

THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT.

Published Every Thursday by
W. E. HOLBROOK, EDITOR AND PROP.

Entered at the Post Office at Hickory
as second class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One Year Cash In Advance	\$1.00
Six Months " " "	50
Three Months " " "	25

Advertising Rates.

Transient	20 cents an inch.
Preferred Position	15 " " "
Yearly Contracts	10 " " "

Thursday, July 8, 1909.

The new government building should have been located on the lot now occupied by the Hickory Grocery Co. and the new Shuford block. With practically all the city's business and a large majority of the residences on the North side of the railroad it was a mistake to put the postoffice on the other side of the track. However, it has been decided and there is probably no chance of a change, so it is up to our citizens to turn in and make the best of it.

The Southern Field, published at Washington in the interests of the South, is one of the most valuable publications issued anywhere for residents of this section. Every issue is full of information regarding the resources of the South, and it could be read with profit by every resident of the state. We shall in the future quote largely from it, in order that our readers may have the information which it gives, and which would otherwise not reach them.

Probably the most absurd newspaper sensation which has recently been sprung on a long suffering public is the proposed attempt by the Chicago Blade to send a balloon to Africa and take aerial pictures of the jungle and its inhabitants. The Blade is one of those papers which cater to the lower tastes of humanity, being made up of little else but stories of murder, divorce and other scandals, with staring head lines, colored pictures and other accompaniments in police record style. The much advertised trip may be a fake and may not, although the probabilities seem to be largely in favor of the former.

TOWN ACCOUNTS.

The Lexington Dispatch makes these pertinent remarks about town accounts.

The Catawba County News and THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT do not exactly like the way their respective towns make out annual statements. THE DEMOCRAT says that Hickory's statement was like the young wife's cash account, to wit:

"Received \$50 from Charlie. Spent it all."

The same complaint arises in almost every town. There is too much that is hazy and vague. A customer insists on his merchant itemizing every article; the citizen should insist on the town going into details. It isn't enough to say, "Sundries, \$100." People ought to know what sundries cover. Sundries lots of times cover a multitude of sins and graft. Town government all over the country is a dead failure. Exceptions stand out like stars. We have harped a lot on local self-government, but we as a people haven't learned the art. A town should be run as a business institution.

Everybody says so. Few try to make it so. Indifference on the part of the citizenship is directly responsible for all our ills, not only in municipal government but in state and national affairs. We elect men to run the business and promptly forget all about it.

BOND SALES.

The following from W. J. Bryan's Commoner, is exactly in line with THE DEMOCRAT'S recent editorial suggestion regarding the sale of Hickory's highway bonds to the local investor instead of selling them in a bunch to be peddled out at a profit.

May or Carleson of Jamestown, N. Y., is urging upon his citizens the policy of issuing bonds in small denominations, when bonds have to be issued, with the idea of encouraging the purchase of bonds by the people in the city. This plan is certainly a wise one, and the only objection to it is that it does not please the high financiers. The Wall Street magnates endeavor to create the impression that no bonds can be sold until they are underwritten at a nice profit by some prominent New York firm. There is no reason, however, why the people of a city should not buy and hold the bonds which are issued for improvements. The city bond is a most excellent form of investment, and there is no reason why the denomination of the bonds should not be small enough to permit the holding of them by the industrial masses. The only difference between a bond and a savings bank account is that the money in the savings bank can be withdrawn upon giving the required notice, while bonds run for several years. This, however, can be, to a certain extent, remedied if the city will authorize the treasurer to keep a record of persons desiring to sell bonds and of persons desiring to buy so that the parties can be brought together, and it is probable that a person desiring to sell could, within a short time, find a purchaser; at least it is worth while for a city to make the experiment.

Confederate Constitution.

There has been deposited in the library of Congress and placed on exhibition in the manuscripts' division, the original engrossed "Permanent constitution of the Confederate States of America."

The constitution was adopted March 11, 1861, by the Confederate Congress at Montgomery, Ala., and signed by delegates from South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. When the capital was moved to Richmond, it was carried to that city, and upon the evacuation of Richmond, was sent with other papers farther South, where it was rescued by Mr. F. G. DeFontaine, at Chester, S. C., from a band of looters.

Mr. DeFontaine kept this and other documents for some years, and, in 1883, it passed into the hands of Mrs. G. W. J. DeRenne whose son, Mr. J. DeRenne, of Savannah, Ga., now owns it, and has recently deposited it, as a loan, with the librarian of Congress.

The Sister States.

Probably the sister states are: Missouri, the Misses Sippi, Ida Ho, Mary Land, Gallie Fornia, Allie Bama, Louisa Anna, Della Ware and Minnie Sota.—Letts Iowa Record.

[What's the matter with Indie Anna, Vir Jinnie and Carrie Lina.]

ON THE OCEAN.

Interesting Letter From Mr. E. B. Cline Regarding His Trip Abroad.

Editor of the DEMOCRAT: Before this can possibly reach you the metropolitan newspapers will have already contained accounts of the loss of the Cunard steamship "Slavonia," which sailed from New York for the Mediterranean on the same day we left on the Hamburg-American line steamer "Batavia." Still you may like to hear it first hand.

We had fine weather and a smooth sea, with nothing of special interest until Thursday noon, June 10, when our operator on the Marconi wireless caught a message from the "Slavonia," which had preceded us on a more Northwestern course, saying she had run on the rocks in a fog on the island Flores, the most Northwesterly of the Azores group, had landed her passengers on the beach, and was lying in a dangerous condition. Our ship immediately changed its course, making all speed to her assistance. At the same time we called to the "Princess Irene," sailing about 50 miles behind. She also made haste, and at 9 p. m. the "Batavia" lay to about one mile off the coast where the "Slavonia's" 500 passengers had been landed, the "Irene" coming in two hours later. A small boat soon put off to us, and a ship officer, calling "Ship ahoy" from far down on the dark waves and using all the formality of the sea, requested us to receive the "Slavonia's" passengers.

At 4 a. m. the work of the transfer began. Our small boats and those from the wrecked ship would bring them over and we received them by a long swinging gang-way with much difficulty and no little danger, one sailor being thrown into the sea, but immediately rescued. The officers and seamen worked without food or rest until the last person was transferred, we taking about 300 and the "Irene" carrying the remainder. The crew of the "Slavonia" remained with the ship, but her machine room is full of water and she is reported breaking up, with no hope of saving her. The night was reported foggy and raining slightly, and her captian had gotten 12 or 15 miles out of his course in the intense darkness. To see the rescue of babies in arms and sick and crying women was worth coming across the world.

As I write this we are under steam and running along St. Miguel, the largest island of the Azores. The view is most beautiful, a number of white villages lying peacefully in the sun near the water's edge, with green fields all laid out in perfect order rising behind. The sea indeed hides its tragedies and quickly covers its scars. The captain of our ship and his crew are worthy of all praise and we accord it gladly.

We should be at Gibraltar in three days more, and then through to Naples before this can be posted. Our hearts are joyfully crying as did those men of old, "The sea, the sea."

Sincerely yours,

E. B. Cline.

The State's Resources.

The wide diversity of resources possessed by North Carolina was recently well shown by the Battery Park Hotel of Asheville in the issuance of a bill of fare. Everything upon the card, except the sea foods and including the type and illustrations, was produced in North Carolina, and the card itself was but three weeks before a part of a hemlock tree in Haywood county.

The people who advertise in the Democrat are the people that give you real bargains in what you buy.

A Boy's Essay on Politeness.

Politeness is rather a difficult thing, especially when you are making a start. Many people haven't got it. I don't know why, unless it is the start. It is not polite to fight little boys, except they throw stones at you. Then you can run after them, and, when you've caught them, just do a little bit at them, that's all. Remember that all little boys are simpletons, or they wouldn't do it. It is not the thing to make fun of a little chap because he is poorer than you. Let him alone if you don't want to play with him, for he is as good as you, except the clothes. When you are in school, and a boy throws a bit of bread or anything at you over the desks, it is not polite to put your tongue out at him, or to twiddle your fingers in front of your nose. Just wait till after school, and then warn him what you'll do next time; or, if you find you are bound to hit him, be pretty easy with him. Don't keep on eating

after you are tightening, and you will be far happier. Never eat quickly, or you might get bones in your throat. My father knows of a boy who got killed over his Sunday dinner. It is not polite to leave victuals on your plate, especially anything you don't like. If you don't like turnips, it is better to eat well into your turnips first, while you are hungry, and you'll eat the meat and potatoes easy enough afterward. Boys should always be polite to girls, however vexing they may be. Girls are not so strong as boys; their hair is long, and their faces are prettier; so you should be gentle with them. If a girl scratches you on the cheek, don't punch her, and don't tell her mother. That would be mean. Just hold her tight by the arms till she feels you could give it to her if you had a mind to.

Children Cry
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Buys a good suit this week at
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We have about 50 suits in medium and small size left over from last season that we are closing out at \$5.00.

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This includes 500 Men's and Boys' Suits, 5000 Pairs of Shoes, all sizes, and a Full Line of Dress Goods.

This is no fake sale. We mean business. Buying entirely for cash we can offer values never before seen in this town.

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