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INCOMPETENT AGENTS.

The wreck on the Seaboard Air Line on Saturday morning near Raleigh, it seems, was caused by the failure of the telegraph agent at a small station to deliver the proper order. The agent in question is a boy about twenty years of age according to reports, and is accused of being under the influence of liquor at the time.

Whether he was drunk or not, we are of the opinion that it is criminal to put a boy twenty years of age in charge of an office where he has the responsibility of receiving and delivering train orders. If he were drunk the culpability is that much the greater, because it was likely not the first time, and with proper investigation the railroad company might have known of his short-comings in this respect.

The truth is that the salaries paid to station agents and telegraph operators by some railroad companies are so pitifully small that they do not expect to get good men. They prefer to devote the duties of regulating the running of trains on mere boys, who do not appreciate the responsibilities they undertake, and who on account of their ages are entirely unfit to perform the duties assigned them.

The railroads should be willing to protect the lives of the men who run the trains by putting competent men at all stations to receive train orders and to deliver them. The law should require that a man who performs these duties should be at least twenty-five years of age and married. The men who run the trains, and who have not hesitated to tie up the systems of railways in this country for a little more pay, should take stock of their lives, and of their families who are dependent upon them, and refuse to operate trains where they are required to do so on orders delivered by twenty year old boys.

Perhaps if all this were done we might have agents in the small stations who would be willing to give a gentleman information when it is asked for, and agents who would not conceive their duties to consist of smoking cigarettes and being insulting in their manner towards the customers of the railroads.

The juries in North Carolina will likely undertake to teach the Seaboard a lesson about the employment of agents when the wives and children of the men who lost their lives appeal to the courts for compensation.

ABOUT EXPERTS.

The advocates of a three hundred thousand dollar bond issue in Abbeville county, most of whom reside about the city of Abbeville so far as we can learn, have made a bad start—they have employed an EXPERT.

Now experts may be a good thing, we do not say that they are not, but they are generally employed when a man has a bad case, at least they are always employed when one undertakes to prove something which is not apparent on the face of things. We take it that the advocates of this three hundred thousand dollar mortgage on every foot of land in Abbeville county realize that their case does not look good on the face of it, and that they are called upon to prove to the people that a certain thing exists when appearances are the other way.

We contend that if the people of Abbeville county are to be asked to encumber their property with an indebtedness of this kind it should be apparent on the face of things that it is an advisable thing to do. We do not believe that the ordinary individual will put a mortgage on his home when it takes an expert to prove that such a proceeding is a good thing. We do not believe that the individuals of Abbeville county, taken collectively, will assent to any such proposition.

Remember, tax-payers of Abbeville county, that the expert will not pay the taxes. He is in the employ of men who want this tax voted, and he is stating the case for them as well as he can. The people who have employed him, we take it, are unable themselves to explain to the tax-payers of Abbeville county why this enormous indebtedness should be

levied on the people of this county, especially in this time of uncertainty. We believe that no greater mistake could be made by the voters of Abbeville county than to vote any additional taxes at this time. Certainly, it is no time to vote a bond issue which will raise taxes in this county to something like thirty mills for the purpose of building not over one hundred and fifty miles of roads of questionable value. As the campaign progresses we shall undertake to tell the people our reasons for so believing. We are not in the employ of anybody. We desire only to serve the people of this county. We would not see them make a mistake which would be a burden on the people of the county for the next generation.

PAY THE FIDDLER.

The City Council of Abbeville, has appropriated five hundred dollars of the money collected in this city for the payment of municipal expenses for the purpose of furthering a so-called good roads' campaign in the county. We take it that the city council did not consult its attorney as to the legality of the appropriation. The members of the city council who voted for the appropriation should know as sensible men that they have no right so to misappropriate the peoples' money. Every man who voted for it and who has a hand in paying the money over to this unlawful purpose will make himself liable for its repayment, and we have an idea that in the not distant future there will be an administration in Abbeville which will not only put a stop to the reckless expenditure of money for questionable purposes, but demand the repayment of money unlawfully expended.

If the members of the city council want to hire an expert to advocate good roads they should as honest men pay the fiddler themselves. They have no right to take money collected from all the people for other purposes, and use it for their own ends.

In the meantime Main street from the square to the Triangle is in the worst repair it has been in for twenty years.

LEAGUE WORK IS CLEARLY DEFINED

At the request of the State Chairman of South Carolina Branch of the National League for Woman's Service, Abbeville is pledged to furnish 1,000 pillows to be used in hospitals and hospital trains. Material has been given out for this and all pillows will be sent to the League Headquarters in the rear of Mr. Rosenberg's department store by Tuesday, July 3rd, and will be packed Thursday, July 5th. The pillows will be sent direct to Dr. Richard Harte, S. E. Penn. Division of Red Cross, who will ship the pillow slips together with the seaweed, without delay, to places where they are most needed.

Upon advice from Miss Parker, National Commandant, the League will turn all hospital supply work to the Red Cross, completing, however, its gift of pillows, which was an outside undertaking. I hope after carefully reading Miss Jane B. Evans' piece, which is copied from The State, Abbeville detachments will begin at once to work under the department of "Over seas relief."

Another line of work that should be taken up immediately is the making of carbolated shirts for the American soldiers.

The making of comfort kits is also strongly emphasized. Quoting Miss Parker, "It doesn't matter what organization banner we serve under so long as we serve under the banner of the United States." (Mrs. W. A.) Maude B. Harris, Chairman.

State Commandant Tells of Specific Undertakings of Women's National Organization, Emphasizing Its Cooperation With Red Cross and Distinction Therefrom.

The National League for Woman's Service has offered its services, the services of 300,000 women, to aid actively in the food campaign under Mr. Hoover. It becomes the duty of every member of the league, therefore, to give personal help to the government at this time in this way. If the women of a certain community do not know how to can and dry and preserve, a member of the league should teach them or procure someone to do it. She should see that the waste along all lines is reduced to a minimum. In this she will prove herself a true soldier, one of the great army that is fighting for the country, for food conservation is just as important as the providing of men and munitions. If the food supply of the world fails, all else will have been in vain.

A second great work before the women of the State is the social and welfare work, which will look to the care and comfort of the men in the great cantonments. These men should have all the wholesome recreation and comfort they can get and it is largely the responsibility of the women. We should see to it that our men are not a prey to the vice which usually surrounds the army cantonment. This can only be done if decent places of amusement are provided, and such precautions are taken that the women of the underworld have no chance to settle themselves in the camp environment.

The third great work that the league is asking is the making of clothing for the women and children of France and Belgium who are in the greatest need. The league has had an appeal of the most urgent

kind to take up this matter and it has led to the establishment of the "over-seas relief." We are told that many of the people are wearing the same clothes today that they had on when the Germans forced them from their homes and they fled for their lives two and a half years ago. Their clothes are in rags and tatters, but they have no others. Their homes are laid waste; they have absolutely nothing and are on the verge of starvation. Their condition is pitiable in the extreme. The Belgium commission is feeling them as well as it can, but we must start now to give them something in the way of clothing by next winter. The league will in a few days send out patterns for these garments.

This civilian relief is urgently needed. All bandages, surgical dressings and hospital supplies come under the Red Cross and the direction should be turned over to the Red Cross, which is the official government organ for this work. Every member of the league should join the Red Cross and they can then do hospital work in the Red Cross work rooms. One may belong to the Red Cross and at the same time be a member of the league, and vice versa. I am a member of both and when the Red Cross work rooms are opened I shall go in whenever I can and work; but the work of the two organizations should in no way be confounded. The two should work hand in hand, side by side. Both are of vital importance. It is like a team of horses hitched to a great wagon. If one of the horses falls by the way the work of the country will suffer immeasurably.

The Red Cross is the official organ of the government to care for the sick and wounded and is charged with the rehabilitation of the devastated countries of Europe. For this reason we have worked with all our strength to pour into its treasury \$100,000,000 this past week. The work of the league is to mobilize its women for service of a different kind. It is to aid the government in the conservation of food that the armies in the field and the starving millions of Europe may have bread next winter. It is to provide and train women to take the places of the men who are called out, that the economic life of the nation may succeed. It is to look after the social and welfare conditions surrounding the great army cantonments, to protect our men and women alike from the vices which usually accompany the great army camp. To care for the sick and wounded, to feed the hungry and clothe the naked will give to any woman an opportunity for service.

Jane B. Evans,
 State Commandant, N. L. W. S.

MT. CARMEL.

Mt. Carmel, July 2.—Mt. Carmel and surrounding county are needing rain badly.

Although a little late in getting at it, Mt. Carmel raised a fund for Red Cross society, and we wish to thank everybody for their contributions.

Mr. Capers Riley, who has been quite ill the past week, was some better Sabbath morning. We hope he will continue to improve.

Mrs. Lawrence Hester's many friends will be glad to know that she is improving rapidly now after a very severe illness.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Bradley Morrah and their sweet little folks, Hessie and Bradley, left early last Thursday morning in their handsome new car for an extended visit to Lancaster. They will be very much missed in Mt. Carmel.

The young people enjoyed a nice little dance at the home of Mr. W. L. Miller last Monday evening.

Punch was served throughout the evening. Messrs. C. E. Williamson and John Lomax of Abbeville, attended the dance at Mr. Miller's home last Monday evening.

Mrs. Cowan, of Calhoun Falls, who has just recently returned from Kentucky, and has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. M. K. McBride, left last Friday to visit her son in North Carolina.

Mrs. James Baskin of Lowndesville, spent part of last week in Mt. Carmel with her sisters, Mrs. P. K. Black and Miss Emma McAllister, and her niece, Mrs. T. B. Frazier. It has been some time since she visited Mt. Carmel and her many friends were delighted to see her again.

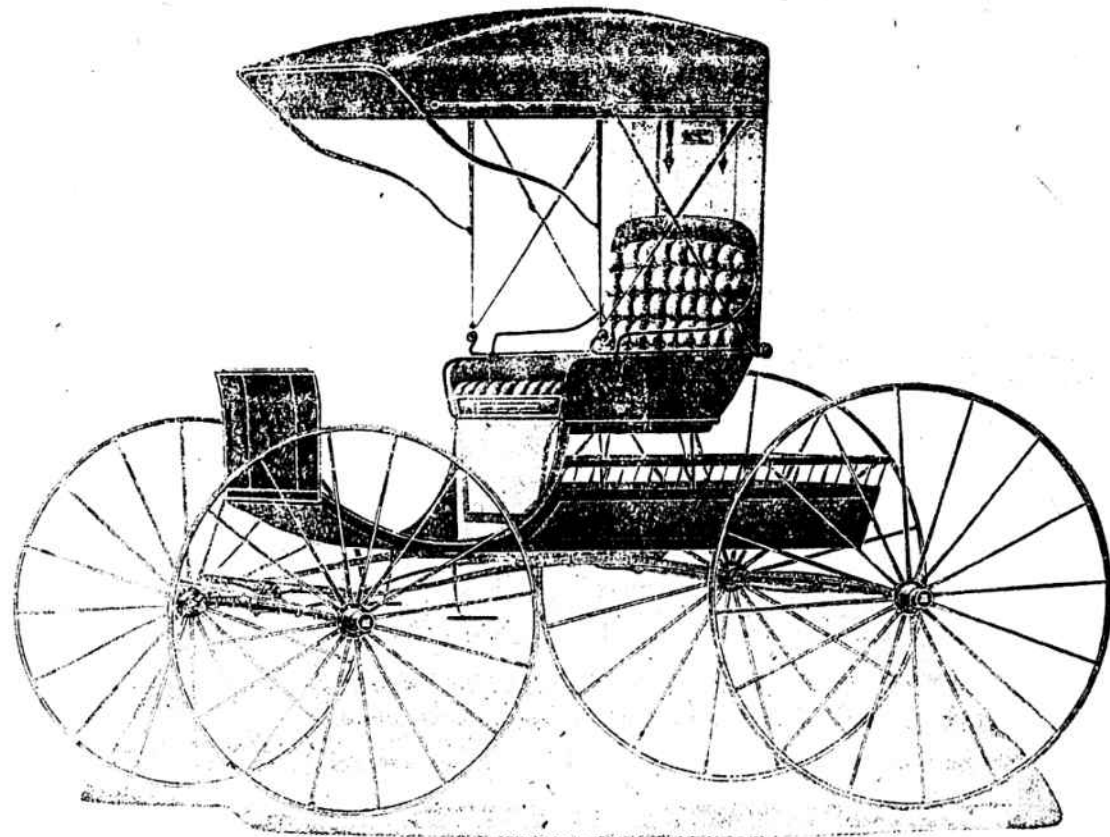
Patriotic Sabbath was observed in Mt. Carmel last Sabbath in the A. R. P. Sunday school and church. Both collections were given to the Red Cross society. The Sabbath school had already contributed \$5.00 a week ago.

Mrs. Frank Stuart, of Columbia, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. M. L. Kay, returned to her home last Friday.

Mrs. A. C. Jackson and Mrs. Dierbert Jackson of Columbia, after spending a month in Atlantic City, N. J., and other northern cities, returned to Mt. Carmel last Tuesday to spend the month of July with Mrs. L. T. Paschal.

Mr. Hoke Frazier of Macon, Ga., made a short visit to Mt. Carmel last week.

The young ladies sewing circle was charmingly entertained by Mrs. W. A. Scott last Wednesday afternoon. Quite a large number of the young ladies enjoyed Mrs. Scott's hospitality. Punch was served by Miss Gladys Tarrant early in afternoon and later delicious block cream and cake was served by Mrs. W. A. Scott and Miss Pickens Tarrant.



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ABBEVILLE, S. C.

ANTREVILLE.

Antreville, July 2.—Quite a crowd of young people enjoyed a moonlight picnic at the Gailey's mill Monday evening from 5 to 10 o'clock. Supper was greatly enjoyed by all. Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Erwin and Miss Lillian Killingsworth were the chaperones. The

same crowd will go to Halley's Ferry the fourth of July.

Mrs. Hude Prince and children, Lewis and Eveline and Mrs. Will Crawford Tuesday. Mrs. Prince has been in ill health several months and her many anxious friends enjoy seeing her some better.

Mr. Prue Bell has returned to Kentucky after spending a few weeks with his home people, Mr. and Mrs. Edd Bell and family.

Rev. Leon Keaton and family of

Gaffney, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Keaton last week.

Next week is Short Course week and Antreville is always well represented there and we hope she will be the same this year. We all want to learn the new method of drying fruit and vegetables as cans are high and we want nothing to waste as everything we fear will be needed bad next year in the shape of vegetables and fruit.



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