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No 5

## Shows Alabama's Need of Forestry Legislation

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. In a recent interview I. T. Quinn, Alabama commissioner of conservation, says: "Unless drastic steps are taken to prevent it, Alabama will find themselves in the column of lumber importers, instead of exporters, within the next few years." He goes on further to outline a policy of conservation, and has requested Governor Kilby of Alabama to include in his message to the legislature an appeal or enactment of laws which will provide for the protection of the state's forests and reforestation.

"We are today cutting our timber more than four times as fast as we are producing it," said Commissioner Quinn. "Only ten per cent of what is now being cut is original growth; the other ninety per cent being second growth and of inferior grade."

"In 1919 there were 630 saw mills in Alabama cutting pine timber. Of this number thirty had a ten-year cut or over. In 1922 we have approximately 500 saw mills cutting pine timber with possible fifteen with a ten-year cut or over. These figures sound appealing, and they are, but they are as nearly correct as the government estimates can make them."

"I am reliably informed that the states of Georgia and Texas are today importing more lumber for domestic purposes than they are exporting. At the present rate Alabama will be doing the same thing within a few years."

"The number of people whose livelihood depends, directly or indirectly upon our forests is very large. The place of forest products in sustaining the present industrial structure of the state is of great importance."

"Between 50 per cent and 60 per cent of the State is classed as forest land. We have then a land problem, a question of how half of the state is to be utilized in the future. The problem of Alabama is to make the forest lands of the highest service in building up the state on a permanent basis. We have approximately six million acres of cut-over land in the state with less than 50 per cent of it suitable to profitable agriculture. The remainder is practically worthless except for growing timber."

"The lumberman claims that the present assessed valuation of these cut-over lands will not permit reforestation because they would be forced to pay taxes on them for a long period of years before they could get any returns and by that time the taxes would have eaten up all the profit."

"In the state of Louisiana there is in operation a severance tax in lumber and other natural resources. Out of this severance tax revenues are obtained to run a division of forestry in the department of conservation."

"The nominal tax value is put on non-agricultural cut-over acres which enables the commissioner of conservation to enter into a contract with the land owner, under the direction of a trained state forester to reforest these cut-over lands. The reduced tax income to the state on areas under contract is made up through the severance tax. In some of the other states the di-

## Bull Creek Items.

Miss Jessie Metcalf who has been detained at home on account of flu has now returned to School at Dorland Bell.

Miss Thelma Cohn has returned to Asheville Home School after a brief illness.

Mr. Millard Lewis of Grape Vine is now boarding at Mr. R. F. Tillery's and attending school at Marshall, and seems to be getting along nicely in his books.

Mr. George Edwards spent Tuesday night with his brother, Mr. Hobert Edwards of Petersburg.

Messrs. R. M. Whitt, D. D. Merrell and Albin Buckner were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Silver last Sunday.

Messrs. McKinley Candler, Stewart Metcalf and Kam Merrell attended Prayer meeting at Bull Creek last Sunday evening.

Misses Ora and Alda Merrell were guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Merrill's Tuesday night.

Miss Ora Waldrup who has been ill with flu is now able to begin teaching at the school of this place.

vision of forestry is operated upon revenue secured through an occupation tax.

"The legislature of Alabama in 1907 passed a forestry bill which was approved by Governor B. B. Comer, but later it was declared unconstitutional.

"Annual forest fires destroy hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of young growth that would in the years to come prove a valuable asset to the state. One of the principal features of a forestry program should be the inauguration of a fire control system to prevent forest fires. When Alabama shall have taken the proper steps through the proper machinery for fire control and the establishment of a constructive program in forestry, the federal government, through its bureau of forestry, will cooperate in a financial way in helping to perpetuate the forests of the state."

It is considered as a certainty by the best informed men in both lumber and legislative circles that a plan for the reforestation of the state of Alabama will be taken up by the next legislature and thoroughly thrashed out. Many plans are being advanced and the severance tax plan is coming in for severe criticism as placing a burden on the lumberman that is entirely out of proportion to his profits out of the tree. It is stated that this tax actually costs many times its apparent total.

One plan which is receiving the backing of a number of lumbermen and others who have given the proposition considerable thought is the purchase of the cut-over lands that are not suited to agricultural purposes by the state. This to be accomplished by the issuance of long-term bonds to the present owners of the lands at a dollar basis on the present taxable valuation of the land, these bonds to bear interest at 4 or 5 per cent per annum.

There is no question of the fight that will be made to make Alabama's law an example of fair and square legislation and an example that can be followed by other states faced by the same problem.

## Where Did Cain Get His Wife?

The above question was asked the other day in the lobby of a certain hotel here in Marshall, and we will answer it on Sunday night in a prelude to our regular message at the BAPTIST CHURCH.

This question—"Where Did Cain Get His Wife?" is the pet question of about every infidel that you meet wherever you go. The infidels will ask it, or rather fire it at you, then fold their arms, look at you with what they suppose is a wise and overpowering eye, as much as if to say: "Now we have got you." But they haven't by any manner of means, for the problem as to where Old Cain got his wife is one of the easiest to solve that there is to be found between the covers of the OLD BOOK. If you don't believe it come and see Sunday night.

"THE GREATEST STEPS IN TOWN" will be the subject of the regular message of the hour.

On Sunday morning we will begin a series of sermons on the COMING AGAIN OF JESUS CHRIST. If you are at all interested in the SCIENCE OF THE LAST THINGS you are more than cordially invited to be present and listen to our first message along this most important line. We do not expect everyone to agree with us in everything that we shall say. But you can accept what appeals to you and reject the rest. We do want you however each and every one, to give us credit for being honest and sincere in every blooming thing, for, as sure as you live, we are—that is, if we know our own heart, and we think we do.

Glad to see so many of you out last Sunday. Hope to see you again on the coming Lord's Day. Thank you very much for your kind expressions of regard. Appreciate them highly. My prayers and best wishes to and for you all.

E. R. EVANS,

P. S.—Niagara Falls is one of the great scenic wonders and marvels of the world. We have visited it a number of times, as we used to live in Buffalo, N. Y., and the falls are just 21 miles away from there. We have a beautiful set of slides and a rattling good descriptive talk of same. We are planning it for our next attraction. Further announcement Sunday night.

E. R. E.

## Fine Work By Officers Rector & Whitner.

An important raid was made by the Prohibition officers Willard Rector and Will Whitner when they captured a still and some men in the Catalooch Country twenty miles north of Waynesville. For some time there has seemed to be an ever running source of liquor in this country which was hard to locate but on information these officers started and were led to the house of Frank Palmer who was suspected as knowing the source of the supply and directing it to the outside sections. When they arrived at the house they did not find the man but discovered more liquor than the law allows as Frank had a gallon and 3 quarts of moonshine. Officer Rector tracked Frank through the snow from his back door for three quarters of a mile to a still. This was hidden in the Laurel. There Frank Palmer and Harrison Hall were busy at work making more of the unlawful. These men were arrested and taken to Waynesville where they were given a hearing and bound over to Federal Court at its next term. The officers are to be congratulated for the arrest in Haywood County.

Officer Rector has shown himself in the fulfillment of his duties as Federal Prohibition officer and with the assistants he has done yeoman work for the Bureau that he serves.

## The Allanstand Industries.

Last Sunday The Citizen published an article on a Western North Carolina industry that is not known to the people in proportion to its value to this mountain region. The Allanstand Cottage Industries is what the name of the organization indicates—home industries. Its purposes are briefly as follows:

To bring money into communities distant from markets; to give women, especially, in isolated sections the opportunity of exercising their artistic skill in profitable occupation; to preserve the crafts of the pioneer days and to produce articles of beauty and value, such as coverlets, portieres, rugs, baskets brooms hats.

With the encouragement offered by the industries, the workers in many communities of the mountains are making baskets in 241 different styles, rag rugs, linsey and tapestry in numerous designs, and other articles. That the market thus provided brings welcome additions to the family incomes is shown by the average family income of from \$200 to \$400 a year from making baskets.

One of the features of this industry arousing much interest among visitors to this section is the proficiency of the workers in the use of dyes made from roots, bark, flowers and leaves.

The articles made are widely distributed among tourists, and therefore the Allanstand Industries does much to advertise Western North Carolina. Officers and sales-room are located in Asheville, and those who are interested in an important local industry are invited to attend the exhibition soon to be given.

FOR SALE—17 beautiful lots at Hot Springs, N. C. For quick sale. Cash terms. Owner leaving for West Virginia. See C. W. Norton, Stackhouse, N. C. 1-10-23

## About 5,000 Are Arrested In 1922

Speeders Head List with Total of 683 Arrested in 12 Months.

Asheville has its story of crime, of sordid life of human failing, of blind youth and thoughtless folly. In the 12 chapters of 1922. Police Court Records, there are 4,948 characters introduced with charges ranging from petty traffic violations to murder, arson, rape and manslaughter.

Compared with last year there is a gain of nearly 500 in 1922. A total of 4,451 entries were made in 1921.

Speeders head the list for 1922, there having been 683 persons arrested in the city of Asheville alone for speeding with automobiles and motorcycles. Hand in hand with the speeders go the reckless drivers, 229 having been arrested in the city during the 12 months period ending today.

Perhaps but a small percentage of the drunks in the city came under the observation of the law in 1922, but there was a minority of 615 less fortunate, and these were hauled into court on charges of being intoxicated.

Gambles, those who failed to get away with the game, totaled 551 in 1922. Perhaps there are many reasons for the 615 arrested and numerous unarrested drunks in the city, during the year. The records of the court show 239 reasons during the year, for that many arrests were made of persons, charged with various whiskey violations.

Stealing, under the highbrow and less offensive term of larceny, was charged against 154 persons.

July, for the past two years, has been the banner month for police activities. In 1922 there were 627 arrests. In 1921 there were 627 arrests, identically the same number.

The number of arrests during the past year, by months is: January 302; February 320; March 258; April, 350; May 493; June, 429; July, 627; August, 502; September, 412; October 427; November, 331; December 435.

## Ninety And Nine Granted Divorce.

Eighty-Five Divorce Cases In Buncombe County Dismissed In Year.

There were ninety and nine divorces granted in Buncombe county during the past 12 months. This is not a case of 99 out of 100 for in 1921, the year previous, 637 marriages took place in the county.

More than 85 divorce cases were dismissed during the year when it became apparent that the plaintiffs for some reason or other failed to prosecute their cases. In most of the cases, as far as it may be ascertained, the parties have agreed to start over again or to separate without divorce.

In 1921 there were 112 divorces granted in Buncombe county. The divorce is becoming more frequent in Buncombe county. Until the past to years less than 50 were annually granted.

## Indict Gunter On Murder Count

Newport, January 24.—The grand jury has returned an indictment charging first degree murder against Francis Gunter, a 110 lb. slayer of Lloyd Mathes.

Gunter is held in the Knox county jail, but he will be returned to Newport Monday and arraigned before Judge J. L. Drinnon, of the circuit court. The actual trial will not be held Monday, but an early date will be set.

The prosecution will ask for the death penalty to be imposed upon Gunter. Gunter's defense will probably be temporary insanity or drunkenness.

The killing occurred at Cosby late in November. Gunter was on the war path, menacing the life of several with a shot gun, it was claimed. Mathes came along without parley Gunter ordered him to raise his hands. Mathes complied with the demand, but argued with Gunter and begged for his life. After a few words had been passed, Gunter discharged the shot gun into the heart of Mathes, who fell dead instantly. Gunter then burried his own home and fled to the mountains where he was captured the same day, officers state.

## Ninth District To Get Near Three More Million For Road Work Under State Bond Issue.

How Fund of Two Million Has Been Expended In Ten Counties.

FIGURES IN FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT.

Show Projects Taken Care Of Under Administration Gov. Bickett.

The Ninth District of the State Highway Commission, comprising the counties of Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain, and Transylvania, will have approximately three million dollars to continue construction of highways, including around two million dollars on hand from the district's share of the fifty million dollar bond issue, of 1921, and an estimated amount of \$1,200,000 from the \$15,000,000 bond issue, J. G. Stikelgath, Highway Commissioner for this district stated yesterday.

Projects for highway construction in the 10 counties, let as a part of the fifty million dollar bond issue, completed or under construction, amount to approximately \$2,550,000, according to the fourth biennial report of the State Highway Commission to Governor Morrison and the General Assembly.

The fund of over two million dollars for highway construction covering projects let and under construction is divided among the 10 counties as follows:

Buncombe \$162,726; Cherokee, \$240,029; Clay, \$142,664; Graham \$136,662; Haywood, \$114,087; Jackson, \$552,072; Macon, \$226,178; Madison, \$243,071; Swain, \$318,341; and Transylvania, \$137,500.

Of the total of 673.09 miles of the State Highway system, Continued On Editorial Page

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