

JOHN BEASLEY, Editor.

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A notice to discontinue The Journal is not necessary, as we take it for granted that you do not want the paper when you fail to renew.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1919.

Illiteracy in Union County.

In the United States there are 700,000 illiterates of draft age and 454 of them are in Union county. Dare county, the smallest and most isolated of the 100 North Carolina counties, has the fewest and Buncombe leads with 1,188. Miss Elizabeth Kelly, director of adult illiteracy for North Carolina has compiled this information and sent it to all County Superintendents who are urged to remedy this condition through the establishment of Moonlight schools. Many of the counties have already made splendid appropriations to meet this need.

When 454 young men and a proportionate number of young women make their mark instead of signing their name the situation becomes appalling. Working alone no matter how industriously and wholeheartedly, Mr. Nesbit can accomplish almost nothing. Volunteers, whether teachers or not, are needed to assist not only in establishing moonlight schools, but to keep them moving. It requires only from three to six weeks to teach an adult to read and write and when that stage is reached he becomes so interested and thirsty for knowledge that he can continue with only a little guidance.

Whether the county makes an appropriation or not, enough capable men and women should enlist with Mr. Nesbit to make this a record year in accomplishing results among the grown-up illiterates of the county.

Suffrage Wins.

After years of waiting and struggling ardent suffragists have seen the Susan B. Anthony amendment go through and now it is up to the states to ratify or reject it. Four state legislatures are now in session due to adjourn this month and because of pressing reconstruction problems many special sessions will be called this year. Governor Bickett will in all probability soon receive such a suggestion from suffragists for an announcement from the National Woman's party has already been sent out stating "the women of the country will vote in the 1920 elections."

From the time of the Revolution women have worked untiringly for their rights; in many instances their overzealousness leading them to foolish actions that lost rather than gained followers for them. The agitation was first carried on by petitions and small meetings until 1848 when the first real suffrage demonstration was staged and forty-one years ago the Anthony Bill was introduced into congress by Senator Sargent of California. In 1887, a vote showed 15 yeas to 34 nays; by 1914 the amendment had gained a majority of one but still lacked 11 votes of passage; in 1918 it failed by two votes, and last February by one.

In many states the laws have been altered to include women, but North Carolina has always proven adamant. Senators Simmons and Overman voting against the amendment to the very last. Senator Overman, according to a Washington correspondent, takes a philosophical view of the situation. He is quoted as saying:

"They have finally won," said the senator, "and we accept the result so far as the United States senate and the congress is concerned. It is now a matter for the state legislatures. I voted against suffrage as I voted before—because I do not believe the majority of the women of my state want the ballot and because, furthermore, of the race question. It is not necessary to discuss the latter. Every one knows that the opposition was principally back of the state's rights to decide suffrage matters for themselves. In the south we have complications which do not exist in other sections and I believe we should be permitted to decide in North Carolina whether we want woman suffrage instead of having suffrage possibly thrust upon us by a constitutional amendment. That has been my position and I voted that way."

Early Wednesday morning, near Rich Square, Northampton county, Kelly Nelson, a hard working farmer, cut his wife's throat with a razor, almost severing her head from her body. It appears that they had a quarrel and she ran from her house into the yard, he seizing her and cutting her throat. Taking his twelve-year-old boy by the hand, he went to the home of Mr. G. C. Bryant, a neighbor, and told him what he had done. Nelson was given a preliminary hearing and placed in jail. He has not been considered strong mentally.

America and the Children

The Public.
America spends six times as much for liquor and tobacco as she does for education. That alone should be sufficient justification for holding the conferences on child welfare standards now being conducted under the auspices of the Department of Labor. Some of the facts brought out by the American and foreign experts are worthy of even wider distribution than they are now getting. The fruit of an appalling neglect of child life has been shown during the past year in numerous ways. The draft disclosed a most menacing condition among those who should be in the full vigor of manhood. Seven hundred thousand illiterates of draft age testified to the neglect of education. This starvation of mental requirements was paralleled by almost equally serious physical conditions. Out of the first 2,510,706 men examined in the draft, 730,756 were rejected for physical defects, most of which were preventable and which were largely due to abuses forced upon childhood. The Children's Bureau figures that 300,000 infants die annually whose deaths are largely preventable. Upward of 20,000 preventable deaths from the immediate child-bearing occur annually. It is not time that we engaged in a few conferences such as are now going on?

The problems confronting the nation in this respect are of course fundamentally economic. The necessity for certain palliative legal measures may be taken for granted. Better education is mandatory. Child labor must be ruthlessly suppressed. But the economic causes will remain and the necessity for repressive law will persist as long as poverty persists. For it is as true in our day as Solomon's that the destruction of the poor is their poverty. For inequality of opportunity means inequality of education and inequality of health. The Labor Department figures show that when the parent's wage is \$1.25 a year one baby in every sixteen dies. When the wage is \$450 one in every six dies. The record of child destruction is a record of poverty. The highest mortality and the highest illiteracy are in the isolated farm and the close packed tenement to which are driven those forced out by monopoly of the more advantageous parts of the earth.

The Church Refusing to "Decline"

Literary Digest.
To one class the Church is always "declining." The wish being father to the thought, their reply to the question, "Is the Church declining?" would instantly express the affirmative, says the Rocky Mountain News (Denver). This class is, of course, of "doubtful size because inaccessible to the statistician." It looks with pity on the section of the public who "stiek by the Church through thick and thin; who shut their eyes to its shortcomings, believing that the good in it is bound, in all circumstances, to more than offset any bad there may be in it." The question to church people seems only "an impertinence." They, in their turn, see that the other side are "temperamentally hostile to the Church regardless of the efficiency of its administration," and are "therefore, prone to believe that it must of necessity be declining." The Rocky Mountain News points to a tertium quid—a class much larger than both of these classes combined, found outside as well as inside the Church, who—

"By no means believe in the infallibility of the Church, who, in fact, are ever ready to point out its faults, yet to whom any signs of its decline would be a matter of grave concern. It was doubtless this class which Bishop Thomas Nickolson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church had in mind when recently, addressing the North Indiana Conference, he called attention to the fact that in the last fifty years there had been five-year periods in which the Church gained more followers than in the first nine centuries of its existence.

"The number of members gained in 1917, according to the Bishop, was six times as many as in 1901. A table prepared by Dr. H. K. Carroll for the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, shows the growth in membership of the thirty-three Protestant denominations represented to be 746,000 for the year 1917.

"Moreover, statistics issued by the Census Department at Washington show an increase in the decade 1906-1916 of about 25 per cent. for the eight leading denominations.

Whatever else is happening to the Church, it is evident that it is not declining in numbers. There is evidence as well, tho naturally not of so positive a character, that it is not declining in spirituality. The sums raised for benevolence, greater not only in volume but per capita than ever before, may be cited.

"The campaigns waged for reconstruction work all over a war-wasted world; the church-union movement; the voluntary agreement between certain denominations to avoid duplication of work in the same territory—all this indicates that the Church has heard the bugle-call of an aroused conscience.

"Why should it not? Churchmen to-day are not hermits. The man who occupies a pew on Sunday is in the counting room, bank, office, shop, or factory the other days of the week. Should he as a merchant, clerk, manufacturer, labor-unionist, citizen, Republican, or Democrat, be lapped by the new currents of thought, and yet as a churchman be content to lie in stagnant pool? It would be a strange and anomalous condition.

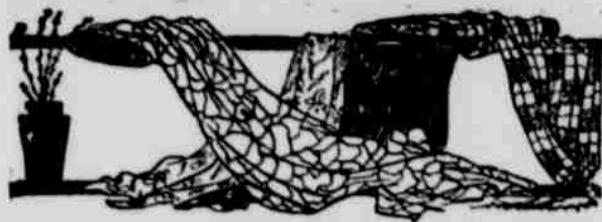
Major Charles N. Hulvey, U. S. Army, has been detailed to the State College Summer School to give instruction in physical education. The Summer School is one of the two in the United States to have a military officer detailed for service during the session, and this is being done by the government by way of experiment. If it proves a success it will doubtless be extended so as to embrace other Summer Schools another summer.

Knavery's best helper is the man who minds his own business and neglects the public business.

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President's Cousin Lives in Wadesboro.

Wadesboro Ansonian.

The Ansonian learned several weeks ago that a first cousin of President Woodrow Wilson has lived in Wadesboro for nearly twelve months. This good citizen is Mr. B. S. Mashburn and he holds a responsible position with the Seaboard Air Line railway company here. He is, in fact, a double first cousin of the popular president and is so very modest about it that he declined to permit the Ansonian to publish the facts. But we have waited and waited and now take the liberty of giving the public the facts, even at the expense of losing a good friend.

Of course Mr. Mashburn is not ashamed of his distinguished cousin; he is very proud of him and the resemblance is so striking that persons who have seen the president cannot doubt the blood kin which exists. Mr. Mashburn has lived in various parts of the United States and entertained Mr. Wilson two years ago in Charlotte when he came there to deliver an address. The fact that he has held various positions with the Seaboard during the past thirty-five years is evidence of his loyalty and staying qualities. As above stated, he is proud of his distinguished cousin and believes that one of Mr. Wilson's finest qualities is his extreme modesty, coupled with his great power of concentrating his mind.

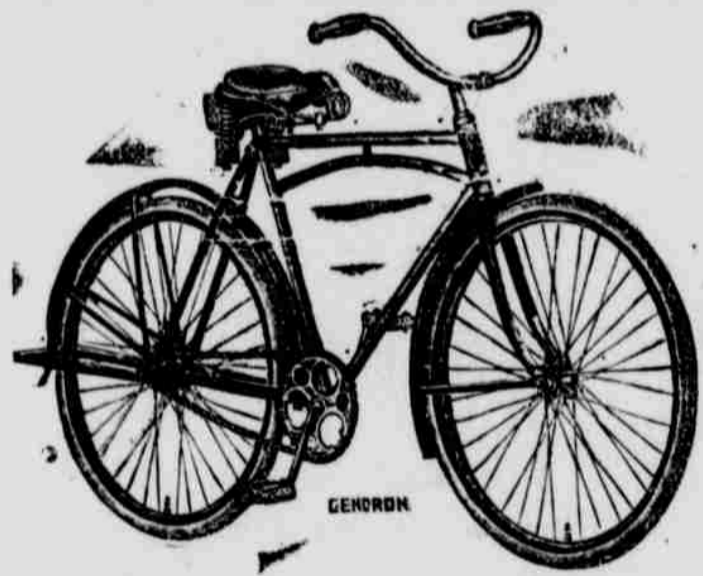
Some time broke into the Brown Drug Company of Warsaw and stole practically the entire supply of morphine. Access to the store was gained through the plate glass window which was cracked. Nothing was molested but the "dope" and no arrests have been made although suspicion points to an out of town man.

Featured by the presence of Col. S. S. Graves, chief forester, the one day conference of forest supervisors and timbermen from North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, held in Asheville, resulted in action being taken by which appeals will be made to the governments of the three states to enact legislation providing for the conservation and perpetuation of the forests in their borders. Colonel Graves said the situation in America is critical and something must be done or the supply of timber would be exhausted.

Grady Moore, a nine-year-old boy of Mrs. Ophelia Lamm of near Wilson, was kicked to death by a mule Monday afternoon. The sad news was wired to his brother in training for an aviator at Camp Bragg, and reached him too late to catch a train. His lieutenant remarked: "Cheer up, young man; I'll get you to your home in a jiffy." And after leaving instructions that the mayor of Wilson be requested to make a good landing place with a large white cross, the big Curtis machine "hopped off," and landed on the Country club golf links in the vicinity where the tragedy occurred in time for the funeral Tuesday afternoon. The distance, 75 miles, was covered in one hour and 20 minutes.

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