

THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT.

Published Every Thursday
 HOWARD A. BANKS, Editor and Proprietor

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Thursday, December, 16 1909.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The undersigned has purchased the Hickory Democrat from Mr. W. C. Dowd.

The aim of the owner and editor will be to give the people of Hickory, of Catawba, and of adjacent counties where its logical territory may lie, a weekly home newspaper second to none in the State. This for the present. The future lures with large hopes, but a wise defender of an ancient city said to a braggart besieger, "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that taketh it off." Avoiding, therefore, profuse promise, it need only be said that the Democrat's best effort will be exerted to furnish the record of the week's events fully but concisely and always cleanly. The news of the city and county will be handled as completely as possible.

The news of the state and nation and of the world will be dealt with briefly, and the Democrat will not tread closely in the tracks of the big secular dailies nor of the weekly Church papers.

It may not be immodestly amiss to refer to an experience of 20 years. Schooled in the Woodfin Academy in Asheville and later at Davidson College and the State University, the writer has had training on the old Charlotte Chronicle where he served his journalistic apprenticeship under Robert Haydn; on the Winston Sentinel where he was associated with Chas. I. Stewart and R. E. Carmichael; the Charlotte Observer, where, under the chieftainship of Joseph P. Caldwell, he wrought side by side with Miss Addie Williams (Mrs. Caldwell), with Messrs. Gordon H. Cilley, J. C. Abernethy, H. E. C. Bryant, I. Erwin Avery and Wade H. Harris; the Evening Chronicle where he was a colleague of W. I. Underwood; the Asheville Gazette-News, with Walter Hildebrand, Stockton and Godbey; the York, Pa., Gazette, in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch settlement of the Keystone state; the Philadelphia Record, where he was associated with such metropolitan newspaper men as John P. Dwyer, Nathan B. Heath, Harry Baldwin, Peter Bolger, John Morgan, Harry P. Wilson, Gordon H. Cilley, Al Bailey and De Mar, prince of cartoonists; and the Charlotte News where he was associated with W. C. Dowd and J. C. Patton. He has worked in almost every position on a modern newspaper from the local staff to the managing editorship. The latter position held both on the Charlotte Observer and the York, Pa., Gazette.

During a lecture at which the writer introduced him, Henry Blount, North Carolina's inimitable philosopher, said something like this: "The milk-white steed of Opportunity, already bridled and saddled, gallops up to one's thresh old but once. If he is not instantly mounted the echoes of his fleet hoofs are heard dying away down the distant roadway of time, and it is too late." This spirited gray that Blount speaks of, headed Catawba-ward, has come our way and we find ourselves in the saddle. We cannot ride like a Cossack, but we hope there may be no bronchobucking in the way of disaster or misfortune severe enough to unhorse.

This is but another way of saying that Hickory furnishes the finest opportunity for a Democratic weekly to be found anywhere in the state. This little city nestling at the foot of the blue mountains—with its fine people, its pure air, its clear water, its remarkably diversified industries; its two railroads, its exceptionally fine schools and colleges, its spirit of progress, its present position as the commercial center of the section and its evident destiny as the big city between Charlotte and Salisbury on the east and Asheville on the west—pecked to implicit obedience. Irresistibly reinforcing this alluring summons was the fine country surrounding. Here the snowline of the Southern cotton melts under the glow of the sunshine of the Northern wheat harvests; here the apple blushes and ripens into Eve-tempting taste, and here a goodly land flows with milk and honey. And here we pitch our tent, thanking the good people for the warm welcome already extended, and craving their patient indulgence as we endeavor to give them an up-to-date newspaper.

We shall advocate among other things intensive farming, scientific forestry, and the building of good roads. We shall urge the thrifty homeseeker to head this way. We shall try to assist in the development of the splendid water power on the river. We shall plead for a system of trolleys radiating from this city in all directions. We shall favor long term schools and agricultural high schools. We shall hope to keep in touch with the splendid graded and high schools and colleges in the city.

This paper will have its convictions upon the great political and moral issues of the day, and will endeavor to present its views courageously yet at all times tolerantly, and without impugning the motives of others. In politics it will be Democratic, and hopes it may play a part in winning Catawba again to be the banner Democratic county of North Carolina. Born and reared in Buncombe, the editor of the paper grew up at one and the same time under the purple shadows of the Blue Ridge and under the inspiration of the towering name of Zeb Vance. It will stand for the democracy of Jefferson as interpreted by Vance. It will stand for the Democracy of "Old Hickory" in the town of new Hickory.

The Democrat believes in the policy of live and let live. It enters the field of local journalism with no jealousies and no prejudices. To its friend the enemy, the Times-Mercury; to Editor Holbrook, of the new paper; to Editor Chick, of the Nutshell; to Editors Mebane of the Catawba County News and Williams of the Newton Enterprise, and Editor Barger, of the Conover Tribune, it wishes long life and prosperity.

We remember once to have read a treatise on the field of the journalist by Col. Henry Waterson, in which, after defining his duty as a newsgather and as an exponent of pure Democracy, he added, "and finally, brethren, to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified." As an obscure admirer and follower of the last of the old Romans of the press, we may not say less than this. It is related of Tennyson that at a favorite summer place in England he was accustomed to pass the humble cottage of a fine but poor old woman. "What is the news, madam?" he asked one day. "I know only one piece of news, Sir Alfred," she answered, "and that is that Jesus Christ died for all men." "That," said the great poet after a thoughtful pause, "is old news, and good news, and new news!"

Somewhere in the paper we hope to have a corner for this old news, and good news, and new news, along with the rest or the news. They say the hickory bow is the sturdiest, and will send an arrow

the farthest and the truest. The Democrat hopes to be the stout string which may be fitted to the municipal bow of Hickory town, in order that it may send the arrows of intellectual, educational, moral and industrial progress straight away into the very heart of the target of success.

HOWARD A. BANKS.

THE DEMOCRAT'S OFFER.

The Democrat is printing 700 extra copies this week and next week and broadcasting them over this city and section. If you are not a subscriber and receive a copy, please consider it a cordial invitation to subscribe. Read our club offer elsewhere in the ads.

The Democrat will pay 25 per cent. commission on all new subscriptions paid in advance for six months or longer. It will also pay 25 per cent. commission on all renewals, provided all arrears are paid up to date. Here is a chance for bright boys and girls to make some Christmas money.

The above, however, does not mean that old subscribers may come in and renew for a year at 75 cents. The offer is made in order to secure agents to work for the paper.

A year's subscription will make a good Christmas present. The paper will be sent from now to Jan. 1, 1911, for \$1.00. Subscribe, and do it now!

We want to thank several correspondents for the excellent news they have been sending in from the county, and we hope others will keep us posted on the events in their sections.

Aged King Leopold, of Belgium, is at death's door. He has been a royal profligate all his life and his hands are bloody with Congo atrocities. He made a confession to the priest the other day and we hope he may find the mercy which he never gave to others.

The Hickory merchants have splendid stocks of goods on hand, elegantly displayed in windows, on counters and shelves. The advertising columns of the Democrat are full of attractive offers to which the attention of the people in the town and country is especially directed. The year has been one of prosperity and we hope that the good people of this section will be liberal in spending for those things which fill Christmas stockings.

Raw cotton is high and cotton yarns and goods are low. It is the farmer's inning at the bat and the manufacturer is out in the field. Spot cotton is even

now selling around 15 cents. Let the farmer and his wife buy their cotton cloth and clothes and things for Christmas presents, and it will help to boost the price of cotton goods. It certainly is to the farmers interest to have goods go up, so the mills may run on full time.

We are beholden to many brethren of the press for good wishes since we have taken hold of the Democrat. To none more so than our former colleague on the Asheville Gazette-News, Earle Godbey, who sees a vision of cordwood and cabbages rolling in as payment for subscriptions. The story of his pipe dream is published elsewhere in this issue. Godbey is not well posted. He ought to go somewhere else besides Buncombe. He ought to climb to the top of the Blue Ridge and look over one time. He would see outstretched before him way down the valley the imperial county of Catawba dotted with thousands of fine farms; the rural mail carriers toting newspapers into every farm house, for which the farmers all have the price.

Willis' Cafe, the neatest, cleanest place in the city. We are here to serve you right. Come and see us.

Dr. White Receives a Call

Greensboro Record. Rev. Dr. J. L. White, pastor of the First Baptist Church, has received a call to head a movement of the Georgia Baptists for a half-million-dollar endowment for Bessie Tift College, the Baptist woman's college of Georgia. Dr. White has not yet decided what he will do about accepting the call. Dr. C. H. S. Jackson, the president of the college, was here in person and invited Dr. White to take up this work. Dr. White is quite popular in Greensboro and the members of his church and others would regret very much to see him leave the city.

Buy your Christmas cakes from Willis. They are always the best.

Had Better Look at Home

There are few if any counties in the State in which cannot be found men holding the office of magistrate who would not take a prize as first-class citizens, mentally or morally. Often the same statement applies to other offices where the rewards are so small as to make them undesirable. This is preliminary to saying that while Burke county should make a desperate effort to get rid of magistrates and deputy sheriffs who have no better conception of their duties than to deliberately engage in violating the law; it is just as well for other counties not to get too gay at Burke's expense. If they will take a census at home they may find some things of which they would not be proud.—Statesville Landmark

CHRISTMAS CAKES GALORE.

Are Ready for Your Selection at Rice's Bakery.
 In offering these products of our skill, we do so with the full knowledge that our customers will receive the best products of the bakers' skill. Our cakes, pies and bread are made from the best materials into clean, wholesome, delicious food.

THE HICKORY BAKERY
 1240 Ninth Avenue

Wanted Six young men and four young ladies to prepare for positions now awaiting them. Great opportunity for young people of good character to prepare for positions of honor. Lessons by mail if desired. Write at once for full information. **GREENSBORO, WINSTON-SALEM, ROCKY MOUNT, WILMINGTON.**
 SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, North Carolina's Greatest School of Business. Established 1901.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

D. L. RUSSELL
 ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
 Prompt attention given to all matters of Legal Nature
 Office:
 Main St., Russell Bldg., Hickory

Dr. Walter A. White
 DENTIST
 Office over Menzies Drug Store
 Hickory, N. C.

Oranges cheaper than ever before at Best & Newton.

Cleanliness is the first law of health, inside as well as outside. Let Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea be your internal cleanser, then your organs will be pure and clean, your health good, your system right. Start tonight. Moser & Lutz.

Give the "old man" a pair of "Korrek Shape" shoes for his Christmas. They might keep him from taking pneumonia and thus save his life, at J. A. Bowles

Never can tell when you'll mash a finger or suffer a cut, bruise, burn or scald. Be prepared. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil instantly relieves the pain—quickly cures the wound.

Don't think your wife wont appreciate a pair of the Elkin Blankets for a Christmas present. She will—she told us so. To be had only from J. A. Bowles.

Constipation causes headache, nausea, dizziness, languor, heart palpitation. Drastic physics gripe, sicken, weaken the bowels and don't cure. Doan's Regulents act gently and cure constipation. 25 cents. Ask your druggist.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA
CHICHESTER'S PILLS
 THE DIAMOND BRAND.
 Ladies! Ask your Druggist for Chichester's Diamond Brand Pills in Red and Gold wrapper, sealed with Blue Ribbon. Take no other. Buy of your Druggist. Ask for CHICHESTER'S DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for 25 years known as Best, Safest, Always Reliable SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE

Bargains! BARGAINS!!

Have just returned from the market, where I have picked up lots of good things for less than the cost of manufactures. Want you to know it. Want you to come and share in the savings of the buyer.

Here They Are!

One lot of ladies' Coats, Coat Sweaters and ladies' suits, children's Coats and Sweaters, also, men's and boy's Sweaters, and Underwear. Dresses, Groceries, Millinery, Fine Silks, Satins and Ribbons. For Christmas presents, hunt our store, for here you will find what you want for your wife, children and friends.

The Largest

assortment of Dolls and Toys that we have ever had, and at the lowest prices possible. Ladies' Kid Gloves, Scarfs and other novelties. Come to our store to do your Christmas shopping, we can serve you right

WHAT TIME WILL THE CLOCK STOP? Don't forget that we give away every Thursday at 3 p. m. 41-piece Dinner Set free. We will give away on Thursday before Christmas as a grand prize, Two 41-piece Dinner Sets. A beautiful Doll to be given away to some little girl. Come to Sledge's store and the plan will be explained.

W. T. SLEDGE
 HICKORY, N. C.

XMAS
 Gifts must be given, so why not give acceptable things, that are sure to be appreciated? We have the finest of gift goods—all new—in assortments large and complete enough for best selections at
MOSER & LUTZ, Druggists
 "On the Corner" Hickory, N. C.

PRACTICAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
 When selecting a present for your friend or member of your family, is it not best to give something that is both
USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL
 Our Store is chock full of just such articles as will make them
HAPPY AND APPRECIATIVE.
 We have the largest and best stock we have ever shown, and more important still,
OUR PRICES ARE THE LOWEST.
 Come in and let us show you some of the best values you have seen, no trouble to show you.
Shuford FURNITURE STORE.