

THE GAFFNEY LEDGER.

A NEWSPAPER IN ALL THAT THE WORD IMPLIES, AND DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED FEB. 16, 1894.

GAFFNEY, S. C., TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1908.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

FARMER'S MEETING AT COURT HOUSE

LARGE CROWD HEAR GOVERNMENT EXPERTS.

Excellent Talks and Illustrations Made by Gentlemen Who Have Made Agriculture Life Study.

The third in the series of purely agricultural meetings, along general lines, in this State was held at Gaffney Saturday. It was a signal movement for the betterment of our agricultural conditions that Congressman Lever initiated at Sumter this spring, when he brought the national secretary of agriculture, Chairman Scott, of the House Agricultural Committee and distinguished experts from the department into direct contact with our people and close touch with our conditions. Commissioner Watson, of the State Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration, contributed largely to the success of that meeting and it was there that an enthusiasm along these lines was aroused that is resulting in a general awakening of our agricultural interests to their latent possibilities.

The marvelous results accruing, where the department has introduced the most scientific methods, are indicative of a great future for the South. The department works upon the idea that prosperity comes to those who help themselves, and nowhere does it undertake its work where there is not a willing co-operation upon the part of the people. It is not the policy of the department to do the work, nor to have it done by its representatives. It seeks to study the soil and climatic conditions through its experts, furnish this expert knowledge and work with the individual farmer.

The meeting Saturday was held in the court house and two hundred and fifty Cherokee farmers, in dead earnestness, listened attentively to the speakers of the day. Mr. Watson meant to make this a red-letter day for Cherokee county and had arranged a strong program.

The first speaker was Prof. D. N. Barrow, of the Department of Agriculture, who spoke upon Farm Demonstration Work. He said that he had been in this work for twenty years but never had seen such interest manifested as is shown in this State. Came into this State last fall to organize and establish farm demonstration work. He explained exactly what the department meant to do. Spoke of the disastrous work of the boll weevil in Texas and told of the steps being taken to destroy it. Urged a deep and thorough preparation of the soil for all crops. Showed the value of the forage crops to soil. Stressed the value of careful seed selection and showed how better crops would result from this one thing. He told of the work of the department in this State. There are one hundred and sixty-five special agents in the South and South Carolina has fifteen of these. He congratulated the people upon the desire to push this State to the front.

Dr. D. A. Brodie, assistant agriculturist in the office of Farm Management, spoke upon Crop Rotation and Winter Cover Crops. In beginning, he spoke very complimentary of Commissioner Watson's Hand-Book of South Carolina. He told of the need, not only in South Carolina but throughout the South, for more diversified and intensified cultivation. Declared that it was bad agriculture to raise the same crop year after year upon the same land without a winter forage crop. The people of the New England States raise increasing crops every year upon the same land by planting crimson clover in the winter. We can do the same in corn and cotton by using these same resources. We do not appreciate the value of cow peas and clover or rebuilding land. We need better balanced farms.

Congressman A. F. Lever, of the Seventh District, had been invited as the representative from this State on the Agricultural Committee, to address the people. Mr. Lever's untiring efforts in behalf of Southern agriculture, are well known throughout the State and his speech Saturday was an earnest appeal to the farmers to depend upon themselves and to make themselves independent. He spoke in his usual vigorous style and the

frequent bursts of applause showed the approval of his audience. He contrasted the measly sum appropriated for agriculture with the enormous expenditures for the army, navy, etc., and then showed how the American farmer brings the balance of national trade to this country. The farmer makes this nation the creditor nation of the world. He declared, amid applause, that the farmers of this country should write a declaration of industrial independence. He spoke of the tendency of the population to drift towards the cities and pointed out how good roads, good mail facilities and more profitable agriculture would turn this drift back to the country. The work of the legislator today is the work of making farm life profitable and happy. With this accomplished, many of the problems of our overcrowded cities would be solved. Farming is the greatest profession and the Department of Agriculture is trying to make it a profitable one. Mr. Lever then took up the subject of immigration. Immigration is a failure in South Carolina. Advocated that immigration that comes of its own accord. This is the kind that makes homes. We need patriots first of all and the essential elements of patriotism are possession and traditions. When we have the kind of immigrants that are home builders, we have the kind of immigrants that are patriots. We don't want a white tenant class in South Carolina.

Mr. B. H. Rawl, Chief of the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture, was the first speaker after dinner. Mr. Rawl is a South Carolinian—a Clemson man—and he is doing a great work for the dairying interests of the country. Mr. Rawl has many farms throughout the South and West, operating under the direction of his bureau and his good work is seen in the fact that last year that the average increase in production on these dairy farms was \$3.60 per cow per month. He spoke of the serious conditions that confronted the farmer in the early '90's. He stated that he had some cold facts that he wanted to present to the people and that then it was for the people to decide whether they would accept the methods or not. He took up the question of cotton seed meal as a feed and as a fertilizer. Only twenty per cent of the fertilizing value of cotton seed meal is lost through feeding. About one-sixth of our fertilizer is cotton seed meal. As a fertilizer it is worth \$28 per ton. As a feed for cattle it is worth the same. Its fertilizing value, after feeding is \$21 per ton, therefore for every ton fed we have a profit of \$21. This makes the actual value of meal, when properly fed, \$49 per ton. And yet we are using it as a fertilizer without feeding it, and are annually losing two millions by this method. Can we afford this? We are yearly shipping meal to Europe and buying it back in meat. He pleaded for a live stock industry throughout the South as the basis for successful agriculture.

The State of Alabama has a State Department of Agriculture and Prof. C. E. Gray, Professor of Animal Husbandry of the Alabama Experiment Station, talked upon Beef Cattle and the Raising Sheep. He showed how the raising of sheep and cattle enabled us to utilize our waste lands as pasture lands and how this ultimately would build them up. We should raise our own live stock and keep our money at home. By using a black board, he showed exactly what it costs to raise cattle and what prices we can realize. He stated that the sheep industry was the industry for the man with little capital. He asserted that with one hundred sheep, working two hours a day a man could realize as much profit, upon the same lands as one man with one mule raising cotton.

Prof. J. N. Harper, of the Clemson College experiment station, spoke of the work of his department of the college. He told of the soil study of the State and of the seed breeding work they were doing. This soil information is for free distribution among the farmers of the State and the seed will be distributed also. They are testing cotton to find the best cotton for the different soils. He advocated rotation and showed how a better yield per acre could be obtained through proper preparation, cultivation and rotation.

Commissioner Watson made the last speech of the occasion. He felt assured that the talks of the day would do good. He said that he had spent most of his life at a sacrifice in building up the State. Spoke of our undeveloped wealth in minerals. In speaking of our agriculture he said that only 29.9 of the land surface in this State is improved. We have

twenty-six thousand more cash tenants than in 1890. He urged diversification. Our cotton crop is an economic question and it behooves us to get busy with it. Told of his efforts single handed, to get our ports open and to get our cotton shipped abroad without the middle man. He then took up the question of immigration. When he was appointed commissioner there was a call for labor from every section of the State. Frankly told all of the farmers and manufacturers that he did not believe it possible to fill the places of the negroes. This call for labor became a burden. About this time saw the opportunity to make the experiment of opening our port and of bringing about a large amount of advertising for the State without cost. He determined to do it. He went to Europe without one dollar of expense being paid by the State. Every man, woman and child was thoroughly inspected before being allowed to go aboard the ship. Was satisfied that his experiment so far as labor was concerned was a failure. From a labor standpoint the soundness of his original position was sustained. People who say that we do not need immigration do not stop to think of our negro people here—they do not realize that the bulk of our negroes—they do not realize that our farms are today being operated by negroes—they do not realize that our suffrage laws have been only a makeshift—they do not realize that we have more negroes in school today than white people—they do not realize that when the negro gets \$300 we cannot keep him from voting. This is the great danger and we must get sufficient white men in here to become part of our own body politic to meet strength with strength. The opening in the North for negroes will not take them away fast enough. So far as the riffraff of Europe is concerned, South Carolina has not suffered and she shall not have a single bad citizen. All we ask is to realize that we are patriotic first. Would be the last to bring an undesirable population into the State. Mr. Watson spoke of the possibilities of Cherokee county. He gave some very interesting figures to what the county had done and pleaded for a reawakening along all lines.

Mr. Watson was earnest and patriotic and although he was the last of a number of speakers he held the attention of his audience to the last.

IN GOOD CONDITION.

This is Mr. McMaster's Report on the Farmers' Mutual.

Insurance Commissioner F. H. McMaster was in the city Saturday. While here he examined the books of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. To a reporter of The Ledger he said:

"I examined the books of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association, of Gaffney, and found them correct. Mr. R. M. Gaffney, is president and Mr. J. E. Jefferies, secretary and treasurer.

"The records were accurately kept and the company has been managed most economically. It has given insurance to its members at the rate of 37 1/2 cents per \$100, has paid all its losses and has accumulated a surplus \$2,572, of which \$2,430 is safely invested at interest.

"The company has now about \$500,000 insurance in force. Especially to be commended is the mutual feature, there being three directors in each township, who pass upon risks and adjust losses. This feature not only insures confidence but tends to decrease the moral hazard in that it makes each of insured feel that he has an interest in the company and that he must see to it that the company is not imposed upon to protect his own interest. The company is licensed to do business in Cherokee and Spartanburg counties."

All of which is very gratifying to The Ledger, as it always gives us pleasure to note the success of Cherokee county enterprises.

An Apology.

The following personal appeared in The Ledger of Friday, July 3rd, in the Ravenna correspondence.

"Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Clary and son, of Macedonia, spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Mathis."

There is nothing out of the ordinary in this simple paragraph except that it contained one more person than it should have contained. Mr. and Mrs. Clary have no son as yet and our correspondent was either incorrectly informed or a little too previous. Our correspondents are urged to be a little more careful in the handling of such notices. The Ledger apologizes for this error both for itself and its correspondent.

THE BRIDGE AT HOWELL'S FERRY

SOME EXCELLENT REASONS WHY IT SHOULD BE BUILT.

The Drifting of Sand at Low Water Stops the Ferry, and at High Water the Flat Cannot Run.

Wilksville, July 17.—The bridge at Howell's ferry is a subject of general discussion, and different views are expressed as to the outcome of our effort to get it. We are not one of those who become disheartened at an apparent failure, and we try to make the best possible use of our opportunity. That such a bridge would prove of great advantage to the people of lower Cherokee and to the town of Gaffney there is no reason to doubt. While we have a very good ferry there it does not at all times meet the demand of the public.

When the river is low sand accumulates and stops the flat from running. Then again when the river is over four and a half feet above common water it don't run. And still, again when the dams above shut off the water the ferry boat can't run until the water again assumes its normal condition. These are the principal difficulties with which we have to contend to say nothing about the difficulty in taking wild animals into the flat, and crossing them over safely. Still, again, when the river gets up the amount of sediment, sand and mud thrown into the landing make it impossible to cross with teams safely until the sand has been removed. All these hindrances the traveling public has to contend with. Frequent a number of teams want to cross at the same time and this is delay too.

We sometimes hear it said that a bridge there will hurt the trade at Gaffney, or Hickory Grove, as the case may be. This is all "tomfoolery." The business of these towns will regulate itself and when it comes to comparing the two towns the odds is all in favor of Gaffney as a trading point. With all of its stores and cotton mills it's not reasonable that Hickory Grove can ever compete with it. Though they do a great deal of mercantile business at Hickory Grove and are a first class set of men they haven't the same chance to command trade that Gaffney has. With a convenient and safe crossing at Howell's ferry and a good road, Gaffney will get the bulk of the cotton raised between Bullock's creek and Broad river. We say this for the reason that Hickory Grove can never be the market for cotton that Gaffney with all of its cotton mills is, or might be.

As it is, most of this cotton goes to Lockhart Mills, and the building of a bridge at Howell's ferry will not put an additional bale of cotton in the Lockhart market. Gaffney has all to gain and nothing to lose in this respect, as we see things. If the merchants at Gaffney can't compete with those at Hickory Grove they ought to lose the trade. It's natural for people to trade where they can do the best.

Hickory Grove, Kellys and Jonesville are the shipping points for lower Cherokee in such matters as guano and other things shipped in carload lots.

When the cry was raised that the building of an iron bridge at Gaston Shoals was in the interest of Gaffney, to bring trade from North Carolina, we said it was perfectly right. If Gaffney or Cherokee county can secure trade from other sections and even from other States it's right and honorable for them to do so and to this lower Cherokee offered no resistance. Not a finger was raised or word said that we know of calculated to defeat the plan. We thought it was right and think so yet and are glad that our North Carolina friends have a convenient way to get to a handy market.

That that bridge is an advantage to Gaffney there is no doubt. But it is also a convenience to the people and taxpayers living in that community who need it for other purposes than going to and from market.

We are not disposed to say, or even think, that our county board will fail to see the need of a bridge to give this section an outlet when they consider the situation. Neither do we think that our members to the legislature will fail to see it and make the necessary appropriation to build us a bridge.

The present members of both these bodies (or those who may come after

them) can't fail to see our needs in this matter and for the present we rest the matter with them. All we have said is on our own responsibility and not anybody else.

Your correspondent has been suffering with his eyes of late—so much so that he feels unable to discharge his duty in writing up the neighborhood affairs.

It doesn't make any difference with Will Darby whether our manuscript is well written or not. He sets it up to suit himself any way. In speaking of the members of the Press Association with whom we had the pleasure of shaking hands he made us say "wielding a twenty-pound mule" rather than a twenty-pound "maul." Why, brother, a twenty-pound mule isn't kicking size much less working size.

The indications are that we will have dry weather for a while at least and farmers dread it. We are never satisfied. More people have been killed with troubles that never come than with those which have. That's human weakness.

We made a trip to the Hickory Grove section yesterday. Farmers on that side of the river are getting through with their work. Crops show the effect of the long wet spell and need of work. But they are good generally—especially the corn crop.

We learn that a good meeting is going on at old Unity. Rev. W. T. Thompson is being assisted by Rev. Mr. Dunn. Large congregations attend each service.

Our Children's Day at Salem comes off next Thursday, 23rd. Mr. Sam Strain, superintendent of the Sunday school, with a corps of competent assistants, is training the children for it. We will give their names later on. After riding the mail all day one of these hot days, and spending three hours at night training a class is a labor and a sacrifice that will bring reward.

"Uncle Bob" Westmoreland, of Hickory Grove, is not doing what we expected in giving us the news from that part. When we get anything from over there we must hunt it up the best way we can. We went over yesterday and found his man Henry McDaniel was taking the census of the Hickory Grove school district—getting up a list of the taxable polls and dogs.

Messrs. J. T. Moorehead and G. Andrew Byars have got some South-down sheep from Blackstock, Chester county.

One of our lower Cherokee farmers swapped horses with the Gypsies and got a rabbit mouth mule which one of his neighbors says can't bite an ear of corn because its front teeth don't meet each other. It's a nice looking young mule though you never hear of a horse swapper getting cheated—let him tell it.

The season will soon be on hand for the farmers to lie in the shade eat watermelons and tell big tales. We like to see them enjoy their much needed rest. We envy Mr. Andrew Byars for his good water, shade and watermelons which he so much enjoys. Who wouldn't enjoy it? Andrew is a sensible man and one of the best all round fellows in lower Cherokee.

We regret to learn that Mr. Claude Homan is probably taking typhoid fever. He is about the right age for that dreadful disease to attack.

Mr. J. N. Strain and Master Livy, went to Hickory Grove today on business.

Mr. Evins Estes, who was reported sick in a previous letter, is much better and able to be about again.

Mr. Tom Sanders' family down in the fork have measles. Dr. Field is treating them. We have no great amount of sickness in lower Cherokee.

We have a good many young people in lower Cherokee who would like to marry if they could get a good chance. We have some nice girls down this way who would make good wives and boys who would make good husbands.

Prof. A. G. Davis is teaching a singing school at Rehoboth. Mr. Davis is a good teacher and does his work thoroughly and we are glad to know that he is so engaged. He has the best drilled choir at his church (Sardis) we know of in the county anywhere.

So many young people attend singing schools with no other purpose than to do their courting, that it's almost impossible to get up a first class choir at each church. Little as they think about it these young people hinder the good work that others would do. No teacher or preacher either can do the work in which he is engaged unless he can get the attention of his hearers—that's impossible. A courting couple will usually attract the attention of a congrega-

tion more than a sermon or splendid singing in which they take little or no interest. We believe in teachers and preachers demanding the attention of their hearers and then if they can't get that then demand the room the intruders occupy. We have often heard it said that love is blind and so it is. When a loving couple become so infatuated that they can't see or hear anything but one another, they are unconscious of the impression they are making on other people. Most teachers and a great many preachers suffer themselves and their audience imposed upon rather than demand the attention of their hearers. Solomon says: "There is a time to do all things" and to the list he might have added: "There is a time to court and a time to refrain from courting." Read Ecclesiastes 3rd chapter and first eight verses and draw your own conclusions, thoughtless young people. J. L. S.

THE CAROLINA MUTUAL.

Commissioner McMaster Says It Is in Good Condition.

Insurance Commissioner McMaster was in our town last Friday and Saturday, the 17th and 18th inst., examining the condition of our insurance companies. He made an examination of the Carolina Mutual Benefit Association Saturday morning and was so hurried to get off on the train for Columbia that he did not have time to give us a detailed report of this company. He states, however, that he finds it in good condition and that he is satisfied with its workings.

This company has been writing insurance twenty-three months and is licensed to do business in Cherokee and Spartanburg counties. During its organization there have been only three deaths and the claims were paid on the day the claim was filed in the Home Office. In fact, the company itself had the claims filed as soon as the information of the deaths was received—and the money is now deposited in the bank ready for the next claim. The records are carefully kept and despite the financial stringency the company is doing a better business than ever before. While the policies are not yet worth a full \$1000.00, the amount is increasing every day and the Carolina Mutual pays more than other companies do for the same cost. The Woodmen do not pay the face value of the policy for three years and yet the assessments are called every month. The value of policies in the industrial companies increases with the number of payments and the cost of these is far more per \$100.00 than the Carolina Mutual.

This is an enterprise of which Gaffney and Cherokee county should be proud, and one which should be encouraged by every man, woman and child in the county. It is doing as much for the upbuilding of our town and county as any enterprise in it. The amount of mail handled is great and this one item in itself is of great benefit at it is doing much towards securing free delivery for us. It is really a "mutual benefit association," and to work for this enterprise is to work for yourself and your town and county.

The Carolina Mutual Benefit Association, with its Home Office at Gaffney, furnishes as cheap and as safe insurance as can be found in the United States, and at the same time keeps the premiums circulating at home instead of having our money sent into other states.

And why can Gaffney not have as big an insurance company as any city in the United States? It has men of uprightiness, integrity, intelligence, and determination at the back of it. These men do not intend to confine this company to Cherokee and Spartanburg counties, but intend to go out into other territory in the course of a few months. This will not only keep our money in our own town and county, but will bring in money from other counties.

Let's push this enterprise and let every one of us push for the Carolina Mutual until it shall become one of the mammoth companies of the United States—the Carolina Mutual of Gaffney, S. C.

Miss Shuford Entertains.

Last Thursday night Miss Mary Shuford gave an entertainment at her pretty home on Robinson street in honor of Miss Marie Epton, of Spartanburg. Just a few friends were present, those being Misses Francis Oats and Margaret Gowan, of Asheville, N. C., Sadie Lipscomb, Daisy Wilkins and Sarah Carpenter, Messrs. Walter Little, Hazel Wood and Francis Gaffney. All had a most enjoyable time and it will not be forgotten soon.