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SAYS ORCHARDS ARE FARM ASSET

Manager of Cone Estate Says Apple Trees With Proper Culture May be Made a Source of Much Additional Revenue to Watauga Farmers.

RUFERT GILLET

Four or five acres of apple trees on the average farm will bring in a distinct increase in the farm income in good years, according to E. G. Underdown, manager of the Cone estate at Blowing Rock, which has one of the largest apple orchards in the south.

Mr. Underdown was very frank in saying that he did not advise farmers to make apples the main crop, because of the uncertainty involved as a result of the late freezes that sometimes occur in this climate. He was emphatic in recommending diversification of crops, so that, if one crop fails, the farmer will be able to fall back on another. For this purpose, apples are an excellent aid to diversification.

Farmers who have not already pruned their apple trees, Mr. Underdown said, should do so at once, before the buds come out. This may be expected in a week or two, if the present weather continues, and after the buds come out, it is too late to prune.

Pruning should never be neglected by farmers who expect to make a success of apple culture. Just because a tree is grown and is bearing, the farmer should not fail to prune the branches properly, because pruning stimulates the tree and makes it bear better than it does without pruning.

Mr. Underdown added a caution about pruning, however, because there is often a tendency to prune too heavily. Bearing trees, he said, should be pruned very lightly—just enough to thin out the branches. About half of the previous year's growth, he explained, is enough. Horticulturists have long ago stopped heavy pruning of bearing trees, because it stimulates the tree too much and has the opposite effect from the one desired. The object of pruning is merely to stimulate the growth a little and to keep the branches from getting so thick that they will interfere with bearing.

With proper care in this respect, apples should bring in a material addition to the farm income, granting, always, of course, that there is not a late freeze to kill the buds.

To the farmer preparing to start an orchard with young trees, Mr. Underdown advised the selection of certain types that do best in this climate. These, he said, are the Jonathan, the Grimes Golden and the Stayman Winesap. Of these, the Jonathan is the best bearer, and for that reason the most profitable for commercial planting. The Grimes Golden is also an excellent bearing apple and a good selling apple.

Mr. Underdown did not recommend the Virginia Beauty for commercial purposes, because it does not bear heavily enough for a substantial profit, but for home use, it is one of the best apples.

In planting your trees, the farmer should dig his hole deep enough to cover that part of the tree that has been under ground in the nursery. The topsoil should be laid aside in a separate pile, and when the hole is deep enough, the topsoil should be put in the bottom around the roots. A little fertilizer may also be added. Then, the clay can be put on top.

Young trees should be pruned carefully each year until they begin to bear, and then pruned as advised for bearing trees. About half of the previous year's growth is the proper amount for pruning young trees.

Each winter, before the trees begin to bear, the roots should be covered with pine needles or straw, and the next spring more fertilizer should be added. This should be continued scrupulously until the trees are large enough to take care of themselves.

For keeping apples during the winter, Mr. Underdown advised the farmer to build a small storage house. There are several ways to build a satisfactory storage house, but Mr. Underdown emphasized the necessity of good ventilation, no matter what the type of storage house built.

If the house is built of lumber, it should be of double construction and lined with building paper or one

Spainhours' New Store Building to Open Soon

The new Horton building, which is being constructed for the rapidly growing business of Spainhours, Inc., is nearing completion on the lot formerly occupied by the W. R. Winkler garage on Main street. Designed especially for department store use, the building is 97 feet long and 27 feet wide. A mezzanine floor has been provided 27x30 feet and the ceiling is higher than that found in any other business house in Boone. Special attention has been given to providing excellent daylight, the show windows being of the type hitherto used only in the larger cities. Finer and more elaborate fixtures, larger stocks and convenient layout will enable this progressive firm to give the community a thoroughly modern shopping center.

The Spainhours have been specialists in department store business, their first store having been opened in Wilkes county about 60 years ago. Since that time they have enjoyed a remarkable growth. Mr. J. E. Spainhour remarked a few days ago that this success was due to the fact that they operated only in good towns. Boone is classed by this firm as a good town and one which is expected to show remarkable growth during the coming years.

REPUBLICANS PLAN TO HOLD THE SOUTH

With a decision to endeavor to make permanent the results of the recent campaign in the south and to build up a virile party organization there, the executive body of the Republican national committee adjourned a meeting in Washington last week without settling the controversies that center around southern committee posts.

A statement issued by Dr. Hubert Work, chairman of the Republican national committee, said that the decision to fight or a stronger foothold in the south was inspired by "the demands from people from virtually every southern state to become permanently identified with the Republican party."

There was no reference, however, in his statement to the disputed posts of national committeeman and committeewoman from Georgia. George F. Flanders of Swinsboro, Ga., is seeking the place as national committeeman to replace Ben Davis, Atlanta negro, who has thrown his support to Flanders against J. H. Watson, another negro.

Dr. Work said the committee had discussed "at length the many gratifying results of the election, particularly the party's success in breaking the solid south."

"This result was so impressive and so encouraging," he added, "that the committee concluded to exert every influence within its power not only to make these results permanent but to encourage and build up virile and militant party organizations throughout the southern states. This is in response to the demands from people from virtually every southern state to become permanently identified with the Republican party. One of the consequences of the victory will be increased southern representation in national conventions."

DAWES IS CONSIDERED FOR AMBASSADORSHIP

Washington, March 12—Charles G. Dawes, who retired from the vice presidency on March 4, is reported in well informed circles here to be under consideration as the next ambassador from the United States to Great Britain.

of the commercial wall boards. A good storage house can be built of stone, especially as building stone is very plentiful in this country, and as nearly every farmer has some knowledge of building stone walls. Plenty of windows should always be provided.

If the farmer has a stone or concrete cellar, it will make an excellent storage place for apples, if it is properly ventilated. A dugout, lined with stone, will also make a good storage house if it can be ventilated.

"Never bury your apples," Mr. Underdown said emphatically. "Contact with the earth makes them rot."

With these precautions, a farmer can add materially to his income with four or five acres of apple trees.

SECRET BALLOT BILL IS ENACTED

Senate Concurs in House Amendments and Formal Ratification Makes it Law; Compromise School Bill Approves

Raleigh, March 13.—The senate last night unanimously concurred in the house amendments to the Australian ballot bill and only formal ratification is needed to make it the law of the state. The bill was introduced in the senate by Senators Johnson of Robeson and Broughton of Wake, both Democrats, and has been vigorously sponsored by Governor Gardner. It is designed to provide secrecy in all elections.

With passage of the election law, the school bill and other state measures, the assembly is now wrestling with the revenue bill, and if good progress is made on this measure, it is likely that the 1929 general assembly will adjourn Saturday or Monday.

Senate Adopts Compromise School Measure

The senate on Monday night adopted the compromise school bill and its \$6,500,000 equalizing fund—\$5,250,000 for the six months term and \$1,250,000 for the extended term. The \$6,500,000 equalizing fund has been adopted by house leaders, and while it has to go to conference, it is expected that the measure will become the law for the next two years.

Compensation Bill Passes

The house Wednesday passed the workmen's compensation bill after a short debate without a record vote. Eight amendments were adopted but with the exception of one raising the general allowance from \$125 to \$200, they made no material change in the measure as passed by the senate. The upper house Friday night concurred in all house amendments to the bill and the act is now the law of the state.

Sponsored by Governor Gardner, the act provides for compensation for death ranging up to \$6,000, and for disability or injury, compensation of from \$7 to \$18 a week for stipulated periods. It will be administered by a commission of three appointed by the governor. The act contains more than 14,000 words.

People to Vote on Property Classification Measure

The question of amending the state constitution to permit classification of property for taxation will be submitted to the people of the state in the next general election. The senate bill providing for the referendum on the question was passed by the house Friday night. Should the bill carry in the general election it would allow the general assembly in the future to classify both real and personal property for taxation.

The assembly also passed the proposal to submit to the voters in the next general election the proposition of increasing the number of supreme court justices from five to seven.

Garnishee Bill Killed

The house Monday night tabled the garnishee bill, which had the support of a large per cent of the merchants of the state.

Marriage Banns Bill Passes

The marriage banns bill, requiring persons desiring to marry to give five days' notice before licenses are issued, passed the senate Monday on third reading and will become law upon ratification.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS IN THE BAPTIST CHURCHES

The executive committee of the Three Forks association suggests that the churches have a special program for the Fifth Sunday in this month. In addition to the regular Sunday school the following is suggested:

1. Singing by the congregation.
2. Declarations and recitations suitable for Easter.
3. Special music.
4. Offering for whatever local church wishes.
5. Sermon or speech on the "Futura Life" by minister or speaker.
6. Closing song.

It is hoped by the committee that each church will join in this program. Make it suitable for local conditions. Add whatever you need to this program.

Tax Assessor is Named by Terms of Rivers Bill

Bill Enacted into Law Relative to the Taxing of Dogs and Encouragement of Sheep Husbandry; to Exempt World War Veterans from Payment of Polltax and to Change the Standard of Measure of Irish Potatoes Among the Measures Offered by Watauga's Solon

Following are some of the bills which have been introduced in the legislature by Representative R. C. Rivers of Watauga, all of which have been enacted into law with the possible exception of the one prescribing a new standard measure for Irish potatoes. All the measures sponsored by the assemblyman were not available for this issue.

Dog Law

A bill to be entitled an act to tax dogs and encourage sheep husbandry in Watauga county.

Section 1. That any person owning or keeping any male or female dog of the age of six months or older shall pay annually a license or privilege tax of two dollars.

Section 2. That any person owning or keeping any male dog, or female dog other than the kind specified in section 1 of this act, of the age of six months or older shall pay annually on each dog so owned or kept, a license or privilege tax of one dollar.

Section 3. That it shall be the duty of every owner or keeper of a dog to list the same for taxes at the same time and place that other personal property is listed, and the various tax lists in the county shall have proper abstracts furnished them for listing dogs for taxation; and any person failing or refusing to list such dog or dogs shall be guilty of misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not exceeding \$50 or imprisoned not exceeding 30 days; provided, that the owner of the home or lessee of such owner, shall be responsible for listing of any dog belonging to any member of his family. The license or privilege tax herein imposed shall be due and payable on the first day of October of each and every year, and all persons after December first thereafter who own or keep a dog or dogs upon which the license or privilege tax is not paid, whether said dog or dogs have been listed or not, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$50 or be imprisoned not more than 30 days. Upon the payment to the sheriff or tax collector of the license or privilege tax aforesaid, such sheriff or tax collector shall give the owner or keeper of such dog or dogs a receipt for the same, which shall constitute a license under the provisions of this act.

Section 4. The tax lists of each township, town and city in Watauga county shall annually, at the time of listing property as required by law, make diligent inquiry as to the number of dogs owned, boarded or kept by any person subject to taxation. The list takers shall, on or before the first day of July in each year, make a complete report to the sheriff or tax collector on a blank form furnished them by the proper authority, setting forth the name of every owner of any dog or dogs, how many of each, and the sex, owned or kept by such person. Any person coming in possession of any dog or dogs after listing time shall immediately ascertain whether such dog or dogs have been listed for taxes or not, and if not so listed, it is hereby made the duty of such owner or keeper of such dog or dogs to go to the sheriff or tax collector of his county and list such dog or dogs; and it is made the duty of the owner or keeper of such dog or dogs to pay the privilege or license tax as is herein provided for in other cases.

Section 5. No person shall allow his dog, over six months old, to run at large in the night time unaccompanied by the owner or by some member of the owner's family, or some other person by the owner's permission. Any person intentionally, knowingly and willingly violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, be fined not exceeding \$50 or imprisoned not exceeding 30 days, and shall also be liable in damages to any person injured or suffering loss to his property or chattels.

Section 6. It is hereby made the duty of each list taker in Watauga county to see that all dogs are listed for taxation under the provisions of

this act.

Section 7. That the money arising under the provisions of this act shall be applied to the school funds of Watauga county; provided, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners, upon complaint made to them of injury to person or injury to or destruction of property by any dog, upon satisfactory proof of such injury or destruction, to appoint three freeholders to ascertain the amount of damages done, including necessary treatment, if any, and all reasonable expenses incurred; and upon the coming in of the report of such injury or the damage as aforesaid, the said county commissioners shall order the same paid out of any moneys arising from the tax on dogs, as provided for in this act. And in cases where the owner of such dog or dogs is known or can be ascertained he shall reimburse the county to the amount paid out for such injury or destruction. To enforce collection of this amount the county commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to sue for the same.

Section 8. Any person may kill and also any dog, if he is killing sheep, cattle, hogs, goats or poultry.

Section 9. That all dogs, when listed for taxes, become personal property, and shall be governed by the law governing other personal property; provided, the larceny of any dog upon which aforesaid tax has been paid shall be a misdemeanor.

Section 10. Any person failing to discharge any duty imposed upon him by this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall pay a fine of not exceeding \$50 or be imprisoned not more than 30 days.

Section 11. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed; provided, this act shall not have the effect to prevent Watauga county from increasing the amount of the license or privilege tax on dogs under the provisions of any public laws of North Carolina, but shall be construed to repeal that part of same allowing counties to vote off said tax.

Section 12. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Office of Tax Assessor Created

An act to create the office of tax assessor for the county of Watauga, and to fix his compensation.

Section 1. That there is hereby created the office of tax assessor for Watauga county, and Henry J. Hardin is hereby appointed to fill said office for a term of two years, and his successors are to be appointed by the commissioner of revenue of North Carolina.

Section 2. That said tax assessor shall be paid a salary of \$2,400 per year, in lieu of all other compensation, payable monthly, out of the general county fund, provided, if it is not necessary for him to spend his entire time in the performance of his duties, then he shall be paid a monthly salary of \$200 for the actual time engaged in his work.

Section 3. That said tax assessor shall perform all the duties heretofore performed by the township supervisor. Said tax assessor is hereby authorized to employ township helpers, and that said helpers are to be paid by the board of county commissioners out of the general county fund; that it shall be the duty of said tax assessor to secure the listing of all property within said county, in order that the same may be properly taxed; and said tax assessor shall perform such other duties as said board of county commissioners may determine.

Section 4. That the duties and powers of the all-time tax assessor shall include those duties and powers prescribed by general law for tax supervisors. He shall accurately prepare the scrolls, tax lists and receipt books for each year and shall constantly examine the tax books for any property in the county which is not listed for taxation and

(Continued on page four.)

WATAUGA MAY GET MODERN HOSPITAL

Bill Introduced by Representative Rivers Would Allow Normal and Duke Foundation to Co-operate in Establishing Institution Here

Under the terms of a bill which has been introduced in the legislature by Representative R. C. Rivers, Boone and Watauga county would be the recipients of a thoroughly modern hospital plant, to be erected at a cost of \$50,000.

The Appalachian State Normal College has already been granted \$25,000 for an institution of this kind. Dr. Rankin of Charlotte, committeeman for the Duke Foundation, has suggested that this money be added to that which would be donated by the Foundation for building a hospital in this county. It is expected that the Foundation will contribute about half the cost of the hospital, making a total available for this purpose approximately \$50,000.

The bill by Representative Rivers is designed to legalize the use of the Normal fund in connection with the Duke fund, thus providing a better hospital than could be erected with either fund alone.

D. D. Dougherty, treasurer of the Normal, has pointed out that a two-fold benefit would result from this arrangement, in view of the fact that the Normal would have its own hospital available also to the public and that fees received from patients would contribute largely to the running expenses of the institution.

FEBRUARY WEATHER REPORT

Following is the weather report of the Boone co-operative station for the month of February, prepared by Prof. J. T. C. Wright, observer.

Maximum temperature for month (average) 50 degrees.

Minimum temperature (average) 20 degrees.

Average temperature for month, 28 degrees.

Daily range (average) from low to high, 24 degrees.

Greatest daily range, 45 degrees, February 15th.

Average temperature at 8 a. m., (time of observation) 30 degrees.

Highest temperature reached during month, 75 degrees, Feb. 19th.

Lowest temperature reached during month, 13 degrees, Feb. 1st, 2nd, 12th, 13th and 14th.

Number inches of rainfall, including melted snow, 4.4 inches.

Greatest rainfall in 24 hours, 1.22 inches on the 6th.

Number inches of snowfall, 16.75 inches.

Number of days with .01 inch or more precipitation, 13.

Number of clear days, 9.

Number cloudy days, 12.

Number partly cloudy days, 7.

Direction of prevailing wind for month, west.

Average barometric pressure, (sea level reading) 29.91 inches of mercury.

Highest barometric pressure (sea level reading) 30.20 inches of mercury on the 23rd.

Lowest barometric pressure (sea level reading) 29.57 inches of mercury on the 21st.

Dates of heavy frost, 13th and 14th.

Dates of light frost, 24th.

Dates of sleet, 21st.

Dates of other phenomena and kinds of phenomena, double rainbow, February 2.

Report for First Week in March

The report made public for the week ending March 9th, indicates an average temperature of 42 degrees, with an average daily range of 30 degrees. The average temperature at 8 a. m. is shown as 33 degrees, while the warmest day was on March 6th when the thermometer stood at 65. The lowest temperature was 12 degrees on the 4th.

Precipitation included 1.52 inches of rainfall, including melted snow and 2.16 inches of snowfall. On the 5th, 1.31 inches of rain fell. No frost, sleet or hail was reported and only one foggy day. Attention is called to the unusually high west winds on the 5th, 6th and 7th.

Raleigh, March 12—Governor O. Max Gardner said today that he had favored the position of executive council, created by an act of the general assembly today, to Judge N. A. Townsend.