

Western Carolina News

WESTERN CAROLINA.

Interesting Report on Its Resources Made by State Geologist Holmes.

Mr. Charles McNamee, a member of the State Geological board returned yesterday from Raleigh where a meeting of that committee was held for the purpose of hearing State Geologist Holmes's annual report. The board consists of Governor Russell as chairman, Mr. McNamee and Maj. J. Turner Morehead, of Leasville, all of whom were present.

The report made by Mr. Holmes was thorough and exceedingly interesting and was replete with information in regard to the State's resources and developments. The work of the geological survey during the past year has been continued along the same general lines pursued during the previous year but in the course of the work some new subjects have been taken up, as will appear in the statement submitted below. The work has been mainly in connection with the investigation of the following subjects:

1. The clay deposits and industries.
2. Gold deposits and mining methods.
3. The minor mineral resources, such as mica, corundum, talc, marble and miscellaneous mineral deposits.
4. Water powers.
5. Forests and forest resources.
6. General and economic geology of the western counties.
7. Topographic maps.
8. Mineral waters.
9. Drinking water supplies, and especially artesian water supplies for the eastern counties.
10. Irrigation and drainage of swamp lands.
11. A magnetic survey of the state.

WORK IN WESTERN COUNTIES.

A highly interesting report was made of the work in the Western counties as follows:

As representing a part of the work of the United States Geological Survey in North Carolina, co-operating with the State Survey, Mr. Arthur Keith, one of the geologists of the United States Geological Survey, has been for the past several years assigned to work in North Carolina, in the western counties, these being the only counties of which accurate topographic maps are in existence. During the past year Mr. Keith has been doing work in structural and economic geology in Watauga, Burke, Caldwell, Mitchell, McDowell, Yancey, Buncombe, Cherokee, Macon, Graham and Clay counties. In McDowell, Yancey and Buncombe counties new areas were surveyed by him while in the other counties mentioned the work which was begun during the past few years was continued, additional facts having been discovered.

Mr. Keith has examined especially the iron ore deposits in Mitchell and McDowell counties; the marble deposits in McDowell and Cherokee; the talc deposits in Swain, Macon and Cherokee, and other lesser mineral deposits in the several counties. He has now in preparation a report on the structural and economic geology of the Cherokee region, and another on the geology of the cranberry region.

TOPOGRAPHIC WORK.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in connection with the great topographic and economic map of the state, which is being prepared jointly by the United States geological survey and the state survey. In connection with the making of this map, Mr. Keith has been doing work in structural and economic geology in Watauga, Burke, Caldwell, Mitchell, McDowell, Yancey, Buncombe, Cherokee, Macon, Graham and Clay counties. In McDowell, Yancey and Buncombe counties new areas were surveyed by him while in the other counties mentioned the work which was begun during the past few years was continued, additional facts having been discovered.

The surveying of this line was begun at Morehead City, after having carefully determined the elevation of the place above the mean tide of the ocean; and during November and the five months following, the line of exact levels and traverse line were extended along the Atlantic and North Carolina railway from Morehead City to Goldsboro, along the line of the Southern railway from Goldsboro to the Tennessee line at Paint Rock.

The running of this line of exact levels will be of great service not only in the making of the economic map of the state, but also in determining the exact elevation of all points in North Carolina by using this line as a basis. The elevation of various other points in the state can be determined from the railroads crossing this line. The leveling (which was done by Mr. W. Carvel Hall, of the United States geological survey) was carried on with so much accuracy that in the total distance of 457 miles from Morehead City to Paint Rock the probable error was not greater than 575 thousandths of a foot.

In the line of the regular topographic work, the survey of what is known as the Pisgah sheet, which includes portions of Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania, Haywood and Jackson counties, was completed during the present year, and the map covering that region will be prepared for engraving during the present winter. The United States geological survey also completed during this year, that part of the Cranberry atlas sheet which lies in Mitchell and Caldwell counties.

In a portion of the Pisgah area on account of the important forestry investigations being carried on there by the Biltmore estate, it was deemed advisable to have the map of that region on a somewhat larger scale and made more accurately. Consequently the map of that region, of approximately ten square miles (134,000 acres), is made on a scale of 1-45000, or approximately one and a third inches to the mile, and with a contour interval of fifty feet.

As illustrating the care with which this sort of work must be done in order that it have a permanent value it may be stated that in making the survey more than 300 (three hundred) trigonometrical stations were located by careful trigonometrical methods; the exact elevation of 232 points was determined by means of the engineer's

level and connecting lines with the railroad at Asheville.

Twelve permanent bench marks were erected, upon the brass top of which the elevation of each of those points was stamped; and there were run 335 miles of traverse lines, chiefly on foot, with a stadia.

The total cost of this special map was \$3,850, or \$18.26 per square mile; the relatively high cost of the work being due to the extreme ruggedness of the country, the fact that a larger part of the surface was covered with forest growth, and the great amount of detail necessary in order to insure the accuracy of the work.

Of the total cost of the field work in the preparation of this map, the United States geological survey contributed \$2,835, and the Biltmore estate contributed \$1,500. The only part that the state survey took in the work, was to organize it, push it through and take the credit for it.

MAGNETIC SURVEY.

The attention of the survey has been called many times by the courts, by local attorneys and by county surveyors, to the great difficulties which exist in this state in re-determining and relocating the boundary lines of tracts of land which were surveyed and recorded at different times in the past; and it must be apparent, especially to every attorney who has had experience in this line of work, as well as to every surveyor, that it is of great importance that there should be located at the court house in every county, some of the most permanent monuments giving the direction of the true north and south, in order that any surveyor may go there at any time and determine for himself the amount of variation in his compass at that particular time. It is furthermore of great importance that there should be prepared maps and tables, showing the variation of the compass needle in the several counties of the state at different times in the past, in order that knowing the present variation of the compass and the variation at the time of certain past surveys, the surveys can easily locate the old lines.

We have now in preparation a small bulletin, in which such instructions are given, as will enable the average county surveyor to re-locate old portions of the line in a satisfactory manner, and it is the intention of the state geologist during 1898, to propose to the county commissioners in the several counties of the state that if they will bear the expense of erecting permanent monuments, the geologist will locate by means of these monuments the true meridian in each of the several counties. The probable cost to each county in that case will be less than \$50.00, but the benefit which each county would derive from this work would be of considerable importance.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Last, but not least, the survey has devoted a considerable amount of attention during the year to the investigation of road materials in the different portions of the state, and the best methods of using these materials in the construction of better roads; and we have now nearly ready for the printer a new report (Bulletin No. 18.) on this subject. This report in addition to giving a description of the road materials, and the best method of using them, will describe in some detail the general methods of building roads and of constructing the culverts and bridges, and judging from the numerous applications which have been received in advance, it is believed that this report will fill a much needed want, and will result in a decided benefit to the state. The state geologist, in his numerous trips has visited the different points where road making was in progress, and in every way has rendered assistance to the road supervisors and superintendents in connection with the use of road materials and the re-location of roads, and re-location of roads, and has accepted, as far as consistent to deliver addresses on road improvement in different portions of the state.

BILTMORE EXHIBIT.

The exhibits of the Alamance and Biltmore farms at the Piedmont Poultry show attract still the greatest attention, says the Spartanburg Herald. All the little ones are delighted with the quartette of guinea pigs in the former exhibit. The black-and-tan rabbits shown are said to be the only ones of their kind in the south. It was semi-officially announced last night that the judges had awarded the first premium to a pair of imported Belgium hares recently purchased by Prof. B. W. Getsinger. On account of the large variety of fowls—ducks, pigeons, guineas and rabbits—the Alamance exhibits drew forth many favorable criticisms from every one.

The Biltmore farm seems to be in the race for prizes. Every bird exhibited by Mr. Vanderbilt is an almost perfect specimen. The trio of Toulouse geese are beautiful animals, with their long, graceful necks, their light-gray color and their tremendous bodies, they merit the never-ceasing admiration which they receive. It is a question among the patrons of the show which of the cocks in this exhibit is of the greatest size and weight. Two light Brahmas and a Buff Cochins divide this honor at present and only the experienced judges can say which one is entitled to the distinction. White Leghorns, Barred Plymouth Rocks, Golden Wyandottes, White Plymouth Rocks, and Black Minorcas are present in abundance. A bronze turkey in this exhibit is a magnificent bird, with a weight of thirty-two pounds. It is not every day that the opportunity is given of seeing Mr. Vanderbilt's famous poultry, and this fact should be remembered by farmers and townspeople alike.

MORGANTON'S NEW BANK.

The new proposed bank for Morganton, bids fair to be one of the best and safest in the state, says the Hickory Press, and the people of Morganton and Burke and adjoining counties are to be congratulated for having such an institution, especially under the control and management of the gentlemen composing the company. They are all citizens of Hickory and are known to be prudent, safe and honest men and fully understand the business. They are men of means, whose property will aggregate over a quarter of a million dollars, which, according to the agreement signed, with their affixed seals, is responsible for the liabilities of said bank. So it will be as safe as the safest. The capital is \$25,000.

FROM SEVERAL TOWNS.

A correspondent from Grange to the Sylvan Valley News says: "News is very scarce in this section unless you want corn. Plenty of that commodity here."

Never in the history of Cherokee county did the people have more encouragement to work and raise stock and all kinds of farm produce than at present, says the Soyst. Everything is in good demand at good remunerative prices.

Engineer B. T. Beerton has made a beginning on his projected improvement of the depot grounds, says the Sylvan Valley News. He decorates his engine with ever-

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greens in Henderson county and transports them after arriving here. The bit of color he is thus introducing to an otherwise barren landscape is a relief to the monotony around the depot.

The Symington plantation, under the supervision of W. H. Duckworth as overseer, is rapidly coming to the front in the matter of productiveness. During the present season the farm produced 981 bushels of rye and 5,005 bushels of corn. This shows what the "worn-out" creek bottoms in this county will do with intelligent cultivation. We believe that other men who have idle money would find a farm in the French Broad valley a paying investment.—Sylvan Valley News.

HOW TO LIVE FOREVER.

A few years ago a physician discovered that kissing was perilous and reprehensible, being a frequent cause of the dissemination of microbes. Now come some doctors in New York to show that handshaking, also, is a dangerous practice. The bacilli of diphtheria, smallpox and scarlet fever may be distributed by the hand clasp of friendship. "Handshaking," says one of the doctors, "is a fearful menace to public health. Most of the known types of bacteria have been found on the normal hand, and the clinical demonstration supporting these conditions is as undeniable as the knowledge of the causative relation between the microbes and disease."

It is true that mankind has been indulging in handshaking for many centuries without knowing anything about the frightful risks incurred, but now that the truth has been disclosed, let the practice be stopped. It should be abolished together with all other habits involving similar dangers. Don't rub elbows with people in a crowd; elbows are frequently charged with bacteria. On greeting a friend who insists on walking by your side, keep a bottle of carbolic acid between him and yourself. Never lift your hat to a lady; the brim may be covered with bacteria. Be sure that your knife and fork are antiseptically treated before eating. Do not walk out of doors; the sole of your boot will become incrustated with microbes, and the air is sure to be full of them. If a stranger addresses you, turn and run; how do you know that he isn't saturated with bacteria? Make it a fixed principle to live in seclusion, with hermetically sealed doors and windows, and keep powerful disinfectants at hand night and day.

For centuries the race has been going on in confusion in its own way, just for lack of a few simple precautions like these.—Chicago News.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD.

Under the caption "Santa Claus Around the World," A. B. de Guerville, in The Illustrated American of December 18, flashes before us a series of glimpses, piquant, sad or beautiful, of the strange things seen by the jolly old saint in the course of his globe-trotting.

"A Triad of Christmas Tales" also carries our imagination afield into the regions of the imagination and the picturesque. These tales are recounted by Henry Austin, M. de Lipman and "One to Whom 'Twas Told."

Speaker Reed contributes an article on "The Newspaper's Intrusion Upon Privacy." The double page picture, by George

Gibbs, "Wives and Sweethearts! The Mess-Room Toast on Christmas Eve Aboard the Warship," is complemented by a short sketch of the jollifications of Jack on this universal feast-day.

"Christmas at Osmania," a story by Albert Bigelow Paine, tells how, through the pathetic faith of a low-caste Chinaman, the Christmas spirit of gentleness and beauty swayed to its own benign ends the drunken brutality of a mining camp.

"What's Downstairs?" a charming bit of verse by Catherine Young Glen, with illustrations by Lee Woodward Zeigler, shows us Christmas eve from still another point of view.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

HOW TO LOOK GOOD.

Good looks are really more than skin deep, depending entirely on a healthy condition of all the vital organs. If the liver be inactive, you have a bilious look; if your stomach be disordered, you have a dyspeptic look; if your kidneys be affected, you have a pinched look. Secure good health and you will surely have good looks. "Electric Bitters" is a good alterative and tonic. Acts directly on the stomach, liver and kidneys. Purifies the blood, cures pimples, blotches, and boils, and gives a good complexion. Every bottle guaranteed. Sold at T. C. Smith's drug store and Pelham's Pharmacy. 50 cents per bottle.

A Kentucky editor claims that an editor without enemies is not serving the people.

A GOOD CUP OF TEA.

A good cup of tea is acknowledged to be a great restorer in sadness. It enlivens the frame, and quickens life's flame, and diffuses a spirit of gladness. Served hot every day at the Woman's Exchange.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT.

There will be an entertainment given by the West Asheville Sunday school at Deaver's Hall next Monday. A small admission will be charged. A good time is in store for all who may attend. The proceeds are for the benefit of the Sunday school. 266-2

Sweet, Florida oranges at The Alcazar, 8 Patton avenue.

Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before Them,

But past events don't always leave their shadows behind them. So it was with our special sale of \$10.00 suits the past week—scarcely a shadow of them left.

Our Special This Week

Will be all \$12.00 and \$12.50 suits for \$10.00. This line is composed of chevots, worsteds, plaids, checks and mixtures cut in the very latest styles, made by none other than the best of tailors, and fit you like they had been made to your measure.

Will Continue This Week

Our cut-rates on Boy's and Children's Clothing—cost sale. These suits are of

this season's production—no old stock—we carried over none—only the latest styles and patterns. Entire line chevot, troot and worsted suits, also all Boy's and Children's Reefers and Overcoats at cost. Reefers in sizes 3 to 8, were \$2.50, \$4.50 and \$5.00—now \$2.00, \$3.50 and \$3.75

Boy's Overcoats and Ulsters in Chinchilla, Astrachan, Beaver and Freize, sizes 3 to 20, were \$2.50 to \$7.00, now \$2.00 to \$5.00.

Boy's 50c. Waists at 39c. This sale will positively last only one week. Don't put off coming until the last of the week. You will miss a good thing like many who called too late to be fitted from our special \$10.00 line. These will surely not last many days.

Peyser's famous 2100—4 ply linen 10c collars are the best made. 15c. box now \$1.00 per dozen.

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