

**THE MONROE JOURNAL.**

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The push of news and advertising matter takes up all the editorial space this week—sorry, can't help it.

**Concerning the Recorder's Court.**  
To the Editor:—  
I have received the following request: "Mr. W. J. Pratt; I noticed in last week's Enquirer an article attempting to show that the Recorder's Court was expensive to the tax payers of the county. I have always believed the court a good thing, but if it is not I would like to know it. Will you please publish the facts concerning the operation of the same?"

(Signed): T. J. W. BROOM.  
The article signed "Taxpayer," attacking the Recorder's Court, which appeared in the Enquirer of last Thursday, showed such an ignorance of the facts, or such a wilful perversion of the truth, that I am glad of the opportunity called forth by Mr. Broom's letter to lay the truth before the people of Union county. The plain purpose of that article was to give the people of the county, outside of Monroe, the impression that they are bearing the burden of the Recorder's Court and that Monroe gets all the benefit. The records of the court for the last year, October 1st, 1911, to October 1st, 1912, tell an entirely different story from "Taxpayer's" unsupported statements. Here they are:

The number of cases tried in the Recorder's Court during the last year was 636. In 573 of these the defendants were found guilty, and \$1,917.50 was imposed as fines, 22 years and 8 months in road sentences, and \$3,429 was the amount of costs imposed upon and paid by these defendants. In 61 cases the defendants were acquitted, and the rest of the cases were those in which nol. pros. was taken, and preliminary hearings. About 400 of the cases were from within the city limits, and about 300 from elsewhere in the county. There were 317 cases within a magistrate's jurisdiction, and 319 were formerly within the original jurisdiction of the Superior Court. To the amount of fines imposed there was added \$42 from forfeited bonds, making a total of \$1,959.50, all of which went to the general county school fund, and the city of Monroe's share of that was just about one-tenth; so more than \$1,700 went to the school fund in the county outside of Monroe, LESSENING to that extent the burden of the taxpayers of the county.

Of the \$3,429 costs imposed upon and paid by the convicted defendants, the various magistrates and constables of the county received about \$800 in fees; about \$600 of it went to the city treasury as fees from arrests made and subpoenas served by the policemen of the city, who are under salary. This leaves a balance of \$2,000, half of which went to the county treasury and half to the city treasury. In addition to this the aggregate of road sentences for the year having been 22 years and 8 months, the costs in those cases were paid by the chain gang board, which costs are also divided between the city and county. I have not had time to ascertain the exact amount of these costs paid by the chain gang board, but it is a low estimate to place the amount from that source, which is divided between the county and city, at \$400.

For the salary of the recorder the county paid last year \$360, and for the salary of the prosecuting attorney \$240; a total of \$600. The city of Monroe paid the same amount. "Taxpayer" said, "We pay the sub-recorder \$240 a year." Here is the law regulating the salary of the sub-recorder: "The sub-recorder shall be paid equally by the city of Monroe and the county of Union the sum of \$2 for each case tried by him which has been moved upon the affidavit of either party to the action: Provided, the sub-recorder shall not receive more than \$20 for any one calendar month. That in each and every case where the defendant is convicted by the recorder or sub-recorder a fee of fifty cents, to be known as the sub-recorder's fee, shall be taxed in the bill of costs in addition to the other costs, which fee shall be paid to the city of Monroe and county of Union in equal proportions." (Chapter 449, Private Laws of North Carolina, Session of 1911.) Under this law the sub-recorder has not received more than \$70 during the last year, but the "sub-recorder's fee," equally divided between the city and county, amounted to about \$285 during the same time. So we have the actual salaries, paid by the city and county together, during the year just past, \$720.00 to the recorder, \$70.00 to the sub-recorder, and \$480.00 to the prosecuting attorney, making a total of \$1,270.00.

Under the law, the deputy clerk of the Superior Court is ex-officio clerk of the recorder's court. The deputy clerk of the Superior Court receives a salary of \$45.00 a month, or \$540.00 a year. "Taxpayer" adds this whole sum to the salaries paid to officers of the recorder's court, which is manifestly unfair. (Indeed, "Taxpayer" in his anxiety to load the recorder's court with everything in and out of sight, adds nearly the whole salary of the Clerk of Superior Court to his list of salaries in the recorder's court.)

But allowing \$20.00 of the \$45.00 a month paid to the deputy clerk of Superior Court as the recorder's court part of that salary, there is \$240.00 a year to be added to the \$1270.00 above mentioned, making \$1510.00 as the whole amount of salaries paid to officers of the recorder's court in one year, instead of \$3,000.00, as asserted in "Taxpayer's" article.

Now, set off against this \$1510.00 expenses, the \$2,000.00 that was divided between the city and the county from costs paid by defendants, the \$400.00 divided between the city and county from the costs paid by the chain gang board, and the \$1,700.00 that went to the school fund of the county outside of Monroe, and then ask Mr. "Taxpayer" to explain how the "recorder's court is a burden on the taxpayers of the county," as he says it is. It seems to me the taxpayers of the county would like to have some more "burdens" like that placed upon them.

"Taxpayer" says that "three-fourths of the time of this court is taken up trying petty violations of town ordinances." It is a sufficient answer to that statement to point out the fact that of the 636 cases tried this last year up to October 1st, 349 were cases formerly within the original jurisdiction of the Superior Court, and only 317 within the jurisdiction of a magistrate or mayor; and of these 317 cases only about one-third, or a little more than 100 were for violations of town ordinances.

If "Taxpayer" had desired to get the real facts about the recorder's court, he could have easily gotten them from the records. They are public property. He says, "The advocates of this court are good hands at juggling figures." If the above figures are juggled, he has the opportunity and means of showing it.

He talks about the people of the county "being brought away twelve miles from home at a loss of ten dollars to testify in a nigger fighting scrape that ought to have been settled before the nearest justice of the peace." Now, he knows, or ought to know, that if the justice of the peace has jurisdiction to settle any such case, he can settle it without sending it to the recorder's court. The justices of the peace outside of Monroe have the very same jurisdiction and the same right of exercising it as they had before the recorder's court was established. And he also knows, or ought to know, that the 349 cases tried, where the Superior Court formerly had original jurisdiction, would, in the absence of a recorder's court, have been heard by the magistrates, and the defendants bound over to the Superior Court for trial, thereby entailing further attendance of witnesses, additional expense and loss of time. It would also require defendants to employ counsel in both the magistrate's court and the Superior Court, and thus give counsel double fees. Furthermore, it would require those defendants who are bound over and unable to give bond to be kept in the county jail at the county's expense until the next criminal term of Superior Court.

"Taxpayer" says again, "We have as many terms of the Superior Court as we had before the recorder's court was created." If he is as familiar with terms of Superior Court as he claims to be, he knows as well as everybody else knows, who has anything at all to do with the Superior Court, that since the recorder's court was established the criminal terms of Su-

perior Court have been concluded in three or four days, instead of taking one or two weeks as formerly.

Who is "Taxpayer," anyhow? He makes a noise like a lawyer, and if he would come out in the open and declare himself instead of hiding behind an assumed title, it is a pretty sure thing that the only taxes he pays is a poll tax and the five-dollar tax on lawyers. He says he wants to relieve the citizens of the "burden of taxes put upon them by the recorder's court;" but what he really wants is to get his clients into the BIG COURT, and get them scared so as to charge them bigger fees.

He also makes a noise so like the following plank in the County Republican platform adopted at the Republican county convention in the court house on July 13, 1912, that it is pretty clear that the mind and hand that devised and wrote that plank, or someone else using that plank as a text, either wrote or instigated the "Taxpayer" article. Listen!

"We condemn the Democratic party for foisting on the people without an election the Recorder's Court of Monroe, which is in name as well as fact a city court, but more than half of the expenses of which are borne by the county. We are opposed to the taxing of the people of the county to punish the violation of the city of Monroe's ordinances. We are opposed to trying our people before a one man court. We are opposed to the creation of jobs for politicians without the consent of the people. And we pledge ourselves to leave to a vote of the people the question of the continuance of the Recorder's Court."

The Republican platform, of which the above is a plank, was adopted before the Democratic primary was held. The County Board of Elections, consisting of two Democrats and one Republican, one of the Democrats being avowedly opposed to the Recorder's Court, and voting with the Republican on the question of having a vote on the Recorder's Court at this election, (the other Democrat, the chairman, not voting) WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER TO ORDER A VOTE ON THE QUESTION, has taken upon itself, within a couple of weeks of the general election, this means of using their official position to carry out a scheme to further their private ends, and to carry out the plank adopted by the Republicans in their county convention. There is the nigger in the woodpile and that's how he got in. Knowing this, are the people of Union county going to let him steal the wood?  
W. J. PRATT.

**Notice of Sale of City Property.**  
Notice is hereby given that the City of Monroe will expose for sale to the highest bidder at public auction, at the court house door in Monroe, N. C., on

MONDAY, NOV. 11th, 1912, at 12 o'clock M., the following described lots of land:  
First Lot—The lot of land on Bryan street, in the eastern part of the City of Monroe, now owned by the City, on which the City recently sank two artesian wells.  
Second Lot—The lot of land lying in the Northern part of the City of Monroe, known as the City's Rock Quarry lot.  
Terms of sale: Cash.  
For further information apply to the Mayor or City Clerk.  
This October 9, 1912.  
J. E. EPHRD, Mayor.  
P. H. JOHNSON, City Clerk.



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Our Goodman's Zig-Zag Stitch, Western Well Made and Schoolmate Shoes for Boys and Girls are reliable and honest. These shoes are bought in quantities that commands the lowest factory prices. Every pair sold means a satisfied customer. All the best leathers used and shapes are now in stock at prices to suit all.

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T. L. CROWELL, Collector.

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For sale by all dealers.

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In Franklin county, Saturday night, Charlie Person, colored, went home drunk and abused his wife and children. One of his small sons got a rifle and shot his father dead.

**We still have a few of those good mules left. We have several pairs that are beauties.**

**We want your buggy trade. We keep the best grades to be had. Give us a chance before you buy.**

**If your buggy needs new rubber tires, we have expert blacksmiths to do the work.**

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**FINE LIVERY.**  
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Monroe, - North Carolina.

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An unusually fine assortment of hats at the following prices:

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\$3.00 Hats	-----	\$1.75
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1.50 Hats	-----	1.00

All colors, rough finish, something new

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In fact, this is the Great All-Round dry goods, clothing, shoe, hat, general merchandise and grocery house of this section.

See US Before You Buy Anything.

**Grow Bros. Cash Store.**