

MARION PROGRESS

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

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TO THE AVERAGE CITIZEN

Governor Bickett Addresses Personal Appeal to Taxpayers of the State.

Governor Bickett has addressed the following letter to "Mr. Average Citizen" with the request that the newspapers of the State give it the widest publicity:

My Dear Mr. Average Citizen:

An intimate acquaintance with you, extending over a number of years, leads me to write you this intensely personal letter. I know that you love the truth, that you despise injustice, that you are a robust champion of the square deal. The possession by you of the cardinal virtues makes North Carolina a truly great State.

The most vital power of the State is the power to tax, and you believe that this vital power should be exercised with a full knowledge of the truth. You believe that from this full knowledge of the truth there will flow perfect equality in taxation.

For the first time in the history of the State you, Mr. Average Citizen, have it in your power to write the full truth and perfect equality in the tax books of the State. You have never been called upon to do this before. But now the General Assembly has enacted a law that places the matter entirely in your hands. The new tax law is written on correct principles. The machinery for its enforcement is adequate and appropriate. The law is so written that it will be easy for the citizens to do right and hard for him to do wrong. But on you, Mr. Average Citizen, rests the responsibility of determining whether or not the wise and just purpose of the law shall be carried out.

Now, Mr. Average Citizen, you will receive a questionnaire and will be called upon to swear before God and to all your fellow citizens what is the fair market value of your property. When you come to take this solemn oath it will be helpful to you to put to your own conscience this question: "If I did not own this property, but wanted to buy it, what would I be justified in paying for it?" and again: "If I wanted to sell this property, not at a forced sale, but in the way and on the terms that property of this class is generally sold in this community, what do I really believe I could get for it?" The answer to these questions will point with reasonable accuracy to the fair market value of your property. This fair market value you must write down in your questionnaire, else you will cease to be Mr. Average Citizen and become Mr. Undesirable Citizen.

When you, Mr. Average Citizen, tell the truth about your property, it will do no good for your neighbor, Mr. Undesirable Citizen, to tell a lie about his property, because when the books show truly what the property of Mr. Average Citizen is worth, this evidence will clearly and conclusively show what the property of Mr. Undesirable Citizen is worth. The local and district assessors, when they come to fix the value of property, will be governed by the sworn testimony of Mr. Average Citizen.

And when you, Mr. Average Citizen, tell the unvarnished truth about your property, that truth will wipe out every discrimination and every inequality a series of falsehoods.

When all the property in the State shall be placed on the books at its fair market value, many benefits will accrue to you, Mr. Average Citizen.

1. You will have the great satisfaction of knowing that the record written by all the people of the State is a true record and not a libel on the commonwealth. This knowledge will wonderfully strengthen the moral fiber of our people.

2. You will know that every discrimination in taxation is wiped out, and that every citizen is carrying his fair part of the burden.

3. As the values go up the rate of taxation will go down, and hereafter North Carolina will be known far and wide as a wealthy state with a low rate of taxation instead of a poor State with a high rate of taxation.

4. The General Assembly has made a pledge not to collect, under the proposed true valuation of property, revenues greater than ten per cent in excess of the revenues collected under the present false values. This means that the total revenues collected by the State shall not be greater than ten per cent in excess of the total revenues collected under the present law. This most emphatically does not mean that no particular citizen will have to pay taxes in excess of ten per cent of the amount he has heretofore paid. A particular citizen may pay less taxes than he has ever paid before. He may pay double what he has heretofore paid. This depends on whether or not he has heretofore paid his fair share of the taxes according to his true worth. If he has paid more than his fair share the increase as to him will be less than ten

per cent; if he has paid less than his fair share, the increase as to him will be more than ten per cent.

You, Mr. Average Citizen, will at once perceive the essential justice in thus equalizing the public burden. I call on you to lend your vigorous support, first, by example, and then by precept, to this attempt by the General Assembly to build up a taxation system in North Carolina grounded on perfect truth and perfect justice. By so doing you will help to practically demonstrate that it is profitable in money and in morals to a people as well as to an individual to tell the truth and shame the devil.

Sincerely yours,

T. W. BICKETT.

Heavy Rains Damage Grain Crops.

Asheville, July 20.—Heavy rains during the past week have caused additional damage to the already badly damaged crops of western North Carolina; and with the late frost that killed so many apple blossoms, the mountain section has suffered heavily from the elements this spring and summer. In many sections of Buncombe, notably in the Weaverville section, small streams went out of their banks; farms, which for the first time were visited by freshets, were badly washed, some of them to such an extent that the entire crops were ruined, and it was nothing for farmers to lose as much as \$5,000 from loss of soil and crops. For the past week the rainfall has been heavy almost daily, and yesterday and today the continual rains have kept the small streams up.

Reports received here from Old Fort, Ridgecrest, Black Mountain and Swannanoa show much uneasiness over the prospect for landslides. One or two small ones were reported yesterday and last night, but they did not do more than to cause the trains to be late.

State Aid for Community Fairs—Notes of Interest to Farmers.

The State will give aid to four community fairs in this county. Would be glad to have applications from at least that many communities and urge the co-operation of the schools. I will come and help to organize them.

Farmers now know the value of lime to land, especially for all legumes. I will make up a car at any and all points, where enough farmers are interested. The price is \$2.70 per ton delivered.

Lime, clover and better stock, will be the aim of many; it should be the purpose of every good farmer.

All interested in pure blood Guernsey cattle, any age, see me. Will undertake to make delivery about September.

J. L. THURMAN, County Agent.

83,000 Cars Registered.

The department of state has registered over 83,000 cars during the past six weeks. This number is an increase of about 3,000 automobiles over the number registered on June 1, and applications continue to come to the office of the license clerk at the rate of from 100 to 400 every day. The tax clerk estimates that there will be well on toward 100,000 automobiles registered in the state between now and the new license year. This will represent a 25 per cent increase, but the experience of other years, and especially during the war period, indicates that this estimate is not too high.

Services at St. John's next Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8:30 p. m.

County Schools Open.

A number of the county schools opened on Monday, the 21st. From reports coming to the office of the county superintendent the schools are opening with unprecedented interest and attendance. One school reported 95 per cent of the children in the district on hand for the first day.

It is expected that the new law requiring the attendance of children upon the schools will have a great influence in keeping the children in school. Children between the ages of 8 and 14 years are required to attend the school in their respective districts for the entire term. The minimum term is six months, and the term in special tax districts will be from 7 to 9 months. The law is very rigid and parents and guardians are liable to fine or imprisonment for failure to keep their children in school. A copy of the act in full is published in this issue of the paper.

The following schools opened on last Monday: Toms Creek, Hankins, Buck Creek, Graphiteville, Stone Mountain, Glen Mountain, Bethlehem, Piney Ridge, Mount Mitchell, Woodlawn, Sugar Hill, Morgans, Fairview, Laurel Hill, Sandy Flat, Pinnacle and Tates. A number of other schools will open on next Monday, while some will begin about the first of September.

Real Estate Transfers.

R. S. Toney and wife to T. E. Stone, 27 acres, \$300.

R. E. Roper to J. G. Pyatt, 17 1/2 acres, \$612.50.

W. J. Souther to Mrs. S. J. Parker, 50 acres, \$300.

Walter Davidson to James Davidson, land adjoining Henry Rogers and Fannie Lytle, \$25.

L. A. Raburn to J. T. Davis, 88 rods, \$70.

T. T. Davis to E. G. Goforth, 88 rods, \$1000.

Ellen Moffitt to Anthony Moffitt, 100 acres, \$100.

James M. Casey to Adelaide G. Hadley, undivided interest, Cross Mountain land, \$1 and other consideration.

J. M. Norton to A. A. Jamison, 140 acres, \$2000.

Mattie E. Perry to J. H. Tate, lot on Baldwin avenue, \$10.

J. H. Tate to W. O. Bryson, land in Tate addition to East Marion, \$100.

T. W. Wilson to J. H. Beaman, land adjoining A. F. Mode and S. J. Morgan, \$3900.

B. G. Gettys to J. Robert Davis, land on Clinchfield avenue, \$10.

John Yancey to J. H. Tate, A. H. Giles and J. W. Pless, lot on Main street, Marion, \$1000 and other consideration.

Junior Order Re-organized.

The Clinchfield Council Junior Order American Mechanics has been re-organized with thirty members. The following officers were elected at a recent meeting: H. G. Noland, councillor; G. M. Reynolds, vice-councillor; R. L. Morris, chaplain; F. H. Lusk, junior past councillor; Dewey Roland, conductor; Thomas Early, warden; Dr. James Reynolds, recording secretary; C. M. Jolly, financial secretary; W. J. Lusk, treasurer; F. H. Lusk, R. L. Morris and Charles Roland, trustees.

Road Commission Sells Bonds.

The County Highway Commission met last Monday for the purpose of selling \$50,000.00 issue of county bonds to aid in the construction of roads. A number of bids were submitted, the highest being par, accrued interest and a premium of \$2,325.00, which was made by Seasongood and Mayer, of Cincinnati, Ohio. This is considered a good price with the present money conditions. The highway commission hopes to have the money on hand in a short time.

The engineer is going forward with the survey for proposed roads. As soon as the surveys have been completed it is expected the commission will begin the actual construction of roads.

A great deal of interest is being taken all over the county in the question of roads. The time has come when roads are essential. The people are demanding them and evidencing their willingness to pay for them by issuing bonds for road purposes.

Ice Plant for Marion.

Leon A. Neal, a native of Marion but for a number of years connected with the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company of West Virginia, has resigned his position with this company, to return to his home town to engage in business for himself. He has already secured an option on the Chapman property near the Southern station, on which he expects to erect an early date a modern ice plant. It is also his intention to run in connection with the ice plant a coal and wood yard.

Marion is certainly in need of an ice plant, since the ice sold here has to be shipped from other points. A great deal of the time dealers are not able to secure it and housekeepers and others are compelled to get along without it. The news that we are to have a plant of our own within a short time will doubtless be received with much interest among the citizens of Marion.

Dr. A. W. Dula Recovering After Serious Operation.

Dr. Alfred W. Dula, of Lenoir, who underwent a serious operation for appendicitis Sunday afternoon, the 13th, at a hospital in Lincoln, is reported to be getting along nicely. For several days he was in a critical condition. He was taken sick rather suddenly Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning his symptoms began to get worse and he was hurried to a hospital and the operation was performed as soon as possible after arrival at the hospital.

Dr. Dula is a brother of Mrs. W. M. Goodson and Mrs. W. H. Hawkins of this place. He is well known in McDowell county and his friends here will be glad to learn his condition is favorable for a speedy recovery.

Three quarters of a million dollars paid out in War Risk Insurance by the Government Bureau at Washington indicates the vast proportions of this feature of protection the government provided for the men who went into the World War service. Indeed, \$79,999,000 will be paid annually for over twenty years.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

The late Mrs. Sadie Williamson, of Raleigh, left \$10,000 to the Thompson Orphanage, of Charlotte.

The progressive town of Bostic voted \$6,000 worth of bonds Saturday to erect a new brick school building. The bonds will be issued immediately by the county commissioners.

Damage amounting probably to hundreds of thousands of dollars has been wrought by flood waters upon crops in the valleys of the Yadkin and Catawba rivers and smaller streams in the Piedmont section of the Carolinas, according to reports received at Charlotte.

Sheriff J. E. C. Bell, of Vance county, who resigned recently and disappeared, has been located in the Keely Institute at Greensboro. His accounts are alleged to be short \$45,000 but the shortage will be paid and there will doubtless be no prosecution.

Some of the counties of the State have named women for the post of county welfare worker—a job for which women experienced in that work are peculiarly fitted. Rowan has named Mrs. Mary O. Linton.

The State reunion of Confederate veterans will be held at Rocky Mount August 5-7. A railroad rate of two cents per mile will be granted but veterans must provide themselves with identification cards to obtain the rate. Similar cards must be obtained by Confederate Daughters and Sons who attend the reunion.

The pastors of the different churches of Lenoir have put themselves on record as being opposed to the modern dances and in a signed statement have asked the young people of the town and their parents to exert their influence to discourage and discontinue the practice of dancing, warning them of the extreme danger of the modern dance.

Big Griffith Play Announced.

"Hearts of the World," D. W. Griffith's greatest achievement, will be seen at the Grand Theatre here Sept. 8-9. This announcement is one of the most important of the season, since Mr. Griffith's former triumphs, "The Birth of a Nation" and "Intolerance" have established him as America's foremost dramatic genius. Special music will accompany the production, which requires nearly three hours in the unfolding of the story.

Marriages.

The following persons were united in the bonds of matrimony during the week. Rev. J. C. Story officiating: On July 16th, D. J. Reynolds of Marion and Miss Nola Lucile Baker of South Carolina. July 19th, Hubert Brooks of Marion and Miss Tempa Gouge of Bakersville. July 21st, J. S. Pothead of Marion and Miss Daisy Hill of Nealsville.

Gen. Pershing attended the victory celebration in London last week and was received with much enthusiasm.