

POLK COUNTY NEWS

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A "CONCRETE" EXAMPLE.

(From the Charlotte Observer.)
Last Spring the editor of The Observer was passing through the little town of Columbus, Capital of Polk County, and saw as an evidence of the solid situation of the people of that section a sign on the window of the Polk County Bank & Trust Co., indicating that the bank had \$100,000 in resources. We passed the word around as indicating the existence of a state of prosperity in that part of the State. On a recent visit to Columbus we noted that the sign had been changed to read: "Resources, \$250,000; deposits \$200,000." This is submitted as a concrete example of how the State is growing and prospering. Polk is strictly an agricultural community, growing cotton among other crops, but it has no tobacco to boost its banks deposits, the accumulation of which in this thriving little institution at Columbus represents the surplus earnings of the farmers as a general class. And it also shows at what a rapid rate the farmer is developing into a bank customer.

Tryon has been afforded through the efforts of a group of public spirited men an opportunity to hear a series of high class concerts and at the same time assist in the financing of a much needed department in the Tryon Graded School.

In the first time in several years we are not limited to our own efforts in the matter of an evening entertainment and diversion.

This series of concerts has been guaranteed by local business men and all proceeds over and above the guarantee will be devoted to the installation and maintenance of an athletic field for the school children of Tryon.

Schools throughout the country are rapidly acknowledging the value of athletics in the upbuilding of character and body in the growing generation. Tryon is particularly fortunate in having as the superintendent of its school system, Mr. Schilleter, a man who has some little experience in the directing of athletics both in schools and in the service of the United States army.

We strongly urge the cooperation and support of the citizens of Tryon in this series of concerts.

Polk County is to be afforded an opportunity to reap a harvest from the wide-spread propaganda to be issued by Western North Carolina, incorporated in its extensive plans to develop this region as a "Recreational Center" for the United States.

Aside from the publicity that will be spread throughout the nation of the beauties and advantages of our western counties, this organization plans to give material assistance in developing each and every county and section of these counties in such a way as to attract pleasure seekers. These plans when worked out will be of equal value to town and rural section alike.

Referring to the talk made recently before the Board of Trade of Tryon Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, president of Western North Carolina, Inc., the farmers of the county will be urged and assisted to attract vacationists to their homes. As pointed out in a recent article in this paper, the rural communities and farmers of New England have made million of dollars by placing their homes at the disposal of motorists in that section of the country. Every farmer is urged to cooperate with the organization in listing their accommodations with the local Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce who will in turn forward these lists to the head office of W. N. C. Inc. All information should be sent in, that is, convenience to rail-heads, number of rooms available, prices for board and rooms, accessibility to points of interest, mountain views, and distance to these points, in fact all information that would be of interest to the vacationist.

It remains now but for the people of this county to make every effort to support this movement both financially and by giving all required information.

In Aid of Tryon's School

To the Editor
Modern resorts must compete not only in climate and scenery, but in comforts, convenience and even luxuries. Tryon has little now to fear from its rivals. It can furnish almost every demand of this sort—water—electric light, telephone, paved streets and sidewalks, and education for children.

This last is, in these days, by no means the least. Tryon possesses one of the most modern school buildings in the United States, and a corps of teachers appropriate to it. It is a valuable asset to the city. It cannot afford to be deficient in any of the departments included in modern up-to-date schools. Its athletic department still needs completion. For the purpose of contributing to that, a series of public entertainments has begun, to be continued during the season, as was announced in the News last week. The profits are all to be turned over to the school. All interested in the welfare of the school, therefore, and in the prosperity of Tryon, for both are closely connected, should liberally support these entertainments. Pupils, parents and public should lend a hand to this enterprise.

E. G. H.

**Farm Federation
News and Reviews**

By P. C. Squires

Care of Lettuce Beds

Encouraging reports are coming in of good germination and fine stands of plants from those who planted Iceberg lettuce seed. We find however that many have not provided covering for their lettuce beds.

The winter may be so mild as to make it unnecessary to protect the beds from the extreme cold, but we advise every one who has a lettuce bed planted to take no chances, but to provide some kind of covering and have it ready in case the mercury should drop to a dangerous point.

Some may ask what degree of cold will injure lettuce plants. This is a difficult question to answer. The manager can only say that his Iceberg lettuce bed planted in Onslow Co., on November 23 of last year had no covering whatever and suffered no injury when the temperature dropped about the last of January to 18 above zero. This bed was located only a few yards from tide water, and the salt water may have had a modifying influence on the atmosphere and thus protected the plants.

We had potatoes up and growing a stones throw from the salt water that were badly frost bitten in March, and yet they lived and made a good crop, while potatoes two miles farther inland were injured beyond recovery.

Climatological data we have at hand leads us to believe that the average winter temperature may be expected to range eight to ten degrees lower in Polk County than in Onslow. So we advise growers to be on the safe side and have covering made and fitted to the beds so it can be fastened on at short notice if weather conditions between November and February make it necessary. We have a supply of unbleached sheeting purchased especially for this purpose and have already disposed of eighteen hundred yards to lettuce growers.

Have the rafters on your bed not less than three feet apart so the heavy snows cannot break thru, and remember the higher the pitch of the rafters the wider the covering will have to be. Sew the loops good and strong on the edge of the covering so it can be drawn tightly over the bed and fastened to nails driven in the boards on each side of the bed. The cloth may be drawn over the ends of the beds, or boards may be fitted to close up the ends permanently.

Early Irish Potatoes.

As the Iceberg lettuce drive is practically over as far as planting the seed is concerned, we should now give our attention to the early Irish potato crop. There should be at least two car loads of early Cobler seed potatoes planted in Polk County in the early spring of 1924.

This would be an extremely light planting of Irish potatoes for a county with the acreage of Polk. Getting right down to brass tacks, it would mean about one small potato about the size of a hen egg for every acre of land in the county. There are farmers in Accomac and Northampton county Virginia who plant a car load of seed potatoes to the farm. With seed of the average size two minimum cars would plant about 125 acres. Wayne county farmers would expect to ship about thirty car loads of two hundred barrels per car from two cars of seeds. There have been many inquires concerning the method that will be adopted for supplying the farmers with seed. We hope to take up this matter next week and believe we have a proposition that will be interesting to prospective early potato growers.

Irrigation

We have never been in a section of country that offered so many opportunities for irrigation as Polk County. By laying off land so that water may be conveyed by gravity

many farmers in Tryon and Saluda township could systematically irrigate their gardens and be able to place on the market a variety of vegetables in the late summer and fall when the drouth has cut off the supply from unirrigated land.

Irrigation would be especially profitable with such crops as celery, cauliflower, and horseradish. The last named crop is now selling at \$12.00 per barrel.

Cucumbers are Profitable

It is estimated that the cucumber crop brought the farmers around Blacksville, S. C., \$150,000 to \$200,000 the past season. One farmer near that town bought a farm last fall, and the several acres he planted in cucumbers paid for the farm. Two hundred and thirty cars of cucumbers rolled out from Blacksville during the season. We are told that cucumbers do remarkably well in Polk County.

POLK COUNTY FAST FORGING TO FRONT

(Continued from pag 1)

Carolina for this year:

"The North Carolina Cooperative Crop Reporting Service states that this year's crop of corn, amounting to 56,835,000 bushels, is the largest since 1918, with an average yield of 22 1-2 bushels per acre as compared with 20 bushels for the ten years average. This indicates that North Carolina farmers are getting better results in yield per acre in their corn, and that is true of many other North Carolina products.

"The North Carolina wheat crop of 6,633,000 bushels is the largest since 1920.

"The cotton crop is estimated, including the value of seed, at \$174,960,000, or 40 per cent more than last year's value, and more than 100 per cent in excess of the value of the 1920 and 1921 crop.

"North Carolina is fortunate in addition to the main staples of cotton, corn, and tobacco—and the tobacco crop of 357,000,000 pounds is 25 per cent above last year's crop—in having a very wide diversity of agricultural products which largely add to the income of the farmers of the state.

"With the fine diversification of North Carolina's crops, and specially the cash crops so well distributed over the state, we are particularly fortunate in the agricultural interests this year."

With the work being carried on by the Polk County Farmers Federation under the supervision of P. C. Squires, Manager, and J. R. Sams, County Agent, market and truck gardening in the county on a large scale has become almost a certainty. Farmers throughout the county are rapidly taking up the campaign for car-load lots of lettuce and other produce. Efforts are being made to stimulate the farmer to raise more produce for the Blue Ridge Packing company's new plant in Columbus and seems to be meeting with success for a large output next year.

Steps are being taken this fall to insure a large grape crop for the coming year. Tryon and Polk county have become famous for grapes, its renown having spread to many parts of the United States through the efforts of the local growers co-operating under the head of the Tryon Fruit Exchange.

Industrial Prospects

With the resuming of operation of the Tryon Hosiery Company's plant at Lynn Polk county has two industries both running at capacity.

Cotton mill interests from the New England States have been looking toward North Carolina for the establishment of plants nearer the source of supply for the past year or so. With the building of the power plants in this county and many other advantages that this county has to offer with its moderate climate, labor conditions and crop conditions, Polk county should be able to induce some of these interests to come within its borders. Several surveys have been made within the past few months of various properties in the county by engineers acting under the instructions of mill interests from North and South Carolina. As yet there seems to be nothing definite but several property owners believe that a cotton mill is slated for this county within the near future.

Every Farmer's Federation member should subscribe to the Polk County News. It is the only Public Channel of Communication through which Polk County farmers and business men can reach each other. Call on Mr. Squires at the Warehouse and learn about special rates that will be given stockholders of the Farmers Federation. Every farmer in Polk County should be a subscriber to his County paper, and read it weekly.

Lime and humus again proving a good combination in improving crop yields. An Iredell farmer has just found that it pays with corn.

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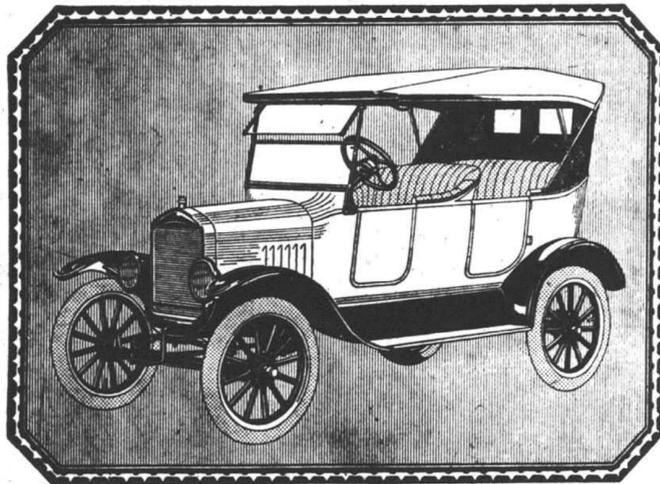
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