

House-Cleaning Seen As Urgent Need of Wilkes Co.

Removal of Present Authorities Required to Restore Public Confidence

PEOPLE PREPARING TO ASSUME CHARGE

Probable That Ticket Will Be Put Out Next Year Without Labels and Candidates Will Be Drafted of Known Indifference to Politics; Chaos Reigns.

By HEN DIXON MACNEILL

Wilkesboro, Dec. 18.—Confronted with the spectacle of its county government broken down, its credit gone, and a known public debt amounting to 8 per cent of the assessed valuation of all the property in the county, Wilkes County is in distressing need of a revolution that would set about a public house cleaning, and the re-establishment of a measure of public confidence in constituted authority.

Ordinarily the simplest way to bring about the needed revolution would be to turn out the party in power and turn in the opposition. Wilkes is and has been for a generation the chief stronghold of the Republican party among the counties in the State. It is more Republican than Robeson was ever Democratic, and there has never appeared a ghost of a chance for a Democratic ticket to get anywhere.

Seething With Discontent

There is not a chance now, even though the entire county is seething with discontent at the present administration and willing to rise up against such of its Republican office holders as are left after the jury gets through with them. Wilkes needs and desires a revolution, but it has no opposition party to which it may turn in its extremity. The Democrats are just as deeply involved as the Republicans.

The one agency in the county over

which the Democrats have control is the county board of education. This board is appointed by the General Assembly. C. C. Faw is the chairman of it, and he is under indictment along with Republicans. The Democrats are discredited by the same means and in the same measure as the Republican organization in the county. They can start a revolution. But Wilkes needs and demands a revolution and with both the established parties discredited, Wilkes will undertake its revolution without labels of any sort. It dislikes the sound of "Independent." There will be no independent ticket in the field, and it is not likely that there will be either a Democratic or Republican ticket in the contest for county officers which begins in the spring. It will be a ticket without labels.

Plans Indefinite

None of their plans are yet in a stage that can be definitely announced, but whenever county affairs are talked about—and that is wherever there are two people standing together—it is unanimously agreed that something will have to be done and that the job can be entrusted to neither Democrats nor Republicans. On the one hand there is Faw, the Democrat, and on the other there is Wrenn, the Republican, and Foster and Woodruff, who are charged by the grand jury with having a hand in despoiling the county.

Invariably the conclusion is that the people of the county will have to take their business in hand, cut both parties, and draft some competent men of known integrity and of known indifference to politics, and give them the job of running the county until some order is brought out of the chaotic state into which it has lapsed during this autumnal of exploitation. The plan is taking form, and will likely be put through in some fashion before spring.

Nobody Believes Wrenn

Wilkes is almost completely with-

out their own government as to the depth of the public dilemma. Wrenn has talked a lot, but he has said nothing that is new, and that little is based on old-fashioned Republicanism. Nobody believes him, or attaches much importance to anything he says. Once they treated him and he betrayed them, and now anything that he says or does is regarded with suspicion.

Wrenn was a Democrat when he was born down in Chatham County. He was a Democrat when he went to the University and even after he got settled over in Surry he was a Democrat. He came here 16 years ago, still a Democrat, and got a job in a bank where Congressman R. L. Doughton was president. He started building himself a house, married a wife, and when people began to think well of him, decided to run for alderman in North Wilkesboro. He became a Republican and was elected.

From that time on Wrenn began to spread himself out gradually. As cashier of Doughton's bank he made loans and dabbled in financial matters outside the bank. He made two loans amounting to \$20,000 that turned out very badly. One witness giving him a good character said that Bob Doughton fired him out of the bank. Wrenn himself denied that he was fired, and said that Doughton was loath to let him go. The witness, who said he was fired, was a director in the Doughton bank.

Anyhow Wrenn moved across the river to Wilkesboro. He bought half interest in the Bank of Wilkes, giving notes. He always gave notes for his purchases. The paper was signed by Gordon Hackett and Judge T. B. Finley. He was well thought of. Over on this side of the river, across the street from the courthouse, Wrenn got into politics more extensively. He did not run for anything but he was on excellent terms with those who did. His bank handled most of the county finances.

In the meantime he had married. His wife was popular, and lived on a scale that somewhat dazzled the easy-going Wilkes folks. They had saddle horses. They had automobiles. They even built a cottage at Roaring Gap a year or two ago when that resort began to burgeon under its new management. The young couple were doing all the proper things in local society. They put up a good appearance and everybody thought they were prosperous. Nobody was more highly thought of.

Wrenn Fabulous Debtor

At the time since he came to North Wilkesboro 16 years ago does it appear that Wrenn ever owned a nickel that he did not owe. He had a salary of \$88 a month to start with and when the crash came he was making \$200 a month. None of his investments ever turned out a profit. But he kept up the show for 16 years. The amount of his defalcations is not known. By his own statements they amount to upward of a quarter of a million dollars. Wilkes County is afraid that it doesn't know all there is to be known, yet.

Until Faw and the others tell their stories to juries it will not be known what their tale is. They have never uttered a word of explanation. They just keep their mouths shut and wait. Generally it was thought that they would let Wrenn do the explaining, but his mouth was stopped by the clever handling of the case by Tom Bowie. Now they will have to do their own talking, and when they have talked, Wilkes may know a little more about its own affairs.

But with the little that it knows, Wilkes feels like it needs a revolution, and with no party organization to which it can turn in the emergency it is planning to turn out the Republicans and put in some men who can be allowed to take charge without being guarded.

TRUSTEE'S SALE

By virtue of power vested in the undersigned in a deed of trust dated August 22, 1924, executed by G. C. Hutchins (payment of same having been assumed by J. H. Biddle), which deed of trust is registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Surry County in Book 93, page 182, default having been made in the payment of the note secured and at the request of the holder of said note, I will offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash in front of the Bank of Mount Airy, Mount Airy, N. C., on

Thursday the 23rd day of Dec. 1927, at one o'clock P. M., the following described real estate to wit:

A certain tract of land lying and being in Surry County and more particularly described as follows:

A certain lot, tract or parcel of land in Mount Airy township, Surry County, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lands of R. L. Simmons, E. S. Fulton and others, bounded as follows, viz:

Beginning on a stake on the West side of the Hatcher road R. L. Simmons' corner and runs North 66 deg. 40 min. West seven hundred and three feet to the branch; thence down the branch as it meanders to pointers just above the maple; thence South 66 deg. 40 min. East seven hundred feet to the Hatcher Road; thence with said road 510 feet to the beginning, containing nine (9) acres, more or less.

This November 21, 1927. J. H. Folger, Trustee.

AUTOMOBILES TAKE TOLL OF 25 DEATHS

Caused Over One-Third of Violent Deaths in North Carolina Last Month.

Automobiles were blamed with causing 22 of the 25 violent deaths in North Carolina last month, the monthly statistics issued by the State Board of Health show.

The record of the month was better than that for October. Automobiles took a toll of 22 lives in October, and the total of violent deaths was 145.

Suicides doubled in November over October, the figures being 18 and 9, respectively. There were 16 homicides in November as compared with 26 in October.

Last month eight persons died in crossing accidents. October presented a clean sheet in this respect.

Notice of Trustee's Sale

By virtue of authority vested in the undersigned trustee in a certain deed of trust executed the 4th day of December, 1924, by Wm. H. Marsh, Minnie Marsh, Lela A. King and Lela King to the undersigned trustee for The Bank of Mount Airy, to secure an indebtedness of \$227.37 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Surry County, N. C., in book 72 page 128, default having been made in the payment of the note therein secured and at the request of the holder, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, at public auction, in front of the Bank of Mount Airy, Mount Airy, N. C., on

Saturday, December 23rd, 1927, at 1 o'clock P. M.

the following described real estate: Beginning at a rock 77 1-2 feet from E. F. Hollingsworth and J. L. Worth's southeast corner about thirty feet from W. C. Banner's line and runs thence North 125 feet to a stake, thence East 75 feet to a stake; then South 125 feet to a stake, about 30 feet from W. C. Banner's line, then West 75 feet to the beginning. See deed from R. E. Hollingsworth to Theo. C. Davis 1906, Deed G. C. Holcomb to Lawson Book 72 page 68. See deed Lawson to J. A. Atkins. See deed J. A. Atkins to W. T. and W. M. Marsh.

Sale made to satisfy a balance of \$227.37 principal, interest and cost of sale to add. This the 21st day of Nov. 1927.

Edw. M. Linville, Trustee.

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