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A Civilized Discussion

LAST Friday's conference of farmers and foresters on the question of grazing certain forest lands brought together two groups of men whose views appeared flatly opposed. And to both the subject is a serious matter; for the foresters have a responsibility to the public, both of today and the future, and the matter touches the farmer group in a spot that finds all of us sensitive, our pocket-books.

Everybody appeared to be completely frank, and neither side pulled any punches. And yet the two-hour discussion was conducted on the highest plane. There was an atmosphere of fine courtesy, of give-and-take, and of reasonableness that marks the civilized community.

Quite aside from the merits of the controversy, the discussion did credit both to the foresters and to Macon County citizenship. While it was just about what would have been expected in a county with Macon's traditions, nevertheless it made the disinterested spectator proud to be a citizen of this county.

Primary Retrospect

The pre-primary election excitement is dead. The whispers of election day are quieted—and largely forgotten. The results are taken for granted. In short, the election now is far enough in the past to make possible an unemotional appraisal.

The first thing that strikes the eye examining the Macon County election totals is the proportion of the registered voters voting. Out of a Democratic registration of 5,365, a total of 2,274 citizens voted in the Democratic primary race for governor. That is a little more than 42 per cent—well under half.

That proportion is too low, much too low. By comparison, however, it is high. In Buncombe county, for example, where they take their primary politics seriously indeed, less than 30 per cent of those registered voted for governor. And Buncombe's percentage probably was well above the nation-wide average in primary elections.

In other words, we stack up well by comparison with some others, but we still have a long way to go. For we, here in Macon County, will have no cause for complacency so long as less than half of those eligible take the trouble to participate in determining the kind of government they are going to have and who shall administer it.

The second striking thing is the way this county went in the state races. In four out of the seven state-wide races, the majority of Macon County voters failed to "go with the crowd". In three races, Macon lined up with the losers, and in a fourth, with the runner-up. That might have just happened in one, or even two instances. But since it happened in the majority of the state races, it would seem to indicate that Macon voters do their own thinking; and then vote their convictions, rather than merely trying to pick a winner.

Turning to the purely local contests, the result in one race was overwhelming; in the other, somewhat confusing.

The Democrats of this county knew exactly whom they wanted for representative, and said so with emphasis. But their decisions, when it came to nominating a board of education, are a little perplexing. It is difficult to understand, for example, why Macon Democrats should have nominated two candidates who were definitely committed to one administrative program, and then turned right around and nominated two others quite as definitely committed to a completely opposite program. However that may be explained—and the chances are it would puzzle Solomen himself—there are other factors in the board of education results that are worth study.

Generally speaking, the issue was one of dissatisfaction with what we have in the way of schools, on the one hand, and a desire to maintain the status quo, on the other. And it is significant that two candidates pledged to an all-out effort for better schools should have so far outdistanced the

other 12 in the votes received.

Anyone who is familiar with the local situation knows that most of the votes that were cast for nine of the fourteen candidates were in protest against the present school situation. And it is significant that those nine candidates should have received 57 per cent of the total vote cast for school board members.

And most significant of all, perhaps, is the increasingly heavy vote for board of education members. In 1946, with five members to be nominated, a total vote of 9,451 was cast for members of the board of education. If each voter voted for five, the total number voting would have been 1,890. That year a total of 2,485 votes were cast in the primary election race for congressman, the chief non-local race of 1946. Thus only 76 per cent of those voting for congressman bothered to vote for school board members.

This year, again with five members to be nominated, the total vote for board of education members was 10,531, indicating that at least 2,106 persons cast votes. This year in the governor's race, the chief non-local contest, 2,274 votes were cast. Thus 90 per cent of Macon voters balloting in this year's Democratic primary race for governor cast votes in the race for board of education.

That shows a rapid growth in interest in our local school situation. And any phase of democratic government, whether it be a county school system or the Presidency, will improve in almost direct ratio to the interest of the citizens.

Progress may seem slow—discouragingly slow, when we remember that the children won't wait; but all the indications are that we are on our way to better schools in Macon County.

POETRY CORNER

Conducted by

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE  
Weaverville, N. C.

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

A BROKEN LEG

As I was walking out one day  
I slipped on the grass and pitifully lay  
With a broken leg. I could only cry  
To neighbors that casually passed me by.  
Some of them said, "It is only a hen"  
And others, "A rabbit caught in a pen."  
Some of them thought it a catamount,  
But to me my voice was clear as a fount.  
They finally took me to Doctor Ed  
And to a cast as heavy as lead.  
After doing a "stretch" with ball and chain  
My legs aren't mates—the hope is vain.  
—STELLA CAZIARC.

Highlands, N. C.

DESPAIR

Oh, come inspire me, kindly Muse,  
And cause my deepest thoughts to rise.  
I pray that fittingly I choose  
My words—the garments of the wise.  
If by some chance there should be fame  
I'll acquiesce and sign your name.  
—HOMER CASTO.

Weaverville, N. C.

Others' Opinions

OUR MENTAL FLOP-HOUSES

A prominent American educator, speaking in Montreal, Canada, asserts that 555,000,000 man-hours a day are spent listening to soap operas, which fail to challenge even "the mentality of a seven-year-old moron."

The educator, Dr. J. B. Nash, of New York, referred to the United States where he says one of every seven persons goes nightly to see pictures which are an insult to the intelligence. Broadening his attack, the doctor insisted that the radio, movies and pulp magazines "are the biggest mental flop-houses" in America.

Dr. Nash is on pretty solid ground in his criticism. Unfortunately, however, he does not go far enough and enlarge his broadside so as to include some of the other spectacular activities of Americans in the line of politics, social relations, economics, religion and, we might add, education.

—Canton Enterprise.

POLITICAL PROMISES

During this period of elections, second primaries and the general election coming up in November, there is a little fable that seems to fit right into the scheme of events. Of course, such an episode would never have happened in Haywood, yet there is a possibility that it could have happened.

It is a favorite story of a former senator, who used it extensively in his campaigning, and whether it brought him any votes is not known, yet he was often elected.

A thoughtful traveler in a western stagecoach heard a man call out to the driver during a brief wait, "Don't forget that pup you promised me."

It developed that the stage driver had a female setter who was soon to have a litter of puppies, and everybody wanted one. By the time the long journey had ended the driver had promised to give a pup to at least a hundred acquaintances.

"How in the world can you give every one of those fellows a pup?" the thoughtful passenger demanded.

"Wal," the old driver cackled, "it's a mighty ornery fellow that won't promise a friend a pup!"—Waynesville Mountaineer.

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

It is not any news, of course, that the cost of living in terms of national security is not merely skyrocketing but guided missile-ing. But it is still an interesting or maybe quaintly amusing item which The Memphis Commercial-Appeal has printed in its 50 Years Ago column as of May 16, 1898: "Total number of troops mustered into service for the war with Spain yesterday reached 65,000." That was three months after the destruction of the Maine in Havana harbor, and three months before the termination of hostilities.

The Dictionary of American History says: "The war had cost the United States about \$250,000,000 in money and over 5,000 lives. Of the dead, however, fewer than 400 had been killed in battle or died of wounds. The balance represented the toll of disease. At this cost the United States had acquired a colonial empire of 120,000 square miles and some 8,500,000 people and had risen suddenly to a position of prominence in world affairs."

That was cheap enough. But as in a good many other things, the original cost is insignificant by the upkeep. War in those days cost less than \$100,000,000 a month. Military spendings in peacetime cost more than a billion dollars a month today.  
—Raleigh News and Observer.

Smokey Says:



Burned trees increase the cost of products made from wood.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of John H. Dalton, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 11 day of May, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 11 day of May, 1948.  
LON J. DALTON,  
Administrator

M13-6tp-J17

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of T. C. Childers, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 15 day of May, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 15 day of May, 1948.  
J. R. CHILDERS,  
Administrator

M20-6tc-J24

NORTH CAROLINA  
MACON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the power of sale vested in the undersigned trustee by deed of trust executed by Charles Wiggins and wife, Dovie E. Wiggins, on April 10, 1946, the same being recorded at the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Mortgage Book No. 36, Page 163,

said deed of trust having been executed to secure certain indebtedness therein set forth, and default in the payment of said indebtedness having been made, I will on Monday, June 21, 1948, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Courthouse door in Franklin, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described land:

BEGINNING at a black gum near the road in the South boundary line of Erastus Carpenter land, runs thence N. 43 W. 20 poles to an old corner; thence N. 55 Deg. W. 34 poles to an old corner; then N. 70 Deg. W. 36 poles to a white oak; thence S. 6 Deg. W. 54 poles to an old corner on top of the ridge; thence S. 19 Deg. W. 20 poles to a large Chestnut oak, an old corner; thence S. 80 Deg. E. 62 poles to a white oak on the bank of the road; thence with the meanders of said road as follows: N. 14 W. 15 poles, N. 52 E. 25 poles to a white oak; thence S. 11½ poles to a white oak; thence N. 11 poles to the beginning containing 25 acres.

This the 17th day of May, 1948.

R. S. JONES, Trustee  
M20-4tc-J10

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of Samuel Jasper Corn, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 24 day of May, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 24 day of May, 1948.  
LENA CORN,  
Administratrix

M27-6tp-Jly1

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as executor of OLLIE JACOBS BENNETT, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 27 day of May, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 27 day of May, 1948.  
D. M. BENNETT,  
Executor

J3-6tp-Jly10

TREAT THE FAMILY  
To Our Grand Skyrides!



Come ride thru the skyl Thrill to the beauty of the world seen from above! See your countryside from "upstairs!" Our skyrides give the entire family lots of pleasure at small cost. Planes and pilots meet rigid C. A. A. requirements. Come fly... or watch ...

You're Always Welcome

Macon Flying Service  
Franklin, N. C.

The Best Food for  
Man's Best Friend



Chesterfield Dog Food  
has FOUR BIG appeals-

NOSE TASTE

DIGESTION NUTRIENTS

AT YOUR GROCERY OR FEED STORE  
EARLE-CHESTERFIELD MILL COMPANY ASHEVILLE, N. C.