

## 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.  
 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.  
 10,000 Dairy Cows, 50,000 Sheep, 400,000 Hens, 4,000 Brood Sows and 20,000 Stands of Bees in Macon county. The above will mean water and lights in each farm home.  
 80,000 Acres in Improved Pasturage in Macon county.  
 Co-operation, vim, push, work-everything for the good of Franklin and Macon county.  
 New court house and jail combined.

### How About It?

Though 100 years of age Macon county is still in the ring.

Mrs. Mabel Willebrandt has resigned as assistant attorney general. We have seen no one shedding tears over this resignation.

A citizen recently told us that a poor man can not make a living in Macon county. If such be the case, there are about 12,000 of us due to pass out by the starvation route.

The editor of The Press extends a cordial invitation to all editors in Western North Carolina to be his guests at the centennial of Macon county on June 15.

It is understood that Mr. C. W. Teague county road supervisor, has let several contracts for the maintenance of county roads. Under present conditions the system of contracting sections of county roads appears to be the most feasible way of road maintenance.

Congress seems to be having some trouble reaching a decision of farm relief. Legislation can not force a man to work. Hence, farmers who are waiting for Congress to make them rich are due for a sad disappointment.

June 15 is the date set for the biggest celebration in these parts. All you who have been led astray by the glamor of distant climes are cordially invited to get back into harness and celebrate the centennial of your native county.

The new well is now at a depth of 550 feet and still no water at last reports. We have no idea what the new town board will do about this matter. Will the board continue to bore deeper in the hopes of striking water or will it resort to other means for a water supply? It is a hard question to decide.

### Hens

WITH the proper kind of strain and with the proper feeding methods we are told that the average farm hen should lay 150 eggs per year. The average in Macon county at present is 80 eggs per hen. But regardless of this low average the farmers of Macon county since the first of January this year have received more than \$75,000 for poultry and eggs. Records as to production costs are not available. It is believed, however, that such costs are negligible, most of the hens having subsisted on waste material about the premises.

### A Farm Depot

WHAT Macon county needs and must have is a farm depot where all kinds of farm produce may be sold. This depot could likewise sell seed and fertilizers and the components of feed rations that can not be grown in Macon county. After a few years of soil building it should not be necessary for any farmer of the county to purchase commercial fertilizer. Therefore, the principal function of a farm depot would be the matter of providing a market for everything that a farmer could raise on his farm. Assure the farmers a market and they will grow the produce.

### Build Cruiser At Charleston

CONGRESS has authorized the construction of fifteen light cruisers with the proviso that eight of these cruisers must be built at government navy yards. Each cruiser will cost in the neighborhood of eighteen million dollars. The citizens down at Charleston are making an effort to have one cruiser built at the Charleston navy yard. They point out many reasons why a cruiser can be built there more cheaply than in other navy yards. Such being the case it behooves all members of the Congress from the Southeast to lend their influence in having the Charleston navy yard awarded the contract of the construction of one of the authorized cruisers.

### Human Life Is Cheap

SINCE the beginning of history, human life has been held more cheaply than anything else in the world. It is so held today.

A large percentage of the human race has always met death through the criminality, ignorance or carelessness of fellow men.

Could the minds of all men be directed to the preservation of human life, what a difference it would make! No more wars, no more murders, no more preventable deaths through automobile accidents, no more lives lost in fires started through carelessness—how changed would be the front pages of our daily papers!

To mention only three causes of violent death, the best authorities estimate that in the United States each year 10,000 are murdered, 25,000 are killed in automobile accidents and 15,000 are burned to death.

The total number of persons killed in accidents now reaches more than 75,000 a year.

While giving our attention to a multitude of other reforms and isms, would it not be well to devote more serious thought and action towards reducing this appalling and unnecessary waste of human life.

### Speaking of Farmers

WHAT MAY be accomplished through sound agricultural methods, even under the prevailing conditions, was strikingly illustrated at the recent Southern region conference of home economics and vocational education, when awards for outstanding accomplishments were made to farmers and teachers of agriculture.

First prize for cotton growing in the South was awarded to John A. Arrant of Pageland, S. C., who grew 3,746 pounds of cotton on three acres of land at an average cost of only six cents a pound.

A similar award for corn was made to G. L. Dougherty, Jr., of Faison, N. C., who produced 398 bushels on three acres at an average cost of 31 cents a bushel.

The lesson to be drawn from these examples of intensive farming is that the average farmer is cultivating too many acres, and doing it in an unscientific and haphazard manner. Few acres, better preparation of the seed bed, better seed, better cultivation and better methods of harvesting, handling and marketing are what is needed to make farming profitable.

If, combined with these practices, each farmer would see to it that he raises more food for his family and more feed for his stock on his own farm, a long step would be taken toward placing agriculture on a better basis than that which obtains at present.

### Farmer Keeps Busy

ASKED to tell the secret of how he managed, even in bad years, to make steady progress, a successful small farmer said:

"I don't know that there is any secret about it, except that I keep busy. My idea is that too many farmers waste valuable time, especially in winter, when there are no crops to be tended.

"Instead of loafing between seasons, I try to do something every day, even in bad weather, to improve my home or farm buildings. I keep a little lumber, some nails, some paint and a few tools on hand and make it a point to make little improvements and repairs during the winter season, either indoors or out. I build cinder paths, fix fences, look after my machinery, clean up rubbish and a lot of things like that, which helps the looks of the place and saves me money in the long run.

"Then when the busy season comes in the spring, I can devote all my attention to putting in and tending my crops. A farmer can not afford to loaf too much, even in winter."

This farmer is only in moderate circumstances, but he has a most comfortable home, with many conveniences not usually found on a small farm. He takes care of his machinery houses and stock properly, keeps his yard, barnyard and orchard in good shape and sees that nothing goes to waste.

If his example were followed by all farmers, there is no doubt that they would profit by it, both in satisfaction and in money returns.

### The Home Coming

CELEBRATING its 100 birthday on June 15 Macon county will stage the greatest home-coming event in its history. The committee of the local chapter of the U. D. C., in charge of the celebration, reports that it is receiving many letters from former citizens of the county who are planning to be present on that day. Plans for the event are fast nearing completion. Among those plans will be speeches by prominent men of the state. A parade of floats featuring the outstanding events of the history of the county is first on the program. The U. D. C. float will consist of an ox wagon and will represent the pioneers who first settled in that part of the land of the Cherokees now known as Macon county. Indians from the Cherokee reservation will also take part in the parade. In the afternoon a motorcade to Highlands over highway No. 28 is on the schedule. Those who have been fortunate enough to see this section of that highway state that it is undoubtedly the most scenic road in the South.

The surviving veterans of the Lost Cause will assemble on the lawn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Johnston where they will be given special attention and consideration. There they will have the opportunity of renewing acquaintances, talking over the great battles of the Civil War and recounting the history of the county.

Hundreds of Macon county former citizens who have sought homes in distant climes are planning to return to the scenes of their childhood. Again they will see the mountains of Macon—the Blue Ridge, the Cowees and the Nantahalas. All in all the prospects are bright for an unprecedented day of pleasure.

### Radio Timepieces

IN A PUBLISHED interview, Olof Ohlson, chief engineer of the Waltham watch factory made the interesting prediction that watches of the future may be run by radio impulses sent out by a broadcasting station.

Mr. Ohlson is quoted as saying that "the time may not be very remote when we shall be able to transmit energy by this means to operate watches without the aid of either of a mainspring within them, or of a local battery."

Should this prediction prove true, it will mark another epochal advance in horological science, which had its beginning in the ancient sundial. The sundial was perhaps the only instrument employed for time-keeping from the dawn of civilization until the invention of the water clock, ascribed to Plato, about 400 B. C.

Clocks were not invented until many centuries later. While a primitive instrument, called the horologium, is said to have been devised in the 9th century, A. D., the earliest clock of which any description has been preserved is one made in Egypt about the year 1232. A beginning in clock-making was made in Germany about 1364, the clocks being regulated by balances. The invention of the mainspring in 1500 and the pendulum in 1583 gave a great impetus to clock-making and it is believed that the first watches were made shortly afterward. But the minute hand was not added until after the invention of the balance spring, about 1660.

Since that time many improvements have been made, both in watches and clocks, until we have the almost perfect chronometers and other time pieces of the present.

While Mr. Ohlson's idea of a radio watch, which may be carried in the pocket while kept going through impulses from a distant station, may appear fantastic, the wonderful achievements already witnessed must inspire a belief in its possibility.

### The Fruit Fly

WE CALL attention to an article in this week's Press concerning the Mediterranean fruit fly. It is imperative that every citizen of this state be on the alert and report the presence or suspected presence of this pest. The fruit fly attacks fifty different kinds of fruits and vegetables. Should it become rampant in North Carolina the destruction to fruits and vegetables would be enormous. On the other hand, if it can be kept out of the state, the fruit and vegetable growers should receive higher prices for their products, since a considerable portion of Florida is quarantined. Commissioner Graham is making a personal appeal to the citizens of this state to report the presence of the fruit fly and we are sure this will be done. In so far as Macon county is concerned county agent Fred Sloan is adding his appeal to that of Commissioner Graham. Among the fruits and vegetables in Macon county that the fruit fly will destroy, if it gains a foothold, are peaches, apples, peppers, Plums, tomatoes and beans. If any one in Macon county finds a maggot or other suspicious larva in fruit, The Press will undertake to see that it is forwarded to the proper officials for identification. The fight between man and the various

pests is now on in earnest. It remains to be seen whether Man has sufficient intelligence to assure his continued existence.

The fly has been in Florida, perhaps six months, perhaps 18 months, certainly no longer. It is certain that the infested vegetables, grapefruit and oranges have come into southern and into North Carolina during the winter and spring. And this is especially true of bulk grapefruit and oranges, the kind that are moved by auto truck and in bulk car lots, for these kind are often second grade stock, and therefore more likely to be infested than the boxed fruits.

Entomologists know that the fly maggots leave the slightly decayed fruits, that they infested, when they are fully grown, then go into the soil where they transform to flies. And when they are fully grown flies they work their way out of the soil and fly around to search for other fruits in which they lay their eggs.

The flies can live 50 days without laying any eggs. They will lay from one to 30 in a grapefruit or in a peach that is about to ripen, or a plum, a pear, in grapes, apples, figs or a pepper, a tomato, or in a bean pod. The eggs produce tiny maggots and these feed in the fruit or vegetable and cause it to decay.

The flies are prolific and can lay as many as 600 eggs. If the weather were favorable they could raise 18 broods of generations in a year.

When we learned that the fly became established in Florida, Commissioner of Agriculture William A. Graham immediately sensed the potential danger in which North Carolina was placed because of the rapidly approaching ripening season of our sandhill peach crop. He caused all grapefruit and oranges now in storage in produce houses in the state to be inspected and certified as free of the fly before it is released. This inspection work is continuing, until all Florida fruits now in the state have been consumed. On and after May 16 no Florida fruits or vegetables were permitted to enter this state because of a Federal quarantine, nor are any allowed to enter any of the southern states as far west as California. All are shipped to the more northern states where it is thought the fly cannot survive the winter.

Now we do NOT know that the fly IS in North Carolina. We hope it isn't. But if it is, we want to know it. Commissioner Graham has wisely asked all the civic organizations, yes, every citizen of the state to be on the lookout for any maggot that you may observe in an orange or a grapefruit or a vegetable that was grown in Florida, and to send the specimen discovered to the Department of Agriculture at once for identification. This is our appeal to the people of the state. If the fly is here we want to know it, the sooner we know it, the easier it will be to stamp it out. And to be on the safe side, burn or bury in lime all partly decayed Florida grapefruit or oranges. And you produce dealers, grocery store retailers, and fruit stand operators, don't throw fruits or vegetables of Florida origin where they will not be burned. By all means avoid disposing of them on the garbage dump-heap or trash pile.

I want to tell you of an incident at Jacksonville to show you how the fruit fly can spread. A lady in that city hearing of the fruit fly and remembering its characteristics from pictures of the fly she had seen, recognized some of them on her window pane. She called an inspector who said the specimens were genuine fruit flies. She had received a box of grapefruit a week or two before, from a friend in Orlando. She had placed the box of grapefruit in the garage on the ground and taken some in the house. The grapefruit were infested though she didn't know it, and she recalled that the grapefruit were rotting rapidly. The inspector found the ground beneath the crate contained the pupae of the flies and that some of the pupae had already produced flies which escaped. Jacksonville is about 50 miles north of the northernmost point of infestation in Florida. And there is grave danger that Jacksonville may become infested with the fly if there are fruits and vegetables ripening nearby in which these flies that escaped can lay their eggs.

Now fruits must have been trucked into North Carolina that was infested. We know definitely that this happened in several instances. We have traced the shipments. At Fayetteville for instance, a fruit distributor has been selling his own fruit grown in his own orchard in Florida all winter and during the spring, and his groves in Florida are in the infested section. If such infested fruit has reached the public dump-heap, there is no doubt that the maggots have transformed to flies and escaped. The weather has been mild and they could easily live until the early peaches in the Fayetteville section ripen. So there is a possibility that North Carolina can become infested with the fly.

If it IS in North Carolina, help the Department of Agriculture to find it out as soon as possible by sending anything suspicious found in a grapefruit or an orange to the State