

BLUE RIDGE ENTERPRISE.

A Weekly Journal for Home and Farm; giving reliable information of this new country.

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BLUE RIDGE ENTERPRISE,

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT HIGHLANDS, MACON CO., N. C.

THE HIGHEST TOWN EAST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

E. E. EWING, Editor and Proprietor.

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Mineral Wealth of the Blue Ridge Country.

One of the wide-awake men of the day is Col. Charles W. Jenks, of this city, whom I first met a few days ago. He tells me that there is unsurpassed mineral wealth in the Blue Ridge country. "It is agenuine terra incognita," he said, and added: "the only scientific man who ever made a thorough exploration of the country was Prof. Gray, of Harvard, who went there botanizing. Colorado, Nevada, Montana and Idaho have all been tramped over, and yet, within three days of Boston, is a country almost unheard of, certainly quite unknown, and offering great inducements for the prospector." Col. Jenks gave me some new ideas regarding the mineralogy of the Blue Ridge country, which contains gold, silver, copper, iron, mica, marble, corundum, porcelain clay, soapstone, etc. Some of these minerals are being profitably worked. The discovery of corundum in this region is quite a mineralogical romance. Col. Jenks, while roaming and prospecting through the mountains, discovered unmistakable indications of this remarkable mineral in a North Carolina mine, where the corundum carrying veins show the mineral in massive and crystal forms.

ALL THE GEMS OF THE ORIENT. This mineral is remarkable for the gems which it carries. Col. Jenks says that in this Blue Ridge mine there have been found the oriental sapphire, ruby, asteria, emerald, topaz, amethyst, girassal and chatoyant.

The value of corundum in the arts is inestimable. Hitherto, it has been brought in small quantities from Ceylon and Hindoostan, where it was gathered in river beds and mountain ravines. It has never been mined for much beneath the surface. All that has come to this country has been in the shape of small crystals. European scientists were astonished when Col. Jenks showed them in London and St. Petersburg the specimens from the Blue Ridge. Amherst College has a crystal from the Blue Ridge mine five times larger than any corundum crystal yet uncovered in the world. It weighs 312 pounds; at one end is a sapphire and a ruby at the other. One of these days all America may be getting its precious stones from the Blue Ridge.

The Colonel is quite an enthusiast on the Blue Ridge country, and regarding a proposed development there of a new wool product.

The above was published in the Boston Sunday Herald, several years ago. Corundum has become so plentiful since the mines have been developed in these mountains that it bids fair to take the place of emory.

From the same journal we clip the following on the value of the Angola goat and the inducements held out to capital to introduce the industry in the Blue Ridge mountains:

SHEEP HUSBANDRY. Col. Jenks recently went through the Southern States at the request of such representative southerners as Senators Gordon and Hill of Georgia, Morgan of Alabama, Lamar of Mississippi, Alexander Stephens, Wade Hampton and others. They desired him to prepare a paper on the sheep husbandry of the South. Some of his "points" are embodied in the following interview: "I wish," said he, "that the attention of the public might be called to a subject which is just beginning to attract attention, the rearing of Angola goats in this country. What is known as the wool of the Cashmere goat is, nine times out of ten, the mohair of the Angola goat. There is a proper Cashmere goat which produces not more than a pound or two of wool per animal. Little of this wool ever gets out of India; the native loom absorbs the product. The Angola goat has its habitat on the high plateaus of Asia Minor, 4000 feet, above the sea level. Its wool is especially valuable, as it takes dye readily and is of great lustre. Under certain conditions it cannot fail to come into competition with raw silk."

"What are the relative values?" "Raw silk is to-day quoted at from two to seven dollars per pound. All things being equal, Angola goat wool or mohair will bring 75 cents per pound. You know the silk worm requires for its finest product to feed upon mulberry leaves. So, too, the Angola goat requires a special diet and a special climate, conditions of its Asiatic habitat, paralleled in our Blue Ridge country. Now, the wool of the Angola goat can, advantageously to manufacturer and consumer, be substituted in part for raw silk in most silk fabrics. The goods will wear even better, and have as much lustre."

CLIMATE AND WOOL. "Has anything been done to develop the mohair industry in this country?" "Very little systematically. The climatic conditions necessary to the best wool product of the Angola goat have been often disregarded, with the naturally-to-be-expected result of discouragement on the part of the importers or buyers of the goats. In Angola the goats have fine wool in proportion to the altitude of their range. Descend among the foot-hills and valleys, and you find the goats producing

a coarse wool. A Belmont (Mass.) gentleman tried to raise some of these goats on rich bottom land, with the deteriorating result mentioned.

"When did the importation begin?" "In President Polk's time a Dr. Davis of South Carolina was sent to Turkey, at the request of the Sultan, to experiment there in the culture of cotton. When Dr. Davis returned, the Sultan presented him with a small herd of choice Angora goats; some of the descendants of these goats were scattered about the country."

You say, Colonel, that our Blue Ridge country is the climatic parallel of the plateau region of Asia Minor?"

"Yes; all this country, say from middle Virginia to northern Alabama, furnishes a transcript, as near as may be, of the native home of the Angora goat. The isothermal lines which run through Western North Carolina also run through Asia Minor. Land for goat ranges can be bought in the Blue Ridge country for 25 cents an acre. You can easily care for five goats to the acre. Their habits are very simple. They eat 25 more varieties of herbs and shrubs than any other domestic animal. Their wool product averages from three to six pounds. For the last fifteen years this wool has been quoted on the London market at double the price of the best English combing wools."

The Thermal Belts of the Blue Ridge.

The mountains, but a little while ago so majestic in their dark-green robes, are now penciled over with the many hues of autumn, not by the blighting sting of frost, but the gradual ripening and maturing of the foliage. Here in these elevated regions, under a southern sky, king frost defers his visit till the slow process of Nature matures and ripens the foliage, and the dark green of the boundless woods gradually glides into the sage and yellow leaf, to be showered down by November's blast of wind and driving rain. This, and the return of foliage when the vernal season starts bud and flower into new life, are the auspicious seasons for detecting the thermal zones or belts so famed as the fruit-growing locations in these Blue Ridge mountains. There are numbers of trees which do not ripen their leaves till the crisp power of frost overtakes them, and these trees mark the thermal belts round the sides of the mountains and ridges. In spring these belts are the first to show green foliage, and in autumn the last to lose entirely their emerald tint. These belts are formed by the configuration of the surface of the country, and are always found overlooking, as it were, broad valleys and generally, though not always, overlooking lofty mountain peaks and ridges. These thermal belts are commonly found only a few hundred yards in width and winding round the sides of the mountains, maintaining one general distance above the valley. From the summit of Stookey mountain, which overlooks the town of Highlands on the north, at this season may be seen one of the most extensive thermal belts to be found among these mountains. A district of country lying south of and directly under the range of ridges, of which Stookey is the principal and most lofty peak, being 5000 feet above the sea level, a thermal district five to eight miles in width and winding as far as the eye can trace from the top of Mt. Stookey, east and west among the mountains, may be seen in autumn or spring, mapped out by the green foliage, hemmed in on its north and south borders by the tints of faded forests.

In this tract of country the buds and foliage make their appearance two to four weeks earlier in spring, and linger longer in the fall. Here cattle and sheep find fair browsing through most of the winter, and peaches, the tenderer varieties of grapes, melons and sweet-potatoes ripen in perfection. The most favored spots from frost, however, are narrow belts far up on the mountain sides, and comprise what are termed "benches" of comparatively level land, containing ten to thirty or more acres. These benches are in most cases easily accessible from the northern side, the mountains all having a gradual slope from base to summit on the north, but drop away steep and precipitous on the south. Above these benches tower the lofty peaks, and from their lower edge drop abruptly hundreds of feet into the deep, broad valleys. These belts are kept free from late fall and early spring frosts by the rising of the warm atmosphere from the valley beneath, which meets and tempers the cold atmosphere which commences to roll down from above as soon as the sun disappears below the horizon. Where these strata of atmosphere meet and mingle an equilibrium of temperature is maintained, and late spring and early fall frosts prevented; consequently fruit within the borders of these thermal zones is generally a sure crop. Fogs and milder never injure the tenderest grapes, and the warm gravelly soil composing the slopes, with the reflected heat from the mountains above, provide a location exactly suited to the grape and peach.

When the skilled horticulturists of the North have drifted farther South in search

of a more genial climate to escape the rigors of winter, and the forests which cover these southwestern mountains give place to the apple, pear and quince; the peach, grape and small fruits, from no portion of the country will such fine-flavored, well-matured and handsome-appearing fruit find its way to the markets as from the Blue Ridge of the Carolinas.

Hundreds of thousands of acres now in primitive forest will in the future be devoted to fruit-culture; while the tourist will find no part of the world more conducive to health than the pure air and mild temperature of these Southern mountains.—Correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph.

New Catalogues, etc.

We have received the following catalogues and price lists for 1883. Hiram Sibley & Co.'s Farmers' Almanac and Seed Catalogue, Rochester, N. Y. S. L. Allen & Co.'s Descriptive Catalogue and Price List of the Planet, Jr., Seed Drill and other garden and field implements. 127 Catharine Street, Philadelphia, Pa. E. Whitman, Sons & Co., Farm Implements, Machinery and Seeds, Baltimore, Md.

Bee-keepers' club list and circular of bees—a club list of the principal periodicals and journals of the country, combined with circular of queen bees—Italian and Paestian—with catalogue of plants—straw and raspberry—and grape vines. G. M. Doolittle, one of the leading bee-keeping specialists of the country, Burdino, Onandage County, N. Y.

Given's comb foundation press and wiring machine, a descriptive pamphlet of a press for making comb foundation and fastening it in frames with wires. D. S. Given & Co., Hoopeston, Ill.

The Bee and Poultry Magazine, changed from Bee-keeper's Magazine, is on our table. The new arrangement makes a neat and useful magazine which cannot fail to please every reader. We club the magazine with the B. R. ENTERPRISE. King, Keith & Co., Publishers, New York.

Birdsville seed and stock farm, Herndon, Ga., W. B. Jones, Proprietor.

How to Make a Town.

The Columbia Register has a long and well written editorial under the above caption from which we make the following extracts. After stating that natural resources and surrounding have much to do with the inception and growth of towns, and pointing to instances of great cities at times springing up in out of the way places and growing from the capital and appointments of civilization into centres of trade, controlling largely the commerce of the world, the writer says:

"The social complexion of a place, the character of the people who do business and dwell therein—the merchants, the professionals, the men and women of society—all these things have a vast positive meaning in the economy of a city, and are as capable of attracting business and visitors as the substance of high individual character, the gifts of genius and the smiles of beauty have a charm for the average child of our race. Then we may accept it as a truth that there is much in every town that is made—that is borrowed from the energy, the character, the culture, the taste, the refinement, and, above all, the go-ahead business qualities of a place—the pluck to spend money and the judgement and discretion to place it well. No two-penny policy in our day can conduct a State, a city, or business on a great scale, or, in fact, on any scale at all worth talking about the narrow parsimony that is caught by the aphorism, 'a penny saved is a penny cleared,' it is easy of utterance, but it has sunk millions in the pennilessness which takes it for a motto.

Influence of Agricultural Papers.

BY THEMES.

Looking over a paper recently my attention was attracted to this: "I remarked to an old farmer back in the country, whom I had not seen for several years, and whose farm in the meantime had improved wonderfully, that his place was so changed that I hardly knew it." "Yes," said he, "I've been fixin' up a little. The old woman pestered me to splash about the garden, and so I sicked it up a little, and fixed about the house, and it looked so nice I went at the farm fence and the brush and saved more manure, and kept killing the weeds, and the crops got better, and so I kept on, and things do look pretty good now. Wife takes a paper, and I take one and I get time to read it, too, and I used to think that I hadn't time for anything."—Indiana Farmer.

Good wages may be made during the winter season, canvassing for subscribers to the Blue Ridge Enterprise. Persons willing to act as canvassers will receive instructions and statement of terms by sending their address to the office of the ENTERPRISE.

FACETIE.

A New York dandy, wishing to be witty, accosted an oldrag-man as follows: "You take all sorts of trumphy in your cart, don't you?" "Yes, jump in, jump in."

A little girl in a neighboring city seeing a dog scratching to be let in at an opposite door, knocked on the window and called out, Ring the bell, doggie; ring the bell!"

WINTER EVENING FUN.—There is a game known as "Mind-Reading," from which much pleasure may be drawn. Though a curious trick, this "mind-reading" is quite simple in plan. Suppose that in a party only one person is familiar with the game. Let this person make a few remarks about the mysterious arrangement of the nerves or the electric power of mind, and then announce that he is ready to read the minds of all the others present. Each person is requested to write a word or a sentence on a slip of paper and to place it in a hat, which stands on the table. The performer then takes his seat behind the hat and draws out one of the papers. This paper he presses against his forehead, covering the slip from view with the fingers of each hand, which touch each other. After anxious thought he says: "This slip of paper contains 'such and such a word or sentence.' Then he glances at the slip as if to see whether he read it right. The next slip is treated in the same way, and so with all the other papers, which are placed upside down on the table near the hat.

Now, when the performer reads the first slip no one recognizes the word or sentence then used. But that does not matter. Each person thinks that the word or sentence was written by some one else. Therein lies the trick, which consists in inventing a word or sentence for the first slip and glancing at its true contents when laid on the table behind the hat. Of course the performer applies the real sentence on the first slip to the second slip, the second slip to the third and so on to the last slip. When the last one has been placed on the forehead it is concealed in the hand or dropped into a side pocket, or mixed with the rest, which rarely are examined so carefully as to discover its absence or as to detect the trick in regard to the first slip. When the slips have been read the company pass them round in wonder at the power of the "mind-reader."

Our Market Abroad for Dried Fruit.

It is a mistake among many farmers and fruit-raisers in the United States to think that the different varieties of fruit, such as apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, gooseberries, &c., are grown in greater perfection in Europe than here. It is not the fact. We raise these as abundantly here and in as much perfection as they do in Europe, and with not more than half the labor and expense. It is true, however, that more pains are taken there, and their modes are more thoroughly systematized; but the cost of producing a crop, we repeat, is very much greater here, but still the profit may be greater, as nearly all kinds of fruit sell at a much higher price there than here. We have not a doubt that the United States, ere many years, will become the greatest fruit-raising country in the world. Our soil and climate partake of every description, and if one kind of fruit is not adapted to a particular place, another is, hence the wide extent of our territory presents to us a means of cultivating successfully all kinds of fruit. For years we have been shipping enormous quantities of apples to Europe, and this exportation is steadily increasing and will continue to increase until the trade shall become of National importance. In dried fruits, such as peaches and apples, the exportation has already acquired large proportions, and in ten years more it will go on multiplying in extent until fruit-raising will become a far greater and more profitable branch of industry than at present. With such a market open to us we can never grow an over-abundance of apples and peaches; while these, in addition to cranberries, in their natural condition, fresh from the trees and vines, ought to be and no doubt will be produced in sufficient quantities to meet any demand. The very cheapness that we can send them abroad for will open for us an unlimited market for all with which we can supply it.—Germantown Telegraph.

As a comment of what the Telegraph says, which is every word true, we can add that there is no part of the country that will approach the Blue Ridge country of North Carolina as an apple and peach growing region, if the fruit industry is once properly inaugurated here. For quantity and flavor of her apples the Blue Ridge is the peer of any country, and horticulture, dairying, sheep and goat husbandry and apiculture should be the aim of those who settle in this country. Their arrangements should be made with these industries in view and plans matured to pursue one or more of them. Thirty miles of railroad a day were built last year in this country.

GOOD COFFEE.

Everybody wants it, but very few get it, because most people do not know how to select coffee, or if it is spoiled in the roasting or making. To obviate these difficulties has been our study. Thurber's package Coffee is selected by an expert who understands the art of blending various flavors. They are roasted in the most perfect manner (it is impossible to roast well in small quantities), then put in pound packages (in the bag, not ground), bearing our signature as a guarantee of genuineness, and each package contains the Thurber recipe for making good Coffee. We pack two kinds, Thurber's "No. 34," strong and pungent, Thurber's "No. 41," mild and rich. One or the other will suit every taste. They have the three great points, good quality, honest goods, reasonable prices. Ask your grocer for Thurber's roasted Coffee in pound packages, "No. 34" or "No. 41." Do not be put off with any other kind—your own palate will tell you what is best. Where persons desire it we also, furnish the "Ideal" Coffee-pot, the simplest, best and cheapest coffee-pot in existence. Grocers who sell our Coffee keep them. Ask for descriptive circular.

Respectfully, &c. H. K. & F. B. THURBER & CO., Importers, Wholesale Grocers and Coffee Roasters, New York. P. S.—As the largest dealers in food products in the world, we consider it our interest to manufacture only pure and wholesome goods and pack them in a tidy and satisfactory manner. All goods bearing our name are guaranteed to be of superior quality, pure and wholesome, and dealers are authorized to refund the purchase price in any case where customers have cause for dissatisfaction. It is therefore to the interest of both dealers and consumers to use Thurber's brands.

—FOR SALE BY MRS. A. G. DIMICK.—

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The undersigned, having had considerable experience in House and Sign Painting in Chicago, Charlotte, N. C., and other cities, is prepared to execute work in the best style. Work done by contract—or the day.—ESTIMATES GIVEN ON JOBS. Ready mixed Paints furnished at lowest cash prices, or Oil and Lead when preferred. 1st C. B. EDWARDS, Highlands, N. C.

Highlands Nursery.

The subscribers offers for sale for the Spring of 1883 a quantity of well grown Apple trees of the best varieties for this section. Selected Trees 75c. Each, Per 100 \$70. No agents employed. Come to the Nursery and get your trees fresh from the ground. 1st S. T. KELSEY, Highlands, N. C.

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I supply Italian Bees, Ellipse, New American, Langstroth and Simplicity Bee Hives, Honey Extractors, Section Honey Boxes, Bee Vests, Honey Knives, &c. Please send for my descriptive circular and price list. Sent free. Address: F. A. SNELL, Millersville, Carroll Co., Ill. v1-n1-4m.

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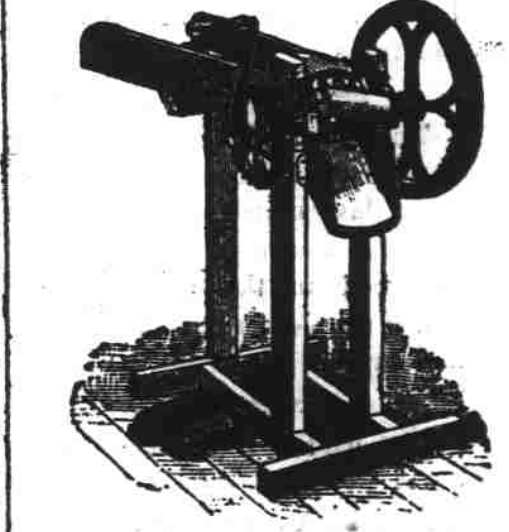
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