

MARION PROGRESS

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

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MAJ. W. A. CONLEY DEAD

Honored Citizen of McDowell County Passes Away After Brief Illness—Funeral Sunday.

Maj. W. A. Conley died at his home in Marion Friday evening at 8:45 o'clock after a serious illness of a week's duration.

The funeral service was conducted at the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock by the pastor, Rev. L. D. Thompson, and Rev. H. H. Jordan, of Morganton, and interment made in Oak Grove cemetery at 3 o'clock. The great multitude of people from different sections of the county, and classes from the town who attended his funeral and burial, showed with what esteem he was held by all of our citizens.

Maj. Conley was born in Caldwell county September 12, 1837. His father moved to his farm on the Catawba river in McDowell county, when Maj. Conley was only a boy and he lived there the remainder of his life. He owned the fine and valuable old home of his father. He married Miss Hennie Gardin, daughter of Capt. Geo. H. Gardin, January 9, 1888. Eleven children survive.

He was from one of the most prominent families in McDowell county, and personally was one of the most prominent men that has ever lived in the county. He enlisted in the Confederate army under Col. D. H. Hill, and was a brave and true soldier.

He held many responsible positions in the county. He served several terms as chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and represented the county in both the House and Senate in the Legislature, but his greatest usefulness and force in the county was in his home and business life.

By his industry and fine business judgment he accumulated a considerable amount of property which he has left to his family. He owned several valuable farms, owned stock in furniture factories, cotton mills, and banks, and was vice-president of the Western Furniture Company, and president of The First National Bank at the time of his death. He was a man that the business men of the town turned to when they wanted to enter into any financial enterprise. He was a man who had implicit confidence in his friends. He was a man of very strong convictions and character, yet entirely unpretentious. He never tried to make any display of himself or his property. He was generous in his nature, and a philanthropist in helping to build up his section of the county. He gave one thousand dollars on the bridge that the county built across the Catawba river in Nebo township, and gave five hundred dollars to the Nebo High School. He was very kind to all classes of people, especially the poor. While his barns and larder were overflowing with plenty, he never turned away the poor and needy who went to him for bread and meat, and was never known to oppress the poor. He was the very personification of honor and honesty and we are told that "an honest man is the noblest work of God."

In his death, not only his family,

but McDowell county has sustained a great loss.

At a meeting of the Directors of the First National Bank on Tuesday, the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, God in his wisdom has recalled our beloved President, Major Conley to Himself; and whereas in the long service of Major Conley as President of this Bank, and its parent banks, the institutions have had wonderful progress and success, the high character and noble qualities of the President not only always protecting the patrons, but lending and creating confidence and good will;

AND WHEREAS, the loss of his kindly gracious presence and personality is an irreparable loss:

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved: That this Bank record the feelings of each Director that in his loss, we mourn, in his absence we suffer; to his character we point all men as an example of noble qualities and high standard of living; that our hearts go out in sympathy to his noble wife and children, and that his memory will always be a benediction upon those with whom he served.

Twentieth Century Club.

On last Friday afternoon the members of the 20th Century Club were most delightfully entertained at the home of Mrs. J. Q. Gilkey, Mrs. E. H. Dysart being hostess. Twenty-four members responded to the roll call with quotations from various Scotch writers of note. This was the beginning of an entertaining program with Scotland as the subject.

Mrs. A. Blanton gave a concise reading of the country in general, which is not quite so large as the state of South Carolina; its various industries, wealth and other things of importance. Mrs. John Decker gave a sketch of Sir Walter Scott, his fame as a writer, his princely home and wonderful personality. Then an analysis of some of his various heroines was given. Mrs. Minnie Blanton read a paper on the poet Robert Burns, who has by his imaginative mind and magnetic pen, made a lasting fame for himself and his country. Mrs. Frank Wood followed with an article on Carlyle, one of the most talented writers of his day; he was always vivacious and animated and his wit and humor was endless. Interesting anecdotes are told of his association with Ruskin, Thackeray, Emerson, George Eliott and others.

Tea was served at small tables at the close of the program, and this social feature was equally entertaining.

The next meeting, with Scotland again as the subject, will be at the home of Mrs. John Decker.

Embroidery Club.

Miss Nell Blanton was hostess for the Embroidery Club at her home on Depot street last Friday afternoon. The house was prettily decorated in red and green which caused a holiday air to prevail and the hours passed very pleasantly indeed, owing to Miss Blanton's charm as a hostess. The guests were met by Miss Blanton and her sister, Miss Lucile Blanton. All present enjoyed the delightful music rendered by Miss Julia Burton. Tempting refreshments were served during the evening.

Those present were: Misses Ruby Deal, Wood, Florence Hildebran, Baxie Merrill, Maud Barnard, Lucile Blanton, Julia Burton, Moffitte Sinclair and Katherine Lassiter.

CAN'T STAND CUTS

ON FREIGHT REVENUE CON-TENDS TRAFFIC MANAGER GREEN.

AN INCREASE IS DOUBTFUL

Probable Gain in Freight Business Not Definite Enough Data Upon Which to Run Road.—Lengthy Hearing Begun.

Raleigh.—Freight Traffic Manager L. Green of the Southern Railway was on the stand nearly three hours in the intrastate freight rate hearing and scarcely more than got started in the presentation of his evidence. It is said. He is following lines of evidence designed to show that the Southern's present freight rate revenue cannot stand the big cuts prescribed in the Justice act through applications of the Minnesota rates, and is developing an exhaustive presentation of Carolina freight conditions compared with Minnesota and other territories.

Led by General Counsel Thom, he asserted that in great freight sections of the more thickly populated sections of the country where rates are now some lower than in North Carolina, definite movements for increases in rates are pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission with urgent approval by great commercial and shipping organizations.

It required a couple of hours earlier in the day to complete the testimony of Vice President and Auditor Plant of the Southern Railway. Mr. Plant's evidence was in the line of showing methods of keeping the accounts of the Southern as to the valuations of their property.

He testified that there are immediately ahead of the Southern non-profit yielding expenditures in this state aggregating \$3,412,000 and on the whole system of \$6,240,000. These include increased station facilities, new depots. There have been such expenditure the past 13 years of \$85,484,000, and of this \$83,500,000 has been expended within the past three years.

The company has sold its bonds since reorganization at a net loss of \$12,500,000, and the bonds are now under the present freight and passenger rate revenue conditions commanding only 72 to 73 on the bond market. To reduce the net revenue from \$441,000 to \$30,000 for this state, as the application of the proposed reduced rates would do, would have the effect of still further depressing the financial ability of the company to maintain an efficient service, he said.

The final witness by the Southern Railway in the intrastate freight rate hearing before the Rate Commission was Assistant Chief Engineer T. P. Gatlin, whose special work is maintenance of way. His testimony was a mass of figures showing the condition of the North Carolina lines of the Southern and what is necessary to bring them up to standard condition. He represented to the commission that it will require \$20,000,000 to put all the line in standard condition.

A Progressive Dairyman.

Newton.—R. L. Shuford, Catawba's largest dairyman, is engaged in placing an overshot wheel at his dairy and butter house, which will drive his separator and churn. Early in last year Mr. Shuford installed a milking machine which has proven to be a wonderful success. He has also installed an electric system which pumps water for barn and dwelling, furnishes power for sawing wood and running the milking machine and furnishes lights for home and barn.

Awarded Damages, \$200.05.

Durham.—Just before court adjourned the jury in the Rhodes case returned a verdict giving G. A. Rhodes \$200.05 damages account of the city emptying sewerage into Blackwells branch, which flows by his farm. The five cents was awarded as nominal figure for temporary damages. The verdict is considered a victory for the city. The jury was out about four hours, making the trial of the case take up three whole days.

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

Maud Barnard, Editor.

The Teacher's Ambition.

To help the child to become unselfish, self-reliant, kind, thoughtful, considerate, honest and independent; to train to habits of usefulness; to promote purity of thought and life; to have even some small part in awakening loftier purposes and holier aspirations; to arouse in the minds of boys and girls an honest and sincere hope to be able to some extent to make happier the school, the home, the community, the state, the nation, the world—should be the highest ambition of every teacher.—Barrett.

Glenwood Closes.

Last Friday completed the year's work at Glenwood. This has been the most successful term in the history of the school. Miss Brogden as principal has done excellent work and is very popular with her students and patrons, who hope to secure her services again next year.

School Notes

Miss Pearl Beck of Burke county is teaching at Curfew.

The school at Dome will close next Friday. Mr. H. M. Lyda has taught a very successful school there this year.

They have just installed a new oil stove at Greenlee and we are expecting good results from the cooking and sewing classes there.

The Nebo faculty spent Sunday in Marion attending the funeral of Major Conley.

Miss Martha Hall completed her work at Three Mile school last week and will enter Nebo High School soon. The patrons of Three Mile report a good years work and we hope to keep Miss Hall in our teaching force.

Miss Maggie Goforth is now finishing the unexpired term at Pinnacle.

The school at Vein Mountain closed the first of the year.

Miss Addie Elliott has been teaching in the intermediate department at Glenwood since Christmas.

Miss Blanche Houck has just finished her work at Cowans.

East Marion School.

The honor roll for the week ending January 16, is as follows: Charline, Charles and Edna Brown, Anna, Jennie and George L. Conley, Gus and Elmer Dover, Dawey and Annie Lee Helms, Guy Jarrett, Mary Herman, Annie and Delia Lowdermilk, Vesta Murphy, Myrtle/Poteet, Lessie and Pink Seagle, May Sheban, Ray and Virginia Vawter, Loy, Myrtle and Lula Finley, and Joseph Gibson. S. and L.

With the end in view of making Weaver college, at Weaverville, the leading junior institution of learning of Southern Methodism, the management of that college is determined to raise an endowment fund of \$200,000 of which amount \$50,000 is expected to come from Asheville friends and supporters of the institution.

Dr. Paul W. Troutman of Aberdeen has bought the dental business, together with the office and fixtures of Dr. J. C. Biddix, at Hickory, and has taken charge of the place. Doctor Biddix will leave in a few weeks for Baltimore, Md.

GETS FARM LIFE SCHOOL

Keen Rivalry Develops Among Mecklenburg Towns Desiring the Institution.

Charlotte.—At a postponed meeting of the Mecklenburg County Board of Education held a few days ago in the office of County Superintendent McCuskey, the offer of \$26,007 by Pineville was accepted and the board voted to recommend the county farm life school for this thriving locality.

The fight between Derita, Pineville and Huntersville was exceedingly warm, for each of these fertile sections of the county were anxious for the school and all had made strenuous efforts to land it, the work during the past month or more being carried on with vigor in each of the three districts.

The requirements made by the state are \$25,000 and 20 acres of land and Pineville in exceeding this amount has shown how anxious the citizens are for this school. It has been said that every man in Pineville made a personal subscription to the fund for the school with one exception and that man was not in the town and could not be seen. The community in addition to raising the \$6,007 by private subscription, raised \$20,000 in a special bond election.

The total population of Pineville was stated to be \$91 and so close did these figures approach 1,000 that the committee representing Derita expressed an anxiety to recount this number and see if there were not more than 1,000 citizens in the town. Should there prove to be more than this number Pineville will forfeit the school for the state does not allow the school to be located in a town of more than 1,000 population.

This meeting was called primarily for this purpose, having been postponed from the first Monday in January to give the various sections time to make their canvasses and get their offers in shape to be presented to the board, and because Chairman W. W. Watt could not be present.

The offers of the other two sections were not read to the board because they were not in exact shape. Both sections asked for more time; but since the board had announced that that day was the date set for the final decision, and since Pineville had met the issue, the board felt that unless Pineville was willing, through its representatives, to agree to a further delay, that it could not extend the time and be fair to Pineville. The Pineville representatives were not willing to agree to a postponement, for they stated the others had had an equal start and should have had their propositions in shape.

The Derita delegation evidenced a desire to carry the matter further and stated that its offer would be made direct to the state department of education and that it would ask for the school, despite the fact that Pineville would receive the recommendation of the Mecklenburg county board of education.

Catawba Warehouse Ready.

Newton.—The Farmers' Union meeting in Newton recently was addressed by Mr. W. B. Gibson, president of the Farmers' Union in Irredell county and a member of the state executive committee. The stockholders of the warehouse authorized the directors to begin business at once. They are now looking for a good manager and, as soon as one can be secured business will begin. They will handle fertilizer, lime, salt, sugar, all kinds of farm implements, buggies, wagons, etc. They will also ship sweet potatoes and other farm produce in carload lots.

The plan is to do a general wholesale business. Co-operative buying and selling is the purpose for which the warehouse company was organized. The Farmers' Union bought through its business agent, J. A. Probst, in October of last year over 50 tons of fertilizer. It will order this spring between 500 and 1,000 tons.

No Convicts For Cleveland.

Shelby.—The convict camp will be no more, according to the ruling of No. 6 Highway Commission in session recently. The commissioners have reached the conclusion that under the circumstances it is much more satisfactory to hire labor than depend solely on convicts, and as soon as terms of those now on the road expire, the force will be hired altogether.