

The Mt. Airy News

J. E. JOHNSON & SON, Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES One Year \$1.50

Circulation Books Open to All

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Mount Airy, N. C., under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

We Should Have Good Water.

Our people are at a loss to know what to say about our city water. We mean the man of the street, the private citizen, is at a loss to know what to say. In our deliberation we have put some of our first citizens in charge of the water system and they have our confidence as men of sound judgment and discretion.

Man has suffered so much and so long from impure food and drink that he no longer can gulp down his throat what appears to be impure water, even if some learned man does say it is good water.

There is no solution to this problem only to find a way to serve this town with water that the people will drink without having a sense of disgust and nausea when it is necessary to drink water.

THE POWER OF PRINTERS INK.

Some weeks ago there were a dozen or more children in the county home of Surry and every effort had been made to get homes for them and yet they had not been placed.

OTTO WOOD AUTHOR.

The notorious Mr. Otto Wood has turned author and is publishing a book. He is now a famous criminal confined in the state prison for murder.

County Has Employed All-Time Health Nurse.

Mrs. W. R. Simpson, of this city, has accepted the position of Public Health Nurse for Surry County and takes up the work with enthusiasm and a desire to be of real service.

FOR OUR FAR AWAY READERS.

It would be hard to convey to our far away readers an idea of the fine crops that have blessed this section this year. It has been a strange season. Early in the summer it was so dry that many despaired of making anything, but the rains came in time to save the day, and crops started off with vim.

A visitor back here who has been away a few years would hardly know the town, so extensively have public improvements been made. Years ago, like most small towns this was a one-street town.

When the work now underway is completed this town will have a hard surface system of streets fully in keeping with the growth and wealth of the town.

Receivership for Theatre Continued.

Following a hearing at Dobson this week the receivership proceedings against the Broadway Amusement Co., brought by W. H. Marion was continued until next February court.

Geo. Easter Leaves Hospital.

Geo. Easter, who was seriously wounded by Quincy Webb three weeks ago, has sufficiently recovered from the wounds to return to his home in Carroll County.

Confederate Veteran Passes.

William Williamson a Confederate Veteran aged 83 years died at the home of his son, Monroe Williamson, on Spring street at eight o'clock Sunday morning after being in ill health about two years.

A Big Watermelon Attracts Crowd.

Much interest was aroused over guessing the weight of a large watermelon in the window of Mount Airy Drug Co. last Saturday. During the day it was announced that the one guessing the nearest to its weight would be given the melon.

LIEUTENANT HAYNES SETS NEW AIR MARK

Flies From Spokane to Camp Lewis in Record Time.

"Air speed records between Spokane and Camp Lewis were broken Sunday when Lieut. C. V. Haynes winged from the coast to the Parkwater hangars in two hours and 17 minutes. Airmen were much interested in his feat.

Official Audit of City Shows Cause "Shake-up" Among the Life

Gen. R. Dobie & Co., certified public accountants of Greensboro, have just completed what is said to be the most extensive audit of the books of The Town of Mount Airy in the history of the city. For several months representatives of this company have been working on the books and records of the city, their accounting going into every department of the city government, including the schools, water and light commission, cemetery commission, tax collector's office, Recorder's Court clerk and the Secretary and Treasurer's office.

In commenting about the method of handling the Court's affairs the auditors say:

"It was impossible to determine the transactions of this court as was evidenced at the meeting which our representative called and which was attended by the judge and the clerk of the court, the solicitor, the mayor and the city attorney.

"We found in analyzing the bank accounts that the bank deposits varied materially from the amounts shown by the clerk's cash book and asked the clerk for an explanation but he could not give proper information.

The law requires that a statement of the monies handled by all public officials be published in some newspaper annually. This has been done by F. M. Poore, the city secretary and treasurer, but inasmuch as no report of the funds handled by the Recorder's Court has ever been published the report of this department for the year ending April 30, 1926, is herewith published for information of the public:

"Town of Mount Airy, N. C. Receipts and Disbursements Recorder's Court, May 1, 1925, to April 30, 1926.

Table with columns: Receipts, Disbursements, Total. Includes items like Recorder's fees, Solicitor's fees, Jail and board, Sheriff's fees, Fines, Miscellaneous, Bank balance, May 1925, Total \$12,909.38.

It will be seen from this report that the Judge gets approximately \$2,000 a year in fees, the Solicitor \$1,500, the city about \$1,500 in officers' and clerk's fees, and the county school fund the entire amount of the fines which were \$5,470.15.

In this city we have a tax collector whose duty it is to collect the tax. We also have a city treasurer who receives the money from the tax collector and pays it out by order of the Board of City Commissioners. The money collected by the tax collector is turned over to the treasurer each month and placed to the credit of the various departments of the city; sinking fund, interest on bonds, etc.

of the tax collector the auditors in their report say:

"We determine the amount in each fund by verifying the amount with which the collector was chargeable, the unpaid items, the amount which was collected, the amount remitted to the treasurer, the cash that was and should have been in the collector's office and on deposit and have included in this item the amount the collector should have remitted to the treasurer promptly after April 30, 1926.

"After verifying the items mentioned we prepared Schedules 1 and 2 to show the details of the items chargeable to the collector, the amount he remitted to the treasurer and find that he should have remitted \$2,385.58 more than he did remit as shown in Schedule 1.

The collector had a bank account which we attempted to examine. We found that the collections were not itemized as they were deposited. We found that some of the 1925 items were deposited in this account but the item of the Mount Airy Chair Co. \$1,323.13, could not be explained by the collector. It was impossible to count the cash in the collector's office during our audit and reconcile the same with the amount on April 30, 1926, therefore we counted the cash and reconciled the bank account on July 14, 1926, and have prepared Schedule 4 to show the amount he should have had on that date and the transactions since April 30, 1926.

"This schedule shows the uncollected taxes and the recorded cash that should have been on hand April 30, 1926, the taxes listed since that date, the releases by the board, the uncollected taxes, the amount for which the collector is accountable, the remittance to the treasurer, the cash in office and on deposit, and leaves a net deficiency in cash of \$1,254.39 for which the collector is responsible."

The report of the auditors is contained in a book of 88 pages and balances the accounts of the secretary and treasurer, the school board and the cemetery commission. In making the audit of the secretary and treasurer the auditors found an overage of two cents in Mr. Poore's books. As everyone knows Mr. Poore has taken great pride in having his books balance to the penny during the twenty years that he has held this office.

There are three copies of the audit in the hands of the city officials and they are giving it a careful study. The voluminousness of the report and wide scope which it embraces will require some time for the officials to give it proper study, after which the suggestions made by the report will be considered.

In closing the report the auditors made the following general comments:

"As indicated in the preceding comments we found the condition in the collector's office very unsatisfactory. The 1924 taxes were collected in large amounts during the period that the tax payers should have been paying 1925 taxes. It required a very large amount of time to correct the tax records; the original levy of 1925 was not correctly added, taxes had been collected without proper entries of receipts being made, additional taxes were listed but not recorded and the records in use were inadequate for the transactions.

"The condition in the Recorder's Court has been described and there is no practical way of determining whether the town has received the proper amount of costs and fees.

"The records of the Water and Light department had been so misplaced that it was necessary to work from the meter readings to ascertain whether proper receipts had been remitted to the treasurer.

"As an illustration of the unsatisfactory condition which existed we found the difference of \$1,254.39 in the collector's account and additional taxes of \$1,444.18 which had not been charged to the collector; and the difference of \$273.13 in the Water and Light department.

"We have installed a remittance sheet for the taxes and the Recorder's Court and are submitting with this report forms for use in connection with the water and street paving assessments collections. We realize that these forms will only partially correct the conditions and urge that you have the entire system of the town changed from the receipts and disbursements method to the revenue and expense method and that the collector's office and such work as the collector is doing which properly is the duty of the town clerk be rearranged so that the clerk will perform only clerical work and the collector and treasurer will be controlled through records in the clerk's office.

"We found that your town charter should be amended in several ways and we recommend that the proper authorities review the matter thoroughly with the view of having the proper bills submitted at the state

FREE! Buy This Get This Free. Palmolive Shaving Cream And Gillette Safety Razor. While our supply lasts you will get absolutely free a genuine Gillette Safety Razor and blade with every purchase of a 35 cent tube of palm Olive Shaving Cream. W. S. Wolfe Drug Company Next to Post Office.

legislature in January. We believe that if the suggestions regarding the duties of the various officers are adopted that economies will be effected in the number of employees and other expenses now being incurred by the board. In conclusion we wish to express our appreciation of the many courtesies extended our representatives while making this audit and to suggest that action be taken to prevent a repetition of the unusual cost that was necessary in making this audit."

Mr. Deyerle, the city tax collector, is not willing for the report of the auditors to stand without making a full investigation of their charges as to the conditions in his office. In talking to a News representative this week he stated that he had no personal knowledge of any shortage in his books and that the auditors during their work here had not conferred with him about any condition that they did not understand. He says he does not know how they arrived at their figure of \$1,254.00 shortage in his tax books.



We're Off. People visiting our store go away pleased with the low prices that we offer them on their hardware needs. Our opening last Saturday proved to us that the people of this community appreciate the establishment of a concern that is able to save them money on their purchases. For some time we will be getting in many new items, but we are off, and expect to make a winning race for your trade. We know we can win if you will let us show you our goods and prices. Midkiff-Brannock Hardware Co. Second Door Below Parks-Bell Co.

gard to the report of Mr. Dobie until Mr. Goodnoe can make an audit for Mr. Deyerle. Mr. Goodnoe will arrive in the next few days and the board will meet with him on Sept. 17 to confer with him and hear his report.

Now that the city fathers have gone to such expense of having the audit made and also of going to the expense of partly changing the old system of bookkeeping they cannot afford to absolutely disregard the report of the auditors without making some explanation to the public. For them to accept the report of the auditors and then fail to heed anything that the report brings to their attention could hardly be counted consistent. With the tax collector stuffing behind his records and he having employed an auditor also it begins to look like the city's accounting system will get a good and thorough check up along all lines to say the least.

Rockford Street Methodist Church.

Rev. G. W. Williams, Pastor. Sunday School 9:45 A. M. Morning Worship 11:00 A. M. Evening Worship 8:00 P. M. Epworth League 7:15 P. M. Prayer Service, Wed. 8:00 P. M.

Twenty Lynchings in U. S. This Year; 2 Whites Hang.

New York, Sept. 1.—Twenty lynchings have occurred in the United States so far this year, in comparison with 18 for the entire year of 1925, the national association for the advancement of colored people announced today.

Two white men were among the victims this year, while there was none last year, according to the association's figures.