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HIGHWAY EXPERTS VISIT OUR ROADS

Impressed With Marshall-Asheville Highway

HAVE RECEPTION AT MARS HILL

The group of highway experts, about whom so much has been said in this and other papers, visited and inspected Marshall-Asheville highway last Thursday as stated and are said to have gained information about highway construction by their visit. While they did not actually visit Marshall, they were in the corporate limits when they turned from the Marshall-Asheville highway toward Mars Hill. Really they were not specially sight seeing. Towns and cities were not what they were looking at. They had roads in their mind and there was nothing of unusual interest in Marshall unless they had been impressed with "Corkscrew Avenue." But if they had undertaken to drive those long gray busses over that mountain street they would have been so frightened, they would have known less about highway construction when they returned than when they started. However, we are glad they came and still gladder they left with a good impression of our Western North Carolina highways and hospitality. Last Friday's Asheville Citizen gave the following account of their visit:

Declaring that their knowledge of highways had been materially increased by practical inspections of major projects in the mountain country, more than 100 highway officials and engineers of the United States and 35 foreign countries resumed their journey southward after a brief sojourn in Western North Carolina.

The visitors declared that they took with them pleasant recollections of Asheville's hospitality and a new conception of the country's scenic beauty and natural resources. They expressed appreciation for the opportunity given them for study of lanes of travel through the mountains and many declared they hoped to return at some later date.

They were generous in their praise of North Carolina's highway system as they saw it during the more than two days they were in the State. To R. A. Doughton, chairman of the state highway commission, J. G. Stikeleather, ninth district highway commissioner, and others, they expressed appreciation for their reception here.

Inspect Marshall Road Leaving Grove Park Inn at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning and trav-

eling in the five huge buses which brought them here from Washington, the delegates, accompanied by State highway officials, including Engineer John D. Waldrop, Mr. Stikeleather and others, drove twenty miles west over State Highway No. 20 for an inspection of the Asheville-Marshall section of the route, which State and national experts say is one of the outstanding pieces of road in North America in the manner of its construction. Blasted from almost continuous solid rock along the French Broad River, the section which is now a part of a transcontinental route, cost from \$75,000 to \$100,000 a mile to complete, and its alignment, curvature and general structure was the cynosure of great interest among the entire party.

Turning towards Mars Hill at the Southern railway underpass a short distance above Marshall, the motorcade followed a dirt inter-rural road intersecting the Weaverville-Asheville highway. At Mars Hill, Prof. R. L. Moore, of Mars Hill College, with a number of students and the college band, greeted the visitors with gifts of flowers, music and college yells.

Beaucatcher Tunnel, through

WHY BUSINESS DEPRESSION?

Are business depressions necessary? Can they be prevented? Roger Babson commands the respect of the business world, and with good reason; few men in our day have studied, analyzed, and interpreted business facts and conditions as he has. Speaking recently at a meeting of the general board of the national council of Young Men's Christian Associations in New York, Mr. Babson made this significant statement: "Business depressions are caused by dissipation, dishonesty, disobedience to God's will—a general collapse of moral character. Statistics show this plainly. With equal precision, they show how business depressions are cured. They are cured by moral awakening, spiritual revival, and the rehabilitation of righteousness." Not every one would have had the courage to say this. But God's Word said it long ago, and Mr. Babson has more than once shown his keen realization of the vital and practical value of righteousness. Paul gave the cure for business depression when he wrote: "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." (Rom. 12:11). More than one outstanding character in Bible history was a successful business man.—Joseph, Nehemiah, Daniel, the "seven men of honest report" by whom Stephen was one, and many others whose records show that righteousness and business efficiency go hand in hand. "To bring back prosperity people must be conditioned in the right ways of working and living," says Mr. Babson. There is only one thing that will do this—the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. If the nation would turn to God in repentance, confession, and faith, there would be, not only a "revival of religion" of the only true sort, but a revival of prosperity as well.—Sunday School Times.

which the motorcade passed in coming to Asheville Wednesday from Winston-Salem, via Morganton and Marion, was viewed again just before noon as the motorcade left the city en route to Biltmore House and the Vanderbilt estate. The Biltmore viaduct was also inspected and was the subject of comment by delegates. At Biltmore House, the visitors through courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. John F. A. Cecil, were shown

through the famous chateau and about the grounds. Many delegates took pictures of the mansion and grounds.

Continue Southward

Leaving Biltmore, the motorcade went to Lake Lure where members of the party were guests of the Chimney Rock Company and were luncheon guests at the North Carolina highway commission. Yesterday afternoon the Gastonia-Charlotte

road was inspected and last night the delegates were dinner guests of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

The motorcade will enter South Carolina today enroute to Florida via Georgia. Key cities to be visited before the termination of the tour in Miami, include Columbia, Charleston, Savannah, Waycross, Brunswick and Tallahassee. Saturday, October 25, the delegates will leave for Detroit, Mich., where they will converge with members of two other delegations on tour of the Middle-West and other sections of the country. Trips to points of interest in Detroit and Niagara Falls will conclude the trip. The majority of the delegates from foreign countries will sail from New York City.

Charmed By Country

Norman Damon, leader of the tour to the mountains, and other members of the party stated the visitors were well pleased with their trip to Asheville and this section of the state. All declared the Land of the Sky to be one of the most interesting and most beautiful places they have seen in America and in foreign countries.

Preparatory to the coming hatching season, the poultry flocks of Burke County are being rigidly culled and blood-tested.

THE PUBLISHER'S COLUMN ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE NOVEMBER 4?

This heading may catch somebody, for it might be expected that this paper could have something to say if it should choose to go into personalities. In other words, we are cocked and primed and if we should choose to shoot, we have plenty of ammunition to do some shooting. But shooting is not the purpose of this scribe at this time (he will save that for a later date), but the purpose of this article is to say that when the people go to the polls two weeks from now they will find some ballots to be cast about which not many of them are going to know anything and many more will know very little, and we doubt that anybody will know much. We believe in a government by the people, but we believe the people should be enlightened, informed, and intelligent; so that they will not be dependent upon others to instruct them as to how they shall vote, especially when it comes to such matters as the three amendments to the constitution of North Carolina. And in order to be enlightened, informed, and intelligent, a person should have all the facts obtainable on both sides of the matter to be decided on, and after weighing all the evidence, make up the verdict from the facts as he sees them, and not as someone advises; for that one may be advising for selfish reasons.

This publisher does not claim to know all the facts pro and con as to the three amendments, and is willing to add other facts not yet obtained to those he already has. In other words, he is still open to conviction, but unless we are led to see these matters differently from the way we see them now, it is our purpose to vote against all three amendments. And we do not think it necessary to advise the electorate as to these amendments. Our prediction is that they will be overwhelmingly defeated whether anything is said by the papers or not. As to the first two, it is not to be expected that the people are in any frame of mind at this time of business depression and unemployment to vote to increase the number of Supreme Court justices or Superior Court judges.

The third as to the classification of property for taxation is one about which not many of us are qualified to express ourselves. The speech delivered July 24, 1929, by Hon. A. J. Maxwell, Commissioner of Revenue and Chairman of the Tax Commission is a fine discussion of this great problem and convinces us that Mr. Maxwell has given this matter great study, but he does not convince us that the solution of this problem will be found in placing it in the legislature to become a matter of rotten politics and selfish manipulation. As we see it now, the following editorial from the Roanoke-Chowan Times, reprinted in The News & Observer, to some extent expresses our opinion in this matter:

KILL THE AMENDMENTS

Roanoke-Chowan Times.

At the November election three amendments to the State Constitution will be submitted for adoption or rejection, two of them to create more offices and add to the tax burden, and the other of doubtful benefit. All three should be rejected. At this time of great financial depression nothing should be done to add to the already heavy load taxpayers are carrying.

One of the amendments is to increase the number of justices of the Supreme Court from five to seven, the contention being that the justices are overworked. To increase the number will not lessen the work of the court. All the justices are supposed to hear every case, whether the number of justices is five, seven or a dozen. It is only in writing opinions that the work is divided, and there is no need nor necessity for long-written opinions in every case or any considerable number. Perhaps three-fourths of the cases carried up to the Supreme Court is done simply to gain time, without much hope of reversal.

The claim that the number should be increased as population increases is not well founded. According to that argument the Supreme Court of the United States should consist of 250 members or more, instead of nine as at present constituted.

The proposed amendment that would increase the number of Superior Court judges should be killed because no need for more has been proven.

The safe thing to do is to vote against all three amendments. Retrenchment instead of more spending should be the watchword for the present.

THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

In spite of the fact that the metropolitan press now reaches into nearly every town and village in the country, the local newspaper is each year getting on a firmer foundation and becoming more and more useful to its home community.

It may be said that the day of the metropolitan newspaper is at hand. This is true, but it is equally as true that the day of the local newspaper is here, too.

The metropolitan daily with its world-wide news, its comic sheets and its magazine supplements, while, of course, essential in our modern civilization, cannot take the place of the home newspaper. The very fact that the big city daily must cover a broad field forbids its becoming local in any sense, and it is in the local field where the home newspaper dominates and where it finds its true usefulness.

For, after all, it is the home news which is most important to most of us. We have the greatest interest in the community in which we live, and in the people who are our neighbors and friends. And it is the local newspaper which records the happenings of the folks at home, and in addition fosters the civic pride and progressive spirit of the community.

We frequently hear it said that the old-time independent spirit of the newspaper is gone, that its editorial policy is now subservient to the business office. Yet this is not true. There is more unselfish idealism in the average local newspaper than in any other business enterprise. It frequently speaks out in the way which it believes will be for the good of the nation and of the community, regardless of what the consequences may be from a business standpoint. This is more than the average business man who do or can do.—Monroe Enquirer.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Hon. Robert E. Williams, of Asheville, N. C., will address the voters of Hot Springs and vicinity on Thursday, October 23, 1930, at 7:30 P. M. in the High School Auditorium in behalf of the Democratic Nominee. Mr. Williams is one of the leading speakers of Western North Carolina and all are cordially invited to hear him. Ladies are especially invited.

STEEL TRAP SEASON CLOSED

Following action by the Board of Conservation and Development, Chas. H. England, State game warden, has announced that the season for trapping fur-bearing animals has been closed for two years in fifteen Western North Carolina counties.

The counties in which the new regulation takes effect include the following: Buncombe, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Jackson, Haywood, MADISON, Yancey, Henderson, Transylvania, Polk, Macon, McDowell and Mitchell.

Closing of the season for these animals was asked in petitions from the fifteen counties, and the action of the Conservation Board followed a public hearing conducted by State Warden England in Asheville on October 1 at which the opinions expressed were overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed change.

The petitioners asked that the trapping be prohibited as a feature of a movement to increase the number of fur-bearers in that section to an extent so that the fur industry may be reestablished on a large scale. Considerable interest, it was contended, is being developed in this endeavor in the western part of the State.

MAJOR BULWINKLE IN MARSHALL

Major A. L. Bulwinkle, of Gastonia, candidate to resume his seat in Congress, was in Marshall Thursday and Friday of last week, and paid the News-Record a visit. Major Bulwinkle seemed rather confident of success in the coming election, but we have no doubt his opponent, Honorable Chas. A. Jonas, feels the same way about it. Whether they actually feel that way about it or not, they appear that way. One seldom sees a candidate for office who will admit that he expects defeat. If one could depend upon what they say before election, they would all be elected. However, two weeks from today will decide the matter.

RELIGIOUS CENSUS MADISON COUNTY

According to the latest statements issued by the government on churches and church membership there are 7,419 church members in Madison County. These members are divided as follows:

Missionary Baptist	5,285
Freewill Baptist	799
Methodist Episcopal	645
Presbyterian	422
Negro Baptist	69
Methodist Protestant	45
Episcopal	12
All Others	70

Thus one-third of the people in the county are members of some church. There are therefore as many more of mature years who are non-church members, and many hundreds of younger ones who are morally and spiritually responsible.

Some counties in North Carolina have a percentage of church members twice as large as Madison; that is, if Madison were as well evangelized as some other counties, the church membership here would be 15,000 instead of 7,000. What is wrong?

Every financial depression is foreshadowed by a spiritual decline, according to those who have studied condition. And everywhere a weak, inefficient, indifferent church life means sooner or later a reign of vice. Only Christ seal in the hearts of men can save our civilization. What of the future? What will be the response of preachers, teachers, church and Sunday school officers, to the challenge these facts bring?
R. L. MOORE

While lespedeza in the lowlands of Forsyth County will produce a ton of hay an acre, that in the uplands is practically a failure because of dry weather.

NOTICE!

The Board of County Commissioners will have their regular monthly meetings on the second Monday and Tuesday, 10th and 11th of November, instead of the First Monday and Tuesday.

C. J. WILD, Chairman.