

We want to remind our many readers that the editor of The Dispatch was made the object of many unkind remarks during the last campaign, because he dared to raise a voice of protest in behalf of the tax payers, as to the way our county affairs were, and still are being administered. He was threatened with libel suits and various other forms of prosecution and persecution. There are many people today who believe that there are suits now pending that are likely to send him to the county roads, but notwithstanding these false rumors and threats, we are still at the bat. We desire to call our readers attention to the county exhibit published in our Esteemed contemporary, The Burlington News, under date of December 23rd, 1914, or just last week, if you please. Every tax payer in this county should get a copy of this paper and lay it aside for keeps. The county commissioners for Alamance County gave the contract to publish the county exhibit, or to be more fully understood to publish what is presumed to be all the business transacted by the county commissioners and to cover all monies paid out for whatsoever purpose. You will understand that this statement does not account for what money is taken in and show you from what source received, it only pretends to account for the money paid out, but be that as it may or is, we want you to read it and file it away. Reference will be made to it from time to time to time, and you should have it for convenience, if for no other reason. You will note from statement that quite a number of different people are allowed to collect the road tax and whether it is all turned into the county treasury or not, you will never know because no one else knows, therefore you must needs remain in ignorance as to this part of your county tax collecting system, but let us presume that everybody is honest and all this vast sum of money finally finds its way into the county treasury, the very fact that so many people have to handle this road fund and of course they all have to be paid for collecting it, is convincing proof that we need a change in our road working system. The Republican Progressive party during the last campaign advocated a change in this system, and said that the road tax ought to be listed at the same time and in the same way as other taxes and collected the same as other taxes in this way very few would escape paying their just part of the mud tax. The Sheriff is paid a salary to collect the tax and it would be no more trouble for him to collect the additional road tax as to collect the part that he now collects, and we believe that we can say for the present sheriff that he would gladly do it. This is digressing from what we started out to say although it goes to show you that you need some changes in your road law badly, and you should petition your representative to make the necessary changes. We desire to call your attention to the statement of Alamance County indebtedness which appears upon our front page, this is taken from the county exhibit just published as referred to above and if it is not true it is no fault of ours. The figures given upon our front page are the exact figures given in this county exhibit and signed by the Register of Deeds, who is clerk ex-officio, to the Board of County Commissioners. We ask now if any statement we make is not exactly like the figures given in this report for some one to kindly call our attention to the error and we will gladly make the correction. Our only purpose is to serve the best interests of the tax payers of this county and to convince them that the figures given as regards the county finances just before the last election was as near the truth as it

was possible to get without a complete audit of the county books by an expert accountant employed for that purpose. Read the statement and then ask yourself WHO was the liar during the last campaign.

OUR COMPLIMENTS.

We desire to thank all our patrons, whether subscribers or advertisers, for their support during the year now coming to close, 1914. We appreciate your patience and kindness in overlooking our many shortcomings and failures. We feel and know that we made them, and while we do not promise now not to make them during the coming year, 1915, still we will try not to make the same ones twice.

We wish for all of you, Health, Wealth and Happiness. May you all continue members of The Dispatch Family, and that adversity and the grim reaper of Death may not come your way during 1915.

A certain gentleman, in whom the people have almost universal confidence, made a speech in Burlington during the last campaign, in which he attacked the statement of The Dispatch as to the probable county indebtedness, in this speech he stated specifically what the county indebtedness was, The Dispatch would be glad to know this gentleman's opinion since he has read the annual exhibit and digested its contents. The public as well as The Dispatch would be glad to have this gentleman's views since he has learned that the figures given him at that time was doctored.

GOING TO LOOK AT STOCKING, CATCHES FIRE FROM GRATE.

Statesville, Dec. 26.—A distressing Christmas accident occurred in Statesville yesterday when little Ruth Conger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Conger, was badly burned. Mrs. Conger also sustained severe burns in her efforts to extinguish the flames which threatened the life of her child.

Ruth, who is about three years old, ran to the treplace to see what Santa Claus had placed in her stocking and in her childish glee she got to close to the open grate. Her little "nightie" caught fire and in an instant later she was enveloped in flames.

Screaming with pain and fright, she started for her mother, who was in another room. Mrs. Conger met the child and put out the flames by throwing her own garment around the little one.

When the fire was finally extinguished it was found that the little girl's entire body, with the exception of her face and hands, had been blistered by the flames and th hands of her mother were badly burned. Physicians were called immediately and

everything possible is being done to alleviate the child's suffering and save her life.

An older brother of the little girl was with her at the fire when her gown was ignited, but was too badly excited to render his sister aid.

A CHANGE OF CHARTER.

There has been but little said in regard to the proposed change of charter for the City of Burlington. Several loyal and progressive citizens of this little burg feel that the present system under which the town has been managed for a number of years, is not sufficient for our present needs, and are going to undertake to change the system. Now this is a matter that concerns all, and all should give the matter some intelligent thought and action. Do not lag back and refuse to give those who are trying to devise some better method of running the town than we now have, your active co-operation and advice. This is your town, and whether you own little or much, you are interested in the kind of laws we will all have to live under and up to there has been a com-

mittee appointed to have a proposed charter drafted and submitted to a mass meeting to be called later, when this mass meeting is called make a strong effort to come out and hear the proposed charter, discussed, if there are provisions in the charter that you do not deem wise for a town the size of Burlington, then get right up and speak out in meeting, giving their views, and why they are your views, in this way you can help yourself, your town and all its people, but if you fail to attend this mass meeting and give them the benefit of your influence and help, a mistake may be made. The Dispatch is assured by the committee that it desires the hearty co-operation of all the citizens of the city and every man's suggestions will be given consideration, this being so, do not circulate false rumors or permit any one else to do so until you have attended one or all of these meetings and thoroughly understand the proposed changes. The Dispatch will from week to week keep you posted as to the proposed changes, but your presence is necessary to have the desired co-operation and help from all the citizens. Come out and help, but don't criticize until you are satisfied that a mistake is about to be made, then open up and show the committee the errors of their way, let all good citizens resolve to help make this town a Bigger, Better Burlington, in fact, as well as in name.

THE SWEET RETORT.

At a card club the other day a woman tried to add the score, failed and passed it to another woman who likewise, filed, says The Kansas City Times. "Pardon me," said No. 1, sweetly, "but would you mind telling me whether you were a bookkeeper or teacher before you were married?" "Neither," was the reply. "I was merely educated." If you would prefer to work for \$12 a week rather than \$13, you surely are superstitious. A lot of these self-made men are not even self-starters.

MR. GRISSOM WRITES.

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 25, 1914. The Twice-A-Week Dispatch, Burlington, N. C. Chairman Linney has called the Republican State Committee to meet in Raleigh on Tuesday, January 12th at 1 P. M., for the purpose of perfecting plans for the great Presidential Campaign of 1916 that our State may be placed in the column of the other great industrial states of the country, as well as for mutual congratulations over the successes in the get-together campaign through which we have just gone. The Chairman directs that you be given a most cordial invitation to attend this meeting which will be an open one and in which your aid and advice are needed for the patriotic purposes which your Committee wishes to discuss; your Party needs you now and in the coming campaign and it is hoped that you will attend and bring others with you. Furthermore, the Chairman asks that you will extend a like earnest invitation to your friends to the end that every one, who is willing to stand with us at the next election in the fight for return to old time governmental economy, efficiency, and prosperity, may be assured of a good old-fashioned welcome. Fail not to come, fail not to invite others who have been or will be with us, and fail not to answer this as soon as possible. With the Compliments of the Season, I beg to remain, Faithfully yours, GILLIAM GRISSOM. DOESN'T LIKE THE WAR TAX. Olney W. Weave, of the Sedgwick, Kan., Pantagraph, says: "I've licked a dozen stamps today for telegrams I've sent; I licked and stuck one on a bill with which I paid the rent. I licked a stamp to paste upon a note which I renewed, and then I licked another to make the mortgage good. I've licked these stamps to show that I respect my country's will, and now I'd like to lick the man that introduced the bill."—Exchange.

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JANUARY 2, 1915

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