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## THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT

"The Home of Good Printing"

HICKORY, N. C.

### THORNTON LIGHT & POWER CO.

Phenomenal Growth of this Most Important Public Utility—It is one of the Prides of Hickory.

In the year 1888 the City of Hickory granted to four of its progressive citizens, Messrs. A. A. Shuford, D. W. Shuler, H. D. Abernethy, and J. A. Martin, and as a copartnership under the name of Hickory Electric Company, the sole and exclusive franchise, right, title, privilege and power for a plant, to erect poles in the streets, etc., for the distribution of electric light and to operate a telephone in said town for a period of years. In December 1902 A. A. Shuford, H. D. Abernethy and J. A. Martin, the surviving partners, and sole owners of the Hickory Electric Co., sold to Col. Marcellus Eugene Thornton, who had then been a citizen of Hickory for ten years, all the rights, title, franchise, etc., including real estate, electric plant and the electric lighting of and in the City of Hickory, together with the telephone rights, which part Col. Thornton declined to purchase. Later, in January 1903, after Col. Thornton had taken charge and had been operating the electric lighting business in Hickory, Messrs. Shuford, Abernethy and Martin proposed that they would procure for him, entirely at their own expense, a charter and provide him with a Board of Directors if he would allow them to retain for the telephone operation the name "Hickory Electric Company" and the late Mr. A. A. Shuford proposed the name for the new corporation, "The Thornton Light & Power Company." That was agreed to, and carried out. Later Col. Thornton took his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Camp Thornton, a free trader, into the company with an made Treasurer, transferring one share of the stock to her for that purpose, while he remained President and only assistant treasurer. She had been treasurer of his large coal company out in Kentucky. There were just 380 electric lights all told and only two residences in the City that were wired and used electric lights when Col. Thornton made the purchase. In fact, it was because after a residence in Hickory for ten years, in one of the finest residences in this part of the State, with every modern convenience, his wife extended so he could have electric lights in his residence, that he was induced to buy the business. There were only 16 of the very old style open arc lamps on the streets at the time. Col. Thornton telegraphed an order the second day after he bought the plant, to have enclosed arc lamps to be forwarded by express. They were installed immediately on arrival. He bought a water power on Horseford creek expecting to develop it for a hydroelectric plant. Later, he found it would be more practical to buy the water power out on Catawba river within four miles of the center of town. Meanwhile he had prevailed on the late Mr. John N. Bohannon to buy on Catawba river some of the riparian rights for him. But Mr. Bohannon did not quite understand the business and bought large tracts of unnecessary lands along with the riparian rights and Col. Thornton withdrew from consideration of that part of the proposition.

Having purchased but little more than the mere franchise for the conduct of the business, Col. Thornton set about to install an outfit sufficient to operate and enlarge the business. He purchased \$2,500.00 worth of electrical supplies at one clip from one firm for the cash. He set men to work wiring houses and extending the lines in every direction all over the City. The plant was running on its steam power and running only until midnight. The increase of business brought about a raise in the price for the steam power and it was so much that he bought a new steam plant, outfit, and boiler consisting of a 100 h. p. Hamilton Corliss engine and a pair of large Lombard boilers, so as to alternate them in service, and an automatic induced air draft equipment, the first one used in this part of the country, and thus did away with a huge street chimney. The new 35 h. p. engine and 40 h. p. boilers he got with the plant were not able to pull the wagon out of the mud.

This new steam plant—said by some, and one an Alderman, to be entirely too large for the business and he couldn't make the interest on it—was put into service the 19th night of August, 1903 on the lot beside the Southern Railway just east of the present Hotel Huffry, for which lot he had exchanged the old power house lot to his wife. The building he erected was 40 ft. x 135 ft. and a boiler room 40 x 40 ft.

There was an immense concourse of Hickory people present on the opening night when the new steam plant in the new power house building was put in operation. Mayor J. D. Elliott presided and patriotic speeches were made from an improvised platform of boxes in the street at the power house by leading citizens of Hickory, including Mayor Elliott, Judge W. B. Council, State Senator A. Y. Sigmon and others, lauding, applauding and praising Col. Thornton for his enterprise and public spirit. Resolutions laudatory and commendatory of Col. Thornton were unanimously and enthusiastically adopted by the large assembly of Hickory's most prominent people.

The first month's receipts after Col. Thornton bought the plant was \$170.23. The receipts for the month of September after the new steam plant went into operation was \$278.30. The receipts for September 1911, last September, was \$1,890.85. Later in the winter they were still larger, and some months during last winter the current run over the minimum and they had to pay extra for it.

The plant was run or operated on the one-half night, until midnight, and for the City street lights, on the moonlight schedule, until 1908; and in January 1910 they commenced taking hydroelectric current from the Southern Power Co. and dispensed with their steam plant.

At this present time their poles and wires reach all parts of the City of Hickory and there is no residence or person in the City who need be without electric lights, electric cooking stoves, electric washing machines, smoothing irons, or anything and everything electrical; or for electric power to pull and operate any kind of machinery, if they want it. The prices are as reasonable as if not on the line of the lowest in the State.

This showing, though not as full and complete as it could be made, demonstrates how the business has grown and prospered. But it has required a wonderful amount of patience, sweet oil, money and worry, to bring the plant to its present fruition. Had Col. Thornton been given to discouragement entirely and succumbed to obstacles and harryments he would now be in his grave and the Thornton Light and Power Co. would still be operating on the moonlight schedule for half a night only. He stuck to it through thick and thin, adversity and misfortune, obstacles and hindrances, and has weathered the gale.

The Thornton Light & Power Co. plant is reputed a second to none in North Carolina, and its business is good as the best of its size. As soon as the Company gets full possession of its new quarters on the ground floor of the Academy of Music building, which will place on exhibition and for sale all the modern devices for making life's bur-

dens easier and home life more pleasant; and no one in Hickory needs want for electrical appliances nor electric lights. Col. Thornton's well known public spirit, enterprise and generosity is a sure guarantee of that. Electric lights and power for machinery are as cheaply in Hickory as they can be had anywhere. And Col. Thornton will not countenance, sanction or have anything but that which is first class in every respect, up-to-date and the very latest approved—even in dress. No shoddy, sorry, mealy stuff passes muster in his critical eye. He always wants the best to be had—and he generally gets it.

The father of the writer, who died in Atlanta in '84, was a chum with Col. Thornton for years and Col. Thornton spoke of him in the most tender affectionate spirit, and said that his old friend in Atlanta and Georgia were all fast passing away from whence to hence, but he himself does not show much signs of weary passing years, for he looks and acts youthful and cheerful. He was married to the widow of John Rutherford, whose father was a pioneer, and he was 91 when he died in '80, at Bridgewater, N. C., Sept. 8th 1881. She is now in her 83 year, Sept. 26, and his natal day is Sept. 7th. Some few months after their marriage while they were living at the old Kimball House in Atlanta, an aged lady from Savannah, Mrs. John Scriven, who was adorned with beautiful silver colored ringlets in the old time style around her neck, asked on being introduced by his wife: "Is this Colonel Marcellus Thornton?" Being informed by Mrs. Thornton in the affirmative, Mrs. Scriven gently said: "Well, well! I have heard tell of you all my life. You don't look it." He had been in politics, editing newspapers and reporting for them and owning them—the first to publish a daily paper in Georgia. He came within one vote of getting the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 5th district, the Atlanta, in 1875, and in '76 was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention but was counted out, and did not look any older then than he does now; only now his hair is some gray. He was known by nearly everyone in Georgia. He elected the great Alexander H. Stephens Governor of Georgia.

The old crew that published the old Atlanta Herald was the liveliest set ever together in Georgia. There were Col. Bob Alston, Isaac Avery, Henry Grady and Col. Thornton. They said,—"when they went broke, that Gen. Bob Tombs loaned them five thousand dollars like a Prince and collected it like a Shylock." Gen. Tombs sent the Herald to the printer in the Kimball House in his nether end of shirt. The Col. was on a paper in Macon also at one time. He was one of the men who helped to build Atlanta. He attended the meetings of the City Council, every meeting night for six years in succession, and was in every public enterprise. He studied law in Griffin, Ga., and was admitted to the bar Oct. 22nd, 1867.

When he accomplishes to a success some of the enterprises he now has on hand in Hickory says he would like to retire from active business and devote the remainder of his life to literature. He has two books published—novels—but not in circulation or on sale. They were butchered by the publishers. Besides, the publishers of both of them failed—after the other, or after the other, his book. No, that is not the reason. One of his publishers published more books than he could stand up under and the other one had some silk goods experience and saw the Tombs and Insurance companies. Col. Thornton talks amusingly of his book publishers' experience and the way they had of trying to make him a book salesman. The only one of his books that got on the market, he says, were those that were distributed free. An account of it would make an amusing story for a magazine, or periodical. A friend in New York City has the finished MSS. of two of his novels, "Delego" and "Sadie Varnadore." He is very timid and sensitive. One of the leading educators of North Carolina Colleges has written him two or three letters to get material for a biographical sketch of his life; yet he has long hesitated about giving it. He says: "What's the use? Wait until I do something worth something." He says that will come sometime. He has the manuscript for four or five books already, and nothing to do but write them on the typewriter. Besides half a dozen enlivening short stories and one extraordinary drama. He is whole-souled and cannot harbor an ill feeling against any one. As says he has tried his best to be angry at someone, and to keep it up, but he just can't do it. First thing he knows he again is on the best and friendliest terms with any and every one whom he tries to be mad with, and there remains not a trace of any spirit of animosity or revenge in his mind. He suffered a severe test and serious unfortunate handicap when he refrained from filing an answer in court to a complaint in a certain receivership proceeding wherein his wife was a party and his integrity was assailed. But since then he has often been commended for his course in the matter. Still, it caused or gave ground for many of his subsequent adversities, and caused unformed people to do him grave injustice in a business way.

Recently the Board of Directors and Stockholders of the Thornton Light & Power Co., passed resolutions declaring in favor of having its charter amended so that they will be authorized to increase the capital stock of the company to \$15,000.00, and the bonds to \$100,000.00, and provide for a Vice President of the Company and to issue any kind of first preferred stock desirable not exceeding \$50,000.00.

The Company purposes to do the pumping of the water for the City, or probably lease the water work, and it will be necessary to incur considerable expense in order to do all these proposed things to the best and most economical advantage, including the installation of a large and adequate stock of electrical goods and appliances: "All together, all the time for everything electrical." He is a "Son of Jove."

Some of, if not all of the first preferred stock will be issued and sold to obtain the money necessary to meet any additional expenditures. This first preferred stock will be first offered to the citizens of Hickory, and they no doubt will want to take it all, for some of them have already expressed a desire to take some of them. They will be a splendid investment. As some people have said: "This first preferred 6 per cent. cumulative stock in the Thornton Light & Power Co. will be the best investment in Hickory, and will be eagerly taken by the people right here." Those shares not disposed of in Hickory will be sold elsewhere.

There are some other enterprises in which this Company can, under its charter, engage, and it is most probable that it will take them up and enter into them at an early date, as they are to be of almost inestimable benefit and advantage to Hickory and all of its citizens.

As has been said and repeated by many citizens of Hickory: "They wish Hickory had a dozen more men like Col. Thornton; they would make the old town hump and hum."

There are several substantial citizens who will stand by him and help him in anything or any enterprise he wishes to undertake.

We asked Col. Thornton specifically what he was expecting to do about his proposed development of a large 9,000 H. F. hydroelectric plant out on the Catawba river at Hickory.

He replied that he had rather not say much about that enterprise, as he had been so badly treated and so sadly disappointed with a bond house in New York that he could not say positively when the matter could be again got into the market so that something could be done. But as he was never known to abandon a project, or give up entirely in despair in anything he ever undertook, it is not probable that he will cease efforts in the water power development, or the street railway in Hickory when the water power development is absolutely necessary for the construction of the street railway.

Incidentally we learned, however, that Col. Thornton's present fondness; hopes for pecuniary results are centered in a patent which he has pending. It is an electric ore smelting furnace and also a process connected with the furnace for electrically smelting iron ores into iron and steel from first process, and located a \$750,000 plant for it out on Catawba river near the proposed power house an take up the current developed there with a very short transmission line and smelt the magnetite iron ore which is to be had on his wife's estate of 2200 acres at Bridgewater in Burke County—of which she owns 900 acres of the magnetite ore—and ship the ore over the Southern Railway to Hickory and then on out in the same cars to the furnace. The Southern Ry. will construct a spur track at Bridgewater out a mile and a half to the ore lands, and there will be also built a track from the Southern Ry. near Lenoir College out to the river. That can be used for a street car line. It is not deemed feasible to obtain a hydroelectric plant at Bridgewater, hence electric current cannot be had there for electrically smelting the magnetite ore at that place. It will take nearly all the power that can be developed out near Hickory to operate the smelting furnace. It would depend on the size of the smelting plant.

The money for the mining of the magnetite ore, constructing the street car line and building the smelting ore furnace is already in sight, and all that is lacking is the hydroelectric development for a market that will be ready by the time it is ready. There is another process that goes with it, but of which nothing whatever will be disclosed at present.

It is confidently asserted by Col. Thornton that he can produce steel bars at one-half the present cost of production and make as much profit as is now made by any prevailing process. If this is so, and we give it, there are millions in it for the Colonel. We wish him all the success obtainable. He can lease rights for the furnace and process to others on royalties and get an enormous income from them. Or, he could sell outright.

### COMMENT

The Democrat hopes Hickory people will turn out en masse to the Newton veterans reunion August 15. By the way, while the veterans have the right of way, we would like to see the only military company in Catawba county, the Hickory Rifles, now in the limelight as the best company in the State Guard, escort the old soldiers in their parade. Co. A. is full of veteran material for the future.

### ROOSEVELT AND JOHNSON.

Theo. Roosevelt and Gov. Hiram Johnson, of California, were nominated at Chicago yesterday for president and vice-president and their party's name is to be simply "the Progressive Party"

### WILSON NOTIFIED.

Gov. Wilson was officially notified of his nomination for the presidency by Senator Ollie James, and made a superb speech of acceptance, outlining his policies.

### CORN DAY AT ROBINSONS.

Crowd of 500 Feed on Corn Soup From the Crack Patch.

Over 500 people attended corn day on Mr. John W. Robinson's farm Wednesday and heard two fine, common sense talks by Mr. A. L. French of Rockingham county, one before and one after dinner, and a most excellent address by Miss Maud Eckard on what the Girls Tomato Clubs of the county are doing. The girls looked lovely in red uniforms, and waited on the table. Corn soup, made with corn from Mr. Robinson's great patch was served by these girls, and sandwiches handed out, and even then there was much left over.

The 4 acres of corn make a beautiful sight. The seed was Batt's, the fertilizer Royster guano, and the field was dynamited with Jefferson Powder Co's dynamite. Every man present registered a guess at the yield per acre and the winner will get a bushel of corn free. It will push 100 bushels to the acre.

### Committees to Report at Newton Reunion.

The annual reunion of the Confederate Veterans of Camp No. 162, will be held at Newton on 15th of August. Following township committees were appointed at the last reunion to get the number of living soldiers, and also the number who died during the last year.

S. E. Killian, Hickory.  
P. A. Hoyle, Newton.  
Thornton Cline, Jacob's Fork.  
N. E. Sigmon, Clines.  
Alfred Baker, Bandys.  
N. E. Propst, Caldwell.  
W. A. Day, Mountain Creek.  
J. U. Long, Catawba.  
Report to me at Newton on the morning of August 15.  
S. E. KILLIAN, Sec. & Treas.

### Do You Get Up With a Lame Back?

Kidney Trouble Makes You Miserable.

Almost everyone knows of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder remedy, because of its remarkable health restoring properties. Swamp-Root fulfills almost every wish in overcoming rheumatism, pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passage. It corrects inability to hold water and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to go often through the day, and to get up many times during the night.

Swamp-Root is not recommended for everything but if you have kidney, liver or bladder trouble, it will be found throughly tested in private practice, and has proved so successful that a special arrangement has been made by which all readers of this paper, who have not already tried it, may have a sample bottle sent free by mail, also a book telling more about Swamp-Root, and how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble.

When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., New Brunswick, Binghamton, N. Y. The regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles are sold by all druggists. Don't make any mistake but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

### Notice of Sale of Land Under Execution.

North Carolina, Hickory Township, Catawba County ) City of Hickory.

In the matter of the Sidewalk and Street Improvement Taxes or Assessments of Geo. E. Bisanar.

Under and by virtue of an execution directed to the undersigned, Tax Collector, in and for the City of Hickory, which said execution was issued by W. L. Clinebar, Clerk of the Board of Aldermen in and for the City of Hickory, said execution being issued under and in accordance with the terms and provisions of Chapter 242 of the private Laws of North Carolina, Session 1907, same being issued for the collection of the sidewalk and street improvement Taxes or Assessments due by said Geo. E. Bisanar for certain sidewalk and street improvements, made by said City of Hickory, and in front of the property hereinafter described, said improvement taxes or assessments being in the sum of \$300.00 which said Geo. E. Bisanar failed and refused, and still refuses to pay, and whereas by said Chapter 242 of the Private Laws of North Carolina, Session 1907, said amount of sidewalk and street improvement taxes or assessments is made and constituted a lien on the property of said Geo. E. Bisanar, which is located on Ninth Avenue, this being one of the streets improved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Hickory, under the authority contained in said Chapter 242 of the Private Laws of North Carolina, Session 1907.

NOW, THEREFORE, as required and commanded to do, and pursuant to said execution, I will on Monday the 2nd day of September, 1912, at twelve o'clock noon, at the door of the City Hall of said City of Hickory, sell, at public outcry, for cash to the last and highest bidder, in order to satisfy said execution, all the right, title and interest which the said Geo. E. Bisanar has in the following described real estate, which was levied upon by me, on the 30 day of July 1912, namely:

BEGINNING at a stone, at the intersection of 15th Street and 9th Avenue, and runs Westward with 9th Avenue 150 feet to a stone; thence Northward 65 feet to a stone; the corner of the lot owned by R. J. Foster; thence Eastward 150 feet to a stone on 15th street; thence Southward 65 feet, with 15th street to the beginning. The intent and purpose of this sale is to sell all and singular of the lot upon which the residence of the said Geo. E. Bisanar is located.

This the 30 day of July 1912.  
P. P. JONES,  
Tax Collector of the City of Hickory.  
A. A. WHITENER,  
City Atty. 8-1-12.

### Certificate of Dissolution.

State of North Carolina, Department of State.

To all to whom these presents may come--Greeting:

Whereas, it appears to my satisfaction, by duly authenticated record of the proceedings for the voluntary dissolution thereof by the unanimous consent of all the stockholders, deposited in my office, that the Morrison Bros. Company, a corporation of this State, whose principal office is situated at No. --- Street, in the town of Hickory, County of Catawba, State of North Carolina (C. T. Morrison being the agent therein and in charge thereof, upon whom process may be served), has complied with the requirements of Chapter 21, Revised of 1905, entitled "Corporations," preliminary to the issuing of this Certificate of Dissolution:

Now, Therefore, I, J. BRYAN GRIMES, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the said corporation did, on the 21 day of February, 1912, file in my office a duly executed and attested consent in writing to the dissolution of said corporation, executed by all the stockholders thereof, which said consent and the record of the proceedings aforesaid are now on file in my said office as provided by law.

In Testimony Whereof, I have here to set my hand and affixed my official seal, at Raleigh, this 21 day of February, A. D. 1912.

J. BRYAN GRIMES,  
Secretary of State.  
N. C., Catawba County--Recorded in Corporation Book No. 2. Office Clerk of Superior Court, 7-29-1912.  
C. M. McCORKLE.

### HIDES.

Prices paid at the Hickory Tannery:  
Green Hides 11c per pound.  
Partly cured hides 9c. "  
Green Salted Hides 12c. "  
Dry Flint Hides 18c. "  
Dry Salted Hides 16c. "  
Tallow 5 1-2c. "  
Rye Straw 40c per 100 lbs.