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The Polk County News

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THE POLK COUNTY NEWS

Published every Friday at
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the most populous town in
POLK COUNTY
The Land of the Sky,
North Carolina.

E. W. COBB, Editor.
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1914.

GROW ALFALFA.

Mr. F. H. Hulscher, an extensive grower of alfalfa in the South West, who is at present stopping in Polk County, has very kindly contributed the following practical suggestions about growing alfalfa, which we know our enterprising farmers will be very glad to read and carefully consider for their own good.

He says: "Much interest is being manifested in the production of alfalfa throughout the entire country and for the benefit of our local farmers we give the following information.

Alfalfa is richer in the fat and bone producing qualities than any other food and stock pastured in it give almost unbelievable returns.

Many farmers throughout the northern States have found it difficult to obtain a stand and have become discouraged and made to believe that alfalfa will not do well on their soil while the truth is that many methods were used.

Alfalfa will grow on almost any kind of soil but it must be well drained as alfalfa will not permit of standing water.

A sandy soil or a sandy loam will produce more and better alfalfa than a heavy soil.

Land that has been cropped for many years must be specially prepared in order to obtain a perfect stand, and the best method is to have the soil analyzed by the state agricultural college which analysis may show the need of phosphates or lime or both and then, after adding these to the soil, sow a crop of cow peas in the spring and turn this crop under when near maturity. In the following September, after a few cultivations to keep the weeds out, sow the seed by drilling in rows nine inches apart. The seed should be inoculated with the bacteria of nitrogen which may be obtained by applying to the Department of Agriculture at Washington stating the amount of seed to be used.

The soil should be planted not to exceed one inch deep and by following the above direction a perfect stand should be obtained that would endure a lifetime and need no further attention but the harvesting. Alfalfa must not be pastured the first year but after that it affords fine pasture for hogs and should produce two thousand pounds per acre. During the last four weeks before shipping the hogs should be finished on corn or preferably on peanuts, the hay being first cut and then the hogs turned in and allowed to root the nuts. Hogs produced in this way should return at least one hundred and fifty dollars per acre.

There are at present one and one half million acres in alfalfa in the United States and Kansas has two thirds of the whole, the balance being distributed throughout the country, nearly every state having some. The Turkish variety should be used in this section as it resists frost very well and does not require as much water as other kinds. We advise our farmers to investigate this subject and will be pleased to advise any one contemplating the growing alfalfa.

MAJOR WM. E. STRONG DIED

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26th, 1913.
After a very short illness Maj. Wm. E. Strong died at his home on Melrose Circle, from pneumonia, at the advanced age of 69 years.

For many years Maj. Strong had been Notary Public in Tryon where he had by absolute accuracy and honesty in his calling of civil engineer, established a reputation that stands today a deserving monument to his memory, more enduring than any granite shaft, a reputation that will stand as a model for young men following the profession for years to come. He will be greatly missed in this immediate vicinity professionally as well as socially. He was a member of the Congregational church and an active worker in welfare work of both church and Bible teaching.

He saw service in an Ohio regiment during the civil war, being wounded in the first skirmish, he ever participated in. After a private funeral service at the house, interment was at the Tryon cemetery, Sunday afternoon Dec 29.

A CARD OF THANKS.

Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Porter desire to express appreciation for the many kindnesses shown and messages received at the time of their recent affliction.

HON. WM. J. BRYAN AT TRYON.

As Southern train No. 10 rolled into Tryon station on Sunday evening, a few Tryon gentlemen were on watch for his honor Wm. J. Bryan who was to be on that train on his way South.

As the train slowed into the station Mr. Bryan was readily recognized at his car window and as those assembled made demonstrations, he opened his window and with head and arm out greeted the assembled few, shook hands with all and said many very pleasant things in greeting them, he was given Tryon's good wishes and booklet and he expressed pleasure at having had occasion to meet those he did.

A happy exchange of greetings ended the interview as the train moved off.

THE LANIER CLUB'S NEW YEAR RECEPTION.

The New-Year reception of the Lanier club at the Library Thursday afternoon was a very sociable gathering of members, villagers and guests, the spirit of universal cordiality as manifested by the ladies in charge seemed to pervade the entire assemblage of over one hundred people, resulting in a most interesting enjoyable reception.

Music charmingly rendered by our own Tryon orchestra enlivened the occasion, and bountiful refreshments served by a bevy of pretty girls rounded out a most complete well planned and executed reception, full of good cheer and happiness as the day celebrated.

NEGRO MAKES FARMING PAY.

Starting With One Old Horse, Owns \$40,000 Plantation.

Twenty-two years ago Jonas W. Thompson, a negro of Marlboro county, S. C., began his career as a farmer by buying an old horse for \$50.75 and by renting thirty acres of South Carolina land for 1,400 pounds of lint cotton. After four years of hard work and close saving he was able to buy a mule for \$69 and also 67 acres of land. Then he began renting and working farms which belonged to other men. Gradually he was able to buy the land he had been renting. He also found it worth his while to open a commissary.

Now Thomas lives in a twelve-room house and employs on his \$40,000 plantation thirty-nine families, consisting of 189 men, women and children. He grows a variety of garden truck and raises his own horses, mules, cows and hogs. He has received as much as \$11,000 for his cotton crop alone—400 bales of long staple. On an average he has saved \$3,000 a year for twenty-two years. All that he now has on his farm in his own, "directly and indirectly," he affirms with justifiable pride. In a single year he had borrowed of one local bank and repaid \$23,600. "Good credit," so Thomas says, "explains a fair share of my success."—New York Herald.

TRYON.

Mr. Stacy Sturges and sister are occupying the Bulter house on the Ridge road.

Miss L. B. Maddox the Home Mission worker among the mountains, is announced to speak at the Graded School building next Sunday morning at eleven o'clock.

Information recently came to the News, that Mr. F. J. Boimgarten who has spent many winters in Tryon and is quite well known here died on Sept. 26th, 1913 in St. Louis.

Mrs. Henry Acker has returned from a trip to her old home at Fordsville, Ky., her father, Mr. Mason L. Jones came back with her and will make his home here with her this winter, he is a hale and hearty old gentleman of over 80 years, and is much pleased with our Polk County climate.

Mr. H. A. McFee of Franklin, N. C. is guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. McFee of Godshaw Hill.

The popular Lyceum course of entertainments this month present another number, date not yet positively decided upon. There are four more numbers to be given during this season, among which are some very good combinations, The Four Bostonians and The Boston Lyrics are two of them, which are best of their class and are well known.

The city fire ladders and truck arrived this week and now a volunteer fire company will be organized at once to handle the apparatus. Two companies may be organized, one for the ladders and one for the chemical engine as they are two separate and distinct methods of fighting fires.

ATKINS-MORAN.

On Wednesday morning at the Episcopal church in Tryon, N. C., Miss Catherine A. Moran, of Tryon and Rev. J. N. Atkins of Shulls Mills, N. C., were married by Bishop Horner, assisted by Rector Bowne, after the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served at Oak Hall at which a dozen or more guests participated.

LYNN.

The revival meetings here still progress, Miss Maddox is an interesting speaker. Have you heard her.

The Tryon Hosiery Co., will start their plant Jan. 3rd, after two weeks' stop.

J. H. Jones of Lynn is putting a small stock of groceries in Tryon at the Williams market stand.

T. L. Rhodes of Campobello has moved his family to the Posey house.

The school will start Monday on the Spring term.

There has been two electric lights installed on the macadam road and is a great help.

GREEN RIVER.

Mrs. Frank Coxe and Miss Maude with their guest, Miss Reeves, spent the holidays in Asheville.

Mrs. C. E. Gray from Rutherfordton spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. M. A. Camp.

Misses Julia and Lucy Abrams, Margaret Brian and Howard Brian are at home from Saluda Seminary on their vacation.

Miss Elizabeth Camp is at home for the week on her vacation. Miss Camp is teaching the Green river school at Pears Ford.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Spurling, a daughter.

Miss Winnie Moore is home from the hospital. We are glad to see her recovered.

GOOD ROADS

SAND-CLAY ROADS.

Mecklenburg was the pioneer county in the use of the macadam but it has been left to a number of other counties to blaze the way in the use of the top-soil or the sand-clay type of road. The latter has proved to be not only cheaper but more durable in that it resists the action of the automobile and at the same time is more easily repaired when breaks occur in its surface for any cause. Gaston has built many miles of elegant sand-clay or top-soil road, such as the well-known New Hope road extending out of Gastonia, and also Cleveland county. Rutherford has built some of this road and also Cabarrus and Union. Anson has not been backward nor has Richmond. It is safe assertion that three-fourths of the road construction in the State at this time is of the top soil variety, with practically little if any macadam going down, save in those counties where macadam work has been done and where it is absolutely necessary to continue it for the time being.

Quantity Versus Quality.

There is only one tendency that might be referred to in connection with this article and that is the possible desire on the part of some commissioners to sacrifice durability and diligence and cost of construction to mileage. In other words, that quantity may be sacrificed to quality. The laying out of the road is a most essential detail and should be done by a thoroughly capable and experienced engineer. No grade should be allowed over 6 per cent and even this should be tolerated only in exceptional cases. The old adage that the chain is no stronger than at its weakest link is true also of roads. The hauling capacity of a team is frequently cut in half by reason of one severe grade in an otherwise fine stretch of road, maybe 20 miles in length.

CONVICTS ON ROADS.

Doctor Pratt Speaks Before American Road Builders' Association.

The practicability of using convicts in the construction of public roads was discussed at today's session of the American Road Builders' Association. Several speakers agreed that inmates of prisons should be so employed, both from moral and economical standpoints. Joseph Hyde Pratt, State geologist of North Carolina, introduced the subject of convict labor in a paper in which he advocated that prisoners in penitentiaries be divided into three classes and that they be given an opportunity by good conduct, to reach the first class. He favored the employment of prisoners in the construction of public roads. "Let the convicts build the roads," and the roads will rebuild the convicts."

Rev. Frank Moore, superintendent of the State Reformatory at Rahway, N. J., opposed the project.

"I do not believe it is fair to compel the prisoners to work outside," he said. "Some men would regard employment as prisoners in the public view as to humiliating that the harmful effect might never be overcome."

"I also am opposed to any State exploiting convicts or making money out of their labor. When a State exploits the convict, it makes a permanent criminal out of him."

Doctor Pratt's paper was endorsed by P. St. J. Wilson, State Highway Commissioner of Virginia, and by Samuel Hill, of Seattle, president of the Road Builders' Association.

POLK'S COTTON CROP

1912-1913.
There were 1,675 bales of cotton ginned in Polk county from the crop of 1913, prior to Dec. 13, as compared with 1,399 bales ginned prior to Dec. 13th, 1912, an increase of 276 bales in 1913.

Most of all the other beautiful things in life comes by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in all the wide world.—Kate Douglas Wiggin.

OUR SCHOOLS.

Polk County Superintendent,
E. W. S. Cobb, Columbus, N. C.

THREE METHODS OF TEACHING READING.

In teaching reading there are just two ends to be sought: (1) to make the learner automatic and quick in the recognition of word and letter forms and values; (2) to secure his interest in the content, the spiritual element, of the printed forms. Under the first is included the mechanics of reading—distinct and clear articulation and correct pronunciation, as well as skill in instant interpretation of words and letters. In the second is involved the character-growth of the learner, his introduction to an enjoyment of truth, goodness, beauty, as seen by others and expressed by them in the worlds literature.

Both these aims must be kept steadily in view by the primary teacher; for, although the pupils ability to recognize, promptly and accurately, printed and written words, is the main thing to secure at first, yet at the same time this recognition is greatly facilitated by the feeling of interest aroused by the content of the words. Learning to read cannot, therefore, be a purely mechanical process, even in the first lesson; if it were, then any arrangement of words would serve, in the first exercises, without reference to the sense or nonsense expressed. But it is becoming more and more clear that from the very beginning the words used to make a reading exercise for learners must express thought or interest to them.

The two ends of primary reading—the mechanical and the spiritual—are both reached by the method of enabling the child to convert his ear-vocabulary into an eye-vocabulary,—that is the best method by which the learner may come to see in printed and written words the same meanings that these words carry when spoken.

When the pupil enters school at six years of age, he already has a vocabulary, which he understands and uses freely, of from 500 to 1000 words—depending on his home environment. But these words are recognized only through the ear, as they are spoken, and they constitute, therefore, an ear vocabulary. The first aim of the teacher is to enable the child quickly and accurately to get the meaning of these words through the eye. This fundamental and essential aim seems sometimes to be lost sight of, even when the right ways of reaching it are used.

The usual ways of teaching primary reading are either synthetic or analytic. It seems to me plain that time spent in attempting to bring the pupil into the new world of reading along the synthetic road alone, must result in great loss of time. But along this road, almost all teachers are trying to lead their pupils.

The synthetic method has two forms,—one the old a, b, c, grind; the other the phonic method. The latter is the better of the two, because it teaches the sounds of the letters—their vocal values, and thus enables a well drilled pupil to pronounce with considerable readiness, as soon as he sees them, written and printed words which he has not before seen. The a, b, c, method teaches only the names of the letters, and leaves the learner to get the different sounds by any lucky chance he can.

It would be a waste of space to discuss the teaching of the alphabet as a way of teaching reading, except as a matter of pedagogical history, were it not for the regrettable fact that there are teachers in Polk county today who do not attempt to use any other way.

Briefly the a, b, c, method begins by teaching the child his letters and after he learns them at sight, he is drilled upon spelling combinations of them in syllables, as a-b, ab; u-b, ub; etc. When this sort of thing has gone on for some time, the learner is supposed to be able to spell monosyllabic words, such as cat, rat, bat and the next step after that is to read.

No wonder that pitiful thousands have grown up without ever coming into the rightful heritage of enjoyment of good reading, when they had to travel toward it along so torturous and torturing road.

The method is uninteresting because there is nothing in a letter, a

COLUMBUS.

Mr. Curtis Shields of St. George, S. C., is here spending Xmas with his parents.

Miss May Mills is visiting relatives in Spartanburg this week.

Mr. Herman Walker is visiting friends in Greens creek this week.

Mr. Yates Arledge who is attending college at Wake Forest, also sister, Miss Minnie who is teaching at Forest City, is spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Arledge.

Miss Hattie Jackson of Spartanburg spent Xmas day with her parents here.

Sheffir Lynch Hill and family are spending their Xmas in Rutherfordton.

Mr. Pat Hampton of Atlanta, was in town Sunday, visiting.

Mr. L. H. Cloud is making preparations to move in the Hampton store building.

Attorney J. E. Shipman and family of Hendersonville are here visiting friends this week.

Mrs. J. R. Smith who has been sick with lagrippe for some time is slowly improving.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Cloud Dec. 18th, a girl.

Miss Ola Mills of Spartanburg spent the 25th here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Mills.

Mr. Grover Hutcherson of Washington, D. C., spent a few days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hutcherson, returning Saturday.

Misses Ada and Ola Walker were given a very pleasant surprise by the young people here Friday night, when they came all unexpected to be entertained. Nevertheless everybody seemed to have a good time. Mrs. Eli Shields and Son Curtis made some very fine music on the piano and violin which was greatly enjoyed by all. Those present were Misses Bessie, Ethel, Mattie Lee and Johnnie Mae Jackson, Marie Burgess, Odessa Mills, Minnie Arledge and Coriean Shields; Messrs. Yates and Roy Arledge, Austin and Edgar Newman, John Gilbert, Marion Mills, Frank Elliott and E. B. Cloud.

mere symbol, to touch a child's experience and so to quicken his curiosity. The letters are meaningless to him, they have no content, and carry no idea.

The method is unnatural, generally, because the child's natural processes are analytic; specifically, because no child ever learned to talk by naming his letters first, and reading aloud is simply talking from the printed page.

Finally it is a waste of time and energy, of time because in the time used in learning the alphabet and to draw dully the spelling senseless syllables and disconnected words the child could learn to read; of energy, because whatever the child is forced to do without interest dissipates energy. And as a matter of fact, the pupil does not learn to read, after all, by the alphabet plan. For example, when he has named the letters c-a-t in that order, he cannot, unaided, pronounce the combination, for there is nothing in the names of the letters that could possibly suggest what the words vocal value is.

Another synthetic plan teaches the sounds of the letters first, instead of their names, and drills the learner on the sounds and their symbols until he can readily pronounce familiar words. But the same objections apply to this as to the a, b, c method, and with nearly equal force, altho more interesting. The fundamental objection to these two methods is that they are synthetic. Unless the teaching is very skillful, the child taught by either plan will be apt to do but little more, during the first year, than half call, half spell the words in the primer and that is not only reading, but makes learning to read more difficult than it would otherwise be.

(I shall discuss the analytic method next week.)

E. W. S. COBB, Co. Supt. Ed.