

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## 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 name may be withheld in publication.]

### The American Farmer is the Man Behind the Gun.

I wish I could impress this upon every farmer in this state, that the average farmer is no better off today than he was ten years ago. Those who bought fertilizer on time ten years ago are still buying it on time. They live in pretty much the same kind of houses, drive the same kind of stock, and wear the same grade of overalls. Some few may boast of a small bank account, but at what price did they obtain it? In many instances at a great sacrifice of comforts to themselves and their families; sometime by working every member of their family in the crops and thus depriving their children of the schooling that is so necessary to the young, and in many cases they obtained the little bank balance by actually doing without the necessities of life. In every case they obtained their little surplus at too great a cost of hard labor and self-denial.

All this while the great trusts and combinations are getting richer and richer piling up their unholy dividends and slowly and surely robbing the laborer of the wealth his labor creates. In the name of common sense when will they be satisfied. Not satisfied with enough they seek to see which can get control of the biggest portion of everything on this earth. Yes, they seem to engage in this thing of heaping up hords of useless wealth just as if it were a pastime and as if there were no better vent for their energies and brains. Now when the farmers get wise to the fact that they in conjunction with other laborers create all the wealth of this world and when they make their congressmen aware of the fact that they know their true position in society and the world generally; that they (the farmers) know that our splendid civilization is only possible because of the achievements and ability of the American Farmers. Then and not until then will we begin to come into that recognition that is due the farmers as a world power and as a peace promoter and as a man in every way worthy of all the Carnegie hero medals.

When Dewey returned from the glorious victory of Manila bay, after totally destroying the entire Spanish Fleet, he said that the boys behind the guns deserved the praise and the world accepted the statement and warmly applauded the sentiment. But the world is often a "sap head." I wonder if it ever once entered into the world's head that if it had not been for the sturdy American farmers that Mr. Dewey would not have been in Manila Bay?

Its true that the man immediately behind the gun places the gun against his shoulder and for a few hours shoots the gun and then stops for a rest, but I tell you that the farmer is the man behind the gun and that the triumphs of our army were only made possible by the splendid backing of the Ameri-

can farmer. The farmer is the great soldiers anyway. He it is that fights the world's great battles and he never was known to surrender. He fights for life, not death, and he fights all the time, and when wounded there is no pension for him. And he is wounded almost to the death and by the very government that should pension him. But instead allows and even encourages trusts and combinations to suck the very life-blood out of him and then use their unholy gains to further oppress him and to corrupt our courts and law makers. The farmer is enlisted in this war for life. Without him any other army is impossible. Without him the world can't eat breakfast. He fights the battles of peace, in his war he wounds no man but feeds all and makes our country abound in plenty. He is doing just exactly what God commanded Adam and his descendants to do. His cause is worthy, his calling is honorable, his labor is a blessing to all mankind for he feeds the world. Then why in Gods' name don't our law makers give him a square deal? Why not recognize him as the factor that makes us a great people and give him credit for all he does?

Now, Brother Farmer, as worthy sons of our noble forefathers who wrenched the great Magna Chart of our liberties from King George, let us take for our motto this: God hates a quitter and let us show the world that we are in deed and truth the men behind the guns, that we know our rights and have the manhood to force them from a reluctant government. That it is because of us that our country is strong and great. That we want a fair show with the rest and if we have to make the pie we want to help eat the same and that we think it but just and fair to be known and recognized by the men who we are putting up and fattening.

Yours Respectfully,  
A FARMER.

The property of the National Graphite Co., the ownership of which has been in litigation for some years and which was finally decided in favor of Mr. George Moon, of South Bend, Ind., was sold this week by Mr. Moon to Mr. E. Peltz, of Penland, N. C. Mr. Peltz operates the Carolina Mica and Milling Works at Penland, and says he is going to put in a mica mill on his newly acquired property with all modern machinery. The property, as is well known, is situated on South Toe river, about seven miles East of Burnsville.—Eagle, Burnsville.

### 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. The hour for meeting will be 2 o'clock p. m.

The fall of a massive meteor this week caused consternation throughout Lassen county, Cal. The shock when the blazing missile struck Tule mountain, was felt for thirty miles, causing the earth to tremble as though from a giant quake.

## THE CENTRAL HIGHWAY

### How It Will Be Built—The People Enthusiastic for It.

#### How is it to be built?

No lavish expenditure of money is provided for by the act of the legislature chartering this highway. The boards of county commissioners of the counties through which this road shall be located are authorized to expend, from general funds of the county, \$50.00 per mile per year to be used on this highway, with a small appropriation provided for by the towns through which the road passes. This is mainly for the purpose of helping to keep the road, for the present, in good condition for travel. The road is to be built by other means—by such means as the local authorities have at hand and see fit to employ.

When the plan for this great highway from one end of the state to the other was first conceived last February it was taken for granted that any county which does not already have a good road leading across it from east to west is surely ready to go to work to have one—to make a link in a great highway like this. If a community through which this road ought to pass will not lay hold and go to work to build their part of it then another community which does appreciate such a highway enough to build their part of it will go to work for it, and get it, if it takes the road through other counties. The engineering, location, etc. is being done by the State, and the road is built by the people.

How can they build it in McDowell county?

First, By applying the special road tax of the townships through which the road may run to build it—except bridges of considerable consequence, which it is still, as always, the business of the county to provide for.

Second, By applying from the county treasury the \$50.00 per mile provided for in the act.

Third, By the citizens turning out—every man who has the public spirit in him—as the people all along the line from the sea to the mountains will do, and volunteer to work on this road for one week in July to complete the links not yet built to enable travel to get along the whole length of the road conveniently.

On July 4th in every county from one end to the other of this road mass meetings and picnics will be held in every community celebrating the determination of the people to have for themselves better roads—the salvation of the masses of the people, without which, in order that they can get from their farms over modern roads to the towns and railroad stations, the railways do them little good.

On July 7th every man, rich and poor, old and young, (who are able to work) living within five miles of this highway will be asked to give to this road just one solid week's work of himself, his teams, plows, wagons, &c, and that week not less than one hundred thousand men in North Carolina will work as volunteers on this road, building a road for themselves. The people east of here to the ocean are a unit

of enthusiasm and determination for this road, and we in the mountain section will surely prove as patriotic and as ready to wake up to our own interest.

These mass meetings and picnics on one day and this week's devotion to this great road from one end of the state to the other—460 miles—will be a spectacle that will cause the whole country to take notice of us, and will establish the cause of good roads generally and a determination to have them, which will never end till we get them; not this one only, but others which so many sections are cripple without.

But this road is not to be thus finished in so short a time, but only established and opened up to travel. Within the coming years in the near future, with the state of North Carolina, the people of the eastern, the central and the western part of the state behind it it will be built into the grandest and greatest highways in the country.

It will prove to be one of the greatest things that has ever happened in one of the greatest states in the Union, if we will wake up and do our part, as the people all along the line are doing.

### Tobacco Trust Declared an Illegal Combination.

Washington, May 29.—The American Tobacco Company and its accessories and subordinate corporations and companies, including the English corporation, today were held by the Supreme Court of the United States to be co-operators in a combination illegal under the Sherman anti-trust act. The court sent the case back to the lower court with directions to hear further the parties, so as to ascertain whether a new condition cannot be recreated in harmony with the law. Justice Harlan concurred, in part, with the court's opinion, and dissented in part.

The Tobacco Trust decision is characterized by Attorney-General Wikersham as a "most comprehensive and sweeping" victory for the government.

The Trust is held to be a combination in restraint of trade—a monopoly in violation of law.

The decision affects 65 American corporations, 2 English corporations and 29 individual defendants. An opportunity is given the Trust to disintegrate and recreate a condition of transaction of business not repugnant to law.

If at the end of six to eight months the corporations fail to bring themselves within the law a receivership and dissolution by court decree will follow.

The Trust is held to have been guilty of intimidation and clearly to have shown a purpose to stifle competition.

Chief Justice White announced the decision, which was practically unanimous although Justice Harlan dissented on several points.

As in the Standard Oil cases Justice Harlan resented the application of the "rule of reason" to the Sherman anti-trust law.

The court having held the defendant corporations guilty of conscious wrong-doing, Justice Harlan "is not at all anxious" to perpetuate any new combination growing out of them.

## TRAIN GOES INTO CREEK

### Three Killed and One Injured in Wreck Near Bostic—Mrs. Justice Passes.

Rutherfordton, May 30.—Three men were killed and one fatally injured when a double-header coal train fell through a burning trestle about two miles east of Bostic, on the Seaboard railroad late Saturday afternoon.

#### The reported dead:

J. M. Lindsey, engineer, Monroe, N. C.  
R. M. Green, engineer, Monroe, N. C.  
Roy Doyle, fireman, Monroe, N. C.

Capt. Frank Howell, the conductor, was in the caboose at rear of train and escaped uninjured.

It will be several days before damage can be repaired and regular service resumed.

Mrs. Nora Justice, wife of M. L. Justice, the liveryman, passed away Sunday morning at their home on West Main street after years of suffering. The funeral service was held from the Baptist church yesterday afternoon, conducted by the pastor Rev. R. H. Herring, after which her body was laid to rest in the city cemetery.

GORDON.

### Spartanburg Boosters Coming.

About one hundred business men of Spartanburg, S. C., on a trade-boasting trip will arrive in Marion on June 21. They will travel in their own Pullman cars and carry their own band. The boosters will register at the Marianna Hotel. Their band will give a concert at the hotel while the party get acquainted with the people of Marion.

### Dysartsville Dots.

Dysartsville, May 29.—Mrs. J. B. Denton, after spending a month visiting in Charlotte and near there and in Lawndale and Rutherfordton, returned home today by way of Marion.

Mrs. Alice Rudisill and her son, of Henry, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Daves, visiting Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Daves. Mrs. H. C. Daves is Mrs. Rudisill's daughter.

Mr. James Laughridge's child died in Marion last Wednesday and was buried in Trinity grave-yard Thursday. J. B. Denton conducted the funeral. Mrs. Edwin Landis and son, Clinton, attended the funeral.

McKinley Hutchins is out again after a serious spell of fever.

Piata Spratt is suffering with a severe spell of bronchitis.

L. D. Daves has had a bad spell of sickness and is quite weak.

Mary Lu Daves is visiting in Marion, the guest of Sheriff Laughridge.

W. E. Dickson's child was very sick Sunday.

Mrs. Alice Laughridge spent several days here last week.

Prof. G. D. Taylor was in Marion Monday on business.

Corra Cowen, widow of the lamented J. W. Cowen who was killed in Georgia, is now a uniformed nurse at the Rutherford Hospital.

ZENO.

One of the most interesting bits of political gossip Washington has heard in a long time is current there, that the entrance of Henry L. Stimson, of New York, into President Taft's cabinet may mean that he is to be Mr. Taft's running mate in 1912. President Taft, it is said, fully expects a re-nomination. Little consideration is given to contrary reports.