

The paper that tells what the people in the country as well as those in town are doing.

THE NEWS-RECORD

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TOBACCO MARKET OPENS WITH ENCOURAGINGLY GOOD PRICES

Mr. A. W. Whitehurst was in Greeneville, Tenn., Tuesday at the opening of the tobacco market. He came back that afternoon rather enthusiastic as to the prospects, saying that he thought the sales Tuesday would average about 22 cents.

CONSOLIDATING COUNTIES TO LOWER TAXES

One of the most effective of all ways to get lower taxes would be to consolidate a great number of small counties whose separate governments now eat up so much tax money. Every little county must maintain a full set of county officials—sheriff, clerk of the court, register of deeds, and all the others; every little county must keep up its courthouse, jail, and poorhouse; every county must have its own road superintendent, school superintendent, welfare officer, farm and home agents, etc.—and all these are necessary for the maintenance of modern standards of civilization.

In a great many cases, however, any one of these officers could now serve twice the area that he or she is now serving. But this result cannot be brought about without an actual geographical consolidation of the counties. And such a consolidation is, in fact, a logical and natural outgrowth of the new era into which we have come. Nearly all our counties were created in a horse-and-buggy mud road stage of civilization. If the courthouse was more than ten or twelve miles away from the most distant citizen of the county, he could reach it only with great inconvenience. But that condition is now forever behind us. The average man today thinks no more of going a hundred miles than his father forty years ago thought of going ten miles. There is no longer any necessity for calling on the people to support a whole separate county government, a separate courthouse, poorhouse, jail, educational system, road system, etc., when they might consolidate with an adjoining county and get virtually as efficient service with a marked saving in tax costs.

Following up this idea, a plan has been published in a number of North Carolina papers whereby 54 of the present North Carolina counties could be consolidated into 26

new and larger counties. The suggested consolidations are as follows:

Mountain section: Cherokee and Clay; Macon and Jackson; Graham and Swain; Henderson and Transylvania; Mitchell and Yancey; Ashe and Alleghany; Rutherford and Polk.

Piedmont section: Surry and Yadkin; Forsyth and Stokes; Iredell and Alexander; Alamance and Orange; Caswell and Person.

Central section: Hoke and Scotland; Moore and Lee; Wilson and Greene; Nash and Edgecombe; Vance and Warren; Halifax and Northampton.

Coastal area: Currituck, Camden, and Pasquotank; Perquimans, Chowan, and Gates; Hertford and Bertie; Washington and Tyrrell; Martin and Pitt; Craven and Pamlico; Lenoir and Jones; New Hanover and Brunswick.

Everybody will of course admit that the taxpayers could save money by making these or similar consolidations. There are only two obstacles. One is of course the desire of every county seat to keep its courthouse and courthouse officials. Whenever a county seat town thinks itself in danger of losing these appurtenances, most of its influence and the influence of the officials will be exerted against consolidation. In each case the taxpayers of a county may as well understand that maintaining a small county is an expensive luxury and just decide for themselves whether they can afford this luxury.

The other obstacle to consolidation is sentimental. If a man was born and reared in a certain county and his ancestors before him, he doesn't like to find himself living in a county with a new name. This could be avoided by consolidating names as well as areas—that is to say, give both old county names to the new county, just as the old towns of Winston and Salem were consolidated by using both names, Winston-Salem.

If the people really want as much reduction of taxes as possible, they have an opportunity to do something for themselves right at home instead of expecting everything to be done by the state government, or national government. And while we have used North Carolina as an example in this article, the same need for consolidation exists in greater or less degree in South Carolina and the Vir-

ginias. We commend the subject to readers all over our territory.—Progressive Farmer.

MARS HILL WILL STAGE CONTEST

READERS AND DECLAIMERS TO MEET AT COLLEGE DEC. 12-13

MARS HILL, Dec. 6.—The fifth annual readers and declaimers contests for the high schools of Western North Carolina will be held at Mars Hill College December 12-13. According to Professor R. M. Lee, chairman of the committee on arrangements, invitations have been sent to 135 high school principals, inviting each to send one boy and one girl as representatives. The response thus far, Mr. Lee says, is most encouraging.

The contest, which has been sponsored for the last four years by Mars Hill College, is limited to the high schools of the 20 western counties of the State and does not include the special charter schools. The purpose of the contests is to stimulate interest in these forms of expression among the youth of the State.

Loving Cups Offered
The college offers each year two silver loving cups to the winners in the final contests—one to the girl winning the readers' contest and one to the boy winning the declaimers' contest. Each cup with the name of the representative engraved thereon is held by the winning school for one year, or, if won two years successively, it becomes the permanent property of the school. Both cups were won last year by representatives of Fruitland Institute, the boys' cup by Roy Lail and the girls' cup by Martha Stack.

The contestants, with their principals or chaperones, are expected to arrive at Mars Hill by noon December 12. During their stay on the campus they will be guests of the college, and a program of entertainment is being arranged for them.—Asheville Citizen.

COLLEGE'S FINANCIAL CONDITION EXCELLENT

MARS HILL, Dec. 6.—The auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, received recently from the firm of Raymond L. Price, C. P. A. and attorney-at-law, of Raleigh, shows the financial condition of Mars Hill to be excellent. The report gives the total assets of the college at \$487,436.75, divided as follows: plant assets, \$369,793.00; endowment, \$73,459.11 (restricted, \$19,713.45; unrestricted, \$53,835.66); current assets, including materials and supplies, \$44,092.65.

Mr. Price added the following note to his report: "In our opinion, these statements disclose the fact that Mars Hill College has had a most successful year at June 30, 1930, and was in an excellent financial condition. Much credit is due to the wise and capable management with which this institution is endowed."—Asheville Citizen.

Issues Warning Against "Fly-By-Night" Scheme

RALEIGH, Dec. 8. (AP)—Governor O. Max Gardner today received a letter from Mrs. Francis Perkins, industrial commissioner of the New York Department of Labor, sounding a warning to North Carolina women against a "fly-by-night" mail order house in New York. The firm, Mrs. Perkins charged, has been using the unemployment situation to attract unsuspecting housewives in a home handicraft racket.

The company purports to pay high rates for simple work women can do at home, Mrs. Perkins said, such as making beach overalls, underwear, bathrobes, and novelties. A deposit is required in advance for materials

and patterns and the company fails to send the goods. Inquiries reveal the firm has gone out of business and left no trace, Mrs. Perkins said. Such companies often renew their game under new names in new territories, she cautioned in her letter.—Asheville Citizen.

TRIBUTES TODAY FOR RALPH W. WELLS

VICTIM OF ACCIDENT LAID TO REST AT LEICESTER

Funeral services for Ralph W. Wells, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wells, of Leicester, who died in Aston Park hospital at 7:30 o'clock Sunday evening as the result of an automobile accident, were to have been held at the Leicester Methodist church at 11 o'clock this (Tuesday) morning. Active pallbearers will be Hugh Reynolds, Paul Reeves, Homer Davis, Bill Gillespie, Cecil Ford and Bill Reeves. Honorary pallbearers will be O. S. Dillard, Filmore Robertson, Homer Gillespie, Bill Penland, Hubert Penland, Ullus Ford, Toney Lunsford, Denver Reynolds, Carol Hayes and Walter Shook.

The deceased is survived by his widow; his father and mother; two sisters, Mrs. Dave Henry, of Asheville, and Miss Mattie Ella Wells, of Leicester; and four brothers, Frank, Rankin, Hal and Morris, all of Leicester.

A coroner's jury exonerated D. P. Ford, of Leicester, Monday of responsibility for the death of Mr. Wells, also of Leicester.

Wells was injured fatally Sunday afternoon when the automobile he was driving collided with that driven by Ford. He died in an Asheville hospital several hours after the accident, which occurred half a mile west of Leicester.—Asheville Citizen.

PLAY AT MARS HILL

A three-act Comedy Drama entitled, "Apple Blossom Time," will be presented Friday, December 12, 1930, at 7:30 P. M. by the Mars Hill High School faculty. This play should be a good one.

WILLIE KUYKENDALL DIES SUDDENLY

Former Resident of Madison County Laid to Rest Sunday

Mr. Willie Kuykendall, age about 50, formerly of Madison County, lately of West Asheville, died at his home Saturday afternoon, December 6, 1930, having been sick only one day. He was taken with acute indigestion Friday night. Funeral services were Sunday afternoon at the home, conducted by Rev. Perry Sprinkle, interment following at Flint Hill cemetery. Mr. Kuykendall is survived by his wife and five children. He is also survived by his father, Mr. F. M. Kuykendall and two brothers, Mr. A. J. Kuykendall, of West Asheville, Mr. E. Kuykendall of Morganton, Mrs. Randolph Clark, Miss Mary Kuykendall, and Mrs. Sue Ledford.

METHODIST BAZAAR

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist church will have their annual bazaar, Saturday, December 13th, in the office of the Northwest Carolina Utilities Company. We have all kinds of fancy articles, suitable for Christmas presents; also candy.

FOR RENT OR SALE—The old printing office building (old mill building). Will sell lot and building, or building alone to be removed. Apply at

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ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNTY FARM DEMONSTRATION AGENT

(Continued from last week)

Three other plots were fertilized by using 200 lbs. of 16-0-4 broadcast before planting, 200 lbs. or 10-2-4 under the corn in the drill when planting, and side dressing with nitrate of soda when about knee high. The yield of one of these plots has not been secured yet. One of the others showed an increase of 15.8 bushels, 35.76 percent., because of the fertilizer used. This was on rich bottom land. The other plot, on a red clay hillside in a section of the county that was exceedingly dry this year, gave some interesting comparisons. On the check rows in this plot 200 lbs. of superphosphate and 40 lbs. of muriate of potash to the acre was broadcast previous to planting. This probably helped the yield some. The corn in the check rows yielded at the rate of 10.6 bushels to the acre. In the acre itself, where soda was applied, the yield was 22.4 bushels to the acre. Allowing for the fertilizer used on the check rows we find that the extra bushels of corn in the acre cost about 59 cents per bushel. Seems as tho fertilizer will pay even in a dry season.

BARLEY—Barley winter killed badly last winter as did wheat. Apparently barley must be sowed early to make a covering for the ground if it is to last the winter thru. We have one plot of certified barley seed sown this fall.

OATS—One demonstration plot of the use of nitrate of soda on oats was placed last spring. This plot was two acres in size. 100 lbs. of soda was used to the acre as a top dressing. All during the season the difference in the growth was apparent and when the test plots were cut there was apparently 100% increase in the straw at least.

After the oats had thoroughly cured it was threshed. Some of the grain had been wasted by mice. From the soda plot the yield of 20 bushels to the acre was secured. From the other 15 bushels was had. A difference in this instance of 5 bushels to the acre in favor of soda. With a more favorable season a greater difference would probably have been secured.

SOYBEANS—Around 80 bushels of soybeans of the Laredo and Virginia varieties were sold by the Madison Farmers last spring. Besides this seed other firms in the county sold

considerable seed, mostly of the Mammoth Yellow variety. We have one farmer who sowed in rows and cultivated with an excellent crop as a result. Another farmer used an extra amount of potash in the fertilizer but owing to the dry weather no results were had.

ALFALFA—The variety demonstration, running for two years, was destroyed last year. This spring two demonstrations were placed. One with Mr. Barrett on Little Sandy Mush is not promising. The seed was not inoculated, and the dry season has hindered its growth so much that it will have difficulty in pulling thru the winter. Only one spot, where hen manure was spread, looks thrifty.

Another plot on the farm of W. E. Snelson, who followed the directions of the county agent, looks good. Mr. Snelson used fertilizer on a half of this field and stable litter on the other half. If anything, the manured half is the best. Mr. Snelson limed heavily, inoculated his seed, and has an excellent stand. He clipped once early in the fall. Mr. Snelson will sow more superphosphate over the field in the spring.

Mr. Warner, Hot Springs, reports some fine yields of alfalfa on a half acre sowed a year ago. He has cut four times and told the county agent that he calculated a yield of 1 ton at each cutting. This seems rather a large yield.

VETCH—There has been an increased demand for hairy vetch seed this fall. Sales by the Madison Farmers, Inc., amounted to 1500 pounds compared with 700 lbs. a year ago. This is an indication that the farmers are turning to winter legumes for improving the land.

LESPEDEZA—The Korean Lespedeza on the county agent's farm, pastured all summer and never making much growth, has apparently seeded heavily. Mr. Capps, who sowed seed at the same time as the county agent, reports that his lespedeza did not grow very tall, owing to the dry weather, but that it has seeded.

Considerable Korean Lespedeza seed was distributed by the Madison Farmers the past spring. The results of this seeding will be learned in the coming year.

The Tennessee 76 Lespedeza (Carried to Fourth Page)