

The Franklin Press
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S. A. HARRIS.....Editor

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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?

Kudzu will put the old red hillside to work.

If you expect to dewberry much for the canner, pick the dewberries and bring them in.

Both men of the LaFollette for President club organized here four years ago have been mighty quite recently.

Just where the Democratic party got their idea that the country is prospering is a mystery to us. Just what the Democrats can do to remedy matters is also a mystery.

Five million men in the United States are now out of employment while both parties make all kinds of promises about the full dinner pail.

The campaign speeches ought to be a great boon to the radio business provided the people are foolish enough to listen to campaign speeches.

Four months are four months, but we would be almost willing to wipe from the calendar this portion of time and have the election over with so that the people can get down to business and quit talking politics.

General Obregon has again been elected President of Mexico. Two opposing candidates were executed early in the campaign. Thus does Mexico solve its political problems. Neat.

The white elephant is still of elephantine proportions. Will the town bleed itself dry by taxation or will it sell the power plant? If the town board is unwilling to sell the plant, an election can be called to vote upon this important question.

After all is said and done the presidential campaign simmers down to a question of wet or dry. The country will now have the opportunity to find out whether a man's party or appetite is supreme. Will the rabid dry Democrats support Al and will the sloppy wet Republicans vote for Hoover?

Note the ad of the cannery on the farm page of this issue. The cannery will pay 20 cents for the berries instead of 15 cents as previously announced. Who wants a portion of the \$100,000 growing on the blackberry vines in Macon county. The new management wants girls and women to report at the cannery next Monday with a view to obtaining work there.

Within a radius of five miles of Tucson, Arizona, the farmers are receiving \$600,000 per year for poultry and eggs. One county in California has an income from this source of several millions a year. Green county in Wisconsin has an income of \$10,000,000 per year from dairy products. Thus it goes. Do these records mean anything to the people of Macon?

Many farmers in the county are posting their lands and we do not blame them. With the possible exception of English sparrows no birds should be killed. Each bird that is killed gives life to hundreds of insects. With the national and state governments putting forth all efforts to check the insect pests it seems a shame to partly block such ef-

forts by killing birds. It is too late now to provide nesting places for the birds. However, we suggest that all 4-H club boys and girls provide bird houses near their respective homes early next spring.

Attention is invited to the letter of this page from R. M. Peck of Charlotte. In addition to this letter commending the stand of The Press on the independent vote of the country we have also had two or three telephone calls from citizens of Franklin complimenting the stand The Press is taking on this matter.

Under the system of national government parties are necessary, but it is not necessary for individuals to stick to party regardless of the fitness of the candidates. As the years go on more and more people are voting independently of party. Such being the case the time is not far distant when neither party will dare ride rough shod over the American people. Political bosses are doomed. Even here in Macon county we have heard many men who were heretofore good party men say that in the coming election they intended to pay no attention to party lines. First of all they are going to find out how the candidates stand on public questions and then vote for the men whose views most nearly coincide with their own, regardless of whether the candidates be Democrats or Republicans.

The Kudzu Vine

FOR RECLAIMING worn out soil the Kudzu vine is highly recommended by those who know something of this plant. The vine is said to reach a length of 75 or 80 feet in one season, has large leaves and is considered an excellent food for cattle. At his home on Harrison avenue the editor uses the Kudzu as a porch shade and those who have not seen the vine are at liberty to investigate the one at our home. Elsewhere in this issue is a letter concerning the kudzu published in the Greensboro Daily News and reprinted here for the information of Macon county farmers. It is suggested that those who wish to learn something of the nature of kudzu consult the county agent.

In certain parts of North Georgia the vine is used not only for hay, but as pasturage and for filling deep gullies washed in the hillsides. The farmers plant the vines in the bottom of the washings from the fields and finally completely fill the ditches.

A Golf Course

WE ARE informed that Waynesville has spent \$40,000 on a golf course. Highlands and outside parties are spending around \$300,000 for this purpose. Bryson City and Murphy have both formed stock companies for the purpose of building golf courses. No longer will visitors stop at a town that does not have good golf links. Within the past two years Franklin has converted an old cow pasture into a golf course of nine holes, spending on the links between \$800 and \$900. While the local links will answer the purpose in a way, still this town should have an up-to-date golf course—one that would become favorably known to the hundreds of visitors that annually visit this community. Cities everywhere are building municipal golf courses for the benefit of the citizens who are not financially able to belong to one of the exclusive golf clubs. This game has taken hold of the imagination of the American public and is now second in interest only to baseball. Consequently it is imperative that each town have a course worthy of the name.

The Highlands Edition

IN THIS, the Highlands Edition, The Press is exceedingly glad to pay a tribute of love and respect, in so far as possible, to Highlands and its progressive people. As a summer resort Highlands stands without an equal in Eastern America. Nowhere east of the Mississippi, from the standpoint of scenery and climate, has Nature so bountifully bestowed her blessings. Some idea of the scenic attractions may be had by reading the articles in this issue.

Up until recently Highlands was isolated from the outside world and while the roads are not yet all that can be desired still one has little or no difficulty in reaching the town. When highway No. 28 between Franklin and her sister city is completed Highlands will have an excellent outlet. The completion of this road and the golf course at Highlands will result, within a few years, in making Highlands the best known summer resort in all the states east of the Mississippi. The golf links are expected to bring to Macon county's mountain resort, not only the best golfers in America, but the best in the world. No doubt national and international matches will be played there. All in all the future of Highlands is very bright and this brilliant future is due in great measure to the indomitable courage of the Highlands citizenship.

The Cannery

MR. JONATHAN CASE, a man with 35 years experience in the canning business, has been employed to operate the cannery.

Mr. Case comes here from Hendersonville where he operated a cannery for a number of years. That part of the state is overrun with tourists during the principal canning season, says Mr. Case, and consequently much of the fruit, berries and vegetables are sold to hotels and boarding houses for use of the tourists. As a result Mr. Case believes that the field for a successful cannery is much better here than in sections where more tourists spend the summer.

The record of Mr. Case was thoroughly investigated before he was employed. As a result of this investigation the cannery officials believe that they have the right man. Mr. Case states that the only thing that will prevent the successful operation of the cannery here is the lack of something to can. Consequently he is anxious to have all concerned grow something for the cannery. In this connection it should be remembered that the cannery at Franklin was established solely in the interest of the farmers and that it will remain here permanently provided it is sufficiently patronized. If the present year is a successful one for this industry there need be no fear for the future. There fore it is incumbent upon all to patronize the cannery in so far as possible.

Jimmy Gray's Speech

THOSE who did not hear the speech of Jimmy Gray at the court house on July Fourth missed a treat. After going into a short history of the agricultural industry in the United States Mr. Gray appealed to the people of Macon county to make a new declaration of independence, one that will free them from farm drudgery and bring about a new era of freedom and prosperity. As a general rule, said Mr. Gray, the people living east of the Mississippi are consumers and depend upon the farms west of that river for something to eat. These farms are located far from the eastern markets, yet from as far west as California fresh fruits and vegetables and eggs in car lots are shipped into North Carolina. From the middle west come dairy products, corn, wheat, side meat and lard. In the western part of North Carolina one finds conditions ideal for both poultry and dairying, also for growing swine. We are

ets, still the western states are supplying the eastern food market. Mr. Gray went into detail as to the reason for this state of affairs. He said that the West long since learned that the markets demand quality produce and in quantities sufficiently large to attract buyers. The West has met these conditions and is reaping the reward, while we of the East hardly know the meaning of standardization. The West can offer a carload of eggs all of the same size and color while it is practically impossible in the entire State of North Carolina to load a car of this kind. In Macon county, for instance, there are probably fifty different breeds of poultry and when eggs reach the market they are of all colors and sizes. There should not be more than two or three breeds of chickens in this county so that egg production can be standardized. But it should be remembered that the farmers are free and independent and can raise any kind of chickens that suit their fancy, while the western people, chuckling up their sleeves, continue to sell eggs right under the noses of the eastern farmers. As with eggs so with other products. It would appear that the eastern farmer must change his methods or change his profession.

The County Board of Equalization

ACCORDING to current reports the county board of equalization, composed of the county commissioners, will not meet on the second Monday of July. For the benefit of those who are anxious for a revaluation of their property we quote in part the following section of the Machinery Act of 1927:

Sec. 108: The Board of County Commissioners shall constitute the Board of Equalization and Review. On the second Monday of July, said board of commissioners shall meet, first giving ten days notice by publication, for the purpose of equalizing the valuation so that each tract or parcel of land shall be entered on the tax list at its true value in money. To this end they shall adopt the means and methods heretofore pointed out in this act in section fifty hereof."

Section fifty of the act referred to reads in part as follows: "The board of county commissioners shall constitute the board of equalization in each county, and shall meet the second Monday in July of each year. The board may adjourn from day to day while engaged in the equalization of property, but shall complete all work on or before the first Monday in each August. Said board shall equalize the valuation so that each tract or lot of land or article of personal property shall be entered on the tax list at its true value in money, and for this purpose they shall observe the following rules: (1) They shall raise the valuation of such tracts or lots of real or articles of personal property except such as are specifically exempt by law, as in their opinion have been returned below their true value to such price or sum as they may believe to be the true value

thereof; (2) They shall reduce the valuation of such tracts and lots or articles of personal property as in their opinion have been returned above their true value, as compared with the average valuation of real and personal property of such county."

The above quoted law appears clear and to the effect that it is obligatory upon the county commissioners to meet as specified and make any adjustments that they may consider necessary. However, we understand that the commissioners have been advised that the law does not require them to meet as an equalization board on the first Monday of July in each year. We confess our inability to find the Machinery Act of 1927 any authority for ignoring the provisions of sections 50 and 108 quoted in part above, but we do not attempt to say that such authority does not exist.

A Creamery of Nebraska

OUT IS SUPERIOR, Nuckolls county, Nebraska, the people built a creamery in 1920. During the first year of operation this creamery manufactured about 1,000,000 pounds of butter. Soon an addition to the creamery became necessary and was constructed. Having a dependable market for butter fat the farmers in that section began buying dairy cattle. So rapidly did the dairy industry grow it became necessary for the creamery to expand. Consequently a branch was built at Aurora in 1926. In 1927 the creamery company produced over 3,000,000 pounds of butter and 600,000 pounds of condensed butter-milk.

The above information was received in an issue of The Superior Express printed out in the West "where men are men" and, incidentally, farmers of parts. There is a creamery at Franklin, but instead of making 3,000,000 pounds of butter per year it manufactures less than 50,000 pounds. This is not the fault of the creamery but is due entirely to lack of butter fat. The creamery at Superior receives cream from 10,000 farmers while the one at Franklin has between four and five hundred patrons. It is not worthwhile to repeat that Macon county's soil and climate are ideal for pasturage. It is not worthwhile to repeat that the farmers who have taken up dairying in this county are now on the

highest level. It is not worthwhile to state again what everybody knows, namely, that the salvation of the farmers of this county lies in the dairy cow, in the purebred hog, in poultry and in truck crops. Is it necessary to point out again that the farmers who are sticking entirely to granddaddy's crops, corn and wheat, are the ones that find tax money hardest to get?

We hear you say: "Oh, that fool editor does not know what he is talking about." Perhaps not, but we have gone to quite a bit of trouble to find concrete examples of what the dairy and poultry industries have done for the farmers in other states. We have passed this information along to the farmers of Macon. Whether or not they profit by the examples of others is immaterial to us. We do not claim to be a farmer. However, we do know that Nature has been lavish with her gifts to the tillers of the soil in this county. We also know that farmers by the scores in Macon county have changed their methods of farming within the past few years. We know that farmers everywhere in Macon county are beginning to see the light and in our humble way we are only trying to hasten the day when the farmers of the county will be free from debt, a happy and contented class.

Letters

Charlotte, N. C., June 30, 1928.

Editor Franklin Press,
Franklin, N. C.

Dear Sir:—You are to be congratulated for your editorial "An Independent" in this week's Press. When there gets to be more Independents in the political realm, politics may to an extent be purged of the rottenness that is so prevalent today. Rottenness is not confined either to the political party responsible for the Teapot Dome scandal, arguments to the contrary notwithstanding.

When men and women get big enough to think for themselves in a political way and to renounce party in favor of the man, when to do so would clearly be for the best interest and welfare of the majority, then, and not until then, can the great public be assured of having the cleanest and ablest at the helm of the nation. It does not matter so much what political party rules, but it is of infinite importance who the individual is that may be selected to stand at the head of such party.

With best wishes to The Press, I am,
Very truly yours,
R. M. PEEK.

Prentiss, N. C., July 2, 1928.

Dear Editor,
May I have a little space in your paper? Some one hit us parents, but he didn't hit hard enough. We parents ought to see that our children attend Sunday school and church every Sunday, and public school every day. Instead of from 14 years to 16 years.

A PARENT OF MACON COUNTY.