

Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1903.

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Dunns Rock Lodge No. 267

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Calvert, N. C.

A National Disgrace.

The Violation of Civil Law by Army Officers Is Sanctioned by the Administration.

We have noticed with great regret the course pursued by the administration in the smuggling cases in Porto Rico. Our readers are no doubt aware that some few weeks ago in San Juan, Porto Rico, the revenue officers discovered that a great deal of smuggling was going on and that wines, liquors and cigars were being brought into that city in large quantities. After careful search the guilty parties were discovered and warrants issued for their arrest and steps were taken at once to prosecute the law breakers. Upon examination it was found that some of the law breakers were officers of the Army and Navy. The revenue officers proceeded with the prosecution of the guilty parties and had warrants issued for the said military officers but were unable to serve them as the officers kept within the forts and defied the law. A report was at once made to the authorities at Washington and the matter investigated and the result of that investigation is what causes grave fear in the hearts of true Americans of whatever party.

Instead of an example being made of those officers of the Army and Navy who had violated the civil law of the United States and defied the civil authorities who attempted to arrest them, we find Roosevelt and his cabinet protecting those of the offenders who belonged either to the Army or Navy but still allowing the prosecution of the civilians who were no more guilty than the officers. And it did not stop there for we see the revenue officer discharged and losing his position for his sworn duty. He lost his job for issuing warrants against army officers.

We have pointed out before the grave danger that the United States is in from having a Military president and this fulfils our predictions. Here you have an example under your eyes of militarism in its most violent form. Here is a good illustration of a "Rough Rider" president. Here is a forecast of what will exist in this section under republican imperialistic rule. Why is it that an army officer should be exempt from the penalty of civil law in this time of peace? Why should a law breaker escape the just punishment which he has brought upon himself simply because he is an army officer? Should not the educated army or navy officer who has been educated at the expense of the government either at Annapolis or West Point and drilled in obedience, be more severely punished for violating the laws than some ignorant man who knew no better.

Such a case is but the necessary result of the military rule established by Roosevelt to insure his continuance in office, this is but one instance in many

of the privileges that are allowed to army and navy officers at the expense of the dignity of the civilian. The Philippines have and ever will be the excuse for a large army, but they are not the true cause, that is simply the desire of the president and his supporters, namely the trusts, to maintain a large army. The people will awake to their danger too late if they allow this last instance of military favoritism to pass unpunished. Let us show our hearty disapproval of the course of the president and his advisors, force him to administer the law to army officer and civilian alike. The republicans will have many charges to answer at the next general election, namely the massacre and torture of many Filipinos who were fighting for liberty, the many and grave disclosures of rottenness in the postoffice department and this last and most flagrant example of favoritism.

We will admit that the democrats have sometime erred, but it has always been on the side of the working man. The republicans have also erred and they always err on the side of the trusts or the rich and powerful who are able to help them out financially. The republican party reminds us of the usurer and his loans. They both claim that they are working for and are controlled by "Principal" but we know that it is their "interest" that they are after and with the republicans the interest is larger than the principal. They have been charging the people and collecting usury. Democrats have had no opportunity to secure any interest and they are therefore still confined to their principal and it is the only party that has a party principle.

Remember then, all you who are not army or navy officers, the instance cited above and vote accordingly.

Unjust Criticism.

We deem it our duty as well as our pleasure to defend any man who is, in our opinion, unjustly accused. Where the attack is grounded on false assumptions it is always best to expose its falsity before it gains enough strength to injure any one. We think that no political good can come of any attack that is personal in its nature when it is groundless. We have a platform that is vulnerable and there is where we should attack the republicans.

The articles that have appeared attacking Thomas S. Rollins, the chairman of the State Republican Executive Committee we believe to be unjust and not founded on facts. Having known Mr. Rollins from early youth we feel justified in speaking of his character. Being with him at the University we know his ability. The charge that he is going to be the mouthpiece of Judge Pritchard is so evidently untrue

to those who know Mr. Rollins that it hardly needs any denial, but for the benefit of those who know him not we speak. We suppose that the opinions and advice of the ex-senator will always have great weight in the deliberations of his party in this state and it ought to, but Rollins will be as little governed by it as would any one else. Had Judge Pritchard never existed Rollins would have been chairman. Our reason for so believing is that when we were at the University Mr. Rollins was ambitious to be elected chief marshal for commencement, and with an Eastern man opposing him and having to fight the entire eastern contingent he was elected over his formidable rival. This he did without any aid from the outside. He also made a successful chairman of his congressional district and in many ways has proved his ability as a party leader.

Mr. Rollins is a man of strong individuality, strong character and a vigorous campaigner. We will find that he is going to make a harder fighter than Judge Pritchard was and will give us a run for our money. While we will ever fight Mr. Rollins when it comes to politics and will attack his platform, still we take pleasure in defending him personally from unjust attacks. We congratulate him upon his election and think that it was but a just recognition of his ability by his party.

We trust that the political battles of the future will be fought on the issues as contained in the platforms and records of the two great parties and that the mudslinging and personal vituperations of past ages will be forever dropped.

Our Intention.

We take this opportunity to state our hoped relations with the new Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and trust that it will meet with their approval. From time to time we will have some advice to offer and remarks to make, but it will be done in a spirit of friendliness and not as criticism. It will be of great service to the Board to have the assistance of the News, and it is promised to them in all laudable enterprises, and we think there will be no others.

We hope that there will be the utmost harmony existing between our paper and the authorities. We will support and aid them when possible. Anything that has escaped the notice of the Board we will call their attention to it so that it can be remedied. Wishing them the greatest success and feeling that our town will prosper under their administration, we are their and the town's friends,
THE EDITORS.

Some remarkable changes have recently taken place in the United States. The South is fast acquiring the cotton spinning industry while the abandoned farms of New England are again selling at good prices and are being renovated, refertilized and brought under scientific cultivation.

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M. M. SHEPHERD

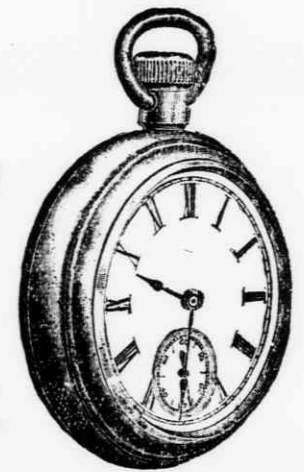
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