

THE FREE PRESS.

E. D. OSLIN, EDITOR.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE IN SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., AS 2nd CLASS MAIL MATTER.

PUBLICITY.

The House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns are considering the question of amending the present statute so as to make it compulsory upon boards of supervisors to publish their statements regularly in the county newspapers. The law now leaves it optional with the boards, either to post the statements at the courthouse door and at each voting precinct, or to publish in the newspapers. In most cases these statements are simply posted, and only in a few counties are they printed. We regard it as a matter of importance that the board should be required by law to print. Publicity is a great moral agency, and that is after all the supreme power of the press. The government should take advantage of the facility thus afforded to keep its affairs well before the people, and to make those who handle public funds account regularly to the tax-payers.

It may be argued that this is accomplished when the accounts are posted at public places. But everybody knows that it is almost impossible for a man to get an intelligent idea of a long account by reading it in a cursory way in a public place. Indeed very few men will take the trouble to study such an account in detail when it is tacked up against the side of a house. Every tax-payer has the right to see the accounts of the supervisors and to have the account furnished him in convenient form. The most convenient medium and the most economical medium is the county newspaper, which goes into the homes of the tax-payers, and it is thus that the accounts should be communicated.

It has been objected that to make these publications compulsory would put it in the power of the newspapers to charge exorbitant rates. But this can easily be prevented by fixing a limit in the statute to the amount which is to be paid, or the question of compensation might very properly be left to the discretion of the court.

We sincerely hope that this amendment will be favorably reported by the committee and adopted by the General Assembly.

The Times-Dispatch never penned a more timely and appropriate article. If we should happen to say something about town matters we wish it understood that we are in a perfectly good humor and claim to stand far above using our columns to "dig" at any individual or organization.

Publicity is the one word to ad here to, and in order to have the public understand what is being done it is absolutely necessary to use other means than the ordinary bill posting method.

We offered last year to publish free the financial statement of the town of Southern

Pines, but could not do so for the reason that no one felt interested enough to furnish us a copy.

If the provisions of our town charter were briefly published, the people who composed the town caucus last Tuesday night would probably have been able to know whether or not the amendment to it had passed, and whether or not a man was compelled to be a free-holder before holding office.

But we are much more interested in the future than in the past. We wish to give you our platform—that of "Peace, Progress and Prosperity"—three P's and all of them spelled with a capital P, and we shall not contend for the election to office of any man who is not in favor of ADVERTISING. We do not think it policy to say that the nominees of our caucus shall pledge themselves to appropriate an even \$500.00, but if

there is a man opposed to making some effort at advertising this town along these lines he should pull himself off and refuse to serve as a town commissioner.

Death of Rev. William J. Alger.

The Rev. Wm. J. Alger, a retired presbyter of the diocese of Massachusetts, and a resident of Southern Pines for nearly four years, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. F. E. Shaw early last Monday morning.

Mr. Alger had nearly reached the age of fourscore years. He was a familiar figure upon our streets, until a few months ago, and will be greatly missed by his friends and our citizens generally.

The funeral services were held at Emmanuel church on Tuesday afternoon and the body taken to Woburn, Mass., for interment.

Read the ad of Sherwood Higgs & Co. and when you go to the carnival go in and see what they are doing.

DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve
For Piles, Burns, Sores.

ELECTION NOTICE!

There will be held in the Town Hall at Pinebluff, N. C., on Monday April 27th 1903. An election to ratify or reject the act entitled "An Act Authorizing the town Commissioners of Pinebluff, Moore County, N. C., to provide necessary funds for advertising the town as a desirable winter resort.

Section 1. To provide a special fund for advertising the advantages of Pinebluff, Moore County, N. C., as a desirable winter resort, the Commissioners of said town are hereby authorized and directed to levy and collect a special tax as follows: to-wit:

1. On all real and personal property within the corporate limits of said town of Pinebluff, including money on hand, solvent credits, investments in bonds, stocks, and all other subjects taxed by the General assembly ad valorem, a tax not exceeding five cents on every one hundred dollars valuation.

2. On all taxable polls, a tax not exceeding fifteen cents, on each poll; who may be residents in the town on the first day of June of each year.

3. On every one dollar valuation of goods, wares and merchandise, purchased for resale by any merchant trading in the town for each six months from the first day of January and July in each year for the privilege of carrying on said business the sum of two cents.

4. On income of hotels, boarding houses, apartment houses and private homes taking boarders renting rooms or houses, five per cent of all gross receipts.

5. On incomes from livery stables, hack drivers, express teamsters and all other public carriers, who haul or transport for a profit or consideration, five per cent of all gross receipts.

6. On doctors, lawyers, dentists, nurses, including those giving massage, or any special treatment or service, laundries, laundry workers coal and wood dealers, butchers, dairymen, husksters and fresh meat dealers, bakers, barbers, boot blacks, newsdealers, shows, lecturers and entertainments of any kind for profit, billiard tables and games of all kinds five per cent of all gross receipts.

7. On incomes earned within the corporate limits of the town two per cent thereof where incomes exceed one dollar a day. The employer of any person may be held liable for income taxes of employees if a written notice is served on him that he or she is liable for a tax due by those whom they employ to the extent due from said employer to said employee.

8. On all real estate dealers selling or buying real estate in said town for profit ten per cent on all gross sales of lands or real estate situated in said town.

The taxes above imposed, other than the ad valorem tax set forth, shall be imposed as a license tax for the privilege of carrying on the business or doing the act named, and nothing in this act contained shall be construed to relieve any person or corporation from the payment of the ad valorem tax on account of additional privilege taxes herein imposed.

Every person liable for the payment of the said privilege shall make return of same under oath to the said Commissioners of the town of Pinebluff, on or before the 15th day of January and the 15th day of July of each year, and the said Commissioners shall record same in a book to be kept for said purpose, and certify a copy thereof, together with taxes levied by them for said purpose to the tax collector of said town, who shall be fully authorized to collect said taxes named therein, and shall have all power and authority so to do as conferred upon him to collect the regular ad valorem taxes of said town.

Sec 2. Said taxes herein provided for shall be levied and collected annually by the Board of Commissioners of Pinebluff, in the same manner and under the same penalties that other taxes of said town are levied and collected, except the privilege taxes as aforesaid which shall be levied and collected as herein before provided.

By order of the Board of Commissioners

J. W. Pope, Mayor.
Pinebluff, N. C. March 19, 1903.

FOR SALE!

One thousand acres of good farming and timber land, situated within six miles of Southern Pines; or can furnish an extra thousand acres, if needed, for cattle raising or other purposes.

J. T. SCARBORO.

NOW Is the time to buy SOUVENIRS, WHILE OUR STOCK IS STILL UNBROKEN.

Call and see our new postal cards, and look over our large assortment of souvenirs in wood, leather, sterling silver, china, pottery, & etc. Headquarters for Spaulding's famous golf, tennis and baseball goods. Agency for Waterman's fountain pens.

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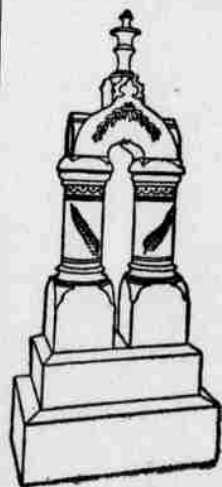
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We have several "tens of thousands of dollars" invested in High Grade fine Bed Room, Parlor, Dining Library and Hall Furniture, to say nothing of our extensive stock of Medium and cheap goods—an up to date Upholstery, Lace Curtain Shade Department, Brass and Iron Beds, F. F. V. Felt Mattresses, Automatic and Opal Refrigerators—(best on earth,) etc.

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