

Grits and Gravel

(By T. MOSES JONES.)

Gary Green, the R. F. D. No. 1 mail carrier told me this afternoon that he had five new Henderson Daily Dispatches to begin on his route this morning...

I saw in yesterday's paper where Claude Crews of down near Dabney had a new electric range, or rather that his wife had drawn the lucky number and won a range...

NOTICE

Just arrived truck load fresh fruit and vegetables. Oranges, 30c peck. \$1.15 bag. Nice Winesap Apples 30c peck...

Florida Fruit Store

at Rat Breedlove's at the Breedlove Family Reunion two summers ago. That was the day I saw more good something good to eat on one table at one time, than I had ever before...

I never felt so helpless and so unnecessary in all my life than when Mr. Breedlove called on me to ask the blessing. I got so excited that I almost started saying, "Now I lay me down to sleep," but wound up by saying, "Thank God for Dinner." And THAT a dinner!

Today someone took Mr. Bob Critcher's baby boy, Edward, for someone else, but I am not going to tell you who they thought he was...

Miss Birdie Louise Abernethy has gone to Raleigh where she has accepted a position with the Unemployment Compensation Commission. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Abernethy who live on Raleigh Street...

Will Wood was over today and said that Creedmore was still on the map. Robert Clark of near Cubbreth is sick at his home. Robert has not been well since an operation a year or so ago.

Now I want to tell you of a man who is the father of twenty-four children, and who then adopted another to make the number an even quarter-hundred. J. L. Sparks lives down towards Kittrell. He is nearing 77, and is now the father of eighteen living children.

His oldest child is fifty-seven, and the youngest is only ten. Since this past Christmas, his oldest son, the father of nine children, met one of his half-sisters for the first time, having never seen her before. Mr. Sparks children are now scattered over a wide area of this state, and even down in South Carolina. Having lost his first wife, he re-married, his second wife now living with him.

Mr. Sparks has been a real marksman in his younger days, having killed as high as eighty-five hawks in a season, six in one day, and thousands in his life. Several years ago tobacco thieves had gotten some of his tobacco two different times, just as he had it stripped and ready to load to take to town. One night he sat up at the back house and the visitors arrived about midnight. They shot at him and ran behind a tree. Just before the man got his right hand out of sight, there was no necessity of doing so, as Mr. Sparks removed it from his arm with a shot gun. The man was at the hospital for some weeks, and then Mr. Sparks went to court and pleaded FOR him, instead of against him, thinking that the man had already received enough punishment.

Mr. Sparks is a great fellow, and not a braggard. Anyone who will listen to him, can learn from him.

Capital Gossip

BY HENRY AVERILL

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, March 18.—Just a word of warning. Those coming to Raleigh while the Education Association meeting is in session will do well to eat heartily before reaching the capital city or to bring their rations with them.

Thursday, with the teachers' session just starting, it was practically impossible to get into (much less get served in) a Raleigh eating place.

It seems that whoever gets the Democratic nomination in the eighth is going to have something of a fight on his hands. The Republicans have named John R. Jones, only G. O. P. solicitor in the State, who has proved he can get votes for himself.

Edward Murray, clerk of the Supreme Court, has just received notification that the United States Supreme Court has denied a writ of certiorari to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in its appeal from a Halifax county verdict awarding Thomas M. Patton, one-time A. C. L. flagman, \$87,500 for personal injuries received as a result of falling some 60 feet over an embankment at Weldon.

The verdict, Mr. Murray said, is one of the largest that has come to his attention recently in an injury case. Next week's Supreme Court calendar shows 15 cases for oral argument, only one of them criminal and that not a capital case.

Causes from the fifth and sixteenth districts are set for argument, the fifth district ones only to be called Tuesday, March 22. Beginning Wednesday morning the cases will be called as docketed without regard to the district from which they originated.

T. L. Grier, supervisor of CCC selection for the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, is in Atlanta today for a meeting of army officers and state directors of CCC selection to discuss changes in CCC enrollment procedure, which has been authorized and directed by the War Department.

More than half the motor vehicle accidents in North Carolina during February occurred in cities or incorporated towns. There were 9 fatal and 304 non-fatal urban accidents against 41 fatal and 193 non-fatal accidents in rural territory. "Tom Best seemed to be worrying about my entry fee; I didn't want Tom to be worried; so I just came down and paid up," said Lon Folger...

1838—(100 years ago) Alice C. Fletcher, ethnologist and friend of the Indians among whom she lived for many years in the West, originator system to loan Indians small sums to buy land and build houses for themselves, pioneer in the field of studying Indian music, born in Cuba (of American parentage). Died April 6, 1923.

Babson Blames Congress For Business Stalemate

(Continued from Page One.)

February payments to investors were \$200,000,000 against \$350,000,000 last year. As a result of all these reductions in income, total purchasing power is far below the peak of 1927. It is not surprising, therefore, that retail trade has suffered. Actually it is remarkable that sales have been as good as they have. Paying is off only about 15 per cent from the 1927 level while industrial activity has sagged 30 per cent.

We are now in the critical period of the "recession." The next few months should tell whether or not I must revise my forecast for the entire year. Up until now there has been little danger of another major depression. Basic conditions have been sound. There has been no speculative pyramiding of real estate or stocks. Banks are not loaded up with questionable securities and loans. Prices of raw materials are back at attractive levels and inventories of goods have been thoroughly cleaned up in most industries.

Danger Point Near. Business is constantly moving one way or another. It does not stay at a standstill very long. Most of the recession came before the New Year. Since then there has been only minor decline. We are now at a critical point. The sharp drop in purchasing power is a danger signal. Depressions are nothing more than a continuous downward spiral in buying power. Prosperity is the opposite process. Once the spiral picks up momentum it is mighty hard to stop. Business has been very slow for six months and the spiral has been getting a good start. We will not be in a major depression, however, until pay-cuts and lay-offs are the word everywhere. The order "to cut" has not yet been given out wholesale.

I liken the present situation to a runaway freight train coming down the mountain. There are plenty of opportunities to switch it off on a spur track before it wrecks a passenger train in the station in the valley below. The train has already passed several of these cut-offs. But the yard men apparently cannot decide which cut-off to use. They are standing a round arguing among themselves over some petty railroad red tape. Meanwhile, the freight slides on toward the village below. In my analogy, business is the runaway freight, while our congressional leaders are the bumbling yard-men.

Nero Fiddles. Since the "recession" started, Congress has been in session nearly four months. Only two important acts have been passed: the housing act and the farm act. Both are "recovery measures", but neither one gets at the root of our trouble. The housing act would step up building if union labor would help. But it can do little under current conditions with labor costs so horribly high. The farm act is complicated that few people even understand it. The feeling is that it will aid somewhat—but largely in the direction of more "hand-outs."

Every business man knows what the real problem is today: Lack of confidence in the future because of unnecessary Federal spending and a vicious taxation system! Every member of Congress knows this, too. Yet Washington dilly-dallies over politics and does nothing about the housing and farm act. Taxes are throttling new enterprise and expansion but the proposed revenue bill is just a rehash of the present patchwork system. The utilities would spend millions on new construction if Congress would end the terrific uncertainties which this industry faces. Inertia at Washington is jeopardizing recovery.

Two Reasons For Bullishness. I have not turned bearish, however. There are still two possibilities which

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H. B. Newman Phone 250.

can yank us out of the current slump: 1. Fundamental conditions are sound. Many industries are stabilizing. Financial factors, such as bank deposits, are improving. Spring buying can help business wriggle out of the clutches of pessimism despite Washington. Remember we are not yet in a major depression—even though we must go one way or the other shortly. 2. The President is waiting until the psychological time to announce his "recession-ending" program. He and his advisers are convinced that business should be ready to go ahead in April or May. Then he will announce his program in order to get the credit at the polls in November, if business picks-up. Surely now is not the time to dump overboard good securities, homes and other property. Remember that every day of depression brings inflation

nearer. If this "recession" turns into a major depression, currency inflation will come all the sooner. Meanwhile, as a selfish as well as a patriotic gesture, protest to your congressman and senators. Demand an end to business persecution. Remember it is the consumer who pays the bill of government—not just the Rockefeller and the Morgans.

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