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WESTERN North Carolina is rich not only in its minerals but also in its forests, not only in that which lies buried in the bowels of its mountains but also in that which covers their lofty sides and summits. This is especially true of Haywood county, the section recently visited by the Press Association. We found the mountains of that county—many peaks of which were 6,000 feet high—all covered with dense and luxuriant forests of the most valuable trees. The principal species were walnut, yellow poplar, linn, chestnut and oak, and they attain a remarkable size. Some of these trees grow to the wonderful size of 9 and 10 feet in diameter, and we were told of one that was said to be 12 feet in diameter. We were shown a church near Waynesville that was said to have been built entirely out of one tree. It is a Methodist church, called Killian's chapel, is 24 by 44 feet in size and the tree out of which it is said to have been built was a yellow poplar 10 feet in diameter. There is a tree lying on the ground near Waynesville, across the trunk of which two men cannot see each other when standing on opposite sides and holding up their hands. These forests are vast in extent and seem almost inexhaustible and will be a source of great wealth to their owners. Already their value is being appreciated and outside capitalists are investing there in. Saw mills are being erected all along the line of the unfinished railroad, and huge piles of lumber are now awaiting the arrival of the iron horse to be shipped to the Northern cities. At the present terminus of the road (12 miles from Waynesville) we saw immense piles of lumber and logs awaiting shipment, and at Waynesville and intermediate points we saw the same thing. These vast forests are valuable not merely because of their government value, but because of the superior quality of their timbers. Some of the finest specimens that we saw were used in the erection and furnishing of the Episcopal church at Waynesville, which is a perfect gem of a church and is built exclusively of native woods. The chancel furniture made of curled walnut was exquisitely beautiful and would have adorned the costliest cathedral on either continent. In the erection of buildings the lumber generally used is sawed from the yellow poplar, especially for ceiling and weather boarding, while chestnut and walnut are used for ornamentation and inside work. The lumber of the linn is the lightest, and there are great quantities of it.

Of course the settler who purchases such forests, must be very fertile as is shown by the abundant crops grown wherever clearings have been made. Not only in the valleys but on the sides of lofty mountains does the husbandman reap a bountiful harvest and is amply rewarded for his labor. Corn and wheat seem to grow as well on the mountains as in the valleys and of late years the cultivation of tobacco is assuming large proportions. This is especially the case in Madison county (through which we travelled in going to the Warm Springs) which produces tobacco that is not surpassed anywhere in the State. We were shown a field of ten acres on which the owner last year realized $4,800 clear of all expenses—three hundred and eighty dollars per acre! Another owner told us that he sold his tobacco at $10 per acre to a speculator and took his notes payable in yearly instalments, but at the end of the first year the purchaser had realized enough money to pay upon his note, and get his deed. But we forbear further description of the fertility of Western North Carolina lest we may depopulate Chatham, by inducing our county men to remove to that favored section. We cannot refrain, however, from expressing our surprise that capitalists and immigrants do not flock there instead of to other less favored portions of the United States. The resources of this magnificent country will soon be developed by the completion of the

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD,

which is now being rapidly constructed. This great work of internal improvement is already beginning to fulfill the hopes of its projectors. The Paint Rock branch was completed last year, and affords the quickest and shortest route to the Western cities. Passengers can leave Raleigh in the afternoon, arrive at the Warm Springs at noon of the next day, and on the morning thereafter take breakfast at Louisville. The scenery along this branch of the road (from Asheville to the Warm Springs—a distance of 36 miles) is indescribably grand and wild. The road runs the entire distance along the banks of the French Broad river. On one side is the river and on the other are rough and rugged mountains that rise precipitously to a height of several hundred feet. The curves are short and sharp, around which the cars go rushing with dangerous speed and the timid traveller is in constant fear of being dashed against the rocky mountain side or hurled into the foaming river. The entire distance is one continuous curve or series of curves, so narrow in places that the railroad is built on trestles in the river or cut through solid rock. It is the route of the old turnpike which is no longer used, and some people still travel down the French Broad rather than be cut, Noodles, along the entire distance, did we see a white man who seemed the less gotten than upon the cars. About half way between Asheville and the Warm Springs is Marshall, the county seat of Madison county in which is only one narrow street, because the county is little more than a ledge between the mountains and the precipitous side of the mountains. For the same reason there are no yards and gardens attached to the dwellings which are huddled together uncomfortably close. We doubt if there is another town east of the Rocky Mountains similarly situated.

The most magnificent scenery and the most skillful engineering on the whole road is on the eastern ascent of the Blue Ridge from Henry to Swannanoa gap. The railroad meanders with numerous windings to the summit, a distance of nine miles, while the old turnpike between the same points is only three miles long. In this distance the railroad ascends a grade of 100 feet to a mile, and by the steep incline the iron horse snorts and puffs like a weary giant. Walking is not necessarily dangerous to persons on this road traversing lofty trestles, which are 80 feet high, and the ladies at Asheville seemed to be the only persons who were not afraid to ride over the road. We met one party of ladies who had come over the road in a buggy, and they were in ecstacies over the beauties of the road. Some of the curves are so short that the rear coaches of a train of cars can be seen from the windows of the front coaches. The road was built by convicts, who were guarded by armed men, and it is said that several of the convicts lost their lives by falling from the trestles while working on the road. The road was built by Colonel Coleman, of Philadelphia, who is President of the road, and he is spending his money like a prince in the development of the country through which the road passes. He is building a magnificent hotel at the Warm Springs, and has purchased the springs and surrounding country for miles around. He is also building a hotel at Asheville, and has purchased the springs at Alexander, and is building a hotel there. He is also building a hotel at Marshall, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Paint Rock, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Leicester, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Swannanoa gap, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Black Mountain, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Ridgecrest, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Old Fort, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Marion, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Morganton, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Lenoir, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Hickory, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Newton, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Statesville, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Mocksville, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Salisbury, and has purchased the springs there. He is also building a hotel at Concord, and has purchased the springs there. 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