

THE MONROE JOURNAL

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One Dollar a Year.

BOTH OLD AND YOUNG.

The Spirit of Progressiveness in Farming Methods Embracing Both the Old Men and Young—An Example in Messrs. Alfred Funderburk and Lex Funderburk.

The spirit of progress that is revolutionizing the farming methods in this county, as it is all over the State, is not confined to any class of men, but embraces all. Side by side with the boys in their corn clubs are working old men who never had the advantages that are now being offered, but who are as fully alive to them as the young fellows. In company with Mr. T. J. W. Broom, the editor of The Journal one day last week had the pleasure of visiting two neighbors who illustrate this truth. They are Messrs. Lex Funderburk and Mr. Alfred Funderburk, who live some seven miles below Monroe.

Mr. Alfred Funderburk is on up towards seventy years old, but last year he had a demonstration field of corn that produced more than fifty-three bushels to the acre and won him the ten-dollar prize. This year Mr. Funderburk has a field that would have beat his last year's had the seasons been favorable. At one time it was too wet and lately the drouth which struck his farm was very injurious to his corn, but Mr. Broom makes the guess that he will make forty bushels anyway. Mr. Funderburk is showing a lively interest in modern methods, and only regrets that he did not have when a younger man the opportunities that exist today. But he and his sons are building a large new barn, having found that their old ones would no longer accommodate the crops that they will be growing from now on. They have three pretty mares from which they expect to raise three colts, and when hitched to one of their rubber tired buggies, two of these animals make as pretty a pair as will be seen in a day's drive. Mr. Funderburk is a fine old gentleman, whose hospitality is so well known that years ago he had to build an edition to his house to accommodate the travellers who were fond of stopping with him. He never took so much pride in his farm work as today, and if he keeps a fair degree of health for a few years he will make the young fellows hustle to keep ahead of him. He is now greatly interested in selecting his seed corn for next year and has come to the conclusion that the prolific variety is the best.

Mr. Lex Funderburk, who lives some nearer town, has already established a reputation as one of the most progressive and successful young farmers in the county. He drove his mowing machine out of a field of peavines and cane, and while the mules rested in a nearby shade showed his farm to the visitors as a man who is on his job and is master of it. Mr. Broom is now making his rounds among the demonstration farms for the purpose of emphasizing proper seed selection, and he and Mr. Funderburk talked on this subject like two experts in any other line of business would discuss technical points. Verily, the basis of modern farming is knowledge, and the practical farmer is the man who learns what the science teaches and uses the best judgment in applying it. Mr. Funderburk is the kind of farmer that Sheriff Griffith once said Tom Broom was—one who both knows and works. Last year he made more than four bales on two acres. And did he put that same field in cotton this year? Not a bit of it. That field has now got a wire fence around it and colts and cows are browsing on it, and his fine field of cotton, which will make more than a bale per acre, is in another place. Six acres of his corn he hopes to make yield fifty bushels per. He has five pretty yearling colts and you couldn't buy one of them from his little boys for a million dollars. Mr. Funderburk is thoroughly convinced of the necessity of live stock on the farm and is preparing to try some pure-bred beef cattle. He has his fields fenced so that at the proper time they can be pastured. He certainly has the foundations for an ideal farm and is ambitious to see what he can do. His success is assured.

Mr. J. L. Scott, manager of the Monroe Oil Mill, sold Stack & Hudson 109 bales of cotton Saturday at 12½ cents. It was cotton that he bought in the seed last spring to use in testing his gins, and was not a good grade.

Government Employees Forbidden to Be Politically Active.

In July the United States Civil Service Commission published a bulletin giving the various laws in regard to political activity of government officials in the competitive classified service. It says:

"Persons who by the provisions of these rules are in the competitive classified service, while retaining the right to vote as they please and to express privately their opinions on all political subjects, shall take no active part in political management or in political campaigns.

"It is the duty of the commission to see that the provisions of the civil service act and rules are strictly enforced, and it will employ every legitimate and available means to secure the prosecution and punishment of persons who may violate them. The commission requests any person having knowledge of such violation to lay the facts before it that it may at once take action thereupon.

"The following forms of activity have been held to be forbidden by this provision: Service on political committees; service as delegates to county, State, or district conventions of a political party, although it was understood that the employees were not to take or use any political activity in going to these conventions or otherwise violate the civil service rules; service as officer of political club, as chairman of a political meeting, or as secretary of an anti-saloon league; continued political activity and leadership; activity at the polls on election day; the publication or editing of a newspaper in the interests of a political party; the publication of political articles bearing on qualifications of different candidates; the distribution of political literature"; etc.

Union County Man Killed in Arkansas.

Mr. Frank Williams, son of Mr. Bryant Williams of east Monroe township and brother of Policeman J. A. Williams of Monroe, was killed some days ago by his son-in-law, David Childs, at Eldorado, Ark. Mr. Williams left this county for Arkansas twenty years ago. He was 57 years old and leaves a large family. A newspaper report says that the killing is the result of an old family feud that broke out at Midway at a public speaking. Mr. J. Smith, who undertook to prevent the shooting, was shot and desperately wounded. The killing followed a difficulty between Williams and Scott Childs and David Childs. Smith stepped in between Williams and David Childs and Childs drew his pistol and undertook to fire over Smith's head at Williams, the bullet hitting Smith's shoulder and lodging in the back. Three more shots were fired at Williams, one of them striking him in the breast. Williams fell on his face, dying instantly. Scott Childs then seized a neckyoke and dealt Williams several blows on the head.

Mr. J. J. Cox Dies of Blood Poisoning.

Mr. J. J. Cox, a well known citizen of Lanes Creek township, died last Wednesday night of blood poisoning. He deceased was a good man, a good neighbor and a good citizen, and a member of the Baptist church. He was a member of the 23rd Regiment in the Civil war. Mr. Cox was 70 years old. He was a native of Anson county. His father, the late Mr. Peter Cox, moved from Lilesville to Lanes Creek township, this county, when the deceased was but a boy. Mr. Cox married Miss Mary J. Barrett of Anson county, who with seven sons and four daughters survive. The sons are Messrs. W. D. and Walter B. Cox of Georgia; J. T., Luther, C. C., G. C. and A. B. Cox of this county. The daughters are Mesdames H. D. Leonard, Duren Smith, Baxter Riggins and Cyrus Moore. Mr. J. B. Cox of Buford township and Mr. P. M. Cox of Orlando, Fla., are brothers and Mesdames V. T. Chears, B. F. Parker, Fletcher Moore, S. Smith and R. Smith are sisters of the deceased.

Young Man Loses His Mind.

Mr. Spurgeon Griffin, son of Mr. John Griffin of Bentonville, suddenly became insane last Friday. No reason is known for it. He is a quiet and industrious young man, a painter by trade, and has been married about six months. On Sunday he was very violent and imagined he was Charles Plyler sentenced to the electric chair. His people were forced to put him in jail till he could be sent to Morganton, which was done this morning.

PRELIMINARY TRIAL OF BELKS

Three Brothers who are in Jail for the Killing of Ben Hunter are Arraigned in Recorder's Court and all are Recommended to Jail to Await Superior Court in November.

Gus, Will and Winnifred Belk, the three brothers who are charged with the murder of Ben Hunter in Buford township in the first week in August, were arraigned in the court of the Recorder yesterday. The defense put up no evidence but used many of the State's witnesses as their own for the purpose of getting their testimony. This is a custom usually pursued for the purpose of finding out evidence of the State before the general trial in the Superior court. After hearing the testimony the Recorder remanded the prisoners to jail to await the November court.

Walter Stack, the man who was with Hunter when he was killed, and the only eye witness to the shooting except the prisoners themselves, was put on the stand by the defense. His testimony was very brief. He said that he and Hunter had been to Joshua Baker's and had started home. The Belks overtook them on the road and ran in on the right side of their mule. They began firing without saying anything. Gus shot first and the ball went through my arm and the other in the back of the buggy. Then Will and Winnifred went to shooting. We started to run and Hunter fell down and I ran on through the corn field and they shot at me through the corn field.

Many other witnesses testified to the appearance of the body of Hunter. They said that when it was at first seen the body was lying on the left side, and there were two bullet holes about half an inch apart in the right temple which went through the head and there were three holes in the back. One went below the shoulder blade and two about the small of the back, one on each side of the spinal column.

Mrs. Sidney Starnes said that on the afternoon of the killing Ben Hunter and Walter Stack passed her house going to her father's, Joshua Baker's. Some time after that Winnifred Belk came along with a Winchester rifle. He asked where Hunter and Stack were and I told him they had gone on to pa's. He said that he was going to take the rifle to Gus and Will, and he guessed that when they met Hunter and Stack somebody would die. He went on toward pa's and some time afterward Hunter and Stack passed, and pretty soon the three Belks came along in a trot and it wasn't very long till I heard the shooting. Hunter is some kin to her.

Mrs. J. O. Baker, mother of Mrs. Starnes, said that the three Belks came to her house, Will and Winnifred riding in a buggy and Gus walking in front. Will got out and flourished a pistol and will said I needn't be afraid of it as it wasn't loaded, but that he had, slapping his leg, the thing that would do the work. Winnifred had the rifle between his legs. Gus asked me where Hunter was. Saw Winnifred and Hunter talking that afternoon at my house and they seemed to be friendly. Mr. Baker also testified that they came and he heard part of the conversation and that Will seemed to be tight.

Mr. Jehu Laney said that the Belks were at his house in the afternoon and Will pretended that he was going to shoot Gus, but had no loads in his pistol.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Laney were the first to get there after the shooting. They found their oldest son holding Hunter's mule. Their young son, Charley, said that he had started on ahead to church. Stack and Hunter passed me, and after getting about a hundred yards they stopped and Hunter got out and put his foot on the wheel and I heard him say we have got to go to Dudley tonight. Three men drove up in a buggy and all began to talk but I couldn't understand. They began shooting. After two shots I saw Stack run through the corn field and then I ran.

Tom Starnes, near whose house the killing occurred, said that he had gone to bed, and heard shooting and voices and jumped up. Some one said stop him, G—d—n him, and one said, Come back, Gus, G—d—n it, don't you see you've shot him down.

A great many more witnesses were examined, but many were of little consequence. As said above the defense put up no witnesses of its own, and the Belk version of the affair is still unknown.

Engagement Announced.

Miss Mary Davis most graciously entertained a number of friends Saturday evening, September 10th, complimentary to the Misses Hoyle of Charlotte.

The guests were received by Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. English, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Pharr, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Stack. Punch was served in the punch room by Mrs. R. E. Evans. After engaging in conversation for a short time the guests were shown into the dining room, where their eyes were greeted by very suspicious decorations, viz.—hearts, cupids and lily of the valley. Great bunches of this sentimental flower tied with yellow tulle hung from the chandelier. Directly under the chandelier was the table supporting an immense yellow heart in its centre, and floating above this were tiny cupids. Out of the heart ran a number of yellow ribbons, and each guest pulled a ribbon and found tied to the end a card with wedding bells bearing the names: Mr. Jesse Lee Hoyle, Miss Bright Swindell Ogburn, Oct. 26, 1910. The blushing couple were showered with rice, gotten from tiny satin bags tied to the cards. The happy pair were deluged with congratulations. Yellow cream and cake, together with yellow mints were served. The colors so uniquely carried out were the colors of Miss Ogburn's beloved society, the Adelpia.

Miss Ogburn wore a beautiful pink flowered organdie, while the hostess was charming in a lace gown over a Purlian lining. Miss Hoyle wore a lovely Copenhagen messaline, and Miss Helen Hoyle flowered organdie.

The guests so fortunate as to be present at this most elaborate and enjoyable affair were Misses Bess Austin, Anna Chreitberg, Alice Scales, Pat Adams, Ola Bruner, Annie Nelson, Kathleen Nelson, Alice Stack, Mildred Stephenson, Mary Covington, Susie Covington, Bright Ogburn, Maude Hoyle, Helen Hoyle, Caroline Parker, Florida Morris, Mary Stewart, Katherine McDowell; Messrs. Frank Griffith, Boyce Williams, Pete Redfern, Pickett McLarty, L. P. Wilson, Frank Ogburn, Frank Lee, Code Morgan, Emsley Armfield, Dr. W. Ashcraft, John Vann, Lee Hoyle, C. E. Bowden, W. J. Pratt, Clayton Laney, Hal Adams, John Parker, Willie Love, Jeff Sewell.

A Day of Pleasure.

Correspondence of The Journal.

On Labor day, September 5th, at the home of Mr. R. C. Nesbit, in the Mt. Prospect neighborhood, a number of relatives and friends were gathered. Among the guests were Sheriff Hunter and Mr. Wesley Elliott of Lancaster, Messrs. Mobley Parks, Ransom Plyler and Thomas Lathan. The day was greatly enjoyed. Mr. Nesbit is one of Union county's most progressive farmers and a fine mail carrier. He opened his liberal heart and made all very happy. Sheriff Hunter is a star in Lancaster county and a specimen of charity. He met a number of his old friends, among them Messrs. Thomas Lathan and Alexander Nesbit, father of Mr. R. C. Nesbit.

The morning passed very pleasantly and at noon a grand dinner was served, which was greatly relished by all present. In the afternoon Sheriff Hunter bestowed his love upon the children of the occasion; his purse was opened and the children were presented with the sum of \$4.50. Sheriff Hunter was told that an old lady in that section was in need, and without question his purse was again opened and he contributed \$5. I could name numerous things of this kind done by Mr. Hunter, but it is useless. We know him; none go in need in the reach of Sheriff Hunter's charitable hand.

Mr. Elliott made the remark that the occasion was an event in his life. The rest of the number enjoyed the occasion to such an extent that language was inadequate to express their feelings. All went away feeling that it was good to have been there.

Struck by Lightning.

Quite an electrical storm passed over Marshville Friday afternoon. The home of Mr. R. C. Newsom was struck by lightning and one room of the house almost completely demolished. The house was set on fire by the bolt and his little daughter, Annie, badly shocked. The fire was put out before it had gained much headway. A fine cow belonging to Dr. M. P. Blair was also struck by lightning during the storm and killed.

COTTON.

Local market today, 13.25.

Farmers' Union Says Ten Millions.

The National Farmers' Union, in session at Charlotte last week, gives as its opinion after careful investigation that the coming crop cannot exceed 10,000,000. The report of the special committee reads as follows:

ALABAMA.—We find that in Alabama the acreage has been reduced about 6 per cent.; the deterioration of the last three weeks, together with the lateness of the crop, will bring the condition down to about 68 per cent. of the normal crop, or approximately 1,500,000 bales.

ARKANSAS.—In Arkansas we find that the condition is somewhat better than last year, and we approximate her total at 775,000 bales, or 65 per cent. of the normal crop.

FLORIDA.—In Florida we find that the increase in acreage has been practically 100 per cent., but as this is not a short staple cotton State, and the condition being about 65 per cent. of the normal crop, we place the estimate at 2,500 bales.

GEORGIA.—In Georgia we find that the acreage is practically the same as last year, placing her total estimate at 1,500,000 with very poor stands, and the condition of 75 per cent. of the normal crop bales.

LOUISIANA.—In Louisiana we find a greatly decreased acreage due to the fact that the boll weevil was very disastrous to cotton in that section of the South last year, and with the condition of 50 per cent. of the normal crop, we think we are conservative in putting her total at 150,000 bales.

MISSISSIPPI.—In Mississippi we find the decrease 10 per cent. in acreage. Some destruction by boll weevil and a condition of 65 per cent. of the normal crop, placing her total at 1,000,000 bales.

MISSOURI.—In Missouri we find an increase of acreage of about 4 per cent. over last year, but on account of excessive rains, practically 11 per cent. over last acreage has been abandoned, making a decrease of 7 per cent. over last year. We find the crop to be at least three weeks late, and due to the latitude in which this State lies the danger of an early frost together with the condition of 67 per cent. of the normal crop, places her crop at approximately 45,000 bales.

NORTH CAROLINA.—In North Carolina we find an increase of about 2 per cent. over last year, but on account of the deterioration of the last three weeks which has been remarkable, we place the condition at 65 per cent. of the normal crop, or approximately 400,000 bales.

OKLAHOMA.—In Oklahoma we find conditions up to two weeks ago ideal, but deterioration has set in and we predict that only 75 per cent. of the normal crop will be raised, or about 850,000 bales.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—In South Carolina we find an increase of 2 per cent., but with the crop three or four weeks late place the estimate at 68 per cent. of the normal crop, or approximately 900,000 bales.

TENNESSEE.—In Tennessee we find the condition about 70 per cent. of the normal crop, with some deterioration, and approximately the crop at 250,000 bales.

TEXAS.—In Texas, where practically one-fourth of all the cotton of the South is raised, we find the condition alarming. Some sections reporting an entire failure, and the general exodus of the farmers of those sections into other sections, where work can be had to provide maintenance for themselves and families until another crop can be started. The increase in receipts at the present time at all the leading ports in Texas over last year we believe to be due to the excessive dry and hot weather which has prevailed throughout the entire State for the last few months, thus causing the cotton to open more rapidly than it would otherwise. The reported rains of the last few days in the central and northern portions of the State cannot possibly effect the general yield, for the boll weevil has everlastingly eliminated the "top crop" scare. Taking all these facts into consideration, we place the total yield of the State of Texas at 58 per cent. of the normal crop, or 2,500,000 bales.

SUMMARY.—Taking the States as a whole, bringing up the totals, we find the condition of the crop of the entire cotton belt, to be 65 and 9-10 per cent., or a total of approximately 9,500,000 bales.

We believe we are safe in the as-

sertion that the short staple cotton crop will not exceed 10,000,000 bales for the year 1910.

Col. Green Was Flighty Useful.

One of the men behind the scenes in the present convention of the National Farmers' Union is Mr. J. Z. Green, the State organizer and editor of the Carolina Union Farmer. His newspaper training and his long connection with the organized work of the farmers have stood him in good stead in the present instance. He has been a guiding hand in making up the detailed arrangements for the big meeting of the farmers, and to his foresighted efforts are due much of the smoothness with which the affairs of the meeting are being pulled off. All this work has been done in a quiet way and but for this notice he would not be likely to figure in it publicly, but he has done a good and successful work and deserves public acknowledgement of it.

Low Rates to Jacksonville and Tampa.

The Seaboard will give an astonishingly low rate to Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla., Tuesday, September 27. Rate from Monroe and all points between Charlotte and Polkton, \$8 to Jacksonville, \$10 to Tampa. Tickets will be sold for following trains: Rutherfordton to Hamlet, Nos. 46 and 44; Wilmington to Hamlet, No. 39. Connecting with special train from Hamlet to Jacksonville. Tickets good returning on any regular train scheduled to leave Jacksonville on or before October 4, 1910. A rare opportunity to spend a few days in the tropical cities of Florida. Application for Pullman space should be made any time in advance.

For further information call on G. T. SLATTERY, Agent, Monroe, N. C.

Marshville a Credit to the County.

In his report of the condition and progress of the schools of Union county, Superintendent R. N. Nisbet well said that Marshville manifests her leadership in the county, in things educational, by the erection of a first class school building, costing about \$10,000. Prof. Nisbet may rest assured that educational interests of this town will be well looked after, and that means that other things in the line of progress are not to suffer for attention. Our school building would be a credit to any town in North Carolina and we trust that other needed improvements will come along at an early date.

Mecklenburg Presbytery Meets Tonight.

Mecklenburg Presbytery will convene in the Monroe Presbyterian church tonight at 8 o'clock, and will be opened with a sermon by the moderator, Rev. J. E. Berryhill of Paw Creek. There will be ministers and elders in attendance from Mecklenburg, Stanly, Union and Anson counties, and the presbytery will be in session daily until Friday.

There will be preaching each day at 4 p. m., and in the evening at 8 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend not only these services but all the meetings.

Home from Oxford.

Mr. Harry Trantham, accompanied by his brother and mother, of Camden, visited Mrs. D. A. Covington, the latter's sister, last week. Mr. Trantham was on his way to Baylor University, Texas, where he takes the chair of Greek. He has just completed a three years' course at the great English University, Oxford, Eng., being one of the young men of this country who won a Rhodes scholarship there.

Union is Going to Get in Front Rank.

One by one the counties of the State are forming good roads organizations and going about the matter of road improvement in a business-like manner, which is the only way to accomplish anything. Stanly county now has such an organization. Let's get busy and push Union right up in the front ranks.

Oysters. Oysters.

John R. Simpson & Co., the old reliable oyster dealers, have their first shipment today. They are as fine as can be and were put up with a concern that prides itself on cleanliness and nicety of handling. While in Norfolk a few days ago Mr. Simpson visited their place and made arrangements to get only the best oysters that can be had. You can get some for supper today.