

# The Mount Airy News

ESTABLISHED 1890

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA,

DECEMBER 17th, 1925.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## CITY OF MOUNT AIRY SELLS POWER PLANTS AND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

### Southern Power Company Granted Franchise For Sale of Current in Mount Airy

### CONTRACTS MUST MEET APPROVAL OF VOTERS

Election Will Be Held Jan. 19th to Secure Approval of Voters—New Registration Required and Books Open Friday, December 18th.

The officials of our city government and the members of the water and light commission last Friday unanimously entered into a contract with the Southern Power Company and its subsidiary, the Southern Public Utilities Co., whereby these companies are to purchase the power and lighting system of this city and take over the distribution of electricity in and around Mount Airy. The contracts as entered into are subject to the approval of the voters of the city and an election has been called for this purpose which will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

The power company will begin the construction of its transmission lines from Winston-Salem to this city as soon as the approval of the voters is secured and the system will be formally taken over by them on July 1st, 1926, at which time the company hopes to be able to supply the city with an unlimited amount of current.

Below we are publishing the entire proceedings as recorded on the minutes of the secretary of the board of town commissioners, which proceedings give a full and detail account of the contracts that have been made with the power company by the city officials.

#### PROPOSITION SUBMITTED BY POWER CO

Charlotte, N. C.  
December 11, 1925.  
Hon. Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Mt. Airy, Mt. Airy, North Carolina.  
Gentlemen:  
The Southern Public Utilities Company submits to you the following proposition with reference to the purchase of your electric lighting and power plants and system, and with reference to a franchise for sale and distribution of electricity in your town.

The Utilities Company will purchase your electric generating and distribution system including your two hydro electric plants, and all lands, water rights, easements, rights of way, and including all properly, real and personal constituting said system, and all property, both real and personal used or held for use in connection with the operation and maintenance of said system. For said property the Utilities Company will pay you the sum of One Hundred Forty Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Four (\$140,474.00) Dollars in cash.

The above price is in accordance with the valuation as fixed in the letter hereto attached, dated October 27th, 1925, addressed to Mr. E. C. Marshall, President Southern Public Utilities Company and Mr. John Banner, Chairman Water & Light Commission of the Town of Mount Airy, and the above mentioned price does not include the items specially excepted in said letter.

The Utilities Company is advised that should you accept this proposition, the matter will have to be submitted to an election, and the proposition is made subject to the condition that if it is accepted by you and properly ratified by an election held for the purpose, that you will then grant to the Southern Public Utilities Company a franchise for the sale and distribution of electricity in your town. A copy of the proposed franchise is attached to and made a part of this proposal.

In the event that this proposition is accepted by you and properly ratified by an election, the Southern Power Company will extend its electric transmission line to Mount Airy, in order that power from its system may be sold and distributed within and around the town of Mount Airy.

You are to have prepared all proper deeds and other papers necessary to effectively convey to the Utilities Company all of the above described property, and the purchase price is to be paid you on July 1, 1926, if and when all papers and deeds have been executed and approved so as to legally vest title to said property in said

Company, and that said franchise has been properly and legally granted.

You will, of course, understand that the Utilities Company would not be interested in purchasing your generating and transmission system unless the franchise were granted to it, nor would it be interested in obtaining the franchise unless it acquired the generating and transmission system.

We shall be pleased to hear as soon as convenient what disposition you care to make of the foregoing.

Respectfully yours,  
Southern Public Utilities Company  
E. C. Marshall, President.

#### PRICE OF SALE AGREED UPON

Mount Airy, N. C.  
October 27, 1925.  
Mr. E. C. Marshall, President Southern Public Utilities Co. Charlotte, N. C.  
Mr. John Banner, Chairman Water & Light Commission Town of Mount Airy, Mount Airy, N. C.  
Gentlemen:

We have agreed upon a physical valuation of One Hundred Forty Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Four (\$140,474.00) Dollars on the electrical properties of the Town of Mount Airy as of October 26th, 1925.

Including in this figure are all real estate and buildings at both power stations, all rights of way, the East Oak Street lot on which City substation is located and all machinery, and electrical distributing system, electrical instruments, etc., but specifically excluded are:

- Item 1. Lot on which street lighting transformer is located.
  - Item 2. Motors, transformers or wiring on City Water Works property for use in connection with water works.
  - Item 3. All repair parts and store room supplies now on hand.
  - Item 4. All construction tools now on hand.
  - Item 5. All office equipment and supplies.
- Items 1 and 2 would not be transferred. Items 3 and 4 would be subject to inventory at cost if and when property is transferred. Item 5 would be subject to adjustment if required.

In making this appraisal the City Electric Department's records were accepted in determining the quantity and cost of material in distributing system—transformers, meters, cut-ins, street fixtures, etc. Examination of condition and fixing of present values were done by appraisers.

#### ORDINANCE REGULATING POWER CO.

State of North Carolina,

County of Surry,  
City of Mount Airy.

An ordinance and resolution granting permission unto the Southern Public Utilities Company to construct and maintain its lines for the transmission of electricity upon, along, over, through and under the highways, etc., of the Town of Mount Airy, in the County of Surry, State of North Carolina, and to conduct and carry on within said Town of Mount Airy the business authorized by and under the terms of the charter of said Southern Public Utilities Company.

Section 1. Be it resolved and ordained by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the town of Mount Airy, in the County of Surry, State of North Carolina, that assent and permission be, and the same hereby is given and granted unto the said Southern Public Utilities Company, its successors and assigns, for the term of sixty (60) years from and after the enactment hereof, to lay, plant, extend, construct, build, erect, maintain, repair and remove its lines, poles, wires, appliances, conductors, fixtures, and other appurtenances for the conducting, conveying and the transmission of power by electricity upon, along, over, through and under any and all the highways, roads, streets, avenues, sidewalks, alleys, lanes, bridges and other public places now laid out or in use and all that hereafter may be laid out or put into use, within and near said Town of Mount Airy, and to do all necessary acts for that purpose; and assent and permission is hereby given and granted unto said Southern Public Utilities Company to conduct, carry on, transact and do within and near the limits of said Town of Mount Airy, the business of leasing, selling, conveying and transmitting power by electricity for manufacturing, lighting, heating, motive power or any other purpose or purposes.

Section 2. All poles used by said Southern Public Utilities Company shall be erected under the supervision and direction of the Committee on Streets of said Town of Mount Airy, and all highways, roads, streets, sidewalks, avenues, lanes, alleys, bridges and other public places that may be disturbed or damaged in the construction or maintenance of said lines, poles, wires, and other appliances, shall be promptly replaced and repaired by said Southern Public Utilities Company at its own expense and to the satisfaction of said Committee on Streets, and all poles shall be substantial and symmetrical and so located as not to interfere with the public use of said highways, roads, streets, sidewalks, avenues, lanes, alleys, bridges or other public places, or to endanger the property or persons of the citizens of said town. And in case said Southern Public Utilities Company shall fail to replace or repair said highways, streets, roads, avenues, lanes, sidewalks, alleys, bridges, or other public places within ten days after written notice so to do from the Chairman of said Committee on Streets, the same may be replaced or repaired by the proper authorities of said town, and the said Southern Public Utilities Company, in the event thereof, shall forthwith pay to said town the cost of such work and shall pay, in addition thereto, the sum of five (\$5.00) dollars for each and every place so replaced or repaired, by way of a penalty for such failure.

Section 3. Said Southern Public Utilities Company shall be subject to the ordinances of said town of Mount Airy relative to the use of such highways, roads, streets, avenues, lanes, sidewalks, alleys, bridges or other public places.

Section 4. Said Southern Public Utilities Company shall hold said town free and harmless from all damages or claims for damages arising by reason of the negligent construction or maintenance of said lines, poles, wires, appliances, fixtures and appurtenances.

#### SALE RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION

To the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Airy:  
We, the Water and Light Commission of the town of Mount Airy do most respectfully recommend to the Board of Commissioners of the town of Mount Airy that they approve and accept the proposition made by the

Southern Public Utilities Company to purchase the electric generating and transmission system now owned by the town of Mount Airy, feeling that the proposition so made is for the best interest of the citizens of the town.

Most respectfully submitted,  
A. G. Webb, Secretary of the Water and Light Commission

#### ELECTION CALLED—NEW REGISTRATION

##### NOTICE OF TOWN ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that by a resolution of the board of commissioners of the town of Mount Airy, an election in the town of Mount Airy will be held on the 19th day of January, 1926, for the purpose of voting upon the question of the sale of the town's electric generating and transmission system to the Southern Public Utilities Company at and for the price of One Hundred and Forty Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Four (\$140,474.00) Dollars.

An entirely new registration of voters is ordered and no person will be allowed to vote in the election unless such person is registered before the closing of the books for registration.

The election will be held in the two wards of the town to wit: the first ward at the house of the fire department in the town, and the second ward at the front room of Granite City Motor Company on Main Street.

The registration books will be open on Friday, the 18th day of December, 1925, and will be kept open from 9 o'clock in the morning until sun-set in the afternoon of each day, Sunday excepted, up to and including Saturday, January 9th.

W. M. Johnson is hereby appointed registrar for the first ward, and J. B. Beach and Winston Fulton are hereby appointed judges of the election in the first ward. Thomas B. Ashby is hereby appointed registrar of said election in the second ward, and Mal Davis and William Hadley are appointed judges of the election in the second ward.

The registration books will be open on Saturdays, the 19th and 26th of December, and the 2nd and 9th of January, at the polling places.

The polls will be open on Tuesday morning, the 19th day of January, 1926, at sun-rise and will be closed at sun-down.

Persons favoring the question shall vote a printed or written ballot with the following words, to wit: For sale of Electric Generating and Transmission System to Southern Public Utilities Company. Those opposing the question will vote a printed or written ballot with the following words: "Against sale of Electric Generating and Transmission System to Southern Public Utilities Company."

It is further ordered that the Mount Airy News, a newspaper published in the town of Mount Airy, shall insert in its columns this notice.

By order of the board of commissioners of the town of Mount Airy.  
This 11th day of December, 1925.

W. G. Sydnor, Mayor.  
F. M. Poore, Clerk.

NOTICE  
North Carolina, Surry County.  
Mount Airy, N. C., December 11th, 1925.

At a called meeting of the board of commissioners of the town of Mount Airy, held at the office of the superintendent of Water and Light Commission, all members being present, the mayor presiding, the following resolutions were adopted to-wit:

Resolved, first: That the board of commissioners of the town of Mount Airy, in their legal discretion, do hereby order that the election called for the 19th of January, 1926, to vote on the question of the sale of the Electric Generating and Transmission System to Southern Public Utilities Company be conducted under the state law regulating elections.

By order of the board.  
W. G. Sydnor, Mayor.  
Attest: F. M. Poore, Secretary.

#### UNIFICATION OF CHURCH BODIES FAIL

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 12.—Unification of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, separated since 1844, is defeated in the Southern Church.

Official announcement of the failure to carry out the plan of merger was made tonight by the College of Bishops of the Southern Church. The bishops spent the greater part of the day of their regular fall session in discussing the legality of three votes of the Baltimore conference which were challenged, because it was claimed the three delegates were ineligible to vote.

The bishops decided that two of these votes in the negative column should not be counted, but will report without changing the total vote for and against the plan of unification to the General Conference of the Church next May as compiled by Mrs. Maude M. Turpin, director of the secular press bureau of the Church.

The official vote is 5,528 for the merger and 4,108 against. A majority of 490 votes is given the affirmative, but the vote favoring unification lacks 1,220 votes of the three-fourths majority needed for ratification, under the constitution of the church.

#### RAILROAD MAKES A FINE CO-OP ASSOCIATION WINS SHOWING

Increased Traffic Business for Atlantic & Yadkin Disclosed  
Greensboro, Dec. 15.—Although in the hands of receivers the Atlantic & Yadkin railroad shows a largely increased traffic business for December, according to A. L. Thompson, traffic manager, who is very much gratified over the showing and expects the remainder of December to show still further increases.

The road is in a peculiar position. Placed in bankruptcy upon petition of the Southern railway, which owns the stock of the Atlantic and Yadkin, on the plea that the road was a losing proposition, it has, in the hands of Capt. J. W. Fry, of this city, and A. E. Smith, of Mount Airy, receivers, shown ability to command business.

The fact that the road has connections at five points with big railroads give it potentialities of much importance, in the opinion of some of those who have watched the road. It connects with the Southern railway at Greensboro, and also at other points with the Norfolk and Western Seaboard, Atlantic Coast Line and Norfolk Southern.

Judge E. Yates Webb, of western North Carolina federal court, has under consideration briefs of attorneys in the matter of the Southern railway's plea for dismissal of the bill of equity of the state of North Carolina that the Southern be restrained from bidding in the road when the receivers put it on the auction block and asking for an accounting from the Southern for certain phases of operation of the Atlantic and Yadkin when it was run by the Southern. Judge Webb's decision is expected to be made soon after January 1.

In the past few weeks officials of a number of trunk line railroads have been in conference with Atlantic and Yadkin officials relative to it handling business for the large carriers.

There was some talk that the Norfolk and Western would try to bid in the road when it shall be put on the block, also that the Norfolk Southern would like to get it. The receivers have put it in the shape of being a line of big potentialities, or at least have revealed that.

#### FORD ENJOYING MAINE FIDDLER

Will Keep Him at Dearborn Until Orchestra Gets Tuned Up

Detroit, Dec. 12.—Mellie Dunham, Maine's champion fiddler, who was brought to Detroit by Henry Ford, learned when he can go back to his home in Norway, Maine, last night. It was announced after the fiddler had played "Rippling Waves," a waltz of his own composition, for the old time dancing class Henry Ford has established at Dearborn.

The waltz concluded, Mr. Ford turned to newspaper men and said: "You wanted to know when Mr. Dunham is going home. He is going just as soon as my orchestra can play that waltz as well as he can."

Mr. Ford's orchestra seized Mellie's waltz last night, the musician harmonized it, and Mellie's fiddle filled every inch of the vast dancing place with the air as he played it. The dancers applauded and Mellie again played the waltz. Again came the applause and again the champion fiddler played his own composition as he smiled his pleasure.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford joined in the dancing and while Mellie's evening was climaxed when he played his waltz, another came when Mr. Ford asked Mrs. Dunham to dance with him. Mrs. Dunham did, and Mellie fiddled and looked down with pride as the wife of the Maine fiddler and one of the nation's wealthiest men danced in the Ford laboratory at Dearborn.

"What impressed you most?" the Maine fiddler was asked by reporters, and quickly came the reply: "Mr. Ford."

"Are you having a good time?" the waltz of newspaper men continued. "Fun?" Mellie chuckled. "The time of my life. Only I'm eating too much; they're feeding us too well. They're giving us some wonderful rides, one was more than a hundred miles."

Mellie at the order of Mrs. Dunham, he admitted, changed his favorite flannel shirt for a silk one. The shirt, he confessed, came from a Middle West mail order house.

#### Practically All Defendants in Caswell Trials Submit

Yanceyville, Dec. 12.—Twenty-seven cases of alleged contract breaking on part of the members of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association were disposed of by Judge Pinley in the Superior Court in session at this place.

These cases have cluttered up the docket of the Caswell Superior Court for several terms, and in order that some disposition might be made of them, it was agreed that they be made a special order at this term.

In the hearing of the cases but little interest has been shown, practically all of the defendants submitting to a judgment by default. The jury has only been employed to ascertain the poundage which was not delivered to the association.

It is estimated that the total poundage found by the jury will approximate 70,000.

The judgment in the several cases assesses the liquidated damages to the association at five cents per pound with the further cost of the action and the attorneys' fees.

Judge Pinley decreed that each of the defaulting members of the association be permanently enjoined from selling any portion of their crop of tobacco on the auction floors during the life of the contract.

#### YEGGMEN ARE GIVEN 10 YEARS IN ATLANTA

Convicted of Robbing Bank and Postoffice in Pilot Mountain Last May

Greensboro, Dec. 11.—Jerry Farlow with five aliases, Walter Murray, with four other names, and William E. Walker, with three aliases, were sentenced to serve ten years each in the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta, the result of conviction this afternoon in Federal District Court here in charge of robbing the postoffice at Pilot Mountain May 11. Judge E. Yates Webb pronounced sentence and the men will be taken to Atlanta Saturday morning.

It was testified by W. W. Redman, postmaster at Pilot Mountain, and W. M. Matthews, cashier of the Farmers' Bank at Pilot Mountain, that the bank and postoffice were entered by yeggs and about \$600 in stamps and money stolen. The three men were captured at Danville, Va., a few days later and over \$2,000 and a big batch of stamps found on them. A crow-bar and burglars' tools was also found in the car they had.

Trial of the case took a little over half a day and the jury was out about 87 hours.

Murray is 56 years old; Farlow about 40 and Walker about 25.

#### SEND BEAR STEAK TO FRANK PAGE

Head of Highway Commission Presented With Thirty Lbs. From Columbus

Whiteville, Nov. 12.—Frank Page, chairman, of the State Highway Commission, this week was the recipient of thirty pounds of bear steak, the result of a Sunday morning bear hunt at Wananah, Columbus County, in which a three hundred pound bear that had been devouring the hogs and robbing the bee hives of the community was killed. The steak was sent to the highway commissioner by K. B. Council, of Lake Waccamaw, who has been Mr. Page's hunting companion on Mr. Council's premises around the lake a good many times.

In excuse for taking the Sabbath day for the hunt, the party declared that to kill hog-killing bears was similar to pulling oxen out of the mire. The hunt had been contemplated for two weeks since the first appearance of the marauder, and when on last Saturday night the animal came back to look for more shade upon which to feed, the bear dogs being handy, and the community with the idea of ridding itself of the thieving visitor, set out on the hunt. The bear was cornered in the Green Swamp, and killed.

Bee-keepers who have several hundred hives around the shores of Lake Waccamaw and the Green Swamp have been forced to screen in their hives to keep them from being robbed of their honey by bears which infest the swamps.

In the National Museum in New York is the fossil of a dwarf animal, believed to be more than a million years old.