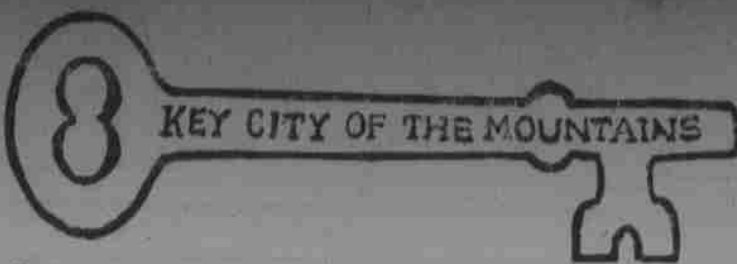


FRANKLIN HAS—  
Elevation of 2,250 feet.  
Municipal power dam.  
Water supply from a well  
750 feet deep.  
NO MOSQUITOES



MACON COUNTY HAS—  
Seventeen peaks over 5,000  
feet high.  
Twenty-seven peaks be-  
tween 4,000 and 5,000 feet in  
elevation.

# The Franklin Press

VOLUME XLI.

FRANKLIN, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1926.

NUMBER THIRTEEN.

## MUSCLE SHOALS PLANT TO BE LEASED TO HIGH BIDDER

Washington, D. C.—Congress now stands ready to receive bids through a special committee for a private lease of Muscle Shoals.

Final action was taken today when the senate accepted the house amendments to a concurrent resolution authorizing a joint congressional committee to negotiate a lease and report back to Congress.

Vice-President Dawes immediately named Senators Dineen, Illinois; Sackett, Kentucky; republicans; and Hefflin, Alabama, democrat, to represent the senate on the committee and Representatives Morin, Pennsylvania; James, Michigan, republicans; and Quinn, Mississippi, democrat, have been selected by Speaker Longworth for the house.

The committee is expected to assemble Monday, (15th), to select a chairman and set up machinery to receive bids, several of which are known to be already prepared. The committee has until April 26 to report recommendations and all the bids to Congress which either can approve or reject them.

The report that Henry Ford would re-submit a bid did not cause much surprise in official circles, although those interested in the project professed to have information on the subject. It had been generally believed in Washington that if the resolution was passed, Ford would be heard from, because it provides that the lease must be made on terms that are in large measure identical with those of his former proposal.

### The Difference

The main difference is that the lessee will be required to distribute all power that is not needed for the production of 40,000 tons of fixed nitrogen annually and the manufacture of other fertilizer ingredients while the original Ford bid would have permitted him to use the power as he chose.

The resolution passed the senate today with only minor opposition, the opponents of private leasing announcing they would withhold their fight until the joint committee reported.

Several senators repeated their attitudes on Muscle Shoals, but when Vice-President Dawes put the question for an oral vote, there were no a dozen senators present and not a voice was raised against it.

At first, the vice-president appointed Chairman Norris, of the senate agriculture committee, but he declined to serve because he thought senators favoring the lease of Muscle Shoals would form the committee. Senator Dineen then was appointed in his place.—Charlotte Observer.

## EVERY FARM SHOULD HAVE A RADIO

Raleigh, N. C.—Figures compiled by the Department of Commerce of the United States show that there are only 1,361 radios in use on the farms of North Carolina.

This figure is lower than it should be, in the opinion of Dean I. O. Schaub of the School of Agriculture at State College. Dean Schaub states that every farm should have a radio and when the proposed state-owned broadcasting station is put into actual use, he feels that there will be a tremendous increase in the number of radios owned by farmers.

"Last year," says Dean Schaub "there were 283,491 farms in North Carolina. This was an increase of nearly 20,000 over the number found in 1920, and when we consider that only a little over 1,000 of these farms have radios, our standing is very low indeed. This is due in part to the fact that we have only one radio station, WBT at Charlotte, which sends out crop reports and market news."

According to Dean Schaub, there will undoubtedly be a great increase in the number of radios on the farms in the near future. In some states now, from 25 to 40 per cent of the farms are equipped with this modern source of information. As a general rule, farmers have bought the best sets available. In 1923 it was found in a study made by the United States Department of Agriculture that on more than 1000 farms widely scattered over the country, the average cost of the sets was \$175. Today better and more easily operated sets can be bought for half this amount.

On account of the strides that have been made in perfecting the radio and the wonderful information and entertainment prepared for the different broadcasting stations, Dean Schaub urges North Carolina farmers to give more attention to this new hired man and, where feasible, to put in a modern receiving set.

## \$166,000 Needed to Complete Quota For the National Park

North Carolina has raised two-thirds of the half million dollars which must be pledged by April 1, if the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is to be created at this section of Congress. Unless in the neighborhood of \$166,000 is pledged by the people of North Carolina this month, the creation of the proposed national park is in doubt.

The pledges in the hands of the campaign headquarters approximate \$333,000. Of this the great bulk has been pledged by the people of the Western district, only \$13,123 having been actually subscribed by the people of the central district of North Carolina.

Six counties have raised their full quotas—Swain, Haywood, Clay, Yancy, Rutherford and Mitchell. None of these counties have ceased their efforts to gather subscriptions, and all expect a large over-subscription.

Western North Carolina, which has assumed a quota of \$400,000 has raised, according to the pledges in hand, \$319,551. A number of county chairmen have not made recent reports on the progress of their county activities, and this amount will be swelled considerably, it is believed when reports are all in.

It is important, it was said at campaign headquarters, that all pledges be in before April 1, when the final report of the campaign is to be made to the Secretary of the Interior, and a bill for the creation of the proposed park presented to Congress.

## Feeding Cows From Farm

The dairy industry in Macon county is now reaching the place, due to the marketing problems being solved by the erection of the butter factory at Franklin, where the average farmer can now plan on increasing his production of cream. This must be accomplished largely by planning his farm operations in a way that the land will produce the proper crops to feed his cows for the production of butter fat. Also, there are many communities in Macon county where the dairy cow is needed in larger numbers for the purpose of building up worn and crop ridden soils bringing in a cash income and establishing dairy farming on a profitable and permanent basis.

The farmers realize that dairy farming on a butter fat basis is profitable and is largely needed but many of them do not have cows or feed in sufficient numbers or quantity for the production of butter fat on a commercial basis, therefore, the plan that will arrange the farm operation: this spring so that the farmer can get in a position to sell cream on the market by providing ample pasturage and crops for winter feeding will naturally be the best method to follow. He should plan on arranging to produce this coming summer at least two tons of soybean hay for each cow that he is planning on keeping next winter—along with three tons of stock beets or three tons of silage fifteen bushels of corn and ten bushels of oats.

With the above quantity of roughage and grain, that is home grown for each cow, the farmer will be in a position this coming fall, if necessary, to purchase more cows preferably those that will freshen in October and November. These cows will produce butter fat next winter largely from home grown feeds and if good grade cows are purchased at a fair price and fed properly, they should pay for themselves the first year. The number of cows kept next winter should be governed largely by the amount of feed grown and provision should be made to include at least one acre, or more, of winter grazing by sowing rye next September. This will reduce the winter feed period from three to six weeks and cause an increase in the milk flow. It will also keep the cows in healthy condition.

The farmers in Macon county who will plan now and grow the above quantity of roughage and provide pasturage, need have no misgivings about producing milk at a profit year after year, and furthermore, he is laying the foundation for fertile soils, a bank balance and contented conditions.

F. R. FARNHAM,  
Dairy Specialist.

## TOWN OF FRANKLIN A RESORT AND MINING CENTER OF IMPORTANCE

(Asheville Citizen.)

Of all the resort towns in Western North Carolina, Franklin, county seat of Macon county, lies in, perhaps, what is at once the greatest panorama of scenic wonder and the richest mining and farming region along the entire Appalachian highland. Lying on the headwaters of the Little Tennessee river along which are some of the most fertile farms in North Carolina, Franklin has the advantage of being not only a resort center which every year taxes its accommodations to overflowing, but also the center of the county out of which have come some of the rarest and purest precious stones ever found on the North American continent.

### Resort Center

Last year the resorts of Franklin were filled to capacity through the season, people having journeyed there from all sections of the country to enjoy the fine mountain air, fish, and hunt, and motor through the miles of beautiful forests, and mountain ranges. Mountain climbing, camping, hunting and fishing, swimming, horseback riding, golfing and tennis are amongst the major sources of diversion for those who need more than an abundance of beauty and free air, sparkling water, balmy breezes, and the finest fresh foods the palate can pine for. This year accommodations are being provided for twice as many people as visited Macon county in 1925, and from the number of visitors who have already come North it is judged that the expectations of the Franklin boosters will in no wise be shattered. For mountain diversion, fine fishing, the riches of a fertile agricultural region, and a climate without a peer, Franklin, has them all. On the East, and Northeast lies the wild Cowee Range; and on the West and Southwest the Nantahalas, ancestral home of the Cherokees. Wayah Bald, with an elevation of 5400 feet, and Trimont with an elevation of 4200 feet are the highest peaks in this section. Amongst water attractions may be noted the Cullasaja Falls, Burningtown Falls, Lake Emory, across the Little Tennessee, and Tallulah Falls, across the border down in Georgia. No visitor to Franklin ever leaves without bringing away lasting memory of the impressive sky line of the Nantahalas—those high, gaunt, sheer precipices which have a rugged sky-line all their own, and out of whose fastnesses flow a myriad of the clearest, coolest, most alluring brooks to be found anywhere in America.

### Minerals

The fame of Macon county, which might be famous for a dozen things so rich is its natural resources springs chiefly from the infinity of precious gems and stones that have been taken from its mines and hillsides in years gone by, and which still abound in the depths of its mountain sides in quantities sufficient to allure the curious and the patient seekers after beauty. At Cullasaja, seven miles from Franklin, we find the well known Corundum Hill mine, from which comes the greater amount of commercial corundum in the United States—and the gems of greatest rarity, including the emerald, the ruby and the sapphire—ecstasies of rare color, and brilliant light like crystallized fire from an ancient age. Here was found the finest corundum emerald in the world, which now reposes in New York. And just a little way into the Cowee Mountains, at the headwaters of the Little Tennessee river, is another mine from whence come true rubies—flawless, brilliant, transparent rubies, close rivals of the Burmah ruby, that most precious of all known gems. And here, too, is the home of rhodolite, a peculiar form of garnet native alone to the hills of Western Carolina, and like the rhododendron fashioned in such consummate loveliness that its fame has penetrated to the uttermost parts of earth. Other precious gems found in Macon county are Beryls, garnets, amethysts, cape rubies, Chalcedony, and topaz. Less precious, but commercially profitable minerals are copper, gold, mica, kaolin, clays for pottery, granite and talc.

### Nantahala National Forest

The government, recognizing the riches and beauty of the Nantahalas has set aside some 100,000 acres. Here are vast areas of grazing land

which every year are leased out to private parties, and mining rights which may be leased on a royalty basis of from 2 to 8 per cent of the gross output. Standing timber and timber products are also sold by the government to private parties. The Forest Service is constantly improving the scenic beauty of this park and every year it becomes more and more of a rendezvous for those who love to travel through solitary trails and deep mountain fastnesses.

### Farm and Agriculture

In the valley between the Cowee and the Nantahalas, along the bed of the Little Tennessee, lies some of the most fertile farm land in Western Carolina—land that produces gigantic crops of corn, and hay, beans, peas, clover, wheat as abundant as can be grown in Ohio and Illinois and turnips in quantities great enough to make Macon county a veritable center of the turnip industry. Nor is this all. The climate is so mild, the soil so rich and loamy, that trucking can be carried on to advantages throughout the spring and summer. When the Southern states such as Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana are parched and dried by the intensity of the summer sun, they become a vast market for producers of Macon county. Here lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, snap beans and other green vegetables grow in riotous abundance.

### Cattle Raising and Sheep

Stock raising has rapidly forged to the front as amongst the leading industries related to the soil, and sheep raising runs a close second. The winters are exceedingly mild and admit of grazing through practically the entire year. The mountain sides, and table lands are covered with an abundance of rich grazing area, and in the Nantahala National Forest provision has been made for leasing out the government lands for grazing purposes. The animals themselves are cut off from the sharp blast which occasionally drift in from the North by warm coves.

Particular attention in recent years has been directed by the farmer to the improving of their strains, and it has been found that great interest is being manifested generally throughout the section to the development of heavier, bigger bodied cattle adaptable for beef. Nor has the sheep industry proved a small matter in Macon county. The climate is a rare combination which makes it an ideal wool producing country, and the farmers, ever looking for sure means of profit, have not been slow to turn to this source. North Carolina wool has gained a well merited reputation throughout the world, but Western Carolina wool has been given preference in fast instances because of its remarkable freedom from foreign matters, and because the fleece is long and healthy looking. One thing that renders Macon county ideal for sheep culture is its matchless climate which seems to keep sheep free from the vast majority of the ills which in some sections have made raising something of a hazard.

### Hogs and Goats

This county has long been a favorite for fine strains of hogs, such as Berkshires, pure bred Durocs, Poland Chinas, and other leading pure breeds which have long since supplanted the ancient "razor back." Goats, too, have ranged the hillsides of the Nantahalas and Cowee, and have proved the industry of longest profit per investment of anything in the state. They require practically no attention, are self-sustaining, and almost no trouble is ever experienced because of marauding dogs, because of the provision of the state law which provides full payment to the owner of the animal by the owner of the killing dog.

### Poultry

Although Western North Carolina generally has become a fertile field for the development of the poultry industry, Macon county perhaps, has made greater progress than any of the rest. This may be attributed to the natural adaptability of the land to this industry—the climate is warm and the water pure, the hillside gently sloping so as to afford proper drainage, and the market is unexcelled. Green feed, a necessity in modern poultry methods, may be had in Macon county all the year, and because the weather remains fairly equable all the time, and long cold

## Counties Rapidly Joining The Observer Spelling Bee

(Charlotte Observer.)

Mecklenburg county joined The Observer Spelling Bee with an enrollment of 7,200! Alexander Graham Junior high school, of this city sent in a membership of 600; Piedmont Junior high school, of this city enrolled 385 for the bee; Boy Scouts of Charlotte sent in a membership of 500; Rockingham county enrollment is 4,250; Wilkes county enrollment is 1,000. Total enrollment Saturday was 20,935. This does not include schools that have entered independently.

The spelling bee editor would like for all county superintendents to send the enrollment of counties in at the earliest possible date. If the county enters the bee, material will be sent the county superintendent and he will supply principals and teachers with adequate information.

If your county does not enter the bee, then principals, or town superintendents should communicate with the spelling bee editor.

The following letter was received Saturday from J. M. Matthews, Mecklenburg county superintendent of education:

Charlotte, N. C., March 13, 1926.

Miss Cora A. Harris,  
Spelling Bee Editor,  
Charlotte Observer,  
Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Miss Harris: We are pleased with the prospects of participating in the State-Wide Spelling Bee which you are organizing. It seems to me that there is need of concentration of effort in this particular type of school work. I heartily recommend your project.

Very truly yours,  
J. M. MATTHEWS,  
Supt. County Bd. Education.

Dr. Alexander Graham, assistant superintendent of the Charlotte schools, who has spent the greater part of his life in educational work sends the following letter to the spelling bee editor of The Observer: Miss Cora Annette Harris:

I can not too highly commend your spelling bee contest. I feel assured it will command the cheerful endorsement of rural and city schools. With best wishes for your complete success, I am,

Yours sincerely,  
ALEXANDER GRAHAM,  
Wilkes County 6,000 Strong

C. C. Wright, superintendent of Wilkes county schools, announced that 6,000 pupils of Wilkes county would enter the spelling bee. He says: "I am pleased to know that you are putting on a spelling bee and you may count on us. Assuring you of my most hearty support in the matter."

Miss Dean Ritch, prominent business woman of the city, wrote: "I am very much interested in your spelling contest. Since a contest of this kind has a direct appeal, and since The Observer goes into so many homes, I believe the results will be wonderful; this contest will teach us to spell better than the cross word puzzle!"

"I am an old time speller," writes B. H. Griffin of Marshville, "and give my whole-hearted endorsement to the spelling bee."

Mrs. J. H. Boyce, of this city, writes: "As I am teaching school and the mother of a child in school, I feel a keen interest in your contest. I would like to see our school enter this with enthusiasm."

Editor's Note—Will Macon county enter this contest?

spells are practically unknown, housing is not the expensive matter that it proves to be in more frigid regions. This has attracted many poultrymen, and is attracting more all the time. A natural outlet for the products lies in the South—Atlanta, Jacksonville, and the Florida markets being especially inclined to patronize the Western Carolina farms.

### Living Conditions

The county presents an air of prosperity because in fact it is prosperous and is rich. This makes it attractive to visitors. And it may be added, in entire truthfulness, that the altitude is such that there is always a current of healthful, invigorating mountain air, and the almost entire absence of sultry, humid, and hence sleepless nights. Tourists have found it free from such objectionable features as mosquitoes and malaria, and protracted droughts hold no terrors to them. The county this year is preparing for an influx of visitors such as never before visited it.