

THE WEEKLY PILOT

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THE REVALUATIONS

At the next meeting of the board of commissioners steps should be taken to recall the appeal to the state board for revaluations of property in the county. At a recent meeting of the state board several appeals came from the counties to recall their former request for revaluation, and it is in order for Moore county to do the same thing. It is doubtful now if the state will consider the revaluations at all, for the more the subject is studied the more it appears that it is an emotional mistake.

Serious deliberation on the part of the people of Moore inclines to the belief that the real estate of the county would not be fairly valued if given a horizontal reduction of twenty-five per cent, for if it is not fairly valued the errors in valuation are in individual cases and not in all cases. Beyond a doubt some lands are assessed too high and some are too low, but to cut everything twenty-five per cent will still leave all the inequalities, and will get nowhere.

The newspapers of the county are for a reconsideration of the appeal to the state board. There is no doubt that a majority of the thinking people are against any change in the assessments, although the sentiment is strongly in favor of a careful inquiry into any unfair assessment with the remedy that already exists under the law of readjustment in those cases where the assessments are not proportionate with others of the same class of property in the same neighborhood.

It is certain that a great deal of land in the county is worth more now than when the assessment was made over a year ago. Lands in this township around Knollwood that sold for not over \$150 an acre when the last assessment was made have sold for several times that much since. It is doubtful if the land in McNeills township could be bought for half a million dollars today above what it could have been bought for when the assessment of last year was fixed on it. To cut those values twenty-five per cent would be ridiculous. In other parts of the county values have increased at lesser ratio, and there is not a great

deal that has suffered much. Some has shrunk materially, but that small proportion can be adjusted under the power given the commissioners. To cut all the land in the county to afford relief to that which is assessed too high does not give it relief, for under a horizontal reduction it would still have to pay its excessive proportion when other lands not too high now are cut twenty-five per cent also.

The thing for the commissioners to do is to withdraw the request to cut Moore county values and then adjust those that really need adjustment, but even those should be investigated carefully before action is taken. When it is found that any property is too high as compared with the rest of the property in the community the remedy is available and it should be extended. There is never any excuse for unfairness in anything.

The Pilot believes the recent assessment was the most correct and equitable ever made in the state and the county. It was followed by a tax levy that fairly laid the assessment on all of us. If we reduce the valuations we have to increase the levy proportionately, and the man who is assessed too high now will still be paying too big a proportion of the taxes. No justice will come out of that proceeding. But along with that injustice will come still the other mistaken procedure, that of tearing down a good taxation system that we have started to build up.

The Pilot has heard much protest against the reduction in valuations, and very little defense of the proposition. That some men have bought lands at high prices and will have a hard uphill struggle to pay out at the prices paid is true, but lands have not been assessed as a rule at the high figures that have been paid. The board of assessors have kept down below the boom prices because they doubted whether those figures were to be taken as actual values. A great many men would not give a second thought to an offer to buy their property at its honest value nor would sell for the price at which their property is valued. Some would sell for less. Such should have a readjustment. But the plan of a horizontal reduction of twenty-five per cent on everything is wholly illogical. It will leave the irregularities just as they are and will give relief to nobody. The man who should have a readjustment will still be where he is, and we will have a general tax muddle worse than anything the country has ever

known, besides a probable shortage of revenue for the current needs.

HOKE COUNTY

The problem of a better road out to the eastward from Vass is one that will have to be taken up before long with the power to settle it and settle it definitely. In that territory is a developing neighborhood, and a bit of fertile land that is attractive to settlers and which must have a road scheme that will serve them and the region reached beyond them.

But a drawback about road building down Little River is that a strip of Hoke county two or three miles wide is cut off from the main part of the county by Camp Bragg, and several thousand acres are thus marooned and with little hope of much help from the old county.

That isolated region ought to be disposed of in some way, some of it at least being added to Moore county, so that a definite knowledge of who is to do what is to be done might be had so something could be undertaken.

Down the river is a great possibility for settlers, and they are gradually coming in. But they will not come as fast as they want to until they know better where that Cherokee strip is to be located, whether in a neglectful Hoke county or a helpful Moore county. Until we know who is to be the responsible authority over the roads we cannot do very much in the direction of planning for a permanent improved system, for nobody knows who is to build and maintain the roads after the Moore county line is crossed. But the road down through Lobelia is an important one, and one that should be extended on down to join the Fayetteville road that it may be a through road out to some place further away than Morrison's bridge, which so far as the people up this way are concerned is the end of creation.

The other road problems that center about Vass have a possibility of solution that is not so hard to see. The other roads are in the hands of forces that have authority and that lead to some action. But the road out to the east is as important as any other in this section, and it has no putative father or mother or influential friend, and it can see no trail blazed as to where it is to go after it gets down toward the camp neighborhood.

Not only the road, but the other interests of this narrow strip of Hoke county are involv-

ed in getting the bit of country assigned to something that will have power to improve roads, make schools, and do all the other things that community government brings about. That strip of land is tributary to Vass and it should be connected in its interests with the same influences that are at work here in the heart of the Vass community. It cannot be benefitted much any longer by being attached to Hoke county which is seriously cut away from the Little River section that contact is almost impossible, and any common relations are out of the question.

WHY NOT TELL US

Hardly a week passes but we bump into some Vass citizen who asks: "Why didn't you have something in the paper about So-and-So; I thought every body knew about it." And that's where they make a mistake. The thing you hear may be a long time getting to the editor. You may think it is common talk when, in fact, not more than a half-dozen know about it. So don't think the editor is a mind-reader, or that he has a way of finding out news without people telling it to him. March right up or call up and tell him that which you have heard and which you believe would interest others when they see it in the paper. It takes but a few seconds, and it will help wonderfully to make the very kind of paper you want printed in your home town. Don't wait until the paper has come out to tell him the things that are news to you. Practice that modern slogan: "Do It Now."

They say elephants were once to be found in Texas. But that must have been before the country went dry.

R. WEBER CEMENT BLOCKS

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Lakeview, N. C.

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Repairing and Supplies, Oils,
Gasoline, Accessories
Auto Service

PERSONAL

Mr. T. H. Beers left Su-
lanta, Ga.

Prof. W. D. Matthews
day in Raleigh.

Mr. George Griffin of
home for the week end.

Mr. John A. Gunter is
tives in Lemon Springs.

Miss Lora Norman s-
with Miss Annie McGill.

Mr. H. A. Gunter of A-
here Tuesday on busine-

Mr. Alvin Laubscher
week end with his people

Mr. George P. Thom-
business trip to Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Sm-
tors in Cameron Sunday

Mrs. D. G. McFadgen
of this week with Mrs.

Mrs. T. K. Gunter and
visiting relatives in M-
week.

Miss Bertha Sanford
from a visit to relativ-
burg.

Miss Ila Norman, of
the guest Sunday of M-
wards.

Mrs. W. B. Grah-
Bernice and Albert, spe-
Charlotte.

Mrs. D. A. McLauch-
Margaret Keith spent
in Raleigh.

Mr. C. J. Temple we-
home in Chatam County
business.

Miss Katherine Gra-
guest of Mr. and Mrs.
of Cameron.

Mr. Hazel Jones, of
States Navy is spending
friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. I-
near Vass visited Mr. a-
Smith Sunday.

Prof. W. D. Matthe-
the next two weeks with
relatives at High Point.

Mr. J. R. Thomas
Raleigh Monday after-
week end with his peop-

Richard Emerson the-
of Mr. and Mrs. R. L.
has been very ill is in

Mr. J. D. McLean, of
Bank of Cameron was a-
er at the Pilot office las-

Mr. Walter B. Grah-
at Carthage this week
County Court is in sess-

Mr. J. B. Camer-
daughter, Mary Elizab-
hurst, were visitors in t-

Mr. C. J. Tyson spen-
his parents, Mr. and M-
son and returned to R.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. M-
eron were the supper-
and Mrs. W. J. Camer-
ing.

Mr. and Mrs. Fran-
Cameron Route one, w-
Miss Squire, were vis-
Monday.

Mr. D. R. Shaw, sa-
Burroughs Adding Mac-
of Detroit, Mich., was
week on business.

Mrs. A. G. Edwards
returned home last wee-
where they had been
time with relatives

Mr. D. C. McGill s-
end with home folks