

# POLK COUNTY NEWS

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## OUR COUNTY AGENT'S DEPARTMENT

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

### To The Farmers of Polk County.

I have hinted at some certain things along the line of thought I am now writing about to the farmers of Polk county; but I mean to speak in such plain language now, that anyone can read and I hope can understand as he runs. My text is better care of farm tools. Now if any farmer fools himself into the belief that farm tools are low in price; just go to some house that sells such merchandise and ask the price of a few articles and he will soon convince himself that he is deluded. Tools are not only high now; but they are going to remain high, and in all probability go higher than they now are. This being the case, then what kind of a business man is the farmer who will let highly priced wood and steel machinery stay out in the weather all the year around in snow, sleet, rain, sunshine and wind to rot the wooden parts and rust the steel and iron parts? I know right now where there are disk plows and mowing machines, rakes and other high priced machinery that have been in the weather almost since I first came to Polk county. This exposure to the weather has damaged the machinery worse far, than the use for the same period. Some people not as well acquainted as I am, would say such apparent carelessness was a lack of sense. By no means is it a lack of sense; for many farmers who are guilty of this very thing, in other respects are men of great ability and transact their business in an intelligent way. So it is not a lack of brain power, neither is it a lack of business ability. Well then what is it? To tell the truth, I am puzzled to say precisely what the trouble is; but I know it is not a lack of sense, for some of our most sensible and otherwise best farmers are the greatest sinners along this line. I believe I will suggest that it is a carelessness. No, that won't do for any sensible man should care when he sees his valuable property going to waste. Perhaps negligence would be a better word. Any way suppose we just say it lies between about three words ending in double s. Viz. carelessness, thoughtlessness, cussedness, and it may be more of the last than both that preceded. Anyway, for the sake of the tools, the wife and children who will in many cases go without things they desire and need on account of having to buy new machinery to take the place of that which rusted and rotted in the weather, and your own sake. Prepare a good cheap tool shed and store the tools while clean and bright from use, and they will be clean and bright for use when needed again. Then there is something else I want to call your attention to; and that is the repairing of simple and complex machinery. In my rounds I see valuable plows, harrows, and the Ge-whizz laying about the barns and fields that by small repairs by even a very ordinary mechanical mind, would do valuable service for a long time and as good as new. Now why not every farmer in Polk county look around and see to it that all valuable machinery is put under cover at once. Then again look around and see what broken machinery can be repaired, and repair it these snowy and rainy

days when you can't plow. It would beat loafing around town or the crossroad stores, pitching horse shoes or playing checkers to death, besides you would be close home where you could help that overworked wife wash the clothes or scrub the floor. Now don't take this in the wrong spirit. I am not quarreling nor fussing. I have tried to put the matter to you in a very homely way. And God knows my heart and how it pains me to see your hard earned money rusting and rotting out so rapidly in farm tools when just so very little invested in a tool shed would save it all. And in some cases there are already sheds sufficient. In this case there is one more word with a double s. and that is laziness. Surely to goodness I'll not have to refer to this matter again. But before closing, let me again in this financial pinch, ask all farmers to look up and repair all farm tools that can be repaired and save the purchase of high priced new tools.

### A Word About Poultry

Now, yes, now is the time of year to think poultry and to act poultry. No matter if you think poultry a whole year and do nothing it will avail nothing. On the other hand if you pitch it in heels over head, helter skelter without thinking out definitely what you mean to do, the chances are ninety-nine in the hundred that it will be a failure. The way to accomplish something worth while in the poultry business is just the same as any other business if you expect to succeed. First think the whole matter through, lay plans for the year and lay them wisely and then go to work and put the plans and thinking into actual operation. These are long nights and these cold snowy and rainy days might be well spent in laying some good plans to develop a good flock of poultry on the farm. Right away the hens will begin to get broody. Have proper nest boxes in which to set them. Arrange now for your roosters and hens for breeding stock. Also arrange for eggs for hatching purposes. See your neighbors and get purebred poultry eggs. You that have not gotten in the game, don't stay out any longer Polk county is full of purebred poultry. If you want Rhode Island Reds you can't get out of hearing of red roosters crowing. Then if you want White Leghorns they are plentiful in the county. There also plenty of purebred Wyandots, Plymouth Rocks, Buff Orpingtons, Anconas and almost any kind you want. So stir around among your neighbors and get up your stock and get busy. Don't think you must stake your all on any one crop, poultry is a fine side line but don't take your all on any one thing. Some people expect their hens to lay with no attention. Suppose you let your milk cow run at large, browse in the snow, lay out at night without feed of any kind; how much milk and butter would you expect these winter nights. Well, to produce eggs it is as much strain on the constitution of a hen as it is on the constitution of a cow to give milk. Then for best results why not house and feed the hens properly through the winter as you do the milk cow and the horse. The farmer as a rule

mistreats the hens worse for lack of proper feeding and housing than any other live stock on his farm, and then often complains that poultry does not pay. Of course they don't pay, neither does any other live stock unfed and unsheltered pay.

Take care of your health these snowy wet days, and save Dr. bills and dry days when they come.

Feed and house the hens and sell eggs when high, and eat them when low.

Now house those farm tools and repair all that are out of order and save buying new ones during the money pinch.

Be ready to plow and plant the garden the first day it is dry enough. Don't put it off.

If you are caring well for your milk cow; just care a little better and see how she will pay for the extra kindness.

Even the hog responds to good treatment. If you don't believe it just try it this year.

Don't forget to order that seed catalogue and have all necessary seed on hand when planting time comes, and it is right here now.

Don't be satisfied with trifling seed corn, if you have inferior seed corn look around, plenty of fine seed corn in Polk county.

Plan this year for all around crops. Grow a great variety this year and you will hit the high places as well as the low ones.

Remember the family cow, the farm flock of poultry and the garden are the most important things to back up wholesome family living.

Read lots, think lots, breathe lots of fresh air, drink lots of pure water, eat moderately and do a good honest days work every work day and see how you will sleep at night and what an easy conscience you will have.

Let the slogan for farmers this year be: cut the cotton acreage one third; and then do it.

Good time to begin a real sure-enough pasture for that half starved milk cow, that tries so hard and faithfully to feed your children.

Stop those growing gullies on your farm. It is an agricultural disgrace for any farmer to keep a gully on his farm when it is so easy to stop them.

What about those awful mud holes all over Polk county. Why not organize some mud hole clubs in every community and divide

## PROMISE

(Dedicated to J. C. Bushnell)

Hast thou ne'er gone at dewy morn  
In Nature's wilds to stray,  
When dewdrops on the flowering thorn  
Glint in the early May?  
When Sol sends amorous smiles to Earth,  
And Earth gives form and beauty birth,  
Responding to each ray?

Lift up thine eyes to morning skies  
When 'eer thou art benight:  
See, Sorrow flies at Night's demise,  
And Hope, asserts her right.  
Be here thy faith in Him restored  
Whom all our fathers have adored--  
The Sun and Soul, of light!

Within yon rose recurrent glows  
The Promise, it implies;  
Since He who planned this holy-land  
Of flowering Earth and Skies,  
And yon sweet dawn, has e'er renewed--  
With Life-eternal, has embued  
Thy Soul, that never dies.

—John A. Averette.

## FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY

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

### Mill Spring Route 2

G. C. Green called to see his sister Mrs. Thomas Mills Sunday.

There were quite a bunch of girls and boys of the Cooper Gap choir at Big Level Sunday.

E. J. Bagwell had two experienced fruit men at work in his orchard last week.

J. R. Sams was a favorite visitor in Cooper Gap last week pushing gardening and pastures which have been so long neglected here as well as all over the county.

Cooper Gap with a good top soiled road from Tryon would be the garden spot of Polk county.

### Sunny View

There wasn't very many out at Sunday school Sunday on account of the muddy roads.

Mrs. Ralph Jackson returned to her home in Kansas City, Kan., Thursday.

Mrs. Ed Dimsdale visited her mother-in-law Saturday evening.

Bessie, Jane and Emma Helton and Arkansas Jackson visited at Geo. Bradley's Sunday.

Andy McGuinn called to see Mattie Mae Williams Sunday.

J. L. Jackson and wife, visited J. M. Gibbs and wife Sunday.

Willie B. McGuinn and Miss Maggie Jackson visited Mary Helton Sunday.

Sorry to know J. M. Gibbs is very ill but hope he will soon recover.

Hobart Whiteside, Noah Lynch Willie Mills, Terrel Taylor, Andy McGuinn were all joy walking Sunday afternoon.

### Mill Spring Route 1

Rev. W. J. Hackney filled his appointment at Lebanon Sunday. He delivered an interesting sermon.

Arthur Thompson and wife, were the dinner guests of the latter's parents A. A. Edwards and wife Sunday.

Q. M. Powell and wife, visited J. T. Edwards and wife Sunday.

Miss Lalice Nanney, who is teaching school at Mountain Creek spent the week-end with her sister Mrs. G. A. Womack.

There was a singing at W. H. Ledbetter's last Saturday night, also one at A. A. Edwards Sunday afternoon.

C Walker, of Mill Spring, attended services at Lebanon Sunday and was the after church guest of J. T. Edwards.

J. C. Powell went to Columbus Monday on business.

It was Duffey Harris who called to see Miss Lela Womack instead of Duffey Womack.

Ralph Edwards and wife are moving to Mrs. M. E. Womack's farm this week.

Roscoe Whiteside was a caller on Broad River Sunday, also Johnie Griffin.

Maggie Sue Edwards is going to have a cotton picking next Monday night. Everybody come.

### Columbus.

Death came to J. G. Hughes, after suffering many years. He was laid to rest at the Baptist church cemetery Jan. 21, 1921. His faithful Dr. Earl Grady treated him for twenty years. The town and community realize they have lost a good citizen.

The infant child of Ralph Prince is very sick with pneu-

monia.

Mrs. E. B. Cloud was called to the bedside of her mother Mrs. T. E. Walker who is very low with pneumonia.

Miss McNeely was sick two days last week with cold. Mrs. Loy took her school work.

Mrs. B. F. Green is visiting her sister at Boiling Spring, S. C.

Prof. Loy and wife, visited relatives and friends in Shelby last week-end.

F. W. Blanton and wife, visited friends and relatives in Monroe and Shelby, N. C. last week-end.

H. W. Hill has returned to Rutherfordton to his work.

Supt. E. W. S. Cobb spent a few days last week in Raleigh.

F. M. Burgess visited in Raleigh last week.

John Burgess has returned from Wake Forest College and passed the examination as Attorney at Law.

The box supper at Stearns High School was a success. Amount received was about \$35. Everyone reported a good time.

A number of Lynn girls visited the Misses Tallant last week.

Mrs. John Lewis Smith and daughter, are visiting her mother Mrs. J. W. Newman.

Mr. Panter and wife, from Landrum, Route 4, visited Mrs. A. L. Pitman Sunday.

Mrs. Prince's father and brother visited her one day last week.

Mr. Wingo and family visited friends in Landrum Sunday.

Walter Ridings has about gained his usual health, who has been ill with influenza.

A large number of citizens from different parts of the county were at the court house Monday on business.

### Apples Baked by Lightning.

When an apple tree near South Norwalk, Conn., had been struck by lightning the apples left hanging on the tree were found to be baked.

### Harmony.

What some men would like to know is why, if girls never put on long dresses now when they grow up, they shouldn't keep on wearing hair ribbons.—Boston Transcript.

### She Wanted Another.

Edith visited the new arrival at my home, and was told that an airplane dropped it on the roof of a hospital and that the doctor brought it up. Before Edith reached home, she saw an airplane and cried out to the amazement of passersby: "Please, mister, drop one, drop one."—Exchange.

### Comfortable Cave.

From Bend, Ore., comes the interesting announcement that a few miles southeast of that town, at Horse Butte, has been discovered a naturally heated cave. It apparently draws its warm atmosphere from a subterranean source. The cave, which is near the top of the butte, first attracted attention by the wave of heat issuing from its mouth.

### Unfair Discrimination.

Nicholas watched his papa give his two older brothers money for carfare and money for the collection at church. He wanted to go to church also, but his papa told him he would have to stay at home. He immediately said: "Why don't you make them kids stay home? They is the ones that always wants the nickels."

### Live Electric Plants.

There are in all about 50 species of electrical fish, but the electrical properties of only five or six have been studied in detail. The best known are various species of torpedo, belonging to the skate family found in the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas; the gymnotus, an eel found in the region of the Orinoco in South America; the malapterurus, the flash or thunderer fish of the Arabs, a native of the Nile, the Niger, Senegal and other African rivers, and various species of skate found in the seas around Great Britain.