

THE FRANKLIN TIMES

A. F. JOHNSON, Editor and Manager

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Quite a little interest has been shown recently as to what our Legislators are going to do relative to reducing the salaries of our County officers.

Many married men had better be especially nice to their wives or they may not be able to get the necessary permit for them to enter the pool room and enjoy a game.

We don't think that any reasonable person will expect our Legislators to pass a bill requiring our County officers to work for nothing, but the average tax payer doesn't think a man is worth much more to the county than he would be to some private business.

It is to be hoped that this Legislature can and will put all counties, cities, towns, districts, etc. in the state handling public funds under a State-wide auditing system, modeled somewhat after the Bank examining system. This alone will give every public fund the benefit of audit and save thousands of dollars to the tax payers of the State.

Solicitor W. F. Evans, of Raleigh, and others are waging a clean-up campaign against the boot-leggers in Raleigh and Wake county that is bringing many arrests. Lets hope a like campaign can be waged in Louisburg and Franklin county. This is a fertile field and needs relief from the present conditions, but it will take a good sleuth and a lot of work to get some of our wily old violators.

We notice that a bill has been introduced in the Legislature to prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons. Just why the need of this we don't see. There has been a law against carrying concealed weapons ever since we can remember and yet they are carried and the perpetrators are turned loose in Court with a little fine and costs. If the old law can't be enforced what change will the new law have? We believe a legislature a few years ago passed a law requiring a person to get a permit from the Clerk of the Court in order to purchase a gun. This law from a standpoint of practice, was not worth a flip. The only thing it did was to divert the trade from our merchants to mail order houses. It occurs to us that if a law was passed requiring all merchants selling fire arms and ammunition to keep a complete record of every sale, showing the quantity and kind and make a monthly report of same to the Courts it might help.

In another column we are publishing a bill drawn by Mr. W. M. Person and introduced in the State Senate by Senator C. P. Harris, to enforce that part of the Constitution that requires taxes to be levied and collected on stocks and bonds the same as money and other property. This bill ought to pass. The present system is the biggest piece of injustice a country has ever imposed upon its people and we can't help but feel that our legislators want to do the right thing and will do so by passing this bill. First hand information can be gotten in most any community, where a person with a home or a small amount of real estate has to pay a heavy tax and at the same time there are others there who own a big lot of property and get off with practically no tax. The latter enjoys all local improvements at no cost that the former has to provide and pay for. By all means give the little fellow a square deal by passing this bill.

WHY GO TO THE TROUBLE?

The question in the minds of many of Franklin County's better citizens is "Why should the County Commissioners go to the trouble to ask the Legislature to pass a bill to do away with the office of Superintendent of Public Welfare in Franklin County?" when under the law there is nothing compulsory about Franklin County having such an officer. The law places the responsibility directly up to the Boards of Education and County Commissioners, and the only reason we see for troubling the Legislature with the question is to try to shirk the responsibility of taking a position for themselves.

With every question there is a certain amount of justice or reason. The Welfare work was the result of the necessity of a united effort to give to the children of the State an opportunity that had been consistently denied them in the past. Too many children had been kept out of school for nothing more than an unjustified selfish reason, and in many cases no reason at all. Too many children were suffering for the want of proper medical and home training and too many grown-ups had been neglected and had become a burden to themselves and their community. No man who will make an honest and impartial investigation of the Welfare work in Franklin county, can look into the faces of the unfortunate who have

received a God given benefit through the work and deny the fact that it has not been money well spent. Just recently a little girl who could not walk, has returned from a hospital where she received treatment through the efforts of this Department, improved to such an extent she has a fair chance of becoming a young lady of value to herself and community. Was it better to save this child to herself and the community or to save the paltry sum the service costs to the County? There are many other cases just as great as this. We don't believe any true blooded American citizen who has the proper regard for humanity and for the religion of Jesus Christ, would be willing to deny to the beneficiaries of the Welfare Department the benefits they receive for twice the costs. Then how can any body of men justify themselves in denying this great charitable work and at the same time donate hundreds of dollars to military companies or other organizations, whose only aim is the destruction of life, through its force of power. To us it looks better to spend a hundred dollars to save a life or administer to a cripple, or unfortunate, than to destroy one, by a bullet or through neglect or indifference.

The Board is to be congratulated for rejecting the suggestion.

MISTAKE TO ELECT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The effort of some members of the Board of County Commissioners to have the Board ask the Legislature to have the Superintendent of Schools elected by the people is simply a misplaced action. One in which the Author evidently is not satisfied with the office he holds but is attempting to regulate matters that is foreign to him as an official and can only hope to bring about confusion and through such confusion render inefficient not only the work of the Superintendent, but of the entire educational system. The author evidently loses sight of the fact that the Superintendent is only an employee of the Board of Education and has no power in fixing either the policy or expense of the educational system, except as his recommendations meet the approval of the members of the Board and any citizen has the same power. We strongly believe in the principle that all branches of public service should be directly accountable to the public for its acts. The Board of Education of Franklin County is selected by ballot at the primary and is directly accountable to the tax payers for its acts and administration. We heartily endorse the idea of selecting the members of the Board of Education and the bill recently introduced in the House by Representative George H. Cooper to elect the Board of Graded School Trustees. But as it is impossible for the Superintendent of Schools of the County or of the Graded School Districts to formulate and enforce a policy, there is no reason why they should be accountable to any one except the Board they serve. Under the plan suggested it could easily happen that a Board and a Superintendent could be elected between whom there might be friction and either party could in a great measure defeat the plans and policies of the other, with the result that the public and more especially the children would be the loser. We believe if the author of the suggestion would take time enough to learn just what he is about he would apologize to the public for his acts. First for interfering, as an official, with the duties of another body and second for his apparent ignorance of the actual conditions it would bring about. If you don't like the Superintendent then elect members of the Board of Education who will change him. But for God's sake don't elect a body of men to do a certain work and then not let that body employ help that is in sympathy with their policy. You couldn't expect a Democratic administration of an office with a republican in it, no more so than you could expect the best results in the Educational Department of the county, with a Board of one mind and disposition and a Superintendent of another.

The Commissioner is evidently stepping beyond his prerogative or propriety and we are sure the Legislature would quickly construe the act as a personal matter not for the good of the best interests of the school children and promptly table such a measure, even should it be possible to slip it by the better judgment of our representatives, which we are confident can't be done.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

I haven't been able to find the man whose duty it is to work Halifax road in Louisburg township, but hope he will see this as it is impossible for him to get out and see the road. I don't know whose duty it is but it is evidently somebody's to fix this road so it can be traveled. I've been required to pay a big road tax for many years and feel that I'm entitled to a road that I can travel or relieved from this tax. I live only four and a half miles from Louisburg and have to go ten miles and travel plantation and saw mill paths to get there. Now I don't like to do this, somebody has misappropriated my money. Now, I'm addressing the man in authority and I don't care if you dislike this. Don't think you can get out here, but if you can, I will be at home and will proceed to get the mad off you to the best of my ability.

HUGH J. HAYES.

CONVALESCING

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Jno. W. King will be pleased to learn that Mrs. King, who was successfully operated upon last week at St. Luke's hospital in Richmond is convalescing very satisfactory and hopes to return home soon.

FOR SALE

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ABOVE WE MENTIONED JUST A FEW ARTICLES, BUT IF YOU WANT ANYTHING IN HARDWARE COME TO SEE US. IF WE SHOULD FAIL TO HAVE IT WE WILL BE MORE THAN GLAD TO TELL YOU WHERE AND HOW TO GET WHAT YOU NEED.

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SETTLEMENT WITH LOCAL TAX SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR OF 1921-22.

The County with the aid of the State Equalizing Fund pays the Teachers' salaries and transportation expenses for six months according to the State Salary Schedule. If the schools run longer than six months or if the teachers are paid more than their rating in the State Salary Schedule, all this expense must come from the Local Tax Fund from that District. As will be seen some Districts had to supplement their county and local funds with private donations. For incidental expenses the county allowed each school \$15 per room. No school can tell exactly the amount of its local tax until the sheriff makes his settlement which this year was made the first of December. Since therefore the local tax is variable, not the same any one year, some districts will have overdrafts at the end of the school year while others may have a balance. Any district that may have a balance gets credit for the amount the next year, any district that may have an overdraft is charged with the amount for the next year. All Disbursements are paid by orders signed by the committeemen and the county superintendent.

Table of settlements for school districts: BUNN—Term 8 Months, CEDAR ROCK—Term 2 Months, EPSOM—Term 7 Months, FLAT ROCK—Term 7 Months. Each district entry includes Receipts (Balance from 1920-21, From County and State for 6 months, Amount of Local tax, Incidentals, Private Donation) and Disbursements (Teachers salaries, J. H. Weathers, supplies and repairs, Districts half for new building, Local tax to colored school).

Table of settlements for school districts: HICKORY ROCK—Term 7 1-2 Months, INGLESIDE—Term 7 1-2 Months, JUSTICE—Term 8 Months, LAUREL—Term 7 1-2 Months, MOULTON-HAYES—Term 6 Months, MAPLEVILLE—Term 8 Months, MT. GROVE—Term 7 Months, OAK RIDGE—Term 8 Months, PEARCE—Term 7 1-2 Months, PINE RIDGE—Term 7 1-3 Months. Each district entry includes Receipts (Balance from 1920-21, From County and State for 6 months, Amount of Local tax, Incidentals) and Disbursements (Teacher's salaries, Local tax to colored school, Overdraft from 1920-21, Incidentals).

(Continued on Fifth Page)