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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1913

FACTS WILL NOT JUSTIFY THE EXPENDITURE

Is it within the scope of duty and powers of the County Commissioners to spend public money for anything other than necessary expenses? In employing detectives to run down blind tigers we do not believe that the board acted entirely for the best interest of Beaufort county.

The commissioners have only recently borrowed \$50,000 to defray the expense of repairing in part the damage by the recent storm and will be called upon to borrow more before the work is all completed.

The facts in the matter will not justify the commissioners in the needless expense of about \$20 per day for detectives to debauch the citizenship of Beaufort county, when we say debauch, that is just what we mean, because the detectives secure most of their evidence by getting in the confidence of some one and inducing them to buy the whiskey or other intoxicating drinks and we do not believe that there is a blind tiger detective in North Carolina who uses such means of securing evidence but what has a shady character and reputation himself.

THE PARENTS OWE A DUTY ALSO

Yesterday we made some criticism of the public school policy in sending children home for being late at school. We do not wish it understood that we are in sympathy with tardiness, such is not the case, and while the public school management owes its duty to the public and especially to the parents of children who attend the school, the parents owe a duty to the management which should not be forgotten.

The school cannot be a success without the cooperation of the parents and it is their duty to make a special effort to see that their children leave home, if possible, in time to reach the school before 9 o'clock, and if they do not get here, they should know that their children after leaving home go directly to the school without unnecessary delay and if they are not there on time the parents should know why. Many children will take advantage of the rule adopted and reach there late in order that they may be sent back home. The Superintendent and teachers cannot correct this evil and it is a matter for the parents to deal with.

We do not believe that it is a pleasure to a superintendent to send those children home and he is only carrying out a policy adopted. While we do not believe in the policy, all will admit that there must be some rule and regulations for the government of the schools. We venture to suggest that those who live near the school are tardy more than those who live a long distance away. This should not be the case, and the superintendent and teachers are to blame for this condition.

We recall that in our early school days we had to walk 3-4 miles each morning before reaching the school building. In winter and the hour for opening was 8:30 instead of 9 o'clock, as here, and there was rarely ever a time when we were late at school. Most always we were there before the pupils who lived nearby. What was the reason? We left home in due time, knowing that we had a long distance to go while those who lived nearby felt that they were only a short distance from the building and could take as much time getting ready as they liked; as a consequence they were frequently late.

Parents, superintendent and teachers should dwork together with only one purpose and that the uplift and education of their children.

Note—We have been informed that the two children spoken of yesterday did not report at the school at all. Parents, when your children come home and report they were sent home verify the facts.

Beaufort county has allowed the blind tigers and paid to do the work which the detectives were employed to do, and if these tigers have not performed their duty they are responsible to the county. The contract between the commissioners and the detective agency was \$5 per day for each of two men, all expenses to be paid and the county to furnish money with which to buy the liquor. Since when have the County Commissioners become the moral guardians for its citizenship? Why were not the detectives sent out in the rural districts where they have no police protection?

There is a reason and it is up to the board to explain. The city of Washington, if it wants men to trap the blind tigers within its corporate limits should put up the money and employ the men to do it. The tax payers throughout the county should not be called upon to bear the burden.

The commissioners could spend county money for this work but they could not afford to spend money to keep one man all night at the ferry running across Pamlico river. They wanted to trap somebody in Washington, but they did not want to give the citizens of Chocowinity and Blounts Creek section the facilities for securing medical attention to which they were entitled. Promptly at six o'clock each afternoon the ferry stops running, and it matters not what the occasion may be crossing and being made only by private conveyance after that hour.

Let the commissioners tell the citizens of Beaufort county if they feel justified in spending any of the county funds for the purpose of above named.

The county now has an outstanding floating debt of \$26,000. Recently borrowed \$30,000 more, and they will issue bonds for \$50,000 to cover this \$30,000 and an additional \$20,000, making the total debt of the county \$163,500 both bonded and floating. Should any money be wasted under these conditions?

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