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MASS-MEETING OF THE COUNTY OR TOWNSHIPS SUGGESTED

It has been suggested that a mass meeting of the citizens of Bertie county be called while the Legislature is in session and discuss and recommend needed legislation. We favor any idea that will crystallize into action. It may be that a mass meeting for the entire county, held at the county-seat, is the thing to do. Or, it may be that township meetings would be better; or better still, it may be that, in order to get in more direct touch and contact with the bulk or mass of the people, their feeling and sentiment, that school house meetings be called. We fear that, at a general meeting, for the whole county, held in the court house, the people would not freely, if at all, express themselves as they would in township or school-house meetings. The will of the people is the object to be sought, and not the airing of the expressions of a few. Yet we recognize the fact that it will be dependent on a few to take the initiative and start the movement and begin active steps; and that there are only a few in any community who can or will speak out. A little later, if township or school house meetings are decided on, we may single out some citizens in all sections of the county to take these initiatory steps and call a meeting of their fellow citizens in their several communities. The meetings to be thoroughly advertised, the people urged to attend and to speak their sentiment. No star chamber assemblies wherein one man or one set of men draft their pet ideas or selfish schemes into resolutions and palm them off as being the will and sentiment of the dear people. Let the meetings be free, full and open.

At these meetings the question of a Salary Basis for our county officers can and should be discussed. That question is a very important one to the tax payers of the county. The counties all over the state are fast adopting this basis of paying its officers. It is a progressive movement and is recognized as a big one in the matter of economy. Its adoption would go a long way toward putting an end to "straining at gnats and swallowing camels" in the way of cutting expenses. Let us have the salary basis and have a few hundred, possibly a few thousand at one pop. It might build a new bridge where one is needed but the funds do not warrant. It might build a new school house where one is needed, but the funds do not warrant. It would certainly take care of the poor list and enable the county to raise the allotment of some and add a few more needy and worthy ones to the list. It might, perchance, extend the school days to the poor. Yes, it might help out in several ways. It would be better for the people than the fee system if the saving would be divided among the hard worked school teachers of the county, in raising their salary and then raise the standard of efficiency of the teachers. If its economy the tax-payers of the county want; if its the saving of their tax-money they are looking for, then the salary basis is one of the things they would like to have.

Then the question of making all our county officers elective could and should be taken up. That is, letting the people vote on every officer in Bertie county, from the justice of the peace right on up the ladder clear to the top rung. That is the only Democratic way. It is the only way to have a government by the people and not by rings, machines and bosses. Its the best way to get at the will of the

people. After they nominate and elect an officer they have no cause to kick and should take their medicine if he is not satisfactory, and get him out next time. By being elective it gives the people an opportunity of getting rid of unpopular and unfit men in office. By being appointive they have no recourse but the will and fancy of a few men, some times one man. In a word, appointive offices give us a one man government, or government controlled by some faction or machine or bosses. In fact, appointees make up the cogs of a machine. Away with it. Let us vote on all.

The above question suggests the matter discussed by Mr. Jos. H. Etheridge in another column--the corrupt use of liquor and the debauchery of the electorate. The Windsor township primary of two years ago was enough to convince any decent, respectable citizen the need of such a law as Mr Etheridge suggests. There should be a heavy penalty, both fine and imprisonment, on any person who, in any way, attempts to influence the electorate, by the use of liquor, or money, directly or indirectly. The voters, are awakening to this attempt on the part of office-seekers and peanut politicians, ringsters, machine henchmen and hirelings to degrade and debauch their suffrage with the free use of liquor and a few dollars and intimidation. Give us a stringent law, one imposing a jail sentence on any person in any wise using liquor on the day of our primary or election. And another law equally as strong imposing a similar sentence on any one who attempts to intimidate any voter through fear of misfortune or threatened oppression or loss of employment. And make circumstantial evidence sufficient for conviction. This will put a quietus to the debauchery of the electorate and give us decent respectable primaries and go a long way in insuring an honest and fair expression of the will of the people.

The Civic League.

The committee of inspection from the Civic League, has not inspected since before Christmas on account of the busy season and bad weather. They were very much pleased, however, at what had been done then.

Those who had not cleaned were raking and those who were not raking promised to do so. Mr. R. C. Bazemore deserves special mention. The back of his store, which occupies more space than any store in town was thoroughly cleaned and looked good to the eye.

Mr. Sewell's comes next. His entire premises were in good condition. His blacksmith shop was neat, clean and in perfect order. A place for every thing and everything in its place.

Back of Mr. Burden's store was alright, Mr Cooke's also. There is some excuse for the stores from Bunch & Powell to Mr. Dail's shop. The land being low and wet makes it hard to keep clean, and is found to be unhealthy. It must be filled up, if the ditch there cannot be made to drain the property.

I hope there will be steps taken at once to improve the condition.

Our duty is to have a clean pretty town and the merchants and heads of families I know are going to have it so. We are all going to pull together. Those who won't pull must be pushed. Right here I want to ask our country friends to help us by not throwing peelings or paper on the streets. Our town authorities are all right and are going to do their duty. We thought we would give everybody a chance to clean from the busy times of Christmas before another inspection. Expect us any day now.

Mr. Heckstall has given permission for all the trash to be put on his land back of Dail's shop. So lets have a large box to put our old cans, bottles and all trash in and when it is full, have it emptied on Mr. Heckstall's land.

The League will make an effort to have a cart go around every two weeks or oftener and haul the contents of the

FARMERS' INSTITUTES THE USE OF LIQUOR

One to be held in Aulander Jan 27 Mars Hill on the 28th and Windsor on the 29.

Woman's Institute Also

Mr. Editor:--I have been informed by Mr. T. B. Parker, Director of Farmers Institutes, that there will be an institute held at Aulander, on Jan. 27th; Mars Hill, Jan. 28th; and in Windsor Jan. 29th.

I am glad indeed we are to have these institutes in Bertie county; and I want, through your paper, to insist that every farmer in the county, that possibly can, will attend these meetings. The time has arrived when we must avail ourselves of every opportunity possible to better inform ourselves along agricultural lines. This is a way of great progress in agricultural lines as well as all others. This has very plainly been shown by the Experiment-Stations of the state, and from demonstration work all over the state. It has been plainly demonstrated that we now know the possibilities of our land. It has been shown that under better methods of preparation and cultivation we not only make twice as much as we formerly did but in many cases four and five times as much. And still we have not attained the highest standard. There is still lots to be learned and we should not let any opportunity pass to better inform ourselves. And for this reason I appeal to every man in the county to see his neighbors and insist that they attend. When you help your neighbor you help yourself and your county at large. I only wish I was surrounded by the best farmers in North Carolina; to whom I would appeal for information from time to time. I wish I could attend an institute once every month. If there were nothing to be gained by attending them the great state of North Carolina would never employ a force of experts in agriculture to travel the state and tell us how to better our conditions.

We should attend these institutes and take our wives and daughters so they may attend the women's institute and learn better methods of house-keeping, cooking, etc. I hope the ladies will turn out in good numbers, for when they get interested they will beat the men two to one. We don't take the interest we should in reading agricultural books and journals. The farmer that does not read and keep posted is just about as good a farmer as the lawyer that reads no law, or doctor who read no medicine. We should encourage our neighbors to take good southern agricultural journals. I take several myself, but the Progressive Farmer stands higher in my estimation than any I believe I ever read for a southern farmer. I know of no better way to spend a dollar that would bring greater returns. And I know of no way he could spend time more profitably than in attending these institutes. And don't forget to tell your neighbor and carry your wife and daughter.

With highest regards I am
Yours truly,
C. W. SPRUILL,
Quitnsa, N. C.

boxes away for 10 cents a load. This will save labor and expense in the long run.

Those who occupy rooms over the stores must stop the janitor from throwing the trash out of the windows. The merchants have complained of it. They can have a trash box, also.

In behalf of the Graded School I thank the Commissioners for the remains of the fence that used to be around the court house. After the ditch on the school grounds has been put in good condition the Civic League, assisted by the Thespians, teachers and pupils, and all who are interested will fence in the grounds and beautify the campus. The children are anxious to begin.

God has given us, through Nature, a pretty town and good water. Let us show Him our appreciation and thanks by keeping it clean and thereby making it healthy.

MRS. F. D. WINSTON,
President.

Its Influence on the Electorate De- grading and Debauching. By Mr. J. H. Etheridge.

Legislative Remedy Needed

Mr. Editor:--One of the greatest evils that menaces good government is the corrupt use of whiskey to influence and debauch voters. A fountain cannot rise above its source, nor a government above the moral character and intelligence of its voters. If those who exercise the franchise blindly follow unscrupulous henchmen for a bottle of whiskey, then honest, good government is a baseless dream. Education, moral character and fitness weigh nothing in the estimation of such men. What do voters of this stripe care what sort of public servants are selected? Having rocked their consciences to sleep and without the fear of God they are willing to sacrifice the best interest of the country for the gratification of an unholy appetite for whiskey.

Equality of opportunity becomes a mocking farce when ambition drowns the voice of right and justice in those seeking political preferment who use money through their henchmen to do their dirty work. A premium is put on rascality and poor young men of talent, character and aspirations have no showing in filling positions of trust and honor. Unless this evil is stopped by drastic legislation it will continue to grow and eventually sap the foundation of good government.

The moral and religious sentiment of Bertie county has been shocked by the corrupt, disgraceful use of whiskey to influence illiterate voters for several years. Knowing their opposition to this appalling evil we call upon all who favor civic righteousness to unite and urge our representatives for an enactment of legislation to prevent it. The voice of outraged public decency cries out against it. The voice of noble, upright manhood animated by high ideals cries out against it. The church of God feels and recognizes its baneful influence and cries out against it. The Legislature is in session and now is the time to act. Every noble reform for the benefit of humanity is gained by hard fighting.

Now is the time to strike.
J. H. ETHERIDGE.

Harrell-Peele.

Suffolk, Va., Jan. 6.--George C. Harrell and Miss Rowena V. Peele, both natives of Bertie county, N. C. now of Suffolk, were married tonight at 8 o'clock at the Baptist parsonage by the Rev. R. A. McFarland. The groom is sixty-three years old and this is his fourth matrimonial venture.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrell will live in Suffolk.

WINDSOR LOCAL NEWS

The contest over the site for the proposed consolidated district school, brought representatives here Monday, both favoring Ashland and Mt. Gould. Electric lights are expected to be turned on all over the town in a few days.

Mr. Dennie White's new sales stable have been completed and are nicely arranged, built with the idea of convenience for the public and comfort of his stock.

At the recent party given by Master Corless Hayes complimentry to Master Wallace and Miss Gladys Lankford, of Franklin, Miss Mary White won the first prize in the most interesting contest, and Miss Alice Warren Morris, won the second. The little folks had a delightful time.

Again, we wish to thank our friends about the county who are mailing us their orders for job printing.

Reports come to us from different parts of the county that cholera among the hogs has killed out a good many.

Mrs. K. R. Johnson and Mrs. S. H. Lankford, of Franklin, Va., who have been visiting Mrs. J. E. Hayes, have returned to their home.

Mrs. Sue Tadlock of Norfolk, and grandson, Master John, and Mr. and Mrs. Yhan, were guests of Mrs. A. B. Phelps last week.

Mrs. Jenkins, of Ahoskie, visited her sister, Mrs. Iron Gillam last week.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Mardre left last week for a visit to Tampa, Fla., Cuba and Panama. Mr. Mardre hopes the visit will better his health.

Miss Viola Hayes has returned to her classes at the Chowan College.

We note with pleasure the appointment, as Journal Clerk in the present session of the Legislature, of our countyman, Mr. Alex Lessiter. There is no more efficient clerk in that body than he. As evidence of the fact he has been successively appointed to that position since 1900. His son is one of the messenger boys.

Anyone having costumes belonging to "The Thespians" will please return them at once, as they are needed by the club. Mrs. F. D. Winston, Pres.

The Thespians have a good many costumes and will be glad to rent them where they will be taken care of and returned promptly.

The meeting days of the Civic League are the first Tuesday and last Wednesday in each month at the court house three o'clock P. M. All ladies interested are urged to join.

The Confederate Veterans of Bertie county are most cordially invited by the United Daughters of the Confederacy of the Frank Byrd Chapter, to be present on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 19th, 3 o'clock at the Graded School to observe Lee and Jackson day. Your presence will be appreciated. See announcement in this paper.

Mrs. J. L. Spivey, Pres.
Mrs. E. L. Gatling, Sec.

On Sunday afternoon Jan. 19th at 3 o'clock, the U. D. C. will observe Lee and Jackson birthday. A very interesting program has been arranged. We hope to have all the Confederate veterans with us to help make the services more impressive. The public is cordially invited to be present. It being on Sunday we hope the whole town will respond to our invitation.

Respectfully
Mrs. J. L. Spivey, Pres.,
Mrs. E. L. Gatling, Sec.

Mr. I. M. Mizell has rented the store in the new Lipsitz building and is now stocking it. He will place a handsome soda fountain, and handle drugs, patent medicines toilet articles of every description, perfumes, candies, stationary, serve cream, and hot drinks as well as cold in connection with his fountain. In fact he will handle everything carried by such business. The store is being attractively furnished with handsome show cases mirrors, center tables and chairs etc.

Mrs. W. R. Noe is visiting her mother in Clinton. She was accompanied by her sister, Miss Patrick, who has been here on a visit.

Mr. Geo. W. Thomas, who has, for the last several years been clerk for J. B. Nicholls & Bro., has gone into the mercantile business for himself on Granville street.

Quite a number of residences are being wired and electric lights installed.

Mrs. W. S. Hayes has returned from a visit to relatives in Gatesville.

The District Convention of the Odd Fellows meets in Windsor on the 23rd.

We are asked to say to the patrons as well as others, on the various rural routes, that the ordinary postage stamp will not be honored on all 4th class matter under the parcels post law. There are special parcels post stamps which must be used. If you put the ordinary stamps on your packages, they will be wasted and the package will not go. Then to, the name and address of the sender must appear on all matter.

Judge Winston left Saturday for Raleigh, to attend the inauguration

Supper and Entertainment

On Friday night January 17th, there will be served at the Hotel Lewiston fried and stewed oysters, salad, Norfolk cream, cake, etc. After the supper there will be amusements to enliven the evening, among them a guessing contest. A cordial invitation to all. Proceeds to meet payment on school desks, etc.