

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## THE GLORIOUS FOURTH

Time in its tireless flight has brought us again to the glorious Fourth of July. Another year with its sowing and reaping, its sunshine and shadows, its laughter and tears, its cradle songs and funeral hymns lie beneath us and that eventful day when from the tower of Independence Hall the old Liberty Bell sounded the death knell to the divine right of kings to rule in America and aroused the colonists to activities the like of which the world had not seen for many a day—activities which were to crush forever the iron hand of English Oppression and cause the greatest monarch in the world to sit uneasily on his throne.

This is the day on which the orator from many a platform or vine-clad arbor will tell of the nation's greatness and in glowing terms review its glorious history. He will boast of our liberty and freedom and denounce again the oppression of King George. He will tell of the many deeds of heroic sacrifice performed in that unparalleled struggle—the Revolution,—but never stop to think that the American people are to-day oppressed by tyrants even more despotic than King George III. The women of today are chained as captives to the chariot wheels of fashion, and it seems there is no power between heaven and hell that can release them. Men are slaves to the almighty dollar and are tempted to run over their fellows, cheat, embezzle and steal in order to get the "wherewith" to keep trained servants, motor cars and more fine clothes than a horse can pull for their wives.

In no phase of American life are people allowed to do as they please. In politics they are the victims of the political boss and unscrupulous office-holder and dependent of a political machine from which, in many instances, they are unable to turn a single wheel. In society they must conform to custom and straight-laced formality and even in the worship of Almighty God they must submit to the form and ceremony of their denominations and swallow their doctrine dogma or creed whether they believe it or not, yet we say give us liberty or give us death.

These orations will give us again an outline of our government's growth from the time it was founded by Washington, Jefferson and Madison up to the present day when it stands, as they say, the most nearly perfect form of government in the world—a government under which the humblest citizen is a king, receiving from his government more consideration than all the crowned heads of Europe. Yet close students of the question tell us that the officials of our government are guilty of more fraud, graft, embezzlement, bribery and corruption in general than those of any other nation. Still we claim we have a pure Democracy—a government for and by the people. In our loyalty and devotion to our government we are prone to forget just how far it has departed from the principles upon which it was founded and are, especially on the "Glorious Fourth," inclined to overlook the many crimes committed by our law-makers in the name of pure

democracy.

Again these orators with their singular and almost pathetic optimism and national conceit will tell us how our nation is leading the world in Christianity and everything that tends toward the advancement of civilization. Yet with all our boasted Christianity, supporting, as it does, hundreds of missionaries in foreign fields, we have within our own borders something like two hundred denominations dividing friends, neighbors, and even families over petty ecclesiastical differences forgetting that all religion, if it is religion, is just alike. The city man will go to church, sit in his satin seated pew, put a hundred dollar bill in the collection, when perhaps the very men who work for him are kept from church because the wage he pays does not justify them to wear decent clothes. His wife may entertain the church societies in a most elaborate manner and be recognized as a great church worker yet all around her there are often people dying for human sympathy—a word of cheer, a smile or a hand-clasp, but she elevates her sanctified nose at sight of them, because they are poor, and passes them by. Yet we are the leading Christian nation of the world.

How can we boast of our standard of morals when the divorce cases in our courts are increasing at the rate of 25 per cent a year. How can we boast of our advancement when there was more liquor and worse liquor made and drunk last year than ever before. There were several millions more drug-doped cigarettes smoked last year than ever before and while other nations are passing stringent laws against whiskey and tobacco and employing their armies to enforce them we remain inactive and still contend we are the leading Christian nation.

Again our patriotic orator will pay a tribute to the South and tell us how proud we should be of the part she bore in the civil war and how badly we were wronged by the North, leaving the impression that the South has nothing to be ashamed of in carrying on that four years of hell, the last two years of which should be considered the blackest and most disgraceful epoch in the history of any nation since the middle ages, for when all was lost the men at the head of the confederacy continued to conscript old men and boys to fill the ranks, when a man with ordinary foresight could have seen the doom of the confederacy and stopped that shameful slaughter of the South's manhood and chivalry long before the flower of the Southland was sacrificed on the battlefield.

However, Mr. Editor and readers of THE PROGRESS, I would not have you believe that I want to cut out the Fourth of July orator altogether by no means, neither would I magnify the evils inconsistencies of society or minify the good there is in the world. I am somewhat like the dutchman. I want to make a few "remarks" and I do not hope to bring about any deep rested reform with my scattered remarks but I do like to see people look things squarely in the face and if facts make us dissatisfied with the condition of affairs, why I say be dissatisfied and each

## FARMERS INSTITUTES

Institute Party Will Be at Marion Friday, August 18th.

This summer the state department of agriculture will have six farmers' institute parties at work simultaneously in as many sections of the state, each of them holding twenty-odd institutes between July 25 and Aug. 24. These institutes will be conducted by a party to be announced later and special attention will be given not only to farming but to fruit canning, house-hold work and other related subjects. There will be men and women in the parties. Six parties have been planned by T. M. Parker, in charge of the demonstration work.

Friday, August 18, is the date of the institute to be held in Marion.

## No Excuse for an Ugly Farm Home.

There was a little item hid away in an obscure corner in our last issue that is so suggestive and so timely that we cannot refrain from re-publishing it herewith in a more conspicuous position:

"The most ugly backyard may be transformed into a veritable Eden by the planting of hollyhocks, castor beans, or morning glories near the fence or shed to hide its unsightly spaces. These grow to usefulness and beauty before the summer heat makes us long for a green spot where the cares and weariness of the day may be forgotten. But he is a neighborhood benefactor who makes his home premises a source of envy, the gratification of which insures health, happiness, and plenty."

Why not read this aloud to your family at the supper table tonight and all of you set about getting for your household the beauty and joy that is possible by acting upon these suggestions? Doesn't a beautiful sunny day make you feel better, make you feel that life is sweeter than a raw, murky mixture of clouds and slush? And whether your home shall have the inspiring atmosphere of the sunny day or the dismal suggestiveness of mud underfoot and clouds overhead, depends upon what you do or fail to do for beautifying it.

Nor need the process of beautifying be expensive. Morning glories, hollyhocks, sunflowers, peeps, castor beans—any of the common old-fashioned flowers may be used.

There is no excuse for an ugly home in the country—at least not in our Southern country. If you can't paint your buildings, you can at least whitewash them; and the beauty of vine and shrub and blossom will glorify even a log cabin. Progressive Farmer.

A special term of Buncombe Superior Court began Monday at Asheville. There are 40 liquor cases on the docket, defendants being victims of the "search and seizure" act.

one do his part to make things right. If the truth about our government makes us pessimistical I say be pessimistical and fight to the last ditch for a better administration of affairs and cleaner politics, defy fads, forms, fashions, customs and ceremony until there is a change which will justify us to boast and boast consistently. DAVID CLARK.

July 4, 1911.

## GOOD ROADS DAY IN McDOWELL COUNTY

Three Celebrations Held in the County Tuesday—Meetings Largely Attended.

Tuesday, July 4th, was Good Roads day in McDowell county, and was a good day. Three celebrations were held in the county. One, and perhaps equally as enthusiastic as the others, if not more so, was held at Crooked Creek by the citizens of Crooked Creek and Broad River townships. The Patriotic Sons of America held their memorial exercises in connection with the Good Roads rally, but the principal feature of the meeting was an effort on the part of these people to create enthusiasm so as to bring the central highway through their townships. Mr. W. T. Morgan, the trustee for this county, and Prof. D. F. Giles were the speakers of the occasion.

There are two ways that this central highway might go after leaving Marion, one through Old Fort Township and across the Swannanoa Gap; the other by Bynum's Cross Roads through Crooked Creek Township and Lakey's Gap. The people on this last named route are very enthusiastic and are doing all that they can to have the route go that way. It is not known which way the route will go, and it should be said that Mr. Morgan, the trustee for this county, will have no preference in the matter, but will endeavor to see that the claims of both routes are duly considered by the State Geological Survey, and the best route, and the route upon which the people will do most, will be adopted.

The meeting was largely attended at Crooked Creek yesterday, there being five or six hundred people present, and great enthusiasm was shown.

Another meeting was held at the new river bridge in Marion Township, near Garden City. The meeting was largely attended and the rally and barbecue was quite a success. Messrs. D. E. Hudgins and B. B. Price addressed the crowd, and it is safe to say that the citizens in that community will do everything in their power to make the central highway a success.

There was also a picnic and Good Roads rally held at Nebo. The Nebo people turned out in great shape. Anywhere from four to six hundred people were there. Music was furnished by a string band and choir of young ladies. Mr. C. F. McKesson, of Morganton, made a splendid address before dinner. Dinner was then served and it was a great picnic dinner. After dinner Mr. A. Hall Johnston addressed the crowd, and a great number of subscriptions were given for work and money on the road, and it is safe to say that Nebo is right on the project.

McDowell County, as will be seen from the above, is doing her part in the Good Roads movement, and is sure to build her link in the great central highway.

An explosion in the automobile garage of A. W. Dula, at Lenoir, Friday, started a fire which destroyed two automobiles.

## NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Fine Showing in the Increase in the Value of Farm Lands and Farm Buildings.

North Carolina's agricultural statistics, given out from the census bureau at Washington June 30, make a fine showing for the state. The increase in value of farm lands and farm buildings for the decade of 1900-1910 was wonderful. The value went from \$194,656,000 in 1900 to \$455,715,000 in 1910, an increase of 134 per cent. The increase in the value of land alone was 141 per cent. The increase in the use of fertilizers was 173 per cent. There was a 13 per cent decrease in the number of acres per farm. In other words the North Carolina farm has been reduced from 101 acres to 88 acres. This is a healthy sign. The smaller the farm the better the farmer. The total acreage fell off 2 per cent in the ten years. The average value of land per acre went from \$6.24 to \$15.29, making a gain of 145 per cent. That is a remarkable showing for the State.

The farmer has flourished for ten or more years and the outcry against the high cost of living may give him a little set back, but he is able to stand it.

The North Carolina farmer is coming into his own. He is improving his farm and getting more out of life.

## Advantageous Rates Granted the Clinchfield.

Washington, June 28.—Permission has been granted by the Interstate Commerce commission to the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio railway and the connecting carriers to make rates on coal, which in some instances, are less for longer than for shorter distances over the same lines and in the same direction. The order effects coal shipments from mines at Dante, Clinchfield and Hurricane, Va., to points in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

## Commerce Commission After Express Companies.

A sweeping investigation of all the express companies in the United States affected by the Inter-State commerce laws has been ordered by the Inter-State Commerce Commission on its own motion. Evidently in anticipation of this action by the commission practically all of the express companies filed applications which are believed to be material reductions in rates. It is said it will require several months to compare these rates with those now in existence.

In the financial statements made by the commissioners of the counties in this State you will not find the item, "Expenses burying John Doe, a pauper," as frequently as you have heretofore. A law passed by the last Legislature gives the bodies of paupers, whose relatives refuses to give them burial, to the medical colleges of the State for dissecting purposes. Under this law the medical colleges receiving the bodies have to pay for embalming and shipment.

There are men who would probably be wiser if they knew less.