

Luther Burbank Passes, Believing There Is No Hereafter

Death Comes Amid the Flowering Fruits and Blooms He Created For Mankind.

Santa Rosa, Cal., April 11.—Luther Burbank, withered by age, died here early today amid the flowering fruits and blooms that he created for mankind's benefit.

The noted horticulturist passed on to the adventure of a hereafter in which he had no faith. Only a week before the end the great plant wizard had declared that he could not believe in a life after death. And as life ebbed away and he stood at the brink he did not falter in his convictions.

Infirm and worn after years devoted to developing and guiding plant life the controversy started by his pronouncements on religion and reincarnation contributed to his last illness.

The storm of protest came from religious leaders after Mr. Burbank gave out his statement declaring himself to be an infidel. His home here was swamped with letters and telegrams condemning his stand. The stress he was subjected to in defending and explaining his beliefs brought on a nervous condition that his 77 years could not survive.

Used Patience.

Wonderful as many of Burbank's achievements with vegetable, plant and flower life seem to the layman, the methods by which they were accomplished were not in themselves remarkable. Patience was the chief requisite to his success. Deciding first what he wished to create, remake or improve upon in the vegetable world, he began by carefully selecting robust specimens, allowing them to go to seed, then experimenting with the seeds under widely different conditions of climate, fertilization and nourishment. The product would in turn be submitted to radical changes from its natural elements and the product of this would undergo further experimentation and so the artificial evolution progressed until the final result either met the wizard's requirements or was abandoned as useless.

Burbank's experimental farms at Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, a nearby town, became a mecca for statesmen, kings, princes, philanthropists, horticulturists, biologists, botanists and humanitarians as the fame of their owner spread. Never of a commercial turn, Burbank permitted an association known as the Luther Burbank society, chartered by the state of California and endowed by wealthy patrons, to disseminate the knowledge of plants and vegetables which he worked out.

Received Carnegie Gift.

In addition to the congressional grant of land, his work was recognized by the Carnegie Foundation in 1905 by a gift of \$10,000 annually for a period of 10 years to insure a continuation of his experiments. In 1921, when the city of Santa Rosa completed a new \$300,000 park, it was named after Luther Burbank. He turned the first shovel of earth in the construction, and later laid out the gardens, which cover a 41-acre tract. The state of California also honored its distinguished resident some years ago by naming March 7, Burbank's birthday, as Bird and Arbor day, and the occasion has since been celebrated as a school holiday throughout the state.

Burbank married Elizabeth J. Waters, of Hastings, Mich., December 21, 1916.

Said He Was Infidel.

A few weeks ago Burbank created comment throughout the country by declaring that "as a scientist I cannot help but feel that all religions are on a tottering foundation. He also repeated former assertions that he was "an infidel in the true sense of the word."

Most of the comment was in opposition to the horticulturist's statement, a group of Chicago clergymen branding his remarks as "unscientific" and "nonsense," while Chauncey M. Depew, in New York, said he regretted "sincerely that such a prominent man as Mr. Burbank should adopt this attitude, as it is contrary to the sentiment of 99 per cent of the American people today."

Appearing in the pulpit of the First Congregational church in San Francisco, Burbank declared he had "nominated" himself as "infidel" so

as to cause people to think. "I reiterate: The religion of most people is what they would like to believe not what they do believe and very few stop to examine its foundation," he declared.

"The idea that a good God would send people to a burning hell is utterly damnable to me. The ravings of insanity; superstitions gone to seed. I don't want to have anything to do with such a God. I am a lover of men and Christ, as a man and his work, and all things that help humanity but, nevertheless, just as he was an infidel, then, I am an infidel today.

"I prefer and claim the right to worship the infinite everlasting almighty God of this vast universe as revealed to us gradually step by step by the demonstrable truths of our savior Jesus.

"One World at a Time"

"Do you think Christ or Mohammed, Confucius, Baal or even the Gods of ancient mythology are dead? Not so. Do you think Pericles, Marcus Aurelius, Moses, Shakespeare, Spinoza, Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Empedocles, Humboldt, Darwin, Tolstoi, Franklin, Emerson are dead? No. Their very personality lives and will live forever in our lives and all of those who follow us. All of them are with us today. No one lives who is not influenced more or less by these great ones according to the capacity of the cup of knowledge which they bring to their overflowing fountains to be filled.

"All plants, animals and man are already in eternity traveling across the face of time, whence we know not, whither who is able to say? Let us have one world at a time and let us make the journey one of joy to our fellow passengers and just as convenient and happy for them as we can and trust the rest as we trust life.

"Let us read the Bible without the ill-fitting spectacles of theology just as we read other books, using our own judgment and reason, listening to the voice within—not the noisy babble without."

Following this, the naturalist claimed he had the power to cure the ill by the "laying on of hands."

"Why, many years ago my nearest neighbor was dying," he was quoted as saying. "Four doctors had given him up. He sent for me and I went to his bedside. He told me 'I am going to die tonight.' I told him 'you are going to get well. Tomorrow morning I will see you at your woodpile as usual.' He was there the next morning. That is only one of so many cases."

Expected to Live Five Years

Asserting the "power" was not supernatural, he added;

"And bear in mind that I will not allow the afflicted to be brought to me; I can not have my door thronged with patients, I am far too busy to take on any more work than I have now on hand."

On March 6, the eve of his 75th birthday, Burbank addressed a message to "the children of the world," telling them their happiness will be in direct proportion to their loving thoughts, "toward every person and animal and even toward stars, planets, oceans, rivers and hills."

Burbank then said he expected to live at least five years more and in that period do the most important work of his life.

Fortified by a vigorous constitution, which had its roots as deep as the flowers and plants he tended, he put up a valiant struggle against his illness.

Mr. Burbank always declared that his object in increasing the yield of plants was to better the condition of his fellowmen and he died believing "we must look for survival only in the spirit of the good we have done in passing through life.

"If it has been a good life it has been sufficient," he held. "There is no need for another. Once here and gone the human life has served its purpose."

TATTOO

An army officer was showing his faintest about the camps when a bugle sounded.

"What's that for?" the fair one inquired.

"That's tattoo," the officer explained.

"Oh, I understand," she remarked. "I've often seen it on soldier's arms, but did not know they had a special time for doing it."

HOW IS MOUNT AIRY TO HANDLE THE SCHOOL SITUATION?

Prof. Hurst Explains What It Means For Mount Airy To Enlarge Its School District.

There has been filed with the Board of School Commissioners of Mount Airy a petition signed by eighty-two citizens of a part of the Salem school district contiguous to the Mount Airy school district asking that the Board of School Commissioners of Mount Airy petition the Board of Education of Surry County to set apart this portion of the Salem school district and annex it to and make it a part of the Mount Airy school district for school purposes. A like petition has been received from the citizens of the Tesh school district asking that the Board of School Commissioners of Mount Airy likewise petition the County Board of Education to annex this said Tesh district entire to the Mount Airy school district for school purposes.

All of the high school pupils from both of these districts are now being schooled in Mount Airy on a tuition basis, as are also many of the elementary pupils from both districts for whom the county thus far has been unable to provide available elementary schools. Should these districts be annexed to and form a part of the Mount Airy school district, they would vote and pay the special tax now paid by the citizens of the present Mount Airy school district for the extra three months term and participate in all the benefits of the Mount Airy school system. Titles to all school property located in these districts would automatically become vested in the Board of Education of Mount Airy who, in turn, would assume the responsibility of up-keep and any building enlargement or additions necessary to provide school facilities for all pupils of these districts of the same kind and quality as are now provided for the pupils in the Mount Airy school district. In short, these annexed districts would become a part of an integral whole known as the Mount Airy school district and participate in all the benefits and assume all the obligations pertaining to the same. They would, as such, vote on any bond issue for the district and of course participate in bond burdens.

The assessed valuation of the portion of the Salem district petitioning is approximately \$200,000, and of the Tesh district, \$330,000. The special tax now paid by the Mount Airy school district of 35c when voted by these district would bring into the Mount Airy school fund approximately \$700 from the Salem district and \$1100 from the Tesh district, or \$1800 from both districts as special tax for providing them a nine months school of kind and quality now conducted in Mount Airy. The Mount Airy school district is now receiving on a tuition basis established by law approximately \$1425 from said portion of Salem district, and approximately \$1250 from the Tesh district, making a total of approximately \$2675 from both districts for providing school facilities for the non-resident pupils of these petitioning districts, which tuition is the per capita cost as determined by an audit of the preceding year and is somewhat less than the per capita cost in Mount Airy school district for the year for which it is paid.

The benefits accruing to Mount Airy under this plan would be those of an enlarged school system. It would then be approximately a fifty-teacher system which would receive from the County allowance for an all-time high school principal at a state salary of \$2400, while it now receives an allowance for a part-time high school principal at a state salary of \$1800. It would also receive allowance from the County for a supervisor of music, or of primary work, or of grammar grade work, or of athletics for which it now receives no county allowance. It would tend toward a larger and more unified Mount Airy in general.

The schools of Mount Airy belong to the citizens of Mount Airy; the Board of School Commissioners is in reality a committee appointed by the Board of Town-Commissioners to administer the schools for the people. It has been and now is the purpose of the Board of School Commissioners to administer the schools in accord with advanced community sentiment and it hesitates to take a step in school administration so vital as it considers this step would be without first ascertaining what is the sentiment of the citizenship of Mount Airy in regard to it, and it hereby solicits expression from the citizens through

Sileam Young People Wed— Other Sileam News

Sileam, April 12.—Rev. Lowell Martin and Miss Ollie Parker motored to Rockford and were quietly married in the presence of a few intimate friends, Rev. Geo. Burrus officiating. Mrs. Martin was the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Parker of this section, and Mr. Martin is the son of Mrs. Mattie Martin, of Rockford, Route 1, and a well known minister of this section. Their many friends will be glad to know that they expect to make their future home near Rockford.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Jenkins and family spent Easter with relatives in Winston-Salem.

Surry County is to be represented by Copeland Consolidated High school in the debating contest and will enter the elimination contest with the various 43 high-schools of the state in the final debate. These contests are to be held at Chapel Hill April 15 and 16. The schools that were placed with Copeland dropped out.

A happy wedding occurred Saturday, April 3, when Miss Columbia Bowman became the bride of Mr. James Hardy at the home of Magistrate D. C. Norman at East Bend who performed the ceremony. Mrs. Hardy is the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Bowman, of this section, and Mr. Hardy is a well known citizen of this section also. Roy Harbour and Robert Posey attended the wedding.

Miss Hazel Reeves spent Thursday night with Mary Ellen Houck of Rockford.

The third meeting of the Parent-Teacher association of the Copeland High school was held in the High School auditorium Thursday night April 8. The first part of the meeting was devoted to electing officers and the last part was spent hearing the debaters speak who will represent Copeland in the debating contest which to be held at Chapel Hill.

The Bryan and the O Henry Literary Societies of the Copeland High school held their regular meetings Friday April 9.

Elders township Sunday School Convention will be held at Mount Zion Church April 17 and 18. There will be four churches represented with programs, namely; Mt. Zion, Friends Church, Rock Hill and Hills Grove. Everybody is cordially invited to attend. Come and enjoy the days.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hunt, of Winston-Salem spent Sunday with her brother J. W. Flincham.

Miss Maye Scott spent Tuesday night with Eva Snow.

Miss Louise Norman one of the teachers of the Copeland High school spent the week end with her parents at Dobson.

1,500 Sought Relief From Sentences in One Year

Raleigh, April 10.—More than 1,500 applications for executive clemency were acted upon during the first year of the office of Commissioner of Pardons, created by the last General Assembly, and held by H. Hoyle Sink since April 1, 1925, it is shown by a statement issued by Governor McLean today reviewing the year's activities.

Sixteen hundred eighty-seven applications filed during the year, and of that number 168 were on April 1 pending, awaiting action.

Unfavorable action was accorded 1,122 applications. Two hundred-seventy paroles were granted, and nine pardons. Reprieves of respites were granted in 17 cases. Fifteen sentences were commuted.

Twenty-three paroles were revoked during the year. There were 12 electrocutions, or an average of one each month, during the year.

"Initiated," Dies

Danville, Va., April 7.—The death of Thomas Howell employe of a furniture plant at Martinsville, as result of an "initiation" is to be investigated, it was learned today. Howell, married and with five children, is said to have gone to Martinsville from Fieldsale, obtained employment and was told by other employes of the usual ceremony for newcomers. The initiation was largely through the use of a hose pipe connected with a tank of compressed air.

The columns of the Mount Airy News, or by personal letter addressed to the chairman of the Board, or otherwise.

Action on these petitions must be taken by the Board before May 1, when the school budget for the ensuing school year must be filed with the Department of Education at Raleigh.

Joseph H. Hurst,
Secretary to the Board.

Talks By the County Agent

By H. E. White,
Surry County Farm Demonstration Agent

In making out the farm crop program don't forget that a vegetable garden pays the best of anything on the farm. We should be able to get half of our food from one acre and that will greatly reduce the high cost of living. Besides a good garden every farmer should have a good Irish and Sweet potato patch and then some early corn for roasting-ears that is one of the greatest dishes in the world, corn on the cob, so be sure and have a supply on hand all the summer. There are several things necessary for a good garden, first a very rich soil, second grow plenty of staple vegetables, third plant enough for your entire family, fourth keep a succession of crops so you will have something all the time, fifth work it well and give it special work when necessary and don't expect a good crop with a garden full of weeds, sixth then protect the vegetables from all diseases and insect pests. If you will keep these in mind it will help make your garden a great success.

In the Market News, issued by the State Agr. Dept. Lowe's Grove Credit Union is described. This was organized about 12 years ago and it has greatly helped the credit of that community. They now have 60 members and last year did a business on \$2,300 which was sufficient to take care of the needs of the community. If a similar institution could be established in every community of Surry county it would revolutionize the farming in ten years. The promotion of this credit union is under the Division of Markets of the State Department of Agriculture and if there are any communities in this county interested should write to Raleigh at once an get information on how to organize one of these saving and loan associations. What community will be the first to take interest in this?

Mr. W. T. Aydtlett, Moyock, N. C., is offering corn f. o. b. at 32c per bushel in bulk. If interested write direct to him.

An interesting pamphlet came to the office the other day entitled "Sand Drown." The following is taken from a description of Sand Drown. As a rule, sand drown does not appear until the growing season is well advanced. The first symptoms are seen after the leaves have grown to nearly full-size usually after the plants have been topped.

First, you notice the dull color of affected leaves. They are very pale yellow to almost pure white. The veins often stay green long after the remainder of the leaf has turned yellow. The loss of normal green color begins on the lowermost leaves, generally at the tip. After developing in the tip and the margin, the disease advances toward the base and center of each affected leaf.

Note that you can easily distinguish sand drown from potash starvation by examining the affected leaf. When sand drown prevails the whole leaf becomes discolored, while in the case of potash starvation, the leaf is bleached in spots and presents a spotty appearance.

Since it is well known that the price received for tobacco depends a great deal on color of the leaf, any disease that causes a fading of the color as sand drown does, will reduce the price received for tobacco. When affected with sand drown, the cured leaf has a dull and faded appearance. It is important therefore for practical reasons, to make every effort to prevent tobacco being affected with sand drown.

Prevention of "Sand Drown"

In preventing of controlling any plant disease we must first find the cause. Authorities have shown that sand drown is caused by the lack of magnesium in the soil, and it is lack of this element which causes the bleaching of the leaves. Sand drown develops most commonly on light sandy soils. The leaching of rain through this type of soil washes magnesium with it, thus creating the deficiency.

We must bear in mind that symptoms do not appear until the growing season is advanced. Immediate application of magnesium will have little effect, the time to apply magnesium is early in the season when the soil is fertilized. Various sources of organic matter such as cotton seed meal and tobacco stems may be used. Very successful results, however have

been obtained through the use of sulfate of potash-magnesia. Especially should magnesia be used if the fertilizer contains soluble sulfates. If limestone is needed, dolomitic limestone should be used. In applying fertilizer, bear in mind that an excessive application of magnesia will result in poor burning quality. That is why sulfate of potash-magnesia should be preferred, it contains a suitable proportion of potash and magnesia. It is recommended that tobacco fertilizers carry 2% magnesia.

Watch your field carefully this season for any appearance of sand drown. But the most practical step is to use sulfate of potash-magnesia for the time to prevent sand drown, is in the Spring when you fertilize the soil.

It has been found at the Oxford station that lime-magnesium limestone applied before fertilizing and setting tobacco has proved profitable practice. Experiments over four years with limed and unlimed plots show that liming the land with one ton of limestone applied broadcast has not only increased yields but has improved the quality and lessened the disease attacks.

The use of lime will not only increase the quality and yield of the tobacco but it will also control sand drown. Magnesium can be gotten from R. K. Simmons, Mt. Airy, W. E. Matthews, Pilot Mountain and J. E. Dobbins, Elkin. These dealers are handling this on a low margin in order to have lime convenient for the farmers. They expect to keep a supply of lime on hand all the time.

This lime is also good to use on other crops and is especially good for sweet clover. Do not sow sweet clover without liming and inoculation for your chance of success will be rather slim. Sweet clover is well adapted to all kinds of soil and climatic conditions but its lime requirement is as high as red clover or alfalfa, best results are obtained on soils free from acid.

NINE BIDS ON MUSCLE SHOALS

Ford Did Not Submit a New Bid Because of Restrictions

Washington, April 10.—The joint congressional Muscle Shoals committee tonight began study of the nine offers it received for leasing the government's \$150,000,000 power and nitrate plant.

The time limit for receiving bids expired at noon. The committee must prepare by April 26 a report to congress urging acceptance of one or more of the offers.

Despite special urgings from the committee Henry Ford, whose original offer for the property was rejected by congress, did not submit a new bid. It was believed that the conditions attached to the bids, principally the one requiring all surplus power developed at Muscle Shoals be made available for the south prevented Ford from making another try for the plant. Ford originally wanted to use the power for his own purposes.

Congress has determined that the chief function at Muscle Shoals should be the manufacture of fertilizer. Consequently, most of the offers were from fertilizer concerns.

Farm Population Decreases

Washington, April 6.—A continued decrease in farm population in the United States is reported by the department of agriculture which estimates that there were 479,000 fewer people on farms January 1, this year, than on January 1, a year ago. The department estimates the farm population at 30,655,000 on January 1, 1926, compared with 31,134,000 on January 1, 1925, a decrease of 1.5 per cent. These figures included all men, women and children living on farms.

Union Passenger Station At Winston is Now Ready

Winston-Salem, April 11.—The new Union Passenger station on Wheeler street and Claremont avenue will be formally opened on next Thursday morning. Announcement was made this morning that all details preliminary to actual use of the new terminal have been completed, and the first train will receive its cargo of passengers there at 6:30 Thursday morning.

The opening of the station had been set for Thursday, April 1, but on account of the fact that paving of Claremont avenue and the station drives was delayed by unfavorable weather, a postponement of 15 days was recommended. The paving work was finished several days ago and all three drives leading to the terminal are in readiness and now in use.