

THE ENTERPRISE

State Library

VOL XVII. NO. 3

WILLIAMSTON, N. C., FRIDAY, NOV. 26, 1915

\$1.00 a Year in Advance

TRIP ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Very Interesting Sketch Of a Trip To The Panama-Pacific Exposition And Western Canada.

BY HARRY A. BIGGS

INSTALLMENT VIII.

Within the geyser basin surrounding Old Faithful Inn, about which I wrote last, are geysers boiling springs, paint pots, etc., which are the puzzle and admiration of the scientific world. Of course, the most noted one, and one which is well known all over the enlightened world is Old Faithful Geyser, which is located just east of the hotel, and from which the hotel gets its name. For thousands of years, so far as we know, this geyser has been playing, frequently in the days of the past with no one to see its brilliant glory, without an eye to note its splendor, or a voice to tell its beauty to the world. Old Faithful does not owe its popularity to its height or beauty, though it possesses both, but its chief fame lies in the regularity of its playing. Every sixty to seventy minutes since this geyser was discovered, it has never disappointed the bewildered spectator; year in and year out, winter and summer, night and day Old Faithful sends up its silvery cascade to the height of about one hundred and eighty feet, it has never been known to disappoint, and even now while I write this paper several times this wonderful beauty of nature has shown itself to the world. Its eruptions by moonlight and sunrise and sun set are sights which every lover of the beautiful in nature would appreciate. Its eruptions begin with a few spasmodic spurts, during which considerable water is thrown out, these are soon followed by a column of hot water which is sent up into the air, and apparently remains stationary for about three minutes.

The crater of this geyser is an oblong opening about two by six feet, and just after an eruption it is perfectly safe for one to go up to it and look down. I did this and saw only smoke gushing from the opening, and heard ramblings in the earth as if there were a combat between the fire and water.

At each eruption Old Faithful pours forth about one million five hundred thousand gallons of water, or more than thirty-three million gallons in one day, this would be enough water to supply Williamston for many a hot dusty day during our long dry summers.

The Castle Geyser occupies a prominent position just in front of the hotel, it derives its name from the fact that its formation resembles the ruins of an ancient castle, possesses the largest crater in the whole region, and it is believed to be the oldest active geyser in the Park. Its eruptions do not occur with the regularity of those of Old Faithful. The Gait Geyser throws its boiling water to a height of 250 feet and it plays for about an hour and a half; its eruptions occur, however, very irregularly, from seven to twelve days, and very fortunate indeed is he who sees this remarkable phenomenon.

A detailed account of all the geysers in this section would

take up too much space, and I shall have to forego the pleasure of describing each one. Some of them have very attractive names, as Riverside, Beehive, Daisy, Economic, Jewel, Spasmodic, Splendid, and the sponge, which is the smallest of all, it throws its water only 25 feet, and lasts only fifteen seconds.

An afternoon and evening spent in this remarkable region is an event which one can never forget, he may have, in after life, many experiences of the successful, or the reverses with which one may be overtaken, but no matter what happens there will be in his memory a distinct view of this remarkable spot. While viewing these wonders one is impressed with the remarkable beauty of the place, his mind dwells again upon the infinite and his thoughts wander into the unknown, in an endeavor to reconcile to his mind what is the cause of all this marvelous and grand work of the crater.

Within this area of the active geysers is a place called Hell's Half Acre. It is right rightly named. Rough, perpendicular hedges project over a monstrous gulf of depth, from which great clouds of steam are constantly emerging. When a slight wind causes this smoke to blow away for a moment, one sees a lake below, seething and boiling from internal heat. No one would ever suspect this to be a geyser, but once it burst forth and expelled more water than all the other geysers combined. These wonderful geysers and boiling pools in the upper geyser basin make the setting of Old Faithful Inn one of the most remarkable of any hotel in the world, and one leaves this fascinating spot at 7:45 the next morning reluctantly, but eager to explore further the works of nature in this region where Almighty God has set a special imprint of His divine hand.

Again entering "Lava" coach each of us happy and contented, our minds dwelling upon the marvels which are found within the geyser basin, we resumed our journey to Yellowstone Park, a distance of nineteen miles. The route is over the summit of the Continental Divide, which is a great range of mountains extending from Canada to Mexico, and the falling water goes into two directions, east to the Atlantic ocean, by way of the Mississippi river, through the Gulf of Mexico, and west to the Pacific.

While driving along these well kept roads one often sees the many animals which are found in such numbers in the Park. It is no unusual sight to see bears roaming the woods, climbing the trees, and frolicking upon the ground, as one passes along. Many of the animals were not near the road when I was going through the Park, having been frightened by the noises of automobiles which were in the Park that week for the first time; buffaloes are to be found, mountain sheep, elk, deer and antelopes, mink and otter, the common skunk, the wood chuck, or ground hog, muskrat and beaver are seen in large numbers. One comforting thing is that there are but few reptiles in this region where so many animals abound. The rattlesnake is never found above 6000 feet altitude and the average altitude of the Park is 8000 feet. The eagle is seen in many places; the eagle is a high minded bird; also the gull, pelican, vulture, bluejay, robin, black bird and pheasant.

About a mile away one catches

the first glimpse of Yellowstone Lake, which is nestled among the forest crowned hills, and has the highest altitude of any lake of its size in the world with one exception, and that is in the Andes Mountains in Peru. On the edge of this lake is the famous fishing cone, which is a boiling spring, surrounded by the cold water of the lake. This is the well known spot where a fisherman can catch a fish in the lake, which is cold water and without taking him from the hook, throw him into the boiling water of the cone and cook him within a very few seconds. A gasoline launch can be taken and the remainder of the journey to the hotel can be made upon the smooth waters of Yellowstone Lake. The Lake Colonial Hotel is reached at about four o'clock and one is delighted with the welcome which this delightful place of rest offers after having traveled in a coach all day. This is a large structure, built in Colonial style and has accommodations for five hundred guests.

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Caught In The Act

Saturday night, Sheriff Crawford had a feeling that all was not well at the jail, and about 9:30 he walked down to investigate, and found that Henry Slade and another negro had dislodge the rivets in the cell door, having in some way drawn the fire poker, which was lying outside into the cell, and were in the corridor breaking away the brick wall beneath a window. They were secured and placed in a safer apartment. A suspicion was aroused in the Sheriff's mind by one negro requesting to be placed with the other. This was granted with the above result. It took two to do the job, and so they planned to get together.

A GOOD MAN

PASSES AWAY

After Long Life of Usefulness--Funeral Services Today With Masonic Honors.

After seventy-nine years of usefulness, George P. McNaughton fell asleep at Tarboro on Tuesday evening at 7:35 o'clock. Two weeks ago, he went there to visit his daughter, Mrs. John Fraley, hoping that the change would be beneficial, but disease had so far sapped his strength that death soon entered the home and took the husband and father to that eternal Home, where His saints forever are blessed.

Nearly twenty-five years ago, Mr. McNaughton came to North Carolina from Pennsylvania, his native State, and settled at Everetts, where he established a large lumber plant, which he made one of the most important industries of this section.

For several years he and his wife have been living here with their children, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. L. Rodgers. He was fifty-three years old, and is survived by his wife, two sons, Messrs. Charles and George McNaughton, and three daughters, Mrs. John L. Rodgers, Mrs. Walter Taylor and Mrs. John Fraley.

For years he had been a faithful member of the Presbyterian church and embodied in his life those Christian virtues which mark the people of God. He was an ardent Mason and "stood four square to all the winds which

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BETTER AND SAFER SCHOOL BUILDINGS ARE NEEDED

Williamston Needs a New School Building--The Present One is Very Inadequate

In a pamphlet just issued by the Insurance Commissioner, he says: Let us Continue to Erect School Buildings, but not of the "Built-to-Burn" Character.

In America we burn twelve school houses and two colleges every week. In the United States, a fire occurs every day in some school. The loss of life is great, while the loss of property amounts to several hundred thousand dollars. The American people have given less thought to the protection of schools and their precious contents than has been given to manufacturing plants and buildings in general. Frequently the lives of our children are saved simply because the fire occurs while the school is not in session.

The above statement contains warnings for us here in North Carolina. We are in the midst of a great educational uplift and advance. We are building an unusually large number of school buildings and collecting in them our children and their teachers. We are looking after the appearances of these buildings and their adaptability to teaching, but paying little or no attention to their safety, or even economy of erection. A large majority of our school buildings are of the most dangerous character, calling for heavy depreciation and constant repairs, largest insurance rates and fewest exits. These buildings are not only easily fired, but of the character to burn most rapidly when once fired.

With a view of bringing about a change in these conditions, your careful attention is invited to the letters and other data herein. Let us inform ourselves and the people and we will get the results desired--better and safer school buildings.

The following correspondence is given, and explains itself: Dr. James Y. Joyner, Supt. Public Instruction, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:--For several years the loss of school buildings by fire has been unusually heavy. This liability to burn carries with it not only the loss of property, but the loss of lives of the inmates--teachers and children. The reason for this is, no doubt, found in the character of the buildings being erected, and has evoked the description, "Built-to-Burn."

My duties under our building and fire-escape laws, and the fact that for the last twelve years we have in North Carolina built on an average of over one school building a day, have caused me to give much thought to this subject, and I desire to bring to your attention and through you to the attention of the school officers and people of the state the following facts and suggestions:

1. We are building mostly frame and brick metal roof hollow construction buildings. These are not the safest, nor, in the end, the cheapest buildings. Where over one story, they are a menace to the lives of the children and call for the heaviest insurance rates and greatest depreciation and repairs.

2. The fire-proof roof brick building, erected on the slow burning or mill construction plan, will cost only about seven (7) per cent more than the brick metal-roof building referred to above, when provided with automatic sprinklers. This building will be absolutely safe; be subject to less depreciation, and call for not more than one-half the present insurance rates.

3. A reinforced concrete building will cost only 12 per cent more than the brick, metal-roof hollow construction and occasion for repairs, and insurance at one-third less.

4. Again, at practically no additional cost all inside stairways and openings can be cut out of all these buildings--frame to concrete--furnishing safety to children and building by the use of tower stairways or fire-escapes. These tower stairways are desirable because simple, safe, and economical, making unnecessary fire escapes and yet rendering buildings of two or more stories absolutely safe for children even in case of fire.

5. I recognize that it is hard to change any general custom of a people, but I am prepared to show that these suggestions are in accord with any of the well established rules designed by teachers for school buildings, and are principles that do not interfere with the best efforts and skill of architects. These suggestions have been submitted to you, your assistants, and many school superintendents and teachers, and met with the approval of all. Both associations of architects in the State have heartily endorsed the suggestions as desirable for improving school buildings and

giving additional safety to children. 6. As school buildings are being erected continually, I am anxious to have your Department (1) urge all school committeemen to look into the matter thoroughly before approving of any plans for new buildings or changes in old ones; (2) call their attention to these suggestions as meeting with your approval; and (3) join with me in providing and sending out general plans for school buildings embodying these suggestions.

Of course, I need not say that it will afford me pleasure at any time to give any further information or details desired or examine any plans for you or any school committee in the State or their architect.

Respectfully submitted, JAMES R. YOUNG, Insurance Commissioner.

November 1, 1915.

Hon. James R. Young, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:--I thank you for your letter, written in compliance with my request, and for the practical suggestions contained therein for the construction of school buildings so as to give better protection to life and property against fire.

I commend these suggestions to the careful consideration of all school officials. I have already conferred with our architect about incorporating your suggestions for fire protection in the construction of school buildings in the net revision of our pamphlet of plans for public school buildings. In the meantime, I shall be glad to cooperate with you in any way possible in bringing these suggestions to the attention of committees, boards of trustees, and other school officials of the state.

Very truly yours, J. Y. JOYNER, State Supt. Public Instruction.

Durham, N. C., July 23, 1915. Hon. J. R. Young, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:--The following resolution was unanimously adopted at our meeting at Wrightsville Beach, N. C., on July 16th inst.:

"Resolved, That the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects do hereby endorse better construction of public school buildings, for safety first, as recommended by Hon. J. R. Young, Insurance Commissioner, Raleigh, N. C."

WILLARD C. NORTHROP, Sec. N. C. Chapter A. I. A.

Collinwood Disaster.

In the Collinwood school fire scores of little children died within an arm's reach of safety, almost within sight of frenzied parents, jammed at the foot of a stairway in a solid arch of flesh and bone, skewed into projections caused by lessened width of the vestibule.

The building was constructed of brick, with wooden floors and partitions--the same character of building as a majority of our best school buildings in North Carolina.

There are only two classes of buildings where attendance is involuntary--schools and jails. If the house or flat in which you live is a firetrap, you can move out. If you believe a certain hotel or theatre is unsafe, you need not patronize it. But if your school is in daily danger of becoming a fiery furnace--the law compels your children to attend, just the same.--Wisconsin Industrial Commission.

A freakish fire in Houston, Texas, occurred recently where a defective fuse blazed ignited the insulation on an electric wire and the blaze followed the course of the wire across the room and down the wall paper. It was discovered in time to prevent serious damage.

Dry cleaning in the kitchen With "stuff" and gasoline Doth fill and "stuff" man's pockets Also the graveyard green.

A night in the winter, A crack in the flue, A heap of black charcoal When the fire is through.

Little sparks from matches, Little piles of trash, Will turn your pretty cottage Into smoke and ash.

Sixteen hundred homes burn in this country every week.

WAS IT SUICIDE OR ACCIDENT?

MRS. JOHN WHITFIELD FOUND IN WELL

Was Apparently in The Best Of Health--Body Found Shortly After Leaving House--She Leaves Husband And Four Children.

Robersonville, N. C., 23.--Mrs. John Whitfield, aged 35, who lived near this place, committed suicide here some time yesterday morning by jumping down a well and drowning. While of considerable depth, the well is only two feet in diameter.

The body was found about two hours after it is supposed she took her life. No reason has been given for her act.

Mrs. Whitfield attended church Sunday and appeared to be in the best of spirits. Monday morning she attended to her domestic duties as usual, got the children off to school and went to about her household. Later she disappeared. Her husband, becoming alarmed made a search for her and found the body down the well.

She is survived by her husband and four children, the youngest being only 8-months old.

Later investigations reveal the fact that it is a possibility that she might have in some way lost her balance and fell in, as the well bucket was down the well.

Her neck was broken and the right shoulder crushed.

MOONSHINERS INTERRUPTED

Sheriff Crawford and Revenue Officer James, Capture Still, But Men Escape.

Sheriff Crawford and Revenue Officer Ed James, captured a 40 gallon still on Roses Creek near Jamesville Wednesday, together with about 300 gallons of molasses beer, one charge of which was in the still with a good fire under it. They also got one very single-barrel gun, a flash light, 1 pair tan shoes, 2 pair of gloves, 3 coats, 1 frying pan, a few lbs of meat and a canoe.

The still was complete with cap and two worms, about one quart of liquor.

The still was located on the bank of the creek and the operators were using water from the creek for cooling purposes.

The officers came up near the scene of operations and looked straight at the two performers for several minutes, finally they were discovered by one of the party when they broke and ran through the mud and water just like a herd of wild cattle.

Died Suddenly

Dr. Alexander, of Columbia, N. C., who for many years has been selling medicines through this section of the State, died suddenly at the Latham house last night. His death is attributed to heart failure. The remains were sent to Columbia this morning on the Norfolk Southern train.--Washington News, Nov. 22nd.