

SECOND DEBATE ON POLITICS HELD

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mands for more and more bond issues and more and more expenditures.

For the information of those who did not hear my Rutherfordton speech I will state that from September 24, 1924, to December 6, 1928, the outstanding indebtedness of Rutherford County increased from \$902,000.00 stated above, to the sum total of \$3,692,224.00, an increase of nearly \$3,000,000.00. Counting the increased indebtedness, together with the expenditures of taxes collected and other revenues received, the Board of Commissioners during that period of four years spent approximately \$1,250,000.00 each year of the four year period.

These figures themselves speak more loudly of the extravagance generally than any words that I can utter. I see no use therefore in rehashing any further that portion of my speech.

Someone has suggested that I did not cite any records. I have in my files copies of the audits showing these figures which were taken from the files of the office of the County Accountant. I will be very glad to show these audits to anyone interested, or you can verify my statements by calling on Mr. Reid, who I am sure will be glad to show you the original statements.

Also in my Rutherfordton speech I showed that during the latter part of 1926 and during the year 1927 large sums of money derived from bond sales were kept on deposit in the Farmers Bank and Trust Company and the Commercial Bank, sometimes exceeding in amount a million dollars, and so far as I have been able to ascertain over a period of at least twelve months was not less than \$600,000.00. These banks paying the county interest on the money were forced for selfprotection

to loan the money out in order to break even. During that period my investigation discloses that practically every worthless loan was made by these banks and the money tied up in frozen assets. I charged that this method of procedure and reckless use of the county's credit resulted in finally closing the banks although that did not occur until last February 4th. The banks did not have the money to pay the county back when called on, could not collect the outstanding notes and were forced to appeal to other banks to borrow the money to replace the county funds. From the time they paid the bulk of the county funds bank in January, 1928, until these banks closed about the only value the banks were to the community was as a clearing house for checks.

I also thoroughly presented to the people the action of the commissioners in building at the expense of the taxpayers the road known as Buffalo Road for the benefit of Chimney Rock Mountains.

The principal officers of the banks were promoters of Chimney Rock Mountains. With the same law firm representing Chimney Rock Mountains, these banks and Rutherford County, obviously these facts disclosed that the county's credit was used to inflate the finances and greatly increase the banks' deposits; the banks were used to help put over the Chimney Rock development. This could never have occurred if a disinterested attorney or firm of attorneys had been looking after the affairs of Rutherford County.

Although Mr. Hamrick had one or two hours to speak in and consumed practically the full time, he did not undertake to defend anything except the building of Buffalo Road; and his statement that under similar circumstances he would again advocate the building of that road went without a single hand-clap or cheer, even from one of the contractors, a Republican, who appeared to be cheer leader on the Republican side.

So with this preface to my remarks tonight and brief summary to what was touched upon last night, I will proceed to accommodate my friend, Mr. Hamrick, who so valiantly worked and argued to show to the people present that he had absolutely nothing to do with the affairs of Rutherford County during that period, that his memory does not seem to extend very far back. Mr. Hamrick in his argument said that his partner, N. C. Harris, a Democrat, was employed by a Democratic Board of Commissioners to advise as to county affairs; that he, Hamrick, never had anything to do with any of those matters and never at anytime undertook to advise with the commissioners. Mr. Harris verifies him in this assertion and I notice in the three local papers this week that the three members of the County Board of Commissioners have likewise, in a page of advertisement, made an affidavit to the same effect.

It would look therefore that I am in a rather close predicament but I think the people of Rutherford county know me well enough to know that there was something on which to base the charges made by me or I would never have been so foolish as to make the assertions.

Remember that Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Harris and the Board of County Commissioners all assure us that N. C. Harris, and N. C. Harris only, looked after their affairs except in the Henrietta Mills case.

I have in my files certified copies of all the fee bills paid to this firm from January, 1927, up to the present time. I made a search for fee bills prior to 1927 but only succeeded in finding one bill which was dated August 1, 1925. Everyone of these various statements are made out to the Board of Commissioners for Rutherford County and recite "In account with Quinn, Hamrick and Harris, Attorneys." The billheads do not limit the matter to N. C. Harris.

The August 1, 1925, statement shows one item dated July 6, 1925, Expenses F. D. Hamrick trip to New York Re: Courthouse bonds including Railroad and Pullman fare and hotel bill. So far as I can ascertain, never until the sale of the Courthouse bonds amounting to \$250,000.00 was it necessary for any attorney to go to New York to sell bonds. Gallert and other attorneys handling bond issues always succeeded in completing the sales and handling all matters connected therewith from their law offices in Rutherfordton.

I wish that I had time to go over the entire statement of accounts rendered by the firm of Quinn, Hamrick and Harris against the Board of Commissioners for Rutherford County but time will not permit. There are many items of charges in those bills which would interest the voters of Rutherford County, and since the demand for my proof has been so strong I have decided to publish these certified copies of these bills for the benefit of the voters. I will touch upon the bills again later on in my argument but must now proceed to connect up Mr. Fred D. Hamrick as actively participating in the affairs of Rutherford County.

Take The Sun, a newspaper published at Rutherfordton, dated July 21, 1927, in column three the heading "Commissioners to Comply with Law Must Sell Bonds"; sub-heading "County Attorney Explains." It seems that some of the citizens had protested the the issuance of bonds amounting to \$841,000.00. Listen to Mr. Fred D. Hamrick: "County Attorney pro tem Fred D. Hamrick clearly explained that the money had been borrowed to build roads and bridges and for the necessary operations of schools throughout the county; that notes representing the funds were coming due and the only way they could be met was by the sale of bonds which would in no way increase the existing indebtedness. He pointed out the transaction must go through because the law instructed

the commissioners to sell bonds to pay off the notes."

Does that connect Mr. Hamrick up with the affairs of Rutherford County during that eventful period or can he lightly say in his rejoinder that he never heard of that publication before?

Frankly, I am very much disappointed in Mr. Hamrick. In the first place I believe he ought to have been willing to shoulder his responsibility during that administration instead of attempting to blame it all on the Commissioners and on his partner, N. C. Harris. If the administration is all right why should he shirk the responsibility; if the administration is all right why should not he be willing to defend this administration when his firm collected a direct result of their employment directly from Rutherford County more than \$9,000.00 in fees and expenses, of which I am sure he will not undertake to deny getting his proportionate part of the division.

However, I find there are a good many instances where Mr. Hamrick has not either conscientiously or unconscientiously been fair with the people of Rutherford—rather it would appear that he is perfectly willing to state a half truth and mislead as to the facts.

In his speech last Monday night he undertook to present in his argument that the tax rate in Cleveland County was only 70c on the hundred dollars compared to the present tax rate in Rutherford county. In part his statement is correct, but my investigation discloses that in Cleveland County the roads and bridges are handled by the township system and therefore the road and bridge tax is not included in the 70c referred to. I am informed by a good citizen of Cleveland County who is in a position to know that the average road and bridge tax amounts to fifty to sixty cents on the hundred dollars. Therefore if the tax rate in Cleveland County was figured on the same basis as in Rutherford County the tax rate would be from \$1.20 to \$1.30 on the hundred dollars. Mr. Hamrick, why did you not tell all of the facts; and why were you undertaking to mislead the people of Rutherford County?

While we are on the tax proposition permit me to go a little further into the records and say to you that in the year 1924 the tax rate amounted to 95c on the hundred dollars. The first year of this extravagant administration I am talking about saw the rate jump 14c and stood at \$1.09 for 1925 and 1926; in 1927 it jumped to \$1.46, but in 1928 was reduced to \$1.44 on the hundred dollars.

Permit me to say further that according to the records of the Auditor's Office but for the failures of the banks in Rutherford County the tax rate in Rutherford County today would be \$1.21, the difference being the levy made necessary by virtue of the money being tied up in the banks of Rutherford County. So that but for the bank failures Rutherford County and Cleveland County would today be on about a par as to tax assessments.

Regardless of who is elected there will be a reduction next year, as it will not be necessary then to levy any tax on account of the bank failures; and not only that, but it looks now as if a considerable portion of the money tied up in the banks will be recovered during the coming year and will be made available to apply on debts or other county necessities.

Mr. Hamrick, perhaps you can explain to the people of Rutherford County why under your administration there was an increase of 37c on the hundred dollars in 1927 when there had been no buildings burned, nothing destroyed and no bank failures. You were County Attorney pro tem (we'll call you that if you don't want to be called County Attorney) during that time, and on July 21, about the time the levy was made, you had evidently familiarized yourself with the laws governing the county and with the financial conditions of the county so you could thoroughly explain to the protesting taxpayers the necessity for issuing these bonds. I question the necessity of issuing the full amount of bonds advertised. At the very moment you were so strongly assuring the people that the bonds must be issued to pay county indebtedness already outstanding, and during the period of negotiating the issuance of these bonds from July to December or January following, there was the sum of \$80,000.00 road and bridge money in hand for which the Board of County Commissioners in a resolution drawn by your firm recited that they had no earthly use whatsoever. I have a copy of the resolution taken from Minute Book 10, recited that the Board has found that \$80,000.00 in the road and bridge fund on July 1, 1927, will not be needed for construction of roads and bridges during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1927, and ending June 30, 1928; and providing in the resolution that the said sum of \$80,000.00 be set apart as a reserve fund and held and not spent until on or after July 1, 1928.

If you were so interested in the welfare of the taxpayers of Rutherford County as you now appear to be and as you are proclaiming yourself to be interested in their behalf, kindly explain why that \$80,000.00 which was not needed for any proper purpose should not have been applied on the bond issue you assured the people had to be issued amounting to \$625,000.00, which would have reduced that series of bonds to \$545,000.00 thereby relieving the taxpayers of Rutherford County of an \$80,000.00 indebtedness.

Again, Mr. Hamrick, your memory does not seem to serve you so well. When I asked you on last Monday night to explain to the farmers and working people of Rutherford County, who have to economize and cut cor-

ners in order to get along, while you were living in luxury in the city of Washington for a period of eight days at a cost for hotel bill, taxi fare, etc. amounting to \$105.00, more than \$13.00 per day, what the "etc." meant. I am frank to say that I did not know then nor do I know now. You replied that that covered Pullman fare, railroad fare, meals on train and other incidental expenses. By reference to certified copy of your bill dated March 10, 1930, I find that in addition to the \$105.00 item for eight days hotel bill, taxi fare, etc., there is a charge of Seven Dollars for Pullman fare; railroad fare \$34.00, meals on train \$7.50, and fee for admission to Supreme Court of United States \$15.00, which added to the item of hotel bill, taxi fare, etc., amount to a total of \$168.50. Did you not recollect these items or were you merely attempting to make your expense account look smaller than what it actually was?

And again, Mr. Hamrick, you talked at great length about the Henrietta Mills lawsuit and I would not discredit you one iota for your valuable services in that case, but you assured the people of Rutherford County at Rutherfordton last Monday night that you only got \$5,000 fee for your services in that case, and told them about how many days and weeks you worked on the brief, conferring with the Commissioners and others and getting up all the necessary facts in order to win that case. Did you not recollect your fee bills or were you willing in another instance to mislead the people of Rutherford County? By reference to your bills I find that you have charged at the rates of \$40.00 per day and upwards for time put in conferring, briefing, looking up the law, etc.; that you charged as high as \$200.00 per day in addition to your expenses for two days time in Raleigh; that you charged for the time of your clerk, Mr. John R. Chambers, several days at the rate of \$20.00 per day (and right here let me ask you if you are willing to tell the people here that you pay him anything like Twenty Dollars per day for his services, or will you not admit that you profited on his time more than 200 percent? So that in all, Mr. Hamrick, the total amount charged by you for time put in working on the case, expenses and fees, amounted to \$7,030.90. You missed your guess just a little more than \$2,000.00, but I am sure that a little item like that in your estimation, during the period of progress so wonderfully described in your famous Buffalo Road speech, and when thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars, yea, a million and a quarter dollars a year were spent, that this little \$2,000.00 meant nothing to you. I insist, Mr. Hamrick, that you ought to stick to the facts and you ought to be willing for the people to know these facts.

Oh, I remember vividly the doctrine advocated by you in your Buffalo speech! And permit me to quote from your speech as reported in The Sun of Rutherfordton, dated September 29, 1927, where you say: "Unless you can put your finger directly upon any item the commissioners have misappropriated do not criticize or try to stop them."

In my speech last Monday night you gave me my text which was "An Aroused Electorate." I took it from your famous "Moses Letter." Once again, your same letter gives me a text: "The 'lode star' of the great masses of the people of this county of both political parties in the administration of county affairs is 'Integrity and Efficiency in County Government'; and when they are convinced that public servants or those aspiring for public office or party

prominence are unworthy of public confidence our people of Rutherford County will arise and smite these unworthy aspirants at the polls no matter what their political affiliations may be."

I think beyond question the record of the administration with which you were connected, together with your many attempts in the course of these debates and at other times to prevent the people from finding out the facts, will justify the people of Rutherford County in arising and smiting you as an unworthy aspirant at the polls in the coming election.

You made that jab at me, but, as you yourself so often say, "You were measuring my corn in your half bushel." The aroused electorate in every fairminded person in Rutherford County knows the reason you opposed the investigation of the County Commissioners at the road meeting was because that you knew of the situation then existing with reference to the numerous and large bond issues and with reference to the huge deposits left in the banks without a bond and you did not want the people of Rutherford County to find out these facts.

A Dishpan is Good.

Pop—Say, whar's thet cuspidor 'at used to set here? I miss it a lot.

Mom—That's why it's gone. You missed it too often.—N. Y. C. Magazine.

FERRY NEWS

Ferry, Sept. 29.—Cotton is opening very fast through here and the farmers are badly behind with picking. It is thought most all the crop will be open before October is past. The Rutherford County Fair was attended by a number of our people last week in spite of the busy season. All seemed to enjoy the attractions this year.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hames spent Sunday as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Bailey at Greer, S. C. Mr. Moses Henson who has been with the U. S. Army stationed in the Hawaiian Islands arrived home recently having received his discharge.

Mrs. Oma Moore is seriously sick at the home of her son, Mr. Perry Moore with whom she lives, she has suffered two strokes of paralysis and is not expected to live, she is eighty-six years of age.

Mr. Taylor Alexander of Duncan, S. C., spent Sunday with his father here Mr. W. P. Alexander.

Mr. R. E. Honeycutt and son, Mr. Otho Honeycutt visited Mr. and Mrs. Deane Shehan near Cowpens, S. C., last Sunday.

French fliers land in Brazil, spanning Atlantic with mail.

Lasky to produce foreign language talks in France.


Pale and Weak

"I THINK Cardui is a wonderful medicine, for I improved greatly after taking it," says Mrs. A. W. English, of R. F. D. 4, Roanoke, Va. "When I was just a girl of 13, my mother gave this medicine to me, and it did me a great deal of good. I was weak and run-down. After I had taken Cardui awhile, I felt much better. In 1924, my health was poor. I felt miserable, and hadn't enough strength to do my household work. It took all my willpower to keep up. I was pale and weak. I got Cardui again and took it. My improvement was wonderful. I can recommend Cardui to others, for my health was so much better after I had taken a course of the Cardui Home Treatment."

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Today Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is the world's most popular laxative. Millions of people never think of using anything else when they're constipated, headachy, bilious, feverish or weak; when breath is bad, tongue coated, or they're suffering from nausea, gas, or lack of appetite on energy.

Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is made today according to the original formula, from herbs and other pure ingredients. It is pleasant-tasting; thorough in the most obstinate cases; gently effective for women and children. Above all, it represents a doctor's choice of what is safe for the bowels.



"Nerves"


A night of broken rest followed by hours of mental or physical strain; nerves tensed almost to the breaking point; irritable; unable to concentrate—another hectic night and miserable day ahead of you.

Why endure it? Dr. Miles' Nervine quiets the nerves, brings calm and poise, and permits refreshing sleep.

Dr. Miles' Nervine is now made in two forms—Liquid and Effervescent Tablet. Both are the same therapeutically.

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DR. MILES' Effervescent NERVINE TABLETS



BURSTING HEADACHES


Dizzy Spells

Mrs. Cora Moahier, of 601 North New Orleans Ave., Brinkley, Ark., writes: "I was so constipated until I was just sick. I could not stand to take strong medicine, so I decided I would take Black-Draught, and I found it to be all right. I would have such dizzy spells, and such bursting headaches, until I could hardly go. But after taking a few doses of Black-Draught, I would feel just fine. It is a good medicine, and I recommend it to all who suffer as I did. It is very easy to recommend a medicine that has done as much for me as Black-Draught has done."

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For CONSTIPATION, INDIGESTION, BILIOUSNESS

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