

## Statement of School Board Relative to The Coming School Tax Election

At the last legislature a bill was passed authorizing the people of Mount Airy to give to the Board of Town Commissioners additional power in providing sufficient funds to meet school needs. This bill contains three distinct provisions: first, that the Board of Town Commissioners be empowered to levy a local tax for school maintenance of not to exceed 60c on one hundred dollars valuation. The limit of the local tax levy is now and for many years has been 50c per hundred dollars valuation. This does not mean that there has been a 50c local tax levy for schools every year in the past; it does mean that the Board of Town Commissioners has had no authority to levy more than 50c. Several years ago the tax levy was 35c; later the Town Board found it necessary to levy only 32c per hundred dollars. For the past three years it has been 35c. Thirty-two cents was the levy for school purposes in 1922, the last year of Mr. Epps' school administration. This levy was found insufficient to defray the expenses for schools that year, and the deficit for that year of approximately \$6,000 was accumulated. Since that time the school enrollment has increased approximately 50 per cent; the number of teachers required has increased from 32 to

45 and during that time teachers' salaries all over the state have increased approximately 25-30 per cent. The Board of Town Commissioners not having authority to increase the local tax levy to meet this increase in school expense, a deficit each year was inevitable and beginning with deficit of \$6,000 above mentioned for school maintenance, the schools have been running a deficit of \$6,000 or \$7,000 every year since. It is found that an increase in the local tax levy of 10c on the hundred dollars on our valuation of approximately \$7,000,000 will eliminate this deficit in the future which has been recurring for the past six years, and the Board of School Commissioners is asking not that the tax levy be 60c on the hundred dollars, which is the limit fixed by law upon the Board of Town Commissioners, but that it be increased not to exceed 10c per hundred dollars making the levy 45c per hundred dollars instead of 35c per hundred dollars, the present rate. In short, the Board of Education is asking that the people of Mount Airy empower the Board of Town Commissioners to increase the levy for school maintenance 10c on the hundred dollars valuation. This would increase the taxes of a citizen whose valuation is \$5,000, \$5.

The schools cannot be maintained

at their present efficiency on a 35c levy, nor can the Board continue to run a deficit of \$7,000 a year, as this is now strictly prohibited by law. With the local tax for school maintenance increased to 45c together with the bond tax now levied, Mount Airy will still have a much lower tax than most of the cities with which it is grouped, Reidsville having a local tax of 75c; Smithfield of 70c; Hickory, 65c; Duna, 55c; and Roanoke Rapids, 50c, etc., as may be seen from the table compiled by the State Department of the cities of Group III and recently published in the Mount Airy papers.

The second provision of this bill above referred to is that the people of Mount Airy may by their votes authorize the Board of Town Commissioners to levy a tax of 6c per hundred dollars valuation to defray the deficit above referred to as recurring for the past six or seven years. There is no other legal way possible to defray this deficit for school maintenance except by such a tax. To avoid such a deficit the other cities above referred to have year by year increased their local tax. This Mount Airy has failed to do, and there is now no legal way to defray this resulting deficit except by such tax.

The third provision of this bill is that the people of Mount Airy by their votes may empower the Board of Town Commissioners to issue bonds of not to exceed \$50,000 for building purposes. Every available space in every school building in Mount Airy is now filled with children. There is not an unused room in which an additional teacher and children can be placed. It will readily be seen that while there has been an addition made to the High School Building and an addition of six rooms to the Rockford Street Building, the increase in room capacity has not been at all commensurate with the increase of school enrollment. It has been necessary this year to house in the High School Building two seventh grades in rooms much needed for the present high school enrollment. These two seventh grades will remain in these same rooms next year as high school pupils, which will make it absolutely impossible to accommodate more seventh grades in this building in the future. Approximately 30 pupils were graduated from the high school this year; there will be approximately 150 pupils entering the high school next year; there will be an increase of at least 150 first grade pupils entering school; there will also be an increase in all the elementary grades on account of our constantly increasing population. It is self-evident that more buildings must be provided if all the children are to be kept in school all the time.

This third provision of the bill would empower the Board of Town Commissioners to issue bonds in amount required to provide additional school room, not necessarily \$50,000 but in no case to exceed \$50,000. The Board of School Commissioners believes that it is the overwhelming sentiment of the citizens of Mount Airy that their school be of a high standard and efficiency as are the schools of the other cities of the state. It feels that the citizenship of Mount Airy has entrusted to it the responsibility of maintaining schools of this standard and efficiency. It has made the above clear statement of facts that all the people may be familiar with the school situation which confronts the Board.

Our schools are at the present time fully accredited; our high school is in Class-A, Group-1, which is the highest possible rating given to a school of our enrollment; our elementary schools throughout have been standardized and are likewise fully accredited by the State Department. Our high school is one of about 48 high schools in the entire state that

is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and High Schools. However, we are now meeting only the minimum requirements for this accreditation. In fact, it has been due only to the generosity and interest of the parents and people in providing some of the specified requirements from outside sources that we have been able to obtain and retain this accreditation thus far. The Board of School Commissioners feels sure that any retrenchment or lowering of standards would not meet with the approval of the citizenship which has never in the past failed to respond with enthusiasm to any school need, and for this reason it has seen fit to make the above statement of the school facts and feels sure of your cooperation and support in the interest of our Mount Airy boys and girls.

Board of School Commissioners.  
By MOIR S. MARTIN, Chairman.

In a remote country village a new letter box had been put up. This caused much comment among the village children who gathered around to discuss what it could be.

"I think it belongs to the doctor or the squire," said Billy Jones.

"Can't you see it's by the church, so it must be the rector's," remarked another lad.

"Get out!" said another boy, the smartest one of the crowd. "It ain't the rector's—read what it says on it. 'No collection on Sundays!'"

**Hollingsworth Drug Co.**  
Prescription Druggists  
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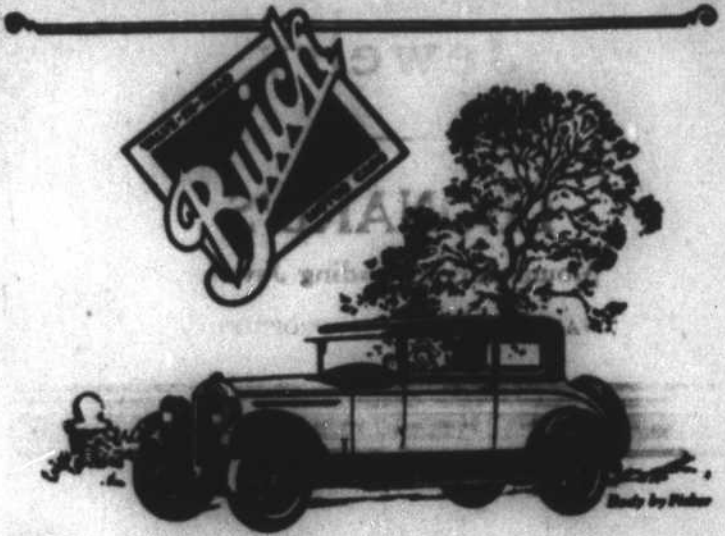


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When you order groceries from us to be at your home in time for dinner, you can forget about them—we see to it that just what you ordered is there right when you want it.

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"The Home of Good Things To Eat"



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- Because Buick is a beautiful car; its Fisher Bodies are distinguished for their smart stylish design, rich Duco colors and fine coachcraft.
- Because Buick performance is superb; with the famous Valve-in-Head engine, vibrationless beyond belief.
- Because Buick has always used the savings of great volume to enrich Buick quality.
- Because Buick initial cost is low and Buick operating cost is economical.
- Buick value is greater today than ever before.
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MARKET STREET MOUNT AIRY, N. C.

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Just add one gallon of linseed oil to one gallon of Stag semi-paste Paint and you have two gallons of as fine paint as you can buy. And it saves you one-third the cost!

Moreover, this fresh-mixed paint spreads easier and goes further. You add the linseed oil yourself so you know it's all fresh linseed oil paint. "Stag" won't crack nor peel.

Bright, permanent colors, beautiful lustrous finish. There's a "Stag" dealer near you! See him—or write us for literature and name of dealer.

**STAG semi PASTE PAINT**  
One gallon makes Two

Made by HIRSHBERG PAINT CO., Baltimore, Md.  
Sold by  
**HATCHER HARDWARE CO.**

**Notice Trustee's Sale of Land.**

By virtue of authority vested in the undersigned trustee in a certain deed of trust executed by E. F. Adams and wife Annie V. Adams for G. D. Smith to secure an indebtedness of \$2,450.00, default having been made in the payment of the notes therein secured and at the request of the holder, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder in front of the Bank of Mount Airy, Mount Airy, N. C., on

Saturday, June 4th, 1927,  
at 1 o'clock P. M.,

the following described real estate:

Adjoining the lands of Peter Draughan et al. Beginning at a stake Peter Draughan's corner and runs N. 25 deg. W. 6 chs. to a white; thence N. 69 deg. W. 5 1-2 chs. to a white oak stump; thence N. 13 deg. W. 6 chs. to a pine; thence N. 5 chs. to Peter Draughan's corner; thence S. 8 deg. W. 27 chs. to a stake in the center of the National Highway; thence with the National Highway 10 chs. to a stake a little east of the feed barn; thence N. 36 deg. E. 7.40 chs. to the beginning. Containing 16 acres more or less. Being lots 1 and 2 allotted to G. D. Smith in the division of the J. S. Smith dec'd estate recorded in book 88, page 126, Record of Deeds.

Sale made to satisfy an indebtedness of \$2,450.00 principal, interest and cost of sale to add.

5-27.  
This the 2nd day of May, 1927.

EDW. M. LINVILLE, Trustee.

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