

The Watauga Democrat.

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BOONE WATAUGA COUNTY, THURSDAY, September 16, 1915.

NO. 7

Increase in Assessments

The order of the State Tax Commission increasing assessments on real estate in 77 of the 100 counties of the State, the increase ranging from 5 to 30 per cent, will of course cause a howl. But it must be remembered that if the tax assessments of the State are ever to be equalized, as they should be, the work must be done by some central body which has all the facts before it and, in a survey of the State in the light of these facts, places the assessment in each county at what seems to it to be a fair and just figure. This work has been done by the State Tax Commission. The assessing authorities in each county are nearly always disposed to hold down assessments, arguing that if the property is assessed at what it should be in one or a few counties other counties will not make a fair assessment and the county that "acts white" will simply have to pay more than its just proportion of taxes as a reward for its honesty. This argument has resulted in the great majority of the counties holding assessments to a low figure.

Nineteen of the counties of the State, whether by accident or design, have come up to the full measure, as the corporation commission sees it, and they take the white ribbon and "go head." Among these are the nearby counties of Alexander, Watauga, Stokes, Surry, Stanly and Yadkin; and one county—Pasquotank—is given an actual decrease of 5 per cent. These 20 counties have cause to pat themselves on the back.

The Landmark has no doubt that, speaking generally, the increase is proper. In some or all the counties where an increase is made there will doubtless be individual cases where the assessment was as high as it should be, while in other individual cases it is lower than the percentage of increase. In such cases it will of course be a hardship, but the fault there is with the local authorities and is either a matter of difference in judgment or favoritism secured by influence.—Statesville Landmark.

The Largest Man

The following from "North Carolina and Its Resources," published in 1876, was furnished the Morganton Herald:

"The largest man on record was Miles Darden, a native of North Carolina, who was born in 1798, and who died in Tennessee in 1857. He was 7 feet and 6 inches high, and in 1845 weighed 872 pounds. At his death he weighed a little over 1,000 pounds.

"In 1839 his coat was buttoned around three men, each weighing over 200 pounds, who walked together in it across the square at Lexington. In 1850, it required 12 1-2 yards of cloth, one yard wide, to make him a coat. Until 1853 he was active and lively, and able to bear labor; but from that time he was compelled to stay at home or be hauled about in a two-horse wagon.

"His coffin was 8 feet long, 35 inches deep, 32 inches across the breast, 18 inches across the head, and 14 inches across the feet. It required 24 yards of black velvet to cover the sides and lid of the coffin.

"Miles Darden was twice married, and his children are very large, though it is probable that none of them will ever attain the gigantic weight and size of their father."

There is an astronomical clock in Germany that after 18 years of use its error was only one second.

The Live Stock Sale

The live stock sale, to which we referred last week, beyond question will mean more for the cattle breeders of Watauga than anything that has been their way, and to Mr. W. E. Shipley, who makes cattle raising a specialty, is due all the honor. Solely for the benefit of our mountain farmers, not trying to make any money for himself in the transaction, Mr. Shipley went to the State of Ohio, and, from the farmers, not the cattle sharks, he selected a herd of 23 head of the very best short horn strain—the Dual—noted for both beef and milk; had them shipped to Neva, Tenn., and they were driven to Boone, put on the block and sold to the highest bidder. The prices paid, to the casual observer, seemed high, but the fact that they were readily bought by our best farmers and business men, would indicate that they were getting something they had been looking for for a long time, and were willing to pay for it. Following is the list of purchasers, the price paid, etc., as taken from the secretary's notes:

- No. 1—2 year old bull, bought by Lee Osborne, \$305.00.
- No. 2—3 months old bull calf, bought by Joe Hayes, \$225.00.
- No. 3—Heifer calf, bought by Floyd Ward, \$165.00.
- No. 4—4 months old bull calf, bought by Chas. L. Lewis, \$125.
- No. 5—6 year old cow, bought by Lee Osborne, \$300.00.
- No. 6—2 year old cow, bought by J. K. Shipley, \$185.00.
- No. 7—6 year old cow with young calf, bought by Dr. Perry, \$280.00.
- No. 8—6 year old cow, bought by A. R. Adams, \$255.00.
- No. 9—3 year old cow, (bred) bought by Clint Osborne, \$230.
- No. 10—6 year old cow, bought by Lee Osborne, \$160.00.
- No. 11—2 year old heifer, (bred) bought by Alex. Woody, \$160.00.
- No. 12—4 year old cow, bought by Geo. Heuson, \$180.00.
- No. 13—4 months old bull calf, bought by John B. Sutherland, \$135.00.
- No. 14—Heifer calf, bought by Hora Shull, \$80.00.
- No. 15—Heifer calf, bought by Dr. Perry, \$110.00.
- No. 16—Bull calf, bought by Roby Greer, \$150.00.
- No. 17—Heifer, bought by Floyd Ward, \$205.00.
- No. 18—Yearling bull, bought by A. S. Johnson, \$127.00.
- No. 19—8 year old, bought by Sam Flannery, \$155.00.
- No. 20—8 year old cow, bought by Dr. Perry, \$200.00.

By the notes you will see that only 20 of the herd was sold. One fine cow was hurt in shipping; one left in the corral at Valle Crucis, and one gave out on the mountain. Mr. Shipley agreed to give \$100 each for the calves from the herd at six months old, provided, however, they have been well cared for and well grown. To him is due the thanks of all our people for his efforts in trying to make cattle raising more profitable in Watauga.

Boone's Grave

It seems to be an established fact that the grave of Daniel Boone, the pioneer whose trail through North Carolina westward has been permanently marked by the Daughters of the American Revolution, is located near Marthasville, Warren County, Missouri, but whether his bones repose there is another question. The Kentucky Daughters, it will be remembered, went to Marthasville and removed what they supposed to have been the bodies of Boone and his wife, but the contention is that they made a mistake and took the

Court Proceedings

Following is a list of the State cases disposed of:

- State vs. Roy Martin, c. c. w., taxed with the cost.
- State vs. Roy Martin, a. d. w., n. p. l.
- State vs. Arthur Roark, forgery, n. p. l.
- State vs. Bunny Fox and Floy Smith, disturbing religious congregation, 30 days in jail as to Fox, Smith \$50 and cost.
- State vs. Bunny Fox, c. c. w., judgment suspended, bound for his appearance to show good behavior.
- State vs. Harve Shook and Toy Rupert, dis. rel. cong., not guilty.
- State vs. Calvin Green and Frank Houck, a. d. w., judgment suspended as to Houck. Recognized for his appearance to show good behavior. Greene fined \$15 and costs.
- State vs. Enoch Minton, Allen Minton and Cam Minton, affray. Allen Minton 7 months on the roads, Cain Minton 60 days in jail, Enoch Minton one-third of the cost.
- State vs. Fred Aldridge, disturbing religious congregation, fined \$25 and cost.
- State vs. Calvin Greene, a. d. w., not guilty.
- State vs. D. F. Main and Callie Mitchell, f. and a., judgment suspended on payment of cost.
- State vs. Beler Bolick, a. d. w., nol pros.
- State vs. O. R. Wooten, disturbing religious congregation, taxed with the cost.
- State vs. Avery Mayes, Millard Mayes, Mildred Mayes, retailing, not guilty.
- State vs. Walter Poovey and Frank Morphew, retailing, Poovey fined \$75 and half the cost, Morphew \$100 and half the cost.
- State vs. Allen Minton, incest, two cases, continued.
- State vs. Laura Critcher, resisting officer, not guilty.
- State vs. A. M. Critcher and Laura Critcher, appeal, appeal withdrawn.
- State vs. John Greene, J. H. Greene, Clyde Dula, H. H. Clements, assault. J. H. Greene nol pros., not guilty as to the others.
- State vs. H. H. Clements, c. c. w., taxed with the cost.

The Kuryer Polski

Our esteemed contemporary, The Milwaukee Niedzielnny Kuryer Polski, having dropped its parallel English column, has lost its salt, so far as this shop is concerned. It is of little benefit to us to know that it has been having some trouble with the censor, for it makes complaint: "Cenzor wojsowy przepuscil te wladmose do publikowania w atenskich dziennikach," meaning, perhaps, that the censor does not permit it to publish anything about Col. Roosevelt, the big talk man. The whole thing might as well be censored for all the good The Observer can now get out of it. When The Kuryer Polski was running a column of English alongside its column of pied letters The Observer found considerable entertainment in figuring out the news as the Poles are in the habit of reading it and we were getting about the same enjoyment out of a paragraph of Polski as we would get

bodies of a man and woman buried near Boone's grave. Nevertheless, the Missouri Daughters have determined to erect a monument over the grave of Boone and a great ceremonial at St. Louis will mark the event on October 29. The North Carolina Daughters have done full honor to the memory of the illustrious pioneer, the completing touch being the monument to be dedicated in Winston-Salem.—Charlotte Observer.

Raising the Lusitania

At this writing the Lusitania is supposed to rest on a fairly hard bottom in from 300 to 400 feet of water, remarks H. H. Windsor in "Popular Mechanics." As a salvage prize, the ship and some of its cargo are worth recovering if they can be raised within a reasonable length of time. So far as we can learn, no intention to attempt recovery of the ship has been announced, and war conditions, of course, render any possible attempt unusually difficult. And yet it cannot be finally said such a raising is absolutely impossible, although the engineers may estimate the cost at a figure which makes the effort impracticable. Ship and cargo would represent probably a weight of say, 40,000 tons. No such large vessel has ever been raised even from less depths, hence the problem presents difficulties which have never been solved in actual practice.

That we have no precedent, however, does not in itself establish an impossibility. Given apparatus of sufficient size and strength, theoretically, of course, it could be accomplished. Whether or not it would pay is another matter.

The bare possibility, however, is one which cannot fail to interest engineer and layman alike.

It has been suggested that an effort of this nature would probably consist in raising the hull a few feet and dragging it inshore until it struck bottom; then raising and moving forward again until it reached shallow water, where ordinary divers could work for several hours at a time.

Our Barn Swallow

Our barn swallow comes to us swift-winged in the spring. It is glad to get home. The fields about its summer residence are alluring, the provender is plentiful and the company good. Occasionally, before seeking the country, the barn swallow will hawk for insects through the city streets, and as they pass athwart the vision city men straightway think of green meadows, river brims, barns and boyhood.

Like the bluebird, the barn swallow has a patch of the sky on its back and a touch of the earth on its breast. It must not be confounded with its cousin, the cliff swallow, which nests under the eaves of the barn. The barn swallow lives all day out of doors, but he likes shelter and seclusion for the night hours. Far up on the rafters it builds its nest of mud and lines it with the softest feathers from the flightless barnyard fowls whose limitations it grieves for.

Insects are the daily diet of the barn swallow. It eats nothing else. Its specialties are flies and mosquitoes. The cattle bless the barn swallow, and so man would if he knew the bird's untiring work in his behalf. The barn swallow mirrors its beauty in every river and pond. It delights to skim the water and occasionally to take a half plunge in passing.

The poets who are forever singing about the poetry of motion might study the barn swallow to their profit. Its flight spells grace, as it also spells speed. It takes all its food while flying. It is swift and deadly in its pursuit of small game. It is almost tireless, resting rarely except when out of a pack of firecrackers. When The Kuryer Polski took the trouble to tell us what it was saying it was one of the most interesting publications reaching this office, but now there is nothing to do but chuck its red head into the waste basket.—Charlotte Observer.

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