

Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1903.

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Democracy in 1904.

Will the Government Control the Trusts, or Will the Trusts Run the Government?

As we see it the political campaign of 1904 will be compelled to settle the status of the trusts. There is no doubt as to the position of the republican party on this question. As long as the combinations of capitalists furnish that party with its campaign boodle the trusts will have control no matter how the platform reads. But it is the position of the democratic party which interests us. Democrats know that they must go into the campaign for the protection of humanity against the greed and rapacity of the trusts with the millions of trust capital arrayed against them. They know that they must not only fight the party platform and principles of the republicans, but also the combined wealth of all corporations. Knowing this is there any place in our platform for conservatism? Is it not our duty to make a straight, square declaration for human rights, and ask the support of the people on issues plainly stated?

No one expects any relief from the evils of trust control through the republican party. The strikes; the discontent among the laboring classes over the disparity between the price of trust-controlled necessities of life and the price of labor; the meagre wages when compared with the cost of living, all point to vast additions of voters to the democratic side if the party retains moral stamina enough to stick to principle. If it wavers now, if it allows the "re-organizers" to dictate a platform, there will simply be two republican parties in the field and organized capital will not care a straw which party wins—their interests will be equally safe with either, and humanity will be no better off for a democratic victory. A democratic party on a republican platform would be idiotic in the extreme. Stick to principle, and if our party wins humanity will have gained something—lay principle aside and our success would be a national calamity.

The Forestry Beureau of the Department of Agriculture has arranged to make a thorough investigation of forest fires with a view to devising a remedy. We wonder if the Beureau will have the courage to recommend the employment of rangers on the government reserves whose tenure of office depends upon the faithful performance of their duty, instead of on political influence, as is now the case.

Students of labor problems who come from Europe to study the conditions of American labor are unanimous in their belief that American workmen consume less liquor than their European cousins. To this is doubtless largely due the better social conditions of the Americans.

The Race Question.

That the solution of the race question is one that is now troubling the minds of our greatest thinkers is true, and demands the careful and calm thought of all. The fulminations of those who can see no good in a Negro under any circumstances should have no weight and neither should the efforts of those who, while living out of the Negro Belt, are attempting to dictate to us that method which they think best to settle the question. The rabid utterances of the negro haters is injurious and ill-advised and will ever have the contrary effect from that desired. We have no patience with such rant and it should be frowned upon by the citizens of the South. And it does anger a southern man to read the articles in some northern papers that attempt to renew the old feelings that existed prior to the war, and such articles have the opposite effect from that which is desired, for it angers us and the innocent negro bears the brunt. So both sides are injured by using offensive terms and epithets and by attempting to arouse any feeling of animosity either between the whites and the negroes or between the south and the north.

We know that we of the south are more fitted to adopt the course best suited for the settlement of this question than our friends of the north. We are here and have lived here all our lives, and we know the negro and his peculiarities. We know best what he is competent and fitted to pursue. The negro's best friend is the southern man. He has proved so in the past and will in the future; we could not get along without our negroes nor they without us. We do claim that we are the people that should have the guidance of their education and enlightenment as we know the existing conditions and as we are on the ground and we do not care to be advised by those who are so far away that they know nothing of our surroundings, and who know nothing of the negro or his habits.

The negro who goes north has a much harder time than his southern brother. He may get cuffed and kicked around by some in the south and is always called by his first name without any Mister being used but he is also fed and clothed and housed and his life is happier and more suited to the negro mind, while in the north he is bowed to, addressed as Mister, asked to sit down in the house and received as a social equal by some, but he finds that when in need of food or clothes that those things are "just out" and that the skilled laborer is the one wanted. The same negro that has a ticket sent him to come north on is glad to

be able to beat his way back on a freight train to the south, where he may be kicked, but where he will be fed; where he may be cursed, but where he will be clothed; where he will be given work to-day, and not the promise of forty acres and a mule tomorrow. If there had not been so much of this talk of the horrible treatment of the negro both he and the white man would have been much better off. We have to live with the Negro among us and we are going to manage him in the manner that suits us the best. Left alone he knows his place and keeps it and that is all we want—we are satisfied and he is happy.

The crime of lynching is one that is to be greatly deplored and should be stopped, but we of the south have no monopoly of said crime and it is strange that our northern critics say so little about the burnings, and hangings and shootings of numerous negroes in Ohio, Illinois and other northern states for the simple reason that the negroes are trying to work. The only difference we see is that the northern people lynch the negro for trying to earn an honest dollar which they could obtain later on, and the southern man lynches him for a crime unspeakable. But still the rabid writers in some of our northern papers give us long lectures on our shortcomings and fail to note those of their own section. From the expressions of the best element of the north they have at last realized that we are right and that they have been mistaken about the negro and his treatment. We are glad to note this as we feel sure that as soon as the south has absolute control of the negro we will see his rapid advancement.

Let us not indulge in violent attacks on each other, we are all one people and of one blood and the old sores of the Sixties should not be irritated. The old members of the various "Home Guards" and those who furnished substitutes should not be allowed to talk about matters that they were afraid to fight for.

A Warning.

The fatal fire in Waynesville in which three persons lost their lives should be a warning to others. It seems that the fire originated from a lamp being overturned by a drunken man. The result was that he and two others were burned to death. We have read about people being burned up in large hotels a long way from home and we always thought that such things would be impossible here in any of our dwelling houses, but it seems as if it can happen. It behooves us to be very careful with fire at all times and the careless handling of matches is a frequent cause of conflagrations. A person can burn to death and still be on the ground floor. You do not have to be in the tenth story to be cremated.

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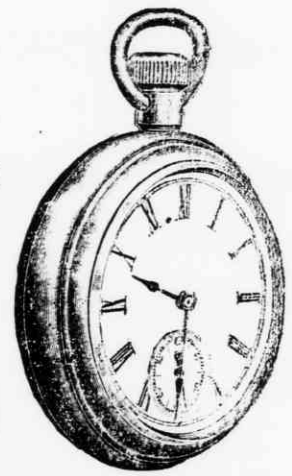
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