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VOL. XVI.

The Davidson Dispatch.

LEXINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1897.

NO. 10.

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THE SCHOOL QUESTION AGAIN

Mr. Editor: Thanking you for the space granted me, in your issue of last week, to call attention to the school law as amended by the last Legislature and also to the law providing for local taxation by townships, I now call further space in your valuable paper for some additional remarks upon these laws.

A public canvass and full discussion of them in all the townships of the county would be more satisfactory, and I would much prefer to meet the people face to face and talk with them and to them upon this most vital subject of public education; but as I hear of no movement in that direction, I adopt this as the only method open for the presentation of the subject. It is admitted on all hands that general public education is a good thing, and all thoughtful men will admit that it is a necessity in a country and government like ours. I notice in your issue of last week that you substantially concede this; although I am sorry to see you oppose local taxation.

It is also generally, if not universally conceded that our present public schools are wholly insufficient to meet the necessities of the case, and that we can never hope to educate the children without a better system and more money. Look for a moment at the present condition of the public schools in this county. The census for 1896 gives the number of children of school age, white 6,792; colored 1,864; enrolled in schools, white 4,615; colored 802; number of school districts, white 100; colored 31; average length of school term, white 13 1/2 weeks; colored 8 2/5 weeks; appropriated to the schools, white \$3,996.64, colored \$1,876.92. From these figures it appears that only about two-thirds of the white children and less than that proportion of the colored children of school age attend school at all. That single fact is an alarming one to any man who loves his State and wants to see it great and prosperous and free, but who knows it cannot become so while such a considerable proportion of its population is growing up in ignorance.

These figures further show that for children of school age there is a district for every 67 whites and one for 44 colored, and for children enrolled in school one for 46 white and one for 26 colored. What a misapplication and waste of public money? And even the children who are enrolled attend school, during the year, whites about one-fourth and colored about one-sixth of the time. And then when we reflect that men and women cannot afford to qualify themselves for teaching and devote themselves to it with such a prospect before them for employment in that most honorable vocation, we need not be astonished that much poor teaching is done and that our schools languish on that account. Look at the figures and think, and I believe you will join me in saying that our present system is not only inefficient and unsatisfactory, but it is in fact a burlesque on education!

It being conceded that public education is a necessity for a free State in order that it may continue free and become greatly prosperous, and that our present system is largely a failure, the inquiry naturally and inevitably arises in the mind of every patriot, what is to be done to meet this necessity and remedy this failure?

The two laws under consideration, formulated by enlightened patriots and urged by them upon the last Legislature and finally passed, will, if endorsed by the people go a long way, in my judgment, towards answering this inquiry, and will be the beginning of better and brighter days for our beloved State. For the first of these laws, chap. 109, of the laws of 1897, provides for better teachers and better methods of teaching. It also provides for township districts wherein schools shall be so established as to average at least 60 pupils each, thus securing longer terms and better schools. It also provides for a thorough and intelligent supervision of all the schools by competent

educators, besides other machinery—which I have not space to mention—for permanent improvement in our schools and school system.

The other law, chapter 421, provides for local taxation by townships, if the people endorse it.

And here I suppose is the rub. Money is scarce, people are poor and find it hard to make both ends meet. But they ought to be careful, lest getting frightened at taxation they do like the mule, which became frightened at something on one side of the bridge and backed off at the other and broke his neck! For taxation is not the most frightful thing that can come upon a people, but ignorance is. Ten cents on \$100 worth of property and 30 cents on the poll is not a heavy tax; and yet such a tax added to our present school fund and aided by better location of school houses will almost double the opportunity for the children to get an education.

Most tax-payers pay on a valuation of property under \$500 and would therefore have to pay a tax of 50 cents or less; \$1,000 would pay \$1; \$5,000, \$5, and so on, with the 30 cents poll tax added to each case where the person is within the poll-tax age. It does seem to me that men who own but little property would strain a point to pay this tax cheerfully; for what else can they give their children but education, and how else can they so cheaply help on their education as by paying this small tax?

And it further seems to me that men of means and large property would most cheerfully pay this tax, not only because they are best able to do so, but because it would be money profitably expended in the enhancement of the value of their property by the enlightenment of the community where their property is, besides the satisfaction to be derived from a consciousness of having helped to elevate and bless their neighbors by blessing their children.

Therefore it seems to me that all ought to vote for this tax in order to put our public schools on a better basis and start our State on a new career of prosperity and greatness.

To accomplish a work so great as the establishment of our public schools on a permanent foundation, so that they will secure to all the children of the State the blessings of education, will require some sacrifice and self-denials. Of course it is cheap. Time, money, co-operation of all the people and patience—these are the price of a great boon. Will we pay it? Will we invest something in the minds and hearts of our children and thus prepare them to become useful citizens and a blessing to the State? That is the question. How will you vote on it? Yes or No?

But this communication, even with this insufficient statement of the purport and effects of those laws, is going too long and I must stop. There ought to be public discussion, especially of the question of local taxation, so that the subject could be presented fully and public interest awakened to the approaching election. No question of more importance, in my opinion, was ever submitted to the voters of North Carolina. It is a question affecting the weal of the State, not for the present only, but for all the generations of the long future.

As I write and think about it the old campaign fire—not partisan fires, for it is no party question—burn within me and I would rejoice to see the people rally, not to put this or that man in this or that little office, but rally to decide the great question whether their own and their neighbor's children shall have more light, more knowledge, more truth, more character, more fitness for greater usefulness, and in deciding that question, also settle this other, whether North Carolina shall march in the van of civilization in this county and contribute her full share to the glories of this great Republic.

Very Respectfully,
F. C. ROHMES.

What a Horse Can Do.

An ordinary horse will walk a mile in twenty minutes; and he will gallop a mile in from 3 to 4 minutes.

He weighs as much as seven men and is as strong as five men. He can pull a weight of 900 lbs. without wheels on a dead level.

He can lift 300 tons ten feet high in a working day or eight hours.

He attains his greatest size when five years old, usually lives sixteen years, but may reach the ripe old age of twenty-five.

A Shoe for Luck.

That choice wit, the local editor of the Concord Standard is the author of the following:

"The colored settlement in the upper edge of the county was the scene of a high-toned wedding last Tuesday. The audience had been said, and the newly married pair were about entering a two-mule wagon at the rural villa of groom, when the 'best man' lopeped to the front with the conventional old shoe which in this instance happened to be a case of No. 11 brogan of the bride's father and weighed four pounds net, to say nothing of a half pound of dry mud that clung to the heel and instep.

The shoe hurler studded himself and amidst a burst of applause, let fly the token of good luck. His aim was faultless, the shoe striking the bride in the burr of the ear and knocking her senseless. Blood trickled from the wound, and at the sight of this the groom became frenzied with rage and made for the best man with a razor. In the general tumult the mules took fright and ran away, and the bridal trip thus came to a sudden and unexpected halt. A warrant charging the shoe thrower with assault and battery upon the bride is about to be sworn out at once and the next round in the matrimonial melee will likely be fought with the justice of peace as referee."

Take No Chances.

The Chicago Times-Herald prints a story about a peculiar old justice of the peace who formerly held sway in a town in Southern Indiana. His idea of justice, and of the best way of arriving at it, was no doubt queer, and yet a majority of readers will know how to sympathize with him.

On one occasion, after all the evidence was in and the plaintiff's attorney had made an elaborate argument, the defendant's attorney arose to begin his plea. "Hold on there!" said the court. "I don't believe I can let you proceed, Mr. Smith. I have a very clear idea now of the guilt of the prisoner at the bar, and anything from you at this time would have a tendency to confuse the court. I know the man is guilty now, and I don't want to take any chances."

Indebtedness of Our Cities.

The following is said to be the indebtedness of the principal cities in North Carolina:

Fayetteville,	\$ 49,500
Asheville,	781,500
Wilmington,	750,000
Winston,	400,000
Kaleigh,	207,000
Durham,	173,950
Charlotte,	175,000
Greensboro,	150,000
Wilson,	92,250
Newbern,	48,500
Bonded indebtedness of the State of North Carolina,	\$6,080,000.

Don't Blame them for Fusing.

Sometimes we cease to wonder why the Democrats of Wake county desire to fuse with the Populist. We observe that Jim Young, the black politician and blatherskite, holds the key to the situation in Republican circles at Raleigh over the postoffice contest. A white man would almost be willing to fuse with anything to get out from under the dominion of such a sweet smelling crowd as he leads.

It is reported that at least twenty cotton mills in the two Carolinas will close down for the remainder of the season so soon as the limited supply of cotton is exhausted. They will await the new crop before resuming business. This means shut mills to the latter part of September for North Carolina. Raleigh makes a statement that explains why this shutting down will come:

"The last crop of cotton raised in the Carolinas has practically disappeared. Although the cost of hauling cotton from New Orleans and Mississippi, where all now used must come from, has been reduced to the minimum by the reduction of rates by the railroads, we find that in the present low and unsatisfactory condition of the market it will not pay us to buy cotton at a distance, and we must, perforce, shut down until the new crop comes in."

Why is "this thus" if general prosperity is already here?—Wilmington Messenger.

Mooreville will have a big Masonic picnic on Thursday, August 5th. Col. Julian S. Carr will deliver the address. A collection will be taken for the Oxford Orphan Asylum. There will be a bicycle tournament, a horseback tournament and a chapter of orphans from the Oxford asylum will give a concert.

Blinds at this office.

SOME REFORMS.

The Legislature's Idea of Local Self-Government.

The hypocrisy of the "reformers" in their profession for "local self-government" was forcibly illustrated in every county in North Carolina on last Monday. In the campaign in 1894 and 1896 the "reform" speakers and newspapers cried out loudly and lustily for "local self-government" or, as some of them called it, "for the right of the people to govern themselves" by electing their own officers. And yet, strange to say, these "reformers" have not allowed the people to have a vote or voice in the election of a single, solitary officer of their public schools!

Had you thought of this? On the first Monday in June a county hoery county, or the county of every county, was elected in every county—not by the people—but by the county commissioners, the clerk of the Superior Court and the clerk of the county board of education, the register of deeds and the clerk of the court. And on the same day, five school committees in every township were elected—not by the people—but by the county board of education.

And thus it is, the management of all our public schools in every county is entrusted to officers not one of whom is elected by the people!

And this is "reform"!

Another illustration of the "reformers'" idea of "local self-government" is seen in the arbitrary power given three men in every county—the county commissioners—to decide whether or not any spirituous liquors shall be sold. Instead of allowing the voters of any township to decide for themselves whether or not they are in favor of prohibition, the late "reform" Legislature has given the arbitrary power to the county commissioners to decide this important question. So that now, according to this "reform" of our last Legislature, three men in any county in this State can establish prohibition in their county, even if everybody else in the county is opposed to it!

This is "local self-government" with a vengeance!

Killed on the Excursion.

When the car inspectors at Salisbury went to look over the Winston excursion train that spent Monday and most of Monday night of last week in Charlotte, they found flesh and blood and pieces of clothing clinging to the trucks and wheels. There was blood on the tender's rear truck. This causes the belief that the unfortunate victim either fell or was pushed from the front platform of the first car. Some railroad men think the man killed must have been on a ramp riding the "blind baggage." Nobody on the excursion knew anything about it. The body of a negro was found on the track several miles south of Salisbury, the head being split in two, a leg cut off, and the body otherwise mutilated.

The Salisbury Sun says many "are of the opinion that the man was pushed off as there had been some quarrelling on board the train."

The Salisbury World says the remains were those of a negro woman, "whose identity is thus far a mystery."

This is Too Cruel.

The New York Tribune told its readers that the strike of the miners was due to the heavy imposition of foreign coal induced by the low rate under the Wilson tariff. The Springfield Republican answered by showing that the average yearly importations increased at a more rapid rate under the Wilson act. After giving the figure in detail, the Republican adds:

"But if the Wilson law reduced the coal duty and so reduced the wages of miners, the new tariff is to advance the duty to about the old figure, and why then do the coal operators stand out against an immediate restoration of wages? Why this resistance to passing along the benefits of the higher rates, carried to the point of paralyzing industry, throughout a large section of country?"

This is too overwhelmingly cruel. If the Republican exposes a few more of the Tribune's inaccuracies, the Republican party will not even have the semblance of a case.

Mary had a little lamb that time has passed away. No lamb could follow up the pace our Mary sets to-day. For now she rides the air-shod wheel, in skirts too short by half; no lambkin shares her airy flight, but you can see her call—Times

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Correspondence of THE DISPATCH.

Having been requested by so many of my friends to express my views on the school question, I now begin with this article to comply with their request.

There are some things asserted in regard to the late school law that I do not understand. Some say that every district (township) that votes the school tax will get one dollar for every dollar paid until it has received \$500 from the State.

Now we learn from the law that the State has appropriated only \$50,000 with which to comply with its own proposition. Let us take Davidson county for example—say there are 17 townships in the county and each township, by voting the tax, gets \$400, then the seventeen townships will draw \$6,800. At this rate 96 counties, or the entire State would require an appropriation of \$652,800 to comply with her own proposition.

I want to be understood to be in favor of a special school tax that is sufficient to run a five months' school within the reach of every child in North Carolina. But I am not favorable to a tax which makes such a wild proposition as the above. If the letter and spirit of the law is enforced as Dr. McIver explains it, its object is to reduce the number of schools and give longer terms and better qualified teachers at higher salaries. Now suppose the law stands as it now is for 10 years; all the children born now will be ten years old, and all now 6. (Age to enter school) will be 16. Out of the vast number of children of these ages, there will be a certain per cent. in almost every township denied the benefit of days of schooling because of the distance.

Dr. McIver, in his strong appeal to vote for the tax, warns against a violation of the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." If I understand this Divine injunction it forbids selfishness upon the part of any of God's creature. If I were to vote a tax upon men that would give all to some and none to others I would certainly be guilty of a violation of the Divine Rule.

We find this other objection to the law—it gives township committees entirely too much power. They can, if of broad judgment and sound views on education do a great deal for the benefit of our schools. But if we judge from the past we may expect neglect and many mistakes, as there is so much work to do for no pay.

It is not the tax the people are objecting to so much, as it is the law. It takes so much money to run the machine that a large portion of the money is gone before it reaches the people. Dr. McIver represents it as a great crime for the people to vote down the school tax. Some of us have had a great deal to do with the people in one public way or another, as well as he, and our experience is that when they are called upon to support a measure that is legitimate and for the best interest of all they rarely fail to help support it.

It is my honest opinion that our people are not guilty of the crime alleged against them for not voting a tax under the existing circumstances upon themselves. The increased appropriations to State institutes, and the ruinous changes made in our school law are enough to cause the people to call a halt, and say no to school taxation.

If we view the whole matter from a fair standpoint it appears only a little less than criminal to men, as some are doing, to vote a tax upon such conditions as have been proposed.

Every reasonable man must admit that there is a just cause for dissatisfaction with both white and colored. The colored people once had their school committee without exercising any authority over white schools, now, the present law makes it impossible for them to have any control over their own without having the same control over the white schools. While there is just reason for complaint let us lay all the blame to whom it belongs. There are none so much in fault as those who dictated and passed the law.

Let us for the sake of education make the very best of the law we can.

Good officers will help the cause greatly—and we believe we have as good men as our county affords consulting our county Board of Education; men who will do what they believe to be best for both white and colored. Someone has said, "Education and Christianity are twin sisters." We know, at least, they bear a very intimate relationship. So let us realize the great responsibility resting upon us, and do all in our power for the cause of education. I. M. ROBERT.

DEMOCRATS NOT RESPONSIBLE.

The Winston Republican and the Progressive Farmer seek to evade responsibility for the passing of the odious machinery act by saying that Democrats, as well as Republicans and Populists, voted for it. Mr. J. A. Hartness, editor of the Statesville Mascot, who was a member of the House from Iredell, gives the facts as follows, in answer to the publications alluded to above:

"As to the second proposition, both the members of the House from Iredell and Mr. Watts, of Alexander, together with all other Democrats in the House with one exception, voted against this measure, as can be seen by the recorded yeas and nays vote in the House journal, page 930, now in the Mascot office. It cannot be said that there was not a thorough understanding on the part of the majority members of the House, of the import of sections 52 and 53, which makes non payment of taxes indictable; for, while the House was considering the revenue act, the matter was discussed and section 52 was stricken out, but reinstated on another reading by the vote of the majority element of the House. The bill was then put upon its third and final reading and passed, though every Democrat present, with one exception, voted against it. The vote was: Yeas 84, nays 27. So that the Democrats are not responsible for the hardships which this law will impose upon the people. They did their duty. There should have been more of them."

They Got Him Good.

Durham Sun.
The maddest editor in the State resides in a neighboring city. One evening last week he attended a social given at a private residence, and during the evening the ladies organized a hugging bee, the proceeds to go to the church. Prices were graded according to the person to be hugged. For instance, for hugging a young inexperienced girl you had to give up 10 cents; married women brought 15 cents and widows a quarter. Old maids come in a bunch for 9 cents. Well, our friends were blindfolded, and giving up 15 cents said he would take a married woman. After he had hugged 15 cents worth the bandage was removed from his eyes, and lo and behold, he was hugging his own wife. Then he wanted his fifteen cents back.

10 REASONS WHY

The Fidelity Mutual Life Association, of Philadelphia, operating the "Fouse Plan," is the best all-around company in which to insure.

1. Careful selection and management have rendered the death rate phenomenally low, (\$7.72 per \$1000. mean insurance) and the ratio of assets to liabilities exceptionally high, (\$1097 assets, to each \$100. liabilities.)
2. The rates based on past insurance experience, are about 30 per cent. below the "old line" rates.
3. The rates are itemized, with the expense element separately stated, and limited to less than half the usual charge.
4. The mortality element of rates, available for current losses is 50 per cent. greater than under the legal reserve method, and yet the total cost of the insurance is much less.
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6. Not an investment company; life insurance pure and simple. The insured is left to invest his own money in his own way, no routine or endorsement decisions.
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8. Values not fixed by statute law, but by the inexorable laws of finance and mortality, thus avoiding technical impairment.
9. Premiums are stipulated by the directors in the light of insurance experience, and not regulated by an arbitrary legal standard.
10. Strict and reciprocal mutuality. Policies participate in surplus. Reserve guarded by our famous "Safety Clause."

Can we quote your rates for your age? Write or call on S. W. FISCH, Agent, Lexington, N. C.

Or Burkhead & Parwell, General Agents, Raleigh, N. C.

Reliable Agents wanted, to whom good contracts will be given.

The Senate refused to put the Bills on the free list. No doubt Hanna is paying of the Gospel Trust that pulled for him in New York points and elsewhere.

Killed in a Sham Battle.

At a sham battle of the Governor's Guards at Pullen park Raleigh, on the night of the 13th, G. N. Banks, a member of the Guards, who was taking part in the battle, was shot and almost instantly killed. It cannot be ascertained who is responsible for the loaded cartridge. It seems that the cartridges were examined very closely before giving out by the captain and first and second lieutenants, and owing to the difference in the weight of a loaded and a blank cartridge it is hard to account for the accident. No loaded cartridges have been given out by the company for over two years.

A Robie Officer.

The record made by Sam. L. Rogers in the office of collector of internal revenue is a record in which the Democracy of the Ninth district can feel justly proud. His conduct of the office has been notably clean and efficient and the records kept by the watchful agents of Uncle Sam at Washington will bear testimony to the fact.

A Solar Eclipse.

On the 29th of this month one of those phenomena will take place that from time immemorial have never failed to engage the attention of mankind—a solar eclipse. Even those that are quite familiar with the causes that produce it, and may even be capable of understanding the intrinsic calculations necessary for its prediction, cannot suppress a feeling of awe on beholding this most interesting of all the phenomena of nature. The eclipse will be an annular one, visible on this continent as a partial one. In our latitude it will begin at half-past 8 o'clock in the morning and end twelve minutes past 11 o'clock.

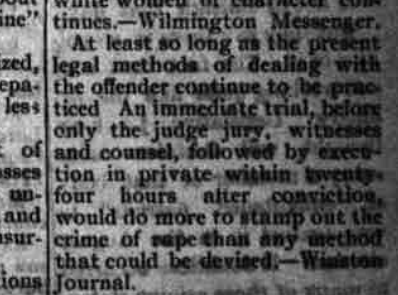
Will Wear Overalls.

Kansas City, Mo., July 19.—The police department of this city began to day working women in the chain gang on the streets and roads, breaking stone the same as the men prisoners. The city authorities say they consider that idleness is not a sufficient punishment for women, and they must be put at hard labor, as the men are. The women will wear coarse overalls, and will have no skirts to impede their work.

Governor Russell offers \$100, reward for the arrest of the perpetrators of a strange crime April 1st. The body of an unknown man was found floating in the French Broad river in Buncombe county. The coroner held an inquest and the jury was of opinion that the body was that of William Vestal. There seems to be no clue whatever to the murderer of murders.

The Georgia bar rather leans toward lynching. It is certain that lynchings will continue so long as assaulting defenceless white women of character continues.—Wilmington Messenger.

At least so long as the present legal methods of dealing with the offender continue to be practiced. An immediate trial, before only the judge, jury, witnesses and counsel, followed by execution in private within twenty-four hours after conviction, would do more to stamp out the crime of rape than any method that could be devised.—Winston Journal.



Beautiful eyes give soft and blue, 25000 with years still young, beautiful, without makeup, like Louise Johnson with every day. We shall be young and look like Louise Johnson with every day.

Preserve Your Hair
and your complexion
with
"The Hair Restorer"
which
restores
the hair
to its
natural
color
and
prevents
it from
falling
out.

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parts
of
the
country.