

Mount Airy News.

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LOOKING BACK.

Another Christmas has come and another year is behind us. A look backward at what has transpired is worth while, though many, no doubt, hardly have time for such. It has been a year long to be remembered by many. It has been a year that has been of unusual opportunity to those engaged in agricultural pursuits, for farm products of all kinds have sold at unheard of prices. The result is that many citizens who have been burdened with debt for years have been able to free their homes of incumbrance and pay debts that had been incurred in building a home.

In a great number of homes a son has been called into the army to aid in the world struggle. Many of these sons have gone away without being called, but as volunteers who were anxious and willing to get into the big game as many think of it.

It has been a year of great opportunity to the poor man who works for wages. He has been able to command a price for his labor that gave him independence. Men who have worked for years at a small day wage of a dollar and a half or possibly two dollars, have gone away from here and secured employment at public works where they were paid as much as five dollars a day. The result has been that these citizens have been able to save money and pay debts and buy supplies as they have never been able to do before.

The times are such that the servant problem has assumed almost the same conditions as prevail in the states in the west. There is no longer a servant class here. It is almost out of fashion. "Drawers of water" are no longer to be had, and the man who wants wood chopped and odd jobs looked after is usually up against the problem of doing the work himself.

During the year we have witnessed the world conflict spread until the nations are practically all drawn into the great universal war. It is the one topic of conversation and no man knows what to expect next. Since the first republics were able to get established the monarchs lost no opportunity to crush them and show that a republic is not a proper form of government. In this war we have seen all the republics line up together against the states that have held on to the monarchical form of government.

These conditions have brought about prices in food product that are new to all men. During the year we have seen corn sell for \$2.50 per bushel and meat go as high as thirty cents a pound. Not many items of food that have not doubled in value on the markets.

The seasons during the year have been favorable to get production of all kinds of feed and food products and the year closes with an abundant harvest of all kinds.

CUSTOMS.

Customs are not formed in a day or in a year. This is the way we have of beginning an article on the one subject of comment in this town these cold days—fuel. Custom makes laws almost as binding as the laws of the Medes and Persians. Custom has decreed in this town that a citizen shall burn coal, and it begins to appear like there are many citizens who will see that the custom is not violated even if they freeze. There are a million cords of wood in a mile of this town, if one may be allowed to speak in an extravagant way. Of course there are not a million cords in a mile of the town, but there is a plenty to keep the people supplied if they cared to get out and put the wood in shape to use. The Town has a body of timber—several hundred acres, the water shed, just west of the city limits, and on this land thousands of cords of wood are standing. Now the Town will glad-

ly sell this wood on the stump to any one who will pay a reasonable price. Most of this wood can be reached in less than two miles drive from Town. And this is not the only wood that can be secured near here. Banner and Lovill have a large body of timber a half mile west of the depot and they want to sell the wood. On all sides one hears of wood for sale.

But when you get out among the people and hear them talk you find that they are not wanting to buy wood. They are hoping that in some way they will be able to get coal. They have been burning coal for years and they have put in coal grates where they once had an open fire place and they have discarded the wood burning stove for a little coal heater that will not take wood. And so they are not fixed to burn wood and are hoping to get coal.

One interesting feature of the situation is that if a man wants cheap wood he will have to get out and do the chopping himself. There is no cheap labor here to do the work. Approach a colored man who used to chop wood for you at fifty cents a cord and see now if you are able to employ him or even to entertain him on the subject. If you approach one of these citizens you get something like this: "Boss, how much you willin to pay for work?" Well uncle John, I used to get wood corded up for fifty cents, but I am willing to pay more now since everything has advanced in price. "Say Boss, I been gettin four-five dollars a day out in West Virginia ever since last August. Boss, sometimes I make much as six dollars a day." But Uncle John you know you could not expect us to pay such prices for corded up wood. "I knows dat boss, but Ise goin back out to West Virginia after Christmas and I get five-six dollars a day out there."

And you never get in a mile of a trade with that negro. The trouble is the negro is telling the truth, and more, he has plenty of money in his pocket sometimes, and he is not working for his daily bread as he used to do. He has saved a little and is going to loaf. ~~to the man-time the wood stands on~~ ~~velop and cause coal to be shipped in~~ so that he can get a supply.

Custom decreed years ago that a load of wood should bring in this town about a dollar and a half. And a citizen can hardly make up his mind to pay more. But now the farmer wants as much as five dollars for some loads. Not much wood can be bought here for less than five dollars a cord. It appears that we have a number of people here, a very large number, who are willing to take chances on getting coal, and no doubt when they see they cannot get the coal they will be able to get wood, even at an advanced price over what they are willing to pay.

THE ARMY OFFICERS.

There is much being said these days about the attitude of officers towards private soldiers. Senator Overman and many good citizens are much worked up over officers refusing to associate in a social way with the men who are privates. These officers get credit for assuming a superior air that is extremely objectionable to any man of common sense.

The truth is that the same conduct in private life attracts no attention. Who is there who does not know citizens who are so everlastingly stuck on themselves as to be above the average man. These self conceited, self-deluded, self-important citizens are often men of ability and make good in a business way. They know enough to know that they must meet their fellow man on the level in business, but in a social way they are never known to mix with the common herd. They make money and sometimes are useful citizens in a way, but they are never liked and the editor who must write their obituary is endangering his everlasting welfare with Saint Peter when he tackles the job. In civil life the men who can snob their fellow men are but little noticed, and men pass then knowing that they are of no great importance in any way. But let one of these self-conceited citizens get in the garb of an army officer and he becomes a terror to those who are so unfortunate as to be subject to his com-

mand. We suspect the truth in that there are no great number of these officers who are attracting so much attention. Every one of them should be reduced to the ranks and not allowed to command men who are nine times out of ten their superior in real worth to the country.

Logan Vernon Gets 16 Years

Some weeks ago The News carried the story of the arrest of Logan Vernon in Oregon charged with shooting to death his neighbor, Ewel Rippey twelve years ago. Sheriff Edwards of Carroll county brought him back and his trial was had in Hillsville last week. Since he has been away his father and mother and a sister and some of the witnesses have died. But there yet lived some of the witnesses who knew of the facts. The jury heard the case and returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree and fixed the penalty at sixteen years in prison.

At the time of the crime both young men were neighbors and quarreled one day and the shooting followed. Vernon escaped and has worked on a farm since that time. He was only 20 years old when he shot his neighbor twelve years ago.

New Enterprise for Mount Airy

The Golden Belt Mfg. Co., of Durham has for years had a large business in this city and section in the way of having tobacco sacks strung. Families come here and get the sacks and put the strings in the top and return them. These sacks are carried out into the country districts for a distance of twenty miles around. Now the sacks, up to this time, have been cut out and sewed up at other points and then sent here to be strung. The Golden Belt Manufacturing Co. has developed such a large business here they pay \$2,000 a week for the work that is done in this section. The business has grown to that point that it is now considered wise to no longer have the sacks put together away from here, and they will after the first of next year establish a plant at this ~~to the man-time the wood stands on~~ ~~velop and cause coal to be shipped in~~ about twenty young women, and give regular employment the year round. Four or five men are now kept busy in the office in this city sending out and receiving the sacks as the people carry them away and return them ready for the tobacco. Mr. A. R. Strayhorn of Durham, was here this week completing plans for the new enterprise.

Miss Bodenheimer Dead.

The remains of Miss Neil Bodenheimer who died Tuesday night at Morganton, N. C. arrived in this remains were carried to the home of her sister, Mrs. R. H. Newton on Lebanon street and the funeral will be held at the First Baptist Church this afternoon at 2 o'clock, her pastor, Rev. T. H. King officiating. Miss Bodenheimer was a woman of fine character, bright and cheerful in spite of poor health, she is survived by one sister and her mother, who will arrive from High Point today to attend the funeral.

Letter From France.

Mr. C. W. Davis of this city this week received a letter from Mr. Willard who is now with the American army in France. The letter was dated Nov. 26. The place is given, "With the American army in France." Mr. Willard once lived here in Mount Airy and wanted his friends here to know that he is well and pleased with the present job. After telling of his state of health he mentioned in the letter that he likes well and that they get all the comforts desired. He says they have the Y. M. C. A. right with them, moving pictures and all kinds of amusements. He goes on to say that he would write many interesting things, but that letters are censored and soldiers are not allowed to say just anything. Mr. Willard's address is, Will Willard, Bat. I, 6th Reg. C. A. C. U. S. Army in France.

All the warehouses in this city will open for the sale of tobacco on January 2nd. It was published last week that they would not open until the 8th, but this is an error and those who may be expecting to come will note the change in date published.

As to Game Laws.

It is unlawful for any person or persons, firm or incorporation to ship, carry or to directly or indirectly aid or encourage in any way, the conveying of any quail or partridge for the purpose of trade or barter, gain or profit, to any point outside of Surry county. The open season for hunting in Surry County is from December 1st to January 15th. As above stated, shipment and sale of game are forbidden.

The above information was sent here to the Mayor of the town in answer to an inquiry as to just what the latest ruling are as to game laws in the county.

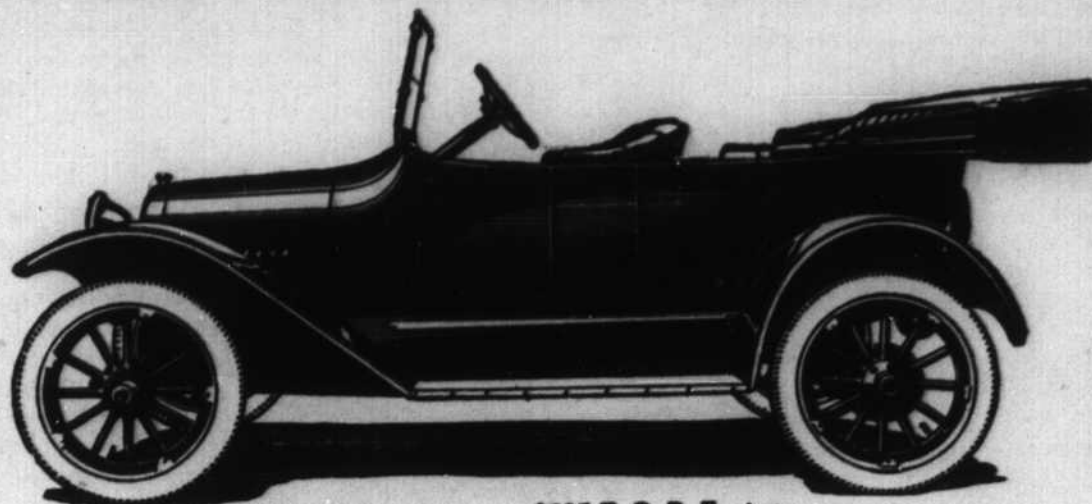
Capt. Hiram Stanly returned to Camp Sevier last week after spending a few days here with his family.

Farm For Sale!

631 Acres of fine Tobacco land for sale, located on two Sand clay roads in 6 miles of three Railroad stations, in two miles of a Farm Life School. 200 acres cleared, two extra good dwellings, two wells, two feed barns, sold for \$7,500. Priced to sell \$35.00 per acre. Also pack houses, wire fence pasture, some saw stock, lies well and a healthy community. The 1917 Tobacco crop five tenant dwellings, 9 good tobacco barns, two large other Farms of sale.

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