

**NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST.**

**Interesting Reading Matter of Local and National Affairs in Condensed Form.**

William F. Blair who was tried in Guilford county court last week for killing G. G. Thompson was acquitted.

The farmers and other good citizens of Forsythe county are making an effort to raise \$4,000 for farm demonstration work in that county.

Over 200 cases of typhoid fever have appeared in Tryon, Pa., and trained nurses for a radius of 50 miles have been drafted to aid physicians in their fight against the epidemic.

A destructive fire occurred at Elkin on the 17th burning four nice brick business houses with stocks of goods and offices entailing a loss of about \$50,000 partially covered by insurance.

Bunker Hill, Los Angeles, a barrier between the business and a large residential district now pierced by tunnels, is crumbling so that complete removal may be necessary—an immense and costly undertaking.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 19.—Contact has been let for the 600,000 canal to run from West Palm Beach to Lake Okecho-bee in the interior of the State to the National Construction Company of Birmingham, Ala., for excavating. The ditch will be 47 1/2 miles long, eleven feet deep and 75 feet wide and will open up many thousands of acres of land. It is to be completed by July 1.

China Grove, Dec. 19.—Some-time Tuesday night burglars broke out a glass in the door of the department store of Patter-son Young Mercantile Company, slipped a bolt and entered. They appropriated a lot of clothes and carried them about a mile, selected what was wanted and left the remainder—four suits and parts of two others—near Mr. J. B. Goodnight's residence. There is no clue to the guilty parties.

Greenwood, S. C., Dec. 19.—The second attempt within a few months to wreck the Seaboard train No. 32 was made Tuesday afternoon in the Maxwell yards, about two miles from the city. A switch was divided by means of a spike. Running at a rate of about 40 miles an hour, the train, due here at 6:35, hit the obstruction, but only the baggage car left the tracks and no one was injured. Railroad officials are making a close investigation.

Mr. Isaac Shores, aged about 35 years, was found dead in a kneeling position at his barn, on his farm, some 12 miles southeast of Yadkinville, Dec. 8th. He was found by a colored boy and his body was still warm. S. Carter Williams was appointed a special Coroner to investigate the case and placed in jail without bail and Boss Plowman was found guilty as an accessory and bond recommended. The wound which caused Shores' death was inflicted during a quarrel with the defendants some three weeks ago. The deceased was stabbed by Gates Thore while Plowman held him. Both of the defendants are brothers-in-law of the man whose death they caused. It seems that when he was stabbed a small artery was severed and drop by drop he bled to death.

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**Summary of the Corn Club Work.**

Although a large part of the State experienced the most severe drouth in many years, the result of the Boys' Contest shows an increased average yield above 1911. Six hundred and thirty-five boys have made their report with a total yield of 39,800 bushels or an average yield of 62.8 bushels per acre. In 1911, four hundred and thirty-five boys reported with an average yield of 60.7 bushels. The average cost in 1912 was 47c while in 1911 it was 45c. This increase cost is due largely to the severe drouth in the Piedmont section, which reduced the yield and thereby increased the cost per bushel.

Two boys made above 175 bushels, five above 150, twenty-one above 125 and seventy-five above 100. The largest yield was made by Richard Brock, in Wayne county, but his cost of production was so large that the championship of the State goes to George West, Jr., of Kinston, with a yield of 184 bushels.

The two boys making the best record in each district, twenty in all, win free trips to the National Corn Exposition. These trips are given by the Southern Fertilizer Association of Atlanta Ga. Many counties will also send boys to this Exposition. One girl, Miss Ethel Smith, of Stanly county, competed with the boys and won third prize in her district. There were two other girls in the contest in the State, but their yields were not large enough to win district prizes.

**EIGHTH DISTRICT.**

Counties of Surry, Alleghany, Wilkes, Alexander, Ashe, Watauga, McDowell, Caldwell, Burke, Mitchell, Yancey and Avery.

First prize, Arthur Fox, Dealsville, 97.6 bu. cost 11.5 per bu.

Second prize, Fred Morris, Nealsville, 87.9 bu. cost 20.2c per bu.

Third prize, Chas. Hensley, Marion, 95.1 bu. cost 24c per bu.

Fourth prize, J. J. Clark, Morganton, 106.5 bu. cost 32.1 per bu.

Fifth prize, Rom Houk, Marion, 104 bu. cost 33.4c per bu.

Sixth prize, Joseph L. Greenlee, Old Fort, 103.2 bu. cost 34.5 per bu.

Seventh prize, J. Y. Yancey, Marion, 109.7 bu. cost 46.8c per bu.

**Final Crop Estimate.**

The government's final estimate on crops shows that the value of the 11 principal crops this year is \$3,911,449,000, an increase in value of over 50 million dollars as compared with last year.

Corn stands at the head of the list, with 200 million bushels more than was grown in 1906, when the largest crop ever produced was turned out. The 1912 crop is more than a half million bushels larger than 1911. The value, of the 1911 crop, the price December 1 being 48 cents against 61 cents last year.

The total wheat crop was 109,029,000 bushels greater than last year; oats was nearly a half billion greater and all through the list of 11 leading crops, the increase over 1911 runs into the millions.

Whenever a man tells us that he has never spoken an unkind word to his wife we wonder if it was chivalry or prudence.



## Song for the Year's End

By Wilbur D. Nesbit

*The sands that count the year are low within the upper glass,  
They slip away, these little years, so swiftly do they pass;  
They flit like shadows to and fro the longer we may live—  
But, ah, they take no more from us than they may freely give!  
They take the song, mayhap, but leave the echoes sweet that hum—  
The year is dying, but there is another year to come.*

*Then why gaze at the trickling sand with heavy sigh and frown?  
Turn it down! Turn it down!  
There are smiles and laughter waiting where the other joys came from.  
Turn it down! Turn it down!  
There's another year to come.*

*Another year is coming—now its hailing call we hear—  
With golden smiles to pay us for each jewel of a tear,  
With clover nodding in the rain and dew upon the rose,  
With silver store of moonlight, and with ivory of snows,  
With lilting laughter for the lips that long time have been dumb—  
The year is dying, but there is another year to come.*

*Why hold the glass and watch the sand with gloomy sigh and frown?  
Turn it down! Turn it down!  
The melodies of joys to be already throb and thrum—  
Turn it down! Turn it down!  
There's another year to come.*

*It is the twilight of the year—the sands are almost gone;  
But turn the glass and wait to see the glory of the dawn,  
And wait to hear the mellow chord that pulses with each word  
That will build up the coming song—the song you've never heard.  
Why brood above the days now gone, and seek to find the sum  
Of bitterness and happiness? Another year's to come.*

*So turn the glass and start anew the current golden brown—  
Turn it down! Turn it down!  
There are light and laughter lurking where the other joys came from.  
Turn it down! Turn it down!  
There's another year to come.*



School Building Collapsed at Elkin. Mrs. W. W. Curtis Dead.

Six persons are believed to have received fatal injuries and from 20 to 30 were more or less seriously hurt at Jonesville high school one mile from Elkin, N. C., at about 9 o'clock Saturday night, when a part of the second floor of the school auditorium containing about two hundred people collapsed. The names of the following were believed to be fatally hurt: Mrs. Nancy Swain, Miss Lexia Lussman, Lonnie Hanks, Reuben Ball, Mrs. Smith.

Mary, the wife of Mr. W. W. Curtis, died at the home of her son, Mr. F. P. Curtis, at Globe, N. C., Dec. 17th, 1912, where she had been living for five years. The deceased was in her eighty-fifth year.

The man who flatters others may be justified in doing it, but the man who flatters himself has little excuse for the waste of time.

**Kept Pistol in His Room at Jail.**

Asheville, Dec. 18.—That Sheriff Buckner, of Madison county, allowed him to keep a pistol in his room at the jail, allowed him to eat at the family table and allowed him to drink whiskey whenever he so desired were the startling statements made on the witness stand yesterday by Champ Briggs, who is on trial here for the alleged murder of Baxter Shelton several months ago. Briggs' case was transferred to Buncombe county from Madison because the State insisted that it could not get a fair trial in the latter county.

Sheriff Buckner has not yet taken the stand, and so has had no chance to either confirm or deny the charges made by Briggs. Mr. Buckner is the same sheriff who was recently severely reprimanded by Judge Boyd in Federal court here for arresting a witness and taking him back to Madison county before the Federal court had released the witness. At the time Judge Boyd delivered a severe lecture on the rights of State officials to interfere with Federal cases and only a quick apology saved Sheriff Buckner from serious consequences.

Briggs and Shelton quarreled so it is testified, over political differences and it finally led to the killing of Shelton. Briggs, on the stand yesterday, claimed that he shot in self defense, although he admitted having shot six other men in the past twenty-two years since he moved to Madison county. He says he has shot at about fifteen men in that time.

About fifty witnesses for the defense remain to be heard.

**Taft to Accept Yale's Proffer.**

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18.—President Taft has made up his mind to accept the proffer of the Kent professorship of law at Yale, recently made to him, and probably will take up his duties at New Haven early in the spring.

He will not be restricted merely to lectures to Yale students, but will be permitted to lecture, if he desires, in other law schools, or upon the platform, or to engage in any other occupation which he sees fit.

The analogy between the Yale professorship and Grover Cleveland's relation with Princeton appealed to Mr. Taft strongly, and when many of his close friends and advisers wrote to him approving his acceptance of the chair at Yale, he decided to take it.

The president expects to spend several weeks after March 4, in Augusta, Ga., where he has passed two winter vacations.

Secretary of Agriculture Jas. Wilson urges farmers to raise sheep. Mr. Wilson declares that mutton will help materially to save the country in this time of high cost of living.

"Tell the people to eat mutton—mutton," said Mr. Wilson to a correspondent. "Tell them to grow sheep. More mutton! Every farmer can produce a few sheep."

The South Atlantic States, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida had 2,357,000 sheep in 1912, the average farm price per head being \$3.52. North Carolina had 193,000, Virginia 781,000, South Carolina 34,000, Georgia, 174,000 and West Virginia 838,000.

**COUNTY CORRESPONDENTS**

**Items From Our Regular Correspondents and Neighboring County Papers.**

**WATGUA.**

(Watauga Democrat.)  
On last Sunday a most deplorable and much-to-be regretted affair occurred on Brushy Fork, three miles west of town. We have not the particulars in full, but here is the way we have it. A number of boys were out at play when two of them, boys of 14 summers, one a son of Mr. Thomas Bingham, the other a son of Jessie H. Brown, got into a dispute and some hot words were passed, when Brown and some of his associates turned and started off. Before going far he hurled a stone at young Bingham. Bingham resented this by rushing upon his assailant, stabbing him in the shoulder. Brown started to run but stumbled and fell, and Bingham inflicted two more ugly wounds in his back and side, one being about four inches in length. The wounds are not considered necessarily dangerous by his physicians but he is right badly hurt. When last heard from he was resting well, and his early recovery is expected.

Will Pennell in building a nice residence near the top of Deck Hill on the old Blowing Rock road.

**Raid Shows Horror.**

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—Locked in steel cells in a dark, evil-smelling Chinese building, United States immigration officials in a raid early today found five Chinese women who recently had been smuggled in from the Orient, and arrested two men alleged to be the leaders in the traffic.

Under the leadership of United States Immigration Inspector Ainsworth and Federal Attorney McNabb, the entire local staff of the immigration officers battered down steel doors at the entrance of the building. Pitch darkness greeted the officers. Not a stairway was found in the building, access to each floor being gained by a trap door reached by a ladder. Far below the street level in a maze of underground passages the women were found huddled in the cells.

The raid adds to a chain of events which have cost much bloodshed in Chinatown. A Chinese informer who gave information to the Government leading to a previous raid endeavored to return to China to escape the vengeance of the smugglers, but was killed on the liner Korea.

His slayer is now awaiting trial in Honolulu.

**Appointments for Lenoir Circuit.**

The following are the appointments for the Lenoir circuit for the coming year  
1st Sunday, Pleasant Grove 11 a. m., Gamewell 3 p. m., Colliers 7:30.  
2nd Sunday, Laurel Hill 11 a. m., Moores Chapel 3 p. m., Littlejohns 7 p. m.  
3rd Sunday, Olivet 11 a. m., Collettsville 3 p. m.  
4th Sunday, Littlejohns 11 a. m., Colliers 3 p. m.  
5th Sunday, Collettsville 11 a. m., Olivet 7 p. m.  
J. H. Curtis, Pastor.

A man of words and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds.