

The Reidsville Review

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

THE REVIEW COMPANY
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AMERICA FIRST



TRYING TO CRAWFISH

(Continued From Page 1.)

ment in favor of turning over the whole town if necessary to the private utilities company. They are even revamping the old raw head and bloody bones tales of the moving away of industrial enterprises because an adequate supply of electric power cannot be secured from the town!

These campaign arguments are used on unthinking people and an impression sought to be made on them that unless the electric plant is sold, employment will forthwith cease. The subtle hint is conveyed to the effect that these workmen's bread and butter depend on the electric light deal. Such campaign methods are unfair, to say the least.

The Review is glad to say that the town of Reidsville has so far met all demands for electricity from its municipal plant. It is being talked that the Wray flour mill was unable to get current to electrify their motive power. Town officials positively assert that the electric light department is ready and willing to furnish the Messrs. Wray whatever power they need at any time. Furthermore the town of Reidsville has pledged itself through its present board of commissioners to furnish to any industrial enterprise now located here, or which may in the future locate here, an unlimited supply of primary electric power at as low a rate under existing conditions as is given by any other town in North Carolina. A guarantee by the town of Reidsville is as good as its municipal bonds; and we have never heard of these selling below par.

And to be in position to carry out this guarantee on light and power a majority of the present board of town commissioners negotiated a contract with the Southern Power Company for an unlimited supply of "juice" at a rate that would enable the town to give as low rates as any other town. Only through the dilatory tactics of two of Mr. Pinnix's commissioners—Messrs. Scott and Crutchfield—was the signing of this contract deferred.

The invisible power behind Mr. Pinnix's ticket is assiduously circulating reports that the tentative contract with the Southern Power Company limits the quantity of current the town can get from that company to 450 horsepower per month. There never was a more misleading statement circulated. The only basis on earth we can see why such a fool assertion could be made is that the present board of town commissioners, in planning for necessary transformers and equipment to tap on the power company's lines decided that this

amount would be ample to supply our needs for some time and there was no necessity for investing money in a lot of equipment which would not be used for several years. Additional transformers can be added from time to time as needed. There is no limit as to the amount of current we can get from the hydro-electric company except the limits of the production of the company itself.

The utilities company which is trying to get control of the retail distribution of light and power in Reidsville will get this current from the Southern Power Company's lines precisely as the town of Reidsville will get it provided we continue to control the distribution. Any limitations the town would be subjected to would apply precisely the same to the utilities company as to the town. But there are no limitations whatever on the quantity of current we can get. Such talk is silly and is intended to deceive the people and muddle the issue.

"O, what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive."
The powers of darkness behind this unholy scheme of spoliation against the town are resorting to one of the most desperate campaigns of deception we ever saw attempted against a free born, enlightened people. If the people of Reidsville allow themselves to be hoodwinked and bully-ragged into adding and abetting this attempt to rape the town of a valuable piece of property, and show a willingness to "sell our birth right for a mess of pottage," the day will soon come when they will repent in bitterness when our necks are bared to the yoke of an alien corporation. In selling our franchise we take a step that cannot be retraced. On the other hand, if we retain control of this valuable possession, any mistakes that may be made from time to time can be rectified and a repetition of them guarded against.

The Review hopes that the people of Reidsville at next Tuesday's election will uphold by their votes the splendid record and traditions of free born, liberty loving American citizens who have always stood up for their rights. Do not allow this octopus to get control of the town, as it is now attempting to do, and reduce us to a state of serfdom in so far as all future control of light and power is concerned.

It is a well known fact, as The Review has been reliably informed, that the Public Utilities Company never "goes into" a town without first getting control of that town through municipal politics. Whenever and wherever they get a foothold the "fire is out" for ever after so far as the people's control of city government goes. This octopus sees to it that "friendly" men are put into and kept in office for all time. We hope Reidsville will never get in this class of towns.

It is talked on the streets that if we sell out, the Power Company will pay \$12,000 in taxes to the city. Evidently they forget that the bulk of their proposed investment would be done below the cemetery, about a half mile outside the corporate limits. That company could hardly be expected to pay \$12,000 taxes on the investment of \$30,000, which they offer for our plant and franchise.

As a refutation of the silly contention that the town is limited to the amount of current which can be secured from the hydro-electric power company, under the tentative contract negotiated with that company, we quote from a letter just received by Commissioner J. E. Sulth, chairman of the electric light committee, from Messrs. Tucker & Laxton, contracting engineers of Charlotte—which firm was employed to assist the town officials in these negotiations and to furnish specifications for electrical equipment for the proposed sub-station. Messrs. Tucker & Laxton say: "Any rights that you may have now under the ruling of the Commerce Commission, requiring them to furnish you power at the schedule rates at the voltage available would also apply

as a right to furnish additional power under the prevailing rates, which right the power company fully recognizes." They go on to say that "objections to this clause of the contract are groundless in practice and that the town does not give up their right to buy power that the Power Company has to sell up to any amount by the signing of this contract. This clause is in every contract that we know of having been made with municipalities, and we have never yet heard of the limit being called on any of them." This bears out The Review's contention that any limits (if there are ever any limits) that may be imposed on Reidsville's consumption of electricity through inability of the power company to supply it would apply to the utilities company precisely like it would to the town of Reidsville.

The advocates of selling out now claim that the board has nothing to do with it, only to order an election. The board has everything to do with it, as they must first make a contract of sale and submit their action to the people, for ratification or rejection; otherwise, there would be nothing to vote on.

If we sell out we will have to pay at least \$11,000 for lighting our streets and pumping our water, while our total receipts from water will not exceed \$10,000. So we start off \$1,000 in the hole, to say nothing of the cost of supervision, maintenance and interest on the other bonds. Where is the money coming from to meet this deficit? There is only one answer—increase the taxes!

At the town hall the other night a "Town Ownership League" was formed. The objects of this league are to protect and conserve the property and resources of the municipality and to combat the reckless and thoughtless giving away of valuable franchises or other privileges without adequate compensation; to safeguard the town's interests wherever and whenever jeopardized, and to turn on the light on all dark lantern schemes to put over graft and spoliation schemes of whatever kind on the municipality. The immediate and specific object of the league is to prevent the proposed sale of the local electric light and power plant now owned by the city and the granting of a 60 year electric lighting and power franchise (for the ridiculously small sum of \$30,000) to an alien corporation. The League's membership ticket is composed of strong men and substantial citizens who are avowedly in favor of retaining control of the management and distribution of electric light and power by the city. The League ticket and the "sellers out" ticket thus stand on separate platforms, the issue is clear cut, and every voter can show by his ballot which platform he stands on.

The following preamble and resolutions as a platform or chart for the new league was adopted:
Whereas, alternative propositions have been tentatively submitted by the Southern Power Company and the Southern Utilities Company, respectively, whereby the Town can buy the current and maintain its own plant, on the one hand, or sell out the entire lighting and power franchise for a period of 60 years at a price of \$30,000, on the other; and
Whereas, over 250 of our citizens have already expressed themselves by petition against a sale, while the advocates of a sale declined to hand in any petition at all (as asked to do by the Board of Commissioners) but chose, rather, to carry their point by thrusting this all important and far-reaching question into the present municipal campaign and mixing it up and confusing it with ordinary town politics.
Now therefore be it Resolved, That we the undersigned, believing that it would be a fatal mistake, without opportunities for correction, to place our lighting and power privilege into the hands of a foreign corporation for any period—much less 60 years; and that such a sale would of necessity require an increase in our taxes to make up the deficit that would be produced in our revenue; and furthermore, would give us only one source of supply for pumping our water:

Do hereby organize ourselves into a League to be known as the Town Ownership League, with the avowed purpose of throwing all the light possible on this important question, and to do what we can to foster and encourage the saving of this valuable franchise to our people.
Another strong argument against selling out to the utilities company is that their schedule of rates is considerably higher to small users of both light and power than the present rate given by the town of Reidsville. For instance, the utilities company's rate on small motors is 9c per kw. h.; while the present rate here is only 6c. Thus the small industries dependent upon electric power would have to pay an advance of 50 per cent from the day our plant and franchise was turned over to the utilities company.

The Review is in favor of buying current from the hydro-electric company, but we want to maintain our present steam plant as an auxiliary source to furnish current for light and power in event of trouble on the power company's lines. We have been reliably informed that the cotton mules of Spray, which are now furnished

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power by the Southern Power Company, have had to shut down time after time because of trouble on the lines of the power company. A prominent official of one of the Spray mills is quoted in saying that his establishment has lost more time from shutting off of power in the past six months than in the previous six years when not dependent on the Southern Power Company. The High Point Enterprise recently contained the following: "For four hours yesterday afternoon there was no power. The Enterprise did not get its press started until shortly after six o'clock, and then the power was off again, on again for a considerable period. Other plants in the city, depending upon electric power, had to shut down at 2.30 o'clock. If such a happening did not come so frequent The Enterprise would feel that it was in a position to excuse the poor service for one day, but the same has been occurring for months and months. The Public Service, to all appearances, is making no effort to better the service it is supposed to be giving."

The High Point paper goes on to say: "The city of High Point holds the franchise for furnishing electric lights to the city. Because of this fact, and that only High Point is given a rate just one half of what Greensboro pays. The city did a wise act when it refused to surrender the franchise to the Public Service. The city will do an even wiser act if it will build its municipal electric light and power plant and furnish current to the city at what it costs to produce it, plus a reasonable amount of profit. We have the statement of men who have studied the proposition that the city can make clear and above expenses \$12,000 a year on a municipal plant, and that it can furnish High Point

with service a city of this class should have!

"A thunder storm 25 miles or 50 miles from High Point, cuts off power for this city. With a plant here in High Point such could not occur. The Public Service cannot furnish High Point with service when the source of its power is so far removed from the city. It has made excuse after excuse, but what is an excuse unless a speedy remedy is applied? High Point citizens ought to ask the city council to provide this city with a municipally-owned plant in order that the city may have service."

Friendly Class M. E. Church

Last Sunday the class was very small. Your presence was missed by one and all. We would like to see our board checked in full.

The whole class together we ought to pull.

Some wait on the task for others to do. Get the new members, it is your task too.

If you would come and give the class a trial.

Love is divine and safe is denial.

With the devil we are fighting a duel, Brimstone and fire he uses for fuel, This class is to aid the ones that are lost.

Bring them to the one that was nailed to the cross.

If you would stop to think where you stand.

Not on a rock but crumbling sand. Straight and narrow is the way, to enter is a few.

The class is waiting to congratulate you.

—A MEMBER

Read the paper regularly

MR. GLIDEWELL DEFENDS HIS BILL.

Mr. Editor: It is being circulated in town that the bill I drew and had passed by the last Legislature, gives the board of commissioners of the town the power to sell the light plant without submitting the question to the people. This is untrue and the bill admits of no such construction. I find that this is being circulated by some who are opposed to leaving the question of sale to the people at all. The bill does not provide for a sale of franchise or plant or dismantling the plant without submitting the question to a vote. I will meet any gentlemen or any number of gentlemen in the newspaper or in debate publicly before the people of Reidsville as to this bill or my record as city attorney the past two years. Let them come out in the open and challenge my good faith in this matter. I drew the bill at the instance of the board of commissioners of this town with one exception. I had nothing to put over, nothing to conceal, and I will defend the bill any where at any time. The bill provides a vote on the question and that seems to be somewhat unpopular here at this time.

Yours,
P. W. GLIDEWELL.

Clear Your Skin in Spring

Spring house cleaning means cleaning inside and outside. Dull pimply skin is an aftermath of winter inactivity. Flush your intestines with a mild laxative and clean out the accumulated wastes, easy to take, they do not gripe. Dr. King's New Life Pills will clear your complexion and brighten your eye. Try Dr. King's New Life Pills tonight and throw off the sluggish winter shell. At druggists, 26c.

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Below are a few bargains of Seasonable Goods we are offering. Everything fresh and up-to-date:

- Ladies' up-to-date house dresses, worth \$1.50, we are offering them as long as they last at 98c.
- Ladies' Palm Beach all white skirts, from 98c up.
- Just received a beautiful line of ladies' crepe de chene Shirt Waists, latest styles, from \$1.98 to \$5 each. Real bargains.
- Children's Dresses in all sizes and colors; latest styles, from 48c up.
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