

THE COMMONWEALTH.

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A SOLEMN OBLIGATION.

It is now only a few weeks until the tax lists will be taken. The assessors appointed by the county commissioners will set the value on real estate and the individual taxpayer will set the value on his own personal property. Each one will be under oath to fix the value of all property honestly, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

The obligation which accompanies the listing and valuing of property is a solemn one. It is a solemn obligation from two standpoints. First, it is solemn because it is to be discharged under oath. And then it is a solemn obligation because it involves an honest attitude towards the State and one's neighbor. There is a certain amount of money necessary to meet the expenses of State and county government, and it is designed that, inasmuch as every man in the State is equally protected under the laws, every man's property shall bear its own share in contributing through proper taxation to this expense. Now, that being true, it devolves upon the assessors of real estate to be careful in every instance to give every man's property full taxable value and to give no one's property more than such value.

In a word, it is their bounden duty, under oath before God and men, to treat all citizens equally and fairly in the valuation of their property. If they fail to do this they show partiality and so do a great wrong to their fellows. If the assessors are careful to see that one man's property is given its full value and are not so careful in the other case they do a wrong both to persons and to the State. They make the first man pay more taxes in proportion to the value of his property than the second man, and also cut the State out of part of what it should receive from the value of the property of the second man.

These observations hold good for the individual citizen in the value of his personal property as they do for the assessors in the valuation of real estate. In a sense, the individual is in a more responsible position than the assessors of real estate, for in some cases the assessors may not be perfectly familiar with the worth of certain real estate whose value they must determine, while the individual citizen has no reason for not knowing the value of the horse which he drives or plows every day, or the cow from which he receives milk and butter every day.

We would not be understood, however, in this remark to mean that the assessors should not be diligent in every case to see that they fix the proper value on all real estate. They should invariably be careful in every case, and should see that their obligations are discharged whether the individual citizen puts the proper value on his personal property or not.

We have given expression to the foregoing in order to emphasize the fact that a county as full and rich in resources as Halifax need not be in debt. This paper has repeatedly said, and now reiterates it, that there is no just cause under high heaven why Halifax county should be in debt. With all property, real and personal, properly listed and properly valued and the taxes properly and carefully collected, there should be plenty of money in the county treasury to meet all legitimate expenses.

We take it that the men who have been appointed as tax assessors for the county are willing to do justice to the State and to every man in the county, and we trust that they will be careful to do so. True patriotism and a sense of right ought to impel every individual citizen to do the same.

We again remind them all that in the listing of taxes a most solemn obligation rests on assessors appointed for the State and also on the individual who acts for himself.

LET THE WORK BE PUSHED.

In the meeting of the Southern Cotton Association at Halifax Monday, there was unanimous endorsement of the plan to raise ten million dollars through the Southern Cotton Association for the protection of the price of cotton. And now we want to urge every farmer in Halifax county to give this enterprise his support by subscribing as liberally as possible to the fund.

With warehouses in every cotton producing county in the South, the price of cotton can easily be held to the minimum which will be fixed by the Southern Cotton Association. Halifax county's share in this ten million dollar company has been put at one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, and the money thus raised is to be kept in Halifax county and used in holding the cotton for the minimum price set by the Southern Cotton Association.

If a farmer who makes five bales of cotton has mortgaged three of them to purchase guano and supplies and feels the first of November that he must pay these obligations, he can take this cotton to the warehouse, draw 80 per cent. on it, pay his obligations and hold his other two bales for the minimum price set by the Association. And if the farmers will hold together as they may, he will get that price before Christmas.

But suppose the man who makes five bales of cotton and owes enough to cover three of them prefers to sell at a lower price rather than bother with a warehouse receipt? Why, the warehouse man will offer an eighth or a quarter of a cent more than the regular cotton buyer who is offering to buy cotton at Wall Street prices, take the cotton and store it and hold it for the minimum price set by the Association. If this is done throughout the cotton counties of the South, it will not be long before the mill men all over the world will become anxious enough for cotton to pay the price demanded by the farmers.

Suppose the minimum price set by the farmers shall be 11 cents, and Wall Street offers only 9 cents. Buying the cotton at 9 cents and selling it at 11 cents will roll up a profit of \$10 per bale, and every stock holder in this great ten million dollar company will get his share in this profit, and if he holds his cotton for the rise of 2 cents per pound will be profited \$10 per bale besides.

This is in part the plan and it has been heartily endorsed in well nigh all the cotton States, and will be adopted by all as the work is pushed. Let Halifax county farmers stand together, shoulder to shoulder with their fellow farmers throughout the South, and they will yet come into the possession of their own through the increased price of cotton.

It is an opportunity that should not be allowed to pass.

Letter to J. L. Baker.

Scotland Neck, N. C.

Dear Sir: Not one man in ten knows whether he's wasting money or not, when he paints. It depends on the paint.

With one paint, your job will take 10 gallons and cost \$50 for paint and labor;

- with another 12 and cost \$60;
- with another 14 and cost 70;
- with another 16 and cost 80;
- with another 18 and cost 90;
- with another 20 and cost 100;
- with another 22 and cost 110.

Here's an example. Professor Irvine, of the Academy, Merceburg, Pa., painted the floors of his dormitories every year, one year with one paint, next year with the paint of the other dealer there—to divide the business between them—till Devoe came to town.

The job took 90 gallons; takes 60 Devoe. The difference, 30 gallons, \$150. He didn't know he was losing \$150 a year till he got Devoe.

Another example. When Geo. W. Brown, Union, S. C., painted B. F. Arthur's house first time it took 30 gallons "cheap" paint; repainted Devoe; 14 gallons.

Yours truly
F. W. DEVOE & CO.
E. T. Whitehead & Co. sell our paint.

Drop a postal card to the Alaska Packers Association, Advertising Department, Richmond, Va., if you use "Argo" and get their Argo Red Salmon Cook Book with 39 ways of preparing Salmon.

News Afloat.

Prof. E. P. Moses will retire from the superintendency of the Raleigh Graded Schools at the end of the present session.

The Carolina Hotel was burned in Durham last week causing a loss of \$125,000. The guests all escaped uninjured but lost some of their personal effects. It has been given out that the hotel will be rebuilt.

In a collision between a freight and a yard engine, on the Seaboard Air Line at Norlina, engineer N. S. Efferman, of Petersburg, and fireman B. F. Johnson of the through freight were killed. The engines were badly smashed and several cars were demolished.

At the fifty-third annual meeting of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce it was given out that there have been built in that city within the last twelve months 830 residences and 93 mercantile buildings. Within the last four years the post office receipts have increased 42 per cent.

Last week two negroes broke into the store of W. G. Stokes, in Pitt county, and robbed it of clothing and various articles of merchandise. The postoffice was broken into, it is supposed by the same parties. The robbers were trailed by dogs as far as Parmele and were finally caught at Bethel and carried back to Greenville and placed in jail.

The dead body of little Horace Marvin, who disappeared two months ago from his home near Dover, Del., and who was supposed to have been kidnapped, was found in a marsh a few days ago half a mile from the house of his father, Dr. Marvin. The indications are that the little fellow was murdered and his body placed in the marsh, as his father had searched the spot and burned the grass off since his disappearance two months ago. The clothing showed no signs of fire and his body was in a state of preservation.

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR.

(Raleigh Evening Times.)

Several months since, Congressman W. W. Kitchin, of Roxboro, Person county, announced that he would be in the race for governor. It had been understood for some time that Mr. Kitchin would run for governor, and the announcement, or at least the admission of the fact, came as no surprise. Mr. Kitchin is neither what could be termed an eastern or western man, for Person county is very near the middle of the state—termed by many in the extreme west as an eastern county, and by those in the extreme east a western county. Mr. Kitchin gave out a few days since that he expected to make an extended canvass, and hoped to speak in every county in the state before the next state convention, so as to get in direct touch with the people.

Mr. Locke Craig, of Asheville, who was a prominent candidate for United States senator at the time that Senator Overman was elected, is also a candidate for governor, and in some respects is ahead of the other candidates, as he is sending out letters asking the support of his friends. As far as can be learned, none of the other candidates have actually begun their campaign. Mr. Craig is a western man, a fact that causes some to believe will injure his chances to some extent, as Governor Glenn is a western man, and in recent years the eastern and western sections of the state have become rather jealous of where the candidates hail from.

Ex-Congressman Fred A. Woodard is one of the eastern candidates, and his friends express themselves as believing that he will give some one a good race. During the past few years Mr. Woodard has not taken a very active part in politics, and therefore is not as widely known over the state as some of the other candidates. Another eastern man is ex-Congressman John D. Bellamy of Wilmington. It has been a long time since the democrats had a governor from the extreme east, and the friends of Mr. Bellamy are going to press his claims both on account of the man and also because that section has had no governor in many a day. More than a year ago Mr. Bellamy practically admitted that he would be a candidate for governor.

Ex-Lieutenant Governor R. A. Doughton, of Alleghany, one of the leaders in the last legislature, is being urged by many for governor, but so far as he has not said what he will do. His record in the last legislature did much to crystallize the sentiment in favor of him for governor. To counterbalance the possible candidacy of Mr. Doughton is the rumor from the east that Mr. Ashley Horne, of Clayton, will be in the race. From what can be learned it seems that Mr. Horne will very probably join in the fun.

In addition to the above, it is intimated that others will come in on the home stretch, and there is never any telling what a convention is going to do when there are a number of candidates in the field.

HEADQUARTERS FOR SUMMER HARDWARE!

Screen Doors
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Give us a Call for Anything in the Hardware Line. We Treat You Right.

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"THE HARDWARE HUSTLERS"
SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.

SOUTHERN COTTON ASSOCIATION.

In Session at Halifax Monday.

The Halifax County branch of the Southern Cotton Association held session in Halifax Monday. The attendance was better than usual. Eight townships were represented and there was more enthusiasm for the work of the Association than usual.

Mr. Thomas C. Dickens, collector for Butterwood township, having moved to Enfield, his resignation was accepted and Mr. W. J. B. Smith was appointed in his stead.

The plan of the Southern Cotton Association to raise ten million dollars through a stock company to protect the price of cotton was fully discussed and was unanimously endorsed. A number of persons who heard Hon. E. D. Smith, of South Carolina, at Enfield April 16th expressed approval of the plan and all urged strong an immediate cooperation.

A motion prevailed that each person present take blanks and make efforts to secure subscriptions of ten or more persons in the next few days and send them in to the president of the county Association.

Subscriptions were called for and 780 shares were subscribed, the number of shares ranging from 5 to 350. Following are the name of the subscribers with the shares subscribed:

- J. H. Norman 10 shares.
- S. Pope 20 shares.
- Capt. W. T. Jenkins 10 shares.
- J. D. Hedgepeth 10 shares.
- L. J. Baker 200 shares.
- H. P. Robinson 5 shares.
- G. K. Moore 50 shares.
- J. O. Haskins 5 shares.
- Balfour Dunn 50 shares.
- W. P. Harris 5 shares.
- G. T. Hedgepeth 5 shares.
- F. T. Shields 350 shares.
- J. T. Twisdale 5 shares.
- F. M. Taylor 5 shares.
- E. L. Travis 50 shares.

These subscriptions added to those taken at Enfield April 16th, make over 1000 shares taken in the county, and it is believed that in a few days much more will be done in securing subscriptions.

The Association adjourned subject to the call of the president, and it was the opinion of some present that the meetings should not be so far apart.

There is nothing nicer to have in the larder than a few cans of Argo Red Salmon, just the thing for unexpected company.

Homicide at Battleboro.

A young white man named Oscar Exum shot and killed a colored man named Alfred Battle at Battleboro Saturday night. The colored man went into the store of Mr. Moore, was offensive with profanity and being ordered to behave or get out trouble ensued between him and a number of white men. The colored man made attempt to draw a pistol when Exum seized a gun. The negro grabbed it also when Exum shot him.

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ASHBY B. PYLE,
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Notice---Sale.

By virtue of power vested in me by a certain mortgage executed to W. A. Staton by W. H. Josey, Peyton Keel and A. P. Kitchin, for purchase money of the below described property and to secure certain notes given for said purchase money, said mortgage and notes executed in January, 1902, and the said notes having been assigned to me, I will on the first Monday in June, 1907, it being the 3rd day of June, at 12 o'clock, sell to the highest bidder for cash all of that property known as "Smith Mill" pond, including the mill, mill house and all mill fixtures and 20 acres of cleared land on the east side of said mill pond. This the 7th day of May 1907.

W. A. STATON,
Mortgagee,
W. P. WHITE,
Assignee.

Be Sure To Read This

At the Harrell Grocery Company's Store this week you will find some rare bargains in canned goods, confectioneries, pickles, prunes, sauces, extracts, crockery, lamp supplies, flower pots, jardiniere, tin water sets, tinware, brooms and heavy groceries.

Jamestown Exposition. Only \$8.98.

Rates from Scotland Neck as follows:
Season Ticket \$4.50 sold daily April 19th to November 30th.
Sixty Day Ticket \$3.50 sold daily April 19th to November 30th.
Ten Day Ticket \$3.40 sold daily April 19th to November 30th.
Coach Excursion \$2.40 sold each Tuesday; limit 7 days. Endorsed: "Not Good in Parlor or Sleeping Cars."
Through Pullman Sleeping Cars from Port Tampa and Jacksonville, Florida, Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia, Wilmington, North Carolina, via ATLANTIC COAST LINE RAILROAD COMPANY.
Write for a beautiful illustrated folder containing maps, descriptive matter, list of hotels, etc.
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