

Mount Airy News.

Mount Airy, N. C., Feb. 5th, 1920.

J. E. JOHNSON & SON, Publishers.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One year \$1.50
Six months75

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Mount Airy, N. C., under the act of Congress of March 3, 1872.

A WORD PERSONAL.

The editor of this paper desires to bring before the people of this section a matter of enough interest to demand a public statement.

Sometime during the holidays of last month conferences were held in this city by citizens looking to the future from a political standpoint. These conferences, so we have been told, were purely of a political nature by men who are interested in the future welfare of the Democratic party. It was decided in these conferences that the men who are leaders in the party want to own and control a newspaper to be published at this city. This paper that they desire to own would be a political paper in the truest sense of the word.

As the result of these conferences, or caucuses, a delegation of citizens came to see the publishers of the News and asked that we name a price at which all the interest in the paper, or a controlling interest, could be bought. After considering this proposition the citizens were informed that the News is not for sale, either in part or as a whole.

Now we are made to think that since these citizens are not able to buy the News, or to buy a controlling interest in it, they will organize a company and start a new paper.

We treat the matter with enough importance that we desire to say to the public what our reasons are for declining to sell our business.

The present editor of The News has been at the helm now for more than 15 years. These years represent a period of time during which, by close application, the business was established and put on a paying basis, in a small way. For some cause the town and the country districts have always given us a liberal patronage. And this has increased from year to year and is today larger and more satisfactory than ever before. The cordial relations that exist between this office and the general public are of such a pleasant nature that it is positive proof to us that our work is in a very large sense satisfactory to the general public. If we are not mistaken in this opinion then we see no good reason for disposing of our business until we see something better for us in other lines.

If the publishers of The News had any good reason for thinking that the general public of this section would welcome a change in the business management of the paper we would not hesitate to sell and look for congenial surroundings. But it would be hard to make us think that there is any such demand here, for we have customers literally by the hundreds who have given us all the business they have with a printing office for many years. These citizens seem to be satisfied with the service we are able to give them, and their patronage makes it possible for us to live and educate our children and accumulate a little for a rainy day, and that is about as much as most people have a right to expect from the public, at least it about as much as most people who serve the public are able to get in return for their services. And so in the light of these facts we find ourselves inclined to "let well enough alone".

As to a new paper being started here we would have it very clearly understood that we are not only not hostile to the enterprise, but are willing to lend a hand if we can serve the men who are behind the movement. What we have in mind is that we have machinery here in our office that could be used by the new publishers until they could get an outfit installed, which in these strange times is often secured with much delay. We confidently believe that another good live newspaper here would put new zest into the publishing business and cause the people to take a more lively interest in the local newspapers.

The policy of The News is too well known to call for any kind of statement. We have stood for the interests of our party and for the many causes that tend to make conditions better for the whole people, and this is true of all the years that are behind us. There has not been a public effort of any kind made in this section for the betterment of the country that did not get the hearty and able support of the publishers of The News. We are egotistical enough to think that the small success that has come to us in a business way has been mainly due to the fact that, from time to time, the paper has been able to render a real service to the country for be it known that a real newspaper is something more than a political

organ or a dispenser of personal news items. The paper that lives now and gets the support of the public, for any great length of time, must show that it has a right to live because of the real service it is able to render.
J. E. JOHNSON.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

To turn prophet and tell what the future has in store for the country is a very unsafe thing to do and a service that but few people will appreciate, but that is just what many learned men had gone and done. Men who are credited with being authority on subjects of finance say that a crisis in business is ahead as certain as time rolls along. They figure it out that the lack of production on the farms is certain to bring a catastrophe. These learned men have investigated and they have found that only a very small part of the army went back to the farms when the soldiers left the service. Many of these men were farmers and their experience in the army kept them from going back to their old occupation. Now they are workers in factories or citizens of some town.

The local situation is interesting. A citizen of a rural section of this county said a few days ago that in his section there was not a single hired man on the farm, and that it was simply out of the question to hire help of any kind. The only assistance one can get about the farm work, he said, is to exchange labor with some neighbor.

The high prices of tobacco the past season is going to cause most men to plant as much as they can this year. Many farms where none was grown last year will go into the business heavily this year. All of which may be good business but it means a shortage of food crops. We heard a man say recently that he would have out several barns on a farm that produced none last year. Now we are not supposing that anything we can say will cause people to change their ways, but we are disposed to insist that thinking people play safe to the extent of producing a living on the farm. It is not necessary to say even this to many, for they are already doing this.

Mr. H. A. Marsh, of the country east of here, when he paid his subscription to The News a few days ago remarked that somehow he had formed the habit of making his living at home even if prices of tobacco are high. And then he went on to talk and said that last year he only made one barn of tobacco and sold it for \$450.00. In addition to this he will sell chickens, eggs, meat and other small items from his farm to the amount of as much as his tobacco brought. Now the interesting part of this story, to us, is that Mr. Marsh will only make one barn of tobacco next year. He will not let the high prices of last year turn his head and keep him from growing food crops for his own use.

That is what we call playing safe, and if there were about a million other citizens of the type of Mr. Marsh the country would be safe, let come what may.

But you can safely count on the country not taking pattern after Mr. Marsh, and according to the financial experts it is only a question of time when the bottom will fall out of business, and with the crash many a man will have a story to tell of how he played and lost in the years that followed the war.

The Mayor's Court.

In the Mayor's court in this city Monday several of our citizens were up for violating various sections of the city traffic regulations. The officers are insisting that the public observe the traffic laws closely and any violations of them will certainly mean being brought before the Mayor if discovered by the policemen.

The following list were fined \$2.50 and the cost for violating the traffic regulations: Frank Bowles, Pete Hicks, Cliff Nichols, Dave Crawford, Billie Carter, Dr. L. L. Williams, Jack Fulton and Alex Worth.

In the future the Mayor will hold court regularly every Monday morning in the new town hall court room.

Returned to Surry.

On Jan. 14th George Ayers, a citizen of this county, sold out all he had and took the train here for Amelia county, Virginia, expecting to locate there, his aunt, Mrs. Alice Greenwood, having written him about that section. On Jan. 28th Mr. Ayers returned to Surry saying he found the available land in Amelia county poor and worn out, all the best farms being already occupied. He thought his chances much better here.

Churches Closed Sunday.

Complying with the order of the County Board of Health that all places of public gatherings be closed for two weeks on account of influenza, the churches in Mount Airy will be closed next Sunday and also Sunday the 15th, unless the order should be annulled before that time. Due notice of service will be made in the papers. T. H. King, Pres. Pastors Conference.

Surry's New Road.

The greatest move in the life of material progress was made a few days ago when the contract was let to a Charlotte road making company to build a road from the Stokes county line to Dobson.

The State Highway Commission months ago decided to make it the policy of the state to connect every county seat town in the state with a good road. Now this can not be done in a day or a year. The plan is for the Federal Government to pay half of the expense, the state one fourth and the county, where the road is made, the other fourth.

The Federal Government is ready at any time to do its part. Of course these roads will not be made where the county will not bear its part of the expense. The authorities of this county many months ago agreed to do their part towards making this new road. Last summer surveyors came here in the employ of the state and spent many weeks going over the route from Danbury to Dobson. They located the road beginning east of the village of Westfield and following the main road, principally, to the town of Mount Airy, a distance of 10.68 miles. From Mount Airy to Dobson the new road, in the main, follows the present sand-clay road. Many changes are made, some of which are important. The present road from Lovills creek, south of this city, has many short curves for a mile or more. The new road will run much nearer the old M. Jones home and will be practically a new location and a straight road to the home of Mr. Robert Jones.

At Turners Mountain the new location leaves the present road and follows the mountain along its western side for almost two miles, thus leaving the present road which gets down in some low land. The old road is again reached near the Ed Draughn peach orchard. This new location is entirely in the woods and fields along the foot of Turners Mountain and gives a much better grade, but will evidently be a costly piece of work. Again the old road is left at the Draughn peach orchard and goes almost a direct course toward Dobson, crossing the Fish river a half mile above the present bridge.

The new road is being made after the survey of the State surveyors. And before the Federal Government would accept it surveyors were sent here from Washington to go over the location and the grades and approve the work. This was done and no hitch developed in all this technical work. The new road is to be as near free from curves and steep grades as possible, and is to be 30 feet wide and to have a bed of sand clay or top soil 18 feet wide and 10 inches deep. This road becomes a part of the system of State highways that is to connect up the different county towns. Later it will be extended to the town of Danbury, in Stokes county, and to Sparta in Alleghany county, going to Sparta, by way of Kapps Mills, Thurmond and Mountain Park.

The contract with the road builders is that the work is to begin not later than the 15th of this present month and the first work is to be at Mount Airy. The entire job is to be completed in a period of 300 working days, and costs the nice sum of about \$7,000 per mile for the entire job.

The new location will shorten the distance from Mount Airy to Dobson about one mile, making it 10.82 miles to Dobson.

This new road will be one of the best in the state, of its kind, and will no doubt be an incentive to the county to make and maintain a first class system of roads.

Citizens in Bad Luck.

Many good stories float about that become the subject of interesting conversation and yet no one can vouch for the truth or error they may contain. One day this week somebody told this one to the News man. Two Mount Airy citizens are the most disgusted fellows you could find in a day's journey. According to the story these two in some way got wise to the fact that on a certain mountain stream on a certain day a "run" of the ardent would be made from a pure copper still. Now the information that came here was that the beer was working nicely and the copper still waiting. None of the vile fluid commonly sold about here for \$4 was to be turned out, but rather the kind our fathers used to make in the good old days of the long ago.

Now such a story as this coming to town from what appeared to be a most reliable source was too tempting to the two above referred to citizens. So they hid themselves to the section where the goods were to be had in all purity coming right from the copper, with none of your concentrated lye or other injurious concoctions with which folks have learned to adulterate it with. And your two Mount Airy citizens were not going to take any man's word for it, they were going to be right there on the grounds and see the work done, and get the goods fresh and pure as it came from the still.

But "the stars in their courses fought against Gieera" in this case as

in the story of old. From some cause the operations were delayed, or the wood was not ready, or the still not in place—something went wrong and the "run" was not ready to make when these two enterprising citizens arrived on the scene of action. One having pressing engagements back at home could not wait, and so returned to town dry as a bone and no doubt disgusted with the world and all the evil forces that have brought these distressingly dry times upon this evil generation.

The other citizen, so the story goes, was possessed with a greater degree of patience or determination or thirst—call it what you may, anyway he waited until the boys did make the "run". But again the very stars were against him, for when the "run" was well along the way and the juice was pouring strong and clear from the "worm", up dashed a party of these accursed officers—drat 'em—and captured the whole blooming outfit, visitors and all. And strange to say they would take no explanation from anybody as to the why and wherefore of his presence at that particular part of the country at that time of the day. And the pesky officers insisted on taking everybody along with them over into the wilderness of Virginia where they pretend to have something they call a court and where they try to annoy the life out of a fellow who gets caught in such places as the above named citizen found himself on that evil day.

The story fails to give an account of how this Mount Airy citizen got free of the officers and found his way back to civilization.

News From Mr. D. D. Parks.

In a personal letter to the editor of "The News," Mr. D. D. Parks of Appalachia, Va., a former resident of this city, describes his new home town as being a busy law abiding town with fifteen passenger trains daily, situated in a beautiful mountainous country, fed by numerous coal camps, which ship a minimum of 500 cars of coal daily.

The miners are well paid Mr. Parks says, making from \$4.50 to \$12.50 per 8 hour day, money flows freely and business is prosperous.

Mr. Parks sends his regards to all his friends and says that his family is well satisfied, because they are doing well, though they are deeply interested in their old friends back in Mount Airy and always read "The News" with keen interest.



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