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BOONE WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY MARCH 20, 1919.

NO. 23.

Produce Maple Syrup on Grandfather.

The following from the News and Observer regarding the commercial manufacture of maple syrup in this section of the state, will be of interest to our readers:

The first modern equipment for the production of maple syrup from the sugar maples of western North Carolina has recently been installed by the Linville Improvement Co., Linville, on the north side of Grandfather Mountain. At this point, through the efforts of Mr. W. W. Hensel, specialist in sugar plantation service, this company of which Mr. Hugh McRae of Wilmington is president, and his son, Capt. Nelson McRae, is resident manager, a small sugar maple orchard has been equipped with modern appliances, and is at the present time making a very fine grade of maple syrup.

Approximately 100,000 sugar maples of a fine first growth are accessible for sugar and syrup production. These trees are at an elevation of from 4,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level, located on Grandfather and Sugar Mountains. This elevation gives them a long period of freezing and thawing weather which is so absolutely necessary for a strong, rich flow of sap.

If the project with the small number of trees now being operated is successful, it is the plan of the company to develop the whole boundary for maple sugar and syrup manufacture. According to Mr. Hensel some of the trees in the orchard were tapped on February 20 and they gave a profuse flow of sap which was very rich in sugar. A heavy freeze on the succeeding night however, retarded further tapping until three days later, when the remaining number of 114 trees were handled.

The company has 200 buckets in operation, some trees having one bucket to the tree, others having two buckets, and a few of the very largest three buckets.

In making his report Mr. Hensel states that if this is a good spring season the 114 trees will produce between 75 and 100 gallons of a fine standard maple syrup weighing 11 pounds to the gallon.

The beginning which has been made indicates that the season will be encouraging.

It is of interest to note that this is the first modern equipment that has ever been installed in the mountains, and probably the first in the State or South. From all over the mountains owners of sugar maple trees are coming from many miles to see the equipment and a number of them have expressed their determination to buy an evaporator, and other similar equipment for operating their orchards during the future years.

A greater number of orchards throughout the section are being worked this season than at any previous time. Mr. Hensel looks for the inauguration of this work to greatly increase the output of maple sugar and maple syrup from western North Carolina, and that these forests will be conserved much more carefully than they have been in the past. He states that the Linville Improvement Company has shown remarkable progressiveness in installing this equipment, and in expressing the determination to greatly enlarge it in case it succeeds in the present small way.

If the entire number of maple trees in the mountain forests are developed, it is expected that North Carolina will be practically independent of imported maple syrup or maple sugar.

The New State Highway Law.

Perhaps one of the most important acts of the North Carolina General Assembly was the passage of the Phar-Matthews Road Law, which was enacted for the purpose of building and maintaining a system of State highways, and enabling the State to secure benefits of Federal aid therefor.

Under this act funds collected by the State as license tax on all motor vehicles of all kinds shall be set aside by the State Treasurer as a "state highway fund" and is to be used for the construction and maintenance of the aforesaid system of modern highways which will connect the various county seats and other principal towns in the State. This work including all surveys, plans specifications, etc. will be done by the State Highway Commission. The counties, townships, or road districts through which the highways are built, must co-operate to the extent of furnishing, without cost to the state all necessary rights of way.

The license tax on automobiles and other motor vehicles ranges from \$10.00 to \$100.00, according to horsepower of pleasure cars or the carrying capacity of each commercial truck. The tax will be collected annually.

The Phar-Matthews Law provides for a new State Highway Commission, consisting of 4 members appointed by the governor, one from western, one from eastern and one from Central North Carolina and one from the State at large. They must be practical business men and give their entire time to the work, and will receive a maximum salary of \$5,500 per annum. Bonds, fixed and approved by the governor must be given for the faithful discharge of their duties. All public property coming into the hands of the said Commission will be accounted for.

On or before the 10th day of the convening of each regular session of the General Assembly the State Highway Commission will be required to make a full detailed report of construction and maintenance work, cost of work, and such other data as is of public interest. The books and accounts of the Commission must be audited yearly by a certified public accountant designated by governor.

The new highway law is in force on March 10. In its entirety it seems complete, and practical in every detail, and bids fair to mark the beginning of a new era of progress in North Carolina.

A Fine School And Its Founler.

(The Lenior News.)

The Topic is pleased to learn that the Appalachian Training School at Boone has been well provided for by the Legislature. Under the guidance of Supt. B. B. Dougherty and his brother, the Appalachian Training School has come to a place of great usefulness, and it has only begun to grow into the institution which the promoters plan for it.

In the realization of our dreams of future development of this part of North Carolina—good roads, good schools, National Park development, etc.—we see in the Training School at Boone a most important factor, and this has been made possible through the energy and foresight of one man of extraordinary mental force and power. Quiet, modest, unassuming, B. B. Dougherty will be known to posterity as one of the leading educators and most useful citizens our State has produced.

Student Officers Entitled to \$60 Bonus.

Student officers of the student army training corps in the various educational institutions of the country are entitled to the soldiers \$60 bonus provided in the war revenue bill for discharged soldiers and sailors who served in the present war.

This information was obtained from the war department by the Greensboro Daily News's correspondent, following inquiry from North Carolina regarding the status of student army officers.

The construction placed by the war department on the \$60 bonus law is substantially as follows:

If a young man had actually been inducted into the training corps, prior to armistice day, Nov. 11, and had begun training at a regularly designated college, he is regarded as having entered the military service of the United States, and is entitled to \$60 discharge bonus.

If he had not been actually inducted into the service by Nov. 11, and his admission application had not been passed upon by the local entrance board, he is not entitled to the bonus. The same applies to enlisted men ordered to report before Nov. 11, but who had not actually been taken into the service before the armistice was declared.

Officials of the war department hold that under the terms of the law a collegiate institution giving instruction to young officers was in effect a military camp and if the prospective officer had begun to study and drill before Nov. 11, and had been accepted as a student officer, he comes within the provisions of the law and is entitled to make application for the \$60 allowance.—Landmark.

RUSSIA.

I had hoped the Russian masses would get down to tacks in time; season after season passes, and the country's still a crime; day by day the same old story, till the narrative's grown hoary—how the butchers crazed and gory waded knee deep in blood and slime. Doves of peace, we say, have risen, now that we have squelched the Hun; since old Kaiser Bill got hisn we believe the trouble's done; but in Russia blood is flowing, there the scythe of death is mowing; never was so grim a sowing underneath a winter sun. We can only hope that later Russia may be safe and sane, when the demagogue and traitor have been rounded up and slain; when the people get the notion that there's nothing in communism and prescribe a deadly potion for old Trotsky and his train. Blood is dripping in a drizzle all above that land of woe; and our snow white dove's a fizle while this sort of thing is so; steps of some kind should be taken to relieve that land forsaken; how to save the Russian bacon? I'll be jiggered if I know.—Walt Mason in News and Observer.

Get Ready for Victory Liberty Loan.

The Victory Liberty Loan campaign will open on April 21 and close May 10. The loan will be for at least \$5,000,000,000. Notes maturing in five years will be issued instead of bonds as heretofore. Interest rates have not been announced, but it is thought to be above 4 1/2 per cent.

FOR THE CHILDREN.

Too much care cannot be exercised in selecting a cough medicine for children. It should be pleasant to take, contain no harmful drug and most effectual in curing their coughs and colds. Long experience has taught that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy meets these conditions. It is a favorite with many mothers.

The New Tax System.

When the people begin making return of their taxable property on the first Monday in May they will be sending it in for assessment at full valuation. This is best explained in the oath which has been prescribed for the property owner to take on having signed his listing blanks. He must swear, or he may affirm, that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, "foregoing statement contains a true, full and correct list of all property owned by me on the first day of May, 1919, or which I am authorized or required to list as agent for another; that such property has been fully and fairly described and its true condition represented; that I have in no case sought to mislead the supervisor of his assistant as to the entire quantity, quality or value of the property; that I have, to the best of my knowledge and judgement, valued the said property at its true and actual value on the first day of May 1919, by which I mean the price that could have been obtained for said property at private or voluntary sale for cash, and not the price which might be realized at a forced or auction sale." But while this full-value assessment is to be made the coming May, the tax is not to be levied and collected under the new system until the following year. The amount that may be levied and collected in that year is restricted.

There can be no increase in revenue from the general property tax above 10 per cent over that levied and collected in 1919. The tax rates of the State are to be revised at a special session of the Legislature, to be held in the Summer of 1920. The increase being limited, in any event to not more than 10 per cent over the amount collected in 1919, it is argued by the farmers of the law that this would not be as large as has been generally the result of the quadrennial assessment under the old plan.—Charlotte Observer.

Human Flesh Sold to Starving Population.

Reports that have come to the U. S. Department of State, tell of chaotic conditions existing in Russia. One report says human flesh has been sold to the famine stricken population of Moscow by Chinese soldiers.

Both Moscow and Petrograd are reported without fuel of any kind. Coal, kerosene, wood and gasoline are not available, and for this reason the sewerage and water system of Petrograd may cease operation soon.

Advices indicate desertion of the streets of Petrograd, with the exception of civilians begging for bread. The deaths in the city are 4,000 daily.

Conditions in Moscow are somewhat better. The only food available is sold by peasants at excessive prices. The stores remaining open are permitted to sell food on the card system only.

CHRONIC CONSTIPATION.

There are people who never have a movement without it is produced by a cathartic. Most of them have brought that condition on themselves by the use of mineral waters and strong cathartics that take too much water out of the system and aggravate the disease they are meant to relieve. A mild laxative tonic like Chamberlain's Tablets affords a gentle movement of the bowels that you hardly realize has been produced by a medicine, and their use is not so likely to be followed by constipation.

Electric lamps, Westinghouse electric irons, and double sockets at J. S. Winkler's. ad-4t

Battery E On Way Home.

Battery E, 113th F. A., composed of Caldwell and Watauga boys, sailed from Brest, France for New York on March 5th. The boys will be mustered out of the service at Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C. some date early in April. The 113th field artillery with 48 officers and 1,408 men is due to land in New York to-day. The 113th sailed on the Santa Teresia.

Aged Admiral Retires From Service.

Rear Admiral Nathaniel R. Usher, retires from active service April 7, reaching the age limit of 64 years. He has been in active service nearly 48 years. Admiral Usher is a graduate from the Annapolis Naval Training School and for a number of years was commander of the battle ship Michigan. He will return to his home in Potsdam, N. Y. at that time.

British Navy Holds Big Record.

From August 1914 to March 2, 1919, the British Navy is reported to have transported more than 26,500,000 soldiers and others connected with the conduct of the war. In addition to these, nearly 200,000 prisoners, 2,250,000 animals, 500,000 vehicles, 48,000,000 tons of military stores, and 5,000,000 tons of live stores have been transported.

Changes in Civil Service Commission.

President Wilson has made known his determination to reorganize the Civil Service Commission by asking for the resignation of two members, Herman W. Craven and Charles M. Gallo-way. The new commissioners—Martin A. Morrison of Indiana and George R. Wales of Vermont.

Caldwell County Boy Decorated For Bravery.

Lieutenant Andrew L. Nelson of Lenoir, N. C. has been awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French army "for exceptional bravery and heroism displayed in action near Bussy farm, Champagne Sector, Sept. 29, 1918. With disregard of personal danger Lieut. Nelson showed great devotion to duty by collecting scattered units of his company in the face of direct artillery and machine gun fire.

Report of the condition of THE BANK OF BLOWING ROCK

at Blowing Rock in the State of North Carolina, at the close of business, March 4, 1919:

RESOURCES	
Loans and discounts	\$116,514.04
Overdrafts unsecured	534.59
U. S. and liberty bonds	1300.00
War Savings Stamps	82.80
Banking house	2,750.00
Furniture and fixtures	1,298.00
All other real estate owned	196.34
Due from national banks	6,654.82
Due from state banks & bkrs	10,260.63
Cash items held over 24 hours	8.17
Gold coin	102.50
Silver coin, including all minor coin currency	2,150.55
National bank notes	1010.00
Lost check account	11.40
Total	\$143,177.94

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock paid in	\$16,000.00
Surplus fund	2,500.00
Undivided profits less current expenses & tax paid	558.49
Bills payable	15,000.00
Deposits subject to check	45,907.43
Time certificates of deposit	52,491.55
Cashiers checks outstanding	10,720.47
Total	\$143,177.94

State of North Carolina, county of Watauga. I, J. T. Miller, cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. T. MILLER, Cashier.

Correct—attest:
J. A. LENTZ
WILL LENTZ
T. H. COFFEY

Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 12th day of March 1919.

J. H. GREEN, J. P.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

The government of India reports that deaths from influenza during the year of 1918 totaled 5,000,000.

The frontier between German-Austria and Czechoslovakia was reopened Sunday, the 9th and trains are again crossing the frontier.

The mercantile fleet now in German harbors, to be surrendered to the entente allies is considerably more than 2,000,000 tons.

A loan of 5,000,000 has been granted by the United States Treasury. This raises Rumanian credits to 15,000,000, and those for all the allies to \$8,841,657,000.

Art treasures taken from France by the Germans are being restored to their owners. 10 car loads of paintings and other priceless treasures recently arrived at Valenciennes.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig has been appointed to succeed Sir William Robertson as commander in chief of the home forces. Gen. Robertson is to be commander of the army of the Rhine.

Camp Greene was not turned over to the owners of the camp site on March 15 as was formerly indicated. It will be some time before all the troops are moved.

It is announced that France spent 26,000,000 francs for shells and projectiles during the war, and 1,500,000,000 francs were spent for extra material for artillery use.

Capt. Erskine E. Boyce, of Gastonia, N. C. and officer of 113th field artillery, has been awarded the distinguished service cross for bravery on the battle fields of France.

Strike outbreaks in Berlin which have been attributed to bolshevik propaganda, are due to lack of food says a Copenhagen dispatch. It also states that the reports of bloodshed in Berlin have been greatly exaggerated.

A car load of whiskey was recently captured in Durham, N. C. It was billed as hay and consigned to an eastern North Carolina town from Baltimore. The car contained 480 quarts of whiskey and ten tons of hay.

It is made public by Director General Dinsmore that the United States Employment Service will be reduced 80 per cent on March 22nd, and the number of employment offices will be changed from 750 to 56. This step was made necessary because of the failure of Congress to provide funds to continue the work.

The power dam of the Southern Power Co. on Linville river, in Burke County burst last Thursday, and a hole 200 feet long and 40 feet deep washed out. The new power house below the dam was overflowed, and the machinery in the first floor is thought to be greatly damaged. No damage was done by the water in the valley below.

Plans have been disclosed by the Shipping board for the establishment of the near future of regular freight and passenger steamship service between the United States and South and Central America. Twenty-two 12,000 ton vessels will be used, and weekly trips will be made to the ports of these countries. Accommodations on these ships will be as fine as any trans-Atlantic liner.