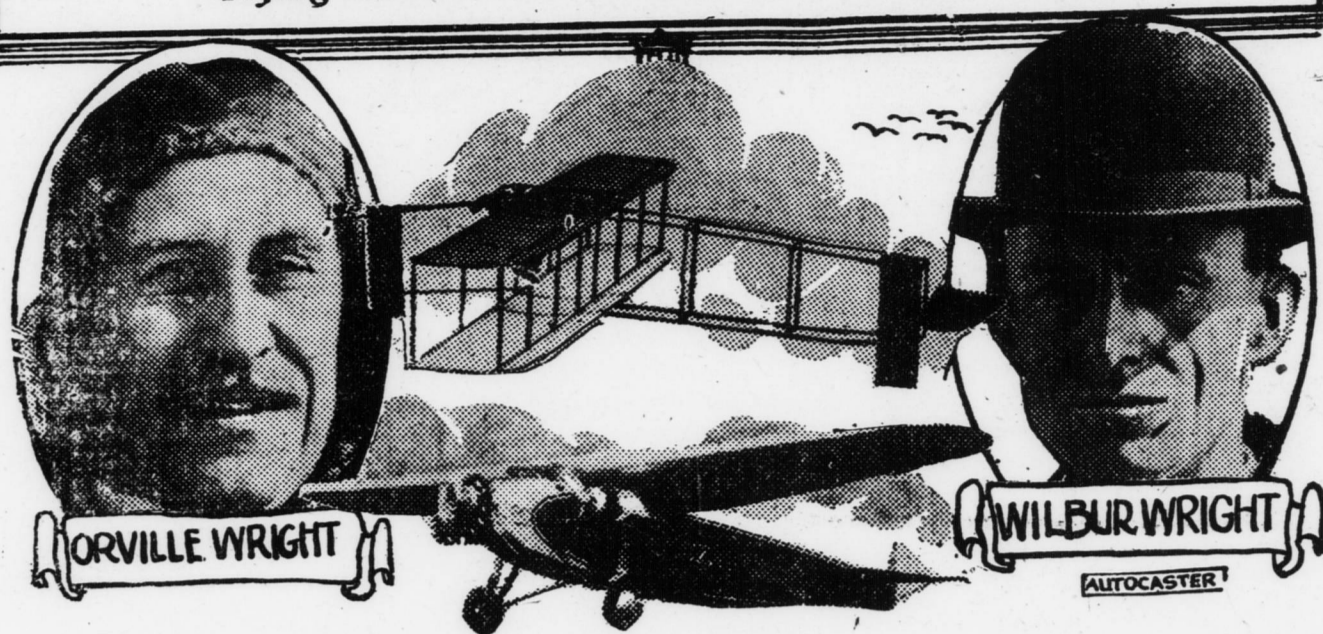


CORN CRACKER RECALLS OLD-TIME YULETIDE

Shelby, R-5, Dec. 17.—At each recurring Christmas, I have a period of retrospection. The Yuletide season is a joyous festival of youth; and when I assure your readers that 71 years and six months have elapsed since my advent into Kentucky society, it can be realized that I have a distant but fairly distinct memory of slavery and its institutions and customs. I was always accustomed in childhood to association with these affectionate and emotional beings. They expected Christmas week as a holiday; and this was given to feasting and dancing. A "backlog" had to be prepared to last until New Year; and a large black gum was selected. If the weather were mild it would last that long; but a spell of icy rigor let it burn about two nights. But the kind-hearted master generally gave them the entire week.

On Christmas morning, every slave tried to steal a march on "Ole Massa" and "Ole Missus" and challenged them with the challenge, "Christmas Gift." The master pretended he was not expecting them; in fact, had forgotten that it was Christmas time, anyway. If there was anything a negro enjoyed better than a goblet of eggnog for this festal morning, it was more eggnog. My father, while not a drinking man, was an expert tapster, and an adept in compounding this celebrated drink. As he was a fine fruit raiser, he always put up three barrels of cider for winter; and about Christmas this decoction was invested with a very athletic kick. As an old English custom, the fiddlers and other merry makers visited the homes on Christmas eve night, especially where cider was served as a refreshment and the "serenaders" came with their minstrelsy. They had fiddles, fifes, snare drums and triangles, and rendered "Arkansas Traveler," "Natchez Under the Hill" and "Turkey in the Straw," with the spirit and the understanding. My father was a fine fiddler, always welcomed the wandering minstrels, and feasted them on cakes and cider until they were exhilarated but not inebriated. Next morning for visitors and slaves, he prepared a bowl of eggnog. Of course I reverently believed in Santa Claus, the Patron Saint of joyous childhood—and still cherish the sweet confiding faith. Never shatter a favorite dream of trusting childhood. The negroes believed in getting religion, falling from grace, (and practiced what they

Flying Reaches 25th Birthday on December 17th



Orville Wright was the first of all men to soar into the air, 25 years ago. With the late Wilbur Wright, his brother, he invented the airplane. This picture shows Orville and Wilbur Wright, and the plane that they first flew. Contrast this Wright plane with the modern Fokker passenger plane, shown below it, and the tremendous progress of aviation in 25 years can be seen at a glance. The original airplane of the Wright Brothers—which is really only a motored glider—is on exhibition at South Kensington, London. The first flight of Orville Wright took place at Kill Devil Hill, Kitty Hawk, N. C., on Dec. 17, 1903, when he flew 120 feet in 12 seconds.

preached.) "Aunt Phillis," a family servant, was priestess in the kitchen, a past mistress in fortune-telling; knew all ancient and modern lore pertaining to witchcraft. She was also conversant with the occult lore that could offset the machinations of witches and "conjurers." She had a repository of witch stories as to how some old woman would turn to a black cat or an old-field rabbit, cause chickens to die, cows to give bloody milk, and the only redress was to shoot the rabbit or the black cat with a silver bullet. Another pestilent and mysterious enemy, was the "jack-o-my-lantern." This occult sprite would catch unwary negroes, ride them all over woods and swamps, and make witch stirrups in the manes of horses. The way to outdo the jack-o-my-lantern, was to turn every pocket in your clothes wrong side out, and the way to thwart the malevolent spells of witchcraft was to wear brass rings and tie limbs of hickory sprouts in knots. Aunt Phillis would be happily converted, and then suffer relapse. She claimed it required four nights to be properly converted. Compared with her triumphant conversion and her conflicts with the emissaries of darkness the warfare of Christian and Apolyn in Pilgrim's Progress were tame experiences. Satan would assume the shape of a mule, a big monkey, a dragon, and a bird as large as those in adventures of Sinbad, the Sailor. But when she again was a being who had passed from na-

ture to grace—the change was thorough; and she was a monument of heartfelt religion. She regarded the Disciples, or Campellites, as she called them—with holy and withering scorn. They had no "mourner's bench," and she said, no religion.

By every joyous consideration, don't try to shatter the abiding faith of the prattling youth and maiden in their benign Patron Saint, Santa Claus. Even if a full-blown fiction, the faith in, its veracity does not teach an immoral nor misleading lesson. The teachers of all ages have used fables, metaphor, hyperbole, and the Divine Carpenter taught the untutored multitude in parables.

When this festive season draws nigh, when Shakespeare believed the graves gave up their sheeted dead, let the true spirit of fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man be exemplified. Read the account of the birth of Christ as recorded by Luke and Christmas Carols by Dickens. The regeneration of Scrooge when he communes with Marley's ghost and the pious invocation of Tiny Tim, "may God bless us, every one," will act as a benediction.

CORN CRACKER.

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Don't suffer from the pain and soreness of throat—gargles and salves are too slow—they relieve only temporarily. But Thoxine, a famous physician's prescription, is guaranteed to give relief almost instantly.

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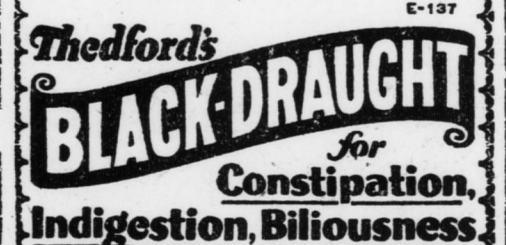
DIZZY Lost Appetite

Mr. M. F. Fink, of Harrisburg, N. C., says: "It must have been fully twenty-five years ago that I began taking Black-Draught regularly.

"I was in town one day, and while talking to a friend I stooped over to pick up something. When I straightened up, I felt dizzy. I spoke to him about this and how I had not felt like eating.

"My friend told me to take some Black-Draught. I knew my mother had used it, and so I bought a package. When I got home, I took a good, big dose, and the next night, another. In a few days I felt much better.

"A good many times I have had this dizziness and a bad taste in my mouth, or headaches, and then I take Black-Draught and get better. I do not have to take it very often. We buy from five to seven packages a year." Try it!



up the sides of the mountains and on top, raised 2,909 bales, or 469 more bales than last year. The best Mecklenburg can do this season is 17,548 bales, while the neighbor county of Union has ginned 28,347. Cabarrus has dropped from 11,214 to 9,883 bales. Gaston, center of more mills than any other county in the belt, stands steadily at a production around 10,000, losing 431 bales this season. Rowan ginned 11,078 bales, against 9,715 for Stanly.

The decrease in production in the piedmont counties is largely explained because of development of more dairy barns than cotton gins. While Cleveland goes in for dairying—it is the county of the original creamery enterprise—that county is keeping pace in the dairying industry, a fact which gives a better look to its big production of cotton. It is on top as a cotton producer to stay.—Charlotte Observer.

TRAIN SCHEDULES

Seaboard		
No. 109, South, Arr. 10:30 a. m.	No. 21, South, Arr. 12:18 p. m.	
No. 22, North, Arr. 4:21 p. m.	Southern	
No. 113, South, Arr. 6:20 a. m.	No. 36, North, Arr. 10:09 a. m.	
No. 35, South, Arr. 5:35 p. m.	No. 114, North, Arr. 8:56 p. m.	
Cinchfield		
No. 37, North, Arr. 10:45 a. m.	No. 38, South, Arr. 4:48 p. m.	
No. 110, North, Arr. 11:20 a. m.		

CLEVELAND COUNTY LEADS IN COTTON

The Observer has been keeping track of the rise of Cleveland, a foot-of-the-mountains county, as a producer of the agricultural king. It has now come to pass that Cleveland has out-stripped the original cotton-growing sections down east and stands cock of the walk as a cotton producer. It has ginned this season as many as 45,343 bales, which is far and away in the lead of its closest competitor, Johnston, with 37,641. It also leaves Robeson, the third largest producer with 36,945 bales, in the background. It is not acreage so much as intensive cultivation that has developed this high-up county into a leader in cotton production, for Max Gardner and the farm agents have established Cleveland on a sound basis in scientific farming. The Cleveland crop this season is a gain of 775 bales over last year.

Cotton production seems to increase the closer we get to the mountains, for there is Rutherford, fenced in by peaks and ranges, producing this year 13,936 bales, a gain of 2,398 bales over last season, while Polk, where the cotton patches run



Pillows too become soiled!

YOU change your pillow-slips regularly—but how about the pillows? Perspiration soaked and soiled from the natural oils of the hair, flattened too, from long continuous use, the pillows themselves should be laundered regularly. Particularly should they be thoroughly cleansed after a slight illness.

Rutherford Co. Laundry

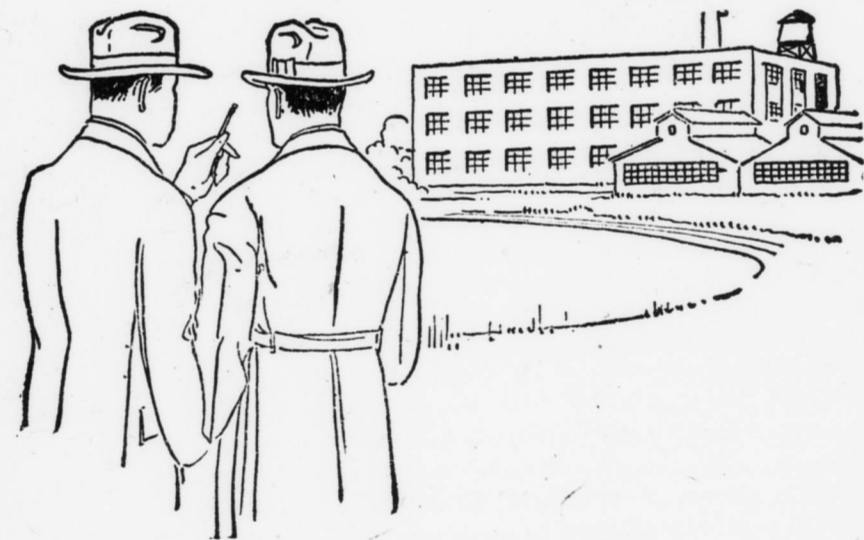
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