

The Albemarle Observer

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"LOOK FORWARD AND NOT BACK"

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MR. LEARY AT ATLANTIC CITY

Edenton, N. C.,
Sept. 14, 1915.

To The Editor:

On Monday the 6th inst. I boarded the train at Edenton, N. C., for Atlantic City, N. J., to attend the convention of the Second and Third Class Postmaster to be held on the 8th, 9th and 10th, days of September 1915. I reached Norfolk, Va., and had a hard time securing my ticket as it was Labor Day, and it seems that all the agents were off after a certain hour. A notice on the Plume street office of the N. Y., P. & N. railroad directed the would-be ticket purchaser to call at the steamer's wharf. I did call and was informed that I could come at 5:30 p. m., which I did, and finally, after taking a place in a row before the window, I secured a ticket. I think hereafter I will make reservation, certainly, whenever a National holiday is on, and I advise all other persons to do the same. I generally do, but conditions did not favor my doing so this time. I met Col. I. M. Meekins on the train and later on the "Maryland," the Cape Charles boat. I was trying to get a lower berth and so was he, we met at the ticket window. Both of us had to take an upper berth. He graciously invited me to take supper with him and I accepted the invitation. We both enjoyed the supper and the chat which accompanied it. We afterwards went on the upper deck and the Colonel gave me his view of the great European war. He seems to have given the subject much consideration and has a great many facts justifying his conclusions, in which, on many points, I heartily concurred. It seems almost impossible for the Germans to be victorious, but they are certainly showing great prowess in the war field, and it may be that they will yet come out ahead. I recall that about two months after the war commenced that some writer, who seemed to have a clear vision of what would happen, stated that the Germans would be able to hold the Allies at bay until the question of finance would compel them to seek peace. The present value of the pound sterling, and that of the franc would seem to indicate that the war debt is having its influence upon the finances of these countries, and the recent forming of a committee by England to secure a loan of five hundred million dollars from our people would seem to emphasize the present financial condition of England. The English are a determined people, which reminds me of a story Tom Skinner use to tell: At a meeting of some negroes, one man said among other things, "I tell you niggers that these angry Saxons are going to have their way and you just as well let them have it." The English never know when they are whipped and will fight to the last ditch. I do hope the peace movement will prove successful, as it is of the utmost importance to neutral states as well as the participating powers, that the war shall cease. I have said more about the war than I intended to say, and yet it is uppermost in the minds of us all, who care

about the welfare of all nations. I bade the Colonel goodbye at the sleepers, he taking a New York Pullman and I, a Pullman for Philadelphia. I enjoyed stretching out and getting into an easy position. I slept between the locomotive's whistles, and after I reached Philadelphia I slept better. I was called at 6 o'clock a. m. and dressed. I got my breakfast in the Broad street station of the Pennsylvania railroad. I got for breakfast bread, one little lamb chop and a cup of coffee, which cost me sixty cents; I wanted some water and I cautiously asked the waiter if they sold water also and he said no. I don't think that he caught the point, but I did not have time to explain. I was soon on my way to Atlantic City on an express train which reached there about an hour afterwards. I found the Penderton Hotel, secured my room and was soon on the famous "Board Walk," where hundreds of people were riding in chair cars or strolling along the walk. The bathers were out, as usual, by the hundreds in all sorts of raimeuts. Some had been in bathing and were out lying on the sand beach with their hands stretched out and faces looking up to the sun. The sun was very hot and I inquired why they did this. A gentleman informed me that people who were down for a very few days wanted to get sunburned so that it would show they had been to the sea beach, and their friends would know from the sunburns that they had been there. I have heard that people would close up the front part of their houses and live in the back part in order to create the impression that they had gone into the country or to the seashore, but this manner of getting sunburned for this purpose had never occurred to me. I know in many cases blistered lips and arms must have been hurtful to these people. I trudged up and down the Walk like the other people until I got tired and I then sought a pier and rested. The electric lights certainly made the piers look beautiful from the Board Walk. I went on the "Steel Pier" where they have all sorts of amusements, the steeple-chase, slides, mixers, etc. The lid-lifter got my hat and everybody laughed. I got busy at once when I felt it going, but it went nevertheless. The ball rooms on these piers are of the finest kind, and the dances attended by thousands of people, young and old. Friday night the best dancers were awarded prizes for being the most clever dancers. One old fellow was very enthusiastic and stood up and clapped his hands loud and strong. I looked at him more than I did the dancers. Thursday I went out on "Young's Million Dollar Pier." He has a residence on the pier and it is a real nice building with statuary, flowers etc. in the yard surrounding it. Out near the end of the pier there is a fishery and receptacle for the fish caught. A pound net is tied up in a recess and others extend along the pier. They have a lot of seal and they feed the fish caught to the seals. I saw them fed and I was surprised at their alertness and the swiftness with which they got about. The stores on the "Board Walk," bankrupt and otherwise,

seem to be selling things remarkably cheap, as the season was far spent and about closed. The weather was very warm and I suffered from the heat intensely. I was told that at this season of the year it is usually cool. I went over to Ocean City by trolley line, and back by steamer to Long Port and then back to Atlantic City by trolley life. It was a good trip and I enjoyed it. At Long Port we saw the Great Big Elephant restaurant. I believe it is one of the sights of that section. On Wednesday morning the postmasters of the Second and Third class assembled in the St Charles Hotel. We had a very agreeable gathering. Mr. A. H. Fritz, president, called us together and delivered his address, "The Postal Service." The usual routine of business was transacted, the appointment of committees etc. I was placed upon the Committee on Resolutions. Miss Nora L. Pickering, postmistress at Pottsville, Pa., was the lady orator of the meeting. Her subject was "Why a Woman Makes the Best Postmaster." She has a pleasing countenance, which shows intelligence and education. She made it pleasant for all who came in contact with her. She spoke intelligently and well. The Convention called on me for a short talk and I did so. All seemed satisfied at what I said and the ladies congratulated me. The ladies can say pleasant things. On the 9th, we met in the Raleigh Hotel. The written address of Gen. Daniel C. Roper was read by Andrew Grice of Marlinton, West Va., who was later elected president of the National Postmasters of the Second and Third Classes, the convention of which will meet in Washington, D. C., in April or May of 1916. The paper of Gen. Roper was listened to with a great deal of interest and I believe if carried out will help the service in many ways. He is a very able man and has conducted his branch of the service with energy and marked ability. His speech of a year ago was excellent and made a decided impression on the postmasters present. We did not agree with all he said, but admired his address very much. We would have been glad to have had him with us, in person, as we had hoped he would be, but business kept him away. On this occasion Postmaster William B. Loudenslager of Atlantic City made a good speech and so did Dr. Thos. E. Hodges. Both of these gentlemen were very nice reflecting credit on the service. Dr. Hodges was at one time president of the University of West Virginia. He is the present postmaster of Morgantown in his own state. The presiding officer came to where I was sitting and invited me to speak to the convention, which I did with some reluctance, but I am glad to say, that those who spoke to me about my talk afterwards stated they were very much pleased with it. Although a stranger to most of them they gave me generous applause. This made me feel good, if nothing more. The postmasters are an intelligent set of gentlemen and the ladies are also bright and intelligent. The largest hotels there are the Traymore, Marlborough and (with the improve-

ments to be placed on it) I believe the Rudolph will be the next largest. It is proposed to spend one million dollars on it in the way of improvements. The dining room will then seat two thousand people. Atlantic City is a city of hotels for it seems that all the houses you pass are hotels and advertised, by signs, as such. The Traymore, viewed from Young's Pier, looks like pictures of old castles that I have seen. It takes a man with a long pocket to stop at this hotel. The Marlborough has its own electric plant and nine hundred rooms. The Traymore has seven hundred rooms. On Friday we wound up our business and I went out sight seeing and concluded to start for home the next morning. Mr. Henry and I went down to the depot and secured such information as we needed for an early start. I left Atlantic City at 7:45 a. m. and reached home on the same day at 11:40 p. m. I believe it to be the quickest trip on record, no loss of time. However, I had to run to make the N. & S. train and then I would have missed it, but for Mr. Lesner, who saw me running and held the train for me. I was some hot when I reached the car. Mr. Lesner is a very clever conductor, I have heard of several kindnesses to passengers. It is men like this that make railroads popular with the public. Captain Waddy, whose train is known as "Waddy's Train," is another. He is a fine fellow and we are all glad that the railroad company has given him a trip and a holiday long enough to enjoy it. He will travel some eight or nine thousand miles. I wish all the railroads and the people could get together on these kindly principles and generous feelings. It would be better for both. Live and let live and help others to live. I have written more than I intended and therefore must stop. Respectfully,
Wm. J. LEARY, Sr.
P. S. I was invited to attend the banquet held Saturday night, but could not do so. I know the boys had a good time.



An American Creed.

I believe in the United States, one and indivisible; in her mission as the champion of humanity, as the friend of the weak and distressed; in the singleness, dignity and inviolability of American citizenship; in the validity of our national traditions; in peace with honor; in friendship with all nations that respect our rights; in reasonable preparations for national defense by sea and land; in shirking no sacrifice needed to hand down to the future the priceless treasures bequeathed to us by the past; in the necessity of keeping the Western Hemisphere free from the intrusion of European institutions and ambitions; in the capacity of free men for self-government; in the love of home and country, and in the unflinching resolution that government of the people, for the people, by the people shall not perish from the earth.—Wilmington Star.

Post Office Site In Edenton Held Up For Sixty Days.

The following letter will doubtless be of interest in Edenton:
Windsor, N. C.,
Sept. 18, 1915.
Mr. W. J. Leary, P. M.,
Edenton, N. C.

Sir:
In reply to yours of the 17th inst., beg to say that at the request of the Department, the condemnation of the postoffice site at Edenton has been held up for 60 days.

Respectfully,
FRANCIS D. WINSTON,
United States Attorney.

ILLITERACY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Chapel Hill, N. C., Sept.—
"With the exception of Louisiana and New Mexico, North Carolina has the largest percentage of native born white illiterates in the United States." This was the declaration made by W. C. Crosby, secretary of the committee on Community Service, in an address at Chapel Hill on "Moonlight Schools in North Carolina."

"We boast of our good qualities in North Carolina but conceal our faults. We hide our illiteracy as a horse trader does an old sore. The tendency now is to uncover the sore and heal it with the salve of moonlight schools. In order to further the campaign against illiteracy, the month of November will be set apart and will be observed throughout North Carolina as 'Moonlight School Month.' A night school will be organized and conducted three nights a week for at least this month in every school district in the State where such illiterates are to be found. The day school teachers will, in most cases, teach in these night schools. Five thousand teachers have already volunteered for the work. The State Department of Education will place in the hands of these teachers a little bulletin outlining the work to be done. The school will hold eight night sessions during the month. Twelve lessons each month in reading, writing and arithmetic will be given. The reading book will not be a primer such as the children use but something which concerns the movement of people with whom those attending the schools are acquainted, together with such sentences as would inspire their county pride and awaken them to continued effort. We want to get the old people interested in this work and get them out to these schools. It is a fact little known that one-seventh of the voting population of North Carolina cannot read or sign their names. This means that one-seventh of our homes are devoid of books or papers. This means that many homes are without the Bible, and eternity is approaching rapidly. The responsibility rests on us. Let us try to clear the stain from our State. Let us hope that when the census of 1920 is taken there will not be a single adult illiterate in North Carolina."

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HOG CHOLERA

To Be Discussed In Edenton Saturday, October 16.

Dr. F. D. Owens of the State Department of Agriculture was in Edenton last Friday and has made arrangements for the following appointments to discuss "How To Control Hog Cholera."

EDGEWOOD OCTOBER 14, 1915.
ROCKY HOCK OCTOBER 15, 1915.
EDENTON OCTOBER 16, 1915.

Let all farmers interested in raising hogs attend these meetings as valuable information may be obtained by attending.

Hertford News.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Williams spent Sunday afternoon with their sister, Mrs. J. E. Howell.

Little Lillian Howell is still very ill with typhoid fever.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Divers spent Sunday with relatives in E. City.

Miss Annie Howell, who has been very ill with typhoid fever, is slowly improving.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Raper were the guests of his parents in E. City Sunday.

The Graded School opened Monday under the management of Prof. R. L. Crawford with a large enrollment.

Mrs. B. A. Fleetwood is rapidly recovering from a recent illness.

Miss Clio Dail is the guest of Miss Hildred White.

Fire early Monday destroyed six dry kilns and an immense amount of lumber at the plant of the Albemarle Lumber Company. The loss will reach \$20,000, it is said. The plant will be forced to suspend operations for several weeks, pending the rebuilding of new kilns.

Bosley News Items.

Mrs. H. D. Hurdle and sons of Winfall, were guests of Mrs. C. F. White, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Hober and children spent Sunday in Portsmouth with relatives.

Mr. L. S. Parker of Savage called at the home of Mr. L. C. Ronntree Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Briggs and children spent Sunday at the home of Mr. J. T. Rice.

Mrs. W. H. Hill and daughter, Hattie N., and sons, Messrs. Raynon, Sam and Waverly, spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Ward.

Mr. Shelton Boyce of Hobbsville was a caller in town Sunday afternoon.

Messrs. R. W. Simpson, Edward Eason and B. G. Rountree were in town Monday on business.

Mr. Glover, traveling salesman for the Acetylene Light Co., was in our town Tuesday in the interest of his company.

Miss Bessie Russell and little Russell Ward were callers in Sunbury Tuesday morning.

Our farmers are busy harvesting their cotton and while there is only about half a crop we are exceedingly glad the price is good.

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