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MR. JOHNSON HERE.

United States Department of Agriculture Striving to Bring About Economy—An Interview.

Mr. J. M. Johnson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, was in the city last Saturday. He is with the Department of Farm Management and is working the commercial and economic end of farming with a view to increasing the profits of the work. In an interview with a representative of the Democrat he lined his policies and plans as follows:

"We go from place to place", said he, "studying the agricultural conditions with the idea of getting lessons from the most successful farmers and carrying them to those who are not succeeding so well. We are endeavoring to find out the crops that are making the most money, the methods of preparation of soil and cultivation that give the best results. The distribution of labor throughout the year is a subject of our investigation—the number of days a mule or horse works on the farm and the number of days of man labor put in producing a given crop."

"The average mule on the cotton farm works a little less than ninety days in the year, while the farmer and his family, in cultivating twenty-five acres of land, of which twenty will be cotton five to corn or other crops, put in about two hundred and fifty days in the year. In other words, the man works three days for every day worked by the mule or horse."

"The horse or mule being idle two hundred and fifty or more days has to be fed as well as during the days on which he is at work. In some cases we are finding the horse or mule kept busy practically one hundred and eighty days in the year. It costs no more to keep him than during the days on which he is idle; consequently, a days work costs only one half as much. The question comes, then, in regard to a system of farm work and cropping that will allow us to use the horse or mule a greater number of days and use him profitably."

"Right along this line, I desire to throw out one hint for the farmers of this section to think about: The State of North Carolina, in 1911, produced practically six million dollars worth of hay and forage. The average acre of ground devoted to these crops produced a harvest worth a little more than twenty dollars. The state imported fifteen million dollars worth of hay and forage. We had between eight and nine hundred thousand acres of land planted to small grain which was harvested by or before July. About a hundred thousand acres of this was then planted to crops such as peas, millet, etc. to make hay in the fall, leaving seven hundred thousand acres with nothing growing on it. That seven hundred thousand acres planted to hay and forage crops, which would have given merely an average yield to the state, would have produced our fifteen million dollars worth of stuff imported. This work could well have been done with the live stock and implements usually found on the ordinary farm. The state as a unit would have been fifteen million dollars better off at the end of the first year and considerably more than fifteen million dollars better off at the end of the next year by the farmer having grown this extra hay crop."

"We suspect that there will be a million acres left idle in Catawba county after the small grain is cut off of it at the coming harvest. We also suspect that there will be hay shipped into this county next winter and spring. It would be well, I believe, for your community to think of this."

"We are planting a farm sur-

AN IMPORTANT MEETING.

Directors of the State Hospital Meet at Morganton.

Greensboro Daily News, 11th. This was the regular annual meeting of the board, and all the members, except J. W. Noell, of Roxboro, were present as follows: L. I. Davis of Morganton; J. G. Hall, of Lenoir; A. B. Tate, of High Point; Dr. J. E. S. Davidson, of Charlotte; F. P. Alsopugh, of Winston; J. P. Sawyer, of Asheville; A. A. Shuford, of Hickory; and R. R. Clark, of Statesville. Messrs. Shuford and Sawyer, ex members of the board, and Mr. Tate, who was reappointed, took the oath of office. Captain Sawyer is really an old member of the board. For 26 years he served on the board, but was left off six years ago. Now he comes back as successor to J. W. McMinna, of Brevard. Mr. Shuford, who is a son of the late A. A. Shuford, who for 11 years was a member of the board, succeeds Dr. J. W. Colcord, of Ashe county, who served out his fathers unexpired term.

I. I. Davis was reelected president of the board of directors for another year, and Mr. Clark was reelected secretary. The members of the executive committee—Messrs. Davis, Tate and Clark—were also reelected. F. M. Croggs was reelected steward and Mrs. C. A. Marsh matron. Dr. John McCampbell was reelected superintendent at the last quarterly meeting of the board. A slight increase was ordered in the salaries of the female attendants of the hospital.

The report of Superintendent McCampbell showed that on November 30 last there were on the rolls of the hospital 567 men and 763 women, a total of 1,330. For the four months ending March 31, 61 patients were admitted—31 men and 30 women; 21 died—15 men and 8 women—and one man and two women were discharged. Remaining on the rolls March 31, 582 men and 783 women—a total of 1,365, or a net gain of 35 in the four months. There are actually present in the institution 1,163 patients—483 men and 680 women; out on probation 184—81 men and 103 women; absent by elopement, 18 men. During the past four months 49 were released on probation—21 men and 28 women—and of these 18 were returned—9 men and 9 women.

President Wilson Makes Plain His Attitude toward Applications.

Greenboro Daily News. Washington, D. C., April 11.—From no less a personage than President Woodrow Wilson himself, it was learned this afternoon that President Wilson will use his own judgment as to whether he will accept the recommendations of Senators Simmons and Overman or Secretary of the Navy Joseph Daniels, in the distribution of "pie" in the state. This will be more or less startling news to many North Carolinians who have pinned their faith to either one or the other of the senators or Secretary Daniels.

"Mr. President, there is more or less apprehension in North Carolina as to whether you will accept the recommendations of Senators Simmons and Overman or Secretary Daniels in the distribution of federal patronage in North Carolina. Would you care to give light on the subject?" was the question asked Mr. Wilson by the Daily News correspondent this afternoon.

The Presidents reply to this question made clear his attitude in regard to the distribution of federal patronage. The President will use his own judgment in these matters, the long fixed rule which has been an unwritten law allowing senators to recommend appointments for federal jobs within the bounds of their own states will not be followed by Mr. Wilson. In such cases as the President deems proper the senators' recommendation will be accepted, but it was made clear today that the President does not consider it necessary nor will he do so except when the man recommended by senators is the man the President himself wants appointed.

vey that will determine in each community the value of the land planted to the different crops, the value of the crop after harvested and the cost of production, as well as the methods followed that have proved to be successful."

WIFE HELPED TO ELECT HUSBY.

Mrs. Clyde H. Tavenner Was Important Factor in the Election of her Husband as Congressman.

By ROBERT F. WILSON. (Special to The Democrat.) Washington, April 16.—The swearing in of Clyde H. Tavenner of Cordova, Illinois, as the representative in Congress of the Fourteenth Illinois District, was as much of a triumph for Mrs. Tavenner as it was for the young newspaper man himself. It is a fact that Mrs. Tavenner worked as hard in the campaign to elect her husband as Tavenner did himself. Furthermore, she knew how to work effectively in his interest. Before her marriage, Mrs. Tavenner had for three years been private secretary to United States Senator Robert M. LaFollette of Wisconsin.

Mrs. Tavenner is 21 years old. Her congressman husband is 31. Tavenner has been a newspaper man at the National Capitol during the sessions of Congress for four years. He knows every member of Congress personally, and the fact that he has been writing an article a day for four years, has quite naturally resulted in his acquiring much valuable and useful information on the tariff and other subjects. Mrs. Tavenner says her husband is a progressive of the LaFollette type, and Tavenner replies that it is not necessary for anyone to prove it, that he admits it.

Senator LaFollette is a Republican, or at least insists that he is a Republican," says Mrs. Tavenner, "while Mr. Tavenner is a Democrat. Yet so far as I can make out they seem to take almost identically the same viewpoints of the big issues confronting the people."

"Of course I wasn't responsible for Mr. Tavenner's election. I helped in every way I could, however. My husband and I work together in everything. I can take shorthand dictation quite rapidly, and can run the typewriter pretty fast, so you see, that, together with my experience with Senator LaFollette, make it possible for me to make myself pretty useful to my husband. It is a pleasure for me to help him. Now that he is elected, I take just as much interest in which he does himself. We both appreciate deeply that the people of the Fourteenth District believe in us and trust us to represent them faithfully, and we are working day and night to make good."

The oath of office was administered to Tavenner by Speaker Champ Clark, which in itself is a rather remarkable coincidence, in view of the fact that it was Speaker Clark who first recognized Tavenner's ability as a writer and who has been a steadfast friend ever since.

To Secure old Law Office of Vance

Asheville, April 13.—The board of Aldermen of the city, at the weekly meeting Friday night, instructed Corporation Counsel J. Frazier Glenn to take the proper legal steps in securing a release from the Smith estate of the building on Spruce street, which was used by Zebulon Baird Vance as his law office. The heirs of the estate have already designated their willingness to give such a release, in order that the building may become public property. Steps will also be taken by Mr. Glenn to have the people of the city and county cooperate in having it moved to a point back of the court house, where it may be used as a museum or for some historical purpose. Such action has been under consideration for some time and it seems certain that the citizens of the county will see to it that the building is secured and properly cared for as public property.

Mr. J. F. Hosley attended the Baraca convention in Charlotte.

COMMENT

A WELL BALANCED BOARD.

The city of Hickory will start out very auspiciously on its first year under Commission government, and those who have been pessimistic will soon become optimistic. Of the five members of the new board, three of them (C. H. Gettner, J. W. Shuford and C. C. Bost) are not only tried and true business men of the community, but are also men of large experience in municipal affairs. The other two (Jos. L. Abernethy and J. L. Gilley) while comparatively young men, at the same time not only have the confidence of the people but rank very high as business men. We congratulate the citizens of Hickory on the selection of such worthy servants.

THE COMING CITY ELECTION.

The first primary election under the new Charter apparently worked out smoothly and effectively. There were, we believe, petitions signed for two candidates for Aldermen from each of the four wards, as well as two candidates for Mayor. However, after the filing of the petitions, four of the candidates for Aldermen and one of the candidates for Mayor were withdrawn, leaving but one candidate in the field for each elective office.

That there were not more candidates for office in the primary was due to the universal desire on the part of the friends of the new Charter to have this new (for Hickory) plan of government tried out the first year by its friends. As a result, they concluded to concentrate their strength on one man for each elective office. Some of those who opposed the new Charter took a similar view of the situation from their viewpoint and agreed to concentrate their strength upon candidates who were either opposed to or not actively interested in their support of the new Charter. Both sides were doing what they had a legitimate right to do under the law.

It is reasonable to suppose that in the future elections no such feeling will exist. We have such confidence in the merits of the new Charter that we believe a year's trial will convince the most skeptical that the citizens of Hickory acted wisely on the 17th of March when they enacted a new law for the government of this city.

OUR NEXT MAYOR.

We want to join with the citizens of Hickory in a peep of praise for their unanimous choice of Mr. C. H. Gettner for mayor of this city—the first mayor under the Commission form of government for Hickory. There could not have been a wiser choice, and we are to be congratulated that such a man would assume the responsibilities of this office. "Charlie" Gettner, as he is affectionately called by almost every one in Hickory, possesses the rare qualifications of sterling integrity, honesty, unexcelled business ability, a broadmindedness that takes in all sides of a question, and at the same time is wonderfully charitable in his estimate of others. With such a man at the helm of the new charter craft, we can all look for plain sailing.

FREIGHT RATE ADJUSTMENT.

The manufacturers and merchants of this section are vitally interested in securing an adjustment of freight rates that will give our shippers an equal advantage with those of other points, and it looks as if we were in a fair way to get our just dues. One of the most important conferences ever held in the State was that of April 11th, at Charlotte. There were present at this meeting, Gov. Craig, the Freight Rate Commission, of which our honored citizen, Judge W. B. Council is a member, and a number of noted rate experts.

Judge Council gave a clear exposition of the determination and plans of the Commission with reference to adjustments, and solicited the co-operation and assistance of all shippers and good citizens generally. The expressions of all the speakers were in no uncertain terms, and as a result of that meeting our shippers may be very hopeful of good results. When the Chamber of Commerce had a rate expert here last fall, he estimated that a reduction of one cent a hundred would mean a saving of \$40 a day to Hickory shippers.

The interview we carry this week with Mr. Johnson, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, contains much food for thought. The question of more economic production of farm products is one that has occupied the best thought of some of the best thinkers for years.

Mr. Johnson stated to the writer that the average acre of cotton in North Carolina produces \$33.00; small grain is worth less than \$10.00 per acre, corn \$17.00 and hay \$21.00. If the small grain acreage was sown to hay or other forage crops after the small grain is harvested, the value of the small grain acreage would be increased from \$10.00 to \$31.00. We hope our farmer readers will take notice of these things.

In Social Circles

The Hickory Book Club met April 9 with Miss Wheeler, Mrs. J. A. Martin, the Vice-President, presided in the absence of the President Mrs. H. C. Menzies. A very pleasant hour was passed in the exchange of books and varied opinions of the same, and also in reviewing events of the world-wide fame with those of home interest. Delightful refreshments were served informally before adjourning to meet next with Mrs. G. H. Gettner April 23.

April 10, the last meeting of the Travellers' Club for the year 1912-13, was held at the home of Mrs. A. B. Hutton. Quotations were given from "Portraits" in Tennyson's poems. Mrs. K. C. Menzies opened the program with a delightful article on "The Idylls of the King," followed by Mrs. W. B. Menzies poetic presentation of "A Dream of Fair Women." Mrs. E. B. Cline read the last part of "The May Queen." In conclusion Mesdames Murphy, Chadwick, W. L. Abernethy and J. C. Gilley sang a capella, "Sweet and Low" and "Crossing the Bar." The officers elected for next year were Miss Gettner, president; Mrs. W. B. Menzies, first vice-president; Mrs. E. B. Cline, second vice-president; Mrs. Chadwick, secretary; and Miss A. McComb, treasurer. Refreshments in courses were served before adjourning.

The Thursday Study Club met April 10th, with Mrs. Joe Abernethy. In spite of the cold and rain, ten members and Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Super as visitors, were present. Mrs. Roy Abernethy gave an interesting account of Women in World Wide Missions; Mrs. Blackburn told of the Late Empress of Austria, and Mrs. L. R. Whitener of Ineen Wilhelmina of Holland. Current events were discussed. Officers for next year were elected as follows: President, Mrs. C. C. Bost; Vice President, Mrs. Roy Abernethy; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. T. C. Blackburn.

A delicious luncheon was served. The next meeting will be with Mrs. F. B. Ingold.

W. J. Harris to Succeed E. D. Durant

President Wilson, nominated W. J. Harris, Democratic state chairman of Georgia, to be director of the census. Many minor nominations, including several land office appointments, will be sent to the senate tomorrow. As the state department has not yet received formal answer from Great Britain as to the acceptability of Walter H. Page for ambassador to the court of St. James that nomination probably will not be made until next week.

NEWS BREVITIES.

Short Items of News Condensed for Busy Readers.

The conference on marketing and farm credits held in Chicago last week appointed a committee to go to Washington to lay before the president, the need of the establishment by the government of a bureau for a thorough study of crop and market conditions. They ask that one million dollars be appropriated for this purpose. They also urge the need of loans from the government direct to farmers.

J. P. Caldwell, a merchant of Spencer filed a petition in voluntary bankruptcy last week.

The farm demonstration commissioner has in mind a plan that if put into practice as he is planning to do this fall will mean much for the farmers of the county. His idea now is to start a farm caravan through the county conducted on the same plan as the agricultural cars carried over the railroads. A number of prominent speakers will accompany the outfit which will consist of all the different farm products grown in the county, several of the best breeds of live stock, the different kinds of soils and anything that can be used towards illustrating advanced ideas in farming.—Catawba County News.

Sheriff Deaton and police officer Kerr have made a neat capture. The officers caught L. Goodnight retailing liquor and now he is held in \$250 bond for trial at superior court.

The officers have had an eye on the accused. The sheriff was concealed in one building and the policeman in another where they had a view of the rear of the Coca-Cola works. There they got the evidence, they state, against their man and arrested him. He was held by the mayor's court.

The county commissioners at their meeting Tuesday let the contract for the new County Home building at Barium. The Solomon Construction company of Charlotte is the successful bidder at \$27,800.—Statesville Sentinel.

Common Sense About Flies.

Don't waste your time swatting flies this summer unless you have your house well screened. Fly swatters are a refinement to be used only in houses or rooms where all the doors and windows are screened. Fly swatters are merely a finishing process—a matter of refinement, if you please—to be used in a well screened room or house where there are perhaps never over a dozen flies. By means of fly swatters you can lay low the last fly in a room, but if the room is not well screened you might as well blow against the wind as to try to keep all the flies out by swatting.

The first thing to do, therefore, is to put up fly screens. Don't put it off to another week or another month. Do it now, get the benefit of screens all spring, summer and fall. Screens do not need to be expensive to be effective. In fact, in many instances a window can be screened perfectly with mosquito netting for 15 cents, while a 35-cent ill-fitting extension screen will let the flies come in by the hundreds.

For kitchen windows, where it is rarely necessary to open or close the shutters, there is no better way of screening than by means of mosquito netting tacked to the outside of the window frame. Mosquito netting will usually last an entire season, and it does not interfere in the least with raising or lowering the windows, or with the inside shades or blinds. Of course, if you have the money, there is no objection to getting made-to-order screens to fit all the windows, but they will cost from \$1.00 to \$1.50 apiece, against 15 cents for the mosquito netting.—North Carolina State Board of Health.

COMPLETING MODERN PLANT.

Southern Railway to Provide Improved Facilities for Handling Live Stock.

Spencer, N. C., April 11.—To provide improved facilities for properly handling the growing movement of live stock to Eastern and Virginia markets from the Southeastern states, the Southern Railway is now completing a modern plant for resting and feeding stock on property adjoining the Spencer yards.

The plant consists of 33 pens, 20 of which are covered. All pens and alleys are paved with one foot of cinders and are located on a gentle slope, providing natural drainage. Each pen is provided with water trough and feed rack, and the entire plant is electrically lighted. Nine pens are set apart for cattle from quarantined area and are separated from the others by a solid board wall ten feet high. As all cattle are unloaded at Spencer for feed and rest, this convenient plant will prove an important facility for stock growers.

The construction of this plant is in line with the Southern Railway Company's policy of making every possible effort to aid the live stock industry in the territory along its lines, in accordance with which it has provided special train service for live stock from points where sufficient business is offered and through its Live Stock Department is endeavoring to interest farmers, to disseminate helpful information; and to contribute in every proper manner to the up-building of the industry.

Railway Bridge is Destroyed by Fire.

Asheville, April 13.—Traffic on the Murphy division of the Southern railway was hampered Saturday because of the loss of a bridge which spans the Nantahala river. The bridge is west of Bryson City, and information was received at that point Saturday morning to the effect that it had been burned during the night. Trains were run from each end of the line and passengers were transferred at the crossing, going over a temporary structure. Workmen are rebuilding the bridge and it is thought that the line will be cleared by this morning.

Division Passenger Agent James H. Wood stated that the time of the burning of the bridge had not been learned nor had the cause of the fire been ascertained. The bridge which was destroyed was about twenty feet long. It was at the second crossing of the Nantahala.

This has been the "Jonah" year of the Murphy division. Overflowing mountain streams have caused serious losses on this division, and the Southern has been put to a great expense within the past few months in maintaining a schedule over the line.

Anniversary of the Philaethlean and Eumenean Literary Societies of Lenoir College.

The two literary societies of young women held their joint anniversary on Monday evening, April 7th.

The attendance was unusually large and the exercises very good and highly enjoyable. Numbers deserving special mention were "American Women of To-day" by Miss Lena Moore; "An uninvited Member" by eleven young women; Vocal Solo, "In a Hammock" by Miss Pearl Miller; and "Molly" and "Everything's the Matter," by Miss Elizabeth Lineberger.

The Pantomime, "Ode to Passion," by nine young women was exceptionally good. Many said they had never seen mere artistic work of the kind.

Mr. John F. Setzer who has been in Florida for a number of years has returned to this city and will make his home here.

Edgar Lytle was a delegate to the Baraca convention in Charlotte Sunday.