

Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1904.

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A SIGNIFICANT BANQUET

Supreme Court and Trust Mag-nates Dine With President.

PASSING OF THE TRUST BUSTER.

The Reported Opposition of Wall Street to President Roosevelt Re-futed—Corporation Magnates and Trust Millionaires Enjoy White House Hospitality.

The evidence has at last come out that all the talk of President Roosevelt's opposition to the trusts and Wall street was sheer political buncombe. The list of guests present at the White House at the dinner on Jan. 28 in honor of the supreme court included A. J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania railroad; James Stillman, president of the First National bank of New York and head of the Rockefeller banking syndicate; William F. Draper, head of the cotton machinery trust; Representative Littauer, charged with illegal profits from army glove contracts; Norman B. Ream, director of the steel trust, besides other great financial magnates and corporation attorneys. As these great banquets are in the public eye and are exploited in the society columns of the newspapers, the invitation to the trusts and financial millionaires shows plainly that all the talk about their being opposed to the nomination and election of Roosevelt is but an endeavor to captivate the "plain people" with the idea that the Republican candidate is opposed to the trusts and will stay their extortion. The president of the United States, like other people, does not invite guests with whom he does not wish to associate or with whom he is not on the most friendly terms. The state banquet to the supreme court is one of the great events of the Washington social season, and to be invited to meet the chief justice and his associates is considered a great honor and much sought after. The guests are carefully selected and with premeditation. It is therefore strangely significant that the president should select the head of the great Rockefeller syndicate and one of the leading members of the Morgan steel trust to meet the judges who have an important trust case now under consideration and would, if the administration was really opposed to the trusts, have these very men on trial for conspiracy in restraint of trade. Whatever object President Roosevelt may have had in thus bringing the judiciary in touch with the trusts, he has most certainly served notice on the voters that he is on the most friendly terms with the great corporation interests and the most important members of the Wall street crowd and the money power.

Those Republican newspapers that have been attempting to fool the people into believing that they had a trust buster in the White House will soon have to be singing a new song, the burden of which will be that the great financial interests of the country are united in support of the party and its nominee, who alone will conserve the great business interests. The exigencies of the campaign may require this open alliance between President Roosevelt and the trusts that the campaign coffers may be filled, without which the wheels of the Republican chariot would drag heavily and the voice of their spellbinders be hushed. The trusts are still in the saddle and looking forward to another long lease of prosperity if Mr. Roosevelt is elected president of the United States.

Farmers to Be Ignored.

The cry that is going up from the farmers of the western states for tariff revision is to be ignored or denounced as tainted with Democracy by the Republican leaders. Reciprocity, humbug as it is, that Blaine and McKinley saw might be made useful to ward off the breakdown of protection, is retired to the rear and receives no word of commendation from the "stand pat" prophets and preachers.

What Will the Voters Say?

"Stand pat on high taxation, protect the trusts and pray for prosperity!" is the Republican cry. The voters will have a chance to say how they like it next November.

The opportunity is now afforded for the Red Cross society to get beautifully harmonious by getting busy.

Now Dig the Great Ditch.

The diplomatic details of the building of the isthmian waterway having been completed by the ratification of the canal treaty with the new republic of Panama, the way is now clear for the digging of the great ditch which shall connect the waters of two oceans. For half a century or more the American people have dreamed of the time when their ships should pass uninterruptedly from one to the other of these oceans through the narrow neck of land joining the two continents, and it is now with satisfaction that they note the prospect of an early beginning of the great work.

It is a stupendous task which this government has undertaken and calls for the outlay of vast sums of money and the exercise of great engineering skill. The engineering phase of the work is now the all important one. The first problem to be confronted is not the digging, but sanitation. The late George S. Morison, who was a member of the commission which reported on the relative merits of the two routes and who held first rank in this country and others as an engineer, was of the opinion that at least two years would be required in simply preparing to begin—that is, in sanitating the isthmus, in making detailed surveys, drawing up complete plans and specifications and forming the complete organization necessary for carrying forward the work. He said:

The filth of 400 years must be taken from under the houses and dumped somewhere in the Pacific or Atlantic. The isthmus, which has been occupied for 400 years, practically has not a water pipe in it. There is plenty of excellent water, but it must be brought to the towns and to every place there, and people must be compelled to use it instead of drinking from the swamps.

In regard to the difficulties of the sanitation problem, it was the opinion of Mr. Morison that one of the beneficial effects of our war with Spain was to teach us how to occupy tropical lands in such a way as to get good results. "The city of Panama," he said, "is a pest hole, but it has never been as bad as Santiago formerly was, and there is no reason why Panama should not be as healthy as Santiago is now." The first condition, he urged, was absolute military occupation, with the same control for police, sanitation and everything else that we had in Cuba. That the government shares the opinion of Mr. Morison on this point is evinced by the sending of additional troops to the isthmus to aid in the work of sanitation.

Just what was meant by the czar by the statement in his "supreme manifesto" that herculean efforts had been made to "consolidate tranquillity in the far east" it is difficult to understand. It is presumed, however, that the tranquillity which Russia sought to "consolidate" by seizing upon a large province of China, violating her pledges to evacuate it at a specific time, filling it with Russian soldiers and in every practical way making its occupation a menace to China, Japan and Korea, is the same sort of tranquillity which was "consolidated" in Poland and is being "consolidated" in Finland.

It is stated that a universal peace society has asked the president of the United States to intervene in the Russo-Japanese conflict, but it is not believed that President Roosevelt will go further than to insist that we shall be informed in case the belligerents find those open ports at Mukden and Antung.

The Japanese consul at New York remarks that one of the most useful things that his countrymen have learned from us is David Harum's Golden Rule, which, it will be recalled, runs this way: "Do to others as they'd do to you, but do it fust." And the Japs appear to have put it promptly into practice.

It will be quite in accord with Russia's diplomatic methods to do something to China to provoke British hostility in order to drag France into the conflict as her active ally. France possesses the second largest navy in the world, and warships are much needed by the Russians.

BROKEN PROMISES.

Accumulated Proof That Republicans Will Not Reform the Tariff.

A good many Republican newspapers are coming to their senses about the fallacy of protection. They now say that it was never intended to permanently adopt the system, but as a means to an end. That end, says the St. Paul Dispatch, "was the establishment of our manufactures upon a basis that would make them secure against the assaults of foreign competition. When that was accomplished, when they would be able to meet that competition successfully, then protection had served its end, fulfilled its mission and could and should be discarded."

In spite of this newspaper evidence that a large class of Republican voters have become tired of paying tribute to trusts and protected monopolies the Republican leaders, including President Roosevelt, have determined to "stand pat" rather than abate a jot or tittle of protection. Thus we have the American Protective Tariff league through its organ, the American Economist, denouncing any Republican who favors a revision of the most obnoxious schedule of the Dingley law or who even favors reciprocity to enlarge our trade with any nation that is willing to reciprocate. The result of this Republican league with monopoly is the great increase in the cost of living and the decline of wages, so that nearly every one is paying tribute to the trusts, and even the skilled labor employed in the protected industries is obliged to accept a smaller income and pay higher prices for many necessities. Both these great classes of consumers, the workmen and the farmers, are being bled from every pore and are paying a tax to both the government and the combines, but much the greater tax to the favored monopolies.

During the last campaign for the election of congress the revolt of Republican voters in many districts was only stayed by promises of reforming the tariff in the manner the Dispatch suggests, but those Republican congressmen who declared for reform have found it impossible to override the decree of their leaders to "let well enough alone." The emissaries of the Protective Tariff league threaten political annihilation to any Republican congressman that even talks reform. Most of those who promised to curb the trusts by reducing the tariff duties did not honestly intend to try to do so, relying on the normal Republican majority in their district and an ample campaign fund, provided by the trusts, to carry them through in the coming election.

Some time ago the United States battleship Missouri was said to have had much trouble with her guns. Apparently the trouble is all over, as one of the guns threw a shell the other day a distance of fifteen miles.

A foreign newspaper says that "tall American girls are popular in Europe." It might have said the same thing about the short ones, particularly if they are well supplied with American dollars.

It is very rarely that the multimillionaire knows just exactly how much he is worth. There are many better ways of enjoying the money than sitting down and counting it.

The sultan of Turkey is no doubt a little surprised to see so much disturbance going on in the world with no prospect of his being called upon to apologize.

A Missouri woman who had smoked a corncob pipe for more than half a century died the other day at the age of 103. Thus is established the sanitary value of the corncob pipe.

The sultan has decided not to select his spring style of trouble until he learns how long Russia is likely to have her attention diverted in another direction.

A gymnasium is being built for the emperor of China. He is likely to be much more in need of a cyclone cellar.

Now that Cuba has succeeded in borrowing money there can be no further question as to her being a real nation.

Coal is a serious problem in the far east, just as it is in thousands of households in this country.

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