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# THE MONROE JOURNAL

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MONROE, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1915.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

## MONROE TALENT IN WAXHAW.

Sermon, Literary Address, and Music Furnished for Commencement—All Did Well and Orchestra Members Took in the Sights.

Waxhaw Enterprise, 5th.

The commencement opened last night with a concert by the students of the intermediate and primary departments. It was composed of drills, marches, solos, recitations, dialogues, etc. The splendid manner in which the program was carried out showed that the students had been carefully prepared for the occasion.

A large crowd assembled at the auditorium Sunday morning to hear the annual sermon by Rev. Lee M. White of the First Baptist church of Monroe. Selecting knowledge as his theme, Mr. White delivered a powerful discourse and one which caught and held the attention of every one in the vast audience. Rev. Mr. White is a most entertaining speaker and many who heard him Sunday declared that it was the best commencement sermon they had ever heard.

Monday afternoon the literary address by Dr. H. E. Gurney, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Monroe. The subject of Dr. Gurney's address was Values. His address was full of the best thought and greatly enjoyed by the large audience. He drew many beautiful illustrations in distinguishing between value and price. Dr. Gurney is not only a man of thought but he is a most pleasing orator. No one could have heard him without being benefited. The address was preceded and followed by splendid music by the Monroe Orchestra. Also diplomas to three young ladies who graduated this year and certificates were delivered to twelve pupils who completed the seventh grade. The graduates were Misses Bessie Belk, Elise Davis and Elziva McCain. The following boys and girls received certificates: John Davis, Hugh Broome, Merrill Fairchild, William Massey, Frank McCain, Henry Wolfe, Mary Cunningham, Mamie Gamble, Hestie Gordon, Louise McCain, Thelma Sanford, Mary Steele.

Monday night a play, "The Time of His Life," was given by the High School students attended with a concert by the Monroe Orchestra. The weather was very unfavorable as there was a downpour of rain right at the time when people should be leaving their homes for the school building, but in spite of this fact there was a large crowd present. The orchestra was composed of six people from Monroe, Messrs. Herndon Hasty, Walter Strauss, W. J. Holloway, Marvin Whitfield, Clarence Laney and Miss Grace Smith. The orchestra made some mighty fine music. Of course the members were somewhat abashed and unerved when they found themselves in the midst of the good town of Waxhaw—the birthplace of Andrew Jackson—but after spending some time on the boulevards they gradually regained their composure and were in fine fettle to touch off the soul-stirring melodies. Waxhaw people were well pleased with the orchestra.

The school this year under the firm and careful superintendency of Prof. T. A. Haywood has made much progress, having been one of the best terms since the opening of the school. The other teachers who deserve much credit for the successful term just closed are Miss Norma Bell of Monroe, Miss Ruth Seerest of Unionville and Mrs. H. M. Nisbet, and Misses Rena Tillman and Ruth McCain of Waxhaw.

## Charles Trull of Charlotte Must Look to Governor Now.

News and Observer, 6th.

Charles Trull, South Carolina boy under sentence of death in Mecklenburg county for murder of Sidney Swain, an aged merchant of Charlotte, yesterday lost his appeal for a new trial in an opinion handed down by the Supreme court. Chief Justice Clark wrote the opinion in this case finding no error in the trial before Judge Shaw.

The offense for which Trull will pay the death penalty unless his sentence is commuted by Governor Craig was committed in Charlotte nearly a year ago. It was on the morning of May 17th that Sidney Swain, an aged merchant, was found near his own home with his head crushed in, evidently by a short length of pipe which lay near. Suspicion immediately centered about Trull, for the reason that on the day before he had made earnest efforts to borrow money and yet on the morning after the murder, he was known to have been spending freely and extravagantly. Moreover, Trull was heard to have made certain statements relative to his connections with some offense and the possibility of proving it against him. He was arrested. Gradually, the line of circumstantial evidence drew closer about him with the finding that he had changed clothes on the night of the murder and that the clothes removed were stained with blood spots, and with the additional evidence that tracks about the body of Swain coincided exactly with the rubber shoes worn on that night by Trull.

The next step in the case, if the defense will continue the fight for the young man's life, is the appeal to the governor for a commutation of the sentence. Otherwise the electric chair will be the inevitable end.

## Unusual Lack of Cash

When I became connected with the Department of Agriculture in 1899, the almost universal lack of cash with the farmers made them a dependent and not an independent class of citizens as they formerly were. This caused me to inquire if there was ever a time when the Southern farmer had any money or had this always been his condition. Being old enough to have been farming in 1861 (going from my farm into the Confederate army in 1861 and returning 1865) knowledge of the condition of the farmers at that time answered my question—the farmer then was the most independent class of people; and when a man in town needed money, he did not go to some other city to borrow, but went into the country among the farmers and they had it to lend. Why did the farmer have this cash then and was in such a bad financial condition now? The change had been caused by the different financial results in these days and at that time. Then the farmers raised all the supplies for his farm and generally a surplus of this class of crops; cotton and tobacco were his money crops, and what he received for them was not consumed by debts for supplies. It was net profit. Corn was then as now the foundation for farming. It was recognized as such by epigrams. An independent man was one who had corn to sell; he put on the side of his head "looked like a man who had corn to sell." A state of happiness and contentment was by the minstrel said to be: "Cor in the crib, money in the pocket."

## Home Owning Yeomanry

Among the first problems to be solved now are to secure a home owning yeomanry on farms that make their support is the great desideratum and that they may produce food and feed enough to supply the State. The State was prosperous under this system and we think will be again when it is restored. There is much truth in the old darkey's position, who was going along in ragged clothes and badly worn shoes, with a sack of flour under his arm and a side of bacon on his hand. Being asked why he did not buy less rations and more clothes, replied: "Boss when my back or my feet calls on me for supplies, I can put it off with a promise, but when this (hitting his hand on his breast pocket) calls, I am bound to have the cash." Farms which furnish the cash are needed.

## Co-Operation in Selling and Buying

We seem to have inherited the characteristics of our fathers. The North was settled in hamlets where they were closely associated and interested themselves more or less in the affairs of their neighbors, while the Southern man went to his farm and seldom saw his neighbor except on business, hence the northern man is more easily brought into co-operation. Either trait can be developed to an extent which is unpleasant if not unprofitable.

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## AGRICULTURAL PAST AND PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE.

Sergered Into Cotton Growing by Lure of High Prices in 1865, North Carolina Was Swept Into Rich Harvest of Brain and Brawn; Many Problems Yet to Face, But the Old North State Has the Goods.

(By W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, before Southern Commercial Congress at Muskogee, Oklahoma.)

Upon the close of the war in 1865, the high price of cotton seems to have greatly influenced the minds of the farmers of the Southern States and induced North Carolina to become largely a cotton state; the cultivation was resumed on many farms where it had been abandoned and the gin-house and cotton press became unit for use. The farmer was impressed with the idea that he could raise cotton and with the money received from its sale buy everything he needed, both necessities and luxuries, and there was no thought of economy. Cotton was the security required for advance of provisions on indulgence in accounts. It was necessary for the farmer to have advances in order to make his crop; and he was compelled to raise cotton. In this period the mortgage or lien on the crop to be produced that year was introduced; as security for advances of goods, especially supplies for the farm. But it was not confined to this class of goods; it was good security for any kind of goods which the advanced had for sale.

Thus though the farmer adopted the one crop system, more from necessity than choice. It is true the price of cotton was higher than had been in former times, but the price of what the farmer purchased had risen equally. The poet tells "that distance lends enchantment to the view, and robs the sky in azure blue"; so the postponement of the day of settlement gave the future a radiant hue to the farmer and he could but believe that "tomorrow would fulfill the expectations of today."

## Long Time Cried

Leaving the realm of poetry and coming to prose, he was like the negro who on passing a lot of clothing hung out to dry took a snort. Upon being told that he would have to answer for judgment day, replied that if it was as long a credit as that "I'll take two." The farmer saw no need of practicing economy as to his purchases, thinking that prices would remain high and he would be able to settle for anything that he wished.

It is remarkable how long the farmer continued this custom, although each year he came out in debt, which he expected to pay by increasing the acreage of his cotton; and his credit was valued not by the amount of cotton he produced, but by the number of acres he had planted. Corn or other grain, stock or hogs, were not recognized as good security; the merchant preferred to buy these articles, which composed the larger part of his goods, beyond the limits of the State, or perhaps he was unwilling to let the farmers know the enormous profit he was charging on these supplies—fifty, seventy-five and even one hundred per cent for six or eight months credit.

This custom was almost universal when cotton was the principal crop and it was generally true that the people were in straightened circumstances. At the same time in most of the counties there were men who raised corn and meat to sell and who had money to loan, made by this manner of farming. The trouble was that the farmer brought ruin upon himself by endeavoring to raise something to buy corn with instead of raising it upon the farm.

## Home Owning Yeomanry

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ly every Southern State, I have not found the man who said he had seen it.

The boys sang:

"All I want in this creation is a pretty little wife and a big plantation,

If ever I get back again, I lead a different life,

Save my money, buy a farm, take Dinah for my wife."

The negroes sang:

"If I had a scoldin' wife, I'd whip her shures you born;

I sen' her down to New Orleans, And trade her for corn."

Two ballads, which generally express conditions of the times, at this time recognized farming as a profitable business, due to a supply of corn.

The institution of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture under power of the Constitution was authorized by the Legislature in 1877. The principal business from that time to 1899 was the analysis of fertilizers, as a very poor quality of goods had appeared in the State, the publication of bulletins and exhibition of the products of the State at national and interstate expositions.

## A Practical Farmers Board

1899 the Department was by law recognized, to be directed by a Commissioner of Agriculture and a Board composed of one member from each Congressional district, with fourteen different departments of work stated. Shortly after this it was enacted that the commissioner and members of the board should be "practical farmers engaged in their profession." The work of the Department was with the adult farmers of the State, those who were too old for school age and most of whom had had but very limited opportunities for education. Neither orator nor technical book could be used to advantage, but such measures as would cause them to think were required.

"To make men think at all is of all things the principal; The second is of importance quite Make them when they think, think right,

The third and then your task is through, When 'tis done, think that is right which they do"

The good book says that man should eat bread by the sweat of his face. Some one said brow. Many farmers seem to think that the brow was located on the back and that the amount of sweat produced was the

main thing desired—use of the muscle, not of the brain. The brow is on the head and near the brain and would rather indicate work of the brain than of the muscles. Let the farmer learn the location of and use his brow and brain; not be like the Irishman who having volunteered took a piece of metal as a shield to the tailor who was making his uniform and told him to place it over his heart. The tailor put it in the seat of his breeches. In the battle Pat concluded to "fight another day" and turned to flee. A bullet from the enemy struck the metal, whereupon Pat exclaimed: "Faith, and ain't it a great thing to know where a man's heart lies!"

## To Use Brain With Brawn

To use such means as would enable the adult farmer to recognize and use his brain was the object of the Department. The State could not wait until the boys were educated, but the development of the adult farmer, while giving the young people every opportunity for preparation to meet the situation when they should come to maturity. That the Department has made greater advances in its work than any other Southern State is due to the attention that it has given to the development of the adult farmer. He was the State's most valuable unde