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The Mount Airy News.

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MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1913.

NO. 21

MR. A. H. MERRITT PASSES.

One of the Oldest and Most Honored Citizens of this City Called Home.

Mr. A. H. Merritt died at his home in this city on North Main street last Friday at 11:30, P. M. after a week's confinement with a cold that developed into pneumonia. He attended services at church on Sunday before his death and the day being very chilly he developed cold that brought on a condition from which he could not recover. At the time of his death all his children were with him, Dr. L. H. Merritt, of Forest City, Ark. having arrived Friday at noon. His death was not unexpected, for his condition was such, and because of his advanced age, that little hopes for his recovery could be entertained.

The funeral was held in Central Methodist church of which he was a member at two o'clock Sunday afternoon and the interment in Oakdale cemetery by the side of his wife who preceded him to the great beyond. The services at the church were conducted by his pastor, Rev. W. H. Willis assisted by Rev. D. Vance Price. The music for the occasion was appropriate and the tributes paid to his memory were worthy of the noble life he lived.

The Masons had charge of the burial services and met at the lodge room at one o'clock and marched to his home from which they followed the remains to the church and from there to the cemetery. Rev. T. H. King, Worshipful Master had charge of the Masonic services. A very large number of Masons attended and paid their last sad tribute to his memory.

Mr. A. H. Merritt was born in Chatham County, N. C., July 18, 1832 and died at his home in Mt. Airy, N. C., Nov. 13, 1913, being in his eighty second year at the time of his death. He was prepared for college and graduated with distinction from the University of North Carolina in 1856. After completing his education he made teaching his profession and taught in some of the best known schools in the state for some years. For a time he was at the head of the academy at Olin in Iredell county. For a number of years he was principal of the high school in his home town, Pittsboro. In 1880 without his knowledge he was nominated by his party for State Senator and was elected by a large majority, so great was his popularity as a citizen. Three times he was elected to this honorable position and served his district and state with honor and distinction. He was one of the leading spirits in the Legislature at that time who made the subject of prohibition prominent in the state, and it was because of his strong support of this measure that it became a live question in the state until the victory for temperance was won.

For many years he served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the State University and by his wise councils helped to make this one of the greatest schools of the country.

For a number of years he served his county as Superintendent of Public Instruction and his friends often urged him to become a candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, but he was never the man to seek any office, and only for his retiring disposition he could have filled the greatest positions within the gift of the people. He was a finished scholar and owned a valuable library which he collected during the many years of his life. In his active days he was a speaker of no mean ability and was often called upon to deliver literary addresses on important occasions. There were few speakers who were more eloquent and he had a vein of humor that always made his addresses highly entertaining.

In 1861 he was married to Miss Sarah Purvis, of Iredell County, and to this union were born seven children, all of whom survive. They are Dr. L. H. Merritt, of Forest City, Ark., W. E. Merritt, C. R. Merritt, and Haywood Merritt, Mrs. M. H. Sparger, and Misses Anna and Bess Merritt,

all of this city.

In 1901 he sold his property in Pittsboro and moved to this city where his sons were engaged in business. On an adjoining lot to that of his son, W. E. Merritt, on North Main street, he built a beautiful home and spent the remainder of his days, never engaging in active business after moving here.

While he took no active part in business of any kind he retained his interest in every phase of life. He was an active worker in his church and took a keen interest in all public questions both local and general. He was one of the best informed men on all public matters even up to the time of his death. He was a man who had opinions, and yet he was not the least disposed to intrude them upon any man. But when occasion demanded he was always ready to take a stand and let the world know his position.

The city and state has lost a valuable citizen. The life he lived was a blessing to humanity and left the world better because of his sojourn here. He leaves an honorable name to his family who occupy positions of credit and responsibility in business and social life. Peace to his ashes.

A Fearful Toll.

Atlanta Journal.

The chief of the Rome fire department, H. C. Harrington, is authority for the incomplete statistical statement that one hundred and fifty children were burned to death by open fireplaces in Georgia in the year ending November 1. Chief Harrington's information is limited to clippings from the Atlanta and Rome newspapers, and as they do not include by any means all of the deaths which he seeks to note, it is a safe assumption that at least three hundred children, and very probably more than that, were burned to death in the state during that period.

Nine of the number were burned to death in Atlanta, the fire chief finds. Since November 1 there have been several new reports. The latest is not a day old. An Atlanta child was saved from immediate death by her crippled brother and may survive.

Stories of these disasters are of appalling frequency in the daily news. Were Chief Harrington able to collect all of them from every paper of the state, his figures would show a truly staggering total beyond any doubt. His benevolent intent in gathering them seems to be to impress upon the public the danger which they uncover, in order that at least a few of the children who otherwise would be sacrificed by carelessness to the flames may be saved.

A campaign of education is demanded by the conditions here revealed. The state fire marshal, W. R. Joyner, has been urged to issue a bulletin warning parents against the peril of open fires that are unsecured. The proposition is a most commendable one. Not only should the marshal direct as much of his attention as is possible and proper to this subject, but every newspaper in the state should remark upon it with a warning. Any waste is to be condemned, but a waste of human life—such wanton waste of human life as this—is unpardonable.

Now is the time of the year when the danger grows big again, for fires are blazing in every home in the state and children who have learned to walk since last winter are toddling upon the hearth. In some way, every open fire should be screened; and particularly is the precaution imperative in a home where there are children. To neglect it means to invite sudden and awful suffering and sadness.

Valuable Land for Sale.

I have about 25 acres of land in suburbs of Mt. Airy on Fanny Gap road. This land lays well. Has had twelve thousand loads of manure on it in five years. Been used for trucking. Is in high state of cultivation.

O. V. Belton.
For further particulars, see Robert Belton.

PROGRESS MADE IN WESTERN DISTRICT.

What the Demonstration Agent Has Accomplished in Piedmont Section.

By E. S. Millsaps.

In the Fall of 1907 a young man from Auburn, Ala., came to North Carolina and began to talk about raising 50 bushels of corn and a bale of cotton on an acre on soils which had been growing about 14 bushels of corn and 160 to 180 pounds of lint cotton. At that time few men were growing such yields and the young man created a small sensation. His work was known as the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work and was carried on under the Bureau of Department of Agriculture. During the Fall of 1907 eight counties in this section of the State and four in the eastern section of the State began this work under the direction of this young man, Mr. C. R. Hudson, with a local agent in charge of each county. The eight counties of the Piedmont were Union, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Gaston, Lincoln, Iredell, Rowan and Catawba. At first the work was supported entirely by funds from the Department of Agriculture at Washington from a fund provided for the purpose by the General Education Board, of New York. Later the demand for the work became so great that the limited funds could not meet the demands upon it, and a ruling was made that any county under the work would have to contribute one-half of the money necessary to pay the salary of the local agent. The work immediately began to spread over the State.

By 1910 the work had grown so much that two assistants became necessary, and in 1911 a third assistant was added into four groups of counties or districts, the western North Carolina, the central, the south eastern, and the north eastern districts. These districts were placed in charge of H. E. Browne, T. D. McLean and E. S. Millsaps.

The western district is composed of the counties of Guilford and Randolph and all the counties to the west of them. At present the work is in operation in 22 of the counties, as follows: Guilford, with Mr. E. H. Anderson, University of Missouri; Rockingham, P. S. Walker, farmer and North Carolina A. & M. college short course; Randolph, S. E. Coble, farmer; Davidson, J. E. Meredith, farmer; Forsyth, Bruce Anderson, V. P. L.; Stokes, I. G. Ross, farmer; Surry, J. W. Johnson, farmer; Wilkes, A. G. Henderson, farmer and short course; Iredell, J. A. Arey, farmer and North Carolina A. & M. college; Rowan, R. W. Freeman, Clensn College; Stanly, R. L. Lipe, farmer; Mecklenburg, R. W. Graeber, North Carolina A. & M. College; Lincoln, C. P. Miller, farmer; Cleveland, G. L. Murrain, University of Georgia; Catawba, H. K. Foster, Ohio A. & M. College; Yadkin, J. C. Dolbins, farmer; Caldwell, G. M. Goforth, farmer; Burke, R. B. Moore, farmer and North Carolina A. and M. College short course; Buncombe, E. D. Weaver, farmer; Henderson, E. L. Perkins, farmer and North Carolina A. and M. College; Macon, A. L. Siler, farmer and short course; Rutherfordton, C. M. Lynch, farmer. The work will be extended to the other counties as funds are available. There is now being expended in the above counties \$21,000, one-half of which is contributed by the United States Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and the other half by the counties.

The writer has been connected with the work from the beginning and has seen it grow from 12 counties to 65 counties. During this time I have traveled from one end of the State to the other and have observed a growth in the State's agricultural development that is without a parallel. During these years there have been added to the State's crops more than 16,000,000 bu. of corn, 2,000,000 bu. of wheat, and 500,000 bales of cotton, besides increases in all the smaller crops. There is increased interest in livestock of all kinds, and in the general better-

ment of rural conditions. These men as they have gone over the State have been active in advocating good roads, good schools, better farm houses and better equipment of the farms. The men are in close co-operation with the State Department of Agriculture and they have been of great assistance to the State in increasing the interest of farmers in the mountain section in fruit growing and orchard work. These men have been untiring in their efforts to promote civic righteousness in the rural districts, and have encouraged better sanitary conditions. Seven years ago the farm house with screened doors and windows was the exception, while now the house without them is the exception.

From the beginning the farm demonstration agents have advocated the use of better seeds, better farm practices, better tools and implements better work stock and better marketing methods. One strong point has been the production on the farm of all the home supplies such as meat, corn, wheat, hay, and fruits and vegetables. Deeper plowing, shallow cultivation and the use of better seeds have been the three strongest points. Meetings have been held in almost every county and in many of them in almost every section of the county to give instruction in the fundamental practices. The district agent travels from 12,000 to 15,000 miles yearly and reaches thousands of farmers with his message of good farming and better rural living.

This work has the enthusiastic support of every business man and of most of the farmers. Farmers, merchants and bankers say it is the greatest work of this century.

The President of the United States pronounces it the greatest agency for better farming he has known; it is a pet work of the Secretary of Agriculture; Major Graham, the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture, says the demonstration agents are doing more good for the State than any other body of men. It is the crowning work of one of the Nation's greatest men, Dr. Seaman A. Knapp. The agricultural wealth of the South has doubled since Doctor Knapp promulgated his "Ten Commandments of Agriculture."

There could be a volume written on the progress of the South in the last few years, but it is an open book to all men. The traveler from the car window can behold it; it is a subject of comment in every hotel lobby; the platform speaker applauds it; the pulpit orator praises it; our towns and cities show it in their streets and show windows; it may be seen in almost every county in better roads, homes, and schools; it is seen upon the persons of all our people in better clothes and smiling faces; our colleges and high schools tell the tale in full dormitories, and on every hand are seen the evidences of progress and wealth. In the beginning of it, in it all, and through it all is seen the work of the farm demonstration agents.

Federals Are Executed.

El Paso, Tex., Nov. 16.—Two former federal officials of Juarez who were taken prisoners by General Pancho Villa's rebel troops, were executed at Juarez today. They are Pablo Elvayo, an official in the Juarez police department, and Juan Cordova, chief of the Juarez secret police.

The executions took place at the Juarez cemetery, the condemned men standing on the brink of newly dug graves and falling in when the firing squad shot them. Both men were sentenced to death by General Villa.

A squad of 14 federal prisoners were taken to the cemetery today 89 of the soldiers who were killed in the Juarez battle. One of the prisoners, fearing he was to be shot, tried to escape and was shot by the guards.

The rebel officers say there are more executions to take place in Juarez and that all the federal volunteer troops, federal regular and volunteer army officers will be killed. The soldiers of the regular army will be pardoned.

HUERTA DECLARES HE WILL NOT QUIT.

Foreign Ministers Think Drastic Action May Be Necessitated.

Mexico City, Nov. 15.—Regardless of rumors and notwithstanding the insistence of far seeing friends, General Huerta appeared more determined tonight than at any time during the past week to retain the presidency and carry on his plans of installing the Congress.

Huerta reiterated today that he continues the head of the Mexican Government and the fact that he took no step towards preventing the inauguration of the new Congress as demanded by the United States was construed at the Embassy and the Legations as indicative of what may be expected in the future. Representatives from the majority of the foreign Governments appeared to believe that General Huerta had brought affairs to such a point that drastic action may be necessitated.

"Oh, I shall not quit," said General Huerta tonight. "I shall continue just as I have been doing to put forth my best efforts to bring about the pacification of the country and thus fulfill the promise I made on taking office."

It was suggested to the President that conditions might become such that foreigners, such as Americans, would be in imminent danger.

General Huerta calmly agreed that this might be so but added, "in that case I shall do all I can to protect them."

The President thought a moment and continued: "True, the rubble of the city might rise but I would not hesitate to apply the severest methods in my power to restore order and punish the guilty."

The meeting of the new House of Deputies reflected the chaotic conditions brought about by the dissolution of the old Congress. Minister of Justice Alkape was expected to officiate at the opening but opposition developed and Gonzalo Zuniga, Senor Alkape's secretary and himself a Deputy, appeared in his stead. Nominally for a few minutes he presided but there was little of parliamentary form observed in what followed. One group called for one man and another group for another man to act as chairman.

In vain Senor Zuniga called upon Deputies for order, insisting that they observe legal procedure.

"Don't talk to us of law," cried Salvadore Diaz Miron, editor of Imperial and an ardent supporter of Huerta. "What have we to do with law? We are greater than the law. The country is in a delicate condition and it is our duty to proceed in the most expeditious manner."

The controversy was ended by the appointment without balloting of Enrique Paz, as president of the body, to serve until the formal inauguration November 20.

Secretaries and a committee to examine credentials then were appointed and the session adjourned at 6 o'clock.

The roll of Deputies included all members of President Huerta's staff, the chief aid of the Minister of War, the private secretary of the President, the private secretary of the Minister of War, a large number of men more or less closely identified with other Government officials and many well-known detectives who had been employed in the Capital.

No disorders attended the preliminary session of the Deputies. No troops were to be seen in the streets, nor were any stationed in the building. There were few spectators but policemen and "plain clothes" men always were in evidence.

Except for the fact that the Washington Administration had said the Congress must not meet, the action of the Chamber ordinarily would have aroused no interest. Attention usually centers only on the formal opening.

Early today the seriousness of the situation appeared to be realized both by officials at the Palace and by the people in the streets. If a time limit was fixed by Washington, in which

Huerta had to make concessions, this was not known to the public and outwardly at least, the situation had not changed from what it was yesterday.

Certain of General Huerta's friends, with due circumspection, continued their efforts to persuade him to give in, but there was another group, which was more open in its advice. These men urged the President not to concede to any demands.

The Cabinet was by no means agreed upon the course which General Huerta should follow. Those who favored his yielding are not too insistent upon their point of view, as the Provisional President has established a reputation for not receiving in the most friendly spirit advice contrary to his own opinion.

Rumors that he intended to prevent Congress from meeting and even that he was willing to resign immediately without specifying who should be his successor were current all day, but equally current were rumors for an opposite character.

Returns to Jail for His Nineteenth Winter.

Denver, Nov. 15.—Society item from the county jail:

"Mr. Otto Robinson has returned from his summer travels and is spending his nineteenth season at the jail. The jail has no more enthusiastic admirer in the country than Mr. Robinson, who tries always to be the first of its winter sojourners."

In connection with this item it is interesting to note that Mr. Robinson has the record for sojourning at the jail. The jail was built twenty years ago, and the second winter Mr. Robinson was numbered among the season visitors. He liked it so well that he returned the next winter and the next. If he missed one winter the jail would be a lonesome place, and inquiries would be sent abroad to learn his whereabouts.

He always makes his appearance about this time of the year and in some way manages to get a sentence of 90 days. At the end of 90 days if the weather is still cold he pleads with the judge to give him another 90 days' sentence.

He knows every crook and cranny of the jail, being more familiar with it than any of the guards.

"Oh, you don't have to tell me where to go," he said airily to a guard on his last arrival. "I know more about this place than any of you fellows."

Robinson is 58 years old and has never had a day's illness in his life. He says work sends a man to his grave before his time.

Special Train to Richmond, Va., November 27th, 1913.

On account of Annual football game between University of North Carolina and University of Virginia the Southern Railway will operate a special train consisting of first class day coaches and standard Pullman sleeping cars from Charlotte, Salisbury, High Point, Reidsville, Danville and intermediate points to Richmond and return. The Special train will leave Charlotte at 8 P. M. Wednesday, Nov. 26th, and arrive Richmond 6:50 a. m. Thursday, Nov. 27th. Returning will leave Richmond midnight November 27. The following low round trip fares will apply from stations named:

Mt. Airy, Pinnacle, Donnsaha, Rural Hall, King, Pilot Mtn., Dalton, Tobaccoville, German-ton, Ararat. Fares from these points will be \$4.50 round trip.

Rates from all branch line points on same basis. Tickets sold for this special train will also be good returning on regular train No. 13, leaving Richmond 10:45, A. M., Nov. 28th.

Passengers from branch lines will use regular trains to and from junction point, connecting with special train.

A rare opportunity to see Richmond and the greatest football game of the season at small cost.

For Pullman reservations or any other information, see your nearest Agent, or write,

R. H. DeButts, D. P. A., Charlotte, N. C.