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BUY



DIET OF DROWNING CREEK

Council of War and Community Bazaar
at Derby Memorial School

Big Gathering for Benefit of Red
Cross Addressed by the Sandhill
Leaders and Veterans of Flanders

Two things of considerable moment were demonstrated at the Drowning Creek Plantation last Saturday. The foremost was the proposition now become almost an axiom that the heart of any country district in the United States must be the School. Since this obviously depends upon the kind of school, the fact that the whole Drowning Creek settlement assembled for a day of festivities and the work of the Republic in a kind of town meeting chautaugua and council of war at the Derby Memorial School signifies that this particular school has taken its place and become the headquarters for all progressive life in the neighborhood.

Even such an old hand in the appraisal of crowds as Annie Oakley, was frankly astonished. She said there were three or four hundred people there—and that it was not advertised at all. It appears however that as a matter of fact the most glaring publicity was actually given. The school children were told. And it has been discovered, where a school has vitality and interest, and has become the recognized centre of thought, and perhaps more important, of play and diversion, the children become the leaders, as has been written elsewhere.

To serve such a neighborhood is a delight. Hence that afternoon gathered at this little institution in the middle of nowhere we find every fordmobile and ancestral buggy, every grandsir and tottling within miles, as well as a program equal to any that could be mustered on that day in the State.

The day had been dedicated to the Sandhill Chapter of the American Red Cross. It opened with a rummage sale, in which two sets of people found themselves confronted with obvious bargains. The scattering of Yankees from the resorts considered themselves in great good fortune to pick up the handiwork of the old Scotch settlement, and mementos from pioneer days that were contributed as so much lumber by the countryside. And the old veterans and their wives were equally astonished and pleased with the velveteen smoking jackets with fancy braid and the brilliant colors of sport suits and such souvenirs of golfing days. The exchanges were consummated at the bazaar to every one's satisfaction, and with tangible monetary benefit to the Association.

The people then settled down to the real business of the day. Mrs. Leonard Tufts made a simple and concise, and very effective address upon the everyday work of the Red Cross—told what had been accomplished by the Sandhills, and by the women of Pinehurst, and how

essential it was that every housewife in Carolina put her effort behind the drive. Her direct and concise method of presentation was quite as effective as Mrs. Marsh's more dramatic and stirring appeal, drawn from the bitter school of experience before the barbarians in France. The embers of the old fighting spirit—the sturdiest in all the world, proven on the grounds of the Wilderness from Chancellorsville to Petersburg—were blown into a flame by the story of Fighting Bob Evans' daughter. The beacons are now burning above the Lumbee.

In line with the martial spirit of the occasion the company were then addressed by Sargeant Plane, a veteran of the trenches, one of the battle scarred survivors of the defence of Calais on the lines of the Yser, and by a shooting exhibition by Annie Oakley. Plane told a straight and a harrowing tale, the plain narrative of a soldier, relating the adventures of a war beside which the campaigns of Napoleon are nursery rhymes, and the horrors of the Sioux Wars a facial massage.

At supper time sandwiches and coffee for the multitude appeared as if by another miracle, and Mrs. Roger Derby presided over a picnic which led to the crowning feature of the day. This was Benjamin F. Butler's lecture, illustrated by the slides which he has obtained from the front—the only graphic representation of what the Red Cross means to their boys that the country people had ever seen.

The children were there, the whole flock. And they played games, and entertained themselves and their elders. It is impossible to describe the scene without specific comment upon the bearing and appearance of these offspring of the piney woods, who summoned the council together. There is no place in the whole world—no fancy boarding school or young ladies' seminary, where it would be possible to find a sturdier, happier, brighter set of youngsters. Expecting to find a band of gaping yokels, one amazed broker from Broadway sensed the effect quite effectively, if not exactly in classical style. He said "Great thunder, these kids are up to date." He was referring to their clothes and to their bearing. But in mind and body and buoyant outlook, they were the same. From such as these we shall have to be delivered from the Bolsheviki, some of these days.

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