

Sylvan Valley News

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WORK ON NEW DEPOT

Every citizen of Brevard and Transylvania will be glad to learn that at last, after seven months watchful waiting, work has commenced on the new depot, a force of men beginning Wednesday morning the work of clearing the site of all obstructions for the real work of building.

While it is to be regretted that a local contractor could not get the contract, doubtless Mr. Elliott of Hickory will do the work up in fine shape. The building is to be completed ready for occupancy on June 15th, and there is a heavy penalty for any delay after this date.

As stated in the News several weeks ago, the new depot is to be much larger than the one that was destroyed. Additional facilities for the handling of the ever increasing business will be added and more room will be given for the handling of freight.

Messrs. E. H. Coapman, vice-president and general manager of the Southern, J. B. Akers, superintendent of maintenance of way, and Geo. R. Loyall, general superintendent, were in Brevard for most of the day on Tuesday for the purpose of conferring with Messrs. J. F. Hays, superintendent of the Transylvania division, and A. H. Caldwell, read master, in regard to the work, and while here they stated that work will be pushed in order that the town will not have to suffer for lack of facilities for the proper handling of the unusually large number of summer visitors that will be here this year.

Early this week a number of Brevard business men, not having any definite information as to the erection of a new depot, and wishing to hurry matters a little bit, sent a night letter to President Harrison, signed by twenty-eight business men, asking him for an expression as to when work would begin. In less than twelve hours after the message was filed the above named officials were in Brevard and in less than thirty six hours work was begun. It pays to co-operate.

Mr. Frank D. Clement left Tuesday for Kingston, Mass., to attend the funeral of his mother, Mrs. Olive W. Clement, who died Monday night. Mrs. Clement spent the winter in Brevard but since going back home she has been in very bad health.

NOTICE TO DEMOCRATS

Call for Democratic Precinct Meetings and County Convention.

A meeting of the Democratic Executive Committee of Transylvania county was held on April 6th, 1914, at which time it was ordered that precinct meetings be held on May 15th, 1914, and the county convention be held on May 23rd, to ascertain and declare the strength of the various candidates in the state, judicial, state senatorial and the congressional races or contests for such offices.

It is ordered that the chairman of the executive committee of each precinct call a meeting of the precincts on May 15th at 3 o'clock p. m., at which time and place the strength of the various candidates will be taken and certified to the county convention which meets May 23rd.

It is further ordered that the said precinct meetings shall at the same time and place elect delegates to represent the respective precincts at the county convention on May 23rd.

It is further ordered that the said precinct meetings shall, at the same time and place, each elect five democrats as members of the precinct democratic executive committee for the coming campaign, designating one of the five as chairman.

W. M. HENRY, Chairman.
R. L. GASH, Secretary.

Democratic Executive Committee of Transylvania County.
This April 18, 1914. 4-24-4f

Betterment Association

OUTLINES OF A PRACTICAL EDUCATION

James E. Russell in "Good Housekeeping."

The greatest peril of our education today is that it promises an open door to every boy and girl up to the age of fourteen, and then turns them ruthlessly into the world to find most doors not only closed but locked against them. Throughout this country we are telling thousands—yes, millions—of boys and girls that anything they please may be had for the asking, and during the six or eight years of the school course they are instructed that nothing is beyond attainment. Then, too, our democratic notion of equality of opportunity is responsible for the attempt to hitch some very ordinary wagons to stars of the first magnitude. The result can only be bitter disappointment. Instead of a happy, contented, and able farmer, we make of the ambitious country boy a clerk or helper in some city industry, or a cog in some factory wheel. Instead of helping the quick-witted city boy, who leaves school at twelve or fourteen, wise far beyond his years, to employ his mental strength in shortening the term of apprenticeship in the trades and in improving the quality of the output, we turn him over to the tender mercies of the trade union, or allow him to bungle ahead in his efforts to become a capable workman. What wonder that our skilled craftsmen are foreigners, and that our best American boys become petty politicians or walking delegates or seekers after the soft places? We do not teach them to do the day's work in such a way as to find pleasure and satisfaction in it. The result is grumbling and fault-finding and discontent in private life, and in civil life the beginnings of socialism and anarchism.

Think of what it means to our girls to enjoy for eight or ten years day dreams which the first contact with life shatters. Is it any wonder that the girl of eighteen or twenty who has never had an hour's instruction in the scientific and esthetic interpretation of those duties which confront her should find no pleasure in home-making? The situation is bad enough in the country, but it is infinitely worse in our great cities. What chance has the girl of the tenements, even though she be well schooled and quick-witted? She leaves the school at fourteen or fifteen to get her post-graduate training in house-keeping from her mother. Think of what that means. A home of two or three or four rooms in a crowded quarter; every member of the family at work or seeking it; living confined to the barest necessities; no conveniences for doing the ordinary work of a home, even if that were necessary. What is left to the girl? The street; and it is nothing remarkable that some thoughtful persons should hold our public schools responsible for adding to the dangers of city life for bright and attractive girls. The surest way to break down family life and destroy the sanctity of the marriage tie is to mate an ignorant man with an ignorant woman—ignorant, I mean, of what marriage means, and unfitted to meet its obligations.

The next desideratum is proper manners and morals; in a word, suitable habits. I am not sure that there is any hierarchy in these practical ideals. Good health was put first because without it all else is worthless; proper manners and morals next, because without some such norm there can be no effective participation in social life.

It is a commonplace that a man must be honest, and that a woman must bear a good reputation. We even go further and say that the great object of education is the development of good character; but we do not always include in that the whole round of conduct which marks the agreeable member of society.

We are not concerned here with the origin or inculcation of customs or conduct. It matters little whether they come from mere imitation, or result from definite instruction re-enforced by persistent effort. It is what we do that counts most in society. And every grade of society demands that its members conform to an accepted norm. We recognize this insistent demand when we require our children to eat with a fork, to dress becomingly, and to speak grammatically. Reverence, courtesy, gentleness, sympathy, modesty, obedience, bravery, when socially considered, are virtues crystallized in good manners and morals. They are the surest evidence of what we call good breeding. Moreover, from the social standpoint these virtues have a value directly proportional to their habitual expression. Veracity as a fixed habit is far preferable to truth-telling for a consideration. Temperance induced by fear of evil consequences is far less effective than instinctive self-restraint. When these desirable modes of conduct become thoroughly ingrained—become "natural," as we often say—then character is fixed. "Manners make the man" is an adage of gentler truth than is commonly recognized in our modern educational practice.

How to get on with other people—for that is really the criterion of proper manners and morals—is the chief end of one great type of education. The Persians according to Xenophon, insisted that their leaders should learn both to rule and to be ruled, to command and to obey. These ends are not secured by formal instruction; they are the result of discipline under conditions which are favorable to the fixing of habits. Education, Professor James says, is the organization of acquired habits of conduct and tendencies of behavior. Walt Whitman, in one of those strange outbursts of his, tells how it is that the child goes forth every day into a new world and becomes part and parcel of all that he beholds.

There was a child went forth every day:
And the first object he looked upon, that
object he became;

And that object became part of him for
the day, or a certain part of the day, or
for many years or stretching cycle of
years.

The early lilacs became part of this child,
And grass, and white and red morning-
glories, and white and red clover, and
the song of the phoebe-bird * * *
And the school mistress that passed on
her way to the school,
And the friendly boys that pass'd—and
the quarrelsome boys,
And the tidy and fresh-check'd girls—and
the barefoot negro boy and girl,
And all the changes of city and country,
wherever he went.

His own parents, * * *
The mother at home, quietly placing the
dishes on the supper-table;
The mother with mild words—clean her
cap and gown, a wholesome odor falling
off her person and clothes as she walks
by;

The father, strong, self-sufficient, manly,
mean, angered, unjust;
The blow, the quick loud word, the tight
bargain, the crafty lure,

The family usages, the language, the com-
pany, the furniture—the yearning and
swelling heart,
Affection that will not be gainsay'd—the
sense of what is real—the thought if,
after all, it should prove unreal,

The doubts of day-time and the doubts of
night-time—the curious whether and
how,
Whether that which appears so is so, or is
it all flashes and specks?

These became part of that child who went
forth every day, and who now goes, and
will always go forth every day.

A very serviceable education can be given with a modicum of formal instruction. In fact, we seldom hear a course of study justified because of the information it gives. It may be well that some of these courses put forth no such claim, but the truth is that much of what we claim for study may be gained—and is gained by far the greatest number in any society—from leading a wholesome life with one's fellows. English education, as given in the great public schools, is pre-eminently of this type.

To be continued.

FROM TURKEY CREEK

I think it is best to state plainly at the outset that this article and the one appearing in this paper a few weeks ago is not a personal fight against Prof. T. C. Henderson, nor is it a fight against public education, nor yet a fight against a uniform tax rate. I want to say emphatically that I believe not only in public education but compulsory public education, and the purchase by the state of all text books used in the public schools.

A little comment that appeared in the Saturday Evening Post is, I think, well worth publishing just at this point:

"Here are some figures from a survey of country schools in a large Middle Western region: In all the schools linear measure is taught, yet in only one-fifth of them are tapes found; they all teach avoirdupois weight, yet less than a tenth of them have scales; they teach liquid measure, but only a fifth have any measures.

"In a third of the schools geography is taught without maps, and in more than two fifths without globes. All of them seek to teach children things about this fruitful and wonderful earth, yet more than two-thirds of the teachers never step outdoors to vitalize a point by the fields, flowers, woods, rocks and streams near at hand.

"That is the blessed old educational recipe: Get everything out of a book; reduce it so far as possible to a parrotlike exercise of memory; make it all as dry and repulsive and remote from actual life as possible."

To those who have watched the results of the present system and who had eleven years experience as a child under that system certainly hates to see public money wasted in the present frivolous way.

It is currently reported in the lower end of the county that out of the one hundred cent dollar that is collected from the tax payers only forty cents reaches the child, the balance being absorbed in interest, salaries, incidental expenses, traveling expenses, so-called teachers' institutes, etc. Now if this be true it is not at all surprising that Prof. Sentele in his article of a few days ago made mention of the fact that he, president of an educational association of eighteen counties, that the state superintendents and all other superintendents who came in contact with the secretary of the said association, who happens to be the superintendent of public instruction of our county, admired him very much. There is a reason, which is partly explained by a clipping from the Saturday Evening Post of May 2, 1914, in which it was said: "A long-standing abuse from which a profit is derived inevitably blinds its beneficiaries and makes them utterly untrustworthy witnesses."

This association being practically self-perpetuating, it is natural that they would still want this power held unto themselves.

An article appearing in last week's issue of the Sylvan Valley News recommending that the people make all candidates pledge themselves regarding the election of the county board of education and superintendent of schools does not go far enough. I think a better plan and one more likely to be heeded would be for the people of this county and of Haywood county and of all other counties in the state where they are denied the right of electing the men who handle the most important fund collected in the counties to demand in their coming primaries the right to elect both the county board of education and superintendent of schools, and to make that demand so strong that this incubus which is on our body politic, this cancer that is sucking the life-blood from the vitals of our school system shall be eradicated.

In referring to graded classic education a man does not have to go far afield to find men of brains, men of family, men of classical educations who are sitting around club rooms reading magazines,

playing cards and shooting pool, while the hill-billies, the widows sons, the gutter snipes and the emigrants are taking the cream of our country. And why? Because they were taught in the school of adversity, and nurtured by old Mother Necessity.

It is gratifying to me to watch the life of a man who, in his early life, had none of the finer chances of education that some men have, carve his way from the bottom to a position of prominence. A few little incidents in this man's life are as follows: He is a cripple and has been a cripple since early boyhood. In his younger days he would leave his father's home and go through the woods to "Scratch Ankle" school, spend his week there and on Saturday tramp back to his father's home, for a stipend of twenty or twenty-five dollars per month. While he taught he studied, and today he stands head and shoulders above men who had every advantage of education and money. He is a man who has lived his life where he was born, and he is a man who had honor even in his own country—and of such men there be legion.

JOHN S. BOGGS.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Board of Aldermen have designated Tuesday, May 12th as a general clean up day in the town of Brevard.

All the business houses, hotels and private residences are requested to clean up and put their garbage in boxes or barrels at some convenient point so that it may be accessible with a wagon. If you desire the town to haul your garbage you must notify the chief of police by May 13th. The town will not be responsible or haul your garbage after May 13th.

W. M. HENRY, Mayor.

LOCAL PARAGRAPHS

Mr. C. H. Case, who has been employed as clerk at the Aethelwold for the past several months, has accepted a similar position with the Gates Hotel, Greenville, S. C. Mr. B. B. Hester of Rutherfordton, N. C., succeeds Mr. Case at the Aethelwold.

In taking an auto ride recently the writer was much amused to see a colt, possibly two months old, desert its mother and follow the auto for about half a mile. It would have followed further had it not been driven back. We would not tell this story had a preacher not been along to vouch for the truth of it.

Mr. James Bracken, a veteran of the Union army, came near losing his life last Sunday morning.

While crossing a trestle near the Eli Hamlin place he fell between the ties and had not Mr. T. H. Hampton arrived when he did to assist him from his precarious position the morning train would doubtless have run on him. At that point it would have been impossible for the engineer to have stopped his train in time to keep from running over him. While Mr. Bracken suffered some slight bruises he is able to be around as usual.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Carolina Special Auction Co. has been appointed agents for the Netzw Manufacturing Co. of Milwaukee, Wis., to sell and collect for the famous Netzw pianos. We have just received notice from the company with bill of lading enclosed for one upright piano to sell for \$250, and one player piano for \$600. We expect to sell private and at auction. We will exchange for your old piano also. Remember that the Netzw Manufacturing Co. sends with each instrument a ten-year guarantee. It is known as one of the largest piano factories in the world.

CAROLINA SPECIAL AUCTION CO.