

THE MONROE JOURNAL
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1920.

NO MAYOR'S COURT WANTED.

Having concluded that it was impossible to abolish the Recorder's court, a certain clique, this paper learns, is seeking to "clip" the wings of that august personage who presides in the county's lower temple of justice by restoring to the Mayor of Monroe the power to try all criminal cases except those involving a felony. To gain this end, advocates of the plan are creating sectional prejudice by telling the people of Monroe that should the Mayor's court be revived, the city schools would receive all of the fines imposed on law violators, whereas they are now receiving but a small part of the fines collected for convictions.

It's isn't so. Section 5, article 9, of the state constitution, effectively disposes of this argument, as follows: "All moneys, stocks, bonds, and other property belonging to a county school fund; also, the net proceeds from the sale of estrays; also, the clear proceeds of all penalties and forfeitures, and of all fines collected in the several counties for any breach of the penal or military laws of the state; and all moneys which shall be paid by persons as an equivalent for exemption from military duty, shall belong to and remain in the several counties, and shall be faithfully appropriated for establishing and maintaining free public schools in the several counties of this state; Provided, that the amount collected in each county shall be annually reported to the superintendent of public instruction."

This section of the constitution has been tested in the courts time and time again, the judges invariably holding that fines imposed for violations of the criminal laws cannot be used for any other purpose than for common school purposes, to be expended under the direction of the state and county superintendents of public instruction. The city of Greensboro was not only enjoined from appropriating fines collected in its city court for city school purposes, but was forced to pay to the common school fund of Guilford county several hundred dollars in back fines that had been thus misappropriated.

The city would have absolutely nothing to gain by the restoration of the Mayor's court. It would have to increase the salary of its Mayor, as no man competent to dispense justice would accept the office at a salary of sixty dollars a month; and would continue to bear a proportionate part of the cost of maintaining the Recorder's court.

Of course the scheme on foot is to eventually do away with the Recorder's court, but the leaders in the movement have apparently failed to take into calculation the views of the people. As a whole, the people recognize the Recorder's court to be a worthy institution; and it is childish to think that they will stand supinely aside while it is to all practical intents destroyed.

In a recent issue The Journal pointed out that no matter how high property was assessed under the Revaluation act no especial hardship was worked upon the tax-payers if the assessments were uniform throughout the county and state. Generally, people agree that the assessments are more equalized in the county than ever before; and so far as the state is concerned, Union county land was assessed but sixty-three cents above the average for the whole state, and few will claim that it is worth less than the average land. The average market value of North Carolina land, as reported by the United States department of agriculture, is seventy-five dollars per acre for 1920; while it was assessed for taxation on an average of \$39.77 an acre, less than two-thirds of its marketable value.

Most men are artists when it comes to coloring the truth.

AMERICA AFTER TWO WARS.

"Can't you newspaper men strike an optimistic note, or write in an encouraging vein,—anything to cheer the farmers up?" asked Mr. J. C. Austin, of Marshville township, while in Monroe on Wednesday.

Although Mr. Austin did not specify the kind of "optimism" he desired, we take it that he would be delighted to read a prophecy of better times, of a return of the days of "francized finance," when a vacant store room and a little credit, or a few acres of land and some supplies, were the only requisites for the foundation of a good-sized fortune. Those days are past. In a few years we will look upon it all as a dream. Old men will refer to the period between the years of 1817 and 1921 as the golden age of the South, a period when opportunities to "get rich quick" were in abundance, when no man suffered for even the luxuries of life, when the silk shirt was the rule rather than the exception, and when even common labor earned fabulous sums, in many cases the equivalent of the salary of a highly-trained business or professional man. No such times will again be seen by the present generation.

But we can point out scores and scores of things which we have to be thankful for, and which point towards real prosperity, not the paper or fictitious wealth, of which we have been boasting, and the loss of which so keenly affects many of us. It is in the nature of a comparison of the periods following our two greatest wars, the Confederate and World wars. It was written by John H. Patterson, president of the National Cash Register Company, and reads, as follows:

Table comparing United States after the World War (1914-1918) and United States after the Civil War (1861-1865). The table lists 25 points of comparison, such as 'Creditor nation', 'Paper currency at a discount', 'War left large part of country devastated', etc.

Farm Land Tax Values in Carolina
Per Acre, by Counties, in 1920 and 1919

Based on Report of State Tax Commission on Revaluation, Aug. 10, 1920.
Rural Social Science Department, University of North Carolina.
Average market value in 1920, \$75 per acre, as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture; average tax value in 1920, \$38.54; in 1919 it was 5.66; increase of 329 per cent.

Table with 5 columns: Rank, County, 1920, 1919, Rank, County, 1920, 1919. Lists counties and their respective land values for 1920 and 1919.

Real Optimist.
"In these hard times how can a man be an optimist?" Freddie Credit pushed back the massive pile of bills which were slowly breaking the legs of his desk, stuck his legs out straight, thrust both his hands deep down into his trousers pockets and looked as glum as he felt. Bert Nickel came in at that minute.
"Hello, Fred!" he cried. "Smile, man, smile, or I'll fetch Bill Smiller in to you."
"Smiller, that optimist!"
"He is an optimist, too!" ejaculated Fred. "If he failed in business he'd thank Providence that he had his health; if he failed in health he'd thank Providence that he had his business, and if he failed in both, he'd give a cheery, optimist laugh, and say:
"Oh, well, what's the use of the one without the other?"—Houston Post.
It's hard to have sublime thoughts if your garter needs attention.

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Implements is Real
Thrift

And It Always Pays to Get the Best to Fill Your Needs.

Doing without needed implements is like doing without needed food—it never pays.
You are going to farm next year. You will want to carry on the work as economically as possible; save maximum time and labor, produce more per acre, cut the cost of production per bushel, per ton and per acre.
Good implements will enable you to do that. Give them serious consideration now.
Come to our store and look over our implements and machines. Take plenty of time to consider them carefully. Measure their qualities against your needs. See them in their true light; as good, profitable investments; as the means by which you can make more profit from your future farming.
Don't go into the race cripple by worn-out or inferior implements. Get the best to fit your needs. These are times when a farmer should be especially well-equipped with good implements that assure low production costs.
Come in and see our stock.

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Every Inch a Hardware Store.