

MARION PROGRESS

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

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MARION A TOWN OF INDUSTRIAL ADVANTAGES

Z. P. Smith, Industrial Agent of the Southern, Gives His Impressions of the Place.

Z. P. Smith, general industrial agent of the Southern Railway system, was in Marion in the interest of promotion of various manufacturing enterprises here to get an accurate account of what might be expected of local citizens relative to encouragement of these propositions. In an interview with B. L. Lunsford, secretary of the Marion board of trade, Mr. Smith gave some valuable information which should bring encouragement to every citizen of the county. The following statement Mr. Smith gives as his conservative estimate of Marion's prospect:

"It has been some years since an opportunity was afforded for me to visit Marion, but for many years I have not only been an intensive admirer of western North Carolina, but equally intense in my belief in its future growth and development.

"I regard Marion as one of the best towns on our lines. The people are public-spirited, energetic and resourceful. It takes these qualities to build a town. Marion, as I see it, has not waited for outside capital to build her factories, her mills, and her commercial places, and in this particular perhaps lies the secret of her present prosperity. There is ample room here for industrial development. There is everything to make it so, good water, and plenty of it; I believe there is something like 500,000 gallons in excess now over what the town uses, a first class native labor supply, a magnificent agricultural back country, raising perhaps the finest wheat produced in the whole south, not even excepting the far famed valley of Virginia, while health conditions are as fine as it is possible to find anywhere in the union.

"There are a number of industries that might well find it profitable to locate in this community and I have in mind more particularly the flouring industry, more particularly hosiery, underwear and silk, and, as I see it, there is every opportunity in the world for development along resort lines. About two miles from the town is a magnificent artificial body of water. This body of water is permanent in character because it is one of the sources of power used by the Southern Power company; a large hotel opened the year round, with adequate ground facilities affording an opportunity for riding, driving, golf, etc., to say nothing of the lakes, excellent fishing and the opportunities for both small and large game hunting. Perhaps this is one of the things that has been especially neglected. Western North Carolina has for many years been a playground as well as a great workshop, but I am very much afraid that Marion has been a little backward in providing for her share of the tourists' business—a business, by the way, that will increase more and more as the years go by.

"I have all the faith in the world that there is to be a rapid development along industrial lines in the whole south and my faith in western North Carolina leads me to believe that this particular section, with its immense natural resources, will come in for her full share of prosperity."

KITCHIN TO RESIGN.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Representative Kitchin, democrat, of North Carolina, has informed the ways and means committee of his intention to resign at an early date because of ill health. Chairman Fordney said today:

North Carolina has a million horse power of undeveloped and unused hydro-electric power, says Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt.

Ten days till Christmas.

GOOD ROADS ENTHUSIASTS MEET HERE SATURDAY

What promises to be by far the most enthusiastic meeting of good roads advocates, will meet in Marion, Saturday, December 18, for the purpose of discussing the road situation in the counties of McDowell, Yancey, Mitchell and Avery, and to formulate plans looking to the building of a satisfactory system of roads for these counties. Invitations have been sent out from Marion to prominent citizens of the various counties mentioned, to meet with the citizens of McDowell, and from the indications a large number of representatives from these counties will be present. Every phase of the road situation will be taken up and discussed. Several schemes are being worked out for the construction of roads and these will be discussed at the Saturday meeting. Not only will representatives from the mentioned counties be present, but a number of representatives from other sections have signified their intention of attending this meeting. Miss H. M. Berry, of Chapel Hill, secretary of the Good Roads Association, will be present and discuss the State plan. W. M. Peyton and J. G. Stikeleather, members of the State Highway Commission, have promised to be here. Heriot Clarkson of Charlotte has written that he will be present. A representative of the Federal Government will also be on hand, while correspondents of the Asheville Citizen, Charlotte Observer and Greensboro News are expected.

Much interest is being manifested by local folks in this meeting. The people of McDowell County are very much concerned about the question of good roads. They hope to be able to interest the people in the surrounding counties in devising a scheme of road construction that will meet the imperative needs of this section. At the Saturday meeting, not only will the County unit idea be discussed, but a system of roads that will embrace, as a unit, this entire section of the State.

The ladies of Marion are taking an active part in the program of the Saturday meeting and will provide a delicious and appetizing menu to be served in the dining room of the McDowell Hotel to those attending the meeting. Each plate will cost \$1.50 and tickets may be secured from Mr. J. Q. Gilkey. The menu card provides for "eats" as follows:

"EATS"

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Oyster Soup | Mountaineer Style Crackers | Kicker Pickles, home made |
| Mitchell County Turkey with McDowell County Dressing | Cranberry | Hard Surface Celery |
| Yancey County Candied Yams | Avery County Gorn | Steamed Rice and Gravy |
| Buttermilk Biscuits, Standard Size | Coffee (Big Cups) | Mince Meat Pie |
| Ice Cream | Top Soil Cigars | Cigarettes |

LARGE STILL DESTROYED TWO MEN CAPTURED

Deputy Sheriff Mitchell, Marshal John Lail and A. R. Poteat made a successful raid in the Dysartsville section Tuesday, destroying a large copper still and capturing two men, John Whitener and a man named Deaton. The men were taken at the scene of operation while engaged in the work of making whiskey and were brought to Marion and placed in jail.

The plant was a large copper outfit. Considerable supplies, it is said, were on hand. About one thousand gallons of beer were poured out.

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSES.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The Johnson immigration bill, amended so as to prohibit all immigration for a period of one year, was passed today by the house. It now goes to the senate, where its defeat is predicted by the senate leaders.

The vote was 293 for the bill and 41 against it.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE COUNTY

Brief Mention of Some of the Happenings in McDowell—Items About Home People.

OLD FORT

Old Fort, Dec. 13.—Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Strickland entertained a few friends on Saturday evening in honor of their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan K. Ogden, of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Ogden, a recent bride, is a sister of Mrs. Strickland.

Mr. and Mrs. John Moffitt and Miss Louise Flemming spent the week-end visiting friends and relatives in Marion.

Reid Grant spent Friday in Asheville.

Miss Mamie Wadley spent the week-end in Asheville.

Nyle Bloomer and Charlie Rhedelle are visiting friends in Old Fort. Misses Annie and Nelle Early and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Early spent the week-end in Marion.

Dr. D. M. McIntosh spent Saturday in Asheville on business.

Grayson Bailey spent the week-end in Barnsville visiting relatives.

Master J. C. Greene spent Wednesday and Thursday in Old Fort.

The honor roll for the Old Fort graded school for November is as follows: First grade: Mary Virginia Adams, Ethel Burgin, Estelle Brown, Gertrude Connor, Beatrice Freeman, Jessie Ola Davis, Frances Kanipe, Stella Sherill, Elizabeth Wilson, Evelyn Gilliam, Frances Thomason, Carlyle Nesbitt, John Robinson. Second grade: Robert Byrd, Clyde Nesbitt, Russel Oates, Catherine Finch, Mary Sue Grant, Martha Hyams, Irene Jordan, Edith Poteat, Geneva Stepe. Sixth grade: Earle Silvers, Walton Burgin and Viola Grant. Seventh grade: Rosa Turner, Donald McIntosh and Albert Noblitt. Eighth grade: Janie Parker and Pearl Turner. Ninth grade: Estelle Lavender and William Treverton. Eleventh grade: Essie Mashburn and Cassie Burgin.

CROOKED CREEK

Old Fort, Rt. 2, Dec. 15.—Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Lavender are visiting relatives at Knoxville, Tenn.

Miss Cassie Burgin of Old Fort was the guest of Miss Myrtle Lytle last Sunday.

The two-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis fell into the fire one day last week and burned one side of its face very badly.

A number of people of this place attended the community singing at Salem Sunday afternoon.

G. M. Lavender of Rock Hill, S. C., is visiting relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Brown of Hot Springs have moved here.

Grayson Bailey is visiting his aunt at Burnsville.

C. L. Lytle of Greenlee spent Saturday night at J. S. Lavender's.

Mrs. ——— Hall died at her home last Wednesday. Interment was made at Cherry Springs Thursday.

GREENLEE

Marion, Rt. 2, Dec. 13.—Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Grant were shopping in Marion last Thursday.

Harry Towse of Biltmore visited friends here last week.

Mrs. Pearl Putman was shopping in Marion last Tuesday.

C. B. Wood visited friends in Marion last Friday.

Miss Lonnie Snipes was shopping in Marion last week.

R. H. McCall and W. H. Greenlee made a business trip to Marion last Friday.

G. F. Davis, T. M. Burnett and V. L. Bradley were in Marion last week on business.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hall were shopping in Marion last Friday.

G. W. Bird, of Turkey Cove section, in selecting his seed corn a few days ago found a ear 11½ inches long containing 32 rows of corn. The grains measure ¾ inches deep.

Shop with home merchants.

R. L. GILKEY PASSES.

Marion and the surrounding community were greatly shocked to learn of the death of R. L. Gilkey, Saturday morning. He had been sick about three weeks from Bright's disease. Notwithstanding the fact that he had been seriously ill, the seriousness of his condition was not realized by his many friends.

The funeral was held at the Methodist church at 2 p. m. Sunday, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Hipps, assisted by Rev. J. T. Bowden, of the Baptist church, the concluding ceremonies being in charge of the local order of the K. of P., of which the deceased was a member. The floral offerings were profuse and beautiful, expressive of the popularity and esteem in which Mr. Gilkey was held by the people of this community.

Mr. Gilkey was about 48 years of age, and had spent his entire life in Marion. He was married something over sixteen years ago to Miss Berta Wright of Washington, N. C. One child was born to this union, mother and child both dying a number of years ago. Mr. Gilkey had been a successful business man, having been engaged for a number of years in the livery business. He was well known to the travelling public as "obliging Bob." A few years ago he sold out his livery business and, in copartnership with Mr. J. F. Conniffe, bought the Price Hardware business, in which business he had been engaged for the past few years. He was known for his honesty in business and for his uprightness in private life. He attended strictly to his own affairs, and his success in business was largely attributed to his strict devotion to it.

Mr. Gilkey is survived by his father, Mr. A. B. Gilkey, and his step-mother, of Marion. Three brothers, Ed. of Asheville, James C. of Fayetteville, and A. L. of Marion, and one sister, Mrs. L. E. Wooten, of New York City, are also left to mourn the loss of their departed brother.

The sympathy of the entire town and community goes out to the bereaved relatives in their great loss.

NEBO SCHOOL NOTES.

Nebo, Dec. 11.—On Friday evening, Dec. 17, at 7:30 there will be the annual debate between representatives of the two societies of Nebo High School. The query is: "Resolved, That the President Should be Elected by Direct Popular Vote." Those representing the N. H. N. Society on the affirmative side of the question are Misses Myra Quinn and Charline Brown; those representing the B. L. S. Society on the negative side of the question are Misses Minnie Bailey and Georgia Sigmon. The judges of the contest will be Messrs. D. F. Giles and W. R. Chambers of Marion and Miss Celestia Penny of Glenwood High School. There is much rivalry between both sides and the public is cordially invited to hear the speakers in their final debate.

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 21, at 7:30 the children of the first four grades in the school will give their annual public program. They will present a play, "The Doll's Symposium," and an operetta, "The Christmas Garden." In the former the children impersonate dolls in spicy dialogues, fascinating drills, clever burlesque, entrancing songs, and cunning antics. In the latter the children, as flowers wearing their dead apparel that endures Snow and Blow, are transposed by the sun to their beautiful selves in the Christmas Garden where mistletoe, holly, the sun, moon and stars are present. Those directing this program are Misses Brown, Jimerson and Blackstock. The public is cordially invited.

Lieut. Governor-elect W. B. Cooper says he will be a candidate for governor to succeed Cameron Morrison.

PROGRAM FOR ROAD BUILDING ADOPTED

Building of 5,500 Miles of Highway and \$20,000,000 Bond Issue Favored.

Raleigh, Dec. 11.—After being closeted all working hours day and night for the past four days, the committee of good roads advocates, including representatives of the Good Roads association and the Citizens' association, has announced that it has agreed on the details of a bill that will be recommended to the general assembly early in January. The bill which provides for expansion of the present system is the result of a close study of the best laws written in all states of the country.

Briefly, the outline of the proposed measure, drawn up by the committee after a weeks work, is as follows:

1. A statewide system of highways, approximately 5,500 miles in length, to be taken over within the next year for construction, maintenance and protection. In taking over the county systems, due notice shall be given and opportunity for appeal from the district decision afforded.

2. Roads taken over by the state are immediately to be maintained in first class condition. Failure to properly maintain roads will be prima-facie evidence for the removal of any officer charged with that duty.

3. Lay off the entire state into nine construction districts to make possible an equitable distribution of funds each year and to secure simultaneous construction in each district.

4. Nine commissioners, one from each district, to compose the highway commission, and one commissioner at large, who will be chairman, and in charge of administrative work. The present commissioners whose terms have not expired will not be interfered with.

5. Construction fund to be distributed to the construction districts in proportion to the area of the district, as compared with the area of the state. Both hard surfacing and grading will begin simultaneously in each district.

6. The limit on the construction fund should be fixed by the capacity of the commission to expend economically, depending on labor, materials and equipment.

7. All able bodied convicts shall be worked on state highway system.

8. It is estimated that the commission can now spend economically from eight to ten million dollars annually, and will need more as the department becomes more thoroughly organized and expanded. To raise that money, it is deemed advisable to authorize the issuance of \$20,000,000 in bonds to cover a five-year period; the bonds not to be sold until the money is needed, and sold only by consent of the council of state. It is estimated that federal aid to the amount of two and a half millions will be available annually. A five-cent property tax will yield a million and a half. A penny tax on gasoline will yield another half million, which with an annual bond issue of a million dollars, will net the state about nine millions annually for road construction.

RESULTS OF BAD ROADS.

The Concord Times makes the following timely observations and comment:

"One-fourth of the counties of North Carolina, one-sixth of her area, one-eighth of her population, have had to seek their trade and social connections in other States. Why? Bad roads. Ten other inland counties, not being able to get into other States, are dying from poor circulation which may result in pernicious anemia. In the last census they hit the minus column in population. Why? Bad roads. The additional agricultural output of these counties, encouraged by adequate roads, would pay for the roads in five years."