

The French Broad Hunter.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

HENDERSONVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1908

State Library

Com. No. 36

Offices Bought and Sold in Henderson County!

Conditions in this county are simply intolerable and unbearable to a liberty loving, self-reliant and self-respecting people. But the half, nay the tenth, has not been told. We are a WHITE people up here in Henderson County—Anglo-Saxon to the core—descended from the mountain boys who went down to Kings Mountain and to Guilford Court House and met Cornwallis and his men and sent them on to Yorktown to surrender—descended from brave Confederate and Federal soldiers, who were not afraid to meet death on the battlefield in defense of principles each thought to be right. We justly and naturally feel that we are entitled to the largest and fullest measure of local self-government compatible with the institutions of a free people if we are to have it at all. At present only about one officer out of every twenty-five in the county is elected by popular vote, to say nothing of the tax collector and school superintendent, the ringsters are howling about.

Our present Sheriff, R. P. Freeman, who, by the way is a Republican and a splendid young man, was appointed to his office by the County Commissioners. He is also the County Treasurer by virtue of his office as Sheriff, and handles and pays out all tax money in the county, and yet the voters of the county had no say in his election, nor did they have any voice in selection of his predecessor, Jesse S. Rhodes, who was appointed to the office by the Legislature of 1905 upon the recommendation of the present Republican candidate for Lieutenant-Governor, and at the request of no other citizen of the county. Then there are the assistant registrars of deeds, J. D. Davis and Miss Juno Morris, excellent people and good officers, but neither of them were elected to office by the voters of the county. On the contrary they were appointed to office by one man. This is the best paying office in the county—the emoluments amounting annually to about three thousand dollars. The man who was elected to fill this office "farmed it out," paying about nine hundred dollars to get the work of the office done and putting into his own pockets the balance. And complaint is made that he has not even visited the office on an average of once a month since his election two years ago. Such a condition of affairs the people ought not to be forced to tolerate.

Then too, we have eight tax lists each year to fill important places and twenty-four tax assessors each four years. These officers get good salaries, paid out of taxes contributed by all the people of the county and yet the people have no voice in the selection of these officers. In fact, these important officers are usually selected from the peanut cross-roads politicians whose only qualification is the ability to wire pull in the elections, or to use successfully a part of the

biennial corruption fund amongst the voters. They are appointed by these men who hold office by virtue of the efficient use of a corruption fund in the county elections, not the voice of the people. Then we have also a jailor and about half dozen deputy sheriffs appointed by the Sheriff, who was appointed by these same county commissioners, who are elected as aforesaid. The poor devil who goes to jail has no voice in the selection of the officers who are to arrest him and keep him in jail and attend his daily wants. These officers are forced upon him as upon the good people of the county, against his will, and often times over his protest.

Who cannot see the shame and the humiliation in the whole thing to the good people of Henderson County? Descended from Norman Kings, inheritors of Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights and denied even these small privileges! But this is not all. We have about fifteen post-offices in the county, the incumbents of which receive in salaries from six to ten thousand dollars per year; about ten rural mail carriers with salaries amounting to about seven thousand dollars per year, one deputy U.S. Marshal, one U.S. Commissioner, and one man in the revenue service at Statesville. Good officers all, but the people of Henderson County—free and white—have no voice in the selection of any of them.

Then, too, we are burdened with outside officers, such as Federal Judges and Marshals, with whose election to office the people of this white county have nothing whatever to do. These are only a few of the many instances of the denial to the people of Henderson County of local self-government, which could be added to the list suggested.

The conditions in this county are truly deplorable. Local self-government seems a far off dream—a creature of the poet's imagination. Even when we have the opportunity to elect an officer by popular vote the popular will is not expressed, but rather the popular power of money to buy votes.

This county pays annually about sixteen thousand dollars in an effort to elevate her citizenship through the public schools, and about four thousand biennially in an effort to debauch this same citizenship—the latter being usually more successfully spent, quite a considerable part of it being invested in whiskey.

Nor would we have it understood that these conditions are of recent growth. As far back as 1895 the Republican Legislature at one swoop poured out upon the county twenty-six justices of the peace, besides a Judge and clerk of a criminal court; this clerk being given the power to appoint the county supervisor of schools. And this, without the wish, desire or consent of the people of the county. Judge H. G. Ewart was in that Legislature and helped in this peanut political jobbery, even going so far as to accept, himself, the judgeship of the court he had helped to create and at a very decent salary, too. And R. S. McCall became solicitor by the same method. Not only this, but this same good man, H. G. Ewart, afterwards, without any popular election or other expression of the will of our people, broke into office of a Federal Judgeship, but failed, as is well known, to hold it down, on account of the friendship (?) of Marion Butler.

From this time (1895) on to

Continued on last page

JOHN W. KERN IN ASHEVILLE!

Hon. John W. Kern, democratic candidate for vice-presidency, delivered a fine address in Asheville on Monday. The crowd is said to have been the greatest ever in that city since Bryan spoke there in 1896.

The town was gayly decorated and Mr. Kern, accompanied by a distinguished escort, in carriages, and with scores of mounted men at the head of the procession passed through streets crowded with a cheering multitude. The great Auditorium was completely filled by an attentive audience, who listened and expressed its approval of a logical, interesting and plain-spoken speech.

Hon. W. J. Coker introduced Mr. Kern in a masterly speech. The distinguished gentleman from Indiana was cheered to the echo and every reference to Bryan threatened to lift the roof of the great structure so enthusiastic was the response from the vast audience to even the bare mention of the Great Commoner's name.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kern's speech, Col. S. V. Pickens proposed a cheer for the next vice-president of the United States. Gov. Glenn said, "Make it three." And it was three. Such a volume of enthusiastic cheering has probably never been heard before.

Among Mr. Kern's escort were: Governor Glenn, Locke Craig, Mayor Campbell, Congressman Crowsford, and many other distinguished men.

K. G. Justus Home.

K. G. Justus has returned to this city, from Newberry, S. C. He is under a \$500 bond, one of the wealthiest men of that city, and one of his former creditors going his security.

It is said Mr. Justus went through bankruptcy proceedings before he left Newberry previously. He had taken several large contracts and had lost considerable money on them. Instead of \$7,700 the amount involved is said to be about \$1,000, and that the proceedings against him charging him with fraud were started through a misunderstanding of the true facts in the case, and that there was no intention of fraud.

Mr. Justus will remain in Hendersonville about two weeks when he returns to Newberry where he has contracts for three houses. He is now making his arrangements to carry out these contracts.

Mr. Juseus' standing in Newberry is said to be excellent and he has many friends in the South Carolina city who are glad to know he will return there within a few days.

Taxes and Water.

Your town tax is due. Your water rent is due. Your water will be cut off if not paid soon, and that won't be pleasant and besides will cost you a dollar more so why don't you see S. Y. Bryson at the city hall at once and settle?

Simmons Coming

United States Senator F. M. Simmons will speak at the court house in this city on Monday, October 26th.

Henderson Fruit

Aw, you can talk about politics, or art, or John Grant all you want to, but for our part give us potatoes—potatoes such as Mr. A. F. Drake and Dr. C. Few have on exhibition in this news shop right now. But don't tell Ed Brooks, for, say, that man certainly has a weakness in the direction of Henderson county fruit.

Mr. Drake's exhibition consists of three Burbank potatoes, fine, smooth, well shaped and of remarkable size. He planted two bushels of seed and dug seventy-five bushels of potatoes and will have them for sale all winter. These potatoes are about the best we have yet seen, of their kind.

Dr. Few has two potatoes on exhibition. Only two—and it's fortunate there are no more or the front office would not hold them. They are sweet potatoes, of truly gigantic size, one a reddish color of a variety which is unfamiliar even to us. The Doctor is a truthful man, a member in good standing of the Methodist church. He is known by everyone in the county and we hesitate to bring any charge against him reflecting on his character. He is young, active and will defend his honor but we don't think he can run as fast as we can, so, when he deliberately says that he had one potato larger than either one of these he has on exhibition in this office we get right up and say, and say it clearly, boldly and distinctly, that we don't believe it! For we know, we KNOW, that sweet potatoes couldn't grow any larger! There now!

Deposits Doubled.

The deposits of the Citizen's Bank have doubled since their last statement, July 15th. An increase of one hundred per cent in the deposits of any bank in so short a time is said to be really remarkable and indicates the standing of this institution amongst its home folks.

Harmony Singing.

There will be an old time Christian Harmony Singing on Oct. 18th (third Sunday in this month) at the Holiness Baptist Church, led by S. W. Hamilton and T. J. Shipman. All are earnestly invited to be present.

Ordered Rails for New Railroad.

Louis P. Hyder, son of J. P. and brother of Lum, who was married by Squire Morrow but who didn't stay married, Louis P. Hyder, we remarked, has been in correspondence with the Steel Trust in reference to buying steel rails for a new railroad. Sheriff Freeman has the answer from that corporation to the letter of Lewis, asking for further information about the matter, but Lewis says he's agoin' to build that road just the same. Tuesday, J. P. Hyder told the genial Sheriff that Lewis was crazy (he's Lum's brother, you know) and he wanted his son locked up, he was dangerous.

Now, Sheriff Freeman's hotel is plump full, running over with guests, the Sheriff is that popular, he is. So to accommodate Lewis the Sheriff got carpenters and built just the cutest little cage and then started to arrest Lewis but he had done disappeared and has not yet been captured.

The Sheriff and his deputies are looking for him, as he is said to be dangerous and has threatened to burn his father's barn and do other disagreeable things.

Charley Toms Roasts the Radicals!

HE TELLS OF THE SPLENDID RECORD OF DEMOCRACY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Following is the full text of speech delivered by Charles French Toms at Rutherfordton, N. C., Sept. 5, 1904, in accepting the nomination for State Senator.

SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF CONVENTION:—DAVID B. HILL once said, "I am a Democrat," and that expression has become almost as famous as Mr. Hill himself. If a man should ask me if I was a Democrat I would answer him like the old fellow in Texas, in response to the same question, "Just as good a one as I have got sense to know how to be." But if a man should ask me if M. L. Shipman was a Democrat I would answer him that he is like one of these live electric wires—he is charged so full of Democracy it would knock an ordinary Republican down to touch him.

I appreciate what Mr. Shipman and Mr. Kucker have said in nominating me, and I desire to thank them for their kind words.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we will have a great deal of speechmaking here to-day, and some of us may get worried; so I shall take no great length of time in addressing you. But a few remarks about our party will not be out of place.

We have to-day gathered as the representatives of the Democratic Party—a party whose rule in North Carolina has been so satisfactory that the people of the State have no complaint to make. This nomination comes to me to-day in a twofold pleasant capacity. In the first place, I am proud that I have so conducted myself that the grand old county of Henderson could say to the other counties of the district, "Here is a man who will carry out the solemn trust of legislating for you." And secondly, I esteem it because just thirty-two years ago I first saw the light of day, and hence it is a birthday gift from the Democracy of this people, and as such I receive it at your hands, and I pledge you that the banner of Democracy shall never trail in the dust so long as I am able to lift my voice in defense of her principles.

PAST RECORD OF THE PARTY.

The record of our party in the past has been glorious. In the old days we followed that leader of leaders, Zebulon B. Vance. His word in North Carolina was the law of the party, and his loyalty was the loyalty of the party. His record was as glorious in peace as in war. He was elected Governor, and returned from the battlefield, leaving 128,000 patriotic North Carolinians writing for North Carolina a page in history that time will not efface. And when the war was over and the clouds of battle had dispersed, he was found yet in the forefront, reconstructing the government of the State, in order that the people might again be happy. He delivered her from carpet-bag rule, and when she desired some one with the skill and ability necessary to steer the ship of State in those troublous times, and later to represent her at the National Capital, he was called upon to serve; and when he finally passed away, to use the language of Senator Ransom, "All North Carolina was sad, from the mountains to the sea."

THE ERA OF NEGRO DOMINATION.

Time passed on, and the Democratic Party needed another leader. A dark cloud rested upon the State; negro domination cast its black shadow over the land. A cry went up from eastern North Carolina, heard even to the west, asking the people to do something to relieve them in their intolerable condition. And so another leader was needed, and, like Vance, he came forth, and like a great general he carried us once again to victory. I refer to the Hon. F. M. Simmons. We have conferred upon him the highest honor this State can confer, but that honor fades into insignificance when we look upon his great services. He is a man of sagacity, prudence and ability. But the Democratic Party had more generals than one to fight its battles, and when it put forth the amendment it called into service the matchless Aycock, our Governor, who is, as you all know, an orator and a statesman, and whose voice has been raised only for the good of North Carolina and her inhabitants. The amendment carried, but another trouble arose. The youth who became of age after 1908 and was illiterate would be disfranchised. This must not be so; and therefore Governor Aycock sought to educate the people, and lifted his voice in behalf of education in every portion of the State. He has stood by the sea and upon the everlasting mountains, declaring that the people of North Carolina must be educated, and he has, from his devotion to the cause of education, been knighted with the name of "The Educational Governor," which

will be an honor to himself and to his posterity.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE.

Now let us look into the future. The brightest star in the firmament of North Carolina politics to-day is a man whose name is a household word in North Carolina—Robert B. Glenn. Robert B. Glenn will not have to become a great man, for he is already great. He will not have to become an orator, for he is already one of the first water. He will be elected Governor in name only, for he is a ruler of men wherever he is known. The people of North Carolina know his worth, and are proud of him. They will be prouder of him than ever after he has been Governor one year.

You have to-day nominated two Senators, and they will be elected in November, and you have the right to ask the question, What will you do when you get to the Legislature?

In the first place, we stand immovable and fixed upon the Democratic platform of the State. If you will read that instrument you will find, among other things, that our party points to with pride:

1. To the settlement of the negro issue in North Carolina, and takes all the blame and credit—all the credit to itself.
2. It pledges itself to educate the children of the State and to strengthen the free-school system.
3. It approves of the general principles of the Watts bill and comes out for temperance.
4. It pledges that the State Prison shall be run upon successful financial lines.
5. It calls attention to the fact that the Insurance Department increases our receipts \$90,000.
6. It says that the system of taxation shall be fair and just.
7. That the State debt has been adjusted upon a fair and honorable basis.
8. It promises better pensions to the Confederate heroes of the Civil War.
9. To look out and care for the insane and helpless.
10. To fight improper and illegal receiverships.
11. Favors the Appalachian Park reserve.
12. Declares Democratic rule necessary in this government.
13. Denounces the present iniquitous, unjust and trust-creating tariff imposed upon the people by the Republican Party.

Gentlemen of the Convention, when I go to the Senate of North Carolina I go there upon these principles. These are the principles and the chart which I shall follow, and by these rules I will steer my political barque in the troublesome waters of legislation.

One more word and I shall close. Jim Gudgeon must and will go back to Congress. He has proved himself an able representative and a man loved by our people. But let us hope that when he packs his gripsack and reaches the beautiful city of Washington he will find it peopled with victorious Democrats, from President down.

In this connection, have you ever thought about who the Republicans have to vote for this year? I will tell you:

1. A man who was not elected President by a vote of the people of the United States, but by a bullet fired by an assassin, which terminated the life of one of the grandest and greatest characters who ever honored the Republican Party.
2. A man who has gone into partnership with the trusts, and a man who, when Congress put money at the disposal of his administration to break up trusts, refused to use that money for the purposes for which it was appropriated.
3. A man who defied Congress and put into operation a service pension law.
4. A man who desired to recognize the independence of Panama before she achieved her independence.
5. A man who defied the rules of the army and promoted an officer over 800 of his fellows because he fought with him at Santiago.
6. A man who insulted the people of the South by eating with a negro at the White House, and refused the people of Indiana, Miss., mail service because they would not have a negro postmistress.
7. A man who, as it is charged by the Washington Post, has shown partiality in the preparation of pension papers in the department.
8. A man who loves war and hates peace.

This, my friends, is the character of the man the Republican Party is called upon to swallow this year.

On the contrary, the Democrats have nominated as the adversary of President Roosevelt a man far-famed as a scholar and a jurist, and, more than all, a true man in every sense of the word.

In the harbor of New York there stands a great statue, a gift of the people of France to the people of the United States. It is the form of a woman standing upon a high pedestal and holding aloft in her uplifted hand a mighty torch which every night faithfully throws its intense light far out to the sea, so that countless souls upon the drifting and restless ocean may be piloted into a safe harbor. It is called "Liberty Enlightening the World."

The Democratic Party, realizing this to be a year when our country is in the peril of disgrace, went, like France, to New York and elevated Alton B. Parker to its highest pedestal, and has placed in his hand the lamp of liberty from off its sacred altar, burning with unquenchable fire of patriotism, in order that he might enlighten the world to the fact that our party affords the only harbor of safety and prosperity, and that the American people have stood about as much Republican hypocrisy and greed as they intend to stand.

In conclusion I desire to again thank you for this honor and your attention.