

Mount Airy News.

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DISCARD THE KNEE PANTS.

This town is large and important enough to discard its knee pants. It is a great day in the life of a growing boy when the time comes to lay aside the knee breeches and put on a man's clothes. It makes nm nervous to think of the change, and he honestly thinks that every one is looking at him, and that too with the eye of a critic. But he soon gets over his embarrassment and never again goes back to the garb of a boy.

The same is true of the life of a growing community of people known and designated as a city. First a village, then a town and from that to a city. At first the taxes and dues of all kinds are collected from the people with an understanding that there is a big element of uncertainty about the wisdom of the whole transaction. Many seem strongly disposed to hold on to the idea that any town tax is a burden that should in some way be laid aside. But as the town grows it out-grows these ideas and gradually takes on the methods and ways of the progressive city.

Down at Statesville, Winston-Salem and dozens of the smaller towns of the state they no longer hunt up the citizen and have a man approach him in a delicate way to collect the amount he pays for water, light and taxes. In these progressive towns that are no longer wearing knee pants they expect the citizen to come to the office of the collector and pay his dues. If the citizen fails then he is not expected to get the service longer.

Here in Mount Airy we are yet holding on to a number of customs that we could discard if we only would. Two men put in a large part of their time collecting the amounts due the town, when one could easily do the work if the people were expected to come to the collector rather than have the collector come to them.

There is no excuse for standing, dirty water in a town like this where the natural drainage is perfect. To allow such conditions here is dangerously near to being criminal. What we need to do is to get out of our knee pants and handle these questions that apply to the public welfare in a way that is becoming to the modern progressive community to which class we naturally belong.

The Registration in Surry.

The registration in this county last Tuesday for the war draft was carried out without any hitch of any kind. All day the men selected to do the clerical work here at Mount Airy worked faithfully at the task of filling out the cards and men almost by the hundreds patiently waited their turn to answer the required queries.

It was a quiet, sober, serious gathering of men, and there was a look on the faces of the strong young fellows that said that they were ready to do their duty if called and to give good account of themselves if the lot fell to them to go. Men who have seen army service looked at the lines formed and waiting to register and speculated on the kind of soldiers they would make once they were well trained. It was the opinion that a finer lot would not be wanted by a commanding officer.

In the two wards of Mount Airy Township the registration showed that there are 671 men here. Of these eight are foreigners and not subject to draft, not being citizens of this country. Of the number seventy are colored. Three hundred and eighty-one claimed exemption on account of dependent relatives, these being in the main married men. Sixty-six claimed exemption because of total disability. Twenty four for occupational reasons. One hundred and ninety registered who claimed no exemption.

Reports from all over the county indicate that the registration was carried out with no confusion and that the total for the county was 2,205.

Surry Veterans at Washington.

That reunion at Washington was something to be remembered by the Veterans who attended. Dr. W. S. Taylor, of this city, went along with the boys, and the way he tells of the treatment they received is something fearful. He says that it is a fact that great numbers of old men, who appeared to 80, were able to get no place to sleep and hardly a place to sit down. He says that it is a fact that great numbers of men were not able to get lodging of any kind. In his own case Dr. Taylor says that he was paying \$1.00 per day for a room, and when the rush of visitors became so great the hotel keeper demanded and collected four dollars per day for his room. This was the case in all parts of the city, and it appeared that the hotel men were willing to turn robber and extract from the throng every cent they could. The treatment given the visitors was such as to bring forth the severest comments on every side and will cause the old men and their friends to have too little respect for that city in the future. It appears to be a most unfortunate affair that should never have been allowed if possible to prevent it.

Town Affairs.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Commissioners of this town last Tuesday some matters of local interest were disposed of.

Mr. John Banner was re-elected to the position of Water and Light Commissioner. Mr. W. E. Merritt and Atty. W. F. Carter were each re-elected on the School Board. The Chief of Police, Mr. Thompson, resigned and agreed to remain on the force until his successor can be selected. Dr. R. W. Reece resigned as Commissioner and Mr. Claud Shelton was elected in his place. There was some business that could not be disposed of because the town's attorney was not present, and the session was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday night of next week.

The sanitary committee recommended that an all-the-time health officer be employed for the months of June, July, August and September. This subject will come up for final action at the meeting next Tuesday night.

Bad Auto Accident.

An accident last Sunday afternoon in which the car of Mr. George Hutchinson, of this city, and young man from High Point riding a motorcycle came in conflict, nearly caused the High Point man to lose his life. The collision was two miles north of Pilot Mountain about four o'clock Sunday afternoon. Mr. Hutchinson was turning a curve in the road and the man on the motorcycle was coming in the opposite direction. The man on the motorcycle in turning out of the road to pass allowed his wheel to run into a wagon rut. As quick as thought the wheel fell from under him and threw him directly in front of the on-coming machine. It was just such an accident as might happen any time and one that no one could avoid. The young man's body was passed over by the car and he was badly bruised up about the chest. Just how badly he was injured we have not been able to learn, but we understand that he was carried to a hospital and that everything is being done that can be to restore him to health.

Information For Farmers.

There is a certain lawyer in this country who wants the farmers to all know that he has found a newspaper clipping that gives a certain remedy for potato bugs. Here it is and if it proves to be a success in the hands of our friends then they are that much the better. Take limbs of a cedar tree and boil them in water. Sprinkle this water on the potato vines and you will no longer be bothered with the bugs. We would be willing to vouch for the opinion of the lawyer on law, but pass along this receipt as a matter of experiment for our friends. It will not cost much to try it and if it proves to be a success it is cheaper than patronizing the chemists for their poisons.

A Word To Merchants.

The question of systematic hours for the merchants of our town has been agitated from time to time for several years. Some of the salesmen have tried repeatedly to effect an agreement among the merchants by which all of the stores dealing in the same commodities would close at the same hour; seven o'clock being suggested for the summer months.

The Wholesale, Hardware, Furniture, Gent's Furnishings and some other stores have cheerfully responded to the request for systematic hours and close early with entirely satisfactory results.

Now what about the hours of our retail grocery stores?

Both employees and proprietors need recreation, rest and more sleep in order to render the best service.

Man was never intended to be wound up like a machine and run till he runs down. He must have rest and recreation in order to render his most efficient service in life, accomplish his highest possibilities and preserve his strength and longevity.

Man is a social and intellectual being, he requires time to mingle with friends, read and other diversions of mind and body.

If he is required to keep store till from nine to ten o'clock, then spend an hour in social circles, an hour with his family, read the daily papers, a chapter from the Bible, it is necessarily eleven to twelve o'clock when he retires for sleep. He must be up by six o'clock in the morning in order to be on time at his place of business. This gives six to seven hours for sleep which is inadequate for the average business man.

He must be deprived of the social hour or the library or family association or have shorter hours.

No merchant in town has more business than can be transacted in twelve hour days. Then why make it necessary to require fifteen to eighteen hours in which to do twelve hours work?

Some of the town boys are too anxious to get on the streets at night from under the restraining influence of home where they ought to be reading good books, preparing their lessons and Bible School lessons if you please. The open stores provide inviting attraction for a large class. There are a number of boys and some men who should and would spend more of their evenings at home, strengthening the family ties but for the open stores which furnish convenient lounging places for them.

We have as good merchants as are to be found anywhere, but they need to establish confidence in each other. They need to agree through their Merchants Association upon a reasonable hour for closing their stores, and every man of them live strictly up to their agreement. Each one says, if the other fellow will close, I will close.

Now let them all get together, agree to close during the summer months at seven o'clock, eight o'clock during the winter, and nine o'clock on Saturday nights the year round. Give the fifty to sixty men, boys and girls behind the counters a chance. Try out this plan for a while and note the splendid results.

Light and fuel account diminished, efficiency in service increased, social ties strengthened, business jealousies removed, business confidence restored, mutual interest and sympathy between proprietor and employee established.

More life, spirit, elasticity and a more pleasant demeanor during business hours. A better understanding and a stronger affiliation between our merchants. A better, cleaner, purer town.

LET US TRY IT OUT, ONE AND ALL. A friend to all.

Resisted War Draft and Was Killed by Posse.

Fort Worth, Texas, June 5.—E. H. Fulcher, said to be a member of the Farmers & Laborers Protective Association of America, who had hidden himself in the woods, heavily armed for the announced purpose of resisting conscription, was shot and killed near Midway yesterday by a posse of officers from Hood and Palo Pinto Counties it was learned today.

SPRING IS HERE AT LAST

The beautiful spring time has come at last.

The bright balmy days will make the ladies think about warm weather fabrics.

We are pleased to say that despite the scarcity of goods of all kinds we have a splendid line of all kinds Spring and Summer Dress Goods from the cheapest to the best.

Big line of plain and fancy Voiles, Organdies, Lawns, Batiste and in fact everything shown this season in wash fabrics, and while the prices are very high on some things we have some rare values to offer the public in this line. In fact we are in position to sell you most anything you want with the exception of staple cotton goods as low as you ever bought them, and in fact some Big Bargains in some things.

Now don't put off buying your goods until your friends and neighbors get all the pretty patterns. Remember first come is first served and our stock is larger now than it will be any more this season.

Our line of plain white goods including Organdies, Voiles, Batiste, Poplins, and in fact all the leading things in plain white goods is complete and we are in position to give you very interesting prices on them.

We are always headquarters on Laces and Embroideries and our stock this time is up to the standard.

Be sure to come in and examine our line before buying—will guarantee to please you and save you money.

Yours very truly,

J. L. HARRISON

Detroit Vapor Oil Stoves

Here is a wickless, odorless oil stove that lights and cooks like city gas. Burners are heavy grey annealed iron, last a life time, give intense heat, save 1/4 on fuel over gas, coal, wood or ordinary oil stoves. Heat directly under utensils. Two burners in oven assure prize baking results. Splendidly built, beautifully finished, requires no blacking. Makes cool summer kitchen. No back-breaking stooping.

Extremely simple, safe and quick working.

Mazy Styles, \$15 and up.

Mr. W. A. Blizzard, of Dillion, S. C.

Special Representative of the factory will be with us

Thursday, June 7th

and you are cordially invited to call and see these wonderful cook stoves and ranges.

W. E. Merritt Co.

