

## The French Broad Hustler

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HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.

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### ATTACKS ROLLINS' LEADERSHIP

It appears that Republican State Chairman Rollins will have to fight to hold his position at the head of that organization in North Carolina. There are low rumblings of an approaching storm, which is going to burst, with fury, upon the present regime at the crucial moment. The letter of Marshall K. Bonsall in a recent issue of the Charlotte Observer, and reproduced in THE HUSTLER today, indicates something of the sentiment which is taking hold on republicans throughout the state. The Rollins machine, like the Henderson county court house ring, seems to be doing business for the purpose of keeping relatives and a coterie of political pets in fat offices. The rank and file are becoming tired of this kind of thing and threaten to revolt. If the fight continues, in real earnest, that Asheville revenue ring is going to hear something drop. This endless chain business is growing monotonous to men like Judge Ewart, Thos. Settle, C. J. Harris and Marshall Bonsall. If they have the courage to fight, Rollins may be displaced. But it will require more than a sham battle to accomplish such a conclusion. "We shall see, what we shall see."

There is more truth than poetry in the suggestion that the republican leaders are not anxious to carry the state. Why should they be? Have they not long since realized the utter incompetency of the republican party to manage the affairs of our state government? The people have no idea of ever giving that crowd another lease of power in North Carolina. One experience with Marion Butler and Daniel L. Russell is sufficient for a life time. Then there is John R. Smith, W. H. Martin, Jim Young, Abe Middleton and many other sweet-scented mortals that might be named, whom white, honorable men in North Carolina, remember, yet, as favorites of the republican organization and creatures of their leaders. So, if it is expected of Mr. Rollins to lead the republican party to victory in the state, or "quit" he may prepare to "abscond."

The present republican party has never yet won a victory, single handed, in this state and Mr. Bonsall is very much mistaken in the suggestion to that effect. But for the alliance with the populists, the hideous dream of fusion days would never have haunted the people of this grand old commonwealth. Certainly we are not going to fall upon such troublous times again. Republicans, who are training with Mr. Bonsall, may as well be content with present conditions, unless they, perchance, see an opportunity to land into a Federal office. Nothing else will be open to them in North Carolina for many years to come. The Old North State is in the democratic column to stay. Our people have long memories, Mr. Bonsall.

Every citizen of North Carolina, who is interested in the cause of education, must have felt a great pride in the recent Educational Edition of the Raleigh News and Observer. It is a veritable encyclopedia for those engaged in educational work. Letters from the various county and city superintendents were of more than ordinary interest and the illustrations proved to be a delightful feature of the most excellent literary production of the season. In fact, the edition was a general review of educational conditions past and present, which is of incalculable value to the people of the state at large. A vote of thanks is due Editor Daniels from every teacher and friend of education in North Carolina.

The Appalachian & Interurban Railroad Company does not exist in name only. It is an actuality and is preparing to demonstrate to the public its ability along the line of railroad construction. The action of Hendersonville, Clear Creek and Edneyville townships, in voting a subscription to aid in the project, insures, apparently, the contemplated line from this city to Chimney Roak, thence via Columbus, Polk county, to Gaffney, S. C., provided, of course, that Polk subscribes the \$100,000 expected. Pluck and perseverance will accomplish wonders. And this company has both.

Gov. Vardaman seems to have a lingering suspicion that Louisiana contracted yellow fever just to spite him.

Mississippi people are in a great deal more danger of being "scared to death" than of succumbing to yellow fever.

Senator Elkins says he will not lead a divided republican party in W. Va. If the party in that state remains divided, a democrat will do the leading.

It would be a fine retribution on the woman who secured Hoch's stay of execution, if he should be turned loose and then marry her.

It is only fair to mention, however, that Secretary Wilson's branch of the public service has no "monopoly" on graft.

The Gov. of Mississippi says to the Gov. of Louisiana that as far as his state is concerned, he is satisfied that it should be a long time between yellow fevers.

As a specimen of optimistic philosophy, Secretary Shaw's explanation that in having a deficit the country escapes the dangers of a surplus, easily takes the prize.

Gov. Dougals, of Mass. need not worry. If the presidential lightning strikes his way, his heroic commander of militia, Gen. Miles will be glad to stand in an "exposed position."

### BRIEF PERSONAL SKETCHES.

BY S. V. PICKENS.

John Hill lived on Reedy Patch Creek in this county long before Henderson county was formed. He was a farmer raised many children and died many years ago. His widow survived him many years, indeed she was living three or four years ago and is possibly still living, if so she must be nearly 100. I well remember Johnston Hill who was a farmer east of Hendersonville, was married twice and raised several children, Dock, now dead, and John were his sons and were good citizens. Lewis Hill was an old man when he died a few years ago. He lived on the Blue Ridge, was a farmer, a Baptist and republican. Hampton Hill lives on Reedy Patch Creek in Henderson county and one or two other of the older Hills, but I am unable to sketch definitely. I am not quite sure but believe all, or nearly all of these, were brothers and consequently sons of John Hill, except the two sons of Johnson as above given.

John Brookshire was a citizen of Henderson county from its formation. He was long a justice of the county and held other public offices. He has been dead several years. He was a democrat, had several sons, Rev. J. L. Brookshire, a Baptist minister and postmaster at Flat Rock, and the father of our townsman James Brookshire; also James Brookshire of Flat Rock are sons of John Brookshire. They are good citizens.

J. Y. Bryson was a citizen of Henderson county from its formation until he died about 1890 at a very mature old age. He married a Miss Anderson and raised several children of whom I know Mrs. Robert Smith and Mrs. McBowman, William, and our clever townsmen, J. A. Bryson. These are all democrats and McBowman was a faithful Confederate soldier. The same may be said of Robert Smith as previously stated.

Joseph Holbert an old citizen of Henderson county was a farmer, lived four miles north of Hendersonville and died several years ago. He raised several boys. He was a captain in the Southern army. He was a democrat and so are his boys, most of whom are mechanics and are living. Gideon Orr is now living in Hendersonville over 80 years of age. He

is a carpenter by trade, was a lieutenant in the Confederate army and has never been ashamed of it. He is a democrat. He raised several children, lost his wife a few years ago. He died since the above was written.

William Hutchison lived on the mountain known as the Byers mountain, about six miles north of Hendersonville, from the formation of Henderson county to the time of his death, long after the Confederate war. He was a farmer and a great friend to the South in her struggle for separation and independence. He raised quite a family of children some of whom are now living in this county. They are of Presbyterian and democratic belief.

J. A. Warlick lived on Boilston in Henderson county from its earliest history until his death several years ago. He was a farmer a good citizen and neighbor, was a Methodist and democrat. He was near 70 when he died. He had several sons and daughters of whom our city plumber, W. A. Warlick and Dr. James Warlick of Boilston are still in this county.

James and William Plumblee in the earlier history of Henderson county lived on Cane Creek. They were farmers. William married a daughter of J. C. Gullick, they raised several children. These brothers are dead. Thomas Stepp has long been a citizen of Henderson county and of the Blue Ridge section. W. F. is a farmer, a good substantial citizen and an excellent neighbor. He is now about 80. He has several sons, among them are W. H. Stepp and Register of Deeds J. M. Stepp, a furniture merchant of Hendersonville. J. F. Stepp of Hendersonville and others whose names I can not give. Henry Stepp and "Beardy Jim" were old citizens of Henderson county and Blue Ridge township. They died several years ago and left many descendants. I think James and Henry were brothers. I think these Stepps were generally republicans and of Methodist and Baptist belief, some each.

Thomas Blackwell lived in Blue Ridge section of Henderson county from its formation up to his death several years ago. He was a farmer and a republican. He raised several sons, of whom Branch, Francis and William live in Henderson county and are farmers, all adhering to the same politics as their father, except possibly William did one time vote for a democrat.

W. H. Ledbetter lived in Henderson county, near Fruitland, from the organization of the county. He was a farmer, fruit grower and a justice of the peace. He died a few years after the war between the states at about 80. George, William, David and Dock are his sons.

Allen, Jackson and Jefferson Case were brothers, lived in the Blue Ridge section of Henderson county from its formation until their deaths. They were good citizens and neighbors, were Methodists and democrats and have many descendants. Of them I know Bascomb, Albert and several others of the boys known to me but can not give their names. J. W. Case also of the Ridge section is a farmer and lumber man, is about 64 years of age, was a good soldier in the Confederate army. James Case of Hendersonville was also a Confederate soldier. His son Pink is a mechanic, went with us to Nashville to the reunion in 1904. Says he don't want to go any more. Get him to tell about policeman.

Joseph U. Orr is an old citizen of the Bowman's Bluff section of Henderson county. He has been a farmer, was for a long time deputy sheriff under Justus, Taylor and others. He raised several children. Our neighbor, Brazil Orr, whose clever daughter is in THE TIMES office, is a son of Joseph Orr, who is now living, aged about 84. Is it not remarkable that we can name so many persons in this county 80 and 90 years of age still living. There must be something in the pure water, climate and altitude among these mountains. J. U. Orr died since the above was penned.

In my sketches of James Spann's family I omitted his son, W. H. Spann, who married a Miss Posey and raised some children one of whom, Mrs. Rubicorn of St. Louis, is now in Hendersonville for a short time. Her parents left North Carolina soon after the war between the states. William was in Co. "P" 16 N. C. regiment was wounded at Chancellorsville, was in many bloody battles. Abram, Aaron and John Capps lived on Mud Creek south of Hendersonville from about the formation of the county. They were farmers, had many descendants. John Capps was in the Southern army and was the father of Alexander who is a well doing farmer of this county.

### DIDN'T WANT TO WIN FIGHT.

State Republican Organization's Activities Declared to be Largely Confined to Restraining a Corner on Federal Offices.

To the Editor of The Observer: If the rank and file of the republican party in this state are ever to see the principles and policies they believe in prevail a

the polls, they must first re-organize the party. The present "organization" has no desire to win elections. These facts are written large and plain in the history of recent events, that the wayfaring man, even though he be a fool need not err therein.

The only other possible explanation of the facts lies in the theory that our "leaders" are absolutely incompetent—are most unthinkable "aincompoops."

Let us glance at the history of recent congressional elections. The "organization" bitterly fought the nomination of men deemed at all likely to be elected; and it would be hard for them to point to any real and efficient aid or comfort given by them to any candidate.

In the tenth district, for example, the prospect of success seemed bright. The organization bitterly fought the nomination of either Judge Ewart or Thomas Settle, the two most experienced campaigners in the district.

Judge Ewart was nominated, and it is notorious that the machine was worse than lukewarm in his support. He failed; and it may be that they have, in consideration of his failure, forgiven him for running.

Blackburn did not fail in the 8th, and the organization has never forgiven him for his success. The moment his election was announced he became the target for all manner of abuse from the organization leaders. Instead of offering him such aid and encouragement as would help him to pave the way for another victory at the next election, every possible step has been taken to make it difficult to carry his district again.

They are planning to establish in Greensboro, his old home, a daily newspaper with which to fight him. They make it to be sure, some flimsy pretext that it is to be a republican paper, run for the advancement of the party at large; but I think that the public in general is fully aware that they contemplate merely an "anti-Blackburn" sheet; that their sole aim an object is to crush the growing power and influence of Blackburn and those who, like him, are pleased by victory at the polls, and to perpetuate in power the present aggregation of complacent patronage brokers.

You may get an instructive side light upon their claim that they really desire a strong, live republican daily, by reflecting on this fact.

In short, the organization embittered the last days of the late Congressman James M. Moody. It contributed, as far as it dared, to the defeat of Judge Ewart; and it is fighting Blackburn "tooth and toe-nail."

It is true that some of our recent congressional candidates do still bask in the smiles of the organization. The thoughtful will, however, note that they are of those who "also ran;" who merely went through the form of making a campaign, and then cheerfully accepted predestined defeat. Such candidates please the organization; but it can never forgive one who wins at the polls.

Fighting those who win elections and rewarding those who lose them is not the only "queer" trick indulged in by the organization.

The distribution of the Federal patronage has been managed in such a manner as almost to prove a deliberate intent to disgust, discourage and disrupt the party. Something over thirty of the kindfolk of our present chairman have been appointed to office. About a dozen relatives of Collector Harkins (who himself seems slated for a third term) have been similarly blessed. J. Wiley Shook is the nucleus of a considerable bunch; and there may be other happy family groups.

They long since made the terms of the Federal offices of the state subject to the laws of inheritance and dower. Now they seem bent on making their terms perpetual.

In spite of the clamor against the practice in general and these concrete cases in particular; Chairman Rollins seems bent upon re-appointing his father, Collector Harkins and others, to third terms in their very lucrative offices.

History is said to repeat herself; doubtless because, human nature being pretty much the same thing at one time as another, like conditions induce like actions. There is comfort in the thought. In 1886 the organization had become almost as arbitrary and offensive as the present close corporation, and as skilled in the gentle art of losing elections. The party revolted, reorganized, and, under entirely new management, commenced at once to win victory at the polls. It kept on gaining ground until it had carried the state.

It can as easily be done again. For the party's sake, let us do it!

The time is ripe for immense republican gain in North Carolina, if we can secure competent leaders who honestly desire success at the polls.

Let us therefore entrust the direction of party affairs to men whose ambitions can only be satisfied through carrying elections instead of to the present crowd of mere patronage brokers, to whose interest it is to keep the party as small, as meek and as mean-spirited as possible.

The organization displays more than its usual intelligence when it strives to make it appear that every criticism of its method is a mere sordid scrap over patronage—the wall of the "outs" against the "ins," they call it. This may serve its purpose by disgusting those who would otherwise like to join the party, but it will be found to be radically false.

There are, I think, enough of us in the party who want honest, aggressive leadership to win the fight which we intend to make for it.

We are not least interested in the distribution of the patronage, to wish to see it used to upbuild the party, not to disrupt it.

MARSHALL K. BONSALE.

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Hendersonville	Ar. 10:45	3:15	6:15
Hendersonville	Lv. 11:45	4:00	7:00
Flat Rock	Ar. 12:30 p. m.	4:45	7:45

  

Sunday Schedule For Church Service			
	a. m.	p. m.	
Flat Rock	Lv. 9:30	12:45	
Hendersonville	Ar. 10:15	1:30	
Hendersonville	Lv. 10:15	1:30	
Flat Rock	Ar. 11:00	2:15	

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