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Sojourning in Watauga

Col. Olds in Char. Observer.

The passing days only make Watauga county more delightful. The highest temperatures in 10 days have ranged from 62 to 78 degrees, the latter being a high figure occurring on two days only.

There are a thousand things here to interest, yes fascinate, a lowlander, and here are some of them. On the 13th day of July, 1877, this writer walked with three boy friends from Blowing Rock to Shull's Mills on the Watauga river, caught some fine trout, ate a great dinner, bought a big supply of maple sugar made on the spot and joyfully tramped back the eight miles from that lovely place to the Rock. Two days ago a trip was made to the same place, also on foot, and the same things were done all over again. There were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shull, a trifle older than they were in 1877, but the river was as clear and swift, the dinner as good, there was plenty of maple sugar and good conversation and the writer made the tramp back to Boone and enjoyed the 16-mile jaunt as much as he did the one 38 years ago. Then there were four of us youngsters; death has claimed one, another is a widely known college president and the third one of the greatest lawyers in the country.

Uncle Joe Shull was in the 37th regiment, of which Col. Charles C. Lee of Charlotte was Colonel, and he carries to this day the marks of two bullets. He soldiered at various places, but declares he thinks Newbern perhaps the finest place he ever saw. Down in that valley there are great and graceful maple trees, of the variety called by the mountain folk "sugar trees;" bigger and finer than they grow down-State. There are now 200 trees on the Shull "grove," and the family now make about 200 pounds a year, while 38 years ago there were 800 and the out-turn was almost a thousand pounds. This sugar is made in molds of cups and dippers, fetches 20 cents a pound and is worth it, because like Watauga's other products it is genuine, the real thing, not a fake, perhaps made out of coal-tar.

It was delightful to have Mrs. Shull recall the writer and the other youngsters and to sit on the porch and talk with her, while big top-wagons full of gay girl campers made their way up the road, followed by a smart automobile. Somehow the automobile did not exactly fit in with the landscape, for your auto is a new thing; up here, the trail of this devil having first been made in this mountain paradise only about four years ago. The wags here tell a story that when the first auto came into Boone everybody took to the brush except Postmaster Rivers, who could not leave the office. It even goes further, that even Capt. E. F. Lovill made a quick get-away, because he did not believe any such a machine could get by Blowing Rock.

Now, mark you, they are actually talking about building good roads with county money, something Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany have never expended a cent for to this good hour. Where there is so much smoke there must be some fire. In the course of the walk to Shull's Mills two churches were passed, one at Poplar Grove nearly done and Baptist, for this denomination has a tremendous grip on this mountain country, where it has pioneered and striven mightily. At another church, beside a rushing streamlet, with a building as white as snow and set in a charming grove of chestnuts and sugar

Report of B. B. Dougherty to Supt. Joyner

The following report of Prof. B. B. Dougherty, who for twelve years was county superintendent of schools, to Superintendent of Public Instruction Joyner, contains some interesting facts:

The census—White boys, 2117; white girls, 2212; colored boys, 49; colored girls, 34.

Enrollment—White boys, 1849; white girls, 1160; colored boys, 42; colored girls, 32.

Average attendance—White, 2476; or over 56 per cent of all the census every day attended school. Nearly 80 percent of all the children between 6 and 21 have been enrolled.

Twelve years ago the enrollment was 65 per cent, and the average attendance 33 per cent. The houses then were worth \$5,000; today they are worth \$28,500. The endowment building fund has added much to the wealth of the county in physical equipment. If used aright in coming years it will revolutionize the building of school houses in Watauga.

It is interesting also to note that 146 students are reported in the seventh grade and 52 for the eighth.

Boone, Cove Creek and Beaver Dam are leading townships, while Meat Camp has made the greatest improvement.

Seven new libraries have been bought this year, six new houses built and two repaired. Mr. Dougherty has bought a North Carolina map for every school, which can be had for 25 cents. He also has a book, "The Life and Speeches of Charles B. Aycock," which he wishes to put in every library in the county. These books can be had for any library for the asking.

There was a place of baptism, a square wooden tank out in the open and partly over the stream, into which through a little trough there poured a steady flow of the limpid water, three steps leading down into this little pool. Hard by the church door was a "mounting-stand" for the use of the very numerous riders on horseback in this region. Here one sees a rarity, namely a lady on a side-saddle, the rest of the world riding astride.

Another visit was made to another Confederate veteran who lives "fermest" Rich mountain, which broods over little Boone to the northward. Uncle Elijah Norris lives alongside a road which down-country folk would call a trail; a steep trail too, but he and his forbears have lived in that place these 100 years. His good wife could not at first locate him, but she "fetched a whoop," as they say in this country, which sounded like a well blown horn, and he gave an answering one from somewhere in the timber and then came out, a perfect picture of a mountaineer as heart could wish; dressed in home-made brown jeans, a long barreled and heavy rifle on shoulder, bullet pouch, powder horn and cap box at his side. The rifle was made by S. H. Ward at Jamestown, Guilford County, a little after the Civil War time, and "Uncle Lige," patting the long barrel affectionately, said: "She sure is a killer. I guess I have had a hundred of these guns. I used to buy them for the neighbors. There was no better gun maker than Ward. He followed the Lamb brothers, who made rifles at Jamestown long before the war and who during the war made lots of them for Governor Vance. I tell you I've picked off many of a squirrel with her."

As yet no great timber cutting has been done in Watauga, and

The Sun Time Shield

A few years ago when prohibition first went into effect in Charlotte there was an ordinance forbidding the sale or delivery of liquors in the city after 9 o'clock at night, under a penalty of something a little short of hanging. A well known beer bottler was one afternoon filling a rush order and was seen to place a crate in a delivery wagon after the specified time. He was reported and haled to court, and as the public saw it, the case against him looked bad. But in the meantime he had employed a smart lawyer who bade him rest easy under the assurance that he would neither be hanged or sent to jail. When the trial came on this lawyer proved his client innocent because at the time of the alleged offense he was within the bounds of safety, as it was not then 9 o'clock by the sun. He had the weather observer on the witness stand to prove that the contention was true, and as the city Code did not specify the sort of time the police should be governed by, the case went against the city and against the grain of the prohibitionists. The Observer has noticed that in the new Code particular care is taken to get even with the aforesaid lawyer should he ever try the same game again. Section 417 is devoted to specifying the time that is to govern the police in future. It is standard eastern, 75th meridian, and it might be well for members of the local bar to govern themselves accordingly.—Charlotte Observer.

There are miles of forest as virgin as it was a hundred thousand years ago; forest now golden with the flowers of the great chestnut trees, each looking like a giant bouquet; poplars of enormous size; hemlocks which look like great spear-heads and are a wonderfully dark and rich green; stately spruces; spreading oaks of various kinds; lindens which seem made for the bees, because the leaves overhanging the flowers so as to keep the rain from beating out the pollen; the leaf and the flower being really united. But now a change is coming and soon great forests will fall, notably along the Watauga river, for it is to get out this timber from vast tracts owned by the Whiting Lumber Company of Asheville, that the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railway is to be extended all the way to Boone at the earliest possible moment.

There are about five thousand acres in one block and never in North Carolina has there been a finer stand of timber than this. When the writer, who had fondly hoped that Uncle Sam would buy this as part of the great Appalachian National Forest, asked a native why this step had not been taken the reply was: "Uncle Sam is too stingy; that's the reason." The Whiting Lumber Company gave \$40 an acre for it. This is one of the last untouched mountain forests, with such superb poplar, hemlock, chestnut, ash, cherry, linden, oak and birch trees as the reader no doubt never saw. When it is cut all the beauty will be gone and the land practically worthless, for it is mountain-side and fires and rains will work their wild will and soon take away the soil and a garden of God will become something not worth looking at except so far as cliffs and wildness are concerned.

The three counties of Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga have court houses exactly alike, built about ten years ago. From Ashe the two other counties were created and it is said to be the only case in the State in which such a division was made without any heart-burnings.

Why Men Are So Naughty

Women's rights advocates usually assert that man is congenitally bad, and that most of the evil in women has come from association with him. Masculine observers, on the other hand, have frequently hinted or openly asserted that man's wickedness is in no small degree due to the influence of women. The majority of men, these iconoclasts profess to think, would incline to goodness were it not for woman's natural and overwhelming preference for males of the othersort. Women, they assert, do not admire good men, and the slack demand has its natural influence in the supply.

It is true—for what it may be worth—that girls are enamored infrequently of sober and serious youth: they like boys to be "devilish." That girls laugh at the boy who does not smoke or drink, who is good and dutiful, makes our upward progress difficult.

If the race is to advance morally, it is necessary that the ideas of women shall be reformed, for men are largely what women make them. Man in his overmastering desire to win the favor of women, will be what woman wants him to be. Women nowadays—we speak in the large confounds careless defiance of duty with many adventurousness and, therefore, we have a few real adventurers and a great crowd of imitators, who vary in their devilishness from rocking the boat to stealing a kiss in the dark. The world is filled with a host of youths who have acquired a cheap nature, and thereby attain the favor of the ruling sex. Man will not improve until woman wants him improved.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The Programme of National Defense

The announcement from the White House that President Wilson has directed Secretaries Garrison and Daniels to report to him a programme of national defense has caused widespread comment. The only explanation from the White House is that the President will confer with Secretaries Daniels and Garrison "to formulate a sane, reasonable and practical programme of national defense." There is no cause for alarm in the announcement. It does not mean that preparation for hostilities has begun. Ever since the beginning of the European war there has been much discussion of the state of the national defense and the alarmists, and those who had munitions of war to sell, have been greatly disturbed about the lack of preparation for war in America. In view of the continuance of the war and the state of our relations with Germany, the President has doubtless thought it wise and proper to look to the national defense as a matter of precaution. That's all the announcement seems to mean.—Statesville Landmark.

Indian Population

Of all the great Indian population which once roamed the forests, the prairies and the deserts from Maine to San Diego Bay and from the Great Lakes to the Rio Grande, there were left in 1910 only about 265,000.

From decade to decade the Indian has become less and less a factor in America, and in numbers he has vastly decreased within the last two centuries. It has always been supposed that the noble redskin is fast vanishing from the earth, or at least this part of it, but, according to the census returns, he has been rather better than holding his

Praise for American Doctors and Nurses

"Miraculous is the only proper adjective to apply to the work being done by American doctors and nurses in Serbia," says Sir Thomas Lipton, after his return from his second trip to the near east with the hospital yacht Erin. "As usual," continued Sir Thomas, "the Americans excel in organization and preventive measures. The French and English unite are doing good work in the hospitals but conduct of the work of sanitation is rapidly making typhus a thing of the past and credit must go to the Americans, whose magnificent efforts have made them loved by every Serbian, from the King to the lowest peasant, all of whom seem fully appreciative of the efforts of the Red Cross in their behalf."

"When I was in Serbia on my first trip," continued Sir Thomas, "it was unsafe to travel in the country, which was then so badly infested from vermin as to make necessary the use of antiseptics night and morning. But on this trip no such precautions were necessary, thanks to the sanitation reforms enforced by Americans. The hospitals are now as clean as any to be found in Europe, while hotels and dwellings are beginning to observe sanitary regulations."

"At the height of the epidemic there were probably 300,000 cases of typhus, but many typhus hospitals now have been closed for lack of patients. At Ghevgheli, where Dr. Jas. F. Donnelly, now Serbia's national hero, died, there were once 1,400 patients in the American hospital. Now there are only three suffering from typhus."

Aerial Torpedo Boat

The Navy Department, it is said, is keenly interested in an aerial torpedo boat for attacks on ships in protected harbors, projected in patents just issued to Admiral Bradley Allen Fiske, now attached to the navy war college, but formerly aid for operations to Secretary Daniels. The plan contemplates equipping a monster aeroplane, similar to a number of under constructions in this country for the British government with a Whitehead torpedo of regulation navy type.

Swooping down at a distance of five sea miles from the object of attack, the air craft would drop its deadly cargo into the water just as it would have been launched from a destroyer.

The impact with the water sets the torpedo's machinery in motion and it is off at a speed of more than forty knots an hour toward the enemy ship.

It is said to be possible to control the torpedo by radio waves, one aeroplane carrying the torpedo and another the wireless controlling apparatus.

It is pointed out that Admiral Fiske secured patents on such a method of control in 1900 when he was a lieutenant-commander in the navy.

own in numbers, at least for the last forty years. The Indian Bureau reports that there were about 1,000 more Indians in the United States in 1910 than in 1870, and the census bureau estimates 17,000 more in 1910 than in 1890.

It is rather curious to find that New York State, with its 6,046 red men, and North Carolina, with 7,851, have each more Indians than Nevada, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Kansas or Nebraska. Oklahoma has the largest Indian population with 74,925, and Arizona is second, with 29,201.—Baltimore Sun.

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