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ASHEVILLE DAILY CITIZEN. By RANDOLPH-KERR PRINTING CO.

THE DAILY CITIZEN, Democratic, is published every afternoon (except Sunday) at the following rates—strictly cash: ONE YEAR \$6.00, SIX MONTHS \$3.00, THREE MONTHS \$1.50, ONE MONTH .50, ONE WEEK .15.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

GRANDMOTHER BLAIR seems to be in a sorry fix. The United States don't want him and the Chinese government won't have him.

The question in a nut shell is this: Shall Asheville in the future be the home of the civilized man or the habitat of hogs, tad-poles and mud-turtles?

The preliminary canvass discloses the fact that the owners of at least three-fourths of the taxable property of the city are in favor of the improvement bill. In fact, nearly all the largest taxpayers are in favor of taxing their real estate for the improvement of the streets.

Dr. J. WILLIAM JONES, of Richmond, a Baptist minister of prominence and character, and author of a number of valuable biographies of prominent southern men, has written a letter in the Atlanta Journal in which he charges that the great explorer, Henry M. Stanley, was a deserter from the confederate army during the civil war. Mr. Jones says Stanley enlisted in the confederate army at New Orleans, but subsequently deserted and joined the union army.

THERE was a marked difference in the positions of the two candidates for mayor of Asheville, as published in THE CITIZEN yesterday. Mr. H. T. Collins "did not want it if the people did not want it," and would not say whether he would even vote for it. Mr. Blanton said plainly and unequivocally that he was heartily in favor of the general improvement bill as well as the school appropriation bill. The friends of these measures can have no doubt for whom to cast their votes on Monday.

Can We Afford to Defeat the Measure?

We would like to know if the opponents of the improvement measure have ever seriously considered the consequences to Asheville of defeating it. Surely they have not, else they could not stand as they do. It may be that these gentlemen solace themselves with the reflection that if this measure be defeated the people will vote the same appropriation for the necessary improvement of our streets and the enlargement and extension of our sewerage system, the interest on the bonds issued therefor, and the bonds themselves at maturity to be paid by the levying of an ad valorem tax. We want to inform these gentlemen right now, if such be their hope, in our humble opinion they are buying a delusive phantom. The poor men of Asheville, if they are not absolutely and hopelessly blind to their own best interests, will infinitely prefer the proposed plan for the necessary improvement to be made in our streets, to any such inequitable, unjust and burdensome system as an ad valorem tax. An ad valorem tax to pay for the improvements would require too much of their hard earnings for the benefits they would receive; it would require too little of the wealth of those who would get the direct benefits. It would, in a word, be too heavy on the poor and too light on the rich. In fact it would be so heavy on the poor men—the men with no real estate at all, and the men with little homes on cross streets that will not be paved perhaps in twenty years, and so light on the rich men; the men with large frontage on principal streets; the men who would get richer still by reason of the paving, and who are, therefore, better able to bear the burden of the cost of it—that it would inevitably bankrupt the city to carry, and ultimately pay, the debt she would have to create in order to make the absolutely necessary improvements. Added to all this, it is extremely doubtful whether the bonds securing such a debt as the city would have to create, could be sold, for it is the opinion of competent financiers that Asheville is now carrying about as large a debt on the ad valorem plan of taxation as she can afford. But on the plan proposed the city can pay her one-third and the abutting owners their one-third each, and the general tax-payer will not be burdened and the abutting owners will not only not be burdened but greatly benefited—in many instances enormously enriched.

But aside from all these considerations can Asheville afford to have this improvement measure defeated? She poses as the most progressive, enterprising city in the state, with few equals in the south. Her people have succeeded in everything they have ever undertaken. They have known no such word as fail. When it was proposed to hold the Southern immigration convention in Asheville, and her people were called on to bear the expense, they responded with an alacrity and liberality in every sense worthy of the character she sustains. When Maj. Bingham proposed to bring his school to Asheville if her people would give him certain material encouragement, the encouragement was given and the school secured in almost the twinkling of an eye. It is the undaunted spirit of progress, manifested on occasions like these, that has made Asheville the pride of her own citizens, and the wonder and the envy of the outside world.

And now that Asheville has presented to her the greatest of all her opportunities is she going to forfeit her fair renown and prove herself unworthy the character she has established? Now that she has a chance to take a step that will put her success as a city beyond question, is she going to listen to the false alarms sounded by narrow, selfish men and take a step backward that she can never retrace? Surely not! For the men of nerve and daring say not. The poor man, who sees his true interest, says not. The men who have made Asheville what she is, and who have not been afraid to risk their money on her future, say not. And again we say, surely not!

THE SUPREME COURT. Business of Interest in Western North Carolina. Patton vs. city of Asheville; appeal reinstated by consent and case continued. Randall vs. Railroad—Madison; no error. Marshall vs. Bank, from Macon; no error. Meredith vs. railroad, from Buncombe; no error. Guider vs. Penland, from Buncombe; no error. Johnston vs. Johnson, from Buncombe; modified and affirmed. Dover vs. Ray, from Madison; new trial.

Parochial Schools. It is claimed that the views held by authorities of the Catholic church in Rome on the school question in the United States are that Catholics in this country should have parochial schools in all parishes where it is possible, and that these schools should in every instance be equal to those of the State. Where it is impossible to do this schools should be established in which catechism may be taught, or the State should be persuaded to permit instruction in the catechism outside the hours regularly appointed for the ordinary school subjects, as is done in Germany.

Smokers Will Contribute to the Profits of a Single Company. From the New York Sun. "Considering the one brief year's existence of the American tobacco company of 45 Broadway, and its success in absorbing 99 per cent. of the cigarette trade of America and 98 per cent. of the smoking trade there is a pardonable curiosity as to the nature of the organs of the company," said a well known tobacco dealer yesterday. At the offices of the company all that could be learned of the reported transfer to the company of the property of Gail & Ax at Baltimore, valued at \$500,000, and of Marburg Brothers' factory, also at Baltimore, valued at \$400,000, is that negotiations are under way at Baltimore for the purchase of the property.

"There is no doubt," continued the dealer, "that the papers either have signed or will be signed as soon as the expert from New York city, employed by the American Tobacco company to determine the value of the plants, shall make his report. The sale will be consummated in a week, and the change will take place within sixty days." The purchase of the property of G. W. Gail & Ax and of the Marburg Brothers is a new departure. Five tobacco firms, dealing almost entirely in cigarettes, first made up the trust or company, viz: Allen & Ginter, of Kinney Brothers, of this city, Duke, Sons & Co., of New York and Durham, W. S. Kimball, of Rochester, and Goodwin & Co. It would seem that, having secured control of the cigarette trade, the company have now No use in prices of smoking tobacco or cigarettes as yet, and the company declare there will be none.

The advantages to the company are that they will employ fewer agents than formerly in drumming up business and will maintain fewer offices in big cities at high rents and high salaries; but chiefly, the company saves money for its members by stopping the distribution of colored pictures to accompany each box sold. Millions of these pictures were scattered broadcast over the country. It is said that the individual firms now composing the American Tobacco Company spent \$250,000 a year in colored pictures. Now there remains no longer any competition worthy of the name. Each individual firm continues to manufacture its own peculiar brand, and the purchaser selects what he likes.

There is also an advantage to the jobbers and retailers, since they get a rebate from the purchase price. The rebate, however, is provisional. The factories of the company, except that of Duke, Sons & Co., of this city, will eventually be removed to Baltimore.

A CARD TO VOTERS. Surely This Should Silence all Objections. The undersigned candidates for mayor and aldermen, having been asked to state our views on certain features of the measure for the improvement of the streets of Asheville, beg leave to say that in case we are elected and the improvement bill is adopted we will not allow or permit the issuance of more than one hundred thousand dollars of bonds at any one time for the improvement of the streets and sidewalks, and that each one hundred thousand shall be entirely spent for this purpose before any more shall be issued.

During our term of office in case any one is unable to pay the assessment on his lot we will not allow his lot to be sold so long as he will pay eight per cent. interest on the assessment. C. D. BLANTON, H. T. COLLINS, FRED. A. HILL, J. B. BEARD, W. T. REYNOLDS, T. C. BROWN, T. C. STARNES, C. B. LEONARD.

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JAMES FRANK, DEALER IN FAMILY GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS. Agent for Reema Creek Woolen Mills. North Main Street Asheville, N. C. J. W. SCHARTLE, MERCHANT TAILOR. NO. 42 NORTH MAIN ST. Just received, a full line of English and domestic wools for spring and summer. feb24d6m

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