

**THE DUNN DISPATCH**  
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**WHY WE NEED A CHANGE IN  
ONE BRANCH OF OUR TOWN  
GOVERNMENT**

A Brief Compiled and Published in  
the Interest of Those Who Love  
Dunn and Help in a Large Way to  
Defeat the Cost of Government  
And Resist the Continuance in  
Office of U. S. Page.

In the Dunn Dispatch of April 15  
there appeared a story quoting fig-  
ures compiled by the chief of police  
tending to show that the police de-  
partment was a profitable agency of  
the town government. This story, in  
part, is a criticism of that statement.

The article in question states bluntly  
that "The Chief of Police submits."  
First the public would like to know  
why the chief of police submits. Why  
did not the mayor and his commis-  
sioners submit for print the article?  
Or why did not the chief of police  
state his authority and his reason for  
submitting the figures?

Who, as tax payers of this town,  
know this to be a correct statement.  
The statement is not verified by the  
board of commissioners nor by the  
mayor, nor does it bear the seal of a  
notary public.

If these figures are true, are we  
as citizens of this town running a  
profitable police agency and running  
business away from our enterprises  
and industries? Does it pay us to col-  
lect from our farmer friends and our  
neighbors the sum of approximately  
\$5,500 a year? Is this just to those  
who are our best friends, our sole  
support, our fellow workers?

Does it pay us as business men to  
have our trade territory disrupted by  
the high-handed methods that are  
attributed to our policeman? Is it  
profitable to have in office a man  
whose presence here is said to be re-  
sponsible for the absence from our  
streets of many of the buyers who  
were our staunchest friends in other  
days?

It is contended by many that some  
farmers are afraid to come to Dunn  
because they do not understand traf-  
fic regulations and do not care to  
submit to arrest for inconsequential  
fractures of minor ordinances. Some  
farmers believe that if they fracture  
any of the minor ordinances they  
will be arrested, carried before the  
chief of police and fined without ever  
meeting a judge or judicial officer.  
Such excuses have been cited and there  
is evidence that they have happened.

It is stated that Mr. Braston Bass,  
a farmer, drove through Wilson ave-  
nue one day. Policeman Langley is  
said to have arrested him for speed-  
ing although Mr. Bass was not

carried him before Page and, without  
reference to the court, taxed him with  
a bill of costs which in no case has  
been less than about ten dollars. Since  
Page came to Dunn, Mr. Bass thought  
first of contesting the decision, but  
after figuring that the cost of an ap-  
peal to a higher court would be more  
than the costs in this instance, decid-  
ed to submit.

There are a number of farmers in  
the surrounding section who use  
Dunn to do their marketing, in cer-  
tain seasons of the year they are so  
busy that they cannot leave their  
homes to come to town for every lit-  
tle necessity. Quite a number have  
sons that they used to send to Dunn,  
to buy a few dollars worth, but in-  
stead of coming to Dunn now they go  
to Benson, Clinton, Duke, some even  
go to Four Oaks, and even to Smith-  
field. A large number of farmers  
have not sold a bale of cotton in Dunn  
this past cotton season, beginning  
August 1st, 1920 and yet they have  
sold every pound of their crop.  
These are men who used to be custom-  
ers of every legitimate business in  
the town. These men carried and set  
their farm produce to other markets,  
simply because they did not want to  
be bothered themselves or have their  
sons bothered with the Chief of Pol-  
ice.

In other towns and good citizens  
say they, see farmers with their fam-  
ilies, men who were regular custom-  
ers in Dunn. They have been asked  
why did they go there to do their  
trading. Their answer was that they  
could carry their families there and  
no one would be raising up the cus-  
toms of their cars for things and

plundering around their vehicles.  
It has been said by some citizens of  
the town that if those people or any  
person did not want to come to this  
town to trade on account of fearing  
they would be bothered by an officer,  
that he was unfit person and that no  
one wanted his trade. This may all  
be true, opinions differ. There are a  
great number of farmer citizens who,  
if they meet up with some friend and  
the opportunity presents itself, will  
most likely take a drink. And right  
then he is afraid to come to Dunn,  
even though he is not drunk, nor a  
man that makes a habit of drinking.  
He will drive right through the edge  
of Dunn and go to Benson and there  
spend his good money. Why does he  
do it? Simply because he is afraid  
to get out of his car in this town for  
fear Mr. Page will arrest him if he  
even smells a drop of whiskey on his  
breath.

Mr. Page nor any other one man  
can keep people from drinking nor  
can any one keep people from making  
it to drink. But the point is why  
should he as an officer try to make it  
a point to trail out every farmer that  
comes to Dunn? It is well enough to ar-  
rest a man under the influence of it, or  
a man who is disturbing the peace  
of the town and let him have a pro-  
per hearing. It is also well enough  
for him as an officer to run down  
blockaders and capture them if he  
has such authority from the govern-  
ment. But not to go out and humil-  
iate a perfectly good citizen who  
has only taken a drink.

A few months ago there was an ar-  
rest of one of Dunn's citizens who  
had taken just a bit too much and he  
was tried for being disorderly and  
acknowledged that he got the free-  
water from one Henry Lucas, upon  
this information papers were issued  
for Mr. Lucas, but for fear of not  
being able to convict Lucas, the Gov-  
ernor of the state was notified, be-  
lieving that Mr. Lucas was pardoned  
from the penitentiary years ago on  
condition. Within a few weeks Mr.  
Lucas was taken from his family and  
farm and carried back to the peniten-  
tiary to serve out his old term. A  
week or so after he had been carried  
back to the penitentiary his family  
would be taken from her under mor-  
tgage. The horse and mule she had  
no use for and they were brought  
back to Dunn, and the man that held  
the mortgage lost over \$600.00, but  
save her the corn and hops. She is  
the mother of some six or eight chil-  
dren and some of those tots were then  
barfooted and it was in the early  
part of February. The husband had  
sold his cotton and used the money  
to defend himself, thinking possibly  
he could get out of his trouble and  
then make some arrangements toward  
shoeing and clothing those little chil-  
dren who are just as dear to him as  
yours are to you. But Page, so his  
wife said, beat him to it by writing  
to the Governor and asking him to  
pardon the man returned to the peni-  
tentiary.

One day afterwards this matter  
was called to the attention of the  
town commissioners and the mayor  
who were all there together. They  
of course, were struck with this con-  
dition. One of them said: "I wonder  
if there isn't some way in which we  
could get him pardoned so that he  
could get back to his family; but  
the money was ever done. People, a poor  
father is better than no father."

We have had another case very  
similar to this one, it was in the case  
of a Mr. Tart, he was pardoned from  
the penitentiary, on condition, Mr.  
Page found some whiskey in Mr.  
Tart's little store, but could not prove  
that he was selling it, he again takes  
it upon himself to ask the Governor  
to have this man sent back to the  
penitentiary, but Mr. Tart having  
some means and his family some in-  
come, secured counsel and this  
counsel, Mr. Baggett of Lillington,  
went to Raleigh and took the matter  
up in person with the Governor and  
Mr. Tart was not sent back to the  
penitentiary.

Soon after Mr. Page came to Dunn,  
he publicly humiliated a Mr. Wilson  
in the railroad station, he was indic-  
ted by Mr. Wilson and tried at Lill-  
ington by Judge Connor. The judge  
told him that if he ever came before  
him again for such an offense he  
would put him on the roads and that  
he should use some plain sense in  
making arrests. Mr. Page was fined  
\$25.00 and the cost.

Another bit of common police cour-  
tesy: When he made an arrest of a  
citizen of Fayetteville, and would not  
permit the man to make a bond,  
when there were dozens of people

the very best citizens of the town of-  
fering bond. But no, Mr. Page would  
not listen to it, he had to take the  
man up. Then, because he had be-  
come vexed, called up Mr. Dixon of  
Benson, who at that time was a re-  
venue officer and had him come here  
at once, and just because there was  
about a half pint or less whiskey in  
the man's car, had it seized by the  
government, and when the case came  
up for hearing it was discovered that  
the man got his Cadillac car back, all  
just because Mr. Page got mad and  
knew that he could do as he pleased  
and no law would touch him.

Another case that gave Dunn wide  
publicity was the Knoch Wilson case,  
which every citizen of the town of  
Dunn is very familiar with. It came  
near inciting a riot. Such things as  
this are bitterly against the interest  
of the town. Mr. Wilson is the son  
of a very respectable substantial  
Sampson county citizen who ever  
since his boyhood has come to Dunn  
to do his trading and since manhood  
has spent every dollar of his good  
money here, has sold all his crops  
here, bought every thing here that  
was needed. But now Mr. Wilson is  
not seen here often. Mr. Wilson  
family has a large following and a  
family connection and it is nothing  
but perfectly natural for them to use  
their influence to carry trade away  
from our town.

Again: the second paragraph of  
your paper in the issue of April 15th  
1921, it reads: ACCORDING to the  
figures this sum will more than pay  
the cost of the Recorder's court, the  
city attorney and the police salaries,  
and all meals for police. This this  
mean that we are going right along  
driving away hundreds of thousands  
of dollars worth of trade from our  
very doors in order to run a profit-  
able police agency in order to pay a  
city attorney \$1000.00; a recorder,  
\$750.00; extra police salaries, \$285.  
00; meals for prisoners, \$222.25 and  
regular police \$4,686.66 with a man  
at the head of this regular police  
force driving people who can give  
good bonds right into a prison, who  
have never been into one before, hu-  
miliating a good citizen, who might  
make a little mistake and disobey the  
law, when if talked to in the right  
manner he would make his bond and  
return the proper date and have his  
hearing.

As to this fair to the citizens and tax  
payers of this town and to those who  
come here to spend their money? Why  
it is just like the Kaiser drove his  
soldiers against the unbreakable line  
of the Allies in the great war and it  
is not fair to keep a man in office who  
desires to rule and force in this man-  
ner.

In your third paragraph you print:  
"ACCORDING to the city clerk's re-  
cord Mr. Page draws a salary of \$2-  
700 a year." Mr. Page probably did  
not ACCORDINGLY have this print-  
ed. A mistake, sure: Why this is more  
salary than the Governor of Oklahoma  
receives; it is more salary than the  
president of our most substantial  
financial institution gets. The First  
National Bank, who handles millions  
and millions of dollars of other peo-  
ple's money annually, it is more salary  
than the Chief of Police of Char-  
lotte receives—a city ten or fifteen

times more than he gets. Some people  
say this and they will tell you  
that he collects the taxes and keeps  
order. Grant that he collects the  
taxes, but who cannot with a mayor

know, all we can borrow to  
bring him to make his crops export  
to pay us by bringing his  
products to us in the fall of the year.  
We have enabled to col-  
lect money here, but for the past  
two years a good many have  
been cotton to other markets and let  
it go in a good many cases made  
the debts in other towns and paid  
for their cotton money. The effort  
making only a small payment on his  
debt in Dunn, and why did he do it?  
Because those people were nice to  
him, did not order him about and he  
was making that his trading ground  
and naturally spent his money there  
and neglected his account or mort-  
gage in Dunn. If his creditor in Dunn,  
wanted to see him he had to go to  
the expense of going to his home. No  
letter that you could write him would  
bring him to Dunn. After getting out  
to his home you can ask him why  
don't you come and look after your  
business in Dunn and he will plainly  
tell you that it is on account of the  
police. You might say to this man:  
"Well if you don't bother the police  
he certainly will not bother you." But  
the old farmer says this: "Well it  
might not bother me, but my boys  
are like all boys and you know I  
don't want any trouble with that man.  
He has already done too much dam-  
age. He might shoot one of my boys  
or I might take a drink while there  
and I just don't want to be bothered  
with any such man, besides I can sell  
my cotton in Benson or Clinton and  
get just as much for it and nobody  
there tries to run over me and you  
know I just don't want to have any  
trouble anyway. I ain't never had any  
and I think the best way to stay out  
of it is not to go where it is. So that  
is the way it is, of course, I want to  
pay you and expect to, but I sold  
all my cotton in Benson and last year  
when I commenced going there I saw  
a mule I liked and I bought it and  
of course paid all I could on him this  
year." Well, why don't you pay more  
on your accounts in Dunn? "Well,  
you know when I carried my cotton  
there, there was the mule man and  
I traded some with the merchant and  
they got to bidding against each other  
cause I owed both and the one  
that I liked the most for my cotton is  
the one I paid the most." So you see  
people this is the way things are go-  
ing today.

Do you think that it is time to wake  
up to the real truth of this situation,  
that the expense of this police force  
that has been so handsomely paid to  
drive our trade away as well as have  
a profitable police agency, either modify  
it or get rid of this man who is  
more damage to the future trade com-  
ing to Dunn? We have all got to  
make a living and we all cannot live  
here by ourselves, we must have the  
trade of the farmer or else we will  
have to quit and the more farmers  
that bring their produce here and sell,  
the more money it will bring to our  
town and why let just one man drive  
it away? Commissioners, please take  
up to this fact. There are a number  
of men living right here in our town  
who own property and would be glad  
to have this position at half of what  
you are paying now and we will have  
just as good law and order as we  
need.

Some people say Mr. Page is the  
best man who has ever been here.

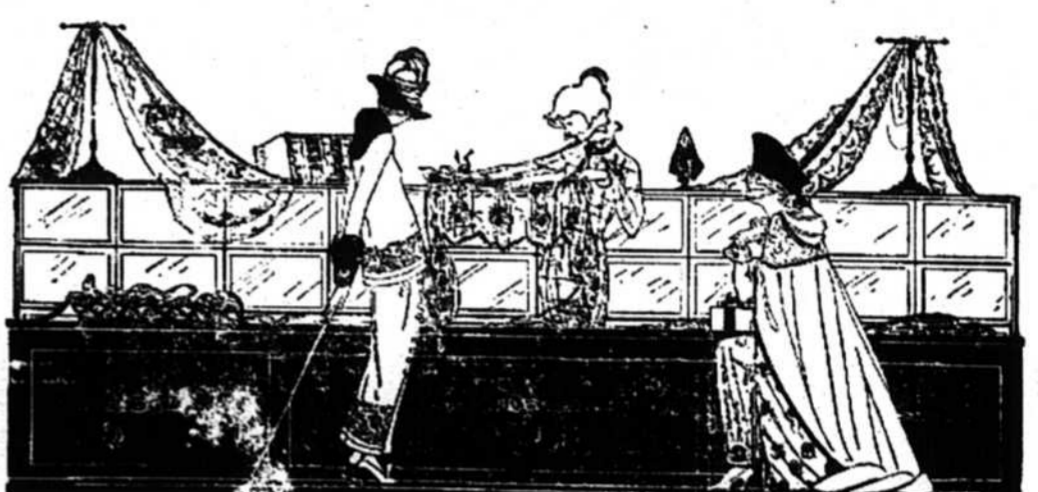
say this and they will tell you  
that he collects the taxes and keeps  
order. Grant that he collects the  
taxes, but who cannot with a mayor

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This Week




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and commissioners behind him. If  
you will give your tax books to any  
person in the town and tell them to  
collect the taxes regardless, then they  
will be collected. There is a law re-  
quiring people to pay their taxes and  
their property will pay them and any  
tax collector has nothing more to do  
than levy on ones property and then  
the taxes are paid. In fact, there are  
not any people living here who do not  
want to pay their taxes.

It has been said that someone said  
that nobody in Dunn objected to Page  
but the low down common class of  
people. If this is true there are a lot  
of common folk in Dunn.

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**FLORIDA FRUIT**  
CHEWING GUM  
A fruit  
flavor that  
lingers and  
lingers!



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