

## The Franklin Press

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

S. A. HARRIS.....Editor

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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### ADVERTISING RATES

Very reasonable, and will be made known upon request.

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THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

### THE FRANKLIN PRESS PLATFORM

Extension of the sewer lines.  
Beautify the school grounds.  
Two hundred summer cottages.  
A sewage disposal plant.  
More official activity in the sale of surplus power.  
The construction of business blocks.  
Plant trees along the State highways of the county.  
Make a white way of Main street.  
An excellent school library.  
Courteous treatment for visitors.  
Improvement of county roads connecting with State highways.  
A fish ladder at the municipal dam.  
Co-operation, vim, push, work-everything for the good of Franklin and Macon county.  
New court house and jail combined.

### How About It?

The next mayor of Franklin is taking his honors with becoming modesty.

Let us hope that Old Man Winter took his final fling of the season last week.

Keep up the tree planting on the Georgia road. It will pay dividends.

Judging from the amount of business done in Franklin the alleged depressed business conditions must be somewhere else.

In subscribing for the Press Mr. Tom Saunders says that this paper has saved him many dollars by giving advanced information relative to sales, etc. Mr. Saunders states that he has also saved money by reading the advertisements in the Press.

Forty years ago a man living in New York state marked a silver dollar and sent it to a mail order house. He later moved to the West and recently got in change the same coin. He waited a long time for his money to get back. Those who send money out of Macon now will probably be dead before they get it back, if they ever do. Better trade at home, where just as good or better bargains are available, and perhaps get your money back next week.

Rev. George W. Seay, of Clayton, Ga., visited the Press office Saturday of last week and discussed the prohibition question at length. He complimented Macon county highly on the enforcement of the prohibition laws and stated that Rabun county has a large number of fine citizens who deplore the liquor traffic in that county. We were unable to supply Mr. Seay with the number of last week's issues of the Press he requested. He wanted that issue to distribute among a number of his friends so that they might see what our judges in North Carolina think of the liquor traffic.

### A Matter Of Marketing

THE RECORDS of the county agent shows that he has sold a total amount of \$8,245.00 worth of produce for the farmers since he began his duties here—which really means since the 23 of March—when the first sale was held. This amount has been made up of hogs poultry and eggs. There are wool sales coming off now in a few days and then there will be honey.

We are just wondering if this is the pace that is going to be held from now on. If it is, we are wondering again if it is not time for us to consider the advisability of a county paid marketing agent. The total amount of stuff for the year is going to be around \$65,000 going through the county agents hands. This is going to put more on one man than he can do when time comes for boys and girls club work to begin, milk testing, fertilizer studies, seed selection, etc., all of which will be on the county agents hands as soon as he gets into the work and knows the local condition fully. At present he has no help and very little equipment. In the absence of a veterinarian he is doing this work as well.

We are in full accord with his doing all that he can, and giving his full time and thought to the work for which he is being paid, but on the other hand we are not in accord with the idea of driving a good horse

to death or putting a bigger load on him than he can carry to the very best advantage.

All of the above is a leader for the following suggestion. Why not begin to plan now for some kind of public farmers agency that can and will operate separately from politics and that will be in line for the time when there will have to be something done along this line? There are various ways of going about this. One is clerical help for the county agent and thus give him more time to direct things. The other is an assistant under his direction—we do not hold with an assistant county agent for these have been failures in more cases than successes—whom he will direct in the selling end of the business. One other plan is for the federation to take this thing up and handle all the selling and buying. We do not know anything of the workings or plans of the federation, but we suggest that this is a thing that they might take up to an advantage.

The whole matter should be on a business basis. The man or agent handling this work should be bonded and have facilities to carry on the work so as to reap the full advantages incident to a job of this kind. Our agricultural interests have developed to the stage where they must be handled on business principles.

In this connection we might give a few incidences. Just recently there was a glut in the fertilizer market. Phosphoric acid was selling laid down in towns in South Carolina at \$11.00 per ton, we are informed, and 8-3-3 mixed goods were selling at the car for \$23.00 per ton. Just as soon as the cotton farmers began getting their fertilizers the price went up again. Had we had a marketing man on the job, he would have saved the county more than his salary on this alone. Then there is the question of transportation. At the last hog sale it was only due to the resource of the county agent that the hogs got away at all. The local railroad authorities refused to let the car pick up hogs on down the line and as the county agent had made arrangements with the agents in Georgia to use half the car so that we might get shipments more often, he had only a half car of hogs. He could have had more but stopped at the half car. We understand that pick-up cars for hogs are run on the Murphy branch and that they should be run here. These hogs were taken to Asheville by truck at a rate fully competitive with the railway rates we are informed. This opens up another line of development that the right kind of a man on the marketing job could look into.

For this year things can and will go along, but we do think that some consideration should be given this matter and plans laid for another year. The county agent says that he is willing and able to carry on this work efficiently if he had some clerical help and that he will do it any way as far and as well as he can, but that it is going to take his time from the actual demonstration work in the field i. e. work for which he was hired and for which the Federal and state departments hold him responsible.

Finally, we would make this point that any private business that shows a turn over of \$8,000.00 in one month would certainly arrange for the most efficient and proper methods of handling same. This might be a place where the chamber of commerce and agriculture could get in some real co-operation without an outlay of capital.

To keep in the vanguard of progress something must be done sooner or later, and now is the time to see about such matters, before things get to where it will be a hard task to right them and put them on a proper basis.

### No. 28

IN ITS issue of April 16 the Charlotte Observer referred to the project now well under way to plant trees along the Georgia road from Franklin to the line. On April 21 the Observer again takes up the question of roads in Western North Carolina in connection with the view from Whiteside mountain.

The Charlotte paper has this to say: "The Observer will rejoice in the day when the State Highway people shall have carried the hard top to the vicinity of Whiteside, because of the great treat in scenic effects that will be revealed."

Highway No. 28 is the road over which people must travel to Whiteside. The Press knows that this highway is Mr. Stikeleather's pet road and that he will do all within his power to hard surface this road at the earliest possible moment. Between Franklin and Highlands and between Franklin and Hayesville No. 28 crosses two mighty mountain ranges where even the grading requires an immense amount of time. Three road crews are now engaged in grading these two sections of this highway, but much blasting is necessary and the work is consequently slow. However, our people would be much gratified if our commissioner could see his way clear to place more hands at work and thus complete the grading this summer so that the concrete work might start a year from now.

The Observer's editorial follows:

In Sunday's Observer was given a list of 10 of "the most beautiful things in North Carolina." Leading the list was the view from mighty Whiteside Mountain, in Jackson county. A distressingly small number of the people of

the state have been privileged to enjoy that view, because of the fact that the good roads work has not yet been projected into the region of Whiteside. It is fine sailing through Hendersonville and Brevard to Toxaway, but thence across Transylvania, Jackson and Macon to Franklin, it is old-fashioned, unimproved mountain roads. Whiteside dominates the most picturesque section of the state. It overlooks beautiful High Hampton, Cashiers Valley and Highlands, and is most easily reached over State Highway No. 106, which is improved sand clay for 10 miles out of Sylva, and unimproved to Cashiers Valley, with good trail for automobile past the Devil's Pulpit to the bump of Whiteside.

This is unquestionably the most remarkable mountain formation in the state, or east of the Rockies, we might say. For seven miles, around the mountain is sheer cliff, rising straight from the plain of South Carolina, in height varying from 3,500 to 4,000 feet. It is a mass of solid granite and gets its name from the white flakes on its sides, caused by the peeling off of the surface layer. The summit is a treasure for the botanists because of the profuse growth of rare specimens of mountain shrubs, one interesting characteristic being its deep carpeting of heather.

The Observer will rejoice in the day when the State Highway people shall have carried the hard top to the vicinity of Whiteside, because of the great treat in scenic effects that will be revealed. The North Carolinian who has not seen Whiteside does not "know" his state. In the same section are water falls of grandeur and included in the comparatively unknown wonders in the gorge of the infant Tuckasege, deep recessed and with the natural stone bridge spanning the most tumultuous tumble of the stream in ravine never pierced by sunlight.

### The Flood Sufferers

THE LOCAL Red Cross chapter will soon start a drive to obtain Franklin's quota of \$150 to aid those who have been made homeless and otherwise suffered in the great Mississippi flood whose crest is even now sweeping on its way to New Orleans.

The Red Cross is now taking care of approximately 150,000 people whose homes have been washed away by the greatest flood in the history of the Mississippi valley. This number will no doubt increase for two or three weeks or until the high waters have reached the gulf.

The President of the United States has issued a proclamation appealing for help and has sent Secretary Hoover to the valley to make a survey of the needs of the people. Every newspaper and magazine in the country are sending out appeals for help. Hundreds of radio stations in America are nightly broadcasting the news of the terrible disaster and taking up collections to aid those in distress.

The loss of life will run into the hundreds while about ten millions acres of land have been submerged. Scores of babies have been born in box cars, on levees, in row boats and on steamers. In refugee camps disease is making much headway. Surely such a state of affairs should appeal to the kind hearted people of Franklin. Our quota of \$150 should be trippled.

### Church Repair Fund

A PROMINENT and beautiful house of worship in a little Western city has a permanent income of \$600 a year for maintenance of repairs. Storms frequently cause injuries to church buildings, and progressive organizations are establishing a repair fund.

This fund is provided for in advance, and when flood or fire damage occurs there is a fund in existence immediately available for making any needed repairs. This sounds like good business and will strengthen the credit of any religious body at the bank.

### Saving Wild Life

A NATIONAL movement is being organized by motorists to co-operate in saving lives of birds and wild animals on the highways.

The annual toll of wild birds, domestic fowl, squirrels, rabbits and other wild life from death by motor cars is tremendous. There is need for great care in saving lives of dogs and cats from destruction as well as larger animals which because of their size frequently wreck cars.

### Protective Tariff Good Business

OREGON cherry growers demand a tariff to protect their fruit against foreign competition.

The political farmer says the tariff is the farmer's enemy; claiming that it keeps out the low-priced things he could buy abroad to run his farm for less money. The practical farmer, however, says that the tariff offers protection and equalization against cheaper labor and lower living scale abroad. Those who take the trouble to study the tariff schedule find that it admits duty free practically all supplies and commodities required to operate a farm.

### The Mississippi Flood

THE FATHER of Waters is now on the greatest rampage in history. More than 150,000 people have been made homeless

and millions of fertile acres have been flooded by the breaking of levees. Towns have been submerged and farm houses swept away. It is not possible to form an accurate estimate of human lives lost, but the number will probably run into the hundreds. Live stock by thousands have been drowned. All this is a severe indictment against a penurious government. Our fellow citizens are living in the Mississippi valley and they are entitled to protection against floods. At whatever the cost, whether it be \$100,000,000 or \$500,000,000, the national government should build levees along the Mississippi and its tributaries that will withstand any flood.

## Others' Comments

### HOW TO LESSEN NATION-WIDE CRIMINALITY

THE REALLY startling statement in the Manufacturers Record of February 24 by Mark O. Prentiss to the effect that crime is costing this country \$16,000,000,000 a year, or more than the total value of all our agricultural products in 1926, or 25 per cent more than the amount of money loaned to our Allies during the war, has attracted almost universal attention. The statement is being widely discussed by the newspapers of the country as a revelation of fearful import to the future of the nation. Remedies of many kinds are being suggested.

One of the reasons for this widespread criminality is given in this week's issue by Mr. Prentiss in an article in which he strongly arraigns the practices of many criminal lawyers in seeking not justice for the welfare of the country, but profit from defending notorious criminals, and by pettifogging methods delaying their trial or their punishment. This is an arraignment of sharp criminal legal practices which demands the study of our people and pre-eminently of the bar associations of the whole country.

Mr. Prentiss gives many illustrations of the absurd dulings and overrulings by courts for the protection of criminals. Two cases in Florida not mentioned by him are suggestive of the ways in which punishment is evaded. Two men have within the last three or four years been convicted of first-degree murder. Their lawyers have been able in one way and another to transfer their cases from one court to another, and now have for from four or five years prevented punishment, although conviction of first-degree murder has been had in every court in which the cases have been tried. The latest scheme, by which the punishment of these criminals has been delayed, and possibly defeated, is that they were condemned to be hanged, whereas the Florida law as it now stands has changed sanging into electrocution. These men, having been sentenced to be hanged, cannot, so the lawyers claim, be electrocuted; and as they have not been sentenced to electrocution, they stand some chance of escaping all punishment. At any rate, for four or five years these repeated trials, and the efforts that are being made to prevent their being hanged or electrocuted merely because of the change of the law from hanging to electrocution, have cost the counties very heavily and have made criminals believe that, if they can keep on fighting, in one way or another they can finally escape all punishment.

Criminal lawyers are too often concerned only to secure their fees through enabling criminals to escape punishment, without regard to their oath of office, their oath to uphold the constitution and to seek to bring about justice as officials of the court.

Moreover, a silly, mushy sentimentality, especially on the part of weak-minded women, or women who themselves are of a vicious temperament, fills the land with appeals against punishment of criminals, giving far more concern to the welfare of the criminal than they give sympathy to the helpless family of a murdered man.

On these points America must right-about-face. It must demand quick and positive punishment for the criminal. It must take a higher moral stand which will frown upon that mushy sentimentality in the interest of the criminal regardless of the welfare of the country. The duty devolves upon every man and woman in the country who would seek to save America from going down into ruin by the overmastering power of criminality to stand for quick trial of every criminal and for that prompt punishment which England metes out to every convicted criminal. Unless this be done, the future of America is very uncertain. Indeed, on the contrary, we might say it is almost certain to be a future of moral degradation and ruin.—Manufacturers Record.

THE PEOPLE of Macon county have set April 29 for inauguration of the work in development of the "most beautiful highway in the state," this as a feature of Forest Week. On the day stated they will begin the work of setting out an avenue of white pines on each side of the 14 miles of state road from Franklin to the Georgia line, and it is going to be as great a day as was celebration of the completion of this highway last summer. As usual, The Observer is invited to lend its presence, and if opportunity affords, it will be there.—Charlotte Observer.