

## MORE PEOPLE NEEDED IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOLS

From interdenominational Sunday-school reports there seem to be 8,525 Sunday-schools in North Carolina. There are over 1,000 churches without a Sunday-school. The enrollment is 821,999. There are 885,540 children and youths under twenty-five years not in Sunday-school. This leaves about 1,000,000 adults unreached for the Sunday School. Surely our churches ought to bestir themselves to increase their Sunday-school membership.

Mr. E. L. Middleton, Raleigh, North Carolina, is the Sunday-school Secretary of the Baptist State Convention. He is just now pushing a campaign to add 20,000 new pupils to the 2,000 country and village Baptist Sunday-schools by July 26. He knows the summer time is the best time for these schools to grow. Mr. Middleton is especially interested in rural schools. He has written a book "Building a country Sunday School." He makes a strong appeal and some pithy suggestions as to why and how he hopes to reach the 20,000.

### AN APPEAL TO COUNTRY SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The whole purpose of this appeal is to try to help the country Sunday Schools. I was born in the country, I found my Saviour in a country church. I was baptized in an old mill race. My major study and work for seventeen years has been to try to help country Sunday-schools. We are behind in the great on-going of the modern Sunday-school. We can catch up if we will. This appeal is to try to get you and thousands more to catch step in our effort to have larger and better Sunday-schools. Fundamental and vital Kingdom matters depend on us in our country churches. I name a few reasons why we should magnify the country Sunday-school:

1. **It is a Big Task.** There are in North Carolina 1,998 country and village churches and only 265 town and city churches. About 125 of these country churches have no Sunday-school. We are trying to organize a school in every church. Then many of the schools need to be better equipped and organized and certainly they need to grow in membership. This task is big enough to challenge the best men and women in every country church.

2. **It is a Difficult Task.** There are many obstacles. First of all many schools have been "bled white" because so many of the people have moved to the city and taken away much of the best talent. We can only train and utilize the fine, undeveloped talent remaining. There is enough left in practically every church to make the Sunday School standard.

As already stated there is great need of better equipment and organization. This can be secured with money and training. This has been proven over and over again. Just now there are sixty-four Standard schools in our State. Thirty-nine of these are in country or village churches.

The most difficult task is the training of our workers. This can be done. It is being done again and again in country churches. Your church can do it if it will.

3. **Our Times Need Them.** Take a look in civic and industrial affairs and see who are running things. Go to North Carolina cities today and study where our leaders came from—lawyers, doctors, educators, bankers, merchants, manufacturers, etc. I believe I am safe in saying eighty-five to ninety per cent came from our country churches. It will be so in the future. We must safeguard the country church if we would have the right kind of business

and professional men in the future.

It is a little romantic that Mr. Coolidge pitched hay on his father's farm the day before he took the oath of office at 2:00 A. M. by the light of a kerosene lamp in his father's farmhouse. From the President on down through the halls of Congress and state legislature and the seats of Federal and State judges you will find country men holding places of influence and power out of all proportion to their numbers in our population. The stability of the National and State Governments depends largely on what rural people do in the near future.

4. **Christianity is at Stake.** From these country churches we are getting ninety to ninety-five per cent of our preachers, missionaries, and denominational leaders. This is not a guess. Facts are in hand to prove this beyond any question. The test was made in seminaries, colleges and schools. The Foreign Mission Board added its testimony. A test in any general state or south-wide assembly will prove it.

Study our city churches and find the source of their leadership. You will find it came from the country in a large measure. It seems our city and town churches must help very largely in financing the Kingdom, but the country churches must furnish most of the men and women who will do the work.

### REACHING THE FOLKS FOR THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL

**Find Them.** This requires a religious census. Get the name, age, church affiliation, in Sunday-school or not, of everyone who ought to be in your Sunday-school.

**Fetch Them.** There must be a follow-up canvass by teachers, class officers, pastors, and others. Use every means possible to enlist everyone in the Sunday-school.

**Fix Them.** It is almost useless to bring them in unless you have a place for them. This means you must grade your school and have due regard for age and sex if you expect to keep them.

**Fasten Them.** Make your program every Sunday so attractive everyone will want to be present. This requires trained officers and teachers and a suitable and well-equipped building.

**Follow Them.** Do the best you can, and many will be absent. Go after them. Have definite plans for looking after absentees.

**Finish Them.** Your work is not done until everyone has found Jesus as Saviour and is properly related to the activities of your church and trained for effective service.

## CAMP GIRLS ENJOYING STAY ON ISLAND

It has come at last to Marshall! What? An ideal summer camp for ideal girls! If you should search our Eastern mountains over you would find no finer camp location than historical Blennhasset Island. Here about forty girls are now making merry and doing things which girls enjoy so. Swimming, hiking, basketball, tennis, volley ball, archery and rifle practice are now furnishing much entertainment to these happy girls. Marshall has extended a cordial bond of welcome to the campers and the girls are spending happy hours with the townfolks as well as at their camp.

The personnel of the camp is as follows:  
Directors: Dr. and Mrs. T. Ellison Simpson, Society Hill, S. C.; Counsellors: Moses Mae

Albergotti, Sara Huggins, Murryd Atkinson, Kate Pettigrew, Bessie Timmerman, Agnes Gilmer and Jeanette Davis, South Carolina; Girls: Misses Dorothy Midgley, Helen Douglas, Elizabeth Crawford, Sarah Wilcox, Margaret and Bobbie Ricard, Sarah Lee Heustess, Corrie Bell Gilmer, Edith and Virginia Anderson, Virginia Sumner, Dorothy Ross, Helen Sompayroc, Eva Carrigan, Rosa Spruill, Lois McArn, Ada Little, Edith and Dorothy McDonald, Virginia Coker, Mary Ellen Suber, Mary Claire McKnight, Janie Brand, Tillie Parker, Hannah Slesinger, Elizabeth Douglas, Mae Burgess, Fannie Nexsen, Elizabeth and Frances Bland, Elizabeth Harris, Carol Rogers, Florence Simpson, all from South Carolina; Virginia Dwyer, Florida; Flora Sims, Arkansas, and Nancy Parrott, Kingston, North Carolina. In addition to the girls there are two boys who are camp members—William Simpson and Stanley Slesinger.

## THE BLANNAHASSETT ISLAND

The old name in conveyances of the island in the French Broad River in the town of Marshall was Blannhasset. The ownership of the island appears to have changed many times. Up to 1876 for a period people lived on the island and there was a church building on it also. The flood of 1876 swept about all the buildings away and no persons have resided on the island since. About 1916 the town of Marshall owned the island and conveyed it to the County of Madison; soon thereafter the flood of July, 1916 came and washed away the top of more than half of the island carrying with it most of the large timber. The value of the island was greatly depreciated. The town of Marshall we learn now proposes to take over the island if the county will dispose of it at a reasonable sum and improve it as a park for public uses. No town is complete without having a park and place for recreation. By needed improvements the island may be made an ideal park and a place of beauty and of pleasure. There is yet enough of the island left to be beautified and made very attractive and pleasurable recreation grounds which would be not only a good asset for the town but for the whole county as well. Western North Carolina is fast becoming the playground of eastern America, and Madison County is entitled to her share of what benefit is derived from this source. The island converted into this kind of a place would be an advertisement for this section of the country as well as the town. The county as a whole is not interested in improving the island, as people on the outside, however they may be benefited by such improvement, feel more or less indifferent to such a proposition. The town of Marshall is the county seat and is the county town and everyone should be interested in seeing the town beautified and made as attractive as possible. The town does not want the island for

any private gain and if it acquired the title to the island we are informed it is proposed as soon as practicable to put on the island a nice swimming pool, and make other improvements, make it attractive to the people of our own county and to visitors. As soon as possible we are informed that it is the purpose of the town to make the island one of the most attractive places in Western North Carolina. We were recently informed that Mr. Branch the superintendent of the camp now pitched on the island, stated that he had been in different parts of western North Carolina and the island is the most attractive place that he found. All that we have heard speak of the matter highly favor the county conveying the island to the town. And as the proposed improvements are to be for the pleasure of all the people, the town should not be required to pay very much for the island. It would cost more than five times as much to put the island in the shape now, that it was in before the flood of 1916. We do not believe that the beauty of this attractive place should be destroyed by private enterprises. Now that the town has expanded we have room in different parts of incorporation for all sorts of enterprises and industries. The town has recently put in a three inch water line to Rollins, three quarters of a mile and within a few weeks will put in two or three miles more of water lines, thus extending the splendid water we have practically over the enlarged corporation.

We believe the citizenship will be glad for the town to take over the island so that the people from all over the county may come to this pleasure spot to have a real enjoyable time, especially when the contemplated improvements are made. Let us all get behind the town and urge the authorities to purchase or take over Blannhasset Island. We are sure that the county commissioners will be glad to comply with the wishes of the people and gladly turn over the island for a small sum to the town that it may be improved for the benefit for the whole population of Madison County and made attractive to visitors from the outside.

## MUSIC FOR MADISON SCHOOLS

We are informed that the appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars for music teachers in the public schools was retained in the budget of the school board by the County Commissioners. Under the present conditions we are informed that five schools in the county may take advantage of this. We regret that every school in the county may not have this advantage but the fact that music will be taught in all the high schools and near high schools in the county will reach a large portion of the population, and will greatly aid the music talent of the young people of our county. The more people cultivate a love for music the better they are. We believe this is the beginning of a great cause and much needed development in Madison County.

## OXFORD ORPHANAGE SINGING CLASS TO BE HERE JULY FIFTEENTH, 1925

The Oxford Orphanage Singing Class of the Masonic Fraternity of the state, but less than one-third of the children there are those of Masons and the appeal for help is to all.

It will be surprising to you to know what a wonderful work this institution is doing for the orphans of our state. The children are well trained and will give you a real treat. Do not fail to come.  
W. A. WEST, Master  
French Broad Lodge

## THE FARMERS' MEETING

The Madison Agricultural Committee held its second regular meeting on Monday, July 6th. A large attendance listened with much appreciation to the talks given by the different Specialists of the state. Two sessions were held one at 10 A. M. and the other at 2 P. M. The President of the Committee, Mr. Guy V. Roberts, presided at both sessions.

The morning meeting opened with a roll-call of the members of the Committee. After the roll-call Mr. Roberts opened the meeting with a short talk, during which he, in very appropriate remarks, called attention to the purpose of the Committee and its meetings. He stressed the fact that each member of this Committee was expected to be present at each quarterly meeting, or else provide a suitable proxy. He emphasized the need of the support of the Committee by the County agent in his work; how it was only through a combined effort of those interested that the County would get the good of the work.

Following Mr. Roberts, the County agent, Mr. Brintnall, in a short concise manner told of his two months work in the County. Mr. Brintnall stated that he had in this time visited nearly every section of the County and had met many of her citizens. He stated that it had been his intention as much as was possible in this length of time to discover some of the outstanding needs; he had discovered much idle land through the County in which some one had their money invested and on which they were paying taxes. This is a poor business policy all land should be growing some sort of a crop. Attention was called to the fact that the people were not conserving and building up the fertility of the soil as they should; soil fertility is the basis of all successful agricultural practice. The lack of enough live-stock throughout the county was very evident; there is a big need of more live-stock of every kind, poultry, hogs, and cattle, and of better live-stock. There is a lack of appreciation of the possibilities of the country. More attention should be given to making it attractive. This is needed not only for its effect upon the home folks but also for its effect upon the stranger who is passing thru. There is much advertising value in section filled with attractive prosperous homes.

Mr. Niswonger, State Horticulturist, was next introduced by the President. Mr. Niswonger laid much stress on the fact that the County Agent was not expected to do a large amount of personal work, that this was impossible if the best results were to be secured, that the work must be done thru community effort. He called the attention of the audience to the fact that only through the combined efforts of the County Agent and the people could the full aid of the specialist in the different lines be obtained. The Specialist is expected to work in concert with the Agent and the best efforts of these specialists are spent in those counties backink up the Agent to the fullest extent. Mr. Niswonger dwelled upon the adaptability of the mountain section of North Carolina to the growth of fruit, both bush and tree fruit. He stated that where the native apple was available of the same quality as the Western Box Apple the customer much preferred the native apple. He called attention to the need of the best known methods in orchard work, of proper soil conditions, proper varieties, use of pruning, spraying, and grading of the fruit. He stated that the customers' desires must be satisfied if the market was to be obtained and held. The producer must satisfy the customer if he expects to secure and hold his

market. Mr. Niswonger stated that there was a good market for Mountain fruit if the quality and the quantity was secured. Questions and discussion by interested listeners closed the forenoon meeting.

The afternoon meeting opened at 2 o'clock. We were glad to be delayed in starting the program by a heavy rain which produced smiling faces on the gathered farmers. Mr. Roberts spoke a few words about the Live-stock Marketing Association that was formed and then turned the meeting over to Mr. Gwyn. Mr. Gwyn talked very interestingly along the line of the great need of not only this county but of Western North Carolina having a better and more stable market for its live-stock. He said that this was the aim in view in forming the Marketing Association; that through marketing by the group method the farmers could obtain the aid of the services of those of much experience in handling live-stock and that they would get these services at the lowest possible cost. Not only would this association give aid in marketing the live-stock but they would also give attention to the buying the best grade of cattle for the farmers to run on their pastures the following summer. Mr. Gwyn called on Mr. R. R. Ramsey for his opinion of the marketing plan. Mr. Ramsey strongly endorsed the system, stating that he could not see how the farmer could go wrong in backing up the Association, that it would mean much to the farmer in the way of improved markets.

At the close of Mr. Gwyn's and Mr. Ramsey's talks the President introduced Mr. Farnum, State Specialist in Dairying. Mr. Farnum held the attention of the audience by his pleasing and well given talk. He bore on the connection of live-stock on the farm to a fertile farm; of the fact that live-stock is necessary to the greatest fertility. He called the attention of the audience to the fact that there is a place in Madison County for both dairy and beef breeds; that some sections are more especially favorable to the production of beef while in other sections there is a place that can be well filled by the dairy cow. Mr. Farnum drew the attention of the audience to the fact that a cow is always bringing in the cash, that the returns are regular and sure, that they come at short intervals and not after a long period of waiting. He stated that the question of a market for the product need not hinder the product need not hinder the market was waiting, the great need was a product of the right quality. He told of the great demand for dairy heifers in the whole-milk producing sections around the large cities and of the good price these dairymen are willing to pay for young cattle of the right sort. Mr. Farnum's talk was not only interesting but also very instructive.

The meeting of the Committee was a decided success from all points. The attendance was large and the attention given the speakers were rewarded by talks that contained much grist to be ground in the family and community mills. The County will await the next meeting, the first Monday in October with a quickened interest.

## STILL CAPTURED ON JULY 4

On July 4, 1925, Deputy Sheriff Massey, Covard and Connor captured a still on Little Bottom Branch near Hpt Springs. Many beer bottles, jugs, jars, etc., were found, but no liquor was captured.