

# Wake Up Voters of Johnston County!

## Extravagance of the School Board

On this page will be seen photographic cuts of two checks paid out of our County public school money. An examination of these checks will give some idea of the wreckless manner in which our school funds are handled under the existing system, and by the present managers.

It will be seen that the check for one thousand dollars was handed over to Abell and Shepard as fees for services in superior court rendered by this law firm as attorney for the board of education in its suit against the board of county commissioners, which suit resulted in taking from the pockets of the taxpayers of the county more than \$30,000.00 which the county commissioners considered unnecessary for the operation of the six months schools.

Then after having forced the county commissioners to collect and pay over the sum of \$561,718.12 when they felt that \$530,000.00 would have been sufficient if properly handled. Mr. Marrow paid the sum of \$1000 to this law firm for what was probably a smaller amount of actual work than the average farmer does for the sum of \$10.00.

The check for \$150.00 appears to have been a balance due on a radio. The total cost of the radio is not known, neither is it known why or for what purpose it was bought.

There was another check or voucher for \$1,000.00 that passed through the treasurers office payable to H. B. Marrow without any explanation as to what it was for. This is reported to have been a bonus alleged to have been given to Supt. Marrow by the board of education after he had been paid the full lawful limit of \$3,500.00 for his years work.

The people believe in schools, and are willing to pay a reasonable amount of tax money for the support of the public schools of the county. But the school budgets for several years past have been increased at such a rapid rate, that the tax rate has necessarily had to be increased from time to time in order to raise the amounts of money that the Board of County Commissioners have been forced to furnish to the County Board of Education. This sort of business has gone on from year to year, and the burden on the taxpayers has been increased until it is almost unbearable.

The records show that the sum of \$530,865.53 was used in the operation of the six months schools of the County in 1928-29 with 446 teachers. The County Superintendent last year presented a budget amounting to more than \$573,000.00 for the operation of the six months schools; and this was after the new school law had gone into effect which was supposed to limit the number of teachers in Johnston County to 418 for that term. The laying off of 28 teachers which was supposed to have been done last year has been estimated to have saved in salaries about \$18,000.00. Yet the budget was increased last year to the extent of about \$43,000.00 more than was used the previous year.

It will be remembered that the county commissioners last year refused to approve the budget as presented by superintendent Marrow, but did at first agree to approve a budget allowing exactly the same amount as was expended the previous year which amount was \$530,865.53. Mr. Marrow contended that he could not operate the six months schools on the same amount as was used the previous year notwithstanding the fact that he was supposed to operate with a much smaller number of teachers.

Later when threatened with a lawsuit the Board of County Commissioners agreed to approve a budget amounting to \$547,900.84. Mr. Marrow then agreed to operate the six months schools on the sum of \$555,606.71, but the County Commissioners refused to approve this budget, and then it was that the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education started suit in the courts in an effort to force the County Commissioners to furnish the amount of money that had been demanded. The case was first heard by H. V. Rose, clerk of the court, who decided the case in favor of the Board of Education by declaring that the sum of \$555,606.71 was the amount necessary for operation of the public schools of the county for six months.

The County Commissioners appealed the case to the Superior

Court. It was heard before Judge Sinclair and a jury. The judge directed the verdict in favor of the Board of Education without giving the jury any voice and ordered the County Commissioners to levy and collect the necessary taxes and furnish to the County Board of Education the sum of \$561,718.12 for the operation of six months schools.

The Board of County Commissioners was then forced by Judge Sinclair to furnish \$6,111.41 more than the \$555,606.71 with which the County Superintendent and the Board of Education had previously agreed to operate the schools for the six months term.

The County Commissioners then took steps to raise the money as directed by Judge Sinclair, which it seemed that they had to do in order to stay out of prison, but they appealed the case to the State Supreme Court. The Supreme Court confirmed the judgment of the Superior Court.

It will thus be seen that the County Commissioners fought bravely and fought to the last ditch, notwithstanding the fact that they realized all the while that they must make their fight in Democratic courts.

This year Mr. Marrow presented his 1930-31 budget demanding the sum of \$590,250.12 which sum was larger by \$28,532.00 than the amount which Judge Sinclair forced the Board of County Commissioners to furnish for the operation of the six months schools in 1929-30.

This big new budget was presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 20, 1930, and was rejected by the board at a meeting held on July 14, 1930.

### Pleasant Grove Gets Raw Deal From Marrow

There is much dissatisfaction in the Piney Forest school district in Pleasant Grove township as a result of their local school having been completely done away with by H. B. Marrow after a petition had been circulated and the people all signed up to have the Piney Forest School maintained for the benefit of the primary grades. Mr. Marrow rules that all children in that district will have to attend school this year at Cleveland High School at Oakland several miles away and has taken the money allowed for their teacher and bought a truck with it for Cleveland High School. The people of the Piney Forest section feel that they have been treated outrageous by Mr. Marrow and feeling is running high in that part of the County.

PROVISION FOR THE PAYMENT OF THIS WARRANT (OR ORDER) HAS BEEN MADE BY AN APPROPRIATION DULY MADE OR A BOND OR NOTE DULY AUTHORIZED AS REQUIRED BY "THE COUNTY FISCAL CONTROL ACT."

*R. L. Fitzgerald*  
COUNTY ACCOUNTANT

COUNTY OF JOHNSTON  
SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA No. 11128  
May 3 1930  
THE TREASURER OF JOHNSTON COUNTY

A-CURRENT EXPENSE  
Object No. \$150.00  
B-CAPITAL OUTLAY  
Object No. \$150.00  
C-DEBT SERVICE  
Object No. \$

PAY TO THE ORDER OF *The Smithfield Herald*  
FOR *Balance on Radio*

BOARD OF EDUCATION JOHNSTON COUNTY  
*H. B. Marrow* CHAIRMAN  
*P. B. Marrow* SEC. AND SUPT. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

NAME OF SCHOOL *Smithfield* DIST. NO. *1* TOWNSHIP *Smithfield*

The above check was issued by H. B. Marrow from the school fund of Johnston County in favor of The Smithfield Herald and all the explanation given is that it was for balance on radio.

PROVISION FOR THE PAYMENT OF THIS WARRANT (OR ORDER) HAS BEEN MADE BY AN APPROPRIATION DULY MADE OR A BOND OR NOTE DULY AUTHORIZED AS REQUIRED BY "THE COUNTY FISCAL CONTROL ACT."

COUNTY OF JOHNSTON  
SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA No. 6086  
Oct. 5 1929  
The Treasurer of Johnston County

A-CURRENT EXPENSE  
Object No. *618* \$1000.00  
B-CAPITAL OUTLAY  
Object No. \$  
C-DEBT SERVICE  
Object No. \$

PAY TO THE ORDER OF *Abell & Shepard*  
FOR *Attys fee in case Bd. of Ed. vs Bd. of Commissioners*

BOARD OF EDUCATION JOHNSTON COUNTY  
*H. B. Marrow* CHAIRMAN  
*P. B. Marrow* SEC. AND SUPT. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

NAME OF SCHOOL *Abell & Shepard* DIST. NO. *1* TOWNSHIP *Smithfield*

The above check was given to Abell & Shepard of Smithfield, for what they did in helping to make the county commissioners raise the school budget which caused the tax rate in Johnston county to be raised 9c on the \$100 valuation in 1929, so you see Mr. Marrow spends the school funds very freely in order to force your taxes higher.

## Democrats Pay Bonuses to Defeated Candidates

The county records in the Johnston County court house contain some pretty interesting information as to how the public funds of the county fared in the hands of the Democrats after they had witnessed their overwhelming defeat in the November election in 1928. They not only loaned out practically all the county's sinking fund, but they actually gave away \$4412.69 of the county's money to defeated candidates and their office assistants. The records show that each official and each clerk drew their salary regularly at the end of each month, and there is no reason that can be drawn why they should have received the payments shown below, other than as a political gift from the county's treasury. The following is the list of checks drawn. Please note the dates of these checks and the reason for same as shown by the records:

- Dec. 3, 1928 Sara E. Turlington \$100.00 (extra work in Treasurer's office during two years service).
  - Nov. 19, 1928, J. R. Creech, Treas., \$600.00 (Use of car and extra work \$25.00 per month—24 months).
  - Nov. 30, 1928, L. W. Barnes, Register of Deeds (\$125.00 for extra help in office for October and November).
  - Dec. 1, 1928 Wellons & Wellons, Spec. Atty. (\$100.00 Oliver vs. Bd. of Commissioners).
  - Dec. 1, 1928 Paul D. Grady \$1400.00 (Service in case of W. J. Massey settlement, Oliver vs. Commissioners, making up budget, etc).
  - Dec. 1, 1928 Paul D. Grady \$400.00 (Balance due on annual retainer for 1927-1928).
  - Nov. 14 H. A. Watson \$102.50 (trips to Durham, Raleigh, Clayton, Four Oaks, and other places).
  - Nov. 19, 1928 J. M. Turley gas and oil \$551.86, Salary \$458.33, total \$1010.19.
  - Nov. 22, 1928 Ed. F. Ward, \$100.00 (for special service bond issuance).
  - Nov. 30, 1928 D. O. Uzzle \$100.00 (for night work).
  - Dec. 1, 1928 C. A. Fitzgerald \$250.00 (extra service during term).
  - Dec. 1, 1928, W. W. Stewart \$125.00 (personal service of car 5 months July 1, to Dec. 1st).
- Total of the above, \$4412.69.  
A previous bonus had been given to the sheriff's office as will be seen from an order made by

the board of County Commissioners on April 5, 1927, and entered in the minutes as follows:

"Ordered that J. M. Turley be paid an additional \$1,000.00 for expenses for self and deputies for December 1926, January 1927, February 1927 and March 1927."

## A Comparison of Various County Office Expenditure

A difference between last year of Democratic Administration, Dec. 1927 to Dec. 1928, and first year of Republican Administration, Dec. 1928 to Dec. 1929, in the following offices:

County Auditor, Democratic	\$10,019.10	
County Auditor, Republican	5,733.51	\$4,285.59
A saving of		
County Treasurer, Democratic	4,790.84	
County Treasurer, Republican	4,385.49	432.35
A saving of		
County Sheriff, Democratic	12,703.16	
County Sheriff, Republican	11,310.55	1,392.61
A saving of		
Register of Deeds, Democratic	9,497.50	
Register of Deeds, Republican	8,433.72	1,063.78
A saving of		
Welfare Office, Democratic	1,876.78	
Welfare Office, Republican	1,629.03	247.75
A saving of		
Health Dept., Democratic	3,919.50	
Health Dept., Republican	3,306.45	613.05
A saving of		
Charities and Corrections, Dem.	13,382.84	
Charities and Corrections, Rep.	10,651.55	2,731.29
A saving of		
Court House and Grounds, Dem.	7,398.96	
Court House and Grounds, Rep.	7,285.81	113.15
A saving of		
County Home, Democratic	10,625.08	
County Home, Republican	10,125.43	499.65
A saving of		
County Jail, Democratic	4,831.92	
County Jail, Rep., Jan. 1-29 to Jan. 1-30	1,968.66	2,863.26
A saving of		
Tax Collector, Democratic	6,677.16	
Tax Collector, Republican	5,079.89	1,597.27
A saving of		
A total saving of		\$15,210.47

### Marrow Gets \$1,000.00 Bonus

Check No. 5748, to H. B. Marrow, on order of Board of Education on June 25, 1929, (supposed to be a bonus).....\$1000.00