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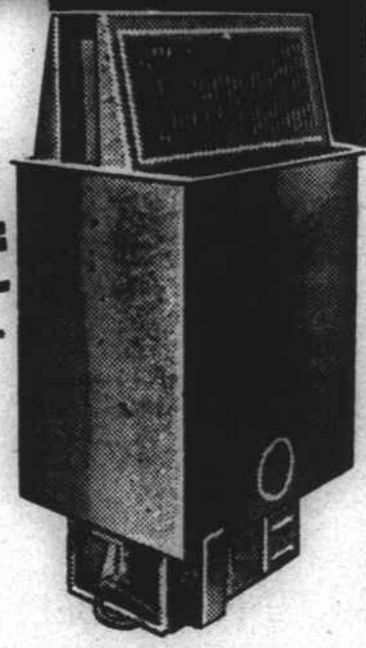
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PUBLIC PULSE

This column open to the public for free expression. The Journal-Patriot does not assume any responsibility for articles printed under this heading, and neither endorses nor condemns them. Please be as brief as possible.

Schools? Bonds? Taxes?

According to The Journal-Patriot of February 5 and April 8, 1948, the people of Wilkes county will be asked to vote on a \$700,000.00 school bond issue next election. This being true, it is well for us to consider some of the causes responsible for the conditions of our schools today.

The war is blamed for almost everything and it is being used as a smoke-screen to cover up the inefficiency in our school situation in Wilkes county. The real trouble began before the war and is far deeper seated.

Most of us remember the "school fight" of some ten years ago, precipitated by the surreptitious and unceremonious dismissal of the principal and eight teachers in the Wilkesboro high school, because they refused to pay \$25.00 or more to the Democratic political fund and to vote for certain politicians. Throughout the county this same thing happened. Teachers were dismissed on five days' notice and told that it was because they did not vote right. Because they refused to be a party to this political corruption, many of the Republican school teachers either left the county or quit teaching. Likewise, a number of Democrats quit teaching or moved to other counties, because they had too much manhood and womanhood to be a party in this political racket. Naturally, a shortage of teachers resulted. To overcome this shortage subversive individuals were sought out and various types of certificates were honored, elevated, or outright manufactured. People who had never completed the seventh grade, to say nothing of completing high school, were put in to teach the boys and girls of Wilkes county and continue today.

In August 21, 1947, school bonds on Wilkes county to the amount of \$45,000.00 were sold to R. S. Dickson and Company of Raleigh and Charlotte. The writer does not know how this was arranged. He did not see anything about it in any of the local papers. The bonds were not by the citizens and apparently not one person in a hundred knows it was done. It appears that the Democratic school officials and the Republican county commissioners should have informed the taxpayers about this. The tax payers pay the bill and have the right to know what is being done with their money. The secrecy of the deal indicates that it was unsavory. We talk about the iron curtain in Russia, but in this matter we have an iron curtain in Wilkes county schools, equal to anything in Russia.

During prosperous times many people seem to think that money will continue to flow freely. Politicians take advantage of such situations to get bonds voted and their salaries increased. Let us look at what might happen in Wilkes county. Some of us know that a petition was signed by many voters asking permission of

NOTICE SERVING SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

North Carolina, Wilkes County. In the Superior Court, before the Clerk.

R. S. Gilbert, Administrator of John T. Gilbert, Clinton L. Gilbert and wife, Claudine Gilbert, Wayne H. Gilbert and wife, Mary Lee Gilbert, Elsie M. Barnes and husband, Ezra H. Barnes, Petitioners, vs. Richard Gilbert and wife, Mrs. Richard Gilbert, Mrs. Naoma Belcher and husband, Louis Belcher, Mrs. Virgie White and husband, Tom White, David Gilbert and wife, Mrs. David Gilbert, Pauline Gilbert, minor, and Inez Gilbert, minor, Respondents.

The defendants (respondents) Richard Gilbert and wife, Mrs. Richard Gilbert, Mrs. Naoma Belcher and husband, Louis Belcher, Mrs. Virgie White and husband, Tom White, David Gilbert and wife, Mrs. David Gilbert, Pauline Gilbert, minor and Inez Gilbert, minor, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Wilkes County, North Carolina, to sell the lands of John T. Gilbert, deceased, at private sale to make assets to pay debts and the surplus, if any, to be distributed among the heirs of John T. Gilbert, deceased, as their respective interest may appear, and the said defendants will further take note that they are required to appear at the office of the clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the courthouse in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, within ten days after the 30th day of October, 1948, and answer or demur to the petition in said action or the plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said petition.

This the 30th day of September, 1948.

C. C. HAYES, Clerk Superior Court Wilkes County, N. C.

10-28-48-(T)

the Legislature to permit a section of Wilkes county to withdraw and join Caldwell. If this happens, a sizable amount of good taxable property will be lost from this county. Since politicians never get enough money, this deficit will have to be made up by a heavier tax on the remainder of the county. Then suppose the government builds the flood dams, more taxable property will be removed and higher taxes will have to be levied on the remainder of the county.

Now we are being asked to vote school bonds to the tune of \$700,000.00. Before we do this, it is well to remember that we have practically the same school officials who levied \$25 or more on each of the teachers of Wilkes, and to vote these bonds further entrench these officials in their corruption. Before we vote these bonds, let us have a set of school officials who are a high type of Christian gentlemen, who place the welfare of the boys and girls of Wilkes county above any political party. We deplore the lack of democracy in Russia, but in Russia citizens can at least vote for Stalin. In Wilkes we are not allowed to vote for any school official. Men who who place politics above the welfare of our boys and girls are placed over us and so far we haven't done anything about it.

Some three or four years ago the courthouse gang got their salaries increased. Now, we are asked to double the salary of the representative. Whoever heard of a politician getting enough money? They always want more and more money. There must be something about the offices they want or they would not work so hard to stay in office. Probably it would be better to pay politicians for what good they accomplish. We are also to vote on the increasing of the limitations on the hundred dollar valuation for county expenses from 15 to 25 cents. Apparently, this is another scheme to raise taxes. To the writer it would appear that the deeper a county is in debt, the more money it can borrow and the further the politicians can sink it in debt and thus increase the taxes.

It is well to remember that these flush times will end some of these days and a depression will surely come. The hospital will hold the feet of the town of North Wilkesboro to the fire for a long time to come, and the school bonds and political extras will be more than the people of Wilkes county. It is also well to remember that for every dollar we borrow and spend now we

shall be paying back from two or three dollars when the depression hits. The writer predicts that within a few years the same thing will happen here he saw in Danville, Ky., and Boulder, Colo.; namely, many people will lose their homes because they will not be able to pay the taxes.

The writer wants it clearly understood that he is not opposed to better schools and improvements. He has spent most of his life in educational work. He pays thirty cents each day for his boy to ride to North Wilkesboro when he could ride the school bus to Wilkesboro free. He has contributed liberally, according to his means, and assisted in every way possible to help the school at North Wilkesboro. He would be just as loyal to the public school system of Wilkes county if it were as good as that of North Wilkesboro. He wishes that every boy and girl of Wilkes county had the opportunity of attending schools just as good as those of any other state. We have just as good brains here as anywhere, but the schools are so poor that the boys and girls graduating from high school cannot compete on equal terms with those from most of the other states. Until we are given sincere, honest, public spirited Christian men to head our school system, men who have the welfare of the boys and girls at heart rather than the promotion of a political party, and until this iron curtain of secrecy is withdrawn and the people of Wilkes are permitted to participate in the school policies, we had better not vote more bonds or increase taxes.

(H. G. DUNCAN, Wilkesboro, N. C.)

NOTICE—SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

In the Superior Court. North Carolina, Wilkes County. Fay M. Hayes

vs. Fred D. Hayes.

The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior court of Wilkes County, North Carolina, to obtain an absolute divorce on the grounds of two years separation, and the said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the office of the clerk of the Superior court of Wilkes County, within twenty days from the 30th day of Oct., 1948 at Wilkesboro, N. C. and answer or demur to the complaint filed in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 30th day of Sept. 1948. C. C. HAYES, 10-28-48-T Clerk Superior Court.

Dr. J. H. SOWDER

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REGARDLESS of how long you have been a sufferer, and how many medicines you have tried before, you can now hope for relief if you try GEO-MINERAL, the wonderful mineral aid. Feel and enjoy the results one week after you start taking it. GEO-MINERAL comes from the earth—Nature's laboratory. Contains NO alcohol, NO preservatives, NO oil, NO harmful drugs, NO dope—is NOT habit forming. Contains ONLY Nature's minerals, the oldest, most reliable remedy for rheumatism, arthritis, kidney and stomach ailments—highly recommended by the medical profession.

FOR THOUSANDS of years ever since Hippocrates was the father of medicine, minerals and other natural medicines were a reliable remedy for most of our common ailments. GEO-MINERAL will enrich your blood, help to make you strong, full of pep, life and energy. If you suffer from nutritional anemia, nervousness, lack of vitality and energy see what GEO-MINERAL will do for you.

Amazing Results

MEDICAL records show 65% of men and women over 35 suffer from nutritional mineral-iron anemia. When you feel nervous, dull, tired, laxy, have dizzy spells, no ambition to work or play, a poor appetite, when your eyes lack that bright spark, and your mind brilliance, when headaches get the best of you, and you feel old before your time, and life seems not worth living, with worry wearing you down—it may be simply lack of minerals in your blood. GEO-MINERAL is then what you need.

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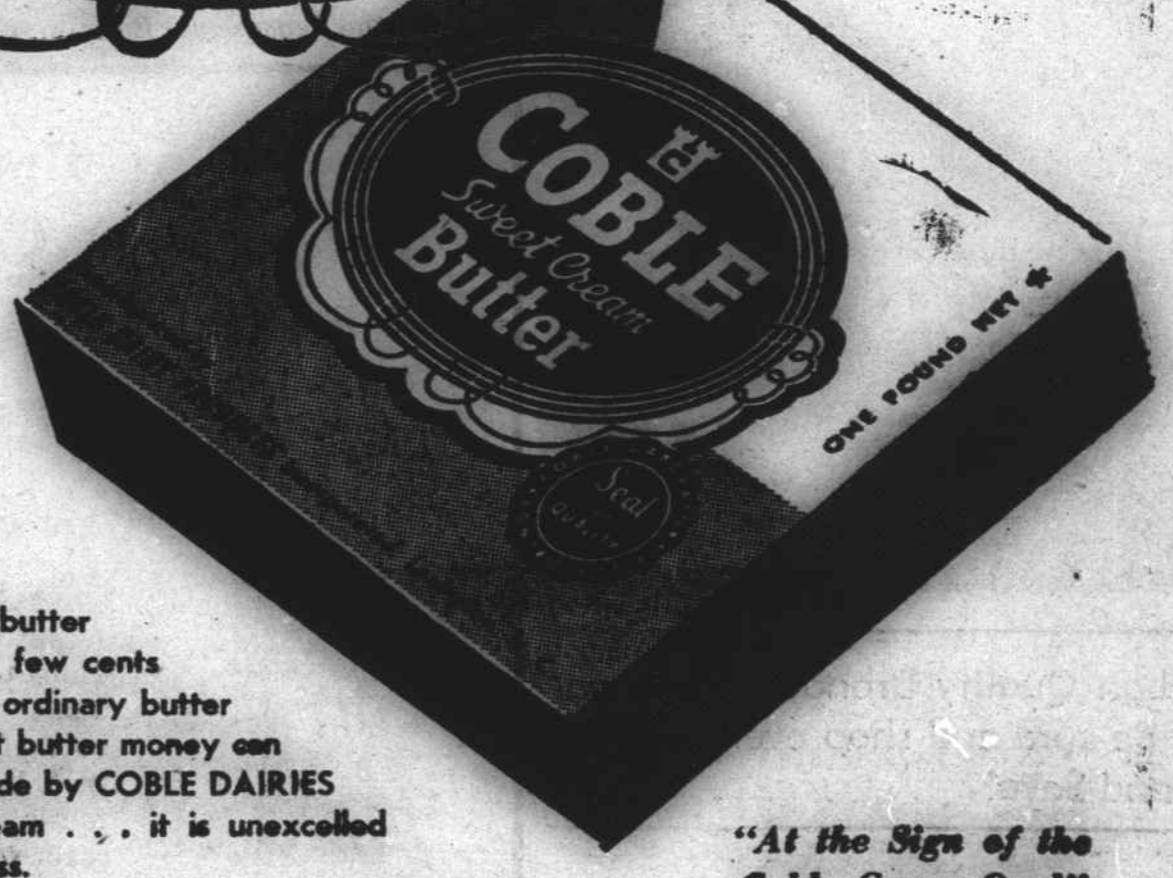
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