

DREDGING IN CATAWBA.

Widespread Interest in the Work of Reclaiming Many Acres of Swamp in Catawba County.

The Dispatch has mentioned the dredging of Clarke's creek Catawba county, and Davidson people living along streams where land has been ruined by overflow were greatly interested. The Statesville Landmark has the following which will prove interesting:

It is estimated that there are 8,000 to 10,000 acres of bottom land in Iredell county that produces nothing but meadow hay—and much of it a poor quality of that—because it is not properly drained. Say that there are 8,000 acres of such land, and this seems a conservative estimate, the same land properly cultivated and under favorable crop conditions would yield 480,000 bushels of corn which, at the present price would be worth \$336,000. The vast amount from this one source which the landowners would lose in a term of years is apparent. Besides these undrained lands are productive of chills and in this way are detrimental to the health of entire communities around. Such communities are not desirable to live in and in this way landowners suffer loss. In view of these things residents of the county are becoming very much interested in some remedy—something that will make the land cultivatable and rid them of the menace to health.

Some time ago a dredge was put to work in Catawba county in an effort to drain some of the swamp lands there and several persons from Statesville have gone over there to see it at work. Wednesday of last week Drs. F. L. Sharpe and R. A. Campbell and P. A. Bryant went there and saw the machine at work. The trip from Statesville was made in Dr. Campbell's automobile, driven by Mr. Lonnie Thompson. The forty miles were made in about three hours and not a breakdown was experienced. This much to show that an automobile is practicable for rough roads and long journeys.

To go back to the dredge. It is at work four or five miles from Newton. At present the machine is making an entirely new channel through the swamp. This channel is 18 feet wide and 9 feet deep and is being cut at the rate of a mile a month, counting 26 days to the month, at an average cost of \$260 per month. This takes into consideration the cost of the machine and equipment. The dredge is simply a ditcher on a big scale. There is a big boat and on this boat is a steam engine. At the front of the boat, attached so as to revolve, is a strong beam that runs out in front of the boat. On the end of the beam is a large scoop with a mouth a yard wide. This is lowered into the water and mud and when it scoops full is raised by the beam and emptied on either bank of the channel. An ordinary size tree is no obstacle to the operation of the dredge. The larger the tree, of course, the more patience required to scoop as it gradually until it is uprooted and removed. The dredge has been operated long enough to cover some distance and leaves a good channel.

Just what benefits will result to the land, as to permanency of the work, etc., can only be determined by time, but the undertaking seems entirely practical for what it is designed to do—drain lowlands, make them cultivatable and conducive to better health conditions.

The cost of the machine now at work in Catawba is \$5,000. We were told that a machine double the capacity of this one could be operated at very little more cost.—Lexington Dispatch.

To Move Here.

Mr. Miles A. Carpenter, cashier of the Bank of Dallas, will, The Observer's correspondent is reliably informed, leave Dallas the first of the year, going to Hickory where he will be connected with the Craig-Henkle Company in which he has recently purchased an interest. This is a large concern dealing in horses and mules, wagons, buggies, fertilizers, farming implements, etc., with establishments at Statesville, Hickory and Lenoir. Messrs. D. J. and J. Rob-

ert Craig of Gastonia are among the stockholders and active officers of the company. Mr. Carpenter's hundreds of Gaston friends will regret very much to know of his intention to leave but wish for him abundant success in his new work. He was formerly register of deeds of the county and has been cashier of the Bank of Dallas since its organization several years ago. He is a son of Mr. B. F. Carpenter of Stanley and a young business man of demonstrated ability. It is not known yet who will succeed him as cashier of the bank.—Observer correspondence.

Death of Miss Blair.

Miss Johnnie Blair died at Newton last Wednesday night at about 11:30 o'clock at the home of her aunt, Mrs. W. E. Yount. It was one of the saddest deaths that has occurred there in some time for she was a lovable character and had many friends, being the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Blair of Lenoir.

She was a trained nurse by profession and had just come from Charlotte where she had been attending a case for about six weeks. Needing rest she stopped over with her aunt and was taken ill that night. Her condition grew worse and every possible attention was given her. Three physicians were summoned but despite their efforts she died about midnight from peritonitis.

Her father was ill and unable to be by her bedside when she died, but her brother was there and carried the remains to Lenoir where the enternment took place Friday. She was 28 years of age and a host of friends will learn with deepest regret of her death.

Skull Crushed.

Durham, N. C. Dec. 1.—With his face half devoured by animals, Jim Kimball, an old bachelor, who lives twelve miles from Durham, was found this morning. His head had been crushed with an axe. The authorities believe that a murder was committed by moonshiners whom Kimball had offended by reporting them to officers.

He had not been seen since Saturday, and, though not discovered until yesterday, all efforts to arouse him had failed. The coroner's inquest threw no light upon the murder, but the old man had declared that he feared murder by moonshiners, and admitted that he reported them.

Christmas and the Mistletoe.

A great many years ago, before the time of Christianity, the oak tree, and especially the mistletoe, growing out of the heart of the oak, were revered for their supposed affinity with the sun. The Druids worshipped the sun as the one supreme God, and believed the oak to be in some way associated with the sun because they made fire by rubbing oak sticks together, the oak being at once the most common tree and the most suitable for the purpose. Twice each year these Celtic priests gave a religious festival in honor of the sun, their places of worship being in the oak groves. In June, when the sun was known to have ceased mounting higher in the heavens, the Druids gave thanks, because a nearer approach of the sun was thought to be possible, and this, of course, would result in the burning up of the earth. In December, at the time of the shortest days, the Druids prepared a celebration in honor of the sun's turning back from his downward journey, which was recognized as the days began to grow longer. This second celebration was quite naturally the happiest time, the people holding the sun in such fear in June. It was then the mistletoe was honored as being the very essence of the oak.

When eventually the Church was established and its followers turned the ancient December celebration into Christmas, the mistletoe was hung up by way of compromise, although it had nothing to do with the new religion. And so even today, in our use of evergreen and holly, and eke the occasional sprig of mistletoe, we reflect the nature worship which gave us, perhaps, not only the foundation for our Christmas but for our love of nature as well.—December Recreation.

When shopping for Christmas look us over. J. A. Bowles.

MOONSHINERS CAUGHT.

Magistrate and Deputy Sheriff Found making Blockade. Bond \$500 each.

The revenue officers are always on the alert for violators of the law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of whiskey and last Thursday they dragged their net and caught three illicit distillers, one of whom was a deputy sheriff and another a magistrate of the County of Burke. Carl Swink was the deputy, and his son, Haywood Swink, and Tim Lail, a magistrate were pulled in by the strong arm of the law by Mr. C. F. Black, special employee and Mr. Henry Jones, posseman.

Travelling along along the road that leads from Morganton to Shelby in Burke County the officers wandered from the main highway a short distance and found the moonshiners in the act of making a run of beer. They had their plant in the open in a thick piece of woods and the smoke curled lazily above them out of the tall pipes. They were exceedingly bold in their illegal conduct and made no attempt to escape when the officers came upon them.

The tubs were arranged in a semi-circle and the sturdy moonshiners stood in the circle with their sleeves rolled up faithfully at work. In their possession was found about a thousand gallons of beer and several gallons of whiskey. Near-by against a tree stood a shotgun, but they were come upon unawares and the arrest was made without difficulty.

Bringing them to Hickory they were given a hearing before commissioner L. R. Whitener Friday and bound over to the April term of the Federal Court at Statesville. Until that time they will be confined in the county jail at Newton unless they can give the required bond of \$500 each.

Carl Swink the deputy sheriff is gaining a reputation for making blockade and sometime ago he was brought before the Federal Court on the same charge at which time he was required to give a \$500 bond for good behavior. Since he has indulged again, his bondsman will have to forfeit the amount or Swink will be doubly punished for his offenses.

Tim Lail is an old man with a long gray beard and the snows of many winters on his head. When brought into court they dropped their heads in shame and refused to go on the stand and testify in their favor.

General News.

The citizens of Marion are clamoring for a new passenger station at the Southern Railway and a petition has been filed with the Corporation Commission asking that the railroad be made to furnish better facilities.

The St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad consisting of 6,500 miles of track changed hands in New York last Thursday by its severance from Rock Island Company, which it was merged in 1903. B. F. Yoakum and B. L. Winchell are the purchasers.

About 50 of the leading business men of Morganton met last week and organized a club for the purpose of advertising and building up the town. An effort will be made to influence outside capital and aid in the erection of a large modern tourist hotel.

Miss Ethel Norman, age 17, one of the most popular young society ladies of Greensboro and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Norman, ended her life Wednesday by shooting herself through the heart with a pistol. It is thought that she committed the act in a moment of terrible despondency. She was cultured and refined and took part in the best society of the city.

Cochran, Ga. Dec. 2.—John Harvard, a negro preacher who shot and fatally injured Will D. Booth, two miles from this place yesterday afternoon, was captured by a mob of enraged citizens at 10 o'clock last night and burned at a stake, more than a car load of lightwood, it is stated, being heaped about the body. Booth was in an automobile and scared the negroes when the tragedy occurred.

Hon. W. A. Stewart was killed in a railway accident on the Atlantic Coast Line some time ago and his heirs brought suit against the company for \$75,000. This

case was tried last week at Lillington, N. C. and a verdict of \$35,320 was awarded. This is the largest amount for damage ever known for a railroad accident and the company will not appeal.

A private letter from N. E. Ramsey last week stated that he was confined in the Charlotte Sanatorium and his case has been diagnosed by Dr. Nesbit as pellagra. Mr. Ramsey lives in Lincolnton.

A \$400,000 hospital was dedicated Thursday by its author, George W. Watts. It is located in West Durham, about a mile from the city on a 25 acre site and is equipped with everything that modern medical genius has devised. Mr. Watts is a wealthy manufacturer, being a large stockholder in the American Tobacco Company.

Beer-Beer seems to be a profitable business in Charlotte. The other day a new concern by the name of Duke & Company, paid the \$1,000 licence tax for the privilege of selling the liquid for seven months. This makes three companies that have paid more than the regular tax to sell the stuff. Evidently it is a paying business in Charlotte.

A presto-carbon tank in the express office at Camden, S. C. exploded last Thursday and demolished the building and caused a fire which swept the business portion of the city with a loss of \$100,000. One negro is reported killed and several prominent citizens injured.

Announcement was made Thursday of a half million dollar donation to Trinity College at Durham by the Dukes, the millionaire tobacco men. The purpose is to build a medical school, a pharmaceutical and dental department and establish an educational institution equal to any in the north.

Joe Jeffries and Johnson, the negro pugilist have signed final articles for the heavyweight championship of the world to be pulled off either in Salt Lake City, Utah or in the vicinity of San Francisco on July 4th. The articles call for a forty-five round contest. The purse for which they will fight is \$101,000.

A notable feature of the state board of agriculture was the appropriation of \$500 in prizes to be awarded, one prize of \$50 in each congressional district, to the boy attaining the best result in competitive agriculture and the auspices of the Boys' Club department.

The entire plant of the Michal Green Manufacturing Company at Lincolnton was destroyed by fire at an early hour Saturday morning. The company was a lumber plant, and the machinery, buildings and raw materials are a total loss but was partially covered by insurance to the amount of \$7,300. Mr. Victor F. Motz was the principal owner. The main building was 50 by 120 feet in dimensions.

Admits Whipping.

Lincolnton, Dec. 3.—Capt. C. E. Child, attorney of this place, returned yesterday from Morganton, where he had gone to investigate the alleged mistreatment at the State Deaf and Dumb School of little Iola Self, the 9-year-old daughter of Mr. H. A. Self states that it was not denied to Mr. Childs that the child had been whipped with a leather strap, and that the strap, seemingly a piece of harness leather about two feet long was shown to him. He also states that it was admitted to Mrs. H. A. Self, when she went to Morganton Sunday to bring the child home, that the child had been whipped with a strap.

It is alleged that one of the lady teachers took away from the child, probably to keep her from losing it, money which the child's sisters, who were there for Thanksgiving, had given her before they left last Friday morning. The child cried for the money and that is presumably the cause of the whipping. Mr. Self alleges that two women held the child by the arms while the principal whipped her with the strap. Mr. Self will not send the child back to the school though he has been asked by the manager to do so.

Fancy Drawn Work, Linen embroidered, and plain handkerchiefs for Christmas presents, at J. A. Bowles.

ON THE FARM.

People Have About Stopped Moving From Farms to Mills.

We hope we have seen about the last of Southern white farmers leaving the farm to take work in cotton mills. We are anxious to see the manufacturing enterprises of the South built up, but we are more anxious to see the farm lands of the South held by prosperous small white farmers, and to see these small white farmers have their part in the great agricultural awakening now going on.

Someone has wisely said that in all ages and all countries the men or the classes who own the land sooner or later make themselves the aristocracy of that country. We have not come to this condition so rapidly in America as in other countries, because of the abundance of cheap land resulting from the newness of the settlement and the sparseness of population as yet; but in the long run the history of other countries must be repeated here.

These thoughts came very forcibly to mind as I rode through a cotton mill village the other day and saw its hundreds of white employees—men, women and children—who have left the farm to become the homeless hirelings of the cotton manufacturers. The negroes, finding no place in manufacturing for them, are left on the farm and are becoming land-holders in rapidly increasing numbers. Prof. W. E. DuBois, a prominent Georgia negro educator, has just published a map showing that since 1900 Georgia negroes have increased their land-holdings from 850,000 to 1,500,000 acres, and now own within the State of Georgia alone an area larger than the entire State of Delaware.

Not only this, but the negro children are going to school and developing healthy bodies in the open air and healthy surroundings of country life instead of being shut up in the cotton mill, overworked, uneducated, and poorly developed physically,—as the tendency must be in all cotton mills so long as the legislatures of the South are too subservient to the less humane mill owners to enact needed laws for restricting child labor in the mills—the less humane mill owners, we say, because there are many thoughtful and far-seeing mill owners who heartily favor strict regulations.

Remember, we have no ill will toward the cotton manufacturers; we have no ill will toward the negro. We do realize very strongly, however, that the safety of the South depends upon the presence of a large white rural population. The drift from the farms to the cotton mills not only affects this directly, but also indirectly, because when once the population of a community becomes predominantly negro, the small number of white people left may be forced to move out in order to find sufficient numbers for a society of their own.

It was a wise saying of James Oliver's, "Happy is the land that is titled by the man who owns it," and the great need of the South to-day is to encourage the holding of small farms by white farmers. We repeat, that we say this in no ill will to the negro,—in fact, it should not be necessary for us to say this, because no one else in the South has preached more persistently than we the doctrine that it is the intelligent, prosperous negro who helps, and the ignorant, poverty-breeding negro who makes us all poorer,—but we say this for the good of white and black alike because the best interests of both races demand that the rural South maintain its large white population. Unless this is done the negro himself will not progress as rapidly as with white guidance, and unless this is done the cities of the South must also inevitably go backward.

We urge every white tenant-farmer, and especially every white man who for any reason is thinking of becoming somebody's hired man in town instead of owning his home in the country, to buy land. The great plantations of the South, for the good of our section as a whole, must be broken up. We must encourage the spirit of home-owning, with every man sitting under his own vine and fig tree, and we must especially encourage the

development of a great class of small white farmers.

The saving of the rural South to the white race is one of the most important problems now before the people of the Cotton Belt.—Progressive Farmer.

Our Barefooted Days.

Poets may sing them in their sweetest songs, artists paint them in the brightest colors, and our memories may deceive us regarding the days of long ago, when we were boys on the farm or in the village, but sober reflection, with the glamour omitted, leads to the belief that more myths date back only a score or so of years than stretch to the days when the world was in its infancy. How many of us of mature years had the comforts, much less the conveniences, of modern life? The great majority grew up without street car service, without gas or electric light, without steam radiators in our rooms, without the telephone, and without an abundant water supply for the kitchen and bath.

The old swimming hole sounds romantic, and there were many days of bliss. But the boys of today has so many other sources of pleasure and delight that he would scorn the swimming hole. It is by contrast that pleasures are derived. The lad of forty years ago was forced to get up at daybreak, go out into a dew-laden pasture and drive in the horses and cow; he had to carry in wood and in some cases start the kitchen fire; and some of us were required to do part of the milking.

When we were fortunate enough to find a nice red apple after the holiday it was a treat indeed; when a half dozen oranges were brought from the grocer's, it meant a delight that was not forgotten for some days. Instead of going to see the best actors and actresses of the age, the lad of our memory was supremely happy at the thought of going to see the circus once a year. It was an anticipation that surpasses anything within the range of possibilities to-day.

What were at one time comforts almost beyond belief have now become necessities, while our conveniences have multiplied many fold and luxuries are steadily growing in number. Thanksgiving is an ideal time of year to look about and find something to be grateful for. A contemplation of conditions then and now is not amiss, and life will be the sweeter as a result of retrospection. Would you voluntarily live over those days? Would you take them in preference to being a boy of the present day? Most of us would not.—Washington Herald.

Be Wise Today. Phone Now

Get a jar ready for Croup, Colds, Pneumonia, Vick's Remedy works on outside and inside at same time and nips these troubles in the bud every time. No equal. Take no substitute and regret it. 25, 50 and \$1.00 jars. All Drugists.

New Enterprise for Wilkes.

The Finwin Cotton Mill Company has been organized at North Wilkesboro by J. L. Erwin, of Concord, T. B. Finley and others of North Wilkesboro. The company will build a mill on the Yadkin river, a half mile from North Wilkesboro. The authorized capital is \$200,000 and the company will begin with \$50,000.

Only a few pairs of the Elkin blankets left. Get them before cold weather comes. J. A. Bowles.

Tries Suicide

Swallowing poison and then leaping through the window of the second story of the Hotel Berkeley at Asheville Friday afternoon, Robert K. Abbott of Chicago, a young travelling man made a determined effort to end his life. He was picked up from the ground below with his foot broken and his lips burned by the bichloride of mercury tablets he had swallowed. He is travelling representative of the H. E. Bucklen Company, a medical house making Dr. King's New Discovery. He was temporarily deranged caused by desperate illness when he tried to suicide.

Evaporated Fruits: now in Pears, Peaches, Prunes, Apricots, Cherries, Raisons and Figs. Whitener & Martin.

IN OKLAHOMA.

Party of Hickory People in Lawton Receive Welcome.

As mentioned in the Lawton, Okla., News Republican of November 27th, a party of North Carolina capitalists and business men had arrived in the city, but were too much on the wing for individual mention. The party is composed of E. L. Shuford, J. W. and Bascom Blackwelder, bankers; Walter S. Martin and Z. B. Buchanan, all of the Old North Dominion of the Carolinas. Mr. Shuford is here to start work on his \$500,000 cotton mill. This is commonly known here as the "small mill," but erroneously so, for a \$500,000 industrial concern is no small fry.

The Shuford brothers are here for business and have always been regarded as perfectly reliable and able to make good their mill here, on conditions of \$200,000 bonus. This will now have to be forthcoming, according to the terms of a contract made and entered into by them and the "development company."

Pursuant to that purpose there was a meeting of the directors and stockholders of the Oklahoma Realty and Development Company last night at the chamber of commerce rooms and it was largely attended. The remarkable thing was the spirit exhibited. All were anxious to make payment on their subscriptions. A levy of 25 per cent was made for the purpose of constructing the switch and it was cheerfully assented to and paid.

The switch is under construction and the Shuford's are waiting for its completion that their material and machinery can be transported to the other mill site. Thus the first step has been taken and there will be no let up till the necessary land is purchased, set aside for the mill and the balance platted into lots and sold, to raise the bonus for the Shuford mills. They are on the ground and their proposition has passed from the speculative to the stage of real activity.

These North Carolinians included among their number a wholesale druggist, who is looking for a place to establish a wholesale drug house, and he intimated that Lawton looked good to him and that Oklahoma City had no terrors for him. Here is a vast unoccupied field, open to conquest and easy to control. A wholesale drug house may be the result of his visit. The Blackwelders are bankers and are looking out farm lands for a large colony of farmers from their section.

In addition to the North Carolinians, Wallace Swiggert and Browne Cornelison, of Oklahoma City, promoters who are looking after the interests of the prospectors whom they have been largely instrumental in bringing here. W. A. Fulwiler, a Mr. Ashman and T. H. Lindsey, all railroad men also accompanied the party from Oklahoma City. They too are looking for the business end of things.

Their presence set the Lawton people on fire and never was such enthusiasm and grim determination exhibited as last night at the chamber rooms. Members are not only ready and willing to dig up 25 per cent of their subscription but 50 per cent if needed. It was decided to raise \$11,940.30 this morning to take over the Houghton land. This land was bought today. Thus the great enterprise is fairly launched and Lawton has started on her upward career.

Assault in Burke.

Gordy Bailey, a son of County Treasurer, Wm. Bailer of Burke County, was arrested Nov. 23rd on the charge of an assault on a daughter of the late Moulton Shuping in the woods near Salem church, on Sunday, the 21st, while the young girl was returning home from Sunday school. Young Bailey, who was working on the new building at the D. & D. School, gave Sheriff Berry a chase and hard fight before being taken into custody. Bailey was arraigned for trial on Wednesday, the 24th, when he waived examination and was bound to court in the sum of \$1,000 for an assault on Miss Shuping and \$400 for resisting an officer. Failing to give bond, he was remanded to jail, and later was removed to the Marion jail, for safekeeping, the jail here not being considered safe.