

# Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 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.

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## Taxes and Who Should Pay Them.

### Incomes and Franchises, Money and not Men, Should Bear the Burden of Government.

It is a safe proposition that every man, woman and child in this country is benefitted by taxation for the support of a government, and that the extent of these benefits depend largely on the amount and kind of property of which the person is possessed. The man who has nothing except his head on which to pay tax receives less benefit from government than any other class, while the millionaire who has money invested in various securities must depend entirely on a stable government (for the support of which taxes are levied) to make the collection of his income possible. The poll tax is the hardest of all taxes to collect because the payer must earn the means to pay with in addition to a living; the wealthy man pays his tax out of funds which a stable government permits him to collect from others. In the first case the tax is a burden which is hard to bear; in the second it does not cut off a single luxury. There is a manifest injustice here which it is the duty of our legislators to remedy.

Under the heading "The abolition of direct taxes" the Atlanta Constitution makes the following editorial remarks:

"One of the inevitable reforms of the future will be the abolition of direct taxes upon the properties of the people of the several states as they arrive at fully settled industrial conditions. New York has already come to the place where only the constitutional limit of 13 mills is levied for the interest and sinking fund charges on its canal bonds. A constitutional amendment will be adopted in 1905 permitting even these charges to be paid from the general fund and thereafter there will be no direct tax levies in that state. Ohio is now virtually in the same condition, finding its revenues almost entirely in franchise, license and other forms of indirect taxation.

"How is it done? By carefully listing the values of all privileges of the people that are used for gain, assessing them according to their ability to divide profits with the state, and thus making incomes—dollars and franchises—and not the laboring, saying, wealth-producing people, pay the state's necessary expenses.

"Under this system the man who has worked half a lifetime to acquire a \$5,000 farm is not called upon to pay more taxes than a lawyer with a \$10,000 income, or the owner of a building that returns a yearly rental three times larger in money than the farmer's crop. The mechanic who buys a \$200 lot and builds an \$800 home for his family, under the old system, paid taxes on a valuation of his property equal to 75 per centum, at the least, of its estimated completed worth to him as a home. Just above him a millionaire with a home costing \$100,000 would probably pay on a

valuation of it not greater than \$15,000 or \$20,000 at the most, all this kind of injustice is done away with by the New York and Ohio systems. And it ought to be done away with wherever and to that degree possible."

New Jersey, with its trust-creating laws, does not levy a cent of state tax—its revenue from the trusts it creates being sufficient to meet all its expenses (such at least are newspaper reports)—while other states which have to feed and foster its creations get little or no revenue from them. The incomes and franchises in North Carolina which are paid and supported either directly or indirectly by the people, if taxed according to their dividend-paying capacity, would pay all state expenses, educate its children and leave a surplus in the treasury. It is the duty of our legislators to take this burden from the backs of producers and put it on those who could carry it without an effort; lay the support of government on money instead of on men.

### Busting the Trusts.

How the people are benefited by Roosevelt's trust-busting efforts is shown by our Washington correspondent this week. We quote:

Some very shrewd, if unscrupulous, newspaper work is being done by the press agents who are booming President Roosevelt for the 1904 republican nomination. They are portraying him as a heavyweight trust fighter who is smashing the trusts right and left. They tell the people that Wall Street is dead against Roosevelt, and is hatching all kinds of schemes to prevent his nomination. They are even inventing ingenious stories about the post office frauds, scandals and corruptions, which they hope will not only divert well-deserved blame for this state of affairs from the President, who has permitted it to go on for two years, but will try to make political capital out of it for him. They now say that some of the principal rascals of the many who were plundering the postoffice were conspiring to prevent the President's nomination next year.

In these simple and absurd ways they expect to beguile the voting population of the country, and according to their own assurances, they are succeeding.

Let us see what kind of fights the President has been making against the criminal trusts of the country and in the interest of the "plain people," about which his touters are so loudly prating at present. The President's reputation as a trust smasher rests largely on two court decisions obtained last year. The Beef Trust was enjoined by the courts and the Northern Securities Co., a railroad combination, was declared illegal in the United States Circuit Court. In neither case

can any benefit to the "plain people" be detected, even by the aid of the most powerful microscope. Both of these trusts are continuing to fix prices and rates that the people must pay, and it may be said right here, that no decision under the Sherman law has resulted in permanent benefit to the people. The net result has been that the trusts have changed their form but not their substance. No court decision has permanently lowered prices or rates, or taken the hands of the trusts out of the pockets of the people. Nor is it probable that court decisions will ever remedy the evils of trusts while we have high tariffs and other special privileges which give monopoly powers and encourage combinations and trusts. We must somehow overcome these monopoly privileges before we can hope to get rid of the evils of the trusts. But the President has set his face against any change in the trust-fattening tariff. He even stopped off, on his recent stumping tour, to help strangle the poor little "Iowa idea" which feebly declared that tariffs which shelter trusts should come off. If people call this strenuous trust busting, they are easily satisfied.

### Should Be Thankful.

The people of upper South Carolina should be thankful that the Toxaway Company have built the dams that make some of the various lakes in the Sapphire Country.

During the recent heavy rains it was noticed that those streams which flowed from out the said lakes did no damage, while those that flowed in the old fashioned way washed away every bridge upon them. It therefore seems as if the lakes retain the surplus waters of large rains and act as a reservoir. The Federal Government has discovered this fact and intend to build large retaining dams on the headwaters of all the large streams if possible.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the erstwhile reports of the danger of the dams bursting, as long as they stand freshets, will do but little damage on any stream issuing from the lakes.

Some day the people will come to realize that "practical politics" in any department of the government is a gentle way of referring to political dishonesty. The official who schools himself to doing dishonest things for the benefit of the party is but paving the way to doing dishonest things for himself.

It is announced that "The President will go to the bottom of the Postoffice scandal." If Mr. Roosevelt is not careful he will not get back again in time for election day.

### Worst of all Experiences.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. S. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years" she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was miraculous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered." For Liver, Kidney, Stomach and Bowel troubles Electric Bitters is the only medicine. Only 50c. It's guaranteed by Z. W. Nichols, Druggist.

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## M. M. SHEPHERD

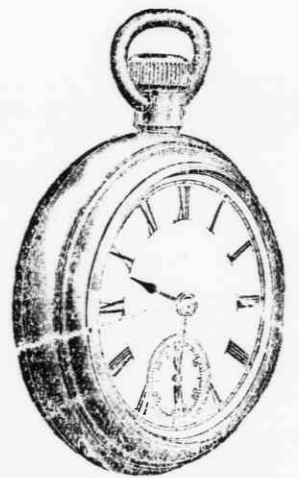
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