

"CIVILIZATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE PLOW"

THINGS TO PLAN TO THROUGHOUT COMING YEAR

The Farmers' Day at the test farm at Swannanoa on May 17, 1928.

- Poultry loading depot with facilities for grading eggs.
- An annual poultry show.
- Monthly livestock sales.
- Farmers' own line of delivery trucks.
- Purebred sires and seeds.
- Guernsey cattle association.
- A semi-annual seed exchange day.
- A Harvest Carnival one day of the bread and butter show.

Looking Ahead

"Where there is no vision the people perish." Prov. 29:18.

II. In Business

At least one-fourth of the people of Macon county should change their methods of farming or else quit and move out of the mountains!

We have become too well satisfied with ourselves and our surroundings. It has been said that if a person stays in the Ellijay Valley long enough to eat a peck of meal, he will never be satisfied to live anywhere else. It is time for us to turn this saying around and state that if a person stays out of this section of the mountains long enough to become used to the advantages which other localities have, he may never be satisfied to live in the mountains. Many of us are satisfied with too low a standard of living.

The average white family in North Carolina lives more comfortably than we have supposed. They own a Chevrolet or some more expensive car. The house has a bath room and good lights. There is a parlor in which the young ladies may entertain their friends; and in the parlor one will find a piano or a nice victrola or radio.

By the time some readers have reached this point in this article they will say, "The best people in the world." People seem to be mixed, good and bad, wherever one goes, and it will be narrow and wrong for us to suppose that we have all the best people of the world cornered among our hills. Last winter I was given a little job of copying court records of Alamance county. That county is in the north-central part of this state and has a population larger than the population of Macon and Jackson counties together, yet in four years in that county only one man has been tried for murder and he was found, "not guilty."

We could hire better preachers, buy more good books, and live more worthwhile lives if we had more money and were more progressive.

There are many reasons why we can not live as our pioneer grandparents lived. Their lives were rather empty and simple as compared with the lives we are living today. We have tasted the joys of reading magazines, listening to radios, riding in cars—and we are not willing to give up the things which make our lives fuller and richer than the lives of our grandparents.

But if human nature could be changed, there would still be reasons why we can not live as pioneers. Time is worth so much and business is carried on so fast that we can not wait for our mothers to spin and weave the strong, honest, durable linsey cloth for our clothing. One day last winter a girl in Paris thought out the plan for a beautiful hat. She sketched a picture of the hat; this picture was sent by wireless to New York; a hat-maker made a hat to correspond with the picture; the hat was put into a store, sold, and was being worn on the streets of New York before twelve o'clock of the same day that the Paris girl planned it!

The Macon county farmer who sticks to old methods and creeps around the hillsides with his steer and bull-tongue plow, is not likely to cultivate more than twelve or fifteen acres of corn. In Illinois and other mid-western states, the farmers can and do use up-to-date machinery, and each farmer cultivates forty or more acres of corn. The railroads of the country have been developed so that the Macon county farmer can not escape competition with the Illinois farmer. As farm machinery can not be used to good advantage on our steeper hillsides, farmers are going to quit putting so many steep fields in corn. Corn grown on poor land and cultivated chiefly with a hoe is the costliest corn in the world. The Macon county farmer of the future will plant fewer acres of corn, but will use more fertilizer and better cultivation.

As we have said, the farmers today can not escape competition from other farmers. This means that the farmer who is going to make a profit must study his business more carefully. What crops will grow best on

KEEP YOUR FARM AND IT WILL KEEP YOU AND YOURS

The farm pages of The Press are edited by the county agent in collaboration with the editor.

To Can Peaches

his land? How much seed should he plant? How shall he make sure that the seed that he uses are good? How much will it cost to market his crop? How can he keep his soil from washing away?

This last question is more important than most of us realize. There will be people living among these hills when we have passed on. If we use the land in such a way that the best soil washes away, we commit a sin against unborn generations.

In China there are mountains which were once covered with splendid forests but which are now as barren as our clay scalds. But we do not have to go so far as that to see the bad results of cutting the timber from steep mountains and cultivating them in ways that allow the soil to wash away. At Elk Spur, Va., about two hundred miles from here, are some of the Blue Ridge Mountains which have been cleared of timber and partially cultivated. Those mountains are as cheerless, desolate, lonesome, ugly, God-forsaken as our own tree-covered mountains are glorious and beautiful.

Let me picture for you a future Macon county home if our people try to stop the wheels of progress and, as the Chinese have done, turn their faces toward the past.

The home stands on a farm of poor, gully-scarred fields which belongs to some foolish investor who lives out of the mountains. The house is little, dirty, and cheerless. Around it are scattered sacks and old tin cans, showing names which indicate that food is being sent to these poor people by charity societies out in the great, progressive world. Inside sit a group of people who are scrawny, hump-backed, ignorant, dirty, and diseased.

If we do not want this to be the way a future Macon county home will appear, we can turn our faces to the future and change our methods of business to suit better the natural conditions in which we must live. It does not appear that God intended these hills to be a place where wholesale farming would be done with machinery. The way the land is

was intended to be a land of small farms. Now there are just two kinds of farming by which men have made money. Either they have done wholesale farming and produced a great quantity of something, or else they have done specialized farming and have produced a smaller quantity of something of excellent quality.

Every farmer of this section needs to be an expert, a specialist in something. If a farmer made it known year after year that he had for sale a good strain of Duroc pigs, it is almost certain that that farmer could use good management in his hog business and make good money.

But our people have not studied their special problems enough to be experts. The first thing that we need to do is to specialize in learning. We need to make use of every possible source of information, whether it be a neighbor, a good farm paper, or the county agent. And let me say here that no other county officers have done as much to improve our county as the last two farm agents. To their credit belong the co-operative poultry sales, the creamery, the cannery, and the 4-H club work.

An ideal farm agent would be one which grew up among us, then took special training elsewhere. (May the time come when there will be a special college for mountaineer farmers!) If the future is to be what it needs to be, a great many of our young people need to become highly educated, not for the sake of a position in some city, but for service in the home neighborhood.

When we can have an army of our own boys and girls educated for service and filled with the spirit of service, many things will begin to happen in this mountain section.

The trained business man will harness our water power to the job of manufacturing our hard-woods, kaolin, etc.

The trained apple-grower will put our fruit-growers to using scientific and business-like methods. Then apples from our section will capture many prizes at the great fairs and will capture a leading place on the markets west, south, and east of us.

The expert cattle grower will cover our hillsides with beautiful carpets of clover-grass mixtures, hiding the scar-like cornfields and furnishing grazing for fine herds of purebred cattle.

Landscape artists will add to the beauty which nature has given us. Artists will capture on canvas and paper some of the beauty which the Great Artist has created. The publicity expert will tell the world what a wonderful country we have, and business interests will vie with each other for a chance to invest in the richest part of the Old North State.

Our homes will become places of culture and refinement, bulwarks of the old-time religion, and from them shall go out men and women to help to solve the problems of the nation and of the world. X-RAY.

The cannery on Monday morning began preparing peaches for canning purposes. Hereafter, until the season is over, peaches will be canned along with the other products being handled by the company. Blackberries and beans are still being purchased and canned in large amounts. A shortage of cans was reported at the first of the present week, causing a temporary suspension of blackberry canning, but cans were ordered to insure the continuation of the work until the season is over.

Reports have been circulated that the cannery can use bruised and damaged peaches. This is a mistake, states Jonathan Case, the superintendent, who wants it known that only sound peaches can be used. Sweet potatoes will be canned in small quantities later in the season.

Looking Ahead

"Where there is no vision the people perish." Prov. 29:18.

I. In Politics

"They never learned anything and never forgot anything." This was said of the Bourbon kings of France. While discoveries, inventions, and new ideas were making the world into a new place, these kings held on to their same old system of ruling. France went to debt so heavily that her statesmen began to say, "After us, the Deluge." The deluge that came was a deluge of blood. The love which the Bourbon kings had for the old ways caused the "Reign of Terror" in France.

Two thousand years ago, China was one of the richest and most highly educated of the nations of the earth. But the Chinese people swallowed the teachings of Confucius and "sought after the old ways" and "walked in the steps of their fathers." However good such doctrine may be for a person's morals, for government the

China became a big football for the other nations to kick. Her people live in ignorance, poverty, dirt, and disease. Some of them spend much time in building high walls around their houses to keep out the ten thousand devils of which their religion teaches. The peoples and nations which are richest and strongest today are the ones which have made most and best adjustments to conditions in this changing world.

These facts are given to show that there must be progress, must be change in a government or it will fail. Macon county and other sections have good-hearted people who seem to have taken a regular Rip Van Winkle snooze, and who seem to think that the public affairs can be run in just the same way as they were in the time of our pioneer ancestors. There are some who have their faces toward the past, so that they have constantly before their eyes the mistakes made by certain deceased Republicans of "reconstruction days." These people think there is some magic in the name "Democrat." This gives a great advantage to Democratic factions who want things which the South does not want. They can nominate a man who knows nothing about the problem of how to give the farmer a square deal; a man who belongs to the Tammany clique, long known as a herd of political crooks; a man who has led his state in a spirit of opposition to the National Government, flouting the United States Constitution by both his personal and official acts;—they can bring about the nomination of such a man and expect the "Solid South" to vote for him. Thus the Democratic party expects the Southern Donkey to stand hitched without any oats; and of course the Republicans could hardly be expected to favor the Democratic South. When the southern voters become independent, both parties will do all that they can to please the South.

As more factories are built in the South, more people will catch the viewpoint of the manufacturer, and more Republican votes will be cast. The South will, perhaps at the next election, begin to divide its votes more nearly equally between the two great parties.

Both voters and officers should keep their eyes open to note the currents of change that are driving us along the stream of progress. There must be progress, but we may get onto wrong roads or we may try to change too fast. When the great Lincoln was in the Illinois legislature, he and nearly all his fellow-lawmakers voted for a great issue of bonds to provide funds for the building of roads and canals. Too much was undertaken at one time. Illinois bonds fell below par so that the credit of the state was hurt and the development of the land was checked for a number of years.

How fast shall we try to make progress? Perhaps the safest rule

would be to move forward just as fast as the public can be educated to understand and wish for desirable changes. Let us put that word "UNDERSTAND" in capitals; for lack of understanding what the public officers are doing and why they are doing it, is the biggest cause for the people's being dissatisfied with the management of public affairs. There should be more publicity in regard to the public service. The citizenship should know what the officers think will be the future as well as what are the present needs of the county.

One step toward clearer knowledge of public affairs would be to put all county officials on definite salaries. This has been found more efficient and economical. Any business concern would let its stockholders know just what its officers receive as salary, and the citizens should have the same privileges in regard to the businesses carried on with their tax money. The people of the county should feel that they are a part of the county. They should feel interest in, and responsibility for the right conduct of the public business, and if things are sometimes found to be wrong, the good citizen does not want to get excited and wild but rather to go to work in an orderly way to have things put right.

One thing that the people should now be interested in correcting is the absentee election law. This law ought to be repealed or changed in such a way that there would be no way for a few bad citizens to steal for their parties. Nothing better than the Australian ballot system, with all voters present, has been found to secure the real expression of the wishes of the voters at election.

The good citizen will begin to show more interest in the nomination of officers. If good men receive the nomination, there can be no bad results from an election. If the nominees are bad, there can be no good result. The officers will come to understand that they should give good service and at the same time keep the public informed of the needs of the county. The citizens should be more loyal to the officers which the majority elect and should co-operate more fully with the law.

and officers, they are the things which keep you safe and give value to your property. X-RAY.

The Junk Pile

(By "Cap")

"What in the world have you got there, Mac?" I had wandered into the manager's office and found him sitting before his desk with a varied assortment of jewelry of all sorts in front of him. Quite a pile of it there was, too. Would nearly have filled a quart measure. Mac laughed. "Something in your line—junk mostly," he answered. "No," he went on, "it's not what you might think. These are not what the rapacious landlord has seized for unpaid accounts. These are just the things that guests have left in their rooms during the last six months. Want to look them over? You see under the law we have to keep them for so long and then we can advertise a public sale and get rid of them for whatever they will bring. They won't bring much either, mostly 'Woolworth jewelry' I call 'em. It was too hot to go to the ball game today so I thought I'd clean house instead and this is the result."

What a queer collection it was, to be sure. First I picked up a watch, an old one from the design of its case, and heavy, well it would have made a respectable letter weight. Idly I pried the case open, and found an inscription, "Your Father's watch, given you on your twenty-first birthday." Why had such an heirloom been left behind, forgotten? I pictured to myself the celebration of that twenty-first birthday, long ago perhaps. The white haired mother giving the son what to her was one of the most precious mementos of the man who had been the sweetheart of her youth. I thought of her pride in the young man who stood before her, of her hopes for his future. I thought, too, of that youngster just entering life as a man. What had been his story, I wondered? Perhaps he had "grown up," the old ties, the associations represented by the ancient time piece had come to mean less and less to him until finally he had just left it behind and never bothered to write back for it. Changed for the better—or the worse? The latter I thought likely, for surely there should have been enough association to make him prize something that had once been his father's, a something so prized by his mother.

Seemingly tragedy walked in that pile of forgotten jewelry for next I picked up a wedding ring, old and worn perhaps, but a wedding ring none the less. A faint lettering on its inner surface attracted me. "From Bill to Minnie—always," I read. Who was "Bill" and why had "Minnie" left her ring behind her? Again my mind went wandering and I saw the happy start, the days of love and sunshine and roses, and as I watched,

THINGS TO PLAN FOR RIGHT NOW

- That cream check every two weeks.
- That cannery check every time you come to town.
- Fat hog sale in June.
- Bread and Butter Show next fall.
- Encourage the 4-H Clubbers.
- Big Farmers' day next fall.
- Local Curb Market.
- Breed sows so that the pigs will go on the market in March, April, August and September.

clouds came and there was no more sunshine and rain beat the roses to earth, while love flew away. Whose fault was it, I wondered. Perhaps there had been one final catlyptic row and "Minnie," having come to a hotel, had left behind her the souvenir of days that had been happier. Perhaps another man had come into her life, and all that went with the former days had become distasteful to her, and the ring had been purposely left behind.

For an hour I sat there idly fingering the pile of forgotten, discarded finery. Here a ring, palpably false its tawdry brilliance backed up by a bit of tinsel cunningly inserted behind the diamond studded emblem of one of the greatest orders in the world, and pins and brooches without number. But what after all impressed me most was the array of watches. Watches of all classes and kinds from the which made the dollar famous to the elaborate time piece in white gold with a chain laden with kimmicks of all sorts. Now a man might leave a ring, or a pin, or something of that sort but a watch—? In this day of speed and crowded appointments, when we are told that every minute counts, it would seem as if the last thing a man would leave behind him would be his watch, and yet the

that theory. "Funny, isn't it?" said Mac as he finally swept up the pile of forgotten things, "I've been in the hotel business a good many years and there are times when I'll admit I do not understand people nor why they do the things they do. Why don't you write a story about all this? Might be a side of life that your readers don't know anything about." And so I have. May it be as interesting to you, to read as it was for me to see.

Birthday Celebration

John T. Bryson, age 78 years July 20, 1928. Many of his kindred and friends met at his residence to celebrate the event. Seven of his children, 28 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and other kindred and friends made a total of 121 present on this occasion.

Two pictures were taken, one of the immediate family, and the other of the entire crowd. Dinner was served at 12 o'clock and enjoyed by all present.

Mr. George Bryson starts for his far western home, Sedro-Woolley, Wash. This is his first visit home in 14 years. Mr. Newton Bryson and family of Raleigh, N. C., are also at home on a visit. It was a very enjoyable day for all present. Mrs. Bryson will also be 78 years of age the 14th December, 1928. May they live to see many more like birthdays. Her brother, Miss Pierce and Marion Deal and a number of their sons and daughters and other kinsfolk were present and enjoyed the feast. If the seven sons and only daughter continue to multiply and replenish the earth and reach out through their descendants north, south, east and west in this electric age of progress—radio, telephone, telegraph, air planes and fast trains, daily newspapers, religious journals, magazines, schools of all dimensions, state schools, church schools, and Sunday schools with trained teachers with trained teachers, ministers educated with a corresponding constituency, what may we not look for in the next generation of Bryson and all the rest of the world. Let religion keep pace or lead the race in Christian civilization, each trying, trying to excel all others in upright living, honesty, truthfulness and love to God and to each other and to all mankind of whatever color or clime. Fraternally, A. W. JACOBS.

Fiddlers Convention Postponed August 4

Fidlin' Jim Corbin's fiddlin' convention scheduled and advertised for July 28 at Franklin has been postponed until Saturday night, August 4th. Jim also announces that a convention of this kind will be held at Highlands on Monday night, July 30th.