

MISSIONARY MEETING

MUCH INTEREST MANIFESTED

Several Out-of-Town Speakers Present
—Delegates Lunch in Church—
Judge Eure Speaks.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Greensboro District convened in the M. E. church here on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Blanche Carr, of Greensboro, presided and devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. A. Wood.

The first speaker on the program was Mrs. Crawford, of Winston. She is secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Western North Carolina conference. Mrs. Crawford spoke upon the subject, "Woman's Work for Woman," bringing out some of the important points in the lives of heathen women, and told of the work that the society was doing for them.

Miss Irene Boyles, of Greensboro, gave a delightful talk on "Why We Should Study The Foreign Field," explaining the need of the Mission study class, its interesting points and the work it accomplishes.

Judge Eure, of Greensboro, was introduced and in an eloquent address discussed Missions in general, dwelling upon the subject in all its magnificence and grandeur. During his remarks Judge Eure revealed the need of the Christian religion in foreign countries, saying that this above all, could place them upon their feet and lift them to a plain of higher civilization.

Mrs. Alley, of Greensboro, spoke briefly of the need of a larger local organization and succeeded in securing some honorary members.

Special music combined with the splendid talks made the evening an enjoyable one.

Wednesday morning was devoted to the reports of delegates after devotional exercises by Mrs. R. R. Alley, of Greensboro. First came the report from the children's societies, followed by reports from adult societies, several delegates making interesting talks.

Miss Irene Boyles, of Greensboro, read a paper upon the subject "The Necessity and Influence of Young Peoples' Societies," which was very interesting.

Following this, Mrs. R. R. Alley made a few remarks upon "Our Individual Relations to Missions," dealing with the responsibilities of each Christian woman and her debt to the heathen world.

After devotional exercises by Mrs. Crawford, adjournment was taken for dinner.

Lunch was served in the Sunday school room to all present.

The afternoon session was devoted to Round Table Discussion, in which almost every one present took part.

Many delegates were present and much interest was manifested in the meeting.

The local organization feels better able to go on with its work after associating with these ardent workers who come from afar to be with us. We invite them to our city again.

Hotel Collapses.

A large hotel in course of construction at Marion collapsed Tuesday afternoon and three persons were probably fatally injured in the accident. For some minutes after the collapse no one dared enter the building as the outer walls did not fall and therefore much heavy timber was still overhead with the prospect of falling at any moment. Several other persons were slightly injured, all being employed on the work.

Mr. Zeb V. Turlington, representative from Iredell county in the last legislature, was right badly hurt in a runaway at his home in Mooreville last week. A bone in his left hand was broken and he was otherwise bruised up. Mrs. Turlington and a little daughter were also slightly hurt in the runaway.

Says the Mt. Gilead correspondent of the Charlotte Observer of the 31st.—The first bales of cotton of the season was sold on this market yesterday, bringing \$75.75. It was grown by Chealey Green on the farm of E. F. Stanback, of Mangum. All clay lands with normal fall season will make average crop, sandy lands not so good.

ABOUT RURAL TELEPHONES.

A Warning Against Allowing the Bell Telephone Company to Get Control.

Statesville Landmark

Within the past year the Bell Telephone Company has been making great efforts to secure rural connections in this part of the State. The newspapers that are under obligations to the Bell, either by receiving free service or service at greatly reduced rates, and other papers which have been innocently worked on the idea that they were helping the farmer, have been liberally used to exploit the advantages of the telephone in rural communities. As a part of this plan for the promotion and advancement of the Bell in rural communities, an "Agricultural Conference" been called to meet in Charlotte in the near future. Speakers have been secured from Agricultural Department at Washington for this conference and "The Rural Telephone" is one of the topics to be discussed along with "Soil Renovation," "Growing Small Grains" etc. While ostensibly an agricultural conference, it is apparent that this conference is in reality for the exploitation of the Bell telephone. It was promoted by a Bell man whose custom it is to work for his company after this manner.

The advantages of telephones in rural communities are apparent. There is no argument on that point. They are not only a luxury and convenience to rural dwellers, but they have become a necessity and, the Landmark urges the establishment of telephone lines in every neighborhood.

But the public should remember an important fact right here. Who gave the rural communities this great convenience? The Bell company? Not at all. Before the expiration of certain telephone patents, a few years ago, there were no rural telephones in the small towns.

While the Bell controlled the service was so expensive that telephones were in use in only a few of the larger towns of the State, and only to a limited extent in these towns. These patents expired. The manufacture of telephones and telephone material was begun by other companies and the products sold at greatly reduced prices. Independent telephone companies were organized in the small towns and villages and in the rural communities and telephone lines were stretched all over the State, the service being put at a price in the reach of all.

All this, mind you, was independent of the Bell. When this monopoly saw the spread of the service, saw that the telephone had become not only a luxury but a necessity almost everywhere, it set about to get possession of the whole field. Independent companies were bought or crushed, put out of business wherever possible; and it is always the case that wherever the Bell gains future control rates are raised, often where the service is no better and in some instances not as good. This is the case in towns and it will be so in the country if the rural dwellers don't have a care. Those who fall into this trap so skillfully laid by the smooth tongued gentry employed by the Bell, will suffer in the end. The history of the past shows that.

The counties in the State that have the most rural telephones, where the service is the best developed and of most benefit to the farmers, are those where independent companies prevail. Union and Iredell counties show this. The farmers should organize, control and operate their own lines and keep them free from any entangling alliances with the Bell company. In cases like Charlotte and Salisbury, where the Bell controls, rural lines will of course have to make arrangement for connection to get into the towns, but they should make these contracts with care or they will find themselves bound hand and foot.

It is only recently, we repeat, that the Bell company has begun to give attention to rural lines. It is doing that now because the independent companies have developed the field and given the farmer service at small cost. Now great interest is manifested in the welfare of the farmer. That interest, as the facts show, is self-interest. It comes cases, for purposes of its own, the Bell will offer the farmers fairly liberal terms to get them enlisted. But if they get where they can't help themselves look out for the squeeze. That has been the case in urban communities; it follows that

it will be so in rural. In an adjoining county, where the Bell controls, The Landmark is advised that country people who have phones have to pay to get into the county town. In the case cited the distance was only 12 miles. At the same time free connection was given to Statesville and other points where there are independent companies. Almost any concession is made to destroy a rival, but once competition is destroyed the monopoly recuperates by excessive charges.

Last week the Bell company was given permission to raise its rates in Wilmington and Asheville. The rates were already as high—\$2.50 and \$3 per month—as the average man can afford, but they were raised 50 cents in each instance. The company offered figures to show that it was making nothing from its investments in Wilmington and Asheville. It is easy to do that—if one accept the figures of the company. In a recent issue of the Baltimore Sun stock of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (the parent of the Southern Bell) was offered for sale as an investment. In this advertisement it was stated that for 25 years stock in the company had not paid less than 7 1/2 per cent and that for the past three years it had paid 8 per cent. In addition, says the advertisement, there is always a surplus. "For the five months of the present year, ended May 31, the company had a balance, after payment of interest and dividends out of earnings of that period, of \$6,229,685, or nearly \$1,000,000 greater than for the corresponding period of 1908."

This statement is quoted from the advertisement of the company and it means that it earned enough money in five months to pay all expenses, interests and dividends for the period and to put aside about six and a half millions as a surplus. If the company admits it is making that much money, it can easily be imagined that its real earnings are more. How does it make so much money? By charges for its service such as are made at Wilmington, Asheville and elsewhere.

But enough for the present. The Landmark desires simply to remind the people of the smaller towns and rural communities especially, that the Bell didn't give them service and they wouldn't have the service to-day but for the independent companies; and to warn them to beware of the agents of the monopoly, whether they come in the guise of agricultural conferences, religious meetings, or what not; and they might take with some grains of allowance the intonations of newspapers that exploit things for pay, directly or indirectly.

Man Hunt Bloody.

Two negroes were lynched, a prominent white man was shot and killed and several other persons were wounded near Soperton, Ga., last Friday.

One of the negroes lynched was an escaped convict while the other was put to death for harboring the convict. The white man was a member of the posse after the escaped convict and was shot by him. The sheriff of Montgomery county was also probably fatally wounded before the negro was finally shot to death.

Sues Town.

Mrs. Ellen Holton, of High Point, who while on a visit to her son, Mr. E. W. Holton, of Morganton, recently fell on the sidewalk of Ervin street at Morganton, and broke her arm, has entered suit against the town for damages. She claims that the injury was due to the dangerous condition of the sidewalk at the place where she fell.

Death of Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson, wife of ex-sheriff J. J. Johnson, died at her home at Pittsboro last week of typhoid fever. She contracted the disease while nursing her son, who is now on the road to recovery.

Wadesboro Wants Shops.

The people of Wadesboro are making a strong effort to have the shops of the South and Railroad located at that place, and will make some special inducements to the company to get them.

Mr. Jas. A. Blakeney sold the first bale of new cotton at Charlotte Saturday. The bale weighed 496 pounds and brought Mr. Blakeney 14 cents per pound.

LETTER FROM MR. FARLOW.

Sees Some of the Benefits of the Farmers' Union in Mecklenburg County Recently.

I would like to say just a few words to the farmers again this week. I have been working in Tabernacle township and find that sentiment is almost unanimous in favor of Unionism, still there seems to be a holding back, a fear, or doubt, in the minds of a great many of our farmers as to the genuineness of this great plan for self-protection. Of course we are glad that our farmers take time to consider carefully, not only this movement, but all other problems that present themselves to the farmer of the present day, and I for one am glad that it is so. It proves to me that we are living in a progressive age and that we want to reach that high standard of civilization and morality which we can hope to reach only through and by education, and to get this education you must use your God-given power and begin to do some right down hard thinking. If you will look around you and see who is the most prosperous farmer in your neighborhood you will find that it is the man who uses his brains as well as his muscles. While we are as a whole on an upward move I am sorry to note that some of our farmers are still going on in that old way, breaking their ground, sowing their seed without a thought as to what the harvest will be, consequently a poor crop, not enough in many cases to pay the expense of sowing and reaping. Now, brother farmers, I want to say to you that the Farmers' Union is calculated in every way to help you. We can educate ourselves through the Union. It is an advantage to us in buying our supplies from the smallest household necessity to the most important purchases that we are compelled to make. Most of us in Randolph county do not know what a great organization the Union is. We have between two and three million members, and in the States, and even in individual counties where strongly organized, they are doing a great work.

I was down in Mecklenburg county some days ago and saw with my own eyes some of the Union warehouses which the farmers of that county are now using to handle their cotton and other products.

Before I close I want to ask that every local of the Union in Randolph county send a representative to our meeting at Asheboro next Saturday, September 4th. Do not fail to be there, as there will be some important business to come before the Union. Everybody get to thinking and help us to make old Randolph one of the best union counties in the State. Let us, the strongest power in the world, join hands in one brotherhood that we may lift up the downtrodden and establish universal peace and happiness throughout our land.

Very truly,
W. E. FARLOW,
County Organizer.

For Sale of Cocaine

A. J. Christian, a colored physician of Winston-Salem, was arrested last week on a charge of illegally selling cocaine to a negro woman. However, he testified that he gave the prescription in good faith and after examining the patient. He was taxed with the costs in two cases by the recorder, and took an appeal and was put under a \$50 bond.

New Mill For Smithfield.

Smithfield N. C., Aug. 30.—The Ivanhoe Manufacturing Company will build a new cotton mill here which will be equipped with 5,000 spindles. W. M. Sanders is president; J. H. B. Tomlinson is vice-president and F. K. Broadhurst is secretary-treasurer. The brick work has been begun and the mill is expected to be completed by February next.

Breeze and Dickerson Convicted.

Wm. E. Breeze and Joseph E. Dickerson, the Asheville bank officials who have been on trial since July 26, were found guilty by the jury Saturday morning and were sentenced to serve two years in the Atlanta penitentiary and pay a fine of \$2,500 each. Motion for a new trial was made and the hearing set for September 14. They gave a \$5,000 bond for appearance then.

A near argument is one in which nobody gets angry.

BAD FLOOD IN A MEXICO CITY

Loss of Life Estimated at 500 to 1,000—
Property Loss \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000.

Monterey, Mexico, August 28.—Eight hundred persons drowned, 15,000 homeless and property damage to the extent of \$12,000,000, is the result of a flood which struck this city between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning.

Laredo, Texas, Aug. 29.—Direct communication with Monterey was re-established over the Associated Press leased wire at 10:30 tonight. The number of dead will reach 1,200. The Monterey News was compelled to suspend publication two days owing to high water and light and power being cut off.

The property damage is variously estimated at from 5,000,000 to \$12,000,000. Last night in Monterey was one of death, desolation, darkness and sorrow.

The flood waters of the Santa Catarina river continued on their rampant course throughout the night and to add to the horror of the situation the rain commenced to fall and caused untold suffering to the thousands of homeless people who congregated on the various plazas.

The destructive flood, due to the continued fall of rain for the past 96 hours, swept everything before it and hardly a vestige is left of what was a conglomeration of small huts swarming with families belonging to the poorer classes. The loss of life, which cannot now be accurately estimated, was among the poorer classes, and is variously placed at from 400 to 1,000.

The crest of the flood reached its apex between 1 and 3 o'clock this morning and many families were swept to a watery death with hardly a chance to fight for their lives. Pandemonium reigned and as the poor wretches were swept from their homes on the tops of which many had sought shelter, pitiful appeals for assistance could be heard rising above the roar of the onrushing waters.

Last night every effort was made by the kind-hearted citizens to shelter the women and children. Their homes were thrown open to the sufferers, the police station, many of the hotels and private clubs as well as the rooms of several organizations were placed at the disposition of the authorities and for the greater part the women and children were cared for.

It is thought the damage will be far in excess of first estimates. The Monterey smelter, one of the largest in Mexico, suffered a loss estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

The Monterey steel plant, the only plant of its kind in the republic, and which cost originally \$1,000,000, is reported to have been damaged to the extent of from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000. The electric light and street railway system of Monterey, modern in every respect, was damaged to the extent of approximately \$1,000,000.

The Monterey water and sewerage system suffered a loss estimated at \$1,000,000 or more.

This damage, together with the loss resulting from the complete annihilation of approximately 5,000 huts, adobe houses and some structures of more pretentious appearance, together with their contents, will bring the financial loss up to approximately \$7,000,000.

Monterey, Mex., Aug. 30.—While rescue work goes on reports of greater loss of life are coming in from every section of the devastated zone, making it possible that the death list will reach two thousand, perhaps higher.

Twenty thousand homeless families are living on the roofs of submerged houses and slowly starving to death. An area of thousands of square miles from Matamoras to Torreon is under water. People are floating about on improvised rafts. Famine is staring the Monterey people in the face.

Crops are destroyed, the railroads are washed out and all wires are down. The sickening sight of death is everywhere.

Mexico City, Aug. 31.—A special from Monterey, which was swept by a flood a few days ago, says that 300 bodies were found this morning grouped about an old well near the iron foundry, on the outskirts of the city. Approximately 1,000 bodies have been recovered to date, and it is believed that the statement that the total death list will amount to 2,000 is well within the figures. As the reports come in, it is seen

BIG DAY AT FARMER

GOOD CROWD WAS PRESENT.

Big Dinner—Speeches by Supt. Coltrane and Others—Ball Game in the Afternoon.

Saturday, August 25th, was a red letter day for Farmer. The occasion was an educational rally for the people of southwestern Randolph. Although the rally had not been advertised but a short while, quite a crowd was present to receive the educational inspiration handed out. Superintendent E. J. Coltrane had arranged a splendid program and this was well carried out by the speakers of the day.

After an address by Superintendent Coltrane outlining the general work of education in Randolph, and particularly of the high school at Farmer, he introduced Superintendent Robertson, of the Handeman Graded School, who made a rousing speech on the general subject of education. His remarks were well received.

After an hour for dinner the meeting took a triangular turn. Superintendent Robertson addressed the school committeemen present, showing them very plainly how they can be a strong factor in making a good school.

Superintendent Woosley, of the Asheboro graded schools, directed his remarks more especially to the teachers. He urged them to make themselves felt not only in the school room but in every interest of the community.

The Woman's Betterment Work was well presented by Miss Linnie Shamburger, of the Jamestown High School. Her remarks on how to keep a clean school room and grounds, were interesting and to the point. Following these addresses inspiring talks were given by Dr. Hubbard and Rev. Sharpe, both of Farmer.

During the afternoon Mr. Geo. B. Bradshaw, principal of the Farmer High School, outlined the work of the incoming year. Mr. Bradshaw is enthusiastic over the prospects for the ensuing term which begins September 2nd.

The rally was followed by an interesting ball game.

Troy Items.

Troy Montgomerian, Aug. 28th.

The people are going to give the Confederate veterans a great day on Saturday, Sept. 11, and everyone who can should attend.

Mr. Ernest Wade of Caples left Wednesday for Lared, Tex., where he will be married to Miss Millard E. Barr, of that city, on Sept. 1.

There were more people in Troy last Saturday than we have seen before in one day this summer. Many were here to attend the lot sale of Hammer & Company and a good many of our county people bought lots. Money seems to be plentiful and our merchants sold lots of goods.

Killed in Explosion.

Ten men were killed outright and five others were probably fatally injured in a dynamite explosion on the Florida East Coast Railway near Key West, Fla., Friday. The explosion was caused by an employe of a construction gang throwing a lighted cigarette into a box of fuses.

Wadesboro Has Fire.

Fire in Wadesboro last Friday morning caused a loss of about \$6,000, probably half covered by insurance. But for the splendid work of the local fire department the damage would have been much greater.

The Negro Exposition.

A movement is on foot among the prominent negroes of the State to have a semi-centennial celebration of the abolition of slavery through a great negro exposition to be held in Raleigh.

Furniture Business Picking Up.

The Southern Furniture Journal, of High Point, reports that among the various factories of that town there are orders for four hundred cars of furniture to be shipped out at once. Thirty-one cars were shipped from there Friday of last week.

that the situation at Monterey is more serious than at first supposed. The city lacks food and water. The Federal government has sent an additional \$20,000 to be expended for relief.