

MARION PROGRESS

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

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1914.

VOL. XVIII—NO. 29

COMMENDS SCHOOL WORK

Mr. Brogden Writes Interestingly of His Visit to McDowell and of Work Done Here.

Raleigh News and Observer.

Professor L. O. Brogden, State Supervisor of Rural Elementary Schools, recently spent the greater portion of a week in McDowell county in the western part of the State, visiting the rural schools in that county. Mr. Brogden inspected a number of the schools of the county, and was highly pleased with the work that is now being done there. He reports more progress along the line of "demonstration schools" than has been found in a big majority of the counties of the State, and does not hesitate to commend the work of the people to other sections of North Carolina.

Practical demonstration work is rapidly gaining a foremost position in the school advancement and progress now so noticeable in nearly all of the counties, and the people of McDowell have taken a long step forward in the work that they are doing. They have recently employed a rural school supervisor, who gives her whole time to supplementing the work of the county superintendent, and the people believe that they have a good investment in adding to their county officials. McDowell county is primarily an agricultural county, as is true of many of the counties in that part of North Carolina, and great emphasis is at this time placed upon the importance of practical demonstration.

Mr. Brogden writes interestingly of his visit to McDowell county, and tells of the work being done there. His statement follows:

"McDowell county is one of the few counties of the State to take the advanced step of employing a rural school supervisor to supplement the work of the county superintendent.

"Instead of scattering her efforts over the entire county, this supervisor is devoting the most of her time during any one year to not more than ten rural schools. She is undertaking to make these ten schools 'demonstration schools,' showing what the rural elementary school, under proper teaching and supervision, can be made in meeting the needs of country children. Under the direction of the supervisor, with the hearty support of the teachers in these 'demonstration schools,' approximately two hundred boys have been studying agriculture in a practical and systematic way, while about one hundred girls in these schools have been doing definite and practical work in sewing. The people of Ashford, a progressive rural community in which one of the demonstration schools is located, have recently petitioned the Board of County Commissioners to raise their local school tax from 20 to 30 cents, in order to add another room and another teacher to their two-teacher school, thereby making it an efficient three-teacher school better suited to the needs of their country children. The people in this community are also discussing the question of building, before the beginning of the next session, a permanent home for their male principal, in order to have the

benefit of his services and leadership the year round, instead of for six or seven months each year. If they succeed in carrying out this plan, as I believe they will, this will be the first rural community in the State, so far as I have been informed, to take this progressive and much needed step.

TEACHERS TAKE SPECIAL COURSE.

"Now that many of the rural schools of the county have closed, quite a number of the teachers are taking a six weeks teacher's course in the Nebo High School.

"Under the direction of the Rural Supervisor and with the hearty cooperation of principal and teachers in this State High School, these student teachers are reviewing the grammar and high school subjects and receiving instruction in the most modern primary methods. The work is being carefully planned and made thoroughly practical. The supervisor is using one of the small rooms in the building to show her class how to make the little one-room school attractive, comfortable and more home-like in appearance; she is showing them how to use the course of study for the elementary schools to get the best results; she takes her class in to see the experienced teachers in this school conduct recitations in the different subjects taught in the elementary schools, and this observation work is followed by carefully planned conferences in which each student-teacher is questioned on the most vital things observed in the recitation.

"This six weeks teacher training course carried on through the agency of this State High School and Rural School Supervisor, is meeting a practical and vital need of the rural teachers of the county."

Another Mill for Marion.

The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company, of Marion, N. C. have applied for a charter with a capital of \$500,000.00 to build a large cotton mill at or near Marion, N. C., this being the company recently promoted by D. D. Little, of Spartanbury, S. C., Carroll Baldwin of New York City, Hugh F. Little, J. L. Morgan, John Yancey, J. W. Pless, D. F. Giles, A. Blanton and others of Marion, N. C.

It is the purpose of this company to build a cotton mill at or near Marion, N. C. with an equipment of 25,600 spindles and 600 looms which will give employment to about 250 people.

No definite site has been selected but several locations are having the consideration of Mr. J. E. Sittine, of Greenville, S. C., who is the architect and engineer in charge.

No contracts have as yet been let for material nor lumber but matters of this kind will be handled as soon as location is decided on.

Mr. Little has been tireless in his efforts to land this proposition for Marion and McDowell county and it means the bringing in of considerable outside money and giving a large number of people in the county and adjoining territory work and prosperity.

George Westinghouse, the inventor of the air brake that bears his name, died Thursday in New York.

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

Maud Barnard, Editor.

Look not mournfully into the past; it comes not back again; wisely improve the present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart.—Longfellow.

School Notes.

Last week's storm having done so much damage to the roof of the Greenlee school building, it was found necessary to close the school last Friday.

Miss Pearl Beck, who has just closed a very successful school at Curfew, has returned to her home in Burke county.

East Marion School closed last Friday afternoon and Misses Stacy and Lonon left Saturday for their homes.

Miss Kate Haynes, principal of Greenlee School, passed thru Marion Saturday enroute to her home at Granite Falls, N. C.

Miss Annie Glass has returned to her home in Morganton.

Close of Belfont School.

Belfont School, in Crooked Creek township, closed last Friday with a very successful entertainment. Friday was "Rally Day" and the people turned out well to hear the educational addresses which were made. Some of the speakers were unable to attend but every one enjoyed the talk of Mr. Julius Byrd. Between speeches a most delicious basket dinner was served by the ladies of the community.

The program rendered Friday night showed much work on the part of both teacher and pupils. The large crowd present expressed its appreciation by the prolonged applause which greeted each number.

The people of Belfont are very enthusiastic in their praise of the work done there this year by Misses Brown and Glass and have requested that both teachers return next year.

Situated in a fine agricultural section, and in a community of good people, there is no reason why Belfont can't be one of the leading schools in the county.

Prof. L. C. Brogden's Campaign in North Carolina.

L. C. Brogden, State Supervisor of Rural Elementary Schools, is spending the greater part of his time and energy campaigning for the adoption throughout North Carolina of a plan for a type of efficient rural school which he has worked out in considerable detail, and which has consolidation as its central feature, with the feature of transportation where conditions permit. Mr. Brogden has become an authority on these features by personal investigation of conditions in this State and extensive, first-hand study of consolidation and transportation in all sections of Virginia. Combining the results of these investigations with a study of all available literature on the subject, he issued in 1911, as a bulletin of the State Department of Education, a discussion which has been characterized as the "last word on consolidation and transportation."

His plan contemplates as a minimum improvement the increasing of the school area from an average

of 9 square miles to an average of 20 or 25 square miles; the providing of a school site of 6 or 8 acres, giving space for playground and demonstration farm; the building of a three-room school building, with auditorium and modern equipment; at least three teachers with male principal, and a permanent home for principal and assistants; two years of high school work given; the organization of boys' and girls' corn and canning clubs, singing classes, farm life clubs, and the encouragement of debating, entertainments, and all those things which go to make a richer rural community life. Mr. Brogden is constantly traveling over the State, advocating his typical school in educational meetings, conferring with county superintendents, and helping in the actual work of measuring distances, deciding on sites and plotting districts.

THE SPREAD OF CONSOLIDATION.

While the idea has been agitated in the State only a few years, it is spreading with cumulative rapidity, and Mr. Brogden declares that "the movement is growing more rapidly and more systematically and more intelligently than ever before in the history of public education in the State." The most recent figures obtainable are those taken from the reports of the year's progress made by the county superintendents at their meeting during the Teachers' Assembly, which, though very incomplete, are still suggestive. Summarized for the State, they show that during the year past, in the counties reporting 83 schools have been abandoned, that 49 consolidated schools have been established in their places, that where 98 teachers were required in the schools abandoned 92 are now teaching in the consolidated schools, that whereas 1,739 pupils had been attending the schools abandoned 2,518 have attended the consolidated schools established in their stead. Thus, where 83 schools had been handling only 1,739 pupils, 49 consolidated schools have handled 2,518, or an increased attendance of over 44 per cent. These figures were taken before the compulsory attendance law began to run, so that increase is explained only by the improved facilities, conveniences and attractions of the consolidated schools. Bertie county made the best report in the State, abandoning 13 schools for 5 consolidated schools, with an attendance increased from 260 to 290 in the schools considered.

EXAMPLES OF CONSOLIDATION.

State Supervisor Brogden mentions as one of the best types of consolidation in the State the school at Riverdale, in Craven county. Three one-teacher schools have been consolidated to one of three rooms and two teachers. The school board has bought three new school wagons and transport 70 children with great success. The school site has been increased from 1 to 17 acres.

Another typical consolidation is at Peacock's Cross Roads, Johnson county, where two two-teacher schools have united, erecting an attractive and comfortable building costing from \$1,100 to \$1,500, with three class rooms, a music room and an auditorium. The school has three teachers, a male principal, and a music teacher. There are 25

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Mr. H. B. Varner, editor of the Lexington Dispatch, has practically announced himself as a candidate to oppose R. N. Page for Congress.

John Motley Morehead, of Charlotte, is being mentioned as the probable Republican congressional candidate for the ninth district to oppose the Democratic nominee.

The State Department of Agriculture has prepared an interesting bulletin on "Leguminous Crops in North Carolina" and would be glad to furnish, free, farmers with this valuable information. If interested, they are requested to write to the department at Raleigh.

The Executive Committee of the North Carolina Press Association in special session at Raleigh last week decided to call the annual convention of the association to meet at Wrightsville Beach on June 24-25, and recommend to the association that the mid-winter meeting be held in Raleigh.

W. A. Hardstine, 70 years old, who lived near Swannanoa, Buncombe county, was found dead in his room Sunday afternoon. He had fallen in the fire and being weak physically he was unable to extricate himself and was burned to death. Mr. Hardstine, a German, lived alone and had no family.

At Mars Hill College, Madison county, William Barksdale, a 15-year-old student, was in the room of a fellow student after the hour the college regulations permit visiting. Hearing a teacher coming Barksdale got out on the window edge to hide and fell 15 feet to the ground, receiving serious injuries.

It is estimated that the State of North Carolina will get \$100,000 inheritance tax from the Vanderbilt estate. Prior to the revenue act of 1913, now in force, there would have been no inheritance tax on the part of the estate that goes to the widow. Under the present act the widow's portion, as well as that of the other heirs, is taxed as an inheritance.

The season is drawing to a close during which Boys' Corn Clubs can be formed for the coming season, and announcement is made that to date there are 3,082 such clubs scattered throughout the State, practically all the counties having one or more. Wake county is well in the lead with 225 clubs and Richmond is second with 157. Buncombe has 143, Columbus 122, Johnston 122, Robeson 106, Mecklenburg 107. McDowell has an enrollment of 60.

in the music class and the community has bought a piano. The people are delighted with the school and the work is much more efficient than ever before. They are planning to give courses in cooking for the girls and in practical agriculture for the boys. And this is a cross roads school in a typical country community, in the center of an area of between 25 and 27 square miles. A slightly more extensive edition of this school is what Supervisor Brogden is campaigning for in the State, and is what must come if the rural education of the State is to be made most effective.—North Carolina Education.