

Importance of Local Self-Government

(Continued from page 1)

lished for the benefit of all generations to come the most brilliant commentary on our laws, our customs and system of government ever written, and declared our government to be the best on the face of the globe and our constitution the greatest instrument of government ever devised by the mind of man.

De Tocqueville's great commentary, "Like those of Paul, was written for the benefit of all nations and people and in vindication of truths that will stand for their deliverance from despotic rule while time shall last." Throughout this great commentary which is the pride and glory of the people of the United States, de Tocqueville has laid great stress upon the fact that the wonderful power and efficiency of our government derives its stability and force from our system of "local self-government."

That this principle of local self-government is the corner-stone or chief pillar in the temple of our government has ever been the insistent claim of the democratic party, in fact it is the very soul and spirit of the party. Deprive the people of this country of that right and privilege and you will have jettisoned from the ship of state the only means whereby she can avoid destruction upon the shoals of despotism or meet annihilation in the maelstrom of anarchy!

"Local self-government is the root and origin of all free government and is the antagonist of all political combinations that threaten the rights of minorities. It is the public opinion formed in the independent expression of towns, coun-

ties and other small civil districts that is the real conservatism of free government. It is equally the enemy of that dangerous evil, the corruption of the ballot box, from which it is feared that one of our greatest troubles is to arise." That is the language of one of the greatest statesmen who ever sat in the United States senate—and a democrat!

"The townships are only subordinate to the state in those interests which I shall term social, as they are common to all citizens. They are independent in all that concerns themselves; and amongst the inhabitants I believe that not a man is to be found who would acknowledge that the state has any right to interfere in these local interests". And, again, "The township (or county) possesses two advantages which infallibly secure the attentive interest of mankind, namely, INDEPENDENCE and AUTHORITY. Its sphere is indeed small and limited, but within that sphere its action is unrestrained; and its independence gives to it a real importance which its extent and population may not always ensure." (De Tocqueville's Democracy.)

Upon what ground, then, do we undertake to do violence to this principle in Henderson county? To my mind there is absolutely no excuse for our position in that we have deprived, (through our overwhelming majority in the central government) the people of this county of their RIGHT to elect a Tax Collector and every other officer who has to do with the purely local affairs of the county. But two excuses for this violation of right have been offered by the dem-

ocrats of this county and neither is founded upon any semblance of right. One is the excuse of "expediency" and the other the excuse that, were conditions reversed the republican state government would do just what we have done.

The circumstances which led to the adoption, by the legislature, of a scheme for the appointment and perpetuation of a democratic office or offices in a republican county, were the alleged violation by the republican machine in Henderson of the election law in that they were charged with the issuance of innumerable poll-tax receipts after the first day of May which receipts bore a date previous to that time in order to bring the holders within their rights as qualified electors; thereby giving themselves the benefit of illegal votes which in the nature of things could not be had by the party out of power. It was alleged that the transfer of the tax books to a democratic tax collector would show that the republicans were getting the benefit of hundreds of votes that they were not entitled to; but what has really been the result of the inauguration of the scheme put through the legislature? Notwithstanding that at the time it was adopted there were about a hundred negro voters in the county who voted at every election, and voting, invariably voted the republican ticket, who have since its adoption been disfranchised, the republican majority is as large now as it was then, if it is not really greater. Therefore, it is readily seen that the excuse of EXPEDIENCY has not been justified even by the alleged exposure of unlawful validation of poll-tax receipts for election purposes by ante-dating. As for the other excuse, viz: that the republicans would do likewise were they in power in the state, is too contemptible to discuss! I will anticipate another excuse for this scheme; some may say that it has resulted in a saving to the county. I do not know whether this is a fact or not, but even were this true it could be no lawful excuse for the operation of this scheme of election.

If the people of this county are so depraved as to deliberately perpetuate in office a set of free-booters and pirates who will prostitute the public offices to the service of personal ends, that is their business and under our form of government, if that is the kind of management they want, they are entitled to it. For it is the democratic doctrine that the will of the majority makes the law of the whole community. It is not believable, however, that the majority of the people of this county will perpetuate an inefficient county government when an honest and capable administration can be had! But how will you convince them that we can give them any better by boldly defying every principle of right and by the practice of usurpation depriving them of their right to choose whom they please.

Besides being wrong in principle this scheme of electing a tax collector has become a nidus for the propagation of internal dissensions. There has not been a tax collector inducted into office under this new scheme, but what has made hard feelings within the ranks of the democracy of the county for that friends of a defeated aspirant always hold that the successful man was not entitled to the office and that some other man should have had the place. Those who are thus embittered do not turn their guns against the common enemy, but turned them against their protagonists to the glorification of our enemies.

There is not a democrat in Henderson that will claim that our attitude in this matter is right. Therefore, let us get right with the people of the county by nominating for the legislature a representative pledged to the repeal of every statute which violates our principles and appeal to the electorate of the county on the highest grounds, viz the best, most efficient and economical government obtainable and consistent with conservative advancement and progress.

E. Wyttenbach Ewbank.

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OPPOSITE COURT HOUSE

Jury List

Following is the jury list for the next term of the Henderson county superior court for the trial of civil cases, which will convene Monday, May 15:

FIRST WEEK

N Drake, W J Case, M R Anderson, M Presley, C C Baine, M F Arledge, Leander Drake, J H Stevenson, Joseph McCulloch, J R Townsend, John H Hill, P S Ramsey, L L Taber, M E Allen, C E Gosnell, W N Cern, M S McCarron, J A Frazier, C O English, R M Justice, J H Pace, A T Kimsey, Andrew, T J Waters.

SECOND WEEK

P M Drake, J S Barnwell, W P Bryson, Horse Shoe, R I, M S Livingston, J V Grant, T W A Sinclair, Reuben Wright, J M Williams, R B Staton, H C Orr, John Ramsey, G J Patterson, W C Moore, Fletchers, R I, A C Morris, W F Huntley, J B Sherman, Jas W Garren, D A McCrary.

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

State of North Carolina
Henderson County.

In the Superior Court To James Allen and L. Etta Allen: You and each of you will take notice that an action for partition of the lands of the late Aaron Capps deceased entitled J. B. Capps et al. vs Willis Bane et al. has been commenced in this court and that you are party defendants therein, having an actual interest in the said lands. You will therefore take notice that you are required to answer or demur to the petition of the petitioners now on file in this office on the 17th day of May, 1910, and will further take notice that if you fail to appear and answer or demur to the said petition, at that date, then the court will grant the relief therein prayed.

This the 16th day of April, 1910.
C. M. Pace,
Clerk of the Superior Court of Henderson County.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of George Holmes, deceased, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to file the same with the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April, 1911, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This April 27th, 1910.
Alan Lancelot Holmes,
Executor.

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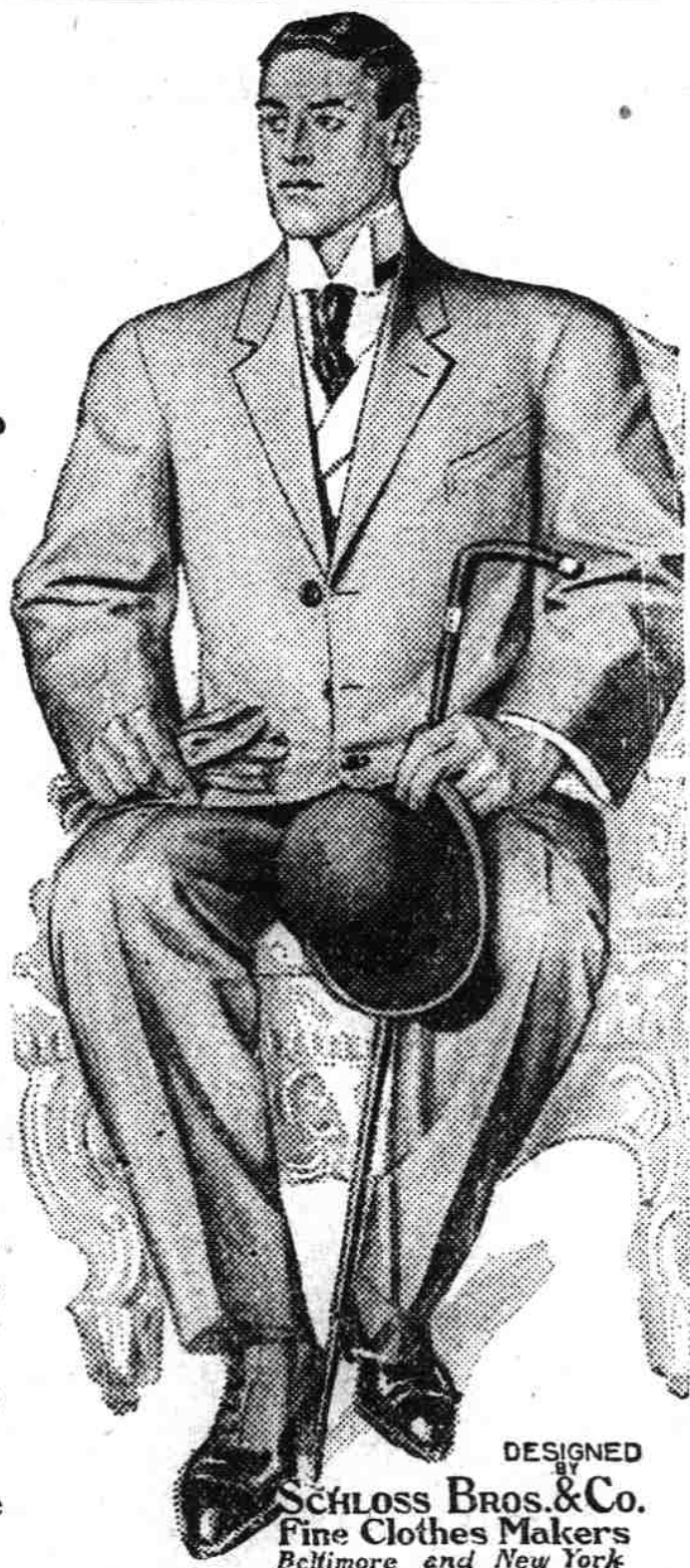
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