

The Messenger.

T. G. COBB, (PUBLISHER.) EDITORS: W. H. WHITE.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1897.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

They are the "paladium of our liberties," and the basis, for the great majority, of any future education of training.

Wise is that man and dutiful as a citizen, and wise is that people that make the most of our public schools. They have in days gone by been so inefficient that some good men have fallen out of confidence with them.

The last legislature appropriated \$50,000 a year for three years to the public schools, to be secured as follows: In August next in every township of the State an election is to be held to vote a tax of at least thirty cents on each poll and ten cents upon each hundred dollars worth of property to be devoted to the public schools for the taxation.

Each school is to have not less than sixty-five pupils on its roll (just one-half do not have so many). The total number in this township, to illustrate by it, will likely be reduced from fifty-six for the whites and thirteen for the colored people, to a total of about fifty.

Ex United States Senator Daniel Woodley Voorhees, of Indiana, "the tall sycamore of the wash," has bowed himself to the earth—the voice of the great democratic orator and statesman will be no longer heard.

COL. BLOCKER LOSES A HORSE. A Strange Accident—A Remarkable Instance of Canine Sagacity—Capt. Terrell and Mr. Mashburn Relinquish in the Southern Service.

Col. O. H. Blocker had the misfortune to lose a horse yesterday in a rather strange manner. The animal was hired for an evening ride by a gentleman visiting here, and he having business at "Jolli-mont," had gone into the house, leaving the horse tied at the gate, when, becoming frightened at a train passing thro' the deep railroad cut near, it broke away, and running very fast, fell in the road, injuring itself, it is feared, beyond any hope of recovery.

This road will be worth more money to Marion in the future than any of her factories. The legislature furnishes the guards, tools and fifty convicts for several years, or until the "pike" is completed. The three counties of Mitchell, Vance and McDowell are to levy and collect until the road is completed, each \$500 a year.

The whole length of the road will be something near 70 miles. This will make Mitchell and Vance, whose nearest railroad station is Marion, practically several miles nearer. The travel over a good "pike" will become a pleasure, and a source of profit to many when loads twice as heavy can be hauled.

The road is to be 20 feet wide, no grade to be steeper than one foot in seven, clear of roots, rocks, mudholes, etc.; to be rounded for drainage by ditching on either side and across by under ditching when necessary, and bridged when needful. Work is to begin at this end first. Soon the pick, the shovel and the convict will be among us.

Do not kick the goose that lays golden eggs by asking too much for lots desired by manufacturers, and thus force them to go to more appreciative locations. If Marion is a first rate location for such there are others. But we are appreciating factories more, and giving them welcome. Towns have been known to be injured, and ruined by exorbitant prices for land driving, would be purchasers elsewhere. We believe this will not be the case here. Of course a man can ask what he pleases, that is not denied, but there is such a thing as wise and unwise action in this matter for the good of all.

We surrender a part of our editorial space, and a part usually devoted to local matter, to the necessities of the write up, which has the right of way this week, after which we shall have our complement of editorial, news and local matter.

Much of the information as to minerals, temperature, rainfall, etc., and other valuable information was secured from that most excellent work, "North Carolina and its resources," by T. K. Bruner.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Democrats Endorse Some Statements Made by Daily Office-Secretary in "About the Civil Service Rules—Death of Ex-Senator Voorhees." From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1897.—The democrats of the House in caucus endorsed the statements made by Representative Bailey, of Texas, when Representative Dingley, in response to Representative Jerry Simpson's protest, bluntly stated that the republicans did not intend to allow any general legislation by the House at this session. Mr. Bailey said: "We are not inclined to insist upon the republican party legislating. We feel that the country suffers when the republican party legislates. We have contended this all our lives, and we sincerely believe it. We have no desire to urge the republican party to make laws, but we desire to understand its policy. We are here ready to discuss any measure you desire to bring up, but believing that nine out of ten of them would be bad we are ready to help you if your policy is to do nothing."

In the death of ex Senator D. W. Voorhees, which occurred Saturday morning at his Washington residence, the Democratic party lost one of its ablest and hardest workers, a man who has for nearly half a century occupied a place in the front ranks of democracy in every national campaign. Mr. Voorhees had been in failing health for several years, but his death was entirely unexpected, although he was in his seventieth year.

Hon. W. J. Bryan arrived in Washington to-day from Florida. This evening he was given a reception by the Old Dominion Club and delivered an address before the law school of Columbian University, and to-morrow evening he will be the guest of honor at the big democratic Jefferson celebration.

Among the many prominent business men who are in Washington for the purpose of pointing out to the Senate Committee on Finance, the bad features of the tariff bill, is Marshall Field, the widely known Chicago merchant. Mr. Field was asked if he cared to make a statement for publication on the tariff bill, and he replied: "No, except the one general remark that it is the worst tariff bill I ever saw, not only as regards the rates of duty imposed, but in the complicated and ambiguous methods

WASHINGTON LETTER.

expressed over a report that Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, who will qualify as Assistant Secretary of the Navy in a few days, having already been nominated and confirmed, will investigate the Brooklyn navy yard. It was because they feared this very thing that they fought Roosevelt's appointment to this place.

MITCHELL COUNTY.

Dr. Location, Soil and Product—Climate and Town Industries—Summer Resorts—Schools—Population. Correspondence of The Messenger.

Mitchell county lies between the Blue Ridge on the south and east, and the Smoky on the north, the west having a conventional boundary. Most of the county is mountainous, there being very little valley formation except on the upper waters of Eutaw river, and upper Linville.

The soil of Mitchell is universally fertile, the timber of large size and of great variety. The hickory is very plentiful; the walnut, chestnut, beech, buckeye, locust, maple, cherry and birch abound.

Of the shrubbery there is also a great variety. The rhododendron or laurel grows here most luxuriantly. The ivy—hedera latifolia—often called calico bush, conspicuous for the profusion of its white or pink angular bell shaped and delicately dotted flowers, covers most every hillside. There are several varieties of the azalia, among which are the orange and lemon colored, growing in large compact clusters, and adding rare beauty to the landscape from the conspicuous glow of its masses of bloom. There is also a white variety, which grows along the water courses, and of great and delicious fragrance.

BEAUTIFUL OLD FORT.

A Pleasant Town—Picturesque Surroundings—One of the Best Places in W. N. C. in Which to Spend Pleasantly Summer or Winter, and at Little Expense. Correspondence of The Messenger.

In this special edition of THE MESSENGER I would like to give the outside world some account of the town of Old Fort, the best place in Western North Carolina in which to while away pleasantly summer or winter. The town is admirably adapted for a winter resort, situated in the north-western part of McDowell county in the Catawba valley, just where the great uplands of the Blue Ridge meet on the Southern Railway. We have the advantage of an open southern exposure. Cyclones are not known to this favored section, as north or west of us the hills and mountains are a natural barrier against storms.

Our climate is particularly suited at all seasons for invalids, those tired out with the rush and hurry of life, those seeking a quiet and pleasant home in which to rest and recuperate, and especially for people with families of children whom they wish to have the benefit of a sojourn in the mountains. Our water is unexcelled anywhere for purity, and so soft that ice is not needed in summer. Our nights are always pleasant in summer.

As to the matter of expense I quote from an article written by a very prominent physician of Eastern North Carolina, who was here for the first time last summer. He says: "The people of Old Fort seem satisfied with boasting the elegance of its climate, the beauty of the scenery and an unexcelled cuisine for the hard dollar of its visitors. Be it known, however, that there are no exorbitant charges here for anything. Nowhere in the South are the prices charged so moderate, and if ever a person received full value for his expenditures he will do so here; and nowhere in Christendom are the people kinder, more hospitable or more anxious to render pleasant the sojourn of her visitors." High praise, this, but the facts warrant every word.

About five miles from us is Catawba Falls, a place much visited by lovers of the grand and beautiful, and well worth the climb necessary to reach them. On the west we have the famous Round Knob with its hotel and fountain—said to be one of the highest in the

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State. Had the counsels of the truly good prevailed, the evil deed would have perished at the stake. The magistrate was on his first case, and seemed to want to shoot about where you hold him. He imposed a fine of \$20 and all costs, which was promptly settled. Ere the excitement had died away, the owner of the blood-hounds and foxhounds in the big gum case brought a wild eyed, brindle-bearded malefactor to law, charge with taking a horse collar, a side of leather and a halter rein. He seemed to have rather taking ways, in fact, and had to be corporal in the chain gang of another county. He swore he was not ready for trial "kekeke his lawyer want that." His lawyer turned out to be a man not conversant with Blackstone or the Code, but wise as a serpent in chimney corner statutes. He is also conversant in mica, but has never discovered or developed a paying mine. He came up promptly, and was very zealous in favor of his client. His opinions were at variance with common and statutory law, and about nine times out of ten a judge of the Supreme Court, except the present incumbents in North Carolina, would hardly have sustained his opinions. But his client was found guilty, and he cheerfully put his autograph at the business end of the bond for his appearance. As their aggregate wealth approximates 15 cents, they will be forthcoming.

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Another man is wanted for sheep stealing—did it in self defence. Another stole a box of tobacco because he was starving to death. Another took a sack of salt, who also plead destitution. When told he could not eat the salt, he said he could eat it with the meat he expected to steal. One man stole a setting hen. She was too poor to eat, but he managed to steal corn enough to get her very robust. Now, as everybody knows, I am for McKinley. He was the advance agent of prosperity. He was about four years in advance. In 1900 W. J. Bryan, that blatant free silverite, be elected; times will get better, and Bryan will get all the credit. CORN CRACKER.

Cherry Mountain, N. C., April 3, 1897.

Encouragement for The Messenger. Editors Messenger: I am very glad to learn that you contemplate getting out a "write-up" edition of THE MESSENGER, setting forth the developments and advantages of Marion and the surrounding territory—the country about.

In this edition please allow me an opportunity of expressing briefly my appreciation of THE MESSENGER and of sticking in a word in its behalf. I'll come right to the point in a hurry. The undersigned has been a subscriber of the various papers published in Marion for the past 16 years, and also of THE MESSENGER during its life of one year. The circumstances have been such that my address has been continually changing, and in this connection I desire to say, after advising all papers alike from time to time of my changed address, that THE MESSENGER has been the only paper that has reached me regularly and on time. Notwithstanding the fact of my address having been changed, for instance, nine different times in the past 12 months, THE MESSENGER has never once failed to come in at the appointed hour.

In this criticism, however, let us give the devil his dues. Other papers have been as newsy and attractive, and at times, perhaps, more so than THE MESSENGER. The late Mr. Flemming, the founder of the Marion periodical, the Lamp Post, gave us a number one sheet for that day and time. Then came Brother Eaves, who brought us a clean, conservative sheet for a number of years. After the Bugle the Marion paper appeared under various names and came out in the shuffle at the hands of such able editors as R. J. Page, Jas. T. Griffin, Samuel Archer, J. H. Atkins, J. C. Linney, A. H. McFaden and others. From a strictly "newsy" standpoint, perhaps Page and Atkins gave us the best sheets for the time being. (G. G. Eaves' Record also a good one) But unfortunately for them, like the others, in the course of time invariably fell into a spirit of "invidious desuetude," appearing by "fits and starts," sometimes 7 days apart, sometimes longer and finally disappearing entirely. At all events, the papers in the past have always reached the writer with famous irregularity. This cannot be said of THE MESSENGER.

Therefore, for punctuality, reliability and general conservatism, which are the prime attributes of a modern newspaper, the first condition especially, THE MESSENGER, in the opinion of the writer, is ahead of any paper ever sent out from the city of Marion. Long live THE MESSENGER.

C. M. CORBENING. [Most heartily do we appreciate the above award of excellence and encouraging commendations. We have determined to secure a "city reporter," that no news be missed.—Ed.]

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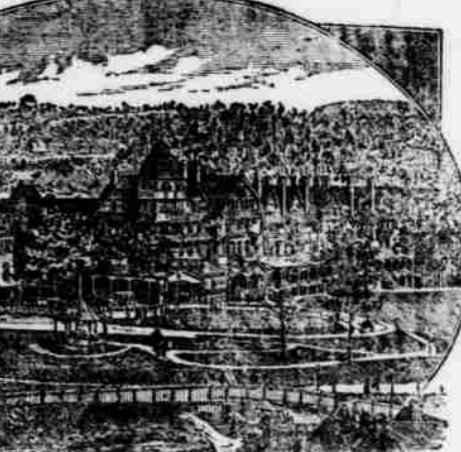
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BATTERY PARK HOTEL, Asheville, N. C.

Corn

is a vigorous feeder and responds well to liberal fertilization. On corn lands the yield increases and the soil improves if properly treated with fertilizers containing not under 7% actual

Potash.

A trial of this plan costs but little and is sure to lead to profitable culture.

All about Potash—the results of its use by actual experiment on the best farms in the United States—is told in a little book which we publish and will gladly send free to any farmer in America who will write for it. GERMAN KALI WORKS, 22 Nassau St., New York.

Livery and Feed Stable.

GOOD TURNOUTS. CAREFUL - DRIVERS.

A. B. GILKEY & SON, Marion, N. C.

LUMBER WANTED.

Having purchased the lot opposite the depot in Marion to put a woodworking factory on, we will pay CASH for Green or Dry Oak and Poplar Lumber on our yard; will want other kinds of lumber soon. We will be glad to communicate with any one who can furnish shingle bolts.

Payne & Decker Bros. Disosway, The Druggist, Old Fort, N. C.,

Offers to his customers an absolutely correct stock of Drugs and Patent Medicines.

Just Arrived: WHOOPING COUGH PLASTER, a specific for this distressing complaint. COAL TAR FOR CORN PLANTING.

The Flemming-Eagle, Two Hotels in one, under one management, by THE GRUBER FAMILY.

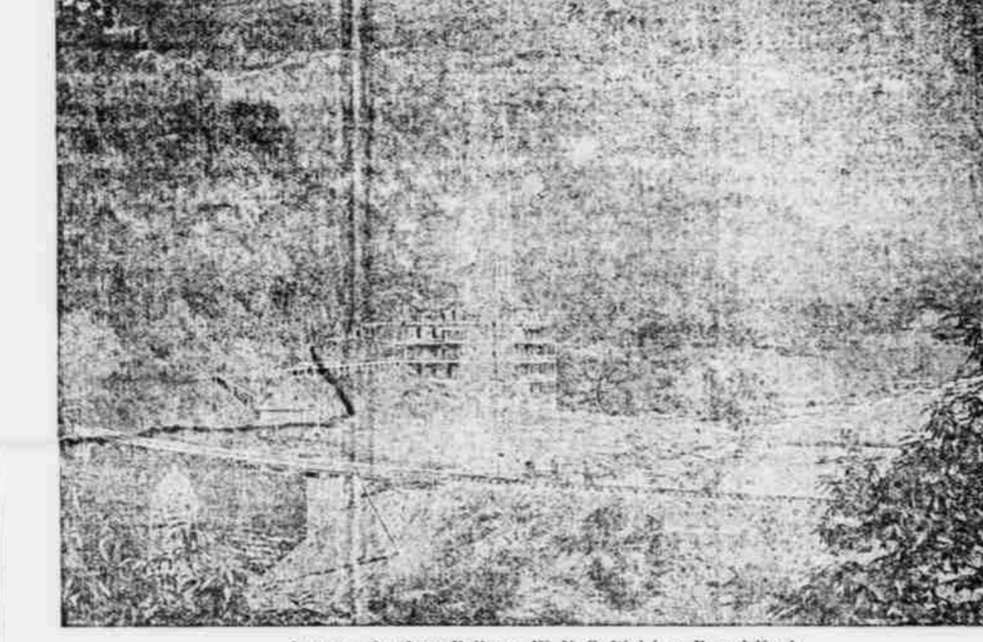
NO - RAISE - IN - PRICES. Summer, Regular and Transient Boarding. Reasonable rates. Marion, N. C., July 22, 1896.

BOARDING. Piedmont House. 50 Cents a Day; \$2 a Week; \$8 a Month. A - GOOD - FEED - STABLE

Run in connection with the House. J. M. ELLIS, Proprietor. Marion, N. C.

Election Notice. There will be an election held in Marion, N. C., on Monday, the 3rd day of May, 1897, for the purpose of electing a mayor and five aldermen. M. F. MORPHEW, Mayor. WM. SWEENEY, Clerk to B'd.

Subscribe for THE MESSENGER, \$1.00 a year.



Scene on Southern Railway, W. N. C. Division—Round Knob.

of imposing them. There is scarcely a line in the bill that will not have to be interpreted by the Supreme Court."

Speaking of whether the democrats in the Senate ought to resort to filibustering to delay or defeat the tariff bill, ex Representative Clinie, of California, said: "I am in favor of allowing the republicans absolute sway and full scope in the making of a tariff. The freer they are left to work their will the quicker will the country repudiate their acts, for I hold that prosperity can never come from taxation, but only from a readjustment of our financial system that will put silver back to its old footing of equality with gold."

This is substantially the position taken by Senator Jones, chairman of the democratic national committee, in a letter made public a few days ago, and which is endorsed by most of the democrats in both branches of Congress.

The republicans are doing considerable worrying about the civil service rules and how they are going to get around them. At least, those who are after office are. About the only man who has already got his office who has shown any special interest in this matter, is Public Printer Palmer, who has been practically discharging demagogues from the government printing office, by asking for their resignations, every day since he took charge. Ex Congressman Bowen, of Virginia, who is willing to become a Federal office-holder, voiced the opinion of the office seekers when he said: "I have not during my present visit to Washington with republicans from every part of the union, and almost to a man they are opposed to civil service reform, so called. It is a fact that there is a vote against the whole system, and I for one, would be glad to see it demolished for all time. I believe President McKinley is going to do what he thinks is right, but I do not believe he is going to ignore the clamor of those who stood by him in the campaign." But sort of talk is heard every day, but Mr. McKinley has given no sign, and it is doubtful whether he will set aside any of the extensions of the civil service rules made by Mr. Cleveland, unless authorized by Congress to do so, and the average republican Congressman, who will not talk against the civil service law to please their office-seeking constituents, will hesitate about voting against it, and there are a number of them who will stand by the law through thick and thin.

Miss Hattie Amtin, sister of the proprietor, will be general house-keeper, and will have direct supervision of the waiters, who are white girls, and who come well recommended as to character and efficiency. It goes without saying that this hotel will be neatly kept and will likely succeed. The house has 17 rooms open to the public, elegantly furnished, reception rooms, etc., etc.

The regular rates are \$1.50 to \$2 a day, with special prices by the week or month.

At present to mica and iron, although other minerals are found. The famous Cranberry mines are in the northeastern part of the county. They are connected by railroad with Norfolk and Southern railroad at Johnson City, Tenn.

The mica mines are the most extensive in the United States and produce a large portion of the mica put on the market. An important branch of the industry is grinding the waste mica (nearly nine tenths of the whole), which is used for wall paper, artificial silk, electrical purposes, and in lubricants.

There are four mica mills at Plumtree, and they grind more than half of the mica used in the whole world. There are several of the gems and precious stones found in Mitchell, among them, the aquamarine, emerald, ruby, kyanite, and garnet.

The Roan mountain is in this county. It is 6,332 feet high. The top of the Roan is a prairie 7 miles in length. The view from the mountain is grand. I have been told that with a good glass, you could see into eight different states.

The Cloudland Hotel, the most jolly situated first class hotel in the United States east of the Mississippi, is on the top of Roan mountain. It is kept open through the summer and is generally well supplied with visitors. It is reached by a narrow gauge railroad from Johnson City, Tenn., to Roan Mountain Station, and thence by stage by a graded road to the top of the mountain.

Linville is another summer resort in Mitchell and is reached by way of Hovsing Back on the Smoky, and by Cranberry railroad and stage on the north. It is beautifully situated on the Linville river, and has a fine hotel ready to receive all visitors.

The climate of Mitchell is delightful in summer and the winters are moderate. If we just had railroad facilities this would soon be a great resort for pleasure and health seekers.

Mitchell has several good common schools. The children are remarkably bright and they show a desire to acquire an education.

The population of the county is 12,867—White, 12,252; Colored, 555. CASSANDRA.

"Gilbert clocks are the best. At Swindell's."

New books and periodicals always at Swindell's.

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