

Mount Airy News.

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COMMON LABOR

The way society is organized in every town of every size and every rural community, there is what is known as common labor. The people who make up this class of society are essential to the happiness and welfare of our society. They do all kinds of rough work. They mow the lawns, build roads, carry the brick to the masons, chop the wood, and a thousand and one other jobs that are essential to the happiness and welfare of the whole people.

In the South this work has largely been done in the past years by the negroes. In the North where there are but few negroes, common labor is largely made up of people who have newly arrived from some foreign country. The foreigner lands on our shore ignorant of our language and customs and with no money and no business training he is not able to get employment only at the crudest forms of service. These foreigners have graded and built most of our railroads and other public works. But the foreigner, when he learns our language, adjusts himself to his new environment, and acquires a farm, or a shop and goes into business for himself, and then he ceases to be a common laborer. But the constant inflow of foreigners has been sufficient to recruit the ranks and furnish an abundant supply of this kind of labor.

When the World War came on, a large number of foreigners went back to Europe. After the war Congress reduced immigration to a great extent. The result is that there is a shortage of common labor in this country such as has never been before. Now, when a big bridge or large building is to be built, the common labor needed can't be secured in that section of the country. The people in the North have found that they can induce the negroes in the South to leave their farms and homes and go to the Northern States with but little persuasion.

It is now coming to light that during the past few months, labor agents have been busy in all parts of the South distributing literature and quietly going about inducing negroes to accept employment in the North. This work had been going on for some time before it attracted much attention. The way it works in actual practice is something like this: a contractor employs a force of men and proceeds to cultivate a farm, or make a road, or build a bridge, as the case may be. Then a labor agent quietly works among his men and induces them to give up their jobs and leave for some other part of the country. This has gone on to that extent that large amounts of public work in the South are now held up. Thousands of farms will this year grow weeds and briars that have formerly produced corn, cotton, and tobacco.

Time will adjust all of this and at present there seems to be no remedy for it. No one questions the right of the negro to work where he can secure the most for his labor, but an application of the Golden Rule to business would not permit one man to induce another's help to leave him. The conclusion of the whole matter is that the negro will be a wiser and sadder man after his experience in the North. Cold climate, long hours of labor, and irregular employment will be most certain to hasten most of them back to the Sunny South.

Mr. Wrenn Resigns

At the regular meeting of the County Board of Education held Monday the resignation of E. H. Wrenn was accepted and the board named E. H. Kochtitzky, of this city, to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Wrenn.

Mr. Wrenn has perhaps served a longer time on a county board of education than any other man in this part of the state, and for years was chairman. He took a very active interest in the schools of the county and knew the conditions as affecting each individual school as no other man in the county. Suitable and complimentary resolutions were passed by the board expressing their regret at the resignation of Mr. Wrenn and acknowledging the great service he has rendered the county during his tenure of office. The successor to Mr. Wrenn, Mr. Kochtitzky, is a worthy one, having had much experience in school as a member of the Mount Airy school board. In addition to his work in schools he is an ardent worker in Sunday Schools having been superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School in this city for more than twenty years, which office he still holds.

THE WORLD'S EYE ON CHINA

Some time ago about twenty citizens from other countries, some on pleasure bent and some on business, were traveling on a train in China. The train was wrecked by a so-called band of bandits who made prisoners of the foreigners and carried them far back into the mountains to their stronghold. Then under threat of death to all their captives, they demanded for their release a large sum of money, and pardon for their own misdeeds in the past and to be honorably received into the standing army of China with back pay for months of service, and a guarantee that they should in no way be punished.

This bandit band proves to be the one factor of the Chinese Army and contains no less than 8,000 men. The fact that their prisoners happen to be distinguished citizens makes the case all the more interesting. A Major in the U. S. Army and several other Americans are among them, a wealthy Englishman traveling for his pleasure and health is another, and an Italian citizen, one of the greatest lawyers of that nation, is yet another. The amount of money that the bandits demand could easily be arranged, but their demand for being taken into the army is another question. China has not yet conceded to this, and may not. Great wars have been fought over smaller matters and unless China is able in some way to secure the release of the captives it may lead to foreign invasions of China by other nations.

Walnut Lumber in Demand

Many years ago walnut lumber was so plentiful in this country that it was largely used by cabinet workers. With the growth of the furniture business, oak and other woods became popular and walnut furniture was no longer in demand. Now, the styles have again changed and walnut is again in demand.

All this was strikingly illustrated, recently, when some manufacturing concern sent its agent here to buy up what walnut logs he could secure. There is not much walnut lumber here, but now and then there is yet left a fine large tree on some of the old settled homesteads. The interesting thing about all this is that our people are totally uninformed as to the present value of walnut lumber. One farmer who was loath to dispose of his big walnut tree, after much trade talk with the lumberman, secured \$55 for a tree two feet through from which one log eight feet long was secured. The lumberman admitted that he had been able to buy large logs from other people for as low as \$14, all of which raised the question as to whether any of our people have sold their walnut lumber for its real value. And there is another interesting point in this story. A man does a people a real injustice if he comes among them and takes advantage of their lack of information to secure what they have for sale for less than its value, which appears to have been done in some of these walnut deals.

Death of Mrs. S. C. Franklin

A telegram was received in this city Monday telling of the sudden death of Mrs. S. C. Franklin at her home in Cumberland County, Va. The Franklin family moved from their large farm near this city to east Virginia a few years ago and the members have a large number of relatives and friends in this section who will be grieved to learn of the death of Mrs. Franklin. She was the daughter of the late A. H. Kapp, of this county, and was a sister to J. C. Kapp, of Kapps Mill. The funeral and burial was held near their home in Virginia Tuesday afternoon. G. C. and Frank Lovill of this city attended the services.

City Sells Bonds

The Board of Commissioners of this city sold \$65,000 worth of bonds Tuesday for a premium of \$678, the bonds being bought by Stacy & Braum, the same concern which purchased the school bonds. These bonds bear 5 1/2 per cent interest, are to be retired serially, and the money will be used for street work and to pay off an indebtedness of the water and light plant. With this issue the bonded indebtedness of the town is \$460,000, or nearly half a million.

Tax Listing Notice

For the benefit of those citizens of Mount Airy and Mount Airy Township who failed to list their property for taxes while the books were open, tax lists will open the books from 9 to 6 o'clock Saturday, June 9. The books were closed Monday, but knowing a great many people had neglected to list, the tax lists are giving an additional day in order to save citizens the trouble and expense of going to Dobson for this important duty.

Dr. Meigs Flippin Weds

Dr. J. Meigs Flippin, of Winston-Salem, passed through this city Monday accompanied by his bride. Dr. Flippin was married at Dobson Sunday afternoon, the bride being a resident of Wilkes. He practiced medicine in this city several years ago, going from here to the west and is now located in Winston-Salem.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST FARMER

George Atkins Indicted and Bound to Court Charged With Destroying Neighbor's Plant Bed.

Much interest was manifested at a trial held at Dobson last Thursday afternoon before Magistrate R. S. Folger when Geo. Atkins and Sanford Marion were tried and bound to Dobson court being charged with destroying the plant bed of Shep Draughn. Both parties live in the White Plains neighborhood and Atkins is said to be worth a large amount of property. Draughn and his tenant, Conse McCraw had a plant bed of about 200 yards and one morning they discovered that some one had given the bed a liberal application of nitrate of soda which practically destroyed the plants when the sun shown on them. At the trial McCraw testified that he passed by the bed the night previous and saw two men at it and recognized their voices to be Atkins and Marion, which was about the only evidence that was introduced that implicated the two defendants.

As a motive to show why these men would destroy the plant bed it was brought out that bad feeling existed between Draughn and Atkins. Both men joined the Cooperative Association when it was first organized. Later on Atkins declined to sell his tobacco with the Association, and some one reported it to headquarters and an injunction was issued against Atkins stopping him from selling his tobacco on the warehouse floors. It is generally reported that Atkins accused Draughn of reporting him and since then the men have apparently not been very friendly. At least the prosecution at the hearing brought out this feature to show a motive for the destruction of the plant bed. The defense denied all knowledge of the affair and used members of their families to show that they were at home at the time McCraw stated he heard their voices at the plant bed. The defense also had several witnesses on hand who were willing to state that McCraw had a bad character.

After hearing all the evidence the court bound them over for trial having found probable cause, and placed each defendant under a bond of \$200. Mr. Atkins is a large tobacco grower and one of the best farmers of the county and the charge against him comes as a surprise and the outcome will be watched with interest by the farmers of the county; both on account of the prominence of the parties and the fact that the affairs of the Cooperative Association will enter at times into the contest. Mr. Atkins is being represented by E. C. Bivens while W. M. Jackson and A. D. Folger are leading in the prosecution.

Surry to Have June Term of Court

The County Commissioners on Monday made an order and drew the list of jurors to serve at a special term of Superior to convene at Dobson on June 25th and continue for two weeks. This court will be for the trial of civil cases only and will be in addition to the regular August civil court. For the past several courts the criminal docket has consumed most of the time and little has been done to clear the civil docket which made it necessary for an extra term in June to help take care of the cases that have been accumulating for some time.

The following were drawn to serve on the jury:

First week; G. A. Key, W. E. Nichols, R. N. Marion, G. E. Harvey, S. M. Hale, Robt. Jones, W. H. Marion, J. L. Jessup, J. B. Simmons, C. H. Coon, W. C. Jackson, W. J. Burcham, C. C. Hutchens, J. S. Fulk, Irvin Edwards, D. M. Denny, C. W. Gwyn, W. J. Simmons, J. L. Short, J. R. Marion, E. A. Randleman, R. A. Creed, Columbus Chilton, J. H. Gibbons.

Second week. J. E. Hudson, J. E. Tucker, G. W. Jessup, E. C. Foy, J. H. Gwyn, S. S. Chilton, N. H. Sutherland, S. L. Edmonds, Ransom Key, J. S. Shelton, D. F. Love, J. C. Steele, T. A. Gravitt, J. T. Helper, H. T. Plinchum, Morris Inman, Jack Gentry, C. E. Wall.

Boyer-Garrison Invitations Issued

Invitations as follows have been mailed to out of town friends. No invitations will be sent out in town but the invitation is publicly extended to all friends in Mount Airy to attend the wedding. "Rev. and Mrs. Hugh K. Boyer request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Lillian Kate to Mr. William Reid Garrison on Wednesday, the twentieth of June, nineteen hundred and twenty-three at high noon Central Methodist Church, Mount Airy, N. C."

Salvation Army Meetings

Meet in hall in South street as follows: Fridays, 7:45 P. M. (holiness Meeting.) Sundays, 2:30 P. M. (Sunday School old and young.) Sundays, 7:45 P. M. (Salvation meeting). A hearty invitation is extended to all. Capt. W. H. Stanley, Officer in charge.

VETERAN SPEAKER COMING

Grove Herbert is one of the oldest known men in the Lyceum and Chautauqua field. He came from a village pasture to the platform, and in a very short time became noted for the clarity of his thinking, the energy of his work and the might of his oratory. His personality is compelling. He is a strong, virile, red-blooded man. He weighs 200 pounds, has a strong voice, well-modulated, keen eyes and open ears. He has lectured all over the United States, clear across Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Herbert has been a student of men, boys and books all his life. He knows men, their temptations, their struggles, their ambitions, their hopes and aspirations. He is as intensely human himself as a man can be. He has worked his own way to the commanding place he occupies, and is scarred with the marks of many battles with adverse fortune.

Mr. Herbert's father was, for fifty years, a Methodist preacher, of the old sort who swam his horse across swollen streams, carried the Bible and the Discipline and the Hymn Book in his saddle bags all over Northwestern Ohio in the early days of Ohio Methodism. Herbert was the first son born to his father, although the old preacher was well in the fifties when the son was born. The elder Herbert was also a "forty-niner," and preached on the streets of the then godless San Francisco with Rev. (afterward Bishop) William Taylor, of heroic memory. Mr. Herbert's paternal grandfather erected the first mission church built by the Methodists the rebuilt edifice now standing on the original ground at Upper Sandusky, Ohio. About the church lies the dust of the celebrated Wyandot Indian chiefs—"Between-the-Logs," "Bloody-Eyes," "Gray Wolf" and others of that stately tribe of red men.

Mr. Herbert's ancestors have been preachers, teachers, lawyers; and the family has been noted for its orators. So the doctor comes honestly by his oratorical gifts. And his oratory is of the intense type, expressing vividly the vision of a strong man. His lectures challenge thought, inspire vision and urge to service. The personality of a strong man runs through all his work. Many people agree with him and some differ from him, but all grant him the courage of his convictions, the honesty of his purpose and the sincerity of his motives. Our citizens will have a chance to hear Mr. Herbert at the coming Chautauqua.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as Executor of the last will and testament of J. E. Carter deceased, all persons indebted to the estate are hereby requested to come forward and make prompt payment; and all persons holding claims against the estate are notified to present same within the time prescribed by law, or this notice will be plead in bar of their collection.

This the 21st day of May, 1923.
W. F. CARTER, Jr., Executor.

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SECOND DAY

Program

-AT-

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On The Corner

J. D. Smith

On The Corner