

THE CHATHAM RECORD

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 19, 1878.

PITTSBORO, N. C., CHATHAM COUNTY, THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1924.

NUMBER 52.

MR. BAILEY ANSWERS THE STATEMENTS

FRIENDS OF MR. MCLEAN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE REAL ISSUES.

ABOUT THAT 1919 SESSION.

Should Show His Election of Value and Service to the People.

In announcing my candidacy, I declared that I would not indulge in nor defend against personal attacks. When I made that statement, I, of course, anticipated that my opponent would not, himself, indulge in a personal attack upon me. Since he has done so, I feel sure that the people will understand why it is necessary for me to reply.

I call attention to the following language taken from my opening speech in Raleigh:

"No man has a right to offer for the great position of Governor in his own interest. He must show the people what there may be in his election of value and service to them."

That is where I stand today. I offer myself, not in my own interest, but in the interest of the causes I represent. I invite my opponent to join me upon this high ground.

With regard to the circular letters sent out (apparently in the interest of the candidacy of the Hon. A. W. McLean for governor,) signed by certain members of the legislature of 1919, and making representations as to a speech made by me before the Finance Committee of that Legislature, I have the following to say by way of stating—as simply as possible—the facts of the matter:

During the first session of the General Assembly of 1919, the Income Tax proposition was presented; and I went before the Finance Committee and opposed the proposition. It is foolish to say that the income tax was designed for the purpose of relieving land of taxes. Certainly it has never relieved land of a dollar; and on the other hand, land taxes have increased by about \$7,000,000 since the income tax proposition went through.

I opposed the income tax proposition when it was first presented because at that time the United States Government was collecting enormous income taxes from our people; and I did not think it opportune for the state to impose additional income taxes upon our people at that time. Since then, the Federal Government has greatly reduced income taxes; and I think since the Federal Government has reduced income taxes, it is entirely proper for the state to impose income taxes—conditions have changed.

Sometimes I hear criticisms of me that I have changed my mind on this subject. I take it that those who advocated Mr. McLean by way of criticizing me for changing my mind—when the facts have changed—intend to raise the implication that their candidate never changes his mind; if so, he is the only human being that I have ever heard of whose mind was not capable of being changed. I have often heard it said that wise men sometimes change their minds.

The circular letters referred to allege that I made some statements about mules and dogs and hogs and hams. I think those who know me, know that I would not make foolish statements; and any statement I made about the relative taxes on hogs and hams and mules and dogs was founded on the tax records at the time. I recall that, in the course of my argument, I undertook to show the committee the inequalities existing as between the tax valuations of personal property in the several counties; and showed that hogs were taxed at 60 cents apiece in one county and \$3 apiece in another; and that dogs were taxed at about \$20 in Durham County. I think a reference to the report of the Corporation Commission (which I used at the time, reading from the report) will confirm the truth of my statements. I was not protesting against low appraisals but simply showing that the Corporation Commission (which was also the Tax Commission of this State at that time) was not exerting its powers or properly performing its functions; and I did argue that the Corporation Commission ought to equalize the valuations as between one county and another; and I argued further that if the valuations were properly equalized, we would have more revenue than we are receiving, and that we would not need additional taxes, if the State pursued a policy of economy.

At the time the above referred to argument was made, the Revaluation Act had never been mentioned. Knew nothing of it; it had not been introduced. I do not think it had been drawn. It passed through the legislature toward the end of its session; and neither I nor anyone else in this State knew much about it. Many of the members of that Legislature will testify that it passed without their knowledge.

The Legislature of 1919 met in a special session in August 1920. In this special session, I was employed with the Farmer's Union, to-wit: Mr. E. W. Stone, president; Mr. E. C. Faires, secretary and treasurer; Dr. J. M. Templeton, vice-president and direc-

tor; to assist the Hon. E. R. Preston (Attorney for the Association), in resisting passage of the Revaluation Act—as this act came up for final ratification in August, 1920. At this time, I showed to the General Assembly that the valuations as reported were unjust—in that they took the burden off the railroads and other tax-payers and put it upon the land owners (especially the farmers) of this State. I showed that it would relieve the COAST LINE, the SOUTHERN and other railroads of \$300,000 of taxes—reducing their taxes by this amount; and that it would increase taxes on land by \$7,000,000. When I showed these facts not a few of the advocates of the Revaluation Act became angry and indignant; but events since the passage of the Act have fully justified my position.

A little while later, published a pamphlet protesting against the Revaluation Act; and it was widely circulated in this State. From August, 1920, until the present time, I have consistently opposed the new tax policy in this State—on the ground that it puts the burden of taxation upon real estate, especially farms and small homes, and removes it from other tax-payers; and I am now before the people on this question. I am showing that the railroads and foreign corporations are escaping taxation to the extent of millions—while the farmers and other land owners are paying on excessive valuations and at a high rate.

The Revaluation Act promised us a high valuation and a low rate. I predicted that we would have a high valuation and a high rate—and this is just what we have. The average rate in this State in 1912 was 1.34; it is now more than 1.50. Valuations of land have increased from 300 to 1,000 per cent.

The Revaluation Act promised to put all property on the books. Mr. W. N. Everett, Secretary of State, in his key note speech to the Democratic Convention, stated flatly that only half the property in North Carolina is now taxed.

In 1921, I proposed the so-called income tax amendment to the constitution. It should be borne in mind that this amendment carried also the promise that the tax on land should be limited to 15 cents on the hundred dollar valuation. I know that many would vote for it, relying upon this promise; and I knew that this promise was not justified by the language of the amendment. If there is anybody in North Carolina paying anywhere near as little as 15 cents on the \$100 valuation, then I will make public apology for my opposition to this amendment. The fact however, is that the average rate of taxation on property in North Carolina is more than ten times 15 cents—to-wit, more than \$1.50 on the \$100. Very clearly to me, the so-called income tax amendment destroyed all limitations upon the tax on real estate under the Constitution. Before this amendment was adopted, taxes on land were limited to 66 2-3 cents on the \$100 except for necessary purposes; and the limit could not be exceeded without a vote of the people. Since the passage of the so-called income tax amendment the amount of taxes that may be levied on land or property is absolutely unlimited. I made these facts clear (so far as I was able) at the time, hoping to save our Party and our people from a great blunder. The amendment, however, was carried—thousands thinking that they were voting an income tax on other people; when, as a matter of fact, they were voting millions of taxes upon their property. The facts are simple. We are now collecting about \$4,000,000 a year from income taxes; and we are collecting at least \$7,000,000 a year more from property than we were when this amendment was passed. So far from relieving land of taxation, the income tax amendment has been followed by an increase of \$7,000,000 a year of taxes on property in this state.

I have invited my opponent to come out into the open before the people, and discuss these matters face to face; but instead of doing this, I have absolute information that he is sending around circulars throughout the State. I have no means of following up these circulars, as I do not know to whom he sent them. I think it would be far better if he has any criticisms upon my record, to make them in open forum—where I could meet them; but since he has chosen otherwise, I am forced to the necessity of making this statement; and asking my friends to give it the widest possible publicity.

Meantime, I am before the people on three great causes; one is to remove the unjust burden of taxation from land, and to put the burden upon the more prosperous sources of revenue; another is to obtain lower freight rates for the consumers in this State; and another is to obtain modern and approved election and primary laws, modeled upon what is known as the Australian Ballot System. I would like for us to wage this campaign for these great and valuable issues. I hope the voters will understand that the circulars being sent out concerning my course in 1919-'20 are being sent out for the purpose of

(Continued on Page 8.)

CHILDRENS DAY IS POSTPONED.

Other Interesting News Items From Browns Chapel Section.

Pittsboro, Rt. 2, June 2.—The members of the Sunday school have decided to postpone the Childrens Day exercises until later in the summer, on account of the prevalence of whooping cough.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos Richardson, of Snow Camp, spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. R. H. Lindsey.

Mr. and Mrs. Daner Thomas, of Swepsonville, spent Thursday with Mr. Emmett Mann.

While looking over some of the beautiful farms in this section and observing the orchards loaded with fruit of every description, the onion, lettuce and peas ready for the table, the strawberries red on the vines, the young chickens and turkeys ready for slaughtering, the good women folks gathering eggs each afternoon, nice pitchers of fresh milk and cakes of butter when needed, I have decided farm life is nothing to be ashamed of after all.

Mr. and Mrs. French, of Durham, spent last week with Mrs. Maude Williams.

Quite a lot of work has been put on the road from Pittsboro to the Alamance county line. In fact, more in the last two weeks than has been done since Mr. Hamlet has been the commissioner. But a new cry has been started in this part of Hadley township for "Bland, Bland, Bland," will take the stand, and prove to be a better man.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Way and daughters, Mildred and Louise, of Lexington, spent Saturday with Mrs. Way's father, Mr. J. J. Thomas.

Mrs. J. A. Marshall and son, Hersey spent Wednesday with Mr. J. A. Marshall at Sanford hospital. Mr. Marshall is rapidly improving.

Mr. Willie Thomas and daughter, Dixie, spent Thursday in Siler City with Mrs. John Crutchfield.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Cheek, of Carrboro, spent Sunday with Mrs. Cheek's mother, Mrs. J. T. Mann.

Mr. and Mrs. Avin Perry and son, Boyd, were business visitors in Burlington Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Hargrove, of Burlington, spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Thomas.

FARMERS FOR BAILEY

White Cross Local No. 2756 of the Farmers Union, met in regular session Wednesday evening, May 28th, and all members present signed up to support Josiah W. Bailey at the polls Saturday, June 7th.

DOINGS AROUND MT. GILEAD.

Pittsboro, Rt. 1, June 2.—Rev. R. R. Gordon, pastor at Mt. Gilead, was unable to fill his appointment Sunday on account of illness. We hope he will soon recover.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clark and children are at home with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Griffin.

Mrs. W. F. Hackney and daughter, of Durham, are visiting her mother, Mrs. W. H. Windham.

Mrs. S. J. Johnson, of Apex, spent a few days last week with her mother, Mrs. J. W. Neal.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hearne and children and Mrs. J. W. Griffin visited relatives in Pittsboro Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pendergraph and children, of Durham, were visitors at Mr. J. W. Neal's Sunday.

Miss Ethel Herndon, who has been attending school at Raleigh, returned home Sunday.

Mrs. Alice Tripp visited her daughter, Mrs. Dawkins, in Lee county, Sunday.

Misses Gertrude and Lillian Hatley had a large number of visitors Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Yancey Neal and children were visitors in the home of Mr. J. J. Hatley Sunday.

Misses Leonie and Josie Neal had a large number of young people visit them Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hatley, of Raleigh, visited relatives in this section Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Neal, of Carrboro, visited their sister, Mrs. Yancey Neal, last week.

PLAY AT BELLS SCHOOL SOON.

"The Hoodoo," a farce comedy in three acts, is to be given by some of the pupils of Bells School in the auditorium of the school on Saturday, June 14th, at 8 o'clock. The characters are as follows:

Brighton Early, Hal Baldwin, Billy Jackson, Carey Horton, Professor Spigot, Calvin Watson, Hemachus Spigot, Palmer Copeland.

Malachi Meek, Trubie Thraikill, Dun, Garland McCoy, Amy Lee, Esper Baldwin, Mrs. Perrington Shine, Annie Baldwin.

Gwendolyn Shine, Gladys Copeland.

Dodo De Graft, Jessie Seymore, Mrs. Clinger, Jeneverette Seymore, Angelina Clinger, Pauline Horton, Doris Ruffles, Ha Copeland.

Mrs. Spigot, Jennie Overton, Miss Longnecker, Ava Harward, Lula, Lila Horton.

Aunt Paradise, Jessie Horton. Everybody invited to be present. You will enjoy this play.

Faint heart ne'er won fair lady. It is the one hat is predestined to get the mitten.

FARMERS PAY FREIGHT.

Some Facts Stated in Mr. Bailey's Behalf—Read.

Editor Chatham Record:—One of the very few objections to Bailey for governor is this "Eight or ten years ago, more or less, Mr. Bailey favored a taxless scheme for certain corporations."

Well, times change and men change with them. That is the needs of times change. The old saying, "Wise men often change their minds, but fools never change," is sometimes fitting. I am not so concerned about Mr. Bailey's WASINESS as I am with his ISNESS, and his HENCE-FORTHNESS. I once believed slavery was right, but I don't believe that now.

Tax on the farmer and all others of small wealth is entirely too high, while on the over wealthy it is entirely too low. You, Mr. poor man, are taxed at one hundred cents on every dollar you are worth. The rich corporations are taxed at about 25 cents on the dollar of their cash value.

The Reynolds Tobacco Company is taxed on \$53,000,000, while the company is worth \$204,000,000. Mr. McLean says there is very little wrong with our tax system and that little will right itself in four or five years.

Mr. Bailey says our tax system is an unjust one and he proposes to lower it on the common citizen and put it at the same rate on the rich—dollar for dollar. Which of these men do you want for governor?

It's up to you.

Mr. McLean has been identified with the railroad business most of his life, and he is not going to desert that business now.

The railroads are now trying to get a higher freight rate. It will likely be delayed until after the election, to aid McLean. I look for that delay. Corporations usually stand by those who help them on in their way of doing things.

The farmer pays the freight on everything he buys or sells. On every yard of calico, on every pound of coffee and sugar, the freight is added to the cost.

Iron is heavy and he who buys the plow must pay the freight. Not only that but on every thing the farmer sells he has to pay the freight. And when all transportation rates are honestly adjusted for all concerned, it is right and proper. Just the other day the Greensboro News had an editorial on a car load shipment through North Carolina to Virginia for sixty nine dollars less than the railroad would have unloaded that car anywhere in North Carolina. We have no large cities, no sufficient home market and freight rates out of North Carolina are so high that you cannot grow corn and wheat and oats and other farm products and get a living price for them.

You cannot properly clothe and feed and school your children under this railroad dominated system. It prevents full physical and mental development. It is a crime against civilization. And now a railroad raiser of freight rates, Mr. McLean, is up for the nomination for governor.

It is up to the voters at the primary to say which it shall be, Bailey or McLean. Bailey is for the people, McLean is for the ring. In my mind there is no question about that.

If you want to go on unable to replenish your old, worn out farming implements, vote for McLean. If you and your wife are perfectly satisfied to eat off cracked plates, broken china with old, rusty knives, forks and spoons, vote for McLean.

If you don't care whether you ever have money enough to decently clothe yourself and your children so the little ones can go to Sunday school and not be ashamed, vote for McLean. If you would just as soon be a pauper as a prince, vote for McLean. If you and your wife would be just as happy and contented for the next four years with that old, worn, faded, scandalous looking hat of hers, both of you go down and vote for McLean.

My old friend, ex-sheriff Lane, was in Bennett Thursday working for McLean.

I asked him what he was doing but got no answer. He may have felt sure I knew he held a good paying state job and was working to hold it.

Mr. Lane says the state is in debt and must tax the people to pay it. Which is true, and to which none of us object. What we object to is the collecting of 80 per cent of it off our farms and small home owners, while the big wealthy ones only pay 20 per cent. I have failed to find a McLean supporter who favors anything like a just adjustment, dollar for dollar, on all assessments. Not only sheriff Lane, but practically every officer in the state from governor Morrison down to the smallest clerk, is working for the nomination of Mr. McLean.

If that does not constitute a ring, what does it take to make a ring? It takes a lot of cheek on their part to deny this "ring" business—a cheek that reaches clean down to the shoulders; there isn't room for a neck tie.

Without a single exception every one favoring Mr. Bailey's nomination, should go and vote for him on June 7th. If you stay at home on that day you will surely pay for it, for if McLean is nominated you will pay more for all you buy and get less for all you sell.

H. A. DENSON.

Bennett, May 31, 1924.

The tribute paid to the farm by our Browns Chapel correspondent this week is worth reading.

BAILEY, PEOPLES'S CANDIDATE, MAKES STRONG APPEAL

PLEADS FOR REDUCTION IN LAND TAXES; A LOWER FREIGHT RATES; FAIR ELECTION SYSTEM.

JUNE 7 IS TIME TO DECIDE.

Mr. Bailey Asks Voters to Make Approval of His Causes.

To the Democratic Voters of North Carolina:

This is a campaign of issues. The Primary June 7th will settle certain questions of policy—questions of real importance.

The first of these is the question of taxes.

Land taxes have been steadily rising in this State for ten years. The increase amounts to thirty per cent a year every year for eleven years. And under the present system there is certainty that they will continue to rise. I hold that land is bearing more than its just share of the burden. My opponent frankly defends the present system.

I am opposed to any taxes on land, or property, for State purposes.

I hold that when the State exempted from taxation more than \$116,000,000 worth of stocks in foreign corporations it did a great wrong. On this subject my opponent says nothing. This one act added more than a million and a half of dollars to taxes on lands. It took that much from the taxes of the wealthy and put it on property—mainly land.

I hold that we should collect in franchise taxes more than the miserable one tenth of one per cent we now collect from the railroads, and that we should use this additional revenue to relieve land. On this my opponent has said nothing.

I hold that the State has taken over to itself for State purposes all the sources of taxes except property (mainly land) and placed upon land the support of more than sixty per cent of the burden of government; and that this is wrong. I hold that the State must give back to the counties more of revenue or take from the counties more of the burdens of government. And I hold further that until this has been done, land taxes will continue to increase. On this subject my opponent has said nothing.

The election June 7th will determine this issue.

The second big question before us is the question of political control.

So long as we have machine control we will have control by and for specially favored interests.

The people can manage the Democratic party, and they can take care of it.

All the progress that ever was made was made in spite of the ruling powers.

Machines operate in politics by means of money; and they pay the money back to the public expense.

Machines are maintained for the benefit of a few. They give the people only what they dare not refuse.

The Machine in North Carolina has already declared the result of the primary June 7th. To hear the big leaders and their understrappers talk one would think that there is no sense in the holding of primaries. They are practically telling the people it is none of their business.

We must put an end to this sort of thing or the people will lose confidence in the Democratic party. Office holders have no right to dictate to voters of the state by secretly nominating candidates for office for two, three or four terms in advance.

I am in favor of the Australian Ballot and of court review of election returns. The Australian Ballot will give the voters secrecy in voting and will make the purchase of votes difficult and will tend to put an end to the power of money in politics.

My opponent is silent on this subject, and is defending our present election primary laws.

This question also will be settled June 7th. The line has been clearly drawn.

The third big question before us is the question of freight rates.

My opponent did not, in a public speech utter a word on this subject until he spoke at Nashville, April 21st I have been speaking on the subject ever since I opened my campaign.

At Nashville he declared against freight rate discrimination in favor of Virginia cities. But said nothing against the pending proposition by the Interstate Commerce Commission greatly to increase freight rates throughout the State.

I propose not only to resist to the fullest extent the discriminations against North Carolina in favor of Virginia, but also to resist the proposed increase of freight rates. I hold that since the ATLANTIC COAST LINE is now taking more than twenty per cent on its capital, and the SOUTHERN RAILWAY is paying dividends at the rate of five per cent a year on \$120,000,000 of watered common stock, there is no necessity for increasing freight rates; and I remind all our people that increased freight charges will increase the cost of living.

The fourth great question is the question of economy in the expenditure of the public money.

By an oversight, I feel sure, the Democratic platform did not mention the subject of economy. But public economy is a Democratic principle. We must always follow it. Most of the

State office-holders are supporting my opponent. The present administration is notoriously and boastfully supporting him. It looks to me at any rate that they think I meant business when I said I would get a dollar's worth of service for a dollar's taxes.

These are the issues. The settlement of these questions is a matter of vital interest to every voter—and of importance to the whole people. Let the people dismiss small politics, small politicians, and small personalities from mind, and settle these matters on the merits.

Let me add that I am deeply grateful to learn that everywhere there is a growing interest in the cause I represent. Make your approval, as I believe you will, overwhelmingly emphatic by getting all your friends to vote in the primary, June 7th.

It is the primary, June 7th, vote that will decide all of these issues. Vote early and then stand by and see the votes counted and certified.

Raleigh, May 24th, 1924.
JOSIAH W. BAILEY.

THE ELECTION RETURNS.

On Saturday night, June 7th, the Chatham Record office will be open until all the county returns are in, and through the courtesy of The Durham Herald, returns from the state will be furnished until eleven o'clock. We invite our friends to call around.

TO THE VOTERS OF CHATHAM

Your undersigned is a candidate for the nomination for congress. He has been fighting for a just and honest system of taxation since 1920. Unless there is a change made and all the property of the State placed on the tax books for an ad valorem rate of taxation and relieve the burden that is now on the owners of real property in North Carolina, the result will be ruin and bankruptcy. One half of the wealth is tax exempt, the farming class is paying 80 per cent of the cost of the whole state. This is dishonest and can't endure. His worthy opponent has been for 24 years drawing a salary in congress and in February, 1924, voted against the repeal of tax exempt securities, showing that his sympathies were against the masses and tax payers of his district and in favor of the classes and tax dodgers of the state. No man can support him and ever after complain of unjust and high taxes.

Unless the tax payers vote a change they are doomed to become agricultural slaves like the serfs of Russia, while the tax free classes reap all the benefits of our great state without cost.

A vote for Pou is a vote to continue the iniquitous system, while a vote for Person is a vote for equal privileges, equal rights, equal taxation, political liberty and all the blessings that come from a Democratic form of government.

A defeat means two years more of industrial degradation. What I claim and demand is coming after the farmers are all bankrupt and destroyed. It is as inexorable as fate and as certain as death. Political liberty and equal rights before the law can hurt no honest man.

Respectfully,
WILLIE M. PERSON.

AN EXPLANATION.

According to the best judgment of the Chatham Record, the total cost of operating the county home will not exceed \$450 per month and perhaps a little less than that. The report of the grand jury showed that last year the total cost was near \$12,000.00. This cost embraced many items for supplies that were paid for out of the fifty thousand dollar bond issue.

The land scape gardening and shrubbery was also an indebtedness chargeable to the construction of the home and did not come out of the general fund. This was paid from a surplus that was left over from the construction and furnishing.

This explanation is made so that the tax-payers may have accurate information. We get the knowledge from a reliable source and know that it is correct. The cost of maintenance of the county home will probably be less in the future as much of the expense has been in getting the place fixed up properly.

HE HAS LOST HIS EYESIGHT.

About a year ago Mr. Forest Miller, who has been driving a lumber truck for the Asheboro Wheelbarrow Co., at Pittsboro, had the misfortune to get one of his eyes hurt in an accident near Pokebury, in this county. He fell or jumped from his truck when an automobile ran into him, and in falling a corn stalk was stuck in his eye. He pulled the stalk out and went to Sanford to a hospital for treatment.

One day last week his other eye began to pain him and it gradually weakened so that he became almost totally blind. He is now at the hospital in Sanford taking treatment. It is hoped that Mr. Miller will not lose his eyesight.