is coming along first rate around Vass, and some of the corn fields look as if they would be record makers this year. On all the country roads that lead out of town the crops are improving with the recent rains, and the farmer will have a right good yield of everything, although he is not very confident of prices. Concerning cotton, Mr. Cameron told the Pilot that he looks for prices to pick up. The export demand has improved, and the mills appear to be making a little better time. Although the improvement is not what it might be it is significant of better things, and as long as it is in the right direction Mr. Cameron thinks it is encouraging. One thing about the cotton situation is that the shelves of the stores are pretty well emptied of stocks and the prices for manufactured goods are down so that buying is encouraged, and when once it begins the low stocks and low prices will make calls on the mill which will have to use cotton. Mr. Cameron does not predict high prices for cotton, but he thinks the demand is going to be better with possible improvement in prices before long.

CAMERON

Our town was honored last week with some distinguished visitors. Governor Cameron Morrison, and little daughter Angelia, Rev. Evan Dhu. Cameron, of Oklahoma, called to see Mrs. Janie Muse and family, and Mrs. E. A. McFayden, whom the Governor calls "Cousin Betsey Ann." Congressman, W. J. Sears and wife and daughter, from Florida, stopped over night at the Greenwood Inn on his way to Washington, and were pleased with the fare and hospitality of Miss McLean.

After months of extreme suffering, Mrs. Flora Cameron passed away Monday at her home on Route 3. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. M. D. McNeill, at Cypress church. Mrs. Cameron was a woman of refined character and noble qualities, and in her youth was a beautiful lady and very popular.

The Cameron correspondent is on the sick list.

Miss Kate Harrington is home from Charlotte to visit her mother.

Miss Ruth Klapp, of Greensboro, is the guest of Miss Burdette Joyner.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McLean were supper guests, Saturday evening, of the Misses Arnolds on Route Two.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Leak, of Rockingham, were guests, Sunday, of Misses Minnie and Bonnie Muse.

Mrs. H. D. Tally, Miss Jacksie Muse, and Mr. Lendon Hartsell motored to Mt. Vernon Springs, Sunday, to see Mr. Tally who is spending some time at the springs for his health.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie McDugald, of Hamlet, spent Tuesday in town, the guests of Mr. McDugald's sister, Mrs. H. D. Tally.

Mr. Carl Phillips, of Charleston, a former Cameronian, spent Sunday in town with friends.

The Young Ladies' Auxiliary will meet with Miss Margaret Gilchrist Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Teague, of Sanford, spent Sunday in town at the afternoon services of the Presbyterian church. Their lovely little daughter, Elizabeth Coble, was christened by her grandfather, Rev. M. D. McNeill.

The church voted Rev. M. D. McNeill a vacation during the month of August.

Sunday School Institute to be held at the Baptist church Thursday night, Friday and Friday night. The pastor urges all to be present at 6:30 or 7 P. M.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Borst and little son, H. A., Jr., spent Sunday afternoon in town, the guests of Mrs. E. M. Borst.

Miss Mabel Muse leaves Wednesday day for Siloam to visit Mrs. Opal Jones; later joining a camping party for Blue Ridge.