

# MARION PROGRESS.

Formerly McDowell Democrat

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NO. 26.

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## OLD NORTH STATE NEWS.

Interesting Items of News  
Briefly Set Forth For  
Busy Readers.

The electric chair for the death chamber at the State prison will be ready for use in the near future. The first electrocution will take place in March when a Robeson county negro will pay the penalty for a criminal assault upon an Indian woman. When completed the electric outfit will cost \$1,500, the Legislature appropriating \$1,000, and the penitentiary providing the additional \$500.

Representative Pou, of the Raleigh district, has introduced in the House of Congress a bill to appropriate \$5,000, to be expended by the Raleigh chamber of commerce, and the Merchants' Association at Raleigh, under the direction of the Secretary of War, for the erection of an heroic bronze statue of President Andrew Johnson in the park in rear of the postoffice at Raleigh.

A man in the western part of the state offers a 600-acre farm, worth \$6,000 to the Presbyterian church, Asheville Presbytery, if the church will establish a training school for orphan boys. An effort is being made, therefore, to secure \$2,000 to start some buildings.

Fire at Greenville early last Thursday morning totally destroyed two business blocks, causing a loss estimated at \$150,000, less than half covered by insurance.

A near-beer saloon was opened in Newton a few days ago and the aldermen met in extra session and levied a tax of \$500 per annum on near-beer dealers.

## ELECTRIC RAILWAY LINE

Isothermal Traction Company Incorporated—Headquarters in Rutherfordton.

Rutherfordton Sun.

A charter under the name of the Isothermal Traction Company has been secured through the secretary of state, now on file in this county in the Clerk of Superior Court's office, for the construction of an electric railway line from Rutherfordton to Gastonia, the intention of the company is to take in Forest City, Caroleen, Henrietta and Cliffside, in this county; Shelby, in Cleveland county, and Cherryville, Dallas and Gastonia, in Gaston county.

The company is now engaged in securing sufficient funds to cover the expenses of a survey, procuring rights-of-way and franchises and the costs of preparing reports to be placed before the underwriters. The surveyors it is said will be placed in the field not later than March 10th.

Expert Accountant for State Institution.

Raleigh, February 28.—Governor Kitchin is contemplating the early employment of an expert accountant to audit accounts of all State-aided institutions of every class in order to bring about a uniform system of book-keeping. The Legislature enacted a law to bring this about and the Council of State has endorsed the matter. There is no reflection upon any of the institutions, but the importance of having a uniform system of book-keeping and also the benefit of expert inspection is very great.

Sharper Works Catawba Folks on an Old Game.

Newton Enterprise.

A sharper has been going over this county taking orders for \$5 worth of sugar at the rate of 18 pounds to the dollar and throwing in a \$5 rocking chair. The money is collected with the order and promise made to ship the sugar and chair at once. Several orders were taken about three weeks ago, but no sugar and chair have yet come.

## "THE LAND OF THE SKY"

Miss Carrie Ballard, a Visitor at Greenlee, Gives a Beautiful Description of the Mountains of Western North Carolina

The Lincolnton News last week published the following letter from Miss Carrie Ballard, of that place, who is now sojourning at Greenlee, McDowell County. The letter follows:

I am now at Greenlee, a small town six miles west of Marion on the Southern railroad. Just where the road begins to climb the Blue Ridge.

To those who have never visited the mountain section of the State I shall say you have no idea of the beautiful scenery that is within our own beloved Carolina. To you the song so much used and loved by the school children, The North Carolina Hills, can not possibly be more than a rhapsody of words. Had I the descriptive powers of "Bobby" Burns, still I would be unable to picture the beauty of nature as it exists here.

I have been in the heart of this mountain country since last July and each succeeding day some thing new and interesting can be seen. "Oh these North Carolina Hills," how majestic and how grand, with their summits fronting skyward to the great Almighty's hand. I have watched them as they changed their bright green summer suits for the Autumn ones, and on till they laid these aside and went in to the grasp of king winter. Indeed I do not wonder why so many hundreds annually visit here, or why hotels dot the mountain sides on every hand. Today an eight-inch snow crowns each craggy peak. Surely nothing declares "The Hand that made us Divine" more than these snow clad mountain peaks as they raise their lofty heads of eight or ten hundred feet and even more above the surrounding country.

The snow began falling Friday at 7 o'clock a. m. and continued till 8 p. m. The thermometer at 7 o'clock this morning registered five above zero. This is the first snow of the season that measured above two inches, yet almost any cloudy day snow may be seen falling. The changes are more sudden than in Lincoln county, and more precaution must be taken against taking cold. Especially this is true in the Autumn season. While the changes are more sudden yet the climate is oppressive.

The killing frost came about the tenth of October. On the second of September we had frost enough to injure potato tops, bean vines and other less hearty plants. The water is one of the inviting things to the visitor here. Every few hundred yards is a clear cool stream gushing out of the mountain side. This is one of the main reasons why you hear so many say come to Western Carolina in the summer time if you would be free from chills, malaria and other such diseases that are common in the middle and eastern section of the State.

Perhaps one of the most interesting and beautiful things to be seen is the almost constant pretty sunrises. Often as I watch the sun come up from the mountain tops and light up the cloud streaked sky with his golden rays, these lines from Shakespeare come into my mind: "The rosy morn in russet mantle walks o'er the dew of yon eastern hill." Then it is that I long for the artist's power to put such scenes in a real picture, but alas! no such power I have.

Let I become tiresome to the reader, or perhaps to the Editor and find my way to the waste basket I shall only say a few things about the schools of McDowell county and then stop.

First, Prof. D. F. Giles, our county Supt. is one of the best in North Carolina. He is a born and not a made teacher. Has all

the interests of these schools at heart. He is entergetic and believes in the latest methods of school work. He stands by his teachers like a stone wall. Besides attending to his duties as County Supt. of schools he is also principal of Marion graded school. He goes about his work in a business way and requires the same of his teachers. There are already a number of special taxed districts in the county, having a term of six or eight months with two or three and even four teachers. Since I came here four or five more districts have voted special school tax. Of the many miles of railroad in the county only a few miles are not under a school tax. Good painted school houses are to be found in almost every district. We have a new up-to-date four room, painted building, piano and other modern furnishings, having four teachers and enrollment of 100 pupils here at Greenlee, with a seven months term.

With all this, "One thing lackest thou yet, McDowell," we have no Woman's Betterment Association in the county. This to my mind is a great benefactor to the educational interest of any county.

New Cotton Mill for Johnson City.

Johnson City, Feb. 23.—D. D. Little, the well known cotton mill man, of Spartanburg, S. C., was in Johnson City today and it is rumored that he is contemplating establishing a large cotton mill on the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio railroad.

Last spring he organized and is president and treasurer of the Marion, N. C., Manufacturing company, the three hundred thousand dollar mill which is now under the course of construction at that place. Since the organization of that mill there has been much talk of a large cotton mill to be erected on the C. C. & O. by Mr. Little and his associates.

His son, S. C. Little, has been in Johnson City for several days conferring with C. Guy Bell and local business men in regard to the proposed daily paper, which is scheduled to make its appearance here within the next few weeks.

New Equipment for C. C. & O. Ry.

The Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad has placed orders for a number of new passenger coaches and ten big locomotives of the latest types. The engines are monsters, having a capacity of hauling a mile of coal cars. The new coaches and engines will be delivered in March.

The C. C. & O. has several big engines that are being used in hauling coal from Dante, Va., as far south as Erwin, Tenn., though none of the engines now in operation are as large as the ten engines that have been ordered by the company. When the engines are delivered they will be used in hauling coal trains into Spartanburg.

About March 1 a double daily passenger schedule will be inaugurated between Spartanburg and Dante, Va., and in order to be prepared for the new service the officials of the company have placed orders for ten passenger coaches of the latest type. In comfort and finish these cars will be almost equal to Pullman cars.

Crooked Creek News.

Specialist The Progress.

Crooked Creek, Feb. 24.—Miss Mattie White came home a few days ago from Asheville where she was visiting relatives.

R. M. Murphy is going to sell his property and go to Texas.

A. W. Gilliam returned home a few days ago from down South, where he sold a load of apples.

J. S. Lavender has sold one of his farms to D. P. Walker, of Buncombe county. Mr. Walker will move to it about the 10th of March.

B. M. Mann is enlarging his pasture field.

J. N. Lavender, who moved to the cotton mill some time ago, is expected to come back soon.

The weather has been very bad for quite awhile but hope the farmers can soon begin to make preparations for the future crop.

Don't think that piles can't be cured. Thousands of obnoxious cases have been cured by Doan's Ointment. 50c at any drug store.

## PEOPLE'S FORUM.

(This department is reserved for letters from the people on various topics. THE PROGRESS is not responsible for the views of its correspondents. All communications must be originally signed for our protection though the same may be withheld in publication.)

Pertinent Comment on Farming in McDowell.

Well, old brother farmers, the bright spring days are fast approaching, and we are still roasting our toes, chewing and smoking our tobacco, and telling our brother farmer that we have nothing to do. That is and has been our yearly cry as long as I can remember, and I am getting rather old. Of course I don't feel old by any means, but I see some silvery hairs on my head, and after many squandered years of my life I can see how and where we farmers of McDowell have been and are still missing our mark to prosperity.

Since the good leaders of Marion have strained every nerve to bring our county to the front in Western North Carolina, this has caused us to think and see more than usual. It is true we have a fine county, excellent land to cultivate, land that will produce most anything that we wish to grow. So there is no fault in the soil why this is not a better county than it is, neither do I believe that the Hookworm is giving us any trouble in the least. The truth of the whole story is, we are the most stupid, lazy, tender-footed farmers in the State. Now, I don't mean to hurt the feelings of any farmers, simply because they are the most noble class on the globe.

No doubt but we all have good reasons for being some kind of farmers, and my reasons are simply this: I have tried most every thing except preaching and selling books (the highest and lowest) and have fell back on the farm because I could not make a success at anything else, and that I enjoy farm life best of all. So I suppose that is the case with a great many farmers, and that is why we are making a mock of the (should be) noble work.

In traveling through the country it is somewhat amusing and rather disgusting to see some strange farm ideas. We see so much good fertile land lying out and growing up in briars and bushes. We are giving back from branches, fence rows, ditches, wood lands and such like until one-third or one-half of our farming lands have become worth less to us. And just look at the good men in the county who have no land who are willing to work if we would only give them a chance, but it seems that we are too close-fisted to give such men all they can make one or even two years to clean up and put in proper cultivation. Such plots of land are lying idle that would add greatly to the value of our farms were they cleaned out, besides they would support a number of families throughout the country. We could well afford to give a tenant such chances for looks alone. I have noticed that a great many tenants take better care of farms than the land-lord, and I often think how much better it would be if they would swap jobs.

From the time we gather our crops until the following spring we do comparatively nothing on the farm, and claim that we have nothing to do. Why that is the proper time to put our farms in shape while the weather is cold and we feel chilly. There is not a single day during the entire year but what I can see plenty for half dozen men to do on my very small farm.

The first thing, no man should have the honor bestowed on him as being called a farmer until he makes him a good pasture, and the winter is the proper time for this. Grab out and prepare all the land that you can spare for pasturing purposes. Winter is also the proper time to repair our buildings, fences, tools, and for the sake of our children we should trim out the orchard, even if we don't eat fruit. I think that I can safely

(Continued on last page)

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