

The Jackson County Journal

\$1.50 Year in Advance in The County.

THE JACKSON COUNTY JOURNAL, SYLVA, N. C. JULY 16, 1931

\$2.00 Year in Advance Outside The County.

Property Tax Is Reduced 12 Millions

Raleigh, July 15.—A net reduction of \$12,167,849 from the 1930 property tax levies for the six months school term and county roads will be realized by North Carolina taxpayers as a result of the school and road legislation of the 1931 General Assembly.

Figures compiled and just released by the State Tax Commission indicate that a saving of nearly twelve and a quarter million dollars from the actual 1930 levies will accrue to the owners of property from the passage of the administration road law under which the state takes over the entire maintenance of county roads, and the MacLean school law under which the state takes over the entire maintenance of the six months school term and reduces the levies on property for school support to 15 cents.

The net reduction from the 1930 levy for the six months school term is \$9,622,491, and for roads \$2,515,358. The average reduction in rate for schools is 32 cents, and for roads 9 cents.

The actual levy for county and township road maintenance in 1930 was \$5,252,113, none of which is to be levied in 1931. The counties will have to assume additional responsibility this year, however, in the amount of \$2,536,755 for the payment of county road debt service which last year was paid out of state aid appropriated to the counties. This leaves a net reduction from the 1930 actual levy of two and one half millions.

While the twelve and one-quarter million dollar decrease from the actual levy in 1930 is the biggest total reduction in property taxes ever effected at one time in the history of North Carolina—a reduction of more than twenty per cent of the total taxes levied on property, county, municipal, and district, for all purposes—the reduction itself would be \$600,000 bigger if every county had levied, in 1930, as much as it actually spent for road maintenance that year.

A number of counties have been spending a great deal more for road maintenance than they have been levying. For example, Buncombe County spent \$327,000 in the year ending June 30, 1930; but in 1930 Buncombe County levied a rate of only five hundredths of one cent—or \$89 for roads. If Buncombe County had raised its road maintenance funds from taxes it would have had to levy twenty cents.

In the same year Craven County spent \$81,257, and levied a rate of three tenths of one cent which produced \$807. It spent nearly \$80,000 more than it levied, and would have found it necessary to levy a rate of thirty cents for roads if it had met its road expenditures out of road tax levies.

The same condition existed in many other counties. Currituck County which spent \$18,186 for the year ending June 30, 1930, did not levy any tax for road maintenance in 1930.

The average state-wide reduction for roads and schools combined is 41 cents. The twelve counties receiving the greatest reduction are led by Rutherford with an even \$1.00, followed by Dare with 77 cents, Columbus 69 cents, Vance 68 cents, Nash 67 cents, Currituck 64 cents, Pitt 64 cents, Scotland 64 cents, Union 62 cents, Davidson 61 cents, Greene 60 cents, and Camden 60 cents.

The county receiving the lowest reduction from the 1930 levy for schools and roads is Clay, which could not receive a large reduction from last year's rate, because it levied only \$10,500 for roads and schools combined. When it again assumes the payment of its road debt service charges, for which it received last year \$10,000 of state aid, its tax rate will actually be increased 13 cents. This county levied only \$3,377 for roads last year, but it actually spent twice this amount. The true net result of the operation of the school and road law, will, therefore, leave Clay County with approximately the same rate in 1931 as in 1930. This county incidentally has a high total county tax rate for the reason that its debt service needs (not operating costs) for roads and schools require a levy of \$1.39.

Other counties that will receive small reductions as a result of the

FORTY YEARS AGO

Tuckaseige Democrat, July 15, 1891

The first car load of cattle shipped from this section was in the train going east last Thursday.

Prof. R. L. Madison went to Whittier, Friday, returning today.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Terrell are now occupying the Hampton house.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Long, Jr., visited relatives at Cullowhee this week.

Mrs. J. M. Worley and son, of Webster, were visiting friends here yesterday.

Mrs. Joseph Baum went to Asheville, Tuesday, to see her son and daughter, who are there, sick.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Barker, of Florida, are visiting Mrs. Barker's parents, Judge and Mrs. Davies, at Cullowhee.

Mrs. Loucks left last Thursday for her home in Jamestown, N. Y. She was accompanied by Gen. Hampton and family who will visit her for some time.

Mr. P. W. Wiley, of the Swain County Herald, called on us last Wednesday, as he was returning to Washington. We were very sorry to be informed by him that he had been forced to suspend the Herald on account of the lack of paying patronage. The people of Swain have made a grave mistake in their failure to support their county paper.

The Board of Equalization made some changes in the assessment of the value of property, generally increasing it. According to a rough estimate made after the Board had concluded its labors, the value of real and personal property in Jackson county is assessed at about \$1,343,930, an increase over the last assessment of \$230,000. There are about 1200 taxable polls. At the rate fixed by the joint Board of Commissioners and Justices in June the taxes to be collected this year will amount to about \$15,000. The levy was based on last year's assessment, and, owing to the increased valuation, the rate of taxation will yield an amount in excess of the county's requirements. Therefore, it is the plain duty of the Commissioners to reduce the rate so that only what is required, and no more, shall be collected. The people expect this of the commissioners and we feel sure that they will not be disappointed.

An election is to be held here on August 18 on the question of adopting the provisions of the stock law for a territory covered by the following boundaries: Beginning where John Monteith's line joins Alf Jones, at or near Dillsboro township line, and running eastward with Monteith's back line of fence to Mr. Talitha Brendle's fence at the Paf-talona place, and with her cross fence with A. B. Dills' gate fence;

road and school laws are Mason 6 cents, Brunswick 7 cents, Ashe 8 cents, Randolph 17 cents, Forsyth 18 cents, Watauga 22 cents, Yadkin 23 cents, Avery 25 cents, Alleghany 27 cents, Yancey 27 cents, Swain 27 cents. With the exception of Forsyth which has an unusually low tax because of its high assessed valuation, all of these counties except two are Mountain counties which have fairly meager road facilities and which have been receiving the largest part of their six months school term revenue from the state equalizing fund.

On the whole, the eastern part of the state will receive a larger reduction in rate than the central or western. The average reduction of the counties in the Coastal Plain is 52 cents, and the Tide-Water Section 41 cents. On the other hand, the Piedmont counties receive a reduction of 39 cents, and Mountain counties a reduction of 33 cents.

Two counties will each receive more than a 70 cent reduction in tax rate, and eleven will receive between 60 and 70 cents, eighteen between 50 and 60 cents, twenty-nine between 40 and 50 cents, twenty-seven between 30 and 40 cents, seven between 20 and 30 cents, and six below 20 cents.

The reduction in Jackson county, on taxes for roads and schools, according to the figures compiled by the State Tax Commission is \$47,387.

Grogan Will Preach At Union Meet

The congregations of the Sylva churches will unite Sunday evening in a special service at the Methodist church at the usual hour of worship, 8 o'clock. The occasion for this union service is the Annual sermon of the Women of the World, the Junior Order United American Mechanics and other fraternal organizations, which will be delivered by Rev. Mr. Grogan of Brevard. Mr. Grogan is a promising young man preparing himself for the work of the ministry. Members of the local fraternity will attend and sit in a body. This service will mark, also, the beginning of a series of evangelistic services to be held in the Baptist church by the pastor, Rev. J. G. Murray.

The morning services will be held in both churches as usual. Mr. Murray preaching at 11 o'clock in the Baptist church and Mr. Clemoner at the same hour in the Methodist. Mr. Clemoner will deliver the fourth sermon of the group on the general theme "The Way to Spiritual Living and Power." The subject for Sunday morning is "The First Step in the Way." It is suggested to those who have been hearing this series that they make a special effort to hear this one as it occupies a strategic place in the thought being presented in the entire series. It is also the logical one for those to hear who have missed the first three. The public is cordially invited.

The church schools convene in the morning at 10 o'clock. The young people's organizations meet in the evening at 7 o'clock.

BOWERS SPEECH PUZZLES REPUBLICAN LEADERS

(Special to The Journal)
Washington, D. C., July 15.—Tammany may be condemned for a thousand sins but it never has been accused of pussy-footing. Republican politicians here are trying to puzzle out whether Claude G. Bowers, the keynote orator at the Democratic National Convention in 1928, has not again sounded the call to battle in his Fourth of July speech at the Tammany Wigwam in New York City. That his speech actually represented the best thought of his party is being considered here as more than likely.

It is to be noted that Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt, now the most likely candidate against Mr. Hoover, studiously refrained from attending the rally. His action leaves him free to accept or reject Bowers' dictum, which is that the coming campaign will be fought out strictly on the tariff issue.

Ever since this country became a great manufacturing nation, some 75 years ago, the tariff question has dominated the platform in a majority of presidential campaigns. The free silver issue and Wilson's war stand alone put it in the background. The last really sharp tariff battle was in Cleveland's victory in 1892, which was followed by some lean years.

Bowers chose as his text the claims put out by the Hoover managers in 1928 that a high tariff meant prosperity. He said that voters had enjoyed plenty of time—between elections—since then to meditate upon the success of the tariff, charging that the high tariff has put a Chinese Wall around the country right at a time when it desperately needed foreign markets.

Not a word was said about the Prohibition issue or superpower. If Bowers' speech is accepted by the Democratic Party as a competent exposition with said Dills' fence to D. J. Allen's fence; thence with said Allen's fence to his tobacco barn field fence and with said fence to the road on Scott's Creek at the lower end of said Allen's farm; thence with fences of said Allen, Maj. W. M. Rhea and Mrs. Mary Harris, up the north side of Scott's creek road to the trestle on the railroad across Scott's creek at Mrs. Mary Harris' fence; thence crossing Scott's creek, and coming up same and with the back line on the east side of Ben Dillard, James Dillard, William Cope and Joseph Cope to the Sylva and Webster township line; thence with all other necessary lines by nearest route to close with the Dillsboro stock law boundary.

Aug. 31 Set For Opening Of Schools

The schools of North Carolina will operate this year under the new school law, adopted by the last general assembly, in which the State assumed the responsibility for the six months schools, as provided by the Constitution.

There have necessarily been delays in getting the machinery provided by the assembly at work, and putting the law into operation. The board of education of this county finds that it will be impossible to open the schools before the 31st of this month, according to a statement issued by Mr. M. B. Madison, county superintendent, yesterday.

Mr. Madison said: "Due to the time necessary to reorganize the schools under the new school law, the Board of Education will not be able to set the date for the opening of the Jackson County schools before the 31 of August.

Funds necessary for the expenses of the first six months of the school term will be sent to each county in monthly installments and, until the required information is furnished to the State Board of Equalization, the amount of money allotted to each county cannot be determined.

Further announcements will be made later stating the actual date of the opening of schools together with the list of teachers and their locations."

COURT ADJOURNS FOR ILLNESS OF JUDGE

The recorder's court of Jackson county adjourned on last Monday evening because of the illness of Judge Hooker, after having about half completed the docket.

Judge Hooker was unwell all day Monday, but remained on the bench until adjourning time, Monday afternoon, when he was taken to his home, and is now confined there. He expects to go to John Hopkins hospital in Baltimore, for treatment, as soon as his condition permits.

A goodly number of cases were disposed of on Monday, before the court adjourned.

Tom Arwood, convicted of violating the prohibition laws, was sentenced to serve four months on the state highways. He appealed to the superior court, and bond was fixed at \$500.00. Mrs. Tom Arwood, convicted on a similar charge, drew a suspended judgment upon payment of \$25.00. She also appealed, and bond was set at \$200.

John Arwood was convicted of possession and sale of intoxicants. He was sentenced to serve 6 months, and appealed. His bond was set at \$400. Convicted of being drunk, he was sentenced to serve 60 days.

Earl Howell, drunk. Plea of guilty. 90 days, suspended upon payment of the costs and good behavior.

T. S. Stephenson, convicted of taking a camping trip with his niece, was fined \$100 and the costs, and sentenced to serve 18 months on the highways of the State, capias to justice at 6 o'clock on Monday, and the sentence to stand, if he be found in Jackson county any time during the next two years.

Odus Broom and Grady Broom were indicted on a charge of killing a doe. The case against Odus was not pressed, and Grady was convicted. Judge Hooker continued prayer for judgment until July 27.

Frank Battelle, bastardy, guilty, 60 days, suspended upon payment of the costs.

Hecky Shuler, intoxication, \$5.00 and the costs.

Charles Arnold and Will Sheppard, two colored youths were found guilty of larceny of chickens, and were sentenced to serve 65 days each on the highways of North Carolina, helping Governor Gardner and Mr. Jeffress build good roads.

Hayes Kitchen, intoxication, 60 days, suspended upon payment of the costs. Same defendant, transporting and possession, same sentence and same suspension.

Ben Bryson, possession and transporting, 65 days on the highways.

Charles Young, store-breaking, plea of guilty, 45 days on the highways.

Population

The population of the United States is not increasing at as rapid a rate as formerly. We have about 125,000,000 people now, and President

TODAY and TOMORROW

(By Frank Parker Stockbridge)

Game

Draving over Austerlitz mountain, one of the Taconic range which separates New York from Massachusetts, I flushed seven pheasants in a few miles. One gorgeous, long-tailed cock pheasant rocketed out of the brush, snick into my windshield and fell to the road with a broken neck. He deserved a better fate.

The breeding of pheasants is being encouraged by the states of the North-east. Some of state authorities supply pheasant eggs free to those who will hatch them under barnyard hens. New York is paying 441 Club boys and girls \$1 each for mature pheasants so hatched. They are liberated in the state forest preserve, to be shot by hunters in the proper season.

In Virginia and some other parts of the South the native American partridge is sometimes called a pheasant. There is no native pheasant. These game birds are imports from China and eastern Asia. They have been bred in Europe for sport for centuries. American hunters have pretty well cleaned out our native game birds, but it is expected the imported pheasant will increase and multiply under careful conservation, so that there will still be something for the next generation of sportsmen to shoot.

Bonuses

Bethlehem Steel Company, in response to the protests of some stockholders who thought the men who run the business were getting too much money for their work, has increased salaries and reduced the percentage of bonuses paid to employees for increased production.

Perhaps the Bethlehem bonuses were too high; I cannot judge that. I am certain, however, that the greatest incentive to good work which any employer can offer to his employees is to give them money rewards above their wages if they do more than the routine requirements of their jobs.

Some day the whole wage system will be revised and every worker will be paid precisely in proportion to his output. Then if he wants to loaf on the job it will be his loss and not his employer's.

Babcock

When Dr. Stephen Moulton Babcock died at the age of 87 a few days ago, there passed on the man who, more than any other individual, was the father of the modern dairy industry. The Babcock Test for butter fat revolutionized dairying and set a new standard to which to breed dairy cows.

Today the dairy industry, which includes not only milk, cheese and butter production but the wide range of manufacturing industries based on the use of casein, from skin milk, is one of the greatest in the nation. It has brought the impoverished wheat states of the Northwest into the forefront of agricultural prosperity. It has brought healthful, nourishing food within the reach of everybody. And all that as the result of one agricultural college professor's experiments.

McCormick

Exactly 100 years ago, in July, 1831, a young Virginia farmer named Cyrus McCormick made the first public demonstration of his horse-drawn reaper. At that time more than four-fifths of the people of the United States were engaged in farming. To put it another way, it took the labor of four families on the farm to feed five families, including themselves.

The direct result of McCormick's invention was to increase agricultural production, and reduce the number of farmers. Today fewer than a quarter of our people are farmers. One family on the farm feeds three other families who produce no food. And anyone who knows farming will agree that even fewer farmers could feed the whole nation.

McCormick became a millionaire, one of the few such in his time. His descendants still control the International Harvester Company. They are industrialists, and the United States has become an industrial nation, largely because of Cyrus McCormick.

Population

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C. of C. Plans For Greater Development

A splendid meeting, at which much enthusiasm was evidenced, and optimism for the future of Sylva and Jackson county expressed, was held by the Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday evening, at a dinner given by the ladies of the town.

Mayor Harry Buchanan, Mr. John B. Ensley, Mr. D. G. Bryson, Mr. J. C. Cannon, Secretary A. J. Dills, Mr. Claude Allison, Mr. M. Buchanan, Rev. George Clemoner, President Dan Tompkins, and others made enthusiastic talks.

Twenty-seven memberships for the present year were subscribed at the meeting; and a committee on roads appointed, to confer with the proper authorities, and to cooperate with them in securing better transportation facilities in the county.

Of especial comment and interest is the road into the Smoky Mountains and Tennessee through Qualla township, leading off from No. 10 at the Ferguson farm. The committee, composed of S. W. Enloe, chairman, Harry Buchanan, John B. Ensley, D. G. Bryson, and Cole Cannon, will take this matter up with the State Highway Commission, in the immediate future. It was pointed out at the meeting that this road is in fact, if not in name, a continuation of Highway 106, leading from Charleston, Savannah, Augusta and Jacksonville, through Cashier's Valley, Cullowhee, and Sylva, to the park and the middle west, and as such is one of the most important trunk highways in all Western North Carolina.

Another meeting of the Chamber will be held within the next two weeks, according to a motion adopted at Tuesday's meeting. At that meeting the several committees of the Chamber will be announced, as will the aims and objects of the body for the year.

It was intimated that the principal things to be done at present are providing better marketing facilities for the farmers of Jackson county, who are raising more this year than ever before; to connect Sylva and Jackson county up more closely in the public mind with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and to provide the best possible highways for the people of the county.

The board of directors will consider any suggestions made by the people, in preparing the schedule for the year's work, and will welcome the suggestions and advice of the people.

OXFORD ORPHANS TO SING HERE MONDAY

The Singing Class of the Oxford Orphanage, consisting of 14 boys and girls, will be in Sylva on Monday evening, July 20, and will give their annual concert, under the auspices of Unaka Lodge.

Everybody in North Carolina knows of the singing class from Oxford, and many people look forward to its coming each year, as an event.

A large crowd to hear these children is anticipated. This year they do not have to depend upon the railroad or bus schedules; but are traveling in their own bus.

DANCE AT COUNTRY CLUB

There will be a dance at the Sylva Country Club on next Thursday night, July 23. Music will be furnished by the Vanderbilt Hotel Orchestra.

Hoover recently said that the expectation is for an increase of 20,000,000 in 20 years. That would give us 145,000,000 in 1951.

The importance of those figures lies in the fact that some long-time industrial and railroad operations have been based on the expectation that population would keep on growing at the rate which it did in the 1890's and early 1900's, when immigration was unrestricted. Pressure for the lowering of immigration bars comes mainly from those interests.

Farm production in the United States today is sufficient to feed 140,000,000. Farmers must find a foreign market for food sufficient for 15,000,000 people, therefore, or suffer from low prices. The alternative is to reduce the acreage under cultivation for the staple crops. That is what the Federal Farm Board is preaching, and it is bound to come.