

BIG PLANTATIONS A MENACE TO SOUTH

Editor Clarence Poe Advocates Reducing Taxes on Small Land Holdings and Increasing Them on Larger Ones.

That big plantations are a menace to the south, the ideal being a great democracy of thrifty, home-owning small farmers, and that taxes should be reduced on small land holdings and increased on large ones and on inheritances, was the argument presented in an address before the Southern Commercial Congress in Nashville, Tenn., on the 9th, by Editor Clarence Poe, of The Progressive Farmer.

Mr. Poe was one of the two principal speakers in the Seaman A. Knapp memorial meeting and declared that Dr. Knapp's great aim was to make the rural south a vast democracy of small home owners. To this end Mr. Poe advocated the English graduated tax on the unearned increment in rural or urban land holdings of \$1,000 or less wholly exempted, and a heavy tax on inheritances of \$5,000 or over, likewise graduated. "We must tax small holdings less, great holdings more," he declared, "the gains of thrift and industry less, the gains of chance or inheritance more."

He also urged the immigration of thirty Northern and Western white farmers, declaring this the only sure plan to remedy our excessively large proportion of negro population and solve the problem of an adequate social life in the country.

In the first part of his speech Mr. Poe dealt with the increase of agricultural incomes in the south and declared that they could be doubled by the adequate use of machinery and greater horse power. "Statistics show," he said, "that farm workers in three typical South Central States average less than one horse per capita, earning \$189 a year, whereas the farm workers in three typical North Central States average between three and four horses per capita and cultivate sixty-three acres apiece, earning \$663 a year."

Coming directly to what he pronounced the more important part of Dr. Knapp's work, Mr. Poe said:

"Put in a single sentence, Dr. Knapp's one great aim, his dominant ideal was to make the South a vast democracy of thrifty, home-owning farmers, every man sitting under his own vine and fig-tree. I wish every farmer in the South could get and read his bulletin. 'The Causes of Southern Rural Conditions and the Small Farm as an Important Remedy.' To break up our great plantations into the smaller holdings and to encourage every farmer to own his own home; this he regarded as the most important task ahead of the leaders of Southern agriculture. To use Dr. Knapp's own language:

"A prosperous, intelligent and contented rural population is essential to our national perpetuity. The world's experience has shown that the best way to secure this is to encourage the division of all the lands small farms each owned and operated by one family."

"My own conviction, ladies and gentlemen, is that in this statement Dr. Knapp showed the vision of a prophet and a seer. It will be well indeed for the South if we do not come too late to listen to the warnings of England two centuries ago against the hastening ill to which any land is subject 'where wealth accumulates and men decay,' and where princes and lords flourish at the expense of bold peasantry. Even now the duty of the hour as I conceive it, is to lighten the burdens of the small home-owner."

"The methods I suggest are new in the South, I know, but I do not hesitate to say that I believe we must lighten the taxes on the poor man and the small home-owner and land holder, and increase the taxes on others—principally by levying heavy graduated taxes on inheritance of \$5,000 or over, and a graduated tax on the unearned increment in urban or rural land values, after the English policy, but exempting from the latter provision all who own less than \$1,000 or \$2,000 worth of land. We must tax small holdings less, great holdings more, the gains of thrift and industry less, the gains of chance or inheritance more. Into our state laws here in the south as in our National laws at Washington, we must write the determination of the people that the birth-right of every man to the liberty and happiness of home-owning shall be properly safeguarded, and that the weak shall not be forced to bear the burdens of the strong, or the many impoverished that a few may enrich. A great democracy of thrifty, prosperous home-owning small farmers is the hope of the South and should be the goal of all our striving. Vast areas held for speculative purposes or bought by corporations merely for financial profit and cultivated by men who are nothing more than factory machines to their owners—all such holdings are a menace to progress and prosperity in the south, as indeed are all great plantations were a backward tenantry is exploited when by cutting them up, thrifty and progressive farmers and home-owners would come in and give strength and power to the state."

Then, too, we need to encourage the coming of thrifty Northern and Western small farmers into our Southern country. We need them to reduce our

too-burdensome proportion of negro population. I have no ill-will against our negroes, but they themselves will be helped by increasing the percentage of our white population. Moreover, everybody knows that the drawback to rural life is its isolation. If the south were a great democracy of home-owning, eighty-acre farmers, and our number of negroes not increased, the problem of social life on the farm would be solved; the proportion of negroes would be too small to be serious; our larger population would support the finest school system in the world; our greater number of taxpayers would enable us to have magnificent roads, good all the year round; the larger population would provide adequate support for the best doctors and preachers and professional men; rural telephones, the transportation of school children, the development of social centers follow as naturally as the day the night; the prosperity of our towns, and of every other industry would be doubled, and new spirit and vastly increased vigor would be found for every manufacturing and commercial enterprise known to our people.

"This is the great task ahead of us. It is the problem of our statesmen, our editors, our agricultural leaders, our men of vision in every profession and calling."

Emory Notes.

Emory, Va., April 16, 1912. Mrs. Senter, of Bristol, was here last week visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. L. Hardin.

Citizen Sanders Chiddix has been confined to his room for several days with serious illness.

Mrs. H. G. Peery, of Tazewell, was the guest last week of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Harvey George Peery.

The Embroidery Club met with Mrs. Charles Weaver on Thursday, the 11th, in honor of her visiting relative, Mrs. J. H. Weaver.

Emory and Henry has the following baseball dates for the week: Milligan College, today and tomorrow; King College on Saturday.

President Charles C. Weaver went to Marion on Wednesday, the 10th, where he delivered an address before the mid-year missionary meeting of Holston Conference.

A delegation of ten students from Emory and Henry's Y. M. C. A. department, accompanied by Doctor J. P. McConnell, were in Roanoke last week to participate in the state Y. M. C. A. convention.

In the Y. M. C. A. hall at 7:30 p. m. Sunday, the 14th, Mr. Haskell H. Dyer, of Johnson City, Tenn., delivered his lecture, "The Trial of Jesus." It was well received by a large and appreciative audience.

Officers of the Norfolk and Western Railway met officials of Emory and Henry College here on Monday, the 8th, and decided upon the location for the new depot. It will stand some distance east of the present site, and will be provided with a liberal train shed.

Our champion athlete, "Big Bill" Nickels, left Wednesday, the 10th, for the University of Virginia to take part in the inter-collegiate field day athletics, conducted under the auspices of the University Athletic Association. We are expecting Bill to bring back some laurels.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

Mrs. Nannie Cooley, of Bluefield, returned home Monday after a short visit to friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Peery returned last Friday from Florida, where they have been spending the winter.

Mrs. H. A. Bowen, who has been visiting her parents in the Cove for two weeks, returned to her home here Sunday. Her sister, Miss Rachel, accompanied her.

Allen Buchanan, after a week's vacation spent at his home in Thompson Valley, returned to Bluefield Sunday to resume his work as railway mail clerk on the Bluefield-Norton run.

Mrs. S. O. Hall and W. G. O'Brien left Tuesday for Abingdon to attend the sessions of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Presbyterian church which met there yesterday.

The mighty Haag Shows, traveling on their own special trains, will exhibit at Tazewell on next Wednesday, the 24th. The Haag shows have exhibited here before, and are worth coming miles to see. Their street parade alone is worth more than the price of admission, yet it is absolutely free.

It does not pay to ask Sergeant John S. Thompson for too strict an enforcement of the local laws, the latest victim being our worthy townsman, Captain A. J. Tynes. On Saturday he begged for a strict enforcement of the stray law, and on Tuesday had the pleasure of paying his own mare and colt out of the town pound.

In the opening game of the National Baseball League season in Boston on Thursday of last week, Harry Spratt, of Richlands, playing with the Bean Eaters against the Philadelphia team, distinguished himself by carrying off the batting honors. In five times up he touched the Quaker City twirler for a home-run, a triple and a single. He has since developed a case of appendicitis, and probably be out of the game for several weeks, as he will enter a hospital at once for an operation.

POUNDING MILL NEWS.

Items Gathered by Our Correspondent About People Down the Clinch.

Pounding Mill, Va., April 16th. Miss Uva Steele's music class at Cedar Bluff closed on Friday last.

Mrs. Howard Reed has been confined to her bed by illness for several days.

Mrs. Mattie Brewster was the weekend guest of relatives at Maxwell.

Mrs. Alex. Beavers is visiting her mother, Mrs. Alex. Altizer, this week.

Rev. G. R. Thomas conducted services at Cedar Bluff both morning and evening on last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Sparks and son, Norman, were guests of Mrs. Ezra Linkous at Indian on Sunday.

George Brewster and daughter, Miss Cora, have both been on the sick list for several days. They are somewhat improved, however.

H. H. Asbury, of Bondtown, was here Sunday and Monday to visit his grandfather, Mr. Washington Asbury, whose death on Monday morning is given elsewhere.

Mrs. G. W. Oliver, of Lynchburg, will meet with the C. W. B. M. society at this place on next Monday night. Every one should hear her grand and inspiring message.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Trayer entertained a number of young people on Saturday evening in honor of Miss Mattie Trayer, of Xenia, Ohio, who is their friend. Refreshments were served, and an enjoyable time had by all.

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees of the Norfolk and Western Railway met in the Odd Fellows hall at this place on last Sunday. T. H. Gerry, general chairman of the organization, was among those present.

Mr. Washington Asbury died Monday morning about 10 o'clock at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Pettis, on Pounding Mill branch, of tuberculosis.

His remains were buried today in the Thomas cemetery, funeral services being conducted by Rev. C. A. Pangle, assisted by Rev. G. R. Thomas. Mr. Asbury was about 76 years old; a good man and well liked by all who knew him. He leaves several children to mourn his death.

The Music Club.

The Music Club met on Saturday at the home of Mrs. J. D. Harrison, the guest of Miss Ethel Steger. The subject of study for the meeting was Beethoven, and Miss Steger read a biographical sketch of this great composer, after which the following musical program was rendered:

Chorus—Club sextette.
Symphony—Misses Sallie Brittain and Bessie Jackson.

Vocal solo—Mrs. A. S. Higginbotham.
Piano solo—Mrs. A. G. Russell.

Chorus—Club sextette.
Dainty refreshments were served at the close of the musical numbers.

SPECIALS For Next Week.



SAILORS ARE

STILL GOOD AND WE ARE SELLING LOTS OF THEM

But is it not now about time to buy that real

DRESS HAT

We want to insist upon you coming it to see what we have waiting for you in spring FASHIONS

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OPPOSITE OVERHEAD BRIDGE.

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Big shipment received from GAGE BROS. Also another shipment of KNOX HATS. Beautiful! you will say at a glance. You should visit this department often.

Dress Linens.

All the popular salable staple and novelty weaves are here and as you know linens are in great demand this season. Write us for samples NOW.

Colored Linens—Blues, Pinks etc. 30 cents, 35 cents and 50 cents
Waist Linens 25 cents, 35 cents, 50 cents and 75 cents
46 inch Shrunken, medium and heavy weight 75 cents
Linen Sheeting 85 cents and \$1.00
38 inch Linen Ratine \$1.25
56 inch Fine Linen Ratine \$2.50
Embroidered Crash 25 cents
36 inch Crash 30 cents
And many other weaves

White Footwear

There has never been a season when White Footwear was as popular as it is going to be this summer—and that sent us marketing with one purpose in view—to have the best assortment possible—and to go the full limit in guaranteeable qualities. Ladies', Misses and Childrens canvas and buck shoes and pumps in great variety.

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BURKES GARDEN.

Items of Interest Concerning People You Know and Hearing Talked Of.

Burkes Garden, Va., April 16th. Mrs. John D. Fox was the guest of Mrs. T. R. Boling Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. H. Rhudy were guests of Miss Bettie Groseclose Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Boling were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Long Sunday.

Miss Helen Asbury is very ill with appendicitis at the home of Mr. George Moss.

Isaac Spracher and sister, Jane, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Rhudy last Sunday.

Miss Stella Long, who has been visiting in Tazewell, returned to her home here Saturday.

Misses Jessie and Jennie McGinnis were calling on their grandmother, Mrs. Jane Meek, last Monday.

Master Ira Boling had the misfortune to get his hand and fingers badly mashed in a feed cutter last week.

M. F. Wynn, who recently sold his interests here and moved to Tazewell, was in the Garden last week on business.

Hubert Bailey, of North Tazewell, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Long Saturday night and Sunday.

Miss Bettie Groseclose will have her sale the twenty-fifth instant. She expects to make her future home in Wytheville.

Miss Maisie Peery, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. John Fanning, returned to her home at North Tazewell last Sunday.

Miss Garnet Lawson, who spent the winter in Wytheville and other cities, returned to her home here on Wednesday of last week.

Rev. Walton H. Greever left the Garden last Thursday for his home in Columbia. S. C. His sister-in-law, Mrs. Ohl, accompanied him.

Samuel T. Heninger died at his home here on last Friday of kidney trouble complicated with other diseases. He was seventy-three years old. Burial was made near his home on Saturday.

Town Council Meets.

On account of the repairs being made in the mayor's office, the regular meeting of the town council on last Friday was held in the reception room at the offices of Dr. R. P. Copenhaver. All members, excepting Councilman Harman, were present.

A committee from the Tazewell Woman's Club, consisting of Mesdames G. W. St. Clair, Henry Harman and Barnes Gillespie, presented a petition appealing for a cleaner and better Tazewell. Mrs. St. Clair, as spokesman for the committee, clearly and concisely set forth what the club desired from the

council in furthering civic betterment, which, in substance, was:

1. An ordinance requiring owners or tenants to keep the sidewalks clean in front of their property.

2. An ordinance to require, at least once a month, the cleaning of gutters and roads.

3. To require the town to, about May 15th and November 1st, of each year, to furnish teams to haul away trash, refuse, etc., which the citizens must place in boxes or barrels on these dates, in an accessible place.

4. To require owners or tenants to keep their yards, also the alleys and pass-ways adjoining their property, clean; and to drain and keep clean all damp or unsanitary places.

5. To prohibit expectorating on the sidewalks.

At the close of her address, Mrs. St. Clair presented a written petition embodying the suggestions made in her speech for the further consideration of the council.

Much interest was taken by the members of the council in the requests of committee, and, no doubt, will result in action being taken along the lines suggested.

Dr. C. A. Thompson, as supervisor of the town's poor, appeared before the council and made explanation of the bill for medical services presented by Dr. D. R. Johnson. J. A. Greever also appeared and explained his charges for hose nozzles furnished the town.

Mayor Bowen was authorized to employ a man to codify the ordinances of the town and to write neighbor towns for copies of their local laws as a guide in the work.

The following claims were allowed: J. S. Thompson, \$1.67; J. A. Greever, \$29.70; A. J. May, \$6.50; Dr. D. R. Johnson, \$12.50.

On Saturday the council met again and went over the various streets with a view to selecting those to be improved under the bond issue, which entitles the town to one and one-half miles of macadam.

Of this, 1,500 feet will be used in improving the back street, known as "Jockey Alley," thus leaving about one and a quarter miles. The council tentatively agreed on this other streets to be improved, but as they will likely total more than the remaining mileage, the sergeant was instructed to ascertain their exact measurements and report same at the next meeting of the council, at which time those least needing improvement will be eliminated so as to not be in excess of the remaining mileage, and that the council may be able to advise the board of supervisors just where to make the anticipated improvements.

In Society!

The smart set, American and European, is a leading subject of the Sunday Philadelphia Press. Attractive illustrations, notes from the fashionable resorts and the famous Phoebe Rush letter are factors in the make-up of the authoritative society pages. The amusing Rush correspondence gently ridicules the foibles of the conservatives entertaining the cotton leader and the recluses alike.

Interesting as this section is, it is only one of a number of features included in a great Sunday Edition for the home. A word in time and your newsdealer will leave a copy at your door.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

Dr. John E. Jackson is in Richmond this week attending the sessions of the State Board of Pharmacy.

Attorneys E. L. Greever and S. M. B. Coulling are in Grundy this week attending Buchanan circuit court.

MEN'S OXFORDS in tans and blacks. Latest patterns and at all prices may be found at W. T. Witten & Co's.

Dr. C. T. St. Clair and son, Charles, were here Sunday to spend the day with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. St. Clair.

Miss Jean Graham is visiting her brother, Robert, and sister, Miss Jessie, in Norton. She will go from there to Louisville, Ky., to visit friends.

Hons. Barnes Gillespie, T. J. Muncy and Nye Britts returned Saturday from Danville, where they had been to attend a term of the United States court.

George W. St. Clair has been in Wilkesbarre, Pa., for several days, having gone there Saturday to attend the burial of W. A. Lathrop, the well known coal operator.

Miss Wyrene Lester, of the Cove, left on Friday last for Seattle, Wash., where she has accepted a position as bookkeeper with one of the big lumber firms of the Pacific slope. Her sister, Miss Madge, accompanied her as far as Bluefield.

The horse attached to the delivery wagon of the Tazewell Supply Company, became frightened on last Friday and ran away, completely destroying the harness and wagon and seriously injuring Sid Peery, son of the proprietor of the store, who was on the wagon at the time of the runaway.

The Rev. Tilden Scherer, who had been acting president of Kings College, Bristol, since the death of President R. B. Smith, four months ago, was on last Friday elected permanent head of that institution. Rev. Scherer is a man of recognized ability, and the institution is to be congratulated on having secured him as president.

WORLD'S GREATEST OCEAN DISASTER.

Steamship Titanic, on Her Maiden Voyage, Collides With Giant Iceberg off Coast of Newfoundland and 1,302 Perish.

The greatest ocean-going steamship ever constructed, the Titanic, of the White Star Line, bound from Liverpool to New York on her maiden voyage, collided with a giant iceberg about 1,100 miles east of New York at 10:25 Sunday night, and within the short space of a few hours thereafter plunged to a watery grave in the deep blue bosom of the Atlantic.

Thirteen hundred and two of the passengers aboard went down with the gallant ship, while eight hundred and sixty-eight survive to relate the horrors attending the accident, the most stupendous in the history of all marine navigation.

Following close upon the accident, the wireless operator aboard the Titanic flashed out a message summoning help, and within a period of thirty minutes half a dozen or more powerful ships within the zone of distress were churning the sea into foam as they sped onward to aid of the stricken mistress of the seas. In the meantime, the women and children on the Titanic were being conveyed to life boats, and at daybreak on Monday morning when the great ship Carpathia arrived on the scene, all those surviving, numbering 868, were taken aboard. The Titanic, with her crew and the remaining passengers, 1,302 in all, had gone down, however, hours before the Carpathia put in her appearance. The ship collided with the iceberg at 10:25 p. m., and in exactly three hours and fifty-three minutes after receiving her death blow, the Titanic disappeared from view.

Left in the wake of the sunken vessel, however, were the little life boats filled with terror-stricken women and children, the male passengers chivalrously seeing to it that they were given this opportunity of escape, and this accounts for the fact that so many women and children were saved by the arrival of the Carpathia.

For the rest the scene as the Carpathia came up was one of desolation. All that remained of the \$10,000,000 floating palace, on which nearly 1,400 passengers had been voyaging luxuriously to this side of the Atlantic, were some bits of wreckage. The biggest ship in the world had gone down snuffing out in her downward plunge hundreds of human lives.

Notable persons, travelers on the Titanic, whose fate is in doubt in the lack of definite advice as to the identity of the survivors are, John Jacob Astor, Major Archibald Butt, aide to President Taft, Charles H. Hayes, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific of Canada, his wife and daughter; W. T. Snead, Benjamin Guggenheim, F. D. Millet, the artist, and J. G. Widener, of Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Straus, J. B. Thayer, vice president of the Penna. Railroad; J. Bruce Ismay, Henry B. Harris, the theatrical manager, and Mrs. Harris and Colonel Washington Roebling, builder of the Brooklyn Bridge.

District Sunday School Meeting.

A meeting of the Thompson Valley District Sunday School Association will be held at Bailey's Chapel, Saturday, April 27th, beginning at 10 a. m. Following is the program for the meeting:

1. "Is the Sunday School Worth While?"—J. A. Leslie.
2. "The Hindrances Removed"—Rev. E. E. Wiley.
3. "The Teacher and Teacher Training"—Rev. J. N. Harman.
4. "The Sunday School and The Home"—Mrs. Sallie Peery.
5. "The Primary Department"—Mrs. W. G. O'Brien.
6. "The Attendance Problem"—Rev. S. O. Hall.

Sunday school people and the public generally are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

J. N. RHUDY, President.

MRS. ELLA PEERY, Secretary.

Roosevelt Victory in Pennsylvania.

On last Saturday the presidential preference primary in Pennsylvania resulted in an overwhelming victory for Colonel Theodore Roosevelt over President Taft, he capturing 67 out of 76 delegates to the Republican national convention, which meets in Chicago on June 18th. His popular vote over the president was something like 200,000.

On the same day in West Virginia in county primaries in five counties, eighty-six delegates to the state convention were chosen, resulting in 66 for Roosevelt and 20 for Taft.

Mail Order Houses

Don't undersell me for same quality goods. Tell me your wants. Note prices. No paying in advance. No freight charges. No risk whatever. Try me on paint. I sell L. & M. Paint. It's thick. Must add Oil, and then you have the best pure Lead, Zinc and Linseed Oil Paint made, and it's cost is only about \$1.57 per gallon.

Call on J. A. Greever, Tazewell, Va. Miss Barbara Reynolds' music pupils, assisted by Mrs. F. E. Clark's expression pupils, gave a recital at the high school building on Thursday evening. There was a large crowd present, who were royally entertained by the well-trained pupils.—Sandy Valley News.