

## THE DANBURY REPORTER

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## The Principle Of The Square Deal

In the last issue of the Reporter appeared an article from Mr. H. McGee, our former representative in the legislature, with reference to Stokes county finances, schools, roads, etc. Mr. McGee's article, which was carefully and ably written, makes some good points and carries out many of the ideas of the conservative but progressive tax-payers of the county. We quote from Mr. McGee's article, as follows:

"In the expenditure of money for roads, schools, bridges and all other internal improvements, due consideration should be given to a fair and equitable distribution of the same. All sections of Stokes county should have a square deal. Favoritism should not be known."

This is the correct sentiment, and is exactly the policy now being carried out—or attempted to be carried out—by our board of education, when by their budget of \$80,000 (Mr. McGee erroneously says \$100,000) they provide that the northern townships of the county shall have the same educational advantages that are now being enjoyed by Germanton, Walnut Cove, King, etc., but which at the same time will NOT raise the tax rate in Stokes county. At the present time there is gross favoritism being shown. The upper townships of Danbury, Big Creek, Peter's Creek and Snow Creek are not getting a square deal. The tax-payers of those townships are helping pay for the advantages which are being enjoyed at Germanton, Walnut Cove, King, etc., without sharing in the same. If the tax-payers of the northern townships must be taxed to help bear the expense of the fine educational advantages for the children of the southern townships, they are entitled to share in the same advantages, even if thereby the taxes of Stokes county should become more burdensome and higher than they already are. But when we are assured by our board of education that these superior opportunities shall also be enjoyed by Danbury, Lawsonville, Sandy Ridge and Francisco, WITHOUT COSTING AN ADDITIONAL DOLLAR TO THE TAX-PAYERS OF STOKES COUNTY, would not we be poor business men, and ungrateful fathers indeed, if we failed to accept the blessings offered us. How can this be done? By the wise provisions of the educational laws of our State, whereby under the workings of the State equalization fund, we receive back more than we give—what we receive from the State takes care of the interest on the investment, at the same time it provides a sinking fund that will pay the principal when it becomes due.

Mr. McGee makes the point that there should be a flat State rate to maintain the schools. At the present time the State is making Stokes county a present yearly of \$30,000 to assist its schools. Under his suggestion, the rich counties of the State should help the poorer counties meet their burdens of education. If this principle is correct as to the State, we see no reason why it should not also be applied to the counties, and by the same rule Germanton, Walnut Cove, King, etc., should help the northern townships bear the expense of their schools, when the northern townships are helping Germanton, Walnut Cove, King, etc., bear the expense of their superior educational advantages. This advantage is being withheld from the northern townships now—unjustly, inequitably and unfairly. Let the principle of the square deal rule. Let justice be done though the heavens fall, especially if it will not raise the tax rate in Stokes county, and we are assured by our board of education that it WILL NOT—and they are honest, intelligent and truthful men, is there any evidence to the contrary? How much stronger becomes the position of our board of education in asking for an \$80,000 budget, when by its provisions the principle enunciated for the State by Mr. McGee may be put in force in the county without costing the tax-payers of Stokes county an additional dollar.

The Reporter exceedingly regrets that our excellent board of county commissioners should not see wherein this arrangement would inure to the rich profit of the people and the tax-payers, as carrying out the wise and equitable spirit of our State educational laws, which are trying to place equal school facilities within the reach of every child in North Carolina. While the action of our county commissioners in its reactionary attitude on this vastly important question may be applauded in some quarters, we believe that their position will not be endorsed by a majority of the intelligent and progressive sentiment of the county, and that it is not the will of the people that the townships of Danbury, Peter's Creek, Big Creek and Snow Creek shall have "taxation without representation." But that they will stand for the principle of the square deal, so that the children of the northern townships of the county may have the same advantages for an education that their cousins to the south are enjoying—especially if it will NOT raise the tax rate in Stokes county.

We are authoritatively told that the failure of our county to take this advanced step in the great educational procession that goes forward in the State will be expensive to those communities that have adopted high schools. In other words, Walnut Cove will lose practically \$50,000; Germanton, \$35,000; Pinnacle, \$15,000; King, \$35,000 or \$40,000. How? By having their building funds thrown back upon them by the State. There will, moreover, not be an accredited high school in the county,

with the State support withdrawn. Some of the citizens of Walnut Cove and other communities, who are justly proud of their high schools, and who are now so assiduously working to prevent other communities of the county having the same advantages—even in the face of the assurance that thereby the tax rate in Stokes county will remain the SAME—may well put these facts in their pipes and smoke them. Let us repudiate the advantages which the State offers us, let Mr. McGee go to Raleigh and repeal the law which now presents us with \$30,000 a year, and let the State continue to neglect giving us a flat rate for all of the counties—our predicament will be ridiculous but sad. We will be rather in the position of the fellow who cut off his nose to spite his face.

Mr. McGee collaborates at length upon the mass meeting of the "citizens and tax-payers." We fear Mr. McGee is taking it quite too seriously. We fear he has been misinformed as to its size and importance. We are informed that several of the citizens and tax-payers of the county were not present, even some of the big ones, real tax-payers. Big old tax-payers like R. W. George, who pays more taxes than 50 average men, who is in favor of the county budget. Mr. George is a business man, of experience, years and sense. If he scented danger in educating the children of Stokes county—our greatest asset—you may bet your bottom dollar he would be fighting it. But when Mr. George sees that to provide the tax-payers of the upper half of the county with the same advantages that they are paying for in the lower half of the county—and the arrangement not costing the tax-payers of the county a single dollar more than they are already paying—it is a good investment. It is pathetic to see citizens of the very sections the law is trying to help, ignorantly opposing it. The same old situation that has been in evidence down through the centuries prevails in some cases—when the Master came to save them, they crucified Him. One of the main arguments advanced in the early days of our county against the law that kept the hogs and the cattle in the pasture instead of depreeding upon the neighbors, was that the snakes would bite everybody to death.

Mr. McGee says that the present financial condition of our county demands our best thought and judgment, and ventures the assertion that few people knew our real condition. This is again true, and if we mistake not, is not a recent discovery. If anybody in the last twenty-five years has known heads or tails of Stokes county finances, let him raise his hand. The present board of county commissioners is trying to find out, and is having the books audited, and we are glad to know that thanks to their business acumen, we shall soon know. Mr. McGee says it is a Democratic parade—and right here we wonder if Mr. McGee is as solicitous for the interests of the tax-payers as he is to bring the situation into politics. Which brings to mind the report which is now general that a new party is being formed, and will be duly announced, as soon as the mass meeting of citizens and tax-payers can get over its agony and give birth to it. Shrewd observers have even before this been guessing that the outcome would be a new party. One of those hybrid animals born of disappointed contracts, shattered peanut political ambitions, and unrequited grudges. We are wondering if it will have a tail, and if it will wail. Time will tell.

We believe that the most important question before the people today is taxes, but we decline to be with those who are alarmed over the embargoes laid on us by our roads and schools. These are the greatest blessings of the age, they cost money, the people voted for them, they wanted them, they needed them, and they are going to have them. We are quite willing to be taxed for our part of them, provided we get the same advantages that other sections are getting. But like Mr. McGee, we believe in the square deal. Give the lower part of the county its splendid schools, we are proud of them, but if we are taxed to help keep them going then let us have them, too, for our children.

Taxes—taxes—taxes—. We heard a fellow say the other day that he was figuring on leaving the county because taxes were so high. We asked him how much he paid, and he said \$50.00—about three times as much as he paid ten years ago on the same property. We asked him if he could buy a hen and chickens at the same price he paid ten years ago. He grudgingly admitted—no. Before he left, he admitted that he used to hire a hand at 50 cents a day. Now he paid \$2.50 when he could get one at all. That he used to sell tobacco at 6 cents, but he sold it at 20 now. That he used to put 15-cent half soles on his shoes when they became worn, but now he throws them away and gets a new pair at \$6.00. That he used to go to choppings singing down the road afoot with his axe on his shoulder. But now he rides in an automobile. That he then carried his hoes and his plows to the blacksmith shop to be repaired and sharpened. Now he tosses them in the junk pile, and buys new ones at the hardware store at seven times the price he paid ten years ago. That he used to get his Register of Deeds and Clerk of the Court at \$600.00 per year, but now he pays \$1800.00, and his Sheriff then cost him a thousand a year, while now the price is upwards of \$4,000. That the average cost of his automobile was \$400.00 per year to him, if he figured on depreciation, interest, tires, license plates, gas and wasted time joy riding to town after pop, and that figured on this basis, if there are 3,000 cars in the county, our luxury tax for cars alone is \$1,200,000 per year, while we are only paying less than \$200,000 per year to get protection to our lives and property, with our good roads and schools at our door. And that he was a darned fool to charge all the evils, extravagance, waste, and ruin of this sinful age to the two greatest blessings of the times—good roads and schools.

## SPECIAL NOTICES!

If you have a threshing machine, a steam engine, a milch cow, a mule or anything imaginable to sell let a little ad in the columns below find you a buyer. On the other hand, if you want to buy anything or if you have lost anything let an ad find it for you. The Reporter wants this little department used freely and it will be of great benefit to our patrons.

FOR RENT—A good 2-horse farm near Walnut Cove. See me if interested. W. F. BOWLES, Walnut Cove, N. C. 26aug21

TOBACCO FARM—For rent. One and one-half miles from Ether. Address or see, J. BALDWIN, Biscoe, N. C. 26aug2w

WANTED—White tenant for 2-horse farm, just east of Walnut Cove. Address Mrs. Lettie Hairston Dunklee, 701 Clover Street, 19aug2w Winston-Salem, N.C.

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## GAS PRICE WAR ON IN WEST

Motorists Are Happy With Prices 5 to 10 Cents Lower Than Before War Began.

Chicago, Aug. 22.—Motorists are wearing broad grins and their chariots are chugging merrily in four sections of the mid-west today as wars between rival dealers have brought tobogganning gasoline prices.

The hilarity highest in Decatur, Ill., where prices are the lowest. Three national concerns, attempting to drive out independents, have trimmed from 23 cents a gallon to 15 and 17 cents. Several of the smaller stations have succumbed, others have suspended until the war is over and others continue to fight.

In Wichita, Kans., where the fight has raged for months, approximately half of the stations are selling at 23 and 25 cents plus state tax of two cents a gallon. The larger companies price are 17.8, 18.8 and 20.8 plus the tax the latter being quotations of the Southern Oil Company of Indiana which has remained aloof.

Two rivals in Woonsocket, S. D., started it and the neutrals were compelled to follow suit for awhile and then suspended to let them fight it out. After six days the Lakeside garage was down to 17 cents and the Texaco representative to 18. The neutrals say they will resume when the "barthers" go broke or sign an armistice.

## Greensboro Man Confers With Henry Ford

W. G. Holman, head of the Southland Guano Co., was a Danbury visitor last week. He had just returned from Detroit, where he had a conference with Henry Ford. This is the second meeting that has taken place between these two men recently. Mr. Holman declines to discuss what took place at these meetings, but the fact that his business was of sufficient consequence to warrant a second interview indicates its importance. It has long been known that Mr. Holman has an intense desire to aid the farmer, and make the business of farming more profitable. Mr. Ford has likewise manifested great interest in the welfare of the farmer, and shown that he wants to help him, and even now he is recovering ammonium sulphate in large quantities as by-product from coal, and selling this through his agents at reasonable prices. It is therefore likely that developments may soon follow of immense importance to the farmers of this and adjoining states.

## REPORT OF S. S. CONVENTION

Total Enrollment In the Sunday Schools Of Stokes Is Only 3088—More Workers Are Badly Needed.

Pinnacle, N. C., Aug. 25, Danbury Reporter:

I am enclosing report of the County Sunday School Convention that was held at Quaker Gap church on August 11 and 12th. There were 18 Sunday Schools of the county represented at the convention. Reports were received from 32. There is probably 3 or 4 schools in the county that did not report.

The total enrollment of the county is 3088. Of this number only 670 are over 25 years old. The average attendance was 1812 or a little more than 50 per cent of the enrollment. The school having the largest attendance was Rose Bud, which has won the pennant for two years in succession for bringing the most people over 10 years of age to the convention.

We have in Stokes county about 25,000 people and about 7 per cent of them are enrolled in Sunday schools. I think we can understand better why this is when you read the following figures: We have in the county 10 ministers and of course 33 Sunday School Superintendents, out of this number we had 3 ministers to attend the convention, 2 of them were on the program and one of them left as soon his part was over. Of the 32 superintendents, 6 attended the convention and 17 teachers.

Personally I do not think we will ever build up our S. S. and accomplish what we should accomplish in this line of work unless we have better co-operation from our Ministers and leaders in Sunday School work. I am not writing this for the purpose of criticizing but hoping that it will arouse us to put forth more effort in the future. We ought by all means double our enrollment next year. If we do that we will only scratch the surface and still leave the fields that are white for harvest untouched. When we think of the great work that can be done through the Sunday School and how little is being done we certainly will fail in our duty if we do not give more time and attention to this work.

Yours very truly,  
J. L. CHRISTIAN,  
President Stokes County S. S. Con.

European Powers ambitious to annex the wealth of North Africa are finding too many Rifis in the loot.—Notfolk Virginian-Pilot.

An essayist writes that "the world never realizes what a poet has done until after he is dead," and then of course the fellow is safe.—Punch.

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