

THE COMMERCIAL

MARSHALL & BAIRD, Editors and Publishers

Entered at the post office at Union City, Tennessee, as second-class mail matter.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

TELEPHONE 103

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1907.

A GOOD ARTICLE.

That article which appeared in the Troy News Banner last week respecting the work accomplished by Sam Lancaster in Madison County is worth reading. It was reproduced from the Breeders Gazette, but it contains much that is similar to the speech made by Lancaster himself when he addressed the Worshipful County Court of Obion County a few months ago. The article is worth saving and reproducing—and reading.

With more light upon the subject we have about reached the conclusion that Obion County should issue bonds for the construction of good roads. For some time we have held this to be a mooted question. In the first place we cannot have good roads until we have hard roads. We have also reached that conclusion after reviewing the experience Union City has had with her streets. Not longer than a few days ago we rode with Mr. Semones in his buggy over the streets. They were in a horrible shape. Streets that he had worked and rolled and packed were hub deep in mud. "No use," said Mr. Semones; "you can't do anything with them! Obion County dirt won't make good roads." So it is with the streets which are graded. Every year it is necessary to lay on more gravel and still they are muddy and full of holes. We remember only a few years ago hearing Mayor Jno. T. Walker say that it was useless to attempt making good roads by covering the dirt in Obion County with gravel, for the reason that the gravel would sink too far below the surface for practical purposes.

All the experiments needed to show that anything short of hard-surfaced roads will be a failure in Obion County have been thoroughly made upon the streets of Union City. With these facts before us, the only alternative is the construction of hard roads, and the only way we can hope to secure hard roads is through the issuance of bonds. And right here we take occasion to reprint a part of that letter, in order to show that the sentiment prevailing here now was the same then in Madison County:

It took a lot of effort to move the authorities, but at last a little beginning was made and some stone laid down. There was much opposition. Yet the people liked the road, and the road sprouted. In 1903 the roads in winter became impassable, men came in for groceries afoot. A great meeting was called to discuss roads and ways and means. Sam Lancaster back of it all. He had a bill drawn empowering the issuing of bonds for road building to the amount of \$150,000, and put in care of a friend shrewd in such matters. The meeting was a warm one, and the discussion took very varied sides. Most of the "conservatives" were opposed to bonds; "tax and pay as we go" was their argument. That meant "nothing doing." After weary arguments and no apparent progress, an old man arose, a tired old man, splattered with red mud from head to foot, his boots caked with mud, his trousers painted with it. In a feeble voice and with a deprecating manner this old man said:

"Mr. Chairman, I live out a few miles from town. I have a little farm and a little sawmill. I can't come to town now in any other way than afoot. I came to this merchant's store (turning to one of the strongest opponents of the bond issue) and bought about \$5 worth of groceries to-day. I will carry them home on my back. It is the only way I can take them home. Now I need more than \$25 worth of things from his store, and if I could get to town with my team I could bring enough stuff that I have for sale in one load to pay for the store things. I would like to see a good road before I die. Mr. Chairman, I must be going soon, for it is a long walk through the mud to my place."

A silence fell upon the assembly. The merchant was abashed, then he himself arose and offered a resolution calling for the drafting of a bill to

bond the county. And the committee retired for five minutes, when they came back, and the spokesman, to Lancaster's astonishment, read the draft of a bill issuing bonds to the amount of \$300,000.

The psychological moment had arrived, he was shrewd enough to know it, and had doubled the agreed upon figures. With no dissenting voice the resolution carried, the bill went to the Legislature, the bonds were issued and the good roads movement was on.

Now comes a salient feature of the hard-road proposition. When the hard roads were completed no more road tax was needed for roads in those districts. That question had been solved. No more road work was needed, and the money which was collected for that purpose went into a sinking fund to liquidate the bonds when they fell due.

What do you think of that, gentlemen? No increase in road tax, good roads, and a fund provided for the payment of the bonds. Can you beat it?

There may be a day when the Obion County Court will be glad to listen to a man like Sam Lancaster. There isn't a bigger man in the State and none better equipped in his work morally, mentally and physically than the man who made Jackson and Madison County what it is.

THE ONLY WAY.

We are living in a republic, that is we are living under that impression, but it looks like there are hundreds and thousands of people who are either ignorant or disrespectful of our public institutions. It is hard to believe that there are members of State Legislatures, and even members of Congress, who have not read the Constitution of the United States, but the way some measures have been introduced into and acted upon by these law-making bodies is evidence of the fact that there are men in high places totally ignorant of its provisions, which were intended to be the foundation of all our laws; either that or people have grown to respect that ancient and honored instrument no more, and care less what kind of government we have.

The gross neglect or inexcusable ignorance of many legislators in drawing their bills to comply with the provisions of the Constitution is too palpable when some of the recent efforts at legislation have been considered, and even some of the laws which are now on the books. There are conspicuous instances of these things. Some men think they have a right to ignore Constitution, precedent and everything else in making laws against trusts and corporations. These concerns have the power to wield a world of influence for good or bad. But we would rather see every trust and combine in the United States thrive and fatten and wax greater and stronger than that the liberties and rights of our Constitutional government should be threatened. The signs of crumbling of the greatest and best—if not the most powerful—government on earth, or that history gives us any account, are more menacing than all the ills of commercialism. There are no immediate indications of these things, but there is an insidious disregard for Constitutional rights, with a gradual threatening of bureaucracy and autocracy. Public officials are asking for more salaries and excises are growing. Caesar is demanding more tribute. Who is the paymaster? Not the Government, but the people. The commoner pays the tax. An equitable apportionment of pay is sometimes wholesome, but a general demand for more pay by our public servants is not portentions of the simple life, as taught by our forefathers.

But dropping the salary business as a small affair, it is the opinion of every eminent authority that the evil of trusts and corporations cannot be successfully combated with legislation, such as we have constitutional authority to pass. The burden of this

adjustment lies in the hands of contending forces—the organization of the producing element. The farmers, the miners, the mechanics. They are the only legitimate power on the other side of the balances, and it rests with them whether they organize and contend for these rights.

Politicians should begin to learn that the entire weight of financial conditions does not rest upon their shoulders.

Changing the tariff from the protective to the revenue basis, while great and good doctrine, is much less potent than the power of the producer concentrated and used to rectify peculating and grafting schemes.

Above all Providence has a greater hand in our prosperity or adversity than all the other elements combined, and no amount of legislation could make a good crop year, or a succession of good crops.

Therefore let us have constitutional laws and those which we can enforce. If not, then don't waste time and money undertaking to establish useless and inconsistent legislation.

WHAT WE SHOULD BE.

The Union City Merchants Association is endeavoring to land a concrete-block plant. The secretary is now in correspondence with a very reputable concern with good prospects. The vice president, W. G. Reynolds, stated that it was the purpose of the association to double the population of Union City in five years, and he added that it could be easily done.

It has always been our opinion and we believe it yet that Union City can be made to grow larger and better. We have advantages that no other town has in the whole State—leaving out the cities.

First we have a country surrounding Union City as rich and fertile as the land of the Nile—the best agricultural county in the State. That is a fact and it is enough if we had nothing else in the world. But we have the finest city schools and churches. We have pure healthy water coming from artesian wells, as fine as the earth affords. What next, we have 4000 healthy, sensible, hospitable, intelligent, industrious and religious people. Isn't that enough to guarantee a city. This should have been a city long ago with the right kind of enterprise.

We have now the men who propose to look after our commercial and industrial growth, and they are good and reliable citizens. That they are fully in earnest and confident that the results will meet their anticipations there is little doubt.

They will meet drawbacks and discouragements. The first will be knockers. Without meaning to be disrespectful it must be said that we have such people. Then there comes the citizen who tells you that he would help you, but your scheme is not practical. Wonder if all the schemes which built Chicago are impractical. Treat the wise citizens and knockers with the greatest respect, but push ahead regardless of what they say, keeping at it, day in and day out.

If this recipe fails in Union City with its natural surroundings and internal advantages, then there is no hope for us. But never let an opportunity pass. Inaugurate what in the wisdom of the association is the best plan, then move ahead with the spirit and determination to succeed. This method will work to our advantage and no man on earth can successfully contradict it.

We present our readers this week with the full text of Governor Patterson's message to the Tennessee Legislature. The document has been commented upon as a plain, straight-forward, practical compendium of suggestions respecting the kind of laws needed in the State. Mr. Patterson adheres to his pre-election platform to every way, and the reader can get a complete review by reading it all.

WORTHLESS LEGISLATION.

The Tennessee Legislators have introduced the usual influx of bills to be passed upon at this session, and not a few of them are wholly absurd. One in particular is without the semblance of excuse. This is the bill to prohibit the sale of or traffic in what are known as patent medicines in the State of Tennessee, the result of which would be neither a benefit nor an advantage practically to any person in the State, but, on the contrary, would act as an obstruction to the enforcement of the National Pure Food and Drugs Act. What the purpose was in offering this bill is hard to tell. It would be worth very little to the physician, for nearly every doctor is directly or indirectly interested in some pharmacy in his town. Then who could it benefit. There are lots of good medicines manufactured all over the country, and many people are not only interested in the manufacture, but in their use.

The Federal law regulates interstate commerce in drugs and medicines, requiring that the label of every medicine shall tell only the simple truth and that the presence of alcohol or any narcotic drugs in a medicine shall be disclosed upon the label. This act was framed after seventeen years of discussion and is certainly worthy of a fair trial.

It is not our intention to take sides with the manufacturers of "patent" medicines against physicians, or anyone else, but the tendency these days to legislate in the interest of classes is passing beyond the limits of constitutional bound. Many of these are good medicines, and they are generally known to have meritorious properties in them. Many perhaps are inferior. If so the pure food and drugs act will cover the case, and that is what it is intended for. If the medicines are good then the manufacturers should be protected in their constitutional rights just the same as any other person, whether he is a physician, druggist or engaged in any other profession or legitimate pursuit.

You've tried the rest, now try the best—Sunshine Flour

An Ordinance

Relating to the Violation of Sunday Laws with Regard to the Sale of Merchandise.

The following is a true copy of Section 3, Chap. 23, on page 106 of the Code of Union City:

SEC. 3. If any grocer, merchant, or any other person doing business in Union City, shall open the door or doors of his business house, or keep them open on Sunday for the purpose of doing business, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined not less than five nor more than fifty dollars for each offense. Provided, that this ordinance shall not apply to livery stables, hotels, railroad depots and ticket offices and restaurants; Provided further, that druggists shall be permitted to open their stores or storehouses for the purpose of selling drugs, and that bakeries shall be allowed to remain open until nine o'clock in the morning and to open again at five o'clock on each Sunday.

Published by request.

AN AGED PHYSICIAN

After Years of Experience Gives the Following Advice.

"If you have anything to do with medicines at all be pretty sure you know what you are taking."

One of the Proprietors of the Red Cross Drug Store, says this is a strong point in favor of their valuable cod liver preparation, Vinol. Everything it contains is plainly printed on the label, therefore it is not a patent medicine.

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We can only ask every person in Union City who needs such a medicine to try Vinol on our offer to return their money if it fails. Red Cross Drug Store, Watson & Kimzey, Props.

NOTE.—While we are sole agents for Vinol in Union City, it is now for sale at the leading drug stores in nearly every town and city in the country. Look for the Vinol agency in your town.

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