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An Historic Mercantile Establishment.

The Saturday Blade, of the 18th of Oct. has this write up of the rather antiquated mercantile establishment of Curtis & Farthing, at Butler, Tenn. and we publish it in full for the benefit of the many friends of the gentlemen in Watauga. We are sorry that we haven't the picture of the building used by the Blade at the head of the interesting story that follows:

Butler, Tenn. Sept. 18. Two flashy tourists sped past the quaint old structure in an up-to-the-minute yellow racer. They paused to view it, then squinted their eyes to take another look. Curiosity got the best of them.

They stopped, hopped out, went back and entered the open door. "Oh!" they ejaculated in chagrin to the proprietor. "We—we thought it was an old tavern!" But it was none of these. The surprised tourists were within the oldest, most widely known rural retail stores in East Tennessee! Things are not always what they seem. Despite its unclean and delapidated appearance, its almost ridiculous behind-the-timers, and its peculiar type of architecture, the queer-looking structure is yet one of the leading mercantile houses in Johnson county, Tenn. Such is the power of a well-established firm name.

A little while after the close of the Civil War two ex-Confederate soldiers, Finley Patterson Curtis and David Jesse Farthing, North Carolinians, came to this part of the county, built the store and established the firm of Curtis & Farthing. During those long years the town of Butler has grown up around it. Even until only fifteen years ago it was the business center of the entire surrounding country.

Upon the death of Mr. Farthing, over a year ago, the firm name was changed to that of P. P. Curtis & Sons. Fifty different young men have clerked in this store, departed for other fields, prospered and grown old. One is a bank president, one a jeweler, two or three are lawyers, some are merchants, others are prominent farmers. Merchandise from the wholesale houses of all the biggest cities has rested on the shelves of this early pioneer store and hundreds of thousands of dollar's worth of business has been transacted within its venerable walls.

Mr. Curtis, its present chief proprietor, is taking life easy, and why not? His son attends to most of the business. No, he is not rich; in fact he is not a success as a merchant. But he owns a fine farm and he is probably at this moment dreaming of the big corn crop which flaps its ripening blades in the late autumn sun.

He is nearly 79 years old, and smokes a remarkably long-stemmed pipe three times a day, is still active enough to attend to attend to his business and the he has dealt with all kinds and classes of people, hundreds of whom have wronged and defrauded him, he is good enough to believe, after all, in the inherent honesty of humanity.

One can frequently hear the vain wish of old citizens that: "Oh if I only had a penny for every dollar that has gone in and out the doors of Curtis & Farthing's old store I'd surely hang up my shovel and my hoe!" Nothing pleases many gray-headed citizens more, when the name of Curtis & Farthing is mentioned than to boast: "Why, I have been in that store many a time when I was just a little shaver."

No, "things are not always what they seem."

Bynum Holsclaw in the Lime Light.

(Lenoir News-Topic.)

After having escaped from the Caldwell county jail, being recaptured, tried and banished from the county by Judge Lyon several years ago, G. B. Holsclaw returned here Tuesday wearing a Croix de Guerre, won in one of the most daring and brilliant exploits of the war and possessing the final patent rights on an invention that may net him untold wealth.

It has been seven years since Holsclaw was tried before Judge Lyon on the charge of carrying concealed weapons. Other charges had been brought against him. He had a bad record and a bad reputation. He had made several escapes from the Watauga county jail at Boone. Judge Lyon told him that he wanted to give him one more chance and ordered him to leave the county until he could come back a changed man. The entry of Judge Lyon is now on record here in the clerk of the court's office.

Holsclaw did as Judge Lyon bade him do. He left the county and was not heard from for a number of years. Following the outbreak of the war, when England was calling on Canada to send troops to the aid of the mother country, Holsclaw saw the adventure in such a trip, and on Jan. 2, 1915, joined the Canadian forces and entered the aviation service. He was soon sent over with his outfit and was placed in active service in Flanders. He was in the never-to-be-forgotten second battle of Ypres, when the Germans made their first gas attack. Later he fought in the Kemmel sector, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele and later on at the Somme. Twice he was shot down by anti-aircraft guns while over the German lines.

Holsclaw was a machine gunner and observer on a plane with Capt. Wellerman, R. F. C., as pilot. They experienced many daring exploits before finally being captured while in the Somme area. Holsclaw was sent to various German prison camps and finally to a camp about 14 kilometers out of Coblenz, where later he succeeded in making a daring escape and returned to the British headquarters. Holsclaw made his getaway in a German airplane, which he had succeeded in making his way to. It was a great fight, he said. After reaching his own lines he turned back over the German line and turned their own ammunition against them until he had exhausted the entire amount on the machine.

Holsclaw is over 30 and is of that dare-devil type that is not afraid of anything. People here who knew Holsclaw as a boy are not surprised at his record of daredevilry in France.

A Croix de Guerre and a record of unusual exploits are not the only things Holsclaw has brought out of the war. Monday in Washington, D. C. he received the final papers from the patent office giving him absolute rights on an invention he perfected while in England and France. It is a cooling system for airplane and automobile motors. It is a perfect system and is of the greatest importance in the airplane industry in which the greatest trouble has been because of the lack of an adequate cooling system for trips of long duration. Holsclaw's system will enable an engine to run for an indefinite period, or run so long as no other trouble arises. It does not matter how long the engine runs with this new system the water in the engine will not exceed blood heat, the inventor asserts.

An Educational System that Does Not Educate.

"Suppose," said Supt. Smith Hagaman at a meeting of the County board of charities and Public Welfare the other day "we undertake a really big thing. As I go over the county I am appalled at the number of children who are neglected, largely because of the ignorance of the mother. Suppose, we start an agitation for a law that will require every girl before she is allowed to marry to produce a certificate showing that she has taken a certain prescribed course in home making, including the care of children."

Mr. Hagaman has really pointed out the colossal failure of our educational system. It does not prepare our people for life. His idea is to give the training in institutes. Good. But why not also in our public schools. Some attempt at this sort of training is being made, notably in the farm-life schools of the State. Numerous high schools, too, have courses in domestic science. But rarely are these courses given the prominence they deserve. At best we have but some attempt at reform where the real solution is revolution. The curriculum of our high school is an inheritance from the days when education for the masses was not even dreamed of. We have held to the old order, partly because our educational leaders have locked vision, and partly because Latin paradigms and Algebraic formulas are very simple matters compared with the real problems of living. It is time to turn our faces to the future. Mr. Hagaman has pointed out a problem, the solution of which will bring a new era of happiness and prosperity to Watauga and to North Carolina.

The real solution of the problem will require leaders with vision and trained teachers. Our training schools must be born again into the new educational spirit. All this requires money, but it can be done when once we thoroughly make up our minds that children should be at least as well bred as pigs.

Mr. W. M. Moore, for 13 years editor and owner of The Lenoir News-Topic and for the past several months connected with the Lenoir News-Topic, has accepted a position with the Statesville Sentinel and will leave here the first of the week to assume work in his new field. Before taking up the work with the Statesville paper, Mr. Moore sold his interest in the local paper. —News-Topic.

"I Spent a \$1 on Rat-Snap and Saved the Price of a Hog."

James McGuire, famous hog raiser of New Jersey says, "I advise every farmer troubled with rats to use Rat-Snap. Tried everything to get rid of rats. Spent \$1 on Rat-Snap. Figured rats it killed saved price of hog." RAT-SNAP comes in cake form. No mixing with other food. CAT or DOGS won't touch it. Three sizes, 25c, 50c, \$1. Sold by L. L. Critcher.

The greatest one trouble now confronting trans Atlantic flying is from the continuous running of the engine and the boiling of the water out of the radiator after the first few thousand miles. With the Holsclaw invention this danger is overcome.

This cooling system is a practical and a needed proposition in one of the world's greatest industries, and there is no doubt that the inventor will realize handsomely from his several years' work. After securing the patents and even, before leaving Washington he was offered \$50,000 for the right to manufacture the system.

THE WEEK.

A week ago, at this writing, President Wilson broke down and was forced to give up his speaking and return to Washington. We were told that there was nothing alarming about his condition, and that he needed only a rather prolonged rest to be himself again. Up to this time, however, there has been but little if any improvement in his condition and there are persistent rumors of a belief in Washington that he may never again be able to take so active a part in the affairs of the nation.

The final outcome of the debate on the league of nations and the treaty of peace seems as uncertain as ever. The President's breakdown removes him as an active factor. The effect of this is problematical.

The steel strike situation is practically unchanged. There has been some attempt at mediation by the transport workers federation. Both the strike leaders and the steel companies claim they are satisfied with developments in the conflict so far.

There have been serious race riots at Omaha and at Elaine, Arkansas. At Omaha the mob attempted to lynch the mayor and set fire to the new courthouse and jail in their effort to secure their negro victim.

In the State Governor Bickett has incurred considerable criticism by appointing former Senator Marion Butler a delegate to the Cotton Association's convention. Butler was recommended by the Department of Agriculture, probably because he really seems to know something about the cotton situation.

The sanitary inspectors for the State have been appointed, spent several days in training for their duties at Raleigh and on the first began the active enforcement of a law, the passage of which, Tom Boat calls the most courageous act of a legislature that had the courage to pass a dog law.

The Hindenburg Line.

When one thinks of the Great War one thinks of the Western Front, and when one thinks of the Western Front one thinks of the Hindenburg Line. The Hindenburg Line typified the German menace. It was the bristling rampart that had to be broken if the world was to be saved from Prussianism. For months and years the existence of great Nations depended upon the breaking of it, and for months and years millions of men and women wondered how it could be broken, wondered whether it could ever be broken, and fought back with grim determination the haunting fear that it could never be broken.

The story of the men who broke the Hindenburg line is therefore, a glory that never can fade; and to the men of the Thirtieth Division that glory belongs. As General Lewis, the Thirtieth's commander, said in his address at the reunion in Greenville, "The Hindenburg line was broken by Old Hickory." The only soldiers in front of the Thirtieth a year ago today were German soldiers.

To the Thirtieth, made up mainly of men from the Carolinas and Tennessee, came the opportunity to write one of the imperishable chapters of history. Because they were the kind of men they were they measured up to the opportunity. Not until the Great War itself has been forgotten can the fame of the men who broke the Hindenburg Line grow dim. —Charleston News and Courier.

Baptist 75 Million Campaign.

Rev. M. A. Adams will speak at the following places in the interest of the Baptist \$75,000,000 campaign on the following mentioned dates:

Gap Creek, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 11:00 a. m.

Stony Fork, Thursday, Oct. 16, at night.

Laurel Springs, Friday, Oct. 17, All day meeting. Dinner on the grounds.

Howard's Creek, Saturday, October 18, All day meeting. Dinner on the grounds.

Meat Camp, Sunday Oct. 19, 11:00 a. m.

Zionville, Sunday Oct. 19, at night.

Union, Monday, Oct. 20, 11:00 a. m., and at night.

Pleasant Grove, Tuesday, Oct. 21, All day meeting. Dinner on the grounds.

Rich Mountain, Tuesday, Oct. 21, at night.

Forest Grove, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 11:00 a. m.

Timber Ridge, Thursday Oct. 23, All day meeting. Dinner on the grounds.

Zion Hill, Friday, October 24, 11:00 a. m. and at night.

Mt. Gilead, Saturday Oct. 25, 11 a. m. and at night.

Bethel, Sunday, Oct. 27, All day rally meeting. Dinner on the grounds.

Where meetings are held all day they will begin at 10:30, in the morning. All churches in reach of any all day meetings are especially invited to be present. At several of the meetings there will be otherspeakers. Come and bring your friends.

Didn't Work.

While few reports have been heard from fair price committees, which were appointed for the purpose of finding out the profiteer, one does not get the idea that much was accomplished, except possibly in a few cases. So far as appears the committee appointed for Fredell has done nothing. So far as appears the committee appointed for Fredell has done nothing. The trouble generally is probably that the committees either did not have the time or the disposition to take hold of the job. It is a big job if the work is given the attention it should have; and it is a thankless job. One must make a sacrifice of time and get nothing—not even thanks. If prices are not, the dealers say ugly things about the committee and they couldn't be cut enough to please the public—at least all of it. It was the proper method and the only method to get a square deal, but getting men fit for the job to make the sacrifice to perform a thankless task was too much. In Wilmington the committee raised prices in some cases—an act distinctly prohibited under the regulation—and what the Wilmington folk said about it was ample. So as yet it appears individual will have to work out his own salvation. —The Statesville Landmark.

Entry Notice No. 2543.

State of North Carolina, Watauga County. Office of entry taker for said county.

Boone Coffey locates and enters (100) one hundred acres of land on the waters of Buffalo Creek in Blue Ridge Township. Beginning on a bunch of chestnut sprouts and laurel bush, said Coffey's corner and running with the old Bryan line (now owned by the Grandin Lumber Co.) then running with their line 104 poles, then west with said line to a chestnut tree in the said line, thence crossing said creek to a black gum corner, then with the old Bryan line to a cucumber tree at the foot of the rocky ridge, then up said ridge and various courses with said Boone Coffey's line to beginning. Entered October 1, 1919.

H. J. HARDIN, Entry Taker.

SHOES

Don't get excited about shoe costs. The press notices to the effect that "\$25.00 and up" shoes are in sight is largely a myth. There always have been \$25.00 shoes and about one person in ten thousand would pay this price. There always have been \$10.00 to \$15.00 shoes, and numbers of people would buy these shoes possibly because they "matched a dress" or for some other equally important reason.

There always have been shoes for dress-up and street wear, retailing from \$5.00 to \$15.00 for the past ten years. Our shoes retailing at \$5.00 to \$10.00 before the war, now sell at \$7.00 to \$15.00, showing an advance in price of \$2.00 to \$5.00 per pair.

We, as leaders in our line, have always carried some of the newest and best shoes for those who want the latest thing in style and, of course, merchandise of this kind costs more than plain staple goods. These shoes interest men and women who like to wear "exclusive" styles and can afford it.

There always have been work shoes \$3.00 to \$5.00 for hard wear. There always have been boys' and girls' shoes at similar prices. The shoes of this kind which we sold before the war at \$3.00 to \$5.00 were sold during the war at from \$4.00 to \$7.00 and are being sold now at \$1.50 to \$3.00.

The advance in the price of our shoes in four years averages about \$2.00 to \$3.00 per pair.

Now, these are the facts about our shoes, and it looks different from the fiction which is being so largely handed around the country about "\$25.00 shoes."

The above quoted prices show the advances which have been necessary in our shoes, due to increasing cost (with which everybody is familiar) of hides, leather, materials and labor, plus the intelligent and efficient services we render our customers.

Don't be talked into paying any fancy or ridiculous prices for your foot-wear. Advances there are and advances there will be—legitimate and necessary, but nothing like the extravagant statements frequently made about "\$25.00 shoes" need give you a moment's concern.

And now a word of advice. Don't speculate in shoes. Don't buy any more than you need. Meaning, don't hoard shoes, as some people are doing. If you buy a pair of shoes suited to your needs and take good care of them and have them repaired when they need repairing—keep them well half-soled and well heeled—you can save a lot of money on your footwear.

This is intended to give you a plain statement about shoes, in contradiction to the wild and extravagant rumors so persistently published throughout the country.

W. F. SHERWOOD, - - Sherwood, N. C.

NOTICE OF SALE.

Under and by virtue of an order of the superior court of Watauga county made in the special proceedings entitled, M. A. Church, Administratrix, of the estate of J. H. P. Church, deceased and widow of him also, VS Walter Henry, Frank and Jesse Church minors, the same being No. —, upon the special proceedings docket of said court, the undersigned commissioner will on the 10th day of November 1919 at 12 o'clock m. at the court house door in Watauga County, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash that certain tract of land lying and being in Watauga County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of Henry Yates and others, and more particularly described as follows, to wit: Beginning on a white walnut on the bank of Watauga River at the mouth of a ditch Charlie Church's corner, and runs S 58 1-2 degrees W crossing the public road at 18 poles and same course continued in all 89 poles to a stake in an old road, then with said road the following course and distances: south 11 1-2 degrees E 9 poles then S 16 degrees west 12 poles then S 35 degrees east 17 poles then north 62 degrees east 6 poles then south 14 poles then south 10 degrees east 8 poles to a stake in said road one pole west of a poplar Wade Wagner's corner, then south 81 degrees W with said Wagner's line 52 poles to a double chestnut Henry Yates and Wagner's corner, then north 50 degrees W with Yates line 40 poles to a birch and small poplar then N 40 degrees west with the east side of the Haul Road 50 poles to a small beech, near the road and a branch, then down and with the branch north 14 degrees east 22 poles, then north 61 degrees E 18 poles, then north 27 degrees east 20 poles then N 35 degrees east 20 poles then north 50 degrees east crossing the road 38 poles, then 13 degrees west to a spruce pine stump on the bank of the branch Walter Baird's corner, then north 78 degrees east with said Baird's line 53 poles to a rock on the bank of Watauga River, then S 31 degrees east general course with said river, 71 poles to the beginning and contains 80 and one fourth acres more or less. This the 8th day of October 1919.

T. C. BAIRD, Commissioner.

BAD COPY OR LIGHT PRINT