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ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY.

A Stokes County Tax Assessor Suggests A Few Thoughts Along This Line—Wants A More Equal Valuation.

Mr. Editor :

If you will give a little space in your valuable paper, I want to suggest a few thoughts in regard to the assessment of property.

There is some complaint that some land is valued too high, or that a majority is valued too low. For instance, here is a man who has purchased a piece of land for \$1,000—it being the year to assess said piece of land—the assessors say \$1,000 is the true cash value of said land and list it for \$1,000. Here is another man who owns a piece of land adjoining this piece, which is worth just as much as the first, but was purchased, say 20 years ago. This man's land is valued at \$500 or less. Where is any justice in it? Yet, I know of just such cases.

Now, no one wants an equalization of the value of property for taxation more than I; and I don't know of any better way than for all list-takers and assessors to follow the requirements of law regulating the same. The law seems to be very plain on this point. The law says in Sec. 13 of Machinery Act, session 1907: "Real property shall be valued by the assessors either from actual view or from the best information that the assessors can practically obtain, according to its true value in money. In determining the value the assessors shall consider as to each piece, its advantage or disadvantage of location, quality of soil, quantity of standing timber, water privileges, mines, minerals, quarries, or other valuable deposits known to be available therein and their value." Section 14 says "The intent and purpose of the tax laws of this State is to have all property and subjects of taxation fairly assessed at their true value in money in such manner as such property and subjects are usually sold, but not by forced sale thereof, and the words "market value" or "true value," whenever in the tax laws, shall be held and deemed to mean what the property and subjects would bring at cash sale when sold in such manner as such property and subjects are usually sold." Section 17 says "The board of list-takers and assessors shall make a complete return of their assessments, embracing an abstract of the taxable property of their respective townships to the board of county commissioners on or before the second Monday in July, and annex the following affidavit, subscribed and sworn to before a justice of the peace, who shall certify the same: We, the list-takers and assessors of — township, — county, make oath that the foregoing list contains, to the best of our knowledge and belief, all real and personal property required by law to be assessed in said township and that we have assessed every tract or parcel of land or other real and personal property at its true value in money, and have endeavored to do equal justice to the public and to the taxpayers concerned.

Before entering upon the discharge of the duties of their office, they shall also take and subscribe the following oath before the chairman of the board of county commissioners for their respective counties, or some officer qualified to administer oaths: I, —, list-taker (or assessor) of — township, — county, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will discharge the duties devolving upon me as list-taker or assessor according to the laws in force governing said office, & help me God.

Sec. 20 says list-takers and as-

sessors shall not be entitled to pay unless they have performed the labor and made return in strict compliance with the law.

Now brother list-takers and assessors what will you do? Will you list property at its true value in money, or will you disregard the law and assess the property at one-third or one-half value?

If real and personal property are assessed at one-half true value, then money and solvent credits ought also. Let us hear from a number of you, setting forth your views, not only list-takers and assessors, but anyone who may feel so disposed. It is a matter which concerns us all. I write this with the best feeling to all, not wishing to wound the feelings of any farmer, list-taker or assessor. My only object is to have an equalization of property values, that the people may share equally, the taxes to support our government.

LIST-TAKER AND ASSESSOR.

MAY SHARE IN INDIAN FUND.

Number Of People Are Of Indian Descent—But All, No Matter How Remote Their Ancestry, Are Entitled To Claim.

Asheville, May 17.—The statement that persons who had in their veins any Cherokee Indian blood should file application with Commissioner Guinn Miller, in Washington, D. C., in order to share in the proceeds of the sale of valuable timber lands in the Cherokee reservation in the extreme western part of this State, attracted attention from a number of people.

In fact a great many more people are directly interested than would be supposed. Not only are the members of the eastern band of Cherokee Indians entitled to share in the proceeds but a considerable number of people in Buncombe, Madison and other counties, because of the fact, little known, that they are unquestionably part Indian.

Major Rollins states that there are in this and Madison counties well known families whose members can trace their ancestry in part to Indians. Some are proud of this Indian blood, others are indifferent, and still others are unaware of it. As anyone is entitled to share in the fund no matter how remote his descent from some Indian man or woman and as many marriages of Indians and Caucasians took place nearly a century ago it can readily be seen that there will be hundreds of white people entitled to a share in the fund. These should apply to the Commissioner for blanks.

SPECIAL FOR VETERANS.

Southern To Operate Through Train To Richmond, Va.

The Southern railway will operate a special train for the accommodation of Confederate Veterans who wish to attend the reunion at Richmond, Va. It will leave Huntersville, near Charlotti, at 6 a. m., on the 29th inst., coming via Mocksville, passing Winston-Salem at 9:25, a. m., and running through to Richmond from Winston. Fare for round trip \$4.00. Tickets good to return until June 11th.

Verdict In Favor Of Martin.

The suit of E. L. Martin vs. T. B. Knight, administrator of W. L. Fallin, deceased, which was tried in the Superior court here last week and week before, ended Friday afternoon, the jury deciding in favor of the plaintiff. The defendant will probably appeal to the Supreme court. Something over \$3,000 is involved in the suit.

Mr. R. F. Bondurant, of Francisco, was here on business Saturday.

MR. OLIVER REPLIES TO "1861."

He Propounds Some Questions—Thinks "1861" Has A Little Hatred In His Heart For Both Republican and Democratic Government.

Mr. Editor :

My old friend "1861" arrogates to himself the honor of proving what has been an open secret for 46 years, and also frankly acknowledged in open court (Reporter April 18th). Verily he would make us a fine Solicitor to succeed Mr. Graves, as it is very important that all our criminals be brought to justice. I am glad that I have some right respectable company in my sad condition, under the condemnation of our expert solicitor. Please hear Gen. R. E. Lee for a moment: "I look upon secession as anarchy. If I owned four millions of slaves in the South, I would sacrifice them all to the union." See James D. McCabe's life of Gen. Lee, page 30. Did R. E. Lee hate our beloved Southland? I had a brother-in-law in the war. My sister was left with three little children to provide for. I said then "I would not see my sister's condition for all the slaves in the South." This curse was one among, perhaps hundreds of thousands. I am not surprised that the "water was uncomfortably warm" for my friend and caused him to wiggle. Let me warm it up again and perhaps he will wiggle sufficiently strong to flop out of his trouble. Do you remember how the mass of our people were excited and enraged by the leaders in 1861? Let me tell you. Reports were current that "booty and beauty" were written upon the standards of the Federal army. That the Yankees are coming to destroy all the men and ugly women, take our lands and the fair women and occupy our country. They said it would be only a breakfast spell to whip the Yankees. Some said in their public speeches that they would agree to wipe up all the blood that would be shed in the war with a pocket handkerchief. Thousands of our people were lead to believe these statements, and in a moment of excitement, enlisted in the army. Who but a coward would have failed to volunteer, believing this stuff? I had a good friend living in Stokes who believed these statements and encouraged his sons to volunteer. I said to him one day "it is not safe to believe all we hear." I saw that he took offense at my suggestion and I said no more. This was in 1861. In 1864 I met him again. He took me away out in the bushes and said, "are you of the same opinion about the war you was when I saw you last?" I replied, "so far as I know my mind has not changed." He said "I am with you now."

This man got his eyes opened in three years, and here is my old friend "1861," after 46 years experience and observation, is still as blind as a bat. I am reminded of the man who was going to mill on horseback with corn in one end of the sack and balanced by a rock in the other end. He met a friend who seeing the situation, said, why don't you divive the corn and throw the rock away, he replied, "this is the way dady done." This illustrates the condition of thousands of our people today.

I suppose the tax-payers of Stokes do not want you in the "saddle" any more, unless you can do better riding than you did a few years ago when you were in the saddle. You doubtless have not forgotten the fact that our county treasury got so low that county claims could not be paid and if you must have the money, you had to sell your claim considerably below par. And what a racket we did have among the

riders as to who was to blame.

Our people got tired of such a condition, put a new class in the saddle, men who could and did take care of their own business, and consequently could and did take care of the county's interest. In a few years they paid off the indebtedness of the county and saved up two or more thousand dollars with which to begin county improvements.

You have intimated that I am not honest. Will you please give us a lecturer on honesty and fair dealing, not only in politics, but in our business affairs. I want to be right and to do right, you might be quite helpful to many of us poor sinners. You seem not to see or know any difference between a principle and a name? It might be well for you to call in two or three of your confidential friends and see if you can learn to call a spade a spade, a plow a plow, etc. Please answer these few questions. What is Democracy? Since you give a satisfactory answer now reconcile this explanation with the bill offered in our last legislature proposing to change the county officials of Stokes. How many Yankees did you kill during the civil war? We cannot expect a definite answer, you may approximate. How many negroes did you lose by the abolition of slavery? Was slavery as it existed in the States morally right? Was secession morally and legally right? Was there any justifiable cause to withdraw from the union when the States seceded? You praise Southern valor, and justly so, can you praise the judgment of the people in the cause they pursued? Now, Mr. Solicitor, in your cross examination please look into your own heart and see if there is not at least a little hatred towards the best Republican or Democratic government in the world.

P. OLIVER.

The Strawberry Crop Short.

Wilmington, May 15.—Reports from the strawberry belt are to the effect that the crop is yielding very short, but that indications are for a much longer shipping season than usual. Thus far, the shipments by refrigerator cars, according to the official reports from the junction office at Rocky Mount, have less than 250 car loads, where as at this time last season more than a thousand cars had gone forward of a normal yield of about 1,800 cars, as a total crop. The movement has only one day, May 7, reached the volume of 25 cars, whereas last year at this time the daily report from Rocky Mount indicated from 75 to 100 cars daily.

There is encouragement, however, in the report from the berry territory that the season this year will consist of practically two crops, one made before the late freeze in April, and the other fruit made after the freeze, the latter being of the much better quality, and therefore commanding a higher price. It is stated that the shipping season this year will extend over a period of from six to eight weeks, whereas in 1906 it was profitable to ship for only about four or five weeks.

The prices, as a general rule, have held up very well, indeed, and the shippers generally seem to have no kicks on that score.

There are over three million telephones in use in the United States.

DON'T PAY ALIMONY

to be divorced from your appendix. There will be no occasion for it if you keep your bowels regular with Dr. King's New Life Pills. Their action is so gentle that the appendix never has cause to make the least complaint. Guaranteed by all druggists. 25c.

ROCKINGHAM IS COMING.

The County Fathers Purchase Machinery and Will Begin Macadamizing the Roads June 1—Madison To Have New Warehouse—Other News.

The Rockingham Commissioners met in Wentworth last Thursday for the purpose of taking up the matter of purchasing road machinery. They purchased the following: One ten ton "Kelly" steam roller, one No. 4 steel "Champion" rock crusher, elevators, screens, etc., one gasoline engine, four dump wagons, one sprinkler and in fact all the necessary machinery to commence building first class macadam roads the first of June. Nothing the people have heard recently pleases them quite as much as the news that our county is waking up from the long sleep of inactivity and unprogressiveness. With well built macadam roads binding every section and the blessings that always follow such roads, the future of our county is indeed bright.

Miss Rhoda Adams, of Walnut Cove, is visiting Miss Mary Lewellyn this week.

Mr. Tom Frank Webster is pushing his new dwelling to completion, and will soon have it ready for occupancy. The Webster boys, like their father, Robert P., are hustlers from start to finish, and deserve all they get.

Superior Court convenes June 10th. This is for the trial of civil cases only and it is thought that enough work has been placed on the calendar to consume the two weeks. His Honor Garland S. Ferguson judge presiding.

Rev. S. S. Oliver and family returned to West Va. Tuesday, after visiting his mother near town for several days.

It is more than probable that Madison will have three tobacco warehouses in operation the coming season. We think that J. M. Taylor, of Stoneville, is making arrangements to have a new house built here and operate same. It will be probably built by Mrs. C. B. McAnally and located on the corner of Hunter and Market street, opposite the old Scales dwelling.—Madison Herald.

SENATOR SIMMONS RESIGNS.

Executive Committee Need Not Elect Chairman Until the Convention Meets.

A letter from Senator Simmons to a friend in Asheboro within the last few days says that he cannot consent to retain the position of Chairman of the State Executive Committee longer although his interest in party affairs will not be less than it has always been. He thinks he ought to resign and needs the time which he has to give to party affairs to devote to his duties as senator. Replying to the suggestion that he wait until the next convention before resigning, Senator Simmons says he prefers to resign now, and if the committee does not desire to elect his successor now as there are no active duties to perform except to call a convention, the secretary can perform those duties and the election of his successor can be postponed until the convention meets and appoints a new committee.

Stuart and Consent, Va., played ball at the latter place Saturday, the score resulting in a tie—six and six.

To The People Of Stokes County.

I hereby announce myself a candidate on the Republican ticket for Sheriff's office in 1908, subject to the will of the convention.

Yours very respectfully,

D. A. SIMMONS.

Briefs Adrift.

Mr. T. H. Ferguson, of Sandy Ridge, was a Danbury visitor Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pitzer, of Red Shoals, visited in Danbury Thursday.

Deputy Sheriff Robert S. Coleman, of Peter's Creek township, was here Saturday.

Mrs. C. M. Jones and Miss Agnes Johnson visited Walnut Cove Saturday.

Justice of the Peace G. G. Shelton, of Snow Creek township, was here on business a short while Friday.

Judge G. S. Ferguson, who had been holding court here, went over to Moore's Springs Thursday to spend a few days.

Messrs. John Frans and Ed Smith, who have been attending school here for some time, returned to their homes near Francisco the past week.

The wheat crop appears to be fairly good at present, and if weather conditions are favorable from now on the yield will probably be up to the average in this section.

Mr. and Mrs. Jason Key, of Lexington, and Mr. Jas. Crews, accompanied by his sister, Miss Floss Crews, of Kernersville, spent Friday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Davis. They were on their way to the Baptist association at Big Creek.

The two prisoners, Jno. Mabe, white, and DeWitt Lash, colored, sentenced at the recent term of court to the Rockingham county roads for six and two months respectively, were carried to Reidsville the past week by Deputy Sheriff A. W. Davis. Robt. Smith, an insane man who has been confined in jail here, was carried to Raleigh the past week by Sheriff Petree and placed in the criminal insane department of the Penitentiary.

MEADOWS HAPPENINGS.

Sunday School To Be Organized At Bethel Church—Meadows and Pink Grove To Play Ball—Other News.

Meadows, May 20.—A Sunday School will be organized at Bethel Baptist church here next Sunday, the 26th inst.

There will be a match game of baseball played between the Pink Grove and Meadows teams, on the latter's ground, Saturday, May 25. A good game and a large crowd is expected.

Quite a number of young people visited at the home of Mr. Glidewell last Sunday. Among them were Messrs. Frank Southern, Robt. Hill, Louis Hicks, Ollie Hicks, Joe Wall, John Covington, and Misses Ethel Sands, Francis Covington and others.

Mr. Johnnie Hicks, of High Point, visited his mother at this place Sunday.

A tomb stone man passed through Meadows a few days since. It is learned that he was on his way to Danbury to erect a monument over the grave of the Danbury baseball team.

There will likely be a wedding here soon as Geo. Warren was seen riding with a lady Sunday. The preacher was not far behind. Hurry up, Uncle Bony, or George will beat you in spite of your new derby.

This correspondent is of the same opinion as Mr. Blair in regard to writing so much about "broad smiles." The expression has lived to a ripe old age and it is time it was dead. The people are getting tired of it.

AFTER.