

CATAWBA COUNTY IN POE'S BOOK.

Chapter in New Farm Volume on the Progress of the Catawba Farmers.

(Continued from Friday's Issue.)

Consider for example, the new Farmers' Building and Loan Association, perhaps the first thing of its kind in the south. When Mr. Shuford called a meeting of men to help organize it, he had present the president of the First National Bank, the mayor, the manager of the Piedmont Wagon Company, and other leading men who would not have had any part in the business ability of farmers five years ago. At this meeting the following plan for the association was adopted:

"The purpose of the Association is to combine the payments of the members into a fund for making loans to each other, and for the purpose of buying and improving lands, buildings and purchase of implements, machinery and stock, and for bettering conditions on the farm.

"The organization to be made under the building and loan law of North Carolina, and to be managed by a board of directors, who, with a president, vice-president and secretary and treasurer, shall have sole charge of the business, subject to such by-laws and regulations as the stockholders shall adopt.

"All money received shall be placed in a general fund, from which all loans shall be made on approved real estate security, or on the paid-in value of their stock, installments and interests to be made monthly. The stock shall be issued with a par value of \$100 payable in proportionate installments, either monthly, quarterly or semi-annually."

Sooner or later a co-operative store will doubtless be established also; and as I have intimated, plans are now being developed whereby patrons who have anything to sell will be brought into touch with any who wish to buy. For, if one farmer wishes to buy four or five pigs or ten bushels of peas, he will be put into communication with a farmer who has these to sell.

"And instead of sending north for breakfast strip and having our townspeople pay 35 cents a pound for it," said Manager Shuford, "we are going to arrange to keep this money at home in the near future by doing meat curing of the finer sort."

Another instance of the progressive spirit of Catawba people and of their new faith in themselves is found in the organization of a sweet potato marketing association to ship and sell Catawba's annual 300,000 bushel crop. "We sent out a notice the other day," said Mr. Shuford, "and promptly got sixty-five farmers to the meeting. A few years ago not half a dozen would have come." This organization will not only undertake the marketing of the sweet potato crop, but an effort will be made to get all the farmers to grow just the type of potatoes demanded by the northern markets. In other words, it will seek not only to save the middleman's profits, but also to get extra profits through standardization and improved methods of grading.

The Catawba folks are also making a determined effort to have their farm school train for farm life. The fact of the business is that if anything is found anywhere in Catawba county now that "hadn't ought to be" a wholesale war is immediately declared against it, no matter how ancient its title. More than this, the Catawba folks are even going out of their way to find out whether any bad conditions exist that they haven't known about. They are now preparing to have a "rural survey" of the county and have already made a survey of one or two school districts—finding out such things as how many farmers in the district read no papers, how many children are not going to school, how many people in the district are not church

members, how many children in the district are attending college or high school, etc.

Of course, a wide-awake people are not going to be satisfied with bad roads, and there is now great enthusiasm over the sand-clay roads that are being built and which are better in many respects than the macadam roads that cost three or four times as much per mile.

The county's country school are not kept open as long as they should be, but here again the leaders are keeping up a campaign of "agitation, irritation and education" for better things.

In short, the Catawba folks have been waked up by co-operation, they have just been inspired by an ideal of just what a farming country may be, and as Mr. Foster, the county demonstration agent, said to me, "We are not going to let anything stop us."

I met a lot of interesting men on my latest trip to Catawba—men who are carrying on this creamery work and poultry work, marketing work, etc., but the two most interesting persons I met there were women: prophetic and significant persons they were. These were Mrs. John W. Robinson and Mrs. Gordon Wilfong, leaders in the two new clubs of "United Farm Women" organized in Catawba.

No sort of movement for rural co-operation or for the development of a greater rural civilization can win large success unless it recognizes and makes room for the country woman; and it is also that the men will never organize the women. Our farm women must themselves develop leaders for their own work. The inspiring fact is that this is just what is happening in Catawba county. I don't know when I have ever felt a keener joy in having some hand in this organization of country life than I felt as I talked with a young farmer's wife who has caught a vision of the possibilities of organizing the country women, and, as Mr. Foster would say, "is not going to let anything stop her" until the result is achieved.

"We have pretty good conditions in our neighborhood," she told me, "but I never can be satisfied simple have the best social conditions in my immediate community and the best schools for my children, if I know that other districts in the county are yet wholly untouched by the new spirit. I want to reach the stay-at-home woman who feels that nobody wants her at a meeting. And the only way I know to do this is to have a county meeting and get the women in each school district who are interested to come and then put on them the responsibility of reaching these other women."

Finally, Mr. Farmer, Catawba is only a good illustration of what your county might be if you would only get it waked up. Why not wake it up?

Catawba's Co-Operative Example.

Co-operative enterprise in Catawba has passed beyond the stage of experiment and doubt into that of tried and proven success.

The creamery is five years old. Last year it put into circulation among the farmers some \$200,000. The disbursements for the month of March were \$18,000.

The county has now gone with equal success into co-operative egg collecting, fire insurance, potato marketing, and a farmers' building and loan association.

Western North Carolina has entered upon a new chapter in agricultural development. Crop growing is being topped-off with live stock production and farm industries.

Marketing farm wealth on four legs instead of four wheels is a great step forward. No farm community ever yet grew rich selling crops alone at any price whatsoever.

The next quarter century in our grain-growing, hay and forage counties will show great

REVIEW OF WORLD EVENTS

Wide Survey of General News Given in Paragraphs for Quick Reading.

Syd Jones, a negro hanged in Birmingham Friday for killing another negro, left a note confessing to 13 murders, two of whom were white men.

A head-on collision right on a high bridge between two passenger trains near Gettysburg, Pa., resulted in the death of eight and injury of a dozen others.

The English government has decided to use prisoners of war in harvesting crops near detention camps. Germany is using hundreds of thousands of prisoners in all sorts of labor.

Terrific earthquake shocks in California have destroyed hundreds of thousands of property and killed numerous people. The city of Calexico is near the center of the disturbance.

A wine house at Fresno, Cal., one of the largest in the world, was burned Friday, and 700,000 gallons of wine destroyed. It made a blazing lake. The stuff was worth half a million dollars.

Because neutral mail has been opened in England arrangements are being made for the transmission of such mail by direct boats, eliminating handling it in England. The United States mail has been opened several times.

The Turkish sultan has been gravely ill and at a conference of the princes of the empire it was desired to make the oldest son of Abdul, ex-sultan, the sultan, but this was opposed and a deadlock resulted. Meanwhile a German surgeon has operated on the sultan for gall stones.

The Tages Zeitung, a newspaper in Berlin, was suspended last week because of an article published relating to affairs between Germany and the United States. It said the president had closed the Panama canal and was doing other absurd things to help the allies. Later, the government allowed it to print again.

Germany Will Agree to President's Demands

There are good prospects that the forthcoming German note to the United States will go a long way toward meeting the American government's wishes regarding Germany's conduct of submarine warfare and making passenger traffic on the high seas safe.

While it is stated that submarine action against hostile merchantmen will not and cannot be abandoned entirely, it is increasingly probable that the German note will embody some proposals to exempt ships employed wholly or principally in passenger traffic from submarine attack.

Such ships, it is said, of course, would be subject to stoppage and examination by submarines in accordance with the practice in vogue prior to the present war and to capture if carrying contraband, but the regular rules of the prize law, particularly regarding the safety of passengers and crews, would be observed.

It is hoped here that such a solution will satisfy the requirements of President Wilson's note. It is hoped and expected here among those who are working for a friendly settlement of the situation between Germany and the United States that the United States would see that such passenger ships were not used to transport ammunition and guns nor lend themselves to attacks upon submarines.

Gains in good roads, good schools and churches, diversified crops, more and better farm animals, accumulated farm wealth, home comforts, conveniences and luxuries.

A certain, steady, weekly income the whole year round means economic freedom in the farm regions. It means a self-supporting, self-financing, self-directing democratic civilization.—University News Letter.

NEWS OF THE COUNTY

Catawba Items.

Mrs. M. S. Winecoff and little daughter, Margaret, of Elmwood are the guests of Mrs. Winecoff's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Harwell, near town.

Mrs. J. W. Lowrance left last week for Richmond to visit her daughter, Mrs. Claude Moore. Before returning home Mrs. Lowrance will visit in Greensboro and Sadelia.

Miss Marion Long of Newton was the guest of relatives in town last week.

Miss Winona Leonard has returned from a two weeks visit in Mt. Ulla and Statesville.

Mrs. Charlie Witherspoon of Hickory is spending a few days with Mrs. R. R. Boggs.

Miss Katie Coulter is spending this week in Bridgewater with Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Coulter. From Bridgewater she will go to visit Miss Grace Arney at Old Fort.

Mr. C. A. Reid Jr., of Asheville was among the visitors in town last week.

Miss Zula Sherrill has for her house guests this week Miss Rea Davidson and Mr. Tom Boyd of Statesville and Mr. Hugh McCaulley of Charlotte.

Mrs. B. C. Floyd of Orange, Va., who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Harman, is spending this week in Newton the guest of her sister, Mrs. Robert Deal.

Mr. Carrie Neill and children, Mr. Buren and Miss Flo Neill of Statesville, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Shuford last week. Mrs. Neill and children left Monday for Malcom and Tama, Iowa, to visit relatives. Mrs. Neill is a sister of Mr. Shuford.

Messrs. Claude Sigmon, Fred Lowrance and Ed Smith and Misses Bess Smith, Mabel Gilleland and Ila Moore formed a motor party from here to Rutherford College Sunday to visit Rev. and Mrs. Beverly Wilson and Miss Willie Cheryl.

Master J. M. Davis of Statesville is spending this week here the guest of his sister, Mrs. F. Y. Long.

Mr. Chouves Leonard spent a few days last week with his friend, Mr. Schley Wilson, in Rutherford College.

Capt. J. H. Sherrill has been confined to his home the past few days on account of illness. The store buildings of Messrs. A. H. McNeill and J. F. Herman have been completed and they are now putting in a complete stock of goods.

A pleasant party of the week was the one given by Mr. Charlie and Miss Ila Moore Tuesday night. The out of town guests were Miss Rae Davidson, Messrs. Charlie Sherrill and Paul Ward of Statesville.

Southern's Fine Train Record.

During the month of May, Southern railway operated 13,803 regular passenger trains of which 12,532 or 91 per cent made schedule time. The number leaving and arriving all points on time was 12,103 or 88 per cent.

Especially good time was made in handling the 11,695 local trains run during the month, 10,824 or 93 per cent having made schedule time and 10,467 or 89 per cent being on time at all stations.

Of the 2,108 limited trains, nearly all of which are long distance trains with one or both termini beyond the rails of Southern railway, 1,798 or 85 per cent made schedule time while on the Southern railway and 1,638 or 78 per cent were on time at all stations.

Following the suppression of whiskey in Russia, soaks took to drinking varnish and anything else that had alcohol in it and the result is many deaths and life-long ailments. A hospital report shows nearly 3,000 victims of methylated spirits. Partial blindness is caused by drinking this when it doesn't kill.

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS EVENTS

Brief Items Showing at a Glance What is Transpiring Throughout the State.

Charles E. Trull of Charlotte, condemned to die, has been respite by the governor till August 6.

E. C. White, a workman whose back was broken when a piece of scaffolding fell upon him while engaged on a warehouse in Durham, has sued the Farmers Warehouse Co. there for \$20,000 alleged damages.

Col. L. S. Williams of Charlotte Thursday morning, aged 90 years. He was the oldest Mason in the state and was the only living citizen at the time of the late appearance of Halley's comet whom he had seen that comet once before.

It is thought the population of the state increased 8,000 during May, about that many births having been recorded. The deaths reached about half that number. The new vital statistics law isn't yet working smoothly, and not all births and deaths are recorded, but the law is being enforced rigidly and people are being indicted for not obeying it.

Early Friday morning robbers cracked the safe in the Mocksville postoffice, and fled in an automobile. Citizens, aroused by the explosion, fought a running battle, but the thieves got away. Later Winston officers in searching, came on a man fixing a machine, and he ran. The machine bore a false number. Stamps worth \$15 were recovered.

A Lexington movie show offered tickets for old tin cans lying around, in order to aid in the elimination of the mosquito, and over 31,000 cans were gathered by the boys and girls. Incidentally it revealed the old, old North Carolina sin of buying canned food from other states all winter while vegetables and fruits go to waste all summer for lack of market.

Catawba's Corn Deficit Nearly Half Million Bushels

An ideal corn country, Catawba county lacks just 416,603 bushels of producing enough for her own needs—or did lack it when the 1910 census was made. Instead of growing enough corn, we grow cotton to buy nearly half a million bushels of corn from the west!

Catawba ranks 50th among the counties of the state in corn production. Who'd have thought it? We talk so much about our county, and we have done such wonderful things in dairying, that we just naturally get the idea that we are IT agriculturally—until we collide with facts, and it leaves us breathless.

The per capita corn consumption in this country is 31 bushels, according to the University News Letter. Catawba has a per capita production of 16 bushels—a deficit of 15 bushels for every person in the county. Only two counties in the state raised sufficient corn, according to the 13th census—Hyde with 42 bushels and Clay with 32 bushels per capita. Robeson led in amount of production—1,042,060 bushels, but Robeson ranks 22nd, raising only 20 bushels per capita, and needing 11 more. New Hanover ranks last, 98th, with a per capita production of one bushel.

Yadkin beats Catawba with 25 bushels; Burke beats us with 19, Cleveland with 19, Lincoln with 18, Caldwell, McDowell and Rutherford with 17 bushels per capita, and Iredell with 18, Mecklenburg produces only seven bushels per capita.

In 1914 the deficit in corn production for the entire state was 23,389,000 bushels. In 1850 we produced 34 bushels per capita; now only two counties produce enough for their home needs. Yet we can grow more corn at less cost per acre than the corn states of the west where we buy our supply.

TALK OF GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

Effort Was Made in 1907 to Extend Provisions—Wisdom of Not Doing So.

Raleigh correspondence Greensboro Daily News:

North Carolina's wisdom eight years ago has been many times recalled today when additional excuse for indulging hope for this state's constitutional amendment was being sought.

The northern papers, particularly the Democratic and independent ones, have been perhaps most jubilant over the defeat of the perpetual grandfather clauses in other constitutions. The New York World's "Republic at Last" leaves the locals to think that the World assumes North Carolina's overthrow. But new evidence creeps out while these metropolitan papers jubilate and the state's hopes are heightened.

Today representatives of the olden days recalled that when the amendment was adopted and being put to vote, Representative Fuller a negro of Warrenton, arose to explain his vote. He declared that the spirit in which the majority had passed the amendment was such that he was uncertain as to the way he should vote. He did vote "no" but he said he doubted its being the best for his race.

In 1907 quite a large element of both Democratic and Republican parties favored an extension of the grandfather clause. Senator Butler has been included among the many Republicans who believed in that extension. In a caucus during the 1907 general assembly strong Democrats pleaded for the larger opportunity to the white illiterate. Perhaps the strongest opponent was Attorney General Bickett.

Mr. Bickett declared that such an extension would convince the courts, if the amendment ever came to their review, that North Carolina was trifling with the law and not sincere in the amendment that it did pass. He prophesied that if the state passed such an amendment to an amendment the law would have no standing in the highest courts. He told a story, too, illustrating the danger of holding no incentive to the dominant whites to become literate voters. "People advance as they are driven," Mr. Bickett said, and related the narrative of the frogs in the hole unable to jump out. One day they all came out. A black snake was under them.

Thereupon one of the most errorless of the untitled spoke up: "Mr. Chairman," he said, "I hope I would never live to hear the great sovereign Democracy of North Carolina likened unto a bunch of toads in a hole," and sat down.

But the enterprise failed. The majority were against the extension which meant perpetual discrimination against the black. The Raleigh Democrats believe it will avail much.

Committee on Reform in Court Procedure Makes Plans.

The committee on reform in court procedure met Monday morning, in the supreme court building, mapped out the course of the matter committed to it and divided it by topics among the members of the committee. Each will make a report on his specially assigned part and submit it to the committee at the next meeting. Then a full report will be drafted and submitted to citizens of the state for criticism or suggestion before it is turned over to the governor.

The committee expects to secure information from leading men in the state and literature from other states where the matter has been under consideration for a longer time. At the present, a letter will be prepared to be mailed to the leading citizens of the state, asking their views on the matter and suggestions as to proper reform. After the report is formulated, the same citizens will receive copies with requests for further criticism and amendment.

Among the subject discussed

ENGLISH NOTE ON CARGOES.

British Take Position That America Has No Just Complaint to Make.

Great Britain, in a memorandum transmitted to the United States recites at length its efforts to minimize inconvenience to neutral commerce resulting from the order in council against trade with Germany, Austria and Turkey, and asserts that American citizens have no just grounds for complaint on account of the treatment accorded their cargoes.

No attempt is made to answer the principals asserted in the American note of March 1 protesting against the order-in-council and insisting upon the right of neutrals to carry on legitimate commerce with each other and to trade in non-contraband with civilians in belligerent countries. In transmitting the memorandum Ambassador Page said it was "merely an explanation of concrete cases and the regulations under which they are dealt with."

Another note to Great Britain is now in course of preparation at the state department and is expected to be dispatched as soon as the negotiations with Germany over submarine warfare have been cleared up. While this communication probably will make reference to the latest memorandum, it is understood that the manner of enforcing the order-in-council will not be treated as relevant to the question at issue—whether there is any warrant in international law for the powers that Great Britain and her allies have assumed to exercise over the commerce of the world.

In its memorandum the foreign office emphasizes the "various special concessions made in favor of United States citizens" in setting forth all British officials have acted in every case "with the utmost dispatch consistent with the object in view and of showing in every case such consideration for neutrals as might be compatible with the object namely, to prevent vessels from carrying goods for, or coming from the enemy's territory."

Arrangements for buying American cotton detained and for permitting the passage of goods bought in Germany by Americans before the date of order-in-council are outlined, and the promise made that consideration will be given to special cases of this kind in the future.

According to a summary of ships detained there are now 27 vessels which cleared from the United States now held in ports of the United Kingdom. Of these eight are said to be unloading cotton which Great Britain has agreed to purchase, seven will be allowed to depart as soon as items of their cargo placed in a prize court have been discharged, and the other 12—three of them American ships—are the subject of investigations not yet completed.

The government has bought the Boone boundary, beginning at Blowing Rock and covering 36,386 acres in Caldwell and Avery counties, for the federal park reserve. The price is \$1.90 an acre. Other smaller tracts were purchased in the mountains last week.

In trying to get her rights many a woman goes at it in the wrong way.

Appearances indicate that the average man doesn't get much beauty sleep.

were those of abolition of rotating system of judges; uniformity of jurisdiction of recorder's courts, with a limit as to the number of such courts; verdict by nine jurors in civil actions after a certain time of disagreement, and a verdict by eleven jurors in misdemeanors, retaining the unanimous verdict only in capital case; and the rule obtaining in many States of the fixing of sentences by the jurors rather than the judge.