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THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

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GASTONIA
County Seat of Gaston County After January 1, 1911.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1910.

The public statement of Judge W. B. Council, of Hickory, that he will not be a candidate at this time for the nomination for Congress in the ninth district against Representative E. Yates Webb, gives great pleasure to the friends of Congressman Webb, who are anxious to again honor him with the full and unanimous support of the entire party in this district. There will be time enough later to honor other worthy aspirants for the office, but we cannot afford yet to give up so strong and influential a representative as Mr. Webb.

The victory of the insurgent Republican forces in the lower house of Congress, when by the aid of Democratic votes they passed on Saturday the Norris resolution deposing the Speaker of the House from the committee on rules and providing for the enlargement of the committee to ten members, was indeed a historic one, as it has been termed by the press of the country during the past few days. Not only does it mark the arousing of some spirit among the members of Speaker Cannon's own party, who are tired of having legislation railroaded through Congress at the behest of a few men, but its greatest significance lies in the fact that it is really a result of the pressure of public opinion. Slowly but steadily the demand of the people has been growing in power, until the party in power has realized that it stood no chance with the people at the ballot box as long as it

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FARMING WITH FIRE.

An Enormous Waste of Soil Food Takes place on Nearly Every Farm in North Carolina Every Year—What Burning Off Ground Means.

During these early spring months, when the ground is getting dry enough to cultivate and the air begins to feel like planting time, the smoke from burning brush, grass, and leaves goes up from every farm in North Carolina. New grounds are burned off, fence corners and brier patches cleaned out, rotting stumps and logs disposed of, and old fields and pastures prepared for the summer grazing.

All this burning means the liberation and consequent waste of the most valuable part of the food of our growing crops, from material much of which might be put into the soil. All vegetable matter contains the three elements of plant food which we purchase in our complete fertilizers. By burning, the nitrogen (the most expensive of these materials) is liberated in the air, and is absolutely lost to the soil. The other two ingredients, potash and phosphoric acid, are left on the ground in the ashes; but even this plant food does not all get back into the soil, for it is quite soluble, and being also very light, it is readily washed off in the streams by the rains. But this is not the only loss. The leaves or the grass, if plowed in, add to the soil not only these plant foods but also humus, the ingredient that nearly all soils need and one which it is impossible to get even in commercial fertilizers. It is the lack of humus in the soil that impoverishes so many of our farms, even though commercial fertilizers are used heavily, and that causes the abandonment of so much land in all parts of the State.

In clearing land the leaves and small twigs scattered over the ground should never be burned off, but should be plowed in and allowed to rot wherever possible. In order to accomplish this, only the coarsest brush should be piled, and this should be burned at a time when the leaves and other ground cover are wet and won't easily burn. In cleaning up fence corners and brier patches, fire can often be dispensed with altogether to great advantage. What material there is that is too coarse to plow under can be profitably used in stopping washes or filling gullies. Owners of land, in making contracts with their renters, should be careful to stipulate that no burning of grass or leaves should be done unless absolutely necessary.

But this is viewing the matter only on the side of the agriculturist. Every year nearly all of the most destructive forest fires are caused by the escape of fire from farmers burning brush or other material in the preparation of land for cultivation. In consequence of the dry weather, which we so often have at this time of year, the grass and leaves become as dry as tinder, and needs but a spark blown over by the high winds to start a very destructive fire. At this season of the year, when the sap is rising and the trees are beginning to put out into leaf, a fire in the woods does irreparable injury. Not only is the reproduction and the young growth killed, but often practically all of the standing timber is killed as well. Forest fires in North Carolina the past year were estimated to have destroyed at least \$350,000 to \$400,000 worth of property, not counting the permanent injury to the forests themselves. Out of a large number of answers from correspondents who reported to the State Geological and Economic Survey on the injury caused by forest fires in 1909, 13 per cent of all the accidental fires were attributed to the farmers burning brush. Such fires not only cause the loss of timber and other property, but they make the farmer lose a great deal of time just when he can least afford to do so.

If the North Carolina farmers realized the great losses and serious risks caused by the thoughtless and careless burning of brush and grass in the spring, we should have much fewer forest fires and many more productive and paying farms.

SENATOR DANIEL NO BETTER.

Continues to Linger Between Life and Death With Chances Largely Against His Recovery.

Daytona, Fla., March 21.—United States Senator John W. Daniel of Virginia, who, two weeks ago, was stricken with paralysis, and, with the exception of brief intervals, has been in a state of coma for the past four days, continues to linger between life and death, with chances still largely against his recovery. A slight improvement reported this morning was later in the day superseded by an official bulletin announcing the presence of a more profound state of coma.

FORESTS FACTS.

The Present Outlook for Forest Legislation—How the South Can Help.

(By John Finney, Secretary Appalachian National Forest Association.)

Congressman J. W. Weeks, of Massachusetts, the author of the Weeks Bill establishing the Appalachian-White Mountain National Forest, and Congressman A. F. Lever, of South Carolina, a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, one of the most ardent advocates of forestry legislation, when seen today by an official of our association, join in the following statements:

"The long fight for the Appalachian-White Mountain forest seems to be almost won, for Chairman Scott of the Committee on Agriculture has, it is reported, just announced his intention to report the Weeks Bill out of committee, and to put the matter squarely up to the House for action. If this is the case, Chairman Scott takes a patriotic step and viewpoint, for while he is seemingly still opposed to the theory of national forests established by purchase, and announces that he will not vote for the measure in the House, he feels that it is too important a matter to be smothered in Committee, and that the popular and almost universal demand for this legislation makes it incumbent upon the Congress to act.

"This, then, is the legislative situation: The Weeks Bill, introduced during the special session last summer, and almost identical with the Weeks Bill passed last spring by the House, having been thoroughly threshed over by the committee in three important hearings recently granted, is to be again before the House for action almost immediately—it being understood that the Committee on Agriculture will report it within the next week or ten days.

"It is up to the advocates of this legislation, both in and out of Congress, to rally to its support in every proper manner, and thereby insure the passage by a majority, not alone greater than it had last year, but by practically a unanimous vote of all sections, for it is, when rightly considered, a great national project—non-partisan, non-political, non-sectional—that should have so overwhelming a majority as will reflect the intent of Congress to properly begin an important constructive forest policy."

This is an important statement that carries with it not only gratification to those of us who have so earnestly worked for this legislation but carrying as well a large responsibility in making a demonstration of Southern interest through Southern votes!

This responsibility lies on the South. What will it do? Last year the Southern vote stood:

53 for; 36 against; 30 not voting.

This year the Southern vote should stand, as did New England's last year, unanimous for the legislation.

It is votes "for" that count—and if the South realizes its need of the Appalachian Forest, it must get out the Southern vote.

The real test of the Southern patriotism and prevision and wisdom that will eliminate individual opinion of "State rights," or "constititutionality," or "sectionalism," or whatever name the opposition may bear, and will put the project on its broad plane as a national duty, is at hand!

Realizing our responsibility, we have just sent an urgent appeal to all the commercial organizations throughout the South asking their aid in reaching their particular Congressman—and to the entire public press of the South to get squarely behind this project and reflect forcibly the public demand that this thing shall be done.

Our association can do little more than this—for the real responsibility lies with, and cannot be evaded by, the South itself. In the most earnest way we have tried to show the need, the sanity, the urgency of this constructive forest policy. If the South is to endure, it must preserve them, it must vote—to get this vote out, it must work, NOW, and keep at it, until the votes are counted!

What the South does now in this Appalachian matter is to influence for good or evil its own future—if not its own existence!

BUT—IT IS VOTES "FOR" THAT COUNT!

Our Honor Roll.

Since last Tuesday we have received payments on subscription from the following persons: Mrs. S. A. Rhyne, John W. Groves, Gus Herndon, Swan-Slater Co., E. H. Clark, W. H. Crawford, W. B. Smith, F. E. Ford, Roberts & Stafford, J. W. Mitchem, Ernest L. Stroup, Gray H. Spencer, G. M. Gullick, George R. Ratchford, L. E. Rankin, Miss Mary Brawley, Laban Abernethy, Catawba Store Co., G. L. Wright, A. B. Lewis, Geo. W. Falls, Mrs. T. A. Lineberger.

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ODD FELLOWS AT CONCORD.

Annual Meeting of Twelfth District Adjourns After Electing Officers—Monroe Gets Next Convention.

Charlotte Observer.
Concord, March 18.—The Odd Fellows of the twelfth district of North Carolina met in this city last night and adjourned this afternoon at 3 o'clock to meet again on the third Wednesday in September at Monroe for a two-day session. The district embraces the lodges at Bessemer City, Gastonia, McAdenville, Mountain Island, Lincolnton, Cornelius, Huntersville, Charlotte, Monroe, Riverside, McGinnis and Concord, all of which were represented except Cornelius.

Rev. Plato T. Durham delivered an address of welcome, which was responded to by Grand Master P. H. Williams of Elizabeth City. Mr. L. T. Hartsell spoke to the visiting delegates on behalf of the city, the address being followed by a reception, the refreshments being served by the ladies. At today's session reports were heard from the various lodges, after which Mr. S. J. Durham of Bessemer City addressed the convention. After an intermission for dinner, routine work was taken up, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: W. A. Cochran, president, Charlotte; L. P. Wilson, vice president, Monroe; A. R. Pate, secretary, Monroe; A. R. Willman, treasurer, Charlotte. There were twenty-two visiting brethren, several of whom will remain in the city over Sunday.

Stanley Stores Entered.

Charlotte Observer.
Stanley, March 21.—The boldest burglarly ever perpetrated in Stanley was committed last night when the stores of B. F. Carpenter and Rutledge-Thompson Company were entered. The entrance was gained by means of a ladder to the second-story windows which were prized up and entrance gained. The articles missed were pants and shoes. It is supposed that the deeds were committed by a negro that was seen on the streets acting suspiciously.

NOTICE.

The session of New Hope Presbyterian church has called a meeting to be held on Sunday, March 27, at 3 p. m. The object of the meeting is to call a temporary supply and to elect additional deacons. All members of the congregation are requested to be present.
J. F. RATCHFORD.

FINE COACH STALLION FOR SALE

On Saturday, April 2nd, at 2:30 p. m., at Craig & Wilson's stable in Gastonia, I will sell to the highest bidder on easy terms, the celebrated French Coach Stallion, CHABLIS 4091.

GASTON BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION, A. C. STROUP, Committee.
A 1 c 4.

THREE MILLION BALES SHORT.

Census Report Shows the Crop of 1909 to Be 10,363,240 Bales, Counting Round as Half Bales and Including Linters, Compared With 13,432,131 for 1908.

Washington, March 21.—The census cotton report shows the crop of 1909 to be 10,363,240 bales, counting round as half bales and including linters compared with 13,432,131 for 1908.

Cotton estimated by ginners as remaining to be ginned and included in the statistics for 1909 is 49,488 bales.

The bales by States, counting round as half bales and including linters is as follows:

Alabama, 1,071,985; Arkansas, 715,670; Florida, 62,711; Georgia, 1,897,761; Louisiana, 268,800; Mississippi, 1,106,170; North Carolina, 647,747; Oklahoma, 571,370; South Carolina, 1,160,167; Tennessee, 248,778; Texas, 2,549,417. All other States 62,664.

Round bales included for 1909 are 150,690. Sea Island bales 94,566. Linter bales 314,597.

The average gross weight of the bale for the crop counting round as half bales and including linters is 496.5 pounds compared with 505.8 for 1908.

The number of ginners operated for 1909 crop was 26,600 compared with 27,598 for 1908.