

The Big Stone Gap Post.

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BIG STONE GAP, WISE COUNTY, VA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1921

No. 7

School News

(Edited by the Senior Class.)

Interesting Address by General Ayers Before the Public School.

General R. A. Ayers delivered on Friday morning an address to the public school on the growth of Wise county.

His address was interesting to both teachers and pupils. He prefaced his remarks with a short history of his early life, informing his audience that he was born May 20th, 1849, in Bedford county, Virginia, and came to Bristol with his father and family in 1855 when the railroad from Bristol had only been completed to Mount Airy in Smyth county and from there to Bristol the trip was made by stages and wagons. He said that he saw the last spike driven connecting the first line of railroad from the Atlantic Ocean at Norfolk to the Mississippi at Memphis in 1856; that he had never attended a free school, they not having been established until after the Civil war; that he quit school in December, 1860, and at that time was not twelve years old, but had studied Davies Elementary and Advanced Arithmetic, was studying Algebra, had completed the Latin reader, was studying Caesar, and had commenced to read Cicero, all of which he had accomplished before he was twelve years old. He told the students that they could accomplish all they undertook in their studies if they were earnest and persevered.

Taking up the growth of Wise county General Ayers said that he first came to Big Stone Gap on the 20th day of May, 1866, which was his 17th birthday, and stopped with Mr. Elkamah Gilley, there being only three houses, the post office being known as Three Forks. He settled at Gate City, in Scott county, married and lived there until 1880 when he met General J. D. Imboden, who had been sent out by some Pittsburg capitalists to purchase some iron ore. He induced General Imboden to take an option to purchase about 10,000 acres of coal land, owned by the Kane estate and Olingers. This was February 3rd, 1880, and resulted in the sale of this land and various other coal properties to the Pittsburg people, and eventually to its being acquired by the Philadelphia and Manch Chunk interests who now own largely the different properties. General Ayers was at once in 1860 retained as counsel for the companies formed to take over the properties, and has continued in their employ for more than forty years.

In 1880 the assessed values of the real and personal property of Wise county, which was then the smallest of any in the state, was:

Real Estate \$361,922.00

Personal Property 153,320.00

The assessed values in 1920 including real, personal and mixed were \$20,350,450.89. In 1880 Wise county was the smallest in population and wealth in the state, and in 1920 was the largest in both in the state. General Ayers stated that immediately after making the purchases of coal land and becoming counsel for the owners, he recognized the necessity for development, and through his own

efforts, and of others, he was able to secure the extension of the railroad from Bristol which was completed in the spring of 1890. The Louisville & Nashville and the Norfolk & Western railroads were built to a junction at Norton in 1891, affording the shippers of coal and coke three great trunk lines, which have been supplemented by the extension of the Southern to the Kentucky line, and the building of the Interstate Railroad which connects these roads with a large proportion of the mines, and together with the road from the Breaks of Sandy to the Carolinas, probably developing between five lines the largest area of coal in the United States.

After outlining his life work and what he had been able to accomplish, he encouraged the students to set their aims high and struggle to accomplish and even surpass what they plan.

He told them not to look backward, but to keep their eyes steadfastly upon the future.

It was reported several weeks ago that Mr. Sulfridge had lost his watch. We are very glad to announce that it has been found and returned to him.

Rev. Smith visited the school on Thursday of last week and made us a very helpful talk on "The Good Accomplished by Prayer." The gymnasium apparatus has been moved from the "Armory" into the gym room of the school building. The doors will be closed until 3:30 and after this time the pupils of the school will be allowed to practice until 5:00 o'clock, when the boy scouts will use it until 6:00 o'clock two days out of the week. We believe that if this room is used in accordance with the rules and regulations, it will be a great benefit to the school.

Our building has been much warmer, and our floors much cleaner since the high school boys have taken over the work. Our basketball court is being cleaned and the boards replaced. If the weather permits we shall be having games soon.

WANTS 40,000 TONS OF COAL

Joseph M. Baker, a friend of Mayor Stauffer while the latter was a newspaper correspondent in Washington, called at the office of the city's chief executive, Mr. Baker, at the time that Mayor Stauffer was in Washington, was a page boy in the House of Representatives and assistant secretary to ex-Congressman Rothermel. Since that time he has gone into business and is a member of the firm of Baker & Morrell, dealers in coal. Mr. Baker's home is at Big Stone Gap, Va.

He is in Reading for the purpose of purchasing anthracite and bituminous coal for shipments to Seattle, Wash. Mr. Baker wants 30,000 tons of anthracite and 10,000 tons of four inch block bituminous coal. At the time he called at the mayor's office he had not completed any business transaction or secured the coal. If unsuccessful in Reading he intends to go to the New York markets.—Reading (Pa.) Eagle.

FOR SALE!

Bargains in new and used Engines, Boilers, Saw Mills, Wood working Machinery, Tractors, Electric Motors, Road Building Machinery, Air Compressors, Locomotives and Steam Shovels, Hoisting Engines, Relaying Rails, Oil and Gasoline Engines, Concrete Mixers, Crushers, Pumps, Road Rollers, Pipe, Shafting, Pulleys, Belting, Saws and Oils.

R. P. JOHNSON, adv51tf Wytheville, Va.

Republican

Leaders in Wise County Hold Meeting and Make Recommendations.

Recommendations for the distribution of Federal patronage in Wise county were made at a meeting of the Wise County Republican Committee at Norton last week. The meeting was called by E. M. Addington, chairman, who presided at the meeting.

The entire committee of 20 men and 20 women were present. The meeting teemed with rejoicing over the Republican victory last November. Harmony existed to a marked degree between the different factions and enthusiasms was high.

The following recommendations were agreed upon: For district attorney, Thomas J. Muncey, of Bland; for assistant district attorney, D. F. Kennedy, of Wise; deputy collector of internal revenue, T. M. Pepper, of Norton; deputy United States Marshall, Claude L. Kelly, of Big Stone Gap; U. S. collector of internal revenue for the western district, C. S. Pendleton, of Scott county; Reading Deputy for the Western District of Virginia, J. H. Catron, of Big Stone Gap.

Recommendations for postmasters were made as follows: Appalachia, R. J. Shepherd; Big Stone Gap, W. S. Ross; Bondtown, Miss Gertrude B. Hale; Coeburn, E. M. Addington; Norton, S. H. Ratliff; Tom's Creek, J. R. Tompkins; St. Paul, C. C. Bolton; Stonega, M. F. Duffy; Wise, W. M. Gillenwaters; East Stone Gap, William Hood; Pardee, M. E. Wells; Roaring Fork, T. T. Kiser; Exeter, K. W. Moore.

Tenth Annual Report

Of Pension Fund of the United States and the Carnegie Steel Companies.

The tenth annual report of the pension department of the United States and the Carnegie Steel Companies and their thirty-four subsidiary companies covering period up to December 31st, 1920, shows some very interesting figures.

The pension fund was started in 1911 and since that time the sum of \$5,880,581.60 has been disbursed to the pensioned employees as follows:

1911	\$281,457.37
1912	358,780.92
1913	422,815.14
1914	511,967.90
1915	659,389.42
1916	711,140.33
1917	712,596.65
1918	709,659.82
1919	733,797.45
1920	779,766.60

On December 31st, 1920, there were 2,969 employees on the pension list the average age of the pensioned men was 65 years, and their average length of service was thirty years. The average monthly pension on December 31st, 1920, was \$22.10.

All of the employees of the companies and their subsidiaries are eligible for pensions after service of 25 years, and among the 2969 pensioners are a good many men low in the ranks.

Holston Methodists

Will Meet in Bristol to Perfect Plan for Educational Drive.

Dr. J. H. Reynolds, director general of the Christian education commission, will meet with Methodists of the Holston conference, in Bristol, Va., today (February 16), and assist in the organization of the conference for pushing the financial campaign to secure the \$33,000,000 fund which Southern Methodists will spend in advancing the educational interests of their church.

This meeting will bring together the leading officials, ministers, editors, college presidents, and lay workers within the bounds of the Holston conference. Bishop Collins Denny, of Richmond, Va., will be the ranking church official present.

J. A. Stone, of Bristol, Va., financial director for the conference, will preside. Associated with Mr. Stone are ten district directors, will see that every member canvass is pushed in the districts into which the conference is divided.

The financial objective of the Christian education movement is in the hands of the most prominent business men of this section. They have made a careful survey of the situation and are optimistic as to the result. It is the general opinion that the fund will be oversubscribed.

May 29 to June 5 is the time set for the financial campaign. Although no gifts have as yet been solicited, it is generally known that two big gifts aggregating \$150,000 have been pledged to two of the colleges in this section. The four Southern Methodist schools within the bounds of the Holston conference are: Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va.; Martha Washington College, Abingdon, Va.; Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn.; and Centenary College, Cleveland, Tenn.

GUEST OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN

Former Congressman John H. Rothermel entertained a visitor from Big Stone Gap, Va. He was Joseph M. Baker, who has coal interest in the Virginia fields.

Mr. Baker was secretary to Mr. Rothermel for about eight years in Washington.

Mr. Rothermel had him appointed page in the House of Representatives, later to the folding room, and when the Democratic party was in the majority Mr. Rothermel was made chairman to the committee on expenditures in the Department of Commerce and appointed Baker as clerk to same.

Mr. Baker was in Reading for the purpose of purchasing 10,000 tons of bituminous and 30,000 tons of anthracite, and it is understood that contract was made for the bituminous with local operators.

When appointed as page Mr. Baker was only 11 years of age. He hails from Allentown.—Reading (Pa.) Eagle.

Ex Governor H. C. Stuart and nephew, Hon. John White Stuart, will sail from New York Wednesday of this week for South America, where they will spend several months, expecting to return on or about July 1st. They are expecting a great trip and this paper and hundreds of other friends throughout this section hope they will not be disappointed.—Lebanon News.

At least one thing can be said in favor of American profiteers. They are experts in their line.

Board of Supervisors

At Regular Meeting Reject All Road Bids.

Wise, Va., Feb. 16.—The Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the court house Tuesday and transacted the regular routine of business. The most important matter that came before the board was opening the bids for the constructing of pike roads as provided for in the bond issue of \$350,000. All of the bids were found to be higher than the estimates made by the State Highway Commission and were rejected.

Other bids will be advertised for at once, and these will be opened and passed upon at the next regular meeting of the board, March 8th.

American Legion Notes

A dance will be given by the Henry N. Tate Post American Legion in their club room Appalachia on Thursday night, February 22nd. Invitations are now being mailed. Music by Witt's Jazz Orchestra. A big crowd is expected, and a good time is guaranteed.

Ex-service men can do nothing better than join the American Legion. A membership drive is now on, and you should not fail to join, mail your dues to the secretary which is only \$1.00, and a membership card will be mailed you at once.

The 1921 post officers of the Henry N. Tate Post are as follows:

William B. Peters, commander; vice commanders are, C. A. Hood, Fred Buchanan, Roscoe Waltz, Paul Horne, George Morton; post war risk officer, Sam F. Dickenson; secretary, Festus Lion; treasurer, Oliver B. Burke, sergeant at arms, executive committee, Ralph C. Bray, Ed P. Duffy, Jr., J. H. Carmack, J. Rex Berry and Henry A. Siphers.

The Booze Traffic

The killing of Henry His at Big Stone Gap Sunday afternoon as he was walking along the highway, brings home to all the peril that hangs over us so long as this terrible traffic in bootleg whiskey is carried on. Nobody is safe on the roads, on the county roads, on their own homes. A man let may bring to a life, or the life of your neighbor any day or any month. This dastardly traffic must be stopped. And the fire which the bootlegger case was soaked, will do to this end. But a six month jail sentence will do much.

The county does not need these fines. The cities do not need them. We need to be rid of the traffic. And the way to be rid of the traffic is to place heavy jail sentences along with a heavy fine.

What does the average bootlegger care for a fine? He make it back in a few business. What he dread the jail sentence. Our judges and justices and judges forget about the money the fines bring in, and go to handing out long jail terms for offenders.

This will stop the business, but fines will not.—Norton Progress.

Norton Floral Co.

Cut Flowers
Funeral Designs
Corsages and
Potted Plants

Prompt Service Day or Night
NORTON, VA.



With the RED LINE round the top

More farmers are wearing Goodrich Rubber Footwear today than ever before.

The reason for this tremendous increase in users is simple—Goodrich wears longer than other footwear, and farmers have found it out. Naturally, when a man buys a pair of Goodrich "Hi-Press" and they last so much longer and are so much more comfortable, and so materially cut down that big footwear bill—he's going to tell his friends.

More and more farmers are finding out that Goodrich won't leak, peel or come apart—it can't, for it is made in One Solid Piece—that's the Goodrich way.

Look for the Red Line round the Top when you buy. 60,000 dealers are now selling Goodrich.

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Goodrich Hi-Press Rubber Footwear



At least one thing can be said in favor of American profiteers. They are experts in their line.