

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## PEOPLE'S FORUM.

[This department is reserved for letters from the people on various topics. THE PROGRESS is not responsible for the views of its correspondents. All communications must be originally signed for our protection though the name may be withheld in publication.]

## CITIZENS OF MARION OUGHT TO CONSIDER

### Carefully the Selection and Election of Their Aldermanic Board.

TO THE PROGRESS.

Some facts offered by an observer as to the why and wherefore of things. Does the majority desire a change and will they fetch it about?

Monday, May 1, is the day set for an election which will afford opportunity for the election of a Mayor and Board of Aldermen who will have the management of the public business of Marion for the ensuing two years.

There seems to be a decided sentiment in the corporation in favor of a decided change from the "set" or "faction" now, and for a long period previously, in control of the public affairs.

For several weeks the discussion of available men for the offices has gone on. Names have been suggested by word of mouth and in the paper. All good men, no doubt, but no group so far seems to exactly fit the necessities of the moment, viz: a change.

Most of the suggestions of names appearing in the paper were signed by "Voter", "Citizen", etc., but in the last number of THE PROGRESS appeared a statement headed "A Petition" and signed by many citizens. This, in a very material sense, is public and open to discussion and analysis.

The men named for a municipal ticket are all sterling citizens but the questions arise as what are their affiliations and who are the men endorsing them and their reasons for endorsing. Also the reason of other individuals, who have no direct interest, signed as endorsers.

You hear it repeated often that it is "all First National Bank, etc." Well, why is this said and why does the said Bank control or want to control the situation? One reason given is that this bank is and has been for a long time the depository of the town funds. This is good and legitimate business but it is sort of one-sided. The bank gets all the benefit by having the funds for deposit but does the town draw any interest thereon.

It is true enough no doubt that on some occasions the town deposit is very small but it is not the case always and these funds, together with other deposits, are available for legitimate investment by a bank and it very often makes 8% (2% more than the law allows) on its loans, etc. At least this is so so far as the usual small borrower is concerned. You who have discounted your note for \$50 or \$100, or so, know right well how that is.

If a bank has this business it naturally would seek to retain it. To make reasonably sure that it is retained, interest is taken in who hold the offices which have to do with the giving of the business.

Here is where an analysis of the above mentioned "Petition" is opportune.

First out of the list of signatures naturally come the ones who usually take a prominent part in these elections and the naming of a ticket. Thus we find D. E. Hudgins, J. W. Pless, B. B. Price, M. F. Morphey and A. Blanton. All are stockholders in the above mentioned bank, two are officers and one is attorney. Wm. McD. Burgin is a stockholder. Ad. L. Gilkey and J. E. Neal are employees at the bank. R. H. Bennett is business

associate with J. L. Morgan vice-president of the bank, W. C. Atwell is an employee of Mr. Morgan. W. K. M. Gilkey, brother, and E. H. and H. W. Dysart, brother-in-law, respectively, of J. Q. Gilkey, (candidate) and an officer of the bank.

And so on. You can figure it all out for yourself.

Then check up and see how many are actual property holders, where they make their deposits of money, whose house they rent, what lawyer they employ, whom have money loaned to them for business or private use, where the kinship comes in and so on and so on.

It is all in the game and is certainly very apparent in the "Petition."

Now as to the suggested board. Where do they all do their banking business, etc. And right here could be said that this ticket was named at the so-called citizens meeting held last Thursday night and if you were there you would know how it was done and by whom.

It was mentioned by one man at that meeting that, in nominating his man, he wanted his man elected because he had their street fixed up. That has been very much the way always, and there are some of us who have not had our streets fixed up who would like to have our man elected.

Why cannot a board be elected who will "fix things" for the benefit of all. Begin at the center and work out systematically and in the end the whole town will have good and permanent improvements. Also why cannot supplies and materials be bought wholesale or by competitive bids thereby economizing and giving added usefulness to the funds.

There is a phase of the selection of aldermen and mayor which ought to appeal to every citizen-voter. That is that, inasmuch as there are no "politics" (so far as parties are concerned) in it, every citizen-voter is his own "mass meeting" and can select his own board and mayor, make-up his own ticket, vote it and see that it is counted.

It is a matter of common knowledge that throughout the county the people are rather over-tired of having the same "set" selecting and arranging public affairs and they look to the citizens of the town to make the change at the heart of the county, viz the county seat.

It is beyond a sensible man's belief to think that there are not enough citizens, who are convinced that much improvement can be had and much better public service given by others than those who run and insist on controlling the public affairs of the body politic, and will fetch about this consummation.

Are you, Mr. Reader, one of those who sincerely desire the change and will as sincerely do your part toward securing the change?

The writer intends to make up his own ticket and will vote for "Pat" McBrayer for Mayor. He, the writer, thinks that "Mc" has gone at the thing in a happy manner and will combine tact with ability in transacting the business of his office. Then, too, he has a good presence.

Incidentally how would a board of aldermen comprising E. B. Baber, who is an experienced builder and employer; E. K. Hild, who has splendid business capacity; Dr. G. S. Kirby, who is a good business man and could materially aid in health matters; C. E. Prestwood, who is an employer and has already served satisfactorily, and C. E. House, who could assist in matters pertaining to the engineering problems which arise.

All are property owners, all are more or less independent and none

are tied to any "set" or "faction." OBSERVER.

### Mayor and Aldermen Nominated.

Contributed.

For the nomination of mayor and a board of aldermen for the town of Marion for the next two years, a mass meeting was held in the court house on last Friday night, the 21st, inst., by order of the present mayor. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dysart who called Mr. J. L. C. Bird and Mr. Charles House to act as temporary chairman and secretary respectively, which temporary organization was made permanent by a unanimous vote.

After a few pleasing remarks by the chairman, the meeting proceeded to business. Mr. D. L. Carlton was nominated for mayor and, after waiting and calling for other nominations, a rising vote was taken and Mr. Carlton was nominated unanimously and without a dissenting voice. Then Messrs. Wm. Sweeney, J. Q. Gilkey, E. K. Hild, C. E. Prestwood and J. R. Ledbetter were named one by one for aldermen and were nominated unanimously by a rising vote.

This was one of the largest and most representative mass meetings ever held in the town of Marion. The citizens of the town turned out in unusually large numbers and voted with determination and zeal, thus showing by their vote that their selection and choice for the offices of mayor and aldermen should be strong and representative men of ability and men who will manage the affairs of the town economically, judiciously and without fear or favor, that is, men who will serve the people. The nominees of the mass meeting are of that type of men whose character and integrity are above reproach, and whose purpose will be to serve the will of the people.

### Citizens Ticket For Marion.

For Mayor—C. B. McBrayer.  
For Aldermen—Guy S. Kirby, Ed. Morris, Wm. Sweeney, John Decker, C. E. Prestwood.

Here is a ticket for the people, by the people and representing the will of the people. It stands for good government, law and order, reduction of taxes and curtailment of expenses. It is against ring factional, and childish politics, it is pure and unadulterated, it would not dictate politics, neither would it snatch from a voter his right to vote as he sees fit. Honest and conscientious conduct of city affairs is the Slogan of the Citizens Ticket.

### A Card.

EDITOR OF THE PROGRESS:

I have been informed that my name has been suggested for one of the Aldermen of the town of Marion for the election to be held next Monday. I take this method of expressing to the people of Marion that I fully appreciate any recognition that shows confidence in me, by any citizen, but I must say I could not serve as Alderman. I have served several terms and did the best I could for the town, but I do not desire any public office of any kind.

There is also another reason why I could not allow my name to be used, to-wit: The Mayor of the town called a mass meeting of all the citizens of the town to meet in the court house for the purpose of nominating a mayor and Board of Aldermen (which has been the custom for many years). I did not attend the meeting, but I understand there was a citizens meeting and that they nominated a Mayor and Board of Aldermen without any opposition, therefore I could not come out and oppose what was done in a public meeting. If I had had objections to any or all of the men who were nominated, I should have been at the court house that night and helped nominate some one else, but not taking enough interest in it to attend the meeting, I certainly cannot come

## THE FAIR MOVEMENT

### Mr. T. W. Wilson Gives His Ideas of Some of the Things the Fair May Do.

Letters continue to come in from farmers over the county indicating their interest in the Fair which is to be held this fall, and their purpose of doing everything they can to make it a success. Some letters merely express gratification at the organization, others ask when the Fair will be held, still others are asking what premiums will be offered, and when announcements and plans will be further made. The President and Secretary say that they hope to be able to name a date for the Fair pretty soon, and also to publish a premium list, and make announcements of some other attractions that will be on hand. They say that the Fair will probably be in October, but just what time they cannot say, owing to the inquiries that are out as to the dates of other fairs in adjoining counties and sections.

We give here a letter from Mr. T. W. Wilson, Nealsville, which gives in part his ideas of what the Fair may do.

"In regard to the Fair I am pleased to know that such a thing is in progress, and know that if we stand together it will be a success as it will be beneficial socially, as well as profitable to the farmers of the county. It will provide an opportunity for them to talk farm life over in all its relations, and will help them to organize in such way that they may be able to put on the markets of the county, not only the best of everything produced on the farm, but to plan and so arrange their products that they can furnish sufficient quantity and quality, to interest buyers who buy in solid car load lots, thereby enabling them to always obtain the highest cash prices. I long to see the day when the farmers shall be recognized as they should be, and get to doing something for themselves as well as for the county at large. Then, and not till then will we reach our possibilities as farmers.

Yours very truly,  
T. W. WILSON."

out as a candidate in opposition to those who were nominated at a mass meeting of the citizens.

It is very unfortunate for a small town to have two factions when it comes to selecting officials, or acting upon any questions that affect the town's best interests. No town can build up to advantage without all the people standing "shoulder to shoulder" and pushing every interest and every enterprise that would be helpful to the town. There ought not to be division in our town, and I appeal to all good citizens to get together and work for building up our town, from every standpoint. As business men we cannot afford to play the child and keep up a never-ending strife. Let us get together as men, then peace and prosperity will follow.

H. B. PRICE.

Senator Overman has introduced a bill for the North Carolina farm-life school. He wants the Federal government to appropriate \$5,000 for this purpose, that is to give farm boys better education along certain lines, when North Carolina has voted a similar amount. He is deeply in earnest in his efforts to get the bill through.

## CENTRAL HIGHWAY TRUSTEES MEET

### Elect Officers and Decide to Begin Operations at Beaufort Next Week.

Raleigh Dispatch, 26th.

The trustees of the North Carolina central highway, appointed by the recent Legislature, organized here today with the election of H. B. Varner, of Lexington, as president, E. E. Britton, of Raleigh, secretary, and George Royall, of Goldsboro, treasurer. The trustees selected also a central committee to act with the president in the prosecution of the work, these being William Dunn, New Bern; Dr. J. M. Templeton, Cary; R. R. Clark, Statesville; W. T. Morgan, Marion; Thomas J. Murphey, Marshall; and J. A. Wellons, Smithfield.

The trustees determined to set about upon the preliminary work, for which the preliminary survey is to be undertaken just as soon as the State Geological Survey can co-operate.

An automobile trip by President Varner, members of the central committee and as many others as can join in is planned to start at Beaufort within the next few days and make the run through the State to the Tennessee line, attending local meetings all along the line and stirring up interest in the movement, which is for a great highway 460 miles in length, the longest undertaken in any State of the Union, it is said.

[All of the nineteen trustees of the highway were present at the meeting except five, and three of these were represented by proxy. The automobile trip is to start at Beaufort May 9th and end at Raleigh on the 13th. Then in June a similar trip will begin at Marshall and go to Raleigh.]

## Dr. DuBose's Body Found Floating Near Scene of Drowning.

Morganton, April 23.—The body of Dr. McNeely DuBose, late rector of Grace Episcopal church in Morganton, who was drowned in the Catawba river, near here, early on the morning of Saturday, April 15, was found this afternoon at about 5:30 o'clock within fifty feet of where it went down. The water where the body was found today was ten feet deep and the river has fallen four or five feet at least since the drowning. Searchers had been all over this part of the river time and time again this week, using long poles and gigs in their efforts to locate the body, but somehow their efforts were in vain, this probably being due to the depth of the water.

The funeral services of Dr. DuBose were held in Grace church, Morganton, Monday morning at 10:30. Following these the body was sent to Asheville for burial.

## P. O. of S. A. to Meet in Lexington.

Lexington is to have the honor of entertaining Thursday of this week, April 27, the national officers of the Patriotic Order of Sons of America and delegates from the forty-six local camps of the state at the first state meeting of this order in North Carolina.

The board of aldermen of Concord has passed a resolution to prohibit sales of liquor in drug stores in that town after May 1st.