

A GROUND HOG IS DENIED

HE SAYS HE IS HERE, IN CHARLOTTE

THE MAN FROM MISSOURI CAN BE DENIED—If He Doubts Let Him Call on Mr. A. A. Anthony or Mr. J. B. Haynes—The latter is an Old Mountain Hunter—He Brought a Mountain of the Famous Old-School, South-Siding, Hymn Singers of the County, and they are a pair of a noted quartette who make the walkin' ring in Revard Street church every Sunday.

The other day, when The Observer man tried to find out something definite about the detested ground hog and his mysterious weather wisdom and printed a story to the effect that no one seemed to know anything of the nature of the little beast, Mr. Anthony knitted his brow and pondered long, but after searching himself for a long period of time he came to this conclusion: "Well, I was born in Cleveland county many years ago, and I have traveled much, and in all of my days and rambles, I have never seen a ground hog. Now, I wonder if there is such a beast? Well, he is a mountain creature, and to settle this thing I'll go and see Jim Haynes, who is a mountain man promising like Mr. Haynes is a workman in the Wearn shops, and Transylvania county is his home. He came here from that rough and rugged country, and is making a good citizen.

"Jim, did you ever see a ground hog?" asked Mr. Anthony as he approached the mountaineer. "Many a one." "Where?" "In Transylvania county. Why, I have caught them, and I have two hides at my home here now."

"You say you have two ground hog hides?" "Yes, sir." "Well, that is getting pretty close to the hog. I'll just call my friend Red Buck and tell him that I have found a real ground hog man."

Following up this declaration Mr. Anthony called up The Observer office and made a date for Mr. Red Buck to see Mr. Haynes and his pig skin. Early yesterday, Mr. Red Buck journeyed to the Wearn shops and was introduced to Mr. J. B. Haynes, who was busy turning a piece of wood.

"And you have seen a ground hog, a real weather prophet, have you, Mr. Haynes?" The Observer man asked. "Yes, sir, I have killed them. They are thick in the rough country of Transylvania."

"What does the varmint look like?" "Well, sir, he is all sorts of a looking animal. He has a head like a squirrel, except that it is larger, and teeth, and ears like a squirrel, but he is as large as a good-sized possum. His legs are short and made for digging in the ground. If you get after him he will dig away and pack the dirt behind him."

Here Mr. Haynes lifted the lid of his tool box and drew out a grey colored skin. "He is about this color, a reddish brown, when he comes out at Christmas, and later sheds and becomes grey, like a grey fox."

"Well, Jim, is he good to eat?" asked Mr. Anthony. "Yes, sir, I have eaten them, and the meat is not unlike that of a young calf, chipped off and fried. But before you eat him you must take off the big roll of fat that lies between the skin and the meat. There is good eating in him, for he weighs anywhere from 12 to 20 pounds. This one was about a year old."

"Will he fight?" "O, yes, if you hem him in he will bite like fury. If a dog does not know his business he will get bit as sure as a trout when he tries to kill one. It took the two hours to get this one out of his den. He was digging about as fast as I was."

"How come he knows so much about the weather?" "I can't answer that, but I will tell you what I do know, that is this, that he goes in his hole for the winter just after the first heavy frost and remains there until this time of the year, and if the day on which he appears is cloudy he will be seen around his den, but if it is cold and clear you will see him any more for 60 days. That is the gospel truth. Old folks declare that he comes out on the 2d day of February every year and if he sees his shadow he goes back in his den and remains for two months longer."

"What does this peculiar beast feed on—what is his daily diet, Mr. Haynes?" was asked. "He is had on beans and what he does not eat he destroys. He likes corn, apples, potatoes, cabbage and other garden truck. He is a mighty smart varmint, and it takes a soon man to catch him. He will run to his hole at the slightest warning. If you go in the woods and let the sun shine on your gun-barrel he will fly at the first glint of it. His eye is very keen."

If there is any man in Charlotte, or anywhere else in this neck of the woods, who does not believe in ground hogs let him call on Mr. Anthony or Mr. Haynes and be assured, if he happens to be from Missouri the boys will fix him according to Hoyle. It will be recalled by readers of The Observer, that Col. Alex. Burnett mortgaged the mayor of Old Fort McDowell county, six bay hogs, running wild around the headwaters of the North Fork of the Swannanoa river, about 15 years ago. Col. Burnett got drunk on cider one Sunday, caught a cow by the tail, trailed her with a stick and went sailing through the pretty mountain village yelling at the top of his voice, meaning to reflect on the town just as much as he could, but as the cow turned a bend in the main street of the town, she carried Col. Burnett around at such a terrific rate that he was flung loose, and before he could rise Chief of Police Prof. Mitchell arrested him. The colonel had no money and the town had no guard house, so a compromise was effected by letting the prisoner give a mortgage on certain "bay hogs and an in-field rifle."

night and the two went to hunt for the hogs the next day. They walked until late in the afternoon but found nothing. Just before night, after Prof. Mitchell had become restless, Col. Burnett told him that he must trip lightly, lest the hogs hear him and take flight. A little later Col. Burnett walked close to the officer, grabbed him by the arm and threw him back on his heels, protesting. "Did you tell you to scare the hogs?" "Do you see that one go in his hole?" "Do you think I am a fool?" asked Prof. Mitchell, as he looked at the mouth of a smooth hole in the ground that he saw ahead of him. "No, but I thought you know that it is ground hogs that you are hunting."

"Well, where is the rifle?" asked the officer of the law, grabbing at a last straw. "I said it was an in-field rifle. I left it sitting by a pine tree in the field at the second battle of Manassas."

Prof. Mitchell wended his way home and left Col. Burnett to settle with his God. There must be ground hogs. FAVOR A DOG TAX. Mecklenburg County People Will Demand One Before Long—Sentiment in That Direction is Growing.

Mecklenburg has taken the lead in many public improvement movements, and is beginning to look as if the people of the county would demand a dog tax. Such a tax would yield several thousand dollars annually, and it would add much to the school fund, if applied in that way. Every man who owns a decent dog of any sort would gladly pay a tax on his dog to get the protection that it would necessarily give.

An Observer man interviewed a number of well-to-do farmers on the subject yesterday, and every man was heartily in favor of such a tax. One man, who owns a number of fine bird dogs, said: "I would be delighted to pay such a tax, something is not done all of the birds will be destroyed by poor, mongrel dogs that eat the eggs and young birds. The negro hunter has become a great nuisance and labor is scarce that the farmer is afraid to say anything to him about hunting on his place. I should like to see a dog tax."

This sentiment is growing and the next Legislature may be asked to give the county a dog tax. The dog tax in Charlotte yielded \$1,429.40 last year. This came from 702 dogs. Giving each township 230 dogs at \$1 each the county would get \$23,000.

Mecklenburg was first to adopt a good road law and a no-fence law, and she will welcome a dog tax. TRAVELERS TO BANQUET. Local Post of the T. P. A. Will Hold Big Meeting the Night of the 10th Instant—Vice President B. H. Marsh to be Present.

Post C, the local organization of the North Carolina division of the Travelers' Protective Association, is making arrangements for a big meeting and banquet on the night of the 10th instant. Officers will probably be elected that night. The banquet will be served at the Penny Cafe and all members of the post and all out-of-town traveling men and jobbers and manufacturers are invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting will be presided over by Mr. P. F. Zimmerman, president of the local post. The committee having in charge the arrangements for the meeting consists of Messrs. Walter Scott, Felix O. Gee and W. Z. Stultz. Mr. B. H. Marsh, of Winston-Salem, first vice president of the national organization, has accepted an invitation to be present, and will make a short speech, telling of the growth of the association and its works.

A BIG BLACK TIGER. The Star Performer in the Police Court—Henry Cathey Goes to Gang for 10 Days to Pass the Third Degree as a Boozie Artist. The star performer in the city police court yesterday morning was Big Jim Hogan, a colored giant, who was arraigned on the charge of selling liquor. Jim is nearly seven feet tall, black as the ace of spades, and looks as if he might be newly imported from the jungles of the Dark Continent.

Among the witnesses against Jim was "Frog George" Gabriel, of bull-frog fame. After hearing the evidence Recorder Shannonhouse bound the prisoner over to the Superior Court and sent him to jail in default of a bond of \$200. Henry Cathey, colored, was up for the third degree in the black division of the Unregenerated Federation of Boozie Artists. Recorder Shannonhouse decided that to pass this degree Cathey should spend 10 days on the county roads.

Dr. P. W. Search to Lecture at Elizabeth College. Dr. Preston W. Search, of the University of Massachusetts, who will deliver the address to men at the Academy of Music this afternoon, has been engaged to deliver a lecture at Elizabeth College to-morrow evening at 8:30 o'clock, on "Music in the Fatherland." Dr. Search is a scholar and lecturer of wide reputation and the lecture he will deliver to-morrow night is said to be one of his best. The patrons and friends of the college are invited to attend. There will be no admission fee.

There's a cure for old age, an excellent and thorough one. There's nothing sensational about it. It is the best the doctors can find under existing circumstances. Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. 35 cents. Tea or Tablets. R. H. Jordan & Co.

CURED. I was afflicted with nervousness and general debility for nearly six years, which weakened me greatly. Every few days I had nervous spells and weakened down; I hardly had strength to walk across the room. I was hungry at regular times, but if I indulged my appetite it would bring on one of those nervous spells, which I would require morphine to relieve. Last September Mrs. Joe Person called to see me, having heard of my condition. But, although she assured me she thought her remedy would cure me, I did not have much faith in it, or anything else. I had tried so many things I was out of heart. She persuaded me, however, to use her Remedy. I bought half a dozen bottles of it, although my husband told me it was useless to buy so much, as I might not live to take it. I bought it all the same, and to-day I can say that I am a well, healthy woman. I have done more work in the last two months than I had done in five years previous. My complexion is good, my health, my appetite good, my nervousness gone, and I have not had to resort to morphine since I started on Mrs. Person's Remedy. It is every-thing that a doctor can give. MRS. D. L. BARNETT, Clayton, N. C., Jan. 21, 1908.

50 Charlotte Pythians to Attend

It is stated that about 50 members of the four local lodges of Knights of Pythians will attend the district meeting to be held at Concord Friday night. Prof. R. J. Cochran, district deputy grand chancellor, returned yesterday from Concord, where he went to make the final arrangements for the meeting. He told a reporter that the Concord Pythians were making elaborate arrangements for the meeting and would do themselves proud on the occasion.

An Oyster Supper Thursday Night

St. Elizabeth's Guild, of the Church of the Holy Comforter, at Dilworth, will give an oyster supper on Thursday evening, the 5th, in the store room next to the Dilworth Drug Store. The hours will be from 6 to 10 o'clock and the ladies in charge will thank everybody in that section of the city if he or she will turn out to the cook that day and go there for supper. The public is cordially invited to attend.

LET US HELP YOU ECONOMIZE

A knowledge of what clothing and dyeing can do would suggest a great source of economy to numberless people. Many articles of delicate color are never destined to live beyond the end of the season which introduced them. Skirts, Dresses, Waists, Gentlemen's Suits, Neckties, etc., are cast aside with wearing qualities intact, when cleaning or dyeing would make them serviceable for future use. We are assured that were the merits of our work more generally known, a large proportion of clothing now cast aside as useless would be sent to us, and the expense of replenishing wardrobes reduced.

If you want to economize we can help you. CHARLOTTE STEAM LAUNDRY LAUNDERERS, DYERS, CLEANERS 219 SOUTH TRYON STREET. LIBERAL TERMS TO AGENTS.

Big Values In Extension Tables We Will Offer This Week

The best values ever offered on Extension Tables in Charlotte. Golden Oak 6-foot extension table, well made, worth \$6.00, for only \$4.95. Handsome Quarter Sawn Oak Pedestal Tables, 48-inch top, 8 feet long, worth \$27.50, for \$22.50. Other good values in our \$30.00, \$37.50, \$45.00 and \$60.00 Tables. We consider no price cheap without quality. Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Refunded.

Cash or Credit W. T. McCOY Cash or Credit

HATS FOR MEN

Every man should have an easy-going, soft hat—it's a pleasant change from the more formal derby. We have all the good shapes of the leading makers. \$3 to \$5. THE TATE-BROWN COMPANY FURNISHERS AND TAILORS.

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We have 10 second hand Pneumatic Buggies, all in good condition and newly painted that we will sell cheap. Also a number of other second hand vehicles.

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FURNITURE FOR THE Dining Room

Has a large place in the thoughts of a hospitable host. He wants his guests to be pleased as to the eye and person, as well as to the "inner man." You will find many beautiful designs in BUFFETS and SIDE-BOARDS at our place, and a price to suit almost any income. It goes without saying that we have an equally fine line of TABLES and CHAIRS for the dining room. We'll be pleased to show you any time.

Lubin Furniture Company

THE WEATHER

Is a gentle reminder that good substantial clothing is necessary for protection of man. One would think that this late in the season our stocks ought to be so depleted as to not be able to fill the requirements that such severe weather makes necessary. Such is not the case at our store, we have still an elegant line of heavy men and boys Overcoats, Suits, Underwear, Trousers, etc., all new stock and can be used to such an advantage just at this season of the year. One of the great advantages in buying at our store is that our clothing being the product of the foremost clothing manufacturers of the United States is guaranteed. This means satisfaction or your money back.

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SOME special things we are offering in this line. The very best that money will buy:

- Nottingham Curtains.....\$1.50 per pair
Bobnett Curtains.....1.25 per pair
Irish Point Curtains.....2.00 per pair
Battenburg Curtains.....3.50 per pair
Antique Curtains.....3.50 per pair
Cluney Curtains.....4.00 per pair
Many Finer Styles in all grades up to \$15.00 per pair
Door Pannels in Arabian, Battenburg and Irish Point 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50 and to \$3.50 each.
We have them six feet long.

Rugs and Carpets—New Spring Goods coming in daily. We can offer the very best inducements at this time.

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Special Sale of Suits and Overcoats 25 per cent off on all clothing, Overcoats and Pants

Table with 4 columns of clothing items and prices: \$25.00 Suits, \$18.75, \$6.50 Suits, \$4.88, \$22.50, \$16.88, \$5.00, \$3.75, \$20.00, \$15.00, \$4.50, \$3.38, \$18.50, \$13.88, \$4.00, \$3.00, \$15.00, \$11.25, \$4.00, \$3.00, \$12.50, \$9.38, \$3.50, \$2.62, \$10.00, \$7.50, \$3.00, \$2.25

You must be satisfied or your money back. No Goods Charged at this Sale.

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The best on the market for only \$1.00. Armistead Burwell, Jr.