

## MELLON OR TVA?

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TVA jobs, but the development of new industry has been successfully encouraged. The beneficent effects have been so outstanding that many communities are clamoring for TVA projects. One of our neighbors, Cherokee county, is doing its uttermost to induce TVA to build a \$13,000,000 dam on the Hiwassee river. Asheville is encouraging entry of the TVA into its territory. Yet many people of Macon, Swain and Graham counties are being hoodwinked into the idea that should TVA come into these counties it would bankrupt all of us. We challenge anyone to show a single instance where TVA has damaged the present or future prospects of any community to a greater extent than it has improved them.

Should TVA come into Macon county, we venture the opinion it would, as William Jennings Bryan once said, "blossom as the rose." It might even do that if TVA does not enter the field, but there is not a very bright prospect of such a come-to-pass unless the influence of the TVA is exerted so as to persuade the Mellon interests to develop their holdings rather than let them stay idle.

Concerning this question of taxes, let us point out just how much taxes the Nantahala Power and Light Company pays Macon county. The company's listed valuations in this county, as of April 1, are shown on the county tax books as follows:

Franklin township .....	\$ 85,000
Millishoal township .....	90,000
Cowee township .....	8,629
Nantahala township .....	160,629

TOTAL .....\$344,258

The company's total tax bill from Macon county for 1934-35, including special district taxes in Franklin township, amounts to \$3,655.09.

The municipal power plant and distribution system which the Nantahala Power and Light company bought last year from the Town of Franklin for approximately \$288,000, is listed at a total of \$175,000. The company endeavored to have this greatly reduced last spring, but the county commissioners held they were not authorized to do so.

It would be fine if the power company should proceed with the development of the Nantahala or Needmore projects and increase its valuation in this county, but we have no assurance that it will do so any time in the near future. Neither have we any assurance that it would have the effect of reducing taxes to the extent some people are attempting to lead the public to believe.

There is one thing certain, TVA electricity rates are appreciably lower than those charged by the Nantahala Power and Light company. We venture that on the basis of present consumption of electricity in this county, TVA rates would save consumers far more than the loss in county taxes. Furthermore, the TVA, a social and economic planning agency as well as a developer of hydro-electric power, would do a great deal to attract new industry and to raise the general standard of living. Certainly it would not allow a hardship to be worked upon any community.

We do not know the immediate purpose of the TVA in buying the Fontana basin tract. Neither do we know whether the TVA has negotiated with the Nantahala Power company concerning this power basin, or discussed with the Nantahala company its plans for future development, plans which of course will have bearing on the TVA program in the lower reaches of the Tennessee valley.

Before any of us should criticize the TVA for its action in the Fontana case we should first find out what, if any, discussions have taken place regarding the matter, and what was the purpose of the TVA. We have a sneaking suspicion as to what the result will be—earlier development of this and other power projects in this country, perhaps by the Nantahala Power company itself, than we might have expected had the TVA never been created. And, too, we can look forward with hope to the day when electricity rates will be based on actual costs of production and distribution.

After looking into this situation one cannot

help wondering why the campaign to obtain signatures to the petitions was hatched up in such secrecy and sprung so suddenly. And one wonders, too, who is paying the bill for the campaign. If it were merely a private matter, we would say nothing about it. But the public is vitally concerned and it has a right to know who, where, what, why and wherefore.

Although the petitions are politely phrased and, in the wind-up, state "we do not send this petition with any intention of expressing disfavor with the policies of the TVA," they, nevertheless, do criticize the TVA and, in effect, say "We don't like the looks of you—keep away."

How else can this paragraph from the Franklin petition be interpreted:

"We look with disfavor upon any action of our government, or its agents, that would in any way hamper or discourage the company from carrying out its plans to completion."

Who knows but that the plans of this company are to hold some of their power sites merely to maintain their throttle grip on this entire section, without any intention whatsoever of development in the next generation? Yet those who signed the petitions, if they knew what they were doing, said give the Mellon folks carte blanc to do as they please, when they please.

We are confident they did not realize it at the time, but many Democrats—yes, Democratic candidates for office, who are sworn to support their party—stepped into a pretty mess when they signed a TVA petition. They virtually said they did not approve of TVA, one of the shining gems in the crown of achievements of the present Democratic national administration. Won't their Republican opponents have fun out of this? The political significance is inescapable.

There is one bright spot in the whole picture. Any political significance is purely local, although the instigators of the petitions doubtless felt that it would be more far reaching. The TVA is one government organization which is influenced little, if at all, by politics. In one sense it is a government agency; in another it is an entity of itself. It is an "authority," which means that it is created by the government, has capital supplied by the government and possesses the right of eminent domain; but, once created, it can function without further reliance upon the government. TVA officials doubtless will courteously hear the bearers of the petitions when they go to Knoxville, read them, file them away and proceed with their original plans.

## TVA REQUESTED TO STAY OUT

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certained from where the money was to come.

Although it requested information concerning the movement from Mr. Conley, The Press-Maconian received none from that source.

The petitions carry the inference that the Nantahala Power and Light company plans early development of proposed hydro-electric dams and power plants in the Fontana basin in Swain and Graham counties, the Needmore and Nantahala projects in Macon county.

## No Projects Assured

The Nantahala Power and Light company, however, has made no announcement when it would start work on these projects.

The petitions are addressed to Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Franklin D. Roosevelt, president of the United States; and Harold S. Ickes, secretary of the Interior. It is understood that a delegation of residents of Macon, Swain and Graham counties is planning to go to Knoxville in a few days to present the petitions to Dr. Morgan.

## How It Started

The petitions were prompted by purchases by the TVA of two small pieces of property in Graham county which lie in the Fontana basin, one from C. C. Loyd containing 1,500 square feet and the other a tract of 12.6 acres from W. C. Welch. The parcels are on the Little Tennessee river and about four and a half miles apart. The purchases were made in August, it was reported, by an agent of the TVA. It is also reported that a

TVA agent has obtained an option on a small tract of land in the northern end of this county lying in the flood area of the proposed Needmore dam.

## West's Mill

Mrs. Vinnie Carter and Miss Pallie Allen, of Bryson City, spent last week-end here visiting Mrs. W. S. Allen, and Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Allen.

Edwin Sheffield, small son of W. C. Sheffield, has returned home after spending four months in Detroit, Mich., visiting his sisters, Mrs. Terrel Bryson and Mrs. Grady Reno.

Carl Sorrels, of Oklahoma, arrived here last week for a visit with his uncle, Mr. A. L. McClean, and Mrs. McClean.

Rebecca Ray, of Woodrow, N. C., is spending two weeks here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Ray.

Mrs. J. L. West, Sr., spent a week in Bryson City visiting her daughter, Mrs. V. A. Browning, and Mr. Browning recently.

Mrs. Florence Gibbs, who underwent an operation at Angel hospital last week, was reported to be getting along nicely.

Miss Vonnice West, who is teaching school at Highlands, spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. J. L. West, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Gibson and children, of Bryson City, were visiting Mr. Gibson's mother, Mrs. B. R. Gibson, here last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Oxford and four children, of Atlanta, Ga., spent Saturday night here visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Matlock.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shepherd announce the birth of a daughter. Mrs. Hebron Mason, of Moultrie, Ga., is spending some time here visiting relatives and friends.

## Highlands

## THE MARTIN CLOSÉS

Recent guests at The Martin included Miss G. B. Davies and Miss G. Harris, of the University of Cincinnati; Mr. and Mrs. Pelham Lockwood and Misses Mable and Frances Lawrence, of Atlanta.

The Martin closed on October 14. Mrs. M. McA. Martin has returned to Florida for the winter.

J. C. Bittjeman, who has been in Highlands all summer, returned to Jacksonville, Fla., Tuesday.

Among those from Highlands attending the baseball game in Asheville Sunday were Fred and Dewey Hopper, Gene Potts, Herbert and Luther Rice, Mrs. Mary Rice, Charlie Paul, Steve Potts, Jack Potts, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reese, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reese, Roy Potts, Charlie Potts, George Wilson, Walter Bryson, Mr. Brown, Charlie McKinney.

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Apply and family left Highlands Tuesday for Coral Gables, Fla., after spending several months here.

A number of young folks enjoyed a delightful party given by Miss Louise Watkins at her home here on Saturday evening. The party was in honor of the birthday of Prof. Bill Lippincott, of Clemson College.

Louis Edwards, Clemson College student, spent last week-end with his parents here.

J. M. Bruner, of Westminster, S. C., was in Highlands recently.

Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Ragland have returned to their home in Miami after spending several days here.

Mrs. C. A. Sesson left for Atlanta Wednesday after spending several days at her cottage here.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Cook of Highlands, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Jones, of Franklin, and Mrs. Milling, of Greenwood, S. C., left for Chicago Wednesday to spend a week at the fair.

Mrs. McAlister, Miss Natalie Hammond, Mr. Newsom and Mr. Fowler, of Atlanta, spent the past week-end at the Central House.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hodgson attended the University of North Carolina-Georgia football game in Athens last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cobb went to Greenville, S. C., Tuesday.

## Classified Advertisements

FOR SALE—Two used Heatrolas, good as new. One large, one medium size. Will sell right.—BRYANT FURNITURE CO. O18—1tc

LAST CATTLE SALE of season at Franklin stock pens will be held Wednesday, Oct. 24. Good prices in prospect. See BOB PATTON or BOB DAVIS. O18—1tc

FOR SALE—Six-room house on White Oak street near Angel Hospital. Has large lot with good garden. Easy terms to right party. See MRS. W. H. SELLERS. O11—4tp—N1

LUMBER FOR SALE  
Boards or framing. Air dried three months. See or write I. T. PEEK, Peek's Hotel, Franklin, N. C. O4—3tp—O18

## HELP KIDNEYS

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