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POLK COUNTY NEWS

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OUR COUNTY AGENT'S DEPARTMENT

Timely Talks to Polk County Farmers, and others, on Timely Subjects, by County Agent, J. R. Sams.

Our Community Fairs.

Community fairs and community club work and good development in North Carolina will be emphasized next year, or this year as never before. This was stressed at the late meeting of county agents at West Raleigh one of the important projects. We have just visited Saluda and had the community fair prospect glow with enthusiasm. P. H. Wiley the genial president has put him an executive and finance committee able of work and enthusiasm. Columbus, Mill Spring, Cooper Gap, and Greens Creek are all organized and pressing forward. I had a letter from J. Branscom, secretary of Greens Creek community fair which was encouraging. Back of these fairs is a community organization intended to better develop the resources of every community. What we want is a better community life, better agriculture of course, but better neighbors, better people and better homes. Better roads, better schools, better teachers, and them better paid. So it is betterment are after and the surest and best way to get it is to organize and get everybody to work for better things in his or her own community, and this is what a community club and fair means. Now what about that hog pasture? The boll weevil is on his way and is expected to strike Polk county about 1923, though it may be a little later. There is nothing unusual about a hog pasture, just select a good rich piece of land as nearly level as you can, slightly rolling is better, and get every kind of grass and cover possible to grow on it. This is easy to do on rich land. When put some purebred hogs on this pasture, and feed a little concentrated feed all along and watch the pigs curl their tails and grow. Of course the hogs must get go on the pasture until well established, better mow for hay the first year. I am writing about a permanent hog pasture now, of course peanut, soy bean, velvet bean, cow pea and other crops can be grown to supplement the permanent pasture and fishing up work. Of course I do not expect every farmer in Polk county to break his neck making permanent pastures right now, I would be sorry if they did, but I want to keep pastures so everlastingly in the minds of farmers that after I am dead and gone, they will think back and feel sorry that they did not get busy and grow some and give me a small bit of pleasure in my lifetime, to see some real sure enough pastures, just such as I have seen in Kentucky, east Tennessee and other parts of Piedmont and mountain sections of North Carolina. The boll weevil is coming and we must grow hogs and other live stock, to take the place of cotton largely as a money crop. To grow livestock we must grow pastures. So there you are—no hay getting around it and that is why I keep malling on you to grow pastures, so the sooner you get to growing pastures the sooner I'll quit malling. Now what about that \$60.00 a ton hay you will have to buy next summer if you don't plan now to get around it? If you will sow some winter oats hairy or winter vetch with a good application of acid phosphate, you can head off the necessity of buying that high

priced hay next summer. Now is the time to think about it and think so intensely and persistently that it will get your bodies in such action that the thing will be done. Don't let the high price of seed bluff you off, seed now are not as high as last year and if twice as high it will be much cheaper than buying hay next summer. Try it, don't take my word for it.

Another thing I want to mention, I want one farmer or two if suitable men will apply to grow some seed wheat in Polk county. The state will furnish high quality pedigree seed wheat for one or two farmers who will agree to sow this seed under instructions given. This seed wheat will cost \$4.00 per bushel and the farmer undertaking this project should be able to sow 10 bu. on good wheat land and plant it at the time and in the manner prescribed by the state agronomist. If any farmer in Polk county desires to engage in growing seed wheat, and desires to take advantage of this offer write or see me at once.

One more thing and I'll hush for this time. How are you getting along with uncle Sam and do you love him? Are you obeying his laws and can you swear next time you register to vote that you have not violated any of his laws? Then there is your state; have you been true to her and obeyed her laws? Then what about those good neighbors and do you love them as you love yourself? You may think that is hard to do but hard as you may think it is, God requires it at the hand of every one. So let us all square our actions by the square of virtue and see how far short we are falling and strive to do better in the future.

What Will Polk County Be?

There is a question mark after every thing in the future; because no one can foretell the future. If I knew the vision every citizen of Polk county had of what she will be twenty-five years hence, then I could tell you what she will be at that time. Without a vision there can be no progress. If we continue to see nothing but cotton growing on the fields and gullies, with the soil and land all washing away and the river and creek beds filling up with the soil, sand, gravel, and clay brought down by every hard rain that comes, then that is what will be going on twenty-five years hence.

If we stay at home and cuss and brow beat the county, commissioners, road board, board of education and everybody else who have better roads, better schools, and better bridges, we will make better headway in getting them. Instead of laying at home and "cussing" these officials though perhaps some of them and maybe all need more or less "cussing", why not come to Columbus and inquire into the matter where you think you have a grievance and perhaps everything could be made plain. Nothing is ever gained by abusing any one. A good man can be spoiled by abusing him, a good officer can be made a disagreeable fellow by continual abuse. A bad man has often been reformed by kind words and good treatment. Suppose we all quit casting stones awhile at our county officials and instead throw them a bouquet. Let's attend



CHARLES GUGHES

their meetings and in a kind way ask for what we think is due our neck of the woods in the way of roads, schools, bridges and etc. and then if we don't get what we ask for and fail to get, for Polk county's sake lets not go off and sulk and pout and call every one thieves and robbers. The place for thieves and robbers is on the chaingang or in the state penitentiary, and I would hate awfully to think we had a county official who ought to be in either place. What the world needs, what North Carolina needs and what Polk county needs is confidence in humanity. Show me the man who confides in nobody; and I'll show you a man in whom all mankind may well look with suspicion. Of course there is much faith and trust in the world, but none too much. Now the purpose of this article is to see if any body sees any good in Polk county. Now what about our climate, the rain, sunshine, pleasant breezes, then what about the beautiful rivers, creeks, and cooling springs on the mountains and in the low grounds. Then what about the towering mountains themselves. Starting where the cotton, fig and scuppernong grapes thrive in luxuriance and pierce the clouds and kiss the sky. Then the soil O, well it will just grow any thing that grows from Canada to Fla., and what more can you ask? Besides there are so many other things to numerous to mention, but there is one thing we can boast of which no other country has and that is the thermal belt our mountain side. Now instead of everlastingly whining and complaining about this, that and the other going to satan in Polk county, lets just open our mental and spiritual visions and begin to look for something great and glorious in old Polk and by and by we will begin to see and realize what we look for and expect. Why not look for and expect good officers, then we would nominate and elect that kind.

Then we might look for and expect good roads, schools, bridges and etc. What we need is a vision that can see possibilities in Polk county, and then can see the way to develop these possibilities. We need men who can see green fields of clover and grass where the brown earth now frowns at you, we need men who can see fat cattle grazing on their fields of clover and grass, we need men and women who can see well built houses on the thousands of beautiful sites for magnificent homes with all mod-

ern home conveniences in them, men and women who can see good roads and well supplied school houses within reach of every child in Polk county. We want to see the time when every man and woman in Polk county can have this mental vision and everyone will see and feel alike for himself and for his neighbors as he sees and thinks for himself then and not till then will we have all the good things we now crave for ourselves only.

Notice of Election.

The undersigned do hereby order an election to be held in the Town of Tryon on Thursday, Sept. 30th, 1920 for the purpose of determining the tax rate for the year 1920.

The present tax rate on the old assessment is 66 2-3 cents per \$100.00. Under the Revaluation Act this has been reduced to 23 cents per \$100.00 which makes a deficit of \$2550.00 in the budget of the current year. To meet this deficit the rate must be made 40 cents per \$100.00 instead of 23 cents.

The tickets will read "For Tax" if the voter wishes the 40 cent rate or "Against Tax" if the 23 cent rate is wanted. Polls will be open from Sunrise until Sunset, at Town Hall.

- F. P. BACON, Mayor.
- C. W. BALLENGER
- W. Y. WILKINS
- L. A. AVANT
- Commissioners.
- M. C. BLAKE, Clerk.

GOVERNOR BICKETT SAYS.

Some practical provision will also be made to meet the distressing conditions that confront the most of cities and towns. Since the Revaluation Act was written the cost of everything a city has to buy in order to maintain a decent city government, including wages and salaries, has greatly increased. It appears that a number of cities cannot live on the ten-per-cent increase fixed by the act of 1919. I suggest that a bill be drawn providing that whenever the governing authorities of a city shall, by a unanimous vote, find as a fact that it is impossible for the city to maintain its government on the ten-per-cent increase allowed by the act of 1919 that they shall publish this fact, together with a statement of the actual increase of revenues necessary, and if within ten days after this publication ten per cent of the voters of the city shall ask for an election on the question, one shall be ordered to determine whether or not such increased taxes shall be levied. If such a petition shall not be filed, then the governing authorities shall be authorized to levy the taxes without an election.

Beware of Lost Minutes.

"In the dynamics of human affairs," said a learned man, "two qualities are essential to greatness—power and promptitude. The former is often the fruit of the latter. A man or woman who is impressed with the value of time will make every minute count to such purpose that his or her life will inevitably bear the stamp of power." —Orison Sweet Marden in Chicago Daily News.

Cleaning the Oil Stove.

To clean the wicks of either oil lamps or stoves turn them fairly low, so that only the charred part is visible. Then take a small piece of sandpaper and rub over the top of the wick carefully, on both sides, if possible. After this "operation" the flame will burn evenly without smoking, paying you well for the small amount of time expended in cleaning the wick.

Source of Tears.

"Where do tears come from?" In each eye there is a small duct called the tear duct. This little gland is constantly making tears and washing the eye. The eye "winkers" are the brushes that wash the particles of dust away from the delicate portions of the eye. When we cry the tear gland "works overtime" sending one tear chasing another, like rain drops on the window pane.

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY

Items of Interest Gathered From Various Sections of Polk County by Our Corps of Faithful Correspondents.

Mountain View

We have been having a lot of rain in this section for the last month.

Mr. Taylor Jackson, who has been visiting relatives at Caroleen returned home one day last week and reports a fine trip.

Mr. Leslie has been a pleasant visitor at Moses Jackson's for the last few days.

Several from this section went to Spartanburg with produce last week.

Miss Alice McCrain left for Columbia, last week, where she entered high school. We miss her, very much.

Edgar McCrain and Milo Walker motored to Tryon one day last week.

H. H. McCrain lost a fine milk cow last week.

Fishtop.

Some more nice warm weather last week and we hope it will continue.

About the best news we have this week that nothing unusual has happened.

E. J. Bradley was in Henderson county a few days last week visiting friends, and saw some good corn, fine hogs, milk cattle and calves for sale.

Mrs. E. J. Bradley had a narrow escape one day last week when she stepped out to cut some rich weeds for a cow and found a large ratler in position and contending for every inch of the lot. He succeeded.

I see an abundance of loafers everywhere I go wanting higher wages. Never mind just wait they will come across and we hope how soon.

Some are gathering peas and preparing for winter. Irish potatoes are fine but so much rain is rotting some. Seems that turnips will be scarce this winter.

Melvin Hill.

The meeting which has been in progress here for a couple of weeks closed Sunday night about twelve were added to the church.

Mrs. E. S. Pitman of Collinsville, visited her sister Mrs. Stacy last week-end.

James Hester and his sister of Shelby, made a visit to their aunts Mrs. Simp Johnson recently.

Some parties went into Wm. Ridings watermelon patch Friday night, and cut up and destroyed some fourteen or fifteen good sized melons.

Farmers are trying to save some fodder this week.

Mr. Kreider has purchased himself a car lately.

The Misses Lawter of Cooly Springs, spent the week-end with S. S. Lawter and wife returning home last Sunday.

Elder Jackson returned to his home at Rutherfordton last Monday after a two weeks stay among us.

M. E. Randolph and daughter Robbie of Chesnee, visited Loren Johnson and wife Sunday.

There was a reorganization of the Sunday school here last Saturday. No changes to speak of were made, H. T. Cantrell was re-elected superintendent, and all the other officers and teachers except one.

Henson Huntley and wife of Holly Springs, visited her parents Mickey Westbrook and wife last week-end.

Mrs. Gran Higgins arrived home Sunday evening from Spruce Pine, where she had spent a week with her daughter Mrs. Smith.

The debate was postponed again last Saturday night on account of the protracted meeting, but is scheduled to come off next Saturday night without fail.

A missionary society will be organized at the school building next Saturday at 2:30 p. m.

Cotton is beginning to open slowly in this section.

Success to the news.

Columbus.

There will be a meeting of the Columbus Community Club next Monday evening at seven o'clock, in the school building, for the purpose of completing the organization; and be entertained by a very brief programme. At a recent meeting of the Community Club, it was decided to meet every two weeks and have a programme. Resolutions have been adopted which are of vital interest to each and every citizen, which stand for the uplift, of the entire community; ready to back every progressive move, and it is hoped that all the folks near enough to Columbus to attend these meetings will take the advantage of this opportunity to get together and get something started worth while.

The reception given for the teachers and patrons of Stearns High School Tuesday evening the 7th, was well attended and much enjoyed. Those present were entertained by a recitation and musical program arranged by Mrs. Jno. Carnegie. Sandwiches and coffee were served by the Ladies Betterment Club.

H. H. Edwards returned Wednesday from a business trip to Charlotte.

Mr. Frank Elliott has returned to Washington, D. C., after a two weeks visit to his parents here.

Messrs J. A. and W. E. Newman have charge of the mercantile business recently purchased by Lambright & Co.

Misses Annie Louise Mills and Dorothy Edwards were dinner guests of Miss Blanche Feagan Sunday.

New students enrolled this week were Misses Mable Pack, Carrie Barber, Barbara Vouheese Nettie Davis and Mr. Lorene Tony.

Lindsey Smith wife and daughter Cay attended a birthday party at Lynn Saturday evening.

Mrs. E. W. Dedmond has been indisposed for the past few weeks.

Ernest McMurry left Tuesday for the State University at Chapel Hill where he will enter school.

Lindsey Swofford of Spartanburg, S. C., spent the week-end with his wife.

L. H. Cloud spent Tuesday in Spartanburg.

Yates Arledge and Miss Phoebe Carpenter were married Saturday at Spartanburg, S. C. Immediately after the ceremony they left for a wedding trip.

Noah Daniel of Landrum, S. C., visited relatives here Saturday.

Harrison Cannon of Lynn, N. C., visited friends here Sunday.

W. H. Hill of Rutherfordton N. C. spent the week-end with his family.

J. A. Newman was in Tryon Tuesday on business.