

The Danbury Reporter

PEPPER BROS., EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

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FOOLISH PREJUDICE AGAINST RESORTS.

Mr. Will Moore, the progressive young proprietor of Moore's Springs, has secured a charter and is building a toll road from his hotel to the top of the mountain, toward the railroad, a distance of some seven or eight miles. Mr. Moore has secured a few subscriptions, but it is quite certain that he is assuming practically all the burdens of this project and putting up the most of the money himself.

Summer resort hotels bring thousands of dollars into the country, which go directly into the pockets of the adjacent farmers. The hotel enjoys but a very small portion of the wealth which it attracts. The resort investment is large, and the profit very small on the investment. The farmer is the gainer, who without any investment, finds a ready cash market at the highest prices for his poultry, vegetables, beef, butter and milk, and fruits. Yet when the hotel man asks help to build a road, in order that he may increase the number of his guests, he is usually treated either with perfect indifference or with scorn and bitterness. There is a resort not a thousand miles from Danbury where for a half a century the people living around have sold their products at good prices every season. Yet when requested to donate one day to help put the public road in passable condition--which they were required to do by law--responded with abuse to the overseer, saying "If So and So wants a road to his hotel, let him build it."

So dence has been the ignorance regarding the value of good roads in Stokes county, and so strong has been the prejudice against those who have stood for the economical necessity of good roads.

There are no more important public industries in our county than its summer resorts, which bring thousands of people during two or three months of every summer, who buy and pay for our products at good prices. The hotel-keepers' profit is least of all in the deal. Their investments are large, their risks great and their labors exacting. The farmer invests nothing, and makes tremendous profits.

CONVINCED.

In the campaign for good roads, which carried the bond issue for three townships of Stokes, last April a year ago, a certain gentleman of Peter's Creek ordered the Reporter to be discontinued to his address, at the same time making the statement to some of his neighbors that this paper would lose 500 subscribers because it preached good roads. As far as the Reporter has ever been able to learn, the gentleman in question was the only person on our subscription list who was such an advanced type of fanatic as to refuse to support a newspaper that did not talk exactly his sentiments on public questions. He was like the judge who refused to hear any more evidence because he "had done made up his mind."

But now comes the funny part of the incident. Last week this man stated to some of his friends that he was a fool for voting against the bond issue for good roads, and that if he ever had another opportunity, he would certainly vote for it. The secret is that he has recently been traveling the Danbury-Walnut Cove turnpike, and has been converted. In deed many Stokes county farmers have recently experienced a change of heart on the question of good roads since hauling their fertilizer over that beautiful road.

The Reporter is informed that another election will be asked for by Peter's Creek people, and that they are certain to vote the bond issue next time.

LETTER FROM MEXICO

Soldier Boy Writes About His Experience There Recently.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, May 3, 1914.

To the Editor:

I am writing these few facts so that the people at and around home may know the truth of a few things that happened in Vera Cruz. I was in the ranks when the firing was going on and I am in position to give a few words of truth.

To begin with the beginning we (battleships Vermont, Arkansas and New Jersey) were at target practice in the Southern Drill grounds just south of Cape Henry when we received orders by wireless from Washington to proceed to Hampton Roads, Va., for stores, coal and ammunition, then to proceed to Tampico, Mexico, which we carried out with all possible haste. This was April 14th, but we did not go to Tampico, for as we were passing Florida Keys, we received orders to change our course and go to Vera Cruz, as we were needed there more than we were needed at Tampico. These orders were also carried out and we reached Vera Cruz April 21 at about 9 p. m., and every man in the landing force had his equipment ready. We dropped the "mud hook" (the anchor) and turned in for a little sleep and rest after making preparations to land next morning.

At 1 o'clock a. m. April 22nd all hands were called, we had had breakfast at 1:30 a. m. All hands fell in with equipment which included a rifle, bayonet, belt, haversack, canteen, 100 rounds of ammunition, food for three meals and a few other articles to each man; then we embarked in small boats and started for the shore about 3 a. m. There was lots of firing ashore, but I don't think they were firing at us for no one got hit. We were ashore by daylight, and marched up to the Terminal station which had already been taken by our men before we landed. We ate breakfast again at 7 a. m., then started in for the fight; we marched down the water front for about a quarter of a mile and as we were passing a Naval Cadet School in which there were about 500 Mexicans, they opened on us; we did not know they were there so we had not received any orders to load, every man had an empty rifle so all hands retreated until they could load. We then advanced again and commenced to fire through the windows. The skirmish lasted about an hour, then the armored cruiser, Chester, which was laying in the harbor, commenced to fire on the building and the enemy disappeared, but where they went we don't know. After the Chester ceased firing her 5 inch guns, our men went inside and found 180 dead Mexicans, with a loss of our own forces of 1 dead and 3 wounded; they were in the building and we were in a vacant lot in the rear. After the first fight all hands were mustered and we proceeded on our interrupted march for about 5 minutes when the firing began from three more buildings on the same

street. We came to a halt in a lumber yard, planted our field artillery and bombarded these three buildings until it was too hot for the people inside and they began to run from the buildings and trying to reach other buildings in the immediate vicinity, but we got 'em with rifles as we did not care to tear down any more buildings to get them. I think it was 18 of the enemy killed this time and not a man of our own forces received a scratch. We again took up the march still going down the water front a little way farther and some one fired on us from an old boat-house; 32 men turned and fired a volley into the house which was an old wooden house, and two men dropped into the water under the building. There was no more firing for about fifteen minutes when a regular cavalcade of bullets came pouring into our midst and wounded two men in the legs. It is a miracle how any of us escaped being killed or wounded for there were 18 machine guns firing at us, but we were always on the job. We had some pretty good marksmen and we dropped several right away and the firing ceased.

The next thing of any account was the taking of the Regimental barracks up in the center of the town where we took several prisoners and about 1800 rounds of ammunition, killed a few and lost none.

The next morning which was April 23 we had another deal out on the outskirts of the city where we had a little fight the night before. At 9:49 on the same morning a German freight steamer came into port and some of our officers and men went aboard of her and captured 5,000,000 rounds of ammunition and 15,000 rifles, some of the rifles dated back to Cortez; this was the biggest haul we have made since we landed.

We only had about two and a half days fighting and since then it has been quiet, as the Admiral issued an order for all persons having arms in their possession after noon April 25 would be severely punished. All the inhabitants turned over to our naval officials all the arms and ammunition in their possession. The firing ceased for a few days, as we did not fire on any man or men unless they fired on us first, for we did not come here to fight, we came to make peace for the people that did not care to fight and to protect the American refugees that are here and we have almost succeeded in making peace for there has been no trouble in the city for several days past.

About the time we succeeded in getting everything quieted down in the city, the battleship Mississippi, came down with three hydroplanes and made an observation of the land and reported that there were about 800 Mexican soldiers about five miles out from the city in the sand hills, and that they were moving toward the city so we sent out a bunch of marines, about 500 in all, to drive them back; but they retreated without a shot being fired after which we camped on the sand hills for a few days to keep back any troops that might try to enter the city.

On the 27th of April our army transports reached Vera Cruz

with about 8000 troops, field and heavy artillery. On the 28th they landed, and on the 29th they relieved us of duty ashore and we returned to our ships; but we are now ready to go ashore at a moments notice, for the army is having quite a little trouble in the sand hills but no more trouble in the city.

General Huerta is in Mexico City, General Carranza is between Vera Cruz and Mexico City, and General Villa is north of Mexico City and it is rumored that Carranza is trying to get to Vera Cruz with 15,200 troops, but I don't think he will succeed in entering the city for we have it too well fortified and guarded. But we may have to go to Mexico City later to release some Americans that are being held as prisoners by Huerta.

This afternoon, May 3rd at 4 o'clock all ships here half masted

their colors and the battleship Montana got underway for New York with our dead and severely wounded. The dead (17) were embalmed to be sent to the people on reaching New York, and wounded (23) to be transferred to the Naval Hospital at New York. Our total dead is 17 and our total wounded 60, 23 of which are not expected to live.

One of my shipmates was killed and six were wounded.

As the Montana passed the other battleships, which had their colors half masted in honor of the dead, all hands were assembled on the top decks, the marine guard at present arms and all officers and men uncovered as the ships, bands played the funeral march "Immortales."

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