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Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Tunnel

The committee appointed by the British Government to investigate the feasibility of a tunnel under the English Channel, connecting England with France, has reported in favor of the project. It seems to Americans such a simple and desirable engineering job that we wonder why it has not been done long ago, but there are plenty of "die-hards" in England who fear that such a tunnel would make it easier for an enemy to invade the British Isles. They are deaf to the obvious answers that all that would be necessary to stop a French army would be to let the water into the tunnel.

The British Channel, from Dover to Calais is about twenty miles or less across, measured directly north and south. The shallow waters of the Channel are easily stirred up by winds and the crossing is one of the roughest in the world. Under the water is a bed of solid chalk, miles deep, through which a tunnel could easily be bored for electric trains. It would cost about \$15,000,000, the committee estimates, and take eight years. The French Government is friendly to the project. When done, England would no longer be in a position where an enemy's ships could cut off her food supply, unless that enemy happened to be France.

It seems more likely now than ever before that the Channel tunnel will be built in the next few years.

Police

One of the reasons why criminals are caught more speedily in England than in America is that England has a single police force for the entire country and in the United States we have as many different police departments as we have towns, each operating under a different system and with no co-ordination between them except in rare instances.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made a start toward remedying this. A network of telephone wires connecting every important town in the State with all the rest, and with four main centers of operation, operates a typewriter-telegraph system in every police headquarters. The moment a crime is discovered anywhere, all the facts are possible clues to the criminal are printed in the office of every chief of police and the whole criminal-catching machinery of the Commonwealth is set in motion.

We shall never get our criminal element under control until such a tie-up is in effect in every State and throughout the nation. Then we may have a chance of equaling England's record for the suppression of crime.

Age

A woman is as old as she looks and a man is as old as he feels, runs an ancient proverb. Many men of eighty or more are capable of doing as much work and with as much enthusiasm as most men of forty; many more men are old and fast than their usefulness at sixty. The difference, recent scientific research has discovered, lies in the secretions of certain glands of the body. When these glands are old, age supervenes. Dr. Harry Benjamin of New York working in association with Dr. Cassin Funk, discoverer of vitamins, and Dr. Benjamin Harrow of the College of the City of New York, has found a way of introducing the hormones, or essential secretions, of these glands into elderly men, with surprising results. The effect is not to prolong life, in all probability, but to enable a man to retain his youthful energy through a period many years longer than the average.

So far this is experimental, but the experiments have been successful, and the time may be close at hand when old age and helplessness will no longer be synonymous.

Rust

One of the greatest enemies of progress is rust. For years the iron and steel industries have spent hundreds of thousands a year in research into means of preventing the rust that destroys bridges, factories, machinery, everything made of iron. Protecting metals against rust is an expensive part of all kinds of construction and manufacturing processes.

So-called "stainless" steel is providing one answer. Instead of protecting the surface, certain other metals are alloyed with the steel and the metal becomes rustless, capable of taking and keeping a brilliant polish. Cheaper than nickel plate, more durable than chromium plate, one automobile manufacturer is already turning out cars whose bright parts are of stainless steel, and now other makers are considering entire bodies and chassis of the same metal. If this works out our roads may become as glittering as they were when everybody rode nickel-plated bicycles.

DR. CHANDLER DELIVERS BACCALAUREATE SERMON

On Sunday evening the baccalaureate sermon for the Boone High School graduates was delivered by Dr. O. J. Chandler in the Methodist Church to a very large congregation. All other denominations were present with their pastors. Dr. Chandler gave this discourse in a most effective manner, impressing the young people with the great importance of reaching for the real valuable things of life. The audience was much pleased with the sermon, feeling the real value contained therein.

WATAUGA FARMS BEING PREPARED FOR LARGE CROPS

Agricultural Prospects Bright as the Farmers Increase Acreage. Livestock Industry on Incline. Many Tracts to Be Planted to Burley Tobacco. Home Garden Idea Being Carried Out in Boone.

Whether the citizens of Watauga are endeavoring to co-operate with Governor Gardner in his live-at-home program or, on account of the prevailing money depression, are forced to get to work, one thing seems certain: never in all time has the effort been put forth to produce crops that is being shown so far this year throughout the county. Small farms which in years gone by have produced but little above the support of the owner's family, have been well plowed, abundantly fertilized, and planted to various crops. Every inch of soil on many of these farms that could possibly be cultivated has been seeded, Irish potatoes predominating. The recent drought has been broken by rains and the outlook is bright for large yields.

Agriculture has been on the incline throughout the entire section for several years, but last summer an organization, the Watauga Livestock Association, was formed and a concerted effort started to make a self-supporting county out of Watauga. The Association does not confine its work to the field of stock raising, but includes in its program various plans for the advancement of agriculture. Through its efforts, a farm institute was held at the State Teachers College in January and experts of State and national importance lectured nearly 1,000 farmers and farm women on the growing of horticultural crops, poultry raising, the care of sheep, dairy and beef cattle, and hogs. Two speakers from the Division of Markets addressed these audiences on marketing farm products. An interest was created at that time which, it seems, is sure to bear fruit during the current growing season.

Watauga has no farm agent, and, therefore, it is difficult to make an estimate of the area that has already been planted to potatoes. However, it is safe to state that fully twice as many acres have been seeded to this crop as last year. Ten acres has always been considered a big "patch" in Watauga, but it is nothing uncommon now to hear a farmer say that he has 20 or 25 acres in "spuds". L. H. Hoilar and son, Mack, who live two miles east of Boone, have the largest potato crop planted in the county, more than thirty acres in one boundary having been seeded.

And cabbage is yet to be planted, which, incidentally, has always been a leading money crop for the farmers here. The Blue Ridge Canning Company, manufacturers of sauer kraut, have contracted for several hundred acres of cabbage, their agreement calling for a very substantial cash price at harvesting time. This crop, it is predicted, will be much larger than ever before.

Burley tobacco, which for the last two or three years has been successfully raised on several farms in the western part of the county, has gained such popularity among the farmers that more than 200 acres, mostly in tracts of one-half to two acres, will be planted this year. This weed will find its way to the Abingdon, Va., warehouses where prices ranging from 25 to 32 cents per pound have been averaged for the past two years. It is claimed by those who have made experiments that Burley grown in the mountains will bring to the farmer nearly \$300 per acre.

Cattle-raising, which for the past several years has been on the decline here, is again coming into its own. Through the enterprise of the Livestock Association, more than thirty purebred Hereford, Shorthorn and Angus bulls have been imported into the county from Southwest Virginia. A campaign to eliminate the scrub sire has been successfully carried out, and today, it is stated, not a single one remains in the county. More than 7,000 head of cattle will be grazed in Watauga during the summer, about half of them being of the beef types. Arlie W. Brown, of near Boone, now has nearly 800 head, mostly Hereford, which will be marketed this fall.

Mr. Brown, who is considered one of the leading stockmen of the entire section, states that at least 12,000 head of cattle should be the goal of Watauga within the next three years. He is of the opinion that the Hereford strain, which now seems to be the favorite here, should be maintained, and predicts that the industry will be returned to its former importance ere many years have passed.

Smith Hagaman, Superintendent of Schools and president of the Livestock Association, says that there are now more than 9,000 sheep which have been or are ready for shearing on the farms of the county. Counting the lambs, the sheep population should be in the neighborhood of 13,000. Mr. Hagaman believes this is practically as large a number of sheep as was ever ranged at one time in Watauga. It is estimated that these animals will shear an average of five pounds of wool around, which will be pooled and sold near the 20th of this month, an arrangement having been perfected with the State and Federal Divisions of Marketing to carry on this sale.

Numerous farmers, who never before attempted the raising of livestock, are buying a few head of cattle or a few sheep. They are diversifying their crops, adding to their equipment, and going into their work

(Continued on page four.)

Local Talent Will Be Featured at Musicales

A musical program, sponsored by the Youth Welfare Club, will be given at the Demonstration School building Friday evening by Mr. James Moore, assisted by Miss Ruth Coffey and Mr. Remmel Porter, of this city.

Mr. Moore has been studying during the past winter in New York City and Washington, D. C., and in response to an invitation from Rev. Morris, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Staunton, he has directed the music for an evangelistic meeting in that city for the past two weeks. On Mr. Moore's return to Washington, he has appointments to give recitals at several places along the way. It is hoped that Jim, as he is familiarly known among his many Boone friends, will be given a hearty welcome in the form of a large attendance Friday evening.

Miss Coffey is one of the outstanding musicians of this region and has for several years been director of music at the college here. Mr. Porter has been engaged in private instruction here for some time and is a devotee of jazz, both having been successful in radio broadcasts from WBT, Charlotte. The able trio is expected to furnish an evening of rare musical entertainment.

News Items From the State Teachers College

(By J. M. DOWNUM)

Last Wednesday night quite an interesting debate was given in the college auditorium between the young ladies' negative team of the Appalachian State Teachers College and the young ladies' affirmative team from Virginia Intermont at Bristol, Virginia. A good audience listened most interestingly to the splendid speeches of these young ladies, for the speakers had their speeches so well in hand that one could not well refrain from listening, and delivered their speeches so strongly that would just have to listen. The query was that all nations should disarm completely, except for a police force necessary for local protection. The Appalachian young ladies won the decision by a vote of 2 to 1. In fact the young ladies of the college here have not lost a single debate this year, and the young men's teams have lost only two, the affirmative one and the negative one, which is a fine record for these fine young people.

At Bristol, Virginia, Tuesday night of last week the Bristol bankers gave a banquet to many farmers and bankers and other friends who were invited from East Tennessee, Southwestern Virginia and Western North Carolina. The principal speaker for the occasion was Dr. Morgan, president of the University of Tennessee, and a member of the United States Farm Board. Dr. B. E. Dougherty, president of the Appalachian College, was one of the guests of the occasion and at the chapel exercises on Wednesday gave an outline of Dr. Morgan's speech. A meeting of this nature seems likely to prove of deep interest and helpfulness to all classes concerned, as the bankers seemed to have as their true purpose to find out how they might be able to be helpful to the farmers, which is fine indication toward united efforts of all who are concerned in these two great interests.

The commencement address at the Appalachian State College will be delivered on May 16th by Dr. A. T. Allen, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. A large crowd is expected to be present to hear this distinguished State officer. This occasion will be one of unusual interest, as it is the first commencement of this college as a four-year institution. A number of four-year graduates are to be given their diplomas.

Long Bridge on Boone Trail Near Completion

The 290-foot concrete and steel bridge being constructed by the North Carolina Highway Commission on Route 60 between Miller's Creek and Deep Gap, bridging perhaps the deepest gorge in that section of the country, is rapidly nearing completion and should be ready to open to traffic within ninety days, Captain C. S. Currier, district engineer, told the Winston-Salem Journal recently.

The bridge, which is costing more than \$50,000, has a center span 150 feet high and 150 feet long crossing the deepest portion of the gorge. Two piers, one at each end, and two abutments have been completed and the foundation of concrete for other piers is all in. All of the understructure has been finished and much of the superstructure is in place.

The bridge will be twenty feet wide with the exception of the two entrances onto the bridge which open up fan-like to a width of thirty feet. Heavy abutments will be placed at the ends while very heavy wire, preventing the automobiles from going over into the ravine will be constructed. Traffic is now being detoured from North Wilkesboro over Route 16 to Jefferson and then down to Boone. "When this bridge is completed this will be one of the finest structures of highway in Western Carolina," said Captain Currier, "and how machines can chug down that road and across that bridge! It's going to tempt the driver to make a speedway out of it."

DR. A. T. ALLEN TO DELIVER ADDRESS AT COLLEGE CLOSE

State Superintendent to Speak to First Class Finishing Four-Year Course. School Makes Great Improvements During Year. Many Former Students Will Attend the Commencement Exercises.

State Superintendent A. T. Allen will be the commencement speaker at the Appalachian State Teachers College on Friday, May 16.

Dr. Allen will address the first class ever to be given degrees from this college. Great interest is developing about the commencement occasion, and many former students from all over the State will be present to see these Bachelor of Science degrees conferred.

This has been a great year for the school. Progress has been made in all departments. The Young Women's Christian Association has been accorded full membership in the national organization. Religious work through the various churches in the town has been most gratifying. Under Coach Johnson athletics has attracted attention everywhere: football, baseball, basketball for both young men and young women, tennis and other sports have all elicited our enthusiasm and pride. Just recently the A. S. T. C. has become a member of the "Little Six" in athletics. The debating schedule has been the most ambitious yet undertaken, including contests with Furman University, Lenoir-Rhyne, Campbell, Boston University, Wake Forest, High Point, Virginia Intermont, Elon and State and Guilford, resulting in membership in the North Carolina Forensic Association. Then, too, the students take pride in the academic achievements of the college, the major fields being primary education, grammar grade education, science, mathematics and physical education. What it has been a great year, every day filled to the brim with activity.

Mrs. Manley Greene Buried on Sunday

Mrs. Eliza Greene, age 72, wife of Manley Greene, died at her home on Zionville, R. F. D. Friday afternoon following an attack of pneumonia which began Thursday morning. She had been in ill health for several years, but until the fatal illness developed had never been confined.

Mrs. Greene was the daughter of the late Jont Brown, of Meat Camp, was a member of the Baptist Church, and throughout her long life was regarded as one of the best women of her community; an ardent worker in the church, a kind and generous neighbor, and a devoted wife and mother. The Greene household, under her capable care, was looked on as a model of hospitality, and her unexpected demise is the cause of great sorrow to an army of devoted friends throughout the county.

The funeral services were held Sunday morning at 11 o'clock from Meat Camp Baptist Church by the Rev. R. C. Eggers, assisted by Rev. L. A. Wilson and Rev. E. C. Hodges. A huge concourse of friends and relatives were present, and the floral offering was profuse. The body was laid to rest in the Jont Brown Graveyard.

Smith Hagaman Buys Fine Silverstone Farm

County Superintendent Smith Hagaman has just closed a deal whereby he becomes owner of the Hayes old farm in the Silverstone neighborhood. He purchased the valuable property from Mr. K. M. Clement and the consideration was \$15,000.

The farm, long known as one of the best in this county, contains 113 acres, and is admirably adapted to grass and grain. A considerable part of the place is now in cultivation and the sale price included the growing crops. When real estate was at high tide it is recalled that this farm once changed hands for \$20,000.

Mr. Hagaman has retained Mr. John Eggers as superintendent of the farm and expects to devote the greater part of his attention to the livestock industry.

Appalachia Wins Game From Catawba College

The Appalachian State College baseball team defeated the Catawba College nine on College Field here last Thursday afternoon by a one-sided score of 7 to 1. Garrison pitched a sturdy game for the State team, allowing only four hits. A fast double play in the eighth, Jones to Mostella, cut short a threatened Catawba hit. The State team secured ten hits and played a fine fielding game.

Score by innings: R H E
Catawba 100 000 0-1 4 5
A. S. T. C. 120 002 01x-6 10 3
Batteries: Catawba—Miller and Kesler; Appalachian—Garrison and Camp. Officials: Gorey and Holsinger.

The cabbage crop of Eastern Carolina, particularly Carteret County, has begun moving in bulk with good demand and fair prices so far.

Blowing Rock School Closes Successful Year

On Wednesday evening, April 3 at 8 o'clock the seventh grade of the Blowing Rock School held its exercises in the school auditorium under the direction of their teacher, Miss Hattie Greer. After the history, the statistics, oration, prophecy and poem had been read, Mr. Ira T. Johnston of Jefferson, N. C. delivered the literary address on "The Balanced Life." It was very practical and well taken by the large audience. Superintendent Smith Hagaman delivered the certificates to the class of eighteen in number, saying that they had made the highest average of any other class in the county and were the youngest.

On Thursday evening at 8 o'clock the senior class, under the direction of their sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Grady E. Tester, rendered a very unique program when the class conducted its own funeral, having on the stage the different funeral symbols. The last scene represented the ghosts moving about in the other world.

On Friday evening the literary address was delivered by President William A. Jenkins, of Davenport College, Lenoir, on the answer to the question, "What is real manhood?" The address was very forceful and was greatly enjoyed by the large audience.

The diplomas were delivered to the graduating class by the principal, F. C. Nye. The following make up the class: Glenn Coffey, Hazel Block, Paul Foster, Louis Klutz, Ruby Richards, Margaret Suddarth, Helen Suddarth, Mary Robbins and Ruby Tolbert.

Tom Thumb Golf Proves Popular

Several hundred people visited the newly-developed Tom Thumb Golf Course for the opening last Saturday evening and from the many expressions of approval heard on the streets it is gathered that the new sport is proving immensely popular here. Through the courtesy of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hill Farthing, all the ladies were admitted free, and much interest centered around the "miniature" in which Mayor R. S. Swift and J. A. Spoles, president of the Boone Social Club, matched their skill. The latter won by a small margin, and the links were thrown open to the public, many couples staying until a late hour to enjoy the fascinating sport.

\$4,000 FIRE MAKES MANY HOMELESS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nashua, N. H.—Temporary shelter has been provided by charitable organizations for 1,500 homeless residents of this textile city, who lost their all in a \$4,000,000 fire Sunday afternoon and night.

The Salvation Army, Y. M. and Y. W. C. A.'s aided relatives and friends in taking care of the unfortunate, and every municipal department pressed their resources to provide means of relief.

The conflagration, the most serious in the history of the Granite State, long will remain in the memory of the citizenry. Never before has such widespread devastation centered in any one hamlet of New Hampshire, either by fire, flood or other agency. Latest estimates of the havoc wrought numbered the homes destroyed at 260 with 600 of the 1,500 homeless also jobless through the burning of mercantile establishments. Streets in the Crown Mill section where the fire, driven by a 10-mile gale, cut a three mile swath, today offered a colorless aspect of charred brick and twisted metal.

"SOUTHERN CLOCK" ON ITS WAY TO DIXIE AFTER BEING ABSENT FOR MANY YEARS

Boston, Mass.—An old clock taken by Yankee sailors on a foraging party during the Civil War was started back to its Georgia plantation home Wednesday aboard the steamer City of Montgomery after it had ticked away 67 years waiting for this gesture of restitution.

It was the Grand Army of the Republic of Attleboro, together with Edmond B. Gingras, who bought it at an auction sale, which arranged for the return of the clock to Captain H. P. King, U. S. A., a lineal descendant of Thomas B. King, of St. Simons Island, Georgia, Confederate commissioner and the original owner.

The clock's history was discovered by Gingras when examining his purchase. He found inside beside the maker's name a penciled note, "Taken from the plantation home of Hon. Thomas B. King, St. Simons Island, St. Simons Sound, Georgia, U. S. S. Ethan Allen on blockade, January 10, 1863."

There followed an extensive correspondence with Brunswick, Ga., and the discovery that three granddaughters of the Confederate commander were living on the island and that Captain King was a direct descendant. The latter is now stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

PARKER DEFEATED

Information coming by telephone just at presstime states that the confirmation of John J. Parker of North Carolina for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court was defeated by the United States Senate, the vote standing 39 for confirmation and 41 against. The balloting took place at 1:30 (Wednesday) E. S. T.

TAX PAYMENTS AHEAD OF ALL PAST PERIODS

Sheriff Farthing Pleased With the Fine Response to Call for County Taxes; Has Collected More This Spring Than at Any Time During His Official Career. Small Taxpayers Have Been Prompt.

L. M. Farthing, Sheriff of Watauga County since 1923, tells The Democrat that tax payments this spring are remarkably good, in fact the best he has experienced since he was first elected to his important office. April collections, he said, totaled more than \$17,000, and since May began, payments have been made so glibly that the Sheriff's office hasn't compiled the total receipts to date. Collections the first of the week, however, are perhaps as much as \$10,000.

The property of delinquent taxpayers was to have been advertised in this issue of The Democrat, but in view of the record-breaking response to the Sheriff's call, and the effort the citizens are making to get their receipts, an arrangement was made with the county commissioners Monday to extend the time until June 1. It is believed that by that time the list of delinquents will be reduced to the minimum.

Sheriff Farthing attributes his success in collecting the county's money, largely to the good prices received by the farmers last fall for their farm products, and to their disposition to save against the financial depression which has been so marked in other agricultural districts. Sheriff Farthing says that smaller taxpayers have been almost uniformly prompt in meeting their obligations, and that generally speaking, the people of the county are newer to financial independence than in any recent year. According to numbers, he says, business men have experienced more difficulty in paying their taxes than have the farmers.

Tennessee Cops Get Watauga Truckmen

East Tennessee is evidently tired of the prosperity afforded by the importation of products grown in Watauga County on the North Carolina side. Leastwise the operation of the State highway laws as affects this kind of commerce, would bring about this conclusion. On Tuesday of this week no less than fifteen motor trucks, carrying lumber and other commodities from Watauga into the capital of Johnson County, were held up by the State traffic cops and their drivers were given orders to stay away, buy Tennessee license plates, or be arrested for illegal operation of their vehicles. Some of the Wataugans, it is said, have business connections in Mountain City which they are loath to sever at this particular time, and want to finish delivering their commodities. On the other hand, they do not think it right to have to buy licenses in Tennessee as well as in their home State, when North Carolina demands no such tribute from residents of the neighbor State. At any rate, some of the local farmers went back to Mountain City yesterday as usual, but their fate is not known to The Democrat.

Especially since the construction of the good road into Johnson County from Boone, Mountain City has profited more, proportionately, from the agricultural regions of Watauga County than has Boone. Being located on a standard gauge railroad, it has been an important marketing point for this region, and business men of Boone have been more or less perturbed by the trade which goes from the western part of the county into the sister State. Now, however, with the application of the new law, it is earnestly hoped that the farmers of this county will become agitated to such an extent that they may go to North Carolina markets, even though the distance is some greater.

SIX-YEAR-OLD CHILD KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE CRASH

Little I. B. Stine Jr., six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Stine, of Lenoir, was almost instantly killed near that place on Sunday, April 27, when the car in which the family was riding turned over, crushing the child's skull. Mrs. Stine and a small daughter suffered minor injuries.

Funeral services were conducted from the home on Tuesday at 10 a. m. Rev. Tucker, of the Methodist Church at Lenoir, officiating, having charge of the funeral services. Burial took place in the Lenoir cemetery.

Mrs. Stine will be remembered by friends as Miss Texie Lenoir, formerly a student at the Appalachian State Teachers College.