

# Jackson County Journal.

VOL. I NO. 7

SYLVA, N. C., DECEMBER 26 1918

\$1.00 THE YEAR IN ADVANCE

## SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

The Secretary of Agriculture published his report for the year 1913, on December 8. The report differs in many essentials from those usually sent out from the Department of Agriculture. Instead of merely reviewing the agricultural situation, many broad economic questions are presented. The Secretary calls attention to the facts that heretofore the Department of Agriculture has of necessity concerned itself mainly with the problems of production. He points out that these problems will be most urgent for a long time. Increased tenancy, absentee ownership, soils still depleted and exploited, inadequate business methods, the relative failure to induce a great majority of farmers to apply existing agricultural knowledge, and the suggestion of dependence on foreign nations for food supplies warn us of our short comings and incite us to additional efforts to increase production.

The Secretary says there is no ground for thinking we have yet approximated the limit of our output from the soil. As a matter of fact we have just begun to attack the problem. We have not even reached the end of the pioneering stage, and have only in a few localities developed conditions where reasonably full returns are secured. We have, however, unmistakably reached the period where we must think and plan. He says that as a nation we are suffering the penalty of two great evils of living and of making a living. It is not singular, therefore, that we should find ourselves in our pleasant plight. Recklessness and waste have been incident to our breathless conquest, and we have had our minds too exclusively directed to the establishment of industrial supremacy in the keen race for competition with foreign nations. We have been so bent on building up great industrial centers by every natural and artificial device that we have had little thought for the very foundations of our industrial existence.

### MARKETING.

One chapter of the report is devoted to the subject of marketing. The secretary points out that it is now becoming clear that we must definitely and aggressively approach these newer, and relatively speaking, urgent questions, and must direct our attention to the broader economic problems of rural life. We have suddenly been brought face to face with the fact that in many directions further production waits on better methods of distribution, but that the field of distribution presents problems which raise in very grave ways the simple issue of justice. That under existing conditions the farmer does not get what he should for his product; that the consumer is required to pay an unfair price; and that unnecessary burdens are imposed under existing systems of distribution, there can be no question. The various marketing projects are outlined. These projects cover marketing surveys, methods and costs of marketing, including available market supplies in given production areas; demand at consuming centers; cold and other storage systems; marketing systems and prices; and costs of wholesale and retail distribution of farm products. There studies in transportation problems and the elimination of waste in transporta-

tion to be prosecuted; a study of city marketing and distribution, a study of grades, and finally co-operative production and marketing must be investigated. Special emphasis is laid on the necessity for standardizing agricultural products as a prerequisite to proper marketing.

Speaking of cotton and the necessity for uniform standards, it is stated that the adoption and application of one uniform standard would result in a great simplification of all cotton transactions, doing away with the complex method of figuring buyer's limits. It would not be sufficient to have uniform grades, but the grade selected as the basis should be the same in all markets.

The point is made and emphasized that in this work of co-operative effort equity and justice must be kept in mind. Co-operation does not mean an organization which shall attempt to establish a closed market and to fix prices. We should condemn this as strictly in one field of industry as in any other. The aim should be an economic arrangement which shall facilitate production and lead the producer to standardize and to prepare his product for the market, and to find the readiest and best market for his product. Such actions will result in gain to the producer, as well as to the consumer.

### RURAL CREDITS.

As a feature of co-operative effort attention is called to rural credits. There is a general impression that our financial arrangements do not satisfactorily cover the rural communities and there is need of better credit arrangements for farmers. The interest is widespread. It is manifested by many letters received at the department, by articles in periodicals, by the action of various States, and by the thought of Congress in providing for a commission of inquiry abroad. It is clear, says the Secretary, that conditions vary widely in the United States, that farmers do not equally need better credit arrangements, and that all sections are not similarly circumstanced. In fact, from some sections comes the request not so much for capital at lower rates but for information as to how to invest capital. The Secretary shows that in taking action in this field of rural credit it would seem desirable that we bear certain guiding principles in mind. There does not seem to be any real demand or need for any action that would do more than provide as adequate financial machinery for the rural districts within practicable limits as are provided for other sections. There does not appear to be need for unique or special legislation, or for legislation which shall aim to give the farmer credit on easier terms than other members of society. What is needed, he feels, is the creation of conditions and machinery which will enable the farmer on similar credit foundations, to secure money at the same rates as those that prevail for other classes and for other sections. Present conditions do not seem to justify proposals to give any class of people capital provided by all the people through any device at lower rates of interest than economic conditions normally require or than those at which at which other classes secure it under similar conditions.

The broad questions of rural organization are briefly discussed. Before rural life can be made fully

efficient, profitable, pleasurable, and attractive, and before a larger disposition to remain on the farm develops, many types of organization must have consideration.

### HELPING THE FARM WOMAN.

Attention is called to recent investigations of the department to determine the status of the woman on the farm. The Secretary states that the woman on the farm is a most important economic factor in agriculture; that on her rests largely the moral and mental development of the children, and on her attitude depends, in a great measure, the important question of whether the second generation will continue to farm or will seek an easier life in cities. To ascertain the fields in which farm women desire specific assistance, a letter of inquiry was addressed to the housewives of 55,000 farmers in all the counties of the United States. This letter asked no questions and left every woman free to discuss any need which occurred to her. Analysis of these letters, as far as time has permitted, already show that women want help in practically every phase of home management. Many express fear of the result of overwork on their children and on themselves. The difficulties of securing domestic help are emphasized. Many ask the department to prove to the man that their work is worth something in dollars and cents. These letters have been extremely valuable in suggesting constructive methods of aiding the woman on the farm. Analysis of the letters will be completed and effort made to satisfy requests for assistance which lie properly within the department's province.

### GOOD ROADS.

A special chapter is devoted to good roads. For 20 years, it is stated, there has been a steady growth in the good roads movement, so that today about 34 States have highway commissions or some other form of highway agency. State appropriations for road work have increased from two million 10 years ago to forty-three million in 1912. The relation of the Federal Government to road construction and road management is pointed out. The Federal Government should take the lead in investigational and experimental work and should develop principles of co-operation with the States in matters of educational and demonstrational work. It seems desirable that the Federal Government should deal with the States as the lowest unit, through an expert highway commission as its agency. This policy would eliminate the difficulty of the Federal Government's determining local issues as well as the danger of undue centralized Federal control. In order to stimulate this policy would eliminate the difficulty of the Federal Government's determining local issues as well as the danger of undue centralized Federal control. In order to stimulate this policy and to prevent undue inroads on the Federal Treasury, Federal aid, whenever extended for construction and maintenance, should be furnished on the condition that the States provide an appropriation at least double that voted by the Federal Government. This would furnish an automatic check. The plan should provide for maintenance as well as construction, in order to prevent the possibility of the construction of roads many of which may wear out before the

bonds placed upon them are paid. The Secretary raises the question as to what roads should be improved. He says that the roads of the greatest economic and social importance are those over which the products of the farm can be taken to the nearest railway station and which minister to the other social and economic needs of the community. It is pointed out that no Federal funds should be expended on any project until a scheme of road construction and maintenance within a State has been developed and agreed upon by the proper representatives of the State and of the Federal Government.

Brief reference is made to the legal work of the department; to the Federal law protecting migratory birds, which passed Congress March 4, 1913; to the Federal quarantine act empowering the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the importation of nursery stock; and to various other regulatory matters affecting foods and food products.

(To be Continued)

## SIX KLEPTOMANIACS.

The large audience which attended the production of the Six Kleptomaniacs by the ladies of the Baptist Church at the Auditorium Friday evening was well pleased with the performance.

The ladies raised some \$28 for their trouble which will be paid on the furnishings for the church.

## CROCODILE TEARS

At a meeting of cranks in Philadelphia last week an anti-vivisectionist named Frank Stephens took occasion to attack Dr. von Ruck of the city of Asheville N. C. by holding up the poor children of the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville as frightful examples of the brutality that is practiced for the sake of medical investigation.

We hold no brief for Dr. von Ruck or Dr. Julian the perpetrators of this diabolical deed. They are able to take good care of themselves, and have already done so; but when a long haired dreamer of dreams steps out of his way to discredit this institution, and throw out dark hints as to the incompetence of its management, it becomes time for us to submit a few feeble remarks.

If this man Stephens had wanted the truth he could have secured it. But the truth is what he did not want. A postal card to the General Manager would have carried him, all the information he needed, but he did not write the postal or ask for the information. Information was precisely what he did not want, for it would have spoiled his little plan.

Not a child of the 262 inoculated has suffered the least inconvenience. The serum may be a good thing or it may be a fraud, but it has not hurt anybody. There has been no funerals and nobody has missed a meal on account of it. Mr. Stephens is shedding his tears in vain. His swelling heart has swelled for nothing. We hope he has not put crepe on his hat, and that the vision of child corpses piled five feet high has not haunted his dreams.

This man simply wanted to strike a blow at another and he thought he could use the Orphanage to carry out his unholy purpose.

The General Manager has crushed his fond hopes and put him in a deep dark hole.—Charity & Children

## A. DON TOWNS.

From the Cherokee Scout.

Saturday morning about 6:10 a. m. Editor A. Don Towns, was found dead in his office. He was found in the back end of his office, lying with his head on some rolls of newspapers. It is supposed that he committed suicide by taking carbolic acid. No cause for the deed is known, except that in a state of despondency he became temporarily insane and took the acid. The deceased was 46 years old, and has had charge of the Scout for over 20 years, having never missed an issue or been a day late. His son R. Hugh Towns, was called by telegram from Atlanta where he was attending the Atlanta Medical College arrived Sunday morning. His two sisters of Macon, Ga., were notified but on account of sickness were unable to attend. The interment took place Sunday afternoon at 3:45 in the Methodist churchyard. He is survived by three sisters, four children, and his wife, Alice Towns.

### A FRIENDS TRIBUTE.

Our community has sustained a great loss in the death of our highly esteemed fellow townsman, Mr. A. Don Towns.

Mr. Towns was editor of our local paper, the Cherokee Scout, and gave us a good clean sheet, advocating all that was for the public benefit and suppressing such sensational news as might cause pain and embarrassment to others.

He was a man of high honor, energetic and industrious, cheerful and agreeable always, a most devoted husband and father. I, who have been associated with him in business much for about twenty years, and was his warm friend, feel a great sense of personal loss. It is hard to think that we will see his cheering presence among us no more.

It would be hard to think of a man who would be more keenly missed, for he was loved by all, and his sad death has cast a shadow over our community that will be many days lifting.

ALFRND MORGAN

## BROWN-BRIDGES.

Miss Attie Bridges and Mr. Eberette E. Brown of Sylva were married at St. John's Hotel, Hendersonville at eleven o'clock Monday morning.

The wedding comes as a surprise to the many friends of the couple in Sylva. The bride has been spending some time with her father at Quebec, N. C. and was met by the groom at Hendersonville where the ceremony was performed.

The bride is a sister of Mrs. John H. Wilson and is one of Sylva's most popular and accomplished young ladies, while the groom is manager of the Jackson County Journal and is a young business man of ability. Both have a host of friends in Sylva where their home will be.

## CALL PASTOR.

At a meeting of the members of the Sylva Baptist Church held Sunday afternoon, Rev. R. P. Ellington of Alamance County was elected pastor.

Rev. Mr. Ellington preached here last week and the congregation was pleased with his excellent sermon. He is a young man, a graduate of Wake Forest College and of the Baptist Seminary at Louisville.