

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 24, 1905.

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.
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.
T. D. ENGLAND, N. G.

Transylvania Lodge No. 143,

Knights of Pythias
Regular convention every Tuesday night in Masonic Hall. Visiting Knights are cordially invited to attend.
W. E. BREESE Jr., C. C.

Brevard Telephone Exchange.

HOURS:
Daily—7 a. m. to 10 p. m.
Sunday—8 to 10 a. m., 4 to 6 p. m.
Central Office—McMinn Block.

Professional Cards.

W. A. GASH,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Rooms 7 & 8, McMinn Bld'g, Brevard, N. C.

W. B. DUCKWORTH,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Investigation of Land Titles a Specialty.
Rooms 1 and 2, Pickelsimer Building.

ZACHARY & BREESE
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Offices in McMinn Block, Brevard, N. C.

WELCH GALLOWAY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Practices in all the courts
Rooms 9 and 10, McMinn Block.

Miscellaneous.

Dr. H. H. CARSON
Surgeon Dentist
Office over Bank.
HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.
Satisfaction Guaranteed in all Operations.

The Ethelwold

Brevard's New Hotel—Modern Apartments—Open all the year. The patronage of the traveling public as well as summer tourists is solicited. Opp. Court House, Brevard, N. C.

Galloway, Duckworth & Co.,

REAL ESTATE DEALERS,
Rooms 3 and 4, McMinn Block, Brevard, N. C.
Buy and sell all kinds of Real Estate. Collect rents, and attend to property when owner is absent.
Farming and Timber Lands a Specialty.

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and Building Materials.

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Ready Roofing
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Putty
Sash Locks
Window Lifts
Sash Cord and Weights

McCormick
Reapers and Binders
Mowers, Rakes, Corn Cutters
and Grain Drills.
Cor. Main and Caldwell BREVARD, N. C.

Telephone Concessions.

The Bell People Hope to Hold up Legislation by a Sop to Brevard.

It seems that the representatives of the Bell Telephone Company were in Brevard last Friday and Saturday and made a contract with the representatives of Mr. Witmer, the owner of the Brevard Independent Exchange allowing the subscribers to the local exchange to have long distance connections upon the payment of \$2.50 per year in addition to the regular rent of the phone. This price is declared to be a great concession on the part of the Bell people as the usual price is 50 cents per month for each phone.

On its face it seems to be a perfectly fair transaction and from what we can learn Mr. Witmer is satisfied with the arrangement. We do think, however, that the circumstances under which the contract was made certainly had an influence over the parties as only the friends of the Bell people were at the conference and those known to be in favor of the passage of the bill as introduced by Mr. Henry were conspicuous by their absence, only the friends of the Bell people or those intimately connected with the Bell people, and their local representatives were at the conference. No reflection is intended on those present as it was to their individual interests to help the Bell people and however they might have thought personally it was against their business interests to antagonize the Bell Telephone Company, or its largest stockholders, namely the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Southern Railroad.

But the simple question of satisfying Mr. Witmer was not the prime factor in causing Mr. Henry to introduce his bill as the basic principle that underlays the whole transaction is the power conferred on the corporation to control this great telephone trust. Until this bill was introduced the Bell people would make no concessions at all and refused to do anything except to rent their instruments to Mr. Witmer at an exorbitant price and he refused to accept their terms. Although it was possible to get long distance connection it was only through the kindness of the Toxaway Company and Transylvania Railroad who own the line from here to Hendersonville. But as soon as we got busy and had a bill introduced providing for a remedy, then and not until then, did the Bell people come across and make this contract, and we doubt that if the legislature was not in session they would have done so now. They only did this in order to stop the passage of Henry's bill as they see that said bill will necessarily allow independent lines an opportunity to do business in North Carolina and they want to do all the business themselves and if they can not then they will fix it so that no one else can do it.

No one asked for any bill that would compel the Bell Company

to transmit messages received from other lines free of cost, but the bill did provide that the Bell Company should receive all messages from other lines and that the Corporation Commission should have the power to fix the tolls to be charged at a reasonable amount.

As it is now, before a subscriber to the local telephone exchange can send one long distance message he must pay his yearly rent, and there are not many of the subscribers who have enough business over the long distance lines to justify them in paying the extra two dollars and a half per year. What we want is a certain extra toll for each message and then we pay for what we get and not for that which we could get if we wanted it. We do not have to pay the hotel keepers for the meals they have prepared each day, but for the ones we eat, nor do we pay the merchants for the amount of goods they keep on their shelves but only for those goods we select and take away home.

We know of one instance where a firm has three phones, one at their place of business and one at residence of each member, three in all. Under the present contract these men would have to pay \$7.50 per year in order to have the privilege of using the long distance instead of having to pay toll on each message.

The treatment of Mr. Witmer by the Bell Company was simply the effect, and the cause is what the Henry Bill strikes at. This temporary compromise the Bell people have made is only to stop the legislature from acting at this time, and during the next two years the Southern Railroad, led by its great lobbyist, Col. Andrews, the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Bell Company will use their tremendous power to put a quietus on any attempt that the next legislature may make to pass a similar bill.

If democracy stands for anything it does stand for the people, and is practically oath bound to secure the rights of the people as intended in the constitution. If the control of the great trusts by our Corporation Commission does not come under that head then God pity the masses.

It is no illegal or unjust law that compels the public corporations that have great powers conferred on them by the legislature, greater powers outside of their wealth than is ever granted to private individuals, to have those parts or divisions of their business as effects the public controlled by representatives of the same people who have conferred their corporate rights upon them.

The people of this State need no reminders of the manner in which the Bell Telephone Company has in nearly all the larger towns forced their independent competitors to go out of business or sell out to them and it is that their greed and power be controlled and that the people have an opportunity to secure as good and cheap telephonic connections as can be had without

paying a large bonus to the Bell Company. The same power in regards to railroads connecting with each other has heretofore been given to the Corporation Commission and now we want that power extended so that it will also apply to the telephone companies. We are not asking that we get something for nothing but simply that the Bell Telephone trust be so controlled that they will not have the illegal, unjust and despotic power of compelling their competitors to pay whatsoever they see fit to ask for connections or do without.

If a Democratic House of Representatives should overlook the great and needed reform that they have not been true to their platform or to their constituents who voted for them to represent the people and the best interests of the people. We do not care any abrogations of the rights of corporations but we do ask and demand that the corporations be kept within the law and be not allowed to assume the autocratic and monopolistic methods they now use in order to accumulate wealth at the expense of the people. They are making good interest on their investments and should be satisfied with that and not want it all at once. We therefore hope that Mr. Henry will see through this flimsy attempt on the part of the Bell people and will do his duty by having the bill introduced by him passed at the earliest opportunity. The trusts are wanting time in which to gather their forces and delays would be dangerous.

You introduced a good bill, Mr. Henry and your people and the people of the State are looking to you to protect them. Be not deceived by the soft words and glittering promises of future reforms made by the trusts. Remember that we had to force them to do even the little they have done although they had refused to do so for months past. There is nothing unfair to any company in your bill and the present condition of affairs is unfair and prejudicial to your constituents and the people of North Carolina. You can help us and we ask you to do so.

Editorial Snapshots.

The Jackson County Journal published at Webster was a year old last week. Apparently it is well established and making a good living.

It's quite amusing to observe the strenuous efforts Hendersonville newspapers are making to prove that it has a better winter climate than Asheville. The fact is that the entire south has been hard hit by the storms of this particular February—the coldest in thirty-five years—and as most of our mountain section is still in the South, not having seceded, the cold wave which froze the oranges in Florida is bound to have given all a whack in passing. The question is not one of winter climate—but which can offer most inducements to the summer visitor.

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