

THE POLK COUNTY NEWS,

JOHN CARNEGIE, PUBLISHER.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year, \$1.00
Six Months, .50
Three Months, .25
One Month, .10

ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

PHONE No. 2.

Subscribers to THE POLK COUNTY NEWS are always notified when their subscription expires by the appearance of a black cross mark on their paper.

THURSDAY, AUG. 10, 1905.

EDITOR BEE:—There appeared in the editorial column of a recent issue of the News an article denouncing some of the most intelligent and honorable citizens of Polk county, because they declined signing a certain petition to be presented to the county commissioners.

The article referred to vilified some of our best citizens because they claimed the right of American citizens to think for themselves, and the article was uncalled for, ungentlemanly, dishonorable and cowardly.

In a later issue of the News is an editorial which intimates that those who sign a certain petition are honest and those who refuse to sign it are dishonest.

We ask the editor of the News not to throw the mantle of charity over bad and dishonest citizens, but to pursue an honest, honorable and gentlemanly course, and publish the names of the bad and dishonest citizens as well as the name of the author or dictator of the defamatory articles, which disgraced the columns of the News, so that all may have a hearing.

Was not the article referred to intended to intimidate and coerce the voter into signing the petition?

If the electric road scheme is an honest and legitimate one, it does not require bolstering up at the expense of the reputation of honest, respectable and intelligent citizens. To say the least, the denunciatory articles referred to are dishonest and cowardly.—CITIZEN, in Tryon Bee.

THE NEWS is not aware that it "denounced and vilified some of our best citizens because they claimed the right of American citizens to think for themselves." Neither has this paper ever said or intimated that those who sign a certain petition are honest and those who refuse to sign it are dishonest. It did however, urge the signing of the railroad petition in order that an election could be held and every citizen given the privilege to exercise "the right of American citizens" by deciding the question through the ballot box. We said then and say now, the only honest way to decide public questions is by giving the people a chance to express their views through the ballot box.

According to "Citizen" the editor of THE NEWS acted cowardly by placing "the mantle of charity" over other men. "Citizen," then, has acted bravely by placing "the mantle of charity" over himself and not publishing his true name. Let "Citizen" pluck the beam from his own eye first.

Whatever appears as editorial matter in this paper can be credited to the editor. The latter has no dictator. He owns his own soul and is not governed by any man or set of men.

THE NEWS has failed to find in its columns any articles that were "ungentlemanly, dishonorable and cowardly." Therefore, it is forced to believe that if any articles in this paper looked "ungentlemanly," etc., to "Citizen" they were but the mirror in which he saw his own picture.

Who wants to pay taxes on \$100,000 to go to Gaffney?—Local in Tryon Bee.

Who wants to pay taxes on \$25,000 to build a macadam road for the sole purpose of riding over it to Tryon, as has been suggested by a writer in The Bee?

Hurry up with your produce and get it aboard the electric road that's going from the little end of somewhere to the 'tother end of nowhere!—Local in Tryon Bee.

Great Scott, what an admission! Ever since the electric line has been talked of it has been proposed to run it to Tryon, so that according to the local editor of The Bee Tryon is "the 'tother end of nowhere."

THE INTERURBAN ELECTRIC RAILWAY

Editor POLK COUNTY NEWS: Will you please give me space in your paper to answer some of the questions asked in a certain article in the Tryon Bee, signed "Citizens."

In the first place, I want to say that the author of said article is, either not a practical railroad man or has his own selfish interests in view. Now let us see if this is correct.

ques. Is the proposed road of sufficient importance to justify the tax payers in subjecting themselves to oppressive taxation to benefit two towns and a few citizens?

ans. In answer to this question I can safely say yes. But pray tell me if you can, what two towns you have in view? If the proposed road is built it will extend all the way through the county, thereby opening up one of the finest sections of Western N. C. Towns will flash into existence, unpopulated sections will become settled, and Polk county can well afford to more than double her taxes in order to get a road through her best sections.

The property owner can well afford to pay more tax because his property will be worth twice what it is without the road. The laborer can well afford to pay more poll tax because he can make \$5.00 per day while now he is only making one.

q Why do not the promoters of the scheme convene a public meeting of the citizens of the county, (not citizens of Hendersonville) and place before them facts, figures and reliable information, not hearsay assertions and suppositions?

a To this question I beg to say that such has not been the case. The Tryon writer must have slept the sleep of Rip Van Winkle; surely he remembers how all Polk county people were urged to attend a meeting in Columbus court House during the first part of April 1905 for the express purpose of discussing the proposed electric line. Has the Tryon writer forgotten the meetings held in the town of Hendersonville, which meetings were all public and free and to which the people of Polk were cordially invited, many of whom attended; but only one from Tryon. Pray tell me citizens why did you not attend?

The next question is same as question 2 and is answered above.

q Was not the scheme of Hendersonville origin and intended to divert the trade of a portion of Polk county to that point?

a This question is perfectly absurd and goes to show that the propounder is either trying to scare the voter, or he is ignorant of his subject. Everyone knows that Hendersonville does not want to go to the expense of constructing a road from Asheville to Gaffney S. C. just to get the small amount of trade that would come from Polk. The truth is the citizens of Polk will not have to carry their produce to Tryon to sell it but will have a market at their door. This is what is hurting the propounder.

q Are not some of the promoters of the scheme large property owners in Polk county, and are they not desirous of unloading their elephants on the public at the expense of the tax payers?

a To this question, which is perfectly laughable, I will answer by asking the propounder who it is that pays the taxes. Is it not the large property owners of the county? Then, if they are pushing for the road and the heavy tax (which the propounder of this question thinks will follow the road.) Who ought to kick? If it is good for the large tax payer it is good for the small one.

q How many of the directors of the road are residents of Polk county, and what may the tax payers expect from strangers?

a I wonder if the propounder of this question thinks he will be able to prejudice some voter by this question. I want to ask the

gentleman how many of the directors of the Southern railroad live in Tryon, and yet if it were not for that road Tryon would be but a little more than a wild cat's den. How many of the Southern directors live in Spartanburg, Asheville, Greensboro, Charlotte and in fact in any of the Southern towns? Yet do we hear the citizens of these towns kicking because they have none of the directors? Of course not. This writer ought to know better than to think that he can pull a veil over the eyes of the voters of Polk county by such stuff as this. This alone goes to show that the Tryon writer is only trying to prejudice the voter.

q It has been intimated that the tax levied upon the road would nearly pay the interest on the bonds. This is calculated to deceive. The mere interest on the bonds would amount to \$6,000. Will the promoters of the road please show how the tax levied upon the road would nearly pay this amount of money?

a There is not a man now living in polk county who will (if this \$100,000 is voted) have to pay \$1 of these bonds, but should they have to pay the entire \$100,000, it will be much easier for them to pay that tax with the road than it is for them to pay what they are now paying without the road. Of course, the tax on the road alone will not pay the bonds off, but take the wealth that the road will bring into our county and the enhanced value of property, together with the fine timbers which can easily be put on the market, and this will twice, yea thrice, pay off the bonds.

q If the bond issue is carried, will it not give the county commissioners authority for the next 20 years to levy, besides the taxes they by law already have the power to levy, also a special tax sufficient not only to pay \$5,000 a year interest on the bonds, but also about \$4,000 a year, the amount necessary to develop a sinking fund so as to pay the bonds when they mature?

a What about this for a scare grow. It is so nice to have a man come here from the extreme north and settle in one corner of Polk county, just as close to the only piece of railroad in the county as he could get without having cinders thrown in his eyes. A man who dearly loves the South and her poor people, and who is ready to lay down the pill pouch and spend three weeks riding over the county for the purpose of informing the poor citizens of the county that they may sometime have to pay \$10,000 more tax each year for 20 years. If I were you I would move over to Cooper Gap or near the center of the county where I could get away from the pesty railroad. But to the question. Yes, the commissioners might have the right to levy a special tax to pay off these bonds, but do you know that out of 98 counties in N. C. 76 have voted bonds for railroads, some voting as much as \$300,000. I notice that the counties voting these bonds are counties yet and are far superior to Polk in wealth. I am told by the citizens of these counties that they can much more easily pay the tax necessary to pay the bonds, than they could pay their taxes before they had a railroad. I am sure the gentleman knows that every city and town that is worth mentioning is today bonded for half its value, and they are not grumbling.

The writer goes on with his scare grow by saying that the Cox estate pays about one fourth of the tax of Polk county and that they give in \$250,000 in bonds in Polk county and that if the \$100,000 dollars in bonds are voted in Polk that the Cox estate will seek some other county in which to list their property. Now it is true that the Cox estate gives in quite a large sum of property in Polk county, and it is further true that they pay a large amount of tax in Polk county. The late Col. Cox always considered Polk county his home and at his death owned quite a large estate in Polk county. This being his home of course, he gave in his property in Polk county or at least all the bonds

notes and monies, together with the property he owned in the county. Col. Cox was during his life time an ardent believer in railroads and tried for a number of years to get a road through Polk county, and I take it that his children still feel the same interest in the county as did their father, and I know that they are men of too broad a caliber to shirk or attempt to shirk a small pittance of tax that a \$100,000 of bonds would impose upon them. In fact I think they will be in for the proposed road.

q It has been urged that an electric road would benefit the county, induce settlement and increase the value of land. But we will ask, will not the opposite be the result? The first question asked by a person seeking a home is, "what is your tax rate?"

a The answer to this question is that we can only judge the future by the past. In all the cases which I can now recall, in counties through which roads have run, they have rapidly come to the front, property has increased in value and people naturally drift to the counties where there are roads. About the first question that a man will ask, when he is seeking a home is, "What are your railroad facilities and how far will I have to go in order to ship and market my produce?" I have had experience, as a real estate agent and in all of my experience I have never had a man who was seeking a home to ask me concerning the tax rate. The very first question is "have you a railroad close to the property you have for sale?" And 99 times out of 100 if you tell him you have no road he is lost to your county. I ask the question, why is it that Polk county is considered a back number by all or, nearly all the other counties in the state? The answer is, because she has no road. I find that the majority of the people in the state think of the people of Polk as being a slow lazy people. Why? Because she has drifted along in the back ground and allowed her neighbors to excell her in railroad facilities.

We further notice that the Tryon correspondent says that the lands through which the said proposed road is to run is very poor and unproductive. This statement is untrue. The lands over and through which the proposed road is to run has a productive soil especially adapted to fruit growing. Some of the finest fruit I have seen come from Whiteoak and Cooper Gap townships; thousands of bushels of apples, peaches and pears are marketed each year from the lands through which this road will run to say nothing of the potatoes, melons, wheat, rye, malases, corn and cotton. The soil of this section is especially suited to peaches and grapes. You take Whiteoak and Cooper Gap and the soil is the same as that around Tryon and I know that there are fruit farms around Tryon that are paying handsomely each year. Take such farms as W. T. Lindseys, Doubledays, Lamonts and others where they are close enough to the railroad to ship their fruit and such farms are bringing enormous prices. Every citizen in Polk county knows that it would be the same way all along the proposed road, such farms as are now almost worthless owing to the fact that the owner thereof can't get a market, would if they had a road bring in each year a handsome profit. All the way around the mountain from Chimney Rock to Tryon is unsurpassed for its fine fruits, potatoes and melons.

Why should the Tryon writer try to misrepresent these things? Give us what is ours and we will not ask for anything further.

I want to ask the Tryon correspondent where it is that the people of Tryon get all of their corn and fodder? Is it not from the townships of Whiteoak Cooper Gap and Columbus? Day after day I see loads of corn, fodder, peas, potatoes and other produce, going through Columbus to Tryon. Can all this come from "very poor, unproductive lands?"

q Why should the voters of Polk county be asked to vote bonds for the construction of a road that has not even been surveyed or located? Who smuggled the special act through the legislature, without the knowledge or consent of the voters of Polk county?

a In answer to the first question we will say, that no one will be asked to vote without first knowing for what he is voting. The propounder of this question

Continued on 3rd page 1st column.

THE BANK OF TRYON

Capital \$10,000

OFFICERS:

JOSEPH NORWOOD, Pres. T. T. BALLENGER, Vice-Pres. J. B. HESTER, Cashier.

Directors:

JOSEPH NORWOOD, J. B. HESTER, T. T. BALLENGER, DR. EARLE GRADY, E. E. MISSILDINE, E. C. WILCOX, R. E. JOHNSTON, J. O. WILSON, W. C. ROBERTSON, B. L. BALLENGER.

We wish to announce the incorporation and organization of The Bank of Tryon, and to state that we are now open for business. We feel a deep appreciation for the hearty support accorded us in this organization and solicit your further patronage. Business entrusted to us, however great or small, will have our personal attention and we shall serve you to the best of our ability. We cordially invite you to confer with us.

BIG CUT PRICE SALE

We have just completed taking stock and find that we have too many goods on our shelves which we have decided to close out at greatly reduced prices in order to make room for our new line of goods.

For the next sixty days we will offer good Outings at 8cts per yard, Calicos at 4, 5, and 6cts per yard, good Jeans at 20 and 25cts per yard, Flannelettes at 10cts per yard, and all other dry goods in proportion.

Shoes, both ladies' and gents', at 90cts, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$2.75. These shoes formerly sold for \$1.25 to \$3.00 per pair.

Be sure to inspect these goods before you buy or you will lose a bargain.

Don't forget that our line of groceries are always fresh and the best that money can buy.

When in Columbus we invite you to make our store headquarters whether you want to buy anything or not. No trouble to show goods.

Thanking you for your trade the past year and hoping for a continuance of the same, we remain. Yours to please.

A. L. McMURRAY, Phone No. 13. COLUMBUS, N. C.

INFERIOR PRINTING

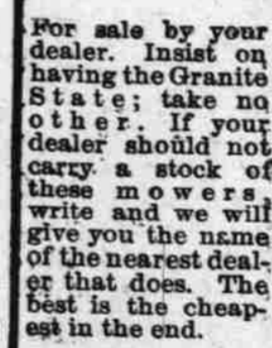
Like goods of an inferior quality, is a detriment to every business man. A piece of printing that has a cheap, ragged, slop shop look is never read but is tossed into the waste basket as soon as received. The Bill Head, Letter Head, Envelope, Statement, etc., that is not neatly printed causes people to think that the merchant who uses inferior printing probably deals in inferior merchandise, and so they purchase elsewhere. Did you ever think of that, Mr. Business Man? Get your printing done here where the cost is reasonable and the quality FIRST CLASS.

POLK COUNTY NEWS Good PRINTING HOUSE, Printing

Phone No. 2. COLUMBUS, N. C.

Granite State Lawn Mowers

have given continuous satisfaction for thirty-two years. A very easy running Mower. Fitted with our special triple gear and ball bearings; unlike any other driving device. Cutting knives made of selected tempered steel; the bed knife being extra hard. Designed especially for cemetery and terrace work. Material used is the best obtainable; every mower warranted.



MANUFACTURED BY THE GRANITE STATE MOWING MACHINE CO., Hinsdale, N. H.

BURPEE'S SEEDS GROW AND WIN MORE PRIZES

than the products of any other brand! Besides several Gold Medals, they won the only Grand Prize for vegetables at St. Louis Exposition. If you intend to try Burpee's Seeds, we will mail free our Complete Catalogue of 178 pages, with beautiful colored plates and illustrations from photographs taken at our famous FORDHOOK FARMS, the largest Trial Grounds in America. Write TO-DAY!

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO. SEED GROWERS, PHILADELPHIA

Job Printing at THE NEWS Office

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE

LITERARY CLASSICAL SCIENTIFIC PEDAGOGICAL COURSES COMMERCIAL DOMESTIC SCIENCE MANUAL TRAINING MUSIC

Three Courses leading to degrees. Well-equipped Training School for Teachers. Faculty numbers 50. Board, laundry, tuition, and fees for use of text books, etc., \$1.70 a year. For free-trial students, \$1.25. For non-residents of the State, \$1.90. Fourteenth annual session begins September 21, 1905. To secure board in the dormitories, all free-trial applications should be made before July 15th. Correspondence invited from those desiring competent teachers and stenographers. For catalog and other information, address:

CHARLES D. McIVER, President, GREENSBORO, N. C.

Advertise in THE NEWS