

MARION PROGRESS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY EVENING
BY THE
MCDOWELL PUBLISHING CO.
Marion, N. C.

S. E. WHITTEN, Editor and Prop.

Entered at the Postoffice at Marion,
N. C., as second class matter.

TERMS:

ONE YEAR, \$1.50
SIX MONTHS, 75c
THREE MONTHS, 40c
Strictly in Advance!

MARION, N. C., MAY 13, 1920

The Era of Education.

In these days of great prosperity and progress in all fields of endeavour the public schools are not lagging behind in the procession but are going forward with a rapidity that a few years ago would have been thought impossible by the most optimistic.

The war, of course, gave greater impetus to education than anything that has ever happened in this country. The absolute necessity of trained men and women was realized as never before, for the world war was won by brains and not by force. It was a war in which science played the leading part. While millions of men lost their lives in the awful conflict, yet had not there been back of the whole thing a great organization composed of men of superior education and training the toll of death would have been far more terrible. The sad feature was, however, that of the millions of young men called to fight for their country and to make safe the name of democracy thousands knew not the meaning of democracy, for how could they understand the meaning of something in which they had never been given any schooling? It is a known fact that a very high percentage of the boys called to the colors could not read or even sign their names to the pay roll.

The war revealed the condition and now we have set about to right it. We have at last come to the point where we realize that if our American institutions and form of government are to endure that we must have an educated citizenship. Education must be made universal and to have it so we must have schools and teachers on a much greater scale than we have ever dreamed of. Good schools, like every other good thing, are expensive but we must have them regardless of cost.

The State has at last got down to business and is putting on a program of education that will revolutionize conditions in North Carolina. Teachers have been compelled to work for a pittance, but now salaries are to go up, while the qualifications of teachers also go up. This means that while it will require more money to finance schools the schools will be of greater service because of their increased efficiency.

But, as we said in the outset, wonderful progress is already being made and we think that this progress is as marked in McDowell county as any other section of the State. It has been only a matter of a few years when there was not in this county a single school building to which we could point with the finger of pride, but now there are several magnificent structures that do honor to every citizen who has had a part in their building. We are ashamed to tell the short number of years ago when not a single school in the county prepared for college entrance. Now there are four whose

graduates can enter without condition any college in North Carolina, while there are several other schools giving one or two years of high school instruction. Only a few years ago the number of young men and women in one year going from McDowell county to college could have been counted on the fingers of one hand. Now either of our State high schools send as many.

There will always be those who will stand in the way of progress and in the path of education and in the upbuilding of the people, but we are glad that in McDowell county there is a board of education that is going forward with a big program. These modern school buildings that are springing up in the different communities are going to be the beacon lights that will attract and draw the boys and girls to school and hold them until they have been fitted for a life work. The time will not be long when the work that is being done now in the cause of education in this county will bear fruit. We hope the great work will continue until a modern high school is within the reach of every boy and girl in McDowell county.

Loafing and Living.

We've read a good deal the past year or so on the cost of living problem, and we still read every solution offered. But up to this time we believe the best advice offered, and the thing that will cut the high cost of living quicker than anything else is for everybody to go to work. Sweat, good, honest sweat and a lot of it from every man regardless of his financial condition, is the one thing needed to bring prices back toward normal.

We don't see much loafing here in Marion, and yet so long as one man is content to remain idle he is doing that much to keep up the cost of food and clothing. It is in the large cities of this country the loafing is being done, and on a larger scale than ever before known. Men make from two to five times as much now as they once did and, instead of working all the time they are, in thousands of instances, content to work three and four days a week and loaf the remainder of the time. Every man who loafs makes it necessary for some other man to work that much harder, so loafing even for a day is an imposition on the men who work steadily. Production and nothing else will reduce prices. If a factory turned out a million hats an hour instead of one a day, hats would be cheaper. If we raised a hundred billion bushels of potatoes to every fifty bushels we raise now potatoes would be cheaper. But with more people loafing than ever before and factory and farmer unable to produce as liberally as they would like to and should, we need expect no drop in prices. When the day comes that every man can be made to understand that it is criminal to loaf, and that loafing is the surest step toward starvation, then honest sweat will start to flow in this country as it should—and prices will drop.

Judge Ray's Candidacy.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found an open letter from Judge J. Bis Ray to the Democrats of McDowell county. We call to it the attention of our readers. Judge Ray has made a splendid impression wherever he has held court according to reports from the Western Districts of North Carolina. His friends say he has made good, and the fact that he is sticking to his duties on the bench and leaving his candidacy to the voters, rather than neglecting his official duties for his personal interests, is most commendable and should meet with the hearty approval of the entire citizenship.



DRESSES! DRESSES!

You talk about pretty Dresses. We are showing them by the scores, all made in the latest vogue of Georgette Crepe, Crepe Meteor, Satin, Taffeta, Voile, Tricolette and goodness knows what all. This is the most wonderful showing for the money we have ever secured.

If you expect to wear a "Glad Frock" this Spring, come and see these.

Gaston & Tate, Inc.

"The Square Deal Store."

Open Letter from Judge Ray.

To the Democrats of McDowell County:

I wish to ask your support of my candidacy in the June Primary for the position of Superior Court Judge of the 18th Judicial District. I regret that I have and will be unable to make a personal campaign of the district and see you individually, but my duties on the bench prevent me. I have been holding Court constantly and could not and will not be able to make a personal canvass in my own interest without neglecting the duties of the judgeship which I now hold. I, therefore, must appeal to you through this open letter, and assure you that your support will be greatly appreciated by me.

Upon the death of the lamented Judge Mike Justice, Governor Bickett appointed me to fill the vacancy. I am now offering for nomination to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Justice. On the bench, the State has received my most faithful service, it having been my purpose at all times to hold the scales of justice fairly and impartially without fear or favor. I have held Courts throughout the two districts west of McDowell county, beginning with Asheville and going to Cherokee. Your rigid examination of the way and manner in which my Courts have been conducted is earnestly invited in any county where I have served. I have known no favorites, and have stuck to my post till the cases on the Court Calendars were tried out, or the term ended, and, if nominated at your hands, I promise you my untiring, most faithful and best service in maintaining the high standard of our Courts.

I appeal to you for support, and am sure that you will not permit my candidacy to suffer on account of performance of duty in sticking to the duties of the judgeship rather than neglecting it for my own interests. I will appreciate your votes, and will leave my fortune in your hands.

Faithfully yours,
J. BIS RAY.

These Cool Days



KNOX
HATS

Will soon be over and Straw Hats will be abroad in the land. We have them here for you in the latest Blocks and Shapes.

Ballilukes, Bangkoks, Milans, Sennetts, etc.

Have You Gotten Yours?

Furnishings

Nifty Neckwear in the latest shapes, newest Silks and most popular colorings!

Silk and Madras Shirts that never fail to please the most discriminating buyers.

J. H. L. Miller Clothing Co.

The Quality Shop