

Jackson County Journal.

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SYLVA, N. C., APRIL 24, 1914

\$1.00 THE YEAR IN ADVANCE

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE COMMENCEMENT

Marking the close of a most successful year in its history, the Commencement exercises of the Sylva Collegiate Institute were opened Sunday morning with a most powerful sermon by Dr. A. E. Brown superintendent of the Baptist Mountain Schools.

The Annual address was delivered Monday evening by Hon. Gallatin Roberts of Asheville, who spoke on the subject of "Youth, and what are you going to do with it." Mr. Roberts is at all times a forceful and logical speaker and made a great impression upon the audience as he urged the young people to make the most of their opportunities, to read the books and magazines that are helpful and elevating, to get the best education possible, stating that no boy or girl can say now that they have not the opportunity; then he urged the boys and girls to stay at home and give this state and section the benefit of their talents, as there are as great or greater opportunities here as in the west or any where else.

The smaller children gave their entertainment Tuesday afternoon and pleased the audience with the performance.

Tuesday night was the debate, between six young men of the school upon the Question, Resolved: That women should be given the right of suffrage in America. Messrs Durham Powers, Lacy Butler and Ralph Jarrett, espoused the suffrage cause while Messrs Harlow Kitchen, Hugh Monteith and Roscoe Parris took the stand-pat position. All the young men made pleasing speeches and the question was hotly contested.

The Judges decided in the affirmative and awarded the medal for the best debater to Mr. Lacy Butler. Especial mention should be made of the speech of Hugh Monteith. He is the youngest of the six boys and from the impression made upon the audience he promises to develop into an excellent speaker.

Wednesday evening the students of the school pleased a large audience with the presentation of an operetta "The Gypsies."

YOUNG MAN SERIOUSLY INJURES COMPANION

General Queen, a young man of the upper end of the county was brought to Sylva Wednesday and placed in the Jackson County Jail waiting a change in the condition of Will Nicholson another young man whom Queen struck in the head with a stick a week ago at the saw mill camp of J. P. Calhoun near Tuckaseegee.

After Queen assaulted Nicholson, he fled and was captured in the Balsam mountains near Caney Fork late Thursday by a posse of special officers.

The condition of Nicholson is said to be serious and great fears are expressed concerning his recovery.

Nicholson was given a preliminary hearing before Magistrate R. A. Painter, Wednesday and remanded to jail awaiting a change in the condition of Nicholson.

PROF. INGRAM TO REMAIN.

At a meeting of the trustees of Sylva Collegiate Institute, Saturday, Prof. J. C. Ingram, at the request of the trustees and of Dr. A. E. Brown, decided to reconsider his decision to quit teaching and go to his farm near Albermarle and has withdrawn his resignation as principal of the Sylva Collegiate Institute.

The people of Sylva and this section will be glad to learn that Prof. Ingram will remain here and will continue the excellent work he has been doing at the Baptist school.

FLORENCE THIRD CLASS OFFICE

The following from the Florence Ore. West, will be of interest to the relatives and friends of Mr. C. Buchanan, in Jackson County.

In Tuesday's mail Postmaster Buchanan received notice from the Postal Department at Washington D. C. that the post office at Florence would be advanced to the third class this taking effect April 1, 1914.

This is one month earlier than the date given in a notice received a short time ago, which set May 1, as the time for this change. As the change from fourth to third class carries with it an increase in the salary of the postmaster with an allowance for clerk hire and office rent besides other expenses, the change is welcome to Mr. Buchanan.

The salary of the postmaster will be \$1100 for the first year and this will be increased as the business of the office increases.

Florence has also been made an international money order office this change taking effect April 1. Postmaster Buchanan is authorized to issue and to pay international money orders as soon as he receives a supply of the necessary blanks for that part of the business. The blanks have been shipped by the department and no doubt will be here within the next few days.

SYLVA INSTITUTE HAD VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Dr. A. E. Brown, superintendent of the Baptist Mountain school work, returned from Sylva last night where he had gone to preach the commencement sermon of the Sylva Collegiate institute. This is one of the system of thirty-four mountain schools of the Baptist Home mission board, of which Dr. Brown is the founder and superintendent.

The Sylva institute has had a very satisfactory year. Prof. J. C. Ingram and his cultured co-workers have made themselves a very large place in the town and surrounding counties. Prof. Ingram contemplated returning to his farm near Salisbury and had made his arrangements to do so, but the people would not hear to his leaving. They rose up against it and he had to reconsider and remain with them.

In addition to the improvements which have been made during the last year on the property, other improvements will be made during the summer, and plans for more extensive work than ever before have been made. A band of strong young men are putting themselves beside Prof. Ingram to make this school meet the demands.

Gallatin Roberts will deliver the literary address before the school on Tuesday next. Mr. Roberts visit is anticipated with a great deal of pleasure by the people of Sylva and Jackson county. He won a place in the hearts of many of them by his espousal of their bill before the legislature to move the court house from Webster to Sylva.—Gazette

MISS GRAY WINS MEDAL

Miss Alice Gray of the Sylva High School won the medal for the best essay at the High School Meet of the Western Division of North Carolina, held at Marion last Friday. The whole representation from Sylva acquitted themselves well and reflected credit upon our School.

The School and town should be and are proud of the fact that one of our girls took this medal. It speaks well for the Sylva School.

REPLIES TO LETTER.

Editor Journal.—Please allow me space in your paper to say a few words in regard to the Farm Life School. Although the election has been called off, yet I think that the question should not be dropped; for it is only a matter of a few months or years until we will have the Farm Life School in Jackson County.

I noticed an article in last week's issue of the Journal, very severely condemning the Farm-life School and calling it the "greatest hot air bubble that has ever been thrust upon our people." I am surprised to note that any man should characterize a school of any kind as a "hot air bubble."

The gentleman says that the movement is agitated by men that know nothing about farming. That may be true. But I have my doubts about it. It is hard for us to see our own faults. Perhaps that is why the farmers of our county were opposed to this measure. They could not see their own faults, but other folks can.

Now I wish to ask the gentlemen who wrote that article to be perfectly frank and answer the following questions in regard to the Farm-life School.

1. If the farm life school is not for the best interest of our farmers, why did FORTY THOUSAND of the leading farmers of North Carolina petition the Legislature of North Carolina to pass the law for the state?

2. If the schools are not proving a success and the farmers of the country are not getting any benefit from them, why have there been more than THIRTY THREE HUNDRED established within the United States since 1901?

3. If the schools are not proving beneficial to the farmers of our own state, I ask you why is it that down in the eastern part of North Carolina where the schools have been put in operation, that they are eagerly asking the state to let them build the schools? Why is it that Guilford county one of the first to try the law has not established only one of these, but THREE?

4. If these schools have not proved beneficial, why was it that Dr. J. Y. Joyner, the greatest educator that we have in the state and the one who has done more for educational uplift of our state than any other one man, after going to Wisconsin and other states and seeing the schools in operation came back to North Carolina, and recommended them to our people, saying that they be the fitting climax to our splendid school system? Will you not believe the words of Dr. Joyner? Is he not a man to merit our confidence? During his fourteen years as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has he ever done one thing or advised one thing against the interest of the people he represents?

5. Again I ask you about the boy that raised 173 bushels of corn per acre. Yes, who gave him the instruction to do this? Was he not enrolled in the Boy's Corn Club of the State? Did he not have to cultivate his acre according to the Instruction of the managers of the Boys Corn Clubs? Why is it that the boys of these corn clubs are raising on the average sixty three bushels of corn per acre when following the instructions of the Corn Club, while their fathers according to old methods

are raising only eighteen bushels? Is this work not a part of the work of the A. & M. College? Is not the present Agent in Boys Corn Club work an A. & M. man?

6. I wish to ask you where are you getting your agricultural paper to read? Are not most of them edited by professional men, chiefly teachers? In looking over one of the agricultural papers which I take, I find that three of the leading sections are edited by professional men, those doing work as teachers in the leading schools of the South, agricultural schools, too.

7. Do you not believe that we can learn things by seeing things done? You know that it has been said that "experience keeps a dear school but fools will learn in no other," and I believe that there is something true about that, too. It is an evident fact that we must get our ideas from some one. This school will be the place to get the ideas and test them and then if they prove successful, take them back and use them on our farms.

8. Again I ask you why is it that our boys have a distaste for the farms? Have we not been keeping schools that train them to look away from the farms? Does the great Book not teach us this fact, and I believe it is as true as any passage in that Divine word, and I hold it to be one of the greatest sayings that Solomon ever uttered: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Do you not believe that if we train up a child to be a farmer, when he is older, he will not depart from it? And do you not also believe that if we train him away from the farm by putting him in school where other topics have the predominance, that he will not take to farming?

9. Again I ask you why is it that such men as Uncle Davie Rogers, Jno. L. Ferguson and the others that you mentioned have made such a success at farming? What kind of farms have they? Are they not the best in the county? But here is the question to test whether a man is a success at any occupation: Is he making two blades grow where one formerly grew? If so he is a success. To begin with, most of them got their farms back when land was cheap, or possibly some of them inherited it. They have land that has always been the very best in Jackson County. All that they have to do is to maintain it where it was when they got hold of it.

But, my friend, we younger men who are growing up and who would like to farm, have not the farms to compete with such men as Jno. L. Ferguson. We must learn how to make ours from our little mountain farms. We must exercise our brain. That is why we are demanding a Farm Life School. It is not for such men as David Rogers that we need the school, but it is for the vast majority that we do need it. We want men in our County who can show us how to make the most out of our land. We want teachers who can come among us and give us new ideas. We want teachers that will show us the best method of handling and caring for our stock. We don't want to have to send over into Tennessee or Kentucky or Virginia for our improved stock, but we want to learn how to use it ourselves at a profit. We don't want to have to send to Raleigh or Washington to get information how to doctor our stock when it gets sick,

but we want men here in our own county so that we can get them when we want them. Thus saving us hundreds of dollars each year that is lost simply from the fact that we do not know what to do when our stock gets sick a great many times but just stand and watch it die.

10. My dear sir, did you expect that some of us folks who are wanting the Farm School, to be the teachers of it? The teacher who will be in charge of the Farm Life School will be a man from which every farmer of Jackson can get information. He must be a practical farmer. The law is mandatory on that point. He must be one that has made a success. Ask the State Superintendent of Public Instruction about the qualification of Farm Life teachers.

11. If the farmers of Jackson County are making such a success of farming as you seem to think, why is it that every year there are thousands of bushels of breadstuff brought into Jackson County? Why is it that the farmers of our county have even to buy a great deal of the corn that they use. Why is it that every year thousands of pounds of meat and lard are shipped into Jackson and a large part of it goes on the table of the farmer? Why is it that Jackson County is not making all this stuff her self? One of the reasons is that the farmers are not up in their methods of work. They are following the old methods. They are not progressive as they ought to be. They are not to blame for it. They are simply following the old methods taught by our fathers, following the training given them in their childhood and not departing from it in old age. We want to get out of this rut. How are we going to do so unless we get information from some one. The thing to do, as I see it, is to make Jackson County the farm life center of Western North Carolina. This can be done. It will be done. It is going to be done just as sure as the sun shines in the heavens. It may not come this week, this year, or this decade, but it is just as inevitable as the onward march of progress.

12. And lastly, did you not know that last year, the State of North Carolina sent into Jackson County more than thirty five thousand dollars for school purposes more than three times as much as Jackson County sent to the State Treasury? Now the state is asking to let her put in \$2500. more and we are going to refuse to allow it? I tell you, my friend, that Jackson County must wake up to her responsibility. Just as long as we hold to the Almighty dollar so hard that the Eagle has to scratch us loose, we are not going to prosper. We must be willing to sacrifice for the future welfare of our children.

We are willing to spend \$30,000 or \$40,000 to remove a court house two or three miles, but when it comes to voting a little tax of 6c on the hundred dollars worth of property and 18c on the poll for something that means far more to the people of Jackson County than the removal of the County Site, it is another thing. Then the state offers to give dollar for dollar. Surely, our people need something to wake them up.

Now, you opponents of this school, if you will prove to me or show one solitary school that is not paying more to its patrons than the money they have invested in it, I will say no more. If you will show one solitary school of this kind that is not proving a success, I will say no more. If you will tell the people of Jackson County that she is losing her money by investing it in schools, I will say no more. If you will cite to our people one single instance of where schools of any kind do not pay, I will say no more. You can't do it.

Now, I wish the gentlemen who characterized this proposed school as "A hot air bubble" to answer some of the preceding questions. Will you do it? Please explain also about that \$25,000 to start with, the \$20,000 bond issue, and the power to increase this in eight years.

Respectfully, EMORY L. DILLARD.