

Visiting Back Home.

Mount Airy News, February 3, 1916

Mr. W. Edgar Woodruffe, of the state of Arizona, is back in the county with his family visiting relatives. They are at Low Gap this week. The editor of the News who is a brother-in-law to Mr. Woodruff, spent a day the first of the week at Low Gap with him. Ten years ago Mr. Woodruff began life as a minister in Minnesota after a thorough preparation in college and university for his life's work.

After two years in the pastorate where he served a large church in Minneapolis he fell a victim to tuberculosis and was forced to go to the desert lands of Arizona for relief. Since going there he has recovered his health and is as strong and robust as at any time of life. But it is his purpose to remain in that climate. Where he makes his home it is known as the desert lands and practically nothing grows there except where water can be secured for irrigation.

Since regaining his health Mr. Woodruff is making a living by farming in a small way and growing cattle. He also has an apiary and produces honey in large amounts. Aside from his business he finds time to take interest in politics and make political speeches on occasion. It is interesting to hear him talk of political conditions in his adopted state.

Until Arizona became a state a short time ago non-resident capitalists through their agents controlled legislation and proceeded to bleed the country for every cent they could get, and put back in public improvements as little as they possibly could. The people waked up and recently enacted the most progressive laws of any state in the union. The capitalists made conditions such that the people enacted a law making eight hours a day for labor, and made the minimum price for a days' labor the sum of three dollars. This is given as an illustration of how the people are protecting themselves from the men who would keep them down.

As an illustration of the way they do business out there, if a town should get up against the same problem this town is facing about its school building and how the recent bond issue shall be invested, a small number of citizens could ask for an election for the recall of the present school board. If the citizens wanted them removed from office and another set of men who are in harmony with the will of the voters placed in office, they could settle the matter at an election called especially for this purpose. In other words it is a place where the will of the people is supreme and where they have laws that permit the people to express their will and enforce it. No set of men can set up the claim that they are the guardians of the rights and interests of the people and go ahead and carry out their plans over the wishes of the men who placed them in power.

Mr. Woodruff and his family will visit relatives here in Mount Airy in a few days.

(Submitted by Esther Johnson)