

THE COURIER

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WHAT WE PAY OUR GOVERNOR.

Doubtless there are many who have thought that we did not pay our state officials, especially our governor, a living salary, but to all those who refer to an article published elsewhere which we clip from the Elizabeth City Independent. The author says he got the figures from the auditors report, hence we take it they are correct, at least we have seen no denial of them.

It has been known of all men that no one could serve as governor of North Carolina and come out even at the end of his term—not to count the expense of the primary for the nomination, but few realized that we were paying our present governor more than twenty five thousand dollars per year. Of course, his salary is only six thousand five hundred dollars, but the extras were eighteen thousand five hundred and sixty three dollars and sixty eight cents, making his total salary just \$25,063.68. So, you see we are not acting so negligently with our governor after all.

We want to be present when the first man on the stump attempts to justify this expenditure by the governor who boasts of being just one of "the plain people."

Poor Richard, like all of us who try to bring to pass any kind of a reform, is being bombarded these days by some of our correspondents. We admire Poor Richard, and while it is true, he sometimes calls a spade a spade with some bluntness, he is honest, and has undoubtedly been of great value to his community. Well can we remember when his township was too well known from the quality and quantity of booze made on the spring branches, and we gladly joined hands with him in trying to convince the good people in that section that their community was too rich in fertile lands to blacken it with such a reputation. And, as Richard says, today it is reckoned as one of the very best sections of this good County.

Mr. Glenn in a communication on another page takes the Highway Commission to task for not doing more work in Mt. Tirzah township. We hold no brief for the Highway Commission, they are well able to take care of themselves, but in justice to them we want to say we must not overlook the fact that by large odds the greater part of the money paid into the road fund goes for interest on bonds the proceeds of which went into building our present good roads.

We see it stated in the Durham Herald that Mr. W. L. Foushee will be a candidate for the Senate from that district. We hope Mr. Foushee will be successful, but we want to say if his adopted home does not appreciate him and his services well enough to give him this honor, just come back to the County of his nativity and we will guarantee to send him as our representative.

If you are not reading the articles which we are printing from week to week from Mr. C. W. Hunt you are missing some ray matter. Mr. Hunt is on the right track and if more of this class of news was printed you would soon see a change in the affairs of the State.

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MR. BAILEY REPLIES.

Raleigh, N. C. February 18 1924.
 To the Editor,

The Courier,
 Roxboro, N. C.

Dear Sir:
 I see in your paper of February 13th, an article entitled "Mr. Bailey's Tax Controversy"—being an editorial from the WILMINGTON STAR. I take it that you will permit me to say in your columns that this editorial does not represent my views—now, or at any time in the past. My views on taxation were presented in the first article of my announcement, which reads as follows:

"The demand of justice and the common welfare, that land shall be relieved of the unjust share of the burden of taxation now imposed upon it. This may be done, and must be done. Land ought to bear its fair share of taxation, and no more. The burden now upon our farms and small homes is greater than can be borne."

It is (I hope) well known throughout the State, that I have for years consistently fought against the over-valuation and over-taxation of farming lands. In this fight I was associated with Mr. R. W. H. Stone, President of the FARMERS UNION; his address is Greensboro, N. C.; and anyone doubtful on the subject may write to him.

I protected with all the power I had against the Revaluation Act, and was about the only public man in the State that did, when it was on its passage in 1920.

I have never been in favor of the State valuing property for taxation. One of the chief objects of my candidacy is to remove from farms and small homes, the unjust burden of taxation that they are now bearing. The State has taken over, all the sources of taxation, except property; and has put upon property the burden of maintaining the schools, county roads, county and city government. The consequence is that land is bearing very much more than its share of the cost of government. Not only so; the State in the last Legislature exempted from taxation over \$100,000,000 of stocks in foreign corporations. In addition, the wealthier classes escape taxation by purchasing tax-exempt bonds.

Just why anyone should be interested to misrepresent my views, I must leave to the reader to determine for himself; and I must ask those who know me throughout the State, to correct these false representations wherever they see them.

I intend to treat my opponent fairly, and I hope the newspapers and the people of North Carolina will see that I am treated fairly.

Respectfully,
 J. W. Bailey.
 Advertisement.

WHAT USE HAS PERSON COUNTY FOR ROAD COMMISSIONERS?

It would seem to one travelling on the Roxboro and Durham highway that the above question was unnecessary for clearly enough if all our roads were concreted; we should have no need of Road Commissioners. But we all know it to be a self evident fact that the roads are not all concreted; hence we need some kind of machinery for the up-keep of said roads.

But the question that naturally confronts us is what kind of machinery we should have for seeing to it that our roads are built and properly worked. Were I a citizen of Wake County I could see very well the need for Road Commissioners because in Wake County as well as two or three counties of the state the road building program is much larger besides the number of miles of roads to be looked after is so much greater in those counties than in Person.

Now we have County Commissioners, and as good ones as any county in the state, the writer believes, whose business it is to look after the general welfare of conditions of the county. To me it seems that road work is naturally a part of this program. I should like to know who in the world ever heard of Person County Commissioners complain about being over worked. There was a time not many years past when our County Commissioners had charge of the roads and they handled the situation far more efficiently than it is handled at the present time. Take for a concrete example the roads in Mt. Tirzah Township. Some of them, parts of the main line too, have been neglected and neglected until now they are only a little better than no road. The writer has clearly in mind the end of a Person County Road that leads from Mt. Tirzah to the Durham County line a distance of a little over two miles and the road travelled not a little has not been worked for three or four successive years. Two weeks ago the bridge across the river on this road was condemned and not a lick has been done on it yet in the way of repairs or of building a new one. Thus the

whole corner is shut out from free delivery or any other convenience. Now this is just the kind of deal being handed to the people of Old Person County by the honorable body of Road Commissioners, and there are other roads in the township that are equally as badly neglected.

Now, if we are going to imitate a county for carrying on our road building program why not take for example a model county like Durham where Road Commissioners are unknown. In Durham County the County Commissioners have full charge of building the roads and this is done very efficiently and there is no complaining so far as I can learn of County Commissioners being over worked. Now if the Durham County Commissioners can look after the roads in their county pray tell me what is the matter with our efficient body of County Commissioners?

The people in Mt. Tirzah Township have tried hard to get the road worked but all to no avail. They have written letters have sent a petition, have been before the board as a committee, yet their excuse is they got no money. I would ask our honorable body where under the canopy of heaven is going with our Road Taxes? According to our sheriffs own report he has received for the present month \$79,600.00. This we take for granted is but a smaller per cent of the taxes for the entire year. Now if we have been rightly informed forty per cent of the taxes paid goes for work on the roads. If this be true why in the name of common sense is it that Mt. Tirzah Township can't get a bit spent on her road. The people in this township are as law-abiding and as prompt to pay their taxes as any people in the county. They stand ready with heart and hand to support any progressive movement that is for the betterment of the county. But now they are demanding and have the right to know what is becoming of, or why they can't receive some benefit from the taxes they pay.

O. T. Glenn.

VALUABLE TOWN PROPERTY FOR SALE.

On March 3rd at 11 A. M. on the premises I will sell at public auction the house and lot belonging to the late Mrs. Harriet A. Hamlett.

This property will be subdivided and sold, and then sold as a whole. Terms, one fourth cash, balance in 6, 12 and 18 months.

B. E. Love,
 Commissioner

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