THE ASHEVILLE SATURDAY REGISTER.

VOL. 11. NO 44 | ASHEVILLE, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 5, 1904. | PRICE $1. A YEAR.

CRUSH THEM ALL.

Exceedingly Important that Webb, Murphy and Glenn Be Defeated.

No Legislative Reform Possible in County if They Win—Legislative Candidates Defy Public Opinion—Candler, Baird and Thomas Will Give the People Relief.

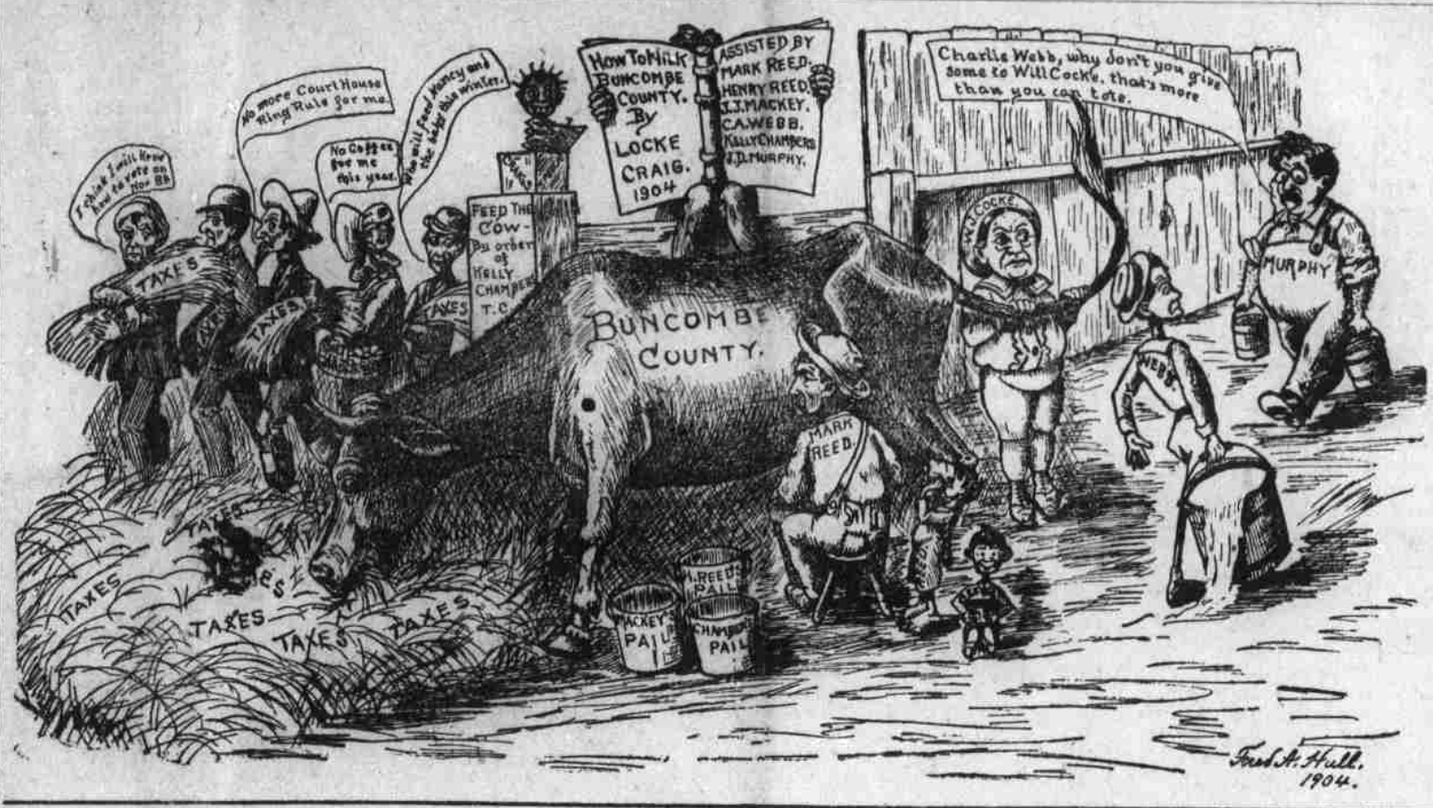
Let the people remember that the defeat of the Ring commissioners, sheriff, tax collector and others of that ilk will not bring all the relief demanded if the Legislature candidates of the PEOPLE—Candler, Baird and Thomas, be defeated. The defeat of the Ring county officers will insure honest and economical government, but it will not mean the placing of the officers on salaries, and thus saving from $10,000 to $15,0000 a year of the people's money, and turning it into the school fund for the education of the children of the county. By all means defeat the Ring candidates for the county offices. Decent government is impossible with that gang infesting the court house, but place equal importance on the defeat of Webb Murphy and Glenn. The election of these men means that there shall be no LEGISLATION for the benefit of the people; it means the same outrageously large compensation to the county officers paid out of the tax money wrung from the hands of the people; it means the enriching of a few office holders and the withholding of a large amount each year from the funds for the education of the children; it means the enabling of a set of officers to raise a large corruption fund each successive campaign to debauch the electorate and prepetuate themselves in power: it means that the suburbs are to be held up and dragged into the city without their consent; it means, in a word, the continuation of the old order of outrage and tyranny.

The Ring convention which met here last June and smothered to death every vestige of the genuine Democracy of the county, which ruthlessly and cruelly kicked out of the convention anti Ring candidates, made but one declaration of public policy, and that one an outrageous violation of Democratic principle—the rule of the majority. The Ring convention offered the people no relief on any line at all. A resolution favorable to a Greater Asheville was passed with a whoop and a hurrah, and without discussion. No relief from any of the many burdens which have been piled upon the people was promised. It was one mighty, turbulent struggle for POWER and PELF.

The interests of the people were entirely ignored. The Ring acted on the presumption: We are in, we call ourselves Democrats, the majority of the people are Democrats, we will hold them to us by the Democratic label, they have not the sense to see through our scheme, they will vote the same old way, we will run things for ourselves and ourselves alone, the PEOPLE SHALL PAY THE TAXES, and vote for US. If Democratic principles had been consulted, the Greater Asheville proposition would have been made dependent on the will of the people of the suburbs. But no. They felt they had the power and they were determined to exercise it, determined to run rough shod over public opinion, over all the sacred rights of the people. They want more taxes and proposed to find other people and other property on whom and on which to levy and collect tribute.

And the terrific campaign which has been waged against the leaders of the Ring has had no effect on them. They are still determined to rule with an iron hand, still determined to build up the Craig-Reed Dynasty, still determined to ride rough shod over the people, still determined to levy and collect taxes, and use the money to strengthen the Ring. Webb, Murphy and Glenn have not made one single pledge to secure legislation for the benefit of the people, no not one single pledge to lighten the burdens of those who support the government, not one single pledge to place the officers on salaries, and turn more than $100,000 in the next ten years into the Buncombe county school fund for the education of Buncombe County's children. They oppose all these needed and just reforms. Webb says, "there will be a Greater Asheville if I am elected," and this without regard to the will of the suburbs. Murphy says the people shall have no relief even if the candidate of the PEOPLE should be elected for the Legislature will be

Continued to Pag



IS IT $60,000?

If Not, How Much Does the County Owe?

The Ring Afraid to Trust the People—Buncombe County Taxpayers Kept In Ignorance of Their Financial Affairs.

This newspaper has been strictly honest in all of its efforts to give the people information relative to their affairs. Hundreds of questions have been asked the leaders of the Court House Ring in regard to public matters with which they are very familiar, but with one single exception all information has been with held. The leaders of the Ring—Webb, Murphy, Glenn, Reed, Glenn again, Wells, Reed again and the balance of them stand like brass monkeys, silent but brazen. No information escapes their lips. They can only squeak now and then, when they go "way off yander" in the country to take "dinner on the grounds," lie and slander. This is all. The Ring organ can tell nol about how Gudger is chewing Ewart in bits at each appointment, and spitting the bits out on the cold, cold ground, but it cannot tell the Buncombe people how much the county is in debt. It can not explain why there are a long train of standing jurors in the county, or tell anything about the violations of the law by the Board of Commissioners. It has nothing to say about the violation by the Reed Dynasty of all the rules of common decency and official propriety in furnishing the county "supplies," and reaching down into the treasury for their pay. It can't even inform an anxious taxpaying public the size of the floating debt of the county.

The first two years of the rule of the Ring the county was plunged in debt about $50.000. This had to be paid with an issue of bonds on which the people are now and will for years and years have to pay large sums in interest. This Reed "floating debt" was paid off and the Ring given another chance.

Taxes for 1903 were outrageously and unjustly increased. Immense sums were wrung from the hands of toil, and a steady stream of money poured into the county treasury. It was squandered, recklessly expended, and at the end of another two years the county is again bankrupt—the great, proud and prosperous County of Buncombe in a bankrupt condition. What a commentary. But the Court House Ring is not bankrupt—not much. That crowd is reveling in ease and luxury—and some of them in dissipation.

How much does the county owe as a floating debt? Is it $60,000 more or less? These questions have been asked many times before, but from the lips of the Ring comes no answer. SILENCE, SILENCE, SILENCE.

Gentlemen, of Buncombe county, what are you going to do about it? You have a right to presume that the Court House Ring has plunged your county in debt in the last two years not less than $60,000. In another two years, under the financial management, of that crowd of reckless spendthrifts you will stand face to face with a floating debt of $120,000 or more. Do you not think it is time to call a halt? Do you not think it is time

Continu d to page 8

TO THE PEOPLE OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY:

The Republican party in convention assembled denounced the flag[illegible] of the law by the present county administratio[illegible] and retrenchment and reform; called attention to the large and unreasonable amounts received by the respective officers; urged remedial legislation intended to protect the tax-payers, and at the same time to limit the office holders to salaries and fees commensurate with their duties and responsibilities; and promised to convert the excess over and above such reasonable amounts into the common school fund of the county, whereby the school term will be increased to eight months.

The marvelous growth of our county in population and wealth during the last few years has caused a corresponding increase in the salaries and fees of the officers, so that now they receive three and four times as much as did some of their predecessors, twice as much as a judge of the Superior Court, and more than a United States Senator.

We call attention to the fact that the Democratic Legislature of 1899, in response to the demands of the people, fixed the salary of the Treasurer at $1,200 per annum, and two years later, in open defiance of public sentiment, increased the amount to $1,750.

We pledge ourselves in favor of such legislation as will require the respective officers to keep public records of all fees received by them, and to account for such fees in the same manner as the Clerks of the United States courts are now required by law to do.

We hold that $2,000 per annum is a fair and reasonable compensation for the Sheriff, Tax Collector, Register of Deeds and Clerk of the Superior Court, respectively, and we favor legislation limiting the officers to that amount, making proper provision for the payment of the necessary deputies, and requiring all moneys above that required for the payment of the officers and their necessary deputies to be paid to the Treasurer for the benefit of the common school fund.

We believe that such legislation will be welcomed and approved by the honest yeomanry of Buncombe County without regard to party affiliations, will prevent the favoritism that is often shown ward-heelers and henchmen and denied others, and put a stop to the large corruption fund that is raised biennially to influence voters and to perpetuate the tenure of one set of officers.

W. G. CANDLER,
Candidate for State Senator.

J. S. T. BAIRD,
Candidate for the House.

F. W. THOMAS,
Candidate for the House.

FRAUDS AND FORGERIES.

A Warning Given by the Republican Chairman.

To the Republicans and Anti Ring Democrats of Buncombe County:

One of the many sharp practices introduced among the "children of the mountains" by the eastern politicians who have pitched their tents in Buncombe county, is that of sending out forged letters just before the election. Then "smart" men, just a day or so before election, send out scores of letters addressed to well known Republican workers in the several precincts, which letters purport to have been written by the Republican county chairman and bearing his name, advising the parties receiving them to call on other well known Republicans for certain amounts of money, etc.

I want to say most publicly that no such letters will be sent out by me, and that any Republican or anti ring worker receiving what purports to be a letter or order from me directing him to call on any one for money or any other thing should consider the same a fraud and a forgery for a fraud and forgery it will be.

Let all Republicans and anti ring Democrats be on their guard in every other way. The ingenuity of an eastern politician has no limit. They will resort to any sort of a trick to cause the least trouble or annoyance or disappointment. Let not one be deceived by any of their sharp practices.

R. B. Roberts,
Ch. Buncombe Co. Rep. Com.

Any letters or orders of the character described above purporting to come from me and bearing my name will be frauds and forgeries. Let no one be deceived.

C. B. Moore,
Ch. Rep. Cong. Com.

A vote for the Ring Legislative candidates is a vote against the school children of Buncombe county.

DID CHARLIE CRY?

Strange Report That Comes from Lower Hominy.

The Ring Leader When He Saw the Picture of Greatness and Splendor Vanish Shed Tears, Not for the People, but Himself and His Ring.

The Ring caravan pitched its tents at Sand Hill a few days ago, and took "dinner on the ground." The crowd which greeted the members in the erstwhile Democratic stronghold was very small. The good people of Lower Hominy are thoroughly sick and tired of the management of the county by the Ring, and many voters there have seen the light, and will vote against the Ring. Good Democrats in Lower Hominy, plenty of them, have seen through the scheme of the political nondescript and adventurers who feed and fatten at the expense of the people by wearing a Democratic label. Lower Hominy Democrats know the difference between the genuine Democracy, and the counterfeit kind now in control of the party machinery. They know that the Ring is running the county and the Democratic party, and the only chance to save the county and the true Democracy is to defeat the Ring—every man of them.

Well, the caravan took "dinner on the ground," and Charlie Webb made a speech, and cried so it is said. This is hard to believe, and we do not give it as a fact, but only as a report.

But it may not be so surprising after all. It is said that clerks in the public service when they lose their jobs frequently break down and cry like spanked babies. If this be true, why should not Charlie, pour forth a flood of burning tears when he realized that all the power of his fervid eloquence, all the magnetism of his charming personality, all the potentiality of his eastern Democracy and all his squealing of lie and slander had failed to attract a crowd respectable in point of numbers, and when the few present were listless and indifferent, and gave no evidence that they cared a rap for him or his Ring anyway. The picture of future greatness and power and grandeur and splendor which had danced before his eyes for years began to fade. Dimmer and dimmer grew the scenes which have tickle his fancy. No longer could he see in his imagination himself leap from the capital on the Neuse to the capital on the Potomac. No longer could he picture himself a great statesman making laws for an hundred millions of people, and for a domain which stretches half way around the earth. The glory which he had conjured up for the future flitted away like a pleasant dream, and he awoke to find himself just Charlie Webb, a country lawyer. No wonder he cried. Who can blame him?

But crying will do him no good. He and his crowd have dragged the Democratic name in Buncombe county through cesspools of scandal; they have kicked anti Ring Democrats out of the primaries and out of the convention; they have repudiated every principle of true Democracy, sat upon it and spat upon it; they have undertaken to erect upon the ruins of the Democratic faith and the Democratic party an autocracy to rule with an

Continued to Page 8

HONEST ELECTIONS.

Are Plans Being Laid to Steal Buncombe?

Let the Ring Beware—The People Will Not Tolerate Frauds and Tricks This Year.

The claim of the Ring candidates that they would win by 1,150 to 1,350 majority is on a par with the fabrications of the Ring organ. The truth is they know they have been whipped all the way through this campaign. They cannot defend the record they have made. They can not even give an excuse for the unjust and outrageous increase in the taxes. They cannot give any excuse for the reckless extravagance in the use of the money wrung from the hands of honest toil. They stand dumb as graven images when confronted with their official misdoings, except now and then to screech lie and slander. They have created standing juries all over the county in order to pay political debts, and strengthen the Ring. Jurors have been summoned without authority of law. The county treasury has been used as a sort of family strong box, and county commissioners including the chairman have sold "supplies" to the county, and paid themselves out of the hard earned money of the taxpayers. Wood, coal and water have been paid for by the county for the use of the jail in direct violation of law. These are a few of the many offenses committed by this Ring, and exposed by The Saturday Register in the past two months. And the answer has been "lie," "slander." Democrats of Buncombe county, was there ever a time before when the men claiming to represent your party could not defend their records These men are absolutely resting under these charges, and yet have the gall to ask the people to grant them another lease of power in order that they may continue the carnival of sin and shame.

But they have given up hope of being endorsed by the majority of the voters. They are preparing to debauch the electorate with money and whiskey, and then complete the work by fraud.

Last week a sort of "council of war" was held in Ring Headquarters. Is it not a fact that the counselors admitted their defeat and that John Henry Reed was regarded as the biggest sinker on the line Is it not a fact that they said the country people were aroused and bullheaded, and that feeling was such that successful frauds could not be perpetuated in the rural precincts Is it not a fact that the city precincts were selected, and that the frauds are to be perpetrated in the counts

Let not the Ring manipulators imagine that they can slip along in their nefarious schemes like slimy snakes in thickly weeded swamps. They will fail. They know not whom to trust. People whom they imagine will do their bidding will give them away.

Now a word of warning. This election SHALL BE FREE, FAIR AND HONEST. The people are aroused. Such outrages as occurred at Flat Creek and Limestone four years ago will not be TOLERATED. If the Ring attempts to carry this election by fraud, the storm which is now raging about the heads of the leaders will be but a gentle breeze when compared with the tornado of indignation which will sweep over the whole county. The people who are opposing that Ring are not doing it for fun or for party politics. They are fighting for honest county government, an honest administration of justice, honest juries, better schools, lower taxes and they are determined to have an HONEST ELECTION.

Let all honest men be on their guard. Do not be caught napping. Do not be confiding. Demand, BOLDLY DEMAND that every qualified voter in the county shall, if he presents himself, vote for whom he pleases, and then see that his vote is counted and returned just as cast. This is honesty; anything else is dishonesty.

Let the henchmen of the Ring in every nook and corner of the county understand, once for all, thatt his shall be an HONEST ELECTION.

It is believed that the great majority of the men selected to hold this election are upright and honest, brave and courageous, and can not be induced to do any wrong, and will see that every qualified voter shall have the right to cast his ballot for whom he pleases, and count and re-

Continued to page 4