

# REPLY TO H. MCGEE

Wm. R. Petree, of Germanton, Shows His Reasoning To Be Unfair In Various Particulars.

Germanton, N. C.,  
March 24th, 1913.

Messrs. Editors :  
I notice that Mr. McGee, of Germanton, has quite a lengthy article in your paper in which he gives his reasons why we should not sell bonds for the purpose of building roads. I would not attempt to reply to the gentleman's article were it not for the fact that he challenged me to a joint discussion of the subject, over Meadows township, several weeks ago. I immediately accepted the challenge, and asked him to name his dates. He promised to do so when he got ready. I suppose he has not yet got ready as he has not yet named any dates. So in view of the fact that I have been challenged by the gentleman, I feel that it devolves upon me to reply to his article. In his article he says he is not opposed to good roads. This seems to me to be an unnecessary statement. It stands to reason that no one with just ordinary judgment would be against good roads, and it is no advantage to the cause of good roads to accuse a man of being opposed to them because he is against the bond issue. We all want good roads but are we willing to go down in our pockets and pay for them? That is the question. Or do we wish to continue the present inefficient system?

The free labor system is not only a farce, but it is very unjust to one class of our citizens as it shifts the burden of road work on them, when it justly belongs to another class. In the first mentioned class we have the hirelings and tenants who are now bearing the principal burden of road work. As a rule they can get along very well without the roads, as a majority of them do not own wagons and teams. In the second class, we have the property owner who does not as rule contribute one cent toward road work. These people own the wagons and teams that cut up the roads after poor hirelings and tenants build them. Is this justice? Well, it is not my idea of justice, but you say: "I have worked out my time and my boy is no better to work his time than I was." Let me remind you that probably your father was compelled to live in a sixteen feet square pen with a wooden chimney and wear wooden bottom shoes, but you are not doing this out of sympathy for your father. Reasoning from this standpoint we never would make any progress. This is enough about the present system for we all know it's no good. We want a practical system, one that will produce results. Let us take up Mr. McGee's proposed system and see if it is the thing we want. He says he favors a tax of 50 cents on the \$100 worth of property and \$1.50 on the poll, which would produce \$2824.92 per year or \$84,747.60 in 30 years. Mr. McGee admits that no permanent roads could be built by this plan. So is it good business to spend this stupendous sum and get no permanent roads? Is it a good policy to go on year after year spending the peoples' money to throw up dirt in the middle of the road to become hub deep in the winter? Any one knowing the experience of our sister county, Forsyth, knows that she virtually threw away thousands of dollars by a system of this kind. Let us profit by the experience of other counties.

Mr. McGee says we can build

no permanent roads by a bond issue of \$40,000. Well, let's see about that. In 1910 The Progressive Farmer had an article in it written by Mr. Ferguson of Franklin county, N. C. Mr. Ferguson states that 15 months prior to his article: "Franklinton township in Franklin county voted to sell \$40,000 worth of bonds, and in fifteen months afterwards they had built 25 miles of the best road in the State." This township is about the size of Meadows, has just a few miles of railroad, and one town with 800 inhabitants.

Mr. J. C. Hardy, of Rottoway county, Va., has an article in the same issue of the Progressive Farmer. Here is what Mr. Hardy says: "Fortunately, nature has so provided in the Piedmont section of Virginia that where there are red clay roads, sand or grey top-soil is not too far off to build splendid roads at moderate cost. On very many places the sand-clays are so well mixed naturally that it is only necessary to give the road proper drainage and sunshine. The convict force of about 24 working men with six double teams will build about one mile a month where grubbing is heavy, can do more where the roads are wide enough without heavy grubbing."

There we find that Nottoway county, Va., is building 1 mile per month of sand-clay roads with 24 hands and 24 horses. Putting the cost of the hands at \$1.25 per day we get \$780. The cost of the horses at \$1.00 per day which is \$634, we make the total expense of building 1 mile of sand-clay road in Va. \$1414.

It is said that most of the counties engaged in building good roads are paying for them by bond issues.

Mr. McGee failed to cite a single county that had made a failure by the bond issue system. Mr. Hardy states in his article that Nottoway county, Va., made a failure by a system similar to that proposed by Mr. McGee. So we draw the conclusion that the most economical system is that system which will give as much permanent roads as possible.

Mr. McGee says permanent roads are not possible under either system for Meadows township. I cite you to counties where they find it not only possible but very practical.

In his fight against the bond issue Mr. McGee likes to magnify the cost of the same. Let's see if his method of calculating the interest on the bonds is altogether fair. He makes his calculation on the supposition that in the beginning of road work, the bonds will all be sold and that we will have to commence to pay interest from the beginning on the whole \$40,000; then he proceeds to divide the \$40,000 by 30 years, giving only \$1333 1-3 per year for road use. Tell us, Mr. McGee, why you would dribble it out to us in \$1333 1-3 installment and have us paying \$2,400 per year interest. I figure that the interest on \$1333 1-3 at 6 per cent for one year is only \$80. If we are to have only \$1333 1-3 per year, then after 15 years we can easily buy half the bonds and have enough to retire what we have sold with the sinking fund provided by the road bill. It seems to me that it would be just as foolish to sell \$40,000 worth of bonds when we commence work and only spend \$1333 1-3 of it per year and pay \$2400 interest, as it would be

to collect, under Mr. McGee's plan, the whole \$84,747.60 to be losing the interest on it and only spend \$2824.92 per year for road work.

In order to magnify the cost, Mr. McGee has us building 60 miles of MACADAM roads, which he says will cost \$5,000 per mile. I have not heard of any one who favors the bonds proposing to build macadam roads in Meadows township. The road bill does not authorize the building of macadam roads. So Mr. McGee, you need not try to scare somebody by piling up \$300,000 for macadam roads in Meadows.

Is the gentleman sure that we have 60 miles of public roads in Meadows township? I remember that he told me that there were about 20 miles of the 2 main roads leading from Germanton toward Danbury. I can't figure out where the other 40 miles are, in fact I can't figure much over 40 miles at all.

Now in view of the fact that other counties are building sand-clay roads for a cost of from \$500 to \$1,500 per mile, it looks reasonable to suppose that Meadows township could build as much as 15 or 20 miles of permanent roads and make the remainder reasonably good with the \$40,000.

If Mr. McGee is heartily in favor of the plan which he has suggested why did he wait till this date to present it to the people?

Some time before the bill was passed by the Legislature Mr. McGee and I were talking over the matter and he made the remark that if the bill had been drawn so that Meadows township could work the roads by direct tax, he would have supported it and said that it could still be done, that the bill could yet be amended. I told him to draw up his amendment, and call a meeting of the citizens of the township; that if his amendment proved to be more popular than the original bill I would support it; that I preferred the bonds, but I wanted something that would go through. Did Mr. McGee call that meeting? Not much. Does the gentleman want either system? Draw your own conclusion.

Should the bonds be voted Mr. McGee fears an exodus. According to statistics from 1900 to 1910 the population of Stokes county only increased 185. Where are our people all going? They are going to those counties where they are not afraid to sell bonds for public improvement. He also fears that we are going to be slaves. Let me remind him that we fellows who have been shoveling mud under the present road system feel very much like slaves. Now, dear readers, I have stated facts to you as I see them. Go to the polls with an unbiased mind, resolve to vote your honest sentiment, and for the best interest of your community, regardless of whoever it may please.

W. R. PETREE.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Blair, of Sandy Ridge, spent Saturday and Sunday here with Mr. R. H. R. Blair and family.

### The Cause of Rheumatism.

Stomach trouble, lazy liver and deranged kidneys are the cause of rheumatism. Get your stomach, liver, kidneys, and bowels in healthy condition by taking Electric Bitters, and you will not be troubled with the pains of rheumatism. Charles B. Allen, a school principal, Sylvania, Ga., who suffered indescribable torture from rheumatism, liver and stomach trouble and diseased kidneys, writes: "All remedies failed until I used Electric Bitters, but four bottles of this wonderful remedy cured me completely." Maybe your rheumatic pains come from stomach, liver and kidney troubles. Electric Bitters will give you prompt relief. 50c and \$1.00. Recommended by all Dealers.

### A CERTAIN MAN.

Good Roads Man Says He Is Road Free and Rides Around In a Rubber Tired Buggy Over Roads That He Pays Not a Cent To Keep Up.

Editor Reporter :

We have a few men in our neighborhood who are opposed to the road bond issue but most of them are made so by listening to scary tales told by certain men. One of our wealthiest neighbors is hot against the roads, but what is bad for him is not always bad for all of us. He is doing all in his power to get his neighbors to vote against the road bond issue but I just want to call the voters attention to one thing. He is like they said Mr. Oliver was, he is road free and well off. He don't have to work the roads and they don't cost him one cent. His neighbors nearly all have to work the road 6 days in the year and he rides over them in a rubber tired buggy to Danbury every first Monday and sees whether they do it right or not. He has an easy time driving around in that rubber-tired buggy he keeps and he has good property and don't have to work like his neighbors and most of them are not able to own an iron tired buggy much less a rubber tired buggy, but still he wants them to keep on working the roads and him not pay a cent nor work a lick. Now, I call on all his neighbors if this is not the whole truth. No wonder he is well satisfied with it like it is, when he can sit around and ride around in a rubber tired buggy and all his neighbors have to work the road and he, a wealthy man, don't pay a cent nor work a lick. The poor farmer has always been down and he never can rally till he acts on his judgment and stops listening to the arguments put up by the man who is saving himself all the time.

GOOD ROADS.

King.

King Route 2, March 17.—This section was visited on March 14th, by one the most violent down-pours of rain that has been for many years. The land was washed, and damaged very much. Plant beds were washed some and totally ruined, cloth and all. Bottom land was washed considerably, some report being damaged 4 to 5 hundred dollars. The Little Yadkin was supposed by the oldest men to the highest for twenty years, washing away bridges, foot logs and rendering lots of fords impassable for several days.

It seems that the 14th is a very unlucky day. Twelve months ago on the 14 of March the shooting occurred at the Hillsville, Va., court house, one month later, the 14th of April, the Titanic was sunk, and on the 14th of May this section was visited by a severe wash-out.

Would like for some one to note the happening on the 14th for this year.

Mr. T. H. Hamm has accepted a position with the Southern Express Co. at Greensboro.

SCRIBBLER.

### The Mothers' Favorite.

A cough medicine for children should be harmless. It should be pleasant to take. It should be effectual. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is all of this and is the mothers' favorite everywhere. For sale by all dealers.

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RICHMOND - VIRGINIA

### WHERE WAS MR. OLIVER ?

A Remarkable Sight Near King— Paying the Mud Tax.

King, March 19.

Editor Reporter :

I saw a remarkable sight near the King Fair Ground a few days ago. A wagon loaded with a sawmill carriage, which weighed probably not over 1,500 pounds, was stuck fast in the mud, the hind wheels being sunk to the axles. Four mules and four steers were hitched to the wagon, and they pulled and tugged long and painfully, while twelve men beat and cursed the animals, but they could not move the load.

What does Mr. Oliver think of this.

GOOD ROADS MAN.

The people of Mt. Airy Township will vote on the 17th day of April, next, on the question of issuing \$80,000 bonds for good roads in Mount Airy Township.

### Chronic Stomach Trouble Cured

There is nothing more discouraging than a chronic disorder of the stomach. Is it not surprising that many suffer for years with such an ailment when a permanent cure is within their reach and may be had for a trifle? "About one year ago," says P. H. Beck, of Wakelee, Mich., "I bought a package of Chamberlain's Tablets, and since using them I have felt perfectly well. I had previously used any number of different medicines, but none of them were of any lasting benefit." For sale by all dealers.

### It Pays to Know How to Do Things.

Two years ago, at Melville, on the farm of Mr. R. W. Scott, Haw River, N. C., I saw as fine (unintentional) a demonstration in corn raising as you will ever see. He had a negro tenant, whom he said he had to give a corn crop, and let him work it his own way, in order to command his labor for the balance of the year. He worked 15 acres in corn—in the old way—plowing with one-horse plow—chopping with hoe—having help from his wife and son. Mr. Scott's 14-year-old son worked 2.35 acres right adjoining—divided only by a farm road. This boy did his full quota of chores around the house: (milking five cows and feeding about 40 hogs) and did all the work on his corn—broke his ground early, subsoiled it, used a corn planter, and double cultivator. Both had an unlimited supply of stable manure. The tenant made 201 bushels on his 15 acres. The boy made 206 bushels on his 2.35 acres.

X. X.

### Are You Constipated?

If so, get a box of Dr. King's New Life Pills, take them regularly and your trouble will quickly disappear. They will stimulate the liver, improve your digestion and get rid of all the poisons from system. They will surely get you well again. 25c at all druggists.

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