

MARION PROGRESS

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

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1911.

VOL. XV—NO. 48.

CRIMINAL DOCKET ENDED

Civil Docket This Week—Jury in Damage Suit Awards \$5,000—Elliott Not Guilty.

The criminal docket was cleared Friday, the grand jury completing their work Thursday evening. The civil docket was taken up Friday and will continue through this week as there are several important cases. A recess was taken from Saturday noon till Tuesday morning.

The jury in the case of State vs. A. E. Elliott returned a verdict of not guilty. Other cases on the criminal docket were disposed of as follows:

Will Vaughn, a. d. w., five months on roads.

Will Brown and Guss Greenlee, larceny, fined \$27 and costs.

Julius Bryson, a. d. w., two months on roads.

Joe Scruggs, rocking house, four months on roads.

Martin Duncan, larceny, two months on roads.

Cid Hemphill, retailing, two months on roads.

William Sullivan, beating board bill, two months on roads.

"Sis" Smith, retailing, three months on roads.

Jim Frances, manufacturing liquor, six months on roads.

The jury in the case of T. M. Hicks, admr. of W. Y. Hicks, vs. the Western Union Telegraph Co. and Marion Light & Power Co. in which the plaintiff asked for \$20,000 as damages because of alleged injuries resulting in the death of W. Y. Hicks while in the employment of the Western Union, returned a verdict against the Western Union Telegraph Company awarding the plaintiff \$5,000.

Dysartsville Dots.

Dysartsville, July 31.—On last Wednesday night Mrs. Hutchins' barn was burned, burning two mules. Loss estimated at \$800. Origin of the fire unknown.

Mrs. Anna Taylor and Miss Margaret are guests of W. L. Kirkey, at Morganton.

Mrs. Charles Kirksey, William and James, of Morganton, were visitors here last week.

B. T. Daves was a juror last week and the mail was carried by a supply.

John D. Laughridge has built a porch to the front side of his house.

Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Walker were visitors at Jesse Walker's, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Knox and baby, of Statesville, were guests of J. L. Cowen last week. Mr. Knox will travel but Mrs. Knox and the baby will remain some time.

Fulton Landis was a visitor here Sunday.

Miss Olley Price, of Cliffside, has been visiting here several days.

W. T. Landis, of South Carolina, is visiting here now.

What shall we say of improvements, anyway? We build church houses, school houses and make good roads and say these things enhance the value of our lands. It is true that land in a community would sell for more, having these advantages, but perhaps not one man in fifty wants to sell his home. The farms with these conveniences bring no better crops than they did before. But when the tax assessor comes along, he says we must raise the assessment on our lands, for we have so many conveniences. So you see that by stirring to make life easier and more pleasant we burden ourselves with taxes.

—ZERO.

Fire destroyed the freight depot at Biltmore Sunday morning. The origin of the fire is unknown.

COUNTY RURAL SCHOOLS

Value of Property, Enrollment and Other Interesting Facts in Supt. Giles Report.

From the annual report of County Superintendent Giles to the State Superintendent of Schools, are gathered some interesting facts and figures about the rural schools of the county, and when compared with the reports of previous years the educational progress of the county is shown. According to the report just made there are 61 rural school houses in the county, 52 white and 9 colored, valued at approximately \$50,000. Four of the houses have been built during the past year at a total cost of \$1,600. All of the houses built in recent years are modern structures and well equipped, there being only eight log school houses now in the county and four of these are used by colored schools. Four houses have been repaired and remodeled during the past year, and contracts have been let for the building of several new houses and for repairs on others.

There are 64 school districts in the county, 52 white and 12 colored, two of which have no houses at present. During the past session there were 49 schools which had one teacher, 17 had two or more teachers, and in 20 of the schools high school subjects were taught. Twenty-nine districts of the county have a local tax and in these districts the average term is 133 days, while in the others the average is only 115 days. There are 27 rural libraries in the white and one in the colored schools, with a total of 3,000 volumes.

The school census shows 5,237 white and 600 colored persons in the county of school age (between 6 and 21 years) of which 3,276 white and 252 colored are enrolled in the rural schools. The average daily attendance of the whites in the rural schools during the past session was 2,434, colored 161. During the session 45 first grade white teachers and 3 first grade colored teachers were employed in the rural schools.

Six years ago there were only 49 rural school houses in the county, 16 of which were log houses, and the value of the property was only \$19,120. At that time there were only three local tax districts and the average term in these were 105 days compared with 62 7-10 days in the other schools. The enrollment in the schools of that year was 2,605 whites and 520 colored pupils, while the total county school census was 4,061 whites and 414 colored. The average daily attendance of the whites was 1,544, colored 285.

Singing Convention.

The Burke and McDowell Singing convention meets at Dysartsville, N. C., Friday, August 25th. All parties expecting to take a choir are requested to write the following committee on entertainment, to-wit: W. N. Laughridge, J. M. Goforth and L. P. Price, giving number of choir so all will be provided for. Every body is invited to come.

P. J. SHELL, Pres.

E. P. Crawford, of Sugar Hill, left Tuesday for Winston to take a position with the Ring Drug Co.

MILLS SHUT DOWN.

Drouth Closes 152 Plants In The Carolinas—70,000 Operatives Out Of Employment.

Charlotte, July 31.—As a climax to the unprecedented drouth this section is experiencing, 152 cotton mills in North and South Carolina shut down today because the water in Catawba river is so low the Southern Power company cannot supply the plants with power.

It is estimated that 70,000 operatives are thrown out of employment. It is expected that work will be resumed in two days. It has been many weeks since rain of any consequence has fallen and local weather bureau records show a deficiency of 50 per cent. in precipitation for this section.

Creeks which have not gone dry in 45 years are mudholes, and distress among the rural population dependent for water on wells is great. Mountain streams to the west, upon which flouring mills, tanneries and cotton mills are dependent for power, have dwindled to mere brooks in some instances, and many enterprises have been forced to shut down. Crops are burning up in the fields. Many farmers in this and adjoining counties, despairing of a corn crop, have chopped down the young corn and are using it for feed, while the hot winds are playing havoc with cotton.

Cities and towns to the north and west of Charlotte are facing the ordeal of a water famine that this city is now experiencing. At Salisbury, Concord, Spencer, Monroe, Wadesboro and other places the water supply problem has reached the serious stage and measures of economy are being rigidly enforced. The situation in Charlotte has not improved materially, though the authorities are working night and day on the problem.

Feeling that the distress of the people is not being relieved as promptly as was hoped by means of tank trains from the river at Mount Holly, the offers of water from Gastonia, Shelby and Lincolnton were today accepted and tank trains brought in tonight 50,000 gallons from each place. This is being pumped into the city mains by means of fire engines, and an additional steamer borrowed from Columbia, S. C., will augment the local fire apparatus in this work tomorrow. It is hoped by Wednesday to resume an economic service through the mains. It has been cut off since early Friday.

The Asheville Citizen's Great Popularity Contest.

The Asheville Citizen is conducting a great popularity contest to ascertain who are the most popular people in Western North Carolina. \$5,640 in valuable prizes are to be given away, and already great interest is being taken in the contest.

The prizes range from the Grand Prize, an \$1,870 Chalmers Automobile, down to a \$20.00 Eastman Kodak. Twenty-one people in Western North Carolina will receive valuable prizes, and we hope at least one of our readers will be among the lucky number.

DAVID'S BOMBARDMENT

Continues His Argument That the South Was Not Justified in Continuing the War.

Now Saul, let us stop for a minute and get our bearings before we drift farther in this debate. We are arguing, or trying to at least, that the South was justifiable in carrying on the last two years of the war.

Now I would not attempt to argue this delicate question if I meant to allow myself to be influenced by those poets, lecturers and statesmen of whom you spoke and who have filled the annals of our Southern literature with all that noisy chant about the "lost cause," "Southern manhood," "Southern chivalry," etc.

You have said you could understand why a Northern man would attack the South because of the prejudice of his section and of his people. Now I want to ask you if it is not just as reasonable to suppose that a Southern man would be just as radical in the opposite direction, especially since he is the victim of defeat and possessing as he does the most sensitive disposition and the hottest temper of any people under the sun. So in this argument it is my desire to try as a Southern man to look the facts squarely in the face and raise myself above the narrow prejudices and animosities which have characterized the South since the war and has clogged the wheels of progress here in the South and even causes some of us to continue to hate the Yankee.

First, I want to say most emphatically, that I haven't a word to say against those old veterans you and Bob Taylor so loudly praise. Truly they are due all the honor and credit a great people can bestow, yet we cannot overlook the fact that many of them fought because they were forced to. Some because of their hatred and a few no doubt because they felt it was their duty. In our day so far removed from those troublesome times we are so struck with the rapid succession of thrilling events that we forget that human nature was the same then that it is today. Do you pretend to say that the Southern soldier could not have been kept from fighting? If you do you get some old soldier who served among the last conscripts to tell you of their suffering—how they skimmed the bugs and worms off their pea soup—went a whole week on as much meat as one man should eat in a day and lay awake at nights from hunger. Ask him, if you will, why they didn't desert and he will tell you that even the fear of the deserter's death did not keep some of them from being traitors for no other purpose than to get relief from their hunger. These are painful facts your worthy "poets, lecturers and statesmen" overlook. Why? Because it casts a reflection upon those men who forced him to fight, a fact which we cannot blame them to be ashamed of, and any man who is willing to lay aside his prejudice and all that silly superficial sentiment about the South will blush for shame that those in authority at Richmond compelled those poor men to remain in the field when

there was plainly no hope.

Yes, you say there was hope. Well it depends on what you call hope. You have referred me to the history of that period and I find that before the close of '63 the South was failing to recruit her armies as fast as they were being killed. Early in '64 the South began to loose. Lee's invasion of the North was a failure. Boebl was advancing through Kentucky and Tennessee sweeping everything as he went; Hooker and Thomas had won the battle of Missionary Ridge; Grant, who had proven himself an efficient commander, was slowly but surely gaining ground about Richmond; Sherman had announced his intention to march to the sea and Johnston, Lee, Wheeler and Forrest were failing to check him or cut him off from the source of his supplies and recruits. Jackson, Sidney, Johnston, and Stoval had been killed. Shilo, Spotsylvania, Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge and Gettysburg had been fought and lost, leaving thousands of Southern soldiers dead never to be replaced, while the North was receiving fresh recruits every day and were really just beginning to fight in earnest. Was this hope? If it is I would like for you to tell me what black despair would look like.

Granting for the sake of argument that those men still fought willingly even when all was lost, was it not the duty of Jeff Davis and his cabinet to put a stop to that merciless war in the name of civilization and humanity? If the men of the South were so blinded by hatred and passion and in this respect had sunk to the level of a barbarian it was all the more the duty of that cabinet, which had assumed the dreadful responsibility of the confederacy, to hold them in check, and why they did not will remain one of the unanswered questions of the ages unless we agree that they too were so blinded that they allowed it to go on to satisfy their own hatred.

As to the Southern mothers, I have nothing for them but words of praise and tears of sympathy. Yes, they are just as worthy of the claim of patriotism as any who ever won fame and glory on the field of carnage, but all the philosophers dead and living could never make me believe they willingly gave up their young sons to be shot down in the early morning of youth when they were so much needed at home and at that tender age when they were so dear to them and needed so much the guiding influence of home and mother. No doubt the mother's love of country is strong, but her love for her own dear boy reaches beyond the patriotic devotion to country. It was to my mind only another exhibition of her Christian fortitude and humble submission to the inevitable consequences of the saddest and most fatal blunders recorded in the history of the human race.

DAVID CLARK.

During the joint Sunday School Normal of the Tennessee and North Carolina Lutheran Synods, held at Lenoir College, Hickory, last week, a movement was inaugurated to build a \$10,000 memorial science building on Lenoir College campus in honor of the late Dr. R. A. Yoder.