

The Davidsonian

THAT WHICH IS MORALLY WRONG CANNOT BE POLITICALLY RIGHT.

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Orphanage Well a Complete Success.

Fears for Water-Supply Proven Groundless.

Mr. Freeman Counts Upon 100 Gallons a Minute—Possibly 125 or 150.

Enough Water to Drown Thomasville.

Apparatus Working Beautifully.

The McCrary Company is satisfied, Boss Freeman is pleased, Superintendent of Water-Works Mallard is happy, and the Water Commission is ecstatic over the magnificent performance of the deep well at the Orphanage when it was put to the test Wednesday morning. Mr. Freeman, who is in charge of the construction of the whole water-system for the McCrarys, says that the well is good for one hundred gallons a minute, at least, and possibly more than that. Thomasville's utmost need for the present will not exceed 50 or 60 gallons a minute; Lexington with all her factories coupled on to the city system uses about 75 gallons, while the majority of our factories either have their own water supply, or use electricity from the Southern Power Company's lines. So even at only 100 gallons a minute Thomasville has twice as much water as she needs at present.

The news that the supply is ample will come as an immense relief, not only to the officials, but to all advocates of water-works as well, for with the bitter opposition the plan met at its beginning, and a suit still hanging over it, it would have been discouraging to have had to dig a new well before water could be had. Gloomy reports had spread over town on account of the failure of the first test. The pipes from the compressor were at first lowered only 210 feet, and in twenty minutes the pumps were sucking air for the most part, mixed with a miserable drizzle of water—about twenty gallons a minute, or barely enough to supply the Orphanage alone. It was feared that the well was going to fizzle out, but a further test was determined on. Working night and day, the crew drew out the pipe and added 190 feet to its length making the total depth of the pump 400 feet. The work was completed Wednesday morning, and the pumps set to work in the presence of an anxious group, consisting of Mr. Freeman, Superintendent Mallard, Chairman of the Water Commission C. F. Lambeth, Mr. McCrary, Manager Keeler of the Orphanage, a representative of the DAVIDSONIAN, and the workmen. A magnificent stream sprang from the mouth of the 6-inch pipe into the temporary reservoir. And it kept coming. The pump was run at full speed all day but the stream never slackened for an instant; the water is there. Of course the flow is not what it will be when the apparatus is complete; the comparatively crude, temporary affair now in operation draws only about 50 gallons, but if he can get 50 with that Mr. Freeman is satisfied of 100 when he gets his machinery in running order.

But the stream is a beautiful sight now to the drought-stricken citizens of Thomasville. The water is as pure as water often gets to be on this earth, coming, as it does from a depth of 870 feet. It is cool and magnificently clear; the temporary iron tank used as a reservoir at the pumping plant is nine feet deep; yet when it is level full one looking down from above may count every rivet on its bottom. No typhoid in that water.

Much of the credit for the rapid completion of the tests is due to the energetic and faithful work of Superintendent Mallard and his gang of workmen. All this week they have been working all day until 6:30 in the evening; stopping only for supper they would hurry back, and work again until midnight or one o'clock next morning. With six hours sleep a night, and scarcely stopping long enough to eat, they have kept at it until their task was completed.

With a fire-hose coupled to the nearest hydrant and a two-inch stream turned on the blaze, the fire the other morning would have caused scarcely a ripple of excitement, instead of stopping all the factories and fetching out half the town as it did.

The Department of Agriculture Has Something to Say That is of Interest to Farmers. Work of Experiment Stations

The DAVIDSONIAN is in receipt of a letter from Mr. J. L. Burgess, Agronomist of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, calling attention to the work of the agricultural experiment stations and offering a series of articles on scientific fertilization. Mr. Burgess is a scientist who knows; it will pay every farmer-reader of this paper to clip out these articles and preserve them for reference, for they are the practical result of long experimentation. They will be in the DAVIDSONIAN from week to week under the heading "The Department of Agriculture." The first of the articles follows.

NECESSITY OF ORGANIC MATTER IN THE SOIL.

There are two things absolutely essential to successful farming in North Carolina. One is deep plowing, and the other is the incorporation in the soil of humus or organic matter from decaying vegetation.

We have heard a great deal about plowing and on soils which have stiff heavy sub-soils, deep plowing, and in some cases, even sub-soiling, is entirely necessary. But we have heard all too little about the organic matter content of our soils. Indeed, some wag might say, there is not enough organic matter in most of our soils to speak about anyway, but that is just why we should begin to talk. Good plowing and a liberal amount of vegetable mould or organic matter in our soils constitute the two oars by which the agriculture boat must be driven in North Carolina. We have hitherto done most of our pulling on the plowing oar and as a result our boat has inclined to go in a circle with the result that the people of the State are shipping in tens of millions of dollars worth of food supplies every year when they should be selling more than they buy.

We are giving out no information when we say that nine tenths of our soils are poor and unproductive. These poor soils are "known and read of all men." When we see a boy nowadays with a thin, pale, anemic face, we are pretty apt to say he has the hookworm, by which we mean he has little red blood in his veins, low vitality, waning strength, and little ambition. His life forces are becoming weaker, he is unable to do much, we say, and his ability to do is becoming less and less every day and will finally be reduced to zero unless he is given a treatment. Keep this in mind and go twenty-five miles in almost any direction in North Carolina and you will see on every hand, fields of white, pale, sandy soils thrown out of cultivation; you will see fields of red and gray lands thrown out of cultivation. Why this abandonment of cultivable lands in North Carolina? Examine them and you will find a good amount of all the necessary mineral elements of plant food, but the humus of organic matter content is almost nothing. They have no life in them and hence cannot give life to vegetation. They are anemic; they have hookworm, if you will allow the figure, and can do little without a treatment. The vitality of these poor lands is so low that it pays no one to cultivate them. Deep plowing will not do. The proper treatment of all these poor or abandoned lands, that are well-drained, is, first, give them a heavy dose of organic matter either in the shape of stable manure or green manure. These are the two sources of organic matter in our soil. The one is, and has always been, too limited to set much store by, while the other is, always has been, and always will be, the principal source from which we must obtain humus for the agricultural soils in North Carolina.

Next week we expect to take up the discussion of the bringing up of these poor lands in the State and will speak of the crops to be grown first in an attempt at their reformation. We want to call attention to every man, who has poor lands on his farm, to this series of articles which will likely extend over some months.

J. L. BURGESS
N. C. Department of Agriculture.

Prof. J. M. Cheek, of Liberty-Piedmont Institute, was a visitor to the Davidsonian office Wednesday. Prof. Cheek who is canvassing for his school reports excellent prospects.

Farmers' Institute August 17th.

Will be Held at the Orphanage Again.

Women's Institute Scheduled for Same Day. Great Arbor Will be Given up to Farmers and Their Wives. Tentative Program.

Mr. T. B. Parker, Director of the Farmers' Institutes of North Carolina has sent us the proposed program of the Farmers' Institute to be held at the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage Thursday August 17th. The program as printed below, is issued only tentatively; it may be changed in any way to suit local conditions; for instance, if it should prove that "Cotton Culture" is a subject that does not hold much interest for Davidson county farmers, most of whom are wheat-growers, that item will be changed to some more appropriate subject. However this is a Farmers' Institute, be it understood, and every discussion will be of some topic in which farmers, and Davidson county farmers, in particular, are interested. The same conditions apply to the Women's Institute. Mr. Parker says it will pay you to bring a pencil and blank book along, so as to be able to take notes.

A premium of one dollar will be awarded for the best five ears of corn exhibited. The five ears exhibited must be of one variety, uniform in shape, size and color. Mixed corn or mixed varieties will not be allowed to compete for premium. The exhibitor must be able to give, as far as possible, the name of the variety, its productivity, yield per acre, and whether grown on upland or lowland. This offer is made solely with the view of studying corn and the comparing of different varieties.

A premium of one dollar will be awarded for the best loaf of light-bread baked and exhibited by a woman or girl living on the farm.

The meetings will be held under the huge arbor on the Orphanage grounds, where the air will be fresh and cool. The morning session will open at 10 o'clock and afternoon session at 1:30.

The programs follow:

MORNING SESSION.
Subjects for Discussion:
Soil Improvements, by C. R. Hudson.

Cotton Culture and Commercial Fertilizers, by E. S. Millsaps.
Insect Pests and How to Combat Them, by Franklin Sherman.
(General Discussion.)

AFTERNOON.
Corn Culture, by C. R. Hudson.
(Opening of Question Box and General Discussion.)
Boy's Corn Club Contest Explained.

Appointment of Committee
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE—MORNING SESSION.
Subjects for Discussion:

Suggestions in Household Work, by Mrs. C. R. Hudson.
Preventable Diseases, by Miss Edna Reinhardt.
The Home Garden, by Mrs. Hudson.
(General Discussion.)

AFTERNOON.
Possible Improvements in the Home Life, by Miss Reinhardt.
(Opening of Question Box and General Discussion.)
Appointment of Committee.

It Touches Us Too.

Under the heading "The Lesson" the Charlotte Evening Chronicle publishes the following editorial. How well it fits Thomasville we leave our readers to judge; however, we are glad to say that Thomasville, like Charlotte, has at last seen her need, and is energetically providing for it.

"The Roanoke Times, taking the water trouble in Charlotte as a text, preaches a timely sermon on the evils of procrastination. Moralizing, The Times says, 'Charlotte, we are told, has voted a bond issue for a better water supply, but the work of making the new supply available cannot be completed within a year. The people are subjected to inconvenience and suffering and danger. How long have the people and the city authorities been boggling and talking and debating over the water question? It seems to us it has

End of a Bitter Struggle.

Fight Between Walker and McCrary Factions of Davidson County Over Postmaster's Office in Victory for the Latter Wins of the G. O. P. in the Nomination of Mr. D. F. Conrad.

Monday's Charlotte Observer carries the following under a Lexington date-line. Lexington is to be congratulated that the row is over at last.

The news that came down from Washington today relative to the appointment of a postmaster at Lexington was very pleasing to a number of people. It marks the end of a bitter struggle between the Walker and McCrary factions of the G. O. P. in Davidson county, a struggle that has been going on for more than a year, with victory flitting with either side.

Several times it was reported that Mr. D. F. Conrad had won and that it was all over but the shouting. Each time the Walkers came back strong and ousted the McCraryites. Finally Chairman Morehead and the executive committee endorsed Walker and it looked like the fight was over. The McCrary faction charged that Postmaster J. G. Walser voted the Democratic ticket at the last election—at least so far as part of the ticket was concerned—and the State chairman reversed himself. The executive committee then lined up behind the McCrary's and it looked like Conrad would get the job. General Walser and his postmaster brother, lied themselves to Washington and President Taft disregarded the recommendations of the State machine and nominated Walser. Consternation reigned in the ranks of the McCrary faction. They had had from the beginning the support of the Duncan faction of the party and had come close to winning with it alone. Now they had both the Duncan faction and Marion Butler and his crew behind them and still they could not win.

Walser's nomination was held up and the matter has been in abeyance for many weeks. Walser holding on and drawing the salary. He has been drawing the salary for a year more than was coming to him, as his term expired in June 1910. Today the news comes down from Washington that Conrad is to get the plum and it is believed here that the fight is over.

D. F. Conrad, the appointee, is secretary and treasurer of the Elk Furniture Company. He has been prominent in Republican politics for many years and he is one of the best Republicans on earth. Likewise, he is a good citizen and is very popular. He was postmaster ten years ago and resigned, Postmaster Walser succeeding him. He will make a good one. He is a member of the board of aldermen and is deeply interested in the welfare of the city. At the municipal election in May he led the aldermanic ticket by several votes.

Later News has come from Washington that Conrad's appointment has been held up, and the whole thing may have to be gone over again.

been years. How many times has the matter been discussed and referred to committees and referred back and how frequently have 'tax payers' and 'lot owner' put themselves in the way and denounced and obstructed the whole thing? It is the old story of Noah taken with reverse English. Noah warned against a flood and some people in Charlotte this long time have been warning against a drought. One warning went unheeded as the other did. And throughout the country, cities and towns are threatened with one peril or another, one loss or another; are offered and lose one opportunity or another; endure one loss or another; and councils serenely boggle and stumble and meander and blunder along, talking and yawning and discouraging and referring and reporting and referring back and sending to sub-committees and dawdling through hearings. So it will be until we get compact, efficient, business-like systems of city government."

At the next municipal campaign, perhaps, our people will be more in favor of providing Charlotte with a genuine form of government by commission—a mayor and five aldermen."

Cotton Mills Shut Down

Power Company Cuts off the Juice.

Low Water in Catawba River Combined With Accident in Steam Plant Compels the Closing of 100 Cotton Mills for a Day or Two. The Jewel and Amazon Among Them.

The Jewel and the Amazon cotton mills, both of which are operated by electricity, received notice Tuesday that low water in the Catawba river and an accident in the steam plant at Greenville, S. C., had brought the Southern Power Co. face to face with a serious shortage of power, and Messrs. Hill and Lillard were asked, if they could, to shut down their respective mills for the next couple of days, which they readily agreed to do. The papers indicate that they were only two out of a hundred to whom the same request was made. Only the large mills are asked to shut down; the small plants will not be disturbed and there is no fear of a shortage of light. Wednesday's Charlotte Evening Chronicle puts the situation thus:

"All cotton mills and most other industrial enterprises operated with power from the electric transmission lines of the Southern Power Company are closed down today and will probably not resume work before Thursday or possibly Friday.

On account of the lowness of the Catawba river, from the flow of which is produced the hydroelectric power used throughout this section, together with an accident that put the 10,000 horsepower auxiliary steam plant at Greenville out of commission until certain repairs can be completed, officials of the Southern Power Company called up or wired all cotton mills and many other industrial plants and secured their consent to a shut-down of two or three days. In every instance permission was readily given and the shut-down followed.

The Catawba river is lower than it has ever been, the drought of 1881 and, so far as can be ascertained, of 1845 being of less severity than the present one. Not only is the river low, but there are a number of power plants operating individual mills a distance up the river. The river has been so low that some of these mills have shut down until they can accumulate a head of water sufficient to operate their hydroelectric power plants. This, of course, seriously curtails the volume of water lower down the river where the Southern Power Company's plants are located.

The company had the situation well in hand, having built the auxiliary plant at Greenville in anticipation of the short supply of water during the dry summer months, and there would have been no necessity for any shut down except for the fact that the brickwork under the huge boilers caved in, upsetting the boilers to some extent. This work is being repaired as rapidly as possible and the magnificent plant will be in operation again within a few days. Meanwhile a larger volume of water is being accumulated above the dams at the power plants, so that when the power is turned on for the mills within a day or two there will be no danger of further interruption.

The shutting down of the 100 or more cotton mills operated from the lines of the Southern Power Co. will not be regretted by the mill owners. There has recently been considerable voluntary curtailment by the mills of all sections of the country and with the market conditions as they are and the tariff question unsettled the mills are not at all averse to resting for a few days, and the courtesy of the company in securing permission before shutting off power was greatly appreciated by the users, who might otherwise have been inconvenienced.

The gas-electric auxiliary plant of the Southern Power Company is in operation in this city and some of the hydroelectric plants of the company are operating on reduced units so as to furnish enough power for the operation of the small motors in stores, markets, etc., and for the operation of small industrial plants which, unlike the cotton mills, could not shut down without heavy loss and inconvenience.

Dr. Rothrock's Barn Burned.

Small Blaze Causes Tremendous Excitement.

Little Joseph Rothrock was the direct cause of more excitement for a few minutes Monday morning, than a typical western "bad man" shooting up Salem street, would have provoked in the same length of time. It seems that the Rothrock children were having a "moving picture show" in the barn on East Guilford street back of Dr. J. M. Rothrock's house when the little fellow dropped a lighted match into some straw; fortunately the children immediately ran out of the building, else the damage might have been more serious. A passer-by heard their screams and saw the flames through a crack in the barn, seeing that he could not extinguish them alone, he rushed into the office of the Lambeth Furniture Co. just across the street and gave the alarm, and the factory whistle quickly roused the town. In an amazingly short time several hundred people were on the spot with all sorts of hand-operated fire-fighting apparatus, but the barn, which was filled with hay, was beyond all help. Fortunately there were several big oaks between it and Dr. Rothrock's house, and at no time was the residence in serious danger. The barn burned to the ground in a very few minutes, and even the trees are not very badly damaged. The total loss is about \$135, with no insurance; however Dr. Rothrock is congratulating himself upon the fortunate escape of the children. All of them are small and had they attempted to extinguish the flames instead of running out, they might have been seriously burned.

The whole incident is a timely and striking illustration of the great value of the new water works system. There is a hydrant within two hundred feet of the spot, and with a fire-hose and two men to handle it, while the barn would undoubtedly have been destroyed anyhow, there need not have been the slightest fear for the adjacent buildings, and some twenty-five bucket and ladder carriers would have been spared an exceedingly hot and unpleasant half-hour.

Mr. H. C. Grubb's Home Burned

Boone Township Has \$33,000 Fire. Mr. Grubb Will Rebuild.

The Charlotte Observer, of Wednesday morning says: A disastrous fire occurred at noon today in Boone township, Davidson county, just across the Yadkin river from the toll bridge which connects Rowan and Davidson, when the magnificent country residence and home of Mr. H. Clay Grubb was reduced to ashes, the fire originating overhead in the kitchen. The residence was destroyed, also the private school building and large barns, as was also the greater part of the household furniture and a lot of feedstuffs. Mr. Grubb had one of the finest country residences in the South, elaborately furnished and the loss will reach probably \$33,000. It was learned that something like \$11,000 insurance was carried. In the building was a complete library one of the best in this section.

The driving and saddle horses were saved, as was also Mr. Grubb's big automobile. Mr. Grubb was at home at the time in a nearby field looking after some farming. Farm hands and neighbors hurried to the scene, but arrived too late to save much of the furniture. A telephone message to Salisbury announced that the residence was burning and numbers of citizens hastened there by automobile and in buggies.

Mr. Grubb will probably rebuild at once on the site as he owns extensive farming interests in Davidson. He also owns large farms in Rowan, also much city property, among which is The Post building, the Grubb theater, formerly the Meroney theater, and is individually erecting the Grubb skyscraper. Salisburyans hope he will decide to take up his residence here, where he is a daily visitor, but he loves the country and will doubtless continue to reside on his largest farm. He also has interests in Jacksonville and Richmond, Va.

While the manner in which the blaze started is not positively known, Mr. Grubb thinks that the fierce windstorm which swept through this section some weeks ago may have damaged the kitchen flue, though this is only surmised.