

POLK COUNTY NEWS

A Live, Clean Newspaper For the Home

AND THE TRYON BEE

TRYON, N. C. FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1919.

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REPRESENTATIVE W. F. SWANN ANSWERS SENATOR CLOUD.

Invites Him to Come Forward as the Defender and Moses of His Party, and Lead its Administration through Its Eight Years of Wandering Through the Wilderness in Handling the Public Affairs of Polk County.

Editor Polk County News:

Please allow me space in your paper to answer Mr. Cloud's article published April 25th. I suppose the members of the NEWS, or audience as you call it, has time to digest its articles and get its full meaning. In order to do that I think we would have to read between the lines. Mr. Cloud, you speak of my reference to facts of your party as subterfuge camouflage. That may be a good thing to put it if you choose to use those terms. I shall not object. You are the good will of the people stating that you have no quarrel with members of the opposite party, declare that you take no pleasure in newspaper controversy, and further declare that you are only defending your legislative record and your party. I am defending and standing for the right and justice, in politics as well as in other matters. I need no other platform.

You ask me why I did not include in my summary of legislation the act regarding deprivations of domestic fowls. I did not include it for the reason that I knew nothing about and can not claim credit for this. If it is placed to my credit it is an error made by some means. It may be a good law. I hope it is. If it is that we have it I have no idea of its application. I believe you are after being in the General Assembly a few years ago that you did not know how Polk county got under primary act. You state you noted this chicken act near the close of the General Assembly. I suppose you thought it a good law at that time, you would have given the matter your attention, as you were elected to guard the interests of our people as well as myself. My mind was not occupied with thoughts of chickens, or other legislation of that class. I was thinking of bigger things—better schools, and many other things of more importance. In fact I was thinking of the injustice to tax payers of the raising of the salaries of the State officials and other employees of the State, and of the several hundred new positions created in the General Assembly. And in addition, giving the Governor full authority to regulate salaries of clerks and stenographers. One gentleman, Democrat, when the vote was called on the state prison question said, "Are you going to raise the salaries of the state prisoners? You had just well raise them as you have raised everybody else." I was also thinking of honest election laws, laws that would protect the rights of the people at the ballot box. By the way, did you support the amendment to the absentee voters law introduced by Mr. Herring of Sampson county, called the honest absentee voters law by the Hon. Victor Bryant, of Durham, and other leading Democrats of the State, as they plead for its passage asserting that the Democratic party in the State was slowly dying under her own methods, declaring that the people are clamoring for justice and right at the ballot box. One gentleman, a Democrat, said to you who voted against this honest election law, "You are punishing the death knell of the Democratic party in North Carolina," further declaring, "We will not be surprised when we see the now minority party the majority party in the state. This bill passed the House, which was overwhelmingly Democratic, but was defeated in the Senate. Did you vote for this one and for the one that came along after, widening the avenues and possibilities of fraud? The bill as it passed both houses will in the next general election cover some of the irregularities practiced in the last election. It provides that a voter may send his ballot by hand or mail. It also provides that the sick man may stay at home and vote, and can even send in a certificate with the request that a ballot be cast for him. This bill does all this, but it does not provide that ballots can be placed in the box before the polls are opened, nor does it provide that men can be voted without their knowledge.

Creek was a stench in my nostrils, and that when Republicans made gains at other places all was fair and honest. You are at least partly right in this statement. It is neither astonishing or alarming to see Republican gains, from the fact that men by the thousands are breaking faith with the Democratic party all over the country; men are turning from prejudices and voting for principles. Take for example the city of Boston, normally 30,000 Democratic, now giving a Republican majority of 10,000 or more; the city of Baltimore about the same way. Do you think you can get much more consolation from the state of Michigan than from these cities referred to. In fact look at the entire elections last November. In spite of the strong appeal sent out by the Chief Executive of the Nation to uphold the administration by returning a Democratic Congress. Men ignored those appeals and voted according to the dictates of their own conscience, and elected a Republican congress by an overwhelming majority. The election in Greens Creek should be a stench in the nostrils of all men who would uphold the dignity of their country and believe in a square deal in politics as well in other matters. Was there anything wrong at Greens Creek? To say nothing of the particulars of evidence, see these figures: The Democratic state ticket claimed a majority of 33, the congressional ticket a majority of 30, and the county ticket a majority of 120. Did you ever know a ballot to count out like that?

Mr. Cloud, you state that the copy of the county home bond bill I have is not like the bill as introduced by you. I don't know about that. You gave me the copy after you introduced the bill. I don't recall the conversation you refer to. Will you please publish the first parts of section one and all of section four of the bill as you introduced it. You have a good deal to say about me wanting to refer the matter of bond issues to the people. I still contend that the taxpayers have a right to pass on all such matters. Lincoln said government of the people, for the people and by the people. I endorse this liberal and honest spirit and say give the people a chance to express themselves on all such matters of taxation. To do this I think we would have a better government, and at the same time it would stimulate our citizenship. Men would feel the responsibilities more keenly, and would take more pride in the public affairs of their government.

In this particular case you say I would curry political favors while our county continues the disgrace of auctioning off the poor to the lowest bidder. Why do we do this? Your party had control of the county for eight years, yet we continue the disgrace. Why did you not provide for them when you had that \$10,000? The burden is on you and your party for this condition of affairs. You state that this money was not stolen or misappropriated. According to your explanation the money went exactly where we expected it did, into the county funds. This money was borrowed under the head of county home and court house improvements, and was applied to other purposes. Webster says to misappropriate is to misapply. It looks very much like this money was misappropriated. You mention county funds' account five times, amounting to about \$2,000; road funds account \$3,113.05; school funds account \$1,030.00; bridge funds account, \$947.14. Why was this money applied in this way when we had tax levies for all these purposes? Our school term was not lengthened, in fact some of our schools were shortened, with some of our teachers waiting for months to get pay for their services. As for our own roads, well they speak for themselves. They spoke to Judge Long as he rode over them. He spoke to the Solicitor and instructed him to secure the names of the trustees and indict them. The records will also show what he thinks of the condition of our court house.

You say you think it is well known that there was a money deficiency on account of the county commissioners taking over some land in a settlement with the sheriff. I do not think this matter is well known. I am sure we have tax payers who do not know about this matter. They have a right to know about it, and all other matters concerning them as tax payers. Why was there a money deficit? What right had the county commissioners to buy land with the people's money? You state that his transac-

tion caused temporary embarrassment, but that the ultimate result was beneficial. You say we own an undivided one-half interest in this land. Will you please tell the tax payers how many acres there are and how much it cost per acre? You say further that you have no doubt but that this land could be sold for almost double the amount paid for it. I am glad that it has increased so rapidly in value. I am informed that the former county board of commissioners tried to sell a part of this land when they were in such a strain to pay interest on the county indebtedness, but could not sell it without a loss and was forced to raise taxes in order to be able to meet the emergency. If this land can be sold for double the amount paid for it, it seems to me that we would be able to build the county home without the sale of additional bonds, by selling this land and buying elsewhere at \$20 to \$25 per acre, possibly better suited for the home than the land now owned by the county, taking the difference to build the home.

You asked me to rehearse my statements before the legislative committee when we were trying the merits of your jury revision bill. I am not publishing particulars of evidence in the contest case now pending in the county.

You stated that when you appeared before the committee you did not have any facts in regard to the political complexion of the jury box but that I had. I stated it was a Democratic. I ask you to refresh your memory on that point, as I do not

"Therefore, for the purpose of extending knowledge as to the financial standing of the county and the tax levy, we publish the following statement of the financial condition of Polk county, which covers approximately all of the indebtedness, except road bonds.

1910, unpaid bonds.....	\$ 6,560
1913, unpaid bonds.....	10,000
1916, bridge bonds.....	13,000
1916, Pools Ford bridge.....	3,500
1916, school and county note.....	10,000
Outstanding bridge notes.....	5,500
Outstanding warrants.....	2,000

Total.....	\$51,500

S. H. Slaughter, Chm. Bd. of Com. Joshua Hodge, C. C. Owens, J. T. Waldrop, Ex. Chm.

After this report was made it was discovered that the following items were not included in the report: L. P. Crawford, county warrants, \$1,463.02; bank interest on road bonds, \$2,750.00 making a total of \$4,213.02, raising the total county indebtedness to \$54,773.02.

Will you give a detailed statement as to the indebtedness and name the monuments for the benefit of our tax payers. They are entitled to this information.

Respectfully, W. F. SWANN.

From the Heart. Our favorite books are few; since only what rises from the heart reaches it, being caught and carried on the tongues of men wheresoever love and letters journey.—Alcott.

Polk county has great opportunities for live stock raising, dairy farming; poultry raising. We welcome the home maker, the business man and the manufacturer. There are exceptionally fine openings at Tryon and Saluda for good hotels. Come to Polk. You will be accorded a hearty welcome.

care to be misquoted. I stated very clearly that I did not have figures as to its political complexion, but that it was my belief that it was 3-5 if not 2-4 Democratic. You asked me to rehearse my explanation as to the necessity of a similar bill introduced by myself two years ago I answered that I did not care to open up those matters, but if you insisted I would do it. I stated that the county had been under Democratic control for eight years, and that there was practically no debts when your party took it over, and that there was some money in the treasury. At the end of eight years of Democratic administration there was an indebtedness of \$50,000.00 or more with an empty treasury, with but very few monuments, so far as I know and that there was a suit pending growing out of the mismanagement of the administration and that it looked like the jury box was almost solidly Democratic.

Now, Mr. Cloud, since you have declared yourself as the defender of your party we ask you to come forward as their Moses and lead its administration through the eight years of wilderness of conducting the public affairs of the county. I am informed that when your party took over the affairs of the county that its indebtedness was a little more than three hundred dollars, and that the amount of money in the treasury was more than \$1,900.00, and as stated before the indebtedness during the eight years of Democratic mismanagement had reached the immense sum of over \$50,000. Just here I give a report signed by the board of county commissioners and Mr. J. T. Waldrop, the ex-chairman of the former board of commissioners.

TRYON ROUTE 1.

The weather being so unfavorable the quarterly meeting was not very largely attended, although the church went "over the top" in the centenary drive. I say what a blessed privilege for all to help rebuild the world in Christ's name.

Little Alvin Pack was taken to Rutherfordton hospital to be treated for appendicitis.

Misses Octa and Lillian Pack are home for their vacation, from Saluda Seminary.

Let's try to get the soldier boys who have been over seas, to give some brief experiences and trials of overseas warfare. Probably would be more entertaining than anything we could have at the glorious fourth.

Children's day exercises, will be held at Bethlehem, Mill Spring M. E. church, June 8th, second Sunday, and a welcome extended to all.

COLUMBUS BAPTIST CHURCH.

Preaching first, second and third Sundays in each month. Sunday school at 10:30 o'clock. W. M. U. meets Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. A. B. Y. P. U. will be organized next Sunday evening for the young people. Everybody invited to these services. A cordial welcome to every visitor. E. J. JONES, Pastor.

Curiosities of the Calendar.

It will be found that January always begins on the same day of the week as October, and the same is true of April and July, September and December. Again February, March and November also begin on the same day of the week. This, however, is only true in years of 365 days.

TRYON

The Lanier Library will be open on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from four to six o'clock, beginning the new hours on June 3rd.

Mrs. J. W. Kennedy, Mrs. Frank Cain and Mrs. A. L. Hill attended the biennial meeting of Women's Federated Clubs, at Asheville.

Mrs. W. T. Lindsey went to Atlanta Wednesday, to be present at the musical recital of her daughter, Miss Mary Lindsey, which occurs June 3rd.

Hon. T. T. Ballenger arrived in Tryon, Thursday, en route to Atlanta from Raleigh, at the latter place where he had been in attendance at a meeting of the trustees of the A. & M. college.

I will be at the Town Hall, Tryon, N. C., on May 30 and 31, to list taxes. All who fail to list on these days will be listed as delinquent. Delinquents are to be penalized by having their assessments doubled.

J. M. BUTLER, Tax Lister.

Mrs. Beach and daughter, Miss Mary G. Beach, left for their home in Terre Haute, Ind., Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Girefrath, of Charleston, S. C., have arrived in Tryon for the summer, and are occupying the Joyner house, on Melrose avenue.

Mr. W. T. Lindsey has been appointed county chairman for the drive for associate members of the Boy Scouts. He informs us that the personnel of the committee has not been completed, but will be in time for our next issue. The drive is June 8-14.

Mr. Ralph Newman left for Asheville, Thursday, where he has accepted a position in a drug store at that place. Mrs. Newman and the children follow later. We are very sorry to lose this family from Tryon. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have a host of friends here whose best wishes follow himself and family to their new home.

We are requested to announce a special meeting of the Lanier Club, to take place at the Library building, on Thursday, June 5th, at 3:30 o'clock p. m. County Demonstrator Sams will be present and address the members. Mr. Sams has a very important message for the ladies of Tryon, and we hope every one will attend who possibly can.

Read the announcement of Tax Supervisor Gash in another section of this paper. He is very desirous of every person in the county fully understanding the provisions of the new assessment law, so if you will but heed his request you will not regret it.

Dr. Charles N. Queen, Dean of Atlanta Theological Seminary will preach next Sunday, June 1st, at 11 a. m., in the Congregational church. All who heard him preach before, will want to hear him again. All invited.

We are under lasting obligations to Mr. W. K. McFarland, of Tryon, for his article on the history of Polk county. This article was written and appeared in the POLK COUNTY NEWS on October 16, 1895, the paper at that time being just twenty-five weeks old. Mr. McFarland is probably the best posted person now living in the county on the arly history of the same. His article ending October 16, 1895 brings to mind many changes which have taken place in Polk county since that date. The present condition of affairs point to a better county, and when the history of the county, twenty-five years from now shall be written, no doubt the changes will be much greater and for the better.

SALVATION ARMY DRIVE.

Polk county kept up its reputation for work in the Salvation Army drive, which closed Monday. W. F. Little, chairman of the drive turned over the subscriptions to a committee of three for audit Wednesday. Their report now on file with Mr. Little shows cash collected \$444.30, being 44.30 in excess of the quota. The committee found no expense against this fund so every penny subscribed will go to the Salvation Army. The committee found that the chairman paid all the expenses of the drive. The Polk County News contributed a vast amount of space and advertising space was contributed by a Tryon firm. The success of this drive is due to the efforts of Mae Irene Flentye, Chairman of the woman's committee, the Tryon Boy Scouts, Mrs. J. M. Lewis, Mill Spring, Dr. G. R. Little, Saluda and M. Georgion, Greens Creek.

THE DEATH OF MR. WARNER.

Mr. George H. Warner died at his residence, "Round Hill," in the suburbs of Tryon, at one o'clock Thursday morning.

Mr. Warner's strength, rather than his health, had been failing for some time, and those seeing him as a kind and devoted host in his own home could not realize how great an effort it was for him to entertain them.

A long and very interesting life closed when our friend passed to new fields and unlimited possibilities of life.

We shall not see that fine white head again, nor be greeted in that kind and cordial manner, but every memory connected with him is a pleasant one, and we know that the story of his life would be an interesting document.

Two children survive him, Frank Warner and Miss Margaret, whose home has been with her father.

After funeral services at the house the remains will be taken to Hartford where those of his wife were laid some years ago.

THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

The organization to put through the matter of a suitable monument in honor of the soldiers of Polk county is progressing. Soon we will be able to announce the full list of officials for the entire county.

It is proposed to devote the period of June 27 to July 4th, for a drive to secure funds to erect the monument. But if you feel like making your donation before that time, just remember that Mr. W. A. Cannon, of Lynn, is treasurer, will receive your money and give you a receipt for same. Will also publish your name, giving the amount of your subscription.

It is hoped that every person in Polk county will contribute something to this cause. All children are asked to donate the sum of ten cents. In years to come what a pleasure it will give you in passing the monument at Columbus, to be able to say, "I helped to build that."

The unveiling of the monument will take place on Friday, October 10th, the last day of the Fair, provided enough money is contributed to complete the work by that time. Send in your contributions.

A MUSEUM FOR TRYON.

While no one has taken advantage of the invitation given in our last issue to discuss the proposition of a museum for Tryon, we have been congratulated by a large number of persons on our attitude in the matter, and given to understand that they were with us in the matter.

The proposition is simply this: The Lanier Club of Tryon is composed of the progressive, wide-awake ladies of Tryon, and who desire to do everything they can for Tryon. We do not say this in a flattering way, for it is but the simple truth and we are always ready to give credit where credit is due.

This Club has done great things for Tryon, and will yet do even greater things. The Lanier Library building is the center of all social activities in Tryon, and the membership of the Lanier Club has always stood for the right on every public question. It is a law as old as time itself, and one that can not be disputed, namely, that no person or organization can stand still. You must either progress or retrograde. The Lanier Club owns its own library building, and is out of debt. It is for this organization to take up this matter of providing a suitable permanent home for the museum. Already there is enough material to do justice for a creditable showing for a city of 100,000 population, much less of a town of 1200. If the Lanier Club will but grasp the opportunity and provide a suitable, permanent home for the Tryon Museum, then that body of ladies will have done one of the best of all their many good deeds.

Both the town and the Club is just starting out under a new administration. What a monument it would be to both if they would but join forces and put this important movement through to a successful termination.

THE POLK COUNTY NEWS wants an active agent in every township in Polk county. We will make any person an attractive proposition who will solicit subscriptions for us. Write us.