

Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1903.

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Dunns Rock Lodge No. 267

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Town Taxes.

The Tax List for the year 1903 of the Town of Brevard is now in my hands for collection. All tax payers are notified that the tax is now due and prompt payment will be made without favor.

J. A. BRYSON,

Town Tax Collector.

Prosperous Transylvania.

A Stable Government--Safe Investments--Increased Valuations--Reduced Tax Rate, etc.

We deem it the duty of a county paper to keep its readers informed of the condition of the county and to advance those methods which seem best suited to local conditions. There is but little use for us to discuss international or national matters when local conditions need discussion. The tax rate levied by our County Commissioners is of more importance to us than the import duty on cigars and diamonds levied by Congress at Washington. It would be a waste of both time and space for us to urge the Powers to interfere in the Turkish-Macedonian troubles or to depose the Dowager Empress of China when we could be calling the attention of our home folks and county authorities to local conditions which need immediate looking after. No use for us to try and convert men to democratic principles by citing evidences of prosperity and progress under democratic national rule before the war, when we can show them the direct results of good government in home matters at the present time by reason of democratic fidelity and ability. Let us manage our county affairs with honesty and capability and all will quickly appreciate the value of pure democracy.

And while there is much good reading and all the news in our great daily papers, the people must always remember that most of them either belong to or are controlled by the large corporations, or that they are under obligations to what are termed the trusts for a great part of their advertisements, so in the end the only true and independent expression of opinion is to be found in the small county papers. In them the best interests of the people are advanced and their needs made known—no news or comment is suppressed for either fear or favor. The only safeguard of the country against the encroachments of the great combinations of capital at the present time is the county paper and it is only in this connection that we feel called upon to discuss national affairs. Taking this view of the matter we intend to devote the majority of our time and space to county and local matters.

We believe that it is best for every county to have two strong political parties in order to have good government, as one can watch the other and will quickly detect any irregularities or bad management. Transylvania has two such parties, and our elections are always close enough to be interesting; any mistake in county government will quickly result in the defeat of the party making the same.

The people of our county demand honesty and ability in our county officers, and we are glad

to say that the present incumbents have proven well worthy of the trust placed in them. Not only have our democratic officers safely kept that which they received from their republican predecessors, but they have greatly added to the wealth and prosperity of Transylvania. When the time comes for them to make their final reports and settlements the people will say with one accord: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." What greater reward can a public servant receive than the deserved thanks of his people?

Look how our county has increased in value since the democrats got in control—the total increase amounting to nearly one-third of the total valuation. In other words Transylvania county is worth nearly one-half million dollars more at the present time than when our friends, the republicans were in charge.

Why is this, brother republicans? Your answer will undoubtedly be that "Roosevelt did it," or that a "republican congress caused it." But is that correct? No, not one word of it. In the first place Roosevelt don't know anything about Transylvania except that he has given a lot of soreheaded renegade democrats good government jobs and has turned down several good old line republicans to make room for them. We admit that he has made times good for those few ex-democrats. But then how about that republican congress? Why, friends, it has not been able to keep up the values of the stocks and bonds of those large Trusts that own it. Look over the market reports and you will see that there has been a great shrinkage in the value of most of the great corporations. Look at the railroad companies' stocks, the steel companies' stocks, the fertilizer companies' stocks, and you will see that all have lost in value. If congress, therefore, which is practically owned by the corporations cannot keep their stocks up to market value how could it affect this little county way up here in the mountains?

No thinking or reading man will be misled by any such argument. The republicans will have to get up something else

The true reason why Transylvania has increased in value is because of her prosperous condition, because men with money feel safe in investing in property here. They know that the county government is safe and sound that their property will not be burdened with taxes for the personal gain of the party in power.

It is easy to say that these conditions would have existed if the republicans had been in control instead of the democrats, but while that may be so it is a fact that when the republicans did have control of our county affairs

a very few years ago, that our county was going down, the property was not increasing in value fast enough to increase the tax levy to pay the debts contracted by the republicans. In fact the republicans had to levy special taxes to meet the current expenses in order not to exceed the constitutional limit and even with the high rate of taxation, and with the special tax they left the county badly in debt and the democrats had to settle hundreds of dollars of back debts, and along with the debts the republicans left an expensive law suit for the democrats to attend to. The democrats have encouraged investors by exhibiting good judgment and honesty in governing the county and by progressive and businesslike methods in attending to the finances.

Never before was Transylvania in such fine condition and it is in a large manner due to the honest and efficient manner in which the affairs of the county have been managed by our present officials.

Long may they live and fill their respective positions, and when they retire many others of the same kind can be found in democracy's ranks to fill their places.

Let the men of this county think over these matters without any political bias or feeling and they will see that our position is correct, that our conclusions are well founded and that the facts exist as we report them.

Violating the Game Laws.

We hear that some parties have been offering for sale in Brevard partridges and pheasants within the last week. For the information of those who do not know we will say that the bird law does not expire until November 1st, and closes March 15th.

The last Legislature passed very strict laws in regard to protecting our game birds and if the law is observed it will only result in good to the citizens. It is to be hoped that it will not be necessary for any legal steps to be taken to enforce the law as it now stands but if it is infringed and if game birds are killed out of season we hope that the guilty parties will be prosecuted and punished. It is not fair for one party to go out and shoot the game birds in the close season when the law-abiding citizen has to wait till the hunting season opens. Let's give the game birds and the other man both a fair chance.

It is not possible for the proprietors to publish more than a very few of the numerous letters received in praise of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and telling of its remarkable cures. They come from people in every walk in life and from every state in the Union. The following from T. W. Great-house, of Prattsburg, Ga., speaks for itself: "I would have been dead now but for the use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It cured me of chronic diarrhoea after seven years of suffering. I can never say too much in praise of that remedy." For sale by Z. W. Nichols, Brevard, and O. L. Erwin, Cherryfield.

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