

Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1904.

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Dunns Rock Lodge No. 267

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sptly W. M. MAXWELL, Sec'y.

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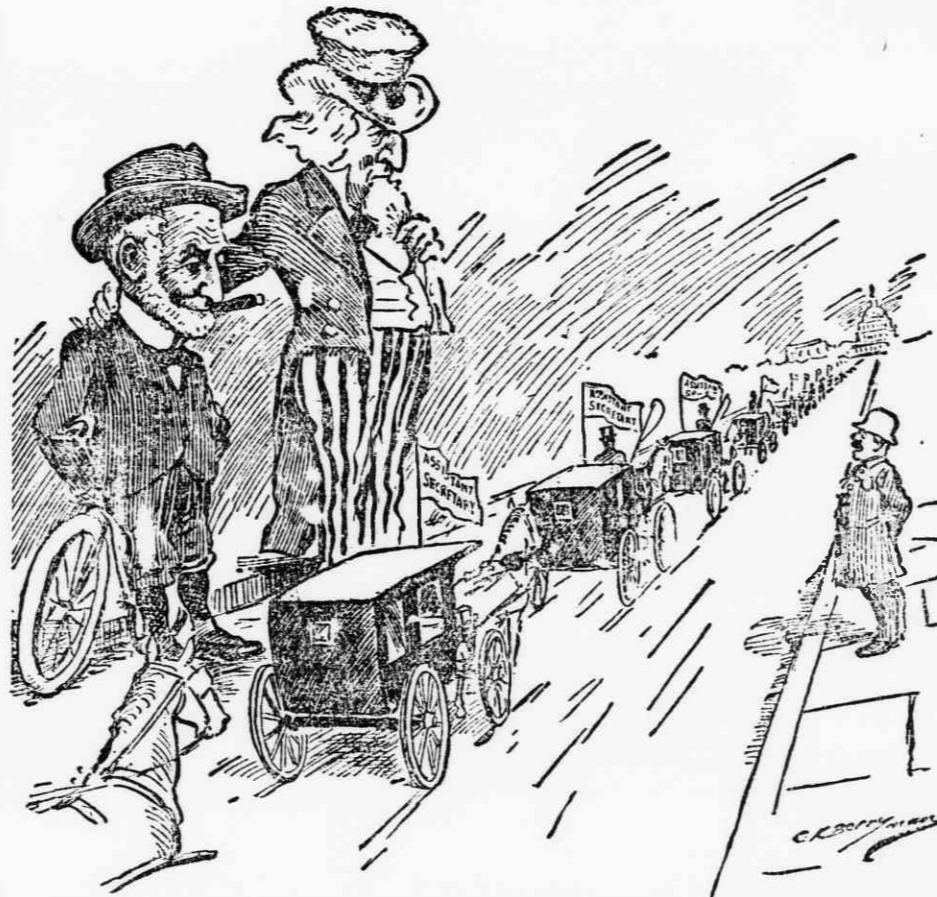
On the 6th day of February, 1904, there will be a meeting of Transylvania Camp U. C. V. at the court house in Brevard at 11 o'clock. This is the regular quarterly meeting and business of importance will be transacted. A full attendance is desired.

L. W. Brooks, Adj't.

ARE YOU

Interested in the Sylvan Valley News voting contest? If you want your church or school house painted free, it is time you were getting interested.

AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.



"It is a fact that if the horses and carriages, with their coachmen, paid for out of the money appropriated by congress, were lined up on Pennsylvania avenue they would extend from the Peace monument to the White House," says Representative C. B. Landis.—Washington Post.

PANAMA USURPATION.

The Administration Disregards Treaty and Precedents.

COURSE CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED.

If It Hastens the Overthrow of Liberty the People of the United States Will Have Reason Some Day For Regretting That They Ever Heard of Panama.

There is no doubt that some of these United States, especially those bordering on the gulf of Mexico, are extremely anxious for the ratification of the Panama treaty. The business men of those states think their material interests will be much improved with the canal an accomplished fact, and they are apparently willing that the coup d'etat of President Roosevelt in seizing the isthmus shall be condoned, even if a great wrong has been committed. In this encouraging international lawlessness and overruling a solemn treaty with a sister republic those who are arranging the consummation of the iniquity may well pause and inquire if their ox may not be the next to be goled.

If the president of the United States is allowed to set aside treaties he may soon override the constitution if the occasion arises to profit politically by so doing, and the business interests of the very states now demanding ratification would be the first to suffer. The only safeguard for peace, safety and good government is a strict compliance with law, international or domestic.

The evidence that President Roosevelt has either carelessly or purposely set aside the provisions of the treaty of 1846 is to be found in senate document No. 10, Fifty-eighth congress, special session. It contains a part of the dispatches and instructions relating to the disturbances on the isthmus in 1902 and a statement by Captain Reisinger, our senior naval officer in those seas, asking directions from the navy department as to what his course should be. But the captain was very clear on the main point, for he added, "I am fully aware of the fact that by treaty and convention we are not supposed to take charge until the Colombian government has announced its inability to guard the road." That was the law then and was the law the other day when our officers were commanded to prevent troops of the Colombian government from landing for the purpose of keeping the transit open over the Panama railroad. Thus only a year ago we were assisting Colombia in asserting control over Panama, and now we have resisted her efforts in that direction.

How do President Roosevelt and the Republican senators justify this course? The president said it was in "the interest of civilization." That phrase has always been used by kings and emperors when they wanted warrant for usurpation, but a republic cannot indorse such

doctrine unless it is on the verge of imperialism, nor can the White House senators give any better explanation. Overriding Colombia may hurry the building of the canal by a few months, but the people will have grave reasons for wishing they had never heard of Panama if it hastens the overthrow of their liberty.

THE PHILIPPINES.

Take Down the Tariff Wall That Stands Between Them and Us.

We are taxing the people of the Philippines 75 per cent of the Dingley tariff rates on their products that are imported into the United States. They are naturally asking us to abolish, or at least reduce, that exorbitant tax on their business relations with us. The United States bought the Philippines from Spain, and we have undertaken to govern them for our own benefit. It has proved to be a costly experiment, and will probably always remain a tax upon the American people. But to raise up a tariff wall to prevent their products from coming here and our products from reaching them would seem to be taking an unfair advantage of a poor, defenseless people. The only excuse for taking the Philippines and governing them in the way that imperial governments rule their colonies is that it will eventually be profitable to the American people. But even the financial prospect is not encouraging, for all of our profits so far would not pay for the beer that the United States army in the Philippines consumes. The only way they ever will be a profitable investment is to encourage them to grow tropical products that we need and so give them money enough to buy our products in return. A high tariff tax at both ends of the route will not bring that about, yet the protectionists are opposed to abolishing or even reducing the tariff wall between us.

The representatives in congress of the protected industries, such as sugar and tobacco, are denouncing any attempt to reduce the Philippine tariff and declare they will fight it more bitterly than they fought Cuban reciprocity. The time must come, however, if we continue to hold the Philippines, when there will be free trade between these islands and the United States. There is no more reason for a tariff wall between us and the Philippines than there was for continuing the tariff against Porto Rico. We have reduced the tariff on Cuban products, and we do not own that island. How can we refuse to do better than that for our own colony?

A few protected interests should not be allowed to stand in the way of giving the American people all the advantages that are possible in return for their enormous outlay in purchasing and holding the Philippines, and any tax on trade is not to our advantage.

The Indiana paper which gained temporary fame by nominating Marshall Field of Chicago for president of the United States doubtless had an eye for the cultivation of dry goods advertisements.

HANNA'S PROPHECY.

Soup Houses Now Running Full Blast In Ohio, but Mills Are Closed.

In a bitter speech at Piqua, O., on Oct. 13 Senator Hanna said:

"I want to go on record on this proposition. If by your votes next month you serve notice upon the country that you favor casting aside the safe business principles that have brought the present prosperous condition, by and by—and it will not be very long—you will be eating at the soup houses again."

Well, in spite of the fact that Ohio under this soup house threat voted as Hanna desired, yet the soup houses have come. They have come as a result of closed mills and reduced wages. Read the following news items from Cincinnati, O., Jan. 10:

"Councilman Michael Mullen of the Eighth ward Wednesday morning established a free soup house at 435 East Front street. It was instantly crowded by poverty stricken with baskets, broken spout coffee-pots, bottles and tin cans to carry away solid provisions, soup and coffee. The condition of the unemployed has become so desperate and thieving so epidemic that our machinery of justice has broken down. Here is a scene in court: A man is on the stand who is caught with stolen bread. The officer who arrested him is called as the prosecuting witness. He addressed the judge:

"Judge, there are nearly 200 people down there who are starving. This man Jones is a workman and not a thief. He was going to share what he stole with the others. To prevent worse crimes, such as burglary, we must arrest these men. They are out from 3 o'clock in the morning for what they can find to eat. A loin of pork was stolen Monday morning, and the grocer told us not to look for it. 'Lorc, knows, they need it,' he told us. In the buildings at 318, 320 and 322 there are many who have not a cent and who have nothing to eat."

Here is the judge's verdict after listening to the policeman's plea for mercy:

"The stealing of bread under such circumstances is no offense."

And this happened in the Republican city of Cincinnati, in the Republican state of Ohio and in the Republican country of the United States after six years of the greatest crops ever seen in any country on God's green foot-stool. There is no place to put the blame for this horrible state of affairs except upon Republicans and Republican legislation, upon the Hannas, Roosevelts and Dingleys and their legislation. Let the voters do their duty at the polls next fall, and the Republican fakirs will be relegated to the rear and soup houses will cease to exist when natural conditions are so favorable for prosperity. The Republicans have had an extraordinary run of luck, but they have at last left off throwing double sixes. Their inflated boom has burst. They must now answer for their crimes.

"We Hold the Ace."

Senator Hanna, the phrase maker of the Republican party, gave us something new the other day. To his "Stand pat" and "Let well enough alone" he has added, "We hold the ace."

As there is no game in which the ace wins, it is evident that unless the Republicans have other cards up their sleeves they are doomed to lose at the next election. But perhaps Senator Hanna thought it might be well for him at about this stage of the political game to advertise his ignorance of games at cards. His "We hold the ace" may yet win the nomination away from President Roosevelt. The president said recently that "Hanna must either fish or dig bait." Perhaps Hanna's lone ace is only bait for the president.

The recent decision of the United States supreme court upholding the pure food law of New York state is a decided gain. An order for coffee given to a New York house was filled by coffee imported from Brazil and colored with ochre. The coffee was refused on the ground that it was colored, which was contrary to the pure food law of New York. Suit followed, but all of the courts, including the United States supreme court, upheld the state law and relieved the buyer from responsibility. The claim set up by the sellers that colored coffee was a recognized article of commerce was pronounced ridiculous by the court.

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