

HOW WILL YOU SETTLE THE QUESTION?

Tomorrow the citizens of this county will have the opportunity to say whether or not they wish to carry to completion a system of good roads that will make Lee one of the most desirable counties in the South as a place of residence.

"I have often protested that I am no prophet, but when a fellow tells you that look out for his predictions, it does not take any Sherlock Holmes to see that with the resources Lee county enjoys somebody sooner or later is going to make that a great county. It was not designed that built New York or Chicago or Iowa. Lee county's great possibilities have been overlooked by men who have turned elsewhere. Once the chances here are seen and realized the rest becomes automatic.

"I am not a prophet, but thirty years I have been hawking along the trail of communities that were doing things, and I have found evidence here in Lee county that will identify the culprit with the goods on him. Lee will be caught in the act of pushing forward or I am no old sleuth of progressive movements."

The good roads that have been built have stimulated the increased farming interest in the county. The gain from good roads is so much greater than the cost that there is no way of estimating the difference. We have a wonderful climate and we have a soil that responds readily to cultivation but these things are of little advantage to many people in the county because the way of getting to market, to church or to school is unimproved. Good roads make rural life more attractive, and without good roads no community can be either content or happy nor can its resources be developed. Good roads increase public school and church attendance and bring about a fuller and freer social intercourse. If good roads are built into every section of Lee county the county will go forward by leaps and bounds and the people who live here now will realize the possibilities that nature has placed within their grasp. We have the road equipment on hand but the roads are unfinished for lack of funds and the only way to finish the work is to vote for the proposed bond issue. Let's settle the question right and go forward.

Lee and Moore in the House. Who are the particularly strong men in the Legislature? Time must be depended upon to answer the question, but Col. Wade H. Harris, editor of the Charlotte Observer, who was in Raleigh last week when the Legislature met, says that of some men in the body, enough is known to justify a good account. "Some fine judges of character and ability," writes the Charlotte editor "are inclined to the opinion that the smartest man in the House is Seawell of Lee." As noted in this paper before, Mr. Seawell was one of the aspirants for the Speaker of the House, but the House bestowed that honor upon a man who comes from another part of the State rather than the great middle section. Moore county had the good sense to return Henry A. Page to the Legislature, and he is classed as "one of the most conspicuous of the figures in North Carolina development and prosperity." Mr. Page is on several important committees and has already introduced a number of bills of statewide importance. He is one of the safest business men in the House. Mr. Seawell is chairman of the committee on constitutional changes and is a member of several other of the more important committees. In this Legislature much of the important work will be done by the two men who represent Lee and Moore.

Taxing Land.

As the time for assessing land again comes this year we take this occasion to say just a few words with reference to this important duty.

The county commissioners appoint, as the law now stands, the land assessors. It may be that this can or will be changed by the legislature in the passing of the revenue law of 1915. Be that as it may, the general principle will be the same. We desire simply to call attention to some of the fundamental truths underlying this matter of land assessment.

We do not believe that any land should be assessed at what the owner would take for it in every case, for some land is beyond value to the man who owns it in dollars and cents. What we do believe though is that the land should be assessed at a fair market value. For instance, a man would not put any price on his home, for that is sacred to him. But the land still possesses a market value—what any man would give for it from his position with reference to public utilities and productiveness of soil and desirability of location, all things considered. This should govern the taxation valuation of the land. Now, suppose one man owns a place of this kind and we determine its value to be \$25 per acre and he has ten acres. He should be taxed \$250 for land. His neighbor who owns the adjoining tract of identical value in every respect but has 300 acres gets off for \$1500. This is wrong. He, too, should be taxed at the rate of \$25, or \$7500 for the tract. But it is not now done, for they argue: "Oh, he has to pay so much, for he has more land and ought to be let off for less taxes."

This is not a square deal to the small land owner. Let each pay according to the unit value regardless of the units owned. This will equalize the burdens of taxation and we will hear less complaint of discrimination and no more exactions because the rate was raised, for a true valuation with the present rate will raise all the taxes we need and therefore there will be no cause for complaint.

Modern Courage. If you were to ask a group of Confederate veterans, their opinion of modern courage they would, very probably tell you that it is not very high. And yet modern city dwellers who are at the battle front in Europe have shown that our urban civilization has not sapped the fighting spirit of the race. The men who from day to day die in the "long battle line" prove one thing very forcibly: the enduring bravery of mankind. The men who, fifty years ago, met each other in the shock of battle at Gettysburg and Chancellorsville and the Wilderness held their souls in strength, but they were not braver than the clerks and factory hands and farmers who now "on war's red touchstone ring true metal." Napoleon said that the rarest sort of courage was four-o'clock-in-the-morning courage, but there is and has been lots of that since the great world war opened in August and men began to fight along the French border. A writer in the Scientific American says the Germans have systematically made many of their most determined assaults in the small hours following midnight, but these have been met as calmly and effectively as if under the noonday sun. Commenting on this Collier's says: "It will be interesting to see how the psychologists will account for this, whether it will be ascribed to the very deadliness of modern weapons, or to the decay of superstition, or to more occult causes. This much is certain: modern men are worth saving for a better life on earth than many of them have had." War, while always to be deplored, brings into play many of the finer qualities of men and women which are too often overlooked in times of peace.

FINANCES OF THE STATE.

Treasurer Lacy Tells About the Money Spent and the Estimate For the Next Two Years.

Showing an actual available balance of \$21,976 in the State Treasury at the close of the fiscal year, estimated income of \$6,598,930 and \$6,684,671 estimated expenses for the State during the years 1915 and 1916, State Treasurer Lacy has filed with Governor Craig his biennial report to be transmitted to the Legislature. The Treasurer explains that the balance of \$104,572 shown by the books of the treasury December 1 as examined by the legislative committee, did not include amounts due on the 1914 appropriation for high schools, and warrants which were in course of collection, which brought the actual balance down to \$21,976.

In estimating the revenue for the next two years at \$6,598,930, Treasurer Lacy bases his estimates on the record for the past two years and probable increase for the next biennial period. The estimate includes an estimated increase of \$64,000 or more from the counties in corporation taxes for each of the two years, this being the ratio of increase of 1913 over 1912, with much more marked increase in 1914 over 1913, due to some extent to 1913 taxes running over into 1914 for payment. He also figures on small increases from department revenues and on an increase of \$50,000,000 in tax assessment valuations for the next year.

Treasurer Lacy gives his estimated sources of revenue for the next two years as follows: Atlantic and North Carolina railway dividends, \$75,966; bank stock, \$131,780; building and loan stock, \$13,689; private corporations, \$596,491; public corporations, \$867,859; fees from departments, \$36,013; inheritance tax, \$36,517; insurance companies, \$625,617; licenses direct to the State Treasurer, \$48,754; North Carolina railroad dividends, \$420,028; oil inspection tax, \$91,000; seal tax from departments, \$6,109; taxes from counties, \$3,299,167; miscellaneous receipts, \$2,655; estimated increases, \$275,000; total, including present treasury balance of \$21,976, \$6,598,930.

Of the estimated expenditures for the next two years the Treasurer puts State department expenses at \$203,678; maintenance of schools and colleges, \$2,583,240; hospitals and asylums, \$1,114,500; and as miscellaneous expenses \$2,783,254. Some of the larger miscellaneous "items of the estimate are pensions, \$1,018,820; interest on four per cent bonds, \$474,600; interest on six per cent constructive bonds, \$326,400; judiciary, \$239,526; State Board of Health, \$73,000; public printing, \$110,240; State Guard, \$100,000; State Geological Survey, \$30,000.

Of the \$2,583,240 estimated to be necessary for schools and colleges the next two years Treasurer Lacy names \$1,471,670 for public schools; \$190,000 each for the University of North Carolina and State Normal and Industrial College; \$170,000 for A. & M. College, Raleigh; \$25,000 for colored A. & M. at Greensboro; \$90,000 for East Carolina Teachers' Training School; \$49,000 for State School for Feeble-Minded; \$125,000 for School for Deaf and Dumb, Morganton; \$145,000 for State School for Blind, Raleigh; and various other institutions for lesser amounts.

HEALTH MESSAGE.

Governor Craig Urges Attention to Health Work: Plans Against Tuberculosis.

Governor Craig rings clear on health. In his message read before the General Assembly he urges increasing effectiveness in health work. Following is that portion of his message relating to public health:

"The State Board of Health has efficiently performed a beneficent work. By its agency sanitary conditions are improving. This department should be provided with means to continue with increasing effectiveness this most essential work for the preservation of life and for the health and happiness of all people.

TUBERCULOSIS. "The problem of dealing with tuberculosis is most serious. In North Carolina it has been ascertained that eighteen thousand people are the victims of this disease. The State Sanatorium was established in response to the demand that something must be done for the afflicted, and to stop the ravages of the plague. In my opinion this institution, with its present scope and efficiency, is utterly incapable of dealing effectively with the situation. As an institution for the purpose of educating people to care for themselves, and disseminating knowledge of the disease, it cannot be as effective as could a bureau established for the purpose of sending literature to every person in the State known to be afflicted. Such literature could present the situation more intelligently to the people and with more efficiency than could be done by a few patients who are fortunate enough to secure admission to the establishment at Sanatorium. There are now about ninety patients in this institution. It is most humanely and most ably managed. Yet it is altogether inadequate to deal with this stupendous proposition that so vitally affects the people. It has done good in individual instances, but there are thousands in the State who cannot gain admittance, and who will desire admittance when efficiency is recognized. This institution can care for those entitled to admission. On the present plan the whole revenue of the State could not meet the demand. It is one of the highest obligations of the State to deal with this disease, to do all possible to prevent it and to cure those who have it. I hope that this General Assembly can work out a practical method that will be effective."

Reducing Illiteracy. Reduction of illiteracy in American children between ten and fourteen years old is shown by statistics announced by the Bureau of Education. In 1914 more than fifteen children out of every 1,000 were unable to write. Fourteen years ago 42 children out of every 1,000 were illiterate. "From this standpoint of proportional reduction of illiteracy," the bureau said, "Oklahoma leads all States. In 1909 this State had 124 illiterate children of the ages named. In 1910 it had but 17. Delaware had 20 in 1900 and but 4 in 1910. New Hampshire reduced its number from 4 in 1900 to 1 in 1910. New Jersey from 7 to 2, Missouri from 85 to 11, Montana and Oregon from 3 to 1, Vermont from 6 to 2, New Mexico from 182 to 69, and Idaho from 5 to 2."

According to the bureau, Nevada lost ground since 1900. Its illiteracy was then 4; in 1910 it was 5. States having the largest proportion of illiterate children per 1,000 are Louisiana, with 115 (from 174 in 1900); South Carolina 83 from 150; Alabama, 77 from 157; New Mexico, 69 from 122; North Carolina, 68 from 107; Kentucky, 59 from 78; Georgia, 57 from 106; Virginia, 57 from 97; Tennessee, 54 from 119; Florida, 50 from 78; Arkansas, 47 from 113.

On the basis of the figures, Dr. F. P. Claxton, Commissioner of Education, estimates that with an average annual expenditure of \$20,000 for ten years he could put forces to work that would, by means of night schools and other agencies, eliminate illiteracy among adults of whom it is estimated there are between four and five millions.

Notice.

On motion the following resolution and order was passed: Whereas, a petition signed by three hundred and more qualified voters of Lee county, has this day been filed with the Board, and after careful examination the said required number of qualified voters has signed the same. It is ordered that an election be held at the several voting precincts in Lee county on the 20th day of January, 1914, to submit to the qualified voters of Lee county the question as to whether or not the county of Lee shall issue bonds as provided in Chapter 107 of the Code of 1911, and amendments thereto, to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars; and the following registrars and judges of election for said election were appointed: West Sanford—Registrar, W. R. Moore; judges of election, Richard Groves and E. M. Underwood. East Sanford—Registrar, R. B. Cole; judges of election, T. V. Truelove and G. C. Hunt. West Pocket—Registrar, J. E. Kennamock; Registrar, J. E. Kennamock; judges of election, Ed Petty and Temple Gunter. East Sanford—Registrar, J. K. Perry; judges of election, T. L. Bass and J. J. Jones. Deep River—Registrar, W. F. Elliott; judges of election, Leahm Rose and D. A. Mans. West Pocket—Registrar, Ed Paschal; judges of election, C. C. Cois and N. E. Lee. Cape Fear—Registrar, N. A. Delaney; judges of election, W. D. Dickson and S. V. Stephens. Greenwood—Registrar, J. L. Booth; judges of election, W. A. Stegall and G. H. East. East Pocket—Registrar, McGregor Jackson; judges of election, W. M. Lamon and J. R. Donah. Spring Springs—Registrar, A. N. Yarbrough; judges of election, J. A. Stephens and E. P. Hines. This December 15, 1913. Chairman Board of Commissioners, Ralph Mosger, Clerk to Board of Commissioners.

North Carolina—Lee County—In the Superior Court before the Clerk. P. N. Hickman and A. E. Walker, Superintendent of Banks for the State of Alabama, and Receiver of the Bank of Geneva, of Geneva, Alabama, vs. Dan Clark, David Clark, Mrs. Mattie M. Clark, and her husband, E. G. Clark, Miss Mattie Johnson and Miss Annie Johnson—Notices. The defendants, Dan Clark, David Clark, Miss Mattie Johnson and Miss Annie Johnson, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lee County, for the purpose of partition of certain land situated in West Sanford Township, Lee County, North Carolina, and a certain tract of land in East Sanford Township, Lee County, North Carolina, more particularly described in the petition filed in this action; and the defendants herein named will further take notice that they are required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Lee County at his office in Sanford, Lee County, North Carolina, on the 22nd day of January, 1914, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. and answer or demur to the petition of the plaintiff above named, or the plaintiffs will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said petition. This the 10th day of December, 1913. T. N. Campbell, Clerk Superior Court of Lee County.

Mortgage Sale. By virtue of authority contained in a mortgage deed executed to me on the 15th day of August, 1913, by E. H. Allred and wife, Mary H. Allred, and duly recorded in the Register of Lee County, Book No. 5, page 242, default having been made in the payment of the notes secured by same, I will offer for sale for cash to the highest bidder, at the court house in the town of Sanford, on the 15th day of January, 1914, at 12 o'clock, M., the following described property, to-wit: A certain tract of land in Lee county, West Sanford township, beginning at a stake at the corner of N. G. Yarbrough's, Mrs. A. M. Yarbrough's and the Deep River Co.'s land and running south 64 west 259 poles to a stake, pine point; thence north 104 poles to a post oak; thence west 60 poles to a stake; thence north 154 poles to a stake in the town of Sanford, on the 15th day of January, 1914, at 12 o'clock, M., the following described property, to-wit: A certain tract of land in Lee county, West Sanford township, beginning at a stake at the corner of N. G. Yarbrough's, Mrs. A. M. Yarbrough's and the Deep River Co.'s land and running south 64 west 259 poles to a stake, pine point; thence north 104 poles to a post oak; thence west 60 poles to a stake; thence north 154 poles to a stake in the town of Sanford, on the 15th day of January, 1914, at 12 o'clock, M., the following described property, to-wit: A certain tract of land in Lee county, West Sanford township, beginning at a stake at the corner of N. G. Yarbrough's, Mrs. A. M. 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