

Sylvan Valley News

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FEBRUARY

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THE CHICKEN QUESTION.

Spring is coming, and with its advent the industrious chicken will begin to scratch—that is, if it ever has quit scratching. A marauding hen can do more harm in a neighbor's garden in 10 minutes than a four footed animal would do in 10 hours—yet this is a stock-law territory, and both state and town have laws which compel you to keep your quadrupeds under fence.

Last fall a case was sent from this county to the state supreme court for testing the right to put out poison on your own premises, but the case was not decided on its merits, so we are no wiser than before. No man who works ten hours a day at his trade, and puts in an hour or two each day in his garden, can stand guard over his growing vegetables. In a stock-law territory, around which the county has built and maintains a lawful fence, it is not contemplated that any man shall fence his crops—he must keep his stock on his own premises. Are chickens "stock" in the meaning of the law?

For several years the News office has tried to beautify its vacant lot with flowers, and last year our flower beds were utilized by summer visitors as back grounds for more kodak pictures than any other scenery in Brevard. Our efforts have not been made through selfish motives, although we enjoy the beauties of a flower garden. But in order to have these flowers we have had a constant fight with our neighbor's chickens, besides the temptation to violate the town ordinances against profanity.

For the past two sessions of the legislature we have urged our representatives to have a "chicken law" passed, but we have no state law yet. For years we have been striving with the Board of Aldermen to give us an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for persons in the corporate limits of Brevard to permit their chickens to run at large, but it isn't done; probably because members of the Board want to keep chickens themselves without the expense of fencing them. Now we would like to appeal to our citizens—shall we have flowers and vegetables, beauty and health, or shall we have chickens as scavengers in our streets and alleys? There is a higher law than men can enact: "Lead us not into temptation," and if our people would only obey this they would prevent many a man from losing his temper, putting out poison and in other ways violating the law in order to protect his own premises from the depredations of other people's "stock." If you must keep chickens in town keep them on your own premises.

The Gazette-News contained an editorial on this subject a few days since from which we extract the following:

"We belong to the S. P. C. A. and are not notably ferocious or blood-thirsty by nature; we respect the motherly hen and care little chick; but a chicken out of its proper place is about the worst misplaced thing imaginable. No human right is respected by any chicken, and that is why we demand that all chickens be properly restrained and confined. The question easily ranks as paramount.

THE "BEAUTIFUL SNOW."

[Following is our editorial opinion of the present groundhog weather—reproduced from the News of 5 years ago. We see no reason for modifying our judgment at that time, and still "stand pat."]

"The beautiful snow"—the poet who wrote And gave to the world this misleading note, Deserves that his song be choked in his throat With a ball of this horrible snow.

It shrouds the earth with a mantle of white— Emblem of death—and it hides from sight All Nature's attractions, under a blight Of blistering, implacable snow.

It blows down your back and into your eyes, It creeps up your legs, it freezes your thighs, It chills the foolish as well as the wise, Does the murderous, dastardly snipe.

It covers the ice on the path you tread, Till your footing slips, and you bury your head Under a freezing, fathomless bed Of the treacherous, dudgeoned snow.

And when it changes to slush and mud, In which you slump with a sickly thud, In frenzy you thirst for the poet's blood Who penned that libel "beautiful snow."

People may laugh as much as they please about the "exploded superstition" connected with Groundhog Day, but Mr. Hog has this year proven that the "explosion" don't explode. Candlemas Day, Feb. 2, was bright and cloudless—one of the nicest days of the winter—but we have had two snows more than 6 inches deep, with mud and slush q. s. You needn't tell us that Groundhog Day isn't a weather breeder.

At the present writing it looks as if Locke Craig has a strong lead for the democratic nomination for governor of North Carolina—and the nomination means election. While the News is not greatly in favor of long campaigns it sees no reason why the west should not stand solidly in support of his candidacy. He has developed unusual strength in the east, and many are predicting that he will win on the first ballot.

The election on state prohibition is set for the last Tuesday in May (the 26th). In view of the fact that at least 80 per cent. of the crimes committed are due wholly or in part to the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and that 80 per cent of the people of the state favor prohibition, it might reasonably be endorsed by the democracy on the plank in their platform which advocates the "greatest good to the greatest number?" Will there be a campaign for prohibition in this county?

In talking with citizens from all sections we are pleased to note that there is general satisfaction expressed over the return of the Transylvania Railroad Company to take back the control and management of their property. Everybody seems to feel satisfied that the road will run in the interest of our people, and that our county will be benefited by the change. Personally the News hopes the management of the road may remain in their hands to the end of the Southern's 50-year lease. As the officials of the road are also interested in the Toxaway Company, they will help to make our attractions known and bring visitors to see us. Their properties have been paying investments for our county, and we hope they may prove profitable to them.

We have received a copy of the New York World's pamphlet, recently issued, entitled "The Map of Bryanism." The World wishes to know what we think of it. On hasty perusal we are inclined to think it shows that Mr. Bryan needs a new party, if he is ever to be elected President, or the party needs a new candidate, if it is ever to elect a President.—Gazette-News.

It seems a little strange to us, away back here in the woods, that a democratic newspaper, as the World claims to be, should be asking questions of the Gazette—which repudiates any insinuations that it is democratic. Evidently the World doesn't want the opinion of democrats on its "Map of Bryanism."

The Constitution is advertised on page 3. Are you a subscriber?

YOUR HOME PAPER.

This paper is endeavoring to give its patrons the best service that is possible to give and all that the patronage will permit. Our paper is being frequently complimented on its appearance and the amount and kind of material it contains. Our citizens can make the paper still more effective by liberal patronage, both in subscriptions and advertising. The paper will always endeavor to merit the patronage.

But few of our readers, we imagine, ever give a thought to the value of this paper to the community. The home paper has an influence for good that is hard to overestimate. It moulds public opinion; it does well its part in protecting and preserving the government. It takes the place of a standing army in guarding the liberties of the people; it teaches your children morality, truth and power; it brings many rich blessings to the homes it visits with but little financial reward for its labors, and in too many instances not any. The home paper is the mirror in which those at a distance see us. It is the plain duty of all who are interested in our town to take personal interest in the town's paper and assist in every way possible in making it a true representative of our intelligent and hospitable people as well as our enterprising and rapidly developing little city. Send the paper to your friends, bring us the news and do your duty by your home paper and it will meet you more than half way. When you help your home paper you help your town and indirectly help yourself, for we are all equally interested in our town and community.

WASTE IN LUMBERING.

The forests of the Southern Appalachian Mountains have been cut so eagerly for the valuable hardwoods they contain that very little virgin timber is left and about 85 per cent of the area is second growth. The drain on these forests by many industries is immense. The lumbermen are going over the land for the third time. First they took only the prime oak and poplar saw timber. Next they took the oaks that were suited for barrel staves. Now they are after whatever merchantable trees are left, such as birch, chestnut, and gum.

Moreover, these forests have been, and still are, logged very wastefully. Nearly three-quarters of the timber cut for ties is wasted. Double or even treble the number of ties now cut could readily be secured from the same area without injury to the forest. By simply taking all the suitable trees, 125 ties could be cut from an acre which now yields only 60, and if all the wood in the trees were fully utilized 170 additional ties per acre could be secured.

With mine timbers the story is the same. Fully 40 per cent of the timber handled in procuring them is entirely wasted. Finally, fires are injuring the productiveness of the Appalachian forests by running over the ground and killing young growth. Circular 118, just published by the Forest Service, discusses the whole question of managing to better advantage the second growth forests of the Appalachian region. This publication can be obtained of the Forester at Washington.

Anarchist plots against the fleet now follow the daily fashions from Paris. "Say something and don't say wood" seems to be the motto of the Forest Service. The discovery that congress costs \$150 a minute is another reason why we should always welcome a recess. Senator Foraker says that the situation in Ohio is "entirely satisfactory." But he fails to specify who it is satisfactory to. The Aldrich currency bill has reached the amendment stage and promises to have a crazy quilt beat to a standstill before it is through.

HOME TRADE PAYS.

Some of the Disadvantages of Buying Goods by Mail.

ADVICE FOR THE MERCHANT.

Expert Points Out How by Proper Newspaper Advertising the Local Dealer Can Compete Successfully With the Big Outsider.

In a recent talk Elmer S. Batterson of Chicago, a noted town boomer, made the following pertinent remarks concerning the mail order trade and kindred topics:

"The mail order house has no advantage over the local stores. The catalogue house sends out a catalogue to the farmers once or twice a year. The local merchant may reach him daily in the local press. It costs at least \$1 apiece to get out the catalogue. The local merchants send out little for advertising. Every new customer costs a catalogue house at least \$1. The local merchant secures his patronage at a less figure. A mail order house has a large force of clerks with a large expense in a large city, and its goods are shown by pictures and printed pages in catalogues. A local merchant can show his goods in his window daily. A local merchant has the advantage. He can give you goods on approval and exchange them easy. It takes time to make an exchange with a mail order house.

"Catalogue houses do not undersell the local merchant. This is true. One item is but a fair test. Take ten articles or compare a business of two months with a local merchant and a mail order house and see. Catalogue houses do not run an illegal business. They run a legal one. If they did not they would have been excluded from the mails long ago, as every commercial club is on the lookout.

"The mail order house receives an order for a parasol for a baby cab from a woman on a rural route. This is enough. The mail order house at once surmises there is a baby in the family. It must have clothes. It will grow. In another year more clothes are needed and still more the following year. This child must have a father and a mother, and probably other children are in the family. They need household articles and, being on a rural route, live in the country and need farm implements. Holding the letter up to the light, it is noticed that the paper is branded and is of good quality, so the people must be well to do.

"Merchants may go into the catalogue business. Get out a circular every so often. Have the type stereotyped. Save the plates, and when you have a dozen or so you may get out a catalogue at a nominal price. "You must take care of your customers even if you lose money. No merchant should turn down a customer. He should see him provided with the article desired. A quick sale is better than having an article on hand for a long time.

"If farmers do not come to town, something is wrong. Investigate it by asking them. If it is because lumber has advanced and can be bought cheaper in a neighboring city because there is but one lumber dealer in your town, organize a new lumber company comprising the merchants.

"All selfish motives should be cut out. Do as much business as possible, but don't get jealous if your neighbor does more. An unfair merchant is a traitor to his town.

"A large store in a small town does not hurt the small stores. It takes in a large trade radius. If your town is four miles in radius and you draw trade from five miles surrounding it, the ratio is 96 to 4. If you increase the radius one mile, you increase the trade radius almost 46 per cent. A new department store with improved methods will increase the trading radius. If merchants in neighboring cities get the advertising space in local papers, it is because the local merchants don't want it and the outsiders do.

"The town does not stop at the city limits. It takes in the farmers in the surrounding country. A market day is a good thing for a small town, a bargain day also, when farmers may sell their goods at auction. The refunding of railroad fares also draws. Get up a banquet for the farmers. Have a revival in a country church. Get people to come to town by giving them a prize contest.

"Let the parcels post come. Let it live. It will prove a good thing. The local merchant may get better advantages out of it than the mail order house if he takes advantage of it.

"Merchants should spend 4 per cent of their earnings in newspaper advertising. The majority spend less than 2 per cent in small towns."

Evolution and Transformation.

It is possible that the most telling effect of the past ten years' campaign in the cause of outdoor improvement is the influence it has had in broadening out school education. The many lines in which this may be observed, in giving the subject a few moments' thought, is remarkable. Arbor day, school gardens, later the tentative efforts to introduce elemental agriculture into the rural schools and lastly the introduction of the subject of landscape gardening as a part of the agricultural college course really owe the credit for their rapid development to the growth of public sentiment in favor of the improvement of our homes and public places, upon which the realization has been forced that to finally succeed in making a beautiful America education to that end must begin at the bottom.

Every step in advance is

a step away from the crowd. Every time you increase your bank account—even if only a dollar—you are making another step in advance. The good business habits you will form in building up your account and credit will be worth to you fully as much as the money you will have saved and materially counts for your future success.

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Rosman

Editor Sylvan Valley Ice and snow.

Harrison Nelson Hendersonville.

Frank Crow has killed many a Lake Toxaway.

Rosman is that and we are all glad.

L. Young went g-killed many fine.

Uncle John is smoking his pipe.

Wood haulers in firewood for the

When you meet the smiles. It's an

Q. A. Morrison's spring fast. Glad to

Florida Galloway have moved to Old

Most of the sick are improving and

Rollins Robinson away was in our ci

We are all glad to shall back with us

Ice in the Ta thick. All work w

Mr. White's ho slowly; the snow r

Solomon Clark county has returned I guess.

Wonder why Mr. letters to Old Tox something doing.

Tom and Julius accepted a positio away Tanning Co.

Oscar Lyon wa street last week. not married yet. I

Misses Geneva Garren have gone while Mr. Silverst are away.

Jordan Whitmir turned home from last week. Hope soon be O. K.

Mr. and Mrs. Silv little daughters, M rothy, have gone to pleasure trip.

H. E. Morrison a Saturday for Hen They have gone brother and brothe

Oh, yes, Time glad that I have m I remember many were great friend old Pedee.

Doek Galloway painful accident l his return home slipped on the fr broke his arm.

Well, Crab Appl am ugly, but you yourself in so long you are a beaut. I natural for you t never saw a prett my life.

L

Buck Fore

Editor Sylvan Valley Mrs. Rebecca Mc lage, spent Sunday Mrs. Otis Allison.

Miss Rosa Sente spending several n ville, S. C., has ret

Mr. and Mrs. I Hendersonville, h ber parents, Mr. Ray.

The snow in t Friday was 8 inc (Monday) about 3 level and still snow

There will be pre Creek every four Sunday at 11 o'clock pastor, Rev. Jame attend.

A singing was g of the Misses Thon ity Sunday after number were pres a nice time.

Miss Mattie Ea been spending som sister, Mrs. Wid Piedmont, S. C., home at this place

P

This is about th drug store trad ought to begin to