

Sylvan Valley News

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

J. J. MINER, Manager.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1905.

VOL. X—NO. 22

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.

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Meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock. Visiting brothers are cordially invited to visit us.
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Transylvania Lodge No. 143,

Knights of Pythias
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The Japs Keep Busy In China.

That the Japanese understand the needs and nature of their Chinese neighbors and profit by that knowledge is shown in a report to the state department by George E. Anderson, United States consul at Hankow. Attempts of Europeans and Americans to introduce labor saving machinery into the Celestial empire have been met successfully by the argument that the introduction of such machinery would work untold harm in a nation where so many millions of persons would starve to death if there were the least disturbance in the demand for their labor. The contention that a readjustment of the industrial situation would avert that catastrophe receives the answer that myriads would succumb to famine while the readjustment was coming. That there is truth in this argument is admitted. The Japanese, however, seem to be solving the problem for China by the introduction of machines which save some labor, but not enough to deprive any considerable number of persons of their occupations.

One example of this is to be seen in the foot power cotton gin now common in parts of the country where the people manufacture their own cotton goods and handle their cotton crop generally. The old method of ginning was infinitely tedious. One of these foot power gins enables a workman to turn out about 100 pounds a day. The machines are roughly constructed and very cheap and, while increasing the capacity of the workman, will not cause any radical disturbance in the labor world. A similar condition is to be found in silk reeling. The Japanese have designed a machine of wood with a few glass eyelets and metal fittings which is regarded as a marked improvement over the Chinese silk reeling machine similarly constructed.

It looks, Consul Anderson concludes, as if the Japanese were studying the market of China very closely, not only that they may supply these cheap machines for saving some of the labor of the natives of the present time, but to pave the way for greater improvements and more radical changes which the Japanese themselves will make and which will advance their own commercial interests.

Pure Air and Public Health.

Surgeons General Wyman of the marine hospital service called attention in a recent report to the evils of ill ventilated public conveyances, particularly railway coaches and street cars. Considering the progress made by sanitary science in recent years, it is noteworthy that comparatively little is done toward proper ventilation for public conveyances. It is universally recognized that pure air is essential to health and a powerful agency in checking the spread of disease. Dry pure air is better than damp pure air, but damp pure air is preferable to dry foul air.

It is difficult to ventilate a steam railway car and at the same time keep out dust and cinders, yet the problem can be solved by science and money. The conditions in the average street cars during rush hours is even worse than on railway coaches and can be more readily improved. Boards of health throughout the country are acting upon Dr. Wyman's hint with a view to securing adequate ventilation for all public conveyances. There is room for radical improvement, and the agitation should be kept up until conditions are changed for the better.

The Russian name for St. Petersburg is Sankt Peterburg, Peterburg for short. On all official and semi-official documents and prints the name is given St. Peterburg. The termination is evidently of German origin, and the Russian people themselves have proposed to change the name to Petergrad as a form more in keeping with the genius of their language.

All the way from Madrid comes the news that all the Spanish-American nations excepting Cuba will join in an anti-United States league. Go ahead, neighbors! If you want to compete with this country in anything you'll have to brace up a lot, and that will do us all good.

The Fine Art of Fiction.

James Lane Allen has produced a good novel times enough to entitle him to a hearing upon the art which is his life work. Discouraging upon the training required for the writer who would produce a really good novel, Mr. Allen says:

He shall train himself to see a great story when it is before his eyes or search for it until he has found it, that he shall acquire the judgment to pick it out among a thousand inferior ones. Next, that he shall train himself to see the great story which he has chosen deeply, see it as deeply as life itself is deep. Next, that he shall train himself to fix this deep vision of his great story clearly within his own mind, as clearly as he would behold faces and forms, lights and shadows, groups and distances in some wonderful, pellucid, unshaken mirror. And next, and finally, that he shall learn how to transfer this vision, whole and true, for the eyes and minds of mankind. That is what a great novelist is and that is what a great novelist does when he produces a masterpiece. And that is why the fine art of fiction is not the despicable pastime of turning out pretty sentences, but the grave and difficult toil of seeing and choosing and fashioning and then of delivering faithfully to others some part of the realities of our human life.

The methods of the novelist at work have often been laid bare—how this one studded and noted down the phenomena of the earth or the heavens, how that one ferreted out the abnormal traits of human beings and how others porled over the volumes of mystical or historic lore in search of motives or characters or settings for their stories. Mr. Allen tells the beginner that he must do more than train himself for mechanical aptitude. To his mind the art calls for grave and difficult toil, a travail of the soul in reading the message of life and delivering it in all fidelity upon the printed page.

Steering the Immigrant Tide.

The proposed plan of increasing the head tax on immigrants ought to cure the evil of congestion if thoroughly carried out. An increase from \$2 to \$10 or even to \$25 would not keep out the mob of political refugees and the sweepings of great cities. Friends already here would send them the price or whatever amount might be lacking in their own savings. By a wise application of the fund accumulated through the tax the government could turn the stream of immigrants into channels where they would be welcome or at least not a menace to order and progress.

In the south, the west and the southwest there are areas of land which the government could purchase and divide into small parcels for settlers, who would eventually return the money by installments to the original fund. The cost of transportation from the seaports to the new homes and the outlay for tools and seed could also be provided from the fund. A large percentage of the new arrivals would come prepared with their own means and would not need assistance.

As a matter of fairness, the heavy head tax is defensible for the reason that immigrants have everything to gain here under a system that has cost blood and toil to build up. Others have founded the state, and if newcomers seek to become partners let them pay for the privilege. They'll think all the more of it and work the harder after they get in.

The Old Guard of the New South.

The Atlanta Constitution takes exception to the view which has been given currency that the south today is a land of young men. It is true, that paper says, that the young southerner is more in evidence now than ever before, and the south is the land of the young man, but the south is now only reaping the fruits of a development which began in 1865 and led to the commercial restoration of that section. Starting out with no money, all their property having been swept away by the exigencies of the great civil conflict, the veterans of the Confederate armies went bravely to work in the face of every conceivable obstacle to rehabilitate the war-worn south. If they are not in the front ranks today they are in the councils guiding the young men whose present golden opportunities they created when they emerged from Appomattox to behold a devastated country.

Read the Sylvan Valley News.

Uncle Sam Booming Silk Culture.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is convinced that the United States can produce its own raw silk, and he is determined that it shall do so. Our total importation of raw silk since 1890 approximates \$650,000,000. The secretary believes that this vast amount might just as well have been paid to Americans as to Chinamen, Japanese and Italians, from whose countries most of this material came.

Experiments inaugurated by no less a personage than King James II. of England have shown that mulberry trees thrive in our southern states and that silkworms are readily acclimated there. Over 200 years ago the Stuart monarch notified the Company of Virginia that he had "taken into his princely consideration the great benefits to the adventurers and planters of the breeding of silkworms and the setting up of silk works in those parts." He enjoined the company to use all possible diligence in this matter and rather to bestow their "travail in compassing this rich and solid commodity than that of tobacco, which, besides much necessary expense, brings with it many disorders and inconveniences." A consignment of mulberry trees and silkworms sent out in connection with this recommendation was lost at sea. Another shipment was forwarded, and for several years much attention was paid to the silk industry by the English in Virginia and the French Huguenots in South Carolina. Other attempts were made from time to time to stimulate silk raising, and from 1780 to the civil war period it continued to flourish in a small way. The depression incident to wartimes practically wiped the business out of existence.

Now it shows signs of reviving. The agricultural department has been sending silkworm eggs to many persons in the south and has recently received in return several shipments of cocoons. The best specimen sent in was a fifteen pound package from Alabama. A fifty pound package came from the farm of the late Rear Admiral Beardsley at Beaufort, S. C. These cocoons were grown under the direction of a Japanese who was formerly steward to the admiral.

Since there is at present no open market for silk cocoons in this country the government is purchasing the entire supply at the rate of \$1 a pound. The secretary has in operation at the department a four basin reel of the most approved type. Experts were brought over from Belgium to teach the process of silk reeling to Americans, and there are now five girls in Mr. Wilson's little factory who are daily reeling silk with all necessary dexterity.

The chief obstacle to the success of the industry seems to be the cost of collecting the cocoons. This difficulty the secretary hopes to overcome by inducing women and children to collect the cocoons in hours which would otherwise be idle, thus appreciably increasing domestic revenues. Cocoon collecting would be under the secretary's plan an avocation rather than a vocation, like berry picking. It is doubtful, however, if it would ever supply the millions of pounds of raw silk now required by American mills.

The value of the raw silk annually consumed in the United States is about equal to the demand for potatoes. If Secretary Wilson, who is seeking to help the farmer grow two potatoes where now he raises one, can produce cocoons where none grow now his achievement will be both notable and important.

Be Kind Today.

Less spent on the dead and more spent on the living would bring about many happy results. Hearts are breaking, loved ones wait and tears flow all because of the withholding of kind words unspoken and letters never sent. The aged father and mother far off in the country would often be cheered did the son or daughter more frequently send them a letter. Behold the sad mistakes of others, their remorse, and profit by the same before it is too late. Today, now, speak the loving word, send the tender message, write the letter you put off day by day, and don't wait until you forget it or until bitter memories haunt you.

Italians In America.

Three investigators who ought to know their subject have examined the Italian population in this country and published their conclusions in a book entitled "The Italian In America." The conclusions arrived at by these gentlemen, who represent the census bureau, the national board of trade and the Prison association, will surprise most people. The Italians examined are of every class and condition, and popular delusions as to the criminality of immigrants from sunny Italy are dispensed by the statistics presented in this study. The writers recommend that the new arrivals be distributed throughout the agricultural districts away from the cities, for if so dispersed they will make desirable additions to the rural population.

General Piet Cronje is right in saying that the British government does not intend to keep faith with the Boers as pledged at the time of surrender three years ago. The treaty of peace stipulated that the Boers should have substantially self government as soon as order is restored. The draft of a constitution for the Transvaal which is to be submitted to parliament contains the shadow of self government, but the substance is lacking as far as the Dutch inhabitants are concerned.

It is not at all strange that the hero Paul Jones and the infidel Tom Paine were close friends in Paris and addressed each other as "Paul" and "Tom." They were both free spirits, and those were the days of revolution in thought. It is said that Jones died with a copy of Voltaire's writings by his side.

Japan has a diet specialist, and he counts many idle nobles among his patients.

A Worker.

Knicker—Can he accomplish much? Knicker—I should say so. He can do as much as the man who didn't mean to.—Harper's Bazar.

Stephen Phillips, the English poet, is engaged in the task of proving that the fiendish Roman emperor Nero was not so black as history paints him. Poets, especially young ones, have during centuries. Swinburne in his twenties came out with the proposition that the names hades and paradise should change places, but he is not thinking along that line now that he is crowding three-score and ten.

Joe Jefferson's Human Roic.

The twenty years' sleep of Rip Van Winkle gave a chance for introducing picturesque paths on the stage, where Joe Jefferson won his fame, but it was not that circumstance which lifted the play and the player so far above the common level. Poor Rip was the whole thing, and Jefferson's Rip was inimitable. Art counted for much as an aid to naturalness on the boards, but the soul of the player was seated in the clothes of the typical young Dutchman of pre-revolution days and gave forth in all truthfulness the good humor, the kindness, the affection and the pitiful weakness which appeal to human sympathy.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of One Hundred Dollars for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.—FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

(SEAL) A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.

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