

SPELLING CONTEST STATEWIDE

READ THIS, BOYS AND GIRLS, AND ENTER THIS CONTEST

Here is a chance of a lifetime for spellers of North Carolina to get real money, as well as real fun, from the covers of the old spelling book.

The Charlotte Observer will give \$175.00 in cash rewards to the best spellers in the state, and many county champions spellers will get free trips to Charlotte.

The spelling bee is to be state-wide, and the schools of Charlotte and in the one hundred counties have been invited by The Observer to participate. Each school will pick its best speller in a regular spelling bee. Then all school winners, city and county, are to meet at the county seat to select, in an old fashioned bee, the county champion. This lucky boy, or girl, may be among those who will come to Charlotte in May as the guest of the Observer. He or she will stop at the city's best hotel, will be royally entertained and will enter the state-wide finals. Then The Observer is offering the following prizes at the all-territory finals in May; first, \$100, second, \$50, and third, \$25.

In addition, the champion speller of North Carolina will be sent to Washington, D. C., in June to take part in the Second National Spelling Bee Contest. All expenses of both the winner and a chaperon will be paid by The Observer. In the event that the winner is a girl, her mother will act as chaperon, in case a boy, The Observer will provide a suitable chaperon. In Washington more than twenty spelling champions will compete for \$2000 in gold and a gold medal. The first prize will be \$1000; second, \$500; third, \$200; fourth, \$150; fifth, \$100; sixth \$50. A five-day sight-seeing tour and other entertainments are in store for the winner of North Carolina.

Schools in both city and county have been invited to join the bee and urged by The Observer to forward their acceptances immediately to the Spelling Bee Editor.

TO THE FARMERS AND BUSINESS MEN OF MADISON COUNTY Through the News-Record

We are living in a fast age. That which satisfied our grandfathers does not satisfy us. They were making progress when they gave up the tallow candle for the oil lamp. We must have the electric lights or be behind the times. Back then there were but few Agricultural Schools, and they scarcely worth the name.

Farm Extension Work connecting the farmer directly with the State College of Agriculture, through the County Agent was not even thought of. Farming in the past was conducted with little system; but at present we have learned that farming is a big business and a very big one, too.

I want in this article to call your attention to a few basic facts as they relate directly to your County.

The first fact is this: the "SOIL." Good soil is at the foundation of all successful farming; because out of the soil everything that supports our civilization comes.

The second fact is the crops which grow out of this good soil. It may be grain crops, fruit, truck, hay, etc. to be sold directly from the farm, or, third, it may be fed to live stock, such as beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, etc., and their products placed upon the markets. So the great question may arise in the Madison County farmer's mind, shall I grow and sell crops directly; or sell them indirectly by growing and feeding through some kind of livestock, and if through growing live stock, what kind of live stock, horses, cattle, hogs, sheep or poultry? Then if cattle be selected what kind of cattle, beef or dairy? Then, if beef or dairy which breed? And this is true of any and every line of livestock activity. So after all, the science of Agriculture is one of the broadest and deepest and most complicated of all the sciences, and the average and below farmer thinks that all the complications and mysteries connected with farm life, can be told in a common sized almanac.

It is my good pleasure to again be thrown with you for part time and to try the best way to study together and find out, if possible, what lines

of farming best fit into Madison Co. conditions, and like real men and women strive to work them out.

Mr. Brintnall, your efficient County Agent, and all the specialists along Agricultural activities in North Carolina are at your command. The more you use them, the greater will be your Agricultural progress, and the greater will be your Banking Resources, and your Mercantile activities and all will be reflected in the better home life throughout your county.

Respectfully,
J. R. SAMS,
County Agent at large.

THE LEAGUE WILL PREVAIL

(Taken from ASHEVILLE TIMES)

The new spirit of peace and co-operation engendered by the Locarno conference has for months run high in Europe. Perhaps a reaction was to be expected, human nature being what it is. The reaction appears to have reached a rather violent stage in the controversy over Germany's entry into the League of Nations and the consequent efforts of other nations to obtain permanent seats on the League Council. The debate is in its most wordy period of its progression; last night Europe's leading statesmen separated at a Geneva conference without having found any basis for the compromise of their difference.

Nevertheless, there is no reason for despair. The process of establishing in Europe a new order of political affairs, to replace the old system of balances of power and secret treaties, can not do its work in a day or a year. There is sound basis for hope that the disputes over the proposed membership of Poland and Spain on the council will yet be settled without impairing the steadily increasing prestige of the league. And very evidently the league is not dying, so long as statesmen contend with each other over the permanent seats on the council of this world parliament.

BUGS AND HUMBUGS

THE FOOT

From the purely mechanical viewpoint the normal foot is almost perfectly constructed. It is marvelously adapted to the functions which it has to perform. Contact with the floor is made at the heel and the ball of the foot. The bones between these two points form an arch, and a line dropped down through the center of gravity of the body intersects this arch in the middle. Also in the ball of the foot between the little toe and the big toe, the bones form another arch—the transverse arch. When walking and while the weight is on the ball of the foot this weight is borne on the center of this transverse arch. These small bones making up these two arches are connected with one another by ligaments, and articulations are provided with muscular attachments. It is a feat of engineering skill to build a solid bridge span that will hold the weight put upon it but in the foot there are two bridges—and they are flexible—which must hold up and provide motion for as great a weight in proportion to the size of the bridges as any solid bridge made by engineers.

The ends of these arches are prevented from separating by strong bands—the plantar ligaments, but sometimes these bands become stretched and let the ends separate and the arch flattens down. This is flat-foot. Sometimes it is the main arch that flattens, sometimes it is the forward transverse arch and sometimes both of them give way. Some people have naturally high arches and some have naturally very low arches. It is very common for the colored race to have practically no arch at all. They are naturally "flat-footed." The visible degree of flat foot is of itself no indication of the degree of disability caused.

This very delicate and complex mechanism cannot be expected to remain strong and perform its function properly if it must be cramped into ill-fitting shoes. There is no article of wearing apparel that should be as carefully and scientifically fitted as the shoes and especially in the case of children, whose feet are growing. Proper care with children's shoes will develop perfect feet. Improper care will develop deformities which, after growth is completed, can scarcely ever be corrected.

THE HOME TOWN PAPER

When the evenin' meal is over an' the dishes put away,
An' you settle down to store your mind with happenin's
of the day,
Comes a peaceful feelin' o'er you, brushin' from your face
a frown,
As you scan the weekly paper from your ol' home town.

It tells you all about who's sick an' those who come an' go
Likewise the comin' vendue at the farm of Jabez Stowe.
The burnin' of the cider mill belongin' to "Bub" Brown
Get's a write-up in the paper from your ol' home town.

There ain't an entertainment or a meetin' where they
pray,
But what I know about it though I'm livin' far away,
If the chicken pox is ragin' or the mumps is goin' 'roun'
I peruse it in the paper from my ol' home town.

I read the mornin' papers and the evenin' papers too,
An' I sometimes pick a novel up an' sort of skip it through
But when I want some pabulum, which nowhere else is
foun'
I unwrap the little paper from my ol' home town.

They say our good an' bad deeds are recorded up on high
So that God can classify us when it comes our time to die.
If that be true I know a man who's goin' to wear a crown;
He's the gent who runs the paper in my ol' home town.
—SAM WELLS in Scottsburg (Ind.) Journal.

Zero Hours of Automobile Accidents, 4, 5 and 8 P. M.



5:00 P. M. 4:00 P. M. 8:00 P. M.
ONE thousand and thirty of Chicago's 11,785 auto accidents last year, according to the Stewart-Warner Safety Council for the prevention of automobile accidents, occurred between five and six o'clock, just when congestion is at its worst in the home-going rush. Only 47 of these 1,080 accidents were fatal.

Four o'clock is the children's zero hero. Thirty-three of the 182 children killed by autos in Chicago last year came to grief at four o'clock, playing in the streets after school.

Seven to nine is the dangerous time for adult auto fatalities, according to Chicago's 1924 record. Eighty-six of 363 such deaths occurred around the theater-going hours.

WHAT SOME SUBSCRIBERS THINK OF THE NEWS-RECORD

Below we publish a few unsolicited, and therefore, all the more appreciated, expressions of what some of our subscribers think of the News-Record.

Mr. A. L. Feagle of New York, in renewing his subscription, takes time to say in substance, "I would not be without your paper for several times what it costs." Mr. Feagle is a busy business man, but stops to compliment his home paper. Thank you, Mr. Feagle.

Mr. R. Sayford, who has been at Big Laurel but is now at Hot Springs, says: "You are giving us a very creditable news sheet for the County."

Mr. Blaine Graham writes as follows:
Norfolk, Va.
March 3rd, 1926.

Mr. H. L. Story,
Editor & Publisher
The News-Record,
Marshall, N. C.

Dear Mr. Story:—
You will find enclosed my check for \$4.00 for two years' subscription for the News-Record of Marshall, N. C.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the completeness of your paper and the manner in which it is conducted and I look forward to the arrival of your paper which affords me a great deal of pleasure.

With continued success and best wishes.

Very truly yours,
BLAINE GRAHAM.

Mr. Graham is also a busy man. Such expressions are indeed encouraging.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

Edited by O. S. DILLARD

SCHOOL NEWS

Plans are being perfected throughout the state for a campaign to be waged in the next session of the legislature for an eight months' term. This will largely be a campaign to have the next session of the legislature to submit a constitutional amendment to the people providing for this length of term. The people of the rural sections are the ones who will profit most by such an amendment. The cities and towns already have eight and nine months' length of terms. Under no circumstances would they submit to a term of six months' that thousands of rural children have to submit to.

The rural children of the state are entitled to the same benefits of an education as the city child. The people of the rural sections of the state should rally as a man to the support of this amendment. Candidates for the legislature should be pledged to carry out instructions to vote for this length of term. Then instead of six months' term of school for the children of the county we will have a system that will give all the same opportunity.

Some of the objections that are being raised to the proposed eight months' term are that the state is too poor to provide the funds, and that the children are needed to help in the crops. Both of these propositions are absurd. It is a well known fact that North Carolina is one of the leading industrial states in the Union. It takes rank along with the great states of New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan. The value of its agricultural products compares favorably with the greatest agricultural states of the country. North Carolina pays taxes into the Federal government larger than other states. It pays more than twice as much as any Southern State. Last year more than \$12,000,000 was paid into the state treasury as automobile taxes, covering the license and tax on gas and oil. More than \$170,000,000 was spent for automobiles and their maintenance in the state last year. Then we claim that we are too poor. The cry is that of the selfish man largely who already has an eight months term of school, and is not willing to let the wealth that has been concentrated in the large centers be distributed to the support of all the schools. The opposition to the eight months term of school will largely come from the great wealthy counties of the state.

The other objection to the length of term is that it will take the children off the farm for two months, and thus cause the farmers to suffer a great economic loss. This is very fallacious argument and is not worthy of consideration. We all know that the small children say up to ten or eleven years of age, are of no economic value on the farm. They are so small that they cannot do any work really worth while. In an eight months term of school the child should be ready to finish the elementary school by the time he has reached the end of the 13th year. Now not many children can even do much at thirteen years of age on the farm. In an eight months term of school, the child cannot finish the elementary school until he is over fifteen years. Consequently two years of the child's greatest period of earning capacity is lost in not being able to attend while he is young.

But even admitting that the child is of economic value on the farm sufficient to be counted in these earlier ages, we must consider the difference to the next generation. If education is worth anything at all, it is worth in accordance with the amount the country possesses. The future economic position of the state is going to be

gauged by the intelligence of its citizens. If we have an educated citizenship, we will have a great state. If our people are uneducated, we will have a poor state.

The little countries of Sweden, Norway and Belgium are largely self supporting people. There, education is very much higher than here. If we can bring our land up to the high state of efficiency that these people have, North Carolina will be able to support a population of 20,000,000 people. The great reason for so many boys and girls and young married people leaving the farms today is the fact that the school facilities are so poor, and living conditions so bad of the country that the better economic condition and living conditions of the city tempt them away. To better these conditions we must give the rural child the same advantages that are being given the child in the city and teach him the beauties of the country, and how he may make a living from the country. We cannot do this in the little one-horse country schools, with a six months term of school, in a bare dilapidated building, with one teacher trying to teach thirty-five or forty children through all seven grades of school, with only a few minutes allotted to each class. The only salvation for the country schools and the country children is a longer length of term, with larger units so that more than one teacher can be had for each school, with better trained teachers, and equipment that will meet the needs of the teacher and the child.

If we can get an eight months' term of school state wide, then it will dispense with the local tax districts in the county, and will, in most instances lower the tax rate for schools in these districts. Even if the eight months' system should be financed as the six months' term is now, it would not be necessary to have more than a thirty cent additional levy above the levy that is now placed. This would enable all districts who are paying more than a thirty cent tax to cut it down. In a number of districts of the county this would be a distinct saving.

Unless we can get eight months' term of school as a county or statewide proposition there is no hope for a great many of the weaker districts of the county. There is not sufficient wealth in the districts to run two extra months and provide building accommodations. This is the only salvation. I hope that our people may be led to realize this, and rally as a unit to the support of this proposition.

I also hope that every candidate who desires to represent this county in the next session of the legislature will have the courage to come out openly and squarely for this proposition. No man is worthy of representing this great county in the next session of the General Assembly who is not willing to make a fight for this measure that will so greatly benefit this county. I trust regardless of party lines that such a man can be found who has statesmanship and ability to back this proposition to the last ditch, and thus help our 2500 boys and girls to an opportunity that they otherwise will never be able to get.

TRESPASSING ON SOUTHERN PAID USUAL DEATH PENALTY

Of the trespassers who gambled with death on the tracks and trains of the Southern Railway System during 1925, 128 were killed and 151 injured, according to figures for the year which have just been completed by the Southern's Safety Department. While walking on tracks 93 were killed and 90 injured; 35 were killed and 87 injured while standing rides or "hopping" trains; and four were injured in miscellaneous accidents.