

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

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MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1911.

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SOME QUESTIONS ASKED

Regarding Assessment of Property for Taxes—Do You Want a "Square Deal?"

In all seriousness, is it the honest and "square" thing for a citizen, for any citizen, rich or poor, to fail to report all of his property—no matter what it consists of—to the tax assessors? And is it anything short of criminal for tax assessors to value one man's property at one-tenth of its actual value, another at one-fifth, another at one-fourth, and another at one-half, so that some are forced to pay (and usually the poorer classes, too) five times their just proportion of taxes?

Is there an intelligent man in the county who doesn't know that such a condition exists, generally, in our midst, and that the property of some wealthy individuals and corporations is on the tax books at from one-fifth to one-tenth or one-twentieth possibly, of its actual value, while the property of hundreds of the average citizens is valued at a rate twice and even four times as high?

When a citizen or community wants a bridge over a dangerous stream, or a decent road to take the place of one over the top of the hill or mountain (laid out just after the Revolutionary war), or a respectable street or side walk into some part of town, and a dozen other necessary things, and they apply to the keepers of our public treasury, what answer do they get? "No money." Did any of us ever hear that? Why no money? Isn't the tax rate high, enormously high? Do not all of us know that the reason, to come square out about it, is that the property of influential individuals and concerns, who have a "pull" (so easy they do not have to so much as ask for the favor) have their property to the amount of ten thousand dollars, fifty thousand dollars, one hundred thousand dollars, five hundred thousand dollars, and even a million dollars, in single instances, escape taxation? Who cannot see the effect of such a practice upon the treasury? What difference would it make (except for the principal of "square dealing") if the property of every man in the county who owns his one-eyed mule and 25 acres of poor land should be valued low, or not at all, compared with this custom of leaving really great items of wealth such as these to go free of taxes, so far as the effect upon the treasury is concerned?

Who tries to force men who are known to have large amounts of cash, notes and mortgages, or stocks and bonds, and other valuable paper to report them and list them for taxes? Why should such property be exempted from taxes? If a man swears a wilful falsehood in his effort to avoid paying taxes on this class of his wealth why should he be hailed as a prominent and influential citizen instead of being required to appear in a criminal court and answer to an indictment for perjury?

Do not all of us know that an earnest, clear cut, and square out effort (without favoritism to any) to simply EQUALIZE the valuation of property for taxes, and to require all property to be reported and listed, whether the rule of

valuation should 40%, or 50%, or whatever the general rule adopted may be, would either greatly swell the common treasury or greatly reduce our tax rate?

Is it the fault of the citizen (who is only required to report all of his property of all kinds, not being required to value it, nor any of it) or the fault of the officials, the assessors and County Commissioners that the present condition prevails?

Is it not ROBBERY to require any one man, or class of men, to pay more than their just and fair proportion of taxes—every dollar's worth of property, whether of the rich man or the poor man, or the corporation, to be valued and taxed alike?

Do we want a "square deal" in McDowell County?

These questions are asked by a citizen who points to the tax books, and the common knowledge of our people for answers. X

Frank Carter, of Asheville, Appointed Judge.

Gov. Kitchen Saturday appointed Frank Carter, of Asheville, Superior Court judge to succeed Jos. S. Adams, deceased. While many names were suggested in connection with the judgeship, but three were urged on the Governor—Carter, J. Sneed Adams, son of Judge Adams, and ex-Judge Thos. A. Jones. Young Adams was strongly endorsed, as was Carter.

Mr. Carter has been practicing law in Asheville for 14 years and is reputed to be an industrious and well-equipped lawyer. He is about 48 years old, is a native of McDowell county, and a son of Thos. D. Carter, a lawyer and newspaper man.

Hail Storm at Old Fort.

Old Fort, April 10.—On last Friday evening between four and five o'clock, the most fearful rain and hail storm ever witnessed by our citizens swept over Old Fort. Garden stuff was beaten to pieces, hail beat holes in the roofs of houses and broke glass out of windows. Sideditches were overflowed and the streets flooded. The wind blew hail against houses and scared them up considerable. I was told that it killed a small yearling.

Prayer has been needed in Old Fort for a long time and I suppose there were more prayers offered in twenty minutes during the storm than have been offered in several years. It was not prayer without ceasing, because when the storm was over prayer ceased.

In Burgombe Superior Court last week, Judge Webb allowed a motion of non-suit in the case of Hyams vs. Southern railway, a suit for \$35,000 damages. Some years ago James Hyams, a small boy and a son of Geo. Hyams, was run over by a box car at Old Fort and his leg cut off. Suit was brought and the railroad contended the boy was swinging on the car and was guilty of negligence. Non-suit was allowed and the Supreme Court affirmed judgment of the lower court. A new suit was then started and it has met a similar fate.

W. A. Gibbs, of Nebo; Miles P. Flack, of Vein Mountain, and W. C. Morris, of Nealsville, were in town yesterday.

A ROMANTIC MARRIAGE

Sergeant Smith Comes from Alaska to Claim McDowell County Lady His Bride.

The most romantic marriage in McDowell county for many years was the marriage of Miss Myrtle G. Huskins of Rocky Pass, McDowell county, to Jesse H. Smith, Carrollton, Ga. Mr. Smith is a Sergeant in the 16th U. S. Infantry, which is now stationed at Harness, Alaska. He is away from his post on a sixty days' furlough.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith had never seen each other until a few days ago, when he arrived in McDowell county, though they have been corresponding with each other for a number of years. Sergeant Smith has a friend in his same company who is from McDowell county. He asked this McDowell county friend to select him a North Carolina girl for a sweet-heart. Miss Huskins was recommended, and the romance was consummated here Monday afternoon in the Baptist parsonage when they were made man and wife by Rev. Edward Long, pastor of the First Baptist Church here.

Miss Huskins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Huskins of Rocky Pass, who is one of McDowell county's respected citizens. The couple will leave for Alaska in a short time, and will take with them the good wishes of a host of friends.

Spartanburg Music Festival.

Spartanburg, S. C., April 10.—The Converse College auditorium at Spartanburg was built largely for the concerts of the South Atlantic States Music Festivals. It is one of the handsomest auditoriums in the South. Its seating capacity is about three thousand, with every arrangement for safety and comfort. If crowded to the doors it could be emptied in a few minutes. And there is not a seat in this vast hall from which what is said or sung upon the stage cannot be heard.

Season tickets, selling for six dollars each, for the 1911 Festival will be taken off April 15th. This is ten days prior to the opening concert Wednesday evening, April 26th. After April 15th only single tickets will be sold. There have been numbers of season tickets sold this year evidencing the fact that there will be a larger attendance than usual.

Festival week is home coming time for many former residents of Spartanburg and former Converse College students. The week is full of social events and pleasant gatherings, but the unusual character of the 1911 Festival will attract a larger number of "home-comers" than usual. The news has spread abroad that Nordica has been induced to sing; that Scotti, Alice Nielson, the Damrosch Symphony Orchestra and Quartette, and others have been engaged and that the chorus is better than ever. The fact that the horse show will be held during the Festival week and that the city of Spartanburg is making larger preparations than ever before for a holiday occasion, are causing many outside people to plan a visit to Spartanburg at that time. Hotel accommodations are, however, ample this year and all can be well cared for.

COUNTY SCHOOL NOTES

Summer Schools Open July 10th—Classification of School.

The Board of Education in regular quarterly session, Monday and Tuesday, April 3rd and 4th, ordered that the summer schools open July 10th. Also that the public examination of white teacher begin on July 5th, the public examination of colored teachers begin on July 3rd.

The schools of the county were classified as follows: Class A, Nebo High School, getting direct State aid; Class B, Marion Graded School and Old Fort Graded School, operating under special acts; Class C, Greenlee, Dysartville, Garden City and Glenwood, being three-teacher local tax schools; Class D, Marion Nos. 2, 3, 9 and 10, Montford's Cove No. 2; North Cove Nos. 6 and 7, Old Fort No. 2, Bracketts No. 1, being two-teacher local tax schools; Class E, Bracketts No. 2, Broad River Nos. 1 and 2, North Cove Nos. 4 and 5, Old Fort Nos. 5 and 5 1/2, being one-teacher local tax schools; Class F, Marion Nos. 7, 11 and 12, Montford's Cove Nos. 1 and 3, Higgins No. 2, Crooked Creek Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, being non-local tax one-teacher schools; Class G, Nebo Nos. 2 and 3, Old Fort, Nos. 4, 6 and 7, Montford's Cove No. 4, North Cove Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Dysartville Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Crooked Creek No. 5, Broad River Nos. 3, 4, and 5, being one-teacher non-local tax districts.

This classification is, of course, subject to change as the educational spirit and development becomes more apparent in the different districts.

Votes Special School Tax.

Mr. J. G. Price reports that the special school tax election held in District No. 2, Higgins township, on Tuesday the 11th, carried by a large majority, only two of the forty registered voters voting against the tax. In this school district, which was created by the Board of Education at the January meeting, will be erected a new two-room school building, which will be located near Hominy Grove Church. Messrs. W. C. Pyatt, J. T. Davis, and Ed Beam have each donated two acres of land, which will make a six acre plot, on which the new building will be erected. The citizens of the community are interested, and propose to have a school that will compare favorably with any two-teacher school in McDowell County.

The North Carolina Legislature has provided a fund of \$60,000 to be expended in the erection of a State school for the feeble minded, and the board of trustees are now considering bids from various towns in the State, relative to the placing of this new State institution.

The W. J. Oliver Company of Salisbury is chartered with \$200,000 capital for constructing and operating electric, steam and other railways and other enterprises, the incorporators being W. J. Oliver, Knoxville, Hayden Clement and Thomas J. Jerome, Salisbury.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Carlton, April 5th, a daughter.

Cotton Mill News.

Mr. D. D. Little, President, who has been very ill at his home in Spartanburg with pneumonia, has improved and will be able to be up now in a few days.

Mr. Sam N. Bradford and family have moved to Marion from Gaffney, S. C. Mr. Bradford has taken charge of the Spinning Room as Overseer. Mr. Bradford has had charge of 33000 spindles in the Gaffney mill for the past four years previous to his coming here. Mr. Bradford and his wife are welcome in our midst.

Mr. O. R. Wylie, is Mr. Hunt's assistant in running the weave room at night, and also Mr. C. O. Barrs is assisting Mr. Frve, Boss Carder in running the Carding at night.

Mr. Dave Caldwell of the Whitney Mills, Spartanburg, has moved to Marion and will have charge of the Warp Tie-In machine. Mr. T. M. Flack who has had charge of the Tie-In machine will take section in the weave room.

Supt. Hugh F. Little visited Spartanburg last Sunday.

For Aldermen.

TO THE MARION PROGRESS:

We, the undersigned citizens of Marion, desiring the good and advancement of Marion, desire to suggest the following gentlemen as Aldermen for the next two years. We believe all of the citizens in Marion are interested, and believe all citizens should not only express their interest but should show their interest by signature to any communication made to the public.

We believe the names shown below will not only be conservative and care for the financial interests of the town, but will also be sufficiently progressive to permit Marion to remain in the progressive column and to take advantage of her special opportunities. We name the following gentlemen: John E. Decker, J. Q. Gilkey, J. R. Ledbetter, C. E. Prestwood and William Sweeney.

(Signed) J. W. Winborne,
E. H. Dysart,
B. B. Price,
T. L. Epley,
D. F. Giles,
P. A. Reid,
W. H. Hawkins,
J. W. Pless,
H. W. Dysart.

Farmers Union in Bracketts Township.

The citizens of Bracketts Township recently organized a Farmers Union to be known as the Macedonia Union. The organization has 18 members. J. W. Wise is president, and George Rhom is secretary. The perfecting of this organization will undoubtedly greatly stimulate the farming interests of this progressive township and the results of the project will be watched with interest. The union offers a prize of \$15.00 for the best yield to one acre in corn. A number of farmers will enter the contest.

We congratulate the people of Bracketts on this progressive movement and we venture the assertion that Bracketts will be heard from at the county fair.

There are two other organizations of the Farmers Union in McDowell county.