

## PROBLEMS OF COUNTY SET FORTH BY BANE

### States Advantages To Be Reaped on Account of Issuance of \$590,000 Road Bond.

An examination of the detailed report of the audit, by accountants acting for the State Auditor, of the official transactions of A. E. Hudgins, Tax Collector and Treasurer of Henderson County, will disclose some (but not all) of the difficulties with which the present Board of Commissioners have had to contend. It is there shown that the county funds are short not only the \$39,000.00 owing by Mr. Hudgins, but in addition thereto a sum in excess of \$4,300.00 on account of erroneous listing and unlawful releases, by a former Board, of corporation and other taxes.

Nor does this total deficit of more than forty three thousand dollars tell the whole story of the financial difficulties of the present Board. The County Board of Education has had its auditors digging into the accounts of Mr. Hudgins' predecessor, W. F. Brown, now deceased; and these auditors report that said Brown is short on account of school funds alone to the amount of nearly \$14,000.00 and upon intimations which the Board of Commissioners have received from the State Auditors, they are prepared to believe that the total shortage in the official accounts of the said Brown will equal or exceed the Hudgins' shortage; and upon the strength of these intimations and upon the engagement of the State Auditors to make a complete audit of the accounts of said Brown, the Board has deemed it necessary to cause suits to be instituted upon the official bonds of said Brown.

I wish to make it clear that the Hudgins' shortage was not inherited by him from his predecessor. There was a clear-cut division between the accounts of the two officers, and each is being held responsible only for his own transactions. The county is short of its revenues, therefore, to the amount of the combined shortage of both tax collectors. So, if the Brown shortage turns out as large as the Hudgins' shortage, the deficiency in county funds will total in excess of eighty thousand dollars!

While, as stated, the shortages in the accounts of these two officers were entirely independent of each other, the present Board of Commissioners, as the administrators of the financial affairs of the county, caught the accumulated and combined effect of both. Neither Brown nor Hudgins had ever been brought to such a settlement as the law contemplates. Taxes had been levied with reference to the actual needs of the public service, and the county failing year by year to receive these taxes, the successive Boards of Commissioners had nothing to do but to borrow money to cover the deficits thus created, as the only means of taking care of current obligations, and the present Board was no sooner in office than it found itself fairly swamped by the floating indebtedness accumulated by these various borrowings.

Furthermore, as the direct result of the long-continued neglect of proper settlements with successive tax collectors and treasurers, the present Board found the financial affairs of the county in a state of confusion which would have defied the ingenuity of a Philadelphia lawyer to untangle. There were no heads or tails to be got at; the cupboard was as bare of intelligible accounts as it was of the materials of governmental subsistence. The tax collectors and treasurers had not only kept no proper records of their official transactions, but they had mixed and mingled funds which the law required to be kept separate to the utter confusion of such accounts as they had.

In such state of the public business, two paths offered themselves to the feet of the present Board, namely, the easy path of Hush-it-up and the hard path of Clean-it-up. The appeal of the former sounded in terms of political favor and accommodations, personal friendships and the like. Along the other were pitfalls of hatred and revenge and stony places of broken fortunes and blasted hopes. Partisanship and self-interest pointed one way, but Duty pointed the other.

It has been urged as a fault and wrong of this Board that it called to its aid the same Tennessee auditor who had straightened out the affairs of Henderson County some ten years before. This complaint has been urged both in Henderson County and before the Legislature in Raleigh. The chief complainant was the head of the firm of auditors employed by Mr. Hudgins. For answer to this complaint only two facts need be stated, namely: Mr. Moore's audit and the audit of the state auditors come to practically the same result, except that the state auditors dug up about \$5,000 more of uncollected taxes than Mr. Moore found, while the Scott-Charnley Co., fixed the entire shortage first at \$4,500 and afterwards at \$4,100—this at against \$39,000.00 found by the state auditors. It should be remarked in this connection that the law which provides for state audits is going on in rear count-

## INTEREST IN WAR MEMORIAL GROWS

### Heads of Women's Organizations Meet to Discuss Plans.

At 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning a committee composed of the heads of the various organizations in the city, being previously called by Mrs. J. W. Williams, president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the American Legion, met in the city hall to consider the erection of a war memorial building in honor of Henderson county veterans of the World War. Mrs. R. P. Freeze, president of the local chapter of the Red Cross, discussed the needs and benefits of a community building in Hendersonville and was supported in her views by other representatives present. It was definitely decided at this time that the building should not be exclusively a woman's affair. L. J. Penny, secretary of the Board of Trade, said that, in his opinion, all civic and patriotic organizations should have a part in its erection and a home under its roof. He explained that the Board of Trade was especially desirous of more commodious and permanent quarters. This was the original idea of the promoters of the project and it received unanimous support at this session. All patriotic and civic local bodies, therefore, are invited to participate in the work and each one is to be entitled to one vote in the proceedings.

In view of these discussions a body composed of those present was organized to promote and carry out the scheme. This body is to be known as the war memorial building commission. Mrs. J. W. Williams was chosen temporary chairman and it is expected that she will call a meeting for further action at an early date. Those present and composing the new organization were, Miss Katherine Carson, regent Daughters of the American Revolution; Mrs. J. W. Williams, president Woman's Auxiliary of the American Legion; Mrs. R. P. Freeze, president Red Cross; Mrs. Wm. Lott, member Woman's Auxiliary of the American Legion; Miss Matilda Carson, member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; Mrs. J. S. Brown, president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; Mrs. J. C. Waldrop, member Daughters of the American Revolution; Mrs. Broadus Estes, president Parent-Teachers' association; A. W. Honneycutt, superintendent of city schools, and L. J. Penny, secretary Board of Trade.

## BLUE RIDGE SHUTS OUT FARM SCHOOL

### Benny Smith's Superior Pitching Baffles Farm School.

The wonderful pitching of Benny Smith gave Blue Ridge school of Hendersonville a 12 to 0 victory over Farm school Wednesday in the first game of the baseball season for both teams.

Smith twirled seven innings without allowing a hit, struck out 15, and walked five men. It is his first year with the team. His home is in Camden, S. C.

F. Byers, third baseman, hit a triple and a double, and Catcher Carson also walloped the ball for two sacks.

Score by innings: R. H. E.  
Blue Ridge .050 304 \*—12 10 2  
Farm School 000 000 0—0 0 3  
Batteries: Smith and Carson;  
B. Byers, Gillespie and Hampton.

## BALFOUR ORPHAN HOME PURCHASED

### Balfour Orphanage Is Sold in Order to Move Nearer Town.

The Home Ice and Oil company, of this city, has completed plans to purchase the Balfour orphanage, according to reports, these plans being satisfactorily arranged last week.

The property has been in charge of the Presbyterian church for several years and the object for selling it is to acquire a more suitable site near Hendersonville, with ample farming lands where the orphans of sufficient age to do farm work, may be employed. A site for building locations will be considered in the purchase of the property and suitable buildings necessary for an up-to-date orphanage will be erected.

## CORRESPONDENTS WANTED

We would like to get a few more reporters to send to this paper the weekly happenings in their respective communities. We already have several who are doing excellent work, but we need a few more. We want good reliable news and if any of our readers wish to become a contributor to the columns of this paper we will mail the paper to them free of charge, furnish stationery and stamps for this service.

The Times enjoys a large circulation among the country people of this county and by sending us the news it will enable our readers to see what is going on in rear coun-

## BOARDING HOUSES ARE BEING LISTED

### Board of Trade Receiving Many Inquiries For Boarding Places.

The Hendersonville Board of Trade daily is receiving scores of requests for information concerning Hendersonville's hotels and boarding houses. It has been the board's annual custom to compile early in the spring a list of these places, and to mail a copy of the list to those persons making inquiries.

Compilation of the 1922 list has begun, according to Secretary Penney who has, in order to furnish as accurate a list as is practicable, circularized those hotels and boarding houses whose names appeared on the 1921 list to ascertain what changes should be recorded.

It is particularly desirable that the list be complete. Proprietors of hotels and boarding houses, therefore, whose names were not shown on the 1921 list are requested to communicate at once with Secretary Penney. He desires, specifically, the following information: name of hotel or boarding house, the name of its manager, its location, what plan under which it operates, number of guests it can accommodate, its rates by the week for rooms without private bath—single and double—and its rates for rooms with private bath—single and double, and the price of meals, should the plan be European. It is also important to know the telephone number of the hotels and boarding houses reporting.

There should be no delay in furnishing the Board of Trade with this information.

## MR. PULLIN BUYS PROPERTY IN CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Just before going to press we learn Mr. Pullin has purchased property in Charlotte and will engage in the mercantile business in that city. He will not close out his business here before next fall.

## \$400,000 BOND ISSUE VOTED

### Water Commissioners and City Commissioners Vote Bonds to Increase Water Supply.

North Carolina, Henderson County, City of Hendersonville.

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Hendersonville met in special session on March 11th, 1922, at eight o'clock, p. m., in the City Hall, the following members being present, to-wit: J. Mack Rhodes, Mayor, John T. Wilkins, R. L. Edwards, Thos. Shepherd, L. R. Geiger, A. Y. Arledge and J. F. Byers, Commissioners, the same being the full Board.

Upon motion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Hendersonville has made written demand upon the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hendersonville to issue the negotiable coupon bonds of the City of Hendersonville in the sum of \$400,000, pursuant to an Act entitled "An Act to Amend the Charter of the City of Hendersonville", ratified December 19th, 1921, which said written demand is in file with the City Clerk, and is in words and figures as follows: "North Carolina, Henderson County, City of Hendersonville.

The Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Hendersonville, in Henderson County, North Carolina, met in special session on the 11th day of March, 1922, the following members being present: C. E. Brooks, Chairman, K. G. Morris and J. W. Bailey, Commissioners, the same being the full Board.

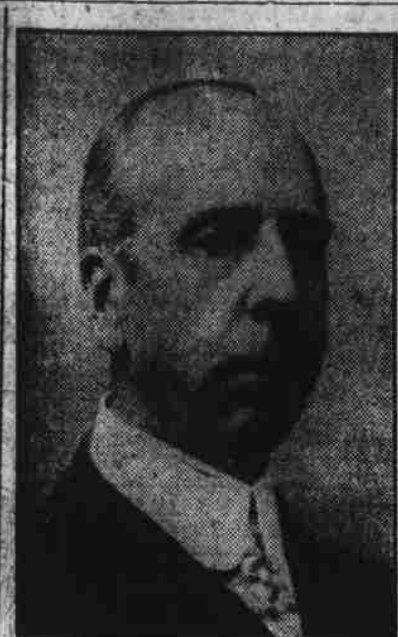
The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly entitled "An Act to Amend the Charter of the City of Hendersonville", ratified on the 19th day of December, 1921, the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Hendersonville are authorized and empowered to enlarge and extend the present water system of the said City of Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, this Board is of opinion that the present water system of said City is entirely inadequate to meet the needs of said City;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to said Act this Board does hereby request in writing, and makes demand upon the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hendersonville to issue the negotiable coupon bonds of said City in the sum of \$400,000.00, the proceeds of which are to be used in extending and enlarging the present water system of the City of Hendersonville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board recommends to the said Board of Commissioners of the City of Hendersonville that the said bonds shall be dated the first day of April, 1922, shall be in denominations of \$1,000 each, and shall mature in serial installments as follows: \$10,000.00 thereof on the first day of April in each of the years 1922 to 1951, inclusive, and \$200,000.00 thereof on the 1st day of April in the year 1952. Said bonds to bear interest at the rate of six per cent per annum, payable semi-annually, both principal and interest on said bonds



DR. HARRY A. THOMSON  
Business Man-Evangelist

## PRESBYTERIANS' REVIVAL SUCCESS

### "What The Bible Teaches Us About The Second Coming of Christ" Subject of Speaker Sunday.

What the Bible teaches about the Second Coming of Christ will be the subject of Evangelist Harry A. Thomson's address on Sunday morning at the Presbyterian Church. Those who have heard this address say that it is one of Dr. Thomson's most powerful sermons and it is expected that the church will be taxed to its fullest capacity. Arrangements are being made to provide extra chairs to accommodate the people.

Interest in the revival, which started a week ago, is steadily increasing, good sized congregations being present at every service. On last Sunday night, what was said to be the largest congregation ever seated in the church was present to hear the Evangelist's sermon on The Prodigal Son. Dr. Thomson is a plain preacher of the old-time gospel of the Cross and proves each statement from the Bible itself. His subject being evening will be The Moral Duty of Saturday evening. A chance for a Man who was Down; and on Sunday evening, Christ on Trial.



"DAVE" WILLIAMS  
Choir Leader

A very spiritual and helpful feature of the campaign is the series of day services conducted by Mrs. Thomson on Wednesday and Friday afternoons of each week at 3 o'clock at the church. At the close of the address Wednesday afternoon on "The Greatest Thing in the World" (winning a lost soul to Christ) many went away determined to do greater service for the Master than they had ever done before. Mrs. Thomson's subject on Friday afternoon will be Hindrances to Prayer.

The song services conducted each evening by Mr. Williams, musical director of the party, are an attractive feature of the meetings. Mr. Williams is an inspiring leader and a consecrated singer of the Gospel. His solos are earnest and sincere, coming from a heart filled with love for lost souls and always in harmony with the



## LABORERS B. & L. HOLDS MEETING

### Stockholders Re-elect Former Directors and Five New Ones.

The stockholders of the Laborers Building and Loan Association held their annual meeting in the First Bank and Trust Company Tuesday evening, March 14th. The stockholders re-elected all the old directors and added to the Board of Directors the following: H. E. Erwin, H. G. Edney, W. L. Petty, L. R. Geiger, and W. W. Walker. The Board of Directors now consists of: P. F. Patton, R. H. Stator, A. H. Hawkins, K. G. Morris, P. J. Gilreath, C. J. Milward, Wm. R. Kirk, F. S. Wetmur, J. C. Morrow, T. W. Valentine, H. E. Erwin, W. L. Petty, W. W. Walker, W. H. Justus, R. C. Clarke, Foster Bennett, Jno. T. Wilkins, W. A. Smith, Guy E. Dixon, William Lott, J. E. Shipman, G. H. Valentine, Sam T. Hodges, H. G. Edney, L. R. Geiger.

The report of the Secretary, Hestley A. Stepp, showed that the association had made big gains in the last year—having matured two series in which they paid out in cash and cancelled mortgages to the stockholders \$45,000.00. The shares now in force number over 9500 which represents a maturity value of \$950,000.00. One of the special features of the association is the Paid-Up Stock which pays 6 per cent, and is free of all taxes including income tax. The new series of 25c stock which will be started next Saturday, March 18th promises to be one of the largest yet there being more new members than in any previous series.

Immediately after the stockholders meeting the Directors met and re-elected the old officers who consist of the following: W. A. Smith, President; R. H. Stator, Vice President; Hestley A. Stepp, Sec'y and Treas. Loan Committee: F. S. Wetmur, G. H. Valentine and H. A. Stepp.

## TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE VACANT

### Commissioners Declare Office of Tax Collector Vacant When Hudgins Leaves Office.

Declaring the office of Tax Collector of Henderson County vacant, the county commissioners offered that position to William T. Drake, but late reports are that Mr. Drake has declined to accept this position. The decision was reached when Mr. Hudgins failed to make clear what he intended to do in regard to the shortage of the county's funds, and to bring about the collection of the county taxes which are due now.

During the last six years Mr. Drake has been employed in Shepherd's store. He is well known throughout the county and has held several responsible positions before. For three years he was a public school teacher and for five a rural mail carrier on Route one, filling both positions satisfactorily.

The appointment of a Tax Collector to succeed Mr. Hudgins was delayed on account of the State Auditors' complete audit not being in the hands of the commissioners. When this arrived, it consisted of one volume of 123 typewritten pages and another of 450 pages, covering from the time when Mr. Hudgins first took office in 1918 until Nov. 30, 1921, the latest date to which it was practicable to make the audit.

## COUNTY NURSE ASSUMES DUTIES

### Miss Pearl Weaver, Public Health Nurse Has Long Experience

Miss Pearl Weaver, of Weaver-ville, has assumed the duties of public nurse for Henderson County. Miss Weaver will no doubt fill this position with credit to herself and satisfaction to the people of the county. She has had extensive practical experience in her line of work and the people of the county are to be congratulated in securing her services as public health nurse. We understand that the preliminary arrangements necessary for beginning the work have not yet been completed, but are in process of being worked out and when this is done Miss Weaver will enter upon her work. Headquarters for the nurse will be in the City Hall, Hendersonville.

subject of the evening. On Wednesday night Mr. Clarence Coston rendered a solo which was greatly enjoyed by everyone present. Other sinners of the city will take part from time to time.

Those in charge of the campaign feel very much encouraged with the progress of the meetings thus far and with the outlook for a successful revival. Already there have been a number of conversions and it is believed that there will be many more as the interest continues to grow. The meetings will continue through Sunday, March 26th. Services are held every night except Mondays, song services beginning at 7:30 followed by preaching service at 8 o'clock.

## THOS. W. BIRD VISITS LEGION

### American Legion Begins Service And Compensation Drive in 10th District, March 23

On last Friday evening the Hubert M. Smith Post of the American Legion held a call meeting which proved interesting and beneficial to the large number of members present.

The meeting was honored by the presence of Thomas W. Bird, state commander of North Carolina; Chas. A. Sloane, editor of the Oteen Echo published at Oteen and which has recently been made the official paper of this state; Tracy A. Vincent, business manager of the Oteen Echo, and L. C. Jones, member of the Kiffen Rockwell post of Asheville.

Editor Sloane was the first called upon for an address and responded by stating that the Oteen Echo which has been published for some time had been made the official publication of the American Legion of this state. Mr. Sloane made a special request of every member present to give his support and energy to the paper which is devoted to the welfare of the country and the American Legion. Mr. Sloane next told of the hospital life of the ex-soldiers at Oteen, stating that they were well cared for and at the present there were about 1000 patients at the hospital. The speaker stated that about 80 percent of the patients are on the road to recovery but they still have before them a long journey. Referring to the unfortunate ones who are not regaining in health he, very sadly, stated that the ranks are being thinned out by supreme sacrifices being made very often. The speaker made a very urgent request for members of this post and all others who would do so to visit the boys and endeavor to cheer them up and help to relieve the monotony which is so much in evidence.

Post Commander Albert Edwards next called upon the state commander, Thomas W. Bird, who replied to this request, and related the progress that the American Legion of this state is making and boasted of the fact that at the present time North Carolina leads all other Southern states in membership. Commander Bird told of the intentions of the legion in its educational program, its efforts relating to the caring for the sick and disabled ex-service men, etc. The speaker stated very emphatically that the expression sometimes heard, "That the war was over" was false and that the war would never be over as long as a single ex-service man was suffering as a result of the awful war.

Thomas J. Hyder made an appeal to the members present for their aid and support to the National Guard unit which is being organized here, and which has already enlisted 55 men.

Tracy A. Vincent, business manager of the Oteen Echo, made an appeal for the support of the members to the official state publication. This request met with great success—resulting in all present subscribing to the paper and pledging their support in every way possible.

A number of minor questions were discussed and passed upon at this meeting.

## Service and Compensation Drive Starts April 6th

A meeting of the 10th district of North Carolina will be held in Waynesville March 23rd, and will be presided over by the district executive, William Pless. The object of this meeting will be to outline the program of the service and compensation drive which is calculated to reach every former service man and woman in North Carolina and will start Thursday, April 6, in every section of the state. It will be handled by the various posts of the American Legion and also the posts of the American Legion auxiliary who so generously have offered their help.

Such was the decision of a special committee of the department executive committee which met February 22nd at Winston-Salem.

The drive will be in the form of a great attack, beginning on the anniversary of America's declaration of war. Its object is to offer to every ex-service man and woman in North Carolina every assistance which the legion may render. It is believed that there are many ex-service people in the state who are suffering from disability resulting from their service and who have not yet been brought to the attention of the veterans' bureau. It is believed also that there may be suffering among the families of former service men which the legion can alleviate.

Details of the great drive have not yet been fully worked out. Included in the plans, however, is an appeal to sheriffs of North Carolina counties to assist in searching out ex-service men. But the bulk of the work will fall on the shoulders of legion members and members of the American Legion auxiliary.

It was urged at the conference that although the task looked big, it can very readily be accomplished if even a large percentage of those who should be most interested take an active part.

## MR. AND MRS. COBURN RETURNED WEDNESDAY

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Coburn who have been away on a visit of three months among relatives in Rowan County returned to Hendersonville Wednesday, Mrs. Coburn spent part of the time with her relatives in Durham and Virginia.