

New Municipal Administration.

A Progressive and Prosperous Outlook for Brevard

ORGANIZATION EFFECTED LAST FRIDAY NIGHT—SPEECH OF MAYOR BREESE—NEW COMMITTEES RECOMMENDED—STANDING COMMITTEES APPOINTED, ETC.

The newly-elected Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Brevard were inaugurated "in due form" last Friday night, and among the old familiar names on the various committees will be found two new ones. A. H. King and E. W. Carter have not worked in municipal harness, but we believe they will be found progressive and ever ready to work for the best interests of all our people. The most prominent feature of the occasion was the speech of Mayor Breeze on assuming the reins of government, and so greatly was the Board impressed with its various timely suggestions and recommendations that they have requested its publication. As it is good reading for everybody, it gives us pleasure to comply with their wishes.

The following committee assignments were announced:

On Finance—T. H. Shipman, E. W. Carter, T. M. Mitchell.
Streets—A. H. King, E. W. Carter, J. M. Kilpatrick.
Health—T. M. Mitchell, J. M. Kilpatrick, A. H. King.
Lights—J. M. Kilpatrick, E. W. Carter, A. H. King.
Water—E. W. Carter, T. H. Shipman, A. H. King.
Police—A. H. King, E. W. Carter, T. M. Mitchell.
Improvements—Mrs. Goode Cheatham, Mrs. O. L. Erwin, Mrs. B. T. Egerton, Mrs. W. J. Puette, Miss Lottie Welt, Miss Edith Kilpatrick, J. J. Miner, C. M. Doyle, J. W. McMinn, T. H. Shipman, E. W. Carter, T. M. Mitchell.

ADDRESS OF MAYOR BREESE

To the Honorable Board of Aldermen of the Town of Brevard:

Gentlemen:—We have been duly sworn in and have assumed control of the municipal government of the Town of Brevard.

I feel that I speak the sentiment of every member of this Board when I say that we are highly gratified by the confidence reposed in us by the good citizens of Brevard. Also do we fully realize that inseparably connected with the high honors of the offices we hold are manifold and great responsibilities. Well do we know that the welfare and progress of our town depends more largely on us than on any others, not only for the term of our offices, but for all time, for Brevard is now in her infancy and can be made or marred by our actions.

And added to my love for Brevard is a personal pride which moves me to endeavor to my fullest to make the next two years the most prosperous that our town has ever known, and with the help of this Board and of the citizens, working in unison, we will make our administration long remembered as one of progress and efficiency.

The retiring Mayor and Board of Aldermen have left a most commendable record, and they have done much good for Brevard, and I trust that we will accomplish as much and even more for the improvement and upbuilding of our town.

It is therefore our duty to carefully consider the requirements of our town and how to best meet those requirements, and I respectfully ask your permission to make a few suggestions for your careful consideration.

The office of Mayor would be a most difficult one to fill without the aid of a competent Board of Aldermen and I feel fortunate in having you gentlemen as my advisors. The personnel of this Board is an ample guarantee for its ability and willingness to govern our town.

You, gentlemen, are the ones to decide on what is needed and to enact such laws and ordinances as you see fit and I am your executive officer. I pledge you that I will see your orders faithfully obeyed in letter and in spirit to the best of my ability. I do not believe in "dead letter" laws and if there are any ordinances that the Board does not want me to enforce I will ask that you repeal, alter or amend them, but do not let them remain on our books unless you want me to enforce them for I do not believe in making laws for the purpose of bluffing.

We may not realize it, but nevertheless our example is followed largely by the citizens, and I therefore pray you, gentlemen, that unity and harmony may ever mark our actions. Yes, I want to here and now appoint the entire Board as a committee of the whole to preach the doctrine of Harmony and Unity, for without these two underlying principles we can make no progress. We must forget and forgive our petty personal enmities and unite for the upbuilding and development of our town and county. We must unite to help our neighbor even if he is apparently the only gainer, for as I take it the direct gain of any citizen of Brevard, is the indirect gain of every citizen in the town.

We are surrounded by sister towns possessing natural advantages nearly equal to ours, but they possess railroad facilities superior to ours. It is therefore necessary that we must use every effort to secure our portion of the capital that will surely flow into this section, and it will take the united effort of our citizens to accomplish our desired ends. Our population is too small to allow us to have any cliques or factions, and to meet the vigorous competition of the neighboring towns we must present a solid front on every question of improvement.

I want this administration to be known not only as one of progress but to be better known as "The Golden Rule Administration."

I have digressed, but my mind is full of what I have said and I ask your forbearance and will now return to my formal and official suggestions.

At the present we have three committees and I am going to ask that we create certain others to meet the growing demands of our town.

I am going to ask that you authorize the creation of a Committee on Finance whose duties will be many and important, I would say in fact that the appointment of such a committee is imperative. The duties of said committee would be to audit all accounts and to make all settlements, to calculate the receipts and expenses for the coming year and to suggest the amount that could be appropriated to each department. In this manner, and in this manner alone, can we have any businesslike method of knowing our liabilities and resources, and how we can prepare to make improvements. We must know how much we can set aside for streets, how much for lights, how much for water and for the various other necessary expenditures that will arise, this is a most needed committee and is the one on which

depends any pre-arranged plans for the improvement of our town.

I would also suggest that we have a Committee on Police, whose duties would be to have control of that important department of our Government. I will also advise that we adopt regulations requiring the members of our police force to remain within the limits of the Town, unless called outside in performance of their duties as such town officer. I would also suggest that the officer on duty meet every passenger train that comes in and that he at all times wear a neat and suitable uniform. I would also suggest that when on duty the officer have a certain beat assigned him and that he remain on said beat. It is the part of wisdom to profit by the experience of others and I find that other towns have found it beneficial to have certain rules and regulations controlling their policemen, whether they had one or more, and we need a committee to prepare the regulations for our guidance. If possible I would suggest that we employ another officer so that we will have an officer on duty day and night.

I also suggest the appointment of a physician as Superintendent of Health for the Town. At the present we have none, and while we have been very fortunate in the past in escaping any serious epidemic, I think it would be advisable to use every precaution as to the future. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Superintendent would have the same powers in the town that the County Superintendent has in the county, and similar duties.

A Committee on Water is needed, to have charge of protecting the supply and investigating any pollution of the watershed. Brevard has attained a wide reputation for pure water, based on the monthly analysis of the water by the State Chemist, but it is necessary that we maintain that reputation, and the duties of this Committee in this respect will be most important. In addition to the above will be that of regulating charges within the law and establishing such rules and regulations as may be deemed advisable. And it is my earnest wish that during our administration that we can purchase our watershed, not only as a matter of economy, but to protect the purity of our water in the future.

I would also like to have a Committee on lights who would have control of street lighting. I would suggest that some arrangement be made to improve the present system as the arc lights are not as good as they should be and have been the cause of considerable complaint from the citizens. It would result in a saving, perhaps, if we could have the candle power of the street lights tested and pay for them on a candle power basis. And if we secure a policeman for night duty I suggest that he keep a true record of the time the street lights burn.

The Committee on Streets is one of the most important and its duties are well known to all of us. I would suggest that we consider the advisability of adopting a rule requiring all new streets to be of certain classes and each class to be of a certain width. Now in the period of our infancy is the time to make wide streets. Not only is land less valuable, but there are few things more attractive to investors and visitors than wide streets. It helps the looks of the town. It is not necessary that we use the full width of the street as a roadbed or sidewalk but make wide sidewalks and allow the property owners to sod that part of the sidewalk not used. And I would also advise that we use every effort to have shade trees planted on every street permitting the planting of them. Such a course will result in making Brevard one of the most beautiful towns in the State.

I would also like a Committee on Publicity, or Advertising, whose duties would be to confer with the Board of Trade and secure the



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widest advertisement of our town and its multifold attractions and advantages.

And lastly, but not the less important, I am going to urge a new and needed committee to be called the Committee on Improvements. I am going to ask for the power to appoint on that committee three Aldermen, and in addition to them three ladies and three men, making a committee of nine. The duties of this committee will be many and varied, but of the greatest benefit to the town if properly exercised. I would suggest that this Committee have control of beautifying the town, of seeing that all laws tending to keeping the town clean are obeyed, and to aid the Street Committee in keeping the streets clean, in planting shade trees, in seeing that vacant lots are kept in a clean and tidy condition. In other words on them rests the duty of making Brevard one of the cleanest and most attractive towns in North Carolina.

This Committee being composed of representative citizens from various sections of the town will make it universal in its desires to beautify each and every part thereof, and will also give the individual citizen a direct and positive interest in municipal government. And in connection with this Committee I am going to ask permission of the Aldermen to secure control of the Court House Square from the County Commissioners, so that the Square can be cleaned up and beautified and then kept so. Few objects can make a better or worse impression than the condition of our square. Every visitor to our town sees it and they judge the entire public-spiritedness and civic interest of the citizens by the condition of our public places. And as this committee will have some of our ladies upon it I feel sure that artistic development of our town will be well looked after. The ladies will design the nature of the work needed and the men will execute it.

You will note, gentlemen, that I have asked for several committees but I have noticed that a special committee will accomplish more work than a committee of the whole. In these days all work that is done well is done by specialists and a special committee will give a special matter more attention than it would receive if left to the entire Board of Aldermen, hence I have asked for these special committees.

While we do not control a city large in population or in wealth, still we are in control and can shape the destiny of a city large in future hopes and pregnant with the prospect of great prosperity. It is our duty and our pleasure to so act as to bring benefit to each citizen of the town and community if possible, but always remember that individual interests must ever be subservient to the public good.

And in conclusion I will say for the Board, as well as for myself, that I extend a hearty invitation to the citizens of our Town and County to attend our meetings. We will gladly listen to all suggestions for the public benefit and the benefit of any individual also. We will appreciate the advice and counsel of those interested in the welfare

of Brevard, and we want every citizen in the entire County to take a personal interest in our actions and to aid us. Being but mortal men we are prone to make errors, but they will be errors of the head and not of the heart. There are many problems confronting us and we need and expect the help of the citizens whom we represent.

Let us all unite to build up Brevard; let us all help to build up each and every citizen in Brevard. By dissension and envy we can reap but a harvest of internal bickerings and petty quarrels, while by united effort and harmony we can reap the rich reward of seeing Brevard grow apace and take the foremost place among all our mountain towns.

Respectfully,
W. E. BREESE JR., Mayor.

Allison & Macfie's Unusual Offer

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Entry No. 2546.

J. S. Silverstein enters and claims 10 acres of land lying in Eastatoe Township, on the waters of Flat creek and of Toxaway river, adjoining the lands of J. S. Silverstein and others. Beginning on a pine and stone on a ridge, J. S. Silverstein's corner (formerly a corner of the Pink Galley tract) and runs with said Silverstein's line south 18 deg E 94 poles to a stake in the South Carolina line; then with the South Carolina line N 72 deg E 70 poles to a stake; then various courses for complement, so as to include all vacant land. This March 30th, 1909.

B. A. GILLESPIE,
Entry Taker.