

Sylvan Valley News

Our County—Its Progress and Prosperity the First Duty of a Local Paper.

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1903.

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Dunns Rock Lodge No. 267

A. F. & A. M.

Meets Friday on or before the full moon in each month, at 2 p. m. Visiting Masons are cordially invited to meet with us.
sptly W. M. MAXWELL, Sec'y.

Professional Cards.

W. A. GASH,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Rooms 7 & 8, McMinn Bld'g, Brevard, N. C.

W. B. DUCKWORTH,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Investigation of Land Titles a Specialty.
Rooms 1 and 2, Pickelsimer Building.

W. W. ZACHARY,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Offices in McMinn Block, Brevard, N. C.

D. L. ENGLISH,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
U. S. Court practice a specialty.
Offices in Cooper Building, Brevard, N. C.

WELCH CALLOWAY,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Practices in all the courts.
Rooms 9 and 10 McMinn Block, Brevard, N. C.



J. H. McLEAN,

Doctor Dental Surgery.
Rooms 1 and 2 Cooper Bld'g, Brevard, N. C.

Miscellaneous.

T. L. SNELSON,

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Carriage and Wagon Building.
Wheelwright work a specialty.

C. C. KILPATRICK,

CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER.
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Estimates given on all kinds of work in the building line.

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Contractor for All Kinds of Brick Work.
Cement Work, Plastering, Pebble-dash and Rough Casting a Specialty.
BREVARD, N. C.

J. O. DERMID,

The Reliable Jeweler.
Watches and Jewelry for sale. Fine Watch and Clock repairing. All Work guaranteed. West Main St.

A. C. NORTON,

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Galloway, Duckworth & Co.,

REAL ESTATE DEALERS,

Rooms 3 and 4, McMinn Block, Brevard, N. C.
Buy and sell all kinds of Real Estate, Collect rents, and attend to property when owner is absent.
Farming and Timber Lands a Specialty.

Our Tax Assessors.

The Men Appointed by the County Commissioners and the Duties Before Them.

Last week we published the names of the men appointed by the Board of County Commissioners at their last meeting to list the taxable property this year in the several townships. In looking over the names one can see that the Board has selected representative men, men who own their homes and are interested in the welfare of the county. They are honest and conservative citizens who, if they err in any way, will be in favor of a too small valuation. The conditions have changed so much and so rapidly during the past two years that the ordinary citizen can scarcely comprehend the difference in actual values now and heretofore, and especially is this true of uncultivated mountain and timber lands.

It is only a few years since all the wild land in the county was on the tax books at a valuation of 25 cents an acre, and when it was raised by the assessors to 50 cts there was a great kick from the taxpayers. We are informed that large bodies of timber lands are now listed at \$1 per acre, while the fact is everywhere patent that there is not an acre of land in the country but will bring \$3 cash. We believe that the taxable valuation of all wild lands should be raised to something like its cash value.

In Brevard township, and especially in the Town of Brevard, there should be a general rise in the valuation of town lots. There is altogether too great a discrepancy between the price of lots and lands for taxation and the price at which properties are selling. This is especially true of the Davidson River section. There are many reasons why lands are worth more there than elsewhere in the county. It will be the duty of the assessors to note the conditions and equalize values as nearly as possible, and we believe them amply capable of doing exactly the right thing.

If the increased values would have a tendency to increase the amount of individual taxes we might hesitate in asking for a general rise, but as we see it there is only a given amount to be raised and an increased valuation will reduce the rate until the individual will have about the same amount to pay as now.

It is a duty we owe those who pay only poll tax that the rate be made as low as possible. It is the poll tax that is largely insolvent, and our school fund suffers accordingly. Why not list property at its cash value—not at what it would bring in a forced sale, but something near what it is actually worth in the market.

We have assessors in each township this year who thoroughly understand values in their respective sections, and we hope the county commissioners have instructed them as to a general increase in values throughout the county.

Transylvania's Prosperity.

The Attention of the Possible Investor is Called to the Prosperous Condition of Transylvania County.

We think there is no county in the state which has made the showing that Transylvania has in the last few years. The number of improvements that are now going on, the amount of new and modern machinery that the farmers have bought and paid for, the class of dwellings that have been erected all go to show a prosperous people. We can then offer to homeseekers not only a prosperous section but also a peaceable and law-abiding community.

In this claim that we make for being the banner county when it comes to being law-abiding we refer to our criminal docket, the smallest in the state. Our solicitors barely make their expenses while here, and the only cases that we have are petty misdemeanors. Every judge that has been here comments on it. We have had some more serious cases on the docket, but they are few and far between. To a man with a family there can be no greater inducement than that of peace and quiet—we can furnish both.

In regard to our prosperity we refer the investor to several safe and sure criterions and point to them with pride. We first call your attention to the records in the office of the Register of Deeds, and you will there find but few deeds in trust or mortgages being recorded. We also call your attention to the files of this paper, which is the only paper published in the county, and therefore every legal sale has to be advertised in it. You will notice that there has been but one advertisement for the sale of property under mortgage during this year, and that lone sale was the result of a lawsuit that has been going on for the last eight years. The newspaper and the lawyers are losing by the lack of legal notices but the county is prospering. Is there another section of our state that can show as clean a record? We notice that all our exchanges have notices of the sale of land under execution or power of sale in mortgages, our paper has none and we hope that we will never have many. We would rather let it go on as it is now. Save the money paid for legal advertisements and subscribe to your paper.

And then there is another sign of good times, look at our advertising columns. You will see every merchant and business man

in town is advertising, that shows an era of plenty among us. It takes money to pay for these advertisements and those advertisements make money for the advertiser. We do not have to go outside of our county for advertisers to fill our space. This state of affairs shows not only prosperity but a spirit of progressiveness among our people that will beget good times for all.

We have shown the evidences of the effect of plenty of work and money. Now what is the cause?

First, we have a people who are hard working, economical, honest and quick to take advantage of improved methods in their business.

Second, we have abundant work for every man who is looking for labor.

Third, we have a soil that richly repays the farmer who works it in the correct manner.

Fourth, we have merchants who sell the same goods for as little money as the merchants in the large cities, therefore we can buy what we want here at home and keep our money in the family.

When you find a people willing to work and plenty for them to do at good prices you will also find prosperity. We have a willing people and worlds of work.

We therefore call the attention of the investor having a small amount of capital to this county. Here he can find lands suited to the cultivation of all the cereals; a fine opening for truck farmers and market gardeners; a need for several poultry raisers; ample opportunity for large and paying orchards; fine cattle and sheep raising properties for sale at reasonable prices, and he will settle among a God-fearing, honest and peaceable people.

Our climate is all that could be asked. We are protected from the severe and nearly continuous north winds that sweep over some of our western counties during the winter, as we have the Balsam and Pisgah ranges of mountains to the north of us.

We have as fine water as any section and plenty of it; an abundance of firewood that sells cheap.

In fact we can offer to the investor all that goes to make a man happy, prosperous and contented.

Any information of a more definite character will be gladly furnished.

The Audobon Society.

A bill was passed by the last legislature creating the Audobon society for the protection of the game, song and insectivorous birds in North Carolina. By the provisions of this law it is a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, to destroy the nests or kill any birds in this state without a permit from the society, except the English sparrow, owls, hawks, crows, blackbirds, jackdaws and rice birds. Boys who wantonly hunt and destroy bird's nests are warned that hereafter these thoughtless acts are liable to be punished by the courts. Birds are the farmers best friend and should be protected.

James M. Trantham

The Decorator

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Paper Hanging, Fresco Work and all kinds of interior finishing a specialty.

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Clocks

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Eyes examined free and lenses fitted. Fine watch and clock repairing.

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