

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1911.

VOL. XV—NO. 38.

GREAT CENTRAL HIGHWAY

A Great Project Which Will Do Much to Develop McDowell and Other Sections.

Last February an act was passed by the Legislature chartering the Central Highway through North Carolina from the seashore to the Tennessee line—a distance of 460 miles—one of the greatest roads ever proposed in any part of the country, and the longest single road ever undertaken in the United States, we are told.

A great highway like this will do more to develop this mountain section than any thing else. We have the most beautiful and healthful resort place anywhere in the country. What has made Asheville and Buncombe county what they are to-day? The travel to Asheville as a summer resort. Look, too, at Hendersonville, Saluda, Tryon, Chimney Rock, Black Mountain and Montreat in summer, how they team with summer visitors, and think of the thousands of dollars that's brought in and left there by wealthy visitors every summer. Would we have such people in McDowell county? We have as beautiful mountains and as pure air as any of these places.

With the great Central Highway over which people could speed in comfort from the seashore summer resorts to the Blue Ridge mountains this would be the most enviable and ideal section of the whole country into which would soon pour a constant stream of people whom we would not otherwise ever see. At every house and country home summer boarders would be begging for shelter at fancy prices as is the case now from Asheville toward Chimney Rock and for miles on each side of the Fairview road. This feature alone would richly repay, within the shortest time, the mountain communities, such as ours, through which the highway would pass for building it, and all who have ever traveled over a mile of good road—awake—can imagine what it means to the comfort, and economy of time, wear and tear, etc. etc. of the people in getting to and from market to be in reach of such a road. The increase in valuation of real estate and the increased opportunity to make farming profitable in a dozen ways with a good road to market would make the owner of a small farm more wealthy and enable him to make more money than was the wealthiest and largest farmers a few years ago with the crude roads over which they've had to "tug" their products to market. Such conditions make life in the country and on the farm the most ideal, the happiest and the most lordly and independent of any condition that people can live.

Where is this highway to be located? There is more ways than one it can be located. Rival sections on the eastern end of this road are so awake to what it means to get it their way that they are offering large sums of money subscribed by citizens—from \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00—to be expended on the road as an inducement for its location through their sections.

It is said that an effort is being made by the people of Rutherford county and other sections to have

this highway located their way—through the Hickory Nut Gap from Asheville. This would take it beyond the reach of us. Every man in McDowell county, and especially all within five to ten miles of this highway (if it goes this way) ought to be astir to have this great road and leave their work for a day and go out to meet the officials who will pass through McDowell county prospecting for the location at Old Fort on the 7th of June, at Marion that night and at Nebo the morning of the 8th, and show their interest and appreciation in the matter.

This may be the chance of a lifetime to have a great central State highway through McDowell county, and the interest that the people show in it will count a great deal toward getting it. One day's time will not be missed a few weeks from now by any man, but how we would miss a great highway and suffer for lack of it for years and years if we should fail to get it. And we are not called upon to vote bonds to get this road.

How is it to be built? This will be answered in the next issue of this paper.

Farmers Union at Vein Mountain.

Vein Mountain, May 18.—A local branch of the Carolina Farmers Union was organized here in February, 1911, with five members. We now have 18 members. We meet twice a month, the first and fourth Saturday nights when all members are on hand. We have entered into a contest in our union to see who can make the best yield of corn from one acre of land. We have a prize of \$10.00 for the winner.

We hope soon to have all our best men become members of our union and we believe they will join as soon as good results of the organization are realized.

Decoration Day at Bethel.

Tuesday, June 6th, will be observed as Decoration Day at Bethel church by the Woodmen of the World of Glenwood, and the large connection whose dead are buried at this burying ground. Solicitor A. Hall Johnston will deliver the address of the occasion.

Sugar Hill News.

Sugar Hill, May 22.—E. H. Dysart of Marion was a business visitor last week. Prof. J. W. McCall of Ashford spent Sunday here.

Mrs. M. A. Hemphill is visiting relatives at Otter Creek this week. J. C. Crawford and daughter Mamie were in Marion shopping last Tuesday. Mrs. C. M. Hall was shopping in Marion last Friday.

Next Saturday is decoration day at Montford's Cove Baptist church and Sunday is the regular appointment. Rev. D. J. Hunt is pastor. St.

Kimball's mill and storehouse, 8 miles from Oxford, on Tar river, burned last Thursday night. L. T. Kelley, the miller, lost his life in the burning storehouse. The mill was a five-story building. The loss is estimated at \$40,000.

Effective the fifteenth of June, the Asheville Cotton mills will close down for an indefinite period. The reason assigned for the closing down of the mills was that conditions in cotton goods market and price of cotton do not justify running at present.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Organization Effected for Marion—Meeting Called for Friday Night.

A Chamber of Commerce, or Board of Trade has been organized by the substantial business men of Marion. A large number of citizens have already subscribed their names as members of the organization. The following gentlemen constitute the officers for one year. President, B. B. Price; Vice-President, Dr. G. S. Kirby; Secretary and Treasurer, John H. Gray; Directors, R. H. Bennett, Guy S. Kirby, B. B. Price, E. C. Guy and W. M. Goodson; Finance Committee, R. H. Bennett, G. S. Kirby and B. B. Price.

A meeting of this organization is called for Friday night May 26, at 8:30 o'clock at the Marianna Hotel for the purpose of adopting a name, fixing the dues of members, entrance fee and annual dues, which will be done by a majority vote of those present at the meeting, and to give attention to any other matters that may be seen necessary. The organization will then be ready for business and will give attention to many important matters so often coming up which have heretofore, in most cases, been neglected.

This organization hopes to be of great benefit to the town and will be supported by merchants, manufacturers, professional men, and all citizens interested in the growth and upbuilding of Marion and a special united effort will be put forth through this organization whereby Marion will be benefitted in many ways.

Cotton Mill News.

The Mill is running along nicely now, turning off both quality and quantity. Production now running around 100,000 yards per week which means about 57 miles of cloth every week. We have now about 50 to 60 families living here averaging from three to eight to the family earning a good living at this industry.

Our best weavers average in wages from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day. Spinners from 75c to \$1.50 per day and Card room help from \$1.00 to \$1.75 per day. Pay day comes twice a month which everyone looks forward to with pleasure.

Lester Morris is assisting Mr. Copeland in the office of the Company.

J. L. Grant of Bamberg, S. C., has moved to the village. Mr. Grant has charge of the Cloth room as overseer.

D. D. Little, President, is back with us after an illness of about three months at his home in Spartanburg.

Arthur McCall visited his home at Woodlawn on Sunday.

Tom Painter, night overseer of Spinning, visited his home in Union last Sunday.

We are glad our mill is running full time when so many of the mills in North and South Carolina are shutting down one and two weeks in the month.

The commencement exercises of Davidson College will take place May 28-31. Gov. W. W. Kitchin will deliver the annual address on the 31st.

The Misses Gibbs Entertain.

At their pleasant country home on last Thursday evening Misses Hallie and Pearl Gibbs entertained very delightfully quite a number of their friends with Miss Morris, of Hendersonville, as the honored guest.

The home was most attractive in its floral decorations of laurel, ivy, ferns and potted plants. With old time hospitality Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs greeted the arriving guests while Misses Hallie Gibbs and Maggie Morris ushered them into the hall where Miss Hudgins served refreshing frappe, from beneath a bower of green. The evening was spent in happy converse enlivened by sweet music. Delicious refreshments were served.

How swiftly the hours sped! The clock struck twelve and the merry party said, good night with many thanks. Thanks for a most enjoyable evening.

Those present were Misses Morris, Davis, Keeter, Merrill, Ratliff, Streetman, Landis, Whitten, Greenlee, Dysart, Sinclair and Baber; Messrs. E. Morris, A. McCall, L. Morris, Halliburton, Henderson, Whitten, Blanton, Giles, Dysart, Loun, Corpening, Miller, Weaver and Price.

Mrs. McCall Entertains.

Mrs. Edgar McCall gave a beautiful reception at her lovely new home on South Main street last Wednesday afternoon from five to six o'clock in honor of her sister, Mrs. Dr. L. L. Self, and friend, Mrs. D. P. McClure. The house was beautifully decorated in rhododendrum, ferns and roses.

Mrs. J. W. Streetman received at the door. Punch was served from a prettily decorated corner in the hall by Mrs. Pescud Craig. The callers were received in the parlor by Mrs. McCall and her guests. They were then invited into the dining room by Mrs. A. Blanton in her usual graceful manner, where they were served delicious refreshments by Mrs. C. M. McCall and Mrs. W. C. McCall.

About thirty ladies called.

An Old Newspaper.

County Commissioner H. A. Tate, of Greenlee, was in town Saturday. While in town Mr. Tate called at this office and showed us a copy of The Asheville Spectator, printed at Asheville July 31, 1856, 55 years ago. John D. Hyman was editor and publisher. The greater part of the issue was devoted to political matters. At this time Millard Fillmore, of New York, and Buchanan and Fremont were all candidates for President of the United States. John A. Gilmer, of Guilford, was on the ticket for Governor of North Carolina and Zeb B. Vance was a candidate for the State Senate from Buncombe.

In repairing his house a few days ago Mr. Tate came across the old relic and prizes it very highly. Mr. Tate's dwelling is one of McDowell's old landmark's. A brick from the chimney of his house bears the date of 1844.

Farmers say that wheat in McDowell is looking well and that prospects are encouraging for a fine crop.

PEACE COMES TO MEXICO

The Final, Formal Agreement Signed by Both Parties.

Juarez, Mex., May 21.—Officially designated representatives of the Mexican government and the revolutionists at 10 o'clock tonight signed a peace agreement at the customs house here intended to end the hostilities that have been waged in Mexico for the last six months.

Though covering only the principal points negotiated thus far, the agreement practically records the concessions by the government of those demands which started, on November 20 the last armed revolution in Mexico. Telegrams announcing the signing of the agreement were dispatched throughout Mexico to revolutionary and Federal leaders alike.

The agreement was signed after three days of indecision, Francisco I. Madero, Jr., leader of the revolution, expressing the view that peace could be declared only when Senor De La Barra became provisional president and the new Cabinet was installed.

Some of his chiefs argued otherwise, declaring that armed forces in the field in the interim might precipitate trouble. It was suggested too, that in deference to the wish of President Diaz to retire when tranquility was restored, the peace agreement be made immediate, as his resignation is expected within four or five days. The latter view prevailed.

The troops, it is provided, will be disbanded proportionately as each State is restored to tranquility.

Aycock a Candidate for Senator.

Raleigh, May 20.—Formal announcement of the candidacy of Hon. Charles Bradley Aycock, ex-governor of North Carolina, for the United States senate to succeed Senator F. M. Simmons, was made this afternoon. The announcement is made in a letter from Mr. Aycock to Col. N. B. Whitfield, of Kinston. Quite a contrast is Governor Aycock's announcement to that of Chief Justice Clark's a few days ago, Governor Aycock saying that he stands on no personal platform, but has always stood upon the national and state Democratic platforms, and he believes that the assembled knowledge of the nation and the state far greater than his own. He says that he intends to make no campaign, but must stay at home and pursue the practice of the law, but that when the time comes he will tender his services, as always, to the Democratic party and his campaign then will be in the interest of the Democratic ticket rather than personal.

The State building commission, in session in Raleigh Friday afternoon decided to purchase the Grimes property, fronting 210 feet on Capitol square and 67 feet each on Fayetteville and Salisbury streets, as the site for the \$250,000 State administration building, which was provided for by the recent Legislature. The price paid for the property is \$45,000, the purchase being from the Grimes estate corporation by whom it was first offered two weeks ago for \$50,000.