

Sylvan Valley News

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

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1904.

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Dunns Rock Lodge No. 267

A. F. & A. M.
Meets Friday on or before the full moon in each month, at 2 p. m. Visiting Masons are cordially invited to meet with us, sptly
WM. MAXWELL, Sec'y.

Conestee Lodge No. 237,

I. O. O. F.
Meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock. Visiting brothers are cordially invited to visit us.
Z. W. NICHOLS, N. G.

Transylvania Lodge No. 143,

Knights of Pythias
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HIGH COST OF LIVING

Republicans Making Shifty Explanations and Excuses.

CAN'T DISPUTE PALPABLE FACTS
Dingley Tariff Law the Mother of Most of Our Great Trusts—Experts to the Rescue With Miscellaneous Figures.

If there is one thing that is worrying the administration officials at Washington more than another in the line of campaign issues it is the facts in regard to the present extremely high cost of living. The Republicans anticipate that the wicket Democrats are going to charge the whole thing up to Republican legislation. They will say that the Republicans passed the Dingley high tariff law, that is mother to most of our great trusts, that have put prices up to the highest point in modern times.

There is no way of disputing the palpable facts that four-fifths of our trusts were born under Dingley legislation and that the cost of living is higher than ever before. The Republicans would run away from them if they could, but unfortunately such facts are common knowledge. The parser in every household knows that prices of supplies are at the top notch, though he may not know how they got there or upon whom to place the blame.

All sorts of shifty explanations and excuses for high prices are being fixed up by the Republican managers and statistical jugglers. Some will attempt to justify high prices, others to show that the prices of farm products have gone up even more than have those of trust products, and others that prices have not gone up as much as, while wages have gone up much more than, is generally supposed. These explanations will be tried on in different localities, and the Republican spellbinders will choose the ones which appear to fit their various localities best.

Thus Secretary Shaw lunched all explanations and openly and boldly defended high prices in his speech in Wilmington, Del., on June 6. He admitted that prices were high, but he promised that "before the campaign proceeds very far there will be furnished from the highest authority in the United States (the bureau of labor of course) well authenticated data showing that the average wages have increased in larger proportion than the average prices of ordinary household consumption." He observed that "high priced living expenses are preferable to unemployment to only a portion of our people" that "the happiness of the wage earner is dependent upon high priced farm products" and that "the prosperity of the farmer is dependent upon the ready and constant employment of the wage earner." While he insisted that "it is measurably unimportant what price we pay so long as we pay the price to ourselves," yet he showed his preference for high prices by closing his peroration with the outburst, "But may the good Lord deliver us from another period when living expenses are cheap."

The criticism and ridicule leveled at Secretary Shaw's speech lauding high prices will make the Republicans chary of experimenting further in this line. They will now await with anxiety the new prices and wages tables which Mr. Carroll D. Wright, the head of the labor bureau, has contracted to make for them. This is guaranteed to show that average prices have not risen more than have average wages and that the greatest rise has been in farm products. This will please the farmers, who have the most votes, and will give the least possible offense to the wage earners, clerks and professional men, whose votes are fewer and harder to combine.

Beyond a reasonable doubt Mr. Carroll D. Wright will fulfill his part of the contract. He can prove almost anything in regard to prices and wages. His peculiar methods of classification and of making averages enable him to make statistics to order. He has already classified cotton, the price of which is now very high, as a farm product, and wool, the price of which has risen but little, as a manufactured product. He is likely to classify last year's fowls as farm products and spring chickens as manufactured products if he finds that the prices of spring chickens—largely incubated—are high, while the prices of old hens are only moderate. He gets "average

prices" by putting in the prices of unimportant articles, like nutmegs or pepper, along with important articles, like pork or flour. He can easily find enough of these inconsequential articles, the prices of which have declined during the last seven years, to offset the great advance in the prices of important articles of consumption. His "averages" for wages are juggled most scientifically and are susceptible for any purpose or conclusion.

The bureau of statistics of the treasury department is also hard at work making Republican statistics. The New York Tribune of June 13 announced that this bureau had just produced statistics showing that "practically all the farm products in their natural state show an advance," but that "the cost of living for the month of May just ended has been less than for the same month of 1903."

With all of the statistical experts in all of the government offices experimenting with price and wage figures and hard at work—at government expense—upon the Republican campaign book we may expect some startling results. But the Republican party never needed statistical aid more than today. Can their experts save them with tall figures?
BYRON W. HOLT.

POLICY AND PERSONALITY.

Voters Must Decide Which Party Will Best Serve Them.

All voters should remember that they do not vote for any candidate for president directly—they vote for a party with policies. The Republican policy, if approved by a majority of the voters, is to drift along and trust that good crops and high prices will continue and claim that any measure of prosperity is of Republican manufacture. These voters who are enamored of rough riding and strenuousness should understand that Mr. Roosevelt is but a small spoke in the wheel of the party that has nominated him and that he must carry out Republican policies such as the leaders dictate and the platform calls for.

When Mr. Roosevelt accepts the nomination his letter of acceptance will show that he thoroughly indorses all that the Republican party stands for. He cannot object; he must approve. The rule of the party is stronger than personality, and to object, even not approve, all that the Republican platform declares to be the policy of that party would be disastrous to any candidate. To vote understandingly and conserve their own interests the voters must investigate and decide between the policies of the two great parties.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

How It Works Under a Republican Administration.

Local civil service boards are often the most ultra partisan, and instead of the road to an office under the government being opened to all, if they can pass the necessary examination, only friends of the party in power have any such opportunity. For instance, the civil service commission has discovered in a New England town a secretary, the chief executive officer of the local board, who frankly declared that he had been in office five years and that no Democrats would have any share in the administration of this government as long as he could keep them out.

All of which goes to show that although civil service reform may theoretically have strong points in its favor it can be and often is but an aid to the Republican machine. Under our form of government every citizen has the right to aspire to any office he is competent to fill, and unless we want to establish an officeholding class, who must be pensioned when age disqualifies them, appointments for four years would seem to be the best solution of the problem.

What Root Didn't Say.
Mr. Root says "the beef trust was put under injunction," but he failed to add that the injunction has not enjoined and that the price of meat continues to advance.—New York World.

Little For the Farmer.
The beef trust has raised prices again, and the marvel of it this time is that the men who grow beef are getting a little more for the raw material.—Atlanta Constitution.

A New York man got \$200 in a breach of promise suit. This would indicate that the jury knew just about what the affections of a New York man are worth.

Russia and England.

One of the most important utterances made since the outbreak of the war in the far east is that of Prince Hesperie Oukhtomsky, who was recently in this country to represent the Russian press at the world's fair. While in New York the prince prepared a paper for the Outlook, in which the following significant language occurred:

When the situation in the far east has been cleared up by means of ultimate Russian victory, which is inevitable, there will come a reckoning with England, who is undoubtedly responsible for the Japanese attack upon us. England would now like to have better relations with Russia. She desires to come upon the scene smiling and philanthropic, blandly advising peace and holding out her hand to share with us the spoils of victory. But it is now too late. We recognize her as our old enemy, who has ever stood in the path of Russian development, who has by various means held us back from the sea, has constantly by means of her publications and her machinery for disseminating news, fostered prejudices against us throughout the entire civilized world. This last attack on us is only one of a hundred scores that we have against England, and when our war with Japan is ended it will be not only possible, but also necessary, that we then proceed with the long contemplated expedition to India.

The statement is all the more significant because of the position of its author. Prince Oukhtomsky is the editor of the St. Petersburg Viedomosti, one of the most influential papers in Europe. He is a gentleman of the bedchamber at the court of the czar and enjoys the personal confidence and friendship of the latter.

His threat against England and his talk about pushing on to India are there fore not idle, but may be regarded as reflecting the intentions of his royal master. Nothing could be more illuminative of the purposes of Russia, in case of victory over Japan, which seems remote enough at present, it is perfectly plain that the empire of the czar intends to absorb China and ultimately dominate all Asia. Talk about a yellow peril! What about a Cossack peril?

This utterance makes it more evident than ever that Japan is fighting the battle of civilization. Even if the unexpected should happen and the mikado's troops should be beaten in the end, it is safe to say that English statesmen know the purposes of the St. Petersburg government and as a merc matter of self protection will never permit Russia to win the present war in the far east.

The Norge Disaster.

The sinking of the Scandinavian-American steamship Norge off the west coast of Scotland, with a loss of over 600 lives, following so closely upon the Slocum disaster in New York harbor emphasizes the perils of those who go down to the sea in ships and enforces the public demand for a speedy reformation in the business of carrying passengers over the waters. It is reported that, as in the case of the Slocum, the Norge was inadequately supplied with life saving apparatus and that many of the life preservers were so old as to be useless. The crew was poorly drilled and hindered rather than helped by the work of lurching the lifeboats only four of which were successfully got away. A third marine catastrophe should not be necessary to teach the steamship companies the folly of the false economy which endangers the lives of thousands of persons to save a few dollars in the cost of equipment.

A California astronomer has discovered 100 new stars. Kuropatkin discovers more than that every time he gets bumped into while "firing the Japs on."

If the newspapers would let Dowie alone it would be a decided relief to the public and would cause the bottom to fall out of "Prophet Elijah III's" business in a very short time. The only way to deal with some people is to ignore them.

Perhaps the reason for the recent Haitian revolution was that Haiti thought Santo Domingo had been monopolizing the footlights long enough.

One doctor announces that loafing is healthful. It would be if the eating did not run out too soon.

NEWS, POINT AND COMMENT.

"Think no evil" and keep outside the saloon.—National Advocate.

Cincinnati is now claiming to be the greatest whisky market in the world. The wholesale trade there announces that the year will be the heaviest the city has ever had.

Four states, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana and Massachusetts, have passed laws making it unlawful to sell opium without the prescription of a licensed physician or surgeon.

The French house of deputies has passed a bill which forbids the manufacture or sale in France of absinthe and other alcoholic liquors which are pronounced "dangerous" by the Academy of Medicine.

Closely Affiliated.—Murphy—"O' tell yez, Flaherty, th' saloon is th' poor man's club. Truth, O' don't see how he could get on without it." Flaherty—"He couldn't! If there war no saloons there'd be no poor man."—Duck.

BURIED TREASURE.

Hidden Gold Over Which a Blind Negro Raved for Thirty-Five Years.

There is an old negro, Uncle Tom Weston, down on the Florida side of the Okefinokee swamp, who has raved for 35 years about a buried treasure which he is unable to recover. He says, reports the Cincinnati Enquirer, his old master buried \$250,000 in gold during the civil war when Sherman's army was marching through Georgia. He carried the treasure box for his master and dug a hole in the swamp in which the gold was buried. An accident made him blind before the war and he was not able to see where the treasure was concealed. His master died during the war without recovering the gold and left instructions concerning it. Uncle Tom has suffered from rheumatism for many years and is a cripple. Though he is blind and crippled, Uncle Tom has made many trips to the swamp in quest of the hidden treasure, only to be disappointed. The old man is afraid somebody has already recovered it, as he understands several parties instituted a search. He is the oldest negro in the Okefinokee region, and he sits on his door sill all day long wondering about the buried treasure and sorrowing because he must die without succeeding in recovering it.

REUCTIONS FOLLOWED.



Little Peckleby—Er—um—there's a French philosopher, m'dear, says that women need more soap than men.
Mrs. Peckleby—Oh, indeed—does he—and when of it?
Little Peckleby—Well, m'dear, I was thinking—er—that is—well, perhaps you'd better not stay up for me when I'm late at night, like you do.—Aly Sloper.

Out of the Beaten Track.

First Critic—Here's one trace of originality—if it isn't a typographical error.
Second Critic—What is that?
First Critic—He says "wide and far" instead of "far and wide."—Brooklyn Life.

Brutally Tortured.

A case came to light that persistent and unmerciful torture has perhaps never been equaled. Joe Gold-bick of Colusa, Calif., writes: "For 15 years I endured insufferable pain from rheumatism and nothing relieved me though I tried everything known. I came across Electric Bitters and it's the greatest medicine on earth for that trouble. A few bottles of it completely relieved and cured me." Just as good for liver and kidney troubles and general debility. Only 70c. Satisfaction guaranteed by all druggists. *

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