

The Smithfield Herald.

PRICE ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

"TRUE TO OURSELVES, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR GOD."

SINGLE COPIES FIVE CENTS.

VOL. 25.

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1906.

NO. 19

THE MIGHTY VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

DECLARE FOR PROPOSED SALARY PLAN.

Letters From Some of the County's Most Conservative Citizens Heartily Endorsing the Proposition.

LET ALL STAND FIRMLY TOGETHER.

To The Voters:—The suggestion to place the county officers upon a salary basis and to pay the surplus into the General School fund of the county has met with well-nigh universal approval. The only opposition worthy of the name is composed of some officials and candidates and a few followers who have tried to side track the proposition by bringing in objections that will not bear the x-ray of common sense.

With the assistance and advice of others who are interested in the success of the measure, I am now preparing the resolution to be offered to the convention, that I am satisfied will prove to be a measure of simplicity, cheapness and effectiveness. The idea is to pay the Clerk, Register and Treasurer each a straight salary without any fees whatever, and to give the Sheriff a fair salary as well as the fees accruing from the serving of subpoenas, warrants and other legal processes. The execution of the proposed measure will not necessitate the services of a special auditor, but, on the contrary, the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners can quickly and easily audit all accounts at a cost of not more than fifty dollars per year.

The proposition, as it will be introduced, will be published in this paper before the convention meets. I trust that all friends of the measure will meet with us on August 1st and give the proposition the support of their votes and influence. Remember that this is a fight for conservative economy in county affairs and the furtherance of the educational interests of the county without incurring the burden of special taxes.

If you believe in saving money, if you believe in education, if your school house needs rebuilding, repairing or repainting, if your school needs new seats, desks and other fixtures—why, you and I should be lined up together in support of this question.

Very respectfully,
S. S. HOLT.

The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number.

Mr. S. S. Holt,
Smithfield, N. C.

Dear Sir:—Having watched your course in the fight you are making for a good cause, I am glad to be able to inform you that there is but little if any opposition to your salary plan in this section, but to my surprise a gentleman who has visited another town in the county says he did find a small contingent that is.

First: Doubtful of officers, clerks and deputies performing well their sworn duties when placed on salary;

Second: Of opinion that schools, school houses and teachers are as nearly the acme of perfection as the county needs;

Third: Fearful that fees will not pay the salaries and that the treasury will be drawn upon for that purpose;

Fourth: Uneasy for the safety of the party that undertakes it, etc. etc. etc.

How the same mind can hold all these vagaries and be consistent is impossible to conceive. I will remark briefly upon them,

but a child could easily tear the mask away.

First: Sworn officers, clerks and deputies who will not be "in action faithful and in honor clear" on salary as well as for fee are ill-deserving the confidence of the people; and their friends who urge this as good reason for continuing the fee system, make a poor apology for him whose cause they champion and discredit worthy men of industry, energy and perseverance to a shocking degree, little less than slander. Of all things disgusting in those whom their fellow citizens have honored, it is to see officers perniciously busy themselves in matters by which they hope to increase fees; and this they must do to make the office pay more than it will do legitimately anyway, with efficient faithful service, and as all candidates and their friends vouchsafe to the public. The highest officers of the state and nation both civil and military are salaried and a falling off of fees under a salary system would be conclusive proof, either that unjust fees have been exacted, or that sworn officers under whose administration receipts are diminished, are grossly incompetent, other conditions being equal. Gainsay it if you can.

Second: In this our effort to give the county almost if not quite as good schools as the towns have we deserve the support of all good citizens in town and country that the rising generation may be better able to discern between truth and sophistry; but no argument against better schools and a more general diffusion of learning can be made respectable enough to be called sophistry, even.

Third: An assertion full of glaring inconsistencies must be taken for truth to find foundation for argument that the treasury will have to be drawn upon to make up a deficit in salaries on account of a falling off in fees. Officers who can live and grow fat on their fees, and then can not with the same fees for the county, on salary "earn their board and keep" should be unceremoniously kicked out, and their places be given to others who are not over-fattened on fees, and who can well afford to be "faithful over a few things."

Fourth: Men who go about shedding alligator tears out of downright fear for the safety of the party, and thrusting their noisy breath into peoples ears and faces, gratuitously warning them against progressive measures, that are neither partisan nor political, not experiments, but measures already satisfactorily tried all around us, are enemies to the commonwealth of today and enemies to posterity. Hurt the party! Such measures and such men as favor them have made the party what it is in spite of Job's comforters, and by the grace of God and the faith that is within them they will turn it over with all its glorious achievements to their children and their children's children, even better than it is.

I do not know the origin of this jumbled plea, nor that it all emanates from the same source, but doubtless even if traced to its beginning, if any one could afford to dignify it that much, we would find a scattering few who think they have strings on an office and hope to fatten on fees, together with a few of their satellites, who always feel bigger in conventions and on election days than the men who are nominated and elected. Let us all work together for good—the greatest good to the greatest number.

Vox populi,
J. F. Lee.
Benson, N. C.

Some More Medicine Needed.

Mr. S. S. Holt,

Smithfield, N. C.

Dear Sir:—Your suggestion to place the county officers upon a salary and to place the surplus into the school fund is finding many friends everywhere, and I think if the wishes of the people prevail, the suggestion will be enacted in a law. Besides being the correct thing to do from an economic standpoint, it will do a great deal towards getting the people to take a little interest in politics.

An old countryman, like myself, can see and hear a lot of dissatisfaction this year and it strikes me that the thing to do is to satisfy the discontented as much as possible by adopting your idea. This leads me to think that other reforms may be started to help in harmonizing all the people. For instance, it would not be a bad idea for the party to say that rotation in office is Democratic and should be practiced. I am acquainted with Democrats who have been sore a long time about this rotation business, and I think the independent spirit showing itself is due in a great measure to the ignoring of this Democratic doctrine. I think the only way to get rotation in office is for our convention to adopt a resolution limiting the officer's service to two terms only. I have seen it the case that a man who professes to believe in rotation would be elected to office and some how or other the environments of that office would cause him to change his mind and instead of being a rotationist, he would soon become firm in the faith that the office belongs to the office holder and is his property until death. My idea is to have that officer to understand when nominated the first time, that in four years time he should make way for another equally good man. I think the party needs a reform of this kind.

To speak the plain truth, the Democratic party in this county needs medicine and the time to give it medicine is now when it is sick. We cannot postpone or procrastinate until life is gone, it will be too late to administer the medicine to the dead body. Give us your reform and something along the line I have indicated, and I think the party will come to the polls next fall in better shape than in several years.

I hope that some man who is more of a politician than I am will introduce something to cover the case.

Yours truly,
D. J. WELLS.
Smithfield township.

From Pleasant Grove.

Mr. S. S. Holt,

Smithfield, N. C.

Dear Sir:—Your proposition in regard to the reduction of salaries for our county officers not only strikes me as being one of the greatest propositions that could be put before the people but all my neighbors join me in asking the voters of Johnston county to go to the convention on the first day of August and help us as you did when the amendment was adopted. Come one, come all.

Yours truly,
J. M. WHITTINGTON.
Benson, N. C.

Abundant Material.

Mr. S. S. Holt,

Smithfield, N. C.

Dear Sir:—I have read your article in THE HERALD with much pleasure and satisfaction. I endorse every word you say from beginning to end, if there is any man in the county that cannot work for the amount you suggest let him get out. There are plenty others that would like to have the place and in connection with this I want a good man nominated as one of our representatives to the next legislature to help make the salary plan a law. Very cheerfully submitted.

J. B. Hardee,
Benson, N. C.

MASONS AT SMITHFIELD

Public Installation of Officers
—Masonic Rally Day.

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR GLENN

Court House Packed With Anxious and Enthusiastic People to Hear the Governor's Speech.

The Masons held a rally here yesterday and the occasion was one of pleasure to all concerned. The Masons themselves were out in large numbers, the ladies and children were here to see and be seen, the Governor of the State graced the occasion with his presence, and the candidates were not all conspicuous for their absence.

After forming the procession in their Lodge, the uniformed Masons marched to the court room where after introductory services, Governor Glenn proceeded to address the great audience that had met to hear him. His speech was an able effort, and we have heard it complimented by many of our citizens, representing all political parties.

After the speaking the audience adjourned to the court square where an elegant dinner was served to the immense number of hungry people. It speaks well for the arrangement committee that all were served abundantly and that the remnants of the feast would have fed another large crowd.

In the afternoon the singing class of orphans from the Oxford Asylum rendered a concert in the court house. This concert was indeed creditable and the promoters of the rally are to be congratulated that they saw fit to introduce this feature. The people were entertained and at the same time instructed by this exhibition of the great work of Masonry in North Carolina.

Pass the Resolution.

Mr. S. S. Holt,

Smithfield, N. C.

I heartily appreciate the suggestions you have proposed in regard to the county officers. It does not only meet my approval but meets the approval of almost every man in the township. I hope the people of the county will therefore consider the question and vote for it at the coming Democratic County Convention.

Respectfully,
B. H. WOODARD.
Princeton, N. C., July 10, '06
From Boon Hill.

Mr. S. S. Holt,

Smithfield, N. C.

Dear Sir:—Having read your communication in THE SMITHFIELD HERALD in regard to the reduction of the salaries of our county officers, I wish to say that I endorse every word you say in regard to it, and I have yet to find a single man that does not in our good old Boon Hill township. Let us adopt the salary plan and have better schools and better houses. With best wishes I wish to remain as ever your friend,

LEWIS BRASWELL.
July 7th, 1906.

From Ingrams Township.

Mr. S. S. Holt,

Dear Sir:—We all endorse your plan to pay the officers salaries instead of fees. Lovers of education, right and justice should favor the proposition. The plan has worked well in other counties and will work well in this. I can understand why some old officers should oppose the plan but I don't understand why a newspaper like the Selma News should fight it. Is it the case that the Selma candidates oppose this proposition? Look well, my fellow citizens, and be careful that you know the position men take on public questions before you nominate them for office.

W. E. Strickland.
Four Oaks, N. C.

MORE LETTERS ENDORSING CANDIDATES

FOR THE VARIOUS COUNTY OFFICES.

Each Man According to the Writer the One Most Suited For the Office to Which He Aspires.

An Important Suggestion.

To the Editor of

THE SMITHFIELD HERALD:

I have been a Democrat all my life, and I think I have the good of the party at heart. I am not a candidate for office, but am a Democrat solely because I believe that that party gives to the people the best government. I have, also, always been a temperance man, but I am bound to say that, in my judgment, some of our people are disposed to be extreme respecting the manufacture and sale of wine and cider in Johnston county. The law on this subject seems to be in a muddle. The farmers are told by some that they have the right to sell wine of their own make and on their own premises in quantities of one gallon, not to be drunk on the premises, and sell sweet cider of their own make in any quantities, and by others they are told that they have not a right to do so. Now, in the interest of harmony, I suggest that the next Democratic Convention, which meets in Smithfield on the 1st of August, settle this question one way or another. There are a large number of farmers in Johnston county who have invested considerable money in their orchards and vineyards, and for an hundred years have had the privilege of making wine and cider from grapes and apples of their own raising and selling the same. The towns have voted whiskey out. The county people should at least have the privilege of determining for themselves whether they shall have the right to make and sell wine and cider from their own fruit, and I suggest that the next Democratic Convention order a primary to determine this question; that a box be placed at every voting precinct at the next election; that every person who votes the Democratic ticket, and who does not live in an incorporated town, shall have the privilege of voting in this primary box. I suggest that two kinds of tickets be used—on one have the words "For Instructions," on the other "Against Instructions." If the majority of the people living in the country vote "For Instructions," let it be understood that our representatives in the General Assembly pass a law permitting our farmers to make and sell wine and cider, from fruits and grapes of their own raising, in quantities of not less than a quart, not to be drunk on the premises. If a majority of the country people shall vote "Against Instructions" then let the law remain as it is. I don't believe any man who lives in an incorporated town should be allowed to vote in this primary box, because it is a question which ought to be settled exclusively by the country people.

I am informed that the Solicitor of this district has stated that wine can be sold in quantities of not less than a gallon, provided it is not drunk on the premises; that sweet cider can be sold in any quantities and anywhere, but that it is against the law to sell hard cider. Now, Mr. Editor, if this is true, I submit that it is wrong. It is going too far, and unless the law is changed, the people may rise up and undo what has been so well done in the interest of sobriety and temperance. I do not think there is any need for any legislation respecting brandy, for I am informed on good authority that our farmers can manufacture and sell the same now in quantities of not less than five gallons.

Our country people are law abiding citizens and they are as much opposed to bar-rooms as the town people are, but they think it an outrage to prevent them from selling cider made

from apples of their own raising.

I write this letter merely as a suggestion for the consideration of the Convention. Let everybody attend the convention and settle these questions. Of course, we cannot hope for anything from the Republican party. That party will take any position in order to elect its candidates. The people of Johnston county don't want bar-rooms, and they don't want dispensaries, but they do want the privilege of making and selling their own wine and cider, and, moreover, some arrangements should be made by which our people can get whiskey and brandy for medicinal purposes without violating the law. In order that this may be done, I suggest that the law be amended so that a small stock of pure whiskey and brandy be kept on hand by someone authorized and empowered to sell the same upon the prescription of a physician, and that only enough profit be added to pay the expense of handling the same, and that no physician should be allowed to charge more than 25c for a prescription. I believe our physicians in Johnston county would cheerfully comply with such a law. I am informed that one county in North Carolina has such a law. There are cases, Mr. Editor, in which people are bound to have spirits for medical purposes, and they should not be compelled to send to Virginia for it.

Very respectfully,
W. F. GERALD.
July 10th. Pine Level, N. C.

Millard Nowell For Sheriff.

To the Editor:—I desire to say just a word or two by way of endorsement of what has been written in favor of R. M. Nowell for sheriff, and to expressly put myself on record as favoring him for that office. Not only is he a man who is clever, accommodating, congenial and competent, but he is more than that—an upright, sober and all round man of the best parts. He has arrived at that age where his vigor, physical manhood and mental activity will serve him best in the discharge of the arduous duties of the office. The duties of the office of sheriff call not for an imbecile, a weakling, or a man unacquainted with success in his own personal achievements, but rather for a man strong in mind, body and character and who has displayed ability and resourcefulness in his past conduct. Mr. Nowell is every whit of this, and I conscientiously believe that, if elected, he will bring to the discharge of the duties of the office a success and efficiency commensurate with our highest wishes.

Seba F. High.
Oneals township.

Eli S. Turlington for Sheriff.

Editor Herald, and its many readers:—I voice the sentiment of all who know Mr. Turlington when I say he is fully endorsed for sheriff in this section. There is no man in the county more deserving or more competent. Just here, Democrats of Johnston county, let me have your attention. The Turlington family has long been known as high-toned and influential every one a success, many of them rising to distinction. No better citizens or loyal Democrats can be found in the county. They are not only in politics, but every way for general upbuilding of the people. Yet not one of them has ever asked for office or been honored by one except our worthy county superintendent, who in the faithful discharge of the duties of his office has paid the

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]