

MARION PROGRESS.



VOL. XIV.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1910.

NO. 24.

PROFESSIONAL

DR. E. J. EVANS,
DENTIST

MARION, N. C.
Rooms 1, 2 and 3, Poteet Building
At Old Fort second and fourth
Monday's

T. A. MORPHEW
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Office over Merchant's & Farmers'
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DR. J. GILLESPIE REID,
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Will answer calls at any
hour of the night. :: ::

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First National Bank Building,
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DENTIST

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MARION, N. C.

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Any business intrusted
to our care will receive
prompt and careful at-
tention. :: :: :: ::

Over McCall & Conley's Furniture
Store.

Farm for Sale.

125 acres on Muddy Creek in Dysarts-
ville township, only 4 miles from C. C.
& O. Railroad. Apply to this office.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the Gov-
ernor of North Carolina has called a
Special Term of the Superior Court, for
the trial of civil causes, for the county
of McDowell, to begin on Monday, the
16th day of May, A. D. 1910, to continue
for one week.

This 6th day of April, A. D. 1910.
H. A. TATE, Chairman
Board of Commissioners of
McDowell county, N. C.

Old Newspapers for sale
at this office.

OLD NORTH STATE NEWS.

Interesting Items of News
Briefly Set Forth For
Busy Readers.

It is estimated that Moore county
will ship 300 cases of dewberries
this year, bringing into the county
the sum of \$105,000.

Col. Paul B. Means, of Concord,
died Wednesday evening in the
Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte,
from an attack of grip and paraly-
sis.

E. H. Miller, an old Confederate
soldier and a member of the First
North Carolina Cavalry, died at
his home in Lenoir last week, age
79.

That Senators Simmons and
Overman are always alive to the
interests of their people is evidenc-
ed by the fact that they have in-
troduced measures to stop discrim-
inating freight rates.

The Supreme Court has decided
against Thomas, the druggist whose
license was rescinded by the State
Board of Pharmacy because he
sold cocaine in violation of the law.
Thomas sought to compel the board
to renew his license.

Judge Owen H. Guion, of the
third district, has sent in his resi-
gnation to Governor Kitchin to take
effect April 30th. Col. D. L.
Ward of New Bern was appointed
Saturday by Governor Kitchin to
fill the vacancy.

There has just been equipped at
the State's prison a library of 447
volumes for the use of prisoners.
It is conveniently located and has
writing and reading room adjacent.
The convicts are allowed certain
hours for the library conditioned
on good behavior. The central
prison now has eighty prisoners in
the regular convict department and
fifty-four in the criminal insane
department. There are about 300
convicts out on contract work and
at work on the farm.

Representatives of 75 cotton mills
in North Carolina met in Greens-
boro Tuesday and, after several
hours of full and free discussion,
unanimously adopted resolutions
declaring for one-third curtailment
of the normal output of yarns and
cloths of each mill between May 1
and September 1 of this year. The
resolution calls upon all the mills
in the South to co-operate by the
adoption of a similar rate of cur-
tailment. Night work is also de-
precated and it is not to be engag-
ed in during this period.

Raleigh, April 21.—State Geo-
logist Joseph Hyde Pratt expects
that the plans of the state geologist
and economist survey will be so
materialized within the next few
weeks so that the survey and lo-
cation of the Charlotte Asheville
highway through Rutherford and
Henderson counties can be gotten
under way. Also the survey for
the Blue Ridge highway through
Buncombe, Yancey, Mitchell and
McDowell counties and the Ashe-
ville-Knoxville road across Mad-
ison county.

Dr. Weaver's New Work.

It will be of interest to his many
friends to learn that Dr. C. C.
Weaver, who recently resigned the
presidency of Davenport College,
has accepted an offer made him by
Dr. Crook, of Centenary College,
Tenn. Dr. Weaver will have
charge of the college, as resident
principal, all expenses being paid
and a handsome salary given; while
Dr. Crook will manage the finan-
cial affairs of the institution. This
will relieve Dr. Weaver of much
of the heavy burden he has borne
during the past ten years.—Hick-
ory Mercury.

Every McDowell county Demo-
crat should see that his poll tax is
paid before May 1st. Saturday is
the last day. Don't disfranchise
yourself.

PEOPLE'S FORUM.

[This department is reserved for letters from
the people on various topics. THE PROGRESS
is not responsible for the views of its correspon-
dents. All communications must be originally
signed for our protection though the name may
be withheld in publication.]

THE BUYING OF VOTES

And "Corruption Funds" in
Elections in McDowell
County.

We read with great interest and
become indignant on account of
political doings in New York, in
Pittsburg, in San Francisco and
elsewhere away from home. Let's
now give a few sober thoughts to
what's at home—in McDowell
county.

Do we not claim for ourselves
that this is a law-abiding and Chris-
tian community? Do, or do not,
many men high up in both political
parties and church members,
too—and some of the very church
officials in all of the churches—
join in with, or take the lead of,
a large number of the most prom-
inent citizens and business men of
the community in contributing
money to swell a "corruption fund"
with which to buy the votes of
their weaker brothers and fel-
low citizens, and then handle and
place the "filthy stuff"—the price
of the poor man's "birth-right"—
in the hands of him whose very
soul they would see go hellward
for a dishonest vote? Is not the
"prominent man" who contributes
to this "corruption fund," or who
deals it out to his weaker brother,
less excusable and more deserving
of contempt than the poor man
(often in sore need) accepts the
money and sells his vote.

Some will say, "I don't believe,
myself, it is right to buy and sell
votes." Of course no man can be
found, or who has ever been heard
of, who would have the "gaul" to
say he believes any such business
to be right. Every man knows
too well it is no less than a public
scandal to any community that wel-
comes it. But they say, "Well,
the other side does it and we must,
too, or our party will be beaten."
What! this shocking custom so
generally practiced already that
all must engage in it, or those who
would cry out against it are so out
of date as to modern methods in
politics and in such hopeless mi-
nority that it is useless for them to
say anything against it. Surely
this cannot be so! The masses of
the people of this county cannot be
so corrupt, so debased, so rotten in
sentiment and so shameless that
those who are opposed to vote buy-
ing are in the minority. They are
in the majority, and a most tre-
mendous majority. They simply
have failed heretofore to wake up
and to stir themselves up and come
out with the nerve to stand up on
their convictions and say: "This
business shall stop; no man shall
have my vote for any office until
he washes his hands of the vote
buying business, both directly and
indirectly (if he has ever engaged
in it)." Let candidates for office
and managers of elections under-
stand that they can no longer serve
as officials for nor occupy high po-
sition with an honest people until
they set themselves, with all their
might, against this infamous busi-
ness, and it is then at an end.

How few men in this county
who would not themselves for any
price buy nor sell a vote have come
out and boldly and publicly said,
"no man shall have my vote who
has not clean hands!" The man
who has not done this has passively
assented to this shameful practice
and is partly responsible for its
continuance.

Why, we have a law forbidding,
under penalty of heavy punish-
ment, the buying of votes, and we
are told that the reason this stat-
ute cannot be enforced is that so
many "prominent men" in both
parties would be caught! Think
of it! So many prominent men
and officials have violated the law
that it must be ignored for their

protection! Are not men in stripes
on our chaingangs for less crimes
than the willful, premeditated and
most deliberate corruption of a
whole community by the buying
of the votes of a large number of
its citizens—and white men, too.
Think it over and answer the ques-
tion for yourself.

Do we want officials in the Court
House (or elsewhere) who corrupt
themselves and violate the law by
buying votes, or who contribute to
a corruption fund? Rather let the
Court House be torn down. Court
Houses were never built that "rag
tags" should be punished, while
officials and men in high places go
free and defy the law. Do we
want officials in the churches who
buy votes, or help (secretly—and
no wonder they are ashamed to do
it openly—) to swell "corruption
funds"? Rather let the churches
be torn down. For surely a church
cannot be useful in an effort to lift
mankind Heavenward when its offi-
cials contribute their money to cor-
rupt and debase their neighbors
and their brothers by buying their
votes and their consciences.

Has it not verily happened, and
in McDowell county, that a man
can go out and boldly declare that
he will spend all he is worth or be
elected gets into office? Indeed,
has it not come to pass that vote
buyers and boosters of corruption
funds have stood in the very
shadow of the County's Temple of
Justice, on the streets of the coun-
ty seat, and counted on the fingers
of their hands the number of men
who in their opinion, as they de-
clared, could not be bought!

By whose fault does this busi-
ness go on, and get worse and
worse, as it is doing? By the fault
of the honest masses of voters, and
of the church members of the vari-
ous churches, who have it in their
power easily by simply making
their sentiments and determina-
tions known, to force both politi-
cal parties to nominate no man
who continues to buy votes, or
who contributes to a fund for this
purpose, or who allows his friends
to do so for him. Notice closely
what the office seeker has to say
about this vote buying business in
the papers. Hear what he has to
say about it on the stump. Of
course he will say he does not be-
lieve in the vote buying business.
But notice whether he says he has
not, and will not, again so long as
he lives, contribute one cent to a
campaign fund with which to buy
votes, either directly or indirectly,
and will not allow his friends to do
so (their friends are not going to
work for them in violation of their
wishes, and throw in their money,
too). Make them tell how much
money their party has raised "for
legitimate expenses"—they know,
every man of them who is running
for an office knows how much
money has been made up—and then
apply some common sense to the
question of the necessity for such
a fund for "legitimate expenses."
Add most of all watch every one
of them and see whether they live
up to the line in secret, and expose
them for every hook and crook.
Then the business is put to an end,
and not till then. A majority can
rule, and a majority can bring this
about. More than 9-10 of our
citizens, yes 99 out of every 100
men in this county are opposed to
vote buying. All are opposed to
it, except a few corrupt politicians,
and their "henchmen" in each
community, who would debase
their neighbors and send their
souls to hell in order to get to
handle a purse of "Campaign
Boodle," a large part of which, in
many cases, never gets out of their
own pockets. The time has come
for honest people to frown down
such business.

Many good men have been
thoughtlessly, in the heat of bat-
tle, caught in this business, with-
out thinking, seriously, about it.
Let them now think about it, and
get ashamed for it, and quit
it forever, and come out on the
side of law, decency, and good
citizenship, and fight every man
of any party (before he is nomi-
nated—and afterwards if necessary)
who does not try to put it down

forever.
There is no use in saying, it can't
be helped, or that it was always so.
It was not always so in McDowell
county. Many good citizens will
remember when the business of
"wholesale" vote buying began to
capture elections in this county,—
and the reason why.

To the man who loves his
party and its cause, and who
would rejoice to see the "princi-
ples" for which he labors prevail,
what is the strength of your party
in McDowell county? Why don't
you know, or have some definite
idea? Because the convictions of
the masses who ally themselves
with one or the other political party,
for purely patriotic reasons,
are overshadowed and overpow-
ered by the use of a "Corruption
fund" (of from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.-
00, to be conservative) which buys
the election. The average man,
who has not the money to contri-
bute to a "Campaign fund," and
has only his principles at stake,
hundreds of them, have their wills
run over and their honest votes
set at naught by the man, or the
few men, who can, and who are
corrupt enough to do it (and who
have personal gains at stake, you
may be sure) to contribute the
largest bag of "boodle."

And to speak further of what
this infamous system is leading to,
does not every wide awake man in
this county know, as well as he
knows his name, that in a majority
of cases where votes are bought
that the buyer of the vote simply
requires that certain men of his
party shall be voted for, but allows
the voter to support certain men
in the other party (whom they
quietly say here and there it is not
worth while to try to beat—and so
elect them)! And let it be distinct-
ly understood that this article re-
fers to vote buyers, willful vote
buyers, who prefer to keep it up,
and that no reflection, or hurt of
any kind, is intended for the man,
and men, who have thoughtlessly
fallen into this business. But there
are a few corrupt men who glory
in buying an election, or a man and
his conscience, and who, it is fear-
ed, will prefer to continue this in-
famous business, and for these,
only, are any of the reflections
herein made intended,—and if any
one of them, whose foot the
shoe fits, shall feel aggrieved at any
of the comments herein made let
him "squeal" (for the man who
wants "to hog it" in any such
fashion ought to have the voice of
the pig instead of a real man,—un-
less indeed it would be more in
keeping with seamliness for him to
have to crawl on his belly like the
disguised and hideous monster that
he is—that is the willful rotten
hearted vote buyer, and not the
good man who has somehow unin-
tentionally, and against his will,
gotten into this business.) Let the
people see him, and see who he is,
and what justification he can make
for this business, or whether he
can so much as dispute—and con-
vince the people to the contrary—
the assertion here made, that a
great many of the vote buyers,
some of them prominent men on
both sides, "understand each
other," and agree before election,
and usually just before the nomi-
nations are made, that a few men
of each party shall be elected.

Think this matter over for your-
selves, and decide how much of
this is so—and how much more
there is to it that can't well be
written.

And in conclusion a word to the
man whose vote the "big man"
proposes to buy. A large pro-
portion of them are not really bad
men, though the very men who
buy their votes have time after
time been heard to speak of them
as "contemptible scoundrels," who
they say "we have to make up
money to buy them." The trouble
is, the more influential men who
have corrupted them are ten times
worse than the men who are in-
fluenced by them,—for it is natural
that the plain and humble man can
and will be influenced by his su-
periors (even though the so called
"superior" is worse than he is).
Instead of feeling that the promi-

nent man of influence who comes
to him to hand him a few paltry
dollars to buy his honor and his
vote is his friend, he ought to
know that on the contrary he is
his worst enemy, who would cor-
rupt his manhood and his very
soul for a dishonest vote.

The suggestion to buy a man's
vote simply means that the man
who makes the offer believes the
voter to be so weak, so corrupt,
and so lacking in self respect as that
he would sell his "birth right" for
"a mess of pottage," and the hon-
est man ought to resent it by slap-
ping in the face, and by stomping,
if necessary, and spitting upon, the
most prominent man in the com-
munity who hints such a thing to
him.

And now let those who would
yet believe that everybody will
pass this practice by in the future,
and that no man will press indict-
ments against men who may engage
in it, take warning here and now
that at least a few men will not
only not engage in it, but that a
number—and more than some may
want to believe—will press indict-
ments against every man, high and
low, and especially "prominent
men" who violate the law in this
respect, hereafter.

The great majority of common
people in this county have long
been impatient to see this iniqui-
tous practice stopped, and all now
have an opportunity to join in and
help organize, or rather crystallize,
and have and keep in readiness, a
waked up public sentiment, which,
while grumbling a little, has been
generally sleeping for years past
in McDowell county.

Marion, April 18, 1910.

A CITIZEN.

Pleading guilty to robbery of
the Richmond postoffice on the
night of March 27, when \$85,000
was taken "Eddie" Fay and "Lit-
tle Dick" Harris were sentenced to
10 years in the Atlanta penitentiary
and fined \$6,000 each.

MARK TWAIN DEAD.

America's Greatest Humorist Pass-
ed Away at His Home in
Redding, Conn.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens,
known to the public as Mark Twain,
died at his home in Redding, Con-
necticut, at 6:30 o'clock last Thurs-
day night of angina pectoris, after
an illness of many weeks. Mr.
Clemens had sought restoration of
health by a trip to the Bermuda
Islands, but had returned some
weeks ago unimproved. The fam-
ous humorist was born in Hannibal,
Missouri, on November 30, 1834,
and was therefore in the 76th year
of his age. His body will be laid
to rest in the family plot at Elmi-
ra, N. Y., where are buried his
two daughters, Susan and Jean,
and his infant son, Langhorne.
The only near relative surviving is
one daughter, Mrs. Clara Gabriello-
witch, who was at Mr. Clemens's
bedside when death came.

The latter half of the nineteenth
century knew no more unique and
interesting literary character in
America than Mark Twain. Heared
among the uncouth environment
that characterized the frontier
country in which his boyhood was
spent, he developed a style which
has made his writing popular with
all classes of American readers
since he first became generally
known as a writer.

The latter years of the great hu-
morist's life were beset with many
reverses and misfortunes. Finan-
cial losses fell heavily upon him at
various times during a long term
of years, while death robbed him
of two daughters in succession,
each of whom was particularly be-
loved by the father. The tragic
death of his daughter Jean last fall
was a blow from which the aged
man, now broken by misfortune
and ill health, could scarcely re-
cover. It might almost be said
that the greatest humorist which
America ever produced died of a
broken heart.

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