

Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1904.

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IS IT TRUE?

Report that a \$250,000 Cotton Mill Is To Be Built in Transylvania County.

Last Friday the Asheville Citizen, Raleigh Post, Atlanta Constitution and other of our exchanges contained articles announcing that an immense cotton mill was to be built near Brevard. The information came from Raleigh through correspondents of the several papers. The following item is clipped from a special dispatch to the Atlanta Constitution:

There is to be an extensive development of cotton milling and electric power for factories in Transylvania county, and one of the most beautiful mountain regions in North Carolina. Little River, which has five falls in a space of a few miles is to be utilized in furnishing the power. It is now a trout stream. Nearby are to be cotton mills, work on one of which is soon to begin.

So it seems that some one in Raleigh knows more about what is transpiring in Brevard than we do. It is true that there have been negotiations by Brevard business men looking to the locating of a cotton mill here; it is true that an option on the water-power of Little river has been secured for this enterprise; it is true that a site for the proposed mill has been tendered by Brevard people, and it is true that other inducements have been held out by our enterprising little town, but so far as we can learn this is where the truth stops.

When these tenders were made there was no company to accept them, and no charter for such a company had been applied for or granted—nor do we know that any such charter now exists. We most sincerely hope that the item may be true in every particular, and that the writer of it may have some means of forestalling us in the knowledge, but there are serious doubts in the case. It would seem to us that the interested parties would have been notified as soon as strangers at Raleigh.

One thing, however, is certain. Our people have decided that a factory is one of our principal needs for the permanent growth and prosperity of Brevard, and the propositions they have made will remain open—and some company will accept. There is too much enterprise among our business men to let as small a matter as a cotton factory balk them. It will come.

Captain Algernon Sartoris, whose mother was not quite happy with her English husband, doubtless reasons that it is safer for an American man to marry a foreign woman than it is for an American girl to marry a foreign husband.

Elder Dowie of the Illinois Zion believes in early marriages, but he differs from Elder Smith of the Utah Zion, who believes in marrying early and often.

It is announced that the Louisiana Purchase exposition is now ready for exhibits, and the formal opening will be on time.

The Peril of Polygamy.

The Smoot inquiry has developed into a much broader question than the right of Reed Smoot to a seat in the United States senate. It has assumed the dimensions of a general investigation of polygamy in the Mormon church and opened up the whole question of Mormonism and its relations to the federal government. Public sentiment has been awakened by the disclosures made by professed Mormons, and the matter is being widely discussed by the press of the country. The attitude of the Mormon leaders has exasperated the American people and convinced them that, whatever may be the teachings of the Mormon church on the subject of polygamy, the sympathy and the practice of the leaders of the church are in support of that pernicious doctrine. While President Smith insists that "not more than 3 or 4 per cent of the entire membership of the church" have entered plural matrimony, it is generally believed that a much larger percentage than this is in violation of the laws of the land in this regard. The Salt Lake City Tribune expresses the belief that "a little over one-third, or, say, something like 35 per cent," of the Mormon adults in Utah are living in polygamy, and Senator Dubois of Idaho, a member of the senate committee, has introduced census figures to show that about 23 1/2 per cent of the adult Mormon population in Utah were living in polygamy in 1890. The senator says in an interview:

The solution of the Mormon problem must be made here and now or the whole country will suffer and the foundations of its government will be weakened. Before this hearing is concluded the country will learn that the states of Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and to a large degree Colorado and Oregon are threatened with a terrible curse likely to spread beyond the west and southwest unless it is checked.

President Smith, however, thinks that polygamy is on the wane. He gives the following figures of polygamous families, based on a church census:

In 1890, at the time of the late President Wilford Woodruff's manifesto, there were 2,451 such families. In October, 1899, it was found that this number had been reduced as follows: By death, 750; by removals beyond the confines of the republic, 63; by divorce, 35; leaving at that time, 1,553. It is now ascertained that the original number has been reduced by 1,554, or 43 per cent, leaving only 897 still living, and that the great majority of them are of advanced age.

The Deseret Evening News of Salt Lake City, the official organ of the Mormon church, welcomes the investigation of its doings and says that "there is nothing in it but will endure investigation or that we are unwilling to expound and explain." But it adds:

When untruths are told about plural marriage and we attempt to show the truth we are accused of "teaching polygamy" and are accounted as criminals. On that theory President Joseph F. Smith is "teaching polygamy" to United States senators, and we hope he will be able before the inquiry is closed to set forth all that we believe concerning that doctrine as well as to make clear the fact that there are fewer cases of polygamous marriage in Utah today than in many other states of the Union.

What is meant by this last phrase the Mormon daily goes on to explain as follows:

Of course the state of society outside of Mormonism will not be entered into in this investigation, but it would not be amiss for people who are holding up their hands in holy horror at men who have plural wives and will not cast them off in any particular to take note of common relations in the Christian cities of this country that are not only unlawful, but frequently involve the desertion and repudiation of women and children and conduct that is both heartless and animal.

The Detroit Free Press believes that polygamy is "exterminating itself." "Time will eradicate the evil," it remarks, "and there is nothing to worry about." The Chicago Chronicle likewise thinks that the practice is disappearing, but suggests that the present persecution is more likely "to aggravate the evil than to remedy it." The Buffalo Express, the Minneapolis Trib-

une and a number of other papers fail to see how all this evidence in regard to the polygamy of Smith, Lyman and other Mormon leaders can incriminate Smoot, who is not shown to have practiced, preached or advised plurality of helpmeets.

Other papers, however, look upon polygamy as an evil of so frightful mien that even to associate with such lawbreakers as these Mormon leaders should disqualify a man to associate with our senators. "Does not Mr. Smoot's representative relation to a band of confessed outlaws disqualify him in good conscience from membership in the senate?" asks the Philadelphia Ledger, and the New Orleans Times-Democrat and the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot think it does. The latter paper refers to Mormonism as "a conspiracy to commit crime," and it declares that to seat one of its leaders in the senate "would be nothing less than an infamy and a shame."

Teaching Boys a Trade.

Because of his humane dealings with youthful offenders and the interest he has taken in criminal and truant lads, Judge Benjamin B. Lindsey, who presided over the juvenile court of Denver, has become a recognized authority, and for that reason an article by him in the Denver News is interesting.

The pith of Judge Lindsey's argument is that the public school system, generally speaking, is not fair to the boy, in that it does not give a trade as well as an education. He says that 50 per cent of the boys he sends to the state reform school come from the public schools, where the lad has had no opportunity to acquire an occupation. He speaks of one habitual truant who wanted to learn to be a plumber while securing an education.

Summed up, it all amounts to a reaffirmation of the old saying that Satan can find things for an idle hand to do. Teach the boy a useful trade, let him believe that he is accomplishing something that will produce results in later life, and the danger of developing criminal tendencies is minimized.

The Statue of Frederick.

The acceptance by this government of the statue of Frederick the Great, the gift of the present German emperor, has led to no little criticism in various quarters, to which a reply has been made by Dr. James, president of the Northwestern university. Dr. James holds, in the first place, that the gift was a signal proof of the desire of the kaiser to cultivate friendly relations with the United States and that it ought to be accepted in the spirit in which it was offered. Among gentlemen there can hardly be two opinions on that phase of the question. The emperor gave us that which was most precious in his sight. To refuse it or to receive it grudgingly or to deny it a suitable resting place would be an affront to a great friendly nation to which we are allied by ties of kinship only less strong than those which bind us to Great Britain. There are Americans who do not greatly admire Frederick, but, says Dr. James, we should hope that even those would have a pleasant word for the donor of the statue because of the spirit which prompted the gift.

All this may be true, but a statue of Goethe, of Humboldt, of Mommsen or of Helmholtz would have met a heartier welcome from the people of the United States, including those of German origin. Not an objection would have been heard had the emperor sent us the statue of one of these great Germans instead of that of his warlike ancestor, and the expression of good will which he sought to convey would have been more effectually accomplished.

The governor of Ohio might get some pointers on the way to prevent lynching by conferring with the governor of Mississippi.

The proposed legislation to prohibit the giving away of coupons would tend to confine the use of cigarettes to people who have the poor taste to like them for their own sake.

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