



AND THE TRYON BEE

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TAKES A RIDE IN A TANK.

Members of the Legislature are Given Ride in One of the Big War Machines.

VISIT TO CAMP POLK.

Editor Polk County NEWS, Tryon, N. C.

Dear Sir: Being mindful of my friends in the good county of Polk and wishing to communicate with them I shall ask for a space in your paper for same.

As a servant of the people and a member of the honorable body of the General Assembly of North Carolina, I am watching and acting to the very best of my ability the interest of the people of our State and county and as I go along in this capacity I am taking advantage of the religious and social features offered by the city of Raleigh. It is needless for me to say that I am a Sunday school and church going man as many of my friends will know, and when I say that I am attending two Sunday schools and hearing three sermons each Sunday you no doubt wonder how I am able to do this. Sunday school and preaching in the morning, Sunday school and preaching in the afternoon and preaching at night. The afternoon service at the State prison is especially interesting although, it gives one a feeling of sadness when you look into the faces of the prisoners and have certain ones pointed out to you who are bearing the burden of life's sentences. As I studied the faces of those who are so unfortunate I wonder what it means to those people to have no hope in this world and probably none in the world to come. Our hearts go out to them.

From this I will turn to the monster tanks at Camp Polk and go "over the top." Many legislators, including myself, ride the tanks and drop down embankment of twenty to thirty feet. Practically every member of the North Carolina General Assembly now knows how it feels to ride in a tank and doubtless it will be remembered a long time as we were given a regulation treatment by dropping down an embankment of some twenty or thirty feet.

The Lieut. Col. commander of the post at camp Polk invited the legislators to visit the encampment. The occasion being arranged through Mr. Lang, of the War Camp Community Service. Both officers and men at the tank camp evinced the greatest pleasure in showing us just how a tank works.

As the members, many of whom were accompanied by their wives or other members of their family, arrived, they were escorted to the Y. M. C. A. building where Mr. Lang was master of ceremonies and Colonel Raney introduced Captain Fraser who made an instructive talk on the place that the tank took in the late war and also explained how it originated.

We then proceeded to the mess hall of the camp where we had an opportunity of inspecting the various kinds of machine guns used in the war. Their use was explained to us. After inspecting the small or "baby tanks" the big show was put on and the real fun of the day began. The big tanks were put into action and members of the party invited for a ride. The tanks were placed directly across the old race track with their noses pointing out into space. The distance to the bottom of the embankment looked perilously far and dangerous and most of the visitors doubted the ability of the monster machine to negotiate it.

We held on. Not willing, however, to be backed down on a proposition that we were assured by those in charge that we were perfectly safe, a few of us climbed aboard. Some were piled inside and the bravest of the crowd placed on top. We were told to hold on and this we did with both hands. The engine then was started. The monster began to move, balancing itself for a moment over the chasm. She suddenly dropped down and for a few seconds lay bolt upright on the embankment, then she flattened herself out on the ground below. Nobody was hurt and we aboard waved greetings to our friends above.

Across ditches, over logs and trees, in the gullies, through deep holes, up a steep hill, turning and twisting the monster moved with its load of human freight being presently followed by a second one. Seeing that the thing could really be done no trouble was had in getting others to ride. Many of the fair women stepped over hot pipes to reach a point of vantage and when our boys come back home from war we will be able to tell them just how it feels to go over the top.

While the big fellows were puffing at about 7 miles an hour, a baby tank got into action and plunged down the embankment and ran around the large one, being able to travel at a greater speed. After having had this experience, I don't wonder at the Germans being almost frightened to death on sight of them.

I would not forget to mention the fact that I was in the house where Andrew Johnson was born in 1808, and being pushed for time at this moment I will not undertake a general description of this house and its con-

tents, but will merely say that it contains many things of interest.

With very best wishes, I am Yours very sincerely, W. F. SWANN.

JUST A WORD ABOUT FENCES.

Last week we had a little discussion about permanent pastures and this week we want to say something to the farmers about fences. Now, under our North Carolina conditions, where the stock law, so called, prevails, it is impossible to get best results from pastures without the aid of the fence. We used to fence the crops and let what stock we had run at large. When we adopted the stock law we thought we would never need any more fences, and converted all the old rail fences into stove wood and kindling. This was an entirely wrong idea. More fencing than before should have been the slogan; to fence more live stock from the growing crops. Go to Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin and all live stock states and you will find every square rod of land on the farm fenced, so that every square rod of land on the farm may be utilized at some season of the year by the hogs, sheep and cattle kept on the farm.

Now somebody is ready to cry out the great expense of fencing. Grant that it does take some money; but not near so much as some people think. It puts the farm in a position to become not only a real profit but a real pleasure also. The expense of fencing is not so great after all. Let the Polk county farmers who have neither pastures nor fence begin by preparing a small piece of land in the proper place on the farm for pasture and sow the proper seed at the proper time, in the proper way. Then next year fence this part of his farm. Then the next year, adjoining this piece, prepare and sow another piece, then succeeding year, break this fence, and a little extra wire, posts and labor will enclose this with the first lot. So by continuing enlargement, after awhile the whole farm will be fenced. Then line fences between farms will only cost half, as farmers learn the value of co-operation.

The matter of fencing on the farm is only a matter of how the farmer looks at it. While he looks at it as a hardship and almost useless expenditure, there will be little of it done in Polk county when farmers come to realize that pastures and fences are the best and most paying assets on the farm, which they are, then farmers will invest their time and their good cash in them. I know that farmers of Polk county had their attention so called to the fact that grasses and clovers will grow in the county where people so desire, that many this year will embark in a grass sowing campaign. Next year follow this up with a fencing campaign then we will get ready for a bull and cattle and sheep campaign.

This is my business in Polk county and I mean to stay until the job is accomplished, so if you want to get rid of me, get busy and make and fence your pastures, purchase pure bred cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry, and then I'll bid you an affectionate good bye and go somewhere else, where people don't know how to accomplish these things for their own good, and I am at every man's service who will call on me. A postal card will take me to any farm, provided it gives instructions that I may find it.

Respectfully, J. R. SAMS County Agent.

ATTENTION BOYS.

Do you want to enroll with the United States Boys Working Reserve and wear the official uniform? Do you want to help show a city boy how to drive a team of mules, to plow to put in crops, on your father's farm? Do you intend some day to learn to keep farm accounts and go into partnership with your father? Then send your name in this week.

Enrollment began all over the country, January 20th. The United States Employment Service has opened a special bureau for boys 16 to 20 years inclusive; has published "30 lessons in farm craft," which the city boys will all study; has approved a neat khaki uniform and arm brassard, which may be purchased by those pledging to work at least six weeks, eight hours a day, to help feed the American Expeditionary Force.

Two hundred thousand city boys joined last year. This year boys already on the farm are also urged to join. The department offers special honor badges; the Fair offers special premiums for the best reports of the summer work, and the directors will, individually raise the capital for a certain number of boys recommended by County Agent Sams, who can show a reasonable hope of profit in pigs or poultry.

How would you like to own a pure bred sow a model hog lot 50 rods of fencing at 33 1-3 cents per rod, seed for pasture feed for fattening a litter of pigs and then capture the county and state prizes fair times?

The Tryon Township Poultry Association will meet January 25th. All boys welcome.

The Fair Association will meet at Columbus the "First Monday," Feb. 3rd, and will consider entries.

The POLK COUNTY NEWS will furnish information as to uniforms of all wishing to enroll.

FROM OUR FRIENDS OVER THE COUNTY

Some Items of General Interest Gathered By Our Correspondents From Various Sections of Polk County

SALUDA.

The Methodist church is the proud possessor of a new flue, which being on the side of the building, does not obstruct the view as did the one in the center.

The M. E. Sunday school has started a circulating library, and have just received seventy-two new books for it, which is a very good beginning.

A party of surveyors have been taking the profile of Saluda mountain in preparation for the extension of the two safety switches which have been found too short for the long trains which sometimes have to take refuge on one of them.

Mr. H. B. Lane is in Sumter, S. C., on business leaving his daughter Miss Louise Lane in charge of the bank, who seems to be discharging the duties of a cashier to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Dr. J. C. Bushnell has gone to Washington, D. C., for a trip, taking advantage of the present fine weather.

Mr. Herschel Thompson, of the U. S. Navy, is at home on a furlough.

Mrs. Kinlaw of Charleston, S. C. is occupying the Lane cottage for the year, for the benefit of the health of one of her children.

Miss Lucile Hazard, of the Mission hospital, Asheville, but formerly of Saluda has successfully passed her probationary period there, and been admitted as a regular student for the whole course of study.

The firm of H. Pace & Son has moved into the building next the Carolina State Bank, formerly occupied by Leland & Guice.

The cement walls of the new primary building are slowly but surely rising from the ruins of the old one, and will be used for class rooms.

Mr. Mack Pace's family are all sick with the flu, as every bad cold is now called.

Mrs. Cummins and family have gone further south for the balance of the winter.

COLUMBUS.

There was a larger attendance at Stearns High School this week than we have had since the appearance of the flu.

The funeral of Mr. A. L. Pitman was held at Mill Spring Thursday. The Masonic order of Landrum, of which he was a member, had charge of the services. Mr. Pitman was one of Polk's best farmers, and a man who will be missed in his church.

The Commissioners will meet next Monday to appoint Register of Deeds to succeed the late A. L. Pitman.

Senator E. B. Cloud has received a front seat for Polk county in having been named on half a dozen committees.

Most of our people have recovered from the flu except Mrs. A. L. Pitman, who is still very sick.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil McCurry, son.

Mrs. Carnegie cut her hand badly while opening a glass jar.

Mr. Monroe Henderson cut his hand severing part of two fingers, while at work at a saw mill.

The seventeenth anniversary of Miss Ada Tallant was celebrated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hutchinson, Thursday evening January 16, 1919. Many interesting games were played after which refreshments were served. Everyone present reported a nice time.

Mr. and Mrs. Twitty Thompson and Miss Viola Rhodes, of Lynn, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Z. V. Thompson, who have recently moved to Columbus.

LYNN.

No services in our little village last Sunday on account of the illness of Rev. M. M. Griffith who was to preach for us, and was quarantined by Board of Health.

Hosiery Mill and school both under a few days' suspension on account of the flu. While we do not have any at present, it's close by. Our neighbors, Columbus and Tryon both have a few cases.

One of our townsmen, Mr. T. A. Rippey now with the Royster Guano Co. Columbia, ran up to visit his family, returning on Monday.

Mr. John T. Panther, who has been at City Point, Va., for several months, has returned home. He was employed on the police force.

W. H. Cannon who is located at Spartanburg, with Wilson & Co. visited home folks last week-end.

Mr. Charles Eaton and bride of Landrum visited friends and relatives in Lynn, last week-end.

Several of our citizens are leaving our burg this week. Mr. M. L. Hendrix and family going to Spindale N. C.; Mr. H. H. Thompson and family left last week for the same place. Mrs. Lane and family go to Spartanburg, this week.

Horace, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Newman, who has had the pneumonia, is very much better, in fact he has about recovered.

It seems to us that some plan might be devised whereby the much needed road running from the bridge down east side of theriver could be finished.

MR. SWANN'S PUBLICITY BILL.

Hon. W. F. Swan, representative from Polk county, on Tuesday, introduced a Publicity Bill in the House of Representatives, at Raleigh. We publish it in full elsewhere, in this issue. We want every person who reads this bill to write Mr. Swan and urge him to push the measure.

If there is a state in the United States that deserves better and more publicity laws, that state is North Carolina. One of the best examples of a lack of such law was seen in our last election. There were several amendments to be voted upon, and not one person out of ten knew what those amendments were whether they were good or bad and whether they were deserving of the support of the voters or not. "Ignorance of law excuses no one." Yet, each and every session of the legislature of North Carolina passes laws, and there is no way of learning what these laws are, and it is a very easy matter for such laws to be violated and ignorantly so on the part of the offender. Mr. Swan's bill provides for the publication of a condensed form of every law passed by the legislature. Mr. Citizen, don't you think that you are entitled to this information?

The Corporation Commission is constantly making new rulings and issuing orders that the public should know all about. This bill provides that this body shall have published all such general orders. Don't you think Mr. Taxpayer that you are entitled to all such information? Mr. Swan's bill also provides for the publication, once every four years, of the assessors real estate list, complete, in every county. Not long since in conversation with a gentleman who has done considerable listing in Polk county, he told us of two instances which are typical of the conditions in every county in the state. One was where he listed a farmer with 680 acres of land, and formerly this man had been listed with but 68 acres, and was paying taxes on that amount. Another case was where a land owner was approached by a gentleman who desired to purchase the timber on that man's land. He asked the land owner how many acres of timber land he had, and was met with the reply, "What do you want to know that for? Do you want to buy the land, or are you listing for assessment?" When told that he wanted to buy the land he said, "Then I have 1,300 acres; but if you were listing I wanted it to stand like it is on the books now 350 acres."

FISHTOP.

Spring weather seems to be here now. Henderson visited in the Ruppe section of the cove, Sunday.

T. W. and J. B. Bradley and Posey Henderson exchanged visits Sunday. Mr. Sams the demonstrator, was in this section last week.

A goodly number of the covites attended the opening sale of Hannon Pace & Son, Saturday.

Govan Constant is building a road through C. G. Jones' place to the public road.

We are needing the extending of the cove road to Mills Gap road, in Cooper Gap township, down on north side of river.

MEETS WITH GENERAL APPROVAL.

The idea of a Polk County Board of Trade as advocated by County Agent Sams in the NEWS of last week, seems to meet with the approval of everybody who has given the matter any thought.

The plan is not a new one, neither is it a visionary one. Right in North Carolina there is such an organization, and it has done wonders for the section of country in which it is located. It is incorporated under the name of The Sand Hill Board of Trade.

While reading "The Foes Within Our Own Household," written by the late Theodore Roosevelt we find this organization mentioned and its workings explained, and according to Mr. Roosevelt the Sand Hills Board of Trade is a model that any farming section can well afford to take as a pattern.

The farmers in that section were up against very similar problems confronting the farmers of Polk county, and realized that something had to be done if they ever succeeded in getting anywhere. The Board of Trade plan was suggested and carried out. Of course a great many mistakes were made before the organization was on a satisfactory working basis. In order to avoid these same troubles a letter has been addressed to the Sand Hills Board of Trade asking that as much information as possible be sent us. With that information it ought not to be such a difficult problem to get an organization perfected on a sound working basis at the start.

We hope every farmer, professional or business man in Polk county who possibly can, will be present at the meeting in Columbus, Monday Feb. 3rd.

POOR'S FORD.

Mr. C. L. Thompson was a Finger-ville, S. C. visitor, Saturday, on business.

Mr. John Eplee visited Mr. Moncie Thompson, Saturday.

Mr. Marlin Thompson spent Saturday night with Mr. J. L. lead.

Mr. Sam Crawford was a caller on the route, Sunday.

Mr. C. L. Thompson visited his son, John Thompson Sunday.

Mr. Frank Eplee was a visitor at Mr. John Thompson's, Sunday.

Mr. B. C. Thompson was a visitor at Mr. J. M. Crawford's, Sunday.

Mr. Horace Thompson spent Saturday night with Mr. Don Smalley.

Mr. L. C. Thompson intends to finish gathering his corn this week, if the weather will let him. He has a bad way of crossing the river.

Mr. Ed. Liles came home from Finger-ville, S. C. where he has been at work. He returned Monday.

Prohibition America is a reality. It was frankly predicted at the time Congress passed the measure that it would take five or six years if enough States could be induced to pass the measure to bring about prohibition, but from all sections of the United States the result has been the same. When such states as Louisiana, Illinois, California and Idaho ratified the measure it needed no prophet to tell that whiskey "was a gone coon-skin." Well we always did like water anyway.

The world's news has become a little stale to the yellow journal, and now we are told by them that war is likely to break out again at almost any time. We don't believe it. Uncle Sam has too many of his troops left over there for anybody to want any more war.

NOT MATTER OF PARTY POLITICS.

Present Legislature Face-to-Face With Questions of the Greatest Moment.

NEW ELECTION LAWS.

"A free election and a fair count" is what every American citizen is taught to believe in. But we do not always practice what we preach, in that respect. Nobody will deny the fact that in those states where the two leading political parties are evenly divided there is more progress, more development and a greater increase in wealth and population.

The present legislature is going to tackle the proposition of a new election law. It should receive the unanimous vote of the entire membership of that body and not be made a political issue. North Carolina has entirely too much politics for its own good, now, without injecting any more into it.

Some Democrats in North Carolina are opposed to a new election law because the Republicans are asking for one. In an editorial on the same question, the Raleigh Times, Democratic, last Thursday says:

"For who are the Republicans of North Carolina that Democracy should be fearful or even mindful of them? Their greatest kick we believe is that they cannot elect their candidates. If the Australian ballot will help their feelings, we move that they be given the Australian ballot. In fact, there should be special consideration shown Republican efforts to improve conditions in North Carolina.

"If they head toward honest elections, a ballot that is the voter's own, a square deal for every candidate entering a primary or an election, they should be met more than half way by the Democrats.

"North Carolina Democracy has been slow to recognize and admit its debt to the minority party. How could majorities of fifty thousand be called up for any Democratic candidate did not the Republicans not furnish somebody to vote against—it is a well known law of North Carolina human nature that we rarely, if ever, vote for anything, but always against something or somebody,—and a pretext for Pharaonic comparison? Just as South Carolina saved the State entire so long from the bottom of the list in educational matters the North Carolina Republicans have saved their Democratic fellow-citizens from being the worst reactionaries in the Nation.

The debt is large and growing. It ought to be paid in part by a ready acceptance of any election reforms desired by the under dog. Give Republicanism thunder-hold so to speak and then show who's the best man."

FARM DATA IN SEASON.

Influenza is still abroad in the land; better stay as close as possible.

Look up seed catalogues and purchase all field and garden seed where you are not fortunate enough to have saved them from your own fields and gardens.

See that your stables and stalls are well littered with dry straw or leaves gathered, when dry, from the farm wood lots.

Do not let one ounce of barn lot manure or that from the hog pen or poultry house go to waste. Manure is the farmers' "gold dust."

Cut and split wood while land is too wet to plow; which will save time when land is dry.

Keep plow going when land is in good condition.

Look after those defective terraces till you can get your land in clover and grass sods; then you will not need the terraces.

Prepare to grow poultry, pigs and sheep.

Prussian Military System.

During the Franco-German war, 1870-71, the armies of the various German states, though they were not Prussian, while in the field were commanded by the Prussian king and his general staff. After that war there was no difficulty in making Prussian control permanent. One after another the various states resigned direction of their armies to the king of Prussia, and for all practical purposes the German army became one. Almost immediately after the close of the Franco-German war a movement was begun to extend the imperial army, and the Prussian military system was introduced throughout the empire.

The gentlemen who were formerly conspicuous in their long white aprons dealing out rot-gut and other "pizen," can now discard their aprons, don overalls and go to work at honest employment.

Mr. John T. Smith, of Columbus has been secured to take care of the property.

Mrs. Reed accompanied the Doctor, and will remain for some time longer, while the Doctor has returned to Chicago, but expects to make us another visit later on.