

Mount Airy News.

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A BETTER MOUSE TRAP

Emerson, one of the really great men of modern times, wrote like this: "If a man writes a better book, preach a better sermon or make a better mouse trap than his neighbor, though he build his house in the woods the world will make a beaten path to his door." The truth of which can be applied in various and sundry ways. Just now we are thinking of how somebody can come into this hill country and teach the people how to make big ears of corn where now grow little wormy nubbins. It can be done. A few farmers in Surry grow big ears of corn, but a very large number of others grow mostly nubbins. And it all depends on knowing how. During these frosty, fall mornings the folks all about are bringing to the farm yards the fruits of their toil during the summer months. A few farmers haul up big loads of corn, each ear of which is big enough to choke an ox or make a loaf of bread. These farmers will fill a big wagon bed from a small plot of land and hasten back after another load. And all day long they repeat the process. No little cribs eight by four at their homes. But big fat cribs that make the farmer's heart rejoice. It is all in knowing how. Somehow these few farmers have learned to make land rich, and then in some way they have caught on to how to make big ears of corn grow. There is no much secret about it they will tell you—all in knowing how.

SHALL THE STATE ELECTROCUTE

Just now it is a live question in this State whether or not we shall continue to put men to death by electrocution. Education and enlightenment has made such progress that many are crying out against the barbarous customs of past ages. Some think that the time has come when we can well dispense with the ancient custom of taking life for crimes.

It is a very well known fact that laws in advance of the moral and spiritual development of the whole people are not generally effective, but confuse rather than help. When we think of the way life is taken by our people, in the many brawls and encounters in private life, we wonder if we are not yet too bloodthirsty to give up the idea of capital punishment.

Of course it would appeal strongly to many good people to do away with the electric chair. Preachers and all church people might applaud the change, but it must not be forgotten that we have a very large percent of those who are ready at any moment to clamor for the blood of the man who commits certain crimes that have long been considered worthy of death. These folks who want the death penalty to remain are, possibly, largely in the majority, and they are just as much a part of the State as are those who are not in their class. It may be that to do away with the death penalty would greatly increase the number of lynchings that the country would develop. Let some negro commit a foul murder or the nameless crime and no law to hold the death penalty over him would almost be certain to develop a lynching. It is all right to discuss the matter, but the cold facts about the mental attitude of the whole people is not to be ignored. The mental development of a people, after all determines their whole life conduct.

Moses killed his man and fled his country and later became the law maker for the Israelites. And Moses demanded the death penalty for many acts that we would shudder to think of placing so severe a penalty upon. The people of England once had the death penalty for as many as three hundred crimes, but at that time not five percent of the English people could write their names. As they developed they became less severe in their punishment: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob reared children by all the women who lived about them, and yet they were considered men of God. Later their people confined the family circle to one wife. But these patriarchs were wandering herdsmen when they lived and did according to their best lights. The Turk, acting according to his religion, married as many women as he thought he could support and then deliberately sewed them in sacks and drowned them in the nearest water when he tired of their presence. That was living according to his ideas of his religion. And so it is all down through the pages of history. Men act according to their degree of education and enlightenment.

A WASTEFUL PEOPLE

The folks who settle a new country are naturally wasteful of the natural resources. Here in our own section we have not yet learned to protect the game in the forests or the fish in our clear mountain streams. We are as prodigal of the valuable trees that grow in the forests as if they were the product of a year, when in fact it takes a century to grow one.

All this is natural for the very good reason that we have not yet felt the need of conserving our supply of nature's bounties. But the day has come when the people of this section should wake up to the fact that we cannot continue to destroy and at the same time enjoy the natural blessing that have been ours so abundantly in the past. Everyone loves fish and game but how few now enjoy the luxury of these natural dainties. We could easily have them in abundance if we would be sensible about our way

of protecting them. In Japan they have a beautiful custom of planting a tree for every baby that is born. Here it would be more true to form if the new father should go out and chop down a fine specimen of the forest. No one here yet thinks of planting a tree for any cause unless it is an ornamental tree about the home. The day is not far distant when every thinking citizen will give some attention to the trees that grow on his farm. He will take care of what he has and plant others. He will encourage the planting of trees on all vacant lands that his neighbors hold for the very good reason that the rainfall of a country is much affected by the amount of forest that abounds in the country.

It will be no distant day when the government of the land will see the need of all this and much land will be taken over for government forests. We expect to see at no distant day the fine mountains that lie to the north and west of this town made a government park and the bare hills and mountain sides will again support giant trees where they now are washing down into the valleys below.

The sooner our people wake up to the importance of taking care of the natural resources of this fine hill country the better it will be for all the people.

do away with the death penalty in this State. Our personal likes are strongly in favor of confining men for life who are worthy of death, under our present laws, but it would be far better for the State to electrocute than for them to pay the penalty for their crime by facing an enraged mob that can be satisfied with nothing less than blood. We doubt if the State is yet ready to scrap the little death dealing instrument that has been installed down at Raleigh and that is so very offensive to some very good people.

Remember the Orphans

It is a beautiful custom, and one that is gaining in popularity in the State, for one day's wage during the year to be set aside for the support of our various orphanages. Thanksgiving day is the logical time for old and young to make this contribution of their means for the support of the fatherless ones.

The giving of one day's income for the support of orphanages may not be the measure of your responsibility, or mine, that is for each individual to decide, many may be able to give large gifts, but surely none of us are so poor that we cannot give one day's income as an expression of "Thanksgiving" for blessings that have been ours all the year thru.

Those who belong to the various churches will be asked to give to the institutions supported by their denominations, those who do not have any church affiliation may give to the institution supported by their lodges or the Children's Receiving Home in Greensboro where homeless ones are cared for until they can be placed in childless homes. There are many worthy institutions in the state and all of them are more or less handicapped for lack of funds.

Make the orphans happy on Thanksgiving day and you will find that in serving others your own happiness will be increased.

THINGS WE STRIVE FOR

A man, it could be safely said, can well be judged by what he strives for. The one great ambition of most people is to save up something for the day when they are not able to produce—the proverbial rainy day, when they are old or sick or no longer able to work. So anxious do many people become to lay by for this expected rainy day that they lose sight of all else and bend every energy to accumulating money in some form or other. A few are so eager that they accumulate wealth at the expense of friendship or place in society or even good standing among their fellows.

A few people make themselves conspicuous by their desire for honor and position in a public way, and their one ambition is to keep before the people in some public capacity. These who seek for public recognition are often as eager to accomplish their purpose as are the ones who so ardently seek for wealth.

And then there are those who appear to have no ambition in life, these are not to be overlooked. The real truth about them is that they have ambition and are not half so indifferent as they appear to be. They are not able to get ahead for some reason, possibly unknown to themselves or to any other one, and they keep their burden to themselves and silently bear their disappointment. The world gives them credit for being shiftless and worthless and improvident, and turns away with a cold indifference not even trying to learn of the real burden they are silently bearing.

The real things that count are not material but spiritual. Love for ones neighbor, kindness, thoughtfulness of the feelings and welfare of others, the ability to leave off strife and contention and bear injury rather than engage in strife, just simply to be good in the every day common sense way of being good with all the complicated explanations left off, these are the qualities that count and are the things that are really worth losing sleep about. These are the things to possess which means having stores laid up in heaven.

And here is a conclusion that you may not have reached. The man who has lent all his energies to securing wealth or honors has often, entirely too often, failed to give time and attention to accumulating a supply of kindness and all the other qualities that are stores that can be laid up in heaven. For these stores are no more accumulated without effort than are money and place and power among men. The man who has an abundant supply of bank stock and lands or honors has usually lost sleep in the accumulation, and the man who has the supply of kindness and other heavenly merchandise has no doubt slept even more sleep in their accumulation.

And you may not be able to admit this. Those who have not been able to lay up earthly stores have often been able to get together a vastly large supply of kindness and other like goods that moth and rust can never touch. It is this kind of wealth that, after all, is worth striving for.

Game Laws in Surry

We are giving the open season for game hunting in Surry county. Any one desiring a copy of the synopsis of the game law for the state of North Carolina may secure same free of charge by writing to the Legislative Reference Library, Raleigh, N. C.

Surry. Deer, Nov. 1-Nov. 15 (deer raised in private preserves may be killed at any time); quail (partridge), Nov. 15-Jan. 1; ruffed grouse (pheasant), wild turkey, Jan. 15, 1922; dove, meadow lark, or other game bird, Dec. 1-Jan. 15; woodcock, Dec. 1-Jan. 1, black-bellied and golden plover, yellowlegs, Sept. 1-Dec. 15; ducks, geese, Wilson snipe, Nov. 1-Jan. 15; opossum, Oct. 1-Jan. 1. Bag limit: 10 quail a day. Nonresident license, \$10.25.

Those furniture manufacturers who so bitterly fought the purchase of the fire engine evidently have learned by this time that it is of some service to them also.

If you have any books which you are willing to give to the city school get them out and stack them in a convenient place so that you can hand them to the boys who call Tuesday. It will not be possible for them to keep the truck waiting for you to sort or go thru your library.

Former Mount Airy Man Honored

Wilkesboro, Oct. 27-21.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Bank of Wilkes yesterday afternoon, Mr. Clem Wrenn was elected president, succeeding C. M. Sheets, resigned. Mr. Wrenn has purchased Mr. Sheets' stock in the bank, and will take up his new duties November 1st. Ten and one-half years ago Mr. Wrenn came here to accept a position with the Deposit & Savings Bank as cashier. By means of thorough business dealings, courteous treatment of patrons, and conservative banking methods, he was a great factor in the development of that institution, and we wish for him continued success as the head of the Bank of Wilkes.

Jr. League Honors Little Miss West

A weenie and marshmallow roast will be given Wednesday at 6 o'clock in the N. W. Dobbins grove on Pender street by the Junior Epworth League of Central Methodist church honoring little Miss Bettie West, daughter of the retiring pastor, who leaves Thursday for his new charge in Charlotte.

Rockford Street.

Regular services are now held at Rockford Street Tabernacle. Rev. G. W. Williams preaches every Sunday, morning and night at regular hours, come and worship with us. Regular prayer service Wednesday night. Sunday school 9:45 A. M. If you are not attending Sunday school we will give you a glad welcome. Come and join us.

Will R. Kiger, supt.  
J. W. Barker, secy.

Disastrous Fire Averted

Last Thursday night about eight o'clock fire broke out in the finishing room of the National Furniture company and but for the prompt and efficient work of the local fire company might have caused the destruction of several furniture buildings. The fire originated in the varnishing room while the men were at work on night duty, and gained headway very fast. For thirty minutes two streams of water were pumped by the fire engine on the fire at the rate of 1500 gallons per minute, and the fire was thus held in the part of the building where it first started. The greatest loss to the company is by water, as the storage room is directly under where the fire was. The loss in damaged furniture is estimated around forty thousand dollars and is covered by insurance.

Colored School Grounds Improved

The colored school grounds have recently been greatly improved by grading the hill between the school building and the street.

This grading has made a fine level campus in front of the building and the windows have been screened so that the boys can play ball without danger of breaking out window lights.

Entire credit for this improvement is due the principal J. J. Jones and his wife, who is one of the teachers. Mr. Jones planned and supervised the work and Mrs. Jones solicited funds among the people of the colored race to add to a small amount her husband had on hand so that there was no expense to the school board for this improvement.

In the spring shade trees will be planted and playground equipment placed on the grounds.

A water main has recently been laid to the school and outdoor sanitary drinking fountains installed.

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QUALITY — SERVICE  
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S. S. Convention at Pilot Mountain

The opening session of the Surry county Sunday school convention will be held in the Methodist church, Pilot Mountain on Saturday night, November 5th. The convention will continue through Sunday November 6th, there being three sessions on that day, morning, afternoon and night.

The Sunday school leaders of the county consider themselves very fortunate in having secured D. W. Sims, general superintendent of the North Carolina Sunday school association, as one of the speakers. Under Mr. Sims' direction the State association is doing progressive Sunday school work. Before taking up the work in North Carolina Mr. Sims served for five years as superintendent in Alabama and for eight years in Georgia. Mr. Sims not only knows the organized Sunday school work, but he has also had practical experience as a Sunday school teacher and superintendent. He was superintendent of a Sunday school in Richmond which increased in membership from 951 to 2,072 in less than three years time. He is noted for the practicality of his addresses delivered in such a humorous, interesting and instructive way. In connection with his Sunday school work Mr. Sims has traveled in thirteen foreign countries, including Palestine. Last fall he took a trip to the Orient including Japan, China and Korea in his travels.

Miss Flora Davis, assistant superintendent of the North Carolina Sunday school association, will also be one of the speakers. Miss Davis knows the Sunday school work and her addresses on methods of work are said to be very helpful. Miss Davis was one of the official delegates to the World's Sunday School Convention in Tokyo, Japan last October. She also took an extensive tour into China and Korea as well as visiting many of the principal cities of Japan. Miss Davis who has recently taken up the work in this state comes to North Carolina from Georgia where she has done similar work for the past nine years. The Sunday school leaders of the state feel that a very competent assistant has been secured in Miss Davis.

This meeting is arranged under the auspices of the North Carolina Sunday school association which is the

only organization in the state which aims to help all departments of every Sunday school in the state. The association stands for those interests common to Sunday school workers of all denominations. It is a systematic effort of workers from the various denominations to create public sentiment in favor of more and better Sunday schools. Leaders in though in the various denominations help in this work.

Death Reveals Hiding Place of Davie Man

Winston-Salem, Oct. 29.—Death has again revealed a missing man. This time it is Dr. Frank M. Johnson, who 17 years ago mysteriously disappeared from his home in Mocksville, Davie county, where he practiced dentistry for two or three years. Besides his parents, Dr. and Mrs. William G. Johnson, of Farmington, Davie county, the son went away leaving a young wife, who before her marriage was Miss Estelle Vestal, daughter of Rev. H. M. Vestal, for years an honored minister of the Methodist church in this state.

A letter from American Consul A. C. Frost, of Central America, to Postmaster N. L. Cranford, of this city, gives the information that Dr. Frank Miller Johnson died on June 20th this year at Quirigua hospital of cerebral tumor, and that he was buried in the hospital cemetery at that place. The letter states also that Dr. Johnson has two children, a daughter and a son, in school at New Orleans, La., their names being given as Pedro and Amelia Johnson. The deceased practiced his profession in Winston-Salem for a year or two after he completed

Winston-Salem Votes a \$1,150,000 Bond Issue

Winston-Salem, Oct. 25.—Citizens of Winston-Salem today voted to issue bonds in the sum of \$1,150,000, of which amount \$1,000,000 will be used for schools, \$100,000 for parks and playgrounds and \$50,000 for hospital purposes.

The registration was 1,836, and 1,426 ballots were cast for the proposition and 19 against. Others registered failed to vote.

Need A New Suit  
We Have  
Just What You Want At Just  
The Price You Want  
Kuppenheimer  
Good Clothes  
Schloss  
The Clothes Beautiful  
Clothes That Satisfy. On The Corner  
When You Think Of Clothes Think Of Smiths.