

# THE COURIER

ISSUED WEEKLY

VOLUME XLVIII

PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN

Asheboro, North Carolina, Thursday, April 19, 1923

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

NUMBER 15

## THE LATE T. F. WATSON PICTURES CORN PLANTING TIME

The blue bird was out today, out in his glories, his throat gurgling with song.

For the sunlight was warm and radiant in all the South, and the coming of spring had laid its benediction on every field and hedge and forest.

The smell of the newly ploughed ground mingled with the subtle incense of the yellow jasmine; and from every orchard a shower of the blossoms of peach and apple and pear was wafted into the yard and rung lovingly on the eaves and in the piazzas of the old homestead—the old faded homestead.

Was there a cloud in all the sky?

Not one, not one.

"Gee Mule!"

"Dab blast your hide, why don't you gee-e-EE!"

"Co-wack" goes the plowline on the back of the patient mule—the dignified upholder of mortgages "time price" accounts, and the family credit, generally.

Down the furrow, and up the furrow down to the woods and up to the fence—there they go, the sturdy plowman and his much-enduring but indispensable mule.

For the poplar leaves are now as big as squirrel ears, and it's time to plant corn.

On moves the plowman, steady as a clock, silent and reflective.

Right after him comes the corn dropper, dropping corn.

The grains fairly clink as the bare feet of the corn dropper hurry past; and before the corn has well cuddled itself into the shoe heel of the plowman's track, down comes the hoe of the portals of the great unknown, the unknown of burial and of life renewed.

Peeping from the thicket near at hand the royal redbird makes note of what is going on, nor is the thrasher blind in the progress of the corn dropper. And seated with calm but watchful dignity on the highest pine in the thicket is the melancholy crow, sharpening his appetite with all the anticipated pleasures of simple larceny.

The mockingbird circles and swoops from tree to tree and in his matchless bursts of varied song no cadence is wanting, no melody missed.

The hum of the bees is in the air white butterflies, like snowflakes, fan down the light and lazily float away.

The robin lingers about the china tree, and the bluejay, lifting his plumed frontlet, picks a quarrel with every feathered acquaintance, and noisily asserts his grievances.

The Joree has dived deeper into the thicket, and the festive sapsucker, he of the scarlet crest, begins to come to the front inquisitive as to the location of the bugs and worms.

On such a day, such a cloudless radiant, flower-sweetened day, the horseman slackens the rein as he rides through lanes and quiet fields, and he dares to dream that the children of God once loved each other.

On such a day one may dream that the time might come when they would do so again.

Rein in and stop here on this high sun rises, look south, look west to sun rises look south, look west to where the sun sets—on all sides the steady mule, the steady plowman, and the children dropping corn.

Close the eye a moment and look at the picture fancy paints. Every field in Georgia is there, every field in the South is there. And in each the figures are the same—the steady mule and the steady man and the pattering feet of the children dropping corn.

In these furrows lies the food of the republic; on these fields depend life and health and happiness.

Halt those children and see the check of the world would blanche at the thought of famine.

Paralyze that plowman and see how national bankruptcy would shatter every city in the union.

Dropping corn! A simple thing, you say?

And yet, as those white seeds rattle down to the sod and hide away for a season, it needs no peculiar strength of fancy to see a Jack's ladder crowded with ascending blessings.

Spurnful the railroad king would glance at these small teams in each small field; yet check those corn-droppers and his cars would rot on the road and rust would devour the engines in the roundhouse. The banker would ride through these fields thinking of his hoarded millions, nor would he ever startle himself with the thought that his millions would melt away in smoke, were those tiny hands never more to be found dropping corn. The landholder proud in all the security of the untaxed receiver of other people's taxes, would see in these fields merely the industry from which he gathers income; it would never dawn on him that, without the opening of these furrows and the hurrying army of children dropping corn, his hands wouldn't be worth the paper they are written on.

Great is the might of this republic—great in its schools, churches, courts, legislatures; great in its towns and cities; great in its commerce; great in its manufacturing; great in its agriculture.

And hard indeed would be the heart that knowing what these people do and bear and suffer, yet would not feel that this people, the farmers of the South, are the backbone of the nation.

I go, with many an unspoken thought, I ride homeward, thinking of those who plant corn.

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## MR. ELI PRITCHARD DIED MONDAY

The funeral services for Mr. Eli Pritchard aged seventy-three years which were held at the M. E. Church Tuesday afternoon were attended by a large number of friends and relatives of the family. Mr. Pritchard was well known and liked having been born and reared in the county. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pritchard who lived in the northern part of the county. Rev. H. F. Fogleman conducted the services, assisted by Rev. Talton Johnson, of Mebane, a former pastor of the deceased, having served the pastorate at the Asheboro M. E. Church for a number of years. Dr. Johnson spoke in high terms of the deceased, saying he was a man who ran the even tenor of his way and was always the same to those with whom he came in contact, reliable, unassuming and substantial. Rev. Fogleman, in a few well chosen words spoke of the love and respect in which Mr. Pritchard was held by his associates. The choir sang old familiar hymns, favorites of the deceased and the family. Surviving him are, besides a wife, who was Lou J. Vuncannon, daughter of the late Peter Vuncannon and wife; Garland Pritchard of Asheboro, Miss Ethel Pritchard, of High Point, Mrs. W. Elie Luck, of this place, Mrs. Boyd Little of Charlotte, and Mrs. Oscar Austin, of Mt. Gilead.

Mr. Pritchard has been in ill health for over a year, but for the past week, his illness took a severe turn, resulting in his death Monday noon.

## LENOIR-RHYNE COLLEGE

The board of trustees of Lenoir College, in a recent meeting, concluded to change the name of that institution to Lenoir-Rhine College. This is done in honor of Mr. Daniel Rhine who some weeks ago gave \$300,000 to the endowment. The trustees have on a great drive with the view of further extending the endowment fund of the college. Some of the most eminent preachers of the Lutheran church have been engaged to make addresses during the next few weeks in various parts of the state. Dr. Simon Peter Long, of Chicago, is scheduled to speak at Liberty this week. He has many friends in North Carolina, and no doubt will be listened to with interest. It is expected that more than 50,000 leading Lutherans will be reached with the story of Lenoir's deserving past and glorious future.

## High Point Automobile Thief Brought Back From Canada To Virginia

Dennis Jennings, a notorious automobile thief who was recently arrested in Detroit, Mich., and brought back to Danville, Va. to answer to one hundred charges which are recorded against him in Virginia. Jennings, according to The High Pointer, is a native of High Point and is supposed to have been a member of one of the strongest organized bands of automobile thieves in the United States and it is believed that this band have made thousands of dollars through the resale of stolen automobiles taken from many of the southern states.

Jennings is also wanted by the Greensboro authorities on a charge of jail breaking and the federal authorities want him for evading the draft during the war. Virginia officials believe that Jennings will make some very sensational confessions during his trial and that he will also expose other members of this large band of thieves. He has been living in Windsor, Canada for several months under the name of J. B. Gibson and his hiding place was discovered through some of the post-office channels.

## ELK FURNITURE CO., NOW PROPERTY OF J. T. HEDRICK

Mr. J. T. Hedrick, long extensively identified with the furniture manufacturing business at Lexington, N. C., has recently acquired the well-known Elk Furniture factory of that city. This factory was some time ago damaged to an extent by fire, but it is the intention of Mr. Hedrick to rebuild and more than double the previous output. The new plant which is to be 195 by 97.5 feet, will have two stories. It is to be equipped with a sprinkler system and electric power will be generated with the use of a boiler that will secure its steaming power from the waste materials of the plant. When complete it will give employment to 150 men, and will be one of the most modern furniture plants in the south.

Halt the food growers, and what becomes of your gold and its "intrinsic value?"

How much of your gold can you eat?

How many of your diamonds will answer the need of a loaf?

But enough.

It is time to ride down the hill. The stink of the cowbell follows the stinking man—both on the way home.

I go, with many an unspoken thought, I ride homeward, thinking of those who plant corn.

And hard indeed would be the heart that knowing what these people do and bear and suffer, yet would not feel that this people, the farmers of the South, are the backbone of the nation.

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## RAMSEUR COMMENCEMENT MENT BEGINS FRIDAY EVENING

The closing exercises of the Ramseur School will be held in the handsome new school building at that place Friday, April 20th through Tuesday evening. This is the second time the new building has been used for the school commencement, as it was completed last spring just in time for the commencement exercises to be held there. This commencement marks the end of an unusually successful school year in every way, high praise having been expressed of the splendid work done by Mr. R. D. Marsh and his strong corps of teachers.

Friday evening an operetta, "The Awakening of Spring" will be presented by the primary department. Saturday evening the Glee Club will give a varied concert. Sunday at 3:00 p. m., the annual commencement exercises will be presided by Dr. J. Clyde Tanner, of Greensboro, N. C. The graduating class will hold their class exercises at 8:00 o'clock Monday evening. Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock Dr. Charles E. Brewer, president of Meredith College will deliver a literary address, and at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon will be the Declaration and Recitation contest. At 4:00 p. m. there will be a ball game between Ramseur and Siler City. At 8:00 o'clock Tuesday evening, a play, entitled "What Happened to Jones" will be given, thus ending the exercises. It is always a pleasure to the people from all sections to attend the commencement exercises at Ramseur, and a good program is always rendered, but the one announced for this year bids fair to excel all former ones, and the cordial people of that town extend a broad invitation to all the citizens of Randolph to attend the commencement and admire the new school buildings, which is not only beautiful and modern in detail, but quite a credit to the county as well.

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