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Farmers Short Course Edition.

A Young Catawba Farmer's Chance

Eugene Isenhour the Luckiest of All the Ten Children

"BACK TO THE FARM."

Opportunity Today Beckons to the Southern Boy from the Midst of the Cotton and the Corn

"No, I didn't get to go to Lenoir College. It fell to my lot to stay on the farm and take care of the old folks. There were ten of us boys and girls, and they have nearly all gone out into the world and are doing well. Sister and I only are left on the old home place. Somebody had to stay and look after father and mother. I know I'll always miss the education I was so anxious to get. It will be a handicap all through my life."

It was a sturdy young Catawba county farmer, Lawrence Eugene Isenhour, who was thus speaking to the Democrat, whose editor in the genial company of Mr. Frank A. Clinard had driven all the way from Hickory to Taylorsville that day and thence back homeward as far as Oxford Ford. Night had fallen and a place must be found to spend the evening. The hospitable home of Mr. Isenhour's father was open to the tired wayfarer.

And such a home! A great fireplace was aglow with huge pine and oak logs, three feet long. The genial warmth kept one constantly pushing his chair a little farther back. In one snug corner of the chimney place sat Mr. Isenhour, the father, the snow of life's winter on his head. Next to him sat Mrs. Isenhour, the mother, happy over the thought that of a life work well done—ten strong boys and girls all grown, most of them married, and all out in the world doing the world's work.

The family circle was completed when young Mr. Isenhour, his pretty young wife and his sweet young sister seated themselves in the glow of the fire. As they all sat there talking to their grateful guests, the eight members of the circle who were off in cities and towns were keeping off the cold, not before glowing wood fires but with furnaces under the house, with registers, with stoves, or with smutty coal-heated grates.

When bedtime came and the travellers climbed the stairs to the company room, what beds! What splendid old time furniture! What downy mattresses! What amplitude and superabundance of covers, layer after layer cropping out on the top in the snow, counterpane. Why there was enough cover there to keep a man in Greenland or Iceland or the North Pole.

Such a home as the good womanfolk in the Isenhour family set before the ravenously hungry traveller. Cream and butter from a fine herd of Herefords. Light-bread and fluffy biscuits from the finest of wheat all grown on the rolling farm lands visible from the dining room windows. Aromatic kraut, sweet potato custard, rich in flavor as a plum pudding, and jellies and jams galore, the saccharine product of the orchard over the hill.

Food, shelter and raiment aplenty, with the orchard and vineyard's trophies as an extra. To this little agricultural Canaan of 150 acres, already being brought to a high state of cultivation by the raising of fine stock, Gene Isenhour has already fallen heir by staying home to take care of the old folks.

And yet when he spoke to the Democrat man, there was a tone to his voice which indicated that he felt he had not had quite the chance the other boys had had. Every now and then, you know, a letter drops into the R. F. D. box up by the side of the road, from this boy over in Durham, and this other son and brother somewhere out west, and it tells of achievement, of promotion, of success, (such as Catawba boys always have) and then it is but natural that a tiny touch of disappointment creeps into a fellow's heart, and he thinks: "I would have done that way too if I had had such a chance." The country boy has been allowed to

believe too strongly that the town boy is the fellow who is doing the world's best work. It isn't so.

They showed us a photograph of the Isenhour family group. Ten manly and womanly men and women. And the favor to the old folks in every face. What a treasure a photograph of one of these old-time, big families! Open, true, honest countenances all. No wonder all these are making a success in life.

And yet the best chance of all the chances that has come to any member of the Isenhour family has come to Eugene Isenhour. The trend of Opportunity used to lie away from the farm and into the city. Today Opportunity has sneaked out of the city by night and returned to the country, to the farm, between the plow handles. Opportunity is standing out in the midst of the cotton and the corn and beckoning the young man of the South.

Prove it? Easy enough! All this chat in the magazines and the newspapers about the cost of living being so high is because so many boys and girls have quit the country and moved to town. We can tell the congressional investigating committee the remedy without their spending so much of Uncle Sam's money junketing around and asking questions. Write out your report and say "Back to the farm." Save money, save time, save printing bills, save talk by simply reporting "Back to the farm."

Prove it? There never was a time in the history of the country when farming was made so practicable. One of the Twentieth Century wonders of the world is the farm literature of the day. The farming magazines are full of suggestions, based on careful experiment and test, of how to plow, how to sow, how to fertilize, now to reap, how to market the product, and all the like of that. There never was a time when the government lent such intelligent aid to the farmer as today. This is the day to farm, and the boy who has come up on the farm—and that boy is the finest-trained boy in the world—will make a life mistake to go away off from the farm and sit down, in town.

This was the burden of the Democrat's message to Eugene Isenhour as we went out to the barn to hitch up for the trip back home. (It was a new barn. The old one was struck by lightning some years ago and burned down and Eugene did valiant work helping his father work back toward Easy Street after (this streak of bad luck.) Gene listened to a sermon on farming from one who has a sort of life-long disappointment that he never plowed a furrow. The sermon was preached from the point of view of the man from town.

Young Isenhour slipped a halter over the head of one of the finest little mares, brown as a chestnut and sleek and fat as one too. He interjected remarks about the fine points of the horse in between the firstlies, secondlies, and thirdlies, of the Democrat's sermon.

(A few days later Isenhour came into town and ordered the Progressive Farmer and the Democrat sent to his address for a year. The Democrat is always happy when a sermon makes a convert.)

As we drove on into town, our thoughts lagged behind at the Isenhour farm, and we felt ourselves wondering time and again why the lord of 150 acres in Catawba, and the owner of a little chestnut mare like Dolly, could ever lift his eyes in longing toward the town.

Gene Isenhour has the Golden Chance of all the ten, and the old folks for good measure!

H. A. B.

An Appreciated Comment

To the editor of The Democrat:

I should like to add a word to the comments upon your paper. Our people are highly pleased with the paper, the editor and things in general in the Democrat and its affairs.

Your coming to our city has filled a long felt want for a good, wide-awake, up-to-date, clean newspaper.

May your coming to our city be a good move for you and to a parties concerned.

READER.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Importance of Good Roads

R. L. Shuford's Prize Article on This Subject

UNANSWERABLE REASON

Taxation is the Only Way to Build Roads—Mecklenburg Set a Fine Example

In view of the fact that this paper is being distributed this week among the farmers at the short course at Lenoir College, the Democrat is printing the article on good roads by R. L. Shuford, of Oakwood Farm. The article won the prize, at the Catawba county Street Fair, which was enterprisingly offered by the Shuford National Bank, of Newton. The subject is why Catawba should Build Good Roads.

The best and strongest reason is, that it is the best investment we can possibly make. It will pay a larger per cent profit for the amount of money expended. It will help, not only the farmers and people living in the country, but our towns well. If the country makes improvement and is prosperous, the towns are sure to be benefited. Good roads will place our people nearer together, closer to market, and eliminate distance to a certain extent.

Would bring about a better understanding between the country people and town people. No country can be built up and fully developed without good roads. It is almost an absolute necessity, to make much headway in improvement. Good roads have the same effect on the country that railroads have—and it is plain that we can make no progress without railroads. The value of all property is governed by the distance it is from market. Good roads mean cheaper transportation and increased value of all property.

Another good reason is that adjoining counties are building better roads, which will mean a better market in their towns and will take business from our own country. It will not only take business away from the country, but will take a lot of our best business men and farmers also, for it is not hard for a man of good business judgement to invest where property is growing in value, which is always the case where good roads are built. Bad roads in Catawba County are a heavier tax on our people than all other taxes combined, and it is plain that we will have better roads, until they are worked by taxation. Our present system is a costly one and we are getting nothing in return.

Taxation is the only way to build good roads. The road tax of Mecklenburg County is not costing the country people as much as Catawba, if we put a reasonable valuation on our time spent working the road. The results in Mecklenburg County are over two hundred miles of Macadam roads. Under our system in Catawba, we have gullies for roads. The tax to build and keep up the roads in Mecklenburg County is, 20 cents per \$100 in Charlotte township, and all other townships is 10 cents additional. So you will see at a glance that it is cheaper. To say, a farm that has 100 acres in cultivation requires at least, two teams to cultivate this size farm. In Catawba the farms are, on an average, 8 miles from market or railroad, but the difference of the amount of work done by each horse at \$5.00, hauling over good roads and bad ones, which makes \$20.00. A farm of this size usually has two wagons and two other vehicles of some kind. Put the saving at \$2.50 each and you have the saving of \$10.00 more, which will make \$30,000. The road tax on an average farm of this size, at 20 cents per hundred will not be over \$3.00.

The objections, made by some people, that we are too poor to build good roads, is a mistake. The fact is we are too poor not to build them. Increasing tariff makes the unimproved roads a worse and worse. On them the cost of transportation is constantly increasing, and, unless something is done, competition will force us out of business. There is not a single county in the State, where road improve-

ment has been started, that the people are not anxious to carry it on as rapidly as possible. If building good roads is good for other counties, why would it not be for Catawba? The factory and factory people all contribute to the good road tax, and the burden is therefore made lighter for the farming interests. Good roads, by stimulating business, will increase demand for labor, so all labor will be benefited.

Practically, all the money will be spent right at home and will not leave the county. With good roads, our people can do their marketing at times when farm work is not pressing. As it is now, hauling to and from market has to be done when our roads will permit it. Seams often stand idle for weeks waiting for roads to dry, so that hauling can be done.

Good roads, will, by shortening distance, very much improve our country Schools. As it is now, many of our people who are able, move to the towns to educate their children. This has the tendency to crowd the towns and cities, to the disadvantage of the country. To build up the agricultural interests you must make farm life more attractive. This will be impossible to do without better roads. Capital is always invested where property is increasing in value. With good roads in Catawba County, land value would double in a short while. Some people argue, that they do not want to sell, so that increased land value will not help them. This idea is not correct, as it makes their property worth ver much more to them.

The Week in the Women's Clubs.

Mrs. R. A. Grimes was the hostess to the Round Dozen Book Club on Wednesday afternoon, a round dozen in attendance.

After the quotations, and exchange of comments on the books, Mrs. Grimes told most entertainingly of her book, "Antonio," and the author, Ernest Oldmeadow.

Current events were discussed, after which a delicious supper was served in the dining-room. The table was beautiful; red carnations, candles with red shades, dainty hand-painted boxes of candy tied with red ribbon, and hand-painted place cards contributing to the pleasure almost as much as did the delicious heart-shaped biscuits, and cakes and all the other good things. For the last course, young master Grimes presented each guest with a Valentine, a souvenir of a most delightful afternoon.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. Fox.

Mrs. L. R. Whitener entertained the Study Club on Thursday afternoon, 17th, and, in spite of the rain, fourteen members and two visitors were present.

Continuing the study of Holland, Mrs. Bost read a delightful description of Zaandam and Alkmaar, and Miss Margaret Bost sang "The Cork Leg," a legend of Rotterdam, both of which were much enjoyed.

Many items of current news were given, and the club adjourned to meet next with Mrs. W. H. Little.

A supper was served in the dining room, the cherries, and cheese straws and cakes of hatchet shape being reminders of the approaching birthday of Washington.

Sky History Repeats Itself

There are two comets in the heavens today, the newly discovered Comet A of 1910 and Halley's Comet which is due to be visible to the naked eye in April or May. That history repeats itself in the heavens above as well as in the earth below is evident from a paragraph in the Piedmont Press (the Democrat's predecessor), of July 2, 1874, 36 years ago. From the files of the Press this item is gleaned: "Another comet has been discovered in the vicinity of Jupiter, so there are now two to be seen in the heavens. The Richmond Enquirer thinks if they should be running on the same track, a collision is imminent unless one or the other switches off."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Bill of Quantities Is Submitted

Material Necessary for the Proposed Creamery

GOVERNMENT FIGURES

Estimate For Just Such a Building as Farmers of this County Propose to Establish

The following is the bill of quantities for Creamery, -G-1, made out by the U. S. Government. Catawba farmers are interested in this:

EXCAVATION
46 cubic yards. Cement, 148 bbls; Sand, 87 cubic yards; Stone, 73 cubic yards; Lime, 48 bbls.; Hair, 4 bu.; Plaster Paris, 230 lbs.

LUMBER
Sills, 148 lineal feet, 2 x 10; sills, 14 lineal feet, 2 x 6; plate, 168 lineal feet, 4 x 6; plate, 48 lineal feet, 4 x 4; plate, 14 lineal feet, 4 x 4; Rafters, 66 pieces, 2 x 6, 22 feet long; 1 piece, 2 x 6, 20 ft. long; 10 pieces, 2 x 6, 13 feet long; braces, 17 pieces, 1 x 6, 16 feet long; Studs, 6 pieces, 2 x 4, 16 feet long; 7 pieces, 2 x 4, 18 feet long; 24 pieces, 2 x 10, 18 feet long; ceiling joists—18 pieces, 2 x 10, 28 feet long; 14 pieces, 2 x 12, 20 feet long; 10 pieces, 2 x 6, 10 feet long. Partitions—50 pieces, 2 x 4, 12 feet long; 2 pieces, 2 x 4, 18 feet long.

Bridging, 16 pieces, 2x3, 16 ft. long. Roof board, 3500 feet, B. M., 1 x 10, T. & G. Walls, 2300 feet, B. M., 1 x 8, T. & G. Flooring—1800 feet, B. M., 1 x 6, T. & G.; 75 feet, B. m., 1x3, T. & G.

Refrigerator Walls—1300 ft., B. M., 1 x 8, T. & G.; 800 feet, B. M., 1 x 3, T. & G.; 9 pieces, 2 x 2, 16 feet long; 38 pieces, 1 x 2, 16 feet long; 9 pieces, 1 x 2, 10 feet long; 5 pieces, 2 x 6, 10 feet long. Ceiling, etc.—1000 ft., B. M., 1 x 3, M. & B. ceiling; 1400 lineal feet, 1 x 2, finishing; 34 bundles of laths. Roof and outside walls—24,000 shingles; Bevel siding to cover 700 square feet. Finish, etc.—375 lineal ft. crown mould; 375 lineal ft. fascia; 375 lineal feet plancer; 375 lineal feet bed mould; 110 lineal feet 1 x 5 finish; 1 piece 2 x 12, 8 feet long (shelf); 4 pieces, 2 x 6, 12 feet long; 23 lineal feet, 1 x 8, baseboard; 28 lineal feet, 3-4 x 5, chair rail; 138 lineal feet, moulding; 120 lineal feet, 1-4 round.

Doors—2 pairs outside doors, 5 x 7 feet glazed with frames; 2 outside doors, 3 x 7 feet with frames; 3 inside doors, 3 x 7 feet with frames; 4 inside doors, 2 ft. 8 x 6 ft. 8 in. with frames; 1 refrigerator door, 3 ft. x 6 ft. 6 in. with frame. Windows—9 windows 12 lights, 12 x 16 glass double hung box frames for brick; 2 windows, 12 lights, 12 x 16 glass double hung box frames for wood; 1 sash, 6 lights, 12 x 16 solid frame (inside); 3 sash, 6 lights, 12 x 16 solid frame (outside); 1 French window with frame; 3 transom sash. Note: All windows fitted complete with cord, weights, catches, hinges, etc.

Hardware, etc.—15 sq. damp proof building paper; 250 sq. ft. expanded metal lathing; 200 sheets, 14 x 20, I. C. tin (roofs); 20 sheets, 14 x 20, I. X. tin (flashing); 1 wrought iron window guard with hinges; 3 pair 8 in. heavy T. hinges with screws; 13 pair loose pin butts with screws; 2 foot bolts complete with screws; 2 chain bolts complete with screws; 10 knob lock sets; 11 sash fasteners complete with screws; 3 pair butts for transoms with screws; 3 transom lifters complete with screws; 6 4 in. barrel bolts; 1 pair extra heavy galvanized T. hinges; 1 wrought iron refrigerator door latch.

Nails, 35 pounds, 3d shingle; 30 pounds, 3d fine; 15 lbs., 6d common; 175 pounds 8d common; 15 pounds, 8d finish; 150 lbs., 10d common; 50 pounds, 10d casing; 25 pounds, 20d spikes; 40 pounds, 20d common.

Mayor Wynne, of Raleigh, is being praised by the State press for refusing to allow an alleged indecent show, "The Girl from Rector's" to be presented in Raleigh.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Honor Roll for the Fifth Month

First Grade, Section A—Albert Chester, Marcellus Kennedy, Peter Abernethy, Joe Pearce, Donald Johnson, Glenn Russell, Virginia Bryan, Louise Cilley, Clarissa Abernethy.

First Grade, Section B—Reid Poovey, Ollie Wells, William Ballew, Stedman Council, Mary Miller, James Whitener.

Second Grade.—Louis Whitener, John Springs.

Third Grade, Sec. A—Luther Miller, Vernon Long, Moses Kennedy, Harley Chester.

Third Grade, Sec. B.—Aileen Aiken, Annie Killian, Jessie Patrick, Clinton Cilley, Nelson Harte, Donald A. Shuford, Ernest Swaringer, James Swaringer, Stewart Whitener, Clement Geitner.

Fourth Grade.—Ola Deitz, Earl Edwards, Robert Garth, Helen Springs, Harvey McComb, Harry McComb, Charles Menzies, Robert White, Miriam Whitener, Shuford Whitener, Willie Bryan.

Sixth Grade.—Oscar Deaton, Clara Zerden.

Eighth Grade.—Claude Abernethy, Millie Kate McComb, Edgar Lytle, Antha Lytle, Adelyn McComb, Edgar Fox, Kate Elliott, Fannie Chester.

Ninth Grade.—Estelle Payne, Grace Patrick, Sam Hawn, Leroy Deaton.

Tenth Grade.—Mabel Cooper, Addie May Michael, William McComb, Henry Whitener.

Deaths at Rollins

Correspondence of the Democrat

Rollins, Feb. 23.—The snow storm was hard on our R. F. D. carriers. Our carrier, Ed Garrison, passed here at 3 p. m. but did not reach Morganton until 9 p. m. His horse gave out after falling down three times, and Herbert Walton loaned him one so he could complete his trip.

Mrs. Jane Crawford of Hennessee died week before last, after a lingering illness and was buried at Missionary Cemetery. She owned a small farm next to Tom Norman and she and her daughter, Lettie, carried it on. Besides her daughter, Lettie, she left one other daughter and a son. Last week the personal property was sold and as soon as possible the farm will be sold. Lettie Crawford will go to live with her brother Walter who lives near Henrietta.

Mrs. Katie Settlement died week before last and was buried in the private cemetery of the family. She had been sick for some time. She leaves four daughters and two sons.

Rollins Local of the Farmer's Union is growing rapidly. Nearly every meeting seeing one or more members initiated.

Mrs. James Holland who has been very sick is greatly improved and out of danger.

A Trio of New Families

Hickory deems herself fortunate indeed to add to her social life all at one time, as it were, the three families of Messrs. W. C. Thompson, O. K. McCartney and A. M. West who come here to launch the Thompson-McCartney-West Co., the new dry goods notions, shoe and furnishing store already referred to by the Democrat in previous issues. To draw three representative North Carolina families all at one time is unusual good fortune.

The families of Mr. West and Mr. Thompson have been here for some time. The McCartneys came in from Hendersonville last week and have taken the Martin residence.

Mr. McCartney has had a large experience as a merchant in Beckley, W. Va.

Mr. Thompson was for 17 years a merchant at Stanley, Gaston county, and for part of this time Mr. West, who is his son-in-law, associated with him.

These able business men have cast their eye over the state at large and even over the border to other states, particularly Texas, in seeking an enlarged field for their energies and capital, and have settled upon Hickory as the most promising location they could find. The Democrat believes that all their expectations will be more than realized.

Catawba Ships Carloads of Eggs

One County Store Has Bought \$500 Worth a Month

HAVE PURE BREEDS

"Redwood" Thinks the Ideal Chicken Should be a Combination of Layer and Eater

Written for the Democrat.

I read with a great deal of pleasure the article of Mr. P. C. Henry in last week's Democrat on "Pure Bred Poultry." The manner in which Mr. Henry handles his subject shows that he not only has the "hen fever" but that he has made a study of the business of raising pure bred poultry. We can not too strongly emphasize the necessity of having poultry that is not only pure bred but that is well bred. The difference between success and failure.

Probably it is not known to very many of the Democrat's subscribers that Catawba county already ranks among the first if not the very first county in the state in the production of eggs and poultry.

For some time last spring a car load of eggs was shipped from Hickory to the Northern markets every week.

To give a better idea of the size and importance of the egg business, the country store of which the writer is manager, has bought as many as \$500.00 worth of eggs in one month. There is already quite a number of breeders of poultry in the county and we would like to see the number increased.

The poultry exhibit at the Hickory Fair last October was a credit to the county, taking into consideration the short time in which the exhibitors had to get their stock in shape for exhibition. We want to see another poultry show this fall.

There is no reason why Catawba should not have a Poultry Association. We understand that there is a movement on foot to have another Fair this fall, but if there is no fair there is enough good poultry in the county to have a Poultry Show anyway.

We heartily agree with everything that Mr. Henry says in his article except he says that a farmer should make a specialty of either breeding stock, fattening young chickens, or eggs. In our opinion, no breed that excels in any of the qualities named by Mr. Henry, makes an ideal farmer's fowl. For instance, some of the American breeds, Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, etc., COMBINE all the good qualities that we want in an ideal farmer's "chicken."

We are fully aware of the fact that the Mediterranean, of which the Leghorn is a type, hold the world's record for the production of eggs, but what the average farmer wants is a fowl that will not only lay a goodly amount of eggs, especially in winter when eggs are high, but a fowl that will make a fine table dish when the "preacher comes"—or when he don't come. After all the breed is only a matter of choice and every farmer should decide on that breed which he thinks will suit him best—anything before scrubs—and breed that breed as near to the Standard of Perfection as possible.

The better the quality of your fowls, the more you will think of them; the more you will treat them; the better you will treat them, the better they will pay you.

If you have not already had the "fever" get infected at once; it not only means "pleasure but profit."

An Unusual Cloud

A cloud of unusual appearances was seen in the sky early Saturday morning.

It was a peculiar round rolling form and extended from the extreme southwest corner of the sky to the extreme Northeast and was of a pure white color.

It resembled the milky way, but it was much larger in size,