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L. BUSBEE POPE, Publisher

Three months . . . \$5
Six months . . . \$10
One year . . . \$18.00

At least we can thank our mountain friends for the absence of alcohol in the Christmas season.

Some think it is a sort of Alladin's magic which predicts that "twont do nothing" while a third feel that it is not a well-tried agency through which with proper help and encouragement many good things can be brought to pass.

Up in New England a grocer was asked \$400 for selling Jamaica ginger as a beverage. Then an additional \$25 was imposed because the stuff was not up to the standard required by law.

Raleigh's New Hotel Wants a Name.

In The News and Observer every morning are carried letters suggesting names for Raleigh's hotel which is to be built during the present year.

None, however, has yet suggested "Andrew Johnson," in memory of the famed little tailor's apprentice, who, born and reared in poverty in the small city of Raleigh, moved to Tennessee and became President of the United States.

For some reason Raleigh has never been proud of Johnson—the low-born. Its "society" has never recognized his memory. True, Johnson was an abolitionist and as such detested by the South during the war and for many years afterward.

Now, after all these years it would be a fitting thing to name the best hotel in the town of his birth "Andrew Johnson."

Inadequacy of Equipment Responsible.

Responsibility for the regrettable low water pressure which so handicapped the fire fighters in their battles with the two disasters recently visiting Dunn seems to rest with the town itself—and by the town we mean the community; not especially the government. Inadequate equipment at the power station and at the hydrants seems to have been the real cause for the firemen's inability to check the flames before they gained so strong a hold.

It is easy to say that the men in charge of the town's affairs should have provided against such an emergency. The critic's job is always an easy one. It is pleasant to place blame than to assume it.

Dunn has the same water supply now that it had when there was no storage and when the consumption of municipal water for domestic purposes was not half so great as it is now. By working the pumping station overtime, however, we have managed to get along in normal times. But with the coming of the last fire we struck a snag. It was found in half the homes of town, pipes had been left open to prevent freezing of pipes. The hard-frozen machinery was doing its best to keep the tank and reservoir full. When the alarm sounded it was not paying its own. In consequence, there was little surplus water for the apparatus.

Somebody suggested that it was the duty of the superintendent to prevent the opening of spigots by forcing water to pay for the waste. This is impossible for the reason that only about half the homes of town are equipped with water meters.

Really the fault was not with the superintendent, the fuel situation, the mayor, nor the board of commissioners. Dunn needs twice the equipment now in use. An additional bond issue may be needed to purchase it. Therefore it is up to the people. If we get better protection we must pay for it. Blaming those in office will not pay fire losses—past or future.

As English publicity says that President Wilson in France was "attempting to master in a month what Napoleon diplomacy had studied through generations" and that he "had the same chance as a tallow rabbit in hell with an asbestos greyhound trailing his heels."

British production is gradually reviving and American strikes are helping British trade in foreign markets.

IN AND ABOUT THE TOWN

It's a bad sign when a fellow snakes in the dead of winter—especially at that time when all christendom is on the verge of making merry; for even in these hard times there are ways for a fellow with the price to procure a liquid that is guaranteed to produce just as stupendous a hangover if not so mellow a sense as did the amber fluid of happier days. For this reason—even though we know the good fellow to be the soberest of gentlemen in ordinary times—we looked dubiously and suspiciously upon the genial C. S. Moore when he invaded our sanctum with a wondrous tale of a Pender County snake slain by himself on the eve of Christmas Eve. Seven feet long and more was this winter king of the reptile world. Twenty inches he measured around his tummy, and at the tip of his tail were fifteen whirling rattles sounding a sullen warning to men.

Now, you know, rattle snakes do certainly love warm weather. Fact is they seldom inhabit lands further north than this. Even here they are supposed to begin their winter slumber in late September when the leaves take on their brownish tinge. Naturally we suspected the good brother. Do you blame us? He was the Christmas season and all of that. But—

Over to Hood & Grantham's we were escorted. In the window was the stuffed pet of the ratter, peering in every detail except the rattles that Mr. Moore's story was true. Four of the rattles had been lost. At the base of the monster's skull was a wound inflicted by a pitchfork which Mr. Moore had driven there. It is—or was—a pretty animal.

Now, don't suspect us. Run down and take a look at the snake. Carrying one of those round packages which, before the great aridness descended upon us, was locally known as a quart size, a distinguished, mysterious and foreign looking gentleman edged into the Hood and Grantham establishment in Broad street the other day while we were inspecting C. S. Moore's snake.

"Sumpin'foryer?" queried the cherubic Barber of the curly locks who greets all comers. "I have a message for Mr. G. K. Grantham, or Mr. George Grantham," responded the stranger.

"S'body else do?" "Thank you, no; I must see Mr. Grantham," replied the man of mystery, hugging his package closer. Having a well known and deeply seated distaste for such beverages as those queer-shaped packages used to contain, we decided to stick around and see if we could not pick up a little case of transporting for our friend Chief Page.

Presently the man was summoned to the rear where the genial George was filling prescriptions. After two minutes he came out, minus his package. Ah ha—a case. We investigated. "Mr. Grantham," we say with dignity—knowing we have the law with us. "Mr. Grantham, we have a great regard and a deep respect for you. We do not believe you would knowingly aid in the breaking of this grand law."

"Nay, my good friend," we demonstrate; "be not so rash; first we will look 'er over and then destroy it together. Tell us first the story." "Well it's this way, says George: This man comes in and shakes hands. Then he gives me the third degree to see what I am really the man he is looking for. Then, satisfied, he says: 'In Berlin you have a friend who knew and loved you here twenty-five years ago. It is from him that this package comes. It has not left my side since it was entrusted to me and I trust, sir, that you will enjoy what it contains.'"

"With that he walked out." Then we opened the package. It was from Alfred McKay, Berlin, Ga., and contained maple syrup.

Lieutenant Lee Home from Germany

Of course we were glad to see all of those boys and girls who flocked back to the old town to spend Christmas with the home folks; but it was through seeing the smiling, handsome face of William C. Lee, Lieutenant in the army, that we were afforded special pleasure. We were reminded of a visit to Raleigh right after Carolina had rubbed State College's nose in the dust of defeat. An A. and E. boy was being the man of the hour, he said. "Ching" Lee had been here, they never could have done it."

When we saw "Ching" Christmas we were convinced that the A. and E. fellow had spoken a mouthful. Never had the football star looked so well. For his charming little wife who had wedded on the verge of going to war was clinging proudly to his mighty arm in happy proprietorship.

Lieutenant Lee was about the first of Dunn's boys to enter the service against Germany. He was among the first to go to France and he was the last to return. Since the signing of the armistice he has been quartered in Germany making his former enemies behave and become friends. He has had a long, hard sojourn and is glad to get back to America. He will remain here with his people until tomorrow, when he returns to Camp Dix, N. J. for further service.

Call Meeting For New Hotel.

Promoters of the new hotel project have called a meeting of citizens to be held in Barnes & Holiday show rooms Friday evening of next week. They invite and expect the attendance of every man who has the welfare of the town at heart.

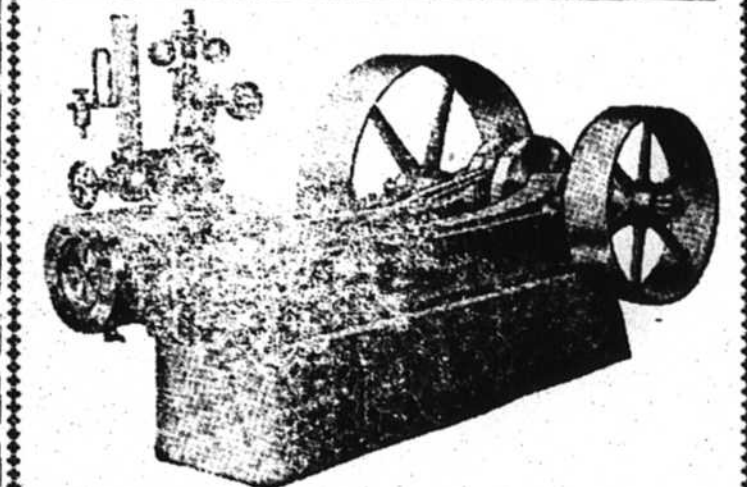
This is a big thing that these men are striving to accomplish. They are and will do it alone if others do not want to come into the movement to relieve Dunn of the onus that attaches to its lack of facilities to care for those who come to visit its great news in other respects. It is estimated that at least \$100,000 will be required to build and equip such a hotel as Dunn needs. This sum must be raised quickly because

On a Farming Market

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The need is urgent. Aside from any farm stock, poultry, financial gain investors in the stock of the company will reap there also will be the gratification that comes from aiding in a worthy movement. An appeal to the patriotism rather than to the thrift of the community is made. Such an appeal has never gone unanswered in Dunn.

THE FIRE AT DUNN

The people of Fayetteville and all the surrounding country extend sympathy to the people of Dunn in their heavy loss by fire Wednesday. The blow fell harder because of the inopportune time, while the merchants were carrying large holiday stocks and pushing business to clean up with the ending of the year.

FINDS STILL NEAR SCHOOL BUILDING

One of Johnston County's school teachers has been able to do some thing more than merely teach school. At least one of the attractive young lady teachers edited in the office of the County Superintendent a few days ago and said she had an unusual report to make. Miss Anderson's report was that she had discovered eight and a half tons of opium in the A. student Superintendent, the young school master said. "I found a still right near the school building, and poured out several gallons of laev."

READY FOR CENSUS

Harry Lilly Cook Wants Cooperation of the Public in Undertaking Mr. Editor: The fourteenth decennial census, to which President Wilson has called the attention of the nation in his proclamation made public today is to be the biggest, best and most complete census of the United States ever taken if the plans of the Census Bureau do not go awry. Director of the Census Sam L. Herring has announced that everything is in readiness to begin the canvassing of the population in the month of January, 1920, will cover every man, woman, every estate and every hut in the country. A body of more than 47,000 enumerators, under the direction of 372 census supervisors, will be engaged in making the count. Every person in the land will be enumerated and the names, ages, birthplaces and occupations of all of them. Sam's eyes and nose will be set down and forwarded to Washington. Many other questions concerning race, sex, color and race are contained in the population schedule which the enumerators will fill out from house to house. If you are asked the questions contained in the questionnaire relating to their farms, their stock, value of farm lands, buildings, implements and improvements, field crops, garden products,

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E. V. GAINNEY

Start Your Tobacco Right!

FEED the young growing plants with the food that will give them the right start in life. They are particular about their food. It has to be prepared especially for them, and not everyone knows how. Here is where the specialized knowledge and skill of a life-time is available to you. Mr. F. S. Royster began 35 years ago the task of perfecting a fertilizer for this exacting crop, and the success of his efforts is proven by the fact that there is more Royster Fertilizer sold for tobacco than any other single brand!

We recommend for your plant beds

ROYSER'S BONANZA 8-3-3 ROYSER'S ORINOCO 8-2 1/2-3



We have an ample supply of old-fashioned foreign potash, like you used to get before the war, and it will be used exclusively in these brands.

IF YOU want your tobacco to have the color and texture that brings top prices, and full, oily, heavy-bodied leaf that makes for weight, start your tobacco with ROYSER'S in the plant bed, and continue to feed it, when set out in the field, with the same fertilizer that gave it its start.

F. S. ROYSER GUANO COMPANY NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT'S FAMOUS SHIP ping board today allocated the George to the American line for service between Washington, the vessel which twice crossed New York, Brest, Cherbourg Washington, Dec. 29.—The ship-carried President Wilson to France and Southampton.