

The French Broad Hustler
INCORPORATED

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HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.

JAMES P. AIKEN.

We wish to drop a flower upon the newly made grave of J. P. Aiken, who met a tragic death in a fearful accident at Brevard on last Thursday morning, the details of which were published in these columns the day following. The writer has known "Jim" Aiken, intimately for fifteen years and does not hesitate to say he was an honest, industrious negro and one who was admired by all who knew him, both white and colored. He attended to his own business and did not interfere with other people's affairs; was polite and respectful to his white friends, obliging, industrious and true to every trust reposed in him. In the opinion of the editor of this newspaper, "Jim" Aiken was the best negro in the United States. He possessed many noble traits of character and members of his race would profit by emulating the example of their deceased friend in their contact with events of future life.

"Jim" Aiken knew his place and was perfectly content with his lot in life. Kind-hearted, accommodating, industrious, he was ever ready to assist those in distress and here is one colored man who left the world better than he found it. And he helped to make it so.

"Jim" eschewed politics years ago and was one negro who voted for his friends, regardless of their political affiliations. He was prominent in the church and society circles of the colored people and an enthusiastic supporter of fraternal orders and all other objects looking to the betterment of his race. Brevard will miss him.

The funeral services over the remains of this esteemed colored man were conducted from the First Baptist church (white) of Brevard and, as a mark of respect to his memory, the business houses of the town were closed during the hour of service. This was fitting and indicates the feeling entertained by Southern white people for a negro who shows himself worthy.

Referring to his death the Brevard News says:

"The death of James P. Aiken is a distinct loss to our town. He was the most widely known colored man in Western North Carolina; was a successful and enterprising business man whose store on Main street is well patronized; he was a member of the Baptist church and several benevolent societies; was a member of the Fire Department while Wm. E. Breese, Jr. was chief, and was always among the first to respond to the call of the fire-bell and one of the hardest workers at every fire in the history of the town. He was in every way a responsible negro—honest, entergetic, working and reliable. He had a wide influence among the colored race in his mountain section, besides having many friends among the white people, all of whom will be shocked to learn of his sudden death."

The editor of this newspaper liked "Jim" Aiken, because of the many commendable qualities he possessed and not even the

bosom companion of that good negro regrets the deplorable accident which ended his earthly career more than this writer.

And we have no apology to make for devoting this little space, to a brief statement of our estimate of the best negro, certainly, in North Carolina.

THE FORESTS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

We are in receipt of Press Bulletin No. 30, of the N. C. Geological and Economic Survey, outlining a purpose which this Department, together with the United States Forest Service, has in view and is now planning to put into effect in this State, looking to the possibilities of economizing in the use of whatever timber is cut. For instance, instead of allowing the smaller parts of a tree cut for bridge timber to go to waste, it will endeavor to have the top used in the industries capable of using the smaller dimensions, instead of allowing this to go to waste and cutting more and smaller trees for the latter purpose.

This is a laudable undertaking and has our full endorsement. It is a shame and an outrage the way our forests have been and are yet being wantonly destroyed for the sake of the immediate dollar, with no thought of their future worth and possibilities. The forests of North Carolina are worth as much, or more, than the land they stand on. Remove them, and what scenery and climatic advantages we now have will go with them, leaving a country little better than a desert.

In any effort along the line of preservation of our natural resources these gentlemen deserve a liberal support, and we look forward to the accomplishment of much good from the publicity this work will give to the ultimate results of either good or bad management of our forests.

A bill has been introduced in the Alabama legislature to move the capital from Montgomery to Birmingham, because a member of that body was arrested by a policeman in the former city. Strikes us that the cheaper thing to do would be to discharge the policeman.

President Pomeroy, of the National Editorial Association, has appointed Mr. W. C. Hammer, of the Asheville, N. C., Courier, a member of the Committee on Postal Laws. This is a worthy recognition of an able North Carolina editor.

A reputed agent of the tobacco trust is said to have said to Mr. Ware, of the Ware-Cramer Tobacco Company of Wilson, N. C., "We will crush h— out of you," but afterwards changed his mind and crushed two and a half million dollars out of him instead. Left to our own choice, we would about as soon have had him carry out the first threat.

SETTLEMENT OF STRIKES.

One of the regrettable occurrences of the year is the labor trouble now going on at McKee's Rocks between the Pressed Steel Car Company and its employes. It is an unsafe proposition to take sides in a matter of this kind; and this is a thing we make it a point never to do,

unless the facts governing the case are so plain as to admit no doubt as to who is right and who is wrong. Also it is highly probable that after a dispute of this nature has gone so far as to result in blood shed, both sides have committed errors of discretion and overstepped what may be called, for want of better name, the line of fairness.

It does look as if the time had arrived when some general solution might be suggested that would be applicable to these recurring occurrences when property and business, and after life, are sacrificed. A great many schemes have been tried, but none, so far, have reached a point which could be counted on to arrest the tendencies until after great loss had been effected. The employer has rights, so does the employe—but each, no doubt, has exaggerated ideas of what these rights are. Workmen have a right to organize, and to set a figure as the price of their toil; a right to say how many hours they will work. But no employing concern is compelled to employ the members of any organization. This is a matter of choice. If a concern is compelled to operate its plant for a longer period each day than the members of an organization care to work, clearly they have a right to employ laborers who do not belong to the organization. On the other hand, if the organization does not care to accept the terms offered by any employer, such organization need not do so. The idea of force or coercion by either party is contrary to all laws of equity and to the principles of our government. Force of arms never settles disputes permanently, nor does it ever settle it fairly to all parties concerned. Older labor organizations realize this, and rarely does a strike among their ranks lead to anything further than a cessation of work and peaceful argument among the would-be strike breakers by the members of the striking party. When it does amount to more than this, the trouble can usually be traced to some overzealous or erratic member, inexperienced in the principals of cause and effect. With the younger and less experienced organizations, the proportion of violence is increased just in proportion to its inexperience is greater or less. What is needed most is a scheme that will settle these troubles before they reach the acute stage. Some such proposition suggests itself to us, which, so far as we can ascertain, has not yet been tried. It is this:

Let each state add to its election officers a state board of arbitration, of five members, with the usual organization of chairman, etc; two to be employes, two wage-earners and one a professional man, to be paid for their services only when actively engaged in their duties. This board to have charge of every dispute which has gone so far as to reach a deadlock between employer and employe. Make all strikes against law. On the certification to the proper authority by the parties, or either of them, the board to be notified to meet at the point designated in the certification as the seat of the disagreement and take the evidence in the case, and after all parties have been allowed to introduce all competent evidence desired, each in the presence of

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not to consider that they have any further claim to the employment the employer may have to offer, and may not interfere in any manner with the proceedings of any employer to re-man his work, the ousted employes to be subject to the civil and criminal law of the land for any violation. Should the employer except to the ruling of the board of arbitration, he may notify his help of his decision, and discharge his entire force on payment of any wages due them, and proceed to replace such discharged help to suit himself. Neither side could object to the airing of the merits of its contention without arousing suspicion as to its honesty. Strikes that lead to damage to property and to violence are not so much the result of disagreement as to hours and wages as they are of stubbornness on the part of one side, or the other, or both sides of the question.

In the case of the Pressed Steel Car Company, thousands of dollars of loss in wages and property has already taken place, to say nothing of the expense to the State of Pennsylvania. The plan outlined above would have saved it all.

Quite a number of the superintendents took advantage of the opportunity and went to Lake Toxaway this morning. They will return this afternoon for the meeting tonight.

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Mrs. J. W. Cairnes is so seriously ill at the home of her father at Horse Shoe that her recovery is hardly looked for. Mrs. Cairnes is the widow of the late J. W. Cairnes.
Superintendent T. C. Henderson, of Transylvania, came in this morning. He is a "live wire" in educational as well as other matters and Transylvania folks are fortunate in having him at the head of their school system.
Jackson County has the pleasing distinction of sending the youngest and handsomest representative to the convention of superintendents. Otis Self is a fine looking fellow and is not lacking in accomplishments, either. He was elected superintendent of his county last July and is making a splendid official.
An interesting member of the superintendent's convention, now about to convene here, is Prof. L. C. Brogden, State Supervisor of Elementary Schools. Prof. Brogden is a nephew of ex-Governor Curtis H. Brogden and stands in the front ranks among North Carolina's brightest young men.