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and

The Highlands Maconian

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Mr. Patton on Gerrymandering

THE rank and file of Democrats throughout North Carolina will join with the people of Madison county in rejoicing over the defeat of the Giles-Tatem-McDowell bill to gerrymander Madison in such a way as to insure Democratic control in that normally Republican county.

Press reports from Raleigh infer that Governor Hoey, departing from the gubernatorial custom to play hands off in local legislative matters, exercised his influence to have the measure killed. We are proud to know that the state's chief executive is wise enough and bold enough to take such action.

The gerrymandering measure, which would have divided Madison county into arbitrary districts for the election of county commissioners in such a way as to thwart the will of the voters, was utterly insupportable. Pete Murphy, of Rowan, a stalwart Democrat and a veteran of many sessions of the General Assembly, declared that the measure "stinks to high heaven," adding:

"This bill is undemocratic. It is unfair and dishonest. I am not going to debase my party by doing such an undemocratic thing. I am not going to be a party to such a scheme."

Concurring in this sentiment, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to table the iniquitous bill.

We hope and believe that Macon county Democrats, at least those who are the backbone of the party, are of the same brand as Rowan's Murphy. We hardly think more than a handful could be found to approve such un-American action as that contemplated by the Giles-Tatem-McDowell bill. But for some reason, Macon county's own Representative, R. A. Patton, was a strong supporter of the measure. Even after its overwhelming defeat Monday night he futilely attempted on Tuesday to resurrect it, delivering what the newspapers called a "bitter" address and voicing opinions that are difficult to explain in the light of the attitude of his own constituency. But, for that matter, nearly all of the legislation Mr. Patton has sponsored in the Assembly has been at variance with the will of the people he presumes to represent.

Listen to Patton's words, as reported by the Associated Press:

"The Republican party stinks to Hell in Madison county. I have had threats from there, Mr. Representative from Madison, I felt your money and got your threats. I realize I will be a marked man but I am coming to Madison county and advertise the fact for two weeks ahead of time."

So Mr. Patton has made himself a martyr!

And here is a strange situation: In attempting to get a record vote Patton was quoted by the Asheville Citizen correspondent as saying he wanted to "see who are Democrats in this house." Yes, indeed, a very strange situation when it is recalled that Patton was nominated by less than 50 votes, trailed the ticket in the general election, winning by only 122 votes, and now since the election it has been learned that it is doubtful he would have won at all had it not been for a last-minute switch to his support of a certain element of the Republican party—a statement which prominent Republicans have vouched for.

And now that Mr. Patton is at "outs" with the state Democratic organization, he has the temerity to infer that those who voted down the measure to gerrymander Madison county are not to be considered as Democrats at all. What an anomalous predicament!

The Answer We Got

FOR three weeks Representative R. A. Patton has ignored pertinent questions put to him by The Press-Maconian concerning Macon county legislation sponsored by him.

Several days ago he wrote an answer, but not in the form of a letter. His reply to us was a bill to regulate our legal advertising charges.

Our rates are open to public inspection, having been filed in accordance with the law in the office of the clerk of court, and they will stand comparison with advertising rates charged by other newspapers of similar size and situation. We have no apology to make for them, and anyone can see that they are not so high as to make us duly or unduly wealthy.

The Local Option Law

DOCUMENT over the local option liquor bill would be useless, because it has already become law. And, too, it is our opinion that it is just about as useless to argue the question of establishing a store in Macon county. No amount of discussion at this time will change the outcome of an election in this county. The question has been discussed pro and con for so long that a firm conclusion long ere this.

In such a case, this county holds an election on whether to permit or not. We hope and believe that people will not forget their duty, each man voting his own convictions and permit a fellow to do the same peaceably. And, we hope, if it cannot be discarded, will be used for the restrictions supposed to apply to it.

DOA

Can Spring Be Far Behind? — by A. B. CHAPIN



BRUCE BARTON Says



COMMUNISM WILL ALWAYS FAIL

Back in the latter days of the Civil War, when it was necessary to draft men for the Northern armies, the Indians of the West thought it a propitious time to revolt. Several regiments of Union soldiers were withdrawn from the front to settle the uprising. A Pennsylvania politician made a smart suggestion.

He said to Abraham Lincoln: "Our Federal military prisons are filled with Southern military prisoners. These boys are young and keen and good fighters, as we have plenty of reason to know. I'll bet that most of them would rather be outdoors fighting Indians than sitting idly in jail. Why not recruit them into regiments and send them West?"

The proposal was adopted and was immediately successful. But this is what happened in one instance, which throws a fine clear light on the practicability of Communism. I quote from my father's "Life of Lincoln."

"A thousand war prisoners were enlisted at Alton, Illinois, and Camp Douglas in Chicago to fight the Indians. They left Chicago on two special trains. Each man had in his pocket two hundred dollars bounty in United States greenbacks, and none of them had any other money. During the period of their imprisonment most of them had become habitual card players. It is said that before they reached their destination a very few individuals had the lion's share of the money.

"Perhaps never before on earth was there so equitable an experiment in the result of starting men out in life on the basis of equal division of property. The equal division appears not to have lasted very long."

Life is a battle and a gamble. We can improve the rules, give fairer handicaps to the less favored, and make the game more humane.

But we can't alter the fundamentals of human nature. Communism tries to do that; and Communism will always fail.

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES

One of the most interesting men

of my acquaintance has been wrong about forty per cent of the time. I can look back over his career and point out a dozen different points where he took one stand and subsequently had to reverse it.

Why then has he stayed on top? First, I think, because he is absolutely truthful. What he sometimes imagines to be the truth turns out later to be an error, but he never consciously hedges for anything or anybody.

Second, he is always trying. Roll him in the dust, and he is up in a minute and starting forward again. Lay something before him which you think is pretty good, and he instinctively reaches for a pencil and begins to try to improve it. Let him accomplish an objective, and immediately he has set his eyes on another point further ahead.

Finally, he never wastes any time in regretting the past. "Regret," said some one, "takes as much out of you as a prolonged drunk."

This man has been an encouragement to me. So have the words of Stevenson, who exclaimed, "God give us young men who have the courage to make fools of themselves."

I figure that I am entitled to one major mistake a week. This is my quota. As long as I keep within it I feel all right. But frequently I run over.

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Rev. R. D. Bedinger to Preach Here Sunday

The Rev. R. D. Bedinger, D.D., superintendent of Home Missions in Asheville Presbytery, will preach in the local Presbyterian church on Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock worship service and at the Morrison church on the Georgia road at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, according to an announcement by the Rev. J. A. Flanagan, pastor of the churches. Dr. Bedinger has preached in both these churches on other occasions and his coming will be looked forward to with interest by those who have heard him. Everyone is given a cordial invitation to attend these services.

Cryptography is the science of cyphers.

Tellico

Mr. Lipscom, of Knoxville, Tenn., is in the pole business in this and surrounding communities.

A Sylva stone company is doing a good business in this township, getting out stone bolts.

The Lambert Brothers, who have been working on highway No. 286, have the gravel spread from the Swain county line to the Cowee Baptist church, but are held up now on account of rain.

J. D. Cabe, who has been very ill with measles, is recovering.

Other cases of measles in this community are reported to be getting along nicely.

Sherman Dills, of Briertown, is cutting poles in this section.

Herman Dean, of Rabbit Creek, was in this section Saturday on business.

Miss Emma DeHart, who has been making her home for quite some time with Mrs. Maude Moody, is spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John DeHart.

Olive Hill

Mr. Leonard Campbell, who has been spending several days with his folks, returned to his work Sunday at Belmont.

Mr. Ed Campbell was seriously ill Tuesday evening.

Earl Hannah, school student of the Olive Hill school, fell Tuesday and injured his shoulder.

Mr. and Mrs. Algie Guyer spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jay Reeves.

Norman Evans, who has been working in Georgia, spent the week-end with his folks.

Grady Wilkes, who is employed in a CCC camp, spent the week-end with his folks.

The sick in this community are still improving.

The roads in this community are getting so they can be traveled now.

The birthday dinner of Billie Barnard was attended by many of his relatives and friends.

Several people from here attended preaching services Sunday at Iotla.

American slang is full of "food" words.

A species of the wasp has a tool which is no thicker than a stout horsehair but which can be driven through the hardest wood.

Natives of Jamaica, B. W. I., eat part of the trunk of a palm tree. The edible part resembles hearts of celery.