

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

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CONCERNING "THE RING,"

The "Manipulation" of Affairs, Vote Buying, and Corruption in Politics in McDowell.

Is there such a thing as a "Ring" in McDowell County? O, it's mentioned in a "joke" now and then, but otherwise nobody for a minute entertains an idea of such a thing—except a few suspicious "cranks from the country" they would tell us. But I agree with the nine-men-out-of-ten in the county (that is my estimate of the proportion) who believe we are blessed(?) with just such a jewel(?) as a "Ring" in McDowell County, the influence of which is far reaching. Do we need it? If we do not need it, why keep it? Just for the sake of wearing the precious thing?—wearing it in the sense that the ox wears the yoke; for a "Ring" in the affairs of a county, or town, is a curse which discourages and disgusts hundreds of good citizens from taking the active interest in public affairs which they otherwise would do—it does that much at least. To name all that a "Ring" does, under cover, is as difficult to do as it is to point out the end of a "Ring" itself. "Round as the ring that has no end," the old rhyme begins; but still a "ring" can be both seen and felt. Eels are slick, too, but people can catch them—and all men ought to know a "Ring" and "eel" when they see, or feel, it. To deny that an evil exists, or to try to minimize its hurtful consequence, is no less than an effort, under cover, to defend it.

But some would say "you're a pessimist." I am nothing of the kind. I am simply optimistic enough to believe that the people of this county, if given the right sort of a chance, and treated with proper consideration, (and they will one of these days take their own opportunity) will remedy any evil, if in their power—and "putting off the ring" is easily in their power—which is brought sufficiently to their attention. When the agitation of the vote buying scandal (a curse born and reared by the "Ring Masters"—for the honest masses never favored it, though good men were caught "falling into line" with it) was commenced in McDowell County two years ago a number of "smart men" about town sneered at it, saying in substance: "It's folly. The wholesale vote buying business in McDowell County is here to stay." But they changed their minds when the people by the hundreds began to boldly pledge themselves against it, and against everybody who favored it, and now no man can buy an election with "boodle and booze" in this county.

But we didn't put off the "ring." What was the result? Next day after election it was commonly known, to a moral certainty, that money and liquor were used in both Turkey Cove and Brackett townships on election day—and nobody was indicted. Why? Because that "Magic Ring" had been touched by the guilty parties. The men and liquor went out from Marion and the few Democrats and Republicans who had (as has long been the custom with a few of them who handle the balance of

power by "juggling together") agreed with each other that certain Republicans and certain Democrats should be elected, and certain ones of both parties defeated, protected the men who used this money and liquor. A few men tried hard to have the matter pushed to the limit in the criminal courts, but a "quietus" had been provided for by the touching of the "Ring." One party (no matter which it be) will, or course, not undertake a contest when the leaders who have such connections as to handle the balance of power are in collusion with the other side. The same would apply to another outrage practiced, especially in some parts of the county, in connection with the last election. For no Republican and no Democrat, of intelligence, would dare to attempt one certain thing which it is commonly known, to a moral certainty, was practiced in connection with last election, unless he knows he has protection from some of the leaders on the other side. There are only a few such among the leaders in either party, of course, but, oh, the harm a few such can do when banded together upon the "mutual benefit plan"—"We'll help you and you help us," and let the party go to the "bow-bows."

We are the "chiefs" and who, or what, is the main influence behind this "ring?" The "ring men" are the men who come up in an intelligent and well informed McDowell county man's mind as the mention of such a class is made. A person whose mind does not readily call up at least a few certain men in this connection might do well to open his eyes, "pinch himself and wake up," and come about town and take in the situation—while he is being often "honey-fuggled" by some of the chief "manipulators." Why, it is heard on every side, if a person wants to get something through he'd better get so-and-so,—"he manipulates things," "he has a pull," "he's on the inside." Throughout the county this talk of "on the inside" is heard. ON THE INSIDE OF WHAT? The people know, too, that a few Republicans and Democrats get together before nominations are made and "mark lambs for the slaughter," in their own party, and then go on and help nominate and "offer them up" (to defeat) because they want certain ones on the other side elected—for certain reasons. For those who do not know this, and also what influence is at the bottom of such doings, it is time they should know, and the citizens and voters of McDowell county have plenty of sense to spell this matter out for themselves, for the plain "A. B. C's." have for some time been before them, if they will only use them.

What's the remedy? Let the people say in their hearts, "Down with the Ring," and "down everything that touches it." Let them come to the county seat—to their own court house—and cut loose from the "ring," the "manipulators," and the "jugglers." Let the people have their own way in both parties hereafter, and those who "juggle" with the other side, before nominations are made, (or any other time) be put on the "back seat," or some where else. And as to the use of money and liquor

GRADED SCHOOL MATTERS

Commencement Exercises Will be Held on Nights of May 23 and 24.

The preliminary contest in declamation and recitation was held in the auditorium of the Graded School last week. All the pupils of the high school were required to enter the contest, the entire faculty acted as a committee. The following were selected to take part in the final contest, May 23:

Girls—Ellen Carson, Mary Po-teat, Thelma Hicks, Blanche Houck, Ammie Bomar and June Laughridge.

Boys—J. W. Streetman, Jock Lonon, Cecil Little, Ben Price, John Glenn and J. W. Pless, Jr.

The commencement exercises will be held on the nights of May 23 and 24. R. R. Williams, Esq., of Asheville, will deliver the annual address.

The contest in declamation and recitation will be held on the night of the 23rd, as stated above. Mr. Hudgins, as usual, offers a gold medal to the best declaimer, and Mr. Houck one to the best reciter.

The pupils of the 10th grade are contesting for the gold medal offered by Dr. Reid for the best essay in North Carolina History.

It is very likely that several scholarships will be offered to those pupils of the 10th grade who make the highest marks.

The primary department will close for this term, Friday, April 26. No public exercises will be held.

in elections, and the corruption practiced in last election, let the GRAND JURY be a GRAND JURY, indeed, and take such things in hand. If they don't know quite how to get at it let them come into Court in a body (A GRAND JURY to behold in McDowell County!) and hand to the Judge a report that they, or some, or even one, of their number, have understood that certain corrupt things have been practiced in an election in McDowell county, and that the Grand Jury desires a special charge and the direction of the Court as to how they shall go about the difficult investigation of the matter. No judge will refuse to tell them what to do, and how to do it, and some "knees will quake" that day, and if they are not landed (on the "chain gang") the first effort, let the Grand Jury still act the GRAND JURY and they'll soon be landed, if the last bit of this rottenness is not stopped.

I would have it understood, too, that I have no "ax to grind" for I never expect to run for any office. I simply want to see this "rot" cut out. It's a cancerous sore that must be "cut out" or the affairs of this county will surely one day become "rotten to the core." "Juggling" in politics, then "juggling" in the courts—how soon? Buy voters with money or debauch them with liquor to vote them—then the buying or debauching of witnesses and jurors—how soon? Shall it not be stopped now—cut out "root and branch"—everything that even smells of the "Ring." The people have the power. Let them use it.

W. T. MORGAN.

Marion, April 8, 1912.

Resolutions by Adopted by Community Assembled.

Resolved, That in the death of Hon. Chas. B. Aycock, this bar and community have sustained an irreparable loss; that the loss to the State is felt to be the individual and personal grief of all who have heard of his great good works; and to those fortunate enough to have heard his wonderful voice, felt his noble presence, listened to his burning eloquence and words of truth, the deepest, the most sincere, the most pure in each individual is by this sorrow stirred with a desire to emulate the purity and unselfish devotion of life and work.

No lawyer of his period surpassed him in eloquence. No statesman exceeded him in unselfishness, and none were so greatly loved while living.

We, therefore, make these expressions of our sorrow.

[The foregoing resolutions having been adopted by the Marion bar, were offered to a mass meeting of our citizens, held at the court house Saturday at 8 p. m. Mr. J. W. Pless, representing the local bar, presented them to the meeting with a eulogy upon the dead statesman. It was spoken to eloquently and feelingly by many citizens and solemnly adopted. The solemnity of the occasion was added to by tolling of all the church bells in town.]

For Satterwhite for Treasurer.

EDITOR OF PROGRESS:

I notice in THE PROGRESS the announcement of Mr. T. E. Satterwhite for county treasurer and I wish to say a word in his behalf. I have known Mr. Satterwhite personally all his life and I know of no one who is better qualified to fill this office than he. He is a man who will honestly and conscientiously perform his duty, let it be what it may. He is a man with a clear business intellect and a man with a clear business record. He is a good christian gentleman, and if nominated and elected would serve the people well. We can not do better than to make him our choice. I believe that I am expressing the sentiment of all who know Mr. Satterwhite, both Democrats and Republicans, and I hope that every man will go to the primary and give him our undivided support. By so doing we will be sure of at least one officer who will serve the majority.

A VOTER.

Vein Mountain, April 8.

Parker-Gibson.

Mr. Julius F. Parker and Miss Effie Gibson were married last Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. J. M. Gibson, father of the bride, in Crooked Creek Township. Rev. H. C. Marley, pastor of the Baptist church, performed the ceremony. Miss Gibson is a most splendid young woman, being one of the county's best teachers, and has a large circle of friends not only in her own immediate neighborhood but throughout the county. Mr. Parker is also a McDowell county teacher and is looked upon as a most promising young man. He is a son of W. S. Parker of Crooked Creek.

The young couple left Sunday afternoon for Asheville for a short bridal tour. Their many friends throughout the county wish for them a most happy and prosperous life.

COMMITTEEMEN MEET

McDowell County School Committeemen's Association Organized—Its Officers.

The Committeemen's meeting which was held in the court house here at 11 o'clock on Monday, the 8th, was largely attended and a very enthusiastic meeting was had. Every township in the county was well represented and every committeeman seemed to be interested not only in his own particular school but in the welfare of the entire county.

The different topics on the program for discussion were discussed by Committeemen T. W. Wilson, George Dobson, George Carson, J. E. Simeson, J. J. Lewis, Jake Gallion, H. A. Tate, E. E. English, S. J. Dobbins, S. L. Brown and others. Prof. L. C. Brogden, State Supervisor of Elementary Schools, addressed the meeting at the close most inspiringly. Prof. Brogden is one of the most progressive school men in the State and brought suggestions and word of encouragement with him. Supt. Sigmon, of Burke county, was also a visitor and spoke interestingly for a few minutes.

The organization of the McDowell County School Committeemen's Association was perfected by electing H. A. Tate president, and D. F. Giles, secretary. Vice-presidents were elected for each township in the county as follows: North Cove, S. C. Conley; Mont-fords Cove, J. S. Lail, Marion, George Carson; Old Fort, A. L. Hicks; Dysartsville, E. L. Sisk; Bracketts, W. C. Raburn; Nebo, T. W. Stacy; Higgins; A. E. Rowe; Glenwood, T. W. Wilson.

At the next meeting of the Association it is proposed to have the teachers of the county present and have a union meeting of the committeemen and teachers. No doubt a general educational uplift of the county will be felt by reason of this organization.

M. G. Poteat for Treasurer.

EDITOR PROGRESS:

I notice in your paper the announcement of M. G. Poteat for county treasurer, and I wish to say a few words in regard to the matter. First, I want to say that I have known Mr. Poteat personally for the past ten years. He is honest, upright and trustworthy, and I know of no man who would better perform the duties of this office than he will, if nominated and elected. Mr. Poteat made an excellent race in our primary two years ago and, and I want to say to the voters of McDowell county, both Democrats and Republicans, that a more suitable young man for the place cannot be found any where. So let us give him our support in the primary election.

J. H. BRAD.

Marion, April 9.

Map of Marion.

A complete and very valuable map of Marion has just been drawn and published by T. M. Fowler, of Passaic, N. J. The map appears to be quite accurate, and the agent, W. D. Stamp, who is now canvassing the town, will no doubt dispose of many copies to townspeople. The map sells for \$2.00.

The call of the hour is: "Pay your Poll Tax!"