

# The Mount Airy News

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## RURAL SECTION SHOULD HAVE PHONE SYSTEM

### Lack of Dependable Country Service Serious Handicap to People of Surry

One day this week the editor wanted to talk to a friend out in the country and was surprised to learn that the phone line was out of service. Further inquiry developed facts that are subject for comment. One day recently a citizen out in the country wanted a doctor. His wife was sick and he had two little children in the home. He hastened up to a neighbor's house to try to get a connection with his family physician who lives in the country. Some time was lost in a futile effort to get the doctor. Then after much delay trying to use the telephone the citizen hastened to the doctor's home to find him gone and no way to locate him. Believing that he just must have a doctor the citizen came many miles to this city and the day was almost gone before he was able to get the medical attention his wife needed.

We understand on good authority that the telephone service here, so far as the rural section is concerned, is worthless. In every direction there are well peopled sections where many intelligent and well-to-do citizens live. Phone lines have been built on nearly every road leading out from this town and yet only two of the lines are now in operation, and these are of no service much of the time.

We have given the subject some thought and have reached this conclusion: A telephone is just about as dependable as anything if it is properly installed and cared for. We are of the opinion that the rural service that we have had about here has never been satisfactory for the reason that the lines were cheaply and poorly constructed. We are not certain of this, but we have been made to think that this is true.

This local town telephone company makes a charge for any rural connection with its lines. It is this charge that balks the country citizens in some cases. They refuse to pay it. This feature naturally appeals to

the man here in the town: He has a phone in his office and uses it for conducting his business here in the town and naturally feels that it is a hardship to have no connection with those who live just out of town. He thinks, and rightly so, that the town system is badly discounted in service for the reason that so few people can be reached by phone. To make the town system complete lines must reach out into the country districts and provide a dependable rural service. We are not contending that it is the duty of the local company to build these lines, but until this is done their local service will be limited to a much smaller territory than it should be.

To speak frankly about the matter, we have heard it said that the country citizens are not willing to pay the price for keeping up a good phone system into their sections. We are not surprised that they are not willing to pay for the kind of service that they have had up to this time. It appears to be a waste of money to pay for such service. But if our rural sections could be reached by phone lines that are so constructed and kept up as to be of real service then we believe the citizens out in the country will readily pay a reasonable price for the service.

The idea of a town of this size and importance not being connected with the adjoining country districts is a reflection on the good business judgment of the whole people. The phone is a modern necessity. It can hardly be dispensed with. It is as badly needed as the good road and the electric lines. It is the very life of business.

This is a subject of enough importance to get the attention of any of our public spirited citizens or of our county commissioners or the town government. There certainly should be some way to relieve the situation here, for the needs are such as to demand it.

## CONGRESS CONTINUES OIL INVESTIGATIONS

### DAUGHERTY IS ON DEFENSIVE

#### Says Ready to Carry His Case to People—Senators Want to Investigate

Washington, Feb. 22.—With Attorney General Daugherty on record as being ready to carry to the country his fight against efforts to force him out of the cabinet, negotiations proceeded in the senate today looking to early action on the resolution of Senator Wheeler, Democrat, Montana, providing for an investigation.

Progress toward a compromise on the resolution is understood to have been made at conferences between Mr. Wheeler and Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, who objected to the measure as introduced because it undertook to name the investigating committee instead of leaving that matter to President Cummins. Senator Lodge, however, was described as being inclined to accept the personnel proposed by the Montana senator and the latter expressed willingness to eliminate the specific provisions which named a committee of five headed by Senator Brookhart, Republican, Iowa.

Mr. Daugherty's statement of his position was made public in a letter to Senator Pepper, who with Senator Lodge advised President Coolidge Wednesday to ask for the attorney general's resignation. Earlier in the day it has been disclosed that a report received by Senator Wheeler from a special investigator stating that Mr. Daugherty had dealt in Sinclair oil stock, was being investigated by the oil committee and had been placed before the President.

The attorney general made no reference to the Sinclair stock report in his letter to Senator Pepper, which was sent in response to a note addressed to him by the latter informing him of the conference with the President. He denounced as "base-

## STATE SHIP BILL TO BE PUSHED BY GOVERNOR

### MORRISON SAYS LEGISLATURE TO LIKELY MEET

#### If Favorable Report Is Received From Ship and Water Commission

Morehead City, Feb. 22.—"I am confident that the state ship and water transportation commission will return a favorable report on the development possibilities of the ports and waterways of the state and if it does and I see that I can put the matter through, I am going to call an extra session of the legislature," declared Governor Cameron Morrison, speaking here last night.

The governor reviewed the progress of the state in the last few years and declared North Carolina had spent more money for education than any other southern state or any state in the world of the same size. He discussed taxation and declared taxes had been reduced and placed upon the shoulders of those who could afford them.

"But even now" said the governor, "there are running about over the state men, or at least those who call themselves men, who are criticizing our tax system. There is one corporation alone in this state that paid more taxes than all the politicians, newspaper editors and farmers and many other classes combined, but this corporation is progressively supporting our program of progress. Nevertheless, some little tomcats are trying to raise a row."

The executive said that what he wanted the state to have was the power to build docks, warehouses and other port facilities and a commission to control them.

less, scandalous and defamatory" the "charges of my political adversaries" in the senate, and declared his "elimination, voluntarily or otherwise" would be a confession that they were true.

## DEMOCRATS DEFEAT G. O. P. TAX MEASURE

### SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES CAPTURE THREE STILL

#### A Moonshine Plant a Day Was Raided by Local Officers on Three Successive Days; Two Men Captured; One Confessed

A still a day was the record of the Surry county sheriff's office on three days of last week. And but for the heavy snow of Monday it was planned to go out and get some more. The corridor to Sheriff Haynes' office in Mount Airy has an array of distilling machinery that looks like a copper manufacturing plant and smells like an old time politician's breath. There are big stills, middle sized stills, and little stills; bright copper stills and mussy, sloppy stills. Fact is if you wanted to see an exhibit of distilling apparatus, the sheriff can show you most any thing in that line you are looking for.

#### Washington's Birthday Proves Unlucky

Jess Monday, Bud Simmons, Reid Snoddy and S. F. Shelton, all deputies of the sheriff's office, Friday raided a plant in full operation in Bryan township east of Mitchell's river, captured a 60-gallon still and two men. Moncas and Clem Brannock Brannock protested his innocence of having a hand in the operation of the still but Moncas, after his first blush of embarrassment, drew out the "Well, boys, Washington's birthday sure is an unlucky day for me." He admitted the plant belonged to him.

The section where this outfit was located is a desolate portion of the county, a sort of no-man's-land. But few people reside therein and many moonshine plants have been operated there in days gone by and many have been ferreted out and put out of commission. Moncas gave bond in the sum of \$500 and is at liberty, while Brannock is in jail awaiting his hearing at the next term of court.

Saturday the officers captured a 20-gallon copper outfit hid in the woods on Slate mountain some five or six miles east of Mount Airy. It was near a furnace where a "run" or two had been made not so long ago.

#### An Extinct Volcano

For some weeks a tiny smoke arising from near the top of Fisher's Peak, the tallest point on the Blue Ridge east of Asheville, has been noted by the people in the vicinity of the foot of the mountain. Rumor had it that the smoke was of volcanic origin. Sunday night, while all good people were at divine worship, Jess Monday, Caney Beamer and R. L. Jones climbed those dizzy heights on a scientific expedition. They were determined to find out the source of that tiny column of smoke. A blinding snow beat in the faces of the intrepid mountain climbers, sulphur-like powdery flakes crunched beneath their feet. No beacon light illuminated their course and no pillar of smoke revealed the objective point. The white silence of the northland enshrouded them. Wafted on the evening air came to their trained nostrils faint the distinct odors remembered in the days of long ago. Near the top of the peak and on the south side the explorers came into a 50-gallon still, yet warm in its furnace, 400 gallons of beer and much daisy chop. The mystery of the origin of the volcanic smoke was solved. The moonshiners had done their day's work and departed for a night's rest.

The outfit was a good one but the quality of the manufactured product was below standard, according to the guess of the officers. They found no hooch. The stuff was being manufactured from sugar and daisy chop, and then the slop was being re-distilled in order to get the last drop of the kick-giving fluid out of it. The still was located below a bold spring that breaks out of the mountainside more than a mile and a half from the nearest wagon road. The operators of this establishment were forced to pack in their chop and supplies on their backs for a long distance either up the steep slope or, supposing they were Virginians, down a perilous rocky declivity.

A little after nine o'clock the exploring party finished their work of destruction and with the upper outfit on their backs and to the bottom of the mountain. Another gun of the whiskey rebellion had been silenced.

### In House of Representatives 222 To 196—Sent Mellon Rates

Washington, Feb. 20.—Aided by a group of Republicans, most of them insurgents, House Democrats Tuesday eliminated from the revenue bill the Mellon income tax rates. By a vote of 222 to 196 a schedule advanced by Representative Garner, Democrat, Texas, was substituted.

The bill as amended fixes the surtax maximum at 44 per cent on incomes in excess of \$92,000 as against 50 per cent on incomes exceeding \$200,000 under existing law and 25 per cent on incomes of more than \$100,000, as recommended by the treasury. It also reduces normal income rates to a greater extent than Mr. Mellon recommended and increases personal tax exemptions, a feature not in the treasury draft.

The substitute would cut normal tax rates to 2 per cent on incomes under \$5,000 to 4 per cent on incomes between \$5,000 and \$8,000, and to 6 per cent on incomes above \$8,000.

The present rate is 4 per cent on incomes above that amount.

Tax exemptions, under the substitute approved, would be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for single persons and from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for heads of families. The Mellon bill proposed no such increase.

Before approving the Garner proposal which received the support of 17 Republicans, one farmer-laborite and one independent in addition to 203 Democrats, the house went on record as opposed to rates substantially the same as those recommended by Mr. Mellon and rejected an amendment by Representative Fear of Wisconsin, an insurgent, to cut normal rates in half without altering the existing surtax schedule.

Republican organization leaders had no opportunity to bring to a vote a compromise amendment which proposed a 25 per cent reduction in both normal and surtax rates.

## Fertilize The Fruit Trees

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 25.—Because most soils of North Carolina lack a supply of available plant food, it is necessary to fertilize the orchard if the best grade and quality of fruit is to be secured. The amount and kind of fertilizer to apply depends somewhat on how the orchard has been handled, the wood produced the previous year and the size, age and vigor of the trees; but, where it is seen that the trees need more plant food, this should be applied in the spring just before the buds are bursting, scattering the fertilizer under and just beyond the drips of the tree.

R. F. Payne, extension horticulturist for the State College extension division, recommends that peaches on a sandy soil low in fertility be given a 7-4-8 mixture at the rate of four to six pounds per tree for four or five year old stock. Two pounds of nitrate of soda might be added to the above mixture and another pound later about the first of May if a good crop of fruit has been set. An additional application of nitrate of soda made after the fruit has been harvested has been found to pay in many instances.

On clay or loamy soils, acid phosphate should be added to the cover crop and ground limestone used in growing such a crop. Nitrate of soda at the rate of about two pounds per tree will also give good results on six year old trees.

With apples on infertile soils, Mr. Payne suggests an 8-4-4 fertilizer applied at the rate of four to six pounds per tree to stock from 8 to 10 years old. About two pounds of nitrate of soda applied when the buds swell gives good results.

Pear trees should never be fertilized because of the prevalence of blight when rapid growth takes place.

## 20,000 Km Klansmen to March in Big Parade

Oklahoma City, Feb. 22.—As the closing stage of the convention of the K. K. K. a column of 20,000 or more members will march in full regalia here tonight. Throughout last night and today special trains and automobiles brought thousands of members for the parade, which this official say, will be the largest crowd of rebel men ever assembled in the southwest.

## MEXICAN REVOLUTION VIRTUALLY OVER.

### Government Troops Have Quelled the Revolutionary Forces and Only Scattered Bands of Guerrillas Left.

Mexico City, Feb. 21.—The revolution in Mexico has virtually been stamped out, according to statements made at the war department today. It was asserted that the federales, now having no important enemy forces to fight, will be engaged hereafter in the work of exterminating the guerrillas who are marauding in several states.

With the occupation of Morelia, Patzcuaro and Uruapan, it was added, the state of Michoacan has been practically pacified. The rebels there are withdrawing into Guerrero and Jalisco. The rebel general, Manuel Dieguez, is said to have completely vanished with all his forces, and the federal General Escobar is chasing Enrique Estrada.

General Salvador Alvarado and Colonel Christiano Anzaldo and their rebel forces have evacuated Ciudad Guzman, withdrawing to clima, and, according to official sources, the occupation of Ciudad Guzman is expected shortly. The rebels are said to lack ammunition.

A formal federal advance against Tuxpan began yesterday, according to special dispatches from Tampico.

At Puerto Mexico the rebels have seized two tank steamers belonging to the Agulla Oil company. This makes four vessels belonging to this company that have been taken over by the revolutionists. Owing to the lack of British diplomatic representation it is difficult to place official representatives before Mexican government. A high official of the Agulla company, has visited the foreign office and demanded protection against the rebels, whose hostility toward the company is said to have arisen from the company's refusal to advance money to the rebel authorities.

Fifteen thousand weavers at Orizaba threaten to strike in protest against a reduction in wages and because of dissatisfaction over working hours.

A strike also is threatened in Puebla. The bakers there are demanding an increase in wages and a reduction in hours of work.

## URGE DANIELS TO GET IN RACE.

### Friends Want Him to Announce For Democratic Nomination.

Raleigh, Feb. 22.—With almost a general newspaper endorsement, friends of Joseph Daniels are urging that he declare himself for the Democratic presidential nomination and allow them to concentrate their activities toward tendering him the vote of the State.

No word has come from Mr. Daniels, who is now in Philadelphia, but he has been quoted in press dispatches as having no information in regard to any boom that might have started for him in New York or elsewhere.

At least one widely known and influential citizen of the state has declared his intention of summoning friends of Mr. Daniels in a movement in his behalf. This was postponed this week it is understood, until the day of the meeting of the Democratic state executive committee, February 26.

## Physicians Few in Two Carolinas.

Greenville, S. C., Feb. 22.—In proportion of practicing physicians to population North and South Carolina, with North Dakota, rank at the foot of the list of states, said Dr. H. W. Chase, president of the University of North Carolina in an address here before a meeting of the Tri-State Medical society, at which were present leading physicians from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

"The figures for North Carolina," said Dr. Chase, are one physician to 1,133 population, and those for South Carolina are about the same."

Due to the lack of hospital facilities 50 per cent of the medical students from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia have to go to other states to complete their medical education, said Dr. Chase.

"This figure is swollen of course," Dr. Chase explained, "by the fact that North Carolina maintains no four-year medical school."

## World News Briefly Told

### PINNED UNDER AUTO BABY DROWNS

Mrs. Fred F. Shamel of Salisbury with her nine-months-old baby were pinned beneath their auto just outside Salisbury Saturday night when the car plunged thru a bridge and turned over in the creek. The mother was able to hold her own head above water but her infant was pinned under her own body and was drowned when her other children tore their way thru the top of the machine and brought some men to liberate their mother.

### FRANCE ACTS LIKE NAUGHTY CHILD

Ever since the war France has acted like the spoiled child of the family of nations. The news dispatches are now saying that France will block the reparations settlement suggested by General Dawes' commission. The French papers are boldly saying that France will never get off the neck of the German Rhineland until the United States cancels France's war debt to this country.

### RUM FLEET OF 158 SHIPS

Coast guards estimate that there are at the present time 158 ships engaged in the rum smuggling trade along the Atlantic coast line. These ships anchor just outside the 12 mile zone and transfer their wet cargo to smaller craft at night, which land it at isolated points along the coast under cover of darkness. Most of the booze smuggled in is said to be Scotch whiskey.

### LEPER WALKS N. Y. STREETS

A Porto Rico leper who was being detained in Bellevue hospital suffering from a leprosy foot made his escape, visited friends in New Jersey and walked calmly back to the hospital and gave himself up. He will be taken to a leper colony on Brother Island.

### WHITE ACTRESS TO PLAY IN NEGRO DRAMA

For weeks Eugene O'Neill negro playright of New York, has been looking for a white actress to act with his negro troupe in his inter-racial play called, "Ah! God's Chillun Got Wings." One white star after another refused to play white wife to his negro hero. At last he has found a white actress who has consented to do so, but so far she has refused to let her name be published.

### PAYS \$5000 FOR AN EGG

At the auction in New York of the famous dinosaur egg from the Gobi desert the Copley University paid \$5000 for it. The egg is that of a prehistoric bird-reptile called a dinosaur and is of course petrified. It is supposed to be ten or eleven million years old. The egg is one of 25 found not long ago by Roy Andrews in Mongolia. Strictly fresh dinosaur eggs would probably come higher.

### FORD LIBEL SUIT DISMISSED

The warrant for attachment of \$115,000 belonging to Henry Ford and in the Corn Exchange Bank was dismissed by a New York court on the ground that Henry's alleged libelous remarks about the Jews in the Dearborn Independent could not be definitely laid at his door. The action was brought by Herman Bernstein, a Jewish editor.

### NEGRO SANHEDRIN MEETS

Representative negroes from all parts of the country met in the Y. M. C. A. building in Chicago to discuss matters of importance to the future of the race. Members of several colored denominations, trade, labor and fraternal orders were represented.

### SUED FOR LIBEL IN OIL TESTIMONY

Frank Vanderlip, multi-millionaire and former president of America's biggest banking institution, is being sued for libel by the purchasers of the Marion Star, which the late President Harding sold just before his death. In the oil scandal investigation Vanderlip cast suspicion on the motives of Harding for selling the paper and upon the price paid for it. He is being sued by the present owners for \$200,000.

### McADOO PROMISED MILLION

It came out now that W. G. McAdoo was promised a contingent fee of \$200,000 in the event his services as attorney for E. L. Doheny's oil companies in Mexico proved entirely successful. The full nature of the service to be rendered has not been made known but McAdoo himself has given out the information since his wife before the Senate investigating committee that in addition to the hundred thousand he actually did receive, he was to get the larger amount in case he made good.