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PUBLIC LEDGER

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MR. T. LANIER IS ALARMED

THE LEARNED LAWYER QUOTES STATUTES

He Argues That if The People Themselves Had the Opportunity They Would Oppose the Modus-operandi

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Sir: I note with regret, that the Town Commissioners have seen fit to grant the petition for laying asphalt pavement on four blocks of the streets in South Oxford and this without asking for bids on the work. As a citizen and a taxpayer I take this means of entering my protest against any such procedure.

I think that any fair minded person who will examine, carefully, the law under which this action is taken will agree that it is one of the most unjust and iniquitous pieces of legislation that has been foisted upon the people of North Carolina for many years.

No more evidence of this is wanted than the petition presented for the paving of the four blocks mentioned.

Here we have twenty-two taxpayers (and I am informed that some of these did not want to sign the petition) levying tribute upon the balance of the community for a long period of years, for their own personal benefit.

These petitioners must know that a great majority of the taxpayers will never use or be benefited, in the least by this work, and that if they had the opportunity to express themselves they would oppose such an expenditure of their hard earned money.

I have always thought, and especially in matters of taxation, that the theory of government in this country was in a measure, at least, based on the idea, of the greatest good to the greatest number, but here we have this reversed and the great majority made to pay taxes without their consent for the personal benefit of a very small minority.

It might be well, right here, not as an authority against this ordinance, but to show how political power should be exercised, to call attention to Sec. 2. of the declaration of rights, contained in the constitution of North Carolina. Political power and government "That all political power is vested in, and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people; is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole." Here we have an ordinance instituted, as I believe against the will of the people and solely for the good of the few instead of the whole."

From a business standpoint there can arise no advantage to the town from this action. The outsiders and strangers who come into our town on business, as a rule, see only the business section and their impression of the town is formed from this. This being true, why not begin the paving in the business section where the strangers who come will see it and where all of the citizens will get some benefit, at least from the expenditure of their money.

Again, I would ask, if this scheme is everything that it should be and will result in such great good to the town, why are its advocates so deathly afraid to submit it to the taxpayers and why this unseemly haste and special meetings of the Commissioners to get it through instead of giving time for the people to discuss the matter and express their deliberate judgment on it.

I have heard some of the advocates of this measure, during an election year declaim loud and long upon the right, the privilege and the duty of the citizen to vote—and vote for what—why for them to hold office. If the citizens are qualified to vote for these men to hold office surely they are not disqualified to vote on the expenditure of their money.

The advocates of this measure will probably say, that all of the people may have this paving by petitioning for it. But this is not so for on account of the limitation placed on the issuing of bonds by the law of North Carolina, all of the streets of the town cannot be paved under this scheme, even if a petition were filed for the same. Therefore, the result will be, that the paving will be put down in the better residential sections of the town where the people are able to stand the assessment and a large portion of the taxes on the bonds will fall on the poorer people who will get no benefit. I ask the signers of this petition, frankly, are you willing to compel the wage earner and laborer, who by his industry has been able to purchase him a little home to contribute of his wage, to pave in front of your residence, against his will, when by no possibility can he have any paving in front of his humble home.

I think in matters of this kind everyone interested should express themselves freely, and therefore I say, that I feel these petitioners are taking my money, against my will, for their personal benefit, when

RESIGNS FROM COUNTY BOARD

THE MEMBER FROM OAK HILL QUILTS THE COMMISSION

After the Closing Hour of the Session of the Board of County Commissioners Monday, Commissioner R. S. Hart Tendered His Resignation.

Once upon a time the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State, resigned his office and gave his reason. But on Monday last, Mr. R. S. Hart, the member from Oak Hill township—the old historic center of the county—handed his resignation to the chairman of the Board immediately after the closing hour and for reason better known to himself he failed to disclose his reasons. There not being a quorum present at the hour when Commissioner Hart tendered his resignation, no action could be taken.

Mr. Hart was a vigorous commissioner. He never failed to register his protest when in his opinion the issue was not for the interest of the county. The Public Ledger always regarded Mr. Hart as being absolutely honest in his convictions, nor does the Public Ledger or the members of the Board believe that any ulterior motive is responsible for Mr. Hart's resignation.

At best, the office of county commissioner is a thankless job, and only a few men can survive the strain for any great length of time. But nevertheless, the county is the cornerstone of our State and National governments, and as such, in the event Mr. Hart knows, or believes, there exist at the foundation any inferior stone it is his duty to point it out. That is exactly what the voters of the county elected him to perform. If there is anything wrong at the county seat it was Mr. Hart's duty to remain on the Board and endeavor as far as was in his power to right the wrong. The Public Ledger is in close touch with the affairs of the county, and we know for a certainty that there is not a single book, paper or document in the old Temple of Justice that we may not examine to our heart's content, and the same privilege is accorded to every other citizen.

In any event, we believe that the public is entitled to know why Mr. Hart tendered his resignation. The columns of the Public Ledger are open to Mr. Hart at any time he desires to use them.

CLEMENT-WEBB MARRIAGE

The Happy Couple Off On Honey Moon.

Mr. Samuel Webb, of this place, and Miss Annie J. Clement were quietly married at the home of her brother, Mr. W. J. Clement on Broad street, Wednesday morning, the 9th inst. at 10:40 o'clock. Only the members of the families of the contracting parties were present. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. John E. Wool, of Derita, N. C., Mr. Webb's brother-in-law, and the wedding march was played by Miss Mary Webb. Immediately after the marriage the bridal party went to Dickerson, where Mr. and Mrs. Webb took the train for a trip to Washington and Richmond.

Mr. Webb is the son of the late John H. Webb, who was one of the large farmers of Tally Ho Township in this county. He holds a responsible position with Horner Bros. Company and is a man of fine character and sterling worth. Mrs. Webb is the daughter of the late Amos G. Clement, also a large farmer of Tally Ho Township. They were reared on adjoining plantations and have known each other all their lives.

After a ten days or two weeks trip Mr. and Mrs. Webb will make their home for the present with Mr. W. J. Clement on Broad street.

OUT IN OLD TALLY HO

The Good Citizens Are Going to Name a Good Man.

The Public Ledger is reliably informed that the good people in Tally Ho have selected a mighty fine man for County Commissioner. The citizens are trying to keep it a secret from the gentleman they have designs upon, but they went a step too far when they revealed their intentions to the Public Ledger. We deem it such an excellent piece of news that we feel compelled to pass it along. We are quite sure that Mr. Luther Daniels can have the place if he wants. We have heard hundreds of men commend him and we have never heard one say "nay"

there can be no resultant good come. This may be legally right but it is certainly indefensible on moral grounds.

For one, and I do not say this as a threat, but as an assured fact, that the taker of the bonds under this scheme will never collect one cent on them except at the uttermost end of the law.

T. LANIER.

OXFORD AS A TIDY TOWN

PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD USE MORE PAINT

Old Fashioned Show Windows and Antediluvian Upper Story Windows Ought to Give Away to the Modern Kind.

One of the things that is sure to follow in the wake of good streets is a more attractive appearance of the commercial district of Oxford. A tidy city gives one a pleasant impression of a city, and streets which look bright and clean are striking evidences of thrift.

We know of no greater force to unite the owners of stores in a policy of giving an artistic and more business like aspect to the show windows of the mercantile establishments than the Civic League, and the Commercial Club has a fine opportunity to join in with the Civic League and emphasize the importance of beautifying the show windows and a prettier town generally. In this connection it is well to state that only a few of the stores in Oxford are owned by the merchants who occupy them, and in many cases it is impossible for the merchants to make a creditable display, however fine the goods, unless they have more modern windows.

We are reminded of this because we have just been looking over one of the leading magazines of this country and in it observed several pages of illustrations showing what one of our most progressive cities looks like. It is a growing city and is spending \$1,500,000 for wood block, brick, bitulithic, rock asphalt, bituminous concrete, vobrolithic and cement concrete paving. The pictures were taken to contrast the immensely improved streets with those which have been blotted out by progress.

Nevertheless, that city should have had a clean-up, paint-up campaign before it had its picture taken. Eyesore buildings and bum signs were entirely too conspicuous along with the beautifully paved streets which were illustrated. They could not help being taken by the photographer, but certainly the things which do not comport with those modern streets should have been removed. We get the impression that the city has just waked up and was not fully dressed up for the occasion.

A picture of any of the streets of Oxford are liable to be taken at any time after they receive the dressing up, and, if not, visitors are sure to make a close observation when they come to our city. Shoddy signs should give way to the artistic kind, and it is easy enough to take a survey of the whole shopping district and detect what should be removed or glossed over. There are some things that are seen because they are there, but they surely ought to be eliminated.

We are going to have a thousand of visitors to Oxford this summer, so now is the time to enter upon a general beautification movement.

Above all, let us have a town that our country cousins will be glad to look in upon.

NOBLE WOMAN LAID TO REST

MRS. CHARLES G. ROYSTER, OF BULLOCK PASSES TO HER REWARD

There passed to rest at Bullock last Monday Mrs. Missouri Catherine Andrews Royster, the beloved wife of Mr. Charles G. Royster.

Mrs. Royster was the daughter of David and Pattie Andrews, of Roxboro. She was married to Charles G. Royster October 7th, 1902. Death claimed her in the 35th year of her age. She is survived by a father, mother and one brother and a devoted husband and five children, who call her name blessed.

Mrs. Royster joined the Methodist church in early life and it was always her delight to serve her Master.

The funeral services were held at Stovall Methodist church Tuesday, conducted by her pastor, Rev. C. A. Jones, assisted by Dr. R. H. Marsh, and the interment was at the Bullock cemetery. The funeral and burial services were largely attended. The floral tributes were beautiful and profuse and attested the high esteem in which she was held.

The floral bearers were: Mrs. Ellen Vaughan, Mrs. J. G. Royster, Mrs. Sam Davis, Miss Jessie Pittard, Miss Nellie Hunt, Miss Norma Fullerton, Miss Virginia Crenshaw, Miss Bessie Hester.

The pallbearers were: Judge Wood and Charles Morton, of Virginia; Gen. B. S. Royster, W. H. Hunt, D. C. Hunt, Will Landis, Arthur Culbreth, of Oxford, and T. C. Scoggin, of Durham.

Missionary Society

There will be a meeting of the Young Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church on Monday afternoon, February 14th at 3:30 P. M. at the residence of Mrs. D. G. Brummitt. Hostess: Miss Annie V. Crews. All members are requested to be present.

MEETING OF TOWN BOARD

GEN. B. S. ROYSTER ELECTED CITY ATTORNEY

A Majority of Property Owners Have Signed Petitions for Good Streets in the Business District, Embracing One Block on Main, Two on Hillsboro and One on College Street.

At a meeting of the Town Board of Commissioners Tuesday night a petition was presented by a majority of the property holders in the business district of Oxford praying for better streets. Said petition embraces one square east, west and south of the monument at the head of Main street and one square on College street north of Hillsboro street. Another petition was handed in by a majority of the property holders on Raleigh street, requesting that their street would have the same consideration as that on Spring, Gilliam and High Streets. The petitions met the approval of the Board and the work in the business section will have precedence over some of the other territory embraced in other petitions.

At a former meeting of the Board of Town Commissioners, General Royster was unanimously elected city attorney, but he requested time to consider the matter. He notified the Board Tuesday that he would accept the office, and the oath of office was accordingly administered Tuesday night. General Royster will give his attention to all legal papers bearing upon the street paving contract.

The Board named a committee to procure the services of a competitive civil engineer and report at the next meeting. It is understood that the services of the engineer will only be required during the life of the street contracts. The engineer will be under the supervision of the Street Committee, of which Commissioner Usry is the chairman, the other two members being Messrs. Powell and Parham.

Commissioner McFarland asked for certain improvements on Asylum street and the same was referred to the Street Committee.

The Board ordered that the trees in Elmwood Cemetery be trimmed.

SAVE THE TREES

An Asset of Enormous Value to the Town.

One of the chief beauties of Oxford consists in the rows of stately trees that line our streets. Here is a real community asset of enormous value. But this canopy of living green is passing away. Many trees that flourished a few years ago are now unsightly snags. Many have bowed to the ax. If we would pass our blessings to our children—nay, if we would save them for ourselves—it is time to be about the business.

The Public Ledger is not unduly alarmed about how the shade trees will fare in the onward march, but we trust that Mayor Stem will advise the street commissioner to stay the axe wherever it is possible to preserve the life of a good healthy tree. Many of the trees were planted by individuals who are yet living. We will admit that there are some old trees that are unsightly and should be removed, but this thing of cutting down everything in sight is all wrong.

THE ARMS OF THE LAW

Whiskey to Be Made an Issue in the Campaign.

The Public Ledger is reliably informed that the drinkers of whiskey in Oxford and Granville county propose to fight all officers who are in sympathy with the prohibition laws and that they will throw their strength to the candidates who are known to be less vigilant.

This being the case it is incumbent upon the Law and Order League and all lawabiding citizens to strengthen the arms of the officers who are trying to enforce the prohibition law.

The law is based on public opinion and it is up to the good people to see that the prohibition law is not to suffer in the coming campaign by innuendo or otherwise.

It is not a question of politics with us, but it is a question of vile poison that no man should handle.

WHITE SALE

And Extraordinary Values in Other Goods.

The announcement of Landis & Easton on the last page of this paper is of extraordinary interest just at this time when the dye stuff situation is critical. Many of the best grades of goods have advanced, but contracts placed by Landis & Easton enables them to handle the goods at prices that should appeal to the buying public. Whether you buy or not, you should read the announcement for the sake of being well informed.

AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS ENDORSE THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY

Roads, Bridges and Other Important Items Receive the Attention of the Commissioners.

The honorable Board of County Commissioners met in monthly session Monday, February 7th, with the following members present: Messrs. B. I. Breedlove, chairman; H. C. Floyd, R. S. Hart, J. L. Peed.

Mr. R. W. Harris was before the Board asking for a public road from Jim Jones place to the National Highway near Mr. Dud Wheeler's place. Action was postponed until first Monday in March in order to hear from all parties concerned.

Joe James was granted special allowance of \$8.00, he being physically unable to work.

Permission was granted the Sunset Telephone Company to construct, operate and maintain a telephone line along the public roads of Granville county, the line in no way to interfere with the public road.

Eugene Smith, colored, was granted rebate on poll tax.

Upon motion of Commissioner Peed it was ordered that the county donate \$60.00 per mile toward maintaining the National Highway. Carried, Commissioner Hart voting against the proposition.

Chairman Breedlove was appointed a committee to locate a public road from Bullock to near Grassy Creek Church.

The motion of Chairman Breedlove to let contract for bridge across Big Island Creek was carried.

R. C. Smith was exempt from road duty for year 1916.

There was a special allowance made Graham Daniel of the \$15.00.

By order of the Board the road beginning at Oak Grove church on the survey running to Howard Store, was declared a public road.

General B. S. Royster was before the Board representing Mr. W. H. Russell in regard to the valuation of his land in Sassafras Fork Township. After comparing the values of other property the Board granted a rebate on \$2,750.

The motion of Commissioner Peed, naming Chairman Breedlove as the proper official to sign the petition on the part of the county, granting the petition circulated by the citizens of Oxford asking that the streets around the Court House be improved was carried and the petition signed accordingly by Chairman Breedlove. Commissioner Hart voted against the petition.

The motion to start the road at Oak Grove church going toward Howard store was changed to read: Beginning at the oak tree at Sheriff Smith's place.

This being the date provided by the Act to consider the question of abolishing the office of County Treasurer, the Commissioners discussed the question at some length. The Act provides that the office may be abolished, providing a banking house or trust company discharge the duties of treasurer without compensation other than that obtained by the deposits. The Chairman stated that he had conferred with the banks and that they would not agree to assume the duties, therefore the office does not stand abolished.

After the Board adjourned Commissioner Hart tendered to the Chairman his resignation. The Board having adjourned and there being no quorum there could be no action taken on Mr. Hart's resignation.

"COMRADE JOHN"

Fine Bill at the Orpheum Theatre—All Star Casts.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Public Ledger will be found a program covering the features at the Orpheum Theatre for the week beginning February 14th.

In looking over the list we find that the Gold Rooster feature, entitled "Comrade John," is one of the splendid numbers. It will also be seen that William Fox presents Bettie Nansen in "Should a Mother Tell." If you should fail to see any one of the serials or other features, let out your girth and see Charlie Chaplin Friday night, which is designated "Funny night."

On and after next Monday the performances at the Orpheum will begin at 7:30 in the evening.

Southern City Calls Minister

The Public Ledger learns that a large Southern city has designs on one of Oxford's very fine ministers and that the minister has the question under consideration. We were in hopes that a sufficient number of old sinners would be dashed ashore on the recent religious tidal wave to cause all of our ministers to remain with us.

What's the Matter?—Our correspondents throughout the country are reporting very few marriages now. Possibly the maidens are looking well before leaping.