

The Lenoir News.

THIS PAPER IS READ BY THE PEOPLE. IT GIVES THE NEWS WHILE IT IS FRESH AND IS NEWS

Volume XV

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No. 23

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

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

A mass meeting was held in Morganton last Friday demanding a Commission form of Government for that town.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature to increase the number of judicial districts of the state from sixteen to twenty four.

The American Congress of Berkshire breeders will meet in Charlotte on the 31st of January. The Congress will include most of the hog breeders of this and adjoining states.

Hon. J. J. Britt, third assistant post master general, it is said will return to North Carolina after his term of office expires and engage in the practice of law at Asheville.

Senator Overman who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis returned to his post in the senate chamber last Tuesday. He was given an ovation by his fellow senators.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature creating a new county out of parts of Guilford and others with High Point as the county seat. The name of the new county is to be Aycock county.

The citizens of Hickory are working for a commission form of government and a law permitting the people to vote on the question will very likely be enacted at the present term of the legislature.

Governor Craig has invited the governors of several of the Southern states to meet him in Asheville on February 14th to consider the question of building state high ways from the sea coast cities to the mountains.

If the Legislature wants to do one thing that will not be a mistake, let it give North Carolina a short ballot. It is being adopted by the States in general as fast as the Legislatures can pass the laws.—Charlotte Observer.

There is some merit in the suggestion that the state needs to put the judges it has to work, before increasing the number. The aim of both judges and lawyers should be not to continue but to try as many cases as possible.—Greensboro News.

Mrs. Jane Wilkes, widow of the late Capt. John Wilkes died at her home in Charlotte last Sunday. Mrs. Wilkes was a very philanthropic woman being the founder of the Good Samaritan Hospital of that city and was always active in church and charitable work. She was about 85 years old.

The grand jury of Wake county Superior Court refused to indict Gordon Holmes, the Wake Forest student who some time ago shot and seriously wounded Frank Powers, who was attempting to haze him. Holmes was, however, indicted for carrying concealed weapons and was discharged on the payment of the cost.

A single masked burglar entered a Southern Railway train about 30 miles out from Birmingham, Alabama early Sunday morning, while the train was stopped for water and covered the two colored mail clerks with a pistol. He demanded the registered mail which was shown him by one of the clerks after robbing it he jumped off the train.

NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

The new Panama-Pacific commemorative postage stamps designed by the government in honor of the big ditch across the Isthmus, handsome in appearance and larger than the ordinary postage stamp, are quite acceptable to those who have occasion to use them.

As in the case of the stamps commemorating the world's fairs at Chicago and St. Louis, the Panama-Pacific stamps considerably larger than those regularly in use. They measure about 3-4 by 1 1-16 inches, the longest dimension being horizontal. They come in the 1, 2, 5 and 10 cent denominations.

At the top of the new stamp appear the words "U. S. postage" and "San Francisco, 1915" In the left hand border is a branch of laurel, and in the right hand border a palm branch. A numeral, expressing the denomination, is shown within a circle in each lower corner, with the word "cents" between.

On the 1 cent stamp, Balboa, discoverer of the Pacific, is given the place of honor. The stamp is green. In the center within a circle, appears, the bust of the discoverer, looking to the left and wearing a cuirass and a helmet with a plume. On either side of the back ground are palm trees, with the ocean in the foreground. Below the portrait in a horizontal panel breaking the circle, are the words "Balboa, 1513."

Thus is the Spanish adventurer, who, in his quest for gold, stumbled across the great western ocean, mounted in state, exactly 400 years after the discovery which gave him a place in history. Incidentally, the stamp effectively corrects one John Keats, who, as every schoolboy knows, dedicated a much quoted sonnet to "Stout Cortez," as the discoverer of the Pacific.

The 2-cent stamp is red. It represents the Gatun locks of the Panama canal, with a merchant steamer emerging from one lock and a warship in the other. The mountains of the isthmus appear in the distance, and palm trees on the right-hand side of the locks. Beneath the picture are the words "Gatun locks."

Golden Gate, the harbor of San Francisco, where the Panama-Pacific exposition will be held in 1915, is given the place of honor on the 5-cent stamp, which is blue. The setting sun is shown in the background, and a steamer and sailing vessel in the bay. The words "Golden Gate" appear below the picture. The 10-cent stamp is dark yellow. The subject is "Discovery of San Francisco Bay," from a painting which represents the discovering party looking out upon the distant bay.

The Troy Montgomerian says people generally want a return to the old system of tax listing, upon the grounds of being less expensive and more accommodating to the public. We cannot entirely agree with the Montgomerian. That the new system has not proved so good as it might is no reason for going back to a worse. What we want is to adopt a system that will be more nearly perfect than either the present or the old. Don't turn back in the middle of the road, but keep pressing forward until a proper method is reached.—Greensboro News.

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DEATH OF MR. J. R. ERVIN.

One of Caldwell's Highly Esteemed and Useful Citizens Answers Summons.

In the death of Mr. J. R. Ervin, which occurred last Monday afternoon about 5 o'clock, at his home in this place, our community lost one of its most valuable citizens. Mr. Ervin was a civil engineer by profession and stood high in his line of work. Some of the more important enterprises that he superintended and put through were the water system for Lincolnton and the construction of the Carolina & North-Western railway from Collettsville to Edgemont. His last work in this line was surveying and plotting the town of Newland, the county seat of the new county of Avery. He was a man of much valuable information and his accuracy on questions in his line of work was never questioned. At the time of his death he had under consideration a plan for bringing another line of railroad to our town, which might have grown into a reality had he lived. He was a loyal and faithful member of the Methodist church and a man whose modest worth and character made an impression on all with whom he came in contact. His pastor, Rev. C. M. Pickens, paid him a most worthy tribute in the course of his remarks while conducting the funeral and the large congregation attending that occasion attested most forcefully the esteem in which the deceased was held in our community, while the floral tributes there displayed bore silent testimony of the tender affection with which he was regarded. Mr. Ervin is survived by a widow and one child, a daughter just budding into womanhood, a brother, Mr. W. C. Ervin, of Morganton, and four sisters, M. H. Tuttle, of Franklin; Mrs. W. B. Menzies, of Hickory; Mrs. Serrill Douglas, of Bristol, Pa.; and Miss Annie Ervin, who is teaching in Rhode Island. The family, especially those of his own household, have the deep, heartfelt sympathy of our entire community in their hour of deep distress. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, assisted by Revs. C. T. Squires and C. A. Munroe, from the Methodist church Wednesday and the interment was in the town cemetery. Messrs. M. M. Courtney, L. P. Henkel, E. F. Reid, H. T. Newland, A. A. Kent, C. B. Harrison, R. L. Gwyn and J. E. Shell, being the pall bearers.

Stricken down by typhoid fever less than three weeks ago and being a man in the prime of life, about 50 years of age, he will be much missed in the entire County where he was so well and favorably known.

Thankfulness.

I am no friend to the people who receive the bounties of Providence without visible gratitude. When the sixpence falls into your hat you may laugh. When the messenger of an unexpected blessing takes you by the hand lifts you up and bids you walk you may leap and run and sing for joy, even as the lame man whom St. Peter healed skipped piously and rejoiced aloud as he passed through the beautiful gate of the temple. There is no virtue in solemn indifference. Joy is as much a duty as beneficence is. Thankfulness is the other side of mercy.—Henry Van Dyke.

SHORT LATE NEWS ITEMS.

Condensed From Our Local and Daily Papers for The Busy Readers.

Dr. J. L. Murphy of Hickory is ill and in a hospital at that place for treatment.

An Asheville druggist has been found guilty of violating the prohibition laws and fined \$500.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature asking an amendment to the state constitution permitting women to vote.

A petition has been sent to Congress asking that all saloons in Washington be closed during the inauguration exercise March 4th.

Two men arrested and placed in the town lockup at Shelby got out and then set the building on fire burning it and the town hall down.

The joint committee of Congress on the question of Federal aid to Post Roads is holding hearings and has been addressed by several prominent men.

In deference to the wishes of Governor Wilson, the usual inaugural ball in Washington will be dispensed with this time when he is inaugurated as president.

At last accounts all the men who were wounded in the row at Glen Alpine last Saturday were improving, but not out of danger. It is thought now they will all recover.

Miss Helen Gould probably the richest woman in the world was married to Mr. Finley Shephard of New York in that city last Tuesday. The wedding was a simple affair for persons of their wealth.

The senate of the Montana legislature passed an act last Tuesday to amend the state constitution allowing women to vote in that state there were only two votes against the measure in that body.

On account of the lawlessness caused by the revolution in Mexico, the American citizens in Vera Cruz, are thought to be in danger and an American warship has been dispatched to that place to protect American interests.

The North State Company, which proposes to furnish electric power to Morganton, Marion and adjacent towns has begun the erection of a dam in the Catawba river, in the vicinity of Glen Alpine, to develop the power.

A delegation of Asheville men have gone to see Governor Wilson to try to induce him to make his summer home in Asheville while he is President. The delegation will offer the President-elect a summer cottage built to order or hotel accommodations for himself and family free of charge.

While asleep in bed a few nights ago Judge Turner, of the county court at Elizabeth City, was aroused by an importunate visitor who demanded a warrant. The judge got up, dressed, replenished the fire and invited the visitor in to state his grievance. The complainant said he had given a negro 50 cents to get him some whiskey and the negro had run away with the money. What the judge said at that juncture is not on record, but the language was hardly parliamentary. The visitor left in a hurry and without a warrant.

PLAN FOR TAXATION.

The proposed revenue and machinery act that will be presented to the North Carolina legislature as a solution of the present problem of taxation, and as a means toward placing the burden on the people in proportion to the ability of the various classes to bear it, will embody the segregation plan, according to an interview given the Daily News Saturday night by Leslie Abbott, clerk to the finance and constitution amendment committees of the house. The proposed plan will probably be presented in about a week.

The proposed plan is a radical change from any plan ever in vogue or suggested in the state, and there are few states in the union which now have it, one of these being West Virginia. The gist of the whole idea is that it places the burden of raising the state revenue on the railroads, telegraph and telephone companies and all public service utilities, while in each county the commissioners or some authorized body have the power to assess the real and personal property for the requirements of that county.

In eliminating the state tax from real and personal property the entire revenue would be secured from the railroads, telegraph and telephone companies, street car companies and other public utilities, together with special licenses and franchises. The estimated valuation of this entire class in North Carolina is \$120,000,000. To give the state the present revenue necessary to operate would require a tax of \$1.50 on the \$100 valuation, or \$1,800,000. The average tax rate of the state on this class now is about 25 cents on the \$100.

The other phase of the proposed plan is that it would allow the county to assess on the real and personal property at any per cent of the marketable value wanted for county purposes.—Daily News.

Rewards For Outlaws.

Rewards of \$200 each were declared yesterday by the United States marshal for the arrest of Frank Brooks, G. E. Todd and A. M. Todd, three of the known assailants of Deputy Harkrader and Sheriff Davis in Surry county a few nights ago. Circulars bearing pictures of the men together with a full description, will be mailed throughout this section today. It is said that the three men were recognized as among the party which waylaid the officers, released a prisoner, beat up the officers and then left them by the roadside handcuffed.

A Bad Plan.

Of all strange things in this life, the scheme proposed to meet the \$750,000 deficit in the State Treasury is the most absurd. One member of the General Assembly is in favor of diverting the railroad tax, which now goes to the coffers of the State to meet the deficit. That would practically bankrupt some of the best counties in the State. It would deprive Graniteville County of more than \$19,000. The scheme is a bad one and should be nipped in the bud.—Oxford Public Ledger.

A Frenchman and Italian, after fighting a duel, in which neither was hurt, kissed and made up in court. Rather than kiss another man most men would prefer to be stabbed.

COUNTY CORRESPONDENTS

Items From Our Regular Correspondents and Neighboring County Papers.

KELSEY NOTES.

The sick folks of our community are all improving, though grippe has been quite prevalent here for some time.

Messrs. James and Birch Coffey have gone to West Virginia for a short stay.

The pretty weather we have been having is much appreciated but if it continues we fear for the fruit crops.

The people of this community are pleased with the new parcels post system. Mr. J. F. Gragg was the first person to buy parcels post stamps at the Kelsey office.

Mr. John Walt Gragg is making a good thing out of the raw fur business, having made one shipment and has another nearly ready, but oh, the sent.

J. W. Gragg, Esq., was called to Foscoe this afternoon to join in wedlock Mr. Chas. Church and Miss Etta Gragg, both of Foscoe.

Mr. Wash Culver, of Banner Elk, was a visitor here recently. KATE.

Value of Husbands.

New York, Jan. 20.—Analysis of the numerous suits which widows have brought for damages because of the loss of their husbands in the Titanic disaster brought to light today the striking differences in the monetary values that women place on their husbands.

The suits range from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000, the record high figure being that sued for by Mrs. Henry B. Harris, widow of the theatrical manager. An admiralty lawyer declared today that the differences in damages sought was due chiefly to the various earning capacities of the husbands, taking into consideration also the age. The style in which the wife had been accustomed to live was also a consideration.

Bitten By Mad Horse.

(Daily News.)

Granite Falls, Jan. 20.—Van Moore, a farmer living near here was bitten by a rabid horse Saturday. The horse was supposed to have been bitten by a mad dog some time ago but had shown no signs of hydrophobia until Friday. Mr. Moore was drenching the horse when it attacked him biting him twice on the arm and leg, breaking the skin on his arm. The horse was killed at once and Mr. Moore took the afternoon train for Raleigh where he will take the pasteur treatment. Several rabid dogs have been killed lately but not until they had bitten many other dogs. A large dray horse belonging to L. T. Sharp was bitten some time ago but has shown no signs of hydrophobia yet.

A woman may have some difficulty in finding her pocket, but she never has it filled with letters she forgot to mail.

The first thing a man usually does after leaving the country and accumulating a big fortune in the city is to advise other boys to stick to the farm.

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