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Letter From Mr. John W. Twitty.

Many Topics Interestingly Discussed--A Suggestion to "Night Riders"--Political Situation in Georgia--Lancaster Commended for Her Improvements--Why Bryan Should be Elected--Other Matters of Interest.

Editor The News: It has been quite a while since I attempted to impose on your readers or occupy space in your popular paper. It may be that you will allow me to be heard again, as you have always done. If so, I will give your readers a few thoughts as they occur to me in the writing following.

"Night Riders" seem to be a terror to sections of your county. It is to be deplored that such lawlessness goes on or has countenance anywhere. It must go on, let it be in the spring, before cotton is planted. Let all the cotton growing plantations be posted and let the writing stipulate that not exceeding five acres to the plow shall be planted in cotton; if more, the offender will be dealt with. As said, it is all wrong to be disturbed by "night riders" but it is better for them to stop the production than to burn it after it is produced. It is passing strange to me that the farmer continues to plant and raise more than is demanded. It must be evident that there is now an over supply of cotton in the country and hence only low prices can be realized for it. Building ware houses, keeping it out of the market will do no good. Nothing but reduced acreage and curtailment of yields. No doubt it will be said, he (your correspondent) is not practical and doesn't know what he is talking about. But I insist that it will not do to hold cotton and in the mean time make another fall crop without putting it on the market. Spinners and speculators know what is on hands and know all they have to do is to wait and get it at their own price—Plant half and make provisions, should be the watchword.

I have thought for some time that the country is over supplied with cotton factories. It is said that they (some of them at least) are paying 9c for cotton and selling their output on a basis of 7c cotton. That looks like making money over the left.

I was pleased with what you said about the Heath family. I know most of them and some intimately. They are aggressive, money making and without hypocrisy. Mrs. Dr. Heath (daughter-in-law of Geo. Heath) spent the day with us last Monday. She has a son (Willie) preaching in this vicinity—a good man.

I think if I was that fellow Thomas, who married that rich girl in Atlanta, I would assert my rights and not allow her to be taken off, as he is doing. A million dollars is not picked up every day.

Political issues are kept up at a high tension, especially in this State. We do not know "where we are at". It strikes me that Georgia is the worst muddled State in the Union. Hoke Smith was in a fair way to put the State in good shape, but a few designing men arrayed themselves against him for sinister purpose; for instance, railroad officials and em-

ployees, liquor men, etc. All these would have been insufficient but Tom Watson arrayed his forces against Smith, at the eleventh hour, which could not be overcome. Now behold the man put forward: "Little Joe Brown", the nearest to a blank that ever filled the governor's chair—nothing but a tool. It will take a generation to get up the reforms Gov. Smith had inaugurated and about accomplished. That designing men turned down such a man as Hoke Smith (ranks with the first men of the South) and put in such a man as Joe Brown, proves that some men will rule or ruin. The mistake will be seen not many months hence.

You have a good governor and I am glad he was re-elected. Smith's election to U. S. Senate was as I would have it. I thought when I saw his name announced that he would be formidable, but I had no idea he was so popular. I was surprised at the result of the election in Lancaster County, in some cases, but no doubt all those elected will do credit to themselves and the county—I hope so.

I see the commission to establish a line between Kershaw and Lancaster counties have done their work. The old line has been changed, but it seems to create very little friction. I thought, and still believe, that it should remain where it was, especially as it had been so long established, and furthermore that lots had been improved in the town by parties who expected and wished to be citizens of Lancaster county—force a change in citizenship.

My, my, that blow-up and death at the Haile Mine. In the midst of life we are in death. The company sustained considerable loss, but I hope they will rebuild and continue to operate the old mine. It is worth considerable to have such a plant in a county.

I am glad the Methodist church is being rebuilt and hope means will be forth coming to complete the building promptly.

We enjoyed a short visit from our old friend and neighbor, Jno Vanlandingham, of Charlotte, N. C., I think he was favorably impressed with our town (Valdosta). Johnnie is a hustler. I knew him when in his teens. He was not a raid of work, which is characteristic of the whole family, Johnnie's father, Capt. N. B. Vanlandingham, could do as much work with one leg as most men with two. The Capt., who was well known in Lancaster county, lost one of his legs in the Civil War. He was a gallant officer.

The cotton crop in this section and State promised a fine yield at one time, has been very much cut off. Other crops are better.

I got the age of my old friend Richard Robinson, recently published in The News and find that he is my senior only 17 days. We are both on the border. We both intend to live as long as we can, but that can't be long.

Glad your city is making strides in the line of improvements and among other things establishing a waterworks plant, which is very much needed in Lancaster. But what about drinking water out of Bear Creek?—Think it will go down well?

The late rains and overflow of crops was a great calamity visited upon a large section of the country and my judgment was that none suffered more than your county. Col. Springs's

Horrible Crime in Tenn.--Man Chops Another's Head Off, Attacks Two Women and Then Sui-cides.

Bristol, Tenn., Oct. 4.—A special from Johnson City says:

L. A. Bayless, a magistrate, early today attacked his brother-in-law, Berney Bayless, while the latter was asleep in bed at his home in this city and almost literally chopped his head off with an axe. He then attacked Bayless' wife, fatally wounding her. Turning the weapon upon his own wife, who was in the house, he struck her several blows, inflicting probably fatal injuries. Bayless was arrested and half an hour later was found dead in his cell, having hanged himself. Jealousy is said to have been the cause of Bayless' attack.

'Squire Harris Dead--Was the Father of Mrs. O. W. Potts, of Pleasant Valley

Charlotte Observer, Oct. 3: 'Squire F. C. Harris, of Pineville, one of the most respected citizens of the county, died at his home yesterday morning at 6 o'clock after a long illness. 'Squire Harris was almost four score years of age and was born in Steele Creek township. He was a life-long member of the A. R. P. Church and one of the most liberal and devout members of Central church in Steele Creek township. He was a veteran of the great civil war and a member of Mecklenburg Camp, U. C. V. Surviving the deceased are his aged widow, one son, Mr. Robert Harris, and five daughters, Mrs. Oscar Potts, of Pleasant Valley, S. C., Mrs. Sam Cunningham, Mrs. Edward Costner, Mrs. Carians and Miss Janie Hill Harris, all of Pineville. The funeral will take place at the home this morning at 11 o'clock and the interment will be made at Blackstocks.

John W. Kern, Democrat candidate for Vice President, who has been speaking in Georgia, passed through this State Sunday, making an address in Greenville. He spoke at Asheville, N. C., Monday.

loss figured up a large amount. The county's loss in bridge work is a big thing, and by the way, Lancaster has more than its share of bridges to keep up—it costs considerable.

Now you have a new road law which will require a big outlay, but it is the very thing and much needed in your county.

I could keep on at this string but I must close my scattering letter after adding one or two sentences. I want to urge Bryan's election. I believe if he was in office he would exert himself to put an end to trusts, high tariff, etc. Provisions continue to advance, and why? Because trusts control necessities of life. The poor people and masses are suffering and will continue to do so without a change. The Democratic platform promises relief, while the Republican platform does not or is silent when it should be outspoken.

It is cold here today. Please excuse this letter—it is too long. Abridge or put it all in the waste basket. Kind regards to old friends. Truly yours

J. W. Twitty.
Valdosta, Ga., Oct. 3 1908.

Graded Schools' First Month.

Statement from the Superintendent Showing the Progress and Record Made.

By Supt. Bruce Craven.

It has always been the policy of the present Superintendent of the Lancaster graded school to take the public into confidence as to actual conditions and not pretend that the school under his control is perfect in all things. Our school here is doing good, but it can be made infinitely better and more effective than it is, and the only way I know of to accomplish this is for all persons interested to realize the burdens and shortcomings and difficulties and all work together for the good of the school without any regard to personal considerations.

The parent in the hurry and worry of every-day affairs forms an uncertain opinion about teachers and the school generally from two sources: these are from the amount of space "gone over" by the child and by the child's personal satisfaction or dissatisfaction. Both of these sources are not only unreliable but are positively misleading. The number of books or pages a student goes through is no indication whatever of his knowledge of them. It is better to go only a short distance and go right than to go to the ends of the world and go wrong. The real test in his studies ought to be thoroughness: it is better to know and understand one page well than to have a mere smattering of ten pages. As to the child's own opinion of the teacher, it must be apparent to anyone that it very often depends on whether or not the child is allowed to do as he pleases. Instead of this, it is better for the parents to visit and study the school and be familiar with the child's progress by co-operation with the teacher.

The total enrollment to date is 485 as compared with 418 last year at the end of the first month, this showing an increase of 67, or 16 per cent. This enrollment lacks at least a full hundred of including all in the school district who should be in school, though at present there would be no place to put them if they should enter. With the new building at the mill next year, and with some other improvements, the enrollment next September should be 600. The enrollment in the mill school with three teachers, is 149.

The most noticeable need of the school system is to provide against the necessity of sending children away from here to be prepared for college. At present there are 57 children in the first grade and only thirteen in the tenth. A number of the ones who should be in the advanced grades are away at school at an expense that takes several thousand dollars out of Lancaster that should be kept at home. This is a plain business proposition that can and no doubt will receive the proper attention at the proper time.

The number of absences for the month was 186—an average of nearly nine a day. This is too many, and the record at the mill school is even worse. The parents should realize the necessity of having their children present every day for their own good and for the good of the school. There have been only 26 tardies and these all in the lower grades: this is a fine record

War Clouds in Europe--Two Conflicts Impending.

London, Oct. 4.—Events which threaten to change the political face of Europe are crystallizing with lightning rapidity. Almost over night the horizon of the Near East, which seemed gradually to be assuming a peaceful appearance, has become crowded with war clouds.

News has reached here from several sources that two definite strokes are impending which cannot fail to bring matters to a crisis, and perhaps force an immediate war. One is the proclamation by Prince Ferdinand, of the independence of Bulgaria, which will include Rumeia, taking for himself the title of "Czar." The other is an announcement of Austria Hungary of the practical annexation of the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina as appendages of the Austro-Hungarian crown.

Either action will be equivalent to the leasing up of the treaty of Berlin, while Prince Ferdinand's course seems almost certain to precipitate a war between Bulgaria and Turkey. Before these possibilities, the quarrel over the east Rumeian section of the Orient Railway sinks into insignificance. Both armies are reported to be quietly and swiftly mobilizing near the borders. Bulgarians are said to be buying munitions and horses on an extensive scale.

Pleasant Hill Items.

Mrs. L. L. Cauthen left Friday last for Augusta, Ga., where she will spend two or three weeks with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Cauthen.

Mrs. S. P. Adams visited relatives of Lancaster the past week.

Mr. S. Beckham Sr., visited Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Nisbet, of Jacksonham section, the past week. Mr. J. M. Caskey and Mr. L. T. Cole spent Saturday in Lancaster.

Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Beckham spent Saturday last in Kershaw.

Miss Jessie Beckham is visiting Mrs. Julia Porter in Lancaster.

Communion services will be held here at the A. R. P. church next Sunday, the 11th. Preaching Saturday at 11 o'clock. Rev. O. S. Young will do the preaching. Rex.

Pleasant Hill, Oct. 5.

but nearly all the 26 could have been avoided with a little care.

Pupils can be admitted to the school now only after showing that they are prepared to take up the work of the grade with the classes. All persons concerned will see the reasonableness of this regulation. When pupils are deficient in conduct or studies, formal notices are sent to the parents and the school expects cheerful and prompt action on action on their part.

The regular monthly teachers' meeting will be held Friday of this week, the purpose being to get concerted action among the teachers in study of progressive school methods. During the year various parts of the work will be studied and every teacher is expected to read carefully the best educational journals and thus become familiar with what the best schools and teachers are doing.