

PUBLIC LEDGER



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THOSE TEN-ACRE FARMS

MUCH DEPENDS UPON MEN AND METHODS

The Farmers' Chance to Make a Living on Ten Acres for His Family, and Then Bank \$1000, is Problematic.

(Dr. Jos. A. Morris)
Editor Public Ledger:

As to whether a family could be supported on a ten acre farm of Granville soil, and have a surplus of \$1000 to deposit in the bank, much of a speculative nature could be written. It is safe to say, however, that the conditions for its immediate accomplishment do not inhere in the soil and in the market conditions of the county.

In the first place, our soil has been overcropped; that is, it has been the almost universal custom to take every crop from the soil without a compensative return of plant food to that soil, certainly for the last half century. This practice has reduced the power of the soil to produce as cheaply as the soil of the Shenandoah valley, or of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Soil compensation, then, for these fifty years of subtraction must be made in order to effect an even chance with these localities with which you have compared us.

But suppose we could find a ten acre farm with soil conditions as good as those of the said places, and that production of comparable sales articles could be as cheaply effected. Production is just one factor of profitable farming. Transportation and sales of those products must be effected before any profits can accrue to the farmer. Where would be a market within the range of the farmer's means of transportation, in order that secondary agencies including salesman and railroads and draymen might not be allowed to subtract prohibitively as to the objective of a support and an extra thousand dollars?

You see these agencies are not regulated in charges by the producer, and so it is not in his power to cheapen their charges, as it might be to lower cost of production by better thought out plans.

A few farmers on a small scale might by personal soliciting and direct sale by parcel post, by express, by freight, skip over any other sales agency; but the loss of time in doing it could not be escaped; nor could the carrying charges be counted out in summing his profits.

In Granville county there is no established market for anything but tobacco and cotton. It is a serious fact that if the farmers as a class were to make crops for sale in one tenth the proportion they make tobacco and cotton, the non-producers of the county would not feel it incumbent on themselves to obtain for the farmer the highest market price for those products except as that might be determined by the demand within the place the products were offered. Three Lancaster county ten-acre farmers would glut our local market, and then those constituting that market would forthwith play all the others against those three and assure them that on account of over-production prices "just must bust."

I hold up the fingers of one hand to count the individuals who have actively tried to establish a market that is a market for the products such as the Lancaster county ten-acre farmer makes so much on.

I wish you to let me relate this incident said to have transpired between a farmer of the county who raises some of the Lancaster county products. Among many other things he raises to sell, he has fine poultry. Not satisfied with the price offered on the local market, he investigated other markets and sold his poultry—some nice hens—far above the prices offered in our largest market. Indeed that market offered so little that few hens were going in at the time; so that it became necessary for a pretty free buyer in that town to go to the country to get his needed supply. I suppose before reaching this particular farmer, he had been buying hens at his offer; but when he challenged said farmer for a trade in hens, he was asked what price he offered. A price was named so far below what had been obtained in an out of the State market that the farmer laughed, and told the buyer the price he had already sold at. I wish I had the right to give the names and figures; but I have not. But here is the pith of the whole narrative. That buyer did not feel glad the farmer had received half as much again almost, as he had offered him, and had the gall to express that lack of sympathetic joy by exclaiming to the farmer, "Please do not tell that to anybody else!" Certainly he of our largest market wished to keep the price of the farmer's product down.

Where among such is the farmer's chance to make a living on ten acres for his family, and then bank \$1000? Poor land or soil and poor markets make such problematic, if it is possible.

How to make it possible, I could discuss; but it would make this paper too long, if, indeed it is not already too long.

HANDSOME PAYROLL

MR. R. G. LASSITER HANDS OUT MORE THAN \$1000 A WEEK

The Street Work is a Boon to Those Who Were Displaced by the Closing of the Tobacco Market.

"I jes tell you, Boss man, dis here street work is a God send to the poor negroes," said a worthy old darkey, addressing the editor, and right he was. But the lavish hand of Mr. Lassiter not only helps the colored people; it places into circulation a large volume of money that instantly finds its way to the channels of trade. We do not know to a penny how much the street work will cost, but it is gratifying to know that the bulk of the money will be spent in Oxford.

The Public Ledger was curious to know what Mr. Lassiter's payroll amounts to weekly, and it was pointed out to our satisfaction that it is a fraction more than \$1000 a week for labor alone, and this amount does not include some of the higher salaried men and the clerical force.

There could not possibly have been a more opportune time to begin paving the streets than now. The work came at a time when hundreds of colored men were thrown out of work by the closing of the tobacco season. Having the interest of his town at heart, Mr. Lassiter has given instructions to his foreman to employ Oxford help as far as possible, and by so doing a precious little of the money will be kept in town.

We do not speak advisedly, but we estimate that the street work will last until the middle of August, possibly longer. This simply means that a large bulk of money will be distributed in Oxford during the summer.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Music Feature is an Improv'ant Factor

Since the return of Mr. C. D. Ray to the superintendency of the Oxford Baptist Sunday School a couple of months ago, and the appointment of Mr. M. P. Chamblee to lead the singing, the Sunday School has taken on new life. New members are being admitted every Sunday. It is now surpassed in membership by only seven Sunday Schools in the State and there is no telling what the membership will be twelve months hence if it continues to expand. The teachers, as a general rule, are giving much study and attention to their classes, but the music features is a wonderful drawing card. The four hundred voices and the soft tones of the clarinet, the violin and the trombone blend into one grand melody. Mr. Chamblee states that two more instrument players have signified their desire to join the Sunday School choir, or the orchestra, if you prefer to call it. We are more and more convinced that the Sunday School is the workshop, as applied to all churches.

OXFORD'S HOSPITAL LIST

The Little Colony in Richmond Doing Well.

It is stated that Mr. Cam Hunt, Clerk of the Court, is getting along nicely. He will probably be able to come home in three weeks, it is said.

Mr. Baldy Williams was a very sick man when he reached McGuire's Hospital ten days ago, but he is so well versed in drugs, the doctors and a fine nurse soon started him on the road to recovery. He will soon be able to return home, it is hoped.

Mr. Roy Osborn, who has been in the hospital for some time, is mending slowly but sure. He could probably come home now, but prefers to remain and get good and strong.

The happiest children in all the wide, wide world was those of Mr. Cam Easton last week when their devoted mother returned to them from Richmond restored in health.

ECHO FROM WALNUT GROVE

The People Want Mr. W. A. Sherman For Commissioner

Editor Public Ledger:

Men and measures are being discussed in old Walnut Grove Township. We have had but one Commissioner since the days of Mr. Nat Daniels, before him, in 1878, we had a negro. The attention of the good people are being directed toward Mr. W. A. Sherman, an able and fearless Democrat, who has the interest of the county at heart. I, among a number of voters, should like to see him on the Board of County Commissioners. We trust that Mr. Sherman will permit his name to go before the people. J. M. PHIPPS.

In the Laps of Spring

With the importation of silk and linens practically cut off, the dye market in a very serious condition and the domestic mills shutting down it is pleasing to know that Landis & Easton have an abundance of all these things at reasonable prices while they last. See their announcement on the fifth page of this paper.

DOWN IN MEXICO

UNITED STATES TROOPS WILL FOLLOW VILLA TO THE HILLS

The Mexican Bandit Tiger States That He Will Not Be Taken Alive—The Soldiers Regard Their Task a Light Undertaking—Aeroplanes Will Be Used to Shadow the Bandits.

(SUMMARY)

General Funston, under orders from President Wilson to hunt down Villa's bandit army in northern Mexico, is moving his troops at the border behind a veil of rigid secrecy.

War Department officials, who had given the border commander a free hand in working out details of the expedition, made it clear that they regarded it imperative to success that all information which might aid Villa in eluding the American forces must be guarded scrupulously.

It was apparent only that the military plans contemplated a drive into Mexico that should be both quick and certain. The War Department is willing to take no chances by weakening the border patrol, and General Funston's orders were not to move until he was fully prepared.

General Carranza Satisfied

Villa being nothing more than a murderer, outlaw and thief, the question of crossing the border is not one for Congress to handle. When the secret is known it will be seen that General Carranza and President Wilson have agreed upon a plan to capture Villa and his bandits. Wilson has assured Carranza that as soon as this is done, the United States troops will be withdrawn from Mexico. Carranza has asked permission to send soldiers across the border in pursuit of bandits. It is likely that Wilson has or will grant the request, for there seems to be a determination on the part of both governments to end Villa's career. The order to capture Villa and his bandits dead or alive, has gone forth and it must be quick and certain.

Villa in the Mountains

Villa has taken to the hills of his childhood. He knows every nook and corner of the mountain fastness. It is stated that he has disbanded his army, but this may not be true. Aeroplanes will drop bombs into his den. It may require weeks or months to capture him, but the trap has been set and bated and it is only a matter of time when the boys will march back home.

WILL REMAIN IN OXFORD

Rev. S. K. Phillips Will Not Accept Call to Jacksonville

It became known a few weeks ago that the pastorate of the leading Presbyterian church in Jacksonville, Florida, had been tendered to Rev. S. K. Phillips, the beloved pastor of the Oxford Presbyterian church. The call was loud and long and it carried with it money and prestige, but after due meditation Mr. Phillips decided that there is plenty of unfinished work in Oxford, and it was a great relief to his congregation last Sunday when he announced from the pulpit his intention to remain with them.

Since the coming of Mr. Phillips to Oxford four years ago he has completely sung and preached his way to the hearts of the people in the entire community. His congregation loves him, but not more so than do the people of the other denominations.

The fact that the recent jingling of gold did not take from us two of our beloved ministers gives us the blessed assurance that there is not as much commercialism in the pulpit as the laymen are sometimes disposed to believe.

ATTENTION DEMOCRATS

Meeting of Democratic Executive and Central Committee.

The Democratic Executive and Central Committee is called to meet in the Court House at Oxford on Thursday, March 16th, at 12 o'clock, and a full attendance is urged.

Matters of importance will be taken up at this meeting and the candidates for the several offices in the county are requested to attend.

BEN K. LASSITER, Ch'm.
Granville Co. Democratic Ex. Com.

PAY YOUR TAXES BEFORE APRIL THE FIRST

Unless your taxes are paid before the above date, your property will be advertised for sale. More than five thousand have paid and it is your time now. If you delay and your property gets advertised it will be you, not me. Settle now. You are near enough to the last day.

Respectfully,
S. C. HOBGOOD,
Sheriff

3-20-4t.

VERY PRETTY PICTURE HATS

THE BEAUTIES ARE TOO PRECIOUS TO BE HANDLED

The Oxford Merchants Handling Millinery Have Dispensed With the Hustle and Bustle Incident to Opening Day.

It has always seemed strange to us just why the milliners set apart a certain day each season on which to display their goods. In some of the large cities at the North they go so far as to spend hundreds of dollars for decorations and a string band. We remember one time while passing along Chestnut street in Philadelphia our attention was directed to a fashionable millinery establishment. The handsome women going in and out and the sweet music and pretty flowers were too much for "The Idle Man" and we dropped in to see what was going on. There were six live models on an improvised stage—handsome women they were—representing as many shades of beauty. In those days they sold hosiery and other exquisite things for the ladies, and we admired them quite as much then as we do now, but a dandy Frenchman caught us by the arm and led us toward the door and remarked, "This is no place for a gentleman and I will greatly appreciate it, please, if the reporter defer his visit a little later."

Those big millinery openings always seemed to be unnecessary to us, hundreds of dollars were needlessly spent to make the event a grand success, and of course the expense was tacked on to the hats.

The Oxford merchants have been North and purchased a handsome line of millinery. Much of it would seem to be too exquisite for this time and generation, but the merchants look at it very much after the order in which President Wilson regards his preparedness program—to be ready for them when they come. Unlike the great opening day heretofore observed by our milliners, one can now go in at any time and select a hat. The plan agreed upon by all of our milliners is a good one. See their announcement on the second page of this paper.

AEROPLANE MAIL ROUTE

The Flying Machines Will Not Pass Over Granville

The first draft of Postmaster General Burleson's plan to establish 48 aeroplane mail routes from Key West to Washington has undergone a slight change, Norfolk being substituted instead of Raleigh.

We anticipated seeing the human birds pass over Granville as they winged their way from Raleigh to Richmond, but a slight change in the plans will take them fifty miles to the east of us.

Wilmington is named as one of the five cities on the second lap of two routes that will give thorough service between Key West and Washington, D. C. The first section starting at Key West, includes a stop at Jacksonville, another at Savannah and the last at Charleston. There the second route begins taking in Wilmington, then Norfolk, then Richmond and ending at Washington.

Seven routes, six in Alaska and one in Massachusetts, have been determined upon for immediate experimentation. The contracts for the carrying of the mails on these routes will be let May 12. If these experiments prove successful, the aerial transportation of mails will be extended to the other 41 routes.

Equal Suffrage Lecture

As was announced in the Ledger last week, Mrs. Archibald Henderson will give a lecture on Equal Suffrage, under the patronage of twenty ladies of Oxford, at the Orpheum Theatre, on Friday afternoon, March 17th, at 4 o'clock. Mrs. Henderson has just completed her term of office as President of the Equal Franchise League of North Carolina, and had the privilege last February of addressing the Legislature on this subject. Among other things to Mrs. Henderson's literary credit is the translation of the German Haggasang which created an international sensation. The ladies are fortunate indeed in being able to secure a speaker of such literary brilliance and social standing, as well as of such authoritative knowledge of her subject. Through the courtesy of the management of the Orpheum, the theatre will be loaned for the occasion, and no admission fee will be charged.

Spring Merchandise

Every lady in Oxford and Granville are cordially invited to call at Perkinson-Green store and see the latest creations in hats and a strong line of spring merchandise. See the announcement on last page of this paper.

Something Nice—See L. Thomas' specials on the last page of this paper.

THE HURRICANE INVADED

FINDS A SIXTY GALLON STILL IN FULL BLAST

The Blockaders Make a Hasty Retreat—The Still was Brought to Oxford and Turned Over to Sheriff Hobgood.

Deputy R. B. Blackley, the fearless officer in the Southern part of Granville invaded the secret precincts of the Hurricane district last Friday night and routed a gang of blockaders.

The still was in a snug corner of the woods. The fire had been kindled beneath it and the cap adjusted when Blackley and his men came upon it.

In order to protect themselves, the blockaders had thrown a guard line around the still to warn them in the event the officers invaded their secret domain. At a point within a couple of hundred yards of the still, the officers heard the crack of a pistol within a few yards of them, and the little light under the still, down in the ravine that guided their feet, disappeared simultaneously with the crack of the pistol, and the noise that greeted the officers ears, as the blockaders made their way through the underbrush was similar to that of a gang of hungry turkey buzzards flushed from a carcass of a beast.

The still was of sixty gallon capacity and showed signs of much use. The officers believe that the blockaders are the same gang that was routed in Franklin county two weeks ago. There were about five hundred gallons of sour mash ready for use. This was set adrift by the officers and the kettle, worm and cap were brought to Oxford Saturday morning and turned over to Sheriff Hobgood.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

A Live Community Handles a Live Proposition

Last week was notable in Oxford for the boost that was given to the care of health. The Woman's Civic Club scored for the baby. The latter day views of the women as regards the baby is no doubt a step in the right direction, but the methods employed by the good old mothers of statesmen were woefully lacking in some instances. The cake of castile soap, the drop of turpentine and the crack in the floor has no place in the Dresden Chinaware-baby of today. How the former generation managed to live and create statesmen and presidents amid the flies and unsanitary conditions is a puzzling question. It would be interesting if some of those good old mothers could step in for a moment and tell us how she did it, but we doubt that the new women would give her a place on the program.

Be not deceived, the methods of the old mothers were a hit or miss proposition, but the new women bring to the work scientific knowledge. The present interest in child life and children's health is proof that the good women of the land are coming to realize more and more how heavy rests the responsibility to preserve the home, the church and the fundamentals of government.

The public health meeting held in the Graded School Building Friday night will be of lasting benefit to the community. If we mistake not it was planned by Dr. Ben K. Hays, our valuable health officer. There were many subjects discussed, all bearing upon the preservation of health. There were an equal number of men and women on the program, and here again is where the latter scored in a knowledge of conditions.

LENTEN SERVICE

Visiting Clergymen at St. Stephen's Church Every Thursday Night

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is holding the usual Lenten Services. Dr. Horsfield has service every afternoon during the week and in addition to the usual services, there has been arranged an especially interesting program for every Thursday night. A visiting clergyman preaches.

This Thursday night, the 23rd, Rev. Robert E. Roe, Rector of the Episcopal Church in Greensboro, will preach the sermon. Rev. Mr. Roe has travelled much and spent several years in Alaska. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Last Thursday night the Rev. Lewis N. Taylor was the visiting clergyman and preached an excellent sermon.

An Old Oxford Boy

Major Sydney Betts, of Richmond, is spending a few days in Oxford shaking hands with his many friends. The Major was with the Farmers' Warehouse two seasons ago, but he was identified with the tobacco interests at Lexington, Kentucky, during the season just closed.

Dirt and Sand

It is against the law to haul dirt and sand from the ditches and roadways of the county. The people in general will please not violate this statute.
B. I. BREEDLOVE,
Chariman Board Co. Com.