

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, AUGUST 18, 1905.

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WM. MAXWELL, Sec'y.

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Road Improvement.

Taxation the Only Means of Permanent Benefit.

Editor Sylvan Valley News:

Let me have a say in the road law discussion. I am now, by reason of age, exempt from road duty and pay fully as much tax as the average property owner of this county, though I am still of the same opinion that I have entertained for years, that the road law as it now exists, imposes a hardship or even an injustice on a majority of the men who do the work. For instance, I own a livery stable and run regularly 8 or 10 teams, also own a farm and find it necessary to have ox teams, horse teams, buggies, hacks, etc., in order to run the farm and accommodate the family. All of these teams are passing over and cutting up the roads daily, yet if I am 45 years old or a nonresident I contribute nothing to the keeping up of these roads either in money or labor.

Further: Quite a per cent of the best property in Brevard is owned by the women (widows and maidens) who have never borne any part of the burden of building and working the streets and roads which enhances the value of their property and of which they could not do without. Almost every large land owner in this county is either exempt on account of age or residence, and some of those owning the largest and most valuable farms were too old for road duty at the time they purchased them and others have never become residents, and therefore never have nor never will, under the present law aid in any way in keeping up the public highways which are absolutely essential to their interest. They must have roads or abandon their farms and go out of business, and surely it is not right and just to compel men who do not own a dollar's worth of personal or real property and whose wives and children know nothing of the luxuries of life, to give 10 day's work each year for their benefit. No man needs the roads so little as the common day laborer and he should not be expected to pay for more than his interest. Good roads means dollars and cents to the land owners and business men. They cannot run their business a day without them and therefore they should be taxed with the principal part of the expense of building and keeping them up.

It is no argument to say these old landlords have served their time out for the use of the roads amply paid them for all services rendered by them on said roads from 18 to 45. A man can pay a tax and continue to pay it so long as he is benefitted by it and he is most certainly benefitted by it as long as it is a necessity. The present system of working the roads is a legalized imposition on the poor man, putting the burden on him when it should be on the other fellow. Now, Mr. Editor, it is useless for me to suggest a remedy. If

someone will interest himself enough to communicate with the authorities of Mecklenburg county, N. C., the information will be furnished telling how to build roads, how to keep them in repair, and how much they have added to the value of property.

Anglo-Saxons at Peace.

Some recent changes in Great Britain's defensive policy, by which she leaves her Atlantic and northern Pacific seaboard practically undefended, are considered by Sir Charles Dilke, the reform leader, in the London Standard. Sir Charles is not a steadfast advocate of disarmament on the part of England, but he thinks that his country and ours will never again wage war upon each other. To quote:

It would be an exaggeration to pretend that we have entirely disarmed toward the United States any more than we have toward any other country. The United States is a power which has become vulnerable by setting up colonies across the sea. No one suggests, however, either that we covet these colonies or that the loss of them would weigh heavily in the terms of peace that might follow any possible collision. Canada as a self-respecting state has an excellent military college and is slowly improving her militia without, however, either setting up a regular force or buying arms on a scale which can for a moment compare with the establishments of her great neighbor. Substantially, the fact remains that the British government has shown its profound belief in the stability of the present friendly and, indeed, excellent relations which exist between ourselves and the United States and in the community of interests between the two great English speaking powers.

In the opinion of Sir Charles the present understanding between France, England and America will last and eventually lead to a disarmament in the Pacific.

Health Habits For Summer Days.

A physician writing for the London Mail on the subject of outings to improve health points out certain hygienic rules which are often overlooked by the average person when let loose in "all outdoors." He says there is danger for the novice in overdoing things, especially in the matter of strenuous exercise, such as walking and climbing hills. Undue strain upon the heart will neutralize the benefit derived from fresh air and sunshine. He says:

Your sleep and your appetite are the best means of judging whether you are doing well or ill. Holidays should be great sleeping times, and assuredly the most common cause of insomnia in our day is worry. The sort of air worth breathing is that which several other people have not "had a go at" already. It helps one to sleep and is an unsurpassed tonic. I do not care whether the air be sea or mountain, so long as it be pure. There is no exercise better than swimming, and a bath does a nonswimmer almost as much good. A constant mistake is to stay in too long. The value of a cold bath is in inverse proportion to its length. Ten minutes should be a maximum, especially if you do not swim.

It is all right to be greedy after sunshine, which is life to man and death to his most deadly foes, adds this authority. Sunstroke may be avoided by protecting the eyes and head, and the back of the neck particularly. Microbes cannot exist in sunshine, and the sun bath is at once a luxury and a curative agent to be had for nothing.

The Panama route from ocean to ocean has a competitor in the "new world's highway" across the isthmus of Tehuantepec. This route runs from Salina Cruz, on the Pacific, to Coatzacoalcos, on the Atlantic, a distance of 190 miles. A railway has been constructed at an expense of nearly \$40,000,000. The line is 1,200 miles north of Panama and 800 miles south of New Orleans.

The "poor, benighted heathen" of Korea knows a thing or two. The king has gone down into his own pocket for money to pay the expenses of two commissioners to the peace conference in the interest of Korea, which nation seems to consider itself between the upper and nether millstones.

They Were Stopped.

"I want those eggs stopped!" shouted the tragedian, striding to the footlights.
"Well, you're stoppin 'em, ain't you?" asked the boy in the gallery, soaking him with another.—Houston Post.

Doctors Disagree.

The New York Medical Journal offered a prize for the best short essay on "The Treatment of Erysipelas of the Face." Dr. P. W. Monroe of Springfield, Ill.; Dr. John Douglas of New York city and Dr. George A. Graham of Kansas City competed. Their essays were printed in a recent number of the Medical Journal. They are interesting mainly in that they confirm the common belief that doctors disagree and that when they differ they differ radically.

Dr. Monroe, for instance, prefers the use of cold poultices, wet dressings of solutions of aluminium acetate, bichloride of mercury, ichthyol or carbolic acid on the infected area, with superimposed ice poultices. The applications of cold poultices he regards as the most important feature of the treatment.

Dr. Douglas says that he has found nothing that with certainty will stop the spread of the area of infection, but that with a tincture of iodine painted on liberally in a broad band about the border of the lesion he has had the greatest success. He regards iodine as more effective than nitrate of silver. With collodion, recommended by many text books, he has achieved the poorest results. He recommends that wet dressings should be applied to the affected area, preferring ichthyol painted on practically pure. Apparently he places no importance on cold poultices, advising only the use of an ice bag to the head for restlessness or delirium.

Dr. Graham states positively that for many years past he has found that carbonate of lead in the form of ordinary white lead used by painters is a specific for the disease when applied thickly to the parts affected. He says he has used the popular and highly recommended applications, such as ichthyol, etc., with little or no benefit. He says further that after using, with little or no benefit, popular and highly recommended applications recourse to the white lead treatment has invariably effected a speedy cure, one application in most cases entirely checking the disease and no case ever requiring more than two applications. Painting with iodine, nitrate of silver and the like he declares to be obsolete and useless.

Thus do our doctors disagree.

One secures excellent results with a method which another declares to be obsolete and useless. Another claims to have effected sure cures with a simple method of which the others have no knowledge or which they deliberately ignore.

Good health and the preservation of life are as essential to the community at large and the welfare of the nation as good crops, good money or interstate commerce. The government has already taken a hand in investigating the food and alcohol products placed before the people with reference to their purity and wholesomeness. It could consistently engage in experiments upon the treatment of disease, especially any which baffles the skill of medical practitioners.

The "Graft" Exposures.

Graft in public affairs is no new thing. It has affected about every country of the world and about every period of civilization. The current wholesale exposures are of an unusual character and are astounding, although much that has come to the surface has long been believed to exist.

It is unwise and unjust to human nature to argue that old fashioned honesty is wanting among public men or in high places. In spite of past evidences of corruption society is startled over the developments of today and, moreover, is moved to wrath, proof that there is virtue left to scorn dishonesty and success gained by crooked methods. So long as there is a healthy public contempt for wickedness the situation is encouraging rather than discouraging.

Secretary Shaw discovered an unexpected stringency in the circulating medium the other day when a haughty hotel cashier refused to cash his check, and he hadn't even a nickel for car fare.

WASHINGTON CHAT.

The N. C. apple is not fit for the market. This assures a record cider output.

Gov. Vardaman seems to have a lingering suspicion that Louisiana contracted yellow fever just to spite him.

Mississippi people are in a great deal more danger of being "scared to death" than succumbing to yellow fever.

It is only fair to mention, however, that Secretary Wilson's branch of the public service has no monopoly on graft.

A Washington dispatch says Secretary Wilson is aiming to stop "graft" but he doesn't seem to be a crack shot.

One reason why Chauncey Depew is not insured in the Equitable may be that he knows so much about its management.

As soon as they can find time for a pause in the mosquito killing the men in Panama may begin to dig a little on the canal.

If our president had been present at the conference of the Czar and the Kaiser we guess "something" would have been "done."

Sorry the correspondents failed to tell us which of his 125 new suits J. Pierpont Morgan wore when he called at Oyster Bay.

President Roosevelt can preach as good a sermon as Emperor William of Germany, and outdo him too, when it comes to peace diplomacy.

Mayor Belcher of Patterson, N. J., who has been lost for some time hopes, wherever he is, that he will stay lost. He is short in his accounts.

Really, there is no law against a man retiring to his closet once a day for a little laugh over Gov. Douglas' fear that the presidency would get him.

"The average politician does dirty work before he gets his job and very little of any kind afterward," says Tom Watson who has held political jobs.

Secretary Taft should drop in on Tsi An, Empress of China, and ask her what she means in permitting the boycotting of American goods by China.

How's This?

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Gov. Blanchard and Gov. Vardaman might be in a better mood for discussion of their differences if they were to follow the example of the Governors of the Carolinas.

A Chicago boy shot a politician whom he mistook for a burglar. The Chicago burglar would prefer being shot to being mistaken for a politician.

It will wash and not rub off
This complexion all envy me,
It's no secret so I'll tell
Take thou Rocky Mountain Tea.
—Z. W. Nichols.