

THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT.

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

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Thursday, July 15, 1909.

The Evening Mascot, of Statesville, has been discontinued, as has also the Iredell County Mascot, and in their place appears the Statesville Sentinel, which will be published semi-weekly. We are sorry to record the demise of the Mascot, but it was to have been expected. The man who tries to publish a long primer paper in a brevier town is surely up against a hard proposition.

In various parts of the state "cleaning up days" are in progress, societies are being organized for improving the physical conditions, and streets and public places are being beautified in various ways. Why is not Hickory doing something of this sort? This town is not accustomed to bringing up the rear in the march of public improvement, and it should not be behind hand in this movement.

There are some of our streets in which cleaning is badly needed. The condition of the alley behind Union Square, for instance, is nothing less than a disgrace. Filled with dirt and debris of all sorts, it is not only an eye sore, but is a menace to the health of the community. Twelfth avenue, too, between 13th and 14th streets, is made a dumping ground for all the refuse of the neighborhood. Old residents say there has not been a dollar spent there for years, and it certainly looks like it. Why do not our people organize a civic league, a village improvement society, or something of the sort, and improve the conditions under which we live?

A GAME OF GRAB.

Our esteemed neighbor, the Times-Mercury, does not want paper put on the free list because that would be selfish, and because "such a theory would make tariff-making only a scramble of interests, each to get what it wants either in the way of high or low duties." With all due respect for the editor's noble spirit of self sacrifice we should like him to explain what else the tariff is. The debates on the subject show that the whole thing is simply a game of grab and graft. Before he was elected president James A. Garfield said that any tariff which would provide sufficient revenue would give all our industries sufficient protection, and that is as true today as when he said it.

The tariff has been steadily increasing with the progress of years, until it is now, on many articles, practically prohibitory. And its worst feature is that its heaviest burden falls on those least able to bear it. The Republican party has fallen from its once high estate to become the humble servant of the predatory rich, and the most lamentable feature of the whole affair is that not a few so-called Dem-

ocrats are found willing to aid their party opponents in robbing the people.

The old cry of "Protect American Labor" has become a by-word of scorn. If there is any man who derives absolutely no benefit from the tariff it is the laboring man. His already small wages are cut into to further enrich the Rockefellers, the Carnegies and others of that class, while his children, who should be in school, are forced to wear out their young lives in toil to help out the father's scanty earnings. It is no wonder that the cult of socialism is spreading, and one of these days there will be an outbreak which will send the criminal rich to their knees in terror. The Aldriches, the Paynes names their motto, "After me the deluge," but the deluge may come in their time and then there will be woe for those who have robbed the people.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING.

Hon. Thomas P. Gore, the blind senator from Oklahoma, in a recent speech on the tariff in the senate, said: "Not only does the Government tax the press, tax the type, and tax the paper of the editor and printer, but it enters into active competition with them. The Government advertises for business, solicits business, and accepts contracts to print private cards, or, rather, to print the names of private parties upon stamped envelopes. There are many socialists in this country, and when their theories are adopted in practice, then, and not till then, should the General Government enter into competition with the private citizen for private business of this description."

It is a fact that the printing business is the only one in which the government enters into competition with the private citizen. It is so careful about this that it will not even give the people the parcels post system which they have so long demanded, for fear of interfering with the swollen profits of the express magnates. But it will do at cost work which rightfully belongs to the local printer and thus take away millions worth of dollars worth of business from him. It is all on a par with our tariff system, the only effect of which is to rob the poor to make still wealthier the rich, who are already too rich. That "Government of the people, by the people and for the people," which was Lincoln's ideal, has not only "perished from the face of the earth," but has been succeeded by one whose chief object seems to be to despoil the people.

Good Roads.

The County Commissioners have issued a long and labored statement, purporting to explain why they did not levy a tax, as allowed by law, for road improvement. It is, in effect, that the tax would not provide enough money, in some cases, to do all the work required to put the roads in good condition. This position seems to us to be very weak. "Rome was not built in a day," nor can we expect that all the roads in Catawba county can be put in perfect condition in a year. The proper course for the commissioners to pursue would have been to levy the tax and use it as far as it would go in improving the roads and leave the rest for another year. To leave all the roads of the county in bad condition because there was not

money enough to complete them all seems to be anything but wise. People are but just beginning to be aroused to the benefit of good roads. The county of Mecklenburg is said to be better known outside than any other county in the state, and this largely on account of its good roads. The good which such a reputation does to any section is almost incalculable. It attracts capital, attracts immigration, and gives benefits many times its cost. We have in Catawba county a soil which is particularly favorable to the building and maintenance of good roads, and to neglect such an obvious advantage is folly. It is the part of wisdom to use such natural advantages to their fullest extent, and it is earnestly desired that our county officials may be brought to see this matter in its true light.

Firemen's Tournament.

The Hickory boys sure had hard luck at the Asheville tournament. On the first day they made the fastest run of any of the contestants, but the extreme force of the water blew their nozzle off, so that they got no standing whatever. The pressure, 185 pounds, was about three times what is ordinarily used, so it is no wonder that so many were thrown out by it. Out of 14 contestants only four succeeded in getting water through. It was manifestly unfair for men from other places, who had been accustomed to using water at ordinary pressure.

On the second day a good run was made but the pipeman missed connections through nervousness and the boys were left again.

The Hickory horse was the best one shown there and received many compliments. On the first day he made the fastest run of any and on the second was only beaten by Asheville. Altogether the boys have no reason to be ashamed of their record in this contest.

Presbyterian Picnic.

Several wagon loads of happy children from the Presbyterian church, accompanied by a few of the older ones, went to Baker's mountain Tuesday for a picnic. They returned at night, somewhat dirtier but not less happy than when they started.

Two little boys, sons of E. L. Shuford and Frank Johnson, went up to the top of the mountain with a party, became separated from them, and, after a long search, were finally found on the other side of the hill.

Fearing the supply of water would be inadequate a barrel full was taken along. Arriving there it was found there was a beautiful spring. Mr. Baker said he wouldn't have his spring contaminated by the town water for a thousand dollars, while some from town said they wouldn't drink the spring water for a like amount, but there was enough of each to satisfy the tastes of all, so there was no difficulty. In addition to this the weather man provided an outpour which was wet enough to give everybody all that was needed.

One little girl lost her shoes and expects to have her feet blacked with shoe polish so that she can go to church next Sunday.

Popular Excursion to Richmond, Va., and Return, July 20, 1909.

Southern Railway announce that they will operate a popular excursion to Richmond, Va., on July 20th, handling first class day coaches and Pullman cars.

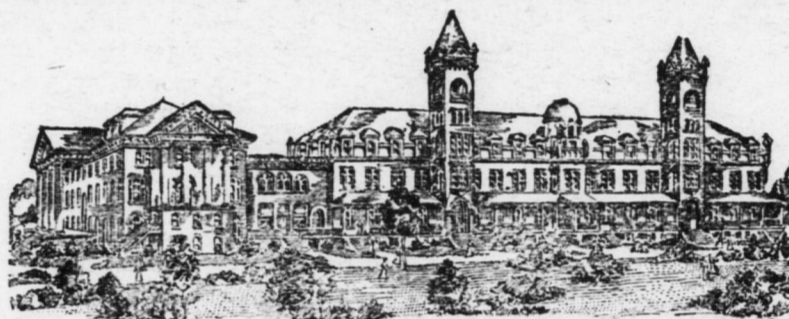
Following round trip rate will apply from Hickory, N. C., \$5.00. Separate cars for colored people.

For further information, see large flyers, or call on your depot agent.

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