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"WITH OUR BACKS AGAINST THE WALL."

The past four days have been anxious ones with all the allies. They have been watching the progress of the German machine against our English Allies and have looked on the scene through optimistic glasses though with fear and trembling. When Field Marshal Douglas Haig issued his special order Friday, stating that "with our backs to the wall, each one of us must fight to the end," the seriousness of the situation was brought home to many who had not fully realized it before.

After reciting the terrible onslaughts of the Germans and the bravery with which the English had met the foe, Marshal Haig concluded as follows:

"Many among us are now tired. To those I would say that victory will belong to the side which holds out the longest. The French army is moving rapidly and with great force to our support. There is no other course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man. There must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight to the end. The safety of our homes and the freedom of mankind depend alike upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment."

These words will go down in history as the words of a great military leader in a crucial hour and the world is today looking on with undying admiration for the men who shall stand with their backs against the wall and heroically fight to the last ditch for the freedom of humanity. May their sublime courage and heroic acts stay the hand of the foe of the world as steel meets steel in France and Flanders.

JUST A LITTLE MORE.

The majority of the home owners of Johnston County do not pay taxes on more than two thousand dollars valuation of property. Many of them do not pay on that much. But for the sake of argument we will grant that the majority of the home owners pay taxes on two thousand dollars worth of property as it stands on the tax books. The increase of taxes asked for the schools is only 15 cents on the hundred dollars worth of property. This would mean that the man paying taxes on two thousand dollars worth of property would pay an additional tax for schools of three dollars each year. He may say that that much won't count for much. But let him remember that several thousand of these small amounts will amount to a considerable sum when all are added together. Three dollars additional to one's taxes each year for the sake of schools is in itself a small thing. But when we come to measure the results of such a tax over the entire county we can readily see the great importance of it. To stand by the schools at this time is an act of patriotism and we should not forget this. No man should vote in the election on April 30th without carefully weighing the result of his action.

Unless more money is secured some way for our schools many Johnston County schools will not be open next winter. This would be a calamity that few communities could afford. The remedy is before us: Vote for the county wide tax election for schools.

REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR EDUCATION.

The Republican State Convention held in Greensboro last week went on record strong for education. They could not afford to do otherwise. It would be suicide to any party in this Twentieth Century to stand out against education. There are some folks who are slow to take hold of any new move, but the question of education is as old as the Nation itself and everybody nowadays is, or should be, in favor of every move which means for the betterment of the people along educational lines.

Here is, in part, what the Republican party has to say about education in its platform adopted last week:

"The advantages of education were never more necessary than now in the preparation of the youth of our country for the larger duties and responsibilities and the fiercer competition in all the activities of life that are sure to follow this world-wide war. The Republican party of North Carolina therefore heartily favors the amendment to the constitution of this state securing a six months' school term in every school district of the state.

"We heartily favor better pay for all our public school teachers and declare that there should be no discrimination in the pay of teachers of equal grade, whether male or female."

This pronouncement will be hailed with delight by the friends of education everywhere.

May 1st is nearly here. This is the general election year. It is important that every person who wants to vote in the Fall elections pay his poll tax before May 1st.

The registration books for the special school election will close next Saturday and all those who fail to get their names on the books by the close of that day will not have the opportunity to vote in the election to be held on April 30th. This is one of the most important elections held in Johnston County in a great many years and every man should study the question and vote. It matters not how many times one has registered before he must register again if he votes in this election.

There is not a town in Johnston County that gets anywhere near the amount for its schools from the general tax fund that it pays in. Many folks would be surprised if they knew how much money is paid in taxes for schools in the towns that is used to carry on the work of the country schools. The towns and the rural districts are now in the same boat—they all need more money for their schools. So the thing to do is for all to stand together and work for more money. Everything else is calling for more money and getting it. Why leave the schools out?

The Special School Tax election to be held in Johnston County on Tuesday, April 30, is one of the most important elections held in this county in many years. The schools and the Churches are our most important institutions. Without them we would drift back into a state bordering on barbarism. They must be supported. The future of our life as community and state depends upon these things. The members of the churches will support them. Now it's up to the people to see that the schools are supported properly. This cannot be done without more money. That is why the Johnston County Board of Education has called the election. This is all they can do. They are now depending upon the people of the county to do their part by voting the small increase in taxes. The answer is with them. Theirs is a great responsibility. How will they meet it?

Out of the Army.

Mr. James H. Hughes, who lives a few miles east of Smithfield, was in town Saturday. He enlisted in the army last July at Goldsboro and went to Camp Sevier where he was a member of Company E, 118th Infantry. He has been given an honorable discharge and will not go back to the army. Mr. Hughes says that the boys are ready and anxious to go across and help the Allies lick the Germans.

THAT SCHOOL ELECTION.

The County School authorities have very wisely decided to put before the people of this county on the 30th of April the proposition of an increased tax for the better support of the schools of the county. The increase called for in this election is fifteen cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of property. This means that if a man has listed his property at \$1000 his tax would be increased \$1.50. What can the school authorities accomplish with this small amount? What can they give the tax payers in return for his money? This is a fair question and one that must be answered.

They can give him longer school terms. Recently the writer visited a rural community that had a four and one half month's school term. The four and one half months' term was bad enough but the worst of all was that two committeemen expressed themselves as being satisfied with the short term. They could not obtain labor and needed their children to work. The question these men were considering was, "How long can we spare our children from the farm?" while the question should have been "How long can we by exerting ourselves to the uttermost keep our children in school?" Their farms exist for the children and not their children for their farms. Their term should be just as long as they can make it.

The next thing the authorities will be able to do will be to provide better paid teachers for the schools. Did you know it to be a fact that the farm hand on the average farm in this, and in some other counties, gets better pay than the average teacher? Let us have better paid teachers, not for the sake of the teachers only, but for the sake of the children as well. Better paid teachers will teach better. The teacher must receive a living wage, otherwise she will be compelled to go out of the profession and the schools will consequently suffer.

Many schools in Johnston will remain closed next year unless teachers are paid wages higher than are paid at present. Other counties are facing the same situation that Johnston is facing. People every where are realizing the serious situation of the schools, and are coming to realize that we can never do too much for our children. The community that invests the most in its children will best be able to stand the shock of war.—Clayton News.

OUR COUNTY LIMIT CLUB.

The County Limit Club, of which no one can become a member who does not either buy now, or pledge to buy one thousand dollars worth of War Savings Stamps by December 31, 1918, is steadily growing. The following is the complete list of members reported to date:

- Mrs. Mamie T. Candler, of Selma.
- Mr. J. Eustace Yelvington, of Cleveland.
- Mr. W. D. Avera, of Smithfield.
- Dr. L. D. Wharton, of Smithfield.
- Mr. M. C. Winston, of Selma.
- Mr. George T. Pool, of Smithfield.
- Mr. J. D. Boyett, of Smithfield.
- Mr. C. P. Harper, of Selma.
- Mr. W. H. Austin, of Smithfield.
- Mr. F. K. Broadhurst, of Smithfield.
- Mr. E. F. Boyett, of Smithfield.
- Mr. J. Walter Myatt, of Cleveland.
- Mr. W. M. Sanders, of Smithfield.
- Mr. N. B. Grantham, of Smithfield.
- Mr. Polie Gardner, of Smithfield.
- Mr. Preston Woodall, of Benson.
- Mr. W. W. Cole, of Smithfield.
- Mr. T. S. Ragsdale, of Smithfield.
- Abell and Gray, of Smithfield.
- First National Bank, of Smithfield.
- Mr. A. S. Creech, of Smithfield.
- Mr. L. Z. Woodard, of Kenly.
- Mr. W. H. Call, of Selma.
- Mr. S. P. Wood, of Selma.
- Mr. C. P. Ellis, of Clayton.
- W. L. Woodall's Sons, of Smithfield.
- Mr. Chas. T. Hill, of Smithfield.
- Mr. John F. Sanders, of Cleveland.
- Mr. P. B. Johnson, of Benson.
- Dr. W. T. Martin, of Benson.
- Mr. C. L. Sanders, of Cleveland.
- Mr. Rufus Sanders, of Bentonville.
- Mr. E. W. Pou, of Smithfield.
- Miss Alice Grantham, of Smithfield.
- Mr. Walter Rand, of Clayton.
- Mrs. Lena Barbour, of Clayton.
- Mrs. Dwight Barbour, of Clayton.
- Mr. D. J. Thurston, of Clayton.
- Mr. J. A. Vinson, of Clayton.
- Mr. Alonzo Parrish, of Benson.
- Mr. M. T. Britt, of Benson.
- Mr. J. Rufus Creech, of Smithfield, No. 2.
- Mr. J. E. Creech, of Smithfield, No. 2.
- Farming & Mercantile Co., of Clayton, No. 1.
- Mrs. Lou Stucky Howell, of Princeton.
- Mr. E. E. Parker, of Smithfield.
- Mr. W. P. Suggs, of Princeton.
- Mrs. J. J. Broadhurst, of Smithfield.
- Miss Lillian Holt, of Smithfield.
- Mr. N. E. Edgerton, of Selma.
- Mrs. N. E. Edgerton, of Selma.
- Mr. Edward Edgerton, of Selma.

WHY INCREASE THE PAY OF TEACHERS.

(By R. A. Pope.)

We are going to increase the salaries of our teachers. They have been and are now paid too little to meet their most pressing needs. We do not expect them to continue less able to wear respectable clothes than we who received a very handsome price for our products last year are now able to wear. We are going to pay them more so that they will not leave for better jobs, paying better salaries. The government already has hired many of our teachers to do office work at splendid salaries, salaries far more than we are now paying. The government needs them and we may spare a few, but our schools must continue. The people have said so. We are going to pay them more money that they may stay with us and help us to win the war.

During the Civil War the school money from the whole state dropped to the meagre sum of \$800. We had about three thousand schools to close. We have a few of those boys and girls living in our communities now. They failed to learn to read and write. We are not inclined to have that repeated. Yea, right where we have the greatest number of those who have not been blessed with learning to read and write, we are going to stand strongest for giving the teachers a living wage.

The Government is fixing prices for wheat and corn very high, is selling fertilizer cheaper than merchants, is helping the farmers to raise more, to get better prices and to learn more about farming. Surely goodness and mercy will convince us of our duty to share this profit with others. Our teachers shall be paid.

We are not voting necessarily for longer terms; we are not voting for expensive or luxurious buildings; we are assuredly not voting bonds; we are not voting to force children to go to school any longer than they are at the present going. But we are voting in this election to make certain that our teachers are fed and clothed respectably, that our schools may not be closed during this period of war, and that history shall record no such selfish act as that of depriving any child of school age from learning to be a good citizen of Johnston County.

BUY THE BONDS.

Uncle Sam wants to borrow three billion dollars from the people of the United States. He needs this money to carry on the war; must have it, in fact. It will be used to buy equipment for the boys who are doing the fighting—clothes, guns, ammunition, etc.—to pay their small wages, to pay for the various things needed to maintain our armies, and to meet other necessary expenses of the government.

Uncle Sam asks his people to lend him this money. He offers the very best security in all the world and, considering the absolute safety of the investment, he offers to pay a comparatively high rate of interest, 4 1-4 per cent. The income from these bonds, held in amounts of \$5,000 or less, will be free from all taxation. Those who hold more than \$5,000 worth will have to pay certain kinds of taxes on the income. The idea of this is to prevent the rich from buying these bonds in large quantities for the purpose of dodging their share of the taxes.

Uncle Sam would like to have just as many different people as possible have a part in lending him this money. Consequently, committees have been organized in every state and every county. A list has been made of all the citizens in the various counties and townships, and before the campaign is over, every citizen who is supposed to be able to lend to Uncle Sam will be given an opportunity to buy some of these bonds.

The bonds which were issued in the two previous Liberty loans were not as widely distributed as they should have been. Many people who had surplus money and could afford to lend it failed to do so, some because they wanted a higher rate of interest than Uncle Sam was offering to pay, and some because they have not yet realized that this is a war for national existence, and must be fought by all of the people.

We have come to a time when every citizen must have some part in fighting the war. Our younger men are going to the front. Many of our older men are taking an active part in war activities of one sort and another. The great mass of the people, however, can help mainly by lending money.

In the past, farmers have been criticised for not buying Liberty bonds. Much of this criticism was unjust, and made by people who did not know the facts. We would like to see the farmers take these bonds so freely that there will be an end to this criticism. Every man should take stock of his financial condition, and decide how much money he can lend to Uncle Sam, and be ready to act promptly when committees come to see him.—Wallaces' Farmer. Wilson's Mills, N. C.



The Wife

should be thrifty and help save her husband's money.

If He hasn't done it, She should start the savings account and see that a portion of the income gets there each week. We offer

This opportunity

to establish the real bulwark of the home. Such co-operation makes the partnership complete.

SERVICE SAFETY
JOHNSTON COUNTY BANK & TRUST CO.
CAPITAL STOCK \$25,000.00 SMITHFIELD, N. C.

The Water's Fine

To the timid kid hesitating at the old swimming hole, in doubt, and afraid the water is too muddy, too deep, to cold, there comes the cheerful call of the venturesome youngster already in:

"AW, COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE"

The one who has tried it is in position to know. Are you in doubt as to what Bank to do business with? Do you want to know of a safe, reliable institution that you can trust with business, and that will appreciate it? Ask any of the people who are doing business with us. Just try the kid's plan and come on in.

The Clayton Banking Co.

CLAYTON, N. C.

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