

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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SEE WEEVIL AT WORST.

Fort Mill Farmers Visit Lower Section of State.

A party composed of about 60 farmers of the Fort Mill community and business men of the town left Fort Mill early Tuesday morning on a trip to the low-country to investigate first hand the ravages of the boll weevil in that section. The trip was under the auspices of the First National bank, whose president, Col. T. B. Spratt, took personal direction of arrangements for the accommodation of the members.

The party reached Columbia at noon Tuesday and after getting dinner in the capital city proceeded on the way to several of the low-country counties where the cotton pest has wiped out all prospects of a crop this year. Wednesday night a number of members of the party returned to Fort Mill and brought back with them the message of the low-country, that, in the infected area, cotton is good forage for boll weevils but is out of the question as a money crop.

"We saw immense fields of as pretty cotton as one ever looked at from the roadside," this morning said a member of the party, "but upon examination it was found that the stalks had been stripped of bolls and that in many instances not so much as a bale would be gathered from 15 acres. Another thing we learned is this—that if York county is not to be caught in the same fix next year the low-country is in this year, it will be necessary for our farmers to take the advice of that section and depend upon other crops to a large extent for their prosperity."

PLEASANT VALLEY NEWS.

Interesting Items From Progressive Community.

Mrs. J. Z. Bailes and her little daughter, Lillie, spent last week with relatives in Gold Hill.

W. B. Patterson spent the past week in Charleston.

Mrs. L. R. Therrell and her little son have returned to their home here after visiting relatives in Greenville.

Misses Martha Julia Bryant and Eudora Blakeney of the Providence section spent the past week-end with Miss Mary Bailes.

Mrs. R. L. Kirven and her little son, Robert, have returned to their home at St. Charles, after an extended visit to Mrs. Kirven's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Potts.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell Sturgis and family of Rock Hill visited recently Mrs. Sturgis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wolfe.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wood and their children of Newnan, Ga., have returned to their home after spending some time with Mrs. Wood's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Harris.

A number of farmers of this section this week visited the boll weevil section in the lower part of the State with the First National bank party. The trip proved both interesting and instructive. "Spinner."

Lieut. Lytle Transferred.

By a recent order of the adjutant general's department, Columbia, First Lieut. Arthur C. Lytle of the Tom Hall Guards, Company K, First regiment, S. C. N. G., is transferred to Third battalion headquarters, Rock Hill.

The transfer of Lieut. Lytle creates a vacancy in the local company which is to be filled by election next Monday evening.

Lieut. Lytle has been one of the mainstays of the local company and it was with regret that the company a day or two ago learned of his transfer.

Plans promoted by Maj. J. C. Dozier of the Third battalion, recently appointed by Governor Cooper, and Lieut. Lytle are now under way for the formation of a battalion headquarters company in Rock Hill and Fort Mill. The company is to be composed of 40 men, 20 from Rock Hill and 20 from Fort Mill, and will be commanded by Lieut. Lytle.

PAY FOR MILITIAMEN.

Check for Nearly \$3,000 Received by Tom Hall Guards.

A piece of news that was heartily welcomed by the members of the Tom Hall Guards, Company K, First regiment, S. C. N. G., Tuesday evening at the regular weekly drill was the announcement by one of the officers that a check had been received from the finance department, Fourth corps area, Fort McPherson, Atlanta, for the company's service for the period from January 1 to June 31. The check was for \$2,997.80. For the six months' service sergeants were paid \$45, corporals \$37, first class privates \$35 and privates \$30.

Under the law passed by Congress two years ago providing for the maintenance of the National Guard, militiamen are paid for attending drills at the same rate per day allowed enlisted men in the regular army. Officers of the National Guard receive a fixed salary, except when they are ordered out for service, and then their compensation is the same as that of officers of equal rank in the regular establishment.

Both the officers and men of the Tom Hall Guards take great interest in the organization and the company is now considered by regimental officers one of the best in the State. A few nights ago the regular semi-annual inspection of the company's property was held and it was found to be in good condition and that practically nothing of value was missing. The company now has under way plans for the erection of a club house on the rifle range two miles west of town near the Catawba river and is pushing a campaign for funds for that purpose.

Four Church Buildings.

The recent resignation of the pastor of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church, originally known as Unity church, recalled to one of the older members of the congregation that the church building now in use is the fourth the congregation has had since the church was organized about 140 years ago. The first building was a log structure two miles east of town on what is now known as the Spencer place. The building was in an immense body of woods and in going to church on Sundays it was the practice of many adult male members to carry their rifles with them.

The original church building was used for a few years and then the congregation put up another building which was located near the entrance to old Unity cemetery, half a mile east of the present city cemetery. This building was in turn displaced when a large frame house of worship was built by the congregation about 1840 alongside the Lancaster road, now Tom Hall street, in the eastern end of town. The building was in a beautiful grove and there the congregation worshipped until 1881. That year the brick structure which has since been used by the congregation was completed and the frame building on the same street was abandoned. Among the present membership of the church there are said to be the descendants of no more than two or three of the original members.

"Times" Building Delayed.

Delay in the work on the new building on Confederate street into which The Times expected to move September 1 has disarranged the paper's plans and it now seems likely that the building will not be ready for occupancy before the 15th of September. The building is a two-story structure of brick construction and it is thought will be better adapted to newspaper uses than the building now occupied by The Times. The paper's linotype and press will be on the ground floor, with a business office opening on the street. On the second floor will be the composing room and job department, with desk space for the editor. The newspaper forms will be moved from one floor to the other on a small elevator built specially for the purpose.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

Current Items of Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

There are quite a number of automobiles out of commission in this county by reason of the failure of their owners to pay the license for 1921.

Charged with the larceny of sheets and other articles from Winthrop college, George Fowler, white, was arrested at Kanapolis, N. C., and has been returned to Rock Hill for trial. It is alleged that Fowler while employed as a workman on one of the buildings at the college took advantage of the opportunity to steal about \$60 worth of sheets, etc., from the college laundry. He attempted to ship the goods home, it is said, but the box was intercepted and officers have since been on his trail.

J. Robert Parrish, well known citizen of Clover, arrived at his three score years and ten and a year over before he had the opportunity to see the mighty ocean, a chance that came to him only last week. In company with his son, Policeman W. Meek Parrish of Gastonia, who is enjoying his vacation, the venerable Clover man went to Wrightsville Beach, N. C., last week especially for the purpose of seeing the briny deep. That the sight was a most interesting one to the elder Mr. Parrish goes without saying.

Religious enthusiasts and people of Rock Hill generally are beginning to show some interest in the approaching "Gypsy" Smith evangelistic campaign which is to be held in Rock Hill for three weeks, beginning the first week in October. "Gypsy" Smith, one of the greatest evangelists in the world, comes to Rock Hill under the auspices of the Federation of Men's Bible Classes of Rock Hill. The meetings will be held in a large tent capable of accommodating several thousand persons and religious leaders in Rock Hill feel quite confident that it will be well filled at each and every service by people of Rock Hill and the surrounding community. While the matter has not been settled the tent of the famous evangelist will very likely be pitched on a lot for the property of St. John's Methodist Church.

Speaking of the subject of marketing corn, the other day, Rev. J. L. Oates said that there ought not to be any great difficulty about the matter. He is quite familiar with conditions and usages out in west Tennessee, where corn is the principal agricultural staple, and the basis of the entire rural economy of that country. "Out there, you know corn is the principal agricultural product. The most progressive farmers, however, do not sell a great deal of it. They use it rather to raise horses, mules, cattle, hogs, chickens, etc., and generally get their money out of it in the shape of domestic animals. There are of course a good many people who market their corn direct, not having the capital or facilities to convert it into a more finished product. The corn dealer does not necessarily have to make a heavy outlay in order to establish and conduct his business. Usually he has a long dry warehouse, furnished inside with rough sheeting, and provided with bins for grading and storing his corn. The corn comes to him in the shuck, shucked, shelled, etc., but most of it in the shuck. He buys the corn at prices based on quality and condition and puts the commodity in marketable shape according to rules."

Many Join Church.

What was described as one of the most remarkable religious services ever seen in Chester was held upon the lawn of the First Baptist church Sunday evening when 127 new members, who had united with that denomination since April, when the pastorate of the church was assumed by the Rev. Robt. G. Lee, Ph. G., were given a special welcoming service.

NEW HEAD FOR OFFICE.

Capt. S. W. Parks Succeeds J. C. McElhaney as Postmaster.

Beginning today Fort Mill is experiencing the novelty of having her third postmaster within the last six weeks. On July 16, W. B. Ardrey, acting postmaster, who succeeded B. H. Massey on July 1, 1920, made way for J. C. McElhaney and now Mr. McElhaney steps aside for Capt. S. W. Parks, who was notified a few days ago that he had been appointed to fill the position temporarily. Whether Capt. Parks will be given the permanent appointment, if indeed he desires it, the future will disclose. Meanwhile, however, he is postmaster, without having sought the office.

On August 16, after having served as acting postmaster exactly one month, Mr. McElhaney forwarded his resignation to Washington with the request that he be relieved of the duties of the office as soon as possible. Following the custom the department expects postmasters who resign to observe in recommending a suitable person for acting postmaster as their immediate successor, Mr. McElhaney sent in the name of Capt. Parks.

Capt. Parks is a well known citizen of the community whose appointment to the postmaster-ship probably meets with approval more nearly unanimous than any other the department could have made. He is a veteran of the World war who was severely wounded in action and has since been unable to engage in any regular employment.

It is understood that D. G. Culp, who has been assistant postmaster for many years, will continue to fill the place under Capt. Parks as he did under Postmasters Massey, Ardrey and McElhaney.

NO TAX EXEMPTIONS.

Ex-Service Men Now on Footing With Other Citizens.

Investigation of the laws of the State passed during the last few years exempting ex-service men from taxation, about which The Times has recently received a number of inquiries, discloses the fact that these acts have expired by limitation. At the 1918 session of the Legislature an act was passed providing that all citizens of South Carolina then in the military or naval service of the United States were exempt from payment of the commutation road tax or street tax during their term of service as well as for the year 1917 and "each and every year hereafter."

But the act of 1918 appears to have been repealed by a joint resolution of the Legislature approved by the governor on March 11, 1919, which authorized the county treasurers of the various counties of the State to rebate the poll tax and road tax and required all cities and towns of the State to rebate the street tax for World war veterans until January, 1920.

It would therefore seem that all tax exemptions by the State of South Carolina for men who served in the World war ended in 1919. But there is still in force an act of the Legislature providing free tuition at State colleges for persons who were in the military service of the country during the World war.

Pineville Loses Pennant.

Pineville saw her last chance to win the pennant in the Mecklenburg County league slip through her fingers yesterday afternoon when her team, playing on the home grounds, went down before Cornelius, 6 to 1. Both teams played splendid ball, but the masterly pitching of Hengeveld, former Southern league star, proved too much for the boys who represent the town just across the State line. Before the season ends Saturday Pineville has a doubleheader to play with Dixie in Charlotte. By winning both games she will finish in second place, but should she lose either game while Dixie is winning, third place will be the best position she can hope for.

FORM CONVENTION.

York Association B. Y. P. U. Meets in Fort Mill Church.

The B. Y. P. U. of the York Baptist association met in the Fort Mill Baptist church last Sunday afternoon for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary convention. The meeting was called to order by J. Anderson Bass of the First church union, Rock Hill. A song service was then conducted by J. L. Baggott of Columbia, State secretary, and devotional exercises were led by C. D. Williams of West End church, Rock Hill.

Miss Esther Meacham of the Fort Mill union made the welcome address, to which Miss Florence Thomason of the First church, Rock Hill, made the response, following which special music was rendered by Misses Marion Parks, Beatrice Parks and Martha Dyches of the Fort Mill union.

J. L. Baggott then delivered an address on the organization of a B. Y. P. U. convention, after which Miss Elizabeth Mills of the Fort Mill union gave an account of the assembly held in Greenville last June. A solo by J. L. Baggott was much enjoyed by all.

The constitution of the convention was read and adopted and a copy given to each officer of the association. A poem, "Death of Union at Possum Trot," was read by Miss Lydia Jones of the First church, Rock Hill.

The association was split into two divisions, the Eastern and Western, and J. Anderson Bass of Rock Hill was elected president. Miss Willie K. Barber of Fort Mill was elected vice president of the Eastern division. The vice president of the Western division is to be elected later. C. D. Williams of Rock Hill was elected secretary and treasurer for both divisions and S. A. Lee of Fort Mill, to whom The Times is indebted for this report of the meeting, was elected reporter for the Eastern division. The reporter for the Western division is yet to be elected.

Miss Florence Thomason of the First church, Rock Hill, was elected junior leader of the association.

After a song the meeting was dismissed with prayer by Mr. Baggott to meet the last Sunday in September at the First church in Rock Hill at 2:30 p. m.

Joins Columbia Team.

Douglas Nims, baseball player, left Fort Mill Tuesday morning for Spartanburg to join the Columbia team of the South Atlantic league, by which he is to be given a tryout as an outfielder. Douglas has been a member of the Fort Mill team during the present season and his work in left field and at bat has been pronounced about as good as is ever seen in this section in amateur baseball. He is expected to appear in the Columbia lineup during the week and his friends are anticipating good reports of his playing. One thing they are figuring on to help him in the professional ranks is the power he puts behind his blows at bat. Hits for extra bases appear easy for Douglas. Only last Saturday, playing in Rock Hill, he put three men across with a timely three-bagger.

Backcapping the Ladies.

There is scarcely a day passing now that a report is not started that will likely injure some one within the limits of our town, says the Cheraw Chronicle. The day after our young people have enjoyed a dance the air is lurid with reports of the misbehavior or the part of the young ladies taking part and when you try to get the truth it's the same old story of "somebody told me." Possibly our young people are partly responsible for being talked about by trying to keep step with the trend of the times, but that's no excuse for any man or woman repeating things told them which will injure irreparably the reputation of some young lady.

ODD BANK ROBBERY.

Fort Mill Man Tells of Mysterious Case He Heard Tried.

"One of the most remarkable cases I ever heard of came under my observation some years ago in a small Southern city in which I was making my home for a few months," a day or two ago said a Fort Mill man to The Times. "In that community then, as in most communities now, there was a great deal of lawlessness. Robbery of the homes of citizens and business houses occurred every night or two, and finally the town's principal bank, the City bank, was robbed of practically all the funds it had on deposit, several thousand dollars. Naturally the citizens were worked up to a high state of excitement and there were threats of summary punishment for the guilty parties.

"The bank robbery occurred at 11 o'clock one Friday night, the 23d day of December, shortly after the arrival of the passenger train from the north. I recall the date distinctly because of an incident which afterward came out in connection with the case. The robbers must have used an unusual amount of explosives to crack the safe or they failed to take the usual precaution to deaden the report, for it was heard by many for several blocks in each direction. The city police responded to the alarm at once, but were unable to find any trace of the robbers. The sheriff's office also immediately went to work on the case and an hour or two later one of his deputies brought to the county jail a boy, unknown in the community and scarcely 20 years old. He was severely wounded and unconscious and had been arrested as a suspect. The officer said he had shot the boy who was running away and had refused to submit to arrest.

"The boy was immediately taken to the city hospital and for several days it was not known whether he would live or die. Finally he began to regain his strength and then he was taken back to the jail. The boy said he had had nothing to do with any bank robbery; but the officers flouted his claim of innocence, so certain were they that they had made an important arrest. The fact remained, however, that the boy did not have in his possession when he was arrested the least thing to connect him with the robbery. But circumstances were against him. He had come into the community, as he had admitted, on the very night the bank was robbed, and had been shot by an officer while fleeing from arrest. Furthermore a suspicious circumstance was that he had refused absolutely to talk about himself—to give his name, the name of any of his people or to tell where his home was. When the boy was arrested the only writing of any kind found on his person was a small memorandum book, giving the daily expenditures he said he had recently made while away from home.

"Finally, some weeks later, the case against the boy came to trial. The presiding judge was an old man, well past 70, greatly loved by all the people of his circuit, and especially by the people of his home community, where he was now holding court. For several months he had been in feeble health and some surprise was expressed that he should undertake to preside over the court. Generally it was felt that it would be the last court he would ever hold. In answer to the usual questions, the prisoner said he was not guilty, that he had no lawyer to represent him and that so far as he knew there was no one he could have called as a witness in his behalf.

"The State made out what everybody considered a strong case against the boy and the consensus of opinion was that he would be convicted. When the boy took the stand in his own behalf he said he knew nothing about the bank robbery, that he had not been shot by an officer, but that he

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