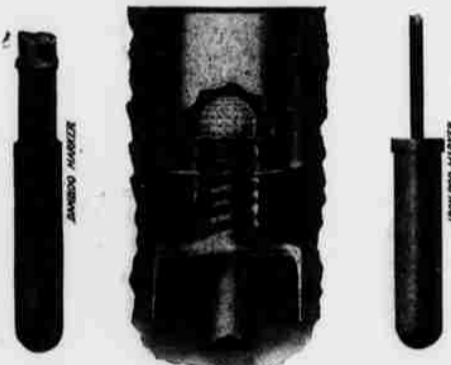


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Conducted by **Ralph W. Page**

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Saturday, January 29, 1916

**The Prancing Steed**

We are lost in amazement. There is no  
blessing without its bane. And no bane  
without its antidote. In this case the  
blessing is that whatever else there is or  
is not in the joyful confines of this  
neighborhood, endless soft roads and  
bridle paths and a firm footing for horses  
provide in every direction a very para-  
dise for the huntsman or the cavalier or  
merely Mary Jane who likes a quiet cob  
of a sunny afternoon.

Consider then our astonishment when  
we are told twice in one week by reproach-  
ful visitors fond of the saddle and ex-  
ploring horseback—folk born and bred  
to do their picnicing and courting and  
meditation over the lithe movements of a  
thoroughbred—that they would have  
brought their riding clothes if they knew  
they could ride.

Shades of Neptune. They should tell  
the surf guards at Coney Island that they  
would have brought their bathing suits if  
they had supposed there was swimming.  
This is a bane of monstrous and incredi-  
ble proportions. Of what avail then a  
squadron of neighing steeds in the stable,  
eager as any rider to pace out into the  
sunshine? Of what use the cabriolet, the  
phaeton, the landeau, the chariot, the  
tallyho, the smart buggy, Pride of Tyson  
and Jones, and the four in hand. This is  
beyond all jest. To lack opportunity is a  
sad thing. But to have it and know it  
not, and lament its loss, this is tragedy  
and calamity.

If there is an antidote, we respectfully  
submit it lies in the pages of this humble  
paper. Maybe there are those also who  
would have brought their golf clubs if  
they had known there were any links in  
the neighborhood. Once more let us  
hasten to chronicle some obvious facts for  
those equestrians who pine for the  
whippenny.

Literally there is not a country in the  
United States more nearly fashioned by  
the Almighty for the sole benefit of the  
rider than this one here. For miles in  
every direction there are innumerable  
wood trails, soft under foot, -but in no  
place too soft, and in no place boggy—by  
nature what men have spent fortunes to  
manufacture by hand. They lead from  
the upland plateau, where the hotels are,

down into the valleys of many streams.  
And there the surroundings display every  
variety of landscape, and woodland  
growth, meadows and coppice.

And everybody rides. Each after his  
own fashion. Twice a week George Leach  
and a pack of hounds leave the Carolina  
Hotel fox hunting, into a pleasant and  
varied country right at our door. If you  
like this game, all you have to do is to  
tell the girl at the desk that you want a  
horse for the purpose at 7.45. You can  
go into detail, and give the life history  
and personal disposition of the precise  
animal you want. He will be provided.  
Why child, the stable is simply reeking  
with every kind and condition of horse.  
The fastest animal in the Carolinas, by  
actual test on the race track, is there.  
Gentle and kindly mounts, selected after  
years of observation are on hand for  
your five-year-old sister. Jumpers who  
have cleared anything you will ever wish  
to attempt, smiling, are on call at one  
minute's notice.

And there is Mr. Batchelder. He is the  
next thing to a centaur. He is occupied  
with nothing else in this world except to  
teach you, or little Jimmie, or Ethel home  
from school to ride. Or to go with you,  
or them, to show the way, or tighten the  
girth, or be sure the ride is safe. He goes  
every day. And a caravan with him. If  
there is any ride you want to take, or any-  
thing concerning the business you wish to  
ask, there he is—a monument of service.

**A Tribute by the State**

It is worthy of more than passing com-  
ment that Mr. Leonard Tufts has been  
elected President of the State Agricul-  
tural Society, in charge of the State Fair  
which takes place in Raleigh during Sep-  
tember. For this is not only a recogni-  
tion of his particular capacity for organ-  
ization, and the enrollment of a capable  
captain to lead the farmers into prosperi-  
ty. It is another very marked tribute  
made by the State to the spirit of leader-  
ship and co-operation which has marked  
the activities towards community better-  
ment participated in by the people of this  
section as a whole.

A few years ago we had never been  
heard from. We had no voice in the  
councils of the Commonwealth and were  
as obscure abroad as we were incompe-  
tent at home. The organization of the  
community for self help and the concrete  
tackling of the problems of self develop-  
ment and community needs has resulted  
in a short time—so vigorously has it  
been pursued—in our leaders becoming  
the recognized leaders in all similar ac-  
tions throughout the State. Today the  
President of the Farmers Convention and  
of the North Carolina Beef Breeders and  
Feeders; the President of the Carolina  
Chamber of Commerce; one of the secre-  
taries of the Associated Boards of  
Trade; the committee appointed by  
General Wood to handle the training camp  
for the State; and now the President of  
the Agricultural Society are all residents  
of this section.

Mr. Tufts in addition has been the  
prime leader in the movement in the  
South for good roads, and holds a respon-  
sible position in the National Highway  
Association.

We are not recounting these things in  
a boastful spirit in the least. Nor for



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