

MARION PROGRESS

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

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MR. LEDBETTER IN CUBA

A Brief Description of Places of Interest He Has Visited in City of Havana.

Havana, Cuba, Jan. 30, 1912.

Editor of THE PROGRESS:

By your kind permission I will give THE PROGRESS readers a few lines in regard to some of the interesting things I have seen here.

I arrived here on January 25th and after being passed on by the health officer and my baggage and duds thoroughly examined by a custom officer to be sure I was not a smuggler, I was allowed to pass out of the Custom House into this odd city of over three hundred thousand people. I did not think I had much idea of this city and I soon found out the idea I had gotten from hearing people talk about Havana was altogether wrong.

On leaving the Custom House I went through the narrow streets across the city and climbed to the top of a hill where I could see over the city and get an idea of how it laid. On top of this hill was the penitentiary. After trying several people to see if they could talk English I found an officer who could speak English in a broken way. I was shown to the head officer and the superintendent asked me if I wanted to go through the prison. I told him yes and he sent a guide who explained each department as we passed through. We were more than one hour going through and seeing the many things the 1300 prisoners were making. Every thing seemed to be kept very clean, and I was told that each prisoner was required to shave every other day. I was shown what an exact description of each prisoner was kept, including the finger prints in connection with the description. This entire city is interesting on account of it and its people being so different from ours.

The next place of special interest visited was the city cemetery. It is well kept and the many splendid monuments is sufficient proof that there is an abundance of wealth in Havana. After spending considerable time looking at the costly monuments I was surprised to come to a hexagon shaped house containing what is called the bone pile. This pile contained five or six car loads of human bones, left from persons who have been buried so long that no one will pay the rental on the little plot of ground they were buried on. So they were taken up and the spot let to some one who would pay rental. This was all very strange to me, but it is a custom that has been followed here for ages and the people here think nothing strange of it.

I next visited the raising of the Battleship Maine. They are progressing nicely with this gigantic undertaking and will soon have the job complete. On February 15, 1898, the Maine was sunk by an explosion and some two hundred persons went down with it where many have remained beneath the flagpole which has been above the water until recently.

Morro Castle and Cabanas Castle are immense in size and I consider the few hours I put in in going through these old castles time well spent. I visited the President's

home and was admitted to the blue room, red room and such other rooms as tourists are allowed to enter. Near the President's home is the Columbus Cathedral which was built many years ago and named in honor of Christopher Columbus. I visited the National Bank of Cuba and was surprised at the amount of business done by this institution. A representative of the bank cheerfully explained the workings of this great bank. He showed me the vault which, according to their own statement, contains \$6,260,632.54. The steel door that closed the vault weighs fourteen tons. I went out on top of this bank building, five stories high, and had a good view of the city. The houses on the principal business streets are only two or three stories high. The stories are extremely high, being something like twenty feet from floor to floor. Many of the business houses have sliding or folding doors so as to open the entire end of the building. The Market House covers a whole block and contains the vegetables and tropical fruits that feed the city. It is a show within itself.

Havana is a Spanish city. Out of a population of more than 300,000 there is only 6,000 Americans, and very few other than Americans can speak English. Hence nearly every thing is Spanish. The signs are in Spanish, the theatre plays are in Spanish, and the graphophone sings in Spanish. I do not know whether or not the dogs bark in Spanish as I have seen but very few of them. One of the things that agreeably surprises me is the kindness of all the people. I must say that an American is shown much more kindness and courtesy here than we would show him in the United States. If I ask where a certain hotel is the person I ask will go to the trouble to find some one who can understand English and will see that I am put right. During my stay here I have not yet found one who was not willing to go to considerable trouble to see that I am accommodated, and they do so with pleasure. They are indeed a kind people.

There are bar-rooms every where you turn, but I have not seen any drunkenness. There are more than 3,500 cab drivers and they are always in sight. Twenty cents is the fixed charge for carrying you anywhere in this big city. The charge for two persons is the same as for one. Sunday is but little observed here, apparently nine places out of ten doing business on Sunday.

I made a trip out thirty-five miles from the city through the sugar cane section to a sugar mill which cost five million dollars. Here the cane is hauled to the mill in train loads and the cars unloaded by machinery. The mill runs day and night, Sunday included. I was shown through the entire plant. This mill makes two thousand bags of sugar per day, each bag weighing 325 pounds. Everywhere sugar was scattered over the floor but no flies were to be seen.

I have not seen a half dozen mosquitoes since I have been here. This island differs from Florida. It is somewhat mountainous and fertile. Much of the soil is real dark red and is very productive. Many of the natives are living in

BRIDGEWATER NEWS

Mr. G. M. Walton Passes, Death Resulting from Paralysis—Other News.

Bridgewater, Feb. 6.—Mrs. Robinson, whose husband died last week, has removed to her old home at Drexel.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hopper, of Marion, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Martin, several days last week.

Mrs. Wilfong, of near Hickory, is visiting relatives here.

Arthur Trexler, of Glen Alpine, was here on business Monday.

C. B. Kincaid's family are all very sick with measles.

Arthur Riddle, of Marion, was at Bridgewater Saturday on business.

G. M. Walton, who lived near here, died Thursday from a stroke of paralysis. He was buried at Harmony Grove cemetery, Friday, Rev. A. P. Sorrels conducting the funeral services. Mr. Walton had been in failing health for some time and suffered from the stroke more than ten days before death came. He had been making his home for a number of years with his two aged sisters, Misses Harriet and Clarisa Walton. He is survived by three daughters and a son, Mrs. John Miller, of San Francisco, Cal., two daughters of Baltimore and G. S. Walton, of Norfolk, Va., who visited his father several days before his death. Mr. Walton was about seventy-five years of age, and a great collector of curious, especially minerals and precious stones. Many will remember his exhibit at our late McDowell County Fair.

Abernethy-Lyerly Co. are building an immense cement reservoir to furnish water for their lumber plant and Roller mill, and as a protection in case of fire.

Mrs. J. L. Gibson, of near Salisbury, has removed here to enter her children in our graded school. "BETTYE."

houses covered with palm leaves. The tall palm with perfectly smooth body for 30 or 40 feet is the principle timber in the section I passed through.

The Guines road, built by Spain in 1758, with its large spreading trees at intervals of about fifty feet on each side, would put good old McDowell county to thinking on the road question if her citizens could see this hard, smooth road which shoots straight through the section of country I traveled. The trees afford abundance of shade as well as add to the beauty of the road.

I find the water, the soil, the drainage and the breezes here to be superior to that of Florida. I believe this island will be made to produce a wonderful amount of farm products. All it lacks is a class of people that know how to do things and get at it. Three crops can be easily raised here each year. I saw fields of corn tasseled out and most ready for gathering and some of it only about knee high.

The few days I have spent here have been the most interesting of my trip. With best wishes to THE PROGRESS and its readers, very respectfully,
J. D. LEDBETTER.

PRIZES FOR THE BOYS

Trip to Washington For Youngster Making Best Corn Record This Year.

Mr. I. O. Schaub, special agent in extension, United States department of agriculture, has issued a partial list of prizes to North Carolina boys in the corn competition contest. The first prize will be a trip to Washington. The boys' corn club contest is conducted by the United States department of agriculture, the North Carolina department of agriculture and the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College. The prizes are:

State prize of a free trip to Washington, D. C.: To be awarded to the boy making the largest yield at the least cost per bushel.

District cash prizes, offered by the state department of agriculture. Five prizes, in each district for best yield at least cost per bushel. First, \$15; second, \$12.50; third, \$10; fourth, \$5; fifth \$2.50.

First district: Counties of Camden, Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare, Hyde, Beaufort, Pamlico.

Second district: Counties of Gates, Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Northampton, Halifax, Edgecombe, Wilson and Warren.

Third district: Counties of Pitt, Green, Wayne, Lenoir, Craven, Jones, Carteret, Onslow, Duplin and Pender.

Fourth district: Counties of Vance, Granville, Durham, Franklin, Nash, Johnston, Wake, Chatham, Lee.

Fifth district: Counties of Person, Orange, Caswell, Alamance, Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Stokes, Davidson.

Sixth district: Counties of New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, Sampson, Robeson, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke.

Seventh district: Counties of Scotland, Moore, Richmond, Montgomery, Anson, Stanly, Union, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg.

Eighth district: Counties of Surry, Alleghany, Wilkes, Alexander, Ashe, Watauga, Caldwell, Burke, McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey, Avery.

Ninth district: Counties of Yadkin, Davie, Rowan, Iredell, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, Polk.

Tenth district: Counties of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Graham, Clay, Cherokee.

THE RULES.

1. All members must be under 18 years of age August 1, 1912.

2. Each boy must plant one acre of corn (4,840 square yards), doing all the work himself, except that small boys may hire their land broken.

3. No member must use more than \$10 worth of commercial fertilizer.

4. Each member must keep a record of his work, amount of manure and fertilizer used and make out a report on the special blank which will be furnished him.

5. Each member must read the instructions sent him by the department of agriculture.

For further information or enrollment address I. O. Schaub, special agent in extension, West Raleigh, N. C.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

Increase in Poultry Raising—Big Demand for Poultry Products With Prices High.

In an effort to encourage and increase poultry raising in the South, the Southern Railway Company, through its Land and Industrial Department, has issued a folder for wide distribution calling attention to the superior advantages offered in the States traversed by its lines for the profitable development of this industry.

The big home demand for poultry products with prices higher than on other markets, and the ideal conditions prevailing in the South for raising chickens at low cost are two of the good arguments set forth in the folder. It is a fact that every Southern city of any size imports annually thousands of dollars worth of egg and chickens. Eggs will average throughout the year at least five cents more per dozen than in the North. The Southern poultryman has a market near his plant and does not have to consider long hauls and uncertain markets.

For the small poultry raiser who is satisfied to make a living only at first, gradually building up his business with his profits, the initial cost of a poultry plant in the Southeast should not run over \$500, according to an estimate given in the folder. Many prosperous Southern poultrymen began on as low as \$100 first capital. Several acres of a land, a small laying house and runs is about all necessary for poultry raising on a small scale, and such a plant will make a healthful, pleasant living for the family and under intelligent management will in a few years result in a large industry.

The Southern Railway Company is very much interested in the development of the poultry industry, as it is in other industries and activities of the people served by it, and Land and Industrial Agent M. V. Richards at Washington, and Western Agent Charles S. Chase, Chemical Bldg., St. Louis, are prepared to give all possible assistance without charge to prospective poultrymen desiring to locate in the Southeast.

Tabernacle Bible Conference.

The Fourteenth Annual Tabernacle Bible Conference will convene at the Baptist Tabernacle, Atlanta, Ga., March 1st, and continue to March 10th. The Conference promises to be the largest in attendance in its history. Christian workers and Bible students from all parts of the country will be in attendance. This Conference is interdenominational in character, over two thousand preachers alone attending last year. A greater attendance is expected this year in view of the fact that the Conference will be held in the New Church recently dedicated, costing over \$200,000 the seating capacity of which is five thousand.

Senator Simmons has reintroduced his amendment to the immigration bill providing for educational tests of immigrants entering this country. The amendment passed the senate some years ago, but was not agreed to by the house and therefore failed to pass Congress.