

# Sylvan Valley News

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE—ALL HOME PRINT

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## FARMERS' INSTITUTE VERY SUCCESSFUL

LARGEST ATTENDANCE ON  
TUESDAY IN YEARS

Interesting Addresses Made and  
Much Interest Manifested  
by Those Present.

In point of attendance and interest the most successful institute for the farmers of Transylvania for the past several years was held in the court house at Brevard on Tuesday. The morning session, which began at about eleven o'clock, was attended by about fifty men, and this number was nearly doubled when the afternoon session began. The speakers were interesting, presenting subjects of importance in a clear and forceful manner, and their remarks were followed closely by those present, and a number of the listeners manifested their keen interest by a number of pertinent questions.

The only drawback to the institute was due to the fact that it was late in beginning, the farmers being slow to gather at the court house in the morning, and another delay coming after dinner by the failure to ring the bell promptly. On this account very valuable time was lost, and as a consequence all the talks were not made which had been arranged for.

The institute was opened by a very helpful address by Mr. A. L. French on live stock. The value of stock raising to the average farm in this section was made very plain, and some of the problems which have to be faced by the men who attempt to raise cattle, sheep, hogs or poultry were explained, and the way to success made easier by showing how to overcome these difficulties. Much emphasis was laid on the necessity for having good stock, whether considering the raising of cattle, sheep, hogs or poultry. The importance of good parturage was pointed out, and the proper ration for success shown.

The value of hogs was made very plain when the speaker illustrated his remarks by showing how he had raised hogs and in one load to the market had taken more than ten times the value of the load as his neighbor who was hauling corn to the market. In other words, there is more money in corn made into pork at ten or twelve cents per pound than there is in the same corn at a cent or cent and a half.

The farmers in this section particularly, where there are so many summer visitors, and with Asheville offering an all the year round market, were urged to turn more attention to the raising of poultry. "Let the girls have charge of this," said Mr. French, explaining how his own daughters took care of the poultry yards at his house and made money out of them.

Following Mr. French modern forestry methods were briefly explained by State Forester J. S. Holmes of Chapel Hill. The need of more care in the cutting of timber from the heavily wooded mountains of this section was clearly shown and it was made plain that care in cutting and getting out the marketable timber means money saved for the future, in other words, that it is a good investment. In this connection the statement was made that real forestry in the United States was first practically put into practice in Transylvania county on the lands of George W. Vanderbilt.

After the adjournment for dinner Mr. G. W. Garren took the floor and in an informal way discussed a number of subjects, as he went along answering a number of questions from members of the audience. The proper rotation of crops in order to conserve the life of the

## NEW BUILDING FOR BREVARD INSTITUTE

BRICK BUILDING IS BEING  
PLANNED

Woman's Home Missionary Society  
Will Give Donation of  
About \$20,000.

Plans are being made for the erection of a new two story brick building to cost about twenty thousand dollars at Brevard Institute. The plans as being prepared call for a commodious building, modern in every respect, one which will be worthy in every way of the work of the institution.

The new building will be arranged as an administration building. There will be provision for the executive offices, the various class rooms needed, two society halls, and two assembly halls, one for the primary pupils and one for the intermediate and high school pupils. In the basement will be the physical laboratory, carpenter shop, dressmaking and sewing rooms, and cooking school department. The present building will be used as a dormitory after the new building is ready.

Brevard Institute is owned and is under the general management of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church South. Each year this society has a special week of prayer with special collections. These collections in the past have amounted to from \$15,000 to \$20,000. This year it has been decided that this collection will be given to Brevard Institute for the new building. Additional funds will likely be forthcoming from other sources, making the total available about \$25,000 or \$30,000.

In this case there will be a number of improvements made in the present building. The present class rooms and offices will be arranged for sleeping rooms, and it is probable that the building will be brick veneered.

The actual work of building is expected to begin about the first of January, and will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

The next session of the school will begin on Thursday September seventh. It is said that the prospects for this year are unusually bright. Last year there were about two hundred students, and the outlook for this year is that there will be even a larger number. The school is doing a splendid work, and the fact that it is constantly growing should be a source of pride to the people of Brevard.

## HENDERSONVILLE WANTS POWER.

A party of Hendersonville men consisting of Mr. U. G. Staton, Mr. D. S. Pace, and Mr. Anderson, representing the Hendersonville Traction Co., were here this week in conference with the officials of the Cascade Power Co. with a view of securing electric power from this place for the operation of the proposed street car line in Hendersonville.

The electric power plant at Hendersonville is sadly inefficient for the needs of the town, and is undependably throughout the greater part of the summer especially, the very time when the power would be most desired by the traction company. Hence the men at the head of this company are endeavoring to make arrangements for a transmission line from the Cascade company, a distance of about fourteen miles, to Hendersonville. The deal had not been definitely closed as the News goes to press.

Texas.  
In miles Texas is bigger than half of the territory east of the Mississippi river.

## TRANSYLVANIA WILL HAVE OBSERVATORY

TO MAKE SPECIAL REPORTS  
ON WEATHER HERE

Blantyre Test Farm One of Places  
Selected By Weather Bureau  
for Experiments.

The United States weather bureau will shortly establish stations all over this section of the state for the special purpose of observing the temperatures throughout the year with reference to the growing of fruit. The extent and nature of the proposed work is set forth in the following letter from the chief of the bureau to Congressman Doughton of this state. Of special interest to the people of this county is fact that one of the observatories will be located at Blantyre.

WASHINGTON, August 17, 1911.  
Hon. R. L. Doughton, M. C.,  
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Sir: You will remember that last April I discussed with you and Mr. W. N. Hutt, the state horticulturist of North Carolina, the matter of inaugurating an investigation of certain thermal belts of that state, with special reference to discovering their suitability for the cultivation of fruits. You strongly endorsed Mr. Hutt's suggestion that the bureau should begin this line of inquiry.

In accordance with your request, Prof. H. J. Cox of Chicago, one of the best men in the government service for the prosecution of such an inquiry, was ordered to North Carolina. He, in company with Mr. Hutt and Mr. Denson, the latter the section director of the weather bureau for the state, made a detailed survey of a considerable portion of the mountain region. Among other places they visited Swananoa and Blantyre, where are located state test farms. They also explored the region about Asheville, Hendersonville, Flat Rock, Saluda, Tryon, Toxaway, Waynesville, Alta Pass, Gorge, Edgemont, Linville, Blowing Rock and Mount Airy. The elevation of these places varies from 1,000 to 4,200 feet above sea level.

On many of the mountain slopes it is claimed that frost never occurs, and that in certain sections there is a thermal belt of higher temperature between the summit and the base of the mountain, or at some elevation considerably above the base. In some places it has been found that on a mountain 1,000 feet above the level of the surrounding plain, the favorable thermal belt begins at about 400 feet above the base and extends about 300 feet higher. The belt is said to be well marked in spring and fall, when the vegetation within it is fresh and green, in strong contrast with the conditions above and below.

Professor Cox is of the opinion that, although the elevation at Waynesville is considerable, that region is protected from severe cold by the Great Smoky mountains which lie to the west and northwest; that secondary mountain ranges lying to the east of the main range are favored with higher temperature because of protection by the latter; that orchards in the mountain districts are not usually so situated that fruit can be protected by firing, as is done on the level floors of certain Rocky mountain valleys; and that a special frost-warning service would not be as effective in North Carolina as in the Rocky mountains.

What you and Mr. Hutt desire is that observations be made in the various sections of the state so that ultimately the department of horticulture can intelligently advise prospective settlers where they can most successfully raise fruit.

Data to be of value in elucidating these problems can only be secured by locating thermographs at six or seven specially selected stations and having their readings supplemented by readings from a number of sets of maximum and minimum thermometers. Thermographs are necessary for such purposes, and the summits of the mountains can only be reached with difficulty, so that automatically-recording instruments must be used.

As a result of the preliminary inspection by Messrs. Cox, Hutt and Denson, it was decided that it would be necessary, in order to carry on the inquiry, that special stations be established at the state test farm at Blantyre, and in the orchards of Charles A. Webb at Asheville, of W. T. Lindsay at Tryon, of Bowling W. Hall at Waynesville, of Mrs. Aaron Cone at Blowing Rock and of J. B. Sparger at Mount Airy. These places range in elevation from 1,000 to 4,200 feet, and are advan-

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## SUPERIOR COURT TO CONVENE ON MONDAY

SMALL CRIMINAL DOCKET  
FOR PRESENT TERM

More Than Forty Civil Actions  
Will Consume Most of  
Two Weeks.

Superior court for the trial of both criminal and civil cases will convene in Brevard for a term of two weeks on next Monday. Judge H. P. Lane will be the presiding judge, and Solicitor Robert R. Reynolds of Asheville will prosecute the criminal cases for the state. This will be the first term of court which Judge Lane will have held in this county. He was elected to the bench last fall, and is one of the youngest superior court judges in the state. He has already made a splendid impression in the places where he has presided, and gives promise of being among the best to come to this circuit.

The criminal docket will doubtless be disposed of within the first two days of court, and the remainder of the time taken up with the trial of civil cases. There are about forty cases on the criminal docket, but none of the alleged offenders against the laws are charged with serious crimes. There are two cases of retailing, and quite a number of cases of larceny, affrays, and the like. There are at the present time only two prisoners in the county jail.

The civil docket is more extended, there being about forty cases on the calendar arranged for trial at this term. Many of these are rather important, and it is probable that all of them on the calendar will not be reached in the time allotted.

The following is the list of civil actions and the days upon which they are scheduled to be tried.

Wednesday, August 30.

T. D. Neely vs. S. L. Earle.

G. W. Fisher vs. J. C. Fisher et al.

J. M. Lamance vs. M. F. Galloway.

L. Keith Lagare vs. Town of Brevard.

Thursday, August 31.

H. B. Bruno vs. The Toxaway Company.

J. F. Hays vs. The Toxaway Company.

Thos. H. Shipman vs. The Toxaway Company.

M. L. Owen vs. A. H. Owen and Sam Owen.

Friday, September 1st.

C. R. McNeely et al. vs. Toxaway Hotel Company.

W. H. Faulkner vs. Sylvanus McCall.

E. D. Owen vs. J. W. Owen.

Berry Brittain vs. R. A. Garren.

Saturday, September 2d.

Motions and divorces.

Monday, September 4th.

R. W. Norton vs. J. B. Allison et al.

Brevard Land and Timber Co. vs. M. J. Glazener.

Brevard Land and Timber Co. vs. C. S. Kinsland.

Tuesday, September 5th.

George Holcombe vs. L. H. Morgan.

John Duckworth et al. vs. James Mull.

J. C. Bowling et al. vs. Tal Whitmire, et al.

The Toxaway Co. vs. Arthur Miller et al.

Wednesday, September 6th.

J. R. Zachary vs. Champion Fibre Company.

T. W. Whitmire vs. Ly. Achburg Shoe Co.

G. W. whitmire vs. H. Q. Adams et al.

L. Young vs. J. L. Aiken.

M. O. McCall vs. W. B. Henderson.

No cases are set for trial during the last three days of the week to allow for those which take up more time than is given in the calendar as arranged.

## SPECIAL COLUMN FOR FARMERS OF COUNTY

NECESSITY FOR ORGANIC  
MATTER IN THE SOIL

Method of Getting This Pointed  
Out By State Department  
Official.

There are two things absolutely essential to successful farming in North Carolina. One is deep plowing, and the other is the incorporation in the soil of humus or organic matter from decaying vegetation.

We have heard a great deal about deep plowing, and, on soils which have stiff, heavy soils, deep plowing, and, in some cases, even subsoiling, is entirely necessary. But we have heard all too little about the organic matter content of our soils. Indeed, some wag might say, there is not enough organic matter in most of our soils to speak about anyway, but that is just why we should begin to talk. Good plowing and a liberal amount of vegetable mould or organic matter in our soils constitute the two oars by which the agricultural boat must be driven in North Carolina. We have hitherto done most of our pulling on the plowing oar and as a result our boat has inclined to go in a circle with the result that the people of the state are shipping in tens of millions of dollars worth of food supplies every year when they should be selling more than they buy.

We are giving out no information when we say that nine tenths of our soils are poor and unproductive. These poor soils are "known and read of all men." When we see a boy nowadays with a thin, pale, anaemic face, we are pretty apt to say he has the hookworm, by which we mean he has little red blood in his veins, low vitality, waning strength, and little ambition. His life forces are becoming weaker, he is unable to do much, we say, and his ability to do is becoming less every day and will finally be reduced to zero unless he is given a treatment. Keep this in mind and go twenty-five miles in almost any direction in North Carolina and you will see on every hand, fields of white, pale, sandy soils thrown out of cultivation; you will see fields of red and gray lands thrown out of cultivation. Why this abandonment of cultivable lands in North Carolina? Examine them and you will find a good amount of all the necessary mineral elements as plant food, but the humus or organic matter content is almost nothing. They have no life in them and hence cannot give life to vegetation. They are anaemic; they have hookworm, if you will allow the figure, and can do little without a treatment. The vitality of these poor lands is so low that it pays no one to cultivate them. Deep plowing alone will not do it.

The proper treatment of all these poor or abandoned lands, that are well drained, is, first, give them a heavy dose of organic matter either in the shape of stable manure or green manure. These are the two sources of organic matter in our soil. The one is, and always has been, too limited to set much store by, while the other is, always has been, and always will be, the principal source from which we must obtain humus for the agricultural soils in North Carolina.

Next week we expect to take up the discussion of the bringing up of poor lands in the state and will speak of the crops to be grown first in an attempt at their reformation. We want to call the attention of every man, who has poor lands on his farm, to this series of articles which will likely extend over some months.

J. L. BURGESS,  
N. C. Department of Agriculture.

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