

Pleasant Grove News

Mrs. R. M. Blythe of Etowah, spent a few days last week with her daughter, Mrs. Carl Banks of Pleasant Grove.

Jack Drake of Hendersonville, visited his brother, J. H. Drake, at Pleasant Grove last week.

Mrs. H. A. Grey, who has been in the Hendersonville hospital, is out now and reported to be improving rapidly.

The Pleasant Grove Sunday School enjoyed a picnic Sunday. The school met early Sunday morning, had services and then went to Looking Glass Falls and had dinner. The children all reported a wonderful time.

Rev. C. E. Blythe and W. W. Orr are visiting the former's brother in South Carolina.

H. W. Grey of Hendersonville, was a Pleasant Grove visitor Friday of last week.

Tom Couch of Little River was in Pleasant Grove Sunday.

D. P. Kilpatrick of Brevard was in Pleasant Grove Sunday, looking over his old playgrounds and exchanging words with friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Grey visited the former's sister, Mrs. M. P. Johnson of Balfour, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Egerton Fletcher of Beulah, visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Justus, Sunday.

Paul Kilpatrick of Flat Rock, is visiting relatives in this section.

Earl and Hall and W. H. Grey went to Hendersonville Saturday with a small truck load of Irish potatoes. Business must be picking up some, for they did not have to bring the potatoes back.

Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Grey and son Hall, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Orr attended the association at Macedonia church last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Sentelle visited Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Grey of Hendersonville, Sunday.

Mrs. Rena Aiken of Cherryfield, has returned home after visiting friends and relatives at this place for the past two weeks.

D. C. Orr, who has been working in Hendersonville, has returned home and has entered school. Let us give three cheers for D. C. Phydell Orr has done the same thing, so give three cheers for him also.

"CURIOUS CHRISTIAN DOOTY"

James Russell Lowell has this to say of war:

"Ez for war, I call it murder— There you have it plain and flat; I don't want to go no furder Than my Testymnt for that.

"Taint your epyletts and feathers Make ther thing a grain more right; Taint a-follering your bell-weathers Will excuse ye in his sight.

"Ef you take the sword and drop it And stick a feller thru; Gov'ment aint to answer fer it, God'll send the bill to you.

"Wut's the use of meetin'-goin' Every Sabbath, wet or dry, Ef it's right to go a-mowin' Feller-men like oats and rye?

"I dunno but what it's pooty Traillin' round in bobtail coats; But it's curious Christian dooty, This 'ere cuttin' folk's throats."

Proper care and attention to the poultry flock during the summer months will play handsome dividends in increased returns this fall.

Two thousand Rowan County farmers took a day off last week and attended an all-day picnic, according to reports from County Agent W. G. Teager.

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SAYS COMMISSIONERS SHOULD NOT BE HAMPERED WITH STATE NAMED BOARDS AND BUREAUS

(Continued from page one)

view of the whole public. Sometimes there has been lack of foresight and wisdom, but the county authorities, burdened beyond endurance, have to say to critical legislators and executives, paraphrasing the Scripture, "First pluck the beam out of your own eye that you may see the mote clearly to remove the mote from my eye."

On every hand we are told that county administrations have added new and costly and unnecessary agencies of government, which are responsible for the increased taxes on land. Too often this has been true, and the criticism is deserved and county authorities have no answer to the just criticism except to reform themselves. But when it is reflected that these county officials have been given little voice in the expenditures for which they must make provision by direct taxation (they have no other source to draw upon), criticism should be modified to be both intelligent and fair. Most of the money raised by the county authorities by taxation is expended for schools and roads. As to the first, Commissioners must levy enough tax to carry out the six months constitutional requirement, and in most counties for an eight months term properly demanded by the parents. They have little voice in the amount to be raised and no voice in the expenditures. As to all roads except the State highways, they must levy taxes on land to provide sufficient money, and then must wrestle with the demand of every citizen to build a good road in front of his door. If they see public money wasted in the dilatory processes of the courts, they may neither protest nor reduce the heavy expenses. They are the State's only almoners of the sick, the down and out, the outcasts, the human debris. No complete enumeration of their duties and responsibilities is possible. Chambers of Commerce, welfare workers and everybody else desiring something be done, except in incorporated towns and cities, leave their problems on the doorsteps of the County Commissioners. If they deny the petitions for relief and reform, woe be unto them for they are sharply called "back numbers and faithless administrators." If they comply with all the requests, even all the good ones, the soaring tax rate brings upon their heads the wrath of the tax-payers. They must be humane in the care of the poor and those in prison and they must keep down the per capita cost of their maintenance. They are often called upon to do the impossible and blamed because they are not supermen.

And, you County Commissioners, must "be all and do all" on the magnificent compensation of \$4 a day, with a limit on the number of days to be devoted to the task. In other words, these officials levy taxes aggregating millions of dollars in one year and largely direct its disbursement, and are given the grand gross compensation of \$4 a day. Is it any wonder, when consideration is given to how these Commissioners are selected, the responsibilities laid upon shoulders often without adequate training, that in some counties county government breaks down. Is it not surprising how efficiently under the conditions imposed so many counties function, thus paying tribute to patriotic men who from no motive except the compulsion of public service consecrate their time and service to the common weal.

The first people in North Carolina to see the evils of a system, lacking uniformity and counsel, were the County Commissioners themselves. They recognized the mistakes and failures, the yielding to entreaties to do this and that which brought about ineffective administration and high taxes. At the session of your body in 1925 you passed a resolution requesting the General Assembly to enact laws to improve administration and safeguard expenditures and limit bond issues. At the request of the County Commissioners and upon the recommendation of Governor McLean the County Government Advisory Commission was established and a County Finance Control Act was passed. These acts have brought forth good fruit, but much yet remains to be done. The State was fortunate in securing the capable and tactful Charles M. Johnson as Executive Secretary of the Commission. It has brought about better conditions in every county where the County Commissioners have wisely and wholeheartedly given cooperation. Of course, these laws were not retroactive, and could not remedy the extravagance of the years after 1920 when issuing bonds was the accepted method of progress. We now see that we progressed too rapidly in bond issuing. The burden of paying for these improvements is seen in the heavy taxes in a period of crop and land and industry deflation.

Under our system, or lack of system, instead of one unified system of county administration, new bodies have been set up in the counties with dispersion of authority and increase in expense. In all counties there are, in addition to Boards of County Commissioners, the County Board of Education, and in a number of counties there are also County Road Commissioners, County Welfare Boards, County Boards of Health, County Pension Boards, County Game Commissioners, County Bar Associations (semi-official) and the Lord only knows how many more, each working along lines of their own and without co-ordination or an eye single to effecting economical administration. To these innumerable county functionaries should be

added the various officials paid by the State going from county to county looking after tax collection, schools, insurance, health, forests, farm and home demonstration, and other activities, mostly wholly independent of each other and spending more than the best business administration would sanction. For example, in one day at a county seat in Western North Carolina five State inspectors or collectors or agents drove into the county seat on State-owned automobiles. Each official had a small job to look after requiring only a few hours. "Why," asked the hotel keeper who was glad to have their patronage, "could there not have been some co-ordination at Raleigh whereby part of this expense could have been saved without loss of good administration?" Echo answers, "Why?" The answer is because North Carolina administration continues to function upon the basis of pouring new wine into old bottles. Hasn't the time come to give each county a unified county administration, with one body of County Commissioners, or Board, which will direct all the affairs of the county, select all its agents and secure better administration? We may despair of the best county government, as well as the best government in other units, so long as there is lack of a central unified administration fixed with power and charged with responsibility. Each county should have a County Government, in which the best paid official would be the chairman of the County Board (call him what you will) and the County Board should direct by agents of its own selection the execution of all governmental functions in the county. "But," you say, "it would require a Constitutional Amendment to end the election of the clerk of the court, sheriff, register of deeds and other constitutional officials and let them be selected and their compensation fixed by the County Board." Certainly it would, and the thing most needed in North Carolina is a Constitutional Convention to give a modern system of government and taxation, State and county and city. Experience has shown that a paid County Treasurer is an unnecessary official. Other official positions should be consolidated or abolished

in the counties when expedient, and in all such matters the County Board should be given absolute authority. It is an archaic situation by which a sheriff, answerable to the County Board, is elected, and it is necessary to go to the State General Assembly to obtain authority to fix the salaries of county officials and to increase the number of deputies and fix their compensation. This is sometimes done by members of the Legislature to favor partisans without so much as asking the advice of the County Board, which must foot the bill.

Up to date, by some very excellent methods and agents and some not so good, we have been doing in recent years a good job of patch work, but it has not brought about a unified county administration without which we shall fail to secure the utmost economy and efficiency.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brown and children attended the Drake reunion at Pleasant Hill on Sunday.

Mrs. Eva Raines visited relatives here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Orr and son, Ralph, attended the Orr reunion at Hendersonville Sunday.

Glade Creek News

Mr. Leverett did some good work on our roads recently.

Mrs. S. V. Brown spent Tuesday afternoon of last week with her sister, Mrs. James Lyday, of Pisgah Forest.

A number of our folks have been attending the revival at Blantyre.

Misses Blanche Brown and Lois Burgess motored to Hendersonville one day last week.

Donald Drake, of Hendersonville, was in this section recently.

Carl Talley of Penrose, was a business caller here Thursday.

Little Ada Orr is visiting her brother, Jerry Orr, at Bradley Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Orr and son, Ralph, were visitors of Mrs. Orr's mother, Mrs. S. V. Brown, on Wednesday night of last week.

Arnold Brown entertained with a community singing at his home Sunday night.

A number of young folks enjoyed a picnic supper at John's Rock last Sunday evening.

Clyde Brown left Sunday for Statesville, where he will spend a few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brown and children attended the Drake reunion at Pleasant Hill on Sunday.

Mrs. Eva Raines visited relatives here last week.

Mrs. S. V. Brown and daughter, Miss Blanche, Misses Nora Alexander and Lois Burgess were Mills River visitors Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Orr and son, Ralph, attended the Orr reunion at Hendersonville Sunday.

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Her Children a Joy

"When I was not more than 13 years old mother taught me never to take spells of biliousness, indigestion and sour stomach lightly," says Mrs. C. E. Hauck, whose home is at 1310 Boyle St., in Houston. "She started me taking Herbine then, and what a blessing it has been for me! My four children are always well, with good appetites and a big store of energy. Any time one of them gets a little sluggish, breath is bad or I see the tongue becoming coated, I give him a teaspoonful of Herbine."

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