

BLUE RIDGE ENTERPRISE.

E. E. EWING : : : Editor & Proprietor.

HIGHLANDS, N. C., MARCH 1, 1888.

Some Erroneous Impressions Corrected.

The discussions on roads which the BLUE RIDGE ENTERPRISE has engaged in the past two or three issues have developed the fact that some of the parties interested in road making ad libitum, entertain impressions not warranted by the facts. One very erroneous is that the citizens collectively or individually, may have inspired the criticisms of the paper on the road policy which has held a pre dominating influence in the development of this section. All who entertain such belief may drop it at once and forever. We never consult individuals or communities for opinions, only for data and facts. If the latter happen to be incorrect, which is often unavoidable, we hasten to correct them at once. The opinion, of individuals or neighborhoods, of the merits of an enterprise, is not considered, only the data and facts they can supply, are made use of in reaching our deductions. We wish it to be distinctly understood that this is the policy we have ever pursued in the management of newspapers, and that it will be continued in the ENTERPRISE. A paper that attempts any other is but a weakling, scorn of individuality and is without usefulness. We will treat all with courtesy, and private opinions and private acts and opinions of persons that affect the public interest, either near or remotely, are public property, which we claim the right, with the press in general, to comment upon, and criticize favorably or unfavorably as their merits seem to warrant. Our columns are always open to parties to defend their views by a logical statement of them, but not for personal abuse or a long, windy rigmarole in stating their case. And now, in reference to the theory that persons have a right, if they choose to spend their own money in making roads, etc., is not gainsayed; and when thus spent in road making on their individual property or within their own enclosure, their acts should be sacred from comment, but wherever the exercise of this personal right touches the public welfare, at that point, they become public property and are proper subject of criticism for the press. All roads which are not purely private roads, but are intended for the use of the public, and are unobstructed by gate or fence, are in their nature, public, are declared to be in the keeping and care of the county after years, and it is the county's duty to have them kept open and in repair by county officers. So that every mile of road thus made is constructively an additional mile added to the public roads of the neighborhood, to be kept in repair in the future by an assessment of labor on the citizens between the ages of 18 and 45. That assessment of labor amounts from twenty to thirty days per capita in a year. This labor is exacted by the most harsh laws, which require individual service, or payment for lost time at more than ordinary wages, or imprisonment in the county jail. A policy that increases this tax to the ratio of population is ruinous to the public welfare we contend. Our policy on the contrary is to concentrate expenditures on the town, make it a neat, attractive place, and a population of five hundred will soon be gathered here. That number will inspire confidence; farmers will purchase and improve land in the vicinity, knowing that a market is assured for all products. Orchards will be planted, dairy farms be opened, population will increase, needed roads will be made willingly, and increased and increasing numbers will lighten the labor tax for roads; population will be invited not repelled as the present unwise system tends to do. Those who dissent from this view let them stand up in their place and give reasons for the faith that is in them. The plea that people have a right to spend their own money and their own time as they choose neither confirms the wisdom of the policy, or proves a satisfactory answer.

A Botanical Garden.

"What will we do?" is a question we heard one of the members of the Floral Society asking. As suggestions are always in order in the opening days of a new enterprise, at the risk of being pronounced officious for meddling with the ladies' affairs, we would suggest a Botanical Garden, as something that might give pleasant employment, as well as produce useful results, far reaching in their consequences. Perhaps no other place could be found in the United States so favorable for creating a botanical garden as at Highlands. In the mountains, within sight of town, there are probably more than a hundred varieties of plants that would be termed rare specimens, seldom met with in any other quarter of the globe. Plants can be removed from where found to the place prepared for them, and transplanted without difficulty or danger of loss, at any time during the summer, there being no droughts or hot summer suns here to check or retard their growth. There could be no more enjoyable or healthful recreation than a ramble on the mountains with basket and trowel in search of specimens; and then the delight naming, classifying and arranging the plants in beds, would kindle an enthusiasm for natural studies, that would speedily result in a class of skilled botanists, especially among the pupils of the school, that would compare favorably with the classes of the most expensive colleges.

To many of the summer visitors nothing would be more interesting than a garden filled with native specimens, arranged in their appropriate groups and labeled. Some of the plants found here are of rare beauty as well as curious. Among these we may mention Painted Cup, which is continuous throughout the season of bird and flower. This curious specimen presents a gorgeous appearance when planted in groups; its scarlet petals ever growing with flame-like splendor. The fame of such a garden filled with rare specimens of the North Carolina Mountains, would soon spread abroad and be visited and patronized by scientists from all parts of the country; and the demand for seeds and specimens would, if properly conducted, at no distant period become a source of considerable income. Nothing that could be accomplished with so little expense, while affording a pleasant recreation, would give Highlands so much notoriety among that class noted for culture and scientific attainments, as an establishment of the kind which we have sketched. If the ladies of the Floral Society conclude to inaugurate such an enterprise, no time is to spare ere the selection of a plot of ground for the purpose, is made. The soil for such a purpose should have been cultivated in hard crops last year, well rotted and arid, and in a convenient place. Such a spot for immediate use may be found at the corner of Main and Fifth streets, and no doubt a loan of the ground from Mr. Kelsey could be readily effected, till a more appropriate location with warm, southern exposure could be procured, cleared and put in proper condition for a garden. If Highlands is particularly fitted by natural advantages for any special purpose, it is that of a summer resort, but in order to achieve this object the place must be put in order to receive visitors. Artistic attractions must be multiplied to please the eye and capture the senses, and other creature comforts anticipated and supplied.

Walhalla's Best Customer. The mountain trade is a growing interest for Walhalla, and the more encouragement given to immigration to locate north and west of that town, the more the merchants of that village of "happy homes," as its musical name implies, will be benefited by the increased trade that numbers bring. It is no advantage for Walhalla to have population south of her and near the travel on the railroad. The more travel up the mountains, the greater the sale of merchandise, the very business and transportation of goods and passengers, the entire profits of which will fall into the lap of Walhalla. She will always virtually monopolize the trade mountainward of her if her merchants and business men will use the advantages in their hands to secure and retain it. This trade will have a steady increase, and they will have themselves alone to blame if they do not profit by it. They may drive quite a lucrative trade in the summer season when the mountains fill up with visitors, in Florida and West India fruits, if they will prepare to handle them fresh and at a reasonable profit. There are a great many articles they would get direct orders for if people knew they could be obtained with dispatch; but in order to increase, or we might say create this direct trade, it will be necessary to advertise their goods, and thus let the people in this section know where to send their orders without making a trip down the mountains to look for what they want. In preference to doing that they send off to the large cities for articles they could often get cheaper at Walhalla. Send your advertisements to the BLUE RIDGE ENTERPRISE and we will find the customers.

A Letter From Horse Cove.

EDITOR BLUE RIDGE ENTERPRISE:—The ENTERPRISE is a welcome weekly visitor to us dwellers in the Cove, being as it is, well filled with a variety of matter both instructive and entertaining. It seems to the writer that the journal fills a long felt want in the community, and there is no doubt, that as it grows older it will become a power in the land. Here, on the southern slope of the mountains, spring is coming rapidly upon us; the welcome song of the robin is heard and all about us the grass and clover are making the earth green again. Fruit buds too, are swelling and from present indications the coming season will bring a fine and plentiful crop of peaches and grapes, if the late frosts do not interfere. It behooves us all to profit by the well timed remarks of the ENTERPRISE in regard to vegetable gardens. Any one, with a little time and care, can grow upon a small piece of ground, properly prepared, sufficient vegetables to keep the family table well supplied with such wholesome additions to our daily food, so that "Hog and Hominy" may not constitute the only diet of the farmer as is too often the case hereabout. Now is the time to begin preparations, so that the seeds may be planted as early as is needful. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the ENTERPRISE in spreading agricultural knowledge may bear good fruit among the farmers of this region generally. The writer notes with interest the communication of "Pen Holder" in regard to road and street questions and the editorial comments thereon. While it is very evident that it is of paramount importance to Highlands that her streets, particularly Main Street, should be put into good shape and furnished with dry sidewalks, it is none the less necessary that there should be good roads leading into the town from various directions in the surrounding country, so that persons having business

in Highlands can reach it without risk to life or limb. The writer does not intend, by any means, to advocate the construction of new roads, for which at present there is no apparent necessity, but rather the keeping in at least passable order of those roads which are already made and much used. A case in point is the present absolutely dangerous condition of the road from Horse Cove to the top of Blue Ridge. This section of the road is worked and kept in order (1) by a force from Highlands. Doubtless there are other much traveled roads in about the same condition. Could not some of the time spent upon the building of unnecessary new roads, be much more profitably devoted to keeping the old ones in some sort of repair. We who live in the country adjacent to Highlands are all interested in her welfare, and, being so interested, we naturally desire to be able to get into town occasionally without laming a horse or breaking a wheel. The magistrates of Highlands ought to be able to help us, and that they will is the earnest desire of Horse Cove, Feb. 19. SEQUILLA.

Cold weather has prevailed. Railroad trains have been blocked by the snow, in many places. In Wisconsin the snow lay eight feet on a level. In Montana the thermometer has been as low as sixty degrees below zero.

NEWS ITEMS.

An old colored woman by the name on Phyllis Williams, died at Binghamton, N. Y., on Friday last, aged, it is said, one hundred and eleven years.

Bird's eye maple, which sells for one hundred and sixty dollars per thousand feet in England, is used for fire wood in Western North Carolina.—Chattanooga Tradesman.

Mr. W. V. Stringfield, Democratic Representative from Haywood county, has introduced a resolution in the House for the removal of the political disabilities of ex-Governor W. W. Holden.

The Charlotte Observer says that a whole family, residing six miles from Landrum, a station on the Air Line Railroad, are down with the small pox, and one death, that of a son, in the family has occurred.

One of the most curious railroads in the world is in operation from North Bellouca to Bedford, Mass. It is only ten inches in width between rails-making it the narrowest narrow-gauge railroad in the world. The cars are small and considered safe. The road cost \$4,500 per mile.

This year, though young, has a remarkable roll of illustrious dead. Gambetta, the greatest orator in Europe, died just as the new year came in; Gustave Dore, one of the most original of artists, and Richard Wagner, the greatest of the musical composers of this generation, have disappeared. Gambetta, Dore and Wagner were all monarchs in their respective ways, and no other hand can hold the scepter that fell from their dying hands.

A Virginia paper says that many years ago there lived in Albemarle county an old gentleman named Shumate, whose antipathy to cats was so great that he made it his business to kill every one that he could find. At his death cats collected to the number of five hundred and attended the funeral in procession, and afterward quietly dispersed to their homes, where they spent the remainder of their lives in peace, their great enemy being dead. This remarkable circumstance is still remembered by some of our oldest citizens.

On the 31st of January about three miles from Crested Butte, occurred one of the most disastrous snow-slides ever known in the Rocky Mountain region. Late in the night thirty men employed in the Howard & Smith anthracite coal mine were started from sleep by an ominous rumbling noise, and almost instantly the avalanche was upon them. The building in which they were sleeping was crushed to atoms, and the occupants hurled down the mountain side. A rescuing party started from Crested Butte as soon as the news was received, and after several hours, indefatigable labor the men were all uncovered. Seven men were found dead, and eighteen wounded, several fatally.

Local contributions solicited from every neighborhood of the Blue Ridge country.

Blue Ridge R. R. Time Table.

Down train from Walhalla, S. C. 6:40 a. m. " Seneca City, 7:54 a. m. Up train " Seneca City, 10:58 p. m. Arrives at Walhalla, 11:40 p. m. Evening trains connect with trains on the Air Line Railroad at Seneca for Atlanta and all points South and West. Morning train connects at Seneca with train from Atlanta for all points East and North.

NOTICE.

All persons indebted to the estate of F. L. DIMICK, deceased, will please come forward and make settlement, and save further trouble. MRS. A. G. DIMICK. Jan. 16, 1888. 11

Best Selling Shelter in Market. Advertisements for various products and services, including a notice about a shelter and other goods.

LAND FOR SALE.

FARMING, GRAZING, FRUIT-GROWING AND TIMBERLANDS AND TOWN PROPERTY FOR SALE IN THE GROWING TOWN OF HIGHLANDS, MACON COUNTY, AND ADJACENT SECTIONS OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

The undersigned, for over twenty-five years a practical horseman and farmer in the North and West, after a residence of eight years at Highlands, is satisfied that no section of the United States offers greater attractions than the plateau and slopes of the Blue Ridge in Western North Carolina for people seeking new homes, where they may enjoy health and long life and secure great extremes of heat and cold. And to all who are suffering and shortening life during the rigors of northern winters or the miasmas and enervating effects of the hot heated terms of the low countries South and West we say, that though the prospect of soon being able to leave a large fortune for your heirs may not be as inviting here as in some other sections, yet there are abundant openings for good investments in pleasant, profitable business with good assurance of health and long life to you and your heirs. The town of Highlands is situated on a beautiful undulating plateau near the crest of the Blue Ridge, 3700 feet above tide level, in the southern part of the county, eight miles northwest of the point of intersection of the State lines of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The climate is mild and temperate. In 1877, in the then, almost unbroken forest, its growth has been much retarded by lack of lumber and other building material, conveniences for transportation, and business difficulties are being rapidly overcome, and the town and surroundings are improving much faster than ever before. We now have a permanent population of about three hundred of the best class of nearly every State in the Union. We have roads leading out in every direction, daily mail, express, and telegraph service, and cash markets for all kinds of produce. We have good society, excellent school and church privileges, and our people who attend to business are prospering. In the vicinity of Highlands, and along the Blue Ridge from 15 to 20 miles, are many thousands of acres of fine farming, grazing and fruit growing land, some of which are on a level, while others are more undulating, interspersed with ridges 200 to 500 feet above the general level and some bold mountain peaks, with beautiful rich coves on either side, 1000 to 1500 feet below the general level of the high plateau, giving within a radius of ten miles above the general level, a rich variety of soil, climate, productions and scenery as cannot be found within an short distance and so easy of access from any point in the United States. The general location of the country is such that good carriage roads of easy grade can be made at little expense to all the farming lands, coves, water falls and mountain scenery, such roads are now being worked out to all of the main points of interest. The soil is mostly a dark, slightly sandy loam, with a red subsoil, usually a fine, healthy growth and easily worked. It is about as fertile as the average upland soils of the North Atlantic States and well adapted to the growth of the tame grasses and most of the fruits and vegetables. Our altitude gives us cool, pleasant summers, the average summer temperature being about 65 degrees and the extreme heat under 90 degrees, and yet our seasons are so long that corn of the varieties grown in the North and Middle States ripens before frost. We never have droughts to seriously injure our crops. The average winter temperature is about 34 degrees, the extreme seldom reaching zero. We sometimes have a few inches of snow, sometimes none and the ground is seldom frozen but a few days at a time. With good tame grass pastures stock will not need very much winter feeding. Sheep now kept on the mountains in flocks of twenty to one hundred every winter without any feeding and they generally do well. Clear cuttings and brush, and bold springs and sparkling trout brooks is everywhere abundant for family and farm use, and with the numerous water falls, supplies abundant facilities for manufactures. The climate and scenery for attractions for health and pleasure seekers and all lovers of nature that are unsurpassed, and equaled nowhere else within easy access of the Blue Ridge. The country is covered with a dense undergrowth of rhododendrons, kalmias, etc. Although but little fruit has yet been grown just about Highlands, the trees make a fine, healthy growth and in all this section wherever tried fruit—especially apples—produces regular crops, of the very best quality. On the south-west slope of the Blue Ridge is the "blue" or "no frost" belt, where peaches and grapes seldom fail to produce fine crops of the best quality. 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